Making Disciples
From Many Nations

Class of 2009 from
Christian Liberty Academy
in Paramaribo, Suriname
Pray for the Class of 2010 this May

January - April 2010
News and Prayer Letter
And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

When the going gets tough…..?

I know from personal experience both in business and the military the common axiom that says: when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It means buckle down, grit your teeth, and strain forward drawing from all your human resources to get the job done. But, in Christian life and ministry, it is really more like the tough get going. It means buckle down, grit your teeth, and appeal to the Lord’s. Our flesh prefers to use its own personal strength, whatever we can see, touch, feel and have control over. But the Lord requires us to leave those at the cross and rely solely upon Him. In so doing, we are reminded of Lamentations 3:19-23 Remembering mine affliction and my misery…My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me (we see our weaknesses). This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Some of us on the RCM team are facing such trials/challenges where we must be further humbled in weakness before the Lord so as to draw even more upon His abundant grace which is all-sufficient for every challenge He brings to our lives. While we are definitely challenged by them, we are not discouraged. Yet, I mention them briefly for your prayer, understanding and support. When Rev. Rudy Poettcker came to the U.S. from Suriname, he did so to take over some education responsibilities from Rev. Knodel had his contract terminated in March and within two months faces the necessity of returning to the U.S. unless he receives significant funding for his work or finds additional salaried work in Scotland. Because of the suddenness of this situation, he has no immediate prospects of work within the U.S. either.

The last two hires for in-office help for RCM during 2008-2009 have not worked out. With the added constraints of our income/donations being considerably lower for the last year, it became necessary for Rev. & Mrs. Donnan to do all of the internal administration. This has required them to learn many more things, work much longer hours and spend considerably more time in administration of the various office responsibilities necessary for the functioning of many aspects of RCM. This has impacted our frequency of newsletters and the number of field trips that can be made.

The upsides to all of the above is that it is forcing us to re-order our priorities, work more efficiently, and (in the case of HQ) to consider what changes, efficiencies and new priorities that will better fit us to work without a cane. Their reserves are nearly depleted and they cannot sell their home in today’s real estate market and recover their mortgage obligations. Obviously, they face a very pressing situation that they must rely upon the Lord to resolve.

Rev. Richard Knodel received a boost in his evangelistic efforts in Scotland during 2008 when the Protestant Truth Society provided him with a salary for representing them while he continued to do his evangelistic efforts with various churches. Due to apparent poor finances on the Society’s part, Rev. Knodel had his contract terminated in March and within two months faces the necessity of returning to the U.S. unless he receives significant funding for his work or finds additional salaried work in Scotland. Because of the suddenness of this situation, he has no immediate prospects of work within the U.S. either.

The Board of Directors for RCM in Canada is responsible for the affairs of RCM in Canada. RCM in the U.S.A. and Canada cooperate on like-minded projects. RCM cooperates by agreement with like-minded churches and denominations by assisting with mission work in specific fields and/or projects. Ecclesiastical authority for missionary ministers comes from their respective churches, not from RCM. Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Europe and Suriname. Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister
Reformation Christian Ministries is one of the sponsors of the Worldview Super Conference

We invite you to join us there where we will have a display and will be happy to meet with you.

Good News Bible Study Update

Our electronic Good News Bible Study is within a few weeks of being able to handle all the filing for both the electronic and paper courses sent out by church grading centers. Churches will be able to soon put links from their websites to the Bible course or put out advertising to generate interest in local people taking a free on-line Bible course. They may also send out the original printed booklets as well as means of local evangelism while still continuing to reach out to students from around the world who request the courses.

In the last month we have had four people who took the course that indicated they had become believers through taking the on-line course. That is something to be very thankful for, and is an impetus to get everything going as quickly as possible.

Churches interested in using these courses for local/international outreach via electronic and printed courses are encouraged to contact RCM. We need a few churches willing to help us perfect the on-line grading and record-keeping procedures before we solicit larger numbers of churches.

French & Spanish Bible Course
Church-Centered Grading Center Needed

We are getting requests from French- and Spanish-speaking countries for our Bible courses in these languages. They are already translated. We are willing to launch a French and Spanish-language electronic Good News Bible Study websites which will require one or more people in a church willing to work with us to set up an electronic Grading Center to handle the requests. This will be an excellent ministry for any church with a local population center that speaks either of these languages as it will enable them to minister both locally and internationally. Please contact Rev. Geoff Donnan if your church would have an interest in such an outreach ministry.

Albania Website Update

Our Albanian language website is in the process of launching with both Albanian (Shqipp) and English language versions. This will not only be a resource for Albanian speakers, but will also be a tool for those with contacts with people from Albania or Kosovo so they can provide them with evangelistic and educational information on this website that English speakers will be able to understand. We expect by June to have the Albanian language electronic Bible course up and running. Please keep this extensive work in prayer. People involved are Nardi & Leida Doka, Dr. Brian McRae, and Rev. Geoff Donnan.

Rev. & Mrs. Rudy Poettcker

Suriname Update

Thank you for your continuing prayer for this ministry. In many ways it is so rewarding. Just to show you that the Lord has truly blessed CLA (Christian Liberty Academy), I’d like to pass on a little tidbit!

Awhile back, two students were applying to enroll in CLA and were writing an entrance exam (to determine what grade they would be in). They had been at another English-speaking school, in grade 11. They seemed to be working for a long while on their exam so I asked them how it was going. They both groaned and said that given the school they were coming from, they were feeling really useless in doing the math questions. Turned out the math they were unable to do was grade 9 level math at CLA. Please continue to pray for CLA and the ongoing challenges we face.

I am again in great need to recruit help for teachers at CLA. I am contacting Christian schools to see if they may have a teacher who would like to take a sabbatical, by teaching for a year at CLA. If you know of any schools I can contact, please send me the information. Please pray that God will supply the needed help for the school year beginning August, 2010.

In the church, we have had the joy of receiving a new member into First Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the ongoing membership classes. Our prayer is that others will request to make public profession of faith, and be examined and received into membership during my May trip.

WANTED
Teacher for Suriname

Can YOU help us find a missionary teacher for our English-language school in Suriname. 350 students, many non-Christian, are a mission field through education. We need someone interested in teaching, willing to learn with education appropriate for high school level subjects though other options exist. We urgently need someone for this coming and the next school years starting in August. For details see http://www.reformation.edu/suriname/pages/teachers-needed
RCM Updates & Schedules

Schedules:
Rev. & Mrs. Geoff Donnan will have an extensive travel schedule this summer visiting churches, conferences, synods and other events seeking students, missionaries, volunteers and supporters for the ministry. **If you are in these areas and would like to arrange a meeting around their schedule, please contact them as soon as possible.** Your prayers are appreciated for these important visits and also for any additional meetings and contacts that might be made with exiting or new individuals or groups who may be interested in learning about Reformation Christian Ministries.

April 30-May 1 — Georgia Home Education Assn. Conference, Atlanta, GA in exhibit hall at GA Int’l Convention Ctr.
May 31-June 5 — Biblical Worldview Student Conference, Milligan, TN in exhibitors hall at Milligan College.
July 21-24 — American Vision’s Worldview Supr Conference, Kennesaw, GA (NW of Metro Atlanta), exhibitors hall.
August 26-28 — Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Conference, Grand Rapids, MI in exhibitors hall.
August 30-Sept. 7 — Upper Michigan, family/churches.
October 9-16 — Grove City, PA area, visiting family and Western PA churches.

Rev. Rudy Poettcker:
April 25-May 24 — Suriname, So. America Quarter trip.
August 9-24 — Suriname, So. America, Quarterly trip.

Invite us to speak to your church about RCM

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Reformation Media & Press
Publications in process.

Just an update on books in the process of publication and when they are expected to be available.

By The Bible Alone, John Owen’s Puritan Theology for Today’s Church, by Dr. Stephen Westcott. c. 670 pp. Summer 2010
The Reformed Church and Her Mission in Dutch Brazil (1630-1654), by Dr. Frans Schalkwijk, c. 360 pp. Sum. 2010
Mission in Chains, the life, theology and ministry of the ex-slave Jacobus E.J. Capitein (1717-1747) c. 300 pp. Fall 2010
Other books in line as time permits: Biblical Hermeneutics by Milton Terry; Coverdale New Testament; Biblical Textual Criticism by Dr. Stephen Westcott.

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Jan.-April 2010

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