A Famine in the Land

Members of the Presbyterian Church of Dakar, Senegal, West Africa

August - September 2010
News and Prayer Letter
A Famine In the Land

When Amos spoke these words, there were many prophets in the land. From the time of Malachi to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, there were no prophets. The people were starved for the word. There were many false prophets, but none true. The Scriptures were available, but true preaching from them was very scarce. There was a famine of the word of God in their land. It was very scarce.

There is a parallel between those days and what surrounds us today. The Bible is readily available throughout the land, and yet faithful preaching is hard to find. Churches abound, and yet those that truly preach the unabashed gospel are far too rare.

Is our day much different? Sadly, much of our world believes we all worship the same God, just in different ways and by different names. Allah, Jehovah, the Unitarian god, the non-Trinity god, what’s the difference? The same is true of the “gospel.” What difference does it make if we are Arminian, Calvinist, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal, charismatic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian or Reformed. We all have the same gospel, right?

The fact that most people think this way makes it all too clear there is a famine in our lands. Everything is a muddle. Even most Christians think this way. Many denominations think they are on the top of the heap and all the rest are just knuckle-dragging Christians because they have the same gospel. The others just don’t know as much as we do.

We are in a famine where the true God and the true gospel cannot be differentiated from false gods and gospels. As a result we don’t recognize the difference between beating our swords into plowshares and beating our swords into welfare checks. We need another Reformation. We need more of what RCM is doing that brings differentiation to these gods and these gospels and show the antithesis between them in practical ways. Please pray with us and help us in that end.

Gospel-centered Education & Outreach

Increasingly, Reformation Christian Ministries finds itself on the forefront of fighting for the centrality of the Gospel not just in preaching and teaching in the church, but in every area of life. Every Christian is either a lamp or a bushel basket with the gospel of his life. He lives it out in every area of his life. It is the basis for educating his children, talking to his neighbor, doing his job, playing sports and even voting. The gospel must fill the church, it must infiltrate every aspect of life in which every Christian has a part. Let your light so shine!

There are a great many problems in the world’s nations. The gospel is the solution to every one of them in one way or another. We dare not lose sight of that for to do so is to lose our foundation for living not just in the church, but in every area of life.
During June & July we traveled extensively to tell RCM’s story, make new friends and sell some books to help support the work of RCM and cover our travel expenses.

**Biblical World-View Student Conference**

May 31 through June 4, Milligan University, Milligan, TN

Approximately 150 students from around the U.S. and Canada came together for instruction in the application of Scripture into every area of life.

Gary DeMar, President of American Vision and prolific writer, has been a friend to RCM since 1983. Teacher and writer James Nickel, captivated the students at this conference with the subject of mathematics. At the conclusion 150 students gave him a standing ovation.

**American Vision World-View Conference**

July 21-24, Atlanta, Georgia

Several fellow exhibitors

(L) Author, Martin Selbrede; (C) Rev. Geoff Donnan, (R) Dr. Philip Kayser

Display for RCM set up at the United Reformed Churches of North America General Synod.

(L) Rev. Mitchell Persaud (R) Rev. Geoffrey Donnan

**United Reformed Churches of North America**

2010 General Synod held at London, Ontario, July 26-30

As a number of URCNA churches are supportive of RCM and one of our board members is pastor of the Thunder Bay, Ontario church, we have always been invited to exhibit at their synods every three years. Since 1991, Rev. Donnan has been at most of the meetings that led to their formation as a federation in 1996. He has been to all but one synod since then.

Urban Nations in New York City. He began a work among the Urdu and Punjabi speaking people there. We now collaborate on the translation of the Good News Bible Study into Punjabi and Urdu.

Rev. Mitchell Persaud was hired by Rev. Donnan to work for Christian Liberty Academy in Suriname as a trainee in 1982. At the time he was a Pentecostal believer from Guyana. In a short while, he became reformed and began teaching and later administrating the school. He also was called as an elder and later a preacher at the church founded there by Rev. Donnan. In the early 1990s he went to the US for theological studies, ended up marrying Shabeeda Hussein, a former student from our school who then lived in Canada, and accepted a call to plant churches. He now resides in Toronto and pastors a URCNA church plant in the inner city.

Both Revs. Zekveld and Persaud are promoting a Toronto-wide use of the Good News Bible Study as an outreach of the Reformed churches in the area. Rev. Donnan met with one interested church mission committee while in the area.


At the Synod, there was time to meet with two URCNA ministers with whom RCM has had association for years.

RCM worked originally with Rev. Zekveld when he was associated with Urban Nations in New York City. He later moved to Toronto and
Rev. Barry Beukema (Pastor of the URC Church of Thunder Bay and RCM Board member) meets with Rev. Yonson Dethan of West Timor at Synod.

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Five Countries Sent Seminary Course on DVD.
RCM is experimenting with sending seminary courses on DVD to pastors without computers. MP3 files can be played on DVD players. The materials to be read can be printed at an Internet Cafe. Countries receiving these were Nepal, Liberia, Senegal, Swaziland and Russia. Please pray for these. It costs us about $50 to prepare and send out one course. The first course was Covenants of Promise, a course on covenant theology.

Meet Rev. Jacques Teguel, a Presbyterian missionary from Cameroon to Senegal (West Africa), with wife Clois beside him. He wears the typical uniform of a minister. The church in Cameroon was planted by American Presbyterians in 18th century.
Meet Mary Montague — God’s Answer to Prayer in Suriname

Mary Montague is from Grace Presbyterian Church in Redding, California. She is a former high school English teacher and department head. Quite committed to Reformed theology and healthy in other respects, she decided at the youthful age of 78 to offer her services to the Lord by committing at least one school year to teaching at our school in Suriname.

We sent out an appeal for prayer on July 8. Rev. David Stark, her pastor, forwarded the email to her and she emailed Rev. Donnan on July 11. She was interviewed by Rev. Poettcker on July 12. Her application went in on July 13. She was interviewed again on July 14 and on July 15 was offered the mission job opportunity and accepted. She obtained her visa by July 28, in time to join Rev. Poettcker on the flight to Suriname August 2. They had teacher’s preparation day on August 6 and she began teaching August 10. This is an incredible display that God answers prayers and works out His will through His providence.

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