



*Eastern Home  
Missions*

# *Newsletter*

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In the last newsletter I reported that for the most part my labors were routine. These past couple of months have been busy with the routine matters of the Fellowship here...and much more!

## **The Fellowship**

The Fellowship has been filled with a flurry of activity. I reported last time on the formation of a couple of committees involving the members of our group. These are the Neighborhood Outreach Committee (NOC) and the Media Committee. These committees have taken their work seriously. Ben Mahtani has reconstructed our webpage. He has put loads of hours into it and has improved it a hundred percent! Please pay us a visit at [www.pittsburghprc.org](http://www.pittsburghprc.org). He has also managed to get our sermons aired on [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com). The Media Committee is now in the process of publishing short bi-folds that explain to visitors the various aspects of our worship. We hope to make these available at the doors of our sanctuary.

The NOC has been involved in a number of projects as well. First of all, plans are being made for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Reformation Day lecture. Rev. Koole has consented to speak for us this year on the subject, "The Reformation and the Family." The lecture will be held on Friday, October 31, at 7:30 P.M. An invitation to this lecture was sent to those on our newly revised

local mailing list along with a CD of one of the sermons I preached. This committee has also been busy preparing ads and a welcome packet that can be handed out by greeters to those visiting our Fellowship. I will try to keep you abreast of other projects as they occur.

We have had a young family visiting our Fellowship the past several months. They have two small children. This family has not committed itself to us, but we have been enjoying their presence and fellowship during our morning worship services. We are thankful for their interest.

The house next to the church is now occupied! After the remodeling done by Dave Rau and Henry Westra, and after some painting and small repairs here and there in the house, Keith and Peggy Bauman have moved in. This will help the Fellowship out tremendously. First of all, there is someone next to the church building who will be able to keep an eye on the church. This is necessary seeing we have equipment worth the guarding in the church. Secondly, they have agreed to keep the building and grounds clean. Constant care of an older building is always essential. Everyone in the Fellowship is happy to see the project on the house completed.

While on vacation Mary, Lydia, and I attended the wedding ceremony of Chad Skolny and Kim Schakel just north of Toronto, Canada. Chad has been a part of our Fellowship for some time now. Kim plans on moving to Pittsburgh with him and together they intend to be members in our Fellowship. We rejoice in their marriage and pray that God will bless their home. We are excited about their presence in our midst and look forward to their continued fellowship with us.

We held our annual Memorial Day picnic on May 26. We spent a day together in the park eating and playing various sports. Prof. Cammenga and his wife Rhonda were present with us. Prof. Cammenga spoke to us for about 15 minutes on the subject of "The Christian Warfare." As all of you know, a day at the park for a "church picnic" is always a day of enjoyment.

## **Other activities**

I was not able to preach in Franklin in June due to my vacation plans to Canada. Rev. Rod-

ney Kleyn was able to preach there two Sundays in June, however. I thank him that he was able to cover for my week too, so that I could relax, even though one of those Sundays was one of his own vacation days. Mary and I drove to Franklin in order to attend their church picnic. This way we were able to visit briefly with the Kleyns and the members of the church. It turned out to be a good way to get to know the members of the church there.

A friend of our Fellowship, Mike Howard, who works at WORD radio, invited us to attend the commencement services of the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary. Mike was graduating. It was an enjoyable evening. Dr. Derek Thomas of the Reformed Theological Seminary spoke for us that evening. Then the next day he gave a series of three lectures at the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary for the Reformation Society of Pittsburgh. The series was unique because the subject was "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan. I'm sure most all of us know of this book since somewhere along the line we read it for school or for pleasure. These lectures were really quite interesting and gave insight into the Puritan mind.

The Heidelberg Reformation Association held its first spring lecture series. Prof. Cammenga of our Seminary presented four lectures on the themes of the Reformation found in the Heidelberg Catechism. There were about 18 people in attendance. The purpose of this newly organized association is to help churches that at one time had the Heidelberg Catechism as their creedal inheritance to rediscover its beauty and begin to use it again. Prof. Cammenga's lectures and the discussion we had after each one served the purpose of the association well. There were a couple of men in attendance from Ohio, whose churches were of Reformed persuasion in the past. Both men said they had heard of the Catechism but had not really bothered to read and study it for themselves. Both of these men are returning to their churches and recommending the use of the Heidelberg Catechism as a confession in their churches. Besides this, the men who already use the Catechism in some way in their congregations were now encouraged to preach it. I am very positive about the fruits of this first spring lecture series. Prof. Cammenga was even given an invite to speak at another conference in Ohio this fall.

## **Putting on the miles**

Summer months always present their own busyness. The months of June and July were that way for us. June 5 - 7 Mary and I attended the wedding of Stefan Griess and Jaimy Van Donselaar in Georgetown church. I was given the privilege to officiate at that wedding. Then it was back to Pittsburgh to preach on Sunday. The next Saturday was Mission Awareness Day. We had a wonderful day in Georgetown church again, this time learning of the other mission work of our churches and presenting our own work to a number of people. It was another quick trip back to Pittsburgh to preach on Sunday.

June 27 was Chad and Kim's wedding in Canada. This trip was taken more leisurely since it was vacation time. We traveled there and then to Wingham to preach in the church there in Rev. DeVries' absence. On July 11 it was over to Georgetown church a third time this summer for the wedding of my niece Lindsey Zandstra to Dan Boverhof. Again, it was an honor to officiate at that wedding and visit with family and friends. What a tremendous blessing to witness or take part in these occasions. God reveals His abiding faithfulness to us in our generations by binding together in marriage believing men and women. These are happy occasions for the church.

We returned to Pittsburgh on Saturday to preach here, then came back to Michigan on Monday to begin a second week of vacation. Mary is actually enjoying these trips. Although it puts miles on the van, she is happy to receive my full, undivided attention for the 7 or 8 hour drive! How many wives are able to get that much gab time with their husbands? I actually find myself enjoying these trips too!

We were able to visit with family in Illinois and preach for Peace Church before coming home again this past week. So, the summer progresses.

We thank God for family, friends, and churches where we can experience the communion of saints.