

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

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Greetings from Sioux Falls, South Dakota! We are grateful for the opportunity to keep in touch with our fellow saints and to encourage you to remember the work of missions in your prayers.

I have been kept very busy with the work here in Sioux Falls for which I am thankful. Up until this point most of my work has been laboring with existing members and attendees. This work has not been much different from my labors previously as pastor. There are the widow visits, pre-confession classes, the pre-membership meetings, Bible Study, catechism classes, and the pre-marriage counseling. All of this has been most enjoyable, especially growing to know and love those who are attending the fellowship.

This past month we conducted family visitation. Edgerton consistory gave the Steering Committee the liberty to choose a topic and they chose the topic of the Communion of the Saints based on Philippians 2:1-4 and I Corinthians 12:12-31. I preached the introductory sermon on March 16 and led the 10 visits with the help of an elder from Edgerton each evening. The visits went very well as we encouraged the members to live out of the communion we have with Christ and one another. All of us came from larger congregations, so it takes an adjustment to now be part of a smaller fellowship. While some of the families knew of each other prior to being part of the fellowship, most did not know each other well. The overwhelming testimony was appreciation for the close bond that has been established and a zeal for

the work that Christ has given us here in Sioux Falls.

We continue to have visitors regularly at our worship services. A couple of weeks ago we had visitors from Sturgis, SD. A woman and her two school age children were in the area visiting her parents. She found our ad in the yellow pages, called to confirm our meeting times, and was present for our morning worship. Another couple who live in Custer, SD were in the area and joined our worship services. He had been a classmate of two of the young men in the fellowship and is considering moving his family back to town. Two other retirement age couples from Sioux Falls with Reformed backgrounds have visited a couple of times. A couple from Pierre, SD continues to make plans to move to Sioux Falls and join the fellowship by summer. Another family from Minneapolis, MN has expressed interest in moving and the husband/father is looking for a job in the area so that they can possibly move this summer. These are exciting developments for the fellowship as we patiently wait for God to lead the way and His will to be done. I keep in touch with visitors and contacts via email, phone calls, and regular mail trusting that God will work the fruit in His good time. We plant and water and trust God to provide the increase. (I Corinthians 3:6)

Hotel Meeting Place

Some have asked how it is going meeting in a hotel. Admittedly it would be nicer to have our own facility, but for a temporary location this is working out very well and is economical. I've had opportunity to worship in many different places over the course of my ministry and I believe that our current situation is very conducive to worship.



The Holiday Inn of downtown Sioux Falls is a 10 story building at the corner of Philips Avenue and 8th Street, a landmark in town. The manager is known to many of the fellowship and has been eager to accommodate our needs. There are many different rooms available for rent. Some are more suited than others for worship services. The room we are currently using is isolated from the rest of the hotel, yet easily accessed by a separate outside entrance on the West side of the building (left side of the picture below) and from the hotel lobby. We have a sign in the lobby that directs visitors to the Ambassador Room. The only other rooms on the wing are offices which are closed on Sunday.



The Ambassador room fits the 40 or so people each week comfortably. The room includes a bathroom and coat room and the rent is around \$100 per week. Once the worship begins and the door is shut, we can concentrate on worship without any outside noises or distractions.



We are allowed to keep a table in the hallway with all our literature on display between the services. We monitor our pamphlet and literature stock and have noticed a number of pamphlets being taken during this time. We are

thankful to the Evangelism Committees of our churches for the literature they gave us to distribute. We are also working on some of our own pamphlets that will present the gospel in a simple manner to unbelievers or new Christians. We trust again that God will provide fruit according to His sovereign good pleasure.

This past month we had the largest group since I've been here when two families from Edgerton PRC and two families from Calvary PRC along with some local visitors attended our Good Friday service. We packed 59 people in the room and I could literally reach out and touch those in the front row. We look forward to the day when we will outgrow the room. There is another nice room on the 10th floor that we have used in the past which is about twice the size and would accommodate a larger group very well.

Radio

The Domestic Mission Committee works closely with the Reformed Witness Committee, considering radio to be an important part of the witness in an area in which we are working. Efforts to find a station on which to air the Reformed Witness Hour recently resulted in a signed contract with KWSN 1230 AM, a sports talk radio station, for an 8:00 a.m. broadcast of the program starting on April 6. The station has been very accommodating and I've been able to record 30 second promos that will air during the week along with the tags that they will include after the program that will advertise our worship services and contact information. We are excited about this new avenue that God has opened up for us.

As you make your summer plans, we would count it a privilege to have you visit our worship services or just to stop by and say hello. Give us a call or drop us an email if we can be of assistance.

We appreciate your continued prayers on behalf of the work here in Sioux Falls particularly and in general for all the mission work of our churches.

May God bless and keep you.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Al Brummel