

RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
November 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."

THOUGHTS FROM SPURGEON ON "AN EARNEST MISSION"

Here's a Spurgeon afterglow extension of David Vaughn's GA "Earnest Mission" finale.

"Paul could not restrain himself from preaching. 'Woe is me' he said 'if I preach not the gospel.' Oh! if you could have seen Paul preach, you would not have gone away as you do from some of us, with half a conviction, that we do not mean what we say. His eyes preached a sermon without his lips, and his lips preached it, not in a cold and frigid manner, but every word fell with a power on the hearts of his hearers. He was in downright earnest. You had a conviction, when you saw him, that he was a man who felt he had a work to do and must do it. You would expect to see him walk down the pulpit stairs straight into his coffin, and then stand before his God, ready for his last account."

"It is extraordinary grace, not talent, that wins the day; extraordinary spiritual power, not extraordinary mental power. Mental power may fill a chapel; but spiritual power fills the Church. Mental power may gather a congregation; spiritual power will save souls."

"Ah! my friends, could I show you the tens of thousands of spirits who are now walking in outer darkness; could I take you to the gloomy chamber of hell, and show you heathen souls in utterable torture, not having heard the word, but being justly condemned for their sins; methinks we could ask ourselves, "Did I do anything to save these? Oh! We have great reason to ask ourselves whether we are clean in this matter. We say too often, sons of God, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' We are too much like Cain."

"We need eyes now like the eyes of the Savior, that could weep over Jerusalem; we need voices like that earnest impassioned voice which seemed perpetually to cry, 'Come unto me, and I will give you rest.'" 🙏

—Selected quotes from *Sermon #76 on Acts 13:49*

— Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

THE SHEPHERD REJOICES

The Bible is a missionary book. The Old Testament focuses on God's plan for one nation, Israel, to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. Eric E Wright in his book, *A Practical Theology of Missions* states on page 67, "The New Testament, in its entirety, is a missionary document whose writers were missionaries communicating with missionary churches." Wright goes on to quote George W Peters in his book, *A Biblical Theology of Missions*, "The New Testament is a missionary book in address, content, spirit and design."

*Jesus, who carried
our sin and our
sorrows, also lifts us up
and carries us when we
go astray. Jesus does this
with rejoicing!*

An excellent illustration of this missionary focus is the parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15, "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing." J. R. Miller points out in a devotional in *Come Ye Apart* (Sept. 18), that just as the eastern shepherds never

drive the sheep so Jesus, who carried our sin and our sorrows, also lifts us up and carries us when we go astray. Jesus does this with **rejoicing!**

What interest our Lord has in lost human beings! He is so full of joy when one of His own is found and brought into the fold.

Is this not a picture of missionaries today? How often they experience the heart rending departure of a professing Christian who leaves the fold. Or they experience a heavy heart when seeing a friend to whom they have preached the gospel time and time again persistently refuse to come into the fold. But the missionary keeps searching, preaching, and praying. O the joy when one of these comes to Jesus, the Good Shepherd!

Dear friends, the missionaries for whom we pray experience both sorrow and joy, even as our Lord Jesus did. So we need to pray that the Lord will give the same gentleness and patience which He, our Lord, has in all their evangelism and teaching. And pray most of all that they will have abounding joy in seeing many brought home to the Great Shepherd of the sheep. 🙏

— Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Our Church Updates this month feature four of our new member churches that were added to the membership at our 2024 General Assembly.

Grace Family Church,
Pearland, TX

Brian Jensen, Pastor

Grace and peace to you, dear brothers and sisters. We bring you greetings from Pearland, Texas, just south of Houston. It is a blessing and joy to have been so warmly received into the network this past GA. We are excited about the prospect of joining together with like-minded churches and missionaries for the sake of the gospel and the glory of Christ's name. The Lord has been so gracious to us over our eighteen year history, as we have devoted ourselves to the ordinary means of grace. He has given our congregation a love for the truth, a sweet spirit of unity and love in our fellowship, and a desire to make Christ known, both near and far. For that we give him praise.

We rejoice in the growth of the church, the conversion of sinners, and the addition of many little ones in the last couple years. Do pray for us, as we seek to faithfully shepherd the flock. Pray for our deacons as well, who are spread thin in their labors. A growing congregation calls for more office-holders, and we trust that the Lord will help us raise men up at the proper time. We also face facility needs. We are presently renting space from another local church, and meet in the afternoon each Lord's Day. That poses certain logistical challenges. We are looking at another piece of property as a possible permanent home, but need much wisdom.

Finally, pray for the work of the gospel, both at home and abroad. We are beginning to work on an annual project targeting unreached peoples in one of the nations in the Caucasus, which will happen next spring, Lord-willing. We would covet your prayers, asking that the Lord would even now begin to prepare hearts for the good news of the gospel. 🙏



CHURCH UPDATES

Redeeming Grace Church,
Cartersville, GA

David Harris, Pastor

We have been abundantly blessed by God since we moved into our new location less than a year ago. This new facility has enabled us to be more visible to the community and start various outreach activities to bring more people into our church. We desire to see new conversions, current members growing into maturity, and eventually hope to bring our pastor from bi-vocational ministry into full-time ministry. We were able to send one of our men to a sister Reformed Baptist Network church for hermeneutics training, and we are very thankful for this partnership.

Praises:

- Praise the Lord that several regular attenders have applied for membership.
- Praise the Lord for giving our church body a spirit of unity and peace
- Praise the Lord for giving work to one of our men who did not have long- term employment
- Praise the Lord for giving us great attendance at Sunday School with adults and children that are hungry for the truth.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the members of our churches would be faithful in catechizing and instructing their kids.
- Pray for healing for our pastor's wife as she battles Stage 4 Breast Cancer
- Pray that our congregation would grow in godliness and apply what they hear. We want them all to be doers of the word and not merely hearers.
- Pray for one of our members who recently moved to Florida and is having trouble finding a church that is close to her house (she is in her 80's). Please pray that the Lord would provide the church and the transportation. 🙏

—Benjamin Allen
Redeeming Grace Church Deacon/Treasurer

CHURCH UPDATES

First Baptist Church of So. Pittsburg
South Pittsburg, TN

Brad Bridgman, Pastor

RBNNet Brothers,

On behalf of our elders and church, thank you for accepting us into the Network.

I wanted to take a few minutes to tell you more about the church. We are a small congregation on the border of Tennessee and Alabama. We currently have four elders, including me as Pastor. Our church also has a preschool that serves our community. The school is well-known in the community and has a two-year waiting list. The school has allowed us to minister to many young families.

We currently have two services: Sunday morning and Wednesday night. On Sunday mornings, I preach through the book of Hebrews. On Wednesday night, I survey the Old Testament. We also have a men's study group that meets on Sunday afternoons once a month. Our men are currently reading Voddie Baucham's book *Family Shepherds*. One of our Elders, Zeke Guyear, is leading the discussions.

Prayer Requests:

- A few months ago, our Fellowship Hall flooded. The work to repair it has taken a big chunk out of our finances. We praise God that we had the funds to fix it, but we ask that prayers be made so we don't have another major expense.
- One of our Elders, Keith McLain, had surgery a couple of weeks ago, and we ask for prayer on his healing.
- Many in our church are struggling with our current economic situation.

We look forward to serving alongside you. If you are ever in our area, please let us know.

Thank you again! 🙏



CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church of McKinney,
McKinney, TX

Stuart Sanders, Pastor

Greetings from Reformed Baptist Church of McKinney.

We are located a few miles north of Dallas, and yet very much a part of the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex.

Having just become a part of RBNNet this year, we are excited to join in with the brethren in serving Christ our Lord.

We are grateful for the unity and joy in our church. Please pray for that this peace and purity would be preserved in our church.

Also, we are currently in the search of a permanent meeting space. There have been a couple of options, but the Lord seems to be leading our hearts toward one in particular. Please pray for this building to become ours for the glory of Christ and His gospel in McKinney, Texas! 🙏

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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