

# RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network  
April, 2026

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."

## STAY AWAKE ON THE MAST

On the sea voyage of life, one of the most threatening dangers to sailors is the lullaby whisper of fair weather, luring them up to the top of the ship's mast, near the crow's nest, to bask in warm sunshine where they can get rocked into a deep sleep by the smooth swells of the swaying sea. And then, falling "asleep on the mast" they tumble down to their death.

*"Therefore, let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thess 5:6).*

When life is easy and pleasant, we can become careless and presumptuous. Thankfully, our safe keeping and certain arriving at the celestial port are ensured by our Heavenly Father, who ultimately "holds us fast," tying us tightly by sovereign grace.

"You have seen a man that has been asleep on the mast of a ship, yet the ship has sailed safely. But if the man had been untied, he had been drowned." —John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress, Part II*

But the bands employed by the Lord to secure us aren't just invisible and imperceptible, but practical and moral, enlisting our personal responsibility and energetic activity. To keep us awake and alert and secure on the pinnacle, He kindly sends high winds, storms, and even the occasional typhoon, making us like a frightened cat, digging in our claws, hanging on for dear life.

*"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. . . Let us hold fast the profession of our faith." (Hebrews 2:14; 10:23)*

But I don't like being a clinging cat, and would rather be a basking sailor!

Spurgeon warns against an infatuation with constant fair weather. "Beware of the smooth places. If the road is rough, thank God. If God always rocked us in the cradle of prosperity; if we were always bounced on fortune's knee; if there were no clouds in the sky; if there were no bitter drops in the cup; if there were no such things we would be intoxicated with pleasure. We bless God for our afflictions. We thank Him for our changes."

That's how He holds us fast. 🌐

— Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

## MISSION THOUGHTS

### SLOW AND STEADY

Paul was in prison while writing this letter to the Philippians. He made this surprising statement:

Philippians 3:14-16 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

I call it surprising because Paul acknowledges that he was still pressing toward greater sanctification. He had not yet attained to that goal of perfection. As I meditate on this, I think of our missionaries who are ministering the

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Word of God. They see conversions praise the Lord! And then they see the troubles, back sliding, and difficulties of the people who have professed faith in Jesus. This may tend to discouragement. But if Paul had not yet attained, why would we

expect that our converts would be so mature that they no longer fell backwards into sin or discouragement. What problems the Corinthian church had, even questioning the ministry of Paul. The Galatian churches questioned the apostolic authority of Paul so he had to spend countless words in defending his gospel against the false teachers. There was one church, which seemed to have very few problems: the Philippian church. But even in that church, there were two godly ladies who were at odds with one another.

We are reformed and do reject the theology of entire sanctification. But yet we long to see more growth in those who come to Christ. But we can rejoice where there is slow and steady progress, even though there are some backward trends once in a while.

This shows us that we must pray earnestly for our missionaries as they minister to the converts which have come to Christ and the struggles that these dear saints have.

PS I thank you for your prayers and concern after my recent open heart surgery. I am making "slow and steady" progress. 🌐

— Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

## CHURCH UPDATES

First Baptist Church  
Coleman, FL

Travis Van Meter, Pastor

On behalf of the First Baptist Church in Coleman, with immense joy and deepest gratitude, we are humbled to have been welcomed into membership in the Reformed Baptist Network just a few short weeks ago. These kinds of ecclesiastical relationships are crucial for small churches, like my own, to successfully accomplish the imperatives of Scripture. When we work together for ministry and mission, our giving and our service is multiplied far beyond what single congregations can accomplish. And for that, we are excited and expectant for what the Lord will do!

The Lord has placed us, providentially, in the middle of a population boom. Adjacent to the world's largest retirement community, The Villages, FBC Coleman has seen an explosion in attendance over the past 5 years. We are receiving many retired couples and singles but, also, many young families. As such, our 110-year-old worship facility has long reached its capacity. Please pray for us as we enter into a building campaign.

Moreover, we request your prayers concerning additional leaders and servants in the church. When I came to Coleman in 2019, I enjoyed the company of two other elders serving at my side. However, through God's design, those brothers have gone on to other assignments, leaving me, alone, at the helm. Thankfully, the Lord is raising up another brother for the church's consideration who will soon, Lord willing, undergo examination, ordination, and installation into pastoral work alongside me.

We also have a deacon candidate whom we will soon consider adding to our team of servants.

We have just concluded a 9-month series through Ezra-Nehemiah during our Lord's Day services. These sermons have served as a great reminder of our dependence upon God to maintain His covenant with us. We are far too weak to be faithful on our own. He blesses us with His Spirit and holds us fast, by the power of His own hand. And He will carry us safely home in His perfect timing.

Thank you for this opportunity to share what the Lord has been doing through His saints at FBC Coleman. Please pray for faithfulness, steadfastness, and wisdom, as we do the work and the God brings the increase. 🌐



## CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Baptist Church at Castlewoods

Brandon, MS

Thomas Winn, Pastor

Brothers and sisters, greetings from Grace Baptist Church at Castlewoods in Brandon, Mississippi. We thank the Lord for His goodness and grace towards us. In May 2025, we celebrated 25 years of God's faithfulness to us as a church. We are grateful for our leadership and staff: our pastor, Thomas Winn, Pastoral Assistant Prashant Thakkar (originally from Zambia), and Pastoral Intern, Adam McCarty (graduating from seminary this May, God willing). We have a team of 5 deacons. We are currently a congregation with a large number of young families, including about 60 young children. We have a good number of older adults who worship with us. The Lord, in His kindness, continues to bring visitors to us as well as add new members to our body. We have faced challenges and discouragements as a congregation, but the Lord has been pleased to bring us together through those seasons.

We have had the privilege of sending out families into the mission field, whom most of you are familiar: the Oliveiras to Portugal and the de Waals to South Africa. In addition, we also partner with the African Pastors' Conferences.

Every January, we host the Deep South Founders Conference. This year, our focus was on Chapter 22 of the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689, and Jeff Johnson was our main speaker. In March, we hosted a Regional Men's Retreat and were encouraged to have 70+ men/boys attend. Our Ladies with have a seminar on April 25th addressing the theme, "A Godly Woman." We are grateful to God for using the men who faithfully declared His Word.

### Prayer Requests

1. The salvation of our numerous regular visitors, as well as the children and youth.
2. Neighborhood outreach efforts in our community.
3. The R1 visa application process for our Pastoral Assistant, Prashant Thakkar and family.
4. Fundraising efforts, to assist the Oliveiras as they seek to purchase a home in Portugal.
5. The de Waals as they have now transitioned to Cape Town, South Africa. 🌍

## CHURCH UPDATES

Providence Reformed Baptist Church

Joshua, TX

Patrick Joyner, Pastor

Greetings from Texas! We are looking forward to seeing you this year at the GA in McKinney—we hope to be helping in some way!

We are grateful for the Lord's mercies and kindness as we approach our 5th anniversary this year as a church. We are enjoying sweet unity and are grateful for the Lord's work in our midst. Since we meet at the local YMCA on the Lord's Day, we have a rotation of six homes we meet at for our weekly prayer meetings and another church gives us three rooms every other Thursday for our men's and women's theology studies. Each Friday we lead a Bible Study at the Naval Air Station in Fort Worth for Sailors and Marines.

One Saturday each month we visit local businesses and distribute the Child Trafficking Posters - "Have You Seen Me?" This has given us another opportunity to see the Lord at work in our community and meet others.

We count it a blessing to explore the mission work in our network and pray for the Lord's grace in it and in our churches.

### Prayer Requests:

- growth in holiness in our church as we labor with God's Word
- that the Lord would use us to draw unbelievers in our community to Himself
- that the Lord would draw like minded believers who are moving into our community to our fellowship
- that we would represent Christ well as joyful Christians who love one another well. 🌍

Location: McKinney, Texas | Speaker: Joel Beeke  
Faithful Perseverance in Ministry  
September 21-23  
GA26 TEXAS  
Registration Opening Soon!

## CHURCH UPDATES

Heritage Baptist Church

Owensboro, KY

Mark Redfern, Pastor

We continue the steady work of ministry here in Owensboro, striving to keep our hand to the plow in the "long obedience in the same direction" of worship, discipleship and evangelism.

As we gather on the Lord's Day, we are currently preaching through Romans. Pray for fruit—that our church would be transformed from one degree of glory to another as we receive the implanted word with meekness. Pray that the Lord might meet us in an unusual way as we spend sustained time in Paul's letter to the Romans. We know this letter has been blessed of the Spirit so often in church history to the edification of God's people and the conversion of those who have yet to receive His mercy. May He be so gracious as to count us among them.

We continue to encourage more intergenerational discipleship in our midst and are pleased to see some initial seeds taking root. Pray for deep spiritual friendships to develop between older and younger members. We seek to cultivate this through regular men's (and boys) breakfasts and Titus Talks evenings for our sisters. Pray that they would be a launching pad for encouraging and sustaining such friendships.

This time of year brings with it some unique opportunities for local evangelism. Please pray for gospel fruit among our regular outreach to refugees, weekly ministry with the homeless, and an upcoming VBS we host to serve a more impoverished area of our community. Pray that as we seek to build relationships, have fun, and share the gospel, that the seeds we have planted over many years would soon come to harvest.

As always, we are grateful for your partnership in the gospel! It is a joy to link arms together in the Great Commission churches. Thank you for all that you do and for graciously welcoming me in. God bless you all! 🌍



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