

RBNet Monthly

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

PRAY FOR RBNet's "CALEB"

I just heard that RBNet's beloved, heroic, 81-year-old Coordinator Emeritus, Gordon Taylor, has been experiencing physical struggles like severe headaches, high fatigue, low hemoglobin counts, etc. He reported to me he's been "put on the shelf" for a time for tests and evaluation, compelling him to clear the calendar for some time, resulting in his reluctant cancellation of Sunday evening preaching, officiating of a weekend wedding, and 7 weeks of interim pastoring in Florida. Gordon is my chief speed-dial counselor, and obviously many others' "go to" pinch hitter.

When 85-year-old Caleb was perceived as "over the hill" by youthful Hebrews, he resolved to "take a mountain" armed to the teeth with fortified cities and giant Anakim. "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in" (Joshua 14:11). For many in Network churches, this elderly punch is profoundly true. Though youthful vigor may have faded, aged wisdom has compensated. "Retired" saints are a nuclear power plant source of kingdom energy and spiritual vigor for taking mountains.

Matthew Henry commends the valor of Caleb (along with our Gordon and many other Caleb-clout saints in RBNet – like 80 year old Pastors Kent Creason in Camp Hill, PA and Rick Kirsten in Holland, MI who are still taking on spiritual warfare giants for Christ's church):

He was now eighty-five years old, yet he desires the post of danger and service, not that of rest. . . The promises of God put life into aged believers, and make them willing to attempt great things.

Thomas Manton: "Many begin well and end poorly; Caleb began well and held on long."

Let's thank God and pray for Gordon, our valiant RBNet Caleb, that he might be given a "second wind," and that he would "finish well," as he dependently presses on: "Perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out" (14:12), to the praise of His sustaining grace. God bless us, everyone! ☺

– Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

AFFLICTIONS

The Apostle Paul was not only persecuted, but he also had physical affliction. He wrote this in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9: "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (ESV).

I have been thinking a lot about missions and the physical difficulties and trials of missionaries who are preaching the gospel.

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For example, our missionaries in Ireland, the Emadi's have had one of their little girls in two or three different countries because of physical affliction. David Vaughn who has a good, profitable and fruitful ministry in France has had a good deal of physical affliction. Thankfully he is doing much better now. Also many other missionaries are having physical afflictions as detailed in the February 2 Missionary Prayer Guide.

And yet what is true of each of these missionaries and many others is that they have continued to preach the gospel. I am thinking of this because I've had my own physical problems in recent days which require more attention than what I've ever had to experience in my life. This has caused me to appreciate even more the tenacity and the commitment of those who preach the gospel to reach our lost world.

So what should we learn from this? We learn that in God's providence the gospel goes forth in weakness along with many afflictions and yet the Lord builds his church, even though His servants and their families may be weak. So we who are the senders need to be earnest in prayer for these not only that they would be healed, yes we long for that, but that the Lord will sustain them and give them fruit and true joy in the midst of the trials they endure. ☺

– Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Oak Creek Baptist Church,
Midlothian, TX

Steve Garrick, Pastor

Greetings to our Sister Churches in the Reformed Baptist Network!

Oak Crest Baptist Church in Midlothian, Texas is pleased to share with you the good things that God has done for us over the course of the last year.

In September, Oak Crest celebrated its 40th anniversary. What a blessing to see a church founded on the preaching of God's Word still loving the Word four decades later. The first pastor, Brother Jerry Hall (now with the Lord) has a good reputation as a faithful minister of churches in Oklahoma and Texas. Several current members of Oak Crest have been here for over 30 years. God has given Oak Crest good people who love the Lord and each other.

Because of some difficulties, Oak Crest had been without a pastor from January through mid-August. In God's providence, the church called me as its pastor on August 17. The challenge of teaching and preaching has been a larger one than I could have guessed, but the people are eager to learn God's Word.

Over the last two years, God has added 51 people to Oak Crest, including 11 by baptism (four of whom are my own grandchildren, praise God!). The church has also added Pastor Jonathan Cole as a part-time pastor. I have known Jonathan and his family since he was 8 years old! His ability to open God's Word shows God's gifts to him.

Oak Crest is an active church. In 2025, we hosted a VBS, renovated our sanctuary, and ran a high school youth camp in which the youth spent the daytime doing projects for the elderly in our church. Monthly Bible studies, nursing home ministry, support for a local crisis pregnancy center—these are some of the ministries of Oak Crest.

Please pray for us that, as we grow in the unity of the faith, we continue in love for each other and the lost around us. ☺

– On Behalf of Oak Crest Baptist,
Pastor Steve Garrick

CHURCH UPDATES

Providence Baptist Church,
Lecanto, FL

Marty Hoffman, Pastor

For 30 years we were told 'IT' was coming! Well, the future has arrived and so has 'IT'! I am referring to the Suncoast Parkway which is now open. Construction is all around us. The church that used to lie in the middle of cow and watermelon fields is now on a major interstate just a little over an hour from Tampa. We would say you had to be lost to stumble upon our church, but now the world is at our doorstep. We have seen many local visitors and have a number who attend regularly.

This past year we have had an opportunity to take in a homeless man who this past Lord's Day gave his testimony. The story of how God brought him to us and the connections are amazing. I hope I can share more of this sometime. He lived in the church for nearly a year and now has a job, car, apartment, restored health, and most importantly a vibrant relationship with our Saviour.

We have another couple who have applied for membership. He was a local pastor and former missionary. He now labors with a local mission's ministry started by the martyred missionary Nate Saint's son. His work takes him all over the globe in mission related activities. He will be leaving this month to a closed North African nation for a few weeks. The Lord continues to expand our global outreach.

You may have seen the announcement about our Missionary Jayne who became engaged. She is on home assignment and was wed in December to Normand from a sister church in Orlando. They intend to return to the field in the Spring.

Pray for the following:

1. Pray for our outreach locally in the many opportunities Christ gives us.
2. Pray for our outreach globally through those God keeps adding to us.
3. Pray for our upcoming Annual Bible Conference with Salvador Gomez from the DR in April. 🌍

CHURCH UPDATES

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Verona, VA

Andrew McCaskill, Pastor

This past year has been a transition for us. Our former full-time pastor, Luke Peterson, along with his family, raised support and moved to Costa Rica as a missionary. The Lord confirmed this calling and provided for us in two areas of need. First, the Lord provided adequate funding for the Petersons move in September. And secondly, the Lord allowed me to step into full-time ministry at EBC. We are also blessed with another lay-elder, Greg McGonigal. Please pray for Greg and myself as we labor together at EBC and for the Petersons in Costa Rica. Further still, the Lord has blessed us with two gifted brothers (one a pastoral intern and the other leading music on the Lord's Day). We are privileged to have dedicated deacons ready to serve our body in a multitude of ways. Great is the Lord's faithfulness.

In late summer, I was able to travel to Chiang Rai, Thailand to support missionaries there. Through the Lord's providential mercies another lampstand was planted (Sovereign Grace Fellowship, a 1689 confessional church). Please pray for this church and its pastors.

In autumn, we held our annual Ladies Retreat. Many women from VA, NC, PA, and WV came and were blessed by the preaching of Luke Mace (PRBC Martinsburg, WV). Pray for our planning efforts that have already begun for the same retreat in 2026.

We are eager to proclaim the gospel and minister to those in our immediate locality. Our pastors and some members will also be involved in several international missions efforts throughout the year. We covet your prayers for these evangelistic opportunities.

Lastly, we are thankful for frequent visitors and several interested in membership. The Lord has been ever gracious to us.

Thank you for remembering us in your prayers. We count it a privilege to labor alongside you all for the glory of Christ and the good of His Church. 🌍



CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Baptist Church
Commerce, GA

Murray Brett, Pastor

We give thanks for our cooperation with RBNNet. We are encouraged to report that since our last church report, six new families started attending and thus far, Kenny and Catlyn Durham, Adrian and Skyla Dallas, Josiah and Courtney Dooley, and Joe and Jemimah Mineiri have become members. We are close to maxing out our rented facility and we are looking for land to purchase and build a building. Please pray that the Lord will be pleased to allow us to move forward in getting land soon.

Last January, our church elected Drew Martin to the eldership. Drew has been serving in a preaching and pastoral role for about three years, and last year we confirmed his gifts and calling to ministry. Lord willing, Drew will be my successor as pastor of Grace Baptist in the Lord's timing.

I'm preaching through Ephesians in worship, taking the John Brown of Edinburgh approach of studying and preaching for the pastoral-theological flow of thought. In our midweek study we are slowly working through "The Nature, Power, Deceit, and Prevalency of Indwelling Sin," by John Owen. Of all the books on sin that we've studied in our 29 years together, this has been the most profitable for us all. It's been eye-opening for many to learn that the nature of their remaining sin is enmity (chapter 5) and opposition to God (chapter 6), and with a little additional poison from Satan, our sin reaches the point of madness and insanity (chapter 7). In Sunday School we've taken one sentence from Owen's book and are seeking to understand it and apply it better pastorally: "We are oftentimes because of the first acts of sin, before we are aware, carried into distempered affections, foolish imaginations, pleasing delightfulness in things that are not good nor profitable (Crossway Edition, p. 273). 🌍

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