

# WITNESS

*The latest news and updates from Reformed Mission Services*



## WHAT MISSIONS MEAN TO ME

*by Adrianna Rouwhorst*

This is my second time going to Peru and I get emotional just typing these words. Peru is a country of love, hospitality, and kindness for those around them. Our trip was from Nov. 26 through Dec. 6. We worked on lots of mudding, sanding, and painting the walls of the Iglesia Evangélica Peruana de San Antonio. We worked well together, along with a few men of the church as well, and with the use of translators on our phones, we figured out pretty quickly what we needed to get done! It was such a fun time of laughs, inside jokes, and time spent together serving the Lord and his church. We worked for four full days and then we went and explored many local Inca ruins. We ended up at the train station Friday evening to travel to Machu Picchu that night. In the morning, we went up Machu Picchu mountain to see the ruins. All the sights we saw were breathtaking. Our God is a God of wonder and beauty, the mountains he created and the knowledge he put in the minds of the Inca people to build these structures is amazing! Later, we met the Rivera family and the men who guided us during our work week, for dinner. Sunday morning, after our devotions we headed to the villages of HuacaHuasi and Lares. Now, this little article could be 20 pages just describing these people and their love and dedication for the Lord. It put me to shame two years ago and did again this year. These people pour everything they have into their churches and the teaching of the generations to come. They were so grateful just to see our faces. Enough money was raised to help both these communities continue to work on their churches and hopefully finish in the near future. They take the money given to them and really pour it into their churches and communities in different ways. The Lord has truly blessed them. He surely blessed me in more than one way coming on this trip.

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**Reformed Mission Services**  
rms.org



Mission trips aren't always about how much painting, sanding, or mudding you can get done, it's also about building God's church and getting His word to as many people we possibly can, calling that final saint home! It's about being that example of Love for these people to see how important the word of God is. Yes, there are people in Peru that can paint the church or build the wall, but we can go on these trips and bless them by letting them know we support them!

This means more to them than you will ever know. We are all the church, although we don't speak the same language, the Peruvian people are grateful for any amount of work that gets done, and our presence in their country. We are all called to, make and be disciples of Christ's church, whether you are called to go to Peru, or next door to your neighbor. The Lord calls us all to witness in both big and small ways. If you feel the calling to go to Peru, or anywhere else, take that calling, it might just bless you in more ways than you know! Thank you for your continued support of RMS, your kind donations, and your prayers. Also, for your love for those across the world that might not be as blessed as we are and not able to hear the word of Christ.

To wrap this up, what does missions mean to me? Well, I would say it's a love for others around me, the love for the church universal, and an opportunity to make a difference in one person's life. Ultimately bringing them to Christ, that is what we are called to do. Thanks be to God above for all the work and everything that took place in this week!



~A video about the church in HuacaHuasi is linked on the back page! ~



# SUMMER 2022 TASC SITES

## TEENS ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST

A ONE WEEK CHRISTIAN SERVICE TRIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & COLLEGE FRESHMEN - AGES 14-19

Cornerstone URC, Sanborn, IA June 11-18

Trinity URC, Visalia, CA June 11-18

Covenant URC, Pantego, NC June 18-25

Oak Glen URC, Lansing, IL July 30-August 6

Cornerstone URC, Mexico  
Hudsonville, MI July 30-August 6

**REGISTER AT**  
**[RMS.ORG/TASC](https://rms.org/tasc)**



**TASC Contact: Rob Brinks**  
**616.466.8214**  
**[rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org)**

***Group Registration opens February 1***  
***Individual Registration opens March 1***

Student participation requires one adult sponsor for every five students.

*Thank You!*



## GIVING TUESDAY

Because of your generous support we were able to raise over \$1,200 on Giving Tuesday! We used these funds to purchase 4 dehumidifiers for our Disaster Response Trailers!

# Board Updates



Our annual face to face board meeting was held in Ripon, California from October 15-17. The board members who were able to make it enjoyed a wonderful meal on Friday evening of tri-tip steak (a California favorite) at a board members house. The meeting on Saturday went well as much business was discussed and after that, there was a time for more visiting and brainstorming about the future of RMS. Sunday we were able to worship as a group in the morning at the host church, Zion URC. We enjoyed visiting with the congregation during the fellowship lunch after the service. We are so thankful for not only their support but also their willingness to host. Sunday evening board members went in different directions to worship in various churches in the area. One of the many blessings of the October meeting is welcoming new board members. We would like to introduce you to the new faces as well.



My name is Julian Laarman. My wife Tanya and I have been married 24 years and have 7 children together. Our oldest son married a girl from Waupun, Wisconsin in August, and our second oldest is getting married to a local girl later in December. We have been blessed with a beautiful family that continues to grow.

Our family lives near Taber, AB and have been members of Trinity Reformed Church in Lethbridge for our entire married lives. I work as a contractor in the area and Tanya as a homemaker. We also have a hobby sheep farm that our family works together on as well. We have been modestly involved in a few local missions for quite a while and are excited to use our talents with RMS.




I am Ronald Lotterman. I live in Cape Coral, Florida with my wife of 31 years, Lori, and our son Caleb. We have three children; two still live in Michigan. We moved to Florida in 2016 after a lifetime in the West Michigan area near Zeeland, Michigan. We are members of Trinity Reformed Church of Cape Coral where I currently serve as an elder. Before moving to Florida, my family and I were members of Bethany URC in Wyoming, Michigan for 30 years. During our time in Bethany, we had the privilege of becoming well acquainted with RMS; however, because of the constraints of work as an auto technician, I was not able to devote any meaningful time to missions. Since moving to Florida, my situation has changed, giving me the opportunity to serve the Lord in new and different ways. I look forward to serving on the board of RMS and using my God-given gifts in service to His Church here and abroad.



My name is Chris Kuperus, and I am married to Stephanie (Lems) Kuperus. We have 4 children - Sage 13, Caleb 11, Cambrielle 8, and Skylar 6. We live in Sanborn, IA and are members of Cornerstone URC. It is a great joy to be serving on the RMS board again this year as I begin my third term serving an organization that has been used in many ways to spread the love of Christ around the world. I have also had the privilege to be part of the first RMS board and have been incredibly humbled by the way this organization has expanded its ministry since then. I pray God will continue to do great things through RMS and all those who partner with this ministry.

# 2022 SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISER DATES

A person wearing a blue baseball cap and a purple shirt is shown from the side, aiming a shotgun. They are wearing green and black gloves and a black watch. The background is a dense forest with green trees.

**CAMANCHE  
HILLS HUNTING  
PRESERVE  
IONE, CA  
MARCH 5,  
2022**

**CALEDONIA  
SPORTSMAN'S  
CLUB  
ALTO, MI  
AUGUST 20,  
2022**

**HUNTER'S  
POINT  
HUMBOLDT, SD  
SEPTEMBER 10,  
2022**

**For more information visit: [rms.org/fundraisers](https://rms.org/fundraisers)**

## From the desk of the chairman

Greetings to all in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

RMS, its Board of Directors, and our Administrative Director started 2021 in a spirit of cautious optimism. There was reason to hope that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic was behind us and that the coming year might see RMS return to its full effectiveness and productivity. We were not disappointed. The Summer of 2021 saw RMS return to a vigorous TASC schedule in which there were four U.S. and one Mexico TASC sites.

The Mexico TASC, ran morning and afternoon VBS programs at two different churches, among many other accomplishments (including building a water tower for a local pastor). The theme of both programs was "Putting on the Whole Armor of God." I had the privilege of playing the role of Dionysus, a retired Roman soldier and one lately converted to Christ. In period-appropriate costume, Dionysus explained the historical significance of the various items of armor from the perspective of a fighting Roman soldier. Very effective teaching then went on to incorporate the historical perspective into the bible passage that formed the basis for the program.

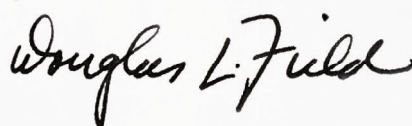
Trips were conducted as well to Costa Rica and Peru. A VBS program was mobilized and conducted in Madison IN, and a Spring Break service trip was organized and run in the Cape Coral/Naples, FL area. We also maintained readiness and continued our disaster relief activities when and where needed. This year, happily, was a less active disaster response year for us; however, we were able to collect and transfer relief funds for Haiti, volcano relief on the island of St. Vincent in the Caribbean, and hurricane Ida relief in the U.S.

On an organizational level, 2021 was a watershed year for RMS. We conducted a nationwide search, identified and interviewed several suitable candidates, and hired Jim Iwema of Sanborn, Iowa as Promotional Coordinator. Jim started mid-year and has worked diligently contacting existing and potential supporters of RMS. He is actively pursuing several new member churches, helping set up TASC sites for 2022. In addition, Jim and the Board's Promotions Committee have engaged in fundraising activities and the planning of three Clay Shoot events in 2022.

In October, the Board voted to partner with the Barnabas Foundation. The Board believes that this will allow our donors to easily donate to RMS, while at the same time doing so in the most tax-advantaged way. It also allows us to provide donors with the opportunity to review their wills at no cost to them, with professional help from the Barnabas team. Also, we were able to secure new office and warehouse space.

It is now six full years since I have been a part of the RMS Board of Directors. It has been a most rewarding time during which, through the dedicated efforts of our staff and the Board members past and present, RMS has continually advanced to new levels of carrying out its mission and vision statements. All of us at RMS are profoundly grateful for all of you who have so generously supported this ministry, kept it in your prayers, and supported it, so selflessly with your financial and material resources. We started 2021 cautiously optimistic. We are moving into 2022 fully confident and energized in the conviction that God will continue to bless RMS and use it to His glory and to the glory of the Gospel of His one and perfect Son.

Sincerely,



Douglas L. Field  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



# Bhaktapur Theological Seminary

Bhaktapur Theological Seminary needs a building. It has been working with MINTS International Seminary to train church leaders in Bhaktapur, Nepal, for over five years, but space has always been an issue. When BTS first started, classes were held in the one-room building that makes up Shekinah Evangelical Church. The co-pastors of the church, Nishan Nagarkoti, and Suraj Kasula, are also the founders of the seminary. In the past five years, they have seen both the seminary and the church grow. They have since had to find a new space to hold more seminary classes, but they still are left with a significant challenge. In its current situation, the seminary cannot house residential students. It can only accept students who live near Bhaktapur. However, Suraj and Nishan would like to train church leaders from around Nepal who can spread the message of the gospel throughout the nation. The ultimate solution is to replace the one-room church building with a larger building that can serve as a church and as a residential seminary. Nishan and Suraj have developed plans for a four-story building.



## **THIRD AND FORTH FLOOR**

will provide additional classrooms as well as dormitories for students and a small apartment for visiting professors.

**SECOND FLOOR** will contain administrative offices, a library, and classrooms for the seminary.

**FIRST FLOOR** will comprise a large meeting room that can serve as the sanctuary of the church as well as a chapel and a large group meeting place for the seminary.

Rendering of future building

**"The ultimate solution is to replace the one-room church building with a larger building that can serve as a church and as a residential seminary."**



If you desire to financially support this project you can give online, by mailing a check, or for our Canadian supporters through URMA. Be sure to include Nepal in the memo line.

Before the seminary can break ground on the new building, the old building must be torn down. After that, they can begin construction on the footings and the first floor. Nepal is prone to earthquakes, so the Nepali government requires public buildings to follow stringent building codes. It adds to the expense of the project, but it increases the safety of the building. Buildings in Nepal are constructed differently than in North America. The first floor can be built and occupied before any other floors are started. Once the old building is torn down, the church hopes to be able to quickly occupy the first floor for their worship services. Additional floors will be added as God provides the resources. Reformed Mission Services has been assisting MINTS and BTS with this project from the beginning. Please continue to keep RMS, MINTS, and BTS in your prayers as they step forward in faith to provide solid, theological training to students in Bhaktapur and throughout Nepal.

# RMS HAS MOVED!

Over the past year, Reformed Mission Services has undergone many changes. We are expanding our outreach to new member churches, and we've secured sites for fundraisers in California and South Dakota. After a few months of preparation and some remodeling, we have also moved into a new office.

You can find our new office just a block away from where we had been for the past few years. RMS continues to grow, and as a natural step of growth, we needed more space. The new offices are more efficient than the previous one with the way they are laid out, but the benefit is, it gives us some much-needed storage space for our equipment as well as our shower and tool trailers.

Our new warehouse space allows us to store our trailers and equipment in a climate-controlled area. This will help us to be ready for any disaster events that may arise. Your continued support has helped make this possible. Thank you for allowing us to make fulfilling the great commission our top priority.

**"...warehouse space allows us to store our trailers and equipment in a climate-controlled area. This will help us to be ready for any disaster events that may arise..."**



**Feel free to stop by for a tour if you are in the area!**

**6607 Center Industrial Dr.  
Jenison, MI 49428**



## Smart and Powerful Giving

*Increase the Impact of Your Generosity Through Planned Gifts*

Planned gifts are smart and powerful ways to increase the impact of your giving to Reformed Mission Services – often while benefiting your family, too.

By understanding the available options, you can multiply the end results of your generosity in ways that are simple, flexible, cost-effective and extraordinarily powerful.

Planned gifts include:

- Gifts that reduce your taxes, such as stock, real estate and other non-cash gifts
- Gifts that pay you income
- Gifts in your will

The partnership Reformed Mission Services has with Barnabas Foundation offers our supporters complimentary planning services and assistance with non-cash gifts.

Since 1976, the Barnabas Foundation has helped thousands of individuals and families give more effectively to the ministries close to their hearts. They will help you accomplish the greatest good with your generosity – for your family and for God's Kingdom – through tax-wise charitable giving.

To learn more and discover smart and powerful ways you can increase the impact of your generosity, call Jim Iwema at 712.541.4150 or email [jim@rms.org](mailto:jim@rms.org)



**Your everyday shopping can help make a difference, at no additional cost to you!**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), or in the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned on within Settings, you will find the same products and same low prices as the Amazon you already know - plus, they donate a portion of your purchases to your chosen charity.

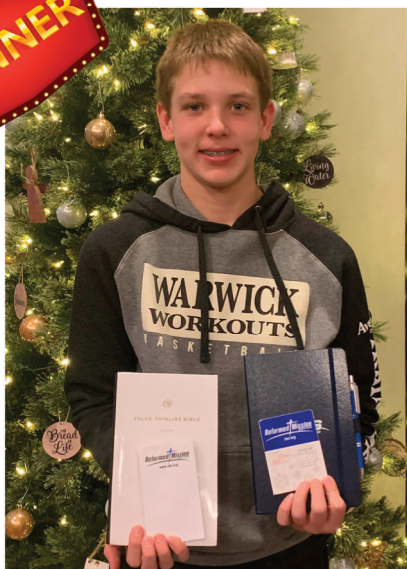
**You can select us as your AmazonSmile charity by visiting: [smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3155132](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3155132)**



Scan to watch a video of the projects in Peru!



## Children's Challenge



Tannen Auch

Congratulations to Tannen! He was the winner of our last Children's Challenge. He lives in Freeman, SD with his parents Kevin and Brenda Auch, and his sister, Paige, who is a senior in high school. Tannen also has a sister, Kaylee, who is a junior at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. His favorite food is his dad's grilled hamburgers and he loves to play sports, especially baseball. His favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." For answering all the questions correctly in the last newsletter and having his name drawn, he received a Bible and an RMS journal.

Way to go Tannen! Thanks to everyone who participated and make sure to try again!

**Below are four questions that ask about different articles in this newsletter. If you send in all four correct answers, you might be picked to win a prize just like Tannen was the last time! Make sure to ask your parents for permission and for help!**

**Question 1: What city in California was the face-to-face board meeting held in?**

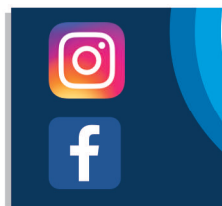
**Question 2: Which church is hosting a TASC June 18-25, 2022?**

**Question 3: Who co-pastors Shekinah Evangelical Church with Suraj Kasula?**

**Question 4: What is Tannen's favorite food?**



**Go to [rms.org/resources/newsletter-challenge](https://rms.org/resources/newsletter-challenge) (Or use the QR code above) to fill out a form to submit your answers. Then your name will be entered into a drawing! If your name is picked on February 21, 2022, you will win a prize!**



**New Address!**



**6607 Center Industrial Dr.  
Jenison, MI 49428**

**616.466.8214 contact@rms.org**