

HISTORY OF THE REFORMED WITNESS HOUR

The Reformed Witness Hour, formerly known as the Protestant Reformed Hour, is the fruition of an idea born in the minds of a group of young men during a discussion of the decisions of the Synod and Classis East of the Protestant Reformed Churches in regard to Radio work. The new radio station, WLAV in Grand Rapids, which had just begun to operate, agreed to carry a program for the Young Men's Society of the First Protestant Reformed Church who had decided to sponsor such a program. The first Protestant Reformed Hour was broadcast October 12, 1941 featuring Rev. H. Hoeksema and the Protestant Reformed Radio Choir, under the direction of Mr. A. Haan, who also assisted in many ways in getting the program started. The Young Men's Society appointed W. Hofman (now Rev. W. Hofman), H. Kuiper and J. Piersma as the first radio committee. The budget the first year ran about \$1,200.00.

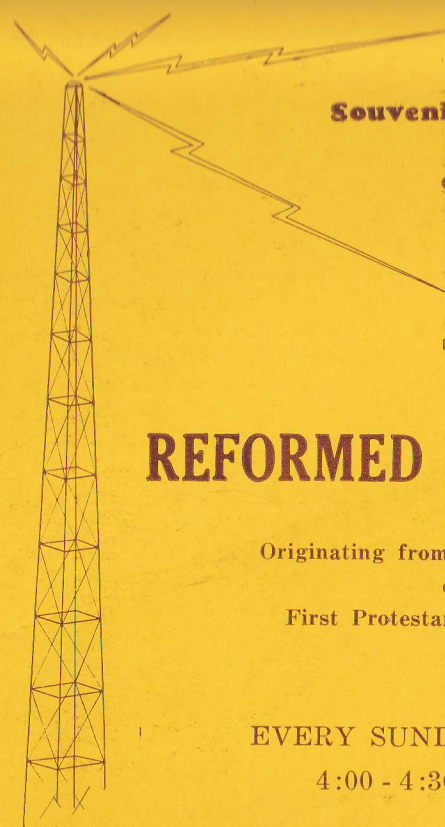
Soon the committee was established on a permanent basis and enlarged to six members. After a season and a half of broadcasting over one station, opportunity was presented to secure three stations of the Wolverine Network touching various sections of Michigan. In a collection for additional funds over \$1,100 was received in one day from the Fuller Ave. Prot. Ref. Church. Mr. J. Van Weelden served as chairman of the Radio Committee.

At the beginning of last season the powerful 20,000 watt station WJJD in Chicago agreed to carry our program which gave us a mighty voice in the Midwest. Rev. Hoeksema spoke on the theme, The Wonder of Grace, and the Radio Choir continued to appear on the program three out of four weeks. Last season we received mail from nine states including Iowa, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York. The budget ran about \$5,500 last year.

It was necessary to return to the air two and a half months earlier than was planned, to insure time for our program. A 1000 watt station, K M T R, was procured in Los Angeles, California in addition to the network of the previous season. We have received mail from several localities in California already, together with mail from Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, and several other states. Our expenses at the present time run about \$1,100 a month. We are presenting a distinctively reformed program. We hope that by the grace of God we may continue to do so.

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The committee wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to all those who have made these 100 broadcasts possible with their financial gifts, time, and effort.



Souvenir Program

of our 100th Broadcast

THE REFORMED WITNESS HOUR

Originating from the Main Auditorium
of the
First Protestant Reformed Church

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 - 4:30 o'clock (cwt)

"A Distinctively Reformed Program"

Sponsored by the Young Men's Society
of the
First Protestant Reformed Church
Grand Rapids, Michigan

THE
RADIO
CHOIR

