

Glad Tidings



Listening to the Bible Story Elsy is teaching in Sumba, Indonesia



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

Glad Tidings

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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.



Elsy working with the children in Sumba, Indonesia

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MEDITATION

Sinners Being Blessed in Christ

Rev. Bartel Elshout

Men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed (Psa. 72:17b).

Psalm 72 is undoubtedly one of the most prominent of the Messianic psalms. When reading this psalm in which David speaks of the glory of his son Solomon, one may truly say that a “greater than Solomon is here.” What a beautiful psalm this is when we may read it consciously with Christ in mind! How eloquent is the description of the glory of His kingdom, and how precious are the references to His tender love as a Savior—as, for instance, in verse 12, “For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper!”

In our text, however, we also have a clear prophecy regarding the future success of the greater Solomon, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. In this psalm, as in so many other psalms, we have a clear indication that salvation would not only be for the Jews but that the day would come that also the Gentiles, the nations of the world, would be the recipients of Jehovah’s salvation.

God had already declared to Abraham that in his seed, all families of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). This truth is repeated and affirmed in our text. It tells us that men shall be blessed in Him—men of whom Revelation 7:9 tells us that they shall come from “all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.”

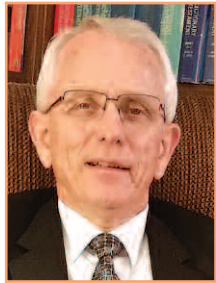
What a glorious truth it is that *men* shall be blessed in Him! The “men” of our text are fallen sons and daughters of Adam, who by nature are inclined, as we all are, to hate God and their neighbor. They are men who are transgressors of God’s law, who do not seek after God, and who have no desire after the knowledge of His ways. How righteous God would have been if He declared that the rebellious children of men should forever be accursed and banished from His presence!

And yet the contrary is true! We commemorate annually that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that in Him men shall be blessed (John 3:16). What an unspeakable wonder indeed that the Son of God’s eternal love in the fullness of time became the Son of man to subject Himself to the curse of God’s law and to be nailed to the accursed cross, doing so in order that men might be blessed!

And men have indeed been blessed from the dawn of history until this very day—and they are still being blessed in all the nations of the world. They are being blessed with salvation in Christ because it pleases this Christ to raise up men, blessed by Him, to go to the ends of the earth to preach His gospel—to preach it so that sinful men and women may be blessed in Him.

How does it become manifest that men are indeed blessed in Him? Or, to put it differently, how do we know whether the preaching of the gospel indeed bears fruit in the hearts and lives of those to whom it is proclaimed? Our text tells us that they shall call Him—Christ—blessed.

How profoundly these words describe the preeminent fruit of the saving work of the Holy Spirit whose outpouring we have recently commemorated! As the Spirit of Christ, His singular goal is to lead sinners to the acknowledgment that Christ is indeed precious (or blessed). By His convicting ministry, He makes room for the



altogether lovely Christ of the gospel. He will, therefore, not rest until the sinner who is the object of His saving ministry will proclaim in holy adoration, “My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand!” (Song 5:10).

How precious will Christ be to a sinner who has been taught by God’s Spirit how guilty, wretched, and vile he is! What a wonder it will be to such a sinner that God has provided an entirely suitable Savior for completely lost sinners! When this becomes an experiential reality for us, we cannot but call this Savior blessed indeed.

Reader, do you already belong to those who call the Lord Jesus Christ blessed and for whom His Name is a name above every name? Only then may you know that you have truly been blessed in Him. When men and women in all the nations of the earth call Jesus Christ blessed, we have undeniable evidence that the church’s gospel ministry has been blessed indeed.

May that also be the fruit upon the gospel ministry in which our churches may engage—at home and abroad. May it, therefore, be our earnest and prayerful desire that God—who will surely see to it that men from every nation shall be blessed in His Son—will so bless our evangelistic and missionary endeavors that men shall call Him blessed indeed!

Not Under Law but Under Grace

Rev. Brian G. Najapfour

Some people say that we do not need God’s law anymore, since we are no longer under His law but under His grace. To support their case, they cite Romans 6:14, “You are not under law but under grace.” “You see,” they argue, “we are no longer under God’s law but under God’s grace. Therefore, there is no need for us to study or even read the law (the Ten Commandments).” This thinking is prevalent in many churches today where God’s moral law is rarely heard. Does the church that you attend still read the Ten Commandments regularly? When was the last time your pastor(s) preached on the Ten Commandments?

In this article I will briefly clarify the meaning of Paul’s words in Romans 6:14—“You are not under law but under grace.” By this statement Paul means that we are not under the moral law as a requirement for eternal life.

The Bible can be divided into two main sections: before the fall of man (before Adam sinned) and after the fall of man (after Adam sinned). Before the fall, Adam was without sin. Yet, while Adam is morally perfect, he is capable of sinning. And if he sins, he will die. What must he do then in order for him to live forever? The answer is found in Genesis 2:16–17: “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

So, what must Adam do in order for him to live eternally? Answer: Obey God. Thus, before the fall, the requirement for obtaining eternal life was perfect obedience to God. “Obey and you will live forever. Disobey and you will surely die.” Sadly, Adam failed to keep God’s commandment. He sinned and died. And here’s bad news: Because Adam was our head representative, when he sinned and died, we also sinned and died in him (Rom. 5:12). Thankfully, the story does not end here, because in Genesis 3:15 God proclaims the



good news about the Messiah. This Messiah, the second Adam, will both actively and passively obey God. Actively, Christ will fulfill the law's perfect demand. Passively, he will pay sin's penalty which is death.

Indeed, Jesus kept the law on behalf of sinners and died in their place, so that sinners who believe in Him will be justified based on His perfect obedience or righteousness. That is, they will be declared righteous as if they had never sinned before and as if they had perfectly obeyed God's law (Rom. 5:19). Hence, after the fall, the requirement for receiving eternal life is no longer obedience to the law, but faith alone in Jesus Christ. As Paul writes, "We know that a person is not justified by works [or obedience] of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ . . . because by works of the law no one will be justified" (Gal. 2:16).

Now, this doctrine of justification by faith alone does not mean that we do not need to obey the moral law. In fact, it is by our obedience to the law that we show that we have truly been justified (James 2:17). And so, elsewhere Paul adds, "Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law" (Rom. 3:31). Those who claim to be believers in Christ and disregard His law make their claim questionable.

In summary, we are not under law but under grace in the sense that we are no longer under the covenant of works (obey the law and you will live forever) but under the covenant of grace (believe in Christ and you will have everlasting life). for the alleviation of our challenges or the suffering of the church around the world, but that the gospel would go forth freely and powerfully even in times of trouble?

EDITORIAL

Are our Missions Reformed?

Corney Les

As Reformed believers, we understand that to be Reformed is to be biblical and that we must apply Reformed, biblical principles to all of life. Do we then also apply Reformed, biblical principles to our Mission work?

Reformed Missions are to be from the church, by the church, and to the church. It begins within existing Reformed churches with a view towards establishing Reformed churches where there are none. Matthew 28: 18-20 states "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."

We are obligated to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize them, and to teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded us. Therefore, it follows that we must be working to develop mature believers in Christ (Eph. 4:13). This starts with planting churches, whether domestically or abroad, and then further developing the converts of those churches by training and instructing them in Reformed, biblical doctrines. The goal must be to plant Reformed churches throughout the world and to work towards establishing Reformed seminaries through which



God will provide the teachers and preachers. In this way, the formation of indigenous churches is brought about, and more churches are subsequently planted by them. The focus of the HRC Mission Committee has shifted to support the training of local men and pastors on the mission field so that they are equipped to teach and preach the Word of God in their own countries and in their own languages. These men are then equipped to train others, planting more churches, and spreading the gospel far and wide. May God be glorified with these efforts. We pray that many may come to know and serve Him.

Faithful Reformed Missions involves the whole church. It is not only pastors and missionaries that are involved in mission work. Reformed, biblical teaching shows us that there is unity and catholicity of the church. Every member of the church is involved in some way to promote the spread of the gospel in the global mission of God. The work of Reformed missions is the united work of the entire church in all nations. It is a work that we all do together, whether locally or in a foreign country. It is a work to which all Christians have been called.

God in His sovereignty has ordained the salvation of His people, and He has ordained the means to that end. The mission of God is for His glory and exists so that every tribe, tongue, and nation will know, love, and worship Him, both now and forever.

Let us therefore pray for the work of Missions at home and abroad and support the training of men just as faithfully and generously as we support our pastors at home. Pray for a bountiful harvest and for indigenous men in all nations of the world to be trained to teach and preach the Word of God.

MISSION UPDATE

INDONESIA

Sumba Mission – Graduates

Bernie Pennings

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Eph. 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Something you may be wondering about: "Are the children at the Home in Sumba brought up and do they have the same opportunities as children living with their parents? With so many children being cared for how would this be possible?" My initial response is that the Home has taken in unwanted and vulnerable children—not as a place for them to have safety, and to be cared for till such a time as they can make it on their own—but rather because these are children that were "fearfully and wonderfully made" and are to be cared for as if they were our own. The Sommers have made this very clear to me over the years. The primary concern of the Sommers, and the primary concern at the Home, is that the children are brought up learning and "knowing the Holy Scriptures which are able to make one wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus". This was evidenced at the beginning of the work in Sumba, when the Sommers had

finished the work of drilling the well and then decided that they could not leave, as by doing so they would be abandoning the children and the relationship they had built with the children as parents to those children. Christina and the other staff have similar feelings and show their care time and time again by being true parents to each one, caring for, providing for, and guiding them as any parent would for their own children.

Some of the first children taken into the Home, as well as those that were older when they entered the Home, have now finished their education and have entered the next stage of life. Just as in some of our families there have been disappointments, yet in most situations there have been positive outcomes. To get a perspective from the children, I asked two of the recent graduates about their experiences and thoughts about their upbringing at the Home. The first graduate I asked was Joni, who arrived at the Home in March 2003 when he was just over two years old. Joni graduated from University in Kupang with an agricultural degree. The second graduate I asked was Elsy, who arrived at the Home in June 2006 at seven years of age. Their answers, which true to culture are short, to the point, and with not much detail, follow the questions I asked them. In addition to the questions I asked the graduates, I have had the opportunity to interact with Joni and Elsy during the time I was in Sumba, and relay some of my observations through our interaction of the last few years.

Please give some thoughts when you first arrived, or your first memories of the Home.

Joni – I arrived when I was a baby, however I do feel very blessed and happy because I enjoyed my childhood; I can say it was a great childhood.

Elsy – Wonderful and peaceful. When I first arrived I felt flabbergasted, like “WOW”, because everything was there. Toys, a nice bedroom, also healthy food which my parents could not provide for me.

What are some of your negative (frustrating and disappointing) memories, thoughts while you were at the Home?

Joni – I have no frustrating or disappointing memories while I was in the Home. When I was a kid, it did happen once that I wanted to fight with my little friend. After the fight we both were punished. Well, it was not good but sometimes in childhood life we do fight. We learned our lesson.

Elsy – Actually I have no frustrating and disappointing memories while I was at the Home. Even now, it remains the same, there is nothing that I am disappointed in. When I was younger it did happen once that I wanted to go back to my parents’ house because I missed them, but thankfully it did not happen.

What are some of your positive (happy and encouraging) memories or thoughts while you were at the Home?

Joni – There are a lot of happy memories which encourage me to be who I am today. All the Ibu’s (Home care workers/mothers) and everyone in the Home was always there to be my support system. As a human being there were times I felt tired about something like school stuff but then there were positive words and advice from the Ibu’s and Opa as my parents here, and they successfully pushed me in the right way.

Elsy – I have many happy memories which encouraged me, so I am a better person today. The support system and advice provided by the Ibu’s and Opa, directing me in the positive direction, will always be remembered.

What made you seek further education? And why did you choose the course of study you undertook?

Joni – Education is important and not everyone gets a chance to get it. When the opportunity came, I took it, choosing agriculture as a major. I knew agriculture is very important, especially in Sumba. Most of the people here are farmers and maybe I can share what I have learned in post-secondary school.

Elsy – Education is very important and when I received an opportunity to go, I gladly accepted the opportunity. I must be the best version of me, and education has a big role in this. I chose to be an English teacher because I know today, as an international language, English is very important. As an English teacher I can help my students by sharing what I have learned about the English language.

A few thoughts about your life in post-secondary education...?

Joni – While there is a difference between School and University, the main thing I take away is my understanding about life and how my thought patterns can change my mind set about the things around me.

Elsy – Understanding much more, and developing the mind while at University, helps me to see things around me in a different perspective than when I was in School. The education and life experiences bring maturity to a person.

Now that you have achieved your degree, what do you hope to accomplish with it? What have you done for (or at) the Home and do you have any future plans?

Joni – After finishing my degree, it is my desire to help all my brothers and sisters at the Home and in the surrounding area. Currently, I am helping at the Home with their programs, especially on the agricultural side, but also fixing what is broken, with my brothers, cutting the grass, and helping with the many chores that need to be done. As for future plans I am still thinking about it, but it is my desire to do everything possible for the Home.

Elsy – Finishing my degree, I will try to transfer the knowledge I have obtained and be a good example for my sisters and brothers that are now also my students, as I am now a teacher at Rehoboth School. I am teaching English to the elementary students and music (how to play guitar, flute, and other instruments). I am still thinking about my future plans but leaning towards developing the English and music programs here at Rehoboth School.

Can you say a few things about how the spiritual aspect of the Home and your life has been a part of the growing years and what it means to you?

Elsy – The Home has taught me a lot, and it means so much to me. We are to be right, not just good. My parents here always told my sisters and brothers to be a right person, because if we are right, we are absolutely good. In the good things there might be un-right things but in the right thing there is no un-good things. Mami (Christina) always told us from when I was a kid to now, never to be an arrogant person, because what you own now is not yours, it is a gift from God, and this is a blessing from above.

Bernie Pennings' Perspective

In my interaction with Joni over the last number of years, I have come to see a mature, caring, compassionate individual, never shying away from taking a lead role to make the Home a better place. Joni comes across as a father-type figure having the best interest of others first in mind. As Joni mentioned, he is at the Home helping where he can and working with the boys. In the pictures you will see Joni working on furniture. The Home was able to obtain some unfinished furniture they can finish and resell on the market for a profit. This teaches the boys, and the profits help the Home with some additional income.

Elsy has a strong command of the English language and when she is around has translated for me. This is a great help and relieves Christina. As Elsy stated, she is now teaching English at the school. She also helps with the Sunday school program and recently has led the children in making garbage containers out of old tires as you can see in the pictures.

I look forward to continuing to work with Joni, Elsy and others in leadership positions so the Home and School in Sumba may be a witness and testimony to all. We seek your prayers for God's continued blessings on Home and School.

Ps. 139:14-18. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

To donate to the mission, thereby helping to give these children the opportunity to be brought up in the fear of the Lord and obtain an education, your donation can be emailed to deacons@hrc.church and in the memo line indicate Sumba mission fund. Checks can be mailed to Heritage Reformed Congregation 685 Main St. S. PO Box 105, Burgessville, ON Canada, N0J 1C0, with a note in the memo line "Sumba Mission."



Joni at graduation





Furniture being prepared for finishing and fixing broken furniture



Elsy



Preparing for painting, preparing for finishing, detailing and then the final product of recycled tire garage containers

CHURCH EVANGELISM

Heritage Reformed Congregation of Jordan, ON

Bas Sluijmers

Niagara Migrant Worker Ministry: In the Niagara Region, many evangelism efforts are focused on reaching the hundreds of migrant workers that come from various countries to work on local farms. As a church, we have been involved with the Niagara Migrant Worker Ministry (Spanish speaking ministry) for many years alongside our brothers and sisters in the FRC and URC. The migrant ministry is led by Wilf and Sharon Bout and involves Sunday evening bible studies, weekly English classes, seasonal barbeques and many hours of one-on-one mentoring / spiritual guidance by Wilf and Sharon throughout the week. Here is a short update from the ministry: *"After a two-year COVID hiatus, we were finally able to re-start our Tuesday evening English classes! Since many of you have never been to our classes, let me explain a little bit of what we do, and why it is an important part of this ministry. Every Tuesday evening, volunteer drivers from our churches pick up men and women from the farms and bring them to Jordan HRC. Our classes run from 7:30 – 9:00 pm, and the students can choose their level of instruction: beginner, intermediate, or advanced. In a*

normal year we offer these classes from February until late November or even early December. Teaching these classes is a lot of fun! Each week we learn some new vocabulary and some English grammar, and also give time to work on listening and speaking skills. The teachers plan some activities that bring out smiles and laughter – some games, role-playing exercises, and even some crazy songs! At the end of each class, we bring all the students into the main room to close off with a short devotional, prayer, and a snack. From a teaching perspective, one of the challenges of the program is the constant change of students throughout the season. Work contracts begin and end throughout the year, so on a given week it may be someone's first or last class of the year! Also, quite often workers may unexpectedly need to work late one day. As teachers we try to create lessons that can act as a stand-alone lesson for newcomers, but also build on previous material for those who are able to create some learning momentum. These classes give us a great opportunity to get to know these men and women on a more personal level. They also give them a healthy opportunity to get out of the farm/bunkhouse/work routine for an evening. For many as well, our devotional times are the first time that they may have read the Bible in their entire lives! We are thankful that the classes are well attended. We often have between 50-70 students out each week, and at times the numbers can get even higher!

Wilf and Sharon Bout



Basketball Outreach: In addition to the Spanish outreach, in early 2022, a few men within the church began a bi-weekly basketball game hosted at Jordan Christian School. Before we play, we sing, meditate on God's Word, and pray together. This is an opportunity for young and old to come together in fellowship while playing sports. Furthermore, it has been used to bring the gospel to Trinidadian migrant workers in the area. One of them, Lyndon Jones, is a regular



attendee at our church and has been inviting his fellow colleagues from Trinidad to both our church services on Sunday and to basketball. In total, the farm has 40 men from Trinidad. It is our hope and prayer to begin a Bible study with these men soon. Last month at one of our basketball evenings, Therren Shelton-Szmidt gave a devotional. A few years ago, while in college, Therren gave up a career playing basketball in the U.S. By God's grace, Therren was convicted to leave basketball behind and serve God instead. Therren is now a member of our congregation and helps lead our basketball ministry. Praise God!

Bible studies in the community: With God's help, Pastor Brian Najapfour was able to start a Bible study at Niagara Pallet, a local business owned by members of our church. He plans to do this study every first Wednesday of the month during the employees' break time. It was a blessing to see how attentive the attendees were to God's Word. We pray for God's blessing on this opportunity to show the love of Jesus.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them [the eleven disciples], 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." Matt. 28:18-20



Bible Study at Niagara Pallet

DOMESTIC OUTREACH

Invisible

Kevin Ash

When was the last time someone was jealous of your life? Not of your income bracket or your latest vacation destination or your ride, but of your life – how you were living? Are you rich toward God? Do you have a heavenly bank account that would make a spiritual accountant sit up and take notice? Or does your balance there indicate that your focus is on the wrong account? Is your goal to lay up treasure in heaven?

Jesus warned His closest associates to beware of having inverted goals. At His retreat in Bethany, He reproached His close friend: *“Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and [your sister] Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be [indeed cannot be!] taken away from her”* (Luke 10:41-42). He also taught the attendant crowds the same priorities. In the parable of the rich fool, Jesus bares God’s view when He says, *“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”* (Luke 12:20-21). Earthly stuff and treasure can prove to be a true punji stick trap for the soul. *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Tim. 6:10). Instead, are you rich toward God?

So how *can* we be rich toward God? What is heaven’s currency? Well, Paul notes in his famous summary, *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity”* (1 Cor.13:13). So, love is the greatest, highest coin of the Kingdom. If we are children of the King, then we can say together, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...”* (1 John 3:1). There is no greater inheritance than this. And with such an inheritance comes the expectation, in fact the command, from the King: *“And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment”* (1 John 3:23). Notice how God is on both sides of that imperative: *“This is God’s commandment: Believe in the name of His Son, Jesus, and love one another, even as Jesus Himself commanded us.”*

In light of this command, *“It is in our daily life and conduct that the fruit of the Spirit is love. From that comes all the graces and virtues in which love is manifested. I have often thought that if we had written this we would have put in the foreground the manly virtues, such as zeal, courage, and diligence. But we need to see how the gentler virtues – kindness, humbleness, meekness, and long-suffering – are specially connected with dependence upon the Holy Spirit. They were never found in the heathen world. Christ was needed to come from heaven to teach them to us. I cannot see God, but as a compensation I can see my brother. If I love him, God dwells in me. Loving my brother is the way to real fellowship with God....”*



[Andrew Murray, *Show Me Your Love: Daily Devotional Insights from Classic Christian Writings* compiled by John Hudson Tiner, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH, 2004, meditation for April 26]

What a remarkable insight! I cannot see my God, but as compensation, I can see my brother! God is invisible, but to make up for that God gives you your brother and sister! And see how God indicts us then, *“If you do not love your brother whom you have seen, how can you love God whom you have not seen?”* (1 John 4:20).

Suppose we could not see each other, that we were totally invisible to each other, just as God is invisible to us. How would we then exhibit our love for each other? Well, that is what the early church fought against – invisibility. *“The first Christians differentiated themselves from society. Modern Christians blend in. The way to give birth to a new and more authentic image of Christianity is to make it about [others].”* (Matthew Kelly, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*, Blue Sparrow Books, North Palm Beach, Florida, 2019, p.73). God says, *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”* (1 John 4:20). Though God be invisible to us, our love to Him cannot be. It must be made manifest to the world with the realization that *“we love him, because he first loved us”* (1 John 4:19).

Christianity must be about loving our invisible God and our visible brothers and sisters. In so doing we make manifest the love of God and make others outside of the Church *“long to belong,”* because *“Christianity has always been about attraction rather than promotion”* (Matthew Kelly, p. 72). So are our lives, our love to the invisible God, our love amongst our church family, and our love in domestic outreach to our perishing neighbor an attractant? Can others see and sense in us that we are the friends of God? *“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you”* (John 15:12-14).

After all, *“Sooner or later, we all rise or fall to the level of our friendships,”* both visible and invisible (Matthew Kelly, p.18).

Heritage Reformed Church of Plymouth, WI A Guiding Theme for Evangelism Rev. Michael Fintelman

As a church family we sometimes discuss potentially effective methods of evangelism. During His ministry the Lord Jesus would often speak in parables. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning or application. In evangelism it is sometimes helpful to follow Christ’s pattern and pick a familiar theme and in discussion apply that in a spiritual manner. One such guiding theme is that of *Summertime*. Summer. The very word fills our minds with images. Vacation, swimming, bike rides, relaxation, summer jobs, family trips, hot and sunny days, children biking down the street and all the



other things that make summer to be summertime for us. It may be surprising that the Bible also speaks about summer several times. However, when God uses the word, *summer*, the images He paints for us are different than the ones we generally think about.

First, we find in the book of Genesis that after the world-wide flood, God promised: *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease"* (Gen. 8:22). After judgment upon sin, the Lord sets a rainbow in the clouds to remind us of His covenant faithfulness, and He uses the imagery of the unfolding seasons, including summer, to remind us of His unfailing faithfulness in regulating all things in nature. When we look at nature's seasons and feel the sunshine of summer on our cheeks, do we contemplate the Lord's faithfulness in all things? We should.

Second, in the book of Proverbs, God uses the little ant working overtime in the summer to remind us of the need to stay busy and think of the future. *"The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer"* (Prov. 30:25). Even though we may have times of relaxation during the summer, are we learning from the ant? More importantly are we preparing for the "season of eternity" ahead of us all by laying up treasures in heaven? (Matt. 6:20). Solomon writes the ant is *"exceeding wise"* as it prepares for the coming season. How wise are we? A wise person trusts Jesus Christ and follows Him and obeys Him by faith. Jesus said, *"if you love Me, keep My commandments"* (John 14:15).

Third, in the parable of the Fig tree recorded in the Gospels (Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Luke 21), Jesus teaches that when we see the leaves appearing on fig trees, we know summertime is very near. He illustrates in a parallel way that when we see the signs of the times unfolding all around us, this means that Jesus' second coming is near. The changing seasons and world events point us to the approaching footsteps of the Lord! Do we hear His footsteps as we look around us?

Clearly, the Lord's idea of summertime and all of the changing seasons is quite different than we often think of them. So, let us pray that as we wend our way through another summer season that the words of Jeremiah 8:20 would not be true for us: *"the summer is ended, and we are not saved."* To live another season without Jesus Christ is to live without His grace and peace in our hearts.

This season, may our hearts learn to sing the uplifting words of the well-known hymn—

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

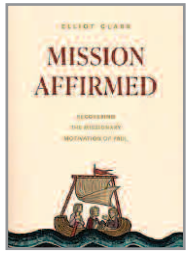
BOOKS TO ADVANCE YOUR MISSION & EVANGELISM SKILLS

Erin Willis

Mission Affirmed: Recovering the Missionary Motivation of Paul Elliot Clark

What will it take to accomplish Christ's mission in our lifetime? That's the question evangelicals have been asking for over a century, but our efforts to reach the unreached and finish the task have often sacrificed the important for the immediate. The greatest challenge in evangelical missions isn't a lack of urgency, but a lack of discernment. In *Mission Affirmed*, Elliot Clark seeks to reshape our motivation by considering the example of Paul the missionary. The desire for God's approval is what formed his ambition and directed his methods, and it should guide ours too. In these pages, we rediscover how pursuing God's praise can both motivate and regulate our gospel ministries. We also refocus—as missionaries, pastors, churches, and individuals—on what matters more than a mission accomplished: a mission God affirms.

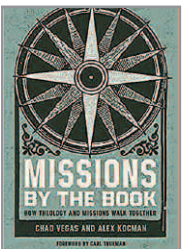
(Crossway, PB, 256 pp) ~~\$19.99~~ | \$14.00



Missions by the Book: How Theology and Missions Walk Together Chad Vegas and Alex Kocman

Across the church, there is a rift between theology and missions. Bad theology produces bad missions, and bad missions fuels bad theology. We wrongly think that we must choose between making a global impact and thinking deeply about the things of God. But the relationship between theology and missions is symbiotic—one cannot exist without the other. They walk hand-in-hand.

"Some books lay out the foundational biblical teachings that must guide our missionary labors. Some books bring the sharp edge of God's Word to contemporary controversies in missions. Remarkably, this book does both! Highly recommended for missionaries, pastors, and all who care about fulfilling Christ's Great Commission." - Dr. Joel R. Beeke | President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
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YOUTH EVANGELISM

Prayer

Henrietta van Woerden

What is prayer? What is prayer for you? Is there a desire to communicate your needs to God? These are questions to challenge you to think about what prayer means for you. Prayer is communicating your needs to God. Prayer is glorifying God for who He is, also admitting to God that we need Him, and we do not have it altogether. God calls us to pray, and He promises to hear us. Read the Bible verse below.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Notice it says "I will"; that should encourage you. It does not say you will get exactly what you ask for. It says "I will answer"; it tells you that He hears all your prayers. God will answer our prayers in a way that is good for you. God calls us to trust Him with our prayers to do what is best for us. So often we get impatient and think we know what is best for ourselves, but it takes faith to trust that God knows what is best for you. Here is another Bible verse for you.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

God wants to give you what is best for you. He desires that you would know Him as your Savior, as that is the best. God has many attributes. Attributes tell us things about God, about who He really is. Here are a few: He is faithful, caring, loving, gracious, righteous, all-knowing, patient and holy. There are so many words to describe God. In life we can experience difficult things. God desires that we bring those difficulties to Him in prayer. *"And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."*

What choices do you make? You are young but your choices matter; some choices have lasting consequences. Will you pray that God will help you make wise choices? Remember the story of Daniel in the Bible. Daniel loved God and prayed unashamedly to God. No threat or decree would stop Daniel from praying. He prayed with his windows open knowing there would possibly be consequences for his choice to do so. *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."*

Are you ashamed to pray in public? Dare to be a Daniel! This world needs praying children and adults. We can pray any time of day, anywhere. Be the praying friend a friend needs. Be the light in the darkness. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

Here are some Bible verses which are quoted in the story. Take your Bible and find these verses, read them and challenge yourself to memorize the verses. Do you see any of God's attributes in these verses?

Jeremiah 33:3, Psalm 50:15, Matthew 7:7, Daniel 6:10, John 8:12

Jordan HRC Youth Evangelism

Mel Overbeeke

Senior Youth Group: Jordan HRC senior youth group meets every other Wednesday evening. On average we have about 15 participants (grades 9-12) come out and join in on the fun. Our leaders include Wes and Mel Overbeeke, Becky Beeke, and Josh Brouwer. For a bit of insight, Wes and Mel are a young married couple that have been longstanding members of our church. Mel works at a local pregnancy/biblical counselling centre and her husband Wes owns a construction/renovation business. These two, make planning a breeze and youth group wouldn't be the same without them! Becky works in long-term care as a recreational therapist and as a result is always ready to take "fun" to the next level! Josh (happily married with two children) is a self-employed landscaper who enjoys spending time with our youth as well. As a side note, he enjoys fishing and has been known to take any interested youth out to try their hand at fishing.

What we do: Our youth events are typically comprised of one of three activities. These include either an act of service event, a topic/speaker event, or an entertainment/fun activity event. A few highlights of our season would include a barbecue for the homeless in downtown Niagara, a weekend trip to Limberlost cottages, and a collaborative conference hotel stay with the Burgessville HRC. Throughout the years as leaders, we've had many opportunities to share what Jesus has done in our lives when we first came to know Him personally and how He's currently at work in our lives now. It's been great to be vulnerable with the youth, pointing them to the God who is ever near and ready to save those who call on Him. We've been able to encourage them, counsel at times, and have great discussions revolving around church, faith, and living a Christian life in the world we live in today. A large part of our focus this year has been on mental health. We encouraged our youth to be open and willing to confide in others to avoid bearing their burdens alone. We were happy to share with them our church's new counseling program that became available this year. Summary/Goals: It is evident that God has been actively upholding and sustaining our youth. We look forward to this coming year's youth group season. Please pray that we as leaders may be given wisdom to instruct, as well as that our youth would have a personal relationship with our God and remain faithful to the God we serve.

Junior Youth Group: The Junior Youth Group of the HRC Jordan Church includes youth in grades 7 and 8. We have anywhere from 14-23 kids attending; everyone is encouraged to bring a friend or neighbour! We meet every other week on Tuesday evenings. Our leaders are Jackie Sinke, Michelle Terharmel, Vanessa Dehaan and Sheldon Pols. We also had help from Olivia Vrugteveen, who also has a desire to serve others with us and spend time with the youth.

We had a wonderful year! Our focus and goals were to serve others, through Jesus Christ, as we have been commanded to love our

*Kitchener Conference with Jordan
& Burgessville Senior Youth Group*



neighbours and to help those in need. We started off our season with a prayer meeting and a night of talking, which left many of us in tears, tears of joy and also sadness. There is so much going on, so many struggles, depression and anxiety, but also much joy and so much to be thankful for!

Some other highlights throughout the year were that we made cards and meals for some families in the church and others in the community that were struggling, sick or needed an extra hand! We also had a lovely evening with coffee, cake and games with some of our elderly church members. It was a wonderful fun-filled night of getting to know each other!

We had a question-and-answer night with Mike Brouwer, who is a Niagara Regional Police officer from our congregation. The kids had many, many questions for him; they loved this evening! Mike shared with us his love for his job, his Saviour and the homeless in the St Catharines area. After hearing many stories, we knew there was a great need and wanted to help out with this too. So, we spent a night shopping and putting together 60 bags of essentials for some of the homeless people in St. Catharines. A few weeks later we went to a shelter with Mike Brouwer and handed out these bags. It was an amazing night; the kids saw a lot and through this we hope and pray that they see that we are no different than them. Each and every heart can be turned! We also had a few fun nights of games, laser tag and swimming.

It is our pleasure to be with the kids, building relationships with them and each other. We are thankful for Christian families, church and school and we can see the unity and love in the kids. Looking forward to another year starting in September!



Junior Youth Group making care packages for the homeless



Junior Youth Group



MISSION FINANCES

Rob Koppert and James van den Brink

Dear Friends of the Mission.

Presented here is our latest financial statement. We thank God for the means He has given us through you, our supporters, to continue our mission endeavors. We are up to date on all our support, for which we give praise to our God. Thankfully we seem to be past the worst of the COVID pandemic and travel for a number of our guest lecturers and students can begin again in person. Please remember the Mission Committee, Mukhanyo College, Covenant College as well as our other mission endeavors in your prayers and in your financial giving. We also seek your prayers for wisdom as we explore further opportunities to fulfill our mandate in spreading the light of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through this dark world.

On behalf of the Domestic outreach committee (DOC) we ask that you remember this cause in your giving. We are currently being asked to support the Plymouth, Wisconsin Congregation, and the Harrison, Arkansas Congregation. We thank the Lord who inclines hearts for all the past support and we ask if you are able and the Lord inclines your heart to continue or begin your support for this worthy effort. Thank-you.

**HRC General Mission
Financial Reports
For the Nine Months Ending April 30, 2022**
Actual and Budget figures presented in CAD

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Act vs Bud Variance	Actual Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Revenue					
HRC Church Donations	\$ 95 990	\$ 221 431	\$ (125 441)	\$ 136 637	\$ (40 647)
Individual Donations	7 800	-	7 800	4 967	2 833
Total Income	\$ 103 790	\$ 221 431	\$ (117 641)	\$ 141 603	\$ (37 813)
Expenditures					
Mission Staff Related Support	\$ 22 971	\$ 81 953	\$ 58 981	\$ 73 054	\$ 50 082
Other Program Support	73 971	116 453	42 483	48 322	(25 648)
Glad Tidings - Pub. & Dist.	7 480	8 663	1 183	7 974	495
Administration Costs	897	1 500	603	861	(36)
Delegate Travel	-	3 000	3 000	-	-
Mercy Ministries	-	1 800	1 800	-	-
Bank Charges	295	563	267	347	52
Emergency Fund	-	7 500	7 500	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	(299)	-	299	3 774	4 073
Total Expenses	\$ 105 315	\$ 221 431	\$ 116 116	\$ 134 332	\$ 29 017
Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)	\$ (1 525)	\$ -	\$ (1 525)	\$ 7 271	\$ (8 796)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Actual YTD	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Assets			
Bank	\$ 221 582	\$ 226 500	\$ (4 918)
Total Assets	\$ 221 582	\$ 226 500	\$ (4 918)
Liabilities			
Donations Rec'd for Other Orgs.	\$ 15 671	\$ 17 930	\$ (2 259)
Due To DOC	2 553	2 771	(218)
Other Current Liabilities	2 932	-	2 932
Total (Current) Liabilities	\$ 21 156	\$ 20 701	\$ 455
Net Assets	200 426	205 798	(5 373)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 221 582	\$ 226 500	\$ (4 918)

HRC Domestic Outreach Committee

**Financial Reports
For the Nine Months Ending April 30, 2022**
Actual and Budget figures presented in CAD

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Act vs Bud Variance	Actual Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Revenue					
HRC Church Donations	\$ 33 545	\$ 63 178	\$ (29 633)	\$ 31 189	\$ 2 356
Other Donations	-	-	-	7 000	(7 000)
Total Income	\$ 33 545	\$ 63 178	\$ (29 633)	\$ 38 189	\$ (4 644)
Expenditures					
Outreach Support	\$ 45 645	\$ 48 106	\$ 2 461	\$ 37 404	\$ (8 241)
Bank Charges	242	391	149	155	(87)
Contingency	-	14 681	14 681	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	14	-	(14)	359	345
Total Expenses	\$ 45 900	\$ 63 178	\$ 17 278	\$ 37 918	\$ (7 983)
Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)	\$ (12 355)	\$ -	\$ (12 355)	\$ 272	\$ (12 627)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Actual YTD	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Assets			
Bank	\$ 13 651	\$ 11 640	\$ 2 010
Due From General Mission	2 553	2 771	(218)
Total Assets	\$ 16 204	\$ 14 412	\$ 1 792
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Assets	16 204	14 412	1 792
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 16 204	\$ 14 412	\$ 1 792



Elsy teaching fine details - Sumba Mission

**Your contributions will help bring the gospel and
spiritual encouragement to the areas
where our missionaries are serving the Lord.**

PLEASE SHARE AND DONATE

CHEQUE ENCLOSED OF \$ _____ FOR:

HRC FOREIGN MISSIONS

- ☐ Mukhanyo Theological College and related Ministries
- ☐ Theological Education for foreign students and PRTS partner Seminaries abroad
- ☐ Nakekela Care Centre, South Africa
- ☐ Sumba Orphanage and Christian School, Indonesia

HRC DOMESTIC OUTREACH

- ☐ Church Planting
- ☐ Small Congregations Support

**OTHER MISSIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE HRC AS
WORTHY OF SUPPORT**

- ☐ Christian Ministry to Israel
- ☐ Jason Fintelman – Mission Aviation Fellowship

OTHER: _____

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or**

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HRC Mission Fund, c/o 540 Crescent St., NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA 49503
(Tax receipts available)**

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.

Use Me

Holy Spirit! Power divine!
Take and use this life of mine!
Let me but a channel be,
That Thy strength may pass thro' me.

Holy Spirit! Love divine!
Fill, oh! fill this heart of mine!
That the world I touch may be
Reached by overflow from Thee.

Spirit! Comforter divine!
Rest and soothe this soul of mine!
That thro' me some soul may be
Soothed and comforted of Thee.

Augusta L. Watkins