



# McGEE MAGAZINE

**MISSION TRINIDAD: Teaching classical Christianity with the hope of a new reformation to sweep the Caribbean.**

## MISSION TRINIDAD EXPANDS

SPECIAL EDITION

APRIL 2009

We wish to share with you the following letter, which was sent to those Churches and individuals who support us, from our Elders at Bethel United Reformed Church, Jenison, MI.

“Dear Supporting Brethren, We want to thank you for your faithfulness both in prayers and financial support of Mission Trinidad. We are writing to share some exciting news regarding Mission Trinidad and the work of Rev. Steve McGee. We are happy to report the expansion of Rev. McGee’s ministry and Mission Trinidad to extend to the entire Caribbean and Latin American regions. This will be accomplished through his appointment as President of Ministries In Action (MIA). Rev. McGee will assume the duties of Rev. Dr. Walford Thompson, who has served as the President of MIA for the past thirty years. Dr. Thompson is seeking to retire and will continue to serve as Ambassador at Large for MIA.



Rev. Steve McGee and Adanna, center, with six of Ministries In Action (MIA) Board Members. Dr. Walford Thompson is at the far right.

We, as the elders and overseers of Rev. McGee

and Mission Trinidad, have gone through a lengthy process of investigation and discussion before giving approval for Rev. McGee to proceed with this ministry expansion. We formulated many questions for Rev. McGee to answer prior to his visit to Bethel URC for additional evaluation by Bethel’s Consistory here in Jenison. We would like to share with you some of the questions and answers that we wrestled with as a Consistory so that you may better understand the open doors that God has opened to Bethel URC and the URC at large.

**What is MIA and what is it about? What is the relationship between MINTS, MIA, and Mission Trinidad?**

Ministries in Action is a 501C Faith Mission Agency, founded initially in 1961 by Rev. Terry Gyger (an ordained PCA minister and is presently the Director of International Church Planting effort of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, NY, (of which Rev. Tim Keller is the Senior Pastor).

In 1977 E. Walford Thompson was asked to serve as the president of MIA, having served the organization as its Director in the Caribbean. Dr. Thompson is an ordained minister in the PCA and serves as an Elder of Old Cutler Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida, and is part of the co-founding team of Miami International Seminary (MINTS).

MIA is governed by a twelve member Board of Directors; (continued inside page two)



## MISSION TRINIDAD EXPANDS TO CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

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Ten are members of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), including Rev. Dan Faber, Mission Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, Montgomery, AL and Rev. Kevin Smith, Senior Pastor of Pine-lands Presbyterian Church, Miami, FL.

MIA has a cooperative agreement with Mission to the World (MTW-PCA) and several PCA teaching elders are serving with MIA in the Iona Centers for Theological Studies. Dr. David Calhoun, professor of Church History, Covenant Seminary, St. Louis, MI, is the Dean of Students in the Iona program. Rev. Marc Mailloux is MIA's Director of Theological Educations (French speaking nations); Dr. Roger Smalling is Director of Theological Education (Latin America). Rev. Billy McKillop is Coordinator of Theological Education, Jamaica.

Students work toward a Certificate or Diploma of Theology, or an Associate Degree in Christian Counseling taught by professors from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MI.

MIA is a co-founder of MINTS, together with Old Cutler Presbyterian Church (Miami, FL) and the Joint Venture Committee of the URC. Dr. Neal Hegeman is the Dean of Students of MINTS and is a full time MIA missionary, supported by the URC, living in Miami, FL. Rev. Allen Vander Pol, also a URC missionary, is the Academic Dean for MINTS residing in Cape Coral, FL and Rev. Eric Pennings, a URC missionary, serves as Director for Central America for MINTS and resides in Toronto, Canada.

The goal of MIA is to reform the Church in the Caribbean and Latin America by providing sound theological education to servant/leaders of

Christ's Church, by using reputable reformed scholars as lecturers in their courses, to wit, Dr. David Calhoun (Covenant Seminary); Dr. Michael Woodham (Granada Presb.); the late Dr. James Montgomery Boice, 10th Presb., Philadelphia; and Rev. Charles McGowan, founding pastor of Christ Presb. Church, Nashville, TN.

The following information describes the tri-fold approach of MIA in reforming the Church:

1. Theological Education: MINTS and Iona
2. Evangelism and Discipleship: MIA strategy for Church growth
3. Holistic Ministry: Project Ebenezer

Rev. McGee was on loan to MINTS as their Director for the English Speaking Caribbean. All MINTS facilitators that he works with in the Caribbean, with the exception of Belize, are full time MIA missionaries. Mars Hill Institute of Biblical Theology in Trinidad is a MINTS study center. The connection between MINTS, MIA and Mission Trinidad has already been established.

### **Where will Rev. McGee be based?**

Rev. McGee and his family will be based in Miami, FL. This is necessary for several reasons: 1) The offices and staff for MIA have been in Miami for over forty years due to Miami's being the gateway to the Caribbean, Latin and South America. 2) Rev. McGee will be traveling extensively to Jamaica, Haiti, Belize, Central America, the Bahamas, and the upper and lower Caribbean. The location of Miami is essential to his traveling needs and will cut his traveling expenses in half. 3) Rev. McGee will continue to maintain the relationship with Rev. Gosyne and Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church in Trinidad. Mars Hill Institute of Biblical Theology's (MINTS study center) office





in Trinidad will serve as the “spring board” from which he will perform his work in the lower Caribbean Islands. 4) Additional staffing in Trinidad will be provided with two additional missionaries with experience via Mexico: Chuck and Dawn Newell will facilitate the MINTS study center and ministry teams and Dallas and Anna Lee Ward will be responsible for one on one discipleship, counseling and Bible studies. Rev. Jeff Garrett, an ordained PCA minister, will be teaching at Mars Hill and other MINTS study centers. His wife, Jaime, along with their four children, are MTW missionaries.

**Who will oversee Rev. McGee’s work and who will he be accountable to?**

The Elders of Bethel URC will continue to oversee his work with MIA. His ministerial credentials will continue to be held at Bethel URC. Rev. McGee will report to the Board of MIA and Bethel URC. He will continue to report on a monthly basis to the Elders of Bethel and his report to the MIA Board will also be included in his monthly report.

**What responsibilities will Rev. McGee continue with regarding Mission Trinidad? What happens to his relationship with Pastor Ricky Gosyne and his involvement with his present church responsibilities?**

Rev. McGee will continue to teach at the MINTS study centers located throughout the English speaking Caribbean which includes the MINTS study center located in Trinidad. He plans to be in Trinidad at least every other month to preach at Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church (CREC) and visit with the missionaries and students working with CREC and Mars Hill. The work in Trinidad will continue as it always has. His involvement will be in overseeing the work and relationships with Bethel URC and other

partners in ministry. Revs. Gosyne and McGee will continue their current radio broadcast. This will be accomplished through pre-recorded messages and live broadcasts when Rev. McGee is in Trinidad.

Rev. McGee will continue to serve as an elder at CREC and will continue to recruit professors to write and teach at Mars Hill Institute, as well as all the MINTS study centers in the Caribbean.

Mission Trinidad will benefit greatly from his involvement with MIA. MIA has a vast base from which to draw resources for ministry i.e. work teams to build medical clinics, schools, churches, etc.

Essentially, God has given Rev. McGee and Bethel URC the opportunity to multiply Mission Trinidad throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Mission Trinidad is a mirror of several MIA’s ministries (church

**“The same ministry God called him (Rev. McGee) to do will continue, not only in Trinidad, but throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.”**

planting, theological education and holistic ministry). This opportunity with MIA affords us the ability to multiply and expand. Mission Trinidad will not be limited to the island of Trinidad but will be a portion of a greater whole.

We are convinced that God has opened this door! Rev. McGee and the URC will have a wider audience in which to work out our calling as the body of Christ in order to fulfill the Great Commission. Rev. McGee and his family moved to Trinidad in 2003 to do missionary work in areas of theological education, evangelism, church planting and holistic ministry. The same ministry God called him to do will continue, not only in Trinidad, but throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. He will continue to train local pastors and future missionaries in all the above areas. This truly is the realization of ‘the hope of a new reformation to sweep the Caribbean.’

Join with us in praise and thanksgiving to our God’s directing Rev. McGee, Bethel URC and Mission Trinidad in reaching the Caribbean and Latin America.

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The McGee Family  
#10 Bayo Drive-Kolahal Road  
Charlieville-Chaguanas  
Trinidad West Indies

Phone: 1.868.672.4250  
Cell: 1.868.396.3422  
Fax: same  
E-mail: [coconutislands-coconutsteve@yahoo.com](mailto:coconutislands-coconutsteve@yahoo.com)  
[adannamcgee@yahoo.com](mailto:adannamcgee@yahoo.com)

The McGee family is so grateful to our supporters through prayers and finances. We ask that you bring us before the Throne of Grace at this time for the following:

- \* To find affordable housing which will suit our needs in Miami
- \* Continued strength and health—physically, mentally and spiritually—in packing a household for moving
- \* An easy transition for all of us in leaving a foreign country and returning to the USA
- \* Steve's transition of ministerial duties
- \* The new missionary couples (Chuck & Dawn Newell, Dallas & Anna Lee Ward, Rev. Jeff & Jaime Garrett) and their transition to the ministry in Trinidad



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God has accomplished great things without the outlays of large amounts of monies and that Mission Trinidad has always operated with a small balance of funds. The rate of expanding this work will depend largely upon funds made available.

We are so deeply thankful to the twenty churches and two individuals who have partnered with us in financial support for these past six years. To these supporters we humbly ask that they would consider an increase in their support, and to all other churches of URCNA we are asking you to partner with us financially to further the advance of this kingdom work.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Elders, Bethel URC

Marvin VandenBerg, Clerk”

Should you desire more information please contact BETHEL URC; 2025 Baldwin Street, Jenison, MI 49428; 1.616.457.4001; [bethelunitedurc@yahoo.com](mailto:bethelunitedurc@yahoo.com).

