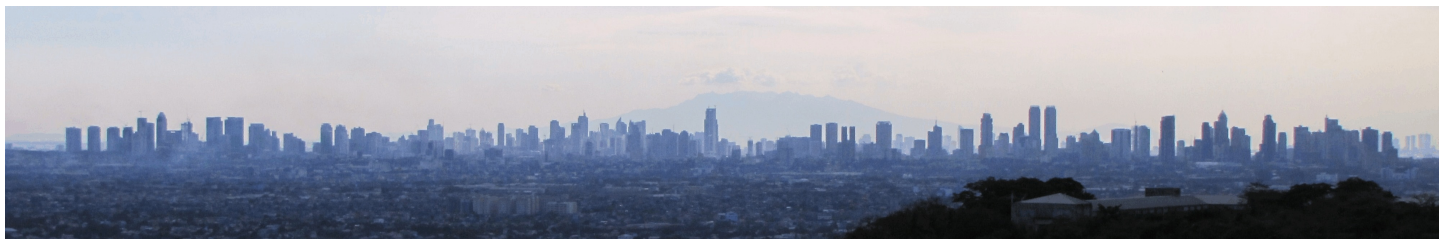


PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS THE PHILIPPINES



Manila Skyline (from Antipolo, looking west)

MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

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DELEGATION VISIT

Perhaps the most enjoyable event during the past few months was the yearly delegation visit.

Elder Perry Van Egdome (representing the Doon PRC), and Elder Glenn Kooima (representing the FMC) arrived on Thursday, January 19 (or more accurately, the wee morning hours of January 20). They were with us for just under two weeks, returning home on January 31. They stayed in our homes, and were no doubt able to get to know us and our families well – perhaps a little too well!



During their time here, the men visited all the churches and groups we labor in on the main Philippine Island of Luzon. This included the Berean PRC, the First Reformed Church of Bulacan, the All of Grace Protestant Reformed Fellowship in Gabaldon, the Christian Faith Ministry of Batasan Hills, and the Maranatha Church in Valenzuela. They also attended consistory meetings, Bible studies, and our 7M class. Another significant and blessed part of their work was the family visitation they conducted with each of our families.

We, along with the many saints here, appreciated their presence as well as the greetings they brought and the words of encouragement they gave. We are thankful for their willingness to come, and for the sacrifices made by their wives, families and congregations so that they were able to do this work on behalf of our churches.

We are confident their visit has helped them in their understanding of our life and work here, even as it has also helped us in being able to maintain good contact and communication with our calling church, the FMC, and the whole denomination.

If you are interested in more information about and pictures of the delegation's visit, see the January posts of Kleyn's blog – kleynphilippines.blogspot.com

OUR FAMILIES

We have had a number of family members visit here in the past months. Tricia Smit's sister Sue Dykstra visited in January, as did also my brother Wally and his son Jerry. My parents (Nick & Ina Kleyn) were able to visit during the month of February.

It is always enjoyable to see family members again, and to spend time with them. But it is equally a blessing to have them accompany us in our work and thus be able to meet and come to know the saints here.

Personally I am often struck by how God's people from different nations, with so many natural differences (culture, backgrounds, circumstances in life, etc.), are nevertheless able to experience a wonderful closeness to each other. It is often immediate. But it also grows stronger over time. In spite of the natural differences, we are able to join together in worship, unitedly to confess our faith, with one voice to sing praises to God, and mutually to help and encourage each other. We consider it a privilege to experience this in our work here. I know our visitors enjoy it as well, and through it grow in their appreciation of the catholicity of Christ's church.

Toward the end of the time that the delegates were here, the Smits received the sad news that the Lord had suddenly taken Tricia's father to glory. The Smit family was able to make a quick trip to Michigan in order to attend the funeral and spend time with their family there. We and they are grateful they could do so, and thank our faithful heavenly Father for His grace to them and His care of them. The Smits pass along their thanks for the love and compassion that so many in our denomination have expressed to them in the past weeks. We pray the Lord may continue to give them and their family the comfort of His gospel.

WEBSITE

One of the ways in which we seek to promote the Reformed faith here is through a website, which can be found at <prcaphilippinesaudio.wordpress.com>

On this website, we post the following: audio files of sermons, recordings of speeches, Bible study guides, Tagalog translations of Reformed Witness Hour messages, Tagalog translations of sermons, and our quarterly mission field newsletters.

The Tagalog translations are a significant addition. The translation work is being done by Pastor John Flores, pastor of the First Reformed Church of Bulacan. To date, close to 200 RWH messages have been translated, and also many of our sermons.

The website provides us with information regarding the number of hits we receive. An interesting statistic is that the average number of hits has gone from 10 per day in 2011 to 22 per day in 2012. We consider this a significant and encouraging increase.

BOOKS

Interest in our Protestant Reformed literature (books and pamphlets) continues to increase, as well. Since the time we began making literature available here (just over 1 year ago), we have sold over 450 books. And not only are they being purchased by members of the churches and groups we are currently working in, but also by others throughout the Philippines.

The literature available through our "bookstore" includes all the publications of the Reformed Free Publishing Association, *The Psalter*, and the green *Confessions and Church Order* book of the PRCA. We also have many PRCA pamphlets. These serve as a helpful tool for introducing the PRCA to new contacts, and/or for providing biblical answers and instruction to the saints here on various subjects.

This project of promoting the truth through Reformed literature has been made possible through the collections taken in our Protestant Reformed Churches for the "Philippine Book Fund." The collections subsidize the cost of the books, the cost of pamphlets, and the cost of shipping.

Our bestsellers so far have been *Doctrine According To Godliness*, *Reformed Dogmatics*, and *Come Ye Children*.

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous giving to this worthy cause. The saints here are overjoyed to be able, finally, to own these books, and to be able to do so at such an affordable price. Thanks again!

SUMMARY OF OTHER LABORS

It is certainly impossible to cover in one newsletter the details of all our work here. But I will at least mention that our labors continue to go well and to bear fruit in the various churches and groups we are working in.

This includes progress in the work of forming a federation of Reformed churches here, specifically (at this point) between the Berean PRC and the First Reformed Church of Bulacan. A significant step in that process is the fact that the First Reformed Church of Bulacan recently adopted the Church Order of Dordt as its own.

Our twice-monthly 7M meetings, in which we provide instruction to existing or prospective ministers in Reformed Doctrine and in Homiletics, also continue to go well.

In addition to the above, we also stay in touch with various contacts throughout the Philippines by way of correspondence (emails and text messages). This frequently involves answering questions they have about the Reformed faith.

We also see evidence of the Lord's blessing through various visitors to the worship services in the Berean PRC, in the All of Grace PR Fellowship, and in the First Reformed Church of Bulacan. Some of these visitors have become regular attendees.

Another significant evidence of God's blessing on His work here was the addition of another family to the Berean PRC. This took place in a unique way – through the confession of faith and baptism of the father, and then of the five youngest of their seven children. It was a moving and joyful occasion, and something the delegates were also able to witness. We were reminded of the truth expressed in Luke 19:9, "This day is salvation come to this house."

In all these ways, and more, we see the Lord's blessing and goodness.

FURLOUGH

Sharon and I have started making preparations for our upcoming furlough. The Lord willing, we will be in the USA for the month of June and the first part of July.

Plans have not been finalized, but we have in mind to make stops and do presentations in the following places: Redlands, CA; Spokane, WA; Loveland, CO; Grand Rapids, MI; Crete, IL; Wingham, Ontario; Pittsburgh, PA; Doon & Hull, IA; and Edgerton, MN. We hope this is possible, and look forward to seeing many of you in person, the Lord willing, in a few months time.

In Christ's service, and on behalf of us all,

Rev. Daniel Kleyn