

PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER -

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PROTESTANT REFORMED CHURCHES IN THE PHILIPPINES

- ▶ **The Berean Protestant Reformed Church** (Antipolo, Rizal) has changed its Sunday worship service times to 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The consistory, with the congregation's approval in August 2014, made this change mainly to provide more time on Sunday afternoons for Young Adults/Young People's Bible Study meetings.
- ▶ **Protestant Reformed Church in Bulacan** (Muzon, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan). No, this is not a new congregation in the PRCP federation. It has been formerly known as "First Reformed Church of Bulacan." After the formation of the federation in April, they needed to change their name. The initials and name, which were approved by the appropriate government authority (the SEC), are the PRCB.
- ▶ **Maranatha Four Square Gospel Church** (Valenzuela, Metro Manila) submitted a significant request to the Classis of the PRCP at its recent meeting on October 31. The consistory of Maranatha requested the help of the Classis through the process of eventual membership in the PRCP. We rejoice in this desire of Maranatha to join the federation of Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines, and it is our desire that the Lord will make that goal possible in due time.
- ▶ **A one day conference** is being hosted by the Berean PRC on December 30 at which Prof. Engelsma is the guest speaker. The advertising banner looks like this.

REFORMED THEOLOGY
CONFERENCE ON THE
5 Solas
OF THE REFORMATION

- ♦ **Sola SCRIPTURA**
Scripture Alone
- ♦ **Sola FIDE**
Faith Alone
- ♦ **Sola GRATIA**
Grace Alone
- ♦ **Solus CHRISTUS**
Christ Alone
- ♦ **Soli DEO GLORIA**
Glory to God Alone

Speaker:
David J. Engelsma
Professor Emeritus, PR Seminary

30 December 2014
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bantayog Memorial Center
Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.

For reservation, contact:
0925-5166424; 655-4679

BEREAN PROTESTANT REFORMED CHURCH
201 Building St. Gerardo St. Alapang, Quezon City

Reservation Fee: P150.00

- ▶ **Training for the ministry** in the PRCP is currently being conducted by the missionaries for Pastor Oseas Andres. Pastor Andres is a pastor without a fixed charge, and is a member with his wife and their 2 daughters in the Berean PRC. He is taking review courses with the missionaries at the request of the Consistory of the BPRC in order to prepare for a future examination by the Classis by which he can become eligible for a call to the ministry of the Word in the PRCP. At the moment, he is busy undergoing some training in exegesis, sermon making, controversies in Church history, Reformed symbols (confessions), and Reformed church order. May the Lord bless the brother in his labors.

PRCA MISSIONS

- ▶ We continue to labor in Bacolod City with preaching once a month and a Bible Study meeting once a month. Currently, we are preaching a series on the "TULIP" in Bacolod along with the regular Heidelberg Catechism preaching. Recently, the attendance has ranged from about 15-17 people, representing 4 or 5 families.
- ▶ Our Reformed doctrine and Reformed church order classes continue once a month in Sipalay, Southern Negros Occidental, with local pastors and leaders of various churches, mission groups, and other groups. The men come from an area that extends from Inayauan to Hinobaan, a distance which would take about 1 hour to travel by car or motorcycle. Rev. Kleyn has been leading the men through the articles in the church order about the work of elders. At the last class, he focussed their attention on the work of the elders in family visitation, which is not a familiar practice here. Recently, I finished a treatment of the attributes of God, and for the next class I am planning a presentation about the doctrine of the Trinity.
- ▶ In the Provident Christian Church (Marikina, Metro Manila) Rev. Kleyn continues to provide preaching on 2 Sundays a month, Saturday morning catechism for the children, and weekly *Essentials* catechism instruction for the Thursday Night Bible Study. Recently, the preaching and Bible Study instruction has focussed on doctrines related to the Church and the means of grace. This is significant instruction for the PCC because it addresses its background in independent and congregationalist thinking, regarding church government, and in Baptist and Arminian thinking, regarding the preaching and the sacraments. We trust that this instruction will bear good and lasting fruit in the PCC.

REFORMED BOOKSHELF

- ▶ The sale of RFPA books continues to go well. At this time of the year, some are able to afford the books because of their special 13th month pay. What is

that? Local companies will pay their employees another month's worth of what they normally get each month for their salary. That extra portion is called the 13th month pay which is usually paid out at the beginning of December. As a result, some have a little extra money to devote to the purchase of a few more books. The books are well received, and here are some comments from our buyers.

- ▶ From a contact in the Philippines: "Many thanks indeed. Ok, I'll send payment tomorrow because today is holiday. There's no bank transaction. Again, I praise and thank the Lord and I'm excited to have those books here at our end. With love in our Saviour..."
- ▶ From a contact in the Philippines: "I am really grateful that we have the privilege to buy PRC books with big, big discount. Not all are as privileged as we are. I so love the PRC books that I leave non PRC books sit on my shelf and collect dust. Lol! Maybe I can find some time to read them when I am finished the most treasured ones!"
- ▶ From a contact in South Korea (living in Manila for awhile): "I want to order a lot of books. Actually it is seldom to get Rev. H. Hoeksema's books and Prof. D. Engelsma's. Unfortunately, these books are unlikely published in Korea. That's why I ordered a lot. My list: *(then follows a list of 25 books)*. Thank you so much."
- ▶ We express our thanks to our churches for the faithful and generous support of the Philippine Book Fund and the goal that it serves: to distribute soundly Reformed books that help to instruct and to sound forth the truth of the Reformed faith in the Philippines.

VISITORS

- ▶ We enjoyed a number of visitors in October. Fellow saints from the CERC in Singapore visited here in the Manila area for about 1 week. This included the entire Lanning family. The missionary families and the Lanning family also spent a few days together sightseeing in the Subic Bay area. We all, including the children, thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and brief time together.
- ▶ Another small group of fellow saints from our CERCS will be coming in early December for a brief visit.
- ▶ Later this month, we anticipate the company of Prof. and Mrs. Engelsma. Prof. Engelsma is scheduled to speak at the Berean PRC conference on December 30 and preach at the BPRC on December 28 and January 4. The Engelsmas will be lodged at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Kleyn during their stay. We look forward to their fellowship with us for a little while, as we close out the old year, 2014, and begin the new year of our Lord, 2015.

EXPECTING BIRTH OF A BABY IN JUNE 2015

- ▶ The Lord in His good providence has blessed my wife and me with the gift of another pregnancy. (Psalm 127:3) The children also are very excited about the expectation of new baby brother or baby sister.
- ▶ We pray for the health of my wife and the child in the coming months, whom we expect to be born on June

8. Of course, above all we pray that the Lord will grant her/him a new heart and spiritual health in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour of the lambs of His flock.

2015 MOVE RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 18

- ▶ While this is wonderful news, yet this means that we cannot move in June/July because airlines will not allow us to fly so close to the due date, and it would be too much of a burden for us to travel soon after the baby's birth. Accordingly, our Council and FMC approved a new travel date of March 18, 2015.
- ▶ The reason for this earlier date is not a lack of medical care here, nor some impatience on our part, nor an attempt to escape big problems here, of which there are none. The reasons for the earlier move date are as follows. First, if the baby were born here in June, then there would be a significant delay in a move until September because of a common 12 week wait for birth certificates and passports for a foreign newborn. Secondly, our health insurance rules require 6 months of residency here, from March 20 until September 20, in order for us to get full benefits of maternity coverage at the time of the birth in June. This also delays a possible move until after September 20. Thirdly, our baby doctor advised that, since a move in June/July was already approved and since moving and transition to the USA should be easier for the mother and baby in March than in September, a move date in March should be seriously considered. Finally, the move and a time for transition for the family would be better in mid March than in late September. For these reasons, a March 18 move was approved.
- ▶ The FMC and Council also approved that we live temporarily, if necessary, in the West Michigan area while we await a call and the birth of our baby.
- ▶ In regards to the schooling of our children, we plan to have a 2-3 week break for the move. Once we re-settle, we are committed to the completion of our current A Beka International (K, 3, 4, 6, 8) and North Star Academy (9, 11, 12) school programs by the beginning of June, the Lord willing. However, we look forward to having our children in our own Protestant Reformed schools in the next school year, once we are settled in our new church home.
- ▶ For the next 3 months, a hum of move-related activity in our house will continue as we sell and distribute household and personal stuff. Through all of the normal and extraordinary activity in the coming weeks, we commit our way unto the LORD for His grace and guidance.
- ▶ As you face the unknowns of your tomorrows, may our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Who knows all of our tomorrows for our good, continue to be your abiding strength and your certain hope. May Jehovah bless and keep you in His gracious care in the new year, 2015.

In His service, *Rev. Richard J. Smit* December 17, 2014