RCM’s Evangelism & Outreach

Grace Reformed Church pastored by Roldan Aquino (far right) meeting in his home in Bay, Laguna, Philippines

September - December 2009
News and Prayer Letter
The Lord Jesus “appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.’” [Mark 16:14-16]

The command from the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to every creature was delivered to the church representatives—the eleven apostles (later to be twelve again). The most encouraging doctrine of election and predestination undergirds this command with great hope. Were we to depend upon the will of man to repent of his sins and believe in Christ, preaching would be the most hopeless responsibility. Who would be able to come? Like dead Lazarus in the grave, all are dead and unable to rise and come forth except they be quickened (given life—Eph. 2:1). Belief is not within the grasp of men dead in sin and in the grip of Satan. It remains solely for those whom God has chosen and spiritually enabled to see their sins and hear the Gospel. God alone opens our eyes. God alone gives us the new life to respond. Thank God that our Gospel depends upon Him alone for awakening the sinner to His need for Christ and then sends forth that Gospel through various means (especially preaching) throughout the world. This greatly motivates us in spreading the Gospel.

The stated purpose of Reformation Christian Ministries is Gospel-centered education and outreach. By outreach, we mean “evangelism,” i.e. sending forth the authoritative and true biblical Gospel. In these days, with so much spiritual darkness that masquerades under the name “church,” one of the major fields we find “white unto harvest” are those many who believe their salvation depends upon some decision they make to accept Jesus Christ. Such decisions are man-centered rather than grace-centered and have no power to bring true holiness.

Sadly, even many “sovereign grace” (or Calvinistic) churches, while preaching the true gospel, do not differentiate between true gospel salvation and false gospel counterfeits leaving many in their sin while thinking themselves to be “Christians.” They rightly promote the antithesis between truth and error, but often fail to apply it to “Christians” who base their salvation more upon what they have done and how they feel, than what Christ has done.

What a joy it is, by the grace of God through your prayers and help, to be able to reach out to so many such people with the Gospel of sovereign grace. To such as these and to those who admit they have never known Christ, we have designed the Good News Bible Study Ministries.

The Good News Bible Study outreach at RCM has sent out more than 35,000 copies in the last 30 years and eleven different versions in more than twenty years. Additional Bible courses of lack of personnel simultaneously there was a dire need for more advanced education for leaders in our various mission fields. A delicate balance between evangelism and on-going education needs continual effort.

In God’s providence, we have secured the services of a good theological writer who is learning our approach to Bible courses—. He initially volunteered even though we offered to pay him, but time became an issue. Now he is unemployed so money (and the time it would free up) is an issue. In the midst of this he has completed several parts of the next course and has survived my editing. We would to hire him and another person to do graphics and layout design for regular part-time, but it is not economically viable at present. Yet, we push forward investing as much time and funds as we can with the goal of at least three new courses in 2010.

Simultaneously, we are establishing an on-line approach to the Bible course administration so that both on-line and paper courses utilize the same on-line database system. In this way, participating churches can offer printed or electronic Bible courses both at home and abroad and administer everything on-line saving them and RCM much time.

One church in Wisconsin and our own here in Florida are now taking in North American based Bible course requests. These are growing considerably and move much faster than overseas courses. We need a few other qualified churches to get involved and help us. What about yours?

I cannot emphasize enough our need for your prayers especially for those people involved in bringing this all to pass (many volunteers and some employed), but also for the financial resources to launch the new system as soon as possible in 2010. RCM will then enable your churches to utilize this system of Gospel-centered education and outreach in their local community as well as around the world. Please pray with us fervently. This is urgently needed.

God is at work through RCM.

Geoffrey Donnan
OUR DIRECTOR: Thank you for your prayers. We have been very healthy. Geoff’s diet and exercise have his diabetes well under control. He was recently diagnosed with glaucoma in one eye, but nothing drops for life won’t solve. Geoff and Nancy took a short trip to Baton Rouge, Natchez and Jackson, Mississippi and also visited the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, the founding pastor (1837) of which was Geoff’s greatX2 uncle Rev. Peter Donan. We also visited long-time supporting church, Koinonia Baptist Church pastored by Rev. Walter Bowie and were most warmly received. In March of 2010 a trip is planned to the Philippines.

RE: Application for Assistance

Major Rev. David Murray (left), Rev. Geoff Donnan (right).

Meeting Dr. Prof. Rev. David Murray

Rev. David Murray came to Reformation International Theological Seminary (RITS) as a pastor in the Free Church continuing laboring on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland. He earned his Doctorate of Ministry by 2005. Shortly after, he was offered a position at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (below) in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he now is a Professor. He and Rev. Donnan were able to meet during September when the Donnans passed through town for some meetings.

RCM Briefs & Updates

HQ Briefs (cont’d)

SOME OFFICE CHANGES: Due to financial limitations, Mia Dunaway works in our office part-time mostly in the late afternoons. Dr. Snyder works on our websites as needed. We continue to pray for the Lord’s supply of both the funds and personnel to begin substantially taking over some of our director’s administrative responsibilities to free him for writing Bible courses, visiting fields of ministry and working on the Italian, Albanian, Russian and Chinese websites. Please pray with us for these needs.

NEW EMAIL UPDATES: To save on printing and mailing costs and to keep those who have email addresses better informed, we are launching RCM Email Updates. These will be short prayer and news updates on a more frequent basis than possible in newsletters. The Updates will go beyond what we put in our newsletters. Everyone for whom we have email addresses will be included. If do not receive information from us by email and wish to, please send your email addresses to gwd @ reformation . edu.

College and Seminary — DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1996, Reformation International Theological Seminary has offered Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees substantially utilizing an electronic approach to distance learning. Thus no relocation or expensive travel is needed to earn any of these degrees. We have gathered a team of highly qualified professors for the courses. This was begun as a ministry to students overseas, but now has attracted the attention of students in North America and Europe. Because we have no expensive school buildings to acquire and maintain and most of our faculty are remunerated per student, we are able to keep our schools fees extremely low. Furthermore, churches encouraging students to prepare for the ministry can maintain direct oversight over them and utilize their services throughout the educational process. Please encourage those you might know to be considering theological education to look at our programs. http://reformation.edu

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RCM outreach in the Philippines

Meet Pastor Roldan Aquino (and his wife Leni, daughter Hannah and son Timothy). They live in Laguna Province, Philippines. Pastor Aquino has a Bachelor in Theology. He was formerly associated with the Christian Reformed Church as a church planter, but he and a number of other pastors resigned because the church was becoming increasingly liberal in doctrine, refusing to use the creeds of the church and growing more and more pentecostal in orientation.

After leaving, he contacted a number of Reformed denominations about affiliation, but none had work nor interest in the Philippines. Through the last four years, we maintained regular contact and were amazed at the evident grace-enabled perseverance God gave him through typhoons and floods during which their house-church was blown down and rebuilt. At the same time, he has had a growing influence amongst the pastors of surrounding pentecostal and charismatic churches holding seminars and discussions at their request about Reformation-based theology from the Scriptures.

Finally, this year when another flood and typhoon struck, the Lord compelled us to move with some assistance. Through God’s grace, He provided us with over $3000 to send to their aid which brought aid to over 700 families. We were aware of their background in deaconal aid projects with their former denomination and saw how well organized they were. He shares our philosophy of aid to churches without creating dependence. The project was well handled. While the floodwaters slowly subside, he continues with Bible studies to many who received aid.

A high priority is translating the Good News Bible Study into Tagalog, the Philippine language and setting up both printed and on-line courses to begin a national effort to establish churches. First the translation and then some infrastructure is needed.

On our March 2010 trip to the Philippines, we expect to have a number of pastor seminars on the Great Commission but also covering an introduction to the Reformed and biblical understanding of Scripture. Please assist us in sending the true Gospel into the Philippines. We need your prayers for the upcoming trip and financial assistance for the Bible course program.

(See our website for more information on this outreach in the Philippines.)

Aid distribution preparations by church members.

Instructions and prayer before distribution.

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To Tent-city distribution


Aid distribution preparations by church members.
May God’s grace be abundant during the holidays and in 2010

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