

RBN Net Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
April 2022

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."

FROM THE COORDINATOR

"WE'RE GROWING & YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED"

Our Network is growing, and our vision is expanding. We're hoping, God willing, for significant additions to our membership in 2022, and our committees have been brainstorming on how we might more effectively achieve our mission.

"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it" (Lk 14:28)?

Here are some recent deliberations and proposals:

1. Should we add a part-time financial bookkeeper to the Network staff to assist Chris Bice, our administrative assistant, to handle the growing load on her shoulders?

2. Having already hired a new replacement Web Administrator, Derek Archer (from Redeemer Baptist, Rincon, GA) of Hit Your Mark Media, should we expand his array of internet services in behalf of the Network to craft a more deliberate "overall web strategy" to widen our influence? Think of the reach G3 is flexing.

3. If we do choose to move forward with our media expansion, would we be wise to employ someone(s) to act as a web content provider overseeing the production of member blog articles, commentaries, video clips, podcasts, etc?

4. Since all of these endeavors would cost money to make happen, what would be the wisest measures to employ for increasing a flow of support dollars into the General Fund?

This little note kicks off a network-wide discussion that we'll be updating in the weeks and months to come. Please chime in with your counsel!

He who lived and died for us is Worthy! 🙏

– Mark Chanski, RBN Net Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

PRAY FOR US

☞ "Brothers, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

C. H. Spurgeon writes in "Morning and Evening" July 7:

"Brethren, our work is solemnly momentous, involving weal or woe to thousands; we treat (deal) with souls for God on eternal business, and our word is either a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death. A very heavy responsibility rests upon us, and it will be no small mercy if at the last we be found clear of the blood of all men."

What is true for ministers is equally true of missionaries. "Brothers, pray for us" is the cry heard from around the world. I have 4 questions from this text.

First, who is to pray? "Brothers." This means all the saints, male, female, young and old. The whole church is pray.

Secondly, How is prayer to be offered? In the context prayer is to offered out of respect for the office. Paul says in 5:12 "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you." In addition prayer is to be offered with earnestness. Paul does not say, "Now if you think about it once in a while would you just happen to lift us up before the throne of grace?" This is rather a command.

Thirdly, where is prayer to be offered for gospel laborers? Certainly in the church, but also in the home in family worship, and in private when one enters the closet.

Fourthly, what requests should be made for gospel laborers? 2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2 gives an excellent place to start, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for no all have faith." Pray for the salvation of all who hear.

O, dear missionaries and pastors be bold to ask for prayer even as the apostle Paul did. 🙏

– Gordon Taylor, RBN Net Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Camp Hill, PA

Craig Rigall, Pastor

Greetings from Grace Reformed Baptist Church. How good it is to "spend and be spent" in labor for the Lord alongside other like-minded believers. It is an encouragement to hear of God's gracious work in so many other churches around the world.

In our little corner of the globe, here in Camp Hill, PA, we have much for which we can praise the Lord. While we have had our share of illnesses and sorrows, including the death of a sweet infant due to various health issues, these have grown us in our dependence on the Lord and in our adeptness at serving one another. We have been thrilled to see a large number of men take on the mantle of leading and teaching. Our diaconate has added three new deacons (for a total of seven), and many of our men are leading Bible Studies, teaching Sunday School, and providing occasional pulpit supply. How good it is to see the saints being equipped for ministry (Eph. 4:12)!

We continue to see a steady stream of visitors, many of whom are eventually being added to our register as members. You can pray that as our membership expands, our people will be diligent to get to know one another so that we can maintain our love and unity in the Lord. You can also pray that the Lord would give us wisdom in regard to our building. We currently lease a space that holds 144, but we are maxing-out our space. We have rented an adjacent room as an "overflow room" with a video feed, but this is not ideal. Pray that the Lord would either provide us with a new church building or give us wisdom about renovating our current space.

Please also pray for our outreach ministries. Our men are heavily involved in a homeless shelter in Harrisburg as well as in several nursing homes. We would love to see growth in the area of evangelism.

And of course, we covet your prayers (in a sanctified sort of way!) for the regular preaching of the Word.

Thank you for your prayers. Please know that we pray for you all regularly. 🙏

For the King,

Craig Riggall

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Reformed Baptist Church of Long Island, Merrick, NY

Bob Karson, Pastor

We praise the Lord for blessing our church over the last year.

We have recently ordained a new elder, Dan Mercado, after a search that started in January 2021. Dan joins Pastor Doug Totter and I as Elders. I was called by the church last June, having served as a deacon for many years and as a member for over 30 years.

Dan has replaced our brother Pastor Marc Grimaldi, who moved to Tennessee to lead Sovereign Grace Church in Greenbriar.

The elders are working with a pastoral intern and have installed a new deacon, Dennis Scherback, giving us 6 deacons.

We have brought several into membership lately, both by way of transfer and baptism. In addition, many are attending our current Baptism and Membership class.

Our children's Sunday School has restarted as well.

One of our largest ministries is Grace Christian Academy, a Christ-centered, classical K-12 school. Our elders preach and teach at the chapel services, and Dan—who is a former teacher—will likely teach theology to the high school next year. We continue to see the school as a great opportunity to evangelize the students and their families. We are in the process of completing a new athletic field for the children of the church and school, which was funded in large part by donations from two school families.

We will begin evangelism training classes as there is a renewed zeal at GRBC for sharing Christ. We are also praying for the Lord's wisdom for a future church plant on Long Island.

Please pray for continued wisdom and strength for us as pastors. We need more students in our academy to keep the school running and to pay the teachers' salaries.

Finally, please pray for our evangelism outreach, and that the Lord would provide a harvest among a very large unreached population of 3 million on Long Island. 🌱

CHURCH UPDATES

Mercy Baptist Church, West Chester, OH

Dustin Battles, Pastor

Praises—some ways we've seen God work recently:

- More attenders and members: In a couple Sundays we will vote into membership one family, and two more families have expressed interest in membership, and a couple more families have been attending regularly.
- Service: In January we ordained Alex Lancaster as deacon to be the first new officer since I came in 2015! He was already serving in the church, so now he's doing so in an official capacity.
- Everyone has now returned after COVID concerns.
- Preaching: I recently finished the book of Habakkuk. I will preach Philemon soon.
- Teaching: Our midweek Bible study is nearing the end of Book 1 of the Psalms.
- Discussion: The men's Bible study is nearing the end of *Pure in Heart* by Garrett Kell about sexual purity. The ladies are about to begin a study through 1 and 2 Peter.
- Sunday school: Our adult class is currently working through the London Confession of Faith. The kids class is learning about Old Testament narratives (The Gospel Project).

Prayer requests:

- Pray for more older, maturer saints to join us. An odd request, for those who remember our situation from a few years ago when we had no young people! Now we would like more of those who have walked with the Lord for a long time, yet still have energy and health to serve and teach others to serve.
- We would like to institute a members covenant for the first time. Pray we would develop a covenant that we are able and eager to renew together regularly.
- Increased service and coordination of service among members. Now that we have a deacon, there's a greater potential for service in the body to go more smoothly.
- Pray for us to handle the wonderful blessing of an increasing number of children, including two forthcoming children to be born. 🌱

CHURCH UPDATES

Trinity Bible Church Powell, WY

Brian Onstead, Pastor

Greetings in the name of Christ,

We are in a very unusual season in our church. Over the past year and a half our church's attendance has doubled in size. We are presently holding our largest membership class in the 25 year history of our church. We have seen an increase from political refugees moving out of places like California and Washington. However, at the same time our growth has also come from our own town and surrounding communities from people who are simply hungry for truth.

We will also be having three baptisms at the end of March. This is all in God's providence. We thank him for adding to our numbers and ask that you would join us in praising him.

As you can imagine, we face some challenges with such rapid growth. So, we also ask that you would join us in praying for additional elders and deacons, and that the unity and peace of our body would be maintained.

Pastor Brian is currently preaching through Galatians in the morning service and Proverbs in the evening service. Please pray that the ministry of the Word would be made effectually by the power of the Holy Spirit in regenerating our lost, especially our children, and sanctifying his people. 🌱

*In Christ,
Pastor Brian Onstead*

