



PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS

- THE PHILIPPINES -

Rev. Daniel Kleyn
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SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Our July 2009 Move

The last few weeks before our departure for the Philippines in early July were filled with activity and preparation. What household goods we decided to keep and not sell, were stored with our family in the Hudsonville, Michigan, area. The small amount of stuff left was sent to Manila in 8 large (18 inch cube), double-walled, cardboard boxes. The books, which I decided to take for my study here, were shipped to Manila in 12 small (12 inch cube), double-walled cardboard boxes.

In addition to the work of packing and storage, we obtained some immunizations, arranged our banking, visited our attorney in regards to our wills, prepared documents for the immigration procedure once we arrived in the Philippines, and fulfilled many other moving errands.

There was time, in the last few weeks of our stay in Hull, Iowa, to visit with families of the area churches, especially the Doon congregation. We enjoyed the fellowship and found it very profitable and encouraging.

On Saturday, June 27, Doon held its annual church picnic. This church picnic served as a "Welcome" for Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Kleyn, since Rev. Kleyn was installed as foreign missionary on Wednesday, June 24; and, it served as a "Farewell" for my family, since we planned to leave about two weeks later on July 7.

I led the worship services in Doon one last time before our departure on July 5. This was not planned, but necessary because Rev. Overway and his family were gone due to a funeral in his family. I preached in the morning worship service of July 5, preaching on the history of the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11 which passage relates closely to the work of the Church today in missions. In retrospect, it was indeed a fitting sermon to commence my God-given, small part in our denominational mission labors in the Philippines.

On Monday, July 6, we left our rented house in Hull, and stayed overnight at the Brummels' house in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Rev. and Mrs. Brummel and family had begun their vacation that same morning, and they graciously allowed us and all our luggage to stay at their house overnight so that our trip to the Sioux Falls airport early Tuesday morning would be as short as possible. We thank the Brummels for their assistance and their generous hospitality *in absentia*.

The next morning, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylen Te Slaa met us early in the morning at the Brummels' house in order to help us and our load of luggage make it safely and on time to the Sioux Falls airport. The Te Slaas are charter members of the Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship in Sioux Falls, which is led by our missionary, Rev. Allen Brummel. The Te Slaas helped us unload our luggage for check-in, and they helped shepherd some

of our younger children while we went through the process of checking in a whopping pile of 19 pieces of luggage. That did not include all the carry-on bags, baby bags, backpacks, a bucket, and blankies for the little ones. Three of our checked-in pieces were overweight, but, to our delight, the airline agent waived the overweight baggage fees on them and sent us on to security with lots of smiles, especially for youngest children, and well-wishes for a safe journey to Manila. Very quickly, we passed successfully the scrutiny of the security screeners. Once on the other side of the security checkpoint, we waved our final "goodbye" to Gaylen and Laura Te Slaa, and, in our minds and hearts, all of our church family and friends in North America.

After all of that work, the reality of the move finally struck us in the quiet of the empty waiting area near the gate for our scheduled flight. We had come into the reality that the Lord had uprooted us from Canada/the USA and, now, was transplanting us into the Philippines.

At about the time we flew out of Minneapolis for Tokyo, Japan, the flight of Uncle Peter Smit (member with wife, Linda, and family of the Hope PRC in Redlands, CA) was leaving Los Angeles, also bound for Tokyo. We met in the Tokyo airport, and he helped us the rest of the way to Manila. He stayed with us for 2 weeks until July 25, assisting in many ways with our move into our rental house in Antipolo.

The complete trip from Sioux Falls to Manila was long, the exhaustion from which was clearly written on our faces when we arrived in Manila after midnight on Thursday morning, July 9. A large representation of the Berean Protestant Reformed Church was on-hand to receive us with much gladness and thanksgiving. Briefly in the parking lot of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, we exchanged heartfelt greetings. Then, in a convoy of cars and a rented jeepney, we wove our way through the roads of metro Manila in light traffic to a guest house in Quezon City, located near to the location where the Berean PRCP worships. The guest house is managed by Mr. and Mrs. Tonton Caballero, who provided us with much practical assistance. Mrs. Nona Caballero is a teacher at Faith Academy, a local Christian school for missionary families in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, and the Christian school in which our children are enrolled. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Caballeros and their staff at their guest house until our rental house was sufficiently ready for our occupancy.

On July 12, I led the worship services of the Berean PRCP for the first time as PRCA missionary, sent to the Berean flock in order to serve them at present in the pastoral labours of the congregation. My first sermon was based on John 13:12-17 and entitled "Washing One Another's Feet," a sermon which I had also preached in the Doon PRC on March 22 as my inaugural

sermon as foreign missionary. Our second sermon on July 12 was based on Psalm 136:23-24 and entitled, "Jehovah Remembered Us." Indeed, our heavenly Father has remembered His saints in the Berean PRC and elsewhere in the Philippines by granting them the gift of now two servants to serve them in the ministry of the Word and sacraments. May God grant His servants much grace for fruitful and faithful service of His Kingdom and the cause of His Gospel.

After some shopping for a basic amount of furniture and after a day of cleaning up the house with the help of members of the Berean congregation, we moved into our house on Tuesday, July 21. Moving day was very busy, but we were glad for the progress that we could be in our own house.

For your information, our house is located on the east side of Metro Manila on a hill from which we can overlook the city. Because of the elevation of Antipolo City and the subdivisions around it, including ours, the area is often called "The Little Baguio." Because of our higher elevation than most of metro Manila, the climate is apparently slightly cooler, similar to Baguio City, which is north of Manila and is situated in a hilly area which lends to a relatively cooler climate.

We are thankful and content with the house that the Lord has provided for us through the means of your weekly support in the General Fund offerings, from which some funds are received for our denominational, foreign mission work. As we have experienced so far, the house seems to serve us well. The area in which we live is secure. We live close to all the stores and markets from which we can obtain our groceries and other daily needs. Medical clinics and hospitals are nearby. From our house, the Faith Academy Christian school is a 15 minute drive through a scenic and quiet shortcut. Most importantly, the house is close enough to the location for our worship services and to the members' homes so that we can participate effectively in the weekly life and activities of the congregation.

July 2009 Conference

In addition to the arrival of the Smit family, the second major highlight of the month for the Berean PRC was the July 22-24 conference.

Prof. Engelsma gave all of the lectures and led all of the question and answer periods over three days on the doctrines of the Five Points of Calvinism and the Covenant of Grace.

Based on the responses from our contacts, we believe that this conference served to extend our witness of the Reformed Faith here and to impress upon us the amount of work among various contacts that awaits attention. Some, who wanted to attend the conference, could not for various reasons. To them, we plan to send copies of the lectures in order to meet, in part, their hunger for instruction and growth in the Reformed Faith.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Kleyn

We look forward to the visit of the Kleyns from October 16 to November 2. Their visit will not only be of help to them for their eventual move at the end of this year, but it will be good for us to meet again face to face. They are eager to move here and begin their labours, and we are eager for them to come.

We converse regularly through e-mail and by means of Skype, an internet communication tool, especially so that Rev. Kleyn is aware of the ongoing work here and the contacts that we have.

The Kleyns will be accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Warren

Boon from the Doon PR congregation (Doon, Iowa), our calling and sending congregation. We know the Boons well, and we are glad that they can come and visit us and the Berean PRC.

The visit of Rev. Kleyn and Mr. Boon will fulfil the yearly oversight visit of the Doon PRC and the FMC. This will be an opportunity for the FMC and Doon to observe briefly once again the life and struggles that are part of the work here.

The visit of the delegation coincides with our children's October school break. Maybe, there will be time in our schedules for all of us to enjoy a day outing of relaxation and fellowship.

More News from the Berean PRC

Life in the Berean PRC continues to experience God's blessings. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Oriarte were united recently in holy marriage. Their wedding ceremony was conducted on Saturday afternoon, August 1, and I was given the privilege to lead it and provide a meditation on I Corinthians 13:4-8a on the theme, "The Love of Christ for a Faithful Marriage." Just as Christ was present at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, so we believe that Christ was present at this wedding in His Word and in His Spirit.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ibe were blessed with the birth of their firstborn son, Martyn John. He was born in the first few minutes of August 5. Sister Melody and child are doing well. Once all the immigration paperwork is completed for Martyn, we expect that they will all return together to Grandville, Michigan, so that Bro. Vernon can continue his studies at our Seminary.

Little Martyn received the sign and seal of the sacrament of baptism on August 9. Prof. Engelsma administered the sacrament to little Martyn since Prof. was scheduled ahead of time to lead the worship services that Lord's Day.

Catechism for the covenant youth will resume in September. By the time that you read this newsletter, we should be well into our season of catechism instruction in Bible History and in Reformed Doctrine. These classes are held between the worship services from 2:40 to 3:20 p.m., and the classes alternate weekly between Bible History and Reformed Doctrine.

With the Berean consistory's approval, our weekly bulletins are posted on Rev. Gise Van Baren's prca.org website and are distributed by Mr. Ken De Jong (Peace PRC) through e-mail to those on his list. This is another way for you to stay informed about what is happening in the Berean PRCP.

The consistory continues to seek the Lord's grace and wisdom for the maintenance of the marks of a true church and to exercise faithfully the keys of the Kingdom of heaven in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. It appears that the Lord has granted good fruit upon these faithful labors of the church here.

That is all that we will write for now. Our next newsletter is scheduled to be sent out in the Fall 2009, the Lord willing.

Until then, may the Lord richly bless you with His grace and Spirit for a daily, faithful, humble, and thankful confession and walk of life according to His Holy Word.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Richard J. Smit
(Antipolo City, Rizal, The Philippines)