

RBN Net Monthly

A monthly publication of the Reformed Baptist Network
June 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

A BUDDING FRIENDSHIP... RBN Net & HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In recent months, the Lord has given to the Reformed Baptist Network a new friend -- the HeartCry Missionary Society.

In late February, Paul Washer called me, wanting to talk about the possibility of HeartCry and RBN Net maybe working together in certain kingdom endeavors. Paul expressed their commitment to the 1689 Confession and his desire that HeartCry be a good steward of the funds with which they've been entrusted. He likes what he's heard of RBN Net. In March, Paul accepted RBN Net's invitation to speak at our Bremen GA in September. There he could spend time with us, getting to know RBN Net men and churches. But in April, Paul expressed to me his desire to meet with RBN Net sooner, and so we began to plan for a May 19 getting-to-know-you session in Roanoke, VA.

During one planning phone call, Paul mentioned that one potential area where HeartCry might assist RBN Net might be in helping to fund ministerial training facilities. It was just the day before that Dwayne Baldwin had reported that he had come \$177,000 short of their goal to purchase a facility for the Baptist Theological School in Serbia. Paul took the ball and has run with it, as HeartCry is now assisting Dwayne in crafting a way to help BTS make the purchase.

Then on May 19, eight RBN Net men gathered for a day long meeting in Roanoke with HeartCry staff members. There we had iron-sharpening-iron sessions where we mutually shared our biblical convictions and kingdom visions. Please pray that this budding friendship between RBN Net and HeartCry might be used by our Lord for great good. 🙏

– Mark Chanski, RBN Net Coordinator

MISSION THOUGHTS

MERCY & TRUTH

“Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne” (Proverbs 20:28 NKJV).

The German commentator Keil translates the verse this way, “Love and truth guard the king; and he supports his throne by love.”

I observe the balance in this verse: love and truth. Love and truth are perfectly found in our Lord Jesus, the greatest missionary (John 1:14). A missionary needs to be like His savior and minister in mercy (love or steadfast love) and truth. The missionary like Jesus proclaims the truth that all are sinners and under the condemnation of God. He does so out of a heart of love for those to whom he evangelizes. How he longs for the people group to whom he preaches to flee the wrath to come and come to the outstretched arms of the gentle and lowly Jesus who says, “Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Once weary sinners come to Christ a church is formed. The missionary will often be the pastor of these dear sheep for a short or longer period of time. He will continue to deal gently with the new believers, not taking personal offense when opposed but minister with a self-sacrificing love. He will follow Paul's example in the Ephesians church as he taught them not be children tossed about but rather, “speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15, 16). Once the church reaches a level of maturity the missionary is able to move on and plant another church.

The missionary who follows the way of loving-kindness and truth is the gospel laborer who rejoices to see Christ's kingdom advanced. 🙏

– Gordon Taylor, RBN Net Support

CHURCH UPDATES

Miller Valley Baptist Church, Prescott, AZ

Chris J. Marley Pastor

Dear Sister Churches,
What a joy it is to be part of this kingdom work alongside you all.

Life here in Prescott, Arizona is tumultuous and beautiful these days. We added four new deacons this year, and there have been so many new member classes (which we do individually here) that we have a backlog right now.

There have been a lot of trials for our saints outside of the church, but within we have continued to experience sweet fellowship and unity. We just had Dr. Jim Adams of Cornerstone Church, Mesa, AZ, up to preach for us, and it was wonderful time of fellowship and Ebenezer remembering how far God has helped us.

I'm teaching or preaching about 8–12 times a week, which includes helping out with a local Christian recovery center. Please pray that God would give wisdom and strength to us elders here at Miller Valley, that He would sustain this peace and unity in our church, and that He would guide and bless our chaplain, James Galyon. 🙏

For Miller Valley Baptist Church,
Pastor Chris J. Marley

PLEASE NOTE: Due to vacation schedules and the demands of the 2022 GA, there will be one combined July/August RBN Net Monthly issue and one combined September/October RBN Net Monthly issue.

Publication schedule:

- July/Aug. issue: published June 24
- Sept./Oct. issue: published Aug. 26

Thank you for your understanding.

CHURCH UPDATES

Sovereign Grace Bible Church, Worland, WY

Pastor Paul Thomas

Fellow laborers,
Thank you for your prayers. We pray weekly for the churches of RBNNet in our corporate prayer meeting. God has been incredibly kind to us. By God's grace, SGBC has grown with a few people returning who had left the church years ago. We also have a few young ladies attend who are recently out of jail which is very encouraging. We have added four new members this spring and have another four people in a membership class right now.

We are not only growing numerically, but also seeing many of God's people responding to the Word and growing spiritually in their love for the Lord and His people.

In our pulpit ministry, we recently finished a sermon series in Malachi and are currently working our way through 1 Corinthians.

At the end of this month we are hosting our first Vacation Bible School. A group of young people from Grace Community Church in Minden, NV, are coming to assist in hosting this outreach.

Notes of praise and prayer:

1. Praise God for the evident work He continues to do in the hearts and lives of his people.
2. Pray that God would continue to use the preaching of His word to sustain, sanctify, and save His people.
3. Pray that God would add to our eldership more man/men who are qualified to serve in this role and also have a heart for the ministry. We are desperately seeking a fellow elder to serve God's people here.
4. Pray that God would use the upcoming VBS to strengthen our fellowship as a church and minister the gospel to people in our community we are not currently reaching.
5. Pray that the precious and fragile unity of the church would continue to be sustained by the grace of God at work in His people's hearts. ☺

CHURCH UPDATES

Cornerstone Church, Mesa, AZ

Jon Patton, Pastor

Greetings to you, from Mesa, Arizona. We thank the Lord for his goodness to us and his faithfulness to all his people. Since our last update (July 2021) we have had the joy of ordaining and calling another fulltime pastor (Charles Hart) to help us in shepherding God's flock under our care. Charles has been a great blessing to his fellow elders and to all of the church. We have also joyfully received 12 new members and thank God for the ways they are serving the body of Christ among us.

For this update we'd like to share a glimpse into some of our weekly ministries to give a sense of the "goings on" here. Sunday mornings we regularly receive the Word preached from Pastor Jon (1 Corinthians) or Pastor Charles (1 Peter). Pastor Jim, meanwhile, has had more and more of his time and energy directed to preaching and teaching in Latin America.

Sunday nights we gather again at the church for a brief time of corporate singing and prayer before splitting up into classes. The children are going through a chronological, Christological study of the Scriptures, while the adults take part in one of two classes: Introduction to Reformed Theology or Biblical Counseling (using materials from Jim Newheiser and IBCD). Tuesday mornings our Ladies Bible Study meets. In June they will commence their Summer Book Discussion & Luncheon reading Elisabeth Elliot's, *Through Gates of Splendor*. At the same time, Pastor Jon meets with a group of (mostly retired) men. They recently enjoyed the biblical theological study of T. Desmond Alexander's, *The City of God and the Goal of Creation* and are now working through the 1689 LBCF.

Wednesday nights alternate weekly between a prayer meeting at church, and small groups in homes. Finally, Pastor Charles leads the youth group bi-weekly on Saturday evenings.

Pray that God's Word would work mightily in and among us. ☺

Jon Patton
on behalf of the Cornerstone Church elders

CHURCH UPDATES

Grace Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

Thomas Winn, Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We have been at our new location for 2 1/2 years. It has been a blessing to have visitors nearly every Sunday. We are thankful for the new members God has sent to us, and we will start a new members class in June. We will have VBS next week.. Pray we have a good turn out and no major issues.

Our Family Camp is July 4-8. We will be continuing our study of the 1689, chapters 23-25. These are vital subjects for our day. How we need to teach our children these truths and pray that God will use them in the future.

The Oliveiras returned to Portugal in December and have settled into an apartment 7 minutes from the church. He visited GBC in April, giving us an update on his ministry. He has much on his agenda, Pray that God gives him wisdom. Pastor Thomas and his wife, will travel to Portugal in August for FBC Lisbon's Centennial Anniversary. Martin Bucer Seminary starts in the Fall. Hal, the pastoral assistant, and his wife are seeking to know God's will for their future ministry. They desire to help Pastor Tiago. This depends on what God reveals over the next year.

We have 4 students at RTS. Pray for them to know God's will for their future. Prashant Thakkar, took the Spring semester off, due to the death of his father in Zambia. His family is Hindu. Pray for their salvation. They returned to Jackson on May 23. Dirk and Elias de Waal, students from Canada, left on May 18 for Seattle WA to help with a church plant this summer. Adam McCarty is now full time at RTS. He continues his work with the National Guards. His wife was hired by the MS Department of Health.

Finally, we are nearing completion of the front of our building, and are doing the work ourselves, to keep from going over budget. We plan on using it for the VBS family night. We are encouraged by the positive comments received from the neighborhood. Pray that God will use this to bring more visitors to our Worship Services. ☺