

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

Rev. Allen Brummel
3210 S. Fernwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Phone: 605-271-3692

E-mail: a.brummel@prca.org

WEB: www.reformedsiouxfalls.org

September, 2009

A Busy Summer

Greetings from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We are excited again to report on our labors this summer on behalf of the mission work that we are doing here in Sioux Falls.

The summer has flown by! We have been busy, in part due to the fact that we are preparing for another covenant child to join our family, Lord willing. The due date is the end of September, but Crysta went into premature labor in July. The result was that she was put on medication to control the contractions and advised to remain as inactive as possible. Her situation was further made more challenging when she was diagnosed with gestational diabetes. Thankfully all has gone well, and Crysta has reached the 36th week of pregnancy at the end of August. She is now off medication and the doctor is going to allow the baby to come. Due to the possibly imminent arrival of our baby, I was not able to chaperone at the YP Convention as I hoped to do, nor was I able to attend Classis West and the Calvin Conference. We wait on God for His will to be done.

Back to School

Our children are back in school. Dean enjoyed a week away at convention, and now is a sophomore at Trinity Christian High School in Hull, IA. I was given the privilege of speaking for the dedication of their new building at the end of August. After more than 14 years of preparatory work, starting when I was pastor in Edgerton, the school now is in its 2nd year of covenant education, with 27 students in 9th and 10th grades, and they have a beautiful building.

The building requires a couple more phases for completion, and the school plans to add one grade each year until they will be a 4-year high school. We are thankful to be involved with Trinity and to be able to have Dean enrolled there. The other six of our school age children are enrolled again in the Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School in Doon, IA in grades 1 through 8. Dr. Paul and Erin DeJong have a daughter in 1st grade. We are thankful to be able to carpool with them. We even have a driver from the Fellowship this year, Mrs. Bethany TeSlaa, who is teaching the upper room students at Doon. So, we are spoiled in that we do not have to do any driving to school and back anymore. Although many of them would not admit it, I think our children are glad to be back in school again. And, although busy in different ways, it is good for our family to be back in the school routine.

Baptism

Once again we were privileged to administer the sacrament of baptism. Kara Brielle, infant daughter of Dr. Paul and Erin DeJong, was baptized on August 23. We pray God's blessings on Paul and Erin as they raise Kara in God's fear.

Mission Labors

The lecture commemorating John Calvin's 500th birthday was well attended. Most of the attendees were from our sister congregations in IA and MN, which provided a nice time of fellowship. We did have a few visitors from Sioux Falls, for which we were thankful.

During the week of August 11 we hosted a booth at the Sioux Empire Fair. We displayed and offered for free about 40 different Protestant Reformed pamphlets, along with the recently published *Five Points of Calvinism* book by Prof. Hanko and Engelsma, and PRC DVDs. We had a television playing the PRC DVD and our KSFY TV ads from this past year. This was a great opportunity for us to get our name out in the community and to distribute Calvinistic literature. Throughout the week we were able to distribute over 900 pieces of literature and were able to talk with a lot of people about our work in Sioux Falls. Most of the people simply picked up a pen with our name on or candy and walked on. There were also those who just picked up some literature, received our brochure, and walked on without giving much information concerning themselves. They did not give us a chance to talk with them, and obviously were not interested in discussing anything with us.

But there were those who were willing to stop, talk with me, and tell me what church they attended, in addition to showing interest in our literature. And there were those who wanted to get into a debate about infant baptism, the end times, or Calvinism.

A couple men who took literature even returned the next day to discuss it with me. Many people recognized us from our television ads. By the end of the week we had distributed over 1,000 ink



pens, 3 cases of mints, over 300 of our Heritage PRF brochures, 55 Calvinism books, 59 DVDs, and 600 other pamphlets printed by our churches. The most popular pamphlets were *A Defense of Calvinism* by Prof. Engelsma, *The Sin of Gambling* by Rev. Doug Kuiper, *Antichrist* by Prof. Barry Gritters, *Good News for the Afflicted* by Rev. H. Hoeksema, and *The Battle for the Bible* by Prof. Hanko.



Twelve members of the Fellowship contributed time to assist with the booth. I think they would all join me in saying that their experience interacting with the general public about their religious beliefs was profitable. Often we look back and regret the fact that we did not say more or that we should have said something differently. But

we trust God's sovereign power to make use of even our weakest means in order to promote His Kingdom. We sowed seeds, and now we leave the increase to God.

New Office Space

Both my family and I are adjusting to the new office space that we have for my study. The location is good in that it is close to our house. We have a sign in the front of the building as well as around the side that introduces our presence and directs people to our website.



As you can tell from our banner at the fair booth and our sign in front of our building, we decided to use the word *Church* instead of *Fellowship*. Admittedly, we are premature in identifying ourselves as a church. As we faced the need to make signs we decided, with the approval of our calling church, to proceed immediately with *Church* so as not to have to change the signs in the near future. We are thankful to have that problem and to see ourselves close to organization.

Continued Advertising and Fruit

We continue to advertise through our website, yellow pages, radio and television ads, and free online opportunities. In the past month we had 25 non-Protestant Reformed visitors at our worship services. Some of the visitors were guests in the hotel. But 14 of them were local visitors in response to advertisements and word of mouth. We are grateful for continued visitors and pray that God will work in them to continue their worship with us.

Thank you for your continued interest in and prayers for the mission work here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Al Brummel