


## California Nurse Recognized for Excellence

**C**arla Mensonides, a member of Modesto (Calif.) Christian Reformed Church, was recently recognized by the 2011 California Nursing Excellence Awards for her work in mentoring nurses.

Mensonides has been a nurse for more than 20 years but has spent the past 10 mentoring young people and adults interested in the health-care field. She reaches 750 to 1,000 students annually.

By getting into schools and reaching out to at-risk teens, Mensonides has offered a vision of a brighter future to struggling students. The program provides employment, scholarships, and support for students entering the health-care profession.

"I tell students that in this career they can make a difference in people's lives every day," said Mensonides. 

—Heidi Wicker




Carla Mensonides received a Nursing Excellence Award for her mentoring program.

## British Columbia Triples University Chaplaincies

**I**n September students at three British Columbia universities were welcomed by Christian Reformed chaplains. Two of the chaplaincies are newly established.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond established a partnership with The Tapestry CRC following conversations between Rev. Albert Chu and university staff. Sam Lee, a Vancouver native and second-generation Korean, will work half time on the campus, which has a large number of Asian students, many of whom come from overseas.

The University of British Columbia-Okanagan welcomed Sam Gutierrez as its first Christian Reformed chaplain. The Well Campus Ministry hopes to build a shared ministry with the CRC of the same name.

The two new ministries join the CRC campus ministry at University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George. 

—Jenny de Groot

## KW Glee Concert Supports Ontario Food Bank



STEVE LEHMANN

Members of Kitchener-Waterloo Glee perform.

**M**aranatha Christian Reformed Church in Cambridge, Ontario, hosted the Kitchener-Waterloo Glee Team for a concert in early December, raising almost \$2,000 and 1,234 pounds of food donations for the local food bank.

"But the intangibles," said Rev. John Vanderstoep, "the unmeasurables were just as important."

KW Glee, a group of young singers popular in their region, is not a Christian group, and their songs were not modified for the performance in church. While there were concerns about that, Vanderstoep noted that the 76 singers and large crew "are precisely the kind of people we are

looking to connect to God through our church."

Church volunteers provided promotion, setup, cleanup, and backstage help for scene changes.

After the concert, Glee cast, crew, and parents were treated to a dinner and party by church volunteers.

Rev. Darrell Bierman of River City CRC in Cambridge, whose church partnered with Maranatha in ticket sales, promotion, and volunteering backstage, said, "This event has advanced the image of Maranatha in the City of Cambridge by 10 years."

—Anita Brinkman

## Salt Lake Pastor Talks Ministry to Mormons

**R**ev. Brian Tebben of Salt Lake City, Utah, is familiar with criticism of the Mormon Church. "Talking to people I sometimes hear, 'As soon as I drove into the valley I felt this spiritual darkness,'" Tebben said.

However, he and parishioners of First Christian Reformed Church of Salt Lake don't feel that spiritual darkness. "We see them as a people; we don't just write them off as a cult," he said.

Tebben sees Mormonism as a culture more than anything else. "There are striking major theological differences [between Mormonism and Christianity]," Tebben admits. "We're a Christian Reformed church with a Reformed worldview, but understanding that many of the new people who are coming—they just want a Christian church to be at," he said.

"We preach a lot of grace. Mormons aren't grace centered. To be able to enter a temple, a Mormon must have a temple recommendation, which is based on if they are deemed worthy or not. The best thing to talk about with a Mormon is God's grace, especially the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

—Sarah Boonstra