

Making Disciples From Many Nations

CLASS
OF
2009

Class of 2009 from
Christian Liberty Academy
in Paramaribo, Suriname
Pray for the Class of 2010 this May

January - April 2010
News and Prayer Letter



Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

January-April 2010

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

When the going gets tough.....?

I know from personal experience both in business and the military the common axiom that says: **when the going gets tough, the tough get going.** It means buckle down, grit your teeth, and strain forward drawing from all your human resources to get the job done. But, in Christian life and ministry, it is really more like the passage above: *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness* and therefore, **when we are weak then are we strong.**

The Holy Spirit convinced the Apostle Paul of this through the various infirmities, necessities and persecutions he faced. Through them Paul was taught that **when the going gets tough, he would discover his weaknesses.** In them he would recognize his need to rely upon the Almighty Sovereign Yahweh (God) whose strength is most clearly revealed in the midst of Paul's weaknesses seen during his greatest challenges.

Every generation must learn to do battle against the world, the flesh and the devil. This battle is not with the weapons of personal strength or expertise, but with spiritual weapons that require us to rely not upon our strength, or that of other men, but the Lord's. Our flesh prefers to use its own personal strength, i.e. whatever we can see, touch, feel and have control over. But the Lord requires us to leave those at the cross and rely solely upon Him. In so doing, we are reminded of *Lamentations 3:19-23 Remembering mine affliction and my misery...My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me* (we see our weaknesses). *This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Some of us on the RCM team are facing such trials/challenges where we must be further humbled in weakness before the Lord so as to draw even more upon His abundant grace which is all-sufficient for every challenge He brings to our lives. While we are definitely challenged by them, we are not discouraged. Yet, I mention them briefly for your prayer, understanding and support.

When **Rev. Rudy Poettcker** came to the U.S. from Suriname, he did so to take over some education responsibilities from Rev.

Donnan and also to give space to the leadership team in Suriname to develop its own abilities without immediate dependence upon him. To do this, it was necessary for his wife to work full-time as a registered nurse to supplement their income supplied by donations through RCM. Recently, she had to undergo two hip replacement operations on the same hip (the first was unsuccessful). As a result, she has been on medical leave from her nursing work until she can walk without a cane. Their reserves are nearly depleted and they cannot sell their home in today's real estate market and recover their mortgage obligations. Obviously, they face a very pressing situation that they must rely upon the Lord to resolve.

Rev. Richard Knodel received a boost in his evangelistic efforts in Scotland during 2008 when the Protestant Truth Society provided him with a salary for representing them while he continued to do his evangelistic efforts with various churches. Due to apparent poor finances on the Society's part, Rev. Knodel had his contract terminated in March and within two months faces the necessity of returning to the U.S. unless he receives significant funding for his work or finds additional salaried work in Scotland. Because of the suddenness of this situation, he has no immediate prospects of work within the U.S. either.



The last two hires for in-office help for RCM during 2008-2009 have not worked out. With the added constraints of our income/donations being considerably lower for the last year, it became necessary for **Rev. & Mrs. Donnan** to do all of the internal administration. This has required them to learn many more things, work much longer hours and spend considerably more time in administration of the various office responsibilities necessary for the functioning of many aspects of RCM. This has impacted our frequency of newsletters and the number of field trips that can be made.

The upside to all of the above is that it is forcing us to re-order our priorities, work more efficiently, and (in the case of HQ) to outsource some things that were previously done in-house. We are seeking cost-reductions and efficiencies in our operation so that when the time comes that we are able to hire again, we will be able to have a leaner more effective operation.

The challenges are very real, especially for the Poettckers and Knodels. We need your serious and fervent prayers. But please don't be discouraged. We have complete confidence in our Sovereign God who uses all these things to bring about changes, efficiencies and new priorities that will better fit us to grasp the many new opportunities that lay before us (explained on later pages).

We have all asked the Lord many times that these challenges might depart from us, yet they remain. Thus our promise from Scripture is *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will we rather glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon us. For when we are weak, then are we strong.* Especially with the prayer and support of you as part of our RCM Team.

Thank you for the part you play in holding us up before the Lord.

 **Geoffrey Donnan**

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JULY 21-24, 2010

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Good News Bible Study Update



Our electronic Good News Bible Study is within a few weeks of being able to handle all the filing for both the electronic and paper courses sent out by church grading centers. Churches will be able to soon put links from their websites to the Bible course or put out advertising to generate interest in local people taking a free on-line Bible course. They may also send out the original printed booklets as well as means of local evangelism while still continuing to reach out to students from around the world who request the courses.

In the last month we have had four people who took the course that indicated they had become believers through taking the on-line course. That is something to be very thankful for, and is an impetus to get everything going as quickly as possible.

Churches interested in using these courses for local/international outreach via electronic and printed courses are encouraged to contact RCM. We need a few churches willing to help us perfect the on-line grading and record-keeping procedures before we solicit larger numbers of churches.

French & Spanish Bible Course Church-Centered Grading Center Needed

We are getting requests from French- and Spanish-speaking countries for our Bible courses in these languages. They are already translated. We are willing to launch a French and Spanish-language electronic Good News Bible Study websites which will require one or more people in a church willing to work with us to set up an electronic Grading Center to handle the requests. This will be an excellent ministry for any church with a local population center that speaks either of these languages as it will enable them to minister both locally and internationally. Please contact Rev. Geoff Donnan if your church would have an interest in such an outreach ministry.



Albania Website Update

Our Albanian language website is in the process of launching with both Albanian (Shqipp) and English language versions. This will not only be a resource for Albanian speakers, but will also be a tool for those with contacts with people from Albania or Kosovo so they can provide them with evangelistic and educational information on this website that English speakers will be able to understand. We expect by June to have the Albanian language electronic Bible course up and running. Please keep this extensive work in prayer. People involved are Nardi & Leida Doka, Dr. Brian McRae, and Rev. Geoff Donnan.

Suriname Update

Thank you for your continuing prayer for this ministry. In many ways it is so rewarding. Just to show you that the Lord has truly blessed CLA (Christian Liberty Academy), I'd like to pass on a little tidbit!



Rev. & Mrs. Rudy Poettcker

Awhile back, two students were applying to enroll in CLA and were writing an entrance exam (to determine what grade they would be in). They had been at another English-speaking school, in grade 11. They seemed to be working for a long while on their exam so I asked them how it was going. They both groaned and said that given the school they were coming from, they were feeling really useless in doing the math questions. Turned out the math they were unable to do was grade 9 level math at CLA. Please continue to pray for CLA and the ongoing challenges we face.

I am again in great need to recruit help for teachers at CLA. I am contacting Christian schools to see if they may have a teacher who would like to take a sabbatical, by teaching for a year at CLA. If you know of any schools I can contact, please send me the information. Please pray that God will supply the needed help for the school year beginning August, 2010.

In the church, we have had the joy of receiving a new member into First Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the ongoing membership classes. Our prayer is that others will request to make public profession of faith, and be examined and received into membership during my May trip.

Rudy Poettcker



WANTED

TEACHER FOR

SURINAME

Can YOU help us find a missionary teacher for our English-language school in Suriname. 350 students, many non-Christian, are a mission field through education. We need someone interested in teaching, willing to learn with education appropriate for high school level subjects though other options exist. We urgently need someone for this coming and the next school years starting in August. For details see

<http://www.reformation.edu/suriname/pages/teachers-needed>

RCM Updates & Schedules

Schedules:

Rev. & Mrs. Geoff Donnan will have an extensive travel schedule this summer visiting churches, conferences, synods and other events seeking students, missionaries, volunteers and supporters for the ministry. *If you are in these areas and would like to arrange a meeting around their schedule, please contact them as soon as possible.* Your prayers are appreciated for these important visits and also for any additional meetings and contacts that might be made with exiting or new individuals or groups who may be interested in learning about Reformation Christian Ministries.

- April 30-May 1**—Georgia Home Education Assn. Conference, Atlanta, GA in exhibit hall at GA Int'l Convention Ctr.
- May 31-June 5**—Biblical Worldview Student Conference, Milligan, TN in exhibitors hall at Milligan College.
- July 21-24** — American Vision's Worldview Suerpr Conference, Kennesaw, GA (NW of Metro Atlanta), exhibitors hall.
- July 26-30** — United Reformed Church General Synod, London, Ontario, Canada (pending).
- August 26-28** — Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Conference, Grand Rapids, MI in exhibitors hall.
- August 30-Sept. 7** — Upper Michigan, family/churches.
- October 9-16** — Grove City, PA area, visiting family and Western PA churches.

Rev. Rudy Poettcker:

- April 25-May 24** — Suriname, So. America Quarterly trip.
- August 9-24** — Suriname, So. America, Quarterly trip.

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For more information: www.reformation.edu or contact the schools at 772-571-8833

Reformation Media & Press Publications in process.

Just an update on books in the process of publication and when they are expected to be available.

- By The Bible Alone**, John Owen's Puritan Theology for Today's Church. by Dr. Stephen Westcott. c. 670 pp. Summer 2010
- The Reformed Church and Her Mission in Dutch Brazil (1630-1654)**, by Dr. Frans Schalkwijk, c. 360 pp. Sum. 2010
- Mission in Chains**, the life, theology and ministry of the ex-slave Jacobus E.J. Capitein (1717-1747) c. 300 pp. Fall 2010
- Other books in line as time permits: **Biblical Hermeneutics** by Milton Terry; **Coverdale New Testament**; **Biblical Textual Criticism** by Dr. Stephen Westcott.

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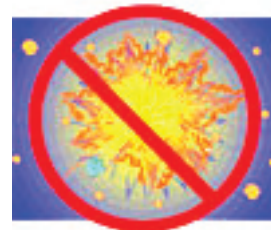
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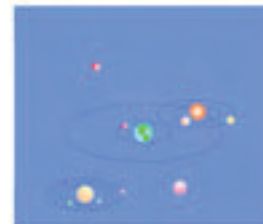
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