

RBN Net Monthly

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

RBN Net 2026 GA "FORETASTE"

Joel Beeke will be the keynote speaker for the evening services at our 2026 GA in McKinney, TX (N Dallas) on the theme of Faithful Perseverance in Ministry. Here are foretaste excerpts from his prepublication manuscript of RHB's *The Persevering Shepherd: A Guide to Maintaining Vitality for Long-Term Ministry*.

"As pastors, we are special objects of Satan's attention... We are among Satan's primary targets, for he has declared war against us. He will use every weapon in his arsenal to destroy our ministries and to discredit the gospel of Jesus Christ. As John Calvin says, the ministry 'is not a pleasant occupation which we can undertake with joy and delight; it is... a hard and bitter warfare, in which Satan again and again stirs up for us as much trouble as he can and leaves no stone unturned to annoy us...'"

"Martin Holdt (1941–2011), a dear friend of mine from South Africa, had a special ministry of pastoring fallen ministers. He once confided to me that of all the scores of fallen ministers he had worked with throughout the continent of Africa, every one of them had neglected daily, regular times alone with God through reading the Bible, meditating on it, and exercising heartfelt prayer at the throne of grace..."

"I met a man who received two calls when he was 21 and finishing college. One was a struggling work that was beginning on a little island, and another was a big city work. He struggled with both calls and did not know what to do. He wrote and accepted both, and he took the letters with him to the mailbox, shuffling them in his hand. Finally, he put one in the mailbox and walked home. When he looked at the one that was left in his hand, he saw that he had accepted the small church, and he ran back to the mailbox, but the mail carrier had already taken it. And so off he went—12 members in a dilapidated room. He remained in that church for 59 years."

How desperately we as shepherds need our Shepherd! ☺

– Mark Chanski, RBN Net Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

A NEW HEART

As I write this, I'm just a few days from facing a triple bypass heart surgery. This makes me think about the heart. I have heart disease. But there's a worse disease which is the deceitful wicked heart with which we were born. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked is what Jeremiah says.

It is because of the wicked heart that we have missions. What is the goal of missions? It is to preach the gospel and to tell people that they may have a new heart.

As I compare what the surgeon is going to do with me, and what the gospel says needs to be done with people with

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a bad heart, there is a stark contrast. If my surgery is successful, I come out with the same heart just bypassing some arteries to give me longer to live. The problem with other religions is that they simply try to bypass the

bad parts of the heart by use of legalism or church ceremonies. And those things will help the heart for a little while and perhaps even give a better life. But our missionaries are not preaching moralism or church ceremonies as the solution but rather the gospel of Jesus Christ, who told Nicodemus that he must be born again. Yes, what is needed is a brand new heart. It's that kind of heart that I'm not getting physically. I thank God that our missionaries are preaching a gospel which will give men brand new hearts. So therefore, we need to pray that the Holy Spirit will use our missionaries to preach the gospel with power so that people may truly have new hearts and know what it means to love God, to love His Word, His people, and see Jesus Christ in all of the Scriptures.

Here is the promise of the gospel from the book of Ezekiel 36:26: (NKJV) "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." ☺

– Gordon Taylor, RBN Net Support

Editor's Note: At the time of this publication, Gordon is home and recovering well.

CHURCH UPDATES

Cornerstone Bible Church,
Ridgecrest, CA

Johnny Zacchio, Pastor

Grace and peace to all the churches in our Reformed Baptist Network family! My name is Johnny Zacchio Jr.

I'm writing to you (for the first time!) on behalf of Cornerstone Bible Church in Ridgecrest, California. We are a full-member church and I'm privileged to serve here full-time as the lead pastor. I'm also privileged to update you about the great things God has done and how you can pray for us in Ridgecrest.

2025 was an exciting year in particular, because this was the year that I packed up and moved my family from San Diego to Ridgecrest to assume this role as lead pastor. Former pastor, Lyn Whitecomb, served faithfully for 20+ years and due to an RBN Net General Assembly, I met Robert Elliot who introduced me to Lyn. Upon hearing of him retiring, I started praying. It wasn't long before God was putting a burden on my heart for this precious local church. There was a great need. After much prayer with my wife and counsel from trusted mentors, we packed up and were voted in May 2025. It was as scary as it was joyous. We didn't quite know what would come of it. But God was so faithful and led us to a very kind, godly, healthy, confessional church family.

Learn more about me, my family, and our recent move in our family update [here](https://www.johnnyzacchio.com/p/zacchio-family-update/) (https://www.johnnyzacchio.com/p/zacchio-family-update!)

Some things to praise God for is that we finished preaching through the book of Matthew, and we'll be starting a series through the 1689 Confession during the Sunday School hour. Hunger for God's Word is palpable and rising in our city. Also, we're seeing unity grow and we've had the privilege to welcome in nearly 10 new members to Cornerstone. God is saving and sanctifying His people. Praise God!

Prayer requests include praying for another elder to be raised up, as one of our lay elders taking a step back to focus attention on other ministry opportunities. We could use prayer for wisdom, as many in our church desire to have children's Sunday School during the adult Sunday School hour before Worship. We're not sure which direction do go. Additionally, a few families in our church have suffered from losing a child in the family so please pray for strength and comfort.

I'm grateful to now be a part of such a faithful family of churches. Thank you for all that you do and for graciously welcoming me in. God bless you all! ☺

CHURCH UPDATES

First Baptist Church
Puxico, MO

Justin Miller, Pastor

Greetings on behalf of First Baptist Church, Puxico.

At First Baptist Church in Puxico, we have faced some trials and difficulties over the past two years and have been sustained in them by God's grace. God in His great kindness pruned us and now has been growing us, we pray, in godliness and also in number. We not only have come to a sweet season of unity through trial, but now want to be faithful to steward well what God seems to be entrusting to us. So, I would ask you to consider praying for us in all these things, as well as pray for our evangelism in our daily lives. Pray that the Lord would draw His lost sheep into the fold through our sharing of the Gospel.

In addition, one of the major burdens this season is our corporate prayer service. Please pray that we will truly seek the Lord as a people who are dependent on Him and want to behold His glory from our cleft of the rock.

As a church, we are planning to hold our annual 4 His Glory Conference April 10-11, 2026. The focus will be on the Doctrine of Man, with the hope of the privilege of ministering to many pastors and churchmen from across the Midwest. We started this conference to help encourage churches and pastors in the wider region to see the realities of faithful experiential reformed teaching. We covet your prayers for the conference, that the Lord will bless the work for His glory.

As some of you know, brothers, we have an institute here geared toward training men for ministry. God has been most kind to us in that we now have almost 10 students from all over the Midwest. Most of the students are already pastors, which is first in our history at Expositors Institute. Please pray for the elders and the students in the seminary, that the Lord would use it to encourage them not only to gather the necessary tools for ministry but also to be encouraged in piety and character, so that these men endure and thrive in ministry for a lifetime for the name of our King.

Lastly, as a church, we are doing a sanctuary remodel with necessary updates, as well as with growth in mind as God gives. Please pray we will be wise stewards of the finances the Lord has given us and wield them well.

It is a true privilege to be part of the warm Reformed Baptist association of churches known as RBNNet. May the Lord shine His face upon us! 🌍

CHURCH UPDATES

Rivertown Grace Fellowship,
Conway, SC

Kevin Lambert, Victor Crawford,
Kent Griggs, Elders

We are very grateful that God has sustained Rivertown Grace Fellowship throughout the last year, and for the support and prayers from the fellow churches within the Reformed Baptist Network.

God has blessed us with several "firsts." We've had our first baptism—a child of a member—and our first wedding of one of our young members. Both individuals, along with one other, have requested to be aligned in membership and will be considered very soon.

Another praise is that God has supplied two men to serve as RGF's first deacons. They were approved by the congregation on February 8. An ordination service will be arranged in the very near future.

In the same business meeting, it was approved to support one of the RBNNet endorsed missionaries. This is another first in our church life. We prefer not to give the name as he is serving in a very sensitive country. We are very grateful for God's provision allowing us to help further God's work.

In our effort to be biblical in our liturgy, the singing of the Psalms has been incorporated into our worship. Although it has been challenging, it has also been a tremendous blessing to sing God's words of praise back to Him.

In October RGF hosted our 3rd annual Doctrines of Grace conference. Brother Stu Johnston was our teacher and led on the subject of "What Did the Cross Achieve?" It was a wonderful time of teaching and blessings.

Prayer needs: As many people move to the coast of SC, we have a great outreach opportunity. The Lord is bringing the world, at least the US, to our doorstep. Pray that we are faithful to share the gospel of God with those He has given us.

Also, we have several new families attending. We thank God for His faithfulness and goodness during the past year. 🌍

CHURCH UPDATES

Christ Bible Church
Kingsport, TN

Damon Joseph, Pastor

Greetings Brethren!

It is a joy to update you on the Lord's work here in Kingsport, TN. God continues to be kind to us! This past November marked our 10th year as a church! The Lord is gracious to continue to grow us both spiritually and numerically. For some time now we have been at capacity in our little rental space, and the Lord has provided an opportunity for a permanent location soon! Please pray that the Lord will guide the entire process.

On a more bitter-sweet note, our brother and Elder Mike Woody has transitioned to Pittsburgh. Mike and Cristina were a blessing to us in so many ways for the three and a half years they were with us. Their footprint certainly remains! Our loss though is another's gain, and we trust the Lord will use them mightily where they are planted! Please pray for the Woody's as they settle in to this new season of life.

Wonderfully though, as the Woody's exited, we voted in four new Deacons! These are men of character who truly have hearts to serve His people! Please pray as we organize and employ our Deacons in various capacities within the church.

Also, please pray for us that the Lord would help us to be faithful stewards of the gospel. We have begun a new sermon series this year through the book of Romans! Please pray that the Lord would not only use it to give us a better understanding of the gospel for our own sanctification and for evangelism, but that He would also use it to save those under our care and the preaching of God's Word! I think primarily of the little ones among us. God has given us a sanctuary with many children, and we are praying for His saving work upon their lives!

Churches, please pray with us that the Triune God would be glorified in our labors for His namesake in 2026!

