

PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER -

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Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines

By man's estimation, what took place on April 9, 2014, in Valenzuela, metro Manila, was of no significance. However, as was noted in the sermon by Rev. Kleyn from I Corinthians 15:58 during the simple ceremony for organization of the new PRCP, the event of their organization was a highly significant event in the history of the church of Jesus Christ and in Reformed church history. The significance of the event from the viewpoint of the heavenly kingdom of Christ was noted by one minister from the PRCA, who wrote a letter of congratulations to the congregations on the occasion of the new federation. He reminded us all that the angels in heaven rejoice before the Lord at such a work of the Lord in the union of two Reformed congregations in His truth of the Reformed faith. Likewise, we also rejoice with the new churches. We are humbly thankful for the evidence of God's blessings upon the work that Rev. Audred Spriensma planted from 2002 to 2007, that Rev. Kleyn and I have watered until now, and to which God has given graciously the increase.

To God be the glory! (I Corinthians 3:6ff)



PRCP Officebearers signing Formula of Subscription and Declaration of Agreement

At the same time, the PRCP are also aware of the fact that there is much work to be done by the Classis to get its feet on the ground and become established, experienced, and accustomed to the workings of a federation. This is by no means a small task, and it will require much patience and guidance over the coming months.

The Classis expressed its desire to us at its April 9 meeting that Rev. Kleyn and I continue to be involved with the Classis at its meetings and also to serve as advisors to its future standing committees. We accepted

their request and have informed them of that willingness to serve them as advisors in a letter to the PRCP Classis for its next meeting.

The Classis plans to meet 3 times a year at regularly predictable times. The next meetings of Classis are scheduled as follows: June 12, 2014; October 31, 2014; and, February 25, 2015.

Other items of interest

The BPRC has a new worship location as of February 16, 2014. They are now worshipping at a house that the congregation purchased last year. After some remodelling and renovations, the lower floor of the house serves as the worship venue as well as the place for Bible Study, catechism classes, and consistory meetings. The house is located in Antipolo in the Greenheights subdivision. It seems that the Berean congregation has a very good location for the church building which is even accessible from many points in metro Manila by public transportation.

Pastor Ibe and his family finished moving into the renovated and remodelled upstairs of the same house in May. They are settling into the house well, and they are thankful that all of their moving in the past 2 years is now finished so that they are now "home, sweet home."

The Berean consistory did some investigatory mission work in Apayao, a northern province on Luzon Island, from March 28-30. There are contacts in the Pudtol, Apayao, area that they visited. The connection for the Berean PRC to the contacts there are through Pastor Oseas Andres and his wife, who are originally from that region. Pastor Ibe preached there on Sunday and did several lectures there as well.

Being part of the new PRCP, First Reformed Church in Bulacan is busy doing the legal paperwork of changing its name to be "First Protestant Reformed Church in Bulacan."

First Protestant Reformed Church in Bulacan sent a delegation to Albueria, Leyte, in order to monitor the benevolence needs of the saints there as they continue to recover from last year's typhoon devastation. This visit took place on May 16 to 19 so that Pastor Flores could preach there on May 18 as well.

We keep busy with our particular labors as well as our labors in common. Rev. Kleyn will show more about this in his furlough presentations this summer in some of our churches. If possible, plan to attend!

My Family

A member of our Southeast PRC, who wrote us a letter of encouragement earlier this year, suggested that something more be written about my family in the newsletters. So, here is a brief family update. Please also visit our online blog for more information with

photos: smitnews2.blogspot.com



Back— John, Rev. Smit, Rebekah, Mrs. Smit
Front— Jay, Seth, Irene, Rosalyn, Carl, Ryan
Departing on July 7, 2009, from the Sioux Falls, SD, airport

On July 8, 2014, the Lord willing, we celebrate our 5th anniversary of the Lord's abundant blessings upon us while living here.

Concerning the 2014-2015 school year, John (grade 12), Rebekah (grade 11), and Jay (grade 9) are enrolled in NorthStar Academy (online Christian high school). Irene (8), Rosalyn (6), Seth (4), Carl (3), and Ryan (K) are enrolled for their 2014-2015 school year in the Abeka International Missionary program. This will be the second year for NSA and Abeka schooling. Both sets of curriculum seem to work well in our special circumstance.



Right column— Rev. Smit, Mrs. Smit, John, Rebekah, Jay
Left column— Irene, Rosalyn, Seth, Carl, Ryan
January 2014 at Subic Bay, Philippines

The children seem to enjoy life here. Our two dogs not only faithfully guard our property, but are always ready for fun and play with the children. Recently, Jay and Seth started a chicken project in our backyard in January. Their lone rooster crows faithfully every morning. Their 6 hens have not laid any eggs yet, but, oh yes, we eagerly await those fresh eggs!

John plans to work for 7 weeks in June and July in the Grand Rapids area to pay for his round-trip airfare and to earn some vital work experience. He travelled with the Kleyns on June 2 from Manila to Grand Rapids so that some of you may see him with our Dykstra and Smit relatives at Faith PRC in June and July. Rebekah plans to take an exciting and demanding summer course in photography through NSA to fill in her summer since the

Faith Academy library, where she normally volunteers, will be renovated this summer. The rest of us will be busy with our regular chores, house cleaning, summer projects, and preparation for the next school year, which begins on Monday, August 4.

By now you have read the announcement about the decisions of the Doon Council and FMC in regards to my release and return with my family to North America next year.

Concerning the first ground of that decision, my wife and I had a growing concern for our teenagers who begin to graduate from high school in 2015. 5 years ago, we somewhat naively expected that education and jobs for our teenagers after graduation would be easily available. Nevertheless, we have not found that to be the case. Alternatively, to split up our family over the next several years between the Philippines and North America for college and jobs, would adversely affect my mission work and would not serve the well-being of my family, in our case.

After investigation, the Council and the FMC decided unanimously to release me from the call and return my family and me to N.A. by July 1, 2015, in order to continue in the ministry as a pastor in one of our local congregations in N.A. , the Lord willing.

As soon as possible, there will begin the work of the calling of another missionary and his family, who would live and labor here with the Kleyns in the ongoing work. The Council and FMC rightly desire to have an orderly transition for continuity and stability in the work, the Lord willing. We believe that this is good for the work, as well as for the new missionary and his family.

After my parts in the work here will be finished or at a good point for transition, after a possible overlap of time here with the next missionary, after our next school year ends on May 29, 2015, and after some preparation for the family to re-enter North American culture, then we will be ready to move away by July 1.

When the Doon Council made its significant decision and in light of the coming transition and adjustments, the Word of God that the Council and missionaries briefly discussed together during the May Council meeting was Psalm 37:5-7a.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him....

Pray for us that our Lord of the harvest, may sustain us (Smits and Kleyns) by His Word and grace for faithful labor in the coming months in Metro Manila, Bacolod City, and Sipalay.

And, pray that our Lord of the harvest provide another labourer and his family so that he can continue watering the work and waiting upon the Lord for His increase.

In His service,