



## PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS - THE PHILIPPINES -

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### 7M

Acronyms and catchy abbreviations are just as popular here in the Philippines as in other Asian countries and sometimes in North America. We discovered this phenomenon firsthand when thinking of a name for a new venture in our mission work.

Part of our labors here include working with pastors and those who seek to be trained for the future goal of the ministry of the Word. One purpose of such labors is to introduce them to the Reformed Faith or fill in the gaps that might exist in their understanding of the Reformed Faith. Another purpose is for them to get to know us as missionaries and the Protestant Reformed Churches whom we serve here and represent. One of the benefits of this work is that the pastors receive regular fellowship together, something which they have lacked for a long time because of which they have felt isolated and alone. For their own personal encouragement and growth in their work as pastors and leaders of their respective churches and groups, we believed it was important and the right time to begin monthly meetings with the area pastors with whom and in whose groups or congregations we regularly labor.

Now, what does "7M" mean, you ask? It stands for "Metro Manila Monthly Monday Morning Ministers' Meeting." When we lightheartedly suggested this name for the group, it instantly stuck to our surprise. We were greeted at our first meeting in our regular meeting spot with a welcome note on the chalkboard, with this name prominently and cheerfully displayed.

We usually meet every other Monday and at this point there are 3 in attendance besides the missionaries. We are discussing Reformed Dogmatics. Rev. Smit led the group through a discussion of "An Introduction to Reformed Dogmatics." Rev. Kleyn is currently leading the group through the doctrines of "Theology." Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the meetings last for about 2 hours, after which there is time for a lunch meal and fellowship.

We pray that the Lord will bless the 7M meetings.

### Visitors

In the last several months, we have enjoyed several foreign visitors from Australia and the U.S.A. (Iowa and Michigan). The visitors included Prof. and Mrs. Hanko in October, who stopped for some jetlag recovery, rest, and relaxation here before they arrived in Singapore for 6 weeks of pulpit supply and lectures in the Covenant ERCS.

We enjoyed the company of the visitors, and the visitors seemed, we think, to have enjoyed their brief visits with us. They have all received a good taste of our life and work from day to day here in Metro Manila and with our respective areas of labor. For them, some of the things which we mention in the newsletters about life on the field, seem more real and vivid to them. We hope that this information will encourage others, who have the opportunity and time, to visit and especially to enjoy mutually encouraging fellowship with the saints here.

### Smit Family's Unexpected Move

On Friday afternoon, October 8, the Smits were handed an eviction notice from the sheriff of the Antipolo City court. The landlord had been involved in a complex situation that had begun already in December 2006. Unknown to us, the house had been in the courts as the subject of a messy three-way tug-of-war between the landlord; his estranged wife with an accomplice couple; and a bank which provided a mortgage to the land. So far, the bank seems to be winning the battle, and they sought and received the court-ordered eviction. The eviction and the circumstances behind the eviction were a complete shock to us all as it probably was to many who have heard of this beforehand.

All of the details for the eviction, the complicated legal background to it, some humorous events along the way, and the move in several days could quickly fill far more space than what is available in this newsletter. Suffice it to say that with the timely, indispensable, and encouraging help of Rev. and Mrs. Kleyn and with their willingness to let their house be used as a temporary storage facility for the Smit family's stuff, and several other friends and mission contacts here in large and small ways, the Smits made the eviction deadline, found temporary housing, found another house, and completed all that one needs to do when moving out of a house in a breathtaking 4 days. On Monday, October 18, the Smits moved into their new and, according to the children, better surroundings. This house is located about 5 minutes away from the old house on a quieter street.

Although the sudden and unexpected move for the Smits did not disrupt the children's school because they had their Fall Break, it did disrupt Rev. Smit's regular workload routines. Tuesday night Bible Study meetings

in the Berean PRC were cancelled for 2 weeks. Rev. Kleyn needed to assist in pulpit supply on October 17 in the Berean PRCP. Some of the other work of the Berean PRC Consistory planned had to be postponed while Rev. Smit was focused on moving into the next house.

We are thankful that the move is finished because the experience of being transplanted from one house to another is normally a traumatic event, but even more so when required to do so within less than a week with little forewarning. Despite the heavy stress and pressure in many ways, in hindsight we can testify that our heavenly Father provided abundantly by His grace and mercy all that was needed exactly when it was needed. We have grown again in childlike adoration of our heavenly Father's blessed providence.

This experience reminded us that in this life, our earthly houses are not permanent. As much as we sometimes think and behave that they are permanent, they never will be. We are always pilgrims and strangers in this life. We are taught by the Holy Spirit to look by faith for that house of many mansions in which we shall never be cast out. Because of His atoning blood once shed for us, Christ has established and prepares for us our eternal and heavenly home. Unto that home, His mercy and grace shall surely preserve us through every trial and affliction, even an inconvenient eviction.

### **Berean PRCP**

The Berean congregation has been privileged and blessed to witness the baptism of a covenant child, Emily, the daughter of Sis. Susie Deasis on August 8. We look forward to another baptism soon, the Lord willing. Sis. Jennie Luchico and family was blessed with the birth of Jethro on October 21. Sis. Jennie endured a difficult labor so that the baby eventually needed to be delivered via C-section. Complicating her recovery was the fact that Jethro needed to be hospitalized for treatment of a blood problem and jaundice. Mother and child returned home on November 13, and the child seems to be thriving. Part of the burden of these two sisters is that their husbands are not members of the church and walk as unbelievers. Although they have attended one or two worship services in the past, there seems to be no visible change at this time. We pray that the Lord in His wise way and time may work repentance and faith in the hearts of these unbelieving husbands through the preaching of His Word and with the godly conduct and faith of their wives.

The Berean congregation recently received a new confessing member into her communion. Mr. Alann Penaverde, a relative of some of the members of the church, began attending the worship services over a year ago and the weekly Bible study classes. He is a physician who has steady employment in the metro Manila area. After faithful attendance of the worship services and a thorough self-study of the Essentials of Reformed Doctrine book, he made confession of faith in August privately before the Consistory in a thorough examination in his confession and walk of life and then publicly before the church on September 5. We rejoice in the Lord's addition of this committed brother to the church. We with him pray that the Lord in His mercy will add also his wife to the

congregation in His wise time.

The Berean congregation remembers its 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organized congregation on November 18. Our short history is a testimony to the Lord's sure mercies to gather and preserve His people unto Himself in the way of true faith throughout the nations.

Bro. Rod Bongat was elected by the congregation in October to serve as elder for another 2 year term. He was installed for his next term as elder on November 7.

### **First Reformed Church**

While the Berean congregation celebrates its 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organized church, the First Reformed Church of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, celebrated its 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 31. Previous to 2002, the church was affiliated with a pentecostal denomination. However, by 2002, the church along with Pastor John Flores were persuaded of the need to become Reformed. On October 31, 2002, they broke ties officially with their previous denomination and have ever since been growing in the knowledge of the Reformed faith in worship, doctrine, preaching, and church government. We are thankful for the opportunity to know, work with, and help the officebearers and members of the FRC.

As we mentioned last time, the FRC has expressed its desire to establish formal ties with the Berean PRCP. The Berean PRCP Consistory is now working on suggestions to the FRC Consistory for how to implement our mutual desire to establish a federation. Certainly, there is a significant amount of work and training to be done to reach that seemingly distant goal, the Lord willing. However, it is encouraging to us that the work here has taken this significant direction.

### **Future Delegation Visit**

At the FMC meeting on November 16, which we attend every month now via Skype, the FMC confirmed with us that a delegation will arrive here in the Philippines in the late evening of January 12, and then return home again on January 25. Mr. Gerald Brummel, as a representative from the FMC, and Mr. Alan De Boer, as a representative from the Doon PRC, will be visiting the missionary families and will observe the work that the missionaries do. The missionaries look forward to this face-to-face contact with our FMC and calling church bodies by means of a delegation, and we are already planning some things for their schedule.

That's all the news for now.

Until next time, may the Lord bless and keep you and cause His grace to shine upon you so that you may enjoy, at the end of this Old Year and then throughout the New Year, the blessed peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His service,  
**Rev. D. Kleyn & Rev. R. Smit**  
25 November 2010