THE TRUMPET
Missions Newsletter of the URCNA

November 2026

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

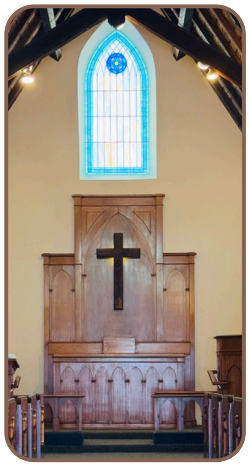
Rev. Adam Kaloostian

Thank you for your prayers and support

through our infancy and now, our pre-school years. Today we are 49 souls calling Ventura Reformed our church home. To some that's not a big number, but that is a good and growing number in our context. We are fixed in mid-town Ventura and have an elder and a deacon. Our internal giving has grown each year, year-over-year, and now covers half our expenses. We have concrete ideas to lower our expenses, targeting self-sufficiency (or close to it) faster.

Windstorms prompted the electric company to shut off Ventura power intermittently last week. Lights on again, off again, all hours. Like church life. Lights on- weekly women's 'Coffee Break' going strong, jovial men's BBQ in September. Lights off- untimely recent deaths in our mother church and church plant, advancing infirmities of another aging member. Lights on again- plywood board in the sanctuary front replaced with a beautiful stained glass window (pictured), raucous youth group Family Feud night in October, a new local college-age young lady joined the church (pictured); lights off again- she and another young lady went off to their universities (we miss them).





And bright blazing lights on again! One family coming in- each of the four family members had a different path. Mom is longtime lapsed Roman Catholic, seems the Lord got hold of her here first, but she had been hesitant to push forward too much. Dad was raised and continued to be 'nonreligious'- irreligious- and though he showed interest, the devil overbusied him with work and health trials (this Dad said, in his first members class session, "this is strange for me, since the rest of the family has more Christian training than I have, but, it's time"). The older son, he's a thoughtful high school junior, and has spent untold hours wrestling with the faith with our guys, testing and learning that Christ is Lord. The younger son is the beneficiary of Christian schooling; it has him more readily following the family's new direction. Before year end, we expect a Sunday with great rejoicing here and in heaven, these four professions of faith including the three guys' baptisms in the incomparably gracious and powerful Name of our Triune Lord.

Dearest URCNA churches and households, will you help us with an offering at this close of 2026? We still need it for 2026, and to start 2027 strong. And would you consider scheduling us for next year as churches or households? Checks can be made out to Pasadena URC (memo line: "Ventura") and sent to Pasadena URC, PO Box 1737, Monrovia, CA, 91017-1737. For questions or financial details, email adam.kaloostian@venturareformed.org or call/text 805-535-5502. Thank you!



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AJAX, ONTARIO

Rev. Brian Zegers

This past summer we had the privilege of speaking to numerous churches in Western Canada about our mission work among Muslims in the Greater Toronto Area. Many people expressed surprise at the variety of ways in which we are able to engage Muslims with the Gospel.The fact that we have such freedom should not be taken for granted. In most Muslim countries throughout the world it is illegal for Christians to prosletytize and it is dangerous for Muslims to explore the claims of the Gospel, let alone embrace them. We know a Christian woman who worked in Saudi Arabia for many years who expressed amazement at the freedoms and opportunities we have here in Canada. Her observation highlights an important reality: Here in North America, we are living in a unique cultural moment in which we still have the freedom to proclaim the Gospel and Muslims have the freedom to hear its truth claims.

Our monthly Christian-Muslim Discussion Evenings continue to provide us with a setting in which we can set forth biblical truths and challenge Muslim attendees by asking probing questions about their beliefs. Over the past year we have explored a range of topics including how and why Jesus and Muhammad died, the transmission, preservation, and reliabilty of the Bible and the Qur'an, the origin, nature, and spread of sin, and the concept of patriotism and citizenship in Christianity and Islam.



The Lord has also opened a door for ministry among the women of the Ahmadiyya community. Christian women have been able to attend and host lunch socials where relationships are fostered and the love of Christ is shown. In addition, Karen Zegers was invited to represent the Christian faith at a Ladies' Interfaith Symposium and speak about how the Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Another symposium is planned for October where she has been invited to speak about "Love of God."

We have also been privileged to provide apologetic training for high school students. It is very rare for a young person entering college, university, or the workforce to not have Muslim classmates or coworkers. This training equips our youth to defend and proclaim the Christian faith when interacting with Muslims.



Much of the ministry continues quietly behind the scenes through personal relationships and one-on-one conversations or Bible reading. A highlight was seeing a Muslim neighbour complete reading the Gospel of John and comment multiple times on ways in which Jesus is unique among the prophets. We thank the Lord for the many opportunities He continues to give us to sow Gospel seed. Pray that the Holy Spirit would cause these seeds to sprout and grow into saving faith.

