

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

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New Missionary

On November 1, our family arrived in Sioux Falls to move into the newly purchased mission home and to begin our work here in Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship.

I was installed as missionary in a special service held in Edgerton PRC on Thursday, November 8. A goodly number of saints were present from Northwest Iowa as well to hear Rev. Lee preach a stirring message on Zechariah 4:6-10. Rev. Ron Van Overloop read the form of installation as he was present with Mr. Vern Haveman representing the DMC. I preached my inaugural sermon in Edgerton that next Sunday taking John 3:29,30 as my text: "Decreasing for Christ's Sake." I preached the sermon in Sioux Falls that same afternoon. The fellowship continues to meet in the Ambassador Room at the Holiday Inn, City Centre on the corner of 8th Street and Phillips on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

I will begin by introducing myself and my family. I am a son of our Edgerton, MN congregation. I was born in 1968 to Al and Sharon Brummel. My wife Crysta was born in 1972 to Howard and LaJean Bonestroo and is a daughter of our Doon, IA congregation. Edgerton is 50 miles North of Doon, so while we grew up not far from one another, we did not really meet until both of us attended college at Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. We were married on August 14, 1992. I served a 6 month internship in Singapore under Rev. Kortering in 1994 and graduated from our Protestant Reformed Theological School in 1995. In the mysterious and good providence of God my

first calling was to my home congregation. I served as pastor in Edgerton, MN for 3 years then accepted a call to serve in South Holland, IL where we lived for the past 9 years. Now, God has used the Edgerton congregation as the calling church of the mission to bring us to Sioux Falls. We have been blessed by God with 6 sons and 3 daughters. They are: Dean (13), Allyn (12), Ethan (10), Brandyn (9), Steven (7), Crystal (5), Darren (4), Alyce (2), and Joanna (11 months). In addition we have a gerbil named Nibbles who stays in her cage and a small Jack Russell Terrier whom we named Fern who stays in her kennel when indoors and enjoys the backyard. The children love Fern, almost to death, and as one of our friends put it to us- with all of our children: "She has her work cut out for her."



New Home

The home that the fellowship purchased with the approval of synod is a beautiful ranch home that was built in 2003 on a corner lot. The 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths along with a finished basement and fenced-in back yard will serve our family well.



A number of men from South Holland PRC pitched in to volunteer their time, semi tractor, trailer, and gas to move us so that the move resulted in no cost to the churches. We are grateful to them for all their assistance. We received a grand welcome from members of the fellowship along with members from Edgerton and Doon PRC. The truck was unloaded in 3 hours and we were able to have all the furniture moved into the home by that evening. We kept the boxes in the garage and are making good progress toward getting them all unpacked.

Fellowship Luncheon

The first Sunday that we spent with the Fellowship was a memorable one. The fellowship gets together on the first Sunday of each month for a luncheon. The food and fellowship were very enjoyable as we were able to get to know one another better. Our children are the only grade school age children in the fellowship so they are enjoying the attention. In addition to our children there is a high school senior and then four pre-school aged children in the fellowship.

New School

Our children started school on Monday, November 5, at Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed Christian School in Doon, IA. After much prayer and personal meetings with Christian School administrators in Sioux Falls and elsewhere Crysta and I decided to make use of the Doon school for the education of our children. This way they will be able to establish and maintain friendships with children of our own faith for now. The location of the mission parsonage on the extreme Southeast corner of Sioux Falls provides easy access out of town on HWY 11 to Northwest Iowa. The commitment is still great, as it involves driving 40 minutes each way to and from school. While I have been driving the children some mornings, we are sensitive that this not detract from my commitment to the work of the mission. So far the commute has been going well and the children are enjoying the wildlife, the new scenery, and the rural "traffic." Now we contend with deer, raccoons, skunks, cows, combines and tractors that slow us up during this time of the year.

New and Exciting Labors

I have immersed myself into the work here in Sioux Falls. I am grateful for the good foundation established by the DMC, Rev. Spronk, and Rev. Kortering. We are making a point to get

to know our neighbors, starting with a personal witness to them concerning why we are here. There have been regular visitors to our worship services, for which we are grateful to God. Rev. Kortering introduced the fellowship to the excellent book by Rev. Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*. I have benefited from the book and am enjoying leading the fellowship through a study of it.

There is much to do at first seeing there were already a number of regular attendees who wanted to know more about the doctrine and practices of the Protestant Reformed churches with a view to becoming a part of the fellowship. In addition there are a number of students from our churches in Northwest Iowa attending colleges in Sioux Falls. At the urging of the local consistories I am making contact with the students to assist them in pre-confession classes and to find out if there will be opportunity to establish a Bible study on the campus of one of the area colleges or universities.

This past week was a busy week of meetings and I already have almost all my evenings booked with meetings for the next 3 weeks.

It is exciting, but daunting to be a part of this work. I pray for wisdom daily and pray that God will give me the humility and the heart for this new endeavor.

We appreciate all the prayers on behalf of our family. This has been a very difficult transition for some of the children, but we are thankful to God that it has gone very well. It was hard for us to leave our dear saints and friends in IL/IN. But, we must go forward and already we can see God's gracious hand in our lives. We have been warmly welcomed and are grateful to God to be a part of this work in this corner of His Kingdom. We go forward confident that this is His will and that His blessing will be upon us.

Come and Visit!

Continue to remember the work in Sioux Falls in your prayers. If you are ever traveling this way, be sure to give us a holler, stop by, say hello, and spend the night. We've already had three guests take us up on the offer, and we'll keep the light on for you! Those of you who know my wife know that she is always eager to host visitors. We desire that you, with us, witness first hand the work of God here in this place.