

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



Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

September-December 2009

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. 2:1ff). 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.

RCM's Evangelism Outreach

The Good News Bible Study outreach at RCM has sent out more than 35,000 copies in the last 30 years and eleven different languages. However, for more than twenty years, additional Bible courses have eluded us because of lack of personnel and funds while 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.

 Geoffrey Donnan

In this last newsletter of the year we remind you that your year-end giving is needed now more than ever. RCM donations have been down over 30% this year and we continue to operate with many resulting restrictions. In faith, we are taking an aggressive approach in our 2010 budget* to forge ahead with our existing plans and personnel expansion. Your gifts and especially your prayers are a welcome part for you. **Donations may now be made on-line at our website by credit card and checks may be sent to our respective offices in the U.S. or Canada. Remember the December 31 deadline for 2009 receipting purposes.** Visit our bookstore for gift ideas.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. May God enable us all to further bruise Satan's head (Rom. 16:20) in the coming year for God's glory.

* Donors may request a copy

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The RCM News & Prayer Letter is available upon request without obligation
(an annual donation of \$20.00 is suggested to cover costs).

Reformation Christian Ministries, an international, educational missions ministry, is under the oversight of The King's Reformed Presbyterian Church and Sharon Orthodox Presbyterian Church. RCM is eligible to receive tax-exempt donations in both the United States and Canada and is underwritten by donations from individuals and other churches.

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

RCM Briefs & Updates

Do you need RCM reply envelopes for the coming year?

Please email, call or your use coupon to indicate your need for RCM reply envelopes. We'll send a year's supply to you.

Christian Liberty Academy--30 Years



Our Suriname school celebrated its 30th anniversary during October, 2009. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and for all those He used in bringing this about.

The logo on the left was designed in celebration of this event. The school began in 1979 with 13 students and now has ±330 students currently enrolled as well as 5 Bachelor of Education students in our College program.

Good News Bible Study Letters

We get many letters from Bible course students. We hope to have time to put these on our website, but will share two with you now.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have just completed the Good News Bible Study Basic course, Parts 1-5. I was wondering IF there are any other Bible studys you can send? I really enjoyed the good news Bible study. Please send as many different Bible studys as possible. I really enjoy study thy God's word and would really apreciat more bible study programs.

Respect fully yours, Bradley B. Conway, Arkansas USA

Pastor Frederick M., Kitwe, Zambia, Central Africa

RE: Application for Assistance

I am here by applying for assistance to start the true church. I am Zambian aged (32) and a pastor who is pastoring a church with the membership of (70) members.

I started a church with the help of the Lord Jesus Christ. Started with (3) members. Now we are 70 in membership. The church started in 2007 August (26). I discovered a true church after my study of Good News Bible Study.

I have started teaching church members and the people outside the church about sin, about Jesus Christ, about faith and repentance, about obedience and holiness.* I need your assistance so that together we will build the church in the love of God.

Yours in His Service, Pastor Frederik

* These are four of the five parts of our Bible course.

Teachers still needed for Suriname.

Teachers are urgently needed for the coming school year in Suriname. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Rev. Rudy Poettcker at rep @ reformation . edu
<http://reformation.edu/suriname/pages/teachers-needed.htm>

HQ Briefs

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.

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 you 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>

Reformation International College also offers the same distance learning approach to undergraduate level degrees. These are especially appropriate for home-school students who have completed or are in the process of completing high school. We currently offer Bachelor degrees in Education and Christian Thought. Please encourage anyone who you might know to be considering college level education to look at our programs. <http://reformation.edu>

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.



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



He and Rev. Donnan were able to meet during September when the Donnans passed through town for some meetings.

Please remember RCM in your year-end giving with a generous donation.

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.

Aid distribution preparations by church members.



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.



Instructions and prayer before distribution.

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



Detailed accounting and record keeping so everyone honest.

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.)

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

Tent-city distribution



To: Reformation Christian Ministries

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Sept.-Dec. 2009

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I am interested in staying on your newsletter list. Please remove my name from your newsletter list.

Send me the following E-mail updates for: Russia Italy Report Poettckers: Prayer Partners (SALT) Book Store specials & notices
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Enclosed is a contribution of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

METHOD OF DONATION: I plan to contribute per mo. qtr. year

Check or money order is enclosed payable to REFORMATION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES.

Credit card donations: call 772-571-8833 or visit our website @ <http://reformation.edu>

STOCK & BOND DONATIONS:

Contact Rev. Geoff Donnan or see our website <http://reformation.edu/content/view/429/550/>.

NEED RCM RETURN ENVELOPES FOR MAILED DONATIONS?
We will send them to you.
Just tell us how many you want.

I would like to designate my donation for:

- \$ _____ HQ Needs
- \$ _____ SALT (Scriptural Advanced Leadership Training)
- \$ _____ RCM Construction Debt Reduction
- \$ _____ Good News Bible Study Ministries
- \$ _____ R.I.S.E. (Reformation International Studies & Education)
- \$ _____ Albania & Albania website
- \$ _____ Italy & Italian website
- \$ _____ The Philippine Outreach
- \$ _____ Other

- I would like to teach at C.L.A. in Suriname.
- I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.
- Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

From the RCM Headquarters Staff in the U.S. and Canada on behalf of all the RCM Board members and Field Teams & Colleagues in Suriname, Italy, Albania, U.K., France, the Philippines and Russia

May God's grace be abundant during the holidays and in 2010



Rudy & Sharilyn Poettcker



Geoff & Nancy Donnan



**Geoff & Nancy Donnan
with Card grandchildren**



Mia Dunaway



Barry & Val Beukema, Canada

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR ON-LINE BOOKSTORE

Make an ON_LINE DONATION. 2009 tax deadline is Dec. 31, 12 midnight.

DO YOU NEED RCM REPLY ENVELOPES FOR YOUR DONATIONS?

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**FOR CONVENIENCE IN MAILING YOUR DONATIONS, PLEASE CUT AND PASTE THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS
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