



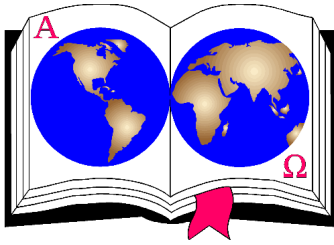
Reformation Christian Ministries'
Fall & Winter 2015
News and Prayer Letter

**RCM's 2015
Trials & Blessings**

Updates below

**Christian Liberty Academy December
2015 Exams in Suriname
High School Semester Exams in Chapel**





Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

Fall-Winter 2015

Galatians 6:2-10 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Matthew 21:21-22)

This time of year should remind Christians of the importance of giving. The basis for giving in life must be based ultimately upon the gift of new life from God for each of His people found solely as a result of the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. God's gift was primarily for family—His family—the family of God. God's gift was effective solely for those whom He declared from eternity would be His people, who would then be called in due season and given undeserved new life from spiritual death—not because of any act or quality within themselves, but solely by pure grace. How can we receive such a gift by pure grace and not be compelled to give of ourselves? For those who celebrate Christmas, this is the *reason for the season*.

In Galatians 6:1-10, the outworking of this gift in our lives, must be demonstrated throughout the year—not just at Christmas. It necessitates a familial responsibility giving to our brothers in Christ based upon what Christ has done for us. We are to restore them (v.1) and bear their burdens (v.2) — beyond that which they are able (v.5). In this process, we are required to do this by means of the Spirit and not for the purpose of the flesh (v. 7-8). In the end, we are to rely upon the strength of God's Spirit and not grow weary (v.9), even though the temptation is to faint. This should be aimed towards all men, but *especially* those who are His (v.10) and those who teach His word (v.6).

While there are many applications of this in our everyday life, these same principles apply to missions because in both cases we don't always see immediate results. Some we may never see in this life. But we live and work by faith, and not by sight (2Cor. 5:7), even though God does quite graciously grant us sight from time to time to encourage us. Consequently, all of our giving is by faith more than sight; in

the raising of our children or what we give to others in our family, church, neighborhood, business, employment and beyond, including missions. The older we get, the better we recognize the importance of God's granting us staying-power, "*being not weary in well doing*", knowing that "*in due season we shall reap if we faint not.*" Sometimes God grants us that *due season* in our lives, but other times we take it on faith and see it only in eternity. Grace-given faith gets us through all of the challenges we face.

I mention the above passage and especially verses 9-10 because this year has been a challenging year for many at RCM. We are having to operate very much on faith in some areas because of these challenges. As we close out this year, we are going to mention our trials along with the blessings God has given us so that you can join us in bearing these burdens through prayer and giving, but also to enable you to praise the Lord with us for His faithfulness even when we are still awaiting the encouragement of *sight*. Consequently, we must move forward on faith, fainting not in our well-doing. That not only applies to us who are on the front-line, but you who back us in faithful giving of prayer, financial support and other encouragements. Let us all be take heed to Gal. 6:9, "*let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*"

 Geoffrey Donnan

RCM's 2015 Trials and God's blessings in their midst.

Below are a number of the main challenges this past year so that you, especially through prayer, may bear these burdens with us. Along with them, I will mention the blessings (*sight*) God has given in their midst. We not only praise the Lord for these trials, but especially for His grace in enabling us to cope (*be not weary*) and *faint not* in the process. Please praise the Lord with us, along with your prayer for these needs.

TRIAL: Our front-line team of Rudy Poettcker, John Otis and Geoff Donnan have all been working on very tight personal and/or ministry budgets forcing us to do much that sufficient financing might have enabled us to delegate.

BLESSING: While the ministry finances have been extremely low, we have been blessed to be able to cut costs in various ways and get by with what the Lord has provided and thus are learning to be content (Phil. 4:11). Sharilyn

The RCM News & Prayer Letter is published almost monthly by
Reformation Christian Ministries

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

Telephone: (772) 571-8833

E-mail: gwd@reformation.edu

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

Editor & Layout: G. W. Donnan

CANADA: 74 MacKenzie Crescent, Lacombe, AB T4L 0B3

Telephone: (403) 789-7787; E-mail: canada@reformation.edu

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

Poettcker found work and so is able to add to their family needs. Christine Otis remains unemployed at the moment.



TRIAL: Rudy Poettcker has labored under the impending death of his sister-in-law, Helen Poettcker from brain cancer. It may be that she will not see Christmas Day, much less year-end.

BLESSING: Rudy's brother and family have met the challenge and been found to be "like gold tried in the fire." The little family reports over 2015 have been as from Shadrach, Meshak and Abednigo while in the furnace of affliction.

TRIAL: Geoff Donnan had to deal with the passing of both his uncle and aunt in 2015 and the severe stroke of his youngest sister Jeanne in late October. She was the overseer for their mother's care at a nursing home in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Jeanne is now right-side paralyzed, unable to talk, and now in the same facility for rehabilitation that also serves as their mother's nursing home. Geoff had to take over responsibility as power of attorney and health care surrogate for their mother and must travel every few months both to check in on his sister and mother (leaving again, January 4). Most of the admin and legal transition has now been accomplished.

BLESSING: While this has further cut into Geoff's time for ministry, his wife has been most wonderfully supportive and has taken on many of the bookkeeping, bill-paying and tax related affairs for his mother's care oversight. What a God-send helpmate she has been. As a result, he has been able to carry on much of the ministry work and has been encouraged by his *significantly improved health* this past year. In addition to the clear evidence of God's grace amid these trials, He has also given us 16,000 accident free miles of driving during the last 5 months. His goodness & grace are most evident to us.

TRIAL: RCM has had a number of struggles with some (not all) of our African seminary students due to intermittent electricity and internet access substantially curtailing their studies.

BLESSING: We have been blessed by another graduate of our seminary program receiving his M.Div. and several new doctoral candidates. With most of the Africans students, we are refining our program and learning from these experiences while we continue to operate by faith.

TRIAL: Programming for the Good News Bible Study program, while progressing, has still not been fully completed. This process is very wearing. It affects our ability to put the foreign language courses on-line more easily and does not work well on much of the newer technology (iphone, ipads, etc.) as is necessary to reach the most people. (Many people in the world who don't have computers have smart phones.)

BLESSING: The old program continues to work reasonably well for the moment taking care of our current students. Board member Roy Burrell, who has programming background, has found a solution for some of the program problems and is now directly involved in the process. Pray for Fed Calderon (the programmer) along with Roy as they work to bring a breakthrough on these problems. While weary, they continue in their well-doing and need prayer to faint not.

TRIAL In June of this year, Geoff made a mistake in the application of RCM's database synchronization software causing it to grow three times with somewhat non-sensical

double and triple entries requiring tedious manually comparison of every entry to remove those corrupted. This shut down RCM's abilities to send out newsletter until it could be corrected. This obviously affects the needed reminders to supporters and thus financial support has gone down.



BLESSING: That process was completed a few days ago after five months of interrupted work on it. Oh praise the Lord for His granting of great patience (along with the grace to grant a lot of repentance for impatience during the process). We are now able to get out this very belated newsletter to 1100 people and 30-40 churches.

TRIAL: John Otis has had insufficient funding to devote significant time to writing the needed Bible courses due to family financial needs since his wife is unemployed. Geoff Donnan, for the reasons mentioned above, has not been able to finish editing the one Bible course partially completed.

BLESSING: Despite the above, John has been making progress on the third course on and Geoff hopes to be able to complete the editing of the second course early in 2016.



Other News from RCM

Reformation International Theological Seminary (RITS) is the seminary of Reformation Christian Ministries. Most of our concentration has been at the college and seminary level. But we also have a doctoral program which we have said little about.

During 2015, we've had two doctoral candidates nearing the completion of their theses under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Knodel (pictured at right).

Allen Dunckley with a Doctor of Apologetics. We received one additional student this month in December who will be under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Grossmann (pictured below), who joined the RCM Board last year, serves as one of our seminary professors, but now has been welcomed to RITS' doctoral committee.



We also had the privilege of granting an M. Div. degree to Mike Chapa, who has now been ordained in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and is pastor and teaching elder at Emmanuel OPC in Castle Rock, Colorado. He is a retired U.S. Air Force Test Pilot, married with six children.

Pray with us for the Lord to provide additional students in both the doctoral and seminary level programs who are able to cover their costs as this provides additional support to RCM and aids in enabling us to assist those who require assistance.



Do you know someone who can?

Below are some practical ways in which you, or someone you may know, can provide practical assistance for some of RCM's needs. Please scan this list and pass it around. Such help can move us forward without great expense. It also can greatly help relieve our director from some of these tasks.

- Help to set up and help manage social media site presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for RCM, RITS & GNBS.
- Adobe InDesign cut & paste work for our non-English Bible courses. Familiarity with the languages is helpful but not necessary: Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian, Russian and Albanian.
- Grading Center Director for our GNBS courses in Chinese, French, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Russian and Albanian.
- Computer typing of Pakistani Urdu and Gurmukhti Punjabi translations of our GNBS into Windows or Mac computer using standard word processing software like MS Word.
- Digital audio editing of seminary lectures removing extraneous material and improve low volume portions. Knowledge of Audacity or Magix audio editing software helpful.
- Website Programmer to improve and gradually redesign RCM html-based websites. Not using CMS.
- Professors and pastors willing to accept invitations RCM received to preach and teach around the world.
- Teachers for RCM's elementary and secondary school in Suriname for minimum one school year (esp. high school).

Year-End Donations to RCM

Your generous gift to RCM at the end of this calendar year is greatly needed and will be sincerely appreciated. All such donations must be transacted or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2015

Seminary Student from Kenya



We had a visit from a Kenyan seminary student who is working on his first course. We were able to spend the day with him. On the left, Jacob Omondi with Rudy Poettcker (who oversees the grading of his work) and on right, with Geoff Donnan.

Director's Personal Corner

Jeanne (69), Gloria (93) and Geoff (72) Donnan in Sept. at nursing home where Gloria (mother) resides in Osage Beach, Missouri (Lake of Ozark region). Jeanne lives nearby. 45 days later, Jeanne had a severe stroke and is now in the same place going through rehabilitation



Jeanne has taken care of mom for many years. Now Geoff is responsible. Please Pray.

To: Reformation Christian Ministries

E-MAIL: gwd@reformation.edu
WEB: <http://www.reformation.edu>

Fall & Winter 2015

U.S.A.: 13950 - 122nd Street • Fellsmere, FL 32948-6411 • Phone (772) 571-8833
CANADA: 74 MacKenzie Crescent • Lacombe, AB T4L 0B3 • Phone (403) 789-7787 • canada@reformation.edu

Internet connection:
 High Speed
 Dial-Up

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Street Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip /Post Cd: _____

Please send e-mail updates from RCM to (e-mail address): _____ Country: _____

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

Send me RCM Newsletters

PRAYER WARRIOR UPDATES (I commit to pray regularly for RCM/particular staff members.)

These are only sent out by email, not in printed form.

E-mail updates for: Poettckers: Prayer Partners (SALT) Knodels: (HEAR-YE)

Otis: Project Peter Updates (PETER)

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

DONATE ON LINE AT <http://www.reformation.edu/donate/index.htm>

STOCK & BOND DONATIONS:

Contact Rev. Geoff Donnan or see website <http://reformation.edu/ops/index.htm#stocks>

Your designation below assists us in knowing God's will in applying your donation to :

\$ _____ HQ Needs

\$ _____ SALT (Ministry of Rev. Rudy Poettcker)

\$ _____ PROJECT PETER (Ministry of Rev. John Otis)

\$ _____ HEAR-YE (Ministry of Dr. Richard Knodel)

\$ _____ Good News Bible Study Ministries

\$ _____ Russia & Russian Website

\$ _____ Italy, Italian GNBS & translation

\$ _____ Overseas Seminary Student Subsidies/Scholarships

\$ _____ Courses to Overseas Pastors (\$75 avg. per course cost)

\$ _____ Other _____

I would like to teach at Christian Liberty Academy in Suriname.

I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.

TAX RECEIPT

Donation Deadline

for 2015

Checks dated & posted by

Credit/debit cards transacted by

Midnight

December 31, 2015

The Future for RCM after 37 Years

James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

The work of RCM now enters it's 38th year since its beginning in Suriname in 1978. Recent events with the near death of my youngest sister due to a severe stroke, and all the issues of wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health-care surrogacy and such have for the second year in a row thrust my wife and I into thinking about our preparation for that glorious trek toward our sure departure from this earth. Each time we have to consider our plans in light the words of Scripture, *"if the Lord wills, we shall do such and such."*

As the founder and president of RCM, I can say with certainty that it is the great desire in the hearts of each one of us at RCM, to be used of the Lord while we live. RCM has been an incredible vehicle for reaching hundreds upon hundreds of students who have passed through our school in Suriname. A great many lives have been touched by our seminary and college, and even more have been reached by the Good News Bible Study ministry. We would like for these to continue on after we are gone, but we must lay that desire in the context of *"if the Lord wills"*.

Part of the question we face is, who will continue this work? That question remains unanswered at present. And yet, we continue on with the great hope that the Lord will provide the way "if he wills." We are working on the premise that the Lord will provide. Nevertheless, we are working on contingency plans if He does not.

None of us are irreplaceable, and no ministry is either. Individual churches start and stop, but THE CHURCH continues on under the Lord's oversight and by His good superintendency. Such is also the case of the work of the church(es) through their various ministries (RCM being one such ministry).

Looking at things from the human perspective, we are surely getting older, though my personal health is perhaps better than anytime in the last ten years. In the theme of this newsletter, we plan to continue on in well-doing relying upon the Lord to enable us to faint not until such time as He causes us to faint. We will continue to look for those who the Lord may have in mind to carry on this work either as one ministry or in its various parts.

We ask especially for your prayers for the future of RCM and that you will continue in your well-doing and find others who will join with us and perhaps even eventually take over the reins into a second generation. Please stand with us financially as well. It is always easier when we stand together in the well-doing, and burden bearing.

DO YOU NEED RCM REPLY ENVELOPES FOR YOUR DONATIONS?

ORDER BY EMAIL FROM: GWD @ REFORMATION . EDU

**FOR CONVENIENCE IN MAILING YOUR DONATIONS, PLEASE CUT AND PASTE THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS
(U.S. ADDRESS FOR U.S. AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES, CANADA ADDRESS FOR CANADA ONLY)**

Reformation Christian Ministries
U.S. & INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
13950 - 122ND STREET
FELLSMERE FL 32948-6411

Reformation Christian Ministries
CANADIAN OFFICE
74 MacKenzie Crescent
LACOMBE AB T4L 0B3 CANADA