



December 2013
News and Prayer Letter

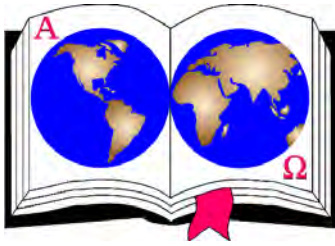
好消息圣经学习
基础课程，第一部分
关于神

(第1版)

欢迎你！这就是你或你的朋友所要学的课程。这套课程的编写，是为了帮助你了解在以下几个方面，什么是神希望你知道的：关于祂（神），关于你自己，关于基督，以及你怎样才能与祂和好。你选择本课程是一个非常明智的决定。

《诗篇》 1:3
Psalm 1:3

Chinese
Good News Bible Study
and other updates



Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

December 2013

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
(Romans 12:1; Galatians 6:9-10)

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ in both living and dying for His people is the basis by which each of us are called to serve the Lord with gladness as *living sacrifices* (Rom. 12:1) and *living stones* bound to THE *Living Stone rejected by men but chosen by God and precious* (1 Peter 2:5). This foundation in the gospel is the basis for all our Christian living. God has revealed this truth to us through His word by His Spirit and brought us to humble ourselves in the knowledge that *our works are His working in us both to will and do of His good pleasure* (Phil. 2:13). This does not change as life goes on. What we are able to do might change, but the calling remains as long as God grants us life, ability and opportunity. The experience God grants us with age is often used of God to enable us to do things more wisely and effectively under His sovereign and gracious oversight.

In November, I faced the interesting human mile-marker of 70 years. My flesh is seeking more justification for complaining about growing older with its associated aches and pains. Yet, these challenges in the physical realm are more than compensated and counterbalanced by the joy of God's increasing grace in the Spirit as we long for the adoption and redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23). I find a parallel of this human experience in our work with RCM.

As we continue on with the opportunities and challenges of the ministry of RCM, we do so without losing heart knowing that by God's grace, we all shall reap in due season. We continue to pray and work and ask you to do so with us.

We are adapting RCM's work to the circumstances we face, yet still carrying forth with its objectives of *Gospel-centered education and outreach aimed at Reformation*. We are adapting to the financial, personnel and health limitations we face so as to continue the work to which God has called us. The experience, colleagues and contacts from over 35

years gives us no lack of impact on students in our school in Suriname and seminary, college and bible course students together numbering over a thousand per year.

Yes, we face challenges. On the health side, the Lord has seen fit to improve my health, but has done so through certain maintenance requirements that cut into the amount of time available for RCM. We adjust. Rudy Poettcker likewise faces health and financial challenges. Likewise, he is adjusting. But these are mere circumstances over which God is in control and we've been granted the faith to persevere. We are confident in His provision. As our challenges grow, so His grace grows and our great weakness provides yet more fertile soil for His strength to be made perfect (2 Cor. 12:9) in it.

Over the past year, through these challenges, we have sought diligently to keep our commitments to those to whom we minister. What has suffered has been our newsletters to supporters and some overseas traveling. All along we have been adjusting and diligently reviewing how RCM should proceed into the future in light of these necessary changes.

Our commitment to RCM's objectives remain as steadfast as when it began, though with considerable more experience and focus. It is the combined opinion of our RCM staff and board, especially the Donnans and Poettckers, that we will continue our work as long as God grants us usefulness. We continue to seek those who the Lord may have in mind to carry this work into another generation. Whether God carries RCM beyond our lifetimes will depend upon whether He enables us to find qualified and trainable replacements. We are working to that end, but not demanding of God that it be so if He wills otherwise. We have had generous offers of assistance if we would but broaden our theological inclusiveness to provide a broader base of support. But it is God who has called us, not supporters, and we intend to be faithful to His theology as we understand it rather than the theology that may be more pleasing to men and thus attract more finances. He will supply to do what He has called us to do without watering down the gospel or the Bible.

Our focus is education through our educational ministries in Suriname, as well as the college/seminary and Bible courses. These consistently reach several thousands each year. All of this intends to seriously support the planting of churches through local people. Any overseas personnel will primarily be indigenous rather than missionaries. Any missionaries we do send, as the Lord provides, will primarily be to provide educational support rather than be direct church planters. We pray for your continued and increased support to these ends.

 Geoffrey Donnan

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(an annual donation of \$20.00 is suggested to cover costs).

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

Update on Chinese Good News Bible Study (GNBS)

We are pleased to announce the addition of Peter and Jenny Yuan to the cadre of RCM co-laborers. They were both involved in translating the Bible course into Chinese several years ago. They have been waiting for our website to become updated to make it possible for the necessary grading of it in Chinese (as well as other languages).

Peter will function as the Chinese GNBS Grading Center Director which we expect to grow considerably once the Bible course is finally functional on our website. In the meantime, there will be a good bit of testing needed, completion of the printed Chinese version, as well as a new fillable PDF version which can be completed off-line but sent electronically to the grading center for those who prefer to work off-line.



We anticipate that through all the Bible courses, especially the Chinese, many prospective Christian leaders will be reached. Our plan then is to modify a version of our current English-language seminary program to reach these prospective non-English Christian leaders. This will involve additional time for the Yuans and the raising of funds to support them as the outreach program grows. (Peter works in ministry and Chinese church pulpit supply and Jenny does English language instruction and translation.) You can assist them by designating funds to their RCM related ministry. Project name: Biblical Training in Chinese (BTC). See coupon on page 3.

Update on GNBS Website

The highly-skilled volunteer programmer in Australia who designed our current website did so when he was unemployed and on disability. After the website was up and running but not very user friendly on the grading side, two things happened: he found a full-time job and his wife had a baby. This greatly affected the time available for our website. Progress slowed considerably. Then in 2012, the Lord provided us with a U.S. based Chinese volunteer to help. Progress is now being made on our website's "grading interface" which will enable average church-based graders to grade both on-line and printed Bible courses as well as do all of the record-keeping on-line. Once this is complete then we can use that in any of the various language Bible courses we have—English, Albanian, Italian, Chinese, Spanish, French, Dutch, Russian, Urdu, Punjabi & more.

Pakistani Urdu & Punjabi Good News Bible Study

Announcing the translation of the Bible courses also into Pakistani Urdu and Gurmukhi Punjabi languages. These combined languages are the language of over 90 million Pakistanis and can also reach many millions in India. The translations were completed in Canada by native Pakistani Christians and printed in Pakistan. Not only are these already reaching people in Pakistan, but also Pakistanis throughout the world.

These courses were translated by the Hope Centre in Etobicoke, ON Canada headed by Rev. Tony Zekveld and are available for printed distribution.

Sadly, the electronic text which was done in Pakistan is now unavailable. Therefore, we need to have them typed into the computer so we can make them available electronically on our website.

Please note our HELP request for this. Can you help by finding someone to do this or underwrite the cost of paying someone to do it.

Once we can acquire an electronic version of the text, we will then be able to get further input on the

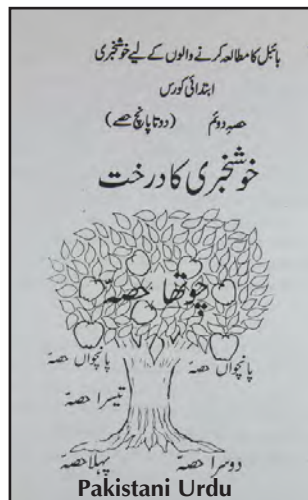
translation and put them into a more presentable form for printing, put them on our Bible course website and make them available in a PDF fillable format.

Update on Italian, Russian, Spanish and French GNBS

We are now also poised to begin the work of putting the above mentioned Bible courses on line as well and make them available in electronic PDF and printed formats as well. Due to financial constraints, our Director is having to do the layout on these, as well as Chinese. The layout portion can be done by anyone familiar with Adobe InDesign and need not know the languages. However, if we had the funds, we could probably hire someone to do the same much more quickly. Ministries in countries that speak these languages are awaiting the ability to use them. Please help us with either the funding or the volunteers capable of doing this work. We do have specific need of someone well versed in Spanish, as we have two translations (one from Spain and the other the Caribbean, which need differentiation.

COUNTRIES OF CURRENT SEMINARY STUDENTS

Cambodia, Indonesia, Liberia, Senegal, Russia, Italy, Ghana



ਬਾਈਬਲ ਪੜਨ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਲਈ ਖੁਸ਼ ਖਬਰੀ
ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਕੋਰਸ, ਪਹਿਲਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ
ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਰ ਬਾਰੇ

ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਨੂੰ! ਬਾਈਬਲ ਪੜਨ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਕੋਰਸ ਦੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਕਿਸੀ ਮਿੱਤਰ ਨੇ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ। ਇਹ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਕੋਰਸ ਇਸ ਅਸੂਲ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਪਵਿੱਤਰ ਬਾਈਬਲ ਵਿਚ ਪੂਰੇ ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਰ ਨੂੰ ਕੁਝ ਸਾਡੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮਦਦ ਮਿਲ ਸਕੇ, ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਭਾਵ ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਰੇ, ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਦੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਿਸ ਮਸੀਹ ਦੇ ਬਾਰੇ, ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਰ ਲਈ ਨੌਕ ਨੀਤੀ। ਤੁਹਾਡਾ ਇਹ ਫੈਸਲਾ, ਸਿਆਣਾ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਬਾਈਬਲ ਪੜਨ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਕੋਰਸ ਵਿਚ ਨਾ ਦਰਜ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਮੋਹਨ ਨਾਲ ਬਾਈਬਲ ਪੜਨ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਕੋਰਸ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਰਹੋ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਕੀਤਾ, ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਹੋਰ ਵੀ ਸਿਆਣਪ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਇਦ ਮੰਦ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। **Gurmukhi Punjabi**

Can You Help in RCM's Work? Do you know someone who can?

Below are some practical ways in which you, or someone you may know, can provide practical assistance for some of RCM's needs. Please scan this list and pass it around. Such help can move us forward without great expense. It also can greatly help relieve our director from many of these tasks.

- Set up and help manage social media site presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for RCM, RITS & GNBS.
- Courtesy calling to newsletter recipients in the US and/or Canada to update bounced email addresses.
- Cut and paste our various language Bible courses into Adobe InDesign. Familiarity with these languages is not necessary, but won't hurt: Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian, and Albanian.
- Computer typing of Pakistani Urdu and Gurmukhti Punjabi translations of our GNBS into Windows or Mac computer using standard word processing software like MS Word. Perhaps paying someone in Pakistan to do this.
- Digital audio editing of seminary lectures to remove extraneous material and improve low volume quality of questions asked by students. (This is meticulous work and some audio editing experience and exposure to audio editing software would be useful. Our director can train you.)
- Website Programmer to improve and gradually redesign RCM html-based websites. Not using CMS.
- Software Programmer to join our GNBS programming team: C#, .NET 2.0+, ASP.NET 2.0+ (uses Web Forms), Visual Studio (MonoDevelop ok), Sql Knowledge; basic knowledge of CSS, Html, JavaScript; localization of ASP.NET applications, GIT experience useful (at least how to use locally, push & merge changes, nothing fancy).

Recent Travel Report

On a recent trip to St. Louis, we had the opportunity and privilege of visiting three individual supporters who God led to begin supporting us over 30 years ago. They have been faithfully doing so since that time. We want to thank them and ask your prayers that God will continue to bless them in their giving as long-standing supporters of the RCM Team. We minister because you and they support us in prayer and giving. God be praised.



Mary Jane Heitzman is a long time friend of Gloria Donnan, Geoff's mother and thru her became aware of our ministry.



Mary Fox lives in Fenton, MO. Her husband came to the Lord from atheism through Geoff's ministry in 1977. Her husband helped us pack to leave for Suriname.



Gerald & Jackie Reiersen of Union, MO, met us at a Baptist church in St. Louis in 1977. After our joyful reunion in October, we are sad to report that a week after this picture, Jackie went home to her Lord.

To: Reformation Christian Ministries

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December 2013

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I am interested in staying on your newsletter list. Please remove my name from your newsletter list.

Send me the following E-mail updates for: Poettckers: Prayer Partners (SALT) GNBS Updates Book Store Specials
 Newsletters

Enclosed is a contribution of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$ _____

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STOCK & BOND DONATIONS:
Contact Rev. Geoff Donnan or see website <http://reformation.edu/opps/index.htm#stocks>

Your designation below assists us in knowing God's will in applying your donation to :

- | | |
|--|---|
| \$ _____ HQ Needs | \$ _____ Russia & Russian Website |
| \$ _____ BTC (Biblical Teaching in Chinese--GNBS work of Peter & Jenny Yuan) | \$ _____ Italy & Italian website |
| \$ _____ SALT (Ministry of Rev. Rudy Poettcker) | \$ _____ Overseas Seminary Student Subsidies/Scholarships |
| \$ _____ HEAR-YE (Ministry of Dr. Richard Knodel) | \$ _____ Courses to Oversea Pastors (\$50 avg. per course cost) |
| \$ _____ Good News Bible Study Ministries | \$ _____ Other _____ |

- I would like to teach at C.L.A. in Suriname.
- I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.
- Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

TAX RECEIPT

Donation Deadline

for 2013

Checks dated & posted by
Credit/debit cards transacted by

Midnight

December 31, 2013

Update on Suriname and Ministry of Rev. Rudy Poettcker.

Now celebrating over 35 years of ministry, the outreach in Suriname through the church and school continue as a strong witness for Christ under the leadership of Rev. Rudy Poettcker and Rev. Asgar Hamid.



On the left and below are the casual and formal pictures for the Christian Liberty Academy 2013 graduates.



Rev. Asgar Hamid (left) and Rev. Rudy Poettcker (center) presenting graduation diplomas at the school auditorium. Below are older students participating in Career Day by dressing up for the day in the apparel of their profession, in particular doctors, nurses, lawyers, businessmen, teachers.

Your continued support for the ministry of Rev. Rudy Poettcker is greatly needed and appreciated. His work in Suriname as well as for our college and seminary are vital to the on-going ministry of RCM. Financial designations should be made to S.A.L.T. p. 3.



DO YOU NEED RCM REPLY ENVELOPES FOR YOUR DONATIONS?

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