

The Calling of Mission Work TODAY!!

Zambia Pastoral Training Seminar



January-February 2009
News and Prayer Letter



Reformation Christian Ministries

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And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:18-20

The Calling of Mission Work Today

We live in a very different reality today than that of by-gone years. The "old school" of mission work is overall becoming less and less relevant while the increasing cost is difficult to justify. In obedience to the "Great Commission" (cf. Matt. 28:18-20), the Gospel has gone out to the nations, and of them disciples have been made, and in many cases even baptized. However, one part of the Commission continues to be desperately needed; namely, *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded*. People from the most remote corners of the earth have access to the Internet and to information. True biblical missions no longer need to spend the huge amounts of funds to send "foreign missionaries" to distant countries to plant churches since "native churches" are springing up in many places. In fact, many distant countries are already sending "missionaries" to North America! And so, dear friends, utilizing the technology available today, we must TEACH! That must be the "vision" of mission work today.

The Vision of Reformation Christian Ministries

As a mission organization, directly accountable to the local church for over 30 years, we have contacts in many countries. With a few exceptions, we see no need to send *traditional church-planting North American missionaries* to most places. Instead it has been our fervent prayer that these contacts would be "beachheads" from which true Reformation would take place in their own countries. However for this to take place there is a crying need for education and training; training in all areas of life, because all areas of life are to be lived by the Gospel to God's glory. *Whether you eat or drink, do all to the glory of God* (1 Cor. 10:31).

In keeping with that vision we have already established a Christian school in Suriname, South America where we have grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Students from many countries attend our school and many graduates report back

as to how Christian Liberty Academy was invaluable to their life (and in many cases even to their salvation).

In keeping with that vision our College (*Reformation International College*) has established a Bachelor of Education program through which people are being trained to teach. We are also part of an Association through which cooperation may enable us to utilize other programs for training in areas like business administration. These would all be from a biblical perspective and Gospel-centered with the view of developing a Gospel-based indigenous Christian culture.

In keeping with that vision our Seminary (*Reformation International Theological Seminary*) has established various programs for biblical and theological training (Good News Bible Study, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Thought, Master of Divinity...etc.). These Gospel-centered programs are aimed at educating future leaders for churches, but also for "lay people" to have a biblical foundation for their daily life and work.


YOUR Help is needed to R I S E to the occasion

The study programs are established but much work is yet to be done to produce courses so they are useable. It takes a good deal of work and adequate funds to produce the various courses. We have a solid beginning but we need your help to keep on, and to that end Reformation Christian Ministries has established a new project: R I S E, which stands for *Reformation International Studies & Education*.

Our time-proven method involves using the Internet and email where students receive study materials, send in their work for grading, and have it returned to them for study for a final exam. Students are led into making consistent progress to achieve goals. They pay fees for courses to help cover our course administration costs (to the extent of their ability). This does not, however, cover course production costs. Our prayer is that God will use the R I S E project to provide the needed funds for this work.

Contributions to the R I S E project will go directly to funding the ongoing work of course production in the various areas of training (see page 3 for details). As funds allow, we will establish a "scholarship fund" in order to help students from countries where income levels are very low. All scholarship students will still have to "invest" something in their studies, since this is needed to be diligent in their studies.

As course production needs are met, our goal will be to use RISE to increasingly provide scholarship help to deserving students. Will you pray about this and do what you can to help us achieve that goal and be a part of a mission work that is used of the Lord to fulfill His command?

 Rudy Poettcker

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Reformation Christian Ministries

U.S.A.: 13950 122nd Street, Fellsmere, Florida 32948-6411

Telephone: (772) 571-8833; Fax: (772) 571-8010

E-mail: gwd@reformation.edu

Editor & Layout: G. W. Donnan

Internet: <http://www.reformation.edu>

CANADA: R.R. #1, 5060 Oliver Road, Murillo, ON P0T 2G0

Telephone: (807) 473-9344; E-mail: canada@reformation.edu

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Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Europe and Suriname. Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

Poettcker's Prayer Partners

January-February Update: Greetings in our Lord and King!

As the New Year is upon us, I would like to give a brief review and update on my work and calling. I trust that it will help you to continue to sincerely support us in prayer and finances.

In many ways I have a dual calling; I am called as pastor and serve as such in King's Reformed Presbyterian Church in Palm Bay, Florida, along with Rev. Donnan. I also serve on the Eldership (Session) of First Presbyterian Church in Suriname along with Rev. Asgar Hamid. I preach regularly in King's, and when I go to Suriname I usually preach two out of the three Sundays I am there.

In addition, I am involved in education. I serve as Headmaster of CLA (Christian Liberty Academy in Suriname), where I work together with Rev. Hamid who is the Administrator of CLA. We both praise God for the way we are able to work together (for 15 years now), and are well aware of the need for God's grace that this may continue. [We seek to hire local people to teach at CLA but each year we are in need of teachers/helpers from other places, especially North America. Part of my work includes recruiting help for CLA.]

My work in education also means I serve as "Dean of Studies" for our schools. I am presently responsible for the program of studies for a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.—teacher training), a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Thought (B.A.C.T.), and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.—pastoral training). While providing the M.Div. courses, we are able to use many of these courses for the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) and Master of Arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S.). We would like eventually to expand the College studies into other programs, such as a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.).

My work as Dean of Studies includes:

- 1). Overseeing the work of new College and Seminary students by interaction with them and their professors to be sure the courses are completed in a timely fashion.
- 2). Serving as professor and course administrator for courses I am qualified to teach; working with students via email to send them study materials and grading their work.
- 3). Overseeing the development of courses. Some courses already exist but need to be revamped to be more effective in meeting their objectives with the students. Other courses need to be developed, and for this I either work at those for which I am qualified or work with others who are more qualified and can provide the needed



help. [We are seeking to find qualified people to help us develop courses. If you know anyone, please have them contact RCM.]

4). Giving advice and counsel to the education committee that oversees the our educational programs.

I continue to be thankful to the Lord for the work for which He has called me. As you can see it is a great task, which includes many challenges and many blessings. It also includes

ongoing needs of finances, but especially your prayer.

Here is how YOU can help in this ministry:

- A. **Pray** — Pray for God's grace in the day-to-day work, for the much-needed help, and for the students.
- B. **Help** — Consider how you can be of help in recruiting teacher/helpers for CLA and for course development.
- C. **Giving to SALT** — Give tax-deductible donations to RCM and designate them to "SALT". This stands for *Scriptural Advanced Leadership Training*. My monthly "allowance" comes from the SALT project.
- D. **Giving to RISE** — You can also help by giving tax-deductible donations to RCM and designate them to "RISE" (*Reformation International Studies and Education*). Funds from this project are specifically used for course development for courses I and other develop.
- P.S. I also receive a "thanks stipend" when I preach at King's in Florida, which helps our finances. Sharilyn also works as a nurse, and this provides our living costs; so all donations to SALT are used specifically for the work I do.

Below is a sample of how students find their studies in the College and Seminary:

Thank you so much for that very helpful and extensive discussion...just like being in a classroom (if not even better)! I've really profited from the interaction and am thoroughly enjoying the coursework.

I have started this year with a real excitement for the classes I will take and look forward to the learning! I cannot tell you how much of a blessing, you and the studies you have provided me with, have been in my life!

I do pray you will see how worth-while and necessary this ministry is, and do what you can to cause it to continue.

Rudy & Sharilyn Poettcker

Cost Estimates for College and Seminary Courses

| Degree Program | C o u r s e D e v e l o p m e n t | | Work involved in each course |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| | Time per | Costs Per | |
| Bachelors of Education | 80 hours | \$2,400 | Setting up and/or revising: syllabus/study guides/quizzes/exams/calculate study hours. Answer keys. Selection of text books. Establish on-line compatibility |
| Bach/Master of Divinity | 120 hours | \$3,600 | |
| CAN YOU HELP? KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN? | | | |

Russian, Italian, Albanian & Chinese Websites

The aim of each of our field specific websites is to bring Gospel-centered education and outreach aimed at Reformation primarily of individuals and churches, but certainly we trust it will have its impact on the societies as well. We have finalized on the website banners for Albania and Italy. We have yet to finalize on Suriname, Russia and China.



The ALBANIAN WEBSITE BANNER: *Reformimi* = Reformation/reforming. *Sherbesa e Krishterë e Reformimit* = Reformation Christian Ministries. Albanian flag (left) and Kosovo flag (right) are only Albanian speaking nations.



The ITALIAN WEBSITE BANNER: *Istruzione Cristiana Riformata* = Reformation Christian Education/Instruction. The Italian flag is next to the Coliseum in Rome where many Christians from the early church were sacrificed. It still stands in the midst of Roman Catholic domination as the symbol even of such persecution as the Roman Catholic Inquisition.

Do you have any skills in the Russian, Italian, Albanian or Chinese languages that you would like to put to use in helping us with these websites. If so, please contact us. Your help is greatly needed.

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Reformation Christian Ministries
UNITED STATES REGIONAL OFFICE
13950 - 122ND STREET
FELLSMERE FL 32948-6411

Reformation Christian Ministries
CANADIAN OFFICE
RR#1 5060 OLIVER ROAD
MURILLO ON P0T 2G0
CANADA