

Myanmar Update Fall 2011 – Employing Technology in the Service of the Kingdom

At least one of our Protestant Reformed ministers in congregational prayers regularly petitioned God to bless the labors of the printed page and the use of the internet and other means to spread the gospel. This is our prayer too. In our labors in Myanmar we have taken advantage of various forms of technology to assist Rev. Titus and to teach others of the blessed truths of the Reformed faith.

CD Program

- You may recall that over a year ago we implemented a CD program in which Rev. Titus “taped” his sermons and then sent the CD of his sermons to the other PRCM churches of Myanmar.
- Initial results of that program are positive. The CDs continue to be sent out about every 2 months. Each CD has about 5 or 6 sermons on it. Currently they are sent to at least 4 different PRCM congregations: Rev. Titus' father's congregation; a congregation in the Chin State; a congregation in the Ra Khine State; and one in the Shan State. The people listen and ask questions of their local leader, and when their leader does not know how to answer the question, he contacts Rev. Titus by email or phone. So Rev. Titus’ preaching, by means of CDs, is being spread throughout Myanmar.

Video Instruction

- As part of Rev. Laning’s “tutoring” of Rev. Titus, a video instruction program has been initiated. Rev. Laning, with the help of members of the FMC, produce 30-minute instructional videos. Currently, 5 videos have been produced and sent via email to Rev. Titus. The videos taught the truth regarding salvation. They have dealt with the “golden chain of our salvation” (Canons 1: Rejection of Error 2). The videos have included topics such as regeneration, calling, and conversion.
- Rev. Titus uses the “internet café” to download the videos. It takes several hours to download, but then Rev. Titus has a digital video that he can play on his computer and use for his own learning and for the instruction of others. Several others of the congregation gather to learn from these videos.

Email

- Regularly emails are sent between Rev. Titus and the Myanmar Committee. The emails help the Myanmar Committee keep abreast of the activities of Rev. Titus and the progress of his labors. Included in these emails are the “mundane” – informing us of the joys and struggles of the saints in a congregation on the other side of the world. Recently another member of the congregation – a deserted mother of two children – died.

Skype and Google Talk and Cell phones

- Myanmar committee members, particularly Rev. Laning, communicate with Rev. Titus via Skype and more recently GoogleTalk. Both techniques utilize computers and internet capabilities. Increasingly, Rev. Laning is able to communicate clearly and without interruption via cell phones. In the past the technology was not developed sufficiently for cell phone contact to be maintained without interruption, but in the past months this has gone much better.

How amazing it is that God, in His providence, has seen fit that such technologies as cell phones, videos, CD recordings, and the internet have been developed and maintained! Although we often have serious concerns regarding the use of such technologies (and rightly so), we also see much evidence of good use of these tools for the advancement of the gospel. How thankful we are too for Rev. Laning and his faithful work of instructing Rev. Titus! May God continue to bless the labors of Hope's Council and the use of these many different forms of technology for the spiritual development of the saints in Myanmar.

Hope PRC Council