

WITNESS

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TASC 2019

Covenant URC June 22 - 29, 2019

I spent a week at TASC in Pantego, North Carolina. TASC is my favorite because our main goal is sharing the love of God through helping the community. We started our week off with some really hard news and we were going to learn some lessons that we had not intended. This TASC's theme was "Quench Your Thirst" based on John 4 - "The Women At The Well" was our main passage. Rev. Knot spoke about how God sought the Samaritan woman and brought her to Himself. God first pointed out her emptiness and told her He knew about her sin but still offered her the living water. It was comforting to hear about how God understands our thirst. He knows our pain and the temptation that we face every day because He walked this earth. Apart of me didn't understand before this TASC that we aren't going to be fully satisfied in this life. Christians struggle with depression and anxiety as we live in a sinful world that is so very broken and in need of a second coming. As Christians, we must rest in the knowledge that God does bring comfort to us in this life. We should rest in His promises and know that we have a purpose and God has a plan for our lives. We were all blessed at TASC by the incredible hospitality shown to us by everyone at Covenant URC. It was honestly so amazing to get to know all the kids from NC as well as all the adults that were involved. I am so thankful for everyone who made this trip possible. The lessons we all learned we will remember for a lifetime.

~Sage Atsma



TASC has always had a special place in my heart. This past TASC was the fourth one I participated in. I have gone every year of high school, and the relationships that I have made will last a lifetime. I have grown so much in my faith, from being able to give up a week out of my summer to work, study, evangelize, and worship with so many fellow believers. We all have the same goal, to grow in our faith and serve our one true God. Meeting people with the same faith as you all over the country is such an encouragement! To anyone reading this, I would recommend going to a TASC 100%. This year's TASC theme was Quench Your Thirst. The first session was based on Genesis 3, and the rest were based on John 4:1-42. We are all sinners, hungry, looking for something. We studied the topic of the Samaritan woman. The woman was loved by no one but Jesus. Jesus was the true bridegroom for this woman. Jesus understands our our hurt, our temptations. He wants to give us encouragement and grace. Jesus is our only source of satisfaction. We

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

Acts 1:8b

ended the week with the questions, What are you satisfying your life with? Who/what do you find your joy in? Working alongside and studying with fellow believers for a week is truly amazing. You get to know everyone so well and you get to see their true heart. My favorite part of TASC will always be ending the week sharing our growth, sharing our love for Christ and singing our hearts out to the One who gives us strength everyday to live for Him. I am so thankful that I have been able to go to so many TASCs, and I hope I am able to go to many more.

~ Kristi Huisjen



ZION URC - July 6-13, 2019



It is very eye-opening to travel to different places in our country and know that the need for Christ is everywhere. Being able to serve those in need was a very fulfilling experience and one I will carry with me my entire life. I am thankful for the people of Ripon, who welcomed us and helped make this TASC one of my favorites!

- Kaylee Auch



This year I had the opportunity of going on my 4th TASC. Our group was able to serve at multiple ministries throughout the week - food pantries, thrift stores, and homeless shelters. We helped organize food and clothes, beautify the grounds, and clean buildings. There is always a great response of gratitude from those served for the work accomplished during the week. You go on these trips to bless others, but you are equally as blessed by serving alongside strangers who become close friends, and by learning more about God through sessions and prayer groups.

There is something very special and unique about the fellowship you have with the people you meet on TASC, whether they are fellow TASCers or members of the congregation. You all leave your everyday obligations at home and just focus on serving the Lord and community together. You grow in your faith through the sessions, prayer groups, and helping others. By the end of the week, everyone becomes so close that lifelong friendships are formed and many tears are shed from goodbyes. Most of those who participate in TASC will tell you it's the best week of their summer. The rest will tell you it's the best week of their year.

~ Grace Drew

We studied from the book of Proverbs, on the topic of wisdom, and how at our age especially we need to apply true, godly wisdom to our life, which starts with the fear of the Lord. As the week progressed, we delved ever deeper into Proverbs. I thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciated Pastor Angelo's insight.

- Joseph Grassmid

DUTTON URC August 3-10, 2019

What is TASC? I often am asked this question when I walk around sporting my RMS TASC T-shirt. I love to share with people explaining how TASC, Teens Actively Serving Christ, is a week-long service project where high school students come from all over to worship, work and play together. TASC is more than a service opportunity, however. It is an event that mobilizes the church. It gets people involved whether by donating food, tools, time, or money everyone can be part of TASC. Once people know what TASC is and how it works, their follow up questions are usually about the “why?”. Why are TASC’s important? Why do kids love TASC? Why should I get involved with TASC? Why TASC? All these questions are logical, and I think are best answered through Bonnie’s story. Bonnie is a sixty-year-old widow whose husband died years ago and who struggles with anxiety. Bonnie goes to a local church but needed help with some landscaping around her home. She was connected to TASC through a Dutton church member who is friends with her. Here is her story of thankfulness towards the kids who worked at her house during Dutton URC TASC 2019:



Bonnie's House “Before”



Bonnie's House “After”

“I thank God for TASC! I have been so blessed as I had these young adults work around my home this summer. My front landscaping was bad, filled with weeds, perhaps ten to twelve inches tall. The five high schoolers and their crew leader worked a day and a half at my home. They planted four dwarf burning bushes in my front bed. They spread shredded bark and planted other kinds of bushes and plants. Bob K, a professional landscaper actually came to my home, helped design my landscape and donated over a dozen bushes and plants! My front yard looks great! The TASC team also worked diligently in my backyard as well. They cut down a tall cedar tree which was on my neighbors’ side of the fence but was leaning over into my property. The tree was being choked to death by grapevines and trumpet vines growing widely on the tree and fence. A professional tree serviceman and his young nephew also gave of their time and skills in cutting the 40-foot tree down. They then cut it up and used a tree shredder to chip it and take it away. My back yard was transformed with more shredded bark in the beds and once completed looks AMAZING!

My neighbor lady, a 55-year-old unbeliever, was observing these young people giving of their time and working hard, and it truly impacted her. The day her tree was cut down and hauled away totally free of charge was the same day she asked me if she could go to my church! She was so amazed that the young people and professional tradespeople would give of their time to help others out without asking for money. She could not understand why they were so kind to her and was truly blown away by how much the TASC students blessed her. I told her it was because they LOVED the Lord and wanted to SERVE Him. I asked her if she had a Bible, and she did not, so I gave her one. Today, I continue to be her friend and try to witness to her, praying for her that the seed planted in her heart would grow and that she would come to know the Lord. I thank God for each and every TASC member who blessed me. They truly made not only an impact in my own life but were also, probably without even knowing it, a witness to my neighbor. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You!”

- Bonnie

DUTTON URC (CONT.)

If I had only three words to describe TASC, they would be service, community and witness. John 12:26 says, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." TASC is ultimately a week of service. Kids come and serve others who they know nothing about. They work out in the community, and the church community comes together providing the necessary funding, supplies and food. The most important part about TASC, however, is the witnessing. The students who went to Bonnie's house were there to spruce up Bonnie's landscaping because she couldn't do it herself. But by the way the kids carried themselves, the way they acted and talked and the way they humbly served, they were witnesses to Bonnie's neighbor. Through their actions, they planted a seed in Bonnie's neighbors' heart.

They were ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST, and through it, God received ALL the praise and glory! I proudly wear my RMS TASC T-shirt and hope I can be a witness to anyone and everyone who the Lord places in my life!

~ Kevin Offringa



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 Ref. 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

SHOWER TRAILER

Over the years, we have experienced drought, wildfires, mudslides, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding across North America. Disaster relief provides opportunities to minister to the physical needs of those affected. When the church commits itself to address those needs, she is often given the opportunity to minister the gospel to the spiritual needs of those affected as well.

When disaster struck in Houston in 2017, RMS was greatly encouraged by the outpouring of support that came from churches in the URCNA and we hope to continue this support.

RMS is at a point in which we desire to expand our efforts and capabilities in disaster relief. Currently, RMS has two tool trailers, one stationed on the East Coast and the other in Iowa. Both equipped with a variety of tools to assist in times of disaster. Our vision is to acquire and deploy mobile shower trailers, additional tool trailers, and as finances come forward, laundry and bunkhouse trailers. It is remark

able, and tragic, how often disaster relief volunteer organizations are hampered by the lack of these kinds of facilities. It is our prayer that RMS can be extremely effective in filling this need.

We are currently working towards purchasing a shower trailer (shown below) with an estimated cost of \$54,000.00. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of this shower trailer, contact Rob at rob@rms.org.



For our Canadian Supporters

You can now send your donation to RMS through the registered charity, United Reformed Mission Association (URMA). We encourage donating to URMA through your local church. To do so, simply write a check made out to your local church and write in the memo box that the donation is for URMA-RMS. Your treasurer will send URMA your gift and issue you a tax receipt. URMA will also send an annual receipt to our supporting churches. If you prefer to donate directly to us, please send your checks made out to "URMA" - United Reformed Mission Association, 1100 40th Avenue N, Lethbridge, AB T1H 6B7.

For more information about URMA and the projects they support visit www.urma.ca.

LEGACY GIVING - What is Legacy Giving?

Legacy Giving, or as it is sometimes called, Charitable Planning, is your opportunity to plan how you will benefit your family, friends, and ministries, like RMS, after you have gone home to be with the Lord. A legacy gift is an excellent way to partner with RMS to support the future and growth of our ministry. It will significantly impact the mission of our organization without you having to give any of your assets away today. With legacy giving, you can change your mind at any time if your circumstances change.

Please speak with your financial advisor for the specific ways you can support our ministry in this way.

If you would like to discuss the ways RMS will use your gift, please contact Rob at rob@rms.org.

MEET THE NEW



I am **Jay Hofland**, and my family lives on our farm near Sanborn, IA. We are members of Cornerstone URC in Sanborn. My wife, Carla, and I were recently blessed with our 30th anniversary. Our three adult children are also members of Cornerstone. I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in two RMS trips to Peru, one in Cusco and one in Lares. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the mission of RMS.



I am **Ron Verhoeven** and have been married to my wife Beverly for over 40 years. The Lord has blessed us with 4 children and 14 grandchildren. We both grew up in Chino, CA and moved to the Central Valley of CA in 2004. We are members of Trinity URC, Visalia, where I am currently serving as an Elder.

We were privileged to be part of the first TASC project in 2007, and I served on the first board of RMS. It is a joy to have the opportunity to serve again. For work, my son, Dennis, and I operate Ron Verhoeven Family Dairy.

BOARD MEMBERS



My name is **Larry Mouw**. My wife Rachel and I have been married for 16 years and have been blessed with 4 children. We attend Zion United Reformed Church in Ripon, California. I have been working as a Fire Captain of the Turlock Fire Department for the past 17 years now. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family. We like to go camping by the ocean, up in the mountains, or pretty much anywhere in God's beautiful creation. As our children have grown, we have become more involved in youth sports, and I do help coach their soccer teams. I spent time in a Guatemalan men's prison. This was actually on my first mission trip when I was in high school. We had the opportunity to have a bible study and play soccer with the men there. That trip had a lasting effect on me. I have been involved with RMS since 2016. It has been a wonderful experience to see trips come together to spread the word and love of Jesus Christ.

Hello, I am **Roger Klaassen**, and I am a member of Covenant United Reformed Church in Pantego, North Carolina. I currently serve as a deacon and youth group leader. I have been employed at Beech Ridge Pork Farm for the last 26 years. My passion for over 30 years has been coaching high school basketball and baseball. My wife Taffy and I have been married for 27 years, and we have two children. As a family, we have attended and hosted several TASC events. We have been blessed in countless ways through our association with RMS.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Lares, Peru December 2 - 12, 2019

This church began construction of their facilities in May 2015 with a team from RMS. In November of that year, another RMS team of volunteers returned to help pour the floor and lay blocks for the second floor. Members of the church then completed the outside structure and the roof in order that they could begin worshipping there. Time and funds were not available to complete the finishing touches to the interior until now. RMS will be working alongside some of the men of the church installing wood planks on the sanctuary floor to bring the interior of the church building to completion. We will worship with them on the Lord's Day!

Sabana Grande de Boya, Dominican Republic January 7 - 15, 2020

Back in the '80s, Dr. Neal Hegeman and other missionaries began a ministry for the Haitian immigrants that settled in the central part of the Dominican Republic to work the sugar plantations. They established many churches in that region.

They also built a Ministry Center and a Christian School in the centrally located city of Sabana Grande de Boya. Over the years countless students have graduated from the school and many teams of volunteers have stayed here. This RMS team will perform some much-needed maintenance to both facilities. This will include painting, cement work, block laying, and other projects as time permits.

Bohoc, Haïti January 27 - February 5, 2020

RMS will be working on the Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF) mission compound located on the beautiful central plateau. It is a rural community far away from the capital of Port au Prince. HAFF is primarily a secondary school for the region, but it also serves to help the local people with a medical clinic, dentistry, vocational training for men and women, as well as Bible study courses. The team will be doing some maintenance on the classrooms, home visits to the shut-ins and handicapped, and encouraging the church members around the area.

Tepeyac, Costa Rica February 14 - 22, 2020

Plans are still being developed for this trip. However, there is a need for volunteers to help prepare both school facilities for the beginning of the new school year! Desks need repairs, landscaping installed, hardware installed in the classrooms, and MANY other projects. We will also help out in the CLIR Print Shop with some of their day-to-day operations.

SEED Program Toronto, ON July 10 - 18, 2020

SEED is hosted by an RMS Member Church to provide evangelism and discipleship training for mature young people aged 17-25 who have made profession of faith in their local church. This year's site is The Hope Centre Etobicoke, ON, Canada where we will be working with Rev. Tony and Arley-Ann Zekveld.



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