

# PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS THE PHILIPPINES



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## SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

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### HOME AGAIN

Greetings to you all from the Philippines, where we have settled back into our life and work again after our six week furlough in the USA. We thoroughly enjoyed the furlough. But we are also glad to be home again, and to be busy once again in the work here.

If there is one word that aptly describes our furlough, it is this: “encouraging.” As you know, we were able to visit many of our churches – mainly to do presentations, but also in order to preach and to enjoy your fellowship. I also had the opportunity to attend synod. And wherever we went (from California, to Washington, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, and Ontario), the support for our denomination’s mission work was obvious. Presentations were well attended. Audiences were awake and attentive. ☺ Good questions were asked. And we repeatedly received personal words of encouragement, as well as assurances of being remembered in prayer. Such overwhelming interest and support encouraged us greatly in the work to which the Lord has called us in the Philippines. We sincerely thank you all for this.

We were kept busy during the furlough, with travel, presentations, preaching, and various meetings. But the times of busyness were interspersed with time to relax with family and friends. This included a week of camping with each of our families, thus enabling us to catch up with most of them, and also to get to meet and know some of the 20 new nieces and nephews (some greats) that were born since we moved here. Family times were a highlight – yes, even airport farewells (see 1<sup>st</sup> picture above).

We express our appreciation for the opportunity to have our furlough. We believe it served well both for the promotion of the work, and for our being refreshed and thus eager to return to our home and work here.

### IBES

The Ibes are now back in their homeland, after his years of training in our Protestant Reformed Seminary. In fact, they were able to fly home with us – same flights from Detroit to Manila. Since returning, they have settled into a furnished home that the Berean PRC rented for them. They were also able to have their newborn son, Louvin Jedidiah, baptized in the Berean PRC (see the 3<sup>rd</sup> picture above).

As mentioned, I had the opportunity to attend this year’s synod. The highlight was, of course, the examination of Bro. Vernon Ibe. It was a privilege to witness his examination, and to see and hear the good testimony he gave of being well prepared, by the grace of God, for the gospel ministry.

In July, the Berean Consistory, first of all, declared Bro. Vernon Ibe a candidate for the ministry of the gospel. They then nominated him to be called as their own pastor. At a meeting held on August 5, the male confessing members of the Berean PRC voted unanimously to extend a call to him to serve as their pastor. Candidate Ibe now considers that call. We rejoice with him in receiving it, especially as it serves as a confirmation to him that the Lord has called him to the ministry of His Word. Candidate Ibe expects to answer that call soon, after which a “classis” examination will be scheduled, followed (Lord willing) by his installation into the office of minister of the gospel.

We look forward to these upcoming events, and are most grateful to the Lord for providing this godly young man for His church here. What a joy it will be (and a blessing of the Lord on our church’s mission work) to have a Filipino serve as pastor of the Berean PRC. We also look forward to having Candidate Ibe as a colleague in the ministry of the Word in the Philippines.

## **ERCS in SINGAPORE**

While we were on furlough, Rev. Smit was busy with the work here in the Philippines – preaching in the Berean PRC, preaching and teaching in the All of Grace Protestant Reformed Fellowship in Gabaldon, leading the twice-monthly pastor's meetings (7M), etc. In addition to this, and with the approval of our calling church, Rev. Smit also visited Singapore for two Sundays in June.

Rev. Smit's Singapore visit was in response to an invitation to speak for the annual church camp of the Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church (held in Malaysia), and to preach in Singapore on the two Sundays before and after the church camp. Rev. Smit's two eldest children (John and Rebekah) were able to accompany him, and enjoyed meeting and getting to know the youth in Singapore. We believe such opportunities to visit the CERC serve well for the development of closer ties between them and the Reformed churches and saints here in the Philippines.

We have heard that the Lord has given the ERCS a man to serve as their under-shepherd, Rev. Andrew Lanning. We rejoice in the Lord's provision, and look forward to having the Lannings live nearby in Southeast Asia. We keep them in our prayers as they make preparations for this significant move and work.

## **SIGNS in GABALDON**

Since the beginning of July, we have been able to make weekly visits to the All of Grace Protestant Reformed Fellowship in Gabaldon. This is the mission outreach of the Berean PRC, and is located approximately five hours from our homes.

In July, Rev. Smit was able to provide pulpit supply for the AGPRF for four consecutive Sundays. The schedule for the AGPRF now includes visits by both Rev. Smit and myself, by the Berean elders, and also periodically by Candidate Ibe.



The members of the AGPRF recently made work of adding new signs to their building in order to let others know of the weekly preaching we provide. They have also

had signs made which will direct people to the church building. They plan to place these in strategic places around town.

It is good to be able to provide consistent (weekly) preaching and teaching for the saints of the AGPRF, since in the past we were limited to monthly or twice-monthly visits. We do this work with the prayer that God may be pleased to use it for their continued growth and development in the Reformed faith, and, as He wills, for the establishment of an instituted church there one day in the future.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Rev. Smit and I plan to visit our contacts in Inayauan, Negros Occidental, in October, the Lord willing. These are the Reformed Free Churches, and our main contact is Pastor Ezequias Rosal. We plan to make a two day visit. One day will be for our lectures. We also plan to set time aside for meetings with the pastors and elders of the churches there.

As one of the pictures at the top of the newsletter indicates, we are well into the rainy season. A few tropical storms have produced significant rains in Metro Manila (and in many other parts of the Philippines) in the past month, resulting in significant flooding in some areas. Thankfully we can report that most of our members and contacts were unaffected by the flooding. A few did experience some flooding in their homes, but the Lord kept them all safe, and they were soon able to return to their homes and to their normal daily life and work again.

The Smit children began school on August 2. The 2012-2013 school year will continue, the Lord willing, until May 31, 2013. The children are in the following grades this year: John in 10<sup>th</sup>, Rebekah in 9<sup>th</sup>, Jay in 7<sup>th</sup>, Irene in 6<sup>th</sup>, Rosalyn in 4<sup>th</sup>, Seth in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Carl in 1<sup>st</sup>. Ryan is four years old and still at home. The children are glad to be back in school, and seem to be doing well again this year.

Generous collections continue to be received from our congregations for the "Philippine Book Fund." Using these funds, we were recently able to submit our largest order yet to the RFPA – close to 300 books. This order will make it possible to have at least 6 copies of each book in our "bookstore." These books are due to arrive any day. We thank you for the support shown through this giving.

Until next time, in Christ's service and on behalf of us all,

*Rev. Daniel Kleyn*