

Glad Tidings



Students in the Reformation Church History Class, Mukhanyo Theological College, South Africa



*"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!" – Romans 10:15*

Official Publication of the Mission Committee of the Heritage Reformed Congregations

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Heritage Reformed Congregations

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For additional information on HRC ministries, please visit our website at www.heritagereformed.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Heritage Reformed Congregations missions program is to glorify the Triune God, by proclaiming the message of salvation alone in Jesus Christ throughout the world, in order that lost sinners might be reconciled to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit.



*Bumper Ball Soccer World Cup at 3 Mile Project –
“Game On” – Grand Rapids Youth Group*

You can find this magazine electronically at
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MEDITATION

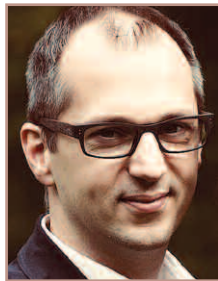
God Entertains Strangers

Rev. Maarten Kuivenhoven

What is the link between hospitality and the saving purpose of God? The theme of hospitality appears in Acts 10:6, where the angel tells Cornelius that Peter is “lodging” in the house of Simon the Tanner. It reappears in verse 18, 23 and 32. The word “lodging” in the original Greek has this sense “to be entertained as a stranger.” It is no coincidence that Luke uses this word repetitively in this chapter. Just as Peter was “lodged” at Simon the Tanner’s home, so Cornelius was to be “lodged” in the house of God and be included in the family of God. Hospitality is thus a missionary concept and central to the receiving of new converts into the family of the Church. It is a reflection of the saving purposes of God, who entertains strangers.

Let’s look for a moment at how God entertains this stranger, Cornelius. He does so by preparing Cornelius’ heart. Cornelius is a proselyte, a God-fearer. He was connected to the local synagogue, but he was still deemed an outsider because he was uncircumcised. He had turned from pagan worship to worship the one, true God of Israel and yet lacked the revelation and faith in Christ at His coming. With the benefit of hindsight, we see the sovereign, electing grace of God at work in the life of Cornelius to prepare him for the reception of the gospel. God had heard his prayers and He was going to answer them in a most profound way.

God also entertains Cornelius by removing barriers. When God works, He usually goes to work in the hearts and lives of more than one person at a time. This is true in this chapter as well. God not only works in Cornelius, but He also works in Peter. As Peter is “lodged” by Simon the Tanner, these barriers to receiving a Gentile into the Church are already being tested. Simon was considered unclean because of his handling of animal carcasses in his occupation as a tanner. But those barriers are being removed even more drastically for Peter in a vision that he sees – a sheet coming down from heaven full of clean and unclean animals. He is told to kill and eat. He protests and the command comes, “What God hath cleansed, call not thou common.” God will entertain strangers. The barriers of ceremonial laws, of customs, but most of all the barrier of sin are removed as God entertains strangers. As Peter meets Cornelius, he demonstrates that the barriers between Jew and Gentile have been broken down when he says, “Stand up; I myself also am a man...God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”



God also entertains Cornelius by showing impartiality. While this chapter is about the inclusion of the Gentiles in the saving purpose of God, it is also about the impartiality of God in salvation. Peter exclaims in verses 34-35, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted of him.” Peter was learning to see from God’s perspective and that is the perspective that the Church today also should have. Only God’s grace determines a person’s place in the kingdom, not any outward conformity to customs or ceremonies. God looks on the heart. He does not see as we see. We see unlikely converts, but God sees the objects of His eternal love. We see different people, but God sees those whom He will conform to His image. God entertains strangers from every nation in the world. His impartiality is breathtaking in its scope. Are you learning to see as God sees?

Finally, God entertains strangers by displaying Christ to them. He displays Christ in His Word to ignorant strangers (v. 36-37). He displays Christ in His ministry to needy strangers (v. 38). He displays Christ in His crucifixion for sinful strangers (v. 39). He displays Christ in His resurrection for lifeless strangers (v. 40-41). He displays Christ in His judgment over all strangers (v. 42). He displays Christ in His forgiveness of sinful strangers (v. 43). He displays Christ in His anointing of diverse strangers (v. 44-47). He displays Christ in His union with distant strangers (v. 48). This is how God entertains strangers.

It is a beautiful display of grace to those who are yet afar off. This immediately presses home the question – has God entertained you by His grace? If so, how is hospitality factoring into your church’s and family’s outreach? Is it a built-in way to reach out to the stranger that walks into our churches or into our lives? Are you ready to entertain strangers as God does?

EDITORIAL

Casting Your Bread Upon the Waters

James Beeke

“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days” (Eccl. 11:1).

This verse instructs us to be generous. *Bread* in Scripture often refers to the necessities of life. We are to share with others. And those who do so, shall be rewarded. Those who are kind and generous to others, generally find that people will be more kind and generous to them.

This verse, however, also speaks of the *Bread of Life*, the *Bread* of all breads, the essence of life itself, the Lord Jesus



Christ. If we have been privileged to receive this Bread of Life, to be in possession of the gospel, what are we to do with it? Yes, we are to obey its call, to repent and to believe. Yes, we are to receive this Bread, the living Word of God, and to internalize this Word in our minds and hearts and to live Christ-like lives to our Lord's honor and glory.

But this verse also calls us to do more. We are to "cast our bread upon the waters." We are instructed to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever we can. Cast is an action verb. We are to spread the gospel at home, at school, at our workplace, in our communities, and yes via mission ministries all over the world. We may cast our bread when we are with family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, yes, even when we meet strangers. We can do so by speaking, texting, emailing, writing, using social media, publishing, uploading information online, but also by acts of kindness, self-sacrifice, compassion, care, etc. Yes, we have many opportunities to "cast our bread." The question for each of us is, are we doing so? This verse is instructive for missionaries and mission ministries, but it is broader. It is a loving command to all Christians. Let us not restrict the light of the gospel and hide it under a bushel, but place it upon a candlestick, where its light and warmth will testify in a way that no one can deny.

There is a gracious reward for doing so. "For thou shalt find it after many days." There is no "maybe" or "perhaps" in this verse. The promising principle of God here is that which we find in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Observe, however, that the reward is often not witnessed immediately, but after *many days*.

What an encouragement this verse is for missionaries, pastors, teachers, and all those who preach and teach the Word of God! While we may sow in tears, a time is approaching when we shall reap in joy! (Ps. 126:5). Think about the truth of this promise, parents, when you teach your children; teachers, when you instruct your students; pastors, when you preach to your congregations; missionaries, as you proclaim the gospel in other cultures. While it may appear to you that there is no positive result, no encouraging sign, no appearance of receptivity, turn to this promise, "thou shalt find it after many days."

Take courage. Go forward. Look more to God's promise of future results than to your limited ability to see immediate fruits. Focus on that which you are instructed to do, "cast thy *bread* upon the waters" and trust that God will fulfill His promise, that "thou shalt find it after many days."

MISSION UPDATES INDONESIA – Sumba Update

Bill Sommer

The Lord has given us plentiful rain this season; what a difference with last year. We are so thankful because we know what it is when there is no water. Everything is now green and lush.

Holidays are over and the children are back in school. At the end of this school year, two of the teachers, Etzy and Charlotte, will be leaving us. So we have to look for replacements. We pray that the Lord will supply us again as He has done in the past.

As you can see in some of the pictures, we received play-ground equipment from the government for the kindergarten classes. The children just love it and it is used daily.



Christina has not been feeling well lately. She was in the hospital with infections and has to go to Bali to have her kidneys checked for possible cysts. They cannot do this test here in Sumba. Marga, one of the staff, will go with her. Pray for Christina that she may recover and will be able to take up her many labors again.

I went to Kupang to have my visa extended. While there I had a nice visit with Opa and Elsi who are studying there to become teachers. I also visited with the family where they are staying. Both girls are doing well in their studies.

Esa finished his practicum on the Island of Sumba and is now back in Bali for the final stretch. He will be callable in late summer for the ministry, the Lord willing. We pray that he will come to Sumba and help us and the surrounding villages.

The students in Java are doing as well as can be expected

and Eldi, who is deaf mute, is still in Waikabubak. It is his last year there. He can hear with hearing aids and at one time we bought him hearing aids, but he broke them not long after because he did not like to wear them. We will try again when he comes home this fall; maybe it will go better this time. Hearing aids are very expensive here.

Because of the heavy rains we have been experiencing, roads and bridges have given out. On the way to Waingapu there is one such bridge; the road crew made another one closer to the ocean, but it is giving out too. They put corrugated iron over the holes which makes it a bit scary to drive over!



Bernie and Ina Pennings were here for several weeks and returned home in January



Bill is showing his new Batik shirt received from the children for his birthday

SOUTH AFRICA

Facts about the Mukhanyo Ministry
Dr. Brian DeVries

What is the ministry of Mukhanyo Theological College? Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to list a number of present facts about the ministry under the following three headings. Please join us in thanking the Lord for how He has blessed this ministry and made it grow during the past decade.

Our History

- Mukhanyo's ministry started as the natural development of evangelistic work in the former KwaNdebele region by missionaries from Reformed Churches in South Africa (GKSA) and the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands (CGK-N). International support in the beginning years was also from the Free Reformed Churches in America (FRC-NA) and from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated) via their sister Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (VGK-SA).
- At first Mukhanyo offered only informal and church-based training in cooperation with the church-planting efforts of international missionaries and local evangelists.
- Higher education programs were added in the late 1990s, under the leadership of founding principal Dr. P.J. (Flip) Buys. At first these were unaccredited certificate and diploma qualifications, followed later with bachelor's and honors degrees that were accredited by North-West University in Potchefstroom.
- Mukhanyo received its own South African accreditation for the diploma and degree qualifications in 2009. The distance and teacher education programs were also started in this year, under the leadership of the present principal, Dr. Brian DeVries, who has been supported since 2005 by the Heritage Reformed Churches (HRC-NA).
- International financial support continued, also from partners such as Word & Deed America and DeVerre Naasten (Netherlands). At present, about half the budget is covered with international funds since the other half of operating expenses is paid by South African donations and tuition.
- In recent years, Mukhanyo established a campus in Johannesburg at the very heart of the city, and now a third campus is also being established in the suburbs of Pretoria.

Our Team

- Mukhanyo is blessed to have a wonderfully diverse and gifted faculty, most of whom are pastors and local church leaders. Presently there are ten full-time and 24 part-time lecturers. Most Mukhanyo lecturers are South African; presently six of the lecturers are Mukhanyo alumni.
- Mukhanyo's staff in its three locations consists of about 35 full-time employees and many more part-time contractors and volunteers.

- Mukhanyo's student body in 2018 totals about 800 people. This includes both the theology and teachers' programs, students in all three locations and 45+ distance sites, and many part-time distance students.
- The ministry budget for 2018 is R9.4 million (~\$750,000 USD). The budget was R1.5 mill in 2008 and R4.1 mill in 2013, so Mukhanyo has experienced considerable growth during the past ten years.
- The Executive Management team presently consists of seven dedicated Christians, each with their own set of gifts for the ministry: Dr. Brian DeVries, Jackie Tredoux (faculty manager), Rev. Isaac Maleke (dean of students), Mr. Jan Pelser (operations manager), Dr. Japie Malan (JHB manager), Mr. Pieter Bisschoff (PTA manager), and Mrs. Wynie Malan (financial manager).
- The Board of Directors provides governance on behalf of the 17 member churches (which include the CGKN, VGK-SA, FRC-NA, HRC-NA, and OPC-NA). The Board consists of ten ministers or elders from local churches who meet at least five times each year, led by Chairman Dr. Lusani Netshitomboni.

Our Plans

- The Mukhanyo team has made plans for many further developments internally: increasing academic quality across all teaching and learning at all locations, upgrading internal policies and procedures, doubling the size of the physical library collection (thanks to donations from many people in America), etc.
- The Mukhanyo team is developing plans to greatly expand the church-based training programs in cooperation with local churches across southern Africa, which is made possible by the generous support of donors including Word & Deed North America.
- The Mukhanyo Distance program is also being upgraded internally to better serve many more learning centers and students across southern Africa.
- Further expansion and development of Mukhanyo's teacher education programs are being planned, starting in 2018 with a significant increase in teacher students in both Pretoria and KwaMhlanga.
- The Johannesburg campus buildings will be further renovated in 2018, including lecturer offices and space for a greatly enlarged library collection, thanks to generous support of donors including DeVerre Naasten.
- The Mukhanyo leadership is presently exploring the possibility of offering a master's degree with a concentration in African Reformed Theology.



Lecturers at a Faculty Forum in January

Please continue to pray for the ministry of Mukhanyo Theological College. Beg the Lord to give much spiritual fruit upon the strategic work of this ministry. Additional information and regular news – to inform your coveted prayers – is posted at www.mukhanyo.ac.za.



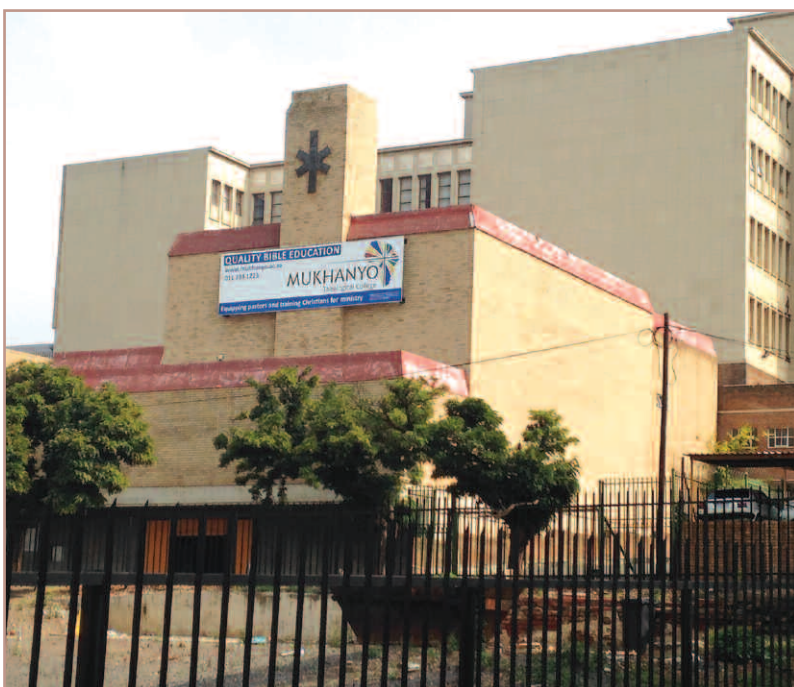
Weekly worship with staff and students

CHURCH EVANGELISM Heritage Reformed Congregation, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Introduction of HRC Chinese Congregation
Simon Yin

HRC Chinese Congregation (HRCCC), a part of HRC Grand Rapids, is 5 years old since her conception in 2012. She has been cultivated tenderly by HRC Grand Rapids and enjoys her growth but has her own struggles. She has gradually come to understand her role and develop her vision.

The conception of HRCCC was started by a couple of Chinese theological student families who were attracted by the preaching of HRC Grand Rapids. When the students' parents visited HRC Grand Rapids, live translation of the sermons from English to Chinese became necessary. This opened the door for more Chinese people to attend the church, and after four years (in August 2016) HRC Grand Rapids helped the Chinese attenders set up a Mandarin worship service in addition to the regular English services



The Johannesburg Campus building

with live translations. Now HRCCC has 20-30 regular attenders and offers weekly Sunday Mandarin worship services, weekly Bible studies, monthly family lectures, bi-monthly outreach dinners, outreach lectures every 6 months, and a Chinese theological literature library.

While having her own struggles, she grows with joyful learning. From HRC she learns Reformed experiential preaching and living of the Gospel, which are new to many Chinese churches. She experiences the fear of the Lord in the worship services, a continuous focus on the law and the gospel, the supreme status of the Word of God in governing lives of the congregation, and special attention to the children in preaching and catechism teaching. She learns to practice family worship, Sabbath keeping, and more. Some struggle with head covering, Sabbath keeping, and women's use of skirts, but all are willing to submit to the church authority and her interpretations of the Scripture. HRCCC has witnessed substantial positive spiritual changes in the lives of the Chinese attenders.

During her growth, she gradually developed a 3-fold-vision. The great treasure God has put in the field of HRC could be represented by Reformed experiential preaching and living of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This strength of HRC is exactly the weakness of many Chinese churches, if not most. The HRC Chinese Congregation stands in a unique and strategic position to be shaped by such treasure and to spread it. Three concentric circles may help illustrate our vision. The innermost circle is Grand Rapids, the middle circle China, and outmost circle is the globe (world).

The innermost circle is Grand Rapids. We ourselves need to be shaped by Reformed experiential preaching and living of the Gospel of Christ. In Grand Rapids, we hope to have a group of local Chinese families who deeply cherish such preaching and living, and we hope to help mold incoming PRTS Chinese students to such conviction when they are served and serving here while they study.

The middle circle is China, which refers especially to Reformed churches in China. These PRTS Chinese students will bring such Reformed experiential preaching and living back to their Reformed churches in China. Also, there will no doubt be a growing number of Chinese Reformed pastors visiting the Grand Rapids area. The HRC Chinese Congregation will seek to provide hospitality and show them a life deeply influenced by such preaching. We will also continue to shepherd incoming Chinese high school students from Reformed churches in China as their parents desire their children to have Christian education with Reformed conviction in Grand Rapids.

The outermost circle is the globe, which refers to fellow Chinese around the world. We may have opportunity to

minister to them by translating HRC sermons and putting them online, translating Puritan and Reformed literature in book ministry, and providing a hub so that many good resources of this community become available to Chinese people around the world.

To help the growth of HRCCC and implement the vision, HRC Grand Rapids has recently elected a Chinese elder with special assignment to HRCCC. May the Lord bless this young church plant to have a unique role in dispensing Reformed experiential preaching and living of the Gospel to many Chinese.



HRCCC on a trip to Sleeping Bear Dune in Michigan (2017)



HRCCC sees off a HRCCC brother as he returns to China (2018)

DOMESTIC OUTREACH

Relying on the Lord Alone in Outreach

Rev. Terreth Klaver

My time as the chair of the Domestic Outreach Committee (DOC) will be ending at our upcoming HRC Synod in June. As I have prayerfully contemplated preparing this article in light of my stepping down, the Lord brought to mind a text: *"Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: For wherein is he to be accounted of?"* (Isa. 2:22).



In the work of outreach, as in all of life, we are prone to forget two things: that the Lord is the One who sovereignly accomplishes His will and that it does not depend on us (Rom. 9:16). Even if, by the grace of the Lord, we have a desire to see the Lord's kingdom come, we are often tempted to forget about Him and make idols of the means we have been blessed with for the expansion of His kingdom. Pastors can be tempted to rely on their strategies, gifts, research, curriculum, personal zeal, and experience (along with many other things), rather than on the faithfulness of Him who has called them (I Thess. 5:24). Believers who are laboring in an area and longing to see growth can be tempted to put their trust in their pastor's labors, or in the hopes that things will be well once the pastor comes, or in certain programs, or changes in worship, or even in their own evangelistic labors instead of in the Lord who builds His own church (Matt. 16:18).

Our hope amidst these temptations, which the Lord exposes in Isaiah 2:22, is in the very beginning of the chapter, which says,

And it shall come to pass in the last days, That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; And he will teach us of his ways, And we will walk in his paths: For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Isa. 2:2-3). These words direct us back to the Lord who has done the work while also directing us to faithful and obedient use of the means He provides. The last days have come and our Lord Jesus has already, in principle, built His church (John 19:30, Matt. 27:51, Acts 4:11). However, there are more sinners yet to come to Christ from every nation, tribe, and language (Matt. 24:14-8), and He promises to use workers- including us- in the salvation of sinners and the expansion of His kingdom (Matt. 9:37-38, 1 Cor. 3:9).

Let us, then, as He teaches us His ways, seek to "walk in his paths" using all the means He has given us to reach sinners for Him. Our Lord Jesus, by His great work, provides the hope we need despite our shortcomings, failures, and inadequacies. May we never give up on the work of outreach, because the Lord alone who calls us is all-sufficient. Let us "cease from man" for "the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:7).

OUTREACH REPORT Reformed Church of Plymouth Wisconsin

Pastor Michael Fintelman

As a witness for God's truth here in Southeastern Wisconsin, we affirm with the faithful church that the Gospel is at the heart of the Biblical message. But in the course of evangelism, how does one summarize that Gospel? As a church we encourage and challenge one another to always be equipped with the truth of the Gospel, so we can not only enjoy it ourselves, but also share it with others.



In 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Paul summarizes the message of the Gospel that most agree is one of the clearest and most concise summaries of the Gospel anywhere in Scripture. The good news of the Gospel is that God makes peace with sinners. He reconciles sinners unto Himself by Jesus Christ.

The Author

In this passage, Paul first reveals the Author or Originator of salvation and reconciliation. All of it is *"of God"* (v. 18). God authored the whole plan, and He works out the whole matter within the sinner's heart. Yes, mankind is the recipient, but divine reconciliation is not a collaborative effort. It is not a teamwork event where God does His part and sinners do their part with reconciliation as the result. It is ultimately - of God. The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary. This is the foundation stone of the Gospel message. The moment we begin to add anything to the pure source of the Gospel message, we are not only diluting it, we are distorting it! As we share the Gospel message with others, we as a church seek to be crystal clear on this foundational point. It is decidedly - of God!

The Agent

Next, Paul identifies the divine Agent of reconciliation as

none other than Jesus Christ. *"All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ"* (v. 18). He alone is Savior. How does God, through Christ as the divine Agent, work this out? It involves at least two parts.

First, God through the agency of Christ does not impute our trespasses to us (v. 19). Imputing is an accounting term. To trespass is to step over the boundary of God's Law. God says that, for the sake of Christ, "I will not hold your Law-breaking trespasses against you." This is unfathomable because we deserve to have our trespasses imputed to us or put on our account! Moreover, we justly deserve to be punished for our trespasses. We justly deserve the verdict and punishment of complete guilt (Gal. 3:10).

However, those trespasses don't just vanish into thin air. Those trespasses must be imputed or assigned to someone else. The trespasses which we justly deserve to have imputed to our account are instead laid upon Christ as the Divine Substitute. This is the other side of the golden Gospel coin.

So secondly, Jesus Christ becomes our Substitute and our sins are imputed to Him and He in turn imputes His righteousness to us. *"For He [God the Father] made Him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin [Christ had no original or actual sin]; that we might be made [that is, become] the righteousness of God in Him"* (v. 21). Christ was made sin for us! Christ did not Himself become a sinner. Rather, He took our sins upon Himself. He so closely identified with sin, without becoming a sinner Himself, so that God the Father not only poured out His righteous wrath on the sin that Christ was bearing, but also poured out His wrath on Jesus Christ Himself! Christ suffered in the place of sinners, as divine Substitute. But there is more. He did this, *"that we might be made [become] the righteousness of God in Him"* (v. 21). Our unrighteousness is laid upon Christ and His righteousness becomes ours! This is the great exchange. This is the Gospel, the good news of the way of peace with God! It is of God, and by the work of Christ alone. The Bible teaches us that He powerfully and mercifully accomplishes this in the sinner's heart by His Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15), and it is received by faith (Rom. 5:1). This is the good news we are called to share with a dying world.

The Ambassadors

An ambassador represents some place or someone. Certainly, Paul and all ministers are God's ambassadors to faithfully represent God and speak His glorious Gospel message. He says, *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"* (v. 20). Paul not only teaches the Gospel, but as an ambassador of the Gospel also directly pleads with his readers to be reconciled to God.

Furthermore, Paul makes it clear that this was not just his version of truth which he appropriated to himself and then authorized himself to proclaim. Rather, he says God has *"given us the ministry of reconciliation"* (v. 18). He repeats in verse 19 that God *"has committed,"* or entrusted it to us. Therefore, we are to be His faithful ambassadors, speaking His Word. Preachers are not to accommodate the Gospel message of reconciliation to make it more morally, doctrinally, or socially palatable. We simply are called to preach God's glorious Gospel and leave the results to God, trusting He will direct and apply His message when and how He divinely wills—as He always has. The Gospel needs no protection or direction from us; it simply requires proclamation from us.

As a church we also realize that pastors are not the exclusive mouthpieces of God to share this glorious Gospel. In Acts 8:4, all the church that had been scattered went abroad preaching the Word, that is, evangelizing. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul is not necessarily addressing Christian ministers. All Christians share in the office of all believers and, therefore, have also been entrusted with this ministry of reconciliation (v. 18, 19). All believers do have a ministry. All are not called to full-time pastoral ministry, but all Christians have a ministry. That ministry is to share the message of hope, the Gospel, the good news of reconciliation which has been given to us by God.

In Plymouth, we seek to do that through the means of preaching, Bible studies, web and radio broadcasts and friendship, or social evangelism. As with any other church, the results here have been mixed. Some receive the Gospel with joy and continue to feed from it; others hear it but choose to move on. However, our resolve as a church family is unwavering and with God's help we continue proclaiming the truth of the Gospel, believing God's faithful promise that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish His desired results (Isa. 55:11).

We thank you for your gracious and generous support and ask that you will join in prayer that the Lord will continue to uphold us in confident commitment to the task entrusted to us, and that one day we all might hear those heartwarming words, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord"* (Matt. 25:21).

BOOKS TO ADVANCE YOUR MISSION & EVANGELISM SKILLS

Erin Willis

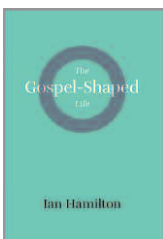
The Gospel-Shaped Life

Ian Hamilton

The Gospel-Shaped Life is a book for Christians of all ages. Its goal is to move us to confess with the apostle Paul, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33). How does the gospel do this? And what does a gospel-shaped life look like? And what impact will such a life have on others? These are some of the questions raised and answered by Ian Hamilton in this book.

(Banner of Truth, PB, 175 pgs.)

~~\$11.00~~ | \$8.50



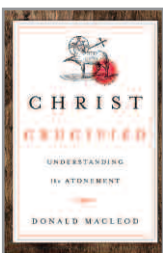
Christ Crucified

Donald Macleod

How could the life—let alone the death—of one man two thousand years ago be the salvation of the human race? The biblical explanation is the atonement: the Crucified One was the Son of God, acting and suffering in cooperation with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Donald Macleod considers seven key words Christians have used through the centuries to describe what happened on the cross: substitution, expiation, propitiation, reconciliation, satisfaction, redemption, and victory. No single one of these tells the whole truth, nor do all of them together exhaust the meaning of the cross. Macleod shows that these concepts are interrelated and interdependent and that together they give a coherent picture of the salvation wrought by Jesus at Calvary.

(IVP Academic, PB, 180 pgs.)

~~\$14.95~~ | \$11.25



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YOUTH EVANGELISM

Rev. Marty Slingerland

Grand Rapids – Youth Groups – Stuart Johnson

The Heritage Reformed Congregation in Grand Rapids hosts youth groups of three age classes: Young Adults (ages 19-22); Senior (9th-12th grade) and Junior Youth (6th-8th grade). Our goal is to evangelize and disciple our children as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as provide them a safe, wholesome environment to interact and strengthen their childhood bonds. The Lord has blessed us with some 70 youth participating across the three groups. We meet biweekly on a weekend evening. Come find us on Facebook at 'HRC GR Youth Group'!

Dr. Adriaan Neele leads the Young Adult group, after the Sunday evening sermon, in thought-provoking discussions dealing with current moral issues in our society. His goal is to help our young adults become independent thinkers, grounded in a solid Biblical, reformed worldview. He and his wife Cornelia invite the Young Adults over for games and fun.

Mr. Stuart and Judith Johnson lead the Senior Youth group with assistance from a number of other committed parents. We alternate between special topics from our pastors as requested by the youth, to inviting foreign students from PRTS to speak of their calling and home church, to Sermon Discussions, to Sing-Alongs followed by Question & Answer sessions. In the Q&A, the youth write down questions which are presented anonymously for the pastor to review and answer 'real time'! We are encouraged that the questions frequently deal with matters of deepening their walk with Christ and not complaints of being boxed out from the world. Additionally, we strive quarterly to have one fun activity ranging from skating, biking, renting the YMCA, to 'bumper ball', as well as one service event where we reach out to needy members of our church family or community.

Mr. Ellis and Kristin Meschke lead the Junior Youth group. The Junior Youth accompany the Senior Youth on selected events appropriate for their age group, and the Meschkes host fun activities and service events as well.

Some of our more favorite and meaningful activities since our last Glad Tidings article:

- Singing Christmas carols to our senior shut ins
- Renting the local YMCA
- Tubing at the local ski resort
- Camping at Ludington State Park
- Right to Life Benefit Dinner
- Games, bonfire and singing evenings

- Omega House Visit (Pro Life ministry, next door to GR's abortion clinic)
- Board game evening with our senior citizens



White Caps Baseball Game



Biking from Grand Rapids to Rockford



"Roughing it" overnight camping trip at Ludington State Park



Bumper Ball Soccer World Cup at 3 Mile Project – getting the rules straight



Friendly beach game at Ludington State Park



*Stacking wood for sale to support one
of our families in need*

The Bible: The Way in Which it has Been Loved (continued)

Rev. Richard Newton (1813-1887)

"Thy testimonies are wonderful," Psalm 119:129.

Some years ago there were two little boys, in London, who had lost both their parents. One of them was about eleven, and the other thirteen, years of age. They had been taught to love their Bible, and that precious Saviour of whom it tells. The only friend they had in the world, when their parents died, was an uncle, who lived in Liverpool. So they set off to walk, from London to Liverpool, to try to find their uncle. After walking many weary miles, they reached a place called Warrington, about twenty miles from Liverpool. With their little bundles in their hands, they went to a lodging-house, and asked for a night's shelter. They were asked to pay for entrance; but they said they had no money. The keeper of the house saw that one of them had, in his jacket pocket, a neatly covered Bible, and offered to give him five shillings for it. "No," said the pale-faced boy, as the big tears started into his eyes, "we'll starve before we'll sell our Bible." The man was surprised to find the boys so decided, and, in order to try them further, he offered six shillings, and then ten shillings, to those poor, hungry boys for their book. But, with the same firmness, they clung to that precious book. "No," said they, "it has been our support and comfort all the way from London. Often, when hungry and tired, we have sat down by the roadside, and read in our Bible, and it has seemed like meat, and drink, and rest to us."

"But," said the man, "suppose, when you get to Liverpool, your uncle refused to help you; what will you do then?"

"We'll trust that to God," said the younger of the two boys; "for in this book" – laying his hand on the Bible, – "it says, 'When father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.'"

Book of Proverbs Bible Quiz

- 1: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise... what? (1:7)
Knowledge and wisdom
Wisdom and instruction
Discipline and judgement
Instruction and judgement
- 2: Go to the ____, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. What animal should we take lessons from? (6:6)
Ant
Sheep
Spider
Horse
- 3: Which wise man wrote the majority of Proverbs? (1:1)
Moses
David
Abraham
Solomon
- 4: The legs of the lame are the equivalent of what in the mouth of fools? (26:7)
Secret
Parable
Message
Gossip
- 5: A soft answer turneth away... what? (15:1)
Wrath
The devil
The foolish
The righteous
- 6: Everyone that is proud in heart is what to the Lord? (16:5)
A delight
A servant
A son
An abomination
- 7: Which one of these is an abomination to the Lord? (11:1)
A lazy man
A false balance
A foolish mouth
An unfaithful servant

8: A wholesome (healing), tongue is described as what? (15:4)

- A tree of life
- A medicine
- Life of the flesh
- An excellent spirit

9: Hatred stirreth up strifes, but what does love cover? (10:12)

- A guilty heart
- A lying tongue
- All sins
- Hateful imaginations

10: What metal is the tongue of the just likened to? (10:20)

- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze
- Iron

11: An virtuous woman is a what to her husband? (12:4)

- A jewel
- A crown
- A delight
- An honour

12: It is better to obtain wisdom than what? (16:16)

- Money
- Diamonds
- Gold
- Silver

13: How shall the man's belly be satisfied? (18:20)

- By the honeycomb
- By the words of the wise
- By the fruit of his mouth
- By the love in his heart

14: The king's wrath is as the roaring of what? (19:12; 20:2)

- The waves
- A lion
- His army
- The wind

15: Bread of deceit is sweet to a man, but what shall his mouth be filled with afterwards? (20:17)

- Gravel
- Sand
- Locusts
- Bitter herbs

16: A word fitly spoken is like what of gold in pictures of silver? (25:11)

- Figs
- Grapes
- Drops
- Apples

17: Wisdom is more precious than which gems? (3:15; 8:11)

- Diamonds
- Emeralds
- Rubies
- Pearls

18: Deceit is in the heart of them that... do what? (12:20)

- Maketh lies
- Shed innocent blood
- Imagine evil
- Condemn the just

19: Which king contributes words of wisdom in Proverbs Chapter 31? (31:1)

- Samuel
- Saul
- David
- Lemuel

20: The name of the Lord is what place of safety? (18:10)

- A deep cave
- A strong city
- A strong wall
- A strong tower

Submitted with permission from biblequizzes.org.uk

MISSION FINANCES

William Kuivenhoven and James van den Brink

Presented here is our current financial statement. We thank God for the means He has given the Mission Committee through you, our supporters, to continue our mission endeavours.

Please remember the Mission Committee in your prayers and also in your financial giving. Your support continues to assist in spreading the light of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through this dark world and to fulfill our Lord's great commission. Matt. 28:19

The Finance Committee

HRC Domestic Outreach Committee
Financial Reports
For the Six Months Ended January 31, 2018
Actual and Budget figures presented in CAD

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Act vs Bud Variance	Prior YTD Actual	CY vs PY Variance
Revenue					
HRC Church Donations	\$ 37 765	\$ 39 758	\$ (1 993)	\$ 66 799	\$ (29 034)
Other Donations	-	-	-	25 139	(25 139)
Total Income	\$ 37 765	\$ 39 758	\$ (1 993)	\$ 91 938	\$ (54 173)
Expenditures					
Outreach Support	\$ 39 418	\$ 39 508	\$ 90	\$ 48 020	\$ 8 602
Bank Charges	245	250	5	287	42
Delegate Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	(98)	-	98	(139)	(41)
Total Expenses	\$ 39 564	\$ 39 758	\$ 194	\$ 48 168	\$ 8 603
Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)	\$ (1 799)	\$ 0	\$ (1 799)	\$ 43 771	\$ (45 570)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	YTD Actual	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Assets			
Bank	\$ 4 652	\$ 16 812	\$ (12 161)
Due From GM	-	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	10 962	23 621	(12 659)
Total Assets	\$ 15 614	\$ 40 433	\$ (24 819)
Liabilities			
Due To GM	\$ 4 487	\$ 6 229	\$ (1 742)
Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
Total (Current) Liabilities	\$ 4 487	\$ 6 229	\$ (1 742)
Net Assets	11 127	34 204	(23 077)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 15 614	\$ 40 433	\$ (24 819)

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SPECIAL DATES and PRAYER NEEDS

Please remember the following with prayer, praise and/or greetings:

Pray for the conversion and/or spiritual strengthening of all that read this magazine and all those that are included in these pages.

- Dr. Arthur Miskin Birthday – April 8
- Lanae & Dr. Brian DeVries Anniversary – April 9
- Marion Sommer Birthday – April 30
- Bill & Marion Sommer Anniversary – May 9
- Lanae DeVries Birthday – May 18
- Dr. Sonja Miskin Birthday – May 22
- Krista DeVries Birthday – May 24, 2011
- C.W. (Bill) Sommer Birthday – July 24

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Mr. C.W. (Bill) Sommer, P/O Box 130 Waingapu, 87100 Sumba Timor NTT, Indonesia, no email, Telephone : 62 868 1211 9875 (if access is available) / Mrs. Marion Sommer, 8 Cedar Street North, P.O. Box 298, Otterville, Ontario N0J 1R0, Canada, email: tanabanas@gmail.com Telephone: 519 879 6247

PLEASE SHARE AND DONATE

Your contributions will help bring the gospel and spiritual encouragement to the areas where our missionaries/domestic outreach pastors are serving the Lord.

Please include your name, telephone, address, city, province/state, country, postal/zip code, email and a reference of what person/project the funds should be directed to. (Tax receipts available)

All Canadian donations should be forwarded to:
 HRC Mission Fund, P.O. Box 147, Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1C0 Canada
 or

All U.S.A. donations should be forwarded to:
 HRC Mission Fund, c/o 540 Crescent St., NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 USA
 Spending of funds is confined to Board-approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a Board-approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the Board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.

Carry the Light

Many in darkness are far astray,
Carry the light, carry the light,
Spreading the beams of the Gospel day,
Carry the beautiful light;
Tell them the gift of the Father's love,
How the dear Savior He gave;
Tell them of mercy that smiles above,
Jesus almighty to save!

Let us unite in this best employ,
Carry the light, carry the light;
Tell the good news of salvation's joy,
Carry the beautiful light.
Singing of Jesus, our songs are bright,
Bright with the blessing He brings;
Helping to scatter the shades of night.
Sing of the Lord's healing wings.

Living for Jesus, we'll work and pray,
Carry the light, carry the light;
Walking with Him in the shining way,
Carry the beautiful light;
O, there's a glory that fills the heart,
Sunshine of pardon and peace;
Let us the secret to all impart,
Helping the kingdom's increase.

Clearer and clearer the dayspring glows,
Carry the light, carry the light;
Brighter and brighter the morning grows,
Carry the beautiful light.
Jesus is coming in wondrous might,
Coming in splendor to reign;
Sorrow and sighing shall take their flight,
Eden shall blossom again.

Light! light! beautiful light!
Streaming from Heaven's fair height;
Living for Jesus, our precious Savior,
Carry the beautiful light.

Eliza E. Hewitt