



"The great trumpet will be blown,  
they will come,  
who are about to perish"

# The Trumpet

Isaiah 27:13 (NKJ).

## Philippine Mission Report



Greetings from hot and humid Manila, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I give thanks to Him for your faithfulness in praying and supporting us these many years.

### Family Happenings

Rachel's high school days are quickly coming to a close, so she's quite busy with her preparations for her next stage in life: college. I plan to travel with her sometime this summer back to California to settle her in one of her choices: Providence Christian College, Simpson University, or Biola University.

All three of our boys will be visiting us for 2-3 weeks in June to see Rachel graduate from Faith Academy. We haven't been together as a family since 2008.

*Pasig Covenant  
Reformed Church  
installs office  
bearers*

### Mission Update

On February 26, 2012, Pasig Covenant Reformed Church reached a memorable milestone in its young history: the organization of the church with the installation of its office bearers. With the approval of the supervising Consistory of Trinity United Reformed Church in Walnut Creek, California, Mr. Albert Medina and Mr. Warren Cruz were ordained and installed as elders of the church. Mr. Medina will also serve as our interim deacon. The two men will each serve a three-year term of office.

We will now precede with the Profession of Faith of several regular attendees in both Pasig and Imus congregations. There will also be at least one adult baptism and several children's baptisms after their parents have made professions of faith.

### A Second Mission Church

Since September 2011, a small Bible study group in Imus, Cavite (about 20 miles south of Manila) started meeting for worship on the Lord's Days. Most of those who started attending were longtime members of a Pentecostal church that has become a part of the G-12 cultic movement from Colombia. Because of this background, almost all of them are only starting on their Reformed pilgrimage. So I was not surprised when after only three months of attendance, one family of three said goodbye to us because the church did not fill their needs.

I have taught the basics of Reformed doctrine and worship, especially the doctrines of grace, what a Reformed church is, and why our worship is different from all other run-of-the-mill evangelical churches. Today, our regular attendance is about 15 adults and 5 children. In December 2011, they

agreed to call the mission church Trinity Covenant Reformed Church.

So my Lord's Days start early, leaving home at 7:30 a.m., arriving at Trinity CovRC at 8:45 a.m. Worship services start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a short fellowship time and Sunday school from 11:00-12 a.m. Then we drive back to Pasig CovRC, arriving there about 1:30 p.m. Worship services here start at 2:30 p.m. followed by a short fellowship time and Sunday school from 4-5 p.m.

A local pastor, Rev. Jayson Santiago, is the prospective minister for Trinity CovRC. He learned Reformed doctrines from his days at his former denomination's Bible school where I taught many of his friends who were also ministerial candidates. Because his denomination is mainstream evangelical with Pentecostal leanings, he was cautioned not to teach Reformed doctrines. He also slowly introduced Reformed worship with hymns and psalm-singing, but was told to bring back contemporary worship.

It was more than a year ago when he confided to me his struggles there, so I asked him to consider being called by the Pasig congregation to serve in Imus. After a year of struggling against his denomination, he was finally convinced that it was time to leave. Moreover, his overseeing Board of Elders assigned him to be an Assistant Pastor at one of the denomination's most Pentecostal churches.

So on March 1, he finally left, and was told to vacate the parsonage. Having just started his family, with a wife and a one-year-old baby, it was a difficult transition. The couple essentially did not even have the very basic things to start: no bed, no table, no chairs, no stove. Even worse, now he had no access to books for his studies. We found a very reasonable apartment for them, and provided those basic things from what we found in our home that we do not use anymore. They still need a couple of beds, a couch, a few more chairs, and a bookcase so

*Local Bible  
Students  
reform in  
doctrine in  
Davao.*

I can give him some of my books. I already gave him my Reformation Study Bible and ESV Study Bible, both of which I rarely use because they are available online.

The Consistory has heard him preach and lead worship three times, and is satisfied, so we have decided to examine him. If he sustains the examination, we will present to both congregations the matter of calling him as mission pastor of the Imus church on May 27.

## Reformed Students

In the last several months, I've had contact with about 10-15 students from a local Bible Baptist college, a fundamentalist Arminian and dispensationalist school. They learned about Reformed doctrines from another student who used to attend Rev. Vic Bernales' church in Davao. They started visiting the Pasig worship services, and later on asked me to conduct regular studies. Soon, their school officials learned about their activities from other students, and were told to stop visiting the church and talking to me. The ones who were graduating this April were warned they would not graduate if they continued in their Reformed path.

I advised them to keep a low-profile until the school year is ended, so the seniors were able to graduate. Now, a few of them are leaving the school, seeking to continue in others that are less restrictive. Since the school is in summer break, most are now back in their home provinces, but the ones still in the metro Manila area still visit the church and our home for discussions on various subjects. After every Lord's Day worship, they would ask me for a copy of the sermon manuscript so they could make copies for themselves and discuss them.



Please pray for these young men and women who desire to be faithful to Scripture, gain more knowledge, and walk in godliness and righteousness worthy of their calling.

*Chairs,  
Psalters  
and  
Financial  
Shortfalls*

## Financial Needs

For our personal expenses, in 2011, our shortfall was \$9,383. Because of this, we have not contributed to our retirement account since 2009, and we owe self-employment taxes for the years 2010 and 2011.

For the Pasig church, we usually break even in our offerings and expenses. Our one-time needs

are as follows:

1. Split-type A-C unit: \$800
2. Chairs (10): \$50
3. Sunday school materials

For the Imus church, we have a monthly budget shortfall of \$350, and one-time needs as follows:

1. Split-type A-C unit: \$800
2. Chairs (10): \$50
3. Psalms
4. Sunday school materials

General needs for mission:

1. Multimedia projector: \$300-400
2. Wireless sound system consisting of microphone, amplifier, speaker, etc.: \$400

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

We appreciate your continuing prayers and support of the Philippine mission.

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## VanderPol Update - MINTS in Asia

TEACHING THEOLOGY FOR MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY (MINTS) IN ASIA



## MINTS EXPANDS TO INDIA

Beginning on February 21, I travelled to India for a nineteen day trip to pursue more extensive teaching opportunities

for MINTS and to build on work which we had already begun.

In the NE Indian town of Mirik, for example, I visited Rev. Dr. K. A. Rai, a Presbyterian minister from Mirik, and Rev. Dr. Lima Pallab, a Reformed minister from Calcutta. We discussed how MINTS could assist them in their teaching ministries. Both men have enjoyed a long-standing association with the Darjeeling Hills Bible School (DHBS). Dr. Rai has directed the school, and Dr. Pallab has served on its board. The school needs help to continue and expand its ministry.

After discussing with them the need to extend their teaching ministry to a greater number of students, I could see that MINTS and DHBS could work together to teach more pastors and church leaders

the Word of God. By using MINTS courses, DHBS will possess greater ability to expand its curriculum in NE India and teach pastors who cannot receive on-campus training. By implementing the MINTS study center structure, Dr. Pallab will have the necessary resources to develop study centers in the Calcutta area and other vast parts of eastern India. In many cases . They will receive Reformed theology!

The potential of these men to take advantage of MINTS to train pastors deeply impressed me. Both have

Pastors receive their first formal training in Reformed theology

taught Reformed theology extensively before. Both have developed contacts with many pastors. Both demonstrate love for Jesus Christ.

I plan to return in several months to equip these pastors and their colleagues by teaching them how to present MINTS courses and how to report the results of the students' academic work to MINTS' academic dean.

## Building

I also went to India to build on work which I had begun. In Vijayawada I taught the educational leaders of the Presbyterian Church of South India (PCSI) how to teach MINTS courses in their more dominant language of Telugu. We have begun the Telugu Project (our effort to translate a complete MINTS Bachelors curriculum into Telugu) with them. A translator has already translated some MINTS courses. We continue to search for more translated theological works in Telugu which students can read to fulfill their course requirements. These ordained men seem eager to promote Reformed theological education in the PCSI. Many of their colleagues in the pastoral ministry have received no theological training. They prepare sermons each week with no study helps such as commentaries. Very little Reformed material exists in their language. Though the Telugu Project has advanced more slowly than I had hoped, we remain thankful for the progress which has taken place. The leaders would like studies to begin in June.

Later, I taught in Ramachandra Puram, a more remote town in central East India. A small group of pastors, under the leadership of Rev. Moses Rao, gathers for study periodically. I taught them a course which I have written on the Doctrine of Man. Since they compare Reformed theology with the teachings of other churches near them, their interest intensified when we discussed the issues of trichotomy and the imputation of Adam's sin. I hope to return to them, and other places mentioned in this letter, in July.

## Prayer Requests

### Gratitude:

for safety as I travelled in urban and rural places throughout eastern India, for new opportunities in NE India to equip teachers to begin new study centers and teach pastors, for highly motivated church leaders in India who desire to teach their fellow pastors how to handle God's Word faithfully.

**Requests:** for speedy progress as I resume writing on the Doctrine of Scripture, a project which had a significant interruption in 2011, and for speedy progress with the Telugu Project, for continued financial support (The Lord provided for all our needs in 2011; we depend on Him again this year), for the ability to organize future trips so that I can work efficiently on them.

### Financial Support:

If you would like to support this work financially, please send your gifts to the following:

In the United States: Write your check out to: First United Reformed Church.

Send it to: VanderPol Support Fund,  
First United Reformed Church,  
6159 Riverside Drive,  
Chino, CA 91710.

In Canada: Write your check out to: Covenant Reformed Church.

Send it to: Covenant Reformed Church— Rev. VanderPol

Covenant Reformed Church of Toronto  
259 Albion Road  
Toronto, ON M9W3P1.

On the memo, please write "VanderPol Fund"





## Summer 2012 Outreach at Christ Reformed DC

A year ago, Christ Reformed Church moved into its current home at Grace Reformed Church, an historic landmark in the middle of Logan Circle, a thriving residential neighborhood of Washington D.C. Our church's presence in the community is, understandably, not yet well-established, and our membership is almost exclusively composed of those commuting from the suburbs outside the district in Virginia and Maryland. With the assistance of summer intern Zachary Wyse, we are hoping to put down deeper roots in our community.

However, through no planning of our own, God has blessed us with a remarkably strategic location downtown, and we hope to use that for his glory. Logan Circle has changed radically over the last decade, becoming more residential as families and singles seek to put down long term roots in the city. It has become more densely populated, through the construction and renovation of condominium and apartment buildings. There are 12,000 residential addresses within an easily walkable half-mile radius of our church.

As you might guess, many of these city dwellers don't own a car. They walk to buy groceries, to work, or to a local restaurant. Christ Reformed's new home is right around from a Whole Foods grocery store. This was the first high-end grocery in the District, and it led to the development of a pedestrian neighborhood filled with shops and restaurants. As a result, a good chunk of those 12,000-plus neighbor walk past our door every day.

Our goal this summer is to make some initial steps in reaching out to these neighbors, and informing them that there is a new Bible-believing church in their neighborhood. This outreach will take two

forms: personal relationships and mass publicity, though we do not intend to separate those two.

To let people know we are in the neighborhood, we have been handing out reusable grocery bags in front of Whole Foods with our logo and contact information on them. This has already led to some good conversations. Some recipients have expressed a desire to find a church in which to worship. We pray that they will join us. A second approach will be handing out hundreds of copies of the Gospel of Mark, which our summer series ("Who is Jesus? Why did he come?") is based upon. We are also handing out informational flyers at subway stops and opening the door of our historic church to invite our neighbors in. We have already seen one visitor from the flyers. He received a flyer, lost it, returned to the subway stop, and managed to find one lying on the ground. He expressed an appreciation for the worship service and a desire to return. Opening the doors periodically has also allowed a number of area residents to see the inside of a beautiful building they walk by every day. We pray they become less intimidated to gather with us on the Lord's Day.

On a more informal level, intern Zachary Wyse hopes to develop friendships with some locals at coffee shops, in checkout lines, at the barbershop, and in the park. Not only might this offer some opportunities to invite them to church, but it will give provide more insight into the neighborhood.



Our catechetical service will also fit within this overarching framework, as we will give extra attention to equipping our congregants "to give an answer for the hope" that is in them by addressing those objections that are most prevalent in our culture. Thankfully, we have already seen these sermons encourage the saints in the truthfulness of the faith. They are also especially accessible to any non-Christians that would attend, as well.



In all of this, we realize that the official and unofficial witness of the church is never confined to a single summer. Though it may occupy a special prominence over the coming months, we hope that the net effect will be that members of Christ Reformed Church are better able to love their neighbors in both word and deed and that a number of those members live in the area surrounding the church building. Please pray for our neighbors in Logan Circle, that through our efforts they might come to know the love of Jesus Christ.

## Florida Vacationers and Residents

American Reformed Fellowship  
 Worship Services Every Sunday  
 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM  
 URCNA Pastors;  
 Rev. R. Stienstra and Rev. M. Zylstra  
 Social Hour after the 2nd Service.  
 Services are held at the,  
 Palm View Baptist Church  
 US Highway 41 N. and 49th Street E.  
 415 49th Street East  
 Palmetto, Florida 34221  
 Bible Study Every Wednesday at 10:AM  
 Florida Contact # 941-723-6898  
 Seasonal Worship Services start  
 Nov. 11- '12, and end April 21- '13

### Church Plants

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Lancaster, PA   | New York City |
| Sioux Falls, SD | Toronto       |
| Washington, DC  | Jersey City   |

## Plea from the Editors

We need inputs before we can publish. We do not want to just report on the same few who send us articles. Please consider submitting something on your mission activities in your church. Text or Word format is required. We don't retype from PDFs. (Sorry – small and busy staff. ☺ )

## Ongoing URC Missions

### Foreign Missions

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Armenia        | Costa Rica  |
| Honduras       | India       |
| Mexico (Tepic) | Philippines |
| Trinidad       |             |

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