

RBN Net Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
December 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."

SPURGEON ON GOD'S LOVING A CHEERFUL GIVER:

A merchant had just built a beautiful new house for his wife and children. A man came by his office to ask a donation for a gospel cause, and got: "I really can't afford to give anything." But while sitting that night alone by his new fireside, his conscience squawked. "I've spent much on this lavish house..." He fell asleep...and a door opened. A stranger appeared: "Sir, I asked you to give help to send the gospel to the heathen." "Yes, and as you can see here, my expenses are great. So I must decline." "But sir, the need isn't across the sea, just down the street, poor ragged Arab children." "Yes, but I've already told you I can't spare anything."

A tear fell from the stranger's face, who now appeared meek and lowly, but majestic.

"Five years ago, your little daughter lay fevered. You prayed that your darling might not be taken. Who heard that prayer, and gave her back to you?" The merchant covered his face. "10 years ago, you were buried in debt, on the verge of bankruptcy; your hair was turning gray. You asked my help. Who found you friends who tided you over when estates were collapsing all over? 15 years ago, you felt the burden of your sins. You were wringing your hands and crying, 'God have mercy on me!' Who then spoke the forgiving word that cancelled all your sins? Who took all your iniquities on Himself?" The merchant sobbed out loud: "Take all, my Lord. Forgive my ingratitude." He woke up. . . and became a prince of a giver to the cause of Christ to his dying day.

Year End Giving Opportunities to the Reformed Baptist Network:

1. To a Particular RBN Net [Missionary](https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/missions/) (https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/missions/), or
2. To the RBN Net [Special Needs Mission Fund](https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/special-needs-giving/), (https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/special-needs-giving/) or
3. To the RBN Net [General Fund](https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/give/). (https://reformedbaptistnetwork.com/give/)

Thanks for considering and praying! 🙏

– Mark Chanski, RBN Net Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

MOTIVATION FOR MISSIONS

What motivated Isaiah to answer the call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" with this response: "Here am I! Send me.?"

Before Isaiah received the command to "Go, and tell this people:", he had a vision of the glory of God in His transcendent and moral holiness. Consequently, he was overcome with his own unworthiness.

The same order is seen in the New Testament. Before Jesus sent the apostles, He showed them His glory in His resurrected body. He asked Peter if he loved Him.

When there is a lethargy for missions it is most likely a failure to behold the glory of God in His holiness and love.

After the disciples came to understand the glory of the risen Lord, only then was the Great Commission given. Of course they still needed the power of Holy Spirit to come upon them.

Eric Wright in his book *A Practical Theology of Missions* observes, "A passion for God fuels

the missionary impulse." On the same page he quotes Robert E. Speer, "The supreme arguments for missions are not found in any specific words. It is in the very being and character of God that the deepest ground of the missionary enterprise is to be found." Wright and Speer are saying that the motivation for missions is rooted in an experiential knowledge of God such as Isaiah and the Apostles had.

As I reflected on these thoughts, I began to understand the Moravian zeal that Wright used to illustrate the motivation for missions. It was "the deep communion with God and the passionate love for Christ that galvanized generations of Moravians to offer themselves for missionary service. Invigorated by this practical devotion, the Moravians established a twenty-four prayer vigil that they maintained for 100 years" (Wright p. 26).

When there is a lethargy for missions it is most likely a failure to behold the glory of God in His holiness and love. If we wish to increase missionary zeal we need to start to see, by God's grace, what Isaiah and the Apostles beheld. And we must see the glory of God not just academically, but experientially. O Lord show us Your glory! 🙏

– Gordon Taylor, RBN Net Support

CHURCH UPDATES

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

Iglesia Bautista Reformada de Miami,
Miami-Dade, FL

Joel Puentes, Pastor

My dear brothers in the Lord. By the grace of God, Iglesia Bautista Reformada de Miami has persevered in the grace of our Great Savior Jesus Christ. Made up of a great majority of Latino immigrants, our church has overcome the challenges of living the Christian life in the United States. We are a church with 160 members and an attendance of around 300 people. The council of elders is made up of 4 pastors, only one of whom is full-time in the pastoral ministry. We also have 4 deacons.

Prayer requests:

- Please pray for our own building: We now meet in a hotel. It has not been easy for us to find an appropriate meeting place for more than 300 people.
- Let us pray for wisdom for the pastors: It has been a true blessing to see how our church has grown exponentially in the last 3 years. The new sheep come with wounds caused by their life of sin before Christ. We need wisdom to shepherd them appropriately.
- Please pray for a church that is being planted in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Our good God has opened doors for us to preach the gospel in this city and has allowed us to begin a church planting project. We have been in this project for almost three years, and we hope that next January Pastors William Gutierrez and Joel Puentes will officially organize it.
- Please pray for our sister churches in Cuba. Right now Cuba is suffering the biggest economic crisis in its history. It has also suffered the ravages of a hurricane in the past few weeks. If that were not enough, this week they suffered an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale. We are joining the help that the Iglesia Biblica del Señor Jesucristo (IBSJ) is providing to cooperate in this situation. Pastors Daniel Alvarez and Ricardo Piñero will travel next week to bring help and encourage the brothers.

Thank you for your prayers. 🙏

CHURCH UPDATES

The Valley Remnant Church,
Whitsett, PA

Philip Pagliari, Pastor

A New Chapter This Fall...

In September, The Valley Remnant Church was officially accepted into the Reformed Baptist Network (RBNNet) at the General Assembly in Riverside, CA. We are thrilled to join this fellowship of like-minded churches, partnering in the global advancement of the gospel.

As autumn approached, we fervently prayed for a permanent building where we could gather for worship. God graciously answered! In November, we moved into our new location, just in time for the first rainy Sunday since June. Our congregation has been working hard to make the space suitable for worship.

Ongoing Needs and Prayer Requests:

We thank the Lord for His abundant provision, but as a small church, we have many pressing needs. Please join us in prayer and support for the following:

- Building Improvements – We need items such as chairs, paint, shelves, signs, stove, and a refrigerator to make our space functional, welcoming, and safe.
- Financial Support – Pray that we can receive external support so that Pastor Phil Pagliari will be able to support his family as a pastor, enabling him to focus on laboring in the Word and prayer.
- Ministry Growth – Pray for our outreach efforts, including the Anchored Heart Ministry, led by Kevin and Stephanie Lang, in the Marion Villa Housing Projects.

Spiritual Growth

- That God would raise up deacons to serve the church.
- For young men and women to grow in faith and seek God-honoring marriages.
- For older men and women to remain unified and steadfast.
- For families to model godly living, honoring the Lord in their homes.
- For pastors to lead with wisdom, unity, and faithfulness.

We are humbled and grateful for your prayers and support as we strive to glorify God and proclaim His Kingdom. 🌍

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Reformed Baptist Church
Terrell, TX

Ron West, Pastor

Greetings from Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Terrell, TX! We're grateful for the opportunity to link arms with our sister churches of the RBNNet, and share what the Lord has been doing among us.

Praises:

The past year has been one of growth and encouragement for our congregation. We recently celebrated our first anniversary as a church, and we've seen God's faithfulness in building a strong, unified body devoted to sound doctrine, fellowship, and outreach. Several new families have joined, and we're encouraged by their eagerness to serve. We're also thankful for the Lord's kindness in providing a permanent meeting location. We're grateful for the opportunity to support missions and theological education through the Reformed Baptist Network, and we look forward to building even closer ties with RBNNet in the coming year.

Prayer Requests:

Please join us in praying for a few key areas. First, we are in the interview stage of searching for an additional teaching elder to support our congregation as we grow. We're asking the Lord for wisdom and patience in this process, and for the right man who will shepherd our people well and teach faithfully. Additionally, we ask for prayer as we navigate our outreach efforts. We have been particularly burdened for our surrounding communities, where opportunities to share the gospel are plentiful, yet the challenges are also great. Pray that we would be bold and loving in our witness.

Ministry News:

As we look ahead, we're planning to launch our Sunday morning discipleship and teaching groups. We're excited about the ways God is shaping our church to grow in grace and service.

Thank you for your fellowship and prayers. We are grateful to be a part of this network of faithful churches and look forward to seeing how God continues to work among us all! 🌍



CHURCH UPDATES

Harbor Reformed Baptist Church
Holland, MI

Matthew Morgan, Pastor

Greetings from Harbor Reformed Baptist Church in Holland, Michigan.

We are pleased to provide you with a brief update of our church. In 2023 we brought on an elder candidate for a one-year trial period. 2024 brought with it two major updates. In January we ordained our elder candidate as a full-time elder. Also, we launched a new 1689 church plant in May Pen, Jamaica.

Here are some praises we would like to share:

- Praise God for providing the church with a full-time elder.
- Praise God for giving us unity in voting on the Jamaican church plant.
- Praise God that Grace Harbor Jamaica was launched in May 2024.

Prayer requests:

- Pray for wisdom with evangelizing our city.
- Pray for an opportunity for us to have gospel influence at a college nearby our church.
- Pray for another bi-vocational elder who is gifted in teaching.

Prayer requests for our Jamaican church plant:

- Please pray for the finances needed to sustain this church plant.
- Pray for the Lord to provide a plurality of elders.
- Pray for revival and reformation throughout Jamaica.
- Pray for the Lord to lead and direct our church planter Raymond Graham.

We greatly appreciate the fellowship and gospel partnership of the Reformed Baptist Network. We are also extremely grateful for your prayers. 🌍

