

AUGUST 2023

Glad Tidings



The roof of Manor Chapel including the skyline where New York Gospel Ministries operates



*"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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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.



Reuel Xavier and PRTS student Henry Hoekstra at Manor Chapel

You can find this magazine electronically at

<https://heritagereformed.com/publications/glad-tidings/>

MEDITATION

Covenant Blessing

Rev. Don Overbeek

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12:1-3



Reaching people is hard! Everything (from our side) in the chain of evangelism is fraught with difficulty. There is the challenge of being kingdom-minded when we are in our mundane daily routines – will we step outside of our frantic pace and task-orientation to engage with a person and give them time? There is the uncertainty (fear?) of how it will go and what people will think of us. There is the hard work of purposeful follow-up and seeking to maintain a connection where possible – without falling into the trap of thinking that in the initial effort we have satisfied the requirement. Worst of all, there is our persistent unbelief! Do we really believe what we think we do? And if so, can the Gospel actually change someone else and be blessed unto their salvation and eternal life?

I would like to use Genesis 12:1-3 as a simple encouragement that though these struggles are real and need to be addressed/overcome, our covenant God works out the practicalities by His grace, telling us what to do, explaining what we must know, and declaring what we must expect.

Our covenant God demands and deserves exclusive worship. This is what God is working in Abram by separating him from his idolatrous location (Joshua 24:2) and family, calling him to follow God alone. It has always made me marvel how quickly Abram was evangelizing and building altars to the living God in unknown lands. Verse 5 speaks of “the souls they had gotten in Haran” which could be Abram speaking about the LORD and calling people to accompany him in following God. Then too, gathering for worship is one of the most under-appreciated and under-used aspects of outreach. Worship is not foremost evangelistic – it is God-centered. However, worship should fill the hearts of worshippers receiving the holy things of God with reverence and joy with a desire that others be brought in. How cold we so often are in leading and engaging in worship – it is no wonder that we are spiritually frozen when we are running errands, transporting

kids, or doing the things that fill our days.

God also tells Abram what He must know – the three-fold “I will” of the LORD. In these words, Abram is hearing of the wondrous work of God! He is the God Who has chosen Abram though he remains a sinner in himself (see verses 14-20). God’s “I will’s” here resemble something of the creative fiat “Let there be...” What is absolutely essential is the supernatural power of God, which created the world and which brought life out of an impossible situation. Think of the wondrous works God has performed (in history, in the church, in missions, and in your life) and go evangelize! This is what Christ emphasizes in Matthew 28:18. He had received all power, and in light of the wondrous work of resurrection, the call follows, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” The challenge is to keep these wondrous works close at hand when we are busy and fulfilling our daily responsibilities. God’s powerful acts permeate our lives!

We mention, finally, that God tells Abram what to expect – there will be blessing to the nations, but also a mixed response leading to rejection and curse. Peter in Acts 3:25 references God’s covenant with Abram, and Paul in Galatians 3:8 writes that God preached the Gospel to Abram. What is the Gospel? The Gospel is one Man and His work as the Head of a new humanity. He is the headstone of the corner for believers and a stone of stumbling to those who do not believe. In the relationship to the Seed of Abram (Jesus Christ) the church is spiritually brought together into the blessing of Abram.

What should we expect in our evangelistic efforts? We should expect a divided response which ultimately reinforces the truth of the message we bring! Where do you stand with relationship to Christ? Truly the blessing of God’s covenant with Abram continues today and will continue until all of this blessing is dispersed! With love in our hearts, let’s be agents of blessing to our churches, families, friends, neighbors, and others.

EDITORIAL

Who is the LORD?

Corney Les

For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Psalm 89:6-8



Do we have a right understanding of who the LORD is? As

we study the Bible we come across many attributes of God. Some of these are His holiness, His omniscience, His sovereignty, His omnipresence, His omnipotence, His goodness, His righteousness, His wisdom, His mercy, His love, His grace and so many more. To be a good witness to our neighbors and friends, both at home and in other lands, we must have a solid, biblical understanding of who He is. When we have an accurate understanding of who God is, then we are better equipped to understand both ourselves and the world around us. Every area of our lives is influenced by understanding God and His characteristics or attributes. Indeed, if we want to know Him, serve Him and become like Him, then we must come to understand Him more and more. Only then can we truly worship Him and be anchored in His Word as we share His truth with friends and neighbours. How important it is for each of us to study and understand His Word!

In the area of the world where we live many do not have a Bible, do not know the Bible, and are completely ignorant of God and His Word. Sadly, many people who live among us have no understanding of the Bible at all, much less of the attributes of a Holy and just God. How critical it is then to share with them who God is, what His attributes are, and what this means for them as sinners.

Similarly, as we bring the gospel to other countries, tribes and peoples that may have a wrong understanding of God, not know Him or His Word, or believe in false religions, we must be able to clearly communicate who God is, who we are, and that there is salvation found in Jesus Christ alone. How important it is to be able to clearly communicate God's Word not only to our friends and neighbours, but also to the folks that we support in one way or another in the majority world. We have so many good resources available to us to learn to know God and who He is. Let us strive to know Him as He is revealed to us in His Word. In this way we come to know who we are as sinners before this Holy LORD. Then we can accurately share the good news of His gospel with others where we live and support the work of spreading this gospel message.

I commend our ongoing efforts in South Africa with Mukhanyo Theological College; in Alexandria, Egypt with the El-Soora conference; in South Sudan supporting 24 evangelists who go from village to village bringing the good news of the gospel; in Sumba, Indonesia; with Covenant College in Zambia where Pastor Overbeek plans to teach this summer, as well as the support that is provided for PRTS PhD students from several countries. Your prayers are coveted for these efforts and your generous gifts are appreciated.

MISSION UPDATE INDONESIA

Medical Attention on the Mission Field

Bernie Pennings

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. Matthew 8:14-15

We do not know the seriousness of the fever that Peter's mother-in-law experienced, however, the Lord Jesus found it right to relieve her of the fever. Shouldn't we then take this to mean that we should bring all our medical needs to the Lord in prayer? Not only when things progress and are diagnosed as critical, but even the "simple illnesses" such as a headache or a fever.

When someone feels unwell, we usually go to the medicine cabinet and have over-the-counter remedies available such as aspirin, Tylenol, or cough syrup to provide relief. When this fails to meet our needs, often the next step is to go to the doctor. We then get a diagnosis of what is ailing us and some sort of treatment, either medication or other type of intervention. In more severe cases we are hospitalized. In Western society, our medical systems provide acute care with the goal of relieving whatever ails us.

In general, we recognize the blessings we have in the Western world and understand that many throughout the world do not have the same access or privilege of available medical intervention. What we have here, we come to see as "normal."

As this is an article on Sumba, you may wonder, "What does medical attention look like at the mission post?" What kinds of medical intervention and systems are available in TanaMbanas and how accessible are they?

History of Medical Attention at Sumba Mission

When the Sommers first arrived in Sumba, the local community quickly came to rely on Mrs. Sommer for medical attention. She was a registered nurse and able to provide diagnoses of some ailments and medications that would relieve some of the discomforts they were having. This proved to be very beneficial in opening communication and building relationships between the local population and the Sommers as they were establishing themselves. Even though there was a health clinic in the community, Mrs. Sommer could provide expertise and medications that the clinic

lacked. From the beginning, her medical expertise played an important role in the long-term well-being of many of the children who would come to live in the Home.

Health Care in 2023

Today, there is more health care available, however, it is still primitive when we compare the availability and expertise we expect as a minimum standard in the West. Health concerns are different than in the West and it is not uncommon to see malnutrition due to poverty. Situations in which the cultural and religious beliefs include a need to “please the ancestral spirits” become apparent when treating physical health concerns. There are many conditions that go undiagnosed, most commonly heart and digestive issues, and therefore are untreated. Even diagnosed issues are often untreated because of lack of access to treatment and/or lack of financial ability to pay for medical treatment. Congenital anomalies such as cleft palate, club foot and other “deformities” are considered a curse by many. Children with these anomalies are often left to “fate.” There is lack of education regarding special needs children, and this often results in situations that cause even more heartache.

What does the Sumba Mission do when special health concerns are brought forward?

It is obvious that the Mission cannot address every situation. In addition to not having the necessary personnel, the financial cost is much more than the available funding. Each case brought to the attention of the Mission is seriously considered. Over the years, the Mission has developed a network of charitable organizations to consult and collaborate with and there is help for many via these channels. For example, most of the cleft palate situations are referred to an organization with volunteer doctors that come to Indonesia and perform the necessary corrective surgeries. Brian is a young man who has been with the Mission for quite a while. He needed his whole jaw rebuilt and has had several operations over the years. Little Irene, who joined us in 2022, is another recipient of this treatment. The results have been successful for both.

There have been many heart issues brought to our attention over the years, but sadly, many pass on shortly after these concerns are brought to the Mission’s awareness. Often help is sought from us only after everything else the parents have tried has failed, but sometimes timely help can be provided. The most recent example was little Sophia, who

was brought to us last November (2022) at 9 months of age weighing only 3.1 kg (6 lbs 13 oz). She was dehydrated and malnourished. After a full checkup by a pediatrician, it was discovered that she had a severe heart condition that needed surgery. However, prior to the trip to Jakarta for the surgery, little Sophia needed to be stronger and gain weight. It is with joy that we can report that Sophia’s surgery in April 2023 was an answer to prayer and much care.



Brian a few years ago



Brian after his latest operation



Irene before operation



Irene after operation



Sophia in October shortly after she arrived at the Home



Sophia prepped for her heart operation



Sophia one week after her heart operation

Daily considerations

Medical attention is a constant need at Sumba Mission because of the “special cases” brought to our attention, the 140 children and staff who live at the Home, and the local schoolchildren who come daily from the community. There are medical needs simply because of the sheer volume of people at the centre. Common ailments, headaches, a cold, or not feeling well due to the flu, etc., are assessed by the appropriate personnel and given over-the-counter medication from the medicine cabinet as needed. These

individuals are kept separated from others to prevent illness spreading through the Home. It does happen from time to time that there are outbreaks or mini-epidemics.

Dengue Fever

At the end of October 2022, while I was in Sumba, dengue fever broke out. Dengue fever is a viral infection transmitted by day-biting mosquitos. Mosquitos become infected when they bite someone with the virus and thereby spread the dengue virus from person to person. When there is a viral infection with dengue, the blood vessels become damaged and leak. In severe cases this can cause internal bleeding and organ failure and can even lead to death.

At first, there were a few cases of high fever with headaches and other common flu-like symptoms. Within days the number of residents who were ill increased quickly, and we knew this had to be more than just the flu. A trip was made to Waingapu and the doctor diagnosed the cause as dengue fever. Because dengue fever can progress to a critical stage very quickly, all the residents with fever were moved to the home in Waingapu to be under doctors' care and close to the hospital. At the height of this epidemic, we had 48 residents and staff that were infected and sick (25 hospitalized and one in ICU). We give thanks that all made a full recovery. However, in the community, there were several who passed away because of the dengue infection. This dengue epidemic brought total chaos to the Mission for three weeks as school had to be cancelled. The need to care for the sick took precedence over all other activities as staff and residents took care of the sick, performed their own duties, and the necessary duties of those who were sick.



Fumigating indoor areas for mosquitoes



Fumigating the mosquitoes outside the Home



Bedding moved outdoors to air out prior to fumigating

A brief glimpse of what happens when one is admitted to the hospital.

Hospital services are not like what we are used to having in the West. When someone is admitted to the hospital, they require a care provider to stay with them. Food must be prepared and brought in by the patients' family or friends. The care of the patient (bathing, washing clothes, attending to their physical needs) is done by family or friends. The doctor and nurses only look after the immediate medical

needs. With a third of the staff and residents sick and needing attention, the stress of caring for the sick was huge for those who were well. I was told this was the worst outbreak that Sumba Mission had ever experienced. When someone needs an operation, like Sophia in Jakarta, it is also necessary to send personnel to provide for her physical, non-medical care.

Prevention

Is it possible to prevent such an occurrence like the dengue outbreak from occurring? There is nothing that is 100% fool-proof to prevent such an outbreak. However, knowing that dengue fever is spread by mosquitos prompted increased efforts to control/eliminate the mosquito population. October was at the peak of mosquito reproduction; all the conditions were ideal. Protective mosquito nets were put into use, and all the rooms and outside areas were fumigated. Standing water was removed and preventative programs were put in place, not only for immediate attention, but to keep ahead of the problem throughout the year.

This article is not comprehensive, but provides a glimpse into some of the behind-the-scenes reality of health care and challenges faced on the mission field. This is often an area that is overlooked when we think of mission work, but this is a daily consideration for them. We may be thankful the Lord provides, even in these situations.

Finances

As we look at the financial particulars over the last 3 years, health care was 2.2% of the budgeted expenses (a total of approximately \$14,000). In efforts to be fiscally responsible with the limited funding for Sumba Mission there are attempts to control costs in every way; the need is great; the financial resources are limited. This 2.2% was spent and an additional \$8,000 was used from the "emergency fund" for direct health care expenses.

We often focus on the material, the practical costs of healthcare. I started this article by quoting Matthew 8:14-15 about Peter's mother-in-law's fever and Jesus relieving her of that fever. On the mission field in Sumba, God is close in times of health but especially in times of sickness and crisis. As a Mission, the Lord's blessing and healing is sought through prayer. The church pastor and the elders were attentive and came to minister throughout the time of the dengue epidemic, to read Scripture with all and to lead the Mission to beseech the Lord in prayer. The Lord heard and

answered those prayers. May we also now take the time to thank the Lord for answered prayer and may He use even times of epidemic to bring glory and honour to His name.

To donate to Sumba Mission, your donation can be via e-transfer to deacons@hrc.church and in the memo line indicate Sumba mission fund. Cheques 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."



Bernie, Ina and Daniel Pennings

CHURCH EVANGELISM

Heritage Reformed Church,

Bradford, Ontario

Launching with Youth

Rev. Don Overbeek

On Sundays, youthful vigor abounds in the space we use for worship, as we now often have more children than adults attending the services. This is a drastic change from the past 10 years of ministry and marks God's faithfulness but also presents an important opportunity. How will these youth be engaged and enabled in knowing and serving the Lord?

We know that in the majority of congregations, a youth program is a vital component in the spiritual nurture of our covenant youth. Yet, even these programs sometimes need re-focusing and refreshing, especially to make sure that they are integrated into the larger ministry of the church and are personally edifying. In this article, we would like to state a

case for a church/home youth program and then give practical goals that could measure the effectiveness of such a program.

The purpose for a youth group is not merely to provide fun ways to spend time together. We need to build our program on the character of God and the calling of the church. Our God is a covenant God Who has included our children in relationship with Himself. This means that children are to be included in corporate worship, children are to be taught, and children are to be engaged and enabled. Youth groups can be immensely useful as a means to engage the youth directly and enable them in leadership.

The importance of engaging with our youth also stems from the understanding of the church as the body of Christ. The body is a corporate unit comprised of individual members; both aspects should be served when bringing youth together. Youth bring tremendous potential, value, and energy to the body of Christ. They also bring their need for growing self-awareness and a safe place to mature in body, mind, and emotions.

A proposal drafted by our young people to initiate a Youth Group includes: "With the increasing amount of youth in our congregation [we] desire to develop regular youth events for Grades 7 and up. These events would include devotions, singing, bonding activities, and acts of service for our congregation and community. Through these events, we would hope to strengthen our connection as brothers and sisters in Christ and our relationship in faith with Him."

The vital components of our youth program would be: the hosting of these events at members' houses, discussing Christian topics affecting young people from a biblical and theological framework, rooting the youth together while stirring them for growth, and launching them toward safe and confident engagement with others.

Challenges abound when starting something new. The greatest challenge is our resistance to change and the demands such an endeavor will make upon our time. We must be brought to see the value of this endeavor (nothing can replace it!) especially for the depth of connections that we are aiming at – where our youth agree in matters of faith and doctrine but also approach life's callings from a shared perspective. No sacrifice is too great for the spiritual and eternal well-being of our young people – especially considering how soon they will be attending

college/university, entering the workforce, and starting families.

Then there is the challenge of keeping these meetings spiritually enriching and not just fun times. Including the youth in the planning and sharing aspects of these evenings can be a guard against merely focusing on the fun. Hopefully, this will stir young hearts and be blessed by the Lord. This could lead to ongoing spiritual benefits (devotional material, matters for prayer, etc.) between the youth events.

Please pray for us and for our church and youth as we start our Youth Group – may eternity reveal that this labor of love was well worth it for ourselves and beyond!

DOMESTIC OUTREACH

Domestic Outreach in Sychar

Rev. John Procee

In John 4:4 we read that our Lord Jesus, on his way from Judea to Galilee, "must needs go through Samaria." As the chapter unfolds, we learn why, as the Lord Jesus works among the people of Samaria. The Samaritans trace their root to people whom Shalmaneser deported from the cities of Assyria into the land of Israel, who intermarried with the people remaining in the land. As a nation, they lived closer to the Jews than anyone else. Wedged between the regions of Galilee in the north, and Judea in the south, the Samaritans lived on the doorstep of the Jews. Sadly, the Jews only saw the Samaritans as the objects of despising; Jesus, however, saw them as the objects of domestic outreach. What our Lord Jesus does here is what we are all called to do: reach out to those in our own backyards.



Jesus' lengthy discourse with the woman at the well leads to her leaving her waterpot, a significant detail John includes which points us to the effect Jesus had on this woman: she had found water far more important than well water. She had found the water of life, Jesus the Saviour! Verse 30 tells us plainly that when the woman came into the city, she also entered into this work of domestic outreach! She said: "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

We learn from this woman that domestic outreach

doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need to be a good speaker, or a bright thinker. The need is not so much plans and programs, as speaking from the heart. There is great power in the testimony of a true believer. The Lord will use the personal, relatable, and genuine confession of His name to draw others to Himself. Let this encourage you. Don't let your inabilities or natural aversion to witness dissuade you. Don't let your past sins or reputation discourage you. This woman had many past sins and a terrible reputation: she was well known as the town harlot, but God used her words. Verse 30 tells us that the Samaritans responded to her witness. They came! They requested Jesus to stay longer, to which He agreed, staying for two more days!

As Jesus engages in two days of domestic outreach, there in the backyard of the Jewish nation, the results are profound, verse 42: "Now we believe, not because of thy saying; for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

This verse teaches us another thing about domestic outreach: it takes time, and functions in the context of relationships. Longer-term, meaningful relationships build rapport, respect and knowledge. We see that here too. Notice how they say: "we have heard him ourselves, and know..." Now that Jesus has spent two days with us. Now that we have been further instructed...now we know so much more than we did two days ago. Their confession is now according to knowledge, a knowledge that leads them to this confession.

That is the goal and aspiration of domestic outreach. The goal is not first and foremost that churches would be organized, resources mobilized, or finances realized. The goal and aspiration of domestic outreach is that confessions would be vocalized! Confessions of the grace of God in Jesus Christ!

Lastly, notice how the Samaritans confess Jesus specifically as the Saviour of the world! What a beautiful expression! They do not limit Jesus' saving ability only to themselves, or even the Jews. They realize: if this man from the land of the Jews can save us, the enemies of the Jews, then anyone in the whole world can be saved!

Let that be our perspective as we engage in domestic outreach in the communities our churches are in, and beyond. Jesus is the Saviour of the world! He is able to save all kinds of sinners. He is willing to save, and faithful to save, for He is the only Saviour!

New York Gospel Ministries

Rev. Johnny Serafini

The New York Gospel Ministries (NYGM), through the leadership of Pastor Bill Jones, continues to provide the Word of God, with a Reformed and conservative heart, in the busiest city of the United States of America. Pastor Bill and his wife Jill have been serving in New York City for close to 22 years. They arrived shortly after the September 11th terror attacks.



The ministry is located at the historical Manor Chapel in the Chelsea district and provides many means by which pastors, members of our churches and PRTS students may be involved in domestic outreach trips or long internship opportunities.

Summer Mission Trips

The ministry hosts mission teams in the Manor Chapel throughout the summer months for a very affordable fee. Groups are also welcome to stay in nearby hotels but this naturally incurs greater expenses.

The activities range from assisting in their evangelistic outreaches, helping with their pantry outreach program, being involved in open air outreaches, as well as assisting with repair work in the premises.

They also receive work teams who are skilled and able to specifically work in their building and restoration programs. As the Manor Chapel is a building from the late 1800s, there are significant projects in which skilled people may be involved.

International Preaching Station

The NYGM offers services in three languages: English, Chinese and Spanish. In each of these services (three on Wednesday and two on Saturdays), those in need are offered grocery items for free.

HRC and FRC Pastors and PRTS students are welcome to come to NYC, be hosted at the Manor Chapel in an apartment for two, free of cost, and preach on Wednesday for one or more of the services (sometimes they have someone who can translate the sermon into Chinese and/or Spanish). Pastors or students with their wives are welcome to have a dinner with Pastor Bill and Jill Jones on one of the evenings and remain until Thursday or Friday if interested in doing a

short visit in NYC. If they can stay for the weekend, they can preach again at their Saturday chapels (English) and possibly at the Manor Chapel Sunday Services or at the Heritage Reformed Congregation in New Jersey, which is only 45 minutes away from New York City.

Intern Program

The NYGM also accepts interns who are willing to come for a longer time of ministry assisting in the full array of activities. This is a hands-on experience, offering the opportunity of becoming very involved with the many people who come to the weekly services (~400 people per week). A stipend is provided along with food and board, offering an affordable opportunity to minister in a very needy, metropolitan and international city in North America.

If your church would like to consider a short-term mission or an HRC or FRC pastor or PRTS student is interested in assisting with the Wednesday or Saturday services, please contact Pastor Bill directly. You can also visit their website for more information.

New York Gospel Ministry's Website: nygm.info

Pastor Bill Jones' contact information:

Phone: (646) 369 3795

Email: nygospelministries@gmail.com



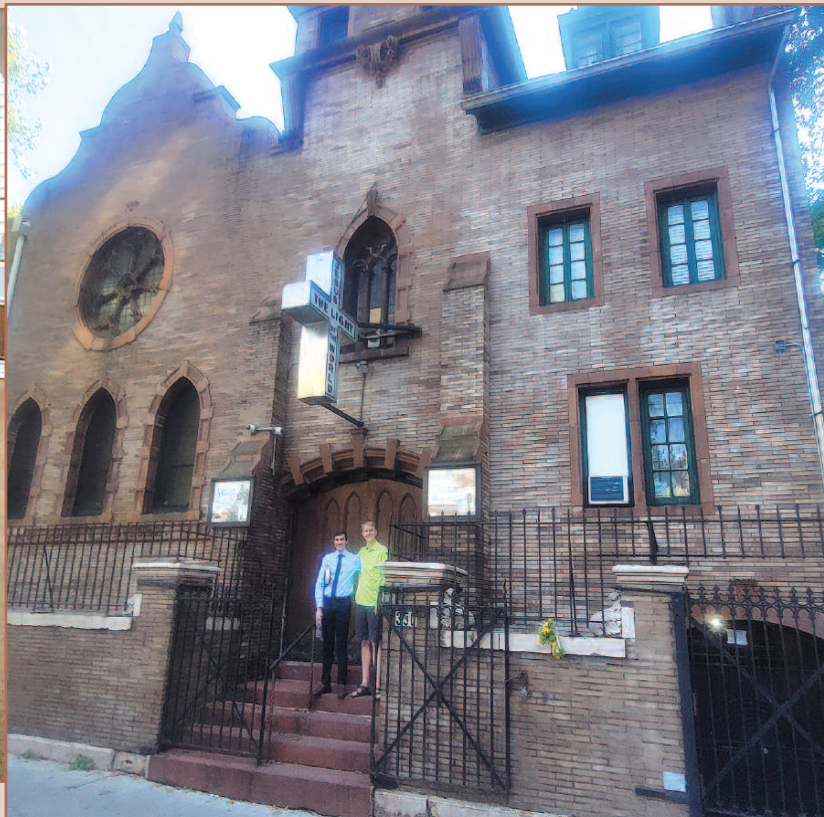
PRTS Student Reuel Xavier preaching at the Wednesday English chapel



Mission group singing at the weekly chapel



A weekly chapel service



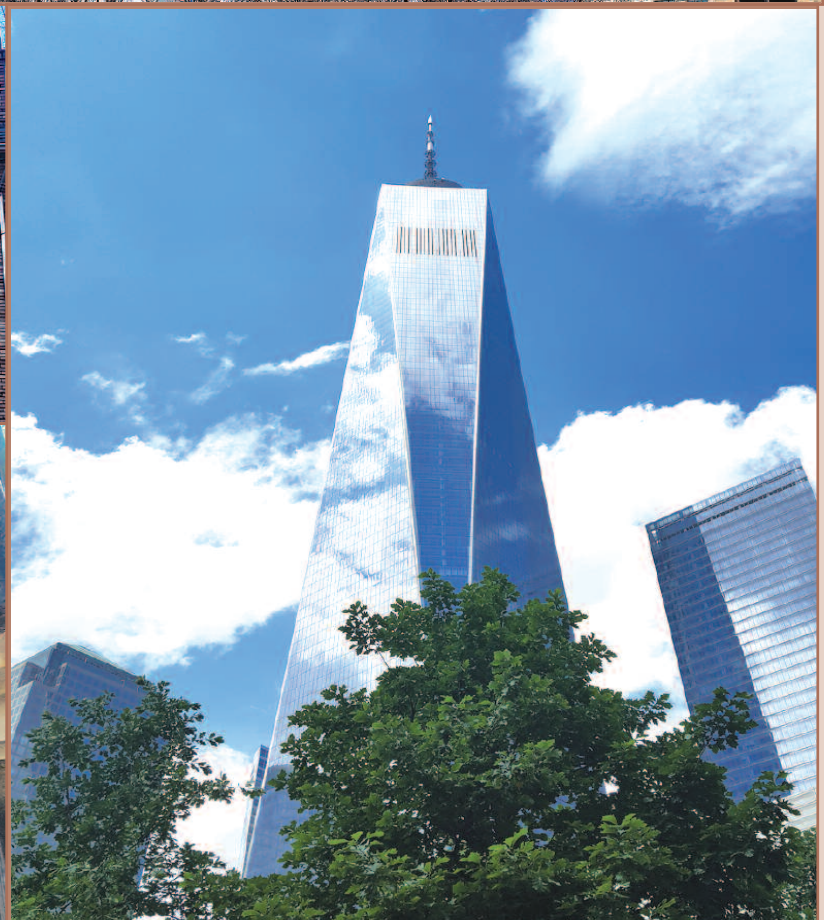
Reuel Xavier and PRTS student Henry Hoekstra



Manor Chapel, where Manor Community Church and NYGM operate



Detail of Manor Chapel



*New buildings at Hudson Yards, near the Manor Chapel
Another building near Manor Chapel*



*Pastor Bill and Jill
Jones and their
daughter Sherrie*

BOOKS TO ADVANCE YOUR MISSION & EVANGELISM SKILLS

Erin Willis

Reformed Means Missional: Following Jesus into the World

Samuel T. Logan Jr.

Christians are not on a mission for God; His church is on His mission – the mission of bringing the grace of Christ to sinners; the mission of bringing the whole world into obedience to Christ; and the mission of covering the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ Jesus. Being on God's mission means following Jesus into the darkest places of the world to bring the good news of the total redeeming work of Christ. Leading reformed thinkers including Tim Keller, Thomas Schirrmacher, P. J. Buys, Diane Langberg, John Leonard, Basyle Tchividjian, John Freeman, and many others, demonstrate why and how the church must be on God's mission of bringing grace, holiness, compassion, and justice to a world of sin and suffering.

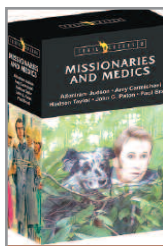
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YOUTH EVANGELISM

Rahab

Henrietta van Woerden

Who was Rahab? Rahab lived in Jericho and her home was on the walls of Jericho. She was known to have lived a sinful life. Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, sent two spies to scout out Jericho. God had promised this land to Israel. By God's providential care these spies ended up at Rahab's home and lodged there. The king of Jericho heard of the two spies of Israel in Rahab's home. The king of Jericho told Rahab to bring out the men who came to her home for they had come to search out the land. Rahab said it was true they were here, but they had left just before the gate was closed at dark. "Pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them." (Joshua 2:5)

Rahab had hidden the Israelite men on her rooftop under stalks of flax. Rahab said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side of Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed." (Joshua 2: 9-10)

Rahab acknowledged "for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (Joshua 2:11b). Rahab acknowledged the might of Israel's God in what He had done in the past. She said to the men that she had dealt

kindly with them, and she asked them to deal kindly with her and her family when they would come to take the land. The men told her to gather her family in her home and put a scarlet cord in the window, so they would know the location of Rahab and her family. Rahab let the spies down with a scarlet cord through the window. The men went into the hills for three days and then returned to Joshua. They told Joshua "Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us." (Joshua 2:24)

Why would God use Rahab's home to hide the spies so they could spy out the city? Rahab was an unlikely candidate for God's grace, but God sovereignly saved Rahab from her sins. God controls and directs all things. God's love and forgiveness also went out to Rahab. God takes the most unlikely people to work out His plan of redemption. In Hebrews 11:31 it says, "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." Rahab is in the genealogy of Christ. She is the mother of Boaz. "Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab." (Matthew 1:5).

God's grace to Rahab should encourage us to pray for unbelievers. We are all sinners; no sinner is outside the grace of God. I encourage you to read all of Joshua 2.

Quiz – Joshua 2

1. Where did Rahab live?
 - a) Jericho
 - b) Her home was built into the city walls.
 - c) Bethlehem
2. Who directed the spies to Rahab's home?
 - a) Joshua
 - b) God
 - c) Moses
3. Who was the mother of Boaz?
 - a) Ruth
 - b) Orpah
 - c) Rahab

4. Who was the leader of the Israelites at this time?
 - a) David
 - b) Joshua
 - c) Moses
5. What did the two spies tell Joshua when they returned to him after being in Jericho? (Read Joshua 2)

MISSION FINANCES

Rob Koppert and James van den Brink

Dear Friends of the Mission.

We thank you all for your steadfast support in the past months. We thank the Lord above all for inclining hearts and as well thank all of our donors for their generous contributions. We are pleased to report that we are up to date with all of our commitments!

We ask that you continue to remember the Mission Committee and all the many pastors/mission endeavours we support: Dr. DeVries, Mukhanyo College, several international theological students and lecturers, Sumba Mission/Orphanage, to mention a few. We are thankful to hear that the Bible doctrine books which were translated into Indonesian are being distributed and gladly received. We covet your prayers and support for all these worthy causes.

We ask your prayers for the Mission Committee as we search out other opportunities to fulfill our mandate in spreading the light of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour.

Domestic Outreach Committee (DOC)

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 pulpit supply in the Plymouth congregation. We have been able to meet all of our commitments to date. 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.

Please see the financial statements for the Mission Committee and the Domestic Outreach Committee.

HRC General Mission
Financial Reports
For the Nine Months Ending April 30, 2023
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	\$ 128 888	\$ 103 581	\$ 25 307	\$ 95 990	\$ 32 898
Individual Donations	2 500	-	2 500	7 800	(5 300)
Total Income	\$ 131 388	\$ 103 581	\$ 27 807	\$ 103 790	\$ 27 598
Expenditures					
Mission Staff Related Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22 971	\$ 22 971
Other Program Support	159 462	85 618	(73 844)	73 971	(85 491)
Glad Tidings - Pub. & Dist.	11 513	9 150	(2 363)	7 480	(4 033)
Administration Costs	142	1 500	1 358	897	755
Delegate Travel	3 123	3 000	(123)	-	(3 123)
Mercy Ministries	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Charges	277	563	286	295	18
Emergency Fund	-	3 750	3 750	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	(536)	-	536	(299)	237
Total Expenses	\$ 173 980	\$ 103 581	\$ (70 399)	\$ 105 315	\$ (68 665)
Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)	\$ (42 592)	\$ -	\$ (42 592)	\$ (1 525)	\$ (41 067)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Actual YTD	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Assets			
Bank	\$ 163 212	\$ 221 582	\$ (58 369)
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 163 212	\$ 221 582	\$ (58 369)
Liabilities			
Donations Rec'd for Other Orgs.	\$ 6 294	\$ 15 671	\$ (9 377)
Due To DOC	-	2 553	(2 553)
Other Current Liabilities	-	2 932	(2 932)
Total (Current) Liabilities	\$ 6 294	\$ 21 156	\$ (14 863)
Net Assets	156 919	200 426	(43 507)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 163 212	\$ 221 582	\$ (58 369)

HRC Domestic Outreach Committee
Financial Reports
For the Nine Months Ending April 30, 2023
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	\$ 57 114	\$ 61 959	\$ (4 845)	\$ 33 545	\$ 23 569
Other Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	\$ 57 114	\$ 61 959	\$ (4 845)	\$ 33 545	\$ 23 569
Expenditures					
Outreach Support	\$ 37 583	\$ 47 184	\$ 9 601	\$ 45 645	\$ 8 062
Bank Charges	199	375	176	242	43
Contingency	-	14 400	14 400	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	836	-	(836)	14	(823)
Total Expenses	\$ 38 618	\$ 61 959	\$ 23 341	\$ 45 900	\$ 7 282
Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)	\$ 18 496	\$ -	\$ 18 496	\$ (12 355)	\$ 30 851

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Actual YTD	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
Assets			
Bank	\$ 34 577	\$ 13 651	\$ 20 926
Due From General Mission	-	2 553	(2 553)
Total Assets	\$ 34 577	\$ 16 204	\$ 18 373
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Assets	34 577	16 204	18 373
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 34 577	\$ 16 204	\$ 18 373

**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: _____

**Please clip out & include your name, telephone, address, city,
province/state, country, postal/zip code and email.**

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or

All U.S.A. donations should be forwarded to:
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.



*God's beautiful
creation – aloe ferox
with winter blooms in
South Africa*

Go, Labor on

Go, labor on: spend and be spent,
your joy to do the Father's will;
it is the way the Master went;
should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labor on: 'tis not for naught;
your earthly loss is heav'nly gain;
men heed you, love you, praise you not;
the Master praises-- what are men?

Go, labor on: enough while here
if He should praise you, if He deign
your willing heart to mark and cheer;
no toil for Him shall be in vain.

Go, labor on while it is day:
the world's dark night is hast'ning on.
Speed, speed your work, cast sloth away;
it is not thus that souls are won.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;
be wise the erring soul to win;
go forth into the world's highway,
compel the wand'rer to come in.

Toil on, and in your toil rejoice;
for toil comes rest, for exile home;
soon shall you hear the Bridegroom's voice,
the midnight peal, "Behold, I come."

Horatius Bonar