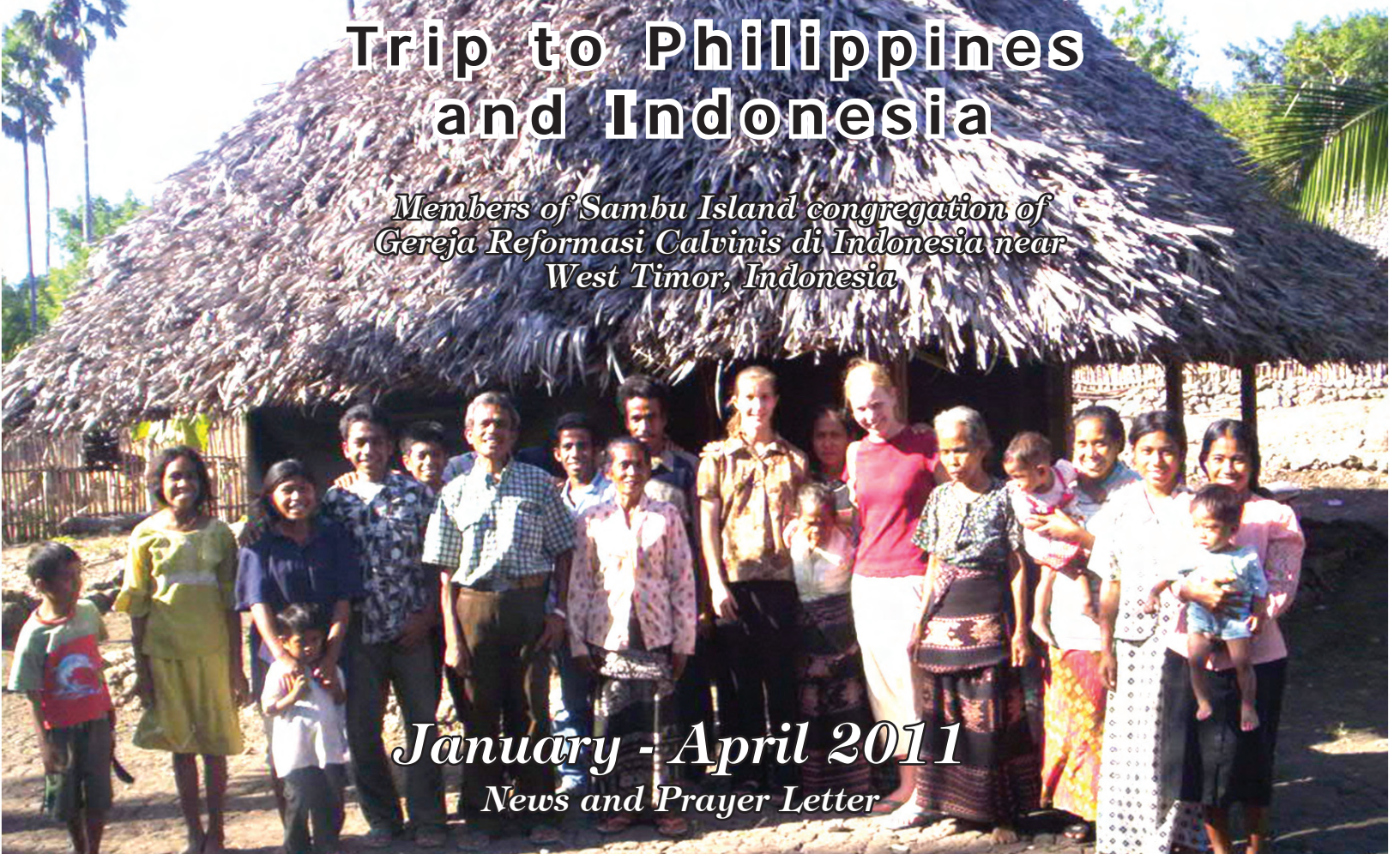


# Trip to Philippines and Indonesia

*Members of Sambu Island congregation of  
Gereja Reformasi Calvinis di Indonesia near  
West Timor, Indonesia*

*January - April 2011*  
*News and Prayer Letter*





# Reformation Christian Ministries


## News & Prayer Letter

### January-April 2011

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is awesome; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. (Psalm 47:1-4)

### He Shall Subdue the People Under Us!!

When you compare this passage with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we find many similarities. God has been in the business of *making disciples from the nations* and peoples since the very beginning of time. Those peoples are not only around the world, but throughout our neighborhoods. As a consequence, we are to live not only with the knowledge that Yahweh is the great King over all the earth, but that He is King over our life, our family, our neighborhoods and cities, yes and even over our nations and the whole earth. He is not only ruler over the souls of all men, but the nations of all men as well. Believing the Gospel is far greater than simply "trusting in Jesus for eternal life" (as important as that is). Our concern is not only for the souls of men, but the light of Christ they shine within their cultures. This is the process by which peoples and nations are subdued under our feet (the Body of Christ). A soul who does not recognize the Lord as their Sovereign King will not change his culture. He may claim to "believe in Jesus" and yet leave his family in a shambles. Such is not the effect of true believers.

True believers become subduers. By the grace of God their evil nature is systematically subdued by grace through the word of God. This in turn begins to change them and their surroundings such that God uses them to *subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet*. He does this through the Gospel's impact on our lives and through us on others. Therefore, we must be overcomers and are exhorted by this psalm *to clap our hands, all ye people, shout unto God with the voice of triumph*. Through Him we are victors, so let  **Geoffrey Donnan** us live that way.

*Finances for RCM and for Rev. Rudy Poettcker's S.A.L.T. ministry have been down considerably the past year. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and needed.*

The RCM News & Prayer Letter is published almost monthly by  
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The RCM News & Prayer Letter is available upon request without obligation  
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Reformation Christian Ministries, an international, educational missions ministry, is under the oversight of The King's Reformed Presbyterian Church and Sharon Orthodox Presbyterian Church. RCM is eligible to receive tax-exempt donations in both the United States and Canada and is underwritten by donations from individuals and other churches.

The Board of Directors for RCM in Canada is responsible for the affairs of RCM in Canada. RCM in the U.S.A. and Canada cooperate on like-minded projects. RCM cooperates by agreement with like-minded churches and denominations by assisting with mission work in specific fields and/or projects. Ecclesiastical authority for missionary ministers comes from their respective churches, not from RCM. Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Europe and Suriname. Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

### Trip to the Philippines

On Saturday, April 23, Rev. Donnan will arrive in Manila in the Philippines. He has been invited by the United Covenant Reformed Church of the Philippines (UCRCP), a small new denomination of Reformed churches coming from various reformed backgrounds, all seeking a solidly reformed denomination.

They have had some organizational guidance from the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) and are seeking local seminary training for their present and future pastors.

The purpose of this trip is to establish the policies, procedures and administration of the local personnel who will utilize our Reformation International Theological Seminary (RITS) program for this training. The program has been in planning in the Philippines since 2009. Rev. Donnan will be working

with several men for the first few days and then attend a classis meeting held at Pangasinan (140 miles north of Manila). There he will meet with all the ministers and some elders of the UCRCP. Two of the



primary contacts are Rev. Edwin Puzon from the Manila area (left) and Rev. Napoleon Narag.

*We will have some better pictures after the trip.*

Rev. Donnan will not only be working to set up the seminary program, but also will be having a thorough discussion on Reformed Church polity as this is a topic of great interest to the ministers and elders. Additionally, he will be preaching (health permitting) on Sunday, May 1 in one of the churches. Rev. Edwin Puzon also runs a primary school in Manila and will seek to draw on Rev. Donnan's 30 years experience in Christian education. Your prayers are greatly appreciated for this time of fellowship, instruction and interaction.

On May 2, Rev. Donnan goes to West Timor, Indonesia.

# Trip to West Timor Indonesia



After his visit to the Philippines, Rev. Donnan will then depart on May 2 from Manilla for Kupang, West Timor, Indonesia via Singapore and Jakarta. The purpose of this visit is also to set up a seminary program for pastoral trainees and to investigate other educational opportunities. He will be working with the Gereja Reformasi Calvinis di Indonesia (Calvinist Reformed Churches in Indonesia), a federation of churches in the area that came into being at the conclusion of the Dutch occupation of these island after 1945.

Below is a map of the western part of West Timor. He will be mainly in Kupang, but will also be visiting various locations on the island of Roti. He will depart on May 11 and return via Jakarta, Tokyo and Houston to Orlando.



Rev. Donnan met Rev. Yonson Dethan (minister in the Kupang church) at the 2010 Synod of the United Reformed Churches of North America. On behalf of his federation, he sought and gained the first step in fraternal relations with the URCNA. During this synod, they spent a great deal of time together during which time a request was made for RCM to assist them with providing seminary training with these churches. Rev. Barry Beukema (URCNA minister at Thunder Bay, Ontario) and RCM Board member was also able to meet with Rev. Dethan.



# RCM Briefs & Updates

## Good News Bible Study New Website



The purpose of the Good News Bible Study website is to offer free on-line Bible courses to anyone in the world in English as well as other languages. Once they complete the Bible course, our objective is then to introduce them to a good church in their area, hopefully one that is faithfully consistent with historic Reformation doctrines such as Reformed/Presbyterian churches and others that are similar.

At long last, we are near completion of the new on-line version of the Good News Bible Study that will enable us to fairly quickly add additional language versions to our on-line Bible study and also make it possible for multiple grading centers to access the site for students they generate. Ongoing thanks are due to Brian McRae (Georgia), Justin Wishart (Australia) and Nardi Doka (Albania) for the role they have played in bringing this about. Thank you so much for your prayers, but please continue, as we are only beginning.

Currently, we have completed the addition of the Albanian language course and have a grading center supervisor ready. As quickly as we have the same for the following languages, we'll add them—Italian, Russian, Chinese, French, Spanish, Dutch, Urdu and Pakistani Punjabi. If you know people who are fluent in any of these languages, doctrinally reformed/presbyterian, committed to gospel outreach and willing to work under oversight of their church if in North America, U.K. and Australia, or under RCM if outside of those areas, please have them contact us at [gwd@reformation.edu](mailto:gwd@reformation.edu).

## U.S. Church Grading Centers Needed

We have a growing need for churches in the U.S. who are willing not only to take on electronic students, but also printed course students. Our church in Florida has now been doing this for several years and the number of students is growing. We'd like to get more and more churches in the U.S. and eventually Canada who would like to reach out within these countries as well as around the world. Please contact [gwd@reformation.edu](mailto:gwd@reformation.edu) if interested.

## College & Seminary Students finding their way to Reformation International College Reformation International Theological Seminary

From December 2010 to January 2011, we have enrolled a number of students from Canada and the U.S. into our college and seminary programs. We also graduated one older student who completed his Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) and is now being called as a pastor. All of these were referrals from other students or church pastors who had heard of our program allowing students to stay and work under their current pastor while studying for their life's calling. No move is required. Because our fees are quite low so as to be affordable for most students, our costs are at least covered enabling us to make up in a very small way for loss of donations due to the economic situation. Bringing our program to the attention of other prospective students is a terrific way to assist us in our growing ministry of *Gospel centered education and outreach, aimed at Reformation*. Please ask prospective students to visit our website at [www.reformation.edu/colleges/](http://www.reformation.edu/colleges/).

This same program is what we are also offering to students overseas with your assistance. We anticipate 15-20 new students as a result of the above trip. Will you help?

## RCM Briefs & Updates

### Rev. Rudy Poettcker & S.A.L.T.

Rev. Rudy Poettcker will be leaving for Suriname to complete year-end tests, graduation and also work with the college students studying from that location. He also works with Pastor Hamid on church session. He makes four such trips each year spending between three and four weeks each time.

In addition to that, he serves as the Dean of Studies for both the college and seminary, and also serves as co-pastor of King's Reformed Presbyterian Church where he does the majority of the preaching. S.A.L.T. is the name of the project at RCM that funds him. It stands for Scriptural Advanced Leadership Training. Not only does he oversee the students, but he also sets up the courses and study guides. The studies he compiles to go along with the lectures and books involved in each course are vital to the work of our college and seminary ministry. He is key to much of the training work we are doing overseas.

He receives a percentage of the tuition from fee-paying students and a pulpit supply stipend each time he preaches. He is paid no salary and receives no benefits from our small church in Palm Bay, Florida. Beyond that, he is totally reliant upon donations made to the S.A.L.T. project (which has suffered significantly of late) and income earned by his wife's nursing occupation. Consequently, if the current financial trend continues, very difficult times lay ahead for the Poettckers.

We mention the above to put a face to some of the sacrifices that are being made for the Gospel by Rev. Poettcker. It is not his nature to say much about this, so we feel compelled to make this need known to you. Please keep him and this need both for him and for RCM in prayer.

Donations intended to support the important ministry of Rev. Rudy Poettcker with RCM should be designated to S.A.L.T.

### Book Publishing

For some years, RCM has published small books and booklets for its college and seminary students. We have also decided to take on some publishing for what we consider to be important books written by some of our professors and board members. We have been encouraged in this direction by various people, including Dr. Joel Beeke who has graciously assisted us in these endeavors and even sold some of our books through his bookstore.

It has been a challenge to sell these books simply because of lack of personnel to contact bookstores and other distributors. As space permits, we will introduce our readers to our publications. Every book purchased helps RCM, so we encourage your purchase of them. Please tell your friends as well.

### Reformed Mission History Series

For some years, we have been working (as time has permitted) on a new series of publications aimed at recovering much of the early history of Reformed and Presbyterian mission. The first book in this series will be available by our next newsletter. It is entitled *For the Cause of the Son of God—The Missionary Implications of the Belgic Confession of Faith* by one of our doctoral graduates: Dr. Wes Bredenhof. Stay tuned.

### Website volunteers needed!

We are still in need of a few people to assist us in maintaining/troubleshooting our present website (reformation.edu) and also building several other websites for our overseas fields. Need familiarity with html websites in Unix/Linux environment. We also now have a Microsoft website for our Good News Bible Study which needs a graphic makeover. [gwd@reformation.edu](mailto:gwd@reformation.edu)

To: Reformation Christian Ministries

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I would like to teach at C.L.A. in Suriname.

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