

April 2020 Classes Report

Name Change for approval of Synod 2020

Following the approval in late February by the CRC's Council of Delegates, Back to God Ministries International is in the process of changing its name and tagline to: **ReFrame Ministries with the tagline *God's Story. Today's Media.***

A name isn't everything about a ministry, but, like a church, it is often the first thing someone hears or learns about the ministry. The "ReFrame Ministries" name better introduces this ministry and its ongoing purpose to people who don't know Jesus yet.

Many of our ministry followers already know us as "ReFrame" because ReFrame Media has been the name of our English ministry since 2008. With that audience, we have found that ReFrame is a contemporary way of expressing the Reformed Christian worldview that the Gospel of Jesus Christ should totally change the way that we see, or "reframe" everything in our lives. We pray that this change will also better serve your church as you seek to share resources produced by the ministry with others.

Arabic Media Ministry

Under the leadership of our recently-appointed ministry leader, Martin Nathan, we're completing a digital version on a mobile application that can be accessed quickly, easily, and effectively by even more people. We have also just launched a new website, complete with new materials to help men and women in Egypt learn about the Gospel, deepen their faith, and walk with the Lord daily.

Chinese Media Ministry

Working under government restrictions and in one of the world's most technologically-advanced places, Pastor Jerry An has been training church leaders and pastors to use media for church services long before the pandemic. Right now, An's training is in high demand—one video training maxed out at 500 participants—but An encourages the church leaders to embrace the use of media as a "new normal" for church services both in China and around the world.

ReFrame Media/English ministry

All six of ReFrame's programs are responding to COVID-19 in some way with new content to help individuals, families, and churches meet their spiritual needs while away from the home. You can find all of these resources at BackToGod.net/churches/resources-covid-19.

Provisionally, the subject for May is "Community." May it encourage good discussions as we explore how we can do life together in the midst of a pandemic that requires an unusual measure of physical separation.

French Media Ministry

It seemed like tensions between Muslims and Christians in Burkina Faso were already at a peak before COVID-19. Yet because a well-known Christian pastor had one of the nation's first confirmed cases, these tensions have only increased.

Rev. Jacky Chery, French ministry coordinator in Haiti, is also receiving many requests from churches in Haiti as they look to host online services.

Hindi Media Ministry

Many parts of India were put on lockdown very abruptly. Although our Hindi ministry leader already had enough supplies, he prays for the people who did not already have supplies or who cannot afford it. He too has been sharing special messages on social media. Pray especially for Christians who are confined to their homes with family members who don't know about their faith.

Indonesian Media Ministry

Earlier this year, Rev. Arliyanus Larosa was officially installed as the leader of the ministry (called YKB in Indonesia) in a worship service in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital. Larosa shared his vision for the future ministry, "Radio outreach remains an important tool in Indonesia, but the internet and social media are becoming the most important channel for communication here just as they are elsewhere in the world. So, we've started new programs using social media, especially short video content on YouTube."

Japanese Media Ministry

The Japanese ministry team has created special content to help people focus on God's bigger story in the midst of so much uncertainty. One reader responded this way: "My heart is so tired with all of the news of the coronavirus. Thank you for your precious work!"

Portuguese Media Ministry

Before COVID-19, Brazil was already undergoing an economic crisis. Rev. Lopes has pointed to Christ as a source of hope during difficult times. With several internet-based video programs and hundreds of speaking events every year, Rev. Hernandez Dias Lopes already had a well-established following among Portuguese speakers on social media. With churches closed as well as the studio where he records most of his regular programs, Rev. Lopes has been filming 15-30 minute messages from his home. The most popular video already has more than 160,000 views and all of the videos have more than 30,000 views.

Russian Media Ministry

The Russian ministry is also experiencing a much higher volume of visits to its website. As everywhere, people are longing to hear a message of hope. Many of Sergei's conversations with his staff are about speaking into the situation from a Christ-centered perspective.

In-person events in partnership with local churches is also a large part of BTGMI's Russian ministry outreach (more so than most of the other ministries). So the cancellation of these events has been challenging.

Spanish Media Ministry

During COVID-19, Rev. Huascar de la Cruz has been working with churches to set up online services and also hosting special videos for Spanish speakers. He shares, "This is perhaps the best time we have had in a long time to proclaim the hope we have in Christ, and the full certainty that, if not now, someday this world as we know it will come to its end."

