

# Protestant Reformed Foreign Missions

## - The Philippines -



Rev. Daniel Kleyn

**WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER**

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### Beginning a New Year in Hope

As appropriate as Psalter #247, based on Psalm 90<sup>1</sup>, is for the end of a year, so also is it a good anthem for the beginning of a new year. This song of Zion is encouraging in the face of our weak efforts and the challenges of church work in this country for the cause of God's Church and His Name. We persevere in the hope of God's blessing, strength, nearness, protection, and guidance, and so sing with delight Psalter #247, stanza 6:

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And, our eternal Home.*

### The Arrival of the Kleyns

The transplantation of the earthly home of the Kleyns from Holland, Michigan, USA, to Antipolo City, Rizal, the Philippines, was officially completed on 16 December 2009 when they arrived on a late evening flight from North America via China. Having prepared their rental house in the days following, they moved into it on Monday, December 20. Soon at the beginning of March, we all look forward to their first visitors from North America: Prof. and Mrs. H. Hanko. The Kleyns and we live in the same subdivision in Antipolo, and our houses are conveniently located about a 5 minute walk apart.

### Berean Youth Camp 2009

On December 30, the Berean PRC hosted a day of speeches and activities for the young adults and young people from the Berean PRC; the First Reformed Church of Muzon, Bulacan; the All of Grace Protestant Reformed Fellowship in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija; and, the Christian Faith Ministry of Batasan Hills, Quezon City. There were over 40 young adults and young people present for 2 speeches and for 2 Bible Study sessions. The main theme for the event was "Walking as Children of Light," based on 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8. Rev. Kleyn provided the two

speeches on the "Identity and the Calling of the Children of Light," and Rev. Smit led two discussion group sessions on the topics of "The Children of Light and Technology" and "The Children of Light and Entertainment." The youth agreed that this type of activity should be repeated again in 2010. We missionaries are certainly willing to provide help, speeches, and guidance wherever needed for the spiritual welfare of the youth.

### Preaching and Teaching Labors

Upon his arrival, Rev. Kleyn immediately assisted with the preaching in the Berean PRC. In fact, on December 19, his first Lord's Day here, he preached twice since I fulfilled a request of the First Reformed Church in Muzon, Bulacan, to preach in their 9 a.m. worship service. The FRC's pastor is the Rev. John Flores who has been leading his congregation into the truth of the Reformed Faith in doctrine, worship, church government, and life. We are thankful for the Lord's blessings upon this congregation and are happy for the privilege to serve them. In the future, Rev. Kleyn will be providing Lord's Day preaching and instruction on Reformed Church government once a month, beginning in February.

Rev. Kleyn has taken on the work of the monthly preaching labors in the All of Grace PR Fellowship in Gabaldon. He plans to preach there once a month, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord's Day of the month. In the months that have 5 Lord's Days, Rev. Kleyn will preach on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Lord's Days. With the preaching visits, Rev. Kleyn conducts catechism with the covenant youth and instruction in Reformed doctrine for the adults. Attendance at the worship services is usually above 20 men, women, and children.

Another focus of Rev. Kleyn's work is the Christian Faith Ministry in Batasan Hills. This is the group in which Pastor Andres is the leader, who has been steadily leading this group into the ways of the Reformed Faith. The result of the growth in the Reformed Faith has meant that some members have left them. At the signed request of all the members, Rev. Kleyn plans to provide them Lord's Day preaching and lectures of instruction once a month.

Most of our contacts, who have led their congregations

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<sup>1</sup> It was mistakenly written at the end of the last newsletter that Psalter #247 was based on Psalm 46.

or groups in the direction of Reformed Faith, have experienced the price for such change. They have learned what it means to count the cost of faithful discipleship to Christ. By God's grace alone, they by faith have found the blessedness of sacrifice for the love of God's truth.

Are we willing to do likewise? Are we willing to give up conveniences, to sell prized earthly possessions, or to let go of earthly advantage for the love of God's truth?

On Monday, February 22, a national holiday in the Philippines, the Berean PRC plans to host a combined meeting with our metro Manila area contacts in which the topic of Reformed church government will be introduced.

On February 25, Rev. Kleyn plans to present this same lecture to the CFM members in Batasan Hills during their regular monthly Thursday afternoon lecture time.

We should mention that one of our recently regular visitors at our Tuesday night Bible Study died suddenly on Monday, February 1. Roberto Celino from Antipolo died at age 57 due to heart failure and leaves behind a widow, Shirley, and their 4 children. Because of our contact with Bert, I had an "in season" opportunity to bring the grieving family the Word of God during one of their visitation sessions on Wednesday, February 3. The funeral was scheduled for Saturday, February 6. How the Lord may use our testimony, we leave in His hands. May He be pleased in His sovereign mercy to comfort their hearts according to His will with our testimony concerning our Great Shepherd of the sheep who knows His sheep from eternity and calls them each by name, who then follow Him by the faith, which He mysteriously works in them, and where He leads: even through the valley of the shadow of death and over its threshold into glory afterward with Him.

### **Tuesday Night Bible Study Highlight**

I should mention that a highlight for the Tuesday night Berean Bible Study meetings, which I lead every week, during December and January was our use of the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary's conference on the Reformer John Calvin. We took in all the lectures by means of the DVDs provided to us by Southwest PRC's Evangelism Committee, and we all enjoyed them immensely. Now, by word of mouth and by a little advertising, we have requests for 50 more copies of the PRTS Calvin Conference lectures. Though effort and time will be needed to fill the requests, what a nice challenge to have!

We trust that the Lord will use the excellent lectures, by the professors and ministers of the PRC in North America, the PRC of Northern Ireland, and EPC of Australia, to serve the spread of His glorious Truth here. Interestingly, there was one request from a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, which, of course, regards Calvin as a heretic. One wonders what effect the lectures may have on him. We do not know, but we pray earnestly that Christ will mercifully deliver more of His "Luthers" and "Katies" from the idolatrous bondage of Rome, which is so obvious here in metro Manila.

### **Tagalog Training**

Some might be wondering how we are coping with the language here. We continue to learn the Tagalog language as best we can, but we are spurred on by the obvious need to learn Tagalog. The work of learning Tagalog takes up about 25-30% of our weekly workload, although we are faced with the challenge of Tagalog daily in the stores, markets, public transportation, and neighbourhood.

We are being tutored weekly by Mrs. Nona Caballero, who also teaches part-time at Faith Academy as the high school Tagalog instructor. She is a seasoned Tagalog instructor, and she is a significant help in our quest for some fluency in Tagalog.

### **Sights of the Geography**

The picture for this newsletter was taken during a recent visit that my family and I made to the saints in Gabaldon in early January. I was scheduled to preach on January 10. On Saturday, we visited Gabaldon so that we could tour the town and see the ocean, since Gabaldon is close to the coastline. The photo overlooks the town of Dingalan and its harbor along the eastern coastline of the island of Luzon. This photo reminds us that we work on one of the islands of the sea from which God is also pleased to gather His Church. (Isaiah 11:11-12)

Another geographic feature of Gabaldon is the impressive mountains that encircle it and the surrounding farming valley. We enjoy this feature of Gabaldon because of its beauty and because it reminds us of Psalm 125:2, "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about His people from henceforth even for ever." This gives us strength and hope as we work with the saints here in Gabaldon.

### **Current Events**

Currently, the nation is preparing for the May 2010 presidential and congressional elections. During this season, there are great struggles for political power. This election season once again in several ways shows how badly men and women of influence covet political power and its resulting wealth in this nation.

Nevertheless, we are assured that the Lord Jesus Christ rules also over the Philippines through the months ahead, and in May 2010 He will see to it that whomsoever He wills to sit in places of authority, will be placed in office for the good of His eternally chosen and gathered church, also in the Philippines.

### **Thanks**

We (the Kleyns and Smits) express our heartfelt gratitude for your many expressions of love and support through a steady flow of letters and e-mail notes recently.

Continue to pray for us.

We remember you in our prayers before the Lord's throne of grace.

In His service,

*Rev. Richard J. Smit*

4 February 2010