

# THE TRUMPET

**“The great trumpet will be blown, they will come, who are about to perish” (Isaiah 27:13, NKJ).**



**SPRING 2007**

## **BIBLICAL COUNSELING WORLDWIDE**

Dave and Mary Meengs have been going to India since 1993 and in 1998 began the Biblical discipleship ministry now known as Biblical Counseling Worldwide (BCW). BCW is a discipleship ministry that seeks to equip ministry workers and lay people to be faithful and to practically do the Lord's work. BCW sends out 35,000 Biblical Counselor discipleship magazines, bimonthly, in five languages. Other books published at a very low cost include *Self-Confrontation*, *Climbing out of Depression*, *God's Counsel on Marriage*, *40 Bible Lessons*, *a Daily Devotional*, *a Children's 1st Heidelberg Catechism* and more. Most are distributed free of charge throughout India. Other areas of ministry include a Christian bookstore where books are sold at cost. The ABC Children's Home currently cares for, tutors, and nurtures 18 children. Every year, about 60 poor ladies from the slums are taught in the sewing school, learning a valuable trade which is helping many to feed and care for their families. BCW also sponsors two medical camps per month at local rural churches, where medical services are offered free of charge by a physician and staff help. Dave and Mary, along with the 18 person staff, have outgrown their current facility. Because of the generous grace of God and support by His people, they will soon be moving into a larger new building nearby. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Yours in Christ,

Dave Boekestein

Submitted on behalf of the  
Evangelism Committee of Dutton URC and BCW

## **A MISSIONS WEBSITE**

The Classis Michigan Missions Committee, (CMMC), in cooperation with *The Harvesters*, a group of Reformed young adults has established a United Reformed missions website, [www.missionsurc.org](http://www.missionsurc.org). The statement of purpose for the website is as follows: "The primary purpose of [www.missionsurc.org](http://www.missionsurc.org) is to provide information of URC missionaries, short term missions, and work projects." On the website you will find updated information on the missionaries that are under the supervision of churches in Classis Michigan. It is also our desire to add the rest of our URC missionaries and mission efforts in the future.

In the past there have been a number of work crews, VBS teachers, etc. originating in the churches of our classis and serving our missionaries both here and abroad. Several times individuals outside our classis who were looking for a group to join have approached us seeking information.

It is our hope and prayer the website will be used by ALL the United Reformed Churches, and its missionaries to keep everyone informed about our missionaries, short term missions opportunities, and scheduled work projects. The CMMC and The Harvesters will act as a clearing house for the information, keeping the website up to date, and providing contact information for those interested in taking part in short term missions and work projects.

If you have or are seeking information, please contact Don Van Dyke, secretary of CMMC, at [donvandyke@tm.net](mailto:donvandyke@tm.net), or Steve Veldkamp, webmaster of The Harvesters at [stillbelievin@gmail.com](mailto:stillbelievin@gmail.com).

# HISPANIC CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Dear Hispanic Christian Ministry Supporters:

Having returned from my latest trip, I want to provide the following prayer update for those supporting Hispanic Christian Ministry in prayer:

- 1) Give thanks for a wonderful visit to four congregations in the United Reformed Churches in North America. Two in California (Chino and Ontario) and two in Alberta (Lethbridge and Calgary). I was warmly received and had an opportunity to preach in each of these churches.
- 2) Give thanks for the opportunity I had to spend some time in Miami for several days with Miami International Seminary staff and professors. During these meetings the Academic Dean provided further orientation to the six Associate Academic Deans and Regional Coordinators. We had an opportunity to review and revise ministry responsibilities in order to coordinate more efficiently the growing number of MINTS Study Centres (more than 125 now!) and the increasing number of students (over 2,400 worldwide!!!). Thank the Lord for the multiplying of Centres that is happening not only in Central America (where I serve), but in regions around the world.
- 3) Please pray for our newest MINTS staff member, Rev. Allen Vander Pol, who has joined Rev. Hegeman and me in our United Reformed International Mission Joint Venture Committee. Allen has most recently served as the pastor of Trinity Reformed Church (URCNA) in Cape Coral, Florida. He is in the process of coming on board with MINTS in the capacity of Associate Academic Dean for International English Ministries. Pray that the Lord will provide funds for him as he and his ministry committee contact churches and individuals for the support of his ministry with MINTS which began as of January, 2007.
- 4) Give thanks for a wonderful week spent in Panama where I had the opportunity to open a new MINTS Centre for the first time in Panama. This congregation of about 200 members is in the process of establishing eight daughter churches, each of whom has a lay pastor that has been enrolled in the MINTS program of study. I had the privilege of helping them organize their centre and provide consultation in

the development of their Institute of Christian Development. In addition to visiting most of their mission posts, I had the privilege of teaching the course of Nehemiah and preaching in the main church in La Chorrera, about 45 minutes outside of Panama City.

- 5) Thank the Lord for providing the funds needed to meet the budget needs for the year 2006. Please pray for funds needed for the current year 2007. As funding levels increase, I am able to provide more and more effective training among Hispanic Church leaders in Central America and in two Hispanic Centres in Canada (Toronto and Montreal).
- 6) Please pray for upcoming trips for this year. I have five ministry trips planned to Central America for the remainder of the year. In addition, throughout this year I am scheduled to teach three courses in Toronto and two (possibly four) in Montreal.

Any donations can be sent to:

**US Donations:**

Hispanic Chr. Ministry  
c/o Faith United Ref Church  
8270 120<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
West Olive, Michigan 49460

**Canadian Donations:**

Hispanic Chr. Ministry  
c/o Cov. Ref. Church  
265 Albion Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
M9W 3P1

For the extension of God's Kingdom among Hispanics,  
Rev. Eric Pennings  
[hcm@reformedtoronto.org](mailto:hcm@reformedtoronto.org)  
[www.mints.edu](http://www.mints.edu)



## HISPANIC CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

A Ministry of Covenant Reformed Church of Toronto  
in Partnership with Faith United Reformed Church of West  
Olive, Michigan

Dear Hispanic Christian Ministry Supporter:

It's been 1½ years now since I have had the privilege of serving in the missionary capacity of leadership training among Hispanics through Miami International Seminary (MINTS). It's exciting to be a small part of MINTS which is growing rapidly around the world through missionaries and national leaders who are dedicated to the training of church leaders. Give thanks to God for the following things happening through MINTS world-wide after seven years:

- There are now over 125 study groups with more than 2,250 students.
- During this past year there were 8 graduations.
- More than 374 students have graduated from one of our programs during the last 5 years.
- More than 50 teachers and doctoral students are writing and publishing theological courses.
- National writers completed 19 Spanish courses in 2006 alone.
- National coordinators are taking responsibility for areas of rapid growth of MINTS Study Centres.
- An Internet on-line program is being developed offering study options for students in English and Spanish

God is indeed at work through the team of missionaries and national leaders with which I have the privilege of serving. While the above report reflects what is happening globally with MINTS, I have the privilege of being a small part of these efforts in Central America (primarily) and in Canada.

The Lord has blessed my ministry through MINTS in amazing ways. When I began this ministry in July, 2005 there were seven Centres in four Central American countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) with 91 students. During the period of 18 months of ministry, expansion of the MINTS Study Centres has happened as a result of the initiative of groups of students requesting visits. The Lord has blessed this ministry as follows:

- An increase of students from 91 to 175.
- Seven new Centres were opened in Central America and one in Montreal, Canada (among Hispanics) for a total of fifteen Study Centres.
- Three MINTS study Centres were opened in one new Central American country (Belize) during 2006.
- I have written four College and Masters' level courses for MINTS (Nehemiah, Hebrew Exegesis I & II, and Introduction to Biblical Criticism). I have also co-written two others (Liturgy and Reformation Church History).
- In my mission travels, I have taught ten courses on 27 different occasions in thirteen different MINTS Centres in Central America, two in Canada (in Toronto and Montreal), and one in the US (Providence, NJ).

During 2007, I plan to follow up with nine new groups of students (additional 85-100 students) who have requested a visit from me with the possibility of opening MINTS Centres. If the Lord blesses these contacts, these visits will include the possibility of opening up Centres in the remaining two Central American countries (El Salvador and Panama) for which I am responsible in Central America. I have also been assigned to write three new courses this year: *Philippians*, *Ecclesiology* and (if time permits) *Biblical & Theological Research on the Internet*.

Please pray not only for a blessing on the leadership development going on and for safety for me in my travels, but also for my family during my times of absence from them. International cell phone service and email contact keeps us in touch on a daily basis.

Rev. Eric Pennings  
Soli Deo Gloria!!!

## Langendoen Joint Venture Committee

Rev Langendoen regularly sends us a monthly update of his visits etc. as part of our ongoing supervision of his work. The work is presently financed on a 50/50 basis, meaning that Immanuel is committed to paying for 50% (or more if necessary) and that the rest comes from the supporting churches. There are 17 churches which contribute financially. Historically we have been blessed with plenty of funds. 2006 has shown a shortfall, but that was made up from the surplus of prior years.

It is still the intention of Immanuel to have someone to work along side of Rev. Langendoen. We believe that it would be helpful for him; both for mutual encouragement and the need for the Honduran people is great.

The original intention of Immanuel for supervision was that every other year we would send two elders or others and the following year the Langendoens would come home for vacation/report etc. That plan didn't pan out as we had hoped because of the adoption procedure that would not allow the children to leave the country. It seemed like every year, with each new adoption, there was another bureaucratic challenge. Now that all that has been completed, we granted Rev Langendoen a well-deserved furlough in 2006, and it is our intention to continue with the original plan. D.V.

by John Broekema

## BUGS

What do you do when you get sick? This may seem a strange question, and maybe some of you will say that you hardly ever get sick. But if this were the case in Honduras, then it would be for someone with a very strong constitution, because getting sick is part of the way of life in Honduras. If you don't get a bug from the water, then you will probably get one from the food. And if you don't get it from the food, well, since we live in such close contact with everyone around us, then you will probably pick one up anyway. And thus many of our visitors, who come with eagerness to visit, leave looking a little green around the edges.

But since getting sick is so common, it is interesting to see how Hondurans react to sickness. If, for example, you tell someone that you have a cold, or even if you just sniffle for awhile as if you have one, they will offer sympathy and will tell you what they use to cure their colds. And while some will recommend cold remedies that one can pick up in a pharmacy, others will suggest some natural remedy, and still others will suggest some bizarre remedy that seems more likely to give you another one of those bugs. The difficult thing is that they will insist that you try it, and the next time you see them they will ask if you have followed through. And if you say you haven't, and if you still have those sniffles, they will strongly insist that you work on the remedy, even at times going out and getting it for you.

While bugs may be catchy, another thing that one catches rather quickly are spiritual bugs, those things that make us spiritually sick. As I have written in the past, a big bug that Hondurans swallow is humanism. Humanism is written into the national anthem, and the founding fathers of Honduras, the patriotic heroes, were well weaned on the principles of the French revolution, which were supposed to lead to a just and equitable society. Like all of Latin America, it has only continued the great injustice and corruption already implanted by Roman Catholic Spain. The old humanism of the French Revolution has now been further advanced by the modern humanist agenda of the United Nations. Unfortunately, many Hondurans, when asked, will recommend that the problems of society can only be resolved by a return to the principles of the founding fathers. What they don't realize is that humanism will always lead to failure, for man without God, man that extols the goddess of reason, has failed to realize that his only hope is to turn from looking inward to looking upwards toward his Creator. And until he does that, he is doomed, in this life and in the life to come.

And of course I could write about the bugs in my life. The ones that wiggle in my stomach, the ones that make holes in my furniture or the ones that fall from the ceiling. And I could write about the things that bug me, like bureaucracy, the prosperity Gospel, and false prophets and apostles. But I find in the Bible that the thing that bugged the prophets and the apostles was the rejection of God and His Word. For unless we get down on our knees to pray, unless we diligently search Scripture, we will never be able to truly know God's will for our lives. And then we are prone to catch the spiritual bugs of the day.

## Vacation Bible School

This year we had the first vacation Bible school in the church in Comayagua. My nephew, Kurt Langendoen, and niece, Natasha Zomer, both from Immanuel ORC, came down to Honduras for a visit, and we enjoyed having them here very much. We decided that we would have a vacation Bible school, since the months of December and January are the months when schools have their vacation break. Since the visit was short, and started on a Tuesday, and this was our first VBS, we decided that only three days, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, would be long enough. On the Monday of that week (January 1) I canvassed two streets by the church. (That took all afternoon!) From these two streets we had about 30 children attend during the three days. Since then we have had about 10 new neighborhood children attending the Sunday school that we have after the morning Sunday service.

## Texiguat

From January 15-17 I had the privilege to go a small town, Texiguat, tucked away in the mountains and far from the beaten path. I felt like I had gone back in time, for there were few new buildings in town, and most people either walked on foot, or would go by mule, donkey or horse. I went to Texiguat at the invitation of the three Evangelical churches there, and at the initiative of pastor Orlando Sierra. Two teaching sessions were planned with the leaders, and two services at night open to the public, one on Monday night, and the other on Tuesday. We arrived on Monday afternoon after a 5 hour trip, 3 hours of those on gravel roads winding through the mountains. At 4 o'clock we had a session with the pastors, and then at night we had a church service. The next day we walked into the mountains, meeting with various families that lived there. Unfortunately we got back too late to make the 4 o'clock session with the pastors, but we again had the worship service at night.

We want to thank many of you that sent Christmas cards and some even sent photos. It was good to hear from our supporters, and it is our prayer that in this New Year the Lord may grant you strength and hope.

God's blessings to you all,  
Ernie and Betsy Langendoen



## A MACEDONIAN MOMENT

### RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF THE PEOPLE OF KAUAI

*Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations* (Ps. 106:47). As one with a passion to see this prayer realized as Christ creates kingdoms over all the earth through his Word and Spirit by establishing foreign missions and native church plants, it is amazing to be a part of the Lord's providential hand in that work of re-creation. The Holy Spirit is the orchestrator of all church planting. He sovereignly led Paul, Silas, and Timothy through Asia Minor, forbidding them to preach there, but leading them to the shores of the Aegean Sea so that they would be in a position to respond to the man from Macedonia.

The purpose of this article is to inform you of a "Macedonian Moment" we as Reformed churches have. The Oceanside United Reformed Church has recently had a providential opportunity drop into our proverbial laps to be the means through which Christ's new creation reaches the shores of the Hawaiian island of Kauai. This opportunity, and the information herein, I pray, will lead you to join us in financially supporting such a work.

#### **History**

On January 2, 2007 one of my parishioners who recently moved with his family back to Kauai, e-mailed me, asking if there was anything we could do to start a Reformed church on Kauai. In fact, there were even some others as well seeking the same.

The story of these other saints goes back fifteen years when a couple of families on Kauai began the journey from Evangelicalism to the Reformed Faith. After attempting to contact various seminaries, denominations and people they knew on the

mainland about starting a Reformed church, they were unable to get any help—sadly. In the providence of God, they met a man who was converted on Kauai while there on a medical internship. He became interested in theology and ended up on the staff of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia along with Dr. James Boice. He then went on to Cambridge for Ph.D. work. These few families grew into a small group and re-connected with this man after several years, asking him to come to Kauai and do some Reformation seminars, which he did. Since there was no prospect of any Reformed body doing mission work, the group asked him to come over and begin a church. In the course of events, though, he became convinced of the Lutheran faith and its worship. The group was so eager for anything that would preach the Gospel and worship in a dignified way, that they were willing to support a Lutheran mission.

Over the past year or so, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (LCMS) has existed as a small mission in the town of Koloa, Kauai. Recently, though, the LCMS has decided not to support this mission anymore and to send its minister elsewhere. This is where our opportunity comes into the picture.

#### **Opportunity**

We believe we have been blessed by Christ Himself with a providential opportunity to oversee a wonderful group of saints as a URCNA congregation amidst total darkness and in an area of no Reformed witness. Kauai is the most remote and pristine of the main Hawaiian islands (pop. 62, 500), on which there are many non-denominational churches and Catholic churches, but nothing remotely Reformed. The closest things are the mainline Episcopal churches and a mainline Lutheran church, both of which are not Reformed, let alone even conservative.

On January 17, 2007, I mentioned this preliminary information and the possibility of a church plant on Kauai to Classis Southwest U.S. The Consistory of the Oceanside URC, then, sent me to Kauai from February 6-8, 2007 to make a pastoral visit and meet the group and introduce our faith and life.

#### **The Families**

The core families that originally desired a Reformed church, but took a detour as a Lutheran church, have slowly added others. In fact, in my visit there were several families not associated with the main group that found out I was on the island and expressed their commitment to beginning a Reformed church.

After my visit with the group and the individual families, there are 8 families and 1 individual (39 souls) that are committed and desire a Reformed

ministry of Word and Sacrament in which Christ is preached, the youth are catechized in historic doctrine, the sacraments are celebrated, and worship is reverent and dignified. Providentially, the Lord led several experienced Reformed believers to Kauai in the recent months. One of these men is an elder in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, another is a deacon in the Presbyterian Church in America, and another is a member of a Presbyterian Church in America congregation. Therefore, there is a mix of experienced Reformed believers as well as those new to our Faith, those from Kauai and those who have re-located.

### **Our Plan**

At the recent Council meeting of the Oceanside URC on February 13, 2007, two motions were passed as an expression of our unanimous desire to see a church planted on Kauai, but also reflect the realistic situation of our small congregation (20 families) both financially as well as in the area of the time needed to oversee such a work:

First, we passed a motion to do an initial inquiry concerning the financial feasibility of a church plant on Kauai with a) the core families and b) URCNA churches. So far the families on Kauai have stepped up with generous financial commitments (see below). The aforementioned purpose of this letter is to enlist your generous support as well as part of section b above.

Second, we passed a motion to seek another church in Classis Southwest U.S. to join with us in a potential church-planting endeavor. Since our financial resources as well as manpower resources are limited, we believe this to be a wise course of action. As of the writing of this article, I am thankful to announce that the Grace Evangelical Church in Torrance, CA stepped out in faith to jointly partner with us in this mission work.

### **Financial Need**

Based on my visit to the island and the input I received from the families, a very basic budget would be approximately \$90,000 at a minimum. Of this \$90,000, the core group has committed approximately \$54,000. Between the Oceanside URC and Grace Evangelical Church, approximately \$12,000 has been committed, which leaves a need of \$25,000 from our sister congregations and/or the generosity of individual saints.

### **Your Response**

Our initial study of the financial feasibility of a church plant we hope to have done by our next Council meeting on March 27, 2007. We know this is very soon, but we urge you as generous individuals and as church Councils to discuss this proposal and respond to us as soon as possible. If you are unable to respond with a commitment of a specific amount of money, please respond anyway if you are interested in this work and/or if you need more information. If you have any questions at all, please contact me at home by phone (760.231.9171) or e-mail ([pastor@oceansideurc.org](mailto:pastor@oceansideurc.org)). We eagerly await your response to this Macedonian moment and your commitment to partner with us in extending Christ's gracious reign.

by Rev. Daniel R. Hyde

### **Costa Rica Joint Venture Committee**

The Costa Rica Joint Venture Committee has been meeting since 2003, whose mandate is to represent and commend the work in Costa Rica to the United Reformed Churches. We currently have 7 members from various URC churches on the committee who support the ministry of Rev. Bill Green, the Tepeyac Christian School and the Tepeyac School Building project. This committee is directly responsible to the council of Bethany URC in Wyoming, Michigan.

A number of work crews have volunteered their time in Costa Rica this year, and it is the goal of the committee to have the high school building project ready for students to begin using the new building in January 2008.

Rev. Bill and Aletha Green are currently here on furlough in Grand Rapids, Michigan for approximately six months. During that time they will be meeting with the committee, speaking to churches locally, and traveling to other parts of the country and Canada, as well as hopefully getting some rest and relaxation.

We ask for your continued prayers that God would bless the ministry and His name be honored and glorified.

by Elaine Keyzer