

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

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Greetings from Sioux Falls, South Dakota! As of the first of November, it has been one year since our family moved to Sioux Falls. God has been good to our family and to the Fellowship over the course of the past year. We continue to thank Him for all He has done and is doing for us. And we are thankful for your expressions of love.

Television Advertising

The television advertising is in full swing here in Sioux Falls. We are currently airing the second commercial that was created by KSFY for our use. You can view the commercial on our website. Thirty seconds goes fast! In the first one I made comments regarding the covenant and God taking us into fellowship with Himself. The current commercial directs viewers to God as the Unchangeable Rock and Fortress in the midst of all the uncertainties and change of our times. So far we have not seen much fruit, but we were warned by the advertising representative not to expect much for the first six months. We are getting more comments from people who have seen the spot. We pray that God will use this as a way to make our name and presence known to the community.

New Contacts in Sioux Falls

We continue to have regular visitors to our worship services. In the year I have been in Sioux Falls there have been only 4 or 5 Sundays when we did not have non-Protestant Reformed visitors.

The families that hoped to move to Sioux Falls have not yet been able to find the jobs they

desire. They have visited the field, remain in contact with us, and covet our prayers as they seek employment and future relocation.

Some visitors attend regularly...and then we don't see them again. When contacted we find out that they joined another church or are still church-shopping. Other visitors come and go, and while we make contact with them we do not hear back from them. But there are encouragements too. A couple of individuals who attended our services in the past are now coming more regularly. I have been meeting with one of them and teaching Reformed doctrine. We continue to pray that God will bless our witnessing and advertising so that others might be brought under the preaching.

The growth from our area churches continues to be very encouraging. I am currently working with a young couple from our Calvary PRC who are getting married on January 30 and plan to make their residence here in Sioux Falls. Another young man who has been attending from the beginning is in the process of transferring his membership from Doon PRC. We are thankful for another marriage and more young families and we look forward to them helping us here in the work.

DMC Annual Visit

The DMC sent Rev. Haak and Mr. Dave Rau to visit Sioux Falls the weekend of November 8. The men met with the calling church consistory, the steering committee, and the Fellowship on two social occasions. Rev. Haak preached for the Fellowship on November 9 while I was in the Philippines. The delegation reported having good visits with the calling church and with the steering committee. The HPRF was encouraged much by their visit. The DMC men were pleased with the evidence of God's blessing upon the work in Sioux Falls in both spiritual and numerical growth. The good fellowship and communion within the group and the evident leadership within was an encouragement to them. They urged the Fellowship to continue to be active in bringing the good news of the gospel to our community through witnessing.

Mission Conference

I was privileged to be able to attend the mission conference held in Grand Rapids on September 8, 9. This quick trip, which involved the two evenings of lectures, was a great encouragement in my work. The subject matter of the presentations provided food for thought. In addition, I subscribe to a

number of mission periodicals and try to keep up in my reading with the prayer that these activities will help me develop as a missionary.

Tucson Investigatory Trip

The day after I arrived home from the mission conference I left for Tucson, Arizona and was there from September 11-15. I met up with Rev. Van Overloop and Mr. Dave Rau from the Domestic Mission Committee (DMC). We were sent by the DMC to a group of saints who requested of our churches assistance in starting a solid, Reformed church in Tucson. Those who make up this Fellowship are: Jeff and Jan Wambolt; Paul and Jessi Oland and their three young children, Lili, Trent, and Jack (Jessi is a daughter of Jeff and Jan); Dr. Ron (dentist) and Sandy McCormick; and Ryan and Suzanne McCormick (Ryan is a son of Ron and Sandy). The two couples in their early 50s came to learn the Reformed faith over the course of several years. They had been a part of a Sovereign Grace Baptist church for a while, and then members of a Presbyterian Church of America congregation. They learned of our churches about a year and a half ago when Paul and Jessi were struggling with the Christian education of their children and purchased Prof. Engelsma's book *Reformed Education* online. Since then they have become increasingly acquainted with our denomination through our various web-sites and through the literature found on these sites. Since the first of July they have been worshipping by themselves in one of their homes, watching DVDs of the worship services of Trinity PRC. Their appreciation for our denomination and our preaching has grown, and it became their desire to have some firsthand contact with us.

On Sunday, September 14, the Fellowship rented a meeting room in a motel for the morning service, at which I preached. We were invited to the Wambolt home for the noon meal. The second service which was led by Rev. Van Overloop. Also in attendance at the worship services and noon meal were John and Ruth Olthof and their six adult children from Sierra Vista, AZ. This couple has had extensive contact with Rev. Tom Miersma and has been using tapes from our Hudsonville PRC for worship in their home for the past six years. The Olthofs were very pleased to see us and are interested in any future work in Tucson.

Rev. Houck plans to preach for them the first 3 weeks of December, and then Rev. Kortering will labor with the group from January until March.

More information regarding their time and place of worship can be found on their website: www.tucsonprotestantreformed.org

Philippines Delegation

At the request of Doon and the Foreign Mission Committee (FMC) and with the approval of Edgerton consistory and the DMC I was sent to assist the Berean Protestant Reformed Church of the Philippines (BPRCP) from November 6-17. A member of the FMC, Mr. Ike Uittenbogaard, accompanied me along with his wife Phyllis. The consistory kept us busy throughout the 10 days that we were in the Philippines. A highlight of the trip was the second Sunday, at which time the BPRCP celebrated their 2nd anniversary as an organized congregation. Two infant baptisms were administered and an elder installed into office.

Although there are struggles in the small congregation, and crosses being borne by virtually every family, there is evidence of God's blessings upon His small flock in metro Manila. God has given the congregation good officebearers. It is evident that a solid foundation has been established on which continued spiritual and numerical growth can and will proceed. We are thankful for the work of Doon and the FMC and pray that God will soon provide the Berean PRCP with a pastor/missionary.

While I am thankful to have been able to serve our churches by the trips to Tucson and the Philippines, it is good to be back in Sioux Falls.

I started a series of sermons on the book of Acts, in which I look forward to preaching on and learning from the mission work of the apostles. In the weeks prior to Christmas I plan to take a break from Acts and focus on prophetic passages in the book of Isaiah. We are studying the prophecy of Malachi in our Bible study.

Thanks for your continued interest and prayers in the mission work here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As always, be sure to contact us if you plan to be in the area or would like to visit. The fellowship is greatly encouraged by visitors. We are thankful for the many people from throughout our churches who visited us this summer.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Al Brummel