



Summer 2009

Ireland needs the gospel

By Gordon Taylor

While visiting a gift shop in Kilkenny I asked the owner, after a brief conversation, who was the man I saw on the rounded glass button. She said, "Oh, that's Saint Padre Pio and a lot of people in Ireland trust in him."

"Do you trust in him?" I asked. "Well, I do a little bit ... I guess I do trust in him a lot ... who is your saint?"

"I'm a Protestant and I believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ and that everyone who has faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation is a saint."

"Oh," she said, "I've never heard that before. There are certainly a lot of different ideas out there."

I was not surprised that this lady had never heard such teaching since

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Ministry to Marines crucial, challenging

By Gordon Taylor

Young women standing at attention outside on the sidewalk, and on the inside the smell of sweat, constant movement up and down the aisle, ushers keeping the congregation awake, a large screen with the words of "This Little Light of Mine," congregants moving in and out frequently, and the sound in unison of "aye sir" when asked to be seated.

Where are we? At a chapel service on Parris Island. Here all the Marine recruits east of the Mississippi are trained. This is the world in which Lt. Patrick Joyner, ARBCA-endorsed chaplain, ministers to the recruits of the 2nd Battalion.

On average Chaplain Joyner has 25 counseling sessions per month, ministers the Word either in the recruit chapel or Protestant chapel about three times a month – plus attends and participates in many ceremonial functions on the base. He also has taken the



Marines worship in a service led by Chaplain Patrick Joyner.

initiative to begin Bible studies for the officers and their families. These studies are on the biblical view of marriage and on the subject of dealing with anger in children.

A Crucial Ministry

Many, if not most of the recruits that train at Parris Island, have little or no religious background. But it is common for around 500 to attend the chapel service on

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ARBCA Update

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The Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America is a nonprofit organization registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The purpose of this association is to advance Christ's kingdom by providing a fellowship in which churches of common confession may find mutual encouragement, assistance, edification, and counsel, and may participate in cooperative efforts such as home missions, foreign missions, ministerial training and publications — all of which are often beyond the scope of one local church.

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Reformed Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA

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Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Ontario, CA

Sycamore Baptist Church, East Moline, IL

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: Promoting missions in the local church

By Gordon Taylor

The fact is that we have had very few men present themselves through our churches for missionary service. The fact is that only this year in 2009 do our churches have the opportunity to band together to support ARBCA's first home missionary.

In the past I had thought that since we are a young association, a mere infant at 12 years of age, we had an excuse for not raising up both home and foreign missionaries. A young association must grow up and mature before it is ready to flex its muscles in the great endeavor of missionary outreach.

But can we continue to use this excuse? Are the saints in our churches ill taught and untrained? I doubt it. ARBCA has some excellent teachers and pastors in its pulpits. The saints know doctrine. They have been taught the catechism and the content of the Bible. With this kind of training and knowledge I would expect that somewhere along the line there would be men who would be raised up to plant churches both here at home and abroad.

Is there anything we can do to promote missions? I want to suggest several actions our churches could take to promote missions.

1) First, make praying for the needs of the world a priority in our churches. "Operation World" is an excellent tool along with the Missionary Prayer Focus and the Quar-

terly Update to give meaningful content to our prayers. One church I visited had a brief summary of a country and then prayed for that needy country. They do that each week. This small church has a huge heart for missions.

2) A church can promote missions by regularly having missionaries visit and give presentations or by having a missionary conference. The missionary conference can do much to raise awareness for the needs of the world. The missions conference can be the beginning of a long-term strategy to have a missionary sent out by the local church.

3) Follow the missionary conference by encouraging families to be missionary-minded. Encourage families to be involved by praying for missionaries, by reading and discussing missionary prayer letters, and by reading and discussing missionary books and biographies as a family. Another very important activity is to encourage families to entertain missionary guests in their home.

4) Another very practical way to promote missions is to have a section of the church bulletin board where all the ARBCA missionaries and other missionaries the church may support are prominently displayed. The ARBCA office will be happy to forward the recent photographs of the ARBCA missionaries and national pastors. The board can be kept current by posting the most recent prayer requests for the mission-

aries. Current prayer requests for ARBCA missionaries are available through the Missionary Prayer Focus and also through the Quarterly Update.

5) The Sunday school can also be a very helpful way to promote missionaries among children. Repetition is a wonderful way to cement missionaries to the children's minds. The impression on young minds can be very formative for future service in the kingdom. For children, pictures placed in a prominent place in the classroom will be most helpful.

6) The mission field is coming to the doorstep of America. One of the best ways to promote missions may be to begin targeted efforts to reach the various people groups that are in our communities.

The Muslim population of the USA is difficult to estimate, but it appears to be as high as 6 to 7 million. California has the largest number at about 1 million, with New York second at about 800,000. Other diverse ethnic and religious groups are also migrating to the US.

Could it be that one way to promote missions would be to evangelize these groups, train the converts and then send them back to their own people group?

My desire is that all of our churches promote missions and be creative in doing so. While promoting missions continue to pray that the Lord will send forth laborers into His harvest field.

Ireland

From page 1

she was from the Roman Catholic tradition. But I felt great sadness that this nation, which is considered a Christian nation, is ignorant of the great truth of justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

The fact is that 95 percent of the population in the Republic of Ireland is classified as Christian. Of that 95 percent classification 87 percent are Roman Catholic, just over 2 percent are Anglican (Church of Ireland), and only point six-nine percent (0.69) are Protestant. And the figures become even more telling when one sees that only 3.3 percent of the Protestants are evangelicals!

We believe strongly in the Reformed Gospel of grace alone, faith alone and Christ alone. Hence Christian Ireland does need the Gospel.

See **Ireland**, page 14



Members of the Clonmel congregation stand outside the stone church in which they worship.

Institute for Reformed Baptist Studies

Pastors report on Lord's work Down Under

By **James M. Renihan**

As I write, I am in New Zealand for the third School of Theology sponsored by Grace Reformed Baptist Church of Palmerston North. It is really wonderful to be with the men here. They have been exceedingly friendly and demonstrate the grace of Christ in many ways.

For my contribution to the ARBCA Update, I have asked the men of the different churches represented at the school to tell us something about their churches. I hope that these reports will foster prayer and perhaps friendships with these dear men and their churches. Here are the things they have written:

Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Palmerston North, New Zealand (Pastor Dafydd Hughes): We have been meeting in Palmerston North (75,000) since 2005 and constituted as a church in July 2006. Our membership currently comprises six (3 couples), but the congregation size averages 16 to 20, since we have eight children among these three core families and are joined regularly by others at our Sunday services.

The preaching ministry is sustained by the two elders in the church, one of whom is designated full-time. We are currently hosting the third annual School of Theology, at which Prof. Jim Renihan is teaching. This has drawn 13 men from around New Zealand (nine) and Australia (four) this year. The opportunity for such high-quality teaching and fellowship is a real blessing and encouragement to all.

It is a wonderful opportunity and privilege to serve the Lord Jesus and His people in this way and we thank God for His enabling. We are also very thankful for the support of this ministry from Escondido Reformed Baptist Church and, indeed, the IRBS Board of Trustees.

In the regular life of the church, a particular encouragement is the recent return of a couple who met with us for a while before trying a couple of other churches in



Pastors gather for the third School of Theology held this summer in New Zealand. Dr. James Renihan is on the right.

town. We rejoice at their renewed hunger for the word of God. We pray that the Lord would draw others like them, hungering after the truth.

We feel our smallness and the constraints this necessarily imposes upon the work we can engage in. We want to be more than a preaching post and long to be able to be more effective and far-reaching in our ministry within the city of Palmerston North. How we feel our need of laborers as the fields are white unto harvest!

Nevertheless, in our weakness, we testify to the Lord's strength and sustaining grace - may it always be so! We remind ourselves that the church is not our church, but His church. We resolve by the grace of God to continue to faithfully proclaim Christ, however many gather to hear. We ask that the Lord would build, lest we labor in vain, and send forth His word in the power of His Spirit for His glory.

Grace Baptist Church, Christchurch (Pastor Rob Harrod): We are a congregation of about 60 people in the city of Christchurch (population of almost 400,000). We are one of only two Reformed Baptist churches in the South Island. We are involved in an outreach in Rolleston, a fast-growing area 20 minutes south of the city.

We hold a Bible study for adults and also reach out to young teenagers at 4:30 p.m. on Sundays. We have many young people (teenagers to mid-20s) in the church, and are praying that the Lord will lay a

good foundation for the next generation.

We are very grateful to the Lord for being a part of the Fellowship of Reformed Baptist Churches of New Zealand, and for the fellowship, encouragement and support it provides. Three men from our church attended the School of Theology and have greatly appreciated it.

New Plymouth Evangelical Baptist Church, New Plymouth (Pastor Tony Roberts): Our church was first planted by Tony Roberts in January 2006, in this west coast city of the North Island. New Plymouth has a population of about 60,000. We are the only Reformed church in our town. By God's grace, we have been blessed with a number of families joining the work, with now some 35 members (including children).

We have recently been able to rent a new building in the very center of the city with the hope of reaching out and being in the public eye as a witness for Christ. One of the great needs in our fellowship is for mature Reformed men to support and stand faithfully with the many younger folks in the faith.

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Hamilton (Pastor David Marshall): We are thankful that we have seen slow, consistent growth in numbers attending both of our Lord's Day services over the past 18 months. Several new families have come to

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RBMS missions around the world

The Mission Ireland Conference has come and gone and we were blessed by the ministry and fellowship. The numbers attending were encouraging and I feel another step of reformation in Ireland was made.

The economic situation is quite shocking, with a quarter of a million people unemployed. The unemployment forecast continues to be bleak. Added to the economic decline has been the result of the Ryan Report.

This report focused on the extensive abuse of children in state care over the last few decades and it makes for shocking reading.

Another report regarding the Dublin Catholic Archdiocese comes out this month and already the Catholic archbishop

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IRELAND



has warned that it will make for depressing reading.

It seems as if the foundations of the state are crumbling. We look to God to glorify Himself all across the country through the church.

These may be great days for the Irish Church if we keep the light bright and the salt distinctively salty. Here, we have 10

days of activities ranging from children's clubs, to teenage meetings to street and door-to-door evangelism. We would appreciate prayer for this special summer evangelistic efforts. We look to the Lord to lead and guide us over these special days.

I am especially grateful for the prayer and loving support that comes to us through the ARBCA family.

Down Under

From page 4

us from a Baptist Union church which has recently embraced the "emergent church" model.

These folks have come in with their sleeves rolled up and are ready to work. We have been door-knocking in the area surrounding our building, using a questionnaire as a basis for speaking with people about the Gospel. We are thankful for His presence with us.

Reformed Baptist Churches in Eastern Australia: As far as we know, there are five churches in eastern Australia which hold to the 1689 LBCF. They are, Berean Bible Church, Walloon, Queensland; Sanford Baptist Fellowship, Sanford, Queensland; Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Adelaide, South Australia; Warner's Bay Baptist Reformed Church, Warners Bay, New South Wales; and Southern Districts Reformed Baptist Church, Clempton Park, New South Wales.

Berean Bible Church has about 18

members and a congregation of about 60 people. They currently meet in the Uniting Church Hall at Walloon, west of Adelaide. The church started from a Bible study on Sunday afternoons, beginning in 2000. Of particular encouragement is the number of families and young people in this church. The pastors are Tony Cane and Doug Turnbull.

Samford Baptist Fellowship began as a church plant in 1990. Samford is a semi-rural area near Brisbane. The congregation numbers about 35 each Sunday and there are 15 members. In January 2008, Andrew Elliott commenced as full-time pastor of the church.

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Adelaide has a congregation of about 80 people. They have been encouraged by some growth in recent days. The pastor is Michael Trollope.

Warner's Bay Baptist Reformed Church is located in Newcastle, NSW (about 160 kilometers north of Sydney) and has a congregation of 20-30. They are currently in search of a pastor as their pastor retired last year.

Southern Districts Reformed Baptist

Church is located in Clempton Park, about 15 kilometers south southwest of Sydney. It currently has 17 members and was constituted as a church in 2004. About 40-50 attend worship services on a regular basis and they hold a family camp every year. The congregation is comprised of people from diverse backgrounds (all but one of the world's continents are represented). Half of those attending are children.

The Berean and Samford churches sponsor a family camp and a picnic each year. Other believers of Reformed persuasion join with them on these occasions.

There is also fellowship with a number of pastors in Baptist church who are of reformed persuasion although the churches do not officially subscribe to our Confession of Faith. In Sydney, there are a number of churches which have reformed pastors or a Reformed tradition. Newton Baptist Church and Smithfield Baptist Church are both currently without pastors and are prayerfully seeking men to serve their congregations.

Large distances hinder fellowship between the Reformed Baptist churches in the different states of Australia.



RBMS missions around the world

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not his benefits...”

The opening words to Psalm 103 are important reminders to Christians of God’s faithfulness at all times. We have been blessed beyond our deserving in so many ways and our greatest desire is to give Him all the glory for what He has done and is doing in our lives and our church.

Our first summer blessing came early, on May 5, with the arrival of our third child, Abigail Elizabeth Powell. She was born at the Scarborough Grace Salvation Army Hospital, tipping the scales at 9 pounds 14 ounces. Her big sister Hannah and older brother Noah are delighted to have her.

Noah, particularly, gets very excited whenever he sees her and makes a chirping sound. For us it has been a period of great joy and adjustment. We have been very blessed to have family and extended church family come and minister to us.

My sister Rachel came up from Buffalo for the birth with her son to take care of Hannah and Noah while we were at the hospital. Then, a couple of weeks later, Karina Thompson and her daughter Christina came up from Greenville and Louisville and stayed to help us. I cannot tell you what it meant to my wife and me to be encouraged and served by these two women.

We praise and thank God for them both.

Our encouragement and blessings continued as we entered the summer months. We launched our church’s very first children’s day camp the week of July 6-9. We were able to do this through the contributions of a very capable and gifted group of young people from Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., led by John Miller. Mornings were spent teaching a re-imagined Peacemaker curriculum for children.

The children were taught first of all that we were created for peace (Creation),

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Canada



The Toronto Service Trip group members, here in the Powells' backyard, are: from left in front row, Gareth Schuth, J.C. Ambrocio, Hannah Powell, Kyla Jones and Margaret Pasztor; in second row, Annie Schuth and Josh Carapezza; in third row, Kate Stuber, John, Kathryn and Elizabeth Miller (holding Noah Powell) and Rebecca Leone; and in top row, Jenna Carapezza, Megan Campbell, Micah Stuber, Caitriona Campbell, Mary Leone, Scott Pugh, Naomi Macapagal and Val Powell (holding Abigail).

then why we don’t have peace (the Fall), how we can have peace with God (Redemption) and how we can be peaceful with others (Gospel-directed living).

In the afternoons, the young people of the Carlisle church and of Covenant engaged in various service-oriented tasks at various homes in the congregation, including ours. This opened up opportunities for members in our congregation to extend their witness in their communities.

My father lives next door to a conservative Muslim imam who was surprised to

see Christian youth so cheerfully and selflessly serving their Savior. This witness was also made personally by the youth in co-ordination with the elders on one afternoon where they participated in some outreach in local parks explaining the Gospel and inviting people to attend a follow-up introductory Bible study.

This entire outreach and service effort had a very noticeable effect on our congregation as it provided encouragement and

RBMS missions around the world



With two large moves behind us and our first trip back to Argentina before us in two weeks, we seem to have found something of a routine to our lives and ministry in Asheville.

We are so thankful for the prayers of God's people on our behalf over the last few months. The Lord has been faithful to us as we have known his smile upon our early efforts in this new frontier. The brethren here in Asheville (some long-time friends from Taylors) have been just the medicine we have needed to make the adjustments necessary to settle as a family.

As is appropriate in any new pastoral situation we have taken some time to assess the efforts that have gone before us and the gifts and graces of the brethren with whom we co-labor in the gospel to plant this work. The time in Greenville before we arrived has also served to prepare our hearts and minds for this new work.

After several conversations with people in the core group we concluded that with a new location, a new church-planting pastor and a clear call to reach the lost in Asheville, a new name was also in order. After some very healthy, edifying, and prayerful discussion among the core families accompanied by a sweet unity, we settled on Crosspoint Church.

After selecting a name, there is a step that is vital before we can begin to clearly conform the congregation to the "three self's" of an indigenous church (i.e. self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating). That step is "self-awareness." Or if you prefer, "Who are we as a body?"

In other words, a congregation must learn who they are in their callings, giftedness, and mission as a new blended family of saints whom God is raising up as a worshiping body within a given locale.

How do we achieve this goal? I believe apostolically we find two important answers in the leadership and ministry of Paul: faithful exhortation and example. Paul says of the Thessalonians, "because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in the power

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Don, Gail and Ian

Home Missions



and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...and you became imitators of us and of the Lord...so that you became an example to all the believers..." (I Thess. 1:5-8).

Paul preached the gospel in words and deeds among them, and as a result the Thessalonians "became" something they were not before. They gained an identity and awareness of their callings, giftedness, and mission. So as a consequence, "they turned from idols to serve the living and true God," vs 9.

As a means to that end, I have focused on a group of core values through the preaching ministry to direct and equip the believers to edify one another and evangelize their world. This set of core values is connected and rooted in the gospel with the goal of defining the face of our congregation.

Our core values are: Christ, Community, Cultural Transformation, and Confession. While a congregation could announce or adopt more, these will serve our purposes at this time to lead us toward a clear mission statement, articles of faith, and a church covenant.

To the glory of God, the Holy Spirit has cultivated our unity and joy together as there is a growing sense of purpose and calling which all are coming to embrace.

We continue to have regular visitors, and we recently had the joy of hosting a group of young people from our sending church helping us with various building remodeling needs and making our presence known as a new congregation within the community. They were a great encouragement to us and helped to open many doors for further ministry.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, by the

time you read this, Gail, Ian, and I will have made our first return trip to Argentina from Aug. 12 to Sept. 1.

During the visit we expect our daughter Amy will give birth to her and Claudio's first baby, a girl, Jillian Juliet. Additionally, Jim Adams, Sam Masters, and I will be preaching the third annual Reforming Marriage Conference sponsored by Mision de la Gracia in Carlos Paz.

At the end of our time Pastor Adams and I will be going to southern Chile to speak at a family conference for about 70 pastors and their wives. We also hope, in the providence of God, to see and encourage the saints in San Nicolas who continue to meet despite the absence of a needed church planter. Please pray for Nico and Juan as they try to faithfully lead the group.

Also, I would ask you to remember the needs of the church in Carlos Paz. Our unplanned exit from them has been a difficult transition.

While they remain faithful to the gospel, Pastor Jorge has endured some painful illnesses while continuing to work his secular job and minister to the needs of the saints. Claudio has become a huge asset to the ministry of the Word each week, but he also has a demanding late night job.

The church there is planted, but there remain many spiritual and material needs to be filled. There are many things in that setting that can threaten their unity and progress in the gospel. Please pray for them faithfully. I will bring a fuller report when I return in September. Until then pray that the gospel will sound forth from them with power and joy.



RBMS missions around the world

We are into the busy season at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

During this period the drill instructors have only perhaps a week or two between the 13-week training cycles. This results in lots more stress on them and their families and, without Christ in their families, many will break up.

The Marine Corps Leadership is very concerned about families but the demands laid upon Christless families is many times too much for them.

These men typically get to work at about 4 a.m. and stay until about 8 p.m. every single day except Sundays, when some can come in at about 10 a.m. The great majority are unredeemed.

The recruits here have a different set of

The Joyners

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Chaplain, 2nd Recruit
Training Battalion, USMC



stressors on them which leads a good number of them to turn to Christ – some only temporarily and others savingly – praise God! Many do something they have never done before: attend church two weeks in a row!

Our family has had a very busy summer with lots of traveling and visiting for Rhonda and the children. We praise God for his mercy in all of this travel.

We'll begin schooling again in August, Lord willing.

As I write this, we have just returned from our summer camp.

We praise the Lord because we have seen his hand upon us. More than 130 people gathered for the camp. Our guest speaker was sick and couldn't come, so for the three evenings I preached on Isaiah 6, showing the character of God the first evening, the condemnation of man the second, and the perfection of salvation in the third evening.

Some non-Christians and many children were there and they listened very carefully to the messages. Pray that the Lord will bless the preaching of the Gospel in the heart of these people. The other subjects were also much appreciated and what was especially encouraging is that we had many new people who came for the first time.

I have seen an answer to our prayers about the theological conflict I had with some of the pastors of an evangelical association over theological training for youth camp monitors, as described in the past two Updates. One of them asked if he could attend the sessions where I was teaching. I accepted and he was really surprised by the clear and well-balanced

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teaching the youth are receiving. I had a talk with him afterwards and it seems that his theology has changed in the right direction. Praise the Lord!

During the summer, the Dumitru family spent on month in their former mission field, Romania. Pray that the Lord will renew them spiritually and physically as they will come back to Switzerland very tired and in a country where there is not the same interest in the Gospel.

Concerning the training of men "Le college biblique," this year I will give some teaching on the great lines of eschatology since there is a fascination concerning the nation of Israel among evangelical Christians in French-speaking countries. Please pray that I will be able to give clear

and well-balanced teaching on this subject.

At Payerne, we are still waiting on the Lord to provide for a new church hall for us. All our inquiries till now have remained unsuccessful. Continue to pray for this urgent need.

Our new "Christianity Explored" course started with two new people, who seem interested in the Gospel. Please pray for them that they will persevere month after month in the study of the Word of God.

Thank you for your prayer concerning the appointment of a new deacon in our church. It went faster than we expected

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RBMS missions around the world



July was very exciting for our family, as well as for the church. We had the enjoyment of seeing our son Georges-Émile married to Stephanie Lemay.

Two years ago, Georges-Émile wanted to change churches because we are few and because he wanted to meet a girl. I encouraged him to have confidence in God. Other people in the church have certainly had the same desire and if all say to themselves the same thing, the church empties.

He humbly followed my advice. Some months later, Stéphanie joined the church. It was the woman whom the Lord sent for Georges-Émile. We want to give thanks to the Lord.

The marriage ceremony was the first opportunity for me to preach the Word with a majority in attendance being non-Christians, as well as in front of my family (my brother, my parents and my brother-in-law).

Unfortunately, our son Étienne was not present for the marriage. We regret that and we ask the Lord to do a work in Étienne's life. Pray that God would grant him a repentant heart.

For some weeks a family has been visiting our church. They live one hour from Montreal but they are ready to travel to hear God's Word. It is good to see persons of conviction. Steve, the father,

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is interested in the Reformed theology.

As regards Aylmer's cell (near Ottawa), there is very encouraging news. Two brothers (same parents) began a Pentecostal church several years ago.

One of them, Louis, discovered the doctrines of the grace. His brother said to him that he could not work any more with him. Louis heard that there was a church believing in the doctrines of grace in Aylmer.

He has been attending the cell with his wife for several months now.

Louis and his wife have opened two houses to minister to people who struggle with alcoholism, one house for men and the other for women. It is a promising field of evangelization.

André Pinard, who is responsible for the Aylmer cell, has begun a Bible study in these houses. We want to give thanks

to the Lord for this opportunity.

Georges-Émile will join the Faculty of Theology FAREL for September. It is a very good Reformed paedobaptist faculty. We are delighted in his interest for the Word of God and for the Church of Christ.

As I write these lines, my wife and I, are getting ready for a visit to Carlisle and Chambersburg in Pennsylvania. We look forward to meeting our brothers and sisters whom we love.

While we are in the midst of an economic crisis and while a pandemic threatens, it is good to remind ourselves that our God reigns in the sky and that His plan is executed exactly as He decreed it, that He may be glorified.

For the kingdom is the LORD'S, and He is the governor among the nations. (Ps. 22:28)

Favres

From page 8

since the members of the church were unanimous and well pleased with Jean-Marc Fellay, who was proposed. We voted for him in our church meeting in May. Now we are three elders and two deacons in the church council and we praise God for the good harmony we have in working together.

Jean-Marc will be a great help in all the financial aspects of the church. Please

pray for his wife Jacqueline, who has many health problems, that they remain peaceful in this difficult situation.

Continue to pray for Stefan Zurcher, the young doctor who worked with me as an assistant pastor for three months at the beginning of the year (see last Update). His work is still very demanding and he is searching God's will for his future.

At Neuchâtel, we continue to ask you to pray for Emil Dumitru, who mans the market stall at Neuchâtel twice a month. These last months he had to face much indifference and hostility and he needs to

be encouraged by the Lord to continue this work.

This church needs much prayer as it is still very small and fragile. We hope to start a "Christianity Explored" course in the autumn since some members have contact with non-Christians. Please pray that the Lord will prepare the heart of these people so that they will answer favorably to the invitation. This would be a great encouragement to us to see an open door for the Gospel in Neuchâtel.

Thank you for your love and faithfulness toward us.



RBMS missions around the world

I would suggest rereading our Update report for the second quarter to know how things are for the third quarter of 2009. I add the following:

Fifteen finished the baptismal classes taught by Pastor Marco Antonio. Just how many of these will be baptized, we still don't know.

Attendance at the three congregations has increased, even in La Alborada which is about to finish a year without a pastor.

Mauricio and Esdei Pinzón are encouraged as they continue to lead the combined La Alborada and San José de Bavaria young people's group. Twenty-three attended the last meeting.

Plans for the new school building have been submitted and the required modifications have been made and submitted. Now we await final approval of these so as to begin construction hopefully in October. No, not enough funds are in hand even for the first phase, but our hope is in the Lord.

I am writing you from the USA. I have been here for the last six weeks, visiting supporting churches, seeing family and having a bit of vacation. It has been a great joy going from place to place visiting churches that have supported our work in France by their giving and their prayers. I am always amazed at how God is at work in His people in every place.

Each church is different and God's work in every place is unique. But there are always encouraging and surprising stories of what God is doing. Having now lived in France for 18 years, and outside of the USA for about 24 years, coming back to the U.S.A. always involves a bit of culture shock as well. So I am struck by not only the good things happening in the churches I visit, but also by the special temptations that the church must face in this incredibly affluent and entertainment-centered culture.

May God give American Christians grace and wisdom to shun worldliness and live so-

The Lines

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Stan and Bev

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COLOMBIA



Daily Vacation Bible School attendance was down in all three congregations and in the church plant effort in Los Alpes.

Almost 60 ladies attended their annual retreat. Clifford Pond's book "The Beauty of Jesus" was the study guide.

Here are the names of the seven deacons in the La Alborada, San José de Bavaria congregations: Sergio Moreno, Mauricio Pinzón, Danilo Rairán, Carlos Rocha, Francisco Orjuela, Gabriel Carreño, and Raúl Durán, all of whom have been of most

valuable service to the churches and to pastor Marco Antonio.

The Library for Pastors is still not prospering as we would like.

Sunday morning meetings are about to begin again in San Gil, where we used to live – this some years after the church there closed. Roberto Rodríguez, much recovered from Guillen Barre Syndrome, is leading this work along with the cooperation of Alirio Sierra and Agustín Ballesteros, pastors in Curití.

The Vaughns

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David, Nicky, Caroline

Jonathan and Michelle

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38920 Crolles

France



ber, holy, self-denying and eternity-centered lives in the midst of such temptations.

A couple of weeks ago, Christophe, one of the men converted in the ministry here several years ago, preached for the first time in a Sunday service. My co-elder, Pascal Grange, sent me an e-mail informing me that Christophe had done a very able job in his preaching. This was echoed by an e-mail from another man in the church. I am not surprised by these good reports. Christophe is a man of

real integrity who has evident gifting from the Lord. He is not a man to put himself forward, but I hope and pray that the Lord will confirm his gifts to himself and to the church, and give him the desire and ability to serve the church in an increasing way as an upcoming leader and potential elder. Please pray for him.

In my last letter I mentioned that I announced to the church my intention to leave

See **Vaughns**, page 11

RBMS missions around the world



“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1:11-12)

We certainly marvel at the fact that our holy God uses us to serve for the praise of His glory. It is a very humbling fact as well as a great matter of gratefulness.

The churches of our association are enjoying a season of peace and stability for which we are thankful to our God. For one reason or another, our province has not been much affected yet by the economic crisis.

Though it is obvious that the situation is fragile, our church members have not suffered the loss of jobs. Nevertheless, in Quebec City the paper mill is going through a tough time and this is one of the main employers in our area.

In St-Jérôme, our brother Pascal Denault is taking off the whole summer in order to complete the writing of his master's thesis. In Lac Mégantic, Pastor Richard Gagnon and the congregation pray that God would raise or send another officer to help him out, as he is the only elder at this point. We are quite pleased with our church planting project in Aylmer, with André and Carole Pinard. On Aug. 15, we held our ministerial meeting in Aylmer in order to meet and encourage the handful of people gathering there every week.

Jasmine, Pastor Jean Lépine's wife in

The Perrons

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Raymond and Diane

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Charlesbourg, QC

CANADA G1H 4A9



Rouyn-Noranda, is now on sick leave, suffering from exhaustion. She seems to be doing better but your prayers would be appreciated for our dear sister.

In Quebec City, we greatly rejoice over the birth of Joshua, the son of Julien and Geneviève Dessaux. We also had the joy of receiving Matthieu, a young man from Bénin, Africa, who married one of our young ladies. He finally got his visa and he has been with us since April.

In June, it was graduation time for Pastor Jacques Pelletier, who completed his master's of Church History at University Laval. We are very thankful to Dr. Michael Haykin, who so graciously agreed to be Jacques' program co-director.

Our church in Quebec City is still receiving visitors who came to know us through our radio station ministry. Thus far, our radio station has been a powerful tool for proclaiming the Word of God as well as making our church known in the city.

Concerning our radio station, we are on

the verge of an important development, as shortly we plan to ask for a license to broadcast in St-Jérôme. This new station would transmit our Quebec radio stations' programs.

Our pastoral training ministry is still moving along. After having Dr. Fred Malone for a course on Hermeneutics last April, we will have Pastor Bob Selph for a pastoral theology class at the beginning of September. We ask your prayers for our Centre d'études réformées baptistes as we are discussing an important and bold project that would allow us to start providing a full and accredited program.

Before the end of summer, we are planning to publish a few booklets in French under our new publishing name La bannière de la vérité (The Banner of Truth). We already have four booklets that are ready to be printed.

Thank you for the privilege of reporting to you our prayer requests, and we receive yours in the same spirit.

Coram Deo

Vaughns

From page 10

by summer 2011 to work on a new church plant somewhere else in France. I have been in discussion with two small Reformed Baptist groups about coming to preach regularly for them beginning this fall. One of the groups has about 10 people and is in the city of Aix-en-Provence in the south of France,

a little over two hours drive from Grenoble. The other is a small group meeting in a home in Vienne, about 90 minutes drive west of Grenoble.

The idea at this point is that beginning this fall I would go once a month to either Aix-en-Provence or Vienne to preach. Pascal Grange will take on more of the preaching in the church at Grenoble, and perhaps Christophe may gradually give more help in this area too. Please pray for the realization of

these plans and that through these trips God would give the fruit of conversions in both of these places and make it clear to us if one of them should be the site of our next church planting efforts.

As I write you the annual French Reformed Baptist Family Camp is in process. This has been a highlight of our year for the past 13 years, so it is very difficult to be away

See **Vaughns**, page 12



RBMS missions around the world

Warm greetings in Christ from beautiful Chile. We pray that the Lord in His grace and mercy will guide all of you in His perfect will. May our trust in Christ grow and His greatness be our motivation as we serve Him, our sovereign King.

Here's a brief update from the congregation in Santiago:

1. Community of Grace Christian Church (Iglesia Comunidad de la Gracia) has continued its progress towards becoming formally established, and we are currently involved in the training of future members.

We are especially working with two men, Fernando Herrera and Obed Rupertus, who are taking a course in discipleship related with "The process of establishing a church in the light of the pastoral letters."

Pray that God would give us the necessary wisdom to understand how to form a work that is biblical and Reformed.

2. I have been preaching a series that seeks to further develop members whose lives are consistent with Christian principles through subjects such as "The Discipline of the Christian Life."

We've also been developing a questionnaire based on the Scriptures and the Confession of 1689.

3. We give thanks to God that since February of this year we have three more regular attendees: Mónica, Daniela and David, as well as Evie, a visitor from Australia who is here in transit, while studying.

4. And lastly, I would like to inform you that, God willing, during the first week of September the church will hold an official ceremony to commemorate its constitution, and we hope to have Jim and Nancy Adams as well as our brother Don Donell visiting

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Valentina, Susna,
Daniel, Omar and Nadia
Violeta Parra 533, La Reina,
Santiago,
Chile



These are members of the congregation of Community of Grace Christian Church (Iglesia Comunidad de la Gracia) in Santiago.

with us then.

We want to have a beautiful and significant ceremony to mark this landmark event in the life of this congregation.

I thank the Lord that we can count on you, who have supported us with your prayers and offerings these past years, which

we hope will culminate with the definite establishment of the church in Chile so that we might move forward with our mission of glorifying the Lord and proclaiming the eternal Word of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A brotherly hug from Chile.

Vaughns

From page 11

and miss it due to our trip to the USA. Attendance has been down significantly this year and we think that this may be due partly to

the financial crisis and its perturbing effects on the budgets and on the work and vacation schedules of families.

The 130 attendees this year have heard messages on the Holiness of God, The Doctrine of Total Depravity, Looking to Future Life in Heaven while Living on Earth, A Bib-

lical Perspective on our Use of Money, and Lessons from the Life of George Muller.

This year's camp includes a large percentage of first-time attendees. Pray that much lasting fruit of the conference would be great in the lives of all those present.



RBMS missions around the world

We are encouraged by what is happening in both churches, Grace Reformed Baptist Church and Faith Missionary Baptist Church. There are visitors and one of our prayers is that we may see results from our preaching as we encourage them to make a commitment to Christ.

A Jamaican who is a pastor overseas is interested in becoming our local pastor. We are praying and seeking God's will in this area. We will keep you up to date when we have more information regarding this matter.

It was a great feeling when we arrived at the airport and saw the team from Hazelton and Carlisle, Pa. coming for our Daily Vacation Bible School for the 12th year, July 25 to Aug. 1.

They worshipped and participated with us on the Lord's Day at Grace and Elder Knowlden from Hazelton preached.

The Bloises

<ogbloise@hotmail.com>

Oscar and Dolly

33 Red Hills Road, Kingston, 10

JAMAICA



The lesson was based on living in a broken world, using the parable of the prodigal son, leaving and returning home again.

The daily attendance for the D.V.B.S. fluctuated between 38 and 108. Our Brother Dan Stuber from Carlisle, who was in charge of the older boys, was able to keep their minds on the Word and counseled them to leave their way of life and follow the way God set out in the Bible.

The older girls were taught by Mrs.

Knowlden and they, too, were moved by her experience and knowledge of the Bible. The theme for the week fit the lifestyle of some of the kids, for they come from broken homes and difficult conditions.

We at the churches have been praying for the week and we do hope that God will use it to bring the boys and girls to an awareness of their sins and a commitment to Him.

Powells

From page 6

examples for our isolated Christian youth. Additionally, it gave us opportunities to reach further and meet and make more contacts in our local community.

We praise God for this joyful joint service operation and thank the elders of Grace Baptist for their willing support and cooperation in this venture. We especially thank Elder John Miller, his wife Elizabeth and the chaperones and youth who sacrificially contributed so much in so many ways to the preparation and execution of this trip.

We continued our rejoicing shortly after the mission and service trip as we heard the testimonies of Fernando and Helnna Dos Santos as they came into membership at CBC. Two years ago Fernando and Helnna were devout Muslims. Then, in God's providence, He introduced Fernando to a young Christian man who challenged him with the Gospel of grace.

This gracious Saviour Jesus was very different than the distant legalistic religion of Islam. By definition Islam means "submission."

Fernando and then Helnna came to know the Gospel of grace and started attending Pentecostal services. In His grace God used the Internet to reveal the Doctrines of Grace to Fernando and Helnna, which in turn led them to our Web site.

Fernando and Helnna have two young children: Gabriel (5) and Vinicius (3 months). Other adherents in the church have expressed some interest in membership as well, which we find encouraging. Please pray that the Lord would grow us according to His purposes, but, particularly through the conversion of sinners to Jesus Christ.

Our desire is to continue to do outreach wherever the Lord provides opportunities with family and co-workers. In late August I will begin a 10-week outreach Bible study in the book of Mark on Tuesday evenings. We covet your prayers that the Lord will bring unbelieving fam-

ily members and other contacts to hear the Gospel.

I have also commenced some discipling exercises with two of the men who are new to the Reformed faith on Wednesdays before the prayer meeting and Bible studies. Please pray that the Lord would develop these men to serve the Church in whatever capacity He reveals.

I have started to write/blog (Tuesdays) with five other ARBCA pastors and leaders: Nick Kennicott (Ephesus Church), Eddie Goodwin (Cornerstone Fellowship – a church plant under the authority of Heritage Baptist Church), John Miller (Grace Baptist Church, Carlisle), Chad Bennett (Trinity Reformed Baptist Church), and David Giarrizzo (Grace Covenant Church).

Our desire is not to write to gain notoriety but to make known and rejoice in the supremacy of Christ, and to exhort readers in our congregations and beyond to abide in Him for His glory, and our joy. You can find out more on-line at www.ardentcries.com.

Church Planting: ARBCA offers aid for church plants

By **Brandon Smith**

In last quarter's ARBCA Update Jim Dundas encouraged the churches to plant churches. He reminded us biblically of the priority and importance of planting churches. He wrote to us confirming Christ's words concerning church planting in three matters; church planting as one aspect of fulfilling Christ's summation of the Decalogue, its fulfillment of growing God's Kingdom, and ultimately, church planting brings glory to God.

Therefore, this article will hopefully encourage and inform churches of associational resources to assist in planting biblical churches. Most importantly, local churches should seek the Lord in the Scripture and pray that the Lord of the harvest would bring forth men for the task. When God raises these men up among the local church, again the Scriptures must be consulted. Scripture reveals to us God's ordained ways of leading His church.

Paul writes to the churches concerning the offices granted by the Triune God for service in the church. Paul writes to Timothy about qualifications for these officers as well. As these ways and means are sought by the churches practical questions arise. These questions need managing based on the explicit and implicit nature of the Scripture. Most questions arise in the implicit and practical areas of church planting.

Several years ago ARBCA set up a Home Missions/Church Planting Committee to assist the local in church in managing the questions that arise in church planting. Subsequently, ARBCA adopted a section in its policy manual to coincide with the duties of this committee.

In section 3.3 of the ARBCA policy manual questions concerning how to plant a church are answered. In addition, this section of the manual provides information regarding the responsibilities of the parties involved (i.e. local church, church planter, and ARBCA/Church Planting Committee).

At this point you might say, "You are kidding, right? You want me to read a policy manual?" I know a policy manual does not top the reading list for most of us, but it does provide some important instructional

information for church planting. For instance, what responsibilities should the Elders/Deacons of the local church assume?

The first point of section 3.3 explains "The Process of Sending a Church Planter" and in 17 sub points explains the role of the church officers in church planting. It also informs church officers of their role in "The Work of Maintaining a Church Planter."

Lastly, it provides information to assist the sending church and the church planter in establishing a "Proposed Support Structure and Time Frame for an ARBCA Home Missions Church Planter." Section 3.3 also explains ARBCA's role, including the role of the Administrative Council and the Church Planting Committee. Section 3.3 of the policy manual serves as an important subordinate tool to aid churches in church planting.

Other ARBCA materials aid local churches in church planting. The pamphlet "Missionaries Should Be 'Immersed' In Church" by Walter J. Chantry is one example. This pamphlet reminds us of the importance of a church planter's involvement in the local church before sending him out to the field. Some men desire to plant a church without understanding the differences between an association and a denomination ("Denominations or Associations? Essays on Reformed Baptist Associations" edited by Dr. James M. Renihan).

Thankfully, ARBCA upholds the autonomy of the local church. ARBCA's founding principles place the responsibility

of developing and sending church planters in the hands of the local church. "Guidelines for RBMS Missionary Qualification" supplies other useful information. A majority of this document applies to the stateside church planter as well. The Church Planting Committee desires to help local churches use all the appropriate tools at their disposal to plant churches for the glory of God.

Many of our men have read or perused these documents. Sometimes we forget about resources that are available to our churches and this article aims to serve local churches by recognizing these valuable resources.

We give this information for your encouragement. As a committee we encourage you to read these materials even though a policy manual does not sound like the most enjoyable reading. The Church Planting Committee desires to serve and assist our local churches in church planting, so please let us know how we can help the local church.

I hope our prayers echo the words of John Knox when he said, "Lord, grant faithful pastors, men who will preach and teach, in season and out of season...who would gladly preach their next sermon even if it meant going to the stake for it... who will hate falsehood and lies, whether in the church or out of it...grant to your struggling church men who fear you above all" (Douglas Wilson, "For Kirk and Covenant," Ed. George Grant.)

Ireland

From page 3

The Reformed gospel is making inroads into Ireland though the ministry of ARBCA National Pastor Matthew Brennan with the assistance of Mission::Ireland. The Clonmel Baptist Church is making valiant attempts to reach its community with the Gospel and also to assist in influencing Evangelical pastors toward the Reformed faith.

In addition to distributing literature to homes in the town, a team of young men

arrived in Clonmel during July to canvass the town and attempt to engage people in conversation on the streets. The hope is that many new contacts will be made through these efforts.

Clonmel Baptist Church is truly an international church. There are families from South Africa, Brazil and the Philippines who attend the Lord Day's services.

Barbara Brennan commented, "The international Christians have come to teach the Irish how to worship." One of these in-

See **Ireland**, page 15

Ireland

From page 14

ternational families travels over two hours to attend in Clonmel! This is a great encouragement to Matthew, but he longs to see Irish from the community attending the church.

Mission::Ireland (an effort of the Heritage Baptist Church in Worcester, Mass. under the leadership of Pastor Mike Renihan) is also a way that the Reformed faith is being spread.

Presently, there are some 60 pastors who are receiving books four times a year. In addition, these pastors are invited to a yearly pastors' conference. This year there were about 30 pastors present.

These men heard sermons by two Reformed Baptist pastors.

Pastor Jim Harrison from New York State addressed the subject of man's condition in sin. He demonstrated from Scripture that total depravity is essential to understand the need of the gospel.

Pastor Ron Baines, pastor of ARBCA member church Grace Community Church in Topsham, Me. spoke on discerning the will of God. Pastor Baines emphasized that one must not depend on impressions or feelings, but rather order his life by the revealed will of God in the Scripture and make prayerful decisions according to God's Word.

Some of the men are on the road to Reformation and the books and the conference

are a great help to them.

Ireland is a land that is in the midst of much change. The economic change has affected the interest of the Irish in religion. Until the last third of the 20th century, Ireland had one of the highest attendance rates at Mass of any country in the Western world. Before 1973 90 percent of Roman Catholics attended Mass. From 1973 until 1996 that percentage dropped to 60 percent and by 2001 it dropped even further to 40 percent.

Today it still a matter of national pride to be Roman Catholic, even though church attendance continues to decline. During this same time there was great economic growth. Ireland was transformed from an agricultural based economy to a much more modern economy which focused on services and high-tech industries.

However, as Matthew Brennan pointed out, the worldwide recession has hit Ireland very hard and there is high unemployment. As of yet this trouble has not caused the Irish people to turn to God for help.



A worship service inside the sanctuary at Clonmel Baptist Church.

Our brother in Ireland values the prayers of God's people. Here are a few requests:

1) Pray for encouragement for Matthew Brennan as he continues to preach the gospel. The continual lack of interest has a negative effect on his spirit and he needs grace to persevere.

2) Pray that the Lord will soon bring the Clonmel Baptist Church to a self-supporting basis. Matthew reports that they just about reach that level and then a family or two will leave and so they are not able to fully support the ministry.

3) Pray that the Lord will greatly bless the efforts that are put forth in evangelism and especially that Irish men and women will be converted in Clonmel.

Marines

From page 1

a Sunday morning. Chaplain Joyner does preach to them on a rotating basis with other chaplains and is able to freely preach the gospel of God's grace to these men and women. He also is very diligent to make his presence known to the Marines, get acquainted with them and to speak to them as a friend so as to give an entrance for the gospel.

He freely passes out literature that will influence these Marines for Christ. These men and women are only on base for 12 weeks so he must use his time wisely in ministering to these Marines.

The basic training at Parris Island stretches the Marines to their physical and emotional limits. The training culminates in what is called the Crucible. During a 55-hour period the recruits are put in battle conditions, deprived of sleep, food and comforts. It is this intense kind of training that often causes recruits to cry out for help. Many are referred to Chaplain Joyner and in these cases he is able to freely communicate the gospel of God's free grace.

Another crucial area of the ministry is with the officers and their families. Some of these officers put in extremely long hours and some of them are drill instructors (DIs).



*See **Marines**, page 16* *Chaplain Patrick Joyner in his office.*

ARBCA
P.O. Box 289
Carlisle, PA 17013
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Marines

From page 15

These men push the Marines with constant verbal battering and it is often hard for them to change that persona when they return home to their wives and children. This often causes severe family problems.

To help these families Chaplain Joyner has conducted a Bible study on the topic of the family. Though only small numbers have attended, Patrick is encouraged with the interest of the few. In addition he has conducted a series of four sessions on the topic of the angry child. This is very important since an angry DI can often produce an angry child who then wreaks havoc in the home. This course not only teaches good parenting skills, but is also used as a means of pointing these families to Christ.

A Challenging Ministry

Not only is it a challenging ministry in working with the recruits, but there is also the challenge of working with the entire chaplain corps. The official military policy from the top, as communicated to me at the Pentagon, is that our chaplain is expected to teach and act with the convictions of his endorsing agency.

Chaplain Joyner does this in a climate of what his command chaplain called "pluralism." It is a matter of fact that the military now has not only Protestant and Roman Catholic, but also a few Muslim chaplains.

In the Protestant chapel all the various denominations share the teaching on the Lord's Day. Chaplain Joyner is able and does

preach the gospel in accordance with what our confession states. But his is not the only voice heard by the recruits. He also interacts with the other chaplains and also makes attempts to share with them his convictions. I think you can see the challenge of this ministry.

The Joyner Family

The Lord has blessed Chaplain Joyner with a godly wife and supportive children. His children do some babysitting on the base for officers and carry a fine testimony of a well-ordered family. His children are also very musically gifted and are praised by many of his peers. Patrick says that he feels that he gains respect from his fellow chaplains and officers because of his family.

We found his family most delightful and considered it a great privilege to share a meal with them and be involved in their family devotions. We could see how his family is a very positive testimony for Christ in that military setting.

Conclusion

Our experience on Parris Island was most positive. It was thrilling to see two companies of Marines graduate from basic training. The Colors Ceremony before the graduation sent patriotic goose bumps up our spines.



Patrick Joyner, right, leads a children's class.

ARBCA was publicly announced at the Colors Ceremony as the endorsing agency for Chaplain Joyner. Gen. James Laster gave us a private meeting after the graduation along with his wife, Roma, Chaplain Joyner and Chaplain Pittman in his private office, expressing his appreciation for chaplains in general and for Chaplain Joyner in particular.

Roma gave us a tour of Quarters 1, where she and the general live and entertain dignitaries. Chaplain Joyner's commanding office, Commander Marigin asked us to join him for lunch. Command Chaplain Jim Fisher treated us to an hour-long PowerPoint presentation and discussion in his private office. And we got a tour of Parris Island with Chaplain Joyner.

Our lasting impression is that the military is a vast mission field that desperately needs the gospel. We are most thankful that the Lord has called Patrick Joyner to the position of chaplain.