



Eastern Home Missions

Newsletter

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Radio

It seems that the name of our Fellowship is becoming well-known on WORD FM in Pittsburgh. We air the Reformed Witness Hour on this station every Sunday morning at 10:00. From various comments we receive personally, as well as from responses sent to us from the Reformed Witness Hour Committee in Grand Rapids, we conclude that we have a faithful listener base.

For example, we had two visitors to our services on Good Friday. One is from East Liverpool, OH, and the other from Beaver Falls, PA. Both of these men listen to the Reformed Witness Hour. A broadcast of the nature of the RWH, we are told, must be on a station consistently for about four years before results begin to appear.

Besides the Reformed Witness Hour, our Fellowship puts on regular one-minute ads. In these ads there is just enough time to present a short, very concise aspect of the truth and an invitation to visit our website and Fellowship. These ads run two or three times a day. We have been doing this consistently for about a year now. People hear these ads too. We have had several visitors (some of them regular visitors) who have come as a result of hearing these ads. These ads serve well the purpose of making known our name and the precious truths we preach and teach.

A third way we have been using WORD radio is by means of live interviews. I mentioned earlier the use of

a talk show that is aired from 9 to 11 PM on this station. It is called Bibleburgh. Whenever I go to the station to record our one-minute ads, I am also asked to be interviewed for this talk show. I have had opportunity to address such subjects as God's sovereignty in salvation, Christ as our only Mediator, women in office, the Trinity, and, just recently, the signs of Christ's second coming. Since Bibleburgh is on the air relatively late in the evening, the thought could come to mind that very few people will listen to this broadcast. But that is not true. Bibleburgh is gaining a larger listening audience. So again, our witness via radio is a good one.

But there has been another radio work we have been able to acquire in the past couple of months. We have begun airing our Sunday sermons on GLCR 107.9 FM. Actually, our Fellowship cannot take much credit for this, except indirectly. We put our sermons on sermoaudio.com, as do several other of our churches. For some reason, Pastor Richard Wesley, of Greater Love Bible Baptist Church in Liberia, West Africa, chose to air our sermons on his radio station. With our permission, Pastor Wesley chooses two of our sermons every week, for airing on Tuesday and Friday from 8:15 to 9:00 P.M. Presently, the coverage of this radio station is 1.2 million people. We are pretty excited for this opportunity to spread the gospel in a foreign land. We thank Pastor Wesley for this additional means to preach God's Word to others.

Life in the Fellowship

Life in our Fellowship is much the same as life in any of our congregations. We hold catechism classes for the children and youth. There are both the Adult Bible Study and the Young People's Society held every other week. We continue to hold a special two-hour class for our regular visitors every Saturday morning. There are various pastoral concerns and visits that need to be made. For the most part these routine matters of the church keep me busy just like other ministers.

That is the way that it ought to be. We have mentioned this before in other newsletters. There is not always something new and exciting to report. The work of missions is often a matter of repeating each week the normal labors that are needed in building and maintaining a church. These routine labors are so very necessary for the establishment of a church on the mission field.

There are those in our church world that think that all a missionary is called to do is go out and make new contacts. He must be busy outside of the mission group trying to bring people into the group. This leaves very little time for him to be involved in the mission group

itself. A missionary, therefore, ought not to be worrying his head about the routine affairs of the church.

This could not be farther from the truth! A missionary is a church builder. In order to see a mission group grow and be established as a church, the missionary does not simply slap several courses of brick on a wall with no mortar to bind the bricks together. He must labor diligently in the mission group, cementing the members in place. The mission must grow from within as well as from without. This necessarily requires of him the routine labors of a pastor and teacher.

These past two months have again required of me the work of a pastor in the group of saints that are gathered here. Neither may we forget these saints in our prayers for our work in Pittsburgh. Some of them have been with us for a long period of time, but we ought not to conclude that they therefore do not need our prayers.

We pray for the spiritual growth of our members here. We need members who have a deep love, not only for the truth, but for the church. No church can be built on people who are discontents or constant critics. We need members who take seriously their calling to be active in the church. We need men who will fill the offices in the church when the time comes to organize. We need saints who participate in congregational life with other members. We need young men and women who confess their faith and who marry in the Lord. We need couples who take seriously bringing forth children of the covenant. All of these things are the fruit of constant, consistent labor in the Fellowship itself.

Please do not forget to pray for these needs.

Contacts

We continue to enjoy our contact with the saints in Franklin, PA. I still have opportunity on the last Sunday of the month to preach there during the morning worship service (from 11 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.). Twice the congregation has had a dinner immediately following the worship service that Mary and I attend. This gives us an opportunity to become more acquainted with the saints there.

We also continue to make contacts in Northeastern Ohio. A few of these contacts we have come to know quite well. Others are fairly new or are on our mailing list. Whatever the case, there is a growing nucleus of people interested in the Reformed faith and the doctrinal distinctives of the Protestant Reformed Churches.

Our Fellowship is hosting a family retreat to be held in November of this year in the heartland of Northeast Ohio. Sorry, we are not inviting members of our congregations to this retreat, although it would be nice to visit with you for a couple of days. Our intent, however, is to target the contacts we have in Ohio. The members of our Fellowship will attend, and several contacts in the east are also invited to attend; but, in the main, we are aiming for the contacts in Ohio. The theme is "Guided By God's Counsel." Rev. denHartog and I are going to present a couple of speeches, leaving plenty of time for discussion. We have had several people already respond that they are planning to attend.

A number of other projects are in the works, that will help us in our outreach in the neighborhood of the church. The Neighborhood Outreach Committee is working on a Young Adult Retreat, targeting the young people/adults of the various families we have contact with in the east. Again, we are at this time too small to try to make of this retreat something large, to which we could invite the young adults of our various churches. We are keeping something like that in mind, however, for a future project.

We look forward to seeing many of you in southwest Michigan at Mission Awareness Day, June 12. It is always enjoyable to be a part of a day of this sort, since the time is spent on a subject of special interest to us: missions. I hope to be able to present something on Pittsburgh while there. Also, I would like to put in an early request to AIM. Be sure to have curried chicken available for lunch. Curried goat would be better, but I do not think very many people would enjoy that dish. The only ones eating it would be my two oldest children and I, since that was our favorite dish in Jamaica. So, curried chicken will do. Thanks in advance!

We covet your continued prayers.