

# WITNESS

A Publication of Reformed Mission Services

Vol. 4 Iss. 1

## Lares, Peru 2019

We first knew the brothers of RMS in 2010 through Dr. Neal Hegeman. That was the year that the Huatanay River overflowed its banks and flooded the area of our church and house. We were brought low because the dirty water ruined all that we possessed, and we could not ask for help from the authorities. There were more people in other sectors with the same need. We cried out for God's immediate help. At the end of that same year, God brought us our RMS brothers and sisters, many men and women with good hearts. Frankly, we did not understand many of their words, but we did understand their gestures and their great love. That year we worked on the first floor of our house and in the following years, on the churches in San Antonio and Lares.



Year after year, we received different groups of brothers and sisters who gave of their time and money to assist with the construction. The language was nev-

er an inconvenience, even though many of them did not speak Spanish and we spoke only very basic English. We were able to communicate by way of having the same spirit, the same baptism, and the same Father God.

Each of our RMS brothers engraved himself on our hearts and we rejoice greatly when we hear that God blesses them with work, wives, and children. We continue seeing the mercy of God for Peruvians, Americans, and Canadians.

That which had a bad beginning was converted into a true blessing these nine years in which we have received visits and help from our RMS brothers and sisters. It has been a true blessing to work together and have a time of communion, learning the Word of God, and offering praise in Quechua, Spanish, and English. We only hope to remain firm in the vocation to which as Christians we have been called, so that, be it on this earth or in heaven, we can return to meet again, to have a time of praise and worship in the name of our good God.

~Carla Silvia Valcarcel Rivera



**The Valcarcel Rivera Family**

*"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 1:8b

## Lares, Peru 2019 con't

We signed up to go to Peru because we wanted to explore a new country and more importantly help a congregation complete their church. By the end of the trip, we got to know so many people who made us sad to say goodbye but we hope to come back and see them again someday.

Our big project was putting up a suspension ceiling and laying down floor tiles in a church in Lares. The view of the mountains there was incredible, Peru is a beautiful country. Every day there were kids who watched us work. We managed to get around the language barrier by passing out candy; chocolate is an international language. We met with other believers in the village of Wakawasi to look at their church. They gave us lunch and gifts of friendship, and even though we only talked with them for one afternoon, they left a great impact on our time there.



After the work was done, we worshipped with the congregation in Lares on Sunday. While we couldn't understand most of what was said, it was clear that this congregation loves the Lord and enjoys praising Him. They also gave us gifts of appreciation and told us to greet our own congregations at home.

Meeting and working alongside brothers and sisters in Christ was incredibly fun and strengthened our faith. The community and bond we created will last longer than the floor or ceiling tiles and is something we are eager to share again. A huge thank you to RMS for the opportunity to meet believers and work in Peru, and we hope there will be many more trips in the future!

~Kendra Jaarsma and Adrianna Rouwhorst



I recently attended RMS's latest trip to Peru. This was my fourth time going to Peru with an RMS group, for this trip we worked again in the town of Lares, it has been such an amazing experience to see this project take shape from when we started it back in 2015 (my first trip). We also had the opportunity to visit the nearby village of Wakawasi. It was such a blessing to meet these fellow believers and hopefully, it won't be the last time we see them. One thing I've learned from my trips to Peru is that it's not so much the financial support, or even our physical work, but the personal relationship that we've built with the church down there, that's something that RMS puts great emphasis on and is a reason I hope to continue going on trips in the future.

~Steve Poll



# Foreign Project Updates

## Bhaktapur, Nepal

**Bhaktapur Theological Seminary:** Pastors Suraj Kasula and Nishan Nagarkoti together with MINTS started a Bible College and Seminary in Bhaktapur, which is one of three major urban districts of Kathmandu. They started with a one-year certificate-level class and are now offering bachelor's degree programs. There is interest in a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) program now that students have completed their pre-requisite classes. In the fall of 2019, due to the increasing number of students at the College and Seminary, the leaders of the group leased property and constructed temporary classrooms to continue with their growing number of students. Over the past two years, RMS has been collecting funds to help purchase land for the construction of a Seminary building.

The Church Committee desired the area that was adjacent to the church; however, the landowner was not interested in selling. Much prayer and searching went into looking for another parcel of land or a building that they could purchase but to no avail. We now rejoice that in God's providence, the landowner of the adjacent property agreed to sell to the church! Now they will begin planning to construct a building that will provide additional space for their worship services. As well as classrooms, offices, a library, and eventually dorm rooms for Bhaktapur Theological Seminary. The RMS Administrative Director, Mr. Rob Brinks, will accompany MINTS Professor, Mr. Norlan De Groot, during the first week of March to inspect the property and discuss the construction plans for the Seminary. Reformed Mission Services is committed to helping them achieve these goals for the continued training of leaders in the reformed community in Bhaktapur and for the glory of God.



## Santa Marta, Colombia

**Calvary Reformed Church:** Over the past three years, RMS has been assisting this small congregation with the construction of a two-story building where they can worship and offer seminars to the people in their community.

Calvary Ref. Church has many programs for outreach, including a before/after school program where low-income children receive a warm meal, tutoring, and Bible instruction.



They also have a sports program that teaches these children teamwork and how to handle conflict. This instruction, based around

the truths of Scripture, helps them learn how to interact with others. They have been recently working with many Venezuelan refugees that have been flooding the Santa Marta region. Other projects include a bi-weekly Bible Study with the indigenous people of Colombia and street evangelism in front of their church building, and it appears to be effective. Many are stopping by to receive Bibles and literature. May God use these efforts to bring those whom He has called to salvation in Him.

The Pastor, Edison Flores, presented to RMS, on our recent visit, a need for a parsonage for their family. The family is currently living in a two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment with his wife's mother. Edison and his wife occupy one bedroom while his teenage daughter and son share the other bedroom with Mer-



edith's mother. Edison has purchased land near the church and has asked RMS to assist him in building a three-bedroom home on the property. The total cost to build this home is \$35,000.00 (USD). RMS will oversee the money spent and the construction of this project.

# UPCOMING TRIPS

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## April 3-11, 2020 - Naples, FL

This is Reformed Mission Services's third annual trip to Naples, FL. RMS partners with Rev. Eric Hausler of Christ the King Presbyterian Church in efforts to bring the gospel message through window washing. Window washing is a great way to open the door for conversations about Christian service and a love for the Savior. High School students and their sponsors work in neighborhoods, washing the main floor windows on the outside of the homes and handing out flyers directing the homeowners to the church. The registration for this particular trip is closed, however, you can see pictures and more details on our website, [rms.org](http://rms.org)

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## July 10-18, 2020 Toronto, ON

SEED - Serve, Engage, Evangelize, and Disciple The location for the summer of 2020 is the Hope Centre in Toronto, ON. The total cost for SEED is \$400 (USD). You will be responsible for your travels to and from Grand Rapids, MI. We will travel from Grand Rapids to the Hope Centre on the 10th to begin our training. Arrangements will be made for temporary housing (if needed) for arrivals before or after the event. SEED exists to encourage young people to take seriously the call to participate in the Gospel, and to be equipped to do so with confidence and conviction in the promises of Scripture. More information about SEED is found on our website and the following page.

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## June-August, 2020 - Ukraine

International Christian Community Development is an organization that "seeks to bring God glory through obedience to the Great Commission given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Eric and Stacey Hoeksema work in association with the Hungarian Reformed Church working with young adults and high school students in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, in Croatia, and Romania. They organize retreats and English Camps for the students to build relationships with their fellow classmates and with Christ. These trips are one to two-weeks long throughout the summer months. For more information about this trip, contact Rob Brinks at [rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org).

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## December, 2020 - Peru

Over the years, RMS has been assisting in the construction of the Inglesia Evangelica Peruana San Antonio church located in Cusco, Peru. The church had postponed the finishes to their building in order to assist the needs for other churches in their region. The RMS team will now assist the members of this congregation with the installation of flooring as well as other finishing touches. They will also visit other churches in nearby mountain villages to encourage them in their worship and their walk with the Lord. The cost for this trip will be approx. \$600.00 per person plus airfare to and from Cusco, Peru.

**Check out these and other trips on our website [rms.org](http://rms.org)**



## Why call it “SEED” ?

SEED exists to encourage young people to take seriously the call to participate in the Gospel, and to be equipped to do so with confidence and conviction in the promises of Scripture. SEED also exists to challenge pastors and elders to train their own young people better, even as they prepare to train the Sowers on the SEED Team. Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt.9:37-38).



### Reflection of a Sower

“...every day I was given the opportunity to present the gospel to local community children who had never heard of Christ, as well as children in the church. That is the beauty of the gospel call. It is not only for those outside the church. Nor is it exclusively for those inside the church. It is for all people and it must be shared every day of our lives.”

## JULY 10-18, 2020

Join us for a SEED event at The Hope  
Centre in Toronto, ON  
Visit [rms.org/s-e-e-d/](https://rms.org/s-e-e-d/) for more details!

### About SEED

**Who:** SEED participants, or Sowers, are outgoing, mature young people, between the ages of 17-25, who have made Public Profession of Faith, a member in good standing in a Bible-believing Church, and have a desire for living out that profession through the spreading of the Gospel.

**What:** Sowers spend the first-week receiving discipleship training with a pastor or capable teacher. The rest of the time, the Sowers put their training into practice.

**When:** Typically, The SEED events are 9-14 days in length with flexibility as to what day the event begins and ends. SEED trips can take place at any time of the year, though they would typically occur during the summer months when school is not in session.

**Where:** SEED Trips take place in local churches in various parts of North America. Because there is a benefit for young people getting away from what's familiar, we recommend that Sowers participate in other churches away from their friends and family.

**Why:** SEED provides a focused, intentional, and practical time of learning about evangelism and discipleship while being challenged to put it into practice.

**How:** RMS finds and prepares churches and participants to come together for an enjoyable and fruitful time of spiritual growth and Christian service.

**YES,** I want to be a monthly Ministry Partner!!

When you join RMS as a ministry partner, you join with us each month in working to fulfill the great commission. Monthly giving of any amount sustains our ministry so that we can continue the work of mobilizing the body of Christ to demonstrate Christ's compassion for the advancement of the gospel. With your monthly giving, you help support our many programs, both locally and abroad

- **TASC - Teens Actively Serving Christ**
- **SEED - Serve Engage Evangelize Disciple**
- **Disaster Response**
- **Ministry Development**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Evangelism**

To become an RMS Ministry Partner go to [rms.org/donate/](http://rms.org/donate/)

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday  
May 9, 2020**

**Reformed Mission**  
SERVICES

**2nd Annual  
Clay Shoot Fundraiser**

**Cost: \$75**

**Fee includes:  
Coffee & Donuts,  
12 Stations,  
and Lunch**

**Blendon Pines Gun Club  
8455 88th Ave.  
Zeeland MI 49464**

**We are looking for Station Sponsors, Silent Auction Sponsors, and Table Sponsors. If you are willing to help out with any of these or would like more information about the event, please visit [rms.org](http://rms.org) or contact Rob at (616) 466-8214 or [rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org)**

# A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The calendar year just completed has been a watershed one for RMS. Our operations have grown and advanced on all fronts. It will be no surprise that I am frequently asked exactly what it is that RMS does. I usually respond that RMS is a “brokerage.” Like insurance, stock or real estate brokerage, we bring individuals and companies who have needs on the mission field together with resources, talent, and finances that respond to those needs. Similarly, we locate materials, money, and other benefits, and place them with missionaries and missions that can use them effectively.

In 2019 RMS revised its Mission and Vision Statements better to reflect the reality of its work. These statements summarize well the scope and focus of what RMS daily strives to accomplish through our partnership with our member churches. The Mission Statement provides, “We exist to mobilize the body of Christ to demonstrate Christ’s compassion through the local churches for the advancement of the Gospel.” The Vision Statement indicates, “We long to see the reality of the Great Commission in Christ’s church made up of disciples from all nations, glorifying and delighting in God.” The year 2019 saw RMS pursue vigorously its mission and vision. Let me offer some examples of the outworking of them in practice.

I had the personal privilege of being involved in the TASC (“Teens Actively Serving Christ”) event that took place this past summer at RMS member church Zion United Reformed Church in Ripon, California. The Ripon TASC hosted some 22 high school students from South Dakota, Michigan, and California for a full week of work projects in the local Central Valley there. Much was accomplished and the cause of Christ was surely advanced. What I most appreciated, however, was the manner in which the participants knitted together and grew in spiritual maturity and common purpose.

Outside the United States, RMS has projects in a number of countries including Peru, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Nepal, and Haiti. In Colombia, our relationship is with the Calvary Reformed Church in the city of Santa Marta. Calvary Reformed is an active and vital body of approximately 100 believers who are

making an impact in their community. In past years, RMS assisted with the addition of a second floor to Calvary’s church building. Then late this summer RMS helped the church pastor in finishing out his office, installing library shelves and promoting his efficiency in ministering to and leading his flock. Now the pastor is in need of a parsonage. RMS is currently exploring various possibilities for assisting him in that regard as well.

RMS devotes considerable time and energy to keeping current with trends and developments in missions and the provision of diaconal services for needy churches abroad. Representatives of RMS attended the World Missions Consultation of NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council) in Willow Glen, Pennsylvania. Valuable information was exchanged among missions and diaconal services representatives of nine of the eleven NAPARC member denominations and RMS. RMS’s activities in respect to providing diaconal services abroad are expected to grow in 2020 and beyond. The Consultation was invaluable as we face and prepare for the future.

RMS is grateful to God for all of its ministry partners in our member churches. We regularly pray for you, your pastors, elders, and deacons and for your member families. We are anticipating another busy year in 2020 and expect it to be a year that will stretch us. In addition to continuing our overseas work, we have several excellent TASC sites committed for summer both in the US and in Uruapan, Mexico. We are mobilizing to provide efficient and effective diaconal services in such locations, as many require them.

We ask that you continue to pray for us, present to your congregations’ opportunities to work and serve with RMS in accordance with our announcements that will be made throughout the year and that you continue your financial support, which is critical for us in carrying out our mission and vision.

Sincerely,  
Douglas L. Field  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



2111 Pine Ridge Dr.  
Suite G  
Jenison, MI 49428

Phone: (616) 466-8214  
Email: [contact@rms.org](mailto:contact@rms.org)  
Website: [rms.org](http://rms.org)

TEENS ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST



**TASC**

TEENS ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST

**A ONE WEEK CHRISTIAN SERVICE TRIP FOR  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & COLLEGE FRESHMEN**

**Ages 14-19**

**SUMMER 2020 TASC SITES**

**Menno, SD June 13-20**

*Zion Reformed Church*

**Visalia, CA June 13 - 20**

*Trinity United Reformed Church*

**Pompton Plains, NJ June 27 - July 4**

*Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church*

**Kalamazoo, MI August 1 - 8**

*Covenant United Reformed Church*

**Wyoming, MI August 1 - 8**

*Bethany United Reformed Church*

**Ejido-Uruapan, Mexico August 1 - 8**

*Faith United Reformed Church*

**Group Registration Opens February 1 at [rms.org](http://rms.org)**

**Individual Registration Opens March 1 at [rms.org](http://rms.org)**

*Student participation requires one adult sponsor for every five students.*



TASC CONTACT: Rob Brinks, RMS Director 616.466.8214 • [rob@rms.org](mailto:rob@rms.org)