

# RBNet Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network  
January 2021

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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."

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## FROM THE COORDINATOR...

I know it's fashionable in some Christian circles to criticize social media as a vast wasteland because so many users of it squander precious time and energy. Some Christians may even wear their ignorance and lack of knowledge about Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. as a badge of spirituality.

Surely John Piper who uses Twitter extensively, has a valid point when he writes, "One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove on the Last Day that our prayerlessness was not from lack of time."

But a mindset of aloof disregard toward social media may be a shortsighted miscalculation. Paul didn't boycott the Agora or Areopagus in Athens because they were the arenas for idle babblers to spout off about the latest-to-hatch nonsense in the empire. Instead, he went there and made his voice heard for the cause of truth (Acts 17:16-21).

Social media is the marketplace of ideas in our 21st century global society, and as Christians who are to be the lights of the world, we can be useful there. As diligent missionaries, we can learn the "foreign language" of social media so we can connect with the culture of our generation.

So The Reformed Baptist Network has now established accounts on four significant social network platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Parler. Just search these platforms for: "Reformed Baptist Network."

I encourage you to log in, "follow" these RBNet accounts, and shine the light of truth with your comments and connections. And please help me by sending on to me your suggestions!

*Soli Deo Gloria.* ☺

– Mark Chanski, RBNet Coordinator

## MISSION THOUGHTS

### The Goal

195 countries; 17,441 people groups; 7,414 unreached people groups (42.5%); 7.75 Billion people; 3.23 billion unreached (41.6%). All figures from the [Joshua Project](https://joshua-project.net/) (<https://joshua-project.net/>). Sobering.

#### The promises:

- "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14).
- "And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

#### The plan:

1. **Pray.** Jesus commanded this as the first priority. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers. Pray that only men who are examined and evaluated by sound biblical local churches are sent. One missionary wrote recently that a great hindrance to the progress of the gospel is due to unqualified missionaries sent out by churches and/or mission agencies that failed to vet the prospective gospel laborers. He lamented the damage done by this lack. Pray that truly qualified, gifted men be sent!
2. **Send.** Men who are filled with Holy Spirit power must be sent. The gospel must come to the unreached people as it came to the Thessalonians, "because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit..." (1Thess. 1:5). The missionary must have complete dependence on the Holy Spirit. Education is essential, but not enough. Theological understanding is essential but not enough. The gift of teaching is essential but not enough. The graces of Christian character are essential but not enough. Men are needed who have some evidence of Holy Spirit's power on them. Without this all labor will be in vain.

Pray for and send such men! ☺

– Gordon Taylor, RBNet Support

## CHURCH UPDATES

### Bible Baptist Church, Galway, NY

Wayne Brandow, Pastor

Thank you, brothers and sisters in Christ, for your prayers on our behalf. The coming year (2021) will mark 232 years of our church's witness for Christ in Galway. Over the years, I have seen an advancing spiritual darkness over our region. Attendance is low in most churches, and the Christian faith is increasingly marginalized. So, please pray that the Lord would water the gospel seed sown and bring about an abundant harvest to the praise and glory of our ever-blessed Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Due to Covid19 we are seeing more visitors as we are open, and many churches remain closed. We regard each visitor as a divine appointment. We use a hybrid of Zoom and in person meetings. Some are afraid to come to church, but Zoom has allowed us to keep in touch with them and even those who had moved out of the area.

Thank you for your prayers for me. I completed my thesis and ThM studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. We put new shingles on the parsonage roof and made a church bathroom handicapped accessible. We also received a partial grant to replace the church's front deck, ramp, and steps.

Please pray for inroads into the community. We have a very loving flock, who are befriending and helping their unchurched neighbors, and an earnest prayer meeting. I am serving as the President of the Galway Preservation Society (GPS) and, as such, have arranged a GPS lecture in February, via a Zoom meeting, with Priscilla Wong, a graduate of Toronto Baptist Seminary, on "Pilgrim Mothers." Sunday mornings, Elder Michael Churchill is leading an excellent study on Pilgrim's Progress, and I am preaching through Romans. Lord willing, Life in Galway, will be resumed now that my studies are past. Pray that the LORD would open the eyes and hearts of our unsaved and unchurched neighbors to the gospel of Christ. ☺

Church Updates continued on next page

## CHURCH UPDATES

### Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Pine Bush, NY

Paul Gordon, Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,  
The church that meets in Pine Bush, New York continues to know the blessings of the gospel as we meet and serve in this strange era of Covid.

We are glad to be able once again to use our building for our morning meetings for Sunday School and worship. In the evenings and Wednesday prayer meetings, we are using Zoom as well as live-streaming our services on our website through sermonaudio.com. The aspect of church life we continue to miss are the seasons of social fellowship we have been accustomed to enjoy that involve meals and more intimate physical contact. We look forward to the successful distribution of vaccines in the near future that will enable us to once again greet one another with holy handshakes and embraces as well as resume the fuller range of our normal church activities. In the meantime, I believe we have learned a great deal about gospel unity amid our differences and the importance of our love abounding more and more. I am confident in the days to come we will look back at the pain and heartbreak of 2020 with the consolation that Romans 8:28 brings in knowing that God is in the midst of these events and his all wise and gracious hand is ruling all things for our good.

Our public ministry is the center of our life together, and we rejoice in the blessings of studying the letters of Paul, the Gospels, and the Book of Ezekiel. The last study we have put on hold till the New Year, as we have focused our concerns in the evening meetings on the significance of Mount Sinai to our understanding of covenant, law, and worship. We truly are grateful to God for his word and the privilege of feasting upon it week by week.

Please join us in praising the Lord for the blessings of unity, encouragement, and edification he has extended to his people here in recent days.

Please pray for our continued growth, usefulness, and joy as we continue together to serve our glorious God and risen King.

Thankful for your fellowship in the gospel! 🙏

## CHURCH UPDATES

### Grace Baptist Church, Commerce, GA

Murray Brett, Pastor

Covid has been a “blessing in disguise.” In March, we examined to see Christ withdrawing His presence from the church and leaving us to ourselves. Our folks responded well in seeking His return. Our focus intensified in preaching Christ and his righteousness in our dead, moralistic community. The Lord brought three new families and two singles, and more are inquiring. The younger family seems yet unconverted, but attending regularly. One couple, named Chris and Amber are in the process of membership. Chris is a fine musician and has begun helping accompany worship. He’s also a gifted composer, and he and I have been writing hymns together. The most recent addition is a young woman named Taylor. She’s like Beatrice in Dante’s *Paridiso*, and like heaven’s inhabitants, we are saying, “here comes one who will increase all our loves.” She’s well-received by all and keen in taking our teenage girls under her caring wings. She comes early and leaves late on Wednesday and is eager to grow. Oh my, how we are benefiting from Taylor’s life and service for King Jesus.

Please pray for our growth. We are fairly established in the gospel and in living the Christian life, but we need to grow in our identity as a local church and in serving one another and outreach. We desire to be used to the fullest measure in evangelizing, discipling, and transforming our moralistic community. The majority of people professing Christ have never heard justification preached or seen it’s power lived out, nor do they seem to care, because their goodness means more to them than Christ. So when our folks begin talking to extended family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about the need to be clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ to be right with God and restore communion with God, they are often met with hostility.

We’re delighted to be members of the Reformed Baptist Network and are encouraged by the support and common vision to preach and live free-grace to build Christ’s church and establish his kingdom of everlasting righteousness together. 🙏

## CHURCH UPDATES

### Redeemer Baptist Church, Rincon, GA

Nick Kennecott, Pastor

Greetings members and friends of RBNet.

We are thankful to report that the Lord has continued to bless and take care of Redeemer Baptist Church in wonderful ways in 2020. We are back to full membership attendance on the Lord’s Day, and we have had many new and returning visitors, and several new members that have joined us. Our online presence has been a tremendous means of outreach over the past few months, so we thank God for His provision of the resources to make our services available to our community and the world.

We are nearing the fulfillment of our 2020 goal for our work in Nigeria at the Institute of Pastoral and Theological Training (IPTT). We are grateful to the individuals and churches who have so graciously provided funds for the work. In 2021 we hope to be able to pay for the final phase of the building work (furniture, appliances, solar and generator power, etc.) so we can be fully operational and focus more on the academic work. I hope to return to Nigeria in June or July 2021.

We have two members battling cancer, so we would be very grateful to know that the churches are praying for Teresa and Meliss. Teresa is in the end stages of life, while Meliss is making a great recovery. We have been encouraged by their faithfulness and in watching the Lord sustain and strengthen them. A few of our members have experienced COVID-19, but everything was mild and they are all back to good health.

I am trying to finalize my PhD dissertation and would appreciate your prayers for that work—I am more than ready to move on!

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and your kind prayers for RBC. Be assured, we pray for you each Lord’s Day. 🙏

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