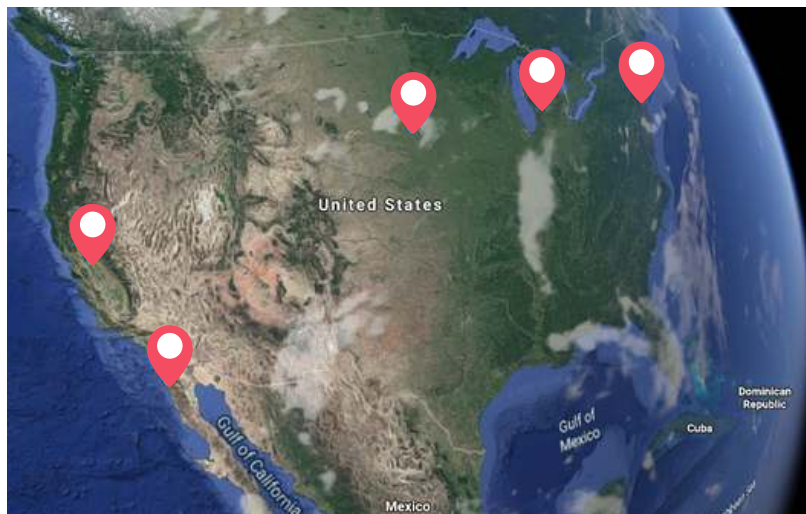


# WITNESS

The latest news and updates from Reformed Mission Services



## 2021 TASC

During the summer months, RMS hosts multiple TASC (Teens Actively Serving Christ) events. Last year we had to cancel them due to the shutdowns that were occurring around the nation. However, this year we were able to have five different TASC events! One was in Uruapan, Mexico, about 100 miles south of San Diego, CA. Four others were held in the United States: Menno, SD, Ripon, CA, Pompton Plains, NJ, and Dutton, MI. Join us in thanking God that safety was had at all of these events!

The people who benefit from TASC trips are often solely viewed as the students who participate and the people who have work done for them or their organizations. However, the benefits are far more widespread than this. Joe Lobbezoo, who was actively involved in two different TASC trips this summer (Menno and Dutton), put it quite well when he said:

*"The blessings and benefits are often most evident for those on the receiving end of the labors conducted during the week of any TASC event. Even the students and sponsors attending the week often see and feel those personal blessings in various ways. One area of great blessing and joy typically not noticed is the host church coming together behind the scenes to make the week a success for all the attendees as well as the local community served. This was also the case for Dutton URC TASC this year. From the abundance of food supplies and kitchen volunteers keeping a large group fed for the week to all those who donated supplies and time to set up or take down the church facilities. Many provided R&R or offered their homes for much-needed showers, while others donated time, money, equipment, and labor to assist the students and sponsors in accomplishing what I suspect might be a record amount of work."*

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*The bottom line is that the organization and execution of this week of TASC brought a great opportunity for the church to flourish within and use the great talents God has provided it. The fruits of the labors in the local community were also realized quite quickly. We received messages and phone calls sharing the joy of those served and even members of the community who came to the social event to see what we were all about. What an incredible platform for witnessing the joy of Christ!"*

I too had the opportunity to participate in TASC this summer and was blown away by the number of volunteers that the host churches had who were ready and willing to help in any way they could. So many people took time off of work and other activities so that they could help serve the broader community. I was impressed by the work ethic of so many of our young people as they stepped up to get the work done. I was encouraged about the future of the church as I heard the next generation engaging in the sessions and discussing tough topics throughout the day. In the pages that follow I hope you enjoy reading about the experiences of the TASCers as much as I did. I ask that you continue to pray for those who went on these trips, as well as those that were touched by their actions. ~Jim Iwema

**If your church is interested in hosting a TASC in 2022 or 2023 please contact Rob at [rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org)**



Wow! What a great experience! The week started with a 14-hour bus ride with kids and leaders from Dutton, Grace, Cornerstone, Immanuel, and Trinity URC (MI) to Menno, SD. There, we met kids and sponsors from Pella, Iowa, and Menno, South Dakota. After getting everything settled, the kids began playing 9 Square. They played like they were all old friends. In the evening, we played a number of mixer games, like trying to catch water balloons in a bucket that had been launched over the roof of the church!

Rev. Travis Grassmid lead us in worship on Sunday with a fellowship lunch in between the two services. The congregation of Zion Reformed was awesome! The kitchen ladies were great! They made hearty breakfasts, provided a wide variety for our sack lunches, and then a ton of different snacks at night. Many of the suppers were hosted by the elders and were a great way to interact with the leaders of the church. Our prayer partners were another great way to interact with the congregation. They prayed for us, talked with us on Sunday or throughout the week, wrote us notes of encouragement, and sent small gifts.

The workweek was hot, tiring, and rewarding. The group I served with poured a concrete driveway for a widow of the congregation on Monday. She was so happy that she was able to use her driveway again. Tuesday, we went and cleared brush, stacked wood, and stained a deck for a widow and her son that has Parkinson's. They were shocked that kids from Michigan and Iowa would come to South Dakota and help them. Wednesday, we built a handicap ramp for a man that is having a variety of health issues. Again, they were shocked that these kids would be willing to help them. We all went to a Hope Haven facility on Thursday to help them with their worldwide wheelchair distribution program. We accomplished all their work in 3 hours so we had to take an early lunch so they could come up with more things for us to do.

The highlight of the week for me was our nightly sessions with Rev. Breno Macedo. He was a classmate of Rev. Grassmid, currently serving a church in Michigan. His morning devotions and nightly sessions all focused on hand and lip service. Hand service is what we do all day (what we did in the community of Menno) and lip service is our witnessing for Christ. Our prayer groups gave us another way to interact with our TASCers on a more personal level and to know each of the kids better. We would talk about the session, our day of work, and whatever else came up.

The TASC in Menno was a great way for the kids, sponsors, and congregation to see that the church of Our Risen Lord is more than just the local church we attend from week to week. We TASCers got the awesome opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. We made new friends and strengthen old friendships all while serving the community of Menno.  
~Geoffrey Bronsink (Sponsor)



*TASC was a faith-strengthening experience for me. Painting houses, constructing a handicap ramp, replacing a concrete driveway were just a few of the jobs that we were instructed to accomplish. Completing them and receiving so much positive feedback was amazing. So many people made this trip special in so many ways, and the lunch ladies hold a special place in my heart because I love food. ~Kaden Kruid (Student)*



When we arrived in Menno, we were met with open arms. I really loved getting to know everyone and making new friends. It was also really encouraging to meet the locals and hear them talk about the difference we were making. Something that really moved me was when we were working at an elderly woman's house and she explained how this world needs more kids like us, volunteering to work. She encouraged me to keep going and want to participate in more TASC trips. Every time someone told us how happy they were with our work, it made us work even harder than before. Not only did we make huge differences in those people's lives, our work made me see that the smallest things can mean the most to someone. ~Sierra Lobbezoo (Student)

# Ripon, California

I've never been on a Church service project before. That is, until a few weeks ago when I was introduced to the joys of serving the community, through TASC. Even though it was a new experience, I think it was the best first impression of serving that I could have asked for. To be honest, I was a little scared walking through the doors that first day. Yet, the TASC leaders made me feel right at home. I soon began to grow comfortable around all the other kids there as their kind, selfless personalities, shown bright. The bonds between us began to strengthen when the work started. After hours of tearing stubborn weeds from the grasps of tightly packed earth, you can't help but appreciate those who toil beside you. However, what brought us even closer together was the ability to freely share our struggles or deep reflections about our faith. Having a prayer group composed of a couple of individuals willing to take our faith seriously and not afraid to discuss it was sincerely a blessing!



While I have never been known as someone who naturally serves others, TASC has made me realize that hours spent serving are worth far more than any second spent for self-fulfillment. Praise God for providing an opportunity for teens all over the country to serve Him together through TASC. ~Risa Eschen (Student)



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Rev. Angelo Contreras led the Bible studies. He taught on being the light which was a great topic for this week of TASC because we were shining our light by serving our community. One thing that really stood out to me was not only to be a light during our week of serving but through the weeks to come. And showing that we are Christians in the way we act, dress, speak, and in our daily lives. Because a lot of times we can just be a Sunday Christian. -Sanne van der Vis (Student)

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Everyone at TASC had the opportunity to shine the light of Christ on others through a positive attitude and servant mindset toward our work, which usually included cleaning, sorting, or weeding. We even counted the pieces of puzzles at a thrift store to make sure they were complete! I felt that maintaining a joyful attitude toward my work was the best way to work as unto the Lord, and I prayed for that attitude for my group and myself throughout the week.

The nightly sessions and prayer groups helped the other TASCers and me to slow down and consider our walk with Christ. We talked a lot about what it meant to grow up in the church - both about how it blessed us and how it makes us more vulnerable to a lukewarm faith. We considered the specific struggles that we face as Christians today and spent time in prayer with our nightly prayer groups. I particularly enjoyed the sessions for the singing - I love to sing and had a great time praising the Lord with my friends. The sessions challenged us and allowed us to discuss our faith with our pastor and each other. Overall, TASC was a great opportunity to serve Christ in my community, learn more about my walk with Him, and enjoy plenty of fellowship with my friends and sponsors! ~Kate Hendricks (Student)

# Pompton Plains, New Jersey

This summer I had the opportunity to attend TASC at Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church in Pompton Plains, New Jersey. TASC is a time for teens to serve Christ through hard work and helping others in the community. It is also an opportunity to get to know other like-minded believers and to grow closer to Christ through nightly sessions and prayer groups.

The workgroup I was in was able to participate in the work group which scraped, sanded, and painted an older couple's house and surrounding fence as well as cleared out various entangled vines which had overgrown the backyard. While I was there, I was also able to help a couple from the congregation fix their iPad so they could video-chat with their kids and grandkids again.

The love of Christ was so apparent during my whole week at TASC from the peers and counselors I interacted with, the members of the congregation who ministered to the youth by way of encouragement and making meals, to even those who we worked for at our job sites. Not only were we able to serve others, but we were also blessed with encouragement and godly examples of humble service by those we were helping.

God taught me a lot through the week of TASC. In addition to everything that occurred during the week, we also learned through the nightly main sessions about building our lives on the Rock. We were taught about living with the future (the kingdom of heaven) in view, and no matter where we find ourselves in life, being influencers to others for the sake of Christ.

~Amanda Morosco (Student)



This past summer, I went to my first TASC. The remaining years that I may participate in TASC as a high schooler are dwindling, but I hope to make the most out of them!

The projects were hard work at times, but we had a blast doing the jobs together. To anyone considering being part of this amazing service to the community, I recommend it 100%. Don't even hesitate! ~Ian DeVries (Student)

My first TASC was an awesome experience. It was so fun to hang out with my friends all week, and meeting new people. The projects that I worked on were super fun, and the people that I helped were friendly. Some of the projects that I worked on were painting, washing windows, weeding, and construction. It was hard work, but worthwhile. I thoroughly enjoyed working with other people and being a blessing to others. Throughout the week, I learned that doing work for others and not getting paid for it is not a waste of time because I was doing it for the Lord. It made me very happy to see the smiles on the homeowners' faces when they saw the finished product. I had so much fun, and I am definitely going on TASC again next year. -Rebecca Forrest (Student)



It made me very happy to see the smiles on the homeowners' faces when they saw the finished product. I had so much fun, and I am definitely going on TASC again next year.



Going into TASC week at Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church, I was in a spiritual low. From struggling to pick up my Bible to praying at meals, my connection with God was almost nonexistent. The week of TASC was suddenly upon me, my connection to the Lord became stronger through the nightly prayer groups and lessons. Pastor Nobel gave inspirational messages and never failed to connect with the youth there.

The most fun that I experienced each day was working with my small and amazing workgroup. We shared laughs, hard experiences, and had great conversations. On our last day, me and two other guys in my team got to wear

hazmat suits and climb into a crawl space! It was hard work at the moment, but overall fun to brag about. Seeing the reactions of the homeowners had to be my favorite, besides viewing the end product, it was a true honor to work for those people.

Finally, the nights on TASC will never be beaten. From playing ping pong with a big group to writing personalized letters to each other, it will not be topped. My favorite day had to be the day away when we took off from work and spent our time at one of New Jersey's most pleasant beaches. This day taught me a lot of patience as we were stuck in traffic for a solid hour on our way back to the church. This was also the same day we had to say goodbye to the Michigan group who left very late that night. Overall, TASC week helped me strengthen existing relationships and form new ones with amazing people. I can't thank the men and women responsible for the program enough. I would definitely recommend going on this unforgettable experience, it will really get you on the right track regardless of how you began your quest with the Lord. Who knows, you might even meet some amazing friends there. ~Asher Nieshalla (Student)



## Dutton, Michigan



I would like to thank the TASC group for the work they did for us. They came in and power washed our home and built a deck for us. It's very hard for me to powerwash our home. I can't do the up and down on the ladder very easy and it is also very hard on my back and arms. Where we live the mobile home park says we are to do this once a year. As for the deck, my husband is handicapped and the steps were hard for him. I would have to be home for him to get out of the house. Now my husband has the freedom to go outside on his own. The steps are so much easier for him

with the railing on both sides. The group of young people that came here were very nice and polite. I enjoyed talking to them and their group leaders. It was great to see God working in their lives. The boys and girls worked together and learned from each other. Thanks again and may God continue to bless you all for the work you have given to those in need. ~Doris (Recipient of TASC Service)

At the beginning of the trip, I was quite nervous about going because I have never been on one before. When I got there, I noticed that all the guys knew each other already and I thought it would be hard to get to know them, BOY WAS I WRONG! They were very inviting and they welcomed me like I was a long-lost family member. The jobs were fun as well. I really liked being able to do some help for the community of the church and being able to do the jobs that I did. I really liked doing Uncle Bob's because we got to throw a hammer at the shed we were taking down. And it was nice looking at the jobs that I did and seeing them from start to finish. It just felt good knowing that we kids from TASC did this. The lessons at the end of each night were amazing and I really liked having David Meengs come and give the lessons to us. He drew me into each and every one of them. Prayer groups were really nice because our leader asked us about home and how our day went. -Bryce Wilson (Student)

*I was overwhelmed by the generosity of adults, who took time off from their jobs to help, and the dedicated young people who worked on the roof. Working on the roof in the summer sun was exhausting, for those teens, but they did an amazing job! Being a recipient of their service to Christ was truly humbling. Everyone, whether friends, church people, or relatives, that I have told about this, from Michigan to Montana, has been deeply moved by the generosity and kindness of this service. ~Recipient of TASC Service*



Every night we had prayer groups and sessions. These sessions were very interesting and focused on the JOY acronym: Jesus, Others, Yourself. We also had a talent show on Thursday which consisted of singing, playing piano and guitar, and dad jokes. The ice cream social afterward allowed us to visit with people from Dutton and the surrounding churches. ~Makenzie Iwema (Student)

Christ calls his people to good works that benefit the church and the broader community that bear witness to his goodness and his compassion towards sinners. Our teens have few opportunities to not just hear about this truth but to work it out in their lives like TASC. The students of my youth group were not only able to grow in abilities and skills, but they gained a deeper understanding of the work of the church and the joy of humble, selfless service in the name of Christ. I think the work we did proved to be a powerful witness to the work of Christ through His church; that he still cares for those who are burdened by the effects of the Fall. Combining together community service, fellowship with like-minded believers, and biblical teaching, TASC painted a holistic picture of the Christian life that is difficult to replicate in other situations. I think every youth ministry and church with young people in it would benefit from having their teens serve on a TASC trip! ~Dan Adams (Sponsor)



Scan to watch a video Dan made with some TASCers!!



# Uruapan, Mexico



The Church of Christ is universal. Growing up in a Christian church this truth was constantly acknowledged. That said, I never truly understood what it meant until Mexico. The excitement of a new place, plane rides that never get boring, and the bumpy ride to the orphanage started my journey to understanding that universal truth. Meeting kiddos and seeing the amazing work Darrell and Maureen Graham are doing was inspiring. We got to meet the kids that live at the orphanage and play with them on the trampoline and kick around some soccer balls. I fell in love with every one of them and their beautiful faces and smiles. We got a tour around the new school and shop space that they had built recently. It was incredible to hear the many ways God has led the right

people to their place and blessed them with so much. The intentional time we spent talking about God and His faithfulness recentered my focus back to where it is supposed to be: Christ and the purpose He has for my life. Being reminded that no matter where we have been placed or how many - or few - resources we have been blessed with; God will use each and every one of us, if only we take the time to listen. Being able to meet kiddos from the local community at VBS and seeing their joy in playing with balloons and learning motions to songs was super cool to be a part of. Brainstorming those motions and the crafts we would do with our group gave us all time to get to know each other and see how God was working in the lives of those around us. Every person I met was incredible and made this experience something I will remember for the rest of my life. What hit me the most from this trip was not the team building or night devotional led by Rob, or the testimonies of our group, or even praying over each other. All of this was incredible and eye-opening as to what it means to be church together, but what was most memorable was Sunday morning church. Pastor Jose spoke little English and I speak little Spanish, but he proclaimed the same Gospel that I know in my heart. He, through a translator, told our group that we would always be welcomed back and his church was our church. Welcome home. That was most powerful for me, hearing this truth said in another language, learning songs in Spanish, and teaching VBS kids about the Armor of God (La Armadura de Dios) made the truths of the Bible and God's universal church real for me. Thank you to everyone who prayed for this trip and made it a reality for me.

-Madeline Nuiver (Student)



We flew into San Diego and drove to Ensenada, Mexico. As we arrived at the Mt of Olives Orphanage, we waved and handed out some candy to the children as we drove in. We met the crew that runs the orphanage, heard some very providential stories from Darrell on how God has provided him and his wife with running the orphanage, and settled into our rooms for the week. Sunday morning, we went to a small church in a nearby village, where Dustin Burge, a seminary student from Westminster in California led us in worship in Spanish. This was also followed up with a translation in English. We then fellowshipped with our brothers and sisters in the congregation.

Our main purpose for this TASC trip was to serve in two villages for a morning and afternoon VBS, where our theme was on the Armor of God. It was exciting to see the neighborhoods want to be involved with our group and learn together about the good news of Christ, especially after it being pretty quiet with COVID. We also worked on building a water tower alongside one of the churches. God never ceases to amaze me when meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ. The work of the Holy Spirit shines brightly, even when we don't always share the same language. We were able to connect with the children through singing, Bible memory and stories, blowing bubbles, playing games and soccer, and doing fun crafts that represented the Armor of God for the children to take home and reflect on. I would like to encourage everybody to look into what opportunities are available for any kind of service work or missions that God may be calling you to. Whether you're supporting it financially, attend, or sponsor a trip, it is most important to pray for our brothers and sisters all around us. ~Emily Huisjen (Sponsor)

# Ministry Development: Peru Update



Since 2010, RMS has been working in the Sacred Valley of Cusco, Peru. With that, we've been working on the construction of three churches, a home for the MINTS Regional Coordinator's Family, and a MINTS Ministry Center, as well as distributing audio Bibles in the Quechua language. Since most Quichuan people cannot read or write, these Bibles give them access to the Word of God by the oral reading of the scriptures on solar-powered units.



Our last visit with a team was in December 2019. At that time, we completed the construction of the church building in Lares, Peru. On that same visit, the elders of the HuacaHuasi church requested that we assist them in building a church in their remote village of HuacaHuasi. We committed to assisting this building project in four phases. COVID, however, hampered RMS from sending teams to Peru, so the money raised was sent directly to the church so that they could begin the first phase. With this money, they were able to complete the basement, the sanctuary floor, and the walls. We quickly moved on to fundraising for the next phase with our partner churches in Canada through the United Reformed Mission Association (URMA). Again, God provided! Once COVID restrictions were lifted, RMS traveled to Peru to see the progress made in HuacaHuasi and to bring them the money needed to complete the roof. Due to cost increases for steel and other roofing products, the elders along with the architect decided to frame the roof using the area's natural resources, Eucalyptus trees. The roof is now complete with enough funds left over to purchase the doors and windows for the entire building! Praise the Lord!



We plan, Lord willing, to send two teams to Cusco at the end of November and early December to complete the first and second floors of the church we began in Cusco in 2012. The finishes were put on hold so that the churches in Lares and HuacaHuasi could have buildings constructed to worship in. Our teams will be painting, installing bathrooms, a kitchen, a Consistory Room/Pastor's Study, and other projects. Our future projects for Peru will be to construct a parsonage on the third floor of the Cusco church building and construct two additional churches in nearby suburbs. We praise God that the gospel is going forth in Cusco and these remote mountainous villages! If you would like more information about these projects in Peru, contact our Administrative Director Rob Brinks at [rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org).



# Vacation Bible School in Madison, Indiana



Madison, Indiana is situated along the Ohio River between Louisville and Cincinnati. It's my hometown, and an area with no nearby NAPARC churches. After a couple years of sending newsletters to friends and family about the possibility of planting a church, I led a study on covenant theology in the Summer of 2019. From this study, two families agreed to join a core group, which began the following summer. We hosted several events in the Fall of 2020, began informal prayer services January 2021, and have now been gathering for formal worship services in the evenings since April 18. That same month, we added a morning Bible study. Our gracious God has helped us navigate the ongoing difficulties related to Covid-19 and given us many opportunities to share the gospel. We are thankful that the Lord has begun this work! As of this writing, we have five families in membership, including my own.



This summer, we had the opportunity to host VBS. With our small size and lack of resources, this would not have been possible without the kind help of Reformed Mission Services and the team of 17 people they sent down! They not only served us but also our community through service projects. All of this has already led to new connections in town, including a VBS family that has now visited our services. Join us in praying that the many seeds sown that week will bear much fruit in God's good timing. ~Pastor Collin Welch



## Disaster Response: St. Vincent Relief



The La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the Caribbean, started to erupt on April 9, 2021. The volcano ash-covered homes, ruined crops, displaced thousands of people, created unemployment, and caused havoc in this small island of just over 100,000 citizens. Pastor Paul Duncan, MINTS International Seminary coordinator for the island, made contact with his students, helped organize and respond to the immediate needs of those on the island. Water, food, clothing, medicines, and rental costs are being addressed. MINTS is thankful that Reformed Mission Services has responded to the call to help those in need and do so in the name of the LORD! -Dr. Neal Hegeman

# 2021 Sporting Clay Fundraiser



August 28, started as a beautiful morning perfect for a sporting clay fundraiser at Blendon Pines Gun Club in Zeeland, Michigan. There were 77 participants who came from all over, including out of state, to raise money for Reformed Mission Services. After arriving, the volunteers showed us the donuts, hot coffee, and refreshing lemonade table, the silent auction table, and where to register our teams. We had some time to catch up with old friends before being led in prayer by Rob Brinks. Following that were announcements, explaining the layout of the course, and listing the safety instructions to abide by. It was now time to grab our guns and start the main event!

Once the air horn blew, the teams that were split into 12 different stations began dusting the pigeons. For the competition we had to shoot 50 clay pigeons ranging in difficulty from a nice, slow, horizontal flying clay, to a quick, bouncing along the ground like a rabbit one. Some of these would come toward you at an angle that would allow you a mere second to shoot before it smashed to the ground. Other clays would zoom over a pond as you stood at the top of a tower aiming down.



At each station, a member of the team would record each person's score on their team sheet then move on to the next one. When a team finished all 12 stations they returned to the registration area to hand in their scores. Following the event, we all enjoyed a delicious chicken, chips, baked beans, macaroni salad, and potato salad lunch. That time was filled with lots of ribbing from those who were able to snag a few more clays than others. During the meal, you could also put bids on the silent auction if you wished. There was a nice variety of items for men and women of all ages to bid on. Last but not least, awards were given out to those with the highest scores, pictures were taken, and the silent auction ended. Sadly, it was then time to say goodbye and go our separate ways.

It was an entertaining morning with friends and family who were all there to support RMS. I am excitedly looking forward to being a part of it again next year. ~Alex Poll



**Next year the Sporting Clay Fundraiser will be held in Michigan and South Dakota!**

# UPCOMING TRIPS

Winter 2021-2022

Costa Rica  
March 2022

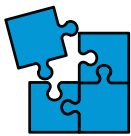
Peru  
Nov. 27 -  
Dec. 6, 2021

Dominican Republic  
January 11-20, 2022

Haiti  
February 15-22, 2022

Plans can change, but Lord willing, these trips will take place when scheduled.

"...and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sumaria, and to the end of the earth."  
Acts 1:8b



## Children's Challenge



Do you like challenges? Here is a good one for you! There are four questions below that ask about different articles in this newsletter. If you send in all four correct answers you might be picked to win a prize! Make sure to ask your parents for permission and for help!

**Question 1: What date did the volcano start to erupt in St. Vincent?**

**Question 2: Who is the pastor of Madison Reformed Church?**

**Question 3: Which TASC did Rev. Breno Macedo speak at?**

**Question 4: What type of Bibles are brought to the Quichuan people?**



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 November 15, 2021, you will win a prize!

**New Address!**

6607 Center Industrial Dr.  
Jenison, MI 49428

616.466.8214 [contact@rms.org](mailto:contact@rms.org)

