



April 2025

Dear Friends,

It's time for my first letter of 2025—so here's wishing you an interesting and blessed 2025! I wrote this letter when three of our four girls are home for spring break, with Marie having enjoyed a week in GA with her university friends earlier in March.

The French program has added another candidate, Josué, from Congo who is friends with some of our other students, but attends a different church in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. Despite having previous pastoral studies in Africa, Josué was very impressed with our curriculum and felt that the Coram Deo program would leave him better equipped to serve his local church. His pastor has blessed his efforts and Josué will soon be starting. We also have our first RCA commissioned pastor candidate, supervised by the Great Lakes classis.

We're continuing to explore the possibility of preparing a dozen (or so) Florida Haitians to become commissioned pastors in one of the Reformed denominations. The only thing I would need to do is to prepare a specific course on Reformed theology, creeds, and catechisms in French. Much of the materials already exist in French (after all, Calvin and Guido De Bres wrote The Institutes and the Belgic Confession in French), so the task should not be too difficult. We'll see what happens. It seems that one of the way some denominations are growing today is by sponsoring immigrant church congregations, which often requires that their pastors have been trained to a commissioned pastor level.

In other news, Marie and Laurey were young adult representatives to the RCA Global Mission Mission 2025 conference in Orlando this January. Marie served on the praise team and played guitar and sang. They were very inspired by the speakers and both hope to serve in global missions in the future. Ellie has just completed the Large Group and Individual Speech season and was part of the One-Act play that was named the best in Iowa for 2025.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Above left to right: Ellie and the cast of Iowa's best One-Act Play in 2025; Marie and Laurey (center) with other college participants at Mission 2025.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

1. Pray for good health, as the winter had family members coming down with influenza A, strep throat, asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses. All are now doing fine.
2. Continue to pray about a future partnership to train French-speaking Haitian pastors in the U.S.
3. We're thankful for how God is working in the girls' lives and we pray that he'll guide their futures.
4. We're grateful for the growth of the Coram Deo training, in English, French, and Spanish. With 160 candidates in our programs, we are training more pastors than many seminaries.

In Christ,

Tom and family

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.