

RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
July 2024

Praying for each other more specifically,
encouraging one another
with what the LORD is doing,
"Rejoicing with those who rejoice,
weeping with those who weep."

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE UPCOMING RIVERSIDE GA

Please mark your calendars and be prepared for a **Pre-GA Virtual business meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2:00 P.M. ET**, during which we will be voting on constitution and policy manual changes recommended by the Ad Hoc committee.

The Lord has again been gracious this year in providing a robust slate of new churches and individuals applying for membership with the network to be presented at the GA.

Recommended Churches Awaiting a Vote:

The membership committee recommends the following churches for full membership at this GA:

1. Grace Family Church, Pearland, TX
2. Reformed Baptist Church of McKinney, McKinney, TX
3. Iglesia Bautista Reformada de Miami, Homestead, FL
4. The Valley Remnant Church, Whitsett, PA
5. Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Terrell, TX
6. New Covenant Church, Auburn Hills, MI
7. Oak Crest Baptist Church, Midlothian, TX
8. First Baptist Church South Pittsburg, South Pittsburg, TN
9. Redeeming Grace Church, Cartersville, GA
10. Sovereign Grace Fellowship, Nampa, ID has applied for membership, but as this will be their first General Assembly, we will be voting on their membership electronically at a future date. We encourage you to get to know the brothers from Sovereign Grace Fellowship.

The membership committee recommends the following individuals for associate membership at this GA:

1. Jeff McInnis
2. Joe Moore
3. Nate Davidson
4. Evan Sanderson
5. Jesse Ciccone 🌱

– Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

OF EAGLES AND MISSIONS

I watched a YouTube video put out by the BBC of a young eagle leaving the nest and flying for the first time. The mother eagle watched as its young in a very wobbly fashion tested its wings. The young one got tired but the mother was close by to make sure there was no sudden plunge to the earth. Finally, the young eagle found a branch strong enough to hold its weight. Some have said that the mother, if needed, would swoop underneath the struggling young bird and carry it for a while on its own wings. Whether or not that happens I do know that the Lord carries His own, when they need it on wings like the eagle.

Sometimes a missionary faces trials and discouragement, but the LORD's wings of love come and bear the servant of the Lord up.

"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself" (Exodus 19:4 ESV).

Sometimes a missionary faces trials and discouragement, but the LORD's wings of love come and bear the servant of the Lord up. Even when greatly discouraged—as Elijah was when he wrongly believed he was the only voice declaring the truth—the Lord will in astonishing ways bring deliverance and rejoicing.

I'm sure many of you remember this promise: "but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31 ESV).

What can we learn by meditating on eagles and missions? I suggest two simple lessons.

First, pray that the Lord will keep His promise and carry His servants through the difficult trials they face.

Second, pray that the missionary will learn to wait upon the Lord and have his strength renewed.

And I conclude with this one final thought: All of us who pray and all who labor for the spread of the gospel need to remember that the Lord is one "who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:5 ESV). 🌱

– Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Community Christian Church,
Plymouth, IN

Brandon Richie, Pastor

We continued to experience the Lord's blessings as we continue ministering in the faith. We placed a baptistry in two months ago—something our once Presbyterian church building was not equipped with—and we were blessed to have our first baptism in it shortly thereafter. We have had three families this year join as members and four other families join us regularly for service.

In January pastor Brandon Richie began a one year journey preaching through the book of Revelation. This past spring we hosted a Doctrines of Grace conference which saw connections made with other reformed churches and some who were hearing these rich doctrines for the first time. This year we began a "Girls of Grace" program which is a monthly meeting for our many young girls and their mothers—as well as some from our surrounding community—as they learn about what it means to grow into a godly young women. In June we revamped our Wednesday night services as the first Wednesday of each month will be a dedicated prayer service in the church, while each proceeding Wednesday of each month will be a home study hosted in different homes of members with the Christian Prayer Life as the theme. As of this writing we are also in full VBS preparation mode and preparing for our first leadership retreat in the fall.

Prayer Requests:

We ask for prayer for our labor to be fruitful in impacting our surrounding community for Christ. Pray that the Lord's grace and mercy continue to be upon the families of our congregation as the husbands lead their homes and the families grow in truth and faith. We ask for prayer for our leaders as they continue to devote themselves to assuring that God's Word is put front and center and made paramount in all of our ministries. We also ask for prayer that our men's, women's, and children's ministries continue to grow and expand into new programs. Lastly, we ask for specific prayer for David Crisp who was baptized on June 2nd.

We are so thankful for the fellowship that we have with all of you and are in prayer for you and your ministry. How blessed we are to be able to serve our amazing God alongside all of you. 🌱

CHURCH UPDATES

Bible Baptist Church,
Galway, NY

Joseph Ferritto, Pastor

Greetings to our brothers and sisters

My name is Joseph Ferritto and I'm the pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Galway. It is a pleasure to address you. I've been the pastor at the BBCG since October of 2022 when the church extended a call to me. I'm filling the position after the long and respectable tenure of Pastor Wayne Brandow who was the pastor for more than 4 decades. I am honored and humbled to continue the work at BBCG.

Currently, we are trying to reach out to the community with the gospel in simple and winsome ways. Last fall, we participated in our town's harvest festival and handed out over 300 candy bags with simple and fun gospel tracts for children. More recently, we had a table at our town's Memorial Day parade and gave out free gift cards if people took a quick gospel survey. We had over 6 people do these surveys, some indicating they'd be interested in further discussing the gospel. We praise God that he's using our modest efforts to reach the community with the gospel. We also praise God that we've had one person recently become a member of our church with another person expressing a desire to become a member.

For prayer requests, please pray for our outreach efforts. Later this summer, we are going to have an outdoor service in our town park followed by a free community BBQ. We'll be working hard to invite friends and neighbors from the community. At the service, I will do a brief gospel presentation. Please pray that the preparation for this goes well and that God will bring people there and hear the gospel. Please pray for us also that we may have more men, children, and younger married couples come to our church. And pray that we'd become better disciples while at the same time making more disciples in our community. 🙏

*God bless you,
- Joseph Ferritto*

CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church
Lafayette, NJ

Pastors Patrick Harrison
& Phil Horjus

Dear Brethren,

Warm greetings to you from the Reformed Baptist Church of Lafayette, NJ.

As we endeavor by His grace to faithfully uphold a testimony for him in this part of His vineyard, the Lord has been pleased to favor us with tokens of His blessings.

In recent months, we have had the joy of once again worshipping and serving with a few of our brethren who in the providence of the Lord had been away from us, in good standing with the fellowship. We have also been blessed in seeing a consistent stream of visitors, some of whom have been showing sustained interest in our church.

As far as the teaching ministry is concerned, Pastor Harrison has been expounding the Epistle to the Romans on Sunday Mornings and the Book of Deuteronomy in the mid-week Bible Studies. In his monthly sermons, Pastor Horjus has covered among other subjects, the Prayers of the Apostle Paul.

We continue to encourage two of our men in their development toward the ministry of the Word. One of these men is currently pursuing a Masters of Divinity in Biblical Studies. As regards our outreach efforts this summer, we will be hosting on July 13 a seminar of topical relevance to the community, followed by a presentation of the Gospel.

In August, we will engage in open-air Gospel preaching at an adjoining town square.

Please pray that the Lord would greatly bless these events to the salvation of souls. For our assembly, we desire your intercession for us that we might remain spiritually focused and fervent in our efforts to honor and glorify the Lord in all that we do. 🙏

*Gratefully yours
Elders Patrick Harrison & Phil Horjus for
Reformed Baptist Church of Lafayette*

CHURCH UPDATES

Redeeming Grace Baptist Church,
Gloucester, VA

Van Loomis, Pastor

We are thankful to the Lord for what he is doing at RGBC. In His good providence, we have been having new visitors virtually every Lord's Day recently. Sadly though it seems many in our area are not searching for churches that preach and take seriously the Word of God. There seems to be a famine in our land for the faithful handling of God's Word. We pray the Lord would reform and revive the pulpits of our nation.

We recently finished a long series through the book of Ephesians. What an amazing intertwining of doctrine and practice! I feel the Lord was pleased to use what we learned for our good and his glory. We have just embarked on a verse-by-verse study through the book of James. On Wednesday nights, we are walking through the book of Daniel and seeing afresh the absolute sovereignty of God over nations and kingdoms.

We give great praise to our Lord for the addition of a deacon, Mike Quintas, to our godly team of deacons. These men set the pace for service in RGBC. We are very thankful for them. Pray that the Lord might raise up more deacons within our midst as there is much demand for their ministry.

One of our pressing prayer concerns is space for worship. We are in need of a place where we might gather as one assembly to worship our Lord together. Currently, some of our church family participate in the worship service via viewing it on a large television in our church basement. We long to do away with this and be together, so pray the Lord provides for us in this regard.

We thank the Lord for the fellowship we have with likeminded churches in the RB Network! 🙏

