



Worshiping at 330 W. Indiana, Spokane WA

www.reformedspokane.org

August 17, 2010

To the congregations of the Protestant Reformed Churches,

We ask you to continue to remember our church and work here in Spokane in your prayers. Even though we are now an established congregation, our work is very much mission work, quite similar to the work Rev. Stewart and the congregation in Northern Ireland are doing. We continue to pray that the Lord will use our witness in Spokane to bring others into our congregation.

This past summer, for the Kleyn family, has been quite busy. It began with a long drive to Michigan (2000 miles) for a visit of several weeks to family and friends. Our children enjoyed spending a couple days at Heritage, their old school, with their friends. We also spent close to a week at Silver Lake camping with family. Other events included Synod, speaking at Mission Awareness Day and preaching and fellowship at Trinity. Thanks to all of you who made this visit to enjoyable, encouraging and refreshing for us.

Back in Spokane, the work of the church continues. Earlier in the year I spoke for 5 months on the Reformed Witness Hour. We broadcast the RWH on two stations here in Spokane, and there have been a number of visitors and phone-calls as a result of the RWH. Hopefully I will have another opportunity to speak on the radio. We believe that preaching is the primary tool in missions and outreach, so we look for these opportunities. We have looked into other ways to use the radio too, and I am planning, with Rev. Bruinsma when he visits in September, to record several half hour programs for airing later in the year. We will pick several theological subjects that can be used to introduce us to the community, and will have a moderator from the station joining in the conversation.

In May I gave a lecture on the subject, "What is a Reformed Church?" We did have three visitors in

attendance. I had also spoken beforehand to the CRC pastor in town and he had promoted the speech among his office-bearers, though none of them attended. He did, however, listen afterwards to my speech and distribute an online link to the recording in his congregation. He also asked if I'd be willing to give the speech to his Young Adults as a part of a course he gave them in June on life-choices. Regrettably we were away in June, so I couldn't do this.

We have two upcoming lectures. During his visit in September, Rev. Bruinsma will speak on "The Witness of the Reformed Believer." He will seek to harmonize the truth of the sovereignty of God in salvation and the gathering of the church with the calling that we all have to be active in personal witnessing. I hope to promote this again through the CRC pastor, but also with some other pastors in the community who I have come to know that have an appreciation for the doctrines of calvinism. The other lecture will be for Reformation Day, and Prof. Cammenga will be speaking.

We have had a steady flow of visitors to our services. In attendance, regularly, are two couples and one individual who are not members. I have been meeting with one of the couples with a view to membership, and have had discussions also with the others. These people are very committed to attending, and we believe that it is very important that they be in church to hear the preaching, even if there are, in their minds, certain barriers to membership. We have also had a couple other return visitors, particularly one man who has been coming to our evening services after going to his own church in the morning.

Last week our church grew internally in the birth of a daughter, Megan Debra, to Greg and Candace Duerr. This is a big event in a small church, and brings much joy to all. This will be the first baptism I have administered since leaving Trinity (where we had at least a dozen baptisms a year).

Our activity on the internet has increased. We designed a new web page which focuses especially on our worship and preaching. Our services are broadcast live on Sundays in both audio and video at www.reformedspokane.org. All our sermons are also archived online at sermonaudio.com where there is quite a bit of exposure. Another way we promote our church online is with a facebook profile which people can "like" and then they receive all our updates (service information and sermon uploads).

We have also had a lot of summer visitors, people vacationing in the area or passing through. This has included several Canadian Reformed and United Reformed families, as well as a number of PRC

families from Lynden, Loveland, South Holland, Iowa, Canada and Michigan. It is always a great encouragement to the saints here to have other PRC folk show interest in the church here and get to know a bit more about our congregation. It's also a good experience for members from a "typical" PRC congregation to visit and worship with our small group of mostly newer converts. We'd encourage you to visit our church sometime yourself. One of the things that I see as part of my task here is familiarizing our congregation more with the denomination, and vice versa. Maybe a conference or retreat, in the future, is another way we can promote this.

Recently we renewed our lease on the building we use. The building is on a corner lot at a pretty well known intersection North of downtown. We do get good exposure at this location with some drop in visitors who see on our sign the word "Reformed" and are interested in learning more about us. Due to the slower economy, we were able to negotiate a slight reduction in the lease as well as getting the landlord to repaint the outside of the building for us. The building is temporary for us, in the sense that we do hope and pray that God gives us a building of our own in the future. It's exciting to read about developments in the CPRC in Northern Ireland in this regard, and we pray God similarly blesses us. We have a building fund set up and all of the PRC congregations should be taking an annual collection for us in the coming year. We thank the Lord for the communion of congregations that are able to help us in this way.

In the coming weeks we will begin again our catechism classes and Bible studies. There are 9 children in three separate catechism classes. We have two different Bible studies, one for the ladies, and another open to all the adults. These are very important in the life of the congregation, and the members show that they understand this too in their almost 100% participation. We look forward to more spiritual growth together in this coming year. I am also looking at running an essentials class for members and non-members at the church, either on Sunday or before the evening Bible study mid-week. Last year I did this one on one with a couple in their home. Hopefully if we do it at church, we can also invite visitors to attend.

Please continue to support the work of our church here with your prayers. Our congregation needs to grow in order to have a solid foundation for our future existence. There are three ways that this church can grow; either from internal growth, from growth within the community as a result of evangelism work, or from PRC families moving to join our church from

other locations. We are praying for growth in all three of these ways. In Michigan this summer, when I gave a presentation on the work in Spokane, I received some chuckles when I suggested that one way you can help our church is by considering a move to Spokane. But, I was dead serious. Maybe you are in a position where you can do this for the sake of the church and gospel of Christ. Perhaps you are young and can find work in Spokane in your profession. Maybe you'd consider attending college in the area here. Or maybe you are empty-nesters or retired and there is less responsibility holding you down in your location. If you think denominationally, and desire the witness of our churches to increase in the USA, maybe you should consider moving, or even spending a few years, in a place like Spokane. This would be an immense help for our congregation. And, if you have a family, don't think you wouldn't be useful here. One thing our congregation needs is more families and children. Then we will be able to look more seriously at getting a school of our own going here.

Pray for fruit on our evangelism. Pray for a continued growth in the knowledge and commitment among our members. Pray for godliness and peace in our congregation. Pray for wisdom for our office bearers in their work. Pray for the children here as they mature. Remember the afflicted in our midst also.

We thank you for your Christian love and prayers,

Pastor Rodney Kleyn

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