

PRCA FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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Greetings again from the Philippines!

The most significant news from here is that the Federation of the Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines has grown by 50% – that is, from two to three churches. This occurred on Saturday, October 31 when the Classis of the PRCP accepted the Maranatha PRC in Valenzuela into the denomination. The PRCP Classis, representing the existing churches in the PRCP (the Berean PRC and the PRC in Bulacan), gladly welcomed MPRC into its midst. After holding numerous meetings over the past year with the Consistory of the MPRC (pictured below), the Classis is convinced that this congregation is in full doctrinal agreement with the PRCP, and that the churches can therefore enjoy full unity in practice, church life, and responsibilities within the denomination. It is certainly an encouraging evidence of the Lord's blessing upon many years of preaching and teaching in Maranatha PRC, especially by Rev. R. Smit.



Consistory of Maranatha PRC in Valenzuela

Rev. L. Trinidad, Deacon Johnny Madiam, Elder Alvin Castillo

Another significant news item is that the Classis of the PRCP has begun the process of working toward a sister church relationship with the PRCA. Correspondence has taken place between the Contact Committees of the two denominations, and it is possible that a face to face meeting will occur sometime in the next few months, the Lord willing. We praise God for His goodness, and the work that He has been pleased to bless and prosper.

What remains on the forefront of our minds, however, as well as on the minds of the saints here, is the urgent need, as we see it, for another missionary. The Lord has given us much to do, both as regards developing and expanding our current work, as well as pursuing more work that continues to come our way.

We cannot overlook, of course, the help that has been provided in recent months by Seminarian Stephan Regnerus (for 2 months), Rev. A. Brummel and Elder Jim Regnerus (for 2 weeks), and Prof. R. Cammenga (for 2 weeks). They, along with their wives, were a great encouragement to us and to the saints here.



Seminarian Stephan Regnerus, Rev. Allen & Crysta Brummel, Elder Jim & Brenda Regnerus

We look back to these visits with fondness, and are most grateful that these men and their wives were willing to come and help. We thank our churches for sending them. We are also pleased to know that the following ministers have agreed to and been approved to come:

- Rev. J. Mahtani – 3 Sundays in November, 2015.
- Rev. D. Holstege – 3 Sundays in January, 2016.
- Rev. A. Spriensma – 3 Sundays in March/April, 2016.



Prof. Ron & Rhonda Cammenga

However, we believe the work here needs more than just the help provided by such occasional visits. We remain convinced (as has also been the conviction of our churches through our Synods) that there is a need for at least two full-time missionaries on this field. And the reason is not merely for the sake of companionship, but

especially because of and for the sake of the work itself.

My current labors (preaching and teaching in three churches, giving instruction to two groups of pastors, serving as advisor to various consistories, work for the PRCP Classis and the Standing Committees of Classis, etc.) do keep me busy. Another missionary is certainly needed in order to share this workload. But what especially contributes to the need for another missionary is the fact that we are working with so many different churches, groups, and contacts, and find it very difficult to do justice to the work in any one church or area. From our earthly point of view, it seems we could make more progress with the work of establishing solidly Reformed churches and a solidly Reformed denomination, under the Lord's blessing, with at least one other missionary here.

The Lord has given us many opportunities for teaching and guiding others into the Reformed faith. The churches in which we currently labor, and also our current contacts, desire more help and guidance as they come to embrace Reformed doctrines, worship, church government, and life. In addition to this, many new opportunities continue to present themselves as requests keep coming our way for preaching and teaching the precious and distinctive truths of the gospel and the Reformed faith.

Perhaps the following list of various aspects of our work that could receive more attention will help with your awareness of the mission field and the potential of the work here.

- Devote more time to assisting the Classis of the PRCP. Much help still needs to be provided to the PRC denomination here in all areas of its work (mission work, contact with other churches, translation work, theological training of future ministers, etc.). What stands out as being of utmost importance and urgency is the matter of seminary training. A number of young men have already expressed an interest in studying for the ministry, and no one can deny the urgent need for more ministers of the Word in the churches here. A missionary could conceivably be occupied full time with this important work.
- Preach and teach more regularly in Provident Christian Church. Presently I am able to preach in this church only two Sundays per month. We also hold a weekly Bible study and a weekly catechism class for the children. But more needs to be done for the youth in the church. The church also needs instruction in Reformed church government. This congregation is currently (and has been for many years) without a pastor. Provident both needs and desires more (even full time) attention.
- Make more frequent visits to the pastors (and churches) in Southern Negros Occidental. Currently

we hold classes with a group of approximately 10 pastors just once each month. Most of these pastors have their own congregations. And most of them need more teaching and training for their work in the ministry (something they themselves admit and desire). It is apparent that more visits are needed in order to get to know the congregations, help them in their growth in the Reformed faith, and assist the pastors and consistories in implementing Reformed worship, Reformed church government, etc. This work appears to have much promise, especially because some of the pastors have expressed an interest in their congregations becoming a part of the PRCP, if possible and if the Lord wills.

- Help the existing churches here teach the Reformed faith to various contacts they have throughout the Philippines. The PRC in Bulacan has often asked us to accompany them on visits to a sizable fellowship of saints in Albuera, Leyte in order to develop the work there. The Berean PRC has various groups who are interested in learning the Reformed truth. And Provident Christian Church desires that we visit and teach contacts they have in at least three different locations in the Philippines.
- Pursue contacts we ourselves have. Many of these contacts have come about through our book sales. But sadly, follow up has often been put on hold because of the amount of our present work.

It may be helpful to understand that the pastors in the three churches of the PRCP denomination here are busy in their own congregations and with the outreach work of their churches. Each of them is also a chairman of one of the standing committees of the PRCP, which committees have plenty to do (missions, contact, theological training, translation work, etc.).

I trust this newsletter has helped to inform you of the ongoing need for another missionary in the Philippines. In light of all of the above, we are thankful that Doon PRC, with the assistance of the FMC, has remained diligent in continuing the calling process for another missionary. We also remain convinced that the Lord will provide the man He has sovereignly determined to send to this field. We wait patiently and prayerfully on Him, the Lord of the harvest.

We thank you for your continued interest in and support of the work here. We know that we and the saints here are remembered often in prayer, and appreciate it. We assure you of our thoughts and prayers for you all as well.

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