



*Eastern Home  
Missions*

# *Newsletter*

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## **The Lord's Supper**

The exciting news that needs to be reported first is that the Protestant Reformed Fellowship of Pittsburgh has now celebrated for its first time the sacrament of the Lord's Supper!

Already in 2005 our synod decided "that a calling church, through its missionary and with representation of the consistory, may administer the Lord's Supper on a mission field not yet ready for organization." This decision was made with two important provisions. First, the members of the mission need to be enrolled in the calling church, and second, the judgment of the missionary, the calling consistory, and the mission committee must be that the mission group as a whole has reached an appropriate level of spiritual unity and maturity. The missionary and the supervising bodies did not rush into making that judgment. Not till four years after that 2005 synodical decision did they reach the point where they were fully satisfied that the Pittsburgh Fellowship had indeed grown sufficiently both spiritually and in unity to be able now to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

As I reported in our last newsletter, our Fellowship was granted special enrollment in Southwest PRC in December of last year. We celebrated the Lord's Supper for our first time on March 15 during the morning worship service.

Prior to the administration of the Lord's

Supper, three classes were held in which the saints here were instructed regarding this sacrament. In the first class we learned of the meaning and significance of the Lord's Supper. In the second class we studied the matter of self-examination. During this class we also dealt with the discipline of the church in relation to the Lord's Supper. For the final class we met in the auditorium, and there reviewed the procedures involved in the administration of the sacrament.

A couple of families that are visiting us on a regular basis were also present at that service. These saints too were instructed beforehand regarding our stand on close communion. They understood our stand, and rejoiced together with us that morning in our worship.

Two elders from our calling church, Southwest PRC, were present to take oversight of the sacrament.

As I reported to Southwest and the Domestic Mission Committee, an elderly saint expressed the sentiment of the members of the Fellowship well: "Pastor, I prayed that God would let me live long enough to participate in this sacrament! Now, I pray that I will live long enough to see us organized." Truly, God has used this means of grace to strengthen and encourage the saints here in Pittsburgh!

## **Brochures, pamphlets, and instructional material**

The Fellowship and I have been busy preparing and publishing materials for distribution. We now have a large plastic rack in the back of the sanctuary by the door. This rack is filled with ten different "brochures" explaining different aspects of our worship service. Put yourself once in the place of a person who has come to visit a church like ours for the first time. According to the standard of modern worship, we have become an oddity! Think of it once! You walk into the church and everything is quiet. When the minister walks in, he leads the worship. He prays using "thee and thou." He uses the old King James Version of the Bible. The people sing Psalms. Then, to top it all off, you sit there for 45 minutes to an hour listening to the minister preach. Wowzers! What is this church all about? To someone who has never experienced this in his life, either because he has never gone to church or because he comes from a church with a modern form of worship

(which most churches today have), this is all strange and new.

For that reason, we have developed short, easy-to-understand “brochures” (8½ x 11, heavy stock paper, with two columns and a few color pictures) that explain various parts of our worship. “Why the King James Version?” “Why the Psalter?” “Why the Length of the Sermons?” We encourage new visitors to our Fellowship to feel free to take any of these.

We have just recently developed a welcome packet patterned after those found in Georgetown PRC. These too can be found in the rack in the back of church. In that connection, we have also found that it is helpful to have a couple stand in the back of the auditorium to welcome visitors, to point out to them the material available, and to answer any questions they might have.

Rev. Steven Houck may not even know this yet, but we have used a part of his pamphlet on “The Sovereignty of God in Salvation.” We have divided this part into smaller sections and printed these into short pamphlets. We now are mailing these to the people in Pittsburgh who are on our mailing list. If you are interested in seeing these, Rev. Houck, just let us know. We are willing to send them to you free of charge! Thanks!

We are in the process also of developing studies in Reformed doctrine. We have almost completed the first set of studies on the doctrine of God. These studies include DVDs with instruction given in the various truths. Along with this is included an outline of the instruction given on the DVD, a study worksheet, and a lesson to memorize on the doctrines studied. I am trying to keep these lessons as easy as possible for those who may be studying Reformed doctrine for the first time. We expect to be busy with this project for quite some time.

It is our intention to mail these studies to the various contacts that have already requested this sort of thing from us. But our hope is that they can eventually be put to use also outside our work in Pittsburgh. We will therefore make a special effort to advertise them in our churches, for use in connection with their evangelism efforts, or in their Bible study groups.

## Media

One other project we are starting to work on now has to do with radio. WORD radio has proved to be an effective way to bring visitors to our Fellowship. Our Media Committee has been trying to figure out ways to utilize radio. We now have an opportunity to be on radio five days a week—for one minute each day!

I am starting to develop one-minute “ads,” during which our Fellowship intends to give listeners a taste of various truths that make us distinctive as a Reformed group of believers. For a long-winded PR preacher, this is hard!! How do I say in one minute what usually might take me ten minutes to say? Well, we will find out how efficient I can become in this in the months to come! It was, incidentally, a one-minute ad on WORD radio that God used to bring the Suber family to the Fellowship. We pray that God will use it as a means to bring others here too.

We would like to express our thanks to Rev. Rodney Kleyn, his brother Nicholas, and Eric Van Dyke, who spent a Saturday here connecting our video equipment to our DVD burner and making it possible in the near future to become involved finally in video conferencing. This was a huge task, which we simply could not do ourselves. It took the technological skill of Eric to make it all happen. This, in turn, took the aviator skill of Nicholas to fly him here. And it took the occasion of Rev. Kleyn’s preaching in Franklin, PA to get them to come our way. We are grateful for their work.

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We continue to be busy in the work in the Fellowship. The catechism and society season is still upon us. Presently, I am also visiting each family of the Fellowship in their homes. There continues to be real evidence of God’s blessing in the homes and lives of the saints here.

In our next newsletter we will let you know how some of our projects are turning out. May God continue to bless our churches in their labors of missions.