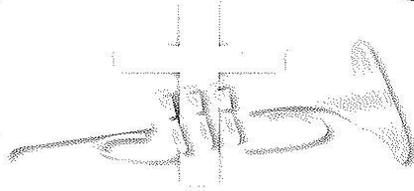


THE TRUMPET



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

**H I S P A N I C C H R I S T I A N
M I N I S T R Y**
**A Ministry of Covenant Reformed Church
of Toronto in Partnership with
Faith United Reformed Church of West
Olive, Michigan**

HCM Trip Report – Guatemala
August 14-24, 2009

As I write this newsletter, I am sitting at the Houston airport at the departure gate to return to Toronto. They have just informed me that the flight was overbooked and I have to wait for the next flight out. These are the realities of international ministry and the unexpected turn of events in travel requiring flexibility and patience.

Honduras Cancelled – I was supposed to travel to Honduras on this ministry trip but the political conditions after the June 28 coup are still very tense, so my students advised me that it would be best to postpone the flight till another time. Please pray for political and social stability for the Honduran population as negotiations are being made for a resolution to the political situation.

Quetzaltenango – In this MINTS Centre that has been established in this Guatemalan

mountain city, there is much activity going on. The Centre is experiencing a loss of some students, but a steady growth of new students as well. It's always exciting to see new faces. I taught an 8-hour conference for a course on "*Biblical World View*" to 12 students. This Centre is established under the supervision of a Presbyterian church and they are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin this year. I had taught a course on "*The Doctrines of Grace*" earlier in the year in their series of conferences and courses. On this trip they asked me to present a 3-hour conference on "*The Life and Influence of John Calvin*". These activities were warmly received. I also had the privilege of grading 35 term papers from courses the students had completed.

Huehuetenango – Borrowing a pickup truck and with a student accompanying me as a guide, I drove along the windy mountain roads to this Mexican border town where there are 23 students who are under the supervision of the seminary in Quetzaltenango. What a joy to see the multiplication effect of the ministry of MINTS in action! Ten of the students in this Centre travel about 6 hours from various mountain villages, walking much of the way in order to take courses once each month. What dedication! In this Centre, I taught a conference for the course on "*Christian Education*" in which I spoke for nine hours on the topic of the role of

the home, the church and the Christian School in raising and nurturing the covenant community. These students told me that they travel 8 to 12 hours to receive these courses, so they expect that many hours of conference, too, in order to make it worth the while of their travel to the “big city” bordering Mexico.

Guatemala City – I also had an opportunity to meet with two young pastors who are in the process of starting an association of pastors in Guatemala City and have decided to start a MINTS Centre among possibly 80 pastors. I’m excited about this potential, while at the same time my experience is that they often have big dreams that are more difficult to fulfill than they anticipate. Please pray for the vision of these brothers.

Bonus – As a bonus on this trip I drove to a mountain village to visit the family of a Compassion International child, which is sponsored by some good friends of ours. What a joy that was for this family as well as for me.

Rev. Eric Pennings,
Missionary, Covenant Reformed Church of
Toronto
Miami International Seminary (MINTS) Central
America Regional Coordinator

New Horizon URC

We are thankful to the Lord for his mercies abound!

We at New Horizon URC in Scarborough, Canada, are blessed, though sometimes bushed. We increase, though sometimes inhibited. The Lord reigns. We must learn to be glad.

Let me take a little time to go over a few of the things that are occurring at New Horizon so you can be more aware and praise God for His blessings to His church, and help us pray for our needs.

We are thankful to the Lord to have our first Chinese Deacon, Max Wang. Max was
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installed in June in a worship service where we also had the Lord’s Supper, and a baby baptism. It was a service worth remembering as Pastor Harry Zekveld preached an excellent sermon on the duties of leaders to the congregation and the duties of the congregation to the leaders.

We now have one elder, Nathan Kidd, and two deacons, Chris Hovestadt and Max, and myself. We have warm working relations, and pastoring is becoming less exhausting.

We are thankful that there have been more opportunities for other Pastors to come and preach for us to give me some time to concentrate on other things like writing tracts. It is not an easy thing to adjust one’s preaching in a mission setting (like our ESL setting), so we are thankful that the Lord continues to provide help through nearby Pastors.

We have reduced our English Second Language Bible studies because there are not as many new immigrants coming from China, and we do not have as much foot traffic where we are now. It is rare for Chinese immigrants to just see the sign and walk in as they did before at our old location.

To compensate for the lack of new immigrants, we are now doing some outreach with the Good News Bible Study, put out by Reformation Christian Ministries. The Good News Bible Study is a correspondence course that deals with all the major topics from a Reformed perspective. I used this course back in South America and saw many people come to know the Lord through it. A few of our Chinese people are working at proof-reading the Chinese translation of this course. They hope that this course can be used to evangelize people in China.

We are now beginning to distribute tracts in the neighborhood around the church building again – though it is not really warm. While there are some members who have done this personally, we are doing it with a little more planning.

We have a variety of tracts that we simply deposit in mailboxes, unless we see someone,

and then we give it to them personally. (We can still deposit mail directly into a mailbox in Canada.) It is a challenge for some of our people to have people refuse the tract, say something ill about what we are doing, or insult us for wasting trees and destroying the environment. Pray that our people's love will be stronger than the insults. Pray that we can get some outside help to distribute tracts as well.

We are now regularly involved in a Christian/Moslem Discussion group once per month. This, of course, is an evangelistic tool, even while we learn about what makes the Moslem tick. We intended this to be a very small group of Moslems who attended the Christian/Moslem Forum (run by Zion URC, Sheffield, ON) and wanted to go a step further, but more than a few Moslems started attending. The trouble with this group is that Christians from other churches started attending, often with confused theology and absurd evangelistic techniques. The greater difficulty has not been bringing the Gospel message in the discussion, but handling those Christians who seem more ready to fist fight than befriending the Moslems.

We do have a few people who have been delinquent in attending worship and we may have to take steps toward discipline. Thankfully, none is bitter or antagonistic. Pray that as we work with them, their hearts may be softened and that discipline may not be necessary.

We are happy with the addition of a new couple that joined us recently. The young woman, Jana, was a member with us a long time ago before her parents moved out of the city. Now she is married to Wes. We are also thankful for the baptisms we have witnessed recently of newborns... If it continues this way, we may have more children than adults!

It would be wonderful to have an elderly Christian couple as members with us, from whom the younger ones can draw from their experiences. Pray that we would find such a couple. Then again, we are thankful for the young families we do have.

I have done a few other things in the past year as well. I spoke in a few conferences /
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seminars, taught in the seminary in Donetsk, Ukraine, worked on the Doctrinal Committee for Synod, wrote a number of tracts and articles, and now I am working a small book that introduces an average person to the Reformed theology in easy English.

We are blessed to be under the oversight of Cornerstone URC in London, and to have a great working relation with the elders and Pastor Royall.

The spirit among the congregation is very good. And I must give credit to the ladies who make the most dynamite cookies and brownies this side of the 45th.

We always enjoy (and cherish) hearing from our brothers and sisters from all across North America. Yes, even in a city filled with lights, it can be a dark cold place sometimes. At times we do get lonely...and miss having more covenant children for our kids to have as friends. And sometimes when we don't see the numerical results we desire, it can be difficult and make us second guess our labors. Yet, I can't imagine doing anything else. Pray for us.

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Philippines Update

ANTIPOLO, Rizal, Philippines: July 2009 — Greetings from the Philippines, in the name of our only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope that all's well with you and your family and the various ministries in the church. Although we are in unsure and difficult days, I'm sure that everyone's enjoying their mid-summer. We're in a mixed mode beginning this month. The Philippine schools have begun their new school year, but Rachel only started her "summer." I'm teaching Homiletics at Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Cavite province. I'm also preparing a few classes to be taught at Mars Hill Study Center, but not sure if there will be interested students. I've also made contact with another

school interested in using the study center for their research.

We continue to hold afternoon worship service on Sundays at the study center, with about 10-12 adults and eight children. I have resumed the series on Numbers ("The Pilgrim Church in the Wilderness") after several Sundays of preaching on 1 Peter. We will also resume our membership class study of the Heidelberg Catechism. So far, we have had 5 baptisms and 4 professions of faith, and we pray that the two adults and Rachel would persevere in their preparations for their professions. This week, I'm starting a Bible study for a family in Manila.

Since the positive response I received in the publication of the Tagalog-English Version of the Westminster Confession of Faith, I have embarked on another endeavor: Translating and printing booklets and articles that will be of benefit to Filipino pastors.

Because of the financial crunch during the last year, we rented a very small place to make ends meet. But we have found our house to be so small that life had been like living out of suitcases and boxes all over the house. We have found a modest, but roomier house, with additional rent of course.

So our immediate need is the two months' advance for rent and deposit that the new landlady requires; a total of 40,000 pesos or about \$850. We also have to do some "home improvement" projects ourselves.

Again, thank you for your interest in our work, and for your encouraging words and prayers. We hope this brief letter will help you visualize what we do in the Philippines, and to assure you that the Lord is with us in this distant part of our world.

Do send us a line. We, too, are interested in what God is doing in your life and in the church. We appreciate your continuing prayers and support of the Philippine mission.

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Nollie & Evelyn Malabuyo
Email: dvopilgrim@gmail.com
Web: <http://blog.twoagespilgrims.com>

NOTE: Please make your checks payable to MEANS with the memo line saying "R1612 (FEURM)". Mail them to MEANS' address below.

Mission: East Asian National Support (MEANS)

P.O. Box 8434

Bartlett, IL 60103

1-630-542-2168

E-mail: infor@meansusa.org

<http://www.meansusa.org/>

About Nollie

Associate Pastor of Trinity United Reformed Church in Walnut Creek, CA. Assigned as missionary to the Philippines. Lives just outside Metro Manila with wife and daughter. Three older boys live and work in CA.

TASC 09' Mission Trip Pompton Plains, NJ

You may ask, what is TASC? TASC stands for Teens All Serving Christ. Activities done by TASC are under the oversight of the local consistory of each TASC host church. TASC is not a Para-church organization, but a direct extension of a local body of believers. We firmly believe that Christ has instituted and commissioned His church to accomplish His purposes on earth, and we therefore operate all aspects of TASC under the authority and oversight of God's appointed Elders. TASC teaches young people how to practically obey Christ's command found in Mark 12:29-31 where we read,

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second

is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

http://www.teensallservingchrist.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54:about-us&Itemid=65

Cornerstone URC & Bethel URC on TASC 09'

Our Cornerstone youth group, along with a group from Bethel URC, went on a mission trip to serve the local community in Pompton Plains, NJ, from June 27th-July 4th. We were blessed to travel in the church bus and to load our gear into a pickup. We arrived at the Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church about 6:30 p.m. after a long and patient trip of 13-plus hours. We were greeted by the TASC committee upon arrival and were fed shortly after. Saturday night we played an icebreaker game, were made aware of the plans for the week and organized our prayer groups. On Sunday we were able to enjoy a beautiful day of worship services, with relaxing fun and fellowship in between.

On Monday we woke early and traveled to our worksites which included Solid Rock Day Camp, where landscaping and retaining wall construction was to be done; New Hope Ministries, where some demolition and repair work was to be done; North Porch, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where the group worked in a food pantry for the community; and Oasis, a haven for women and children, where the team worked to assist Oasis by sorting clothing, preparing and serving meals, and other miscellaneous tasks (TASCS!).

We thoroughly enjoyed the work and kingdom building we could be involved in throughout the week on the worksites and in relation with one another. I know that one of the youth was counting the days until TASC for weeks in advance, and I now understand why.

This was an incredible experience in which one can truly see the hand of God working through

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the lives of His people and those willing to be used unto Him! Many of those we worked for were overjoyed at our hard work and compassion for them and their organizations. We were able to build relationships throughout the week with those on the work sites, and each other. One of the highlights for many was the nightly worship services that were held at the church in which Seminarian Aaron Verhoef led a study on the book of Jonah, and how we are often Jonahs in the present age desiring for the Ninevites to be destroyed. The evenings typically concluded with a group prayer time as students were grouped with different leaders. This was a fruitful time in which we were able to talk and bring items of praise, petition, and gratitude before the Lord.

Those interested were able to be involved in a talent show on one of the last nights where the congregation was involved both through viewing and partaking in. It was a great night with theatric performances and musical displays. On Friday, the last official day of the trip, we went to New York City and enjoyed the big city's culture and diversity. We were able to be involved on a tour bus that took us throughout the city and dropped us off at various locations. We finished the evening with a fine BBQ dinner at a downtown restaurant with the group. After heading back to the church and having dessert with some of those on the TASC committee, we did a high-low circle explaining one high and one low event each of us had during the week with the group.

This was a powerful time of seeing what God had done throughout the week and seeing heartfelt experiences of those in the group. We arrived home safely Saturday afternoon after another long trip. We have to be asked to do a TASC up here in the north in the future and, Lord willing, we will be able to spread the seed and fellowship of the gospel in our community as God sees fit in the years to come.

To God be the Glory for the things He is doing!

Tony Miedema, Youth Director
Cornerstone Hudsonville URC

More information regarding information, dynamics and history of TASC can be found on the website:

<http://www.teensall-servingchrist.org/>

Eternal Life Mission Tepic Summer Update 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are many precious and comforting truths to be found in Isaiah 55. There, the Lord gives an open and loving call for all to enter into a covenant relationship with Him. The passage reminds us of God's desire for the spiritually bankrupt to come to Him. The Lord promises to have mercy, to freely pardon. Bringing His invitation to the nations is a hard labour, and lest His servants feel weak in their task, He reminds us that His ways are higher, and that He will accomplish His purposes through His powerful Word. Our words are feeble and insufficient, but God's Word will not return void.

We are in the middle of our rainy season here, although the rains have held off for the most part this year. We hear that this summer Canada has been having somewhat of a rainy season of its own. Look to the rains and remember that,

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and so not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my work that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

We have really had to remind ourselves of these spiritual sureties of late. There is such joy when a believer experiences God's forgiveness. That joy of the Lord is the strength that one needs to continue on in the path that leads to life. Yet when someone has lived following the path that leads to destruction, there are many still many consequences and sorrows to face when he turns to the Lord.

The hard part of ministry on the mission field is facing these complicated trials with people. Rebellious children, marriage problems, jealousies, quarrels and fights seem to be part of our every day life. I am kept quite busy making visits during the week; some are regularly scheduled Bible studies, some are for special counseling. These visits are a core part of the work in Tepic. They allow me to bring the Word to people's specific situations and problems, and gain understanding of where people "are at" spiritually.

That said, the best (and busiest) day of the week is Sunday. Those who purposefully assemble on the Lord's Day are those who are going to progress as believers. For them, going to church is an amazing privilege. Martin will often pray in the congregational prayer, thanking the Lord that there is a place in Tepic where people can come to hear the truth. Sadly for some, prioritizing in order to be in church Sunday morning is too much to ask.

Yet, those who neglect the assembling together, the singing of hymns, the prayers, the preaching of the Word can never hope to experience growth and blessing in their walk with the Lord. We thank the Lord that our group of members and faithful attendees has remained stable over the last year. Please continue to pray that they would be encouraged in their faith. Pray also for our "fringe people", as we call them, that they would see their need to make a firm commitment to Christ. And also pray for those who have yet to be called.

There are some matters of specific, urgent prayer that we would like to share with you.

1) First of all, Jorge, Martin and Marta's oldest son has not been coming to church. He has a young Catholic girlfriend, and continues to be rebellious. We have been working with and praying for him for many years and are grieved that he has chosen this path. Please pray that he will be truly convicted of his sin, repent, and return. Others in our small youth group have also been struggling, so please pray for them as well.

2) Erasmo and Adriana have also had a very hard time in their family. Their son Alan married without their knowledge. Now this marriage is also in danger. This family is not a Christian family as far as we can tell, but does attend the mission and are eagerly seeking for answers from the Word of God. I meet with them weekly to work through a preliminary discipleship course. Please pray for wisdom which begins with the fear of the Lord in this situation.

3) Ramon and Rosalva's daughter Rosa is a new mother, and she is currently living with her boyfriend. They live in Compostela, about 40 minutes from Tepic. After distancing themselves for a time, we are thankful that they are now seeking to begin studies again, and have expressed interest in becoming members of the mission.

4) We recently have had some conflict between some attendees of the mission. We pray that the Lord would turn it for the good of those involved and we see humble hearts seeking repentance. What we may sometimes see a step backwards may actually be a step forward when we recognize the sin in our life. Please pray for the work here, in that we often find ourselves in the perplexing situation of ministering to members of Christ's church and reaching out to the unbeliever at the same time.

5) We have been preparing Flora and Sandra for membership as they have desired to profess their faith publicly. But influences of unbelieving family members are strong, and "the flesh is weak." Please pray that the Holy Spirit would testify with their spirit that they are God's children and they would make this step in faith. (Romans 8)

6) In the coming year, one of our goals will be to make more associations with other like-minded churches in Mexico. We believe this is necessary for the sake of our members and young people. Please pray for wisdom and help as we seek the Lord's will in this.

7) The Anderson family will be moving on to Puerto Vallarta to open a new field of ministry there, DV. Please pray for them as they travel

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and move this month. Pray that the Lord would strengthen and bless them as they face the many challenges of settling in and beginning to bring the Word in that place.

8) We will be taking four weeks of vacation from August 10th through September 10th. Please pray for the mission in our absence. Martin will be leading the services and delivering the messages. Pray also for traveling mercies as we will be covering a lot of ground!

This September will mark our 10th year in Tepic. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the Lord's work here. It has been a great adventure and God has truly blessed us! One of the biggest blessings is our own family. We thank God for our Christian parents. We thank God for our marriage, and our children. Our kids are doing well here. We try to make the most of the many teaching opportunities to point our children to Christ and His merciful ways. Jessica is going into grade six. She is very involved in helping with the children at church, and along with our other children, has unofficially attended the young people's group since she was a baby. Christianna just enjoyed a surprise birthday party for her ninth birthday. As usual, there was an exciting mix of neighbours and kids from the mission in attendance. Joshua attended a kindergarten nearby our house last semester. This greatly helped him to progress in his Spanish. He now chatters away to the all the little girls his age, formerly his arch-enemies, at the mission. He will be home schooled for grade 1 this coming year. Jacob and Rebekah-Leigh are our pair of playful preschoolers. Jacob is almost 4 and Rebekah-Leigh is 2. They both get a lot of attention wherever they go because of their blond hair and blue eyes. All our kids enjoy their many friends. As they grow older, Angie is hard-pressed to keep up with all their activities. They enjoy swimming lessons year round. The oldest three are fast becoming proficient swimmers.

We and the mission here in Tepic appreciate your prayers and support. The body of Christ has many members, each with a special role to fulfill. Your concern for this church plant

glorifies God and encourages us greatly. We feel your prayers as we face the joys and trials of the Lord's work here, and we continually pray for you as we know of your needs as well.

Because of Him,

Pastor Richard and Angela Bout

Notes from Rev. McGee

(Rev. McGee is the Associate Pastor of Missions, Bethel United Reformed Church, Jenison, MI and serves as President of Ministries In Action—a non-profit, inter-denominational, Christian missions organization that serves churches throughout the Caribbean, West Indies, Latin America and North America.

In existence since 1961, MIA helps churches bear a more authentic witness to Jesus Christ through the following ministries: Evangelism and Church Growth-training and mobilizing church leaders in the effective use of small groups, friendship evangelism, direct witness, public witness, discipleship and evaluation; Theological Training - Accredited Certificate through Masters level programs of study onsite in the language of the learner; Holistic Ministry-social and economic development in needy communities including service projects (building churches, schools, clinics, low income housing, day care centers) and Biblical free enterprise endeavors that create meaningful jobs in developing countries. Rev. McGee is able to serve at MIA due to the faithful support of several URC churches and individuals in North America & Canada. For more information please contact Bethel URC 2025 Baldwin Street, Jenison, MI 49428; 1.616.457.4001; bethelunitedurc@yahoo.com.)

Farewell to Trinidad . . .

The 20 ft. container arrived at #10 Bayo Drive-Kolohal Road on May 5 and several neighbors and church members came to help us load it. After a long afternoon and evening it was finally packed—all the way to the back door, floor to ceiling!

Our final days were very emotional as we said goodbye to friends, neighbors, church members and our fellow co-laborer, Pastor Gosyne. We were honored with a farewell dinner by the Morton House Committee, Aramalaya Presbyterian Church and two farewells by Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church. People were so kind in their expressions of love to us in word and song and many tears were shed. We rest in the thought that our Heavenly Father loves and cares for His children no matter what part of the world they live in. He will keep those we love in Trinidad in His love and care and we are just a phone call, letter or email away. We are amazed at how the Lord used us during our 5- 1/2 years in Trinidad, not just in the Church, but in our neighborhood, as well. Many of our neighbors were so sad to see us go and said, "It just won't be the same without you here."

We truly have had the privilege to serve in God's vineyard in Trinidad. But God leads and moves His children on and now I have a great opportunity to serve in God's vineyard through Ministries In Action. We never thought that God would lead us back to Miami, Florida, the place where Adanna and I both grew up. My how things change in twenty two years! Miami is an international city and the "gateway to the Caribbean, Latin America and South America." We look forward to many years of ministry with God's people in Brazil, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad. God truly has blessed us "abundantly beyond what we could even ask or imagine." We thank you, family, friends and faithful supporters in finances and prayers, for making this ministry possible for us. We love you and "thank God upon every remembrance of you."

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