

# PRCA FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

## APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Daniel Kleyn – d.kleyn@prca.org

Rev. Richard J. Smit – smit@prca.org

Dear fellow saints in our Protestant Reformed Churches.

Once again we greet you from the Philippines and provide you with an update on our denomination's mission work here. We do so with thankfulness for your continued support of and interest in the work the Lord has given us in Southeast Asia.

### SMIT'S DEPARTURE

A significant change for us has been the departure of Rev. Richard and Tricia Smit and their family, who flew out of Manila on the morning of March 18. They arrived in Michigan that same day (after some 26 hours of travel), and were able to move right away into their new home in the parsonage of the First PRC in Grand Rapids.

The last few months were busy ones for the Smit family. Rev. Smit did a "farewell tour," as it were, with visits to and farewell sermons in each of the churches and groups here. Rev. Smit was also busy wrapping up his work here (teaching, pastors' training, assisting the PRCP denomination, etc.). The busyness for the Smit family included all that's involved with moving, plus some, especially because their move meant going half way around the world. There were many "lasts" and "farewells," which were not easy. We thank the Lord for His presence through it all so that everything went well.



In this connection, although we will surely miss them (as we already do), we have many fond memories of our six years together, and much to be thankful for. We often reflect on the many years of work we could do together, the good working relationship we had, the blessing of their friendship and companionship over the past years,

the Lord's faithful care of us all through that time, the encouraging example that the Smits gave as a family to the saints here, and the Lord now providing them (according to His perfect timing) another call and place of labor in His church. Over the past six years, the Lord used Rev. Smit and his family in so many ways to further the work and to be a blessing to us and the saints here.

The Smits are now adjusting to their new home, life, and work in Michigan. No doubt that includes an adjustment to the cold of winter. But I'm sure there are many other adjustments, too. May we all remember them in prayer, for the change from the Philippines to North America is a significant one – not only because of the cultural differences, but also because the Philippines was their home, and the saints here their dear friends. May God be near to and uphold them through it all, also as they now expect and await the birth of the new addition to their family.

### ONGOING LABORS

Although in a much more limited way, the work on the mission field here continues. Through some adjustments to my previous schedule, I've been able to take over some of the work that Rev. Smit was doing – the main things being the preaching, teaching, and consistory work in the Maranatha PRC in Valenzuela, and some of the pastors' training classes. My current Sunday schedule is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month	Maranatha PRC (Valenzuela) and PRC in Bulacan (alternating)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month	Provident Christian Church
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month	Maranatha PRC in Valenzuela
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month	Provident Christian Church
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month	Provident Christian Church

My other work involves a weekly doctrine class (Thursdays) and weekly catechism class (Saturdays) in Provident Christian Church in Marikina. I also attend the monthly consistory meetings of the PRC in Bulacan and the Maranatha PRC, serve as an advisor to the PRCP Classis as well as to the two standing committees of the Classis, lead a monthly Bible study in Bacolod City (central Philippines), and provide instruction to our two groups of pastors ("7M" in Manila and "SNO" in the central Philippines).

In the 7M pastors' classes in Manila, we are studying the Church Order of Dordt, and Catechetics. As regards the latter, what helps immensely is that the seminary and Prof. Gritters have graciously allowed us to use the video recordings of Prof. Gritters' lectures in Catechetics. We usually watch these for our class, and follow the video up with a time for questions and discussion.

I plan to do something similar, the Lord willing, with our SNO pastors' classes which are held in Sipalay, southern Negros Occidental. I will continue teaching Reformed church government, but for the dogmatics portion of our classes I'm hoping to use video recordings of seminary lectures. Rev. Smit just completed leading the men in a study of Theology, and so we plan now to use Prof. Cammenga's lectures in Anthropology.

The help from the seminary is invaluable, not only because there's only one missionary on the field now, but also because the men are able to hear our very own professors lecture on these subjects.

#### VISITING MINISTERS

Doon PRC and the Foreign Mission Committee have approved providing assistance during the coming months while the mission field has only one missionary. The plan is to have ministers visit the field for two to three weeks at a time. Doon is arranging this for every other month, if possible.

Currently we are working on plans for the annual delegation visit of Doon and the FMC. They hope to come here in late June and early July. Rev. Allen Brummel and Elder Jim Regnerus have agreed to be on this delegation, and both men plan to bring along their wives. That visit will be followed by Prof. Cammenga and his wife, the Lord willing, in August. And after that, Rev. Jon Mahtani is scheduled to come in November.

In addition to the blessing of their company, the visiting ministers will mostly help out with some preaching and lectures during their time here. Such visits certainly help the work along and are a great encouragement to the saints here. The visits also enable the men who come (along with their wives) to become better acquainted with the field of labor the Lord has given us.

We look forward to these visits and appreciate the willingness of the visitors to come here, as well as the willingness of their respective consistories to release them for a time for this work.

#### SECOND MISSIONARY

The need of the hour, we would say, is another missionary to replace Rev. Smit and thus to assist us in the work of Christ here.

We desire and pray for this, not only for the sake of companionship and in order to have a fellow laborer in our current work, but also on account of the new opportunities the Lord gives. We currently have much work to do, which includes the possibility of expanding our current labors (preaching and speaking more often, assisting the churches in their outreach and missions, pursuing the contacts that our current churches and contacts have, etc.). But new opportunities also abound. Just in the past few months we have received a number of requests for teaching the Reformed Faith. Due to our current circumstances, we have had to decline the requests for now, which is not so easy to do. All of this makes it very clear to us that the harvest indeed is plenteous. To date we have never yet had to search for contacts or for work to do. The Lord continues to provide many open doors.

We know that the matter of a replacement missionary is in God's hands. He is the Lord of the harvest. He is the one Who says to one, Come, and he cometh, and to another Go, and he goeth. We also confess that God knows the man whom He will send here, and will do so in His perfect time. It is our prayer that He might send a man soon who can take up and thus assist us in all the work the Lord has given. With confidence in Him Who has proven to be faithful in the past, we trust in and wait upon Him.

#### CONCLUSION

We once again thank you all for your prayers and support. The Lord is building His church, and is pleased to use us to that end. But we could not do the work without Him, or without you. Be assured that as you remember us in prayer, so we likewise pray for you as well.



From the saints here, and from our home to yours, we send our warmest greetings. May the Lord continue to establish the work of our churches through the spread of His truth and the salvation of those He has ordained unto life eternal.

In Christ's love and service,  
**Rev. Daniel Kleyn**