

RBN Net Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
August, 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."

COORDINATOR LONG-TERM PLANNING

On my desk sits a small poster that constantly catches my eye. In large, bold letters it reads, "Dribble with your head up!" It reminds a soccer player not to become so fixated on the ball at his feet that he loses sight of the open field ahead. Success requires seeing the bigger picture, anticipating what lies before you, and planning the next pass to a well-positioned teammate.

Beneath those words is a quotation from Proverbs 22:3:

"The prudent sees the danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it."

The principle is clear: wisdom looks ahead. It exercises foresight rather than waiting to react to circumstances after they arrive.

I count it a great privilege and honor to serve as the Coordinator of RBN Net. At the same time, I recognize that every season of ministry eventually comes to an end. I am convinced that the long-term health of the Network will be best served by passing the baton, at the appropriate time, to a younger brother whom the Lord has gifted with fresh strength and ability to lead in the years ahead.

During the past year, I have openly shared with several RBN Net committees my conviction that "three score and ten"—seventy years of age—is a reasonable milestone for me to view as the finish line of my service as Coordinator. I have also emphasized that my personal conviction should not determine that timetable. The churches of the Network—not I—have the responsibility of deciding who serves as Coordinator and for how long. I serve at the pleasure of the churches, not according to my own preferences. I am simply your servant, presuming nothing, and I would be willing to step aside sooner if that were the desire of the churches.

Paul Farese, chairman of the P&F Committee, recently summarized this understanding in the committee minutes:

Mark Chanski is presently 67 years old (I know, he doesn't look it), but on March 1, 2029, he turns 70. Mark's desire is to continue serving as Coordinator until he turns 70 on March 1, 2029. He made

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MISSION THOUGHTS

AN URGENT APPEAL

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise." (Prov.11:30 ESV)

What is it to capture or win (NKJV) souls? Is it to proclaim the gospel facts and pat ourselves on the back that we have faithfully presented Christ to our hearers and therefore we have evangelized?

Robert Murray McCheyne says, "no." McCheyne preached the ordination sermon for P. L. Miller, on December 16, 1840. In a very personal touch, he mentioned that he and his boyhood friend played together as children.

The whole sermon is worthy of mediation, but I will just focus on one thought that McCheyne highlighted: the need for preachers to make earnest appeals for sinners to come to Christ.

*Oh, to be more merciful
to souls, that we would
lay hands on men and draw
them in to the Lord Jesus!*

As McCheyne spoke of the need to "Exhort" (2 Timothy 4:2) he said, "This is the most difficult part of the Christian ministry." After this McCheyne stated,

"And here I would observe what appears to me a *fault in the preaching of our beloved Scotland*. Most ministers are accustomed to set Christ before the people. They lay down the gospel clearly and beautifully, but they do not urge men to enter in. Now God says, Exhort—beseech men—persuade men; not only point to the open door, but compel them to come in. Oh, to be more merciful to souls, that we would lay hands on men and draw them in to the Lord Jesus!" (P. 242)

In the conclusion of this sermon McCheyne makes this urgent appeal to the congregation and to any who may be yet outside of Christ, "Your pastor comes with the silver trumpet of mercy. Why will ye turn it into the trumpet of judgment? He comes with glad tidings of great joy. Why should you turn them into sad tidings of endless woe? He comes to preach the acceptable day of the Lord. Why will ye turn it into the day of judgment?" (P. 250) 🕊

¹Bonar, Andrew A., *Memoirs of McCheyne*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1947, pp. 235-250. (Banner of Truth published this in 2024.)

— Gordon Taylor, RBN Net Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Redeeming Grace Church

Cartersville, GA

Benjamin Allen, Deacon/Treasurer

2026 has been a year of significant change for our church. Through it all, we are grateful that we serve a God who does not change, giving us confidence in His unfailing mercy and faithful care.

This March, our pastor, David Harris, lost his wife of 37 years. Please continue to pray for him as he walks through this deep valley of grief. We are especially thankful for the pastors within the Reformed Baptist Network who have faithfully counseled, encouraged, and prayed with him during this difficult season.

Even amid these trials, the Lord has been at work in our congregation. Our members are growing in godliness and willingly taking on greater responsibility in the life of the church. Please pray for two men who expressed an interest to serve as elders and are currently training with our pastor. Finally, pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom as we seek the most effective ways to reach our local community with the gospel. May He open the right doors and make our path clear.

Praises

- Praise the Lord that we were able to get our fellowship hall fixed after a tree fell on it.
- Praise the Lord for the growth in grace that we see from our members.
- Praise the Lord for increasing the number of children in our congregation. Please pray that the Lord would see fit to save all of them while they are young.
- Praise the Lord that our evangelistic efforts have brought several visitors to our church.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our pastor as he mourns the loss of his wife of 37 years. She went to heaven in March, 2026.
- Pray for the men who are going through elder training as they prepare for this weighty calling.
- Pray that the Lord would give direction to a couple in our body who are considering foreign missions.
- Pray that the Lord would send us more senior and middle-aged members to complement the many younger people in our flock. 🕊

it clear that he understands he serves at the pleasure of the churches, saying, "I serve not according to my own preferences. I believe I still have plenty of gas left in the tank to sprint to that finish line and to bring significant help to our Network." At the same time, he wants to be prudent and realistic, which means we should begin thinking now about a transition around March 1, 2029.

Should the Lord allow me to complete an "age 70 end date" as Coordinator, I would also count it a privilege and honor to continue serving RBNNet, without financial compensation, in whatever advisory or assisting role might prove helpful—much as my forerunner, Gordon Taylor, has so faithfully and capably done.

May the Lord grant wisdom to our churches as we seek His guidance in this matter. 🌍

— Mark Chanski, RBNNet Coordinator

CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church of Riverside Riverside, CA

Robert Elliott, Pastor

Praise God with us for...

- The Joy of unity.
- The baptism and receiving into membership of numerous young people.
- The recent constituting of our local Spanish ministry and the Enseñada plant as biblical churches.
- The ministry of Troy Lamberth who has been brought on as our second full time Pastor.
- Sam and Emma who are close to finishing building their house on the edge of the unreached people group's village in South East Asia.
- Alex and Liya Torres as they continue to take the gospel to the needy land of Spain. 🌍

*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.*

CHURCH UPDATES

Harbor Church Holland, MI

Matthew Morgan, Pastor

Greetings in Christ,

We are delighted to share with you some praises and prayer requests. To begin, we are grateful for the Lord sustaining the unity and peace of our church through a bit of a difficult season. We recently had to excommunicate four members, but the Lord was gracious to us during that time. Please pray for the salvation of those individuals and for the continued peace and unity of Harbor Church.

We are praising God for many new visitors, some of whom are either new believers or unbelievers. Pray for the salvation of the unbelievers that are visiting our church, and for the new believers to be discipled well. We are also grateful for several new members, including a few recent/upcoming baptisms. Pray for us to be faithful in building up these saints. Along with this, please pray for the Lord to provide one or two more bi-vocational elders, and another deacon, that we may serve this congregation effectively.

Many of you know about our church plant in Jamaica. We are grateful for the Lord providing Grace Harbor Jamaica with a new building recently. We are grateful for the members of RBNNet helping us raise the funds for this, and for the Lord opening up the right door. Please continue to pray for the renovation of that building, and for the Lord to do great things on the island of Jamaica. Pray for Raymond and his family as they seek to serve the Lord faithfully.

Please also pray for the city of Holland; that the Lord would send revival and reformation! We are grateful for your prayers! 🌍

CHURCH UPDATES

Reformed Baptist Church of McKinney McKinney, TX

Stuart Sanders, Pastor

Our church is situated in the northeast corner of the Dallas/ Fort Worth Metroplex. We have five elders and three deacons. This past year one of our founding elders, Paul Rasmussen, transitioned to emeritus status after twenty years of service to the church. Following his transition, our founding deacon, Cowley Hunt and his wife moved back west to be near their children and grandchildren.

Our regular attendance has been around 200-220 on any given Lord's Day. We are thankful for the growth and opportunity. Our biggest prayer request is for a facility of our own. Currently we rent a Seventh Day Adventist building that is sub-optimal in various ways. Property prices are astronomical in our area. While we think creatively about how to acquire a building of our own, it seems at this point it will be an unmediated act of Providence for us to obtain a facility.

We look forward to hosting everyone at this year's GA at another like-minded church's facility. 🌍



Faithful Perseverance
in Ministry

Location: McKinney, Texas | Speaker: Joel Beeke
September 21–23

GA26 TEXAS

Register Now!
<https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/conference-2026/>