



Fall 2010

Gospel makes progress in Canada



Members of Covenant Baptist Church enjoy a weekend retreat in Ontario.

Despite growth of secularism, work of Christ moves forward in land of Maple Leaf

By Gordon Taylor

ARBCA has one missionary and two national pastors in Canada. Each of these is faithfully serving Christ and each is seeing encouraging gospel results.

This article will give a brief summary of each of these faithful servants of Christ:

Daniel Durand, Raymond Perron and Chris Powell. I will also include in this article Pascal Denault whose ordination council was conducted during my visit to Quebec.

Quebec

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Trinity Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Jackson, GA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, CA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Mercer Island, WA

Commentary: Of balloons and seed planters

By Gordon Taylor

I read the book "Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?" by Roland Allen over 40 years ago and the deep impression it made on my mind has never left. However, I have not reread the book in the intervening years. I deeply regret that neglect.

As I was reading the book statements made on pages 174-176 gave me pause for meditation. The book was first published in 1902 with a second edition in 1927. My edition has a copyright of 1962.

The sentences that I quote come from chapter 7, "The Substance of Paul's Preaching."

"St. Paul expected his hearers to be moved... Simply to scatter the seed, with a sort of vague hope that some of it may come up somewhere, is not preaching the Gospel... To preach the Gospel requires that the preacher should believe that he is sent to those whom he is addressing at the moment, because God has among them those whom He is at the moment calling: it requires that the speaker should expect a response." (p. 174)

"Our idea of 'sowing the seed' seems to be rather like scattering wheat out of a balloon... St. Paul did not scatter seeds; he planted. He so dealt with his hearers that

he brought them speedily and directly to a point of decision, and then he demanded of them that they should make a choice and act on their choice." (p. 174)

"The possibility of rejection was ever present... Can there be a true teaching which does not involve the refusal to go on teaching? The teaching of the Gospel is not a mere intellectual instruction: it is a moral process, and involves a moral response. If then we go on teaching where that moral response is refused, we cease to preach the Gospel; we make the teaching a mere education of the intellect... We should refuse to give intellectual teaching to a pupil if he refused to give us his attention: we might equally refuse to give religious teaching to a pupil who refused to give us religious attention." (p. 175)

"We have forgotten that the same Lord who gave us the command to go, gave us the command to shake off the dust from our feet. We have lost the art of shaking the lap, we have learnt the art of steeling our hearts and shutting up the bowels of our compassion against those who cry to us for the Gospel." (p. 175)

The applications are almost too obvious for me to note, but I will take the risk of the obvious.

1) Do we preach with the expectation that conversions will occur? Or have we become so used to the lack of fruit in America that we consider it normal to have only one to five conversions a year?

2) Are we content with merely scattering the seed from a balloon? This is a stinging rebuke to those who merely serve up good meals of gospel preaching that lack zeal, conviction and expectation.

3) Are we willing to move on from a place or country that is rejecting the gospel and move to a place in the world that is crying for the truth?

In regard to this last thought, I wonder if we may have too many preachers in the USA. There are places that are longing for someone to learn their language to come and teach them, to help them evangelize, to help them form a church and to help them see clearly the errors of false teaching.

Would it be good if some of our experienced men sacrificed and went to regions of the world to plant the seed among those who are longing for a gospel ministry? I am asking the question of myself and of you. I believe these are questions that need to be answered.

Canada

From page 1

The Lord has been pleased to establish an association of Reformed Baptist churches in Quebec. The Association d'Eglises réformées baptistes du Québec was formed on March 17, 1999. Now there are six churches in the Association and one of the churches is involved in a church plant. I had the joy of meeting five of these six pastors, as well as the leader in the church plant and also participating in an ordination council for Pascal Denault, who pastors the church in St. Jerome. The Lord has used Raymond Perron, an ARBCA missionary in Quebec, to establish this strong Reformed Baptist witness in Quebec.

Montreal – Daniel Durand

National Pastor Daniel Durand, spon-

sored by Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., pastors the Reformed Baptist Church in Montreal. Because they rent a building from a Bible church, they only meet on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.

However, even with this kind of hindrance the Lord has been pleased to add many to the church over the past months so that their attendance has steadily increased. The worship on the Lord's Day was reverent and vibrant as these saints sang the praises of God in their own language.

Pastor Durand travels many miles each month as he shepherds these believers. The Lord has truly rewarded his efforts with a growing congregation that loves Christ.

Pastor Durand is also involved in planting a church in Aylmer. Aylmer is over 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of

Montreal (about a 2 1/2-hour drive) and just west of Ottawa, the capital of Canada. André Pinard is the brother who is leading this group and the work has seen slow progress, however recently some visitors have begun to attend.

Here are some prayer requests for the ministry of Daniel Durand:

1) Pray that the Lord will provide a building so they can meet on the Lord's Day morning.

2) Pray for continued progress in the church plant effort in Aylmer and for a pastor for this work.

3) Finally, pray that the Lord will supply the needs of the Durands. Daniel faithfully visits and carries on an active ministry, but I noted that his automobile is quite

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Institute for Reformed Baptist Studies

Church interns: From the other side

Edited by James M. Renihan

In the previous issue of ARBCA Update, Pastor Dave Johnston wrote about his church's experience with an IRBS in-

tern. Now we get to hear the other side of the story, from two men who are members of Escondido Reformed Baptist Church— Jason Walter, a senior IRBS student, and

Micah Renihan, a second-year student. These are their reflections—in their own words—on internships completed in the summer of 2010.

Jason Walter:

In June and July of this past summer I enjoyed the tremendous privilege of an internship at Grace Baptist Church in Christchurch, New Zealand. Pastors Rob Harrod and Doug Sinclair were a joy to learn from; the church was warm and welcoming; and the scenery, of course, was gorgeous. During six, all-too-short weeks, I was able to preach several times, lead or help lead multiple Bible studies, sit in on elders' meetings, tag along on pastoral visits, participate in weekly outreach programs, and even attend the annual School of Theology (taught by none other than Dr. Jim Renihan) and a meeting of the Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches of New Zealand. I benefited from the experience to a far greater degree and in far many more ways than I could possibly describe here, and I can only pray that the church there was blessed to some small fraction of the extent to which I was.

As seminary students, my classmates and I are frequently reminded that much of what is required in pastoral ministry cannot be learned in the classroom or from a textbook, and this summer I learned how very true that reminder is. I was able for the first time fully to be involved in the nitty-gritty of everyday pastoral life, and observing such godly and faithful pastors in action was of inestimable value. They modeled for me a deep concern and love for the flock that God had placed under their care, tremendous wisdom in dealing with difficult and sensitive issues, as well as profound humility and a sense of dependence upon God in it all. Nothing could have impressed the necessity of these traits upon me more deeply than seeing them demonstrated in such vivid and living colors. Parallel to this, I have never been so convinced as I became this past summer of the unstinted sufficiency of the Scriptures to supply the pastor with all he needs to fulfill his calling (II Tim. 3:17).

One unexpected benefit in doing an internship in a different cultural setting, I found, was that the experience helped to temper my perspective on America and on the church in America. For one thing, it deepened my thankfulness for the bountiful resources that God has provided His people in this land, especially in opportunities for theological education in such a multitude of solid Christian colleges and seminaries. But it also helped me to realize, in a way that only first-hand experience can help one to realize, that God is

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Micah Renihan:

This summer I had the privilege of spending nine weeks in Maine ministering at Grace Community Church in Topsham as a summer intern. This was my first experience doing any sort of real internship or doing any full-time ministry at all. The understanding that I gained during this time was invaluable to me. During these nine weeks I was able to preach six times, teach Sunday School five times, speak at a youth event, meet regularly with Pastor Baines, meet with several of the young men in the church in a pastoral setting, meet with a couple of the men in the church on a weekly basis for evaluation and encouragement, not to mention getting to know and love the brothers and sisters in the church.

Probably the main reason this experience was so helpful to me was simply gaining the experience. Before this summer I had preached only a few times and had taught an adult Sunday school class only a few times. Each time I preached or taught in the past I knew at least a month in advance. I never had the experience of preparing sermons for consecutive weeks. I also had never been able to preach a series of sermons. This internship was very useful to me both in giving me more opportunities to preach and teach as well as in learning what it is like to be preparing sermons each week and in a series. It is apparent to me that the more opportunities I get to preach the better preacher I become.

The second reason this internship was so helpful to me was that I was able to spend a whole summer at a different church than my home church. I found it very helpful to preach to a church that doesn't know me in the same way as my home church. The church in Topsham, Maine very appropriately viewed me as a student, as someone still developing as a preacher. But even with that mindset, it was still different for them to hear me preach than it is when I preach at home. The type of feedback and critique I could receive from them was often different from what I would receive in my home church. I would strongly recommend to my fellow students that they do an internship at a church that they have not grown up in.

One of my favorite parts of the internship was being able to work with Pastor Baines very closely every week. I was able to ask him any question that came into my mind, questions about the

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RBMS missions around the world

In October we started a series of sermons on the book of Ephesians.

As I began to analyze the book, the expression “grace and peace” in Paul’s greeting to the church jumped out at me. These words not only expressed the good wishes of the Apostle for them, but also contained a profound message of encouragement as he reminded them what, as believers in Christ, they already possessed.

“Grace” reminded them of the great work of salvation that our Lord had done in their lives, that gift that they did not deserve but that God gave them in His infinite love.

The expression “peace” had the purpose of reminding them that the enmity between them and God had been removed by Christ’s work of reconciliation for them.

What a marvelous privilege we have in Christ—this encourages and strengthens us to persevere in the work, carrying this message of hope to the lost.

As a church, already constituted before God’s eyes and now legally rec-

This fall we are rejoicing in what God is doing in His church. At Covenant, we have been blessed with a season of growth and promise. Some of our outreach efforts and your prayers are being used by God to bring to fruition His work in our congregation.

First, we have many visitors attending, to the point that on some Sunday mornings we are beginning to run out of chairs. As I write we have three people coming into membership in the next month or two with a queue of people behind them waiting for interviews. We have a baptism scheduled and we are praying that it will be just the first in a series.

I delayed writing this report in the hopes that I could communicate some more specifics, but, the situation is still developing, so keep praying that this will be a true harvest of Thanksgiving. Canadian Thanksgiving is officially Oct. 11 this year, but, as children

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Chile



ognized just last month by the Chilean government, we want to express our gratitude to God for His blessing and to all our brothers and sisters for your prayers and support. We are deeply grateful for the spiritual and numeric growth God has granted during this time and for the many contacts that we trust will bear fruit in new members for His glory. Our joy grows as we see many young people studying the doctrines of grace each Wednesday, desiring to apply them to their lives and to the lives of others around them.

We ask your prayers for the upcoming conference with Pastor Tedd Tripp in

March of 2011 in several cities of Chile — that God would cause this to bring blessing to many. I also beg your prayers for my wife Susana and her health, which has been somewhat complicated recently, and for my entire family — that our testimony would be honoring to God and have profit for those who see us.

We send our affectionate greetings. May the grace and peace of God rule in your hearts.

(Translated by Pastor Jim Adams, Cornerstone Church in Mesa, Ariz., sponsoring church for the Ramoses.)

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Canada



of Jehovah Jireh we must constantly seek a harvest for Him. He is able to do far more than we could ask or imagine.

The reality is that the devil is also at work and our strength and victory over sin and death comes only in the strength and only at the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is strong to save. Our confidence rests in Him that He will work these situations out

for His glory.

The summer months have flown by and they have been a time of fellowship and encouragement. My family and I got the opportunity to go to the Carlisle Family Conference in June where my brother Canadian pastor, Raymond Perron was preaching.

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RBMS missions around the world

The stream of God's truth is becoming a river of grace. We are thrilled with some new people and a new outreach into our neighborhood. God is establishing His church in Argentina. What a privilege and joy it is to preach the Doctrines of Grace—the Gospel that is the power of God unto salvation!

Two new families have recently begun to attend. The Brito and D'avia families have embraced the teaching and taken ownership of the church's vision. We look forward to adding them to our church membership and sharing with them in the Gospel labor in our neighborhood and families.

With the addition of these new families we have also begun a men's discipleship ministry and a study through Ted Tripp's book "Shepherding a Child's Heart" with the couples. This is in view of Ted Tripp's visit and Shepherding Conference here in Argentina in March 2011.

We ask prayer for our dear sister, Virginia Vagni, a member of the church who suddenly lost her husband, Bacilio, on Oct. 6. As I write, in these coming

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days Bacilio's funeral will be held and many unconverted family and friends will be present. Pray that the Gospel would penetrate their hearts and that the Holy Spirit would comfort Virginia in this difficult time ahead.

We are excited to have recently come in contact with a new congregation 550 km. (340 mi.) to the north of us that also holds to the 1689 Confession of Faith. The pastor of that work, Samuel Manfrotto, is coming down to meet with me and to speak in the church. An additional encouragement and blessing to us has been the fellowship with the nearby church in Cordoba, where Sam Masters ministers.

I continue in my studies of "The Apostolic Foundation" and "Eschatology" (books by Dr. José Grau) under Dr. Jim Adams. Also available to me are the good theological courses offered by the William Carey Seminary in Cordoba. Pray for the retreat that is being planned for the end of March 2011 in Chile and Argentina and for reformed leaders to work and pray together for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon us.

Greetings to all our wonderful brothers and sisters of ARBCA. We love you and thank God for you!

Please visit www.carlospazcordoba.blogspot.com for monthly updates, photos, prayer requests and Spanish sermons.

Powells

From page 5

Sadly, Raymond had to go home early with a sinus infection and although I would much rather have heard my brother preach, it was also my privilege to preach a sermon at the camp in his absence.

Shortly after I returned home, we invited Pastor Fred Pugh from Grace Covenant Church in Ohio to come and preach for a weekend up at Covenant. It was our joy to host Fred and his wife Joy at our home and to get to know them and fellowship with them.

Shortly after they left we were graced with a visit from Miss Mary Leone who had planned to come as part of a service team from Grace Baptist Carlisle. However, for several reasons, the rest of the team could

not come this year. Nevertheless, Mary did come because of a previously booked flight and was a real blessing to our family and our church. She especially helped us put together a music supplement with some newer hymns to supplement our recent purchase of the Trinity Hymnal.

Might I take this opportunity to say that it is wonderful to have young adults serving the larger efforts of the Church. There's a lot that they can do that others cannot because of other commitments. I'd encourage other Christian young adults in ARBCA to consult with their parents and pastors to consider other creative ways that they could help other national pastors and home missionaries; we've been very blessed by these efforts.

Our outreach efforts continue. In June we held our annual church outreach picnic. For the first time we held it at our home in

Scarborough. We had several new people come and there was some good interaction. Pray that God would bring more fruit, especially with our young people.

On the weekend of Sept. 17-19 we were delighted and blessed to have coordinator and pastor, Gordon Taylor, come and speak for our annual church outreach Cabin-In, which was held at Camp Shalom in Minden, Ontario.

Pastor Taylor gave five sessions on Gospel snapshots in John Bunyan's classic, "Pilgrim's Progress" and then preached an excellent sermon Sunday morning on 2 Cor. 3:17-18. The messages were well-received and we were delighted to get to know the Taylors better and to receive the ARBCA church presentation. It was also one of the

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RBMS missions around the world



In the midst of many struggles we taste our Lord's goodness and faithfulness; and to be in fellowship with our ARBCA sister churches is certainly a blessing for which we are so thankful to the Lord.

The last trimester has been quite active and fertile in all kinds of events. At the beginning of August, my wife and I spent over a week in Arizona as I had been invited to be one of the speakers at the BTC Conference.

Our dear brother John Giarrizzo also invited us to attend their family camp in Sedona and to spend some time of vacation with them. It has been a great time of blessing and refreshment.

The BTC Conference has also been an occasion of mighty encouragement as we met with all these young people, serious in their walk with God, desiring to deepen their relationship with Him. And this camp is a great way of helping these youngsters as they attend the preaching of the Word, the discussion and the fellowship. It is also a privileged way for young people to meet others and to enjoy some recreational time. We would like our young people from Quebec to attend the 2011 BTC.

On Aug. 20, I was at the Faculté de théologie of Montreal, as I have been invited to be on the panel of a student master's thesis defense. This student showed an undeniable interest for reformed faith and I had a very good contact with him. In fact, he wrote me an e-mail asking for me to meet with him as he would like to have advice for his future. I would appreciate your prayers for this meeting that will take place in the near future.

In August I also had the privilege of celebrating a wedding in the Montreal area. It has been the occasion for preaching the gospel to the 130 guests for whom it was a first exposition to it. The groom and his wife have started to attend a Christian church not far from their place.

We keep praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers in His harvest. So, it was with gratefulness that in September

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we proceeded to the examination of Pascal Denault in view of his ordination. We took advantage of the presence of Gordon and Rayna Taylor, as well as of Arden and Dani Hodgins, in organizing the event. Gordon and Arden joined the examination council and we unanimously strongly recommended our brother Pascal for ordination.

Prior to the examination that took place in the afternoon, we had a ministerial meeting in the morning, during which Pastor Hodgins and Coordinator Taylor addressed our pastors.

Pastor Hodgins came down to Quebec City, where he preached in our church on Sunday morning and we spent some time with him and Dani. Pastor Taylor, in the meanwhile, was preaching in our churches in St-Jérôme and in Montreal, before coming down to Quebec City, where he made a mission presentation at our prayer meeting on Wednesday night. We immensely appreciated the ministry of both of them as well as the time of fellowship with them and their wives.

Then, in October 2-3, I enjoyed a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, as I had been invited by our dear brother pastor Fred Pugh to talk at their church banquet on Saturday night, to report on our work in Quebec at the Sunday school time and to preach at the worship meeting. I am still savoring the delightful time of fellowship I had with these kind and dedicated people. We also greatly rejoiced with Keith and Shlomit Thompson (and their son Jonathan) as Keith had just been voted for ordination in this church.

As I wrote these lines, I am preparing to go to Greentown, Pa., God willing, where I will be participating in a missions conference with our Coordinator Taylor. My wife Diane will come along with me.

"Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful." Ps. 147:1

Powells

From page 6

largest Cabin-Ins in recent memory with 49 in attendance including children. Please pray for the non-Christians who attended.

Finally, on another joyous note, the church, at its annual business meeting this fall, elected Mr. Tony Cavallo as our new treasurer and Mr. Cesare Lazzaro as our new bookkeeper, which was a real answer to our prayers for help in procuring financial leadership. Secondly, the church voted unanimously to assume 33.3 percent of the National Pastor support that we receive from ARBCA/RBMS – seven months earlier than originally agreed. Praise God!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, please pray for our building needs as we are expected to lose our current facilities in eight months. We have some prospects but this is a real challenge for us and needs much prayer. Please also pray for two people that are beginning to express faith in Christ that they may have true professions of faith and that we might delight in seeing their salvation soon.



RBMS missions around the world

We thank the Lord for his faithfulness.

In recent months my wife and I had the great privilege of attending the camp of Reformed Baptist Churches of France and Switzerland, where I preached at two conferences. We also visited the Church of Payerne (Olivier Favre) and the Church of Lausanne (Regis Berdoulat). We were very encouraged by the work that the Lord is doing in Europe.

In September we had a visit from Gordon and Rayna Taylor for a few days. Gordon preached to churches in St-Jérôme and Montreal. We thank the Lord for this brother and sister.

For about a year the Church of Montreal has grown gradually. People – sometimes families – have been added. We are also encouraged to see people become members. The commitment of everyone is important.

Last September a brother who was an assistant pastor in a Pentecostal Church began attending our church. He studied theology at the Evangelical Faculty of Theology in Montreal. God has changed his thinking and led him to reject certain doctrines to which he had adhered.

We received an e-mail from our son

I have had the joy of connecting with two Reformed Baptist families over the last few months with their sons at Marine Corps Recruit Training.

I am happy for the visit and opportunity to minister to them.

We have begun a Sunday school hour at the Chapel in a nearby facility. The Chapel building cannot accommodate a Sunday school because it has no classrooms and the building about 100 feet away has been offered for our use. It is suited well for our needs and we are thankful for the opportunity.

My wife, three oldest daughters, and I are doing the teaching using the Catechism for Boys and Girls for the chil-

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Etienne in July. The situation is very difficult, especially for my wife. We have not seen him in over a year. We continue to pray for him that God would draw him to Christ.

The Aylmer group persists in implementation efforts to grow into a church. In recent months two families attended the meetings. Their background requires André Pinard, the person in charge, to teach them by correcting some false doctrines. Andrew and Carol want to intensify their efforts of evangelization in Aylmer. Thank you for keeping them in prayer.

In 2009 I told you in a report that we had a visit from three French Christians. It was an opportunity for them to think about theology. One of them is studying. He came back to Montreal in 2010

to take a course with us, taught by Tom Nettles. This brother has now joined the Faculty of Reformed Theology in France, led by Paul Wells.

This fall another French brother is with us for a few months. It is also an opportunity for him to reflect on the doctrine. He has asked me many questions and I have had great pleasure taking time with him.

Last year our second son got married. And our daughter has just announced she is getting married next summer. We are entering in a year of preparations and we pray that this marriage glorifies the Lord.

Thank you for participating with us in the work that the Lord entrusted to us in the greater Montreal area.

The Joyners

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dren and the Westminster Catechism for adults. We have had about 10 each week and hope others will come.

I am currently counseling with a

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RBMS missions around the world



National Issues

You probably will have been informed via the electronic media that our little island, Jamaica, is among those countries plagued with seemingly perpetual social and political issues.

It would appear the nation's lawmakers will not be able to implement the appropriate stringent laws to curtail the frequent social upheavals. The latest which received wide publicity had to do with the extradition of Tivoli Garden's strongman Christopher "Dudus" Coke, which left such severe repercussions that still affect corporate Jamaica nearly five months later.

Even our "Umbrella Church" leaders are caught up in some ongoing political matters that have somewhat shifted the focus of their ministry.

This is taking us nowhere, and has weakened the true purpose of the Christian testimony in our local situation. The devil loves this, as it gives him a semblance of control over the Church's program.

Faith Missionary

At Faith Missionary, Arnold Road Student Teachers from the Residence Halls continue to visit with us. But we long to see some form of commitment on their part. We also place it before the

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JAMAICA



throne of Grace.

In this very area Arnold Road, as a group, has responded to our house-to-house ministry and is attending services on a regular basis. No expression of conversion has so far been forthcoming, but we continue to labor with them.

I was not able to attend the Summer Camp and I truly miss my 18- and 19-year-old young men that I used to teach. I am not able to say much about what went on but I was told that the kids were properly taught and many showed some concern for their souls.

By the time you read this I will have met with them on Oct. 18 for their Youth Conference in St. Ann.

Grace Reformed

When we at Grace planned our evangelistic outreach during the past two months, we least thought about a chang-

ing weather pattern. The rains began affecting us from the outset. But thank God, we have been able to weather the conditions.

You will be happy to know that on the 12th of September, after I spoke a Word from the Lord, five high school students came forward for counseling as it relates to their spiritual life.

Bro. Oneil Thomas has been conducting teaching/counseling sessions with the group, between 5 and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. It is crucial to note that because these (counselees) are not from Christian homes, their challenge will be greater.

We crave your earnest prayers. Grace has been helping our high school students buy their school books for the school year.

This comes out of our benevolent fund and I can say that the parents are very grateful for this financial help.

Joyners

From page 8

young man who has had a number of serious alcohol-related incidents and who also seems to have genuine interest in being faithful to God.

His attentiveness to the things of God has fluctuated somewhat over the past year and we are praying that this last incident will solidify his recognition of Christ's provision for His salvation and that he'll truly sense the reality of new

birth as he desires to lay aside this besetting sin.

Please pray also for a young family I am counseling. They also have had a beginning with Christ, yet the husband and wife both struggle with anger and lack of gentleness with each other. They exhibit some attentiveness to God's Word and we are praying that God will be pleased to do His work in their lives.

I was selected to lead the committee for our Chaplain Anniversary event this year, which will have taken place on Nov. 5, after you read this.

There are a lot of moving parts involved as we expect to have several flag officers present and coordinate a formal dinner, etc. My children were asked to provide the musical entertainment for this event.

I am preaching one sermon on each book of the Bible at the Chapel and have gotten through Psalms in the Old Testament and 1st Thessalonians in the New. Hopefully my attempts to "attack biblical illiteracy with fervor" will pay off.

God bless you all and thank you for your prayers.



RBMS missions around the world

Thank you for your prayers for our annual Summer Family Camp. We had an excellent camp, though numbers were down about 20 percent to about 120 attendees this year, just as they were last year.

The site where we have been holding the camp for the last three years is not as geographically central to the French attendees as the previous site, so we wonder if this is a factor in the lowered attendance. We are thinking of changing sites after next summer. However, we enjoyed excellent ministry from the various preachers including Daniel Durand, who brought a message on prayer and a message on self-denial in relationships and in the family.

It was a special joy for the people to get to know Daniel and Loraine and to deepen our ties with our French-speaking cousins in Quebec. We continue to get a good number of new first-time comers to the camp and these are often people who have not had previous exposure to the world of "Reformed theology." We are thankful for this opportunity and trust that it is bearing fruit throughout the years.

In the beginning of September we had a week-long visit from Pastor Ibrahim Ag-Mohamed. I mentioned him to you in my last letter. He is a converted Muslim and Reformed Baptist pastor from the West African country of Mali.

He has had a rich experience, including 10 years of translating the New Testament into his mother tongue, Tuareg, as well as about 15 years of planting 3 churches in Muslim northern Mali. He and his Polish wife and his two children have moved to Europe for family reasons and he is now searching for an opportunity for church planting and pastoral ministry on the continent.

As Mali is a French-speaking country and he is a fluent French speaker, he is especially interested in opportunities in France and Switzerland. He ministered in the Grenoble church on the Lord's Day, and in the mid-week meeting and we drove down to Aix-en-Provence where he led a mid-week Bible study and we had a morning's discus-

The Vaughns

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FRANCE



sion with a missionary involved in ministry to Muslims in the south of France.

Ibrahim and I hit it off wonderfully and greatly enjoyed one another's fellowship. It was a joy to be with a seasoned man of God who possesses real wisdom and sound theology (Ibrahim was trained at Spurgeon's College at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.) and seems to know the Bible almost by heart. Ibrahim accompanied me on an important pastoral visit during the week and his contribution was a great help. His whole manner was very wise and pastoral and the person we were counseling greatly appreciated this. Ibrahim and I are discussing the possibility of ministry together.

There may be an opportunity to go to Aix-en-Provence as a team. In this highly Muslim region of France, Ibrahim's gifts, knowledge and experience would be of tremendous value. At the moment he is waiting to get naturalization as a Polish citizen. This December he will have completed the two-year stay in Poland which is necessary to obtain it. Once he has it he will be able to live anywhere in the European Union including France or Switzerland.

Ibrahim has also visited the Reformed Baptist church plants in Payerne and Neuchâtel and is weighing them, along with Grenoble/Aix, as possible doors of service. Please pray that the Lord would guide him and us as we seek His will.

In my last letter I mentioned a Frenchman studying for the ministry in London who might be a candidate to take over the church here in Grenoble. After further con-

tact, it has become clear that this will not work out as this young man could not subscribe to our confession of faith. We hope, nevertheless, that the Lord will open a door of service to him in France and that he might bear much fruit in his native land. We have received another letter of motivation from a Welshman who did his theological studies in France at the Reformed seminary at Aix-en-Provence.

He is, of course, a fluent French speaker and is married to a French girl from the south of France. I knew him 15 years ago when he was studying here and really liked him. At the time he found no place of service in France and so went back to Wales and pastored for seven years as well as spending some years in teaching French and working as a translator. After five years of translation work his desire is to re-enter the gospel ministry.

When I called him some weeks ago to try to organize a plan for him and his wife to come to Grenoble for a weekend I was very surprised to learn that his wife was a girl I baptized about 14 years ago. Please pray for this couple and for us as we organize this visit, which will probably take place in December.

We are encouraged to have a nice group of university students who have started attending services this fall. They are a very international group – French, English, American, Brazilian, Chinese and German being represented among them. One of our young

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RBMS missions around the world



About 40 percent of the average of 30 present at the last four meetings in the Library For Pastors, have been pastors or leaders from their churches.

We continue to send out 80 invitations each month, and these include notes from the previous meeting's topic, each month a different aspect of the Doctrines of Grace.

As far as pastors using the Library to study there, that has decreased even more, and with Enrique and Mercy Abadía having finished their three-year commitment to this work, we are cutting back the Library's regular schedule to two days each week. We will be available if some one wishes to make an appointment for using it at other times.

Our thanks to the Abadías and to Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., for making it possible for them to be with us. They have made a valuable contribution to the churches as well as to the Library.

Attendance has been increasing in both San José de Bavaria and in La Alborada. Pastor Marco Antonio has finished a class for 10 candidates for baptism, and a baptismal service was held Oct. 31 for most of these. Joel, Mauricio, Gerson, Carlos, and Henry are giving valuable

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COLOMBIA



teaching in the Sunday schools and afternoon services. And, yes, we continue to pray for a pastor for La Alborada.

The church in Bosa has purchased a lot on which to build a chapel, but after being told the lot could be used for that purpose, now that permission is being denied. Pray for pastor Ramiro Beltrán and those who work with him.

The building permit for the Christian school likewise is delayed. Verbally, we've been told everything is in order, but the permit doesn't appear. One of our teachers just resigned to take a better paying position elsewhere. The need for teachers both for now and for next year is one of the many matters for prayer in this ministry.

Progress in Curití and San Gil out

in the state of Santander is slow. Alirio, Agustín, and Roberto do become discouraged.

In August, Juan Manuel Santos took office as president. He is of the same party as the outgoing president, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, but it is yet to be seen if he is as capable as the former president was.

In this first month of President Santos' administration, guerrilla activity has increased markedly. This isn't surprising, for latent unrest because of injustice, inequality, unemployment, corruption, poverty, etc., is bound to show itself if the new government shows any weakness militarily and does not implement policies for correcting these ills. Of course, the Gospel, yes, the Gospel, is our great need.

Vaughns

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men, Chris, has started up a bi-monthly meeting to study the disciplines of the Christian life with them, using the French translation of Kent Hughes' book.

The group of Chinese that I mentioned in my last letter continues to come to our services and we very much enjoy their presence. Their leader, Moses, works in the computer industry, but teaches small groups of Reformed Chinese Christians once a month on weekends in Grenoble, Lyon, Zurich (Switzerland) and Milan (Italy). He is quite amazing in his zeal and commitment to bring the Word of God to His people and is willing to

travel on his weekends to do so. He is very enthusiastic about our church and brings the Chinese group in Grenoble to our services.

When they have their once-a-month Chinese worship service here in Grenoble they still come to our service in French first, then have their service in Chinese afterwards. As soon as it ends the leader immediately drives up to Lyon, 90 minutes away, to do an afternoon service there.

Please pray for our six-week evangelistic Bible study, "Discovering Christianity" (Découverte du Christianisme), which started Oct. 22 in one of our families' homes. Pray that we can also start a couple more groups by the New Year.

Secondly, please pray for the next books

to be sent out to pastors through our Adopt-a-Pastor program. We have added about 40 pastors to our list, bringing it to about 100 broadly evangelical pastors now in France and Switzerland who receive four Reformed books a year. The two books for this mailing will go out in the next month. We have decided to send out a recent French translation of Graeme Goldworthy's "Gospel and Kingdom" and the French translation of Arnold Dallimore's "Biography of Charles Spurgeon."

Spurgeon is well loved in France among evangelicals, but his Calvinism is even more of hidden secret here than it is among English-speaking evangelicals.

Thank you once again for your prayers.

Canada

From page 3

old. Also, at some point he desires to be able to move into Montreal (where housing prices are much higher) so the commute will be shorter to both the church and his congregation.

St. Jerome – Pascal Denault

Pascal Denault has been leading the St. Jerome church for the past two years. On Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, his ordination council was held. Arden Hodgins, pastor of ARBCA member Trinity Reformed Baptist Church in La Mirada, Calif., and I had the privilege of serving on this council. (Trinity RBC in La Mirada is the sending church for ARBCA missionary Raymond Perron.)

Through translation we were very gratified to hear the fine, thoughtful and thorough answers that this young pastor gave. Along with solid answers Pascal also has a heart for evangelism. When he was asked what is the place of evangelism and missions, he replied, "If a church does not reach out it will collapse."

After the unanimous recommendation of the council was announced, Raymond Perron, with tears, related how Pascal had asked him to be his mentor and then said to Pascal, "Always stand for the truth. Never water down the gospel."

Presently Pascal is writing his thesis for his Master's in Theology as well as preaching and shepherding the flock in St. Jerome. I found it a great encouragement to see another young man, who is solidly reformed, raised up for the gospel ministry.

Quebec City – Raymond Perron

Raymond has been an ARBCA missionary since 1991. For the first several years he was quite discouraged because of the slow progress in planting the church in Quebec City. However, as the years went by, the Capitol Reformed Baptist Church was not only established, but the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches in Quebec also was . The pastors of these six churches meet regularly for fellowship, reporting and prayer.

On the Saturday of Pascal Denault's



Daniel and Loraine Durand



The ordination council for Pascal Denault, center, on right of Raymond Perron, was also attended by ARBCA representatives Gordon Taylor and Arden Hodgins, in back at right.

ordination, Raymond led the Association meeting as each of the men gave prayer requests, after which prayer was offered. The pastors of the Association also are encouraged twice a year to attend week-long sessions for theological training. Dr. James Renihan, Dr. Fred Malone, Rev. Robert Selph and Dr. Tom Nettles have

taught past courses.

Another important outreach ministry is the Christian radio station that operates out of the building of the Reformed Baptist Church in Quebec City. Raymond, who was once a radio deejay, has spear-

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Canada

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headed this work and the station is now operating around the clock, by computer.

Raymond has a devotional and Bible teaching each day, plus twice a week he conducts interviews on topics of interest.

The signal has a potential of reaching 450,000 people in the city. Many people are listening because they like the music and no commercial breaks. A few have also expressed interest in the church as a result of the ministry of the station.

The Capitol Reformed Baptist Church in Quebec City is now able to support full-time Pastor Jacques Pelletier. Raymond Perron continues to serve as an elder in that church. The Lord has given this church a fine building in a very desirable location in the city. Pray that the church will have an increasing influence in Quebec City.

In addition to the works in St. Jerome, Montreal and Quebec City, the pastors in the other churches of the association also deserve our prayers: George Corriveau in Acton Vale, Richard Gagnon (absent from the picture) in Lac-Megantic and Jean Lepine in Rouyn-Moranda.

Toronto, Ontario – Chris Powell

Toronto is a growing, thriving and exciting city with a population of over 5 1/2 million. In the center of the city the University of Toronto has 70,000 students without a strong consistent evangelical witness on campus.

The Covenant Baptist Church is near the center of the city and also near the UT campus and other large universities. When Chris Powell took me to the front campus of UT, I came near to weeping as I saw some 2,000 students exit a lecture hall – sheep without a shepherd.

Chris has a great burden to reach that campus with a solid witness for Jesus Christ. However, his time is limited because he is the pastor of a church that has doubled in size over the past year and so the demands of a ministry with needy souls prevents him, at the moment, from reaching these students.

I know he wants us all to pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest



Raymond Perron demonstrates the equipment in the radio production studio.

field.

Covenant Baptist Church meets in a rented United Church of Canada building that is scheduled to be torn down in 2011. The sign out front of this building tells it all: “Bedford Park United Church, The Upeat Alternative.”

Although the building is in fair to good condition the congregation has dwindled so that now they have fewer people meeting than does the Covenant Baptist Church!

This presents a special challenge for Covenant as rent and housing in the downtown Toronto area is very expensive. A modest three-bedroom home sells for \$800,000 or more in the area of the church! Please pray that the Lord will provide a place for the church to meet in 2011 that they can afford. They do want to stay near the downtown area.

The city of Toronto has experienced rapid growth, due to immigration of many Asians, Hispanics and European ethnic groups. Today less than 50 percent of the Toronto population is Caucasian. This reality is happily reflected in the congregation of the Covenant Baptist Church.

On the weekend that we were present the church had its annual retreat. I spoke five times on Saturday, giving snapshots

from “Pilgrim’s Progress” and also gave the ARBCA PowerPoint. The 49 saints gave careful attention to the teaching and they also obviously greatly enjoyed each other’s fellowship. On the Lord’s Day I spoke at the retreat center for the Sunday morning worship and again there was excellent attention.

Sunday evening I had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Leigh Powell, founding pastor of Covenant and Chris’ father. Leigh was converted under the ministry of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. The Lord has used this brother not only to plant the church in Toronto, but also to influence many pastors through his teaching at a seminary and to stand firmly for the foundational truth of Justification by Faith Alone against the false teaching of the New Perspective.

Canada is in much need of prayer. The churches in Quebec and Toronto have a difficult task to reach their country with the gospel of God’s grace. In 1900, 25 percent of the Canadian population was evangelical but today only 10 percent is. Yet that number has risen from a low of 9 percent just a few years ago.

The Lord is able to cause many to come to Christ in this great land so let us pray that He will.

Church Planting: Looking for the next town

By Jim Dundas

"He said to them, 'Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also, for that is what I came for.'" Mark 1:38

Our Lord tells his disciples that the reason he came was to preach and spread the good news of the gospel to neighboring towns. In the Gospel of Mark, we see that Jesus was a man of the gospel and a man of both word and action. He came to build his church and was continually pressing forward with this church-planting mission. This is at the very heart of who and what he is and why he came among us. He continues even today to lead his church into the next towns preaching the good news of the forgiveness of sins, and advancing his kingdom.

It is with this vision that Grace Fellowship Church in Bremen, Ind., has graciously sent their elder Aaron Hoak, along with a core group of 25 people, to Warsaw, Ind., a town approximately 30 minutes away, to plant a church.

In the final months of 2009, Grace Fellowship Church was seeking to respond to Mark 1:38 and searching for "the next town" to plant a church. There were approximately 30 people from the church traveling the half hour from Warsaw to Bremen to worship each week. As they prayed, it became apparent that this might be the next town that the Lord might have them plant a church.

Not only did a good-sized core group travel from Warsaw each week, but they noted Warsaw was also a small but growing city, 103 miles south of Chicago, with approximately 14,000 souls. Its population growth rate has been over 10 percent since the year 2000. Warsaw is an old, mostly politically conservative, blue-collar manufacturing town, nicknamed the "Orthopedic Capital of the World."

The town of Warsaw was named after the capital of Poland in 1836 and incorporated in 1854. Not only is it growing in numbers but it is changing in many other ways as well, including an expanding Hispanic population.

Spiritually, Warsaw is 12.4 percent below the national average in church affiliation. The national average is 50.2 percent while Warsaw has an affiliation percentage of 37.8 percent. It appears that the majority of the population is not affiliated with any major denomination but is classified under the religious designation of "other," while 19 percent are Methodist and 17 percent are Roman Catholic, with 12 percent claiming the Church of Christ. Clearly, Warsaw is an area that is in great need of the gospel and the church planting ministry of Pastor Hoak.

Between December 2009 and January 2010, Pastor Hoak and the other elders of Grace Fellowship Church met with the eight families that were traveling from Warsaw to pray and discuss the possibility of planting a church in their neighborhood. A core group of 25 agreed to start a Thursday evening Bible study/prayer meeting / fellowship to catch the vision and to lay the foundation for a church plant.

On the Lord's Day, May 2, 2010, they gathered together for their first evening service with 30 in attendance. Over the summer, Grace Fellowship Church came to believe that it was God's will for them to officially support the work and to send and fully support Aaron as the church planter. The church held a commissioning service, in Bremen, on the last Sunday in August.

That Sunday evening in Warsaw, in a spirit of joy and expectation, Grace Fellowship Church of Bremen met in a joint worship service with Grace Baptist Fellowship, with approximately 100 in attendance.

The following Lord's Day, Sept. 5, another very special day arrived in Warsaw. Grace Baptist Fellowship met for its very first morning worship service. At that service, Pastor Hoak preached a sermon to encourage the fellowship that was now starting out together as a new church.

Since then, Grace Baptist Fellowship has implemented several outreach ministries in the community. One such outreach is systematic door-to-door neighborhood

visitation, with people from the church introducing themselves to their new neighbors and inviting them to worship services and church Bible studies, which include free meals and a friendly atmosphere. They also have advertised in the local newspaper and one paper wrote an article on the new church-planting effort.

Through these efforts several new families have started to attend the church. The church also has had an outreach to a woman in the area who was in need of material help, and have ministered to her soul as well.

During this time the Lord has supplied them with office space to meet, in a strip mall, which can accommodate 80-100 people. Providentially, the name of the office was "The Meeting Place." Perfect! Presently, Sunday morning services average between 35 to 55 people.

On Sunday morning Pastor Hoak is preaching Christ as presented in the Gospel of Mathew and in the evening he is going through an overview of the Bible. The congregation still meets on Thursday nights for Bible study and prayer as well as for planning together what God would have them to do next in planting the church.

Pastor Hoak has asked us to remember to bring before the "Throne of Grace" the following requests:

■ That the Lord in his grace would establish the church.

■ That he would bless their outreach efforts with much fruit.

■ That they would be able to reach the lost with the gospel.

■ That the Lord would provide a permanent piano player for their worship services.

■ That the Lord would give them Godly wisdom and discernment as they move forward in their efforts in planting the church.

■ That the Lord would continue to bless and uphold his family: his four boys and his wife Erin, who is, he says, "a huge asset and I could not do this work without her."

Work in Jamaica faithfully carries on

By Gordon Taylor

Oscar Bloise, along with his wife Dolly, has faithfully served the Lord in Jamaica since the early 1960s, and as an RMBS missionary since 1986. Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., has been his sending church.

Although Oscar is now officially retired, he still continues to serve His Lord. For years he was the pastor of the Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Kingston. Now he is the pastor of the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Kingston and also fills the pulpit with some regularity at Grace.

Youth Group

The youth group meets each Saturday night under the leadership of O'Neil Thomas. During our visit to Jamaica earlier this year, I spoke to these young men and women after O'Neil led them in a time of singing. Many come from the neighborhood and are not only poor in material things but also lack spiritual life. I shall not soon forget Oscar speaking with some of the young ladies after the meeting and exhorting them to avoid the boys. Teenage pregnancy is a huge problem in Jamaica.

Lord's Day Services

A faithful band of believers from both the Faith Missionary Baptist Church and the Grace Reformed Baptist Church met together on the Lord's Day morning for worship. They gave good attention to the Word. A faithful brother, Boise Williams, who also helps in the preaching at Grace on a regular basis, led the service. One of the great needs for these saints is to have a pastor. Oscar told me that at the present there are no men on the horizon for this pastorate. Earnest prayer is needed for a replacement at Grace. On Sunday evening the church met once again and watched and listened with interest as I reported on Reformed Baptists in both Zambia and Colombia.

Monday Meetings

After an all-day outing to Ocho Rios, Rayna and I were once again at Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Kingston. A good group came as I spoke to the men and Rayna to the women about the proper roles of husbands and wives and also about the role of men and women in the church. The questions asked revealed the continuing need



A small part of the congregation at Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Kingston, Jamaica.

for instruction in a society in which men have given up the place of leadership in the home and in the church.

After this meeting the executive council of the Grace church asked me to meet with them to discuss their future and need for a pastor. This church certainly feels its need for guidance as they look to the future. I came away with the conviction that much prayer is needed for the witness of this Reformed Baptist church in Kingston.

* * * * *

In October the Lord was pleased to take Dolly home to himself after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Grace Baptist Church of Carlisle sent two couples to Jamaica for the funeral. Leon Blosser, the first Coordinator of Reformed Baptist Mission Services, preached the funeral. Following is his report:



Oscar and Dolly Bloise, left, and their children, Orville and DeeAnn.

"Dolly Bloise passed away on Friday morning, Oct. 22.

"I, along with my wife Margaret, and Howard and Patsy Swart flew from Philadelphia to Jamaica on Friday, Oct. 29, and the funeral was held Saturday, the 30th. During the intervening week there had been a steady stream of friends and relatives visiting the

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Bloise home in Kingston to offer their condolences to Oscar, Orville, and DeeAnn and her husband (also named Orville).

“Dolly had been a member of the local Lions Club, so the members (most of whom are women) served visitors donated refreshments at the house each evening. This was a great help to Oscar. The funeral was held in Grace Missionary Church where Oscar and Dolly were married 47 years ago, and where Dolly had been a member when the church was first established.

“Kelly Knowlden from Grace Fellowship Church in West Hazleton, Pa., and Dan Stuber from Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle also attended the funeral. For the past 13 years Kelly has led summer teams to hold Vacation Bible School in Grace Reformed Baptist Church, the church founded by Pastor Bloise. For the past five years Dan and some of his family have accompanied Kelly. Dan served as one of the pallbearers at the funeral.

“The church was filled and overflowing with about 400 people. The service was dignified and honoring to Christ. Following several tributes, prayers, hymns, Scripture and special music, I preached on the 23rd

Psalm. A light meal and drink were provided by Oscar for those in attendance, and served by the Lions Club members under a tent adjacent to the church.

“The police escorted the cortege to the cemetery, 35 kilometers away. After the graveside service was concluded, the casket was lowered into the vault, sealed with concrete planks placed on top, and the complete void filled with the earth that had been removed earlier, while those in attendance sang of the Christian’s blessed hope in our Savior.

“Then we all dispersed to await that great day of Christ’s return and the resurrection of the dead.”

Renihan

From page 4

church, the worship service, his preaching and teaching, as well as my preaching and teaching. I was able to receive very personal and insightful feedback and critique from

a man with a large amount of experience in the ministry. I was both encouraged and convicted by seeing the example of Pastor Baines over my nine weeks with him.

The last reason that I will mention here is that my time in Maine helped to continue to confirm my own call to the ministry. My desire to work fulltime in the ministry of

the Word has grown. Pastor Baines and the church were able to confirm that they saw in me at least the seeds of the gifts and graces necessary for the ministry. Both the Word of God and the people of God have grown dearer to me, and I can think of no greater privilege than to spend my life preaching the Word to people who need to hear it.

Walter

From page 4

mightily at work elsewhere in the world as well. Specifically, it was a great encouragement to see the advances that the Reformed Baptist movement has made in New Zealand just in the past few decades and to meet many of the men and women whom God has used

in those advances.

The chief benefit of this internship, however, was a further confirmation of my calling: despite being reminded of the great difficulties that inevitably attend the gospel ministry, God has sustained and even deepened my desire for this good work (I Tim. 3:1). I had the chance to put into practice much of what I have been learning in my time of preparation, and it was encouraging to see the true

usefulness of all that I’ve been studying, to know that I am being prepared well. But, at the same time, it was also humbling to discover just how much I have yet to learn.

Prof. James Renihan: *We have already had inquiries from churches seeking an intern for Summer 2011. If your church is interested, please contact me at the IRBS office. There will be mutual benefit from relationships like these.*