PRCA FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER



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PROVIDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARIKINA, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Once again we greet you from the Philippines! And once again, for our newsletter, we will focus on one of the churches in which we are currently working – this time, the Provident Christian Church in Marikina (pictured above). This church, in the providence of God, has become a significant part of our work in the last few years. Here below is my current schedule of activities in this church:

- Preaching on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month
- Heidelberg Catechism class on the 2nd & 4th Sundays
- Reformed doctrine class every Thursday evening
- Catechism for the children every Saturday morning

Provident Christian Church is located about 10 miles (a 30 to 45 minute drive) from where we live. It is a congregation of about 35 to 40 members. Their background is mostly Reformed Baptist, though some have come from Brethren or Pentecostal churches. Now, however, the Lord has put them on the path of the Reformed faith. As the members of PCC themselves say: "We are Reformed and always Reforming!"

It is always interesting to hear how God works in different and mysterious ways to bring His people to the truth. In the case of PCC, the path has been lengthy and varied, involving many struggles and disappointments along the way. But as we know from Scripture, and as the members of PCC will also confess, this was God's perfect plan and way to lead them to the precious truths of His Word.

PCC originally began as a Bible study fellowship in 1992. One of the men who is currently a leader in the church led this Bible study in a home in Provident Village (the housing subdivision where the church is located). Under the Lord's blessing, the fellowship grew and soon thereafter a church was organized – in January, 1993.

Slowly, by the witness of the members, more members were added to the congregation. Many of them were men (which is still the case today among the membership of PCC). This growth came about through some members of the church being involved in a Business Men's Fellowship in the mid 1990's and then inviting new acquaintances to a weekly Saturday evening men's Bible study.

It was especially by means of this Saturday evening Bible study (which has continued for over 20 years) that the men in PCC came to know and embrace the Reformed faith. During their meetings, they studied for a time the teachings (either in print, or via videos) of men such as R.C. Sproul, John Piper, and John MacArthur. This served as a means for PCC to come to understand the sovereign and particular grace of God in salvation, and a step toward their embracing the Five Points of Calvinism.



Sunday Worship in Provident Christian Church

In the late 1990's, PCC called and installed a Conservative Baptist minister to be their pastor. This man served as their pastor for seven years. But eventually the elders detected errors in his teaching and preaching, especially that he denied the assurance of salvation and the preservation of the saints. After a lengthy process of dealing with these problems, the pastor resigned and many members left with him. (Interestingly, this former pastor, in response to the church's insistence on the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation, accused them of holding to "fatalism" and of encouraging "antinomism" in the lives of the members.)

In the process of time, the Lord brought PCC to a clearer understanding of the Reformed truth. For example, the church originally held to single predestination, but now maintains double predestination. Also, the church originally believed that faith preceded regeneration, but now understand that regeneration is first.

The members of Provident Christian Church also confess that the literature of the PRCA, the preaching and teaching of the missionaries, along with the truth as set forth in the Reformed confessions, have helped them immensely in refining their understanding of the truth. This has been the case, for example, in bringing them to see the errors of others as regards common grace and the well meant offer of the gospel.

Our involvement in PCC came about through a pastor who attends 7M (our pastors' training classes in Manila). This pastor, Rev. Ronald Failano, knows PCC well. He introduced us to the church and conveyed to us their desire that we make them a regular part of our mission work. We began our work in PCC in November of 2012 with both Rev. Smit and I giving lectures on various Reformed truths. Since about January of 2013, the work in PCC has become a regular part of my missionary labors here in the Philippines.



PCC Children gathered for Catechism

The members of PCC are keen in their desire to learn and grow. Frequently, after a class on Reformed Doctrine or on the Heidelberg Catechism, a lengthy Q&A session follows, with the members not wanting to quit even after two hours. This same interest characterizes the children in catechism. We appreciate this. It makes the work of missions exciting. We are most grateful to the Lord for this church and the opportunity God has given us to bring His truth to them. Please do remember them in prayer as they continue to grow in God's Word and truth.

DELEGATION VISIT

One more piece of news must surely be mentioned, namely the recent visit of the delegation representing Doon PRC and the Foreign Mission Committee. Visiting us this year were Elder Gene Van Den Top and his wife Karen (members of Doon PRC), and Elder Ron Brands and his wife Sandy (members of Edgerton PRC). We thoroughly enjoyed having them here, and were encouraged by their presence, their words of encouragement, and by the fact that such a visit gives clear evidence of the denomination's interest in and support for the work here.



Delegation visiting the FRCB

The delegates and their wives were able to visit all of the churches and groups in which we are currently working (First Reformed Church of Bulacan, Berean Protestant Reformed Church, Maranatha Protestant Reformed Church in Valenzuela, Provident Christian Church in Marikina, 7M pastors training classes in Manila, Bacolod City fellowship, and Pastors training classes in southern Negros Occidental). It is noteworthy that as the work here has expanded over the past few years, each subsequent delegation finds itself busier than the previous in its effort to visit all the groups and get a good insight into the many aspects of the work the Lord has given us the privilege to do.

We appreciate very much the willingness of the men (and their wives) to undertake a significant amount of travel in order to meet and get to know their many fellow believers here. It goes without saying that the presence of the delegation was a great blessing to us and our families. But the saints here were also greatly encouraged by the visit, and look forward, with us, to the next one.

Finally, we thank you all for your continued prayers and support. My wife Sharon and I anticipate seeing many of you during our upcoming furlough, scheduled for June 2 through July 16 of this year, the Lord willing. Until then, may the Lord watch over and bless us all in our individual places and callings in His church and kingdom.

In Christ's service, and on behalf of us all,

Rev. Daniel Kleyn