



The  
Reformed  
Parish

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# The Reformed Parish

February 27, 2025

Dear friends & prayer partners:

We continue to expand the work in my Woodbine parish, a community of Hispanics, African-Americans, and white working class folk.

I had the privilege of having an HRC friend, Katrina Van Grouw, from northern New Jersey tag along with us going door-to-door (pic. 1). On that afternoon, we met a friendly 70-something woman, "Lenore." She shared that she had been increasingly feeling a need to get back to church. As I was planning to preach from our Lord stilling the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee from Luke 8, I began to narrate the story. She soon chimed in, "Where is your faith?" Ah! Yet another stray sheep who once had been in the fold. Indeed, Lenore, where is your faith? Will you not follow through on the Lord's clear visitation to return? In any case, she indicated a determination to come. Haven't seen her yet, but I think I'll return there sooner than my normal annual cycle would take me.

I've run into more blue-collar white folks recently. I feel a special draw to them as they are my 'kind.' The grease-blackened hands, the cigarettes, the half-complete auto projects—all of it evokes the Des Moines east side of my adolescence. Jesus is the "friend of sinners," and He comes on an errand for them as He does for the others.

The Hispanic witness continues to expand. One family welcomed me in, and the next week they had Major Tom and myself over for delicious Puerto Rican cuisine (pic. 2)! Another Mexican family has opened their home, has come out to a **special bilingual meeting** hosted at the Rivera's (pic. 3), and has even recently come to church. And another stray sheep, a man who clearly knows the Bible very well and yet has lapsed from the Visible Church, came out to that special meeting and was effusive in his appreciation (pic. 4). But .... the Enemy still has a draw on him I fear, and flights of religious feeling are not enough. Please pray that the Lord would break his chains.

As always, thank you for your support! "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."

Yours for Jesus' sake,

Michael Ives  
[reformedparish.com](http://reformedparish.com) (outreach)  
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**February 2025**  
Quarterly Update



# Systematic Parish Visitation

“In systematizing this part of his work, the clergyman should fix a day for its performance. Let it uniformly be done on the same day of the week, and in the same part of the day. Again, he should pass around his entire parish within a certain time. This will make it necessary to visit his people by districts, or neighborhoods; and, unless there be a special reason for it, he should not visit in the same locality again, until he has come round to it in full circuit. This course will compel the parishioner, should there be need of a special visit, as in case of sickness, religious anxiety, or affliction, to send for him, in obedience to the apostolic direction, ‘Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church.’”

*W.G.T. Shedd*



[\*read more here\*](#)



*West Port Experiment*  
On parish missions, the care of souls,  
and all things Reformed

