

RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
May 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."

BEING A MILITARY CHAPLAIN – SPIRITUAL SPECIAL OPS

Dianne and I just returned from Hurlburt Field Air Force Base where we spent half of a Sunday with RBNet associated chaplains Lt. Colonel Josh Stoley, Captain Jonathan Black, and Captain Steven Richardson. After touring the impressive chapel facilities, we were exhilarated by the worship service which was opened by Josh reading all of Psalm 104 to a congregation of nearly 100, down from 150 on Easter. I preached for their typical 40 minutes with a smattering of multi-ethnic "amens" punctuating things. It felt very Reformed Baptist. You don't expect this from an Uncle Sam financed service in Caesar's household!

These chaplains are elite men. They're influential. Josh had invited 4 additional chaplains he wanted to introduce to RBNet over lunch. The discussion was theologically robust and spiritually warm.

They're taking on Special Ops caliber missions like last week's contribution to the Israel shielding endeavor vs. Iran, and the earlier crash of two Osprey planes into the Pacific requiring intense grief counseling. They meet up with men and women at their Wit's End (Psalm 107), and seek to speak a word in season.

They do marriage counseling in a high divorce culture, emotional encouraging in a suicide ideation laden clientele, truth-telling amidst homosexuals and lesbians and transgenders, and evangelism to souls from every tribe, tongue, kindred, and nation.

Sure, they need to patiently endure the folly of chaotic administrations and commanders in chief, but so did Daniel in Babylon putting up with the likes of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.

If you've been told you're peculiarly gifted for ministry, consider the chaplaincy. Watch for the latest NetTalk episode where I interview this trio of impressive RBNet mighty men. Pray for them and ponder. 🌍

– Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

THE OPPRESSED

In His home town Jesus opened the book and found a place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18, 19 ESV).

Jesus came for the downtrodden of society. One group to which Jesus ministered was the "oppressed." The word that Jesus chose is pregnant with meaning as defined by these lexicons: Mounce says the meaning is "to break, crushed by cruel oppression"; Louw and Nida, "to choke, to cause serious trouble to, with the implication of dire consequences—to cause severe hardship, to oppress, to overwhelm."

What can we learn from the Gospels about the oppressed that Jesus came for?

THE POLITICAL OPPRESSED

The Jews were under Roman domination. Jesus came to show his brothers in the flesh that they could be set free from this captivity by the gospel he preached. Too many countries have political oppression and missionaries minister to these dear people.

THE RELIGIOUS OPPRESSED

Luke records (11:17 ff.) that Jesus accepted the invitation from a Pharisee to dine with him. Jesus sat down but did not first wash before dinner. Jesus then proceeded to declare that outward religion, such as the Pharisees required, is evil. And then Jesus pronounced woe on both the Pharisees and the lawyers. Is it any wonder that the common people crowded around Him to listen to the gospel? Today many are oppressed by legalism. Missionaries minister to them.

THE PHYSICALLY OPPRESSED

Jesus showed compassion to those who were sick and demon possessed. This is beautifully highlighted in Luke 8:1-3. Former demon possessed and sick women so loved our Lord that they financially supported Him. Missionaries minister to oppressed women.

Let's pray for our missionaries who see oppression and bring the gospel to the oppressed. 🌍

– Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Fellowship Church,
Bremen, IN

Jon Hueni,
Colin Horne, Pastors

We thank the Lord for the ways in which He continues to be at work in our local body. He alone deserves all the praise for taking sinners, making them saints, and knitting them together in love. We see that at GFC and give Him the glory.

Here are a few updates. In the last several months, it has been our joy to welcome three individuals into the membership of our church and to publicly install a new deacon during a worship service. We've also just finished some elective Sunday school classes and heard testimonies from several members in those classes as they shared how they're seeking to apply the truths that were taught. Those testimonies were a blessing and encouragement to our body. As many of you know, last summer, we called Colin Horne to come and pastor alongside Jon Hueni. We thank the Lord for the unity and love He has fostered between them as they've shepherded the flock together.

HERE ARE A COUPLE WAYS TO PRAY FOR US:

Salvation of young people: we are blessed to have many families with small children and teenagers. Please pray for their conversions at a young age, that they might serve the Lord with the strength of their youth. Just recently, a teen professed faith and expressed a desire for baptism and membership. Please pray for him and our pastors as we walk with him toward those good ends.

Men's and women's studies: on Wednesday evenings, our men are studying the virtue of humility and the women are studying the theme of walking worthy before the Lord. We're glad to have a good number of faithful members who are taking turns leading those studies. Pray for them as they prepare and for all of us, that we might learn and grow from our time together gathered around the Word.

We thank the Lord for the fellowship we have with you all and pray regularly for you. May Christ be exalted as His gospel goes forth into all the nations! 🌍



CHURCH UPDATES

First Baptist Church,
Puxico, MO

Justin Miller, Pastor

Greetings Reformed Baptist Network,
As of the day of this writing we have just finished our third annual “For His Glory” conference. It was a great blessing and time of refreshment. Mark Chanski was one of our speakers alongside a few other brothers. We had the blessing of hosting many pastors and churches from all over. Our hope is they were strengthened to continue to fight the good fight

First Baptist Puxico has been relishing in God’s grace to have allowed us to come into the association of like minded confessional churches in RBNNet. We as a body of believers are seeking not only to grow in our love for Christ but also to see Him known rightly in our region. To this end we have several candidates in our training institute (called Expositors Institute) who we are praying through being sent out to either plant a church or revitalize a church in our region. Please pray for us that God would grant us wisdom and grace in the seminary and our efforts to see the Gospel go forward in our area of the world.

Our publishing ministry called Savoring the Savior has gotten off the ground with its first four books. Our intention and desire is to get confessional reformed resources out that are written at a level for all the church to grasp and apply. Please pray we can do this well.

Lastly, as a church we have gone through a rough season with certain issues that have occurred as well as an elder taking leave due to a lingering sin (not permanently disqualifying) issue. Each case as you know, brothers, is never easy. We want to love people well and be faithful to the Lord Jesus. We would covet your prayers in all these things. ☺

CHURCH UPDATES

Providence Reformed Baptist Church
Cleburne, TX

Patrick Joyner, Pastor

Our church plant is about two and a half years old and we are enjoying sweet communion. Any church plant requires many hands, and we are grateful for such involvement with each in our fellowship. We have had a number of visitors and pray the Lord will use our fellowship for their spiritual benefit. We meet at the local YMCA. Recently we completed a multi-year sermon series, “The Progress of Redemption in the Bible,” with a sermon on each book of the Bible.

We have a few members who have been enabled to visit and work short term at a church planting mission in the middle east and are grateful for another opportunity this year. We are blessed with many small children and young adults who bring much life and energy to our church.

Our church recently joined a ministry designed to address the urgent issue of human trafficking, and we have several groups that go into our community each month meeting with convenience store and hotel workers in order to find missing children.

Please pray for our interaction with our community, that the Lord would use us to draw others to Christ. Please pray for our team who will travel this summer to the middle east and for our teams that go out monthly regarding human trafficking—that they will be used mightily by God. Please pray for the many teachers we have and for our church officers—that we will be faithful and be growing in our personal relationship to Christ. Please pray for God’s strength and wisdom as we have hopes for further usefulness and a building someday. ☺

CHURCH UPDATES

Heritage Baptist Church,
Owensboro, KY

Mark Redfern, Pastor

To our sister churches in RBNNet:
We are thankful for your prayers and partnership in the gospel. Here’s a brief update on our congregation.

Our Chief Shepherd continues to care for our congregation as we seek to make more and better disciples of Jesus in Owensboro. We invite you to praise God with us for His care for us during this particular season. Many of the saints are facing trials and this has given our congregation multiplied opportunities to grow in love for one another while bearing on another’s burdens. We have also seen what appears a renewed spiritual interest among some of our kids and youth, as more have expressed interest in Christ and a desire to grow in Him.

We are seeking to grow in our evangelism locally as we sow more intentional gospel-seed into our families, neighborhoods and workplaces. Please pray that our individual efforts in this regard would be fruitful. Additionally, we are engaging on a more corporate level with our annual “Bless the Block” efforts this summer. Our church has - spear-headed by one of our families - adopted a more impoverished area of our community where we put on an annual summer ministry that includes Bible teaching and worship, alongside relationship-building and fun & games. Please pray for fruit from this as well.

Thank you again. We consider it a joy to link arms with you in service to our Savior. ☺



The vision of Reformed Baptist Network is to glorify God through fellowship and cooperation in fulfilling the Great Commission to the ends of the earth.

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