



Winter 2012

Church Planting

*Ambitious
'experiment'
produced
much fruit*

By David Campbell

"The most joyful event of my life..."

So Dr. Thomas Chalmers describes it in a letter to his friend, Mr. Lennox, of New York City.

Explaining, he says, "I have been intent for 30 years on the completion of a territorial experiment, and I have now to bless God for the consummation of it. Our church was opened on the 19th of February...I presided myself, on Sabbath last, over its first sacrament. There were 132 communicants, and 100 of them from the West Port."

See **West Port**, page 10

Newly endorsed chaplain ministers in U.S. Air Force

By Gordon Taylor

Another minister to the military has been endorsed by the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America. In October 2011 Capt. James Galyon became the second chaplain to be endorsed by our association.

The Miller Valley Baptist Church in Prescott, Ariz. is the sending church for this minister to the military. He provides spiritual care and pastoral counseling to the service members, civilian workers, and families of Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air Force Base, and the Nevada Test and Training Range.

In particular, he serves those assigned to the United States Air Force's largest composite wing – the 57th Wing, including the United States Air Force Weapons School, and the Aircraft Maintenance and Munitions Officer School. He preaches for the traditional Protestant service, conducts worship, and directs the Protestant religious education program.

That, however, is only a glimpse of the ministry of Chaplain Galyon. In this article I want to introduce you to his family,



Capt. James Galyon serves three military bases as an U.S. Air Force chaplain.

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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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Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Jackson, GA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, CA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Mercer Island, WA

West Suffolk Baptist Church, Suffolk, VA

Commentary: Death of billions sobering

By Gordon Taylor

A bulletin published on Jan. 1, 2012 by Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., included the following statistics:

“There are approximately:

186,734,000 Muslims in Indonesia;
902,711,000 Hindus in India;
166,323,000 Buddhists in China;
590,247,000 atheists in China;

“All of them will face Judgment.

“All of them are not ready to face Judgment.”

One of the adult Sunday school teachers, after wishing us a blessed New Year noted that in the midst of the joy at the prospect of the New Year these statistics made him sad. Indeed, many of us were saddened as we read these stark figures.

I can't think on these figures without being troubled. Yet what can we do? Theology must instruct us or we may react incorrectly.

The Bible teaches that Christ sovereignly sends His gospel to whom He pleases. Paul attempted to go into Bithynia but the Spirit forbade him. No doubt Paul saw the need and wanted to meet that need but Christ, through His Spirit, shut the door. Rather, Christ had Paul go to Macedonia. A great door was opened there for gospel preaching. The sovereignty of God in gospel proclamation is soberly presented in the Second London Baptist Confession chapter 20. God does determine the places where Christ is to be preached.

But let us be careful. It is possible to draw wrong conclusions from good theology. I am quite taken with the wonderful theology, at certain points, of Job's friends and equally amazed at the improper applications they made. I fear falling into the trap of Job's friends. If we were to conclude either that we need not be disturbed by the millions still in darkness, or that we need not be aggressive in sending preachers of the gospel to these millions, both Paul and Jesus would rise up and rebuke us.

Paul was moved to the depths of his soul at the lost condition of men. He even wished that he could be accursed from Christ if he could but win his own countrymen to the Savior (Romans 9). Paul wanted to go

to Asia (Acts 16:6). I emphasize he wanted to go and only because the Holy Spirit forbade him did he not go. Paul wanted to go into Bithynia (Acts 16:7). Why did Paul want to go into these regions? It was because the gospel had not yet been preached there (Rom. 16:20, 21). Paul's calling was to reach the unreached, so he was desirous, I suggest even moved emotionally, to preach in these areas. Are we moved as Paul was? Are we zealous to reach the unreached?

Jesus was moved to the depths of His soul at the thought of multitudes dying without hope. He was moved with compassion to see sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:35-38). Jesus loved lost people. Remember that even when the rich young ruler walked away, Jesus loved him (Mark 10:21). Even while the man was rejecting the Savior – the Savior loved him! Jesus felt strong emotion for the lost. Jesus loved the lost. Are we moved at the thought of countless millions ready to face the judgment without hope? Do we love sinners even though they are rejecting Christ? Each of us must answer for himself. But assuming that are moved with compassion and that we do love lost sinners, what should we do?

First, we must resist the temptation of soothing our souls with wrong conclusions from correct theology. It is so tempting just to say, “Well, the Lord determines where the gospel should be preached and He has not sent preachers to some needy areas, so we need not be aggressive to reach these people.” This was not the attitude of Paul or of Jesus. It must not be our attitude.

Secondly, we must pray fervently that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers into the harvest field. These prayers need to be specific. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into the unreached people of the Far East, the Middle East, and other areas of the world where there is a shortage of gospel workers. A tool that will help with our prayers is the Operation World Prayer Calendar. In one year's time every country of the world is the subject of prayer.

Thirdly, we must pray for the persecuted church (Heb. 13:3). The latest report from those who monitor persecution of Christians around the world is that for the

last 10 years North Korea is the country that most severely persecutes Christians. These brethren deserve our prayers. They suffer for Christ and for us.

But is praying enough? No. I mean, if it merely stops at praying it is not enough. Fervent prayer will produce action. Jesus expected results from prayer. Laborers for the harvest would be the answer to the prayer. God uses means to produce laborers. There are steps between praying and the production of laborers. I suggest that while we are praying there is action to be taken.

I want to list a few of the steps that the Lord might use to produce laborers:

1) Pastors who keep God's people informed about the great needs of the world will tend to create a climate that will produce laborers. When the pastor's heart is burdened for the dying millions, those who hear him preach and pray may very well catch his burden. The needs of the world need to occupy pastoral prayers from time to time and also need to be a part of the weekly prayer time in the gathered church.

2) Churches, seminaries and institutes that train men for the gospel ministry need to have several required courses on cross-cultural gospel/missionary outreach. I have checked a few seminary catalogs and found very little offering about missions. One seemed to have many course offerings, but it appears the men would have to pick them as electives. Another had one course and yet another appeared to have none. I believe this needs to be corrected. Every man should come out of his training with a built-in zeal for missions because of the courses he took.

3) Churches need to give freely toward missions. However, a current problem in ARBCA is that we do not have men presenting themselves for cross-cultural missionary work. There may be funds to send men, but where are they? This leads me in conclusion to ask the same question one of my esteemed predecessors, David Straub, asked years ago: “Where are the men?” He was concerned that men were not presenting themselves for missionary service.

I ask, “Are some of the men who should

See Lost, page 4

Of jury duty and ministerial training

By Dr. James Renihan

Jury Duty.

When you receive your mail and find a summons to serve at court, do you rejoice? I have met very few people who take that envelope and shout, “Hooray! I get to do my civic duty again! This is great!” Most of us hope that we can somehow avoid the dreaded trip to the courthouse and the day(s) spent in this task.

In California, we have a one-day, one-trial system for jury duty. If summoned, you must report for at least one day. If you report but are not called to service on a jury, you cannot receive a summons for one year. And if you serve on a jury, you are exempted for three years. The system works well, but it does mean that you receive summonses fairly regularly—perhaps every 18 months or so.

I have been called for jury duty several times, once at federal court in San Diego, but more often at county court locally. On three different occasions, after reporting, I was chosen to go to a courtroom and proceed through the voir dire process. This is the procedure in which prospective jurors are interviewed with the goal of actually seating 12 of them (plus alternates) on a jury. Once I actually was chosen to serve on a jury.

My experience the other two times I was called to this process was very interesting. Each juror is asked to state his name, home town, employment, and some other information related to the specific trial (e.g., Do you know any of the parties involved in the case? Do you know the attorneys? etc.).

When it was my turn, I stated my occupation as “seminary professor” and then answered all the other questions. In both cases, the attorneys for the defense came back to me later with follow-up questions about counseling and ethics. In one case, it was assumed, simply because I was a seminary professor, that I must have extensive experience in substance abuse counseling. In both cases it was obvious to me that the attorneys were using me, even before the

trial began, as something of an expert witness to help them make their case. I suppose they thought that jurors might be influenced by the opinions of a professor speaking on ethical and social issues. It was a subtle but very interesting ploy!

But what most interested me is another assumption that they made – that as a seminary professor, I necessarily had expertise in clinical matters. It was clear that their view of ministerial training assumed that ministers are basically social workers with religious credentials. To them, my teaching must have centered on psychology, counseling, substance abuse and related matters.

As I reflect on this, I find it very interesting. Perhaps it’s an unfair conclusion, but I suspect that this is how many people view both the ministry and ministerial training. They think of ministers as another set of clinical experts, sort of social workers with the title “Reverend” in front of their names. Their training prepares them to sort out addictions and psychological problems, so that people might overcome, or at least live with, their personal evils. This model considers self-improvement, or, guided improvement through a counselor, as essential to the ministry.

While we must insist that the ministry is about helping people, the assumption that the ministry is about self- or guided-help is false, and the model is abominable. It fails to recognize that true change will only come from truth – the power of Jesus Christ and his gospel. As soon as ministerial training becomes all about counseling and psychology, it is no longer ministerial training. We prepare men to help people through the truth of Scripture as it is empowered by God’s Holy Spirit. We believe that He alone effects change in the human heart, and he does this by means of an understanding of truth.

This is why we are committed to a curriculum that is heavily weighted in favor of biblical studies and theological studies. We don’t deny that there is a place for courses that will give ministers insight into some aspects of ministerial counseling – in fact, all

students preparing for the ministry here take classes like this – we just argue that they are not central to the theological curriculum.

Our Lord Jesus said “Sanctify them in the truth: your Word is truth” (John 17:17). True growth as humans – “sanctification” – conformity to Christ and overcoming sin – comes by way of an understanding of the truth as it is revealed in Scripture. I cannot give any permanent help to anyone by my words.

Only God’s words, applied by his Spirit, are able to do this. Young men pursuing the ministry need to know Christ and his Word, and be able to bring this Word into the lives of men and women, girls and boys. Only in this way will they truly be changed.

I don’t really mind doing my civic duty and serving on jury duty. I am glad for the opportunity to testify of my faith and of the importance of Scripture. But I won’t give up my study of God’s Word and Christian theology for human psychology and counseling!

It will be interesting to see if this happens again. Perhaps the Lord will give me another opportunity to speak of the importance of truth. In any case, I am very thankful for the task He has given me – teaching men the glorious truths of Scripture.

Dr. Renihan is dean of Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies.

Lost

From page 3

be involved in reaching the unreached in our pulpits and unwilling to leave the comforts of home?” I ask, “Are our training institutions failing to instill in the scholars a love and fervency for missionary service?” I ask, “Has the spirit of sacrifice slowly ebbed away from us?” I ask, “Have we lost our first love?”

Gordon Taylor is coordinator of the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America.

RBMS missions around the world



As I write I am preparing to leave early tomorrow morning for Burkina Faso, West Africa. I will be teaching in a pastors' training seminar for 130 pastors in the Gaoua region of the country.

This seminar is the first of three planned annual seminars. I will be giving three sessions on Preaching and five sessions of the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints. This last topic was requested by the national pastors organizing the conference.

Through this topic many important aspects of the doctrine of salvation will be addressed. A colleague from the UK, Pastor Peter Maclure, will be giving three messages on the inspiration and authority of Scripture, the character of the pastor and the work of the pastor. He will also give a four-session overview of the Bible.

At the end of the seminar each man will receive six books published by Europe Press, the French arm of Evangelical Press. These dear brethren have little opportunity for training and they own very few books or commentaries to help them in their task. Please pray that our time will them would be blessed to their great benefit and to the glory of God.

In the last several weeks a couple of university students who have been coming to our services have professed conversion. Please pray for F_____ and D_____, a

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young man and woman respectively. Their situations and pilgrimages are very different. One is French, from an entirely unchurched background. The other is a foreign student, from a Baptist church, who claims to have understood the gospel for the first time, and who indeed seems to have been touched by the Lord. Please pray that the Lord would confirm his work in their hearts.

We just finished our annual camp for university students. Numbers were about half of what they have been in recent years, but the financial crisis, as well as eight marriages among our young people in the last year, probably explain part of this change. It was an edifying time, with the 22 students present and we are thankful for the obvious love for the Lord, commitment to a holy life and desire to reach others for Christ which they so many of them evidence.

I have nothing further to announce in terms of the search for my replacement here. We are in the process of getting to know a candidate, but the holidays and sickness among several church members has forced us to delay the committee meeting which will determine the next step that the church takes with regard to this candidate.

On my return from Africa, Nicky and I will begin to make trips to Aix-en-Provence to look for a rental apartment for our first year there. We plan to put our house on the market here in February and hope to move in July or August, but this depends on our house selling, which we submit to you as a prayer request.

One final prayer request is that we would be able to begin a couple of new Discovering Christianity Bible studies in the next couple of months.

In my last report I spoke of ups and downs. Pastors in our country, even some whom I have mentioned, have moved toward emotionalism.

This may be because it is a dominant factor in our culture either to gain popularity or to have a mass congregation. Under such, it is not a very easy task to stay focused on Biblical truth. Over the years, God has blessed us with some faithful men and women and even though they are getting a little older they remain faithful to the truth.

With the help of Pastor Clinton Chisolm from the Jamaica Theological Seminary, we are putting in place cer-

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JAMAICA



tain special subjects that should attract outsiders. This is done to get them acquainted with the church and give us the opportunity to witness to them and their relatives. This is set for the month of February. We held four nights of special

teachings Jan. 15 - 18 to help the believers prepare to handle difficulties that may come their way as they seek to live and witness for Christ.

We are very conscious of our coun-

See **Bloise**, page 7



RBMS missions around the world

This past quarter has been our first quarter at Camp Lejeune. There are six Marine infantry battalions in the regiment and several other portions of battalions, which are currently deployed. I have been spending a lot of time visiting the Marines in the regiment as well as assisting the chaplains in the subordinate battalions.

We have had limited attentiveness to our book studies and have had opportunities to teach in the area of combat and operational stress and help families with Biblical counsel with marriage and relationship difficulties. The regiment has been preparing for a large exercise involving an amphibious landing, several ships and lots of landing craft. I'll be aboard an amphibious ship and plan to "take the beach" with the Marines in the spring.

The Joyners

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Patrick, Rhonda, William, Audrey, Jordan, Maggie, Noah, Laurel Anna, Mary M'Cheyne

Chaplain, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, USMC



As you might imagine, the multiple deployments many of these Marines have made has been a bit to contend with in their families and personal lives. There are many resources available to them for help, with differing compatibilities to the gospel.

I am not formally assigned to a chapel and am not preaching every week; however, I have had several opportunities to preach in other churches.

William, our oldest, started college in January in Fort Worth.

This report is very much a repeat of the last Update.

Bev and I are less and less involved directly in the various ministries. That doesn't mean there aren't continued opportunities and needs all around us. We try to keep a low profile as befits our retirement and abilities. We still have the Friday evening (soon to be changed to Saturday) Bible study in our home. We keep personal contact with those of the church and with pastors.

We ask you to continue to pray for the following that have been presented in our reports through the years:

1. The Library for Pastors. This, now in the hands of the La Alborada church, is open, but needs promotion. We will probably not continue the monthly meetings for pastors, considering the large number of other efforts being made with the same emphasis.

2. The churches in La Alborada, San José de Bavaria and Bosa have continued to grow slowly. Bosa, with Ramiro Beltrán as pastor, continues to look for a suitable property. La Alborada continues to seek the Lord about Joel Zartman's formally becoming pastor. Two more possible deacons are also being considered at this time. Marco Antonio Orjuela serves both as pastor in San José

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COLOMBIA



and in support and counsel to Joel. A once a month Saturday morning training session for Sunday School teachers has proven to be very profitable.

3. On a still wider national scale, the second Convention of Reformed pastors is being planned, and should have taken place by the time you read this, for Jan. 31-Feb. 3 in Villavicencio, the gateway city to the eastern Colombian plains. There the Iglesia Betania de la Reforma with cooperation from Gospel Through Colombia will sponsor the convention. Invited speakers are pastors Súgel Michelfín of the Dominican Republic, David Green of Beverly, Mass., and Don Galardi of the Evangelical Presbyterian Congregation.

4. The Christian School is searching

for qualified teachers for the new school year beginning Feb. 1. Uncertainties remain year after year in this ministry, however. We still need to rebuild to meet earthquake safety codes – or else find another property to purchase and sell the present one – something quite difficult to do. We had the first high school graduation Dec. 10.

5. The lack of growth in the Curití church is a heavy concern for us all. The church plant effort in San Gil has seen some progress. The Lord has in a large measure graciously restored Roberto Rodríguez, the pastor, to health once again.

All of the above evidence the Lord's gracious intervention in Colombia for the progress of the Reformed faith, the Gospel of God's grace in the Gospel.

RBMS missions around the world



“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” (Jer. 10:23)

“There are many plans in man’s heart, nevertheless the Lord’s counsel – that will stand.” (Prov. 19:21)

Day after day we are reminded of this fundamental truth: Our Lord is sovereign and He leads us in unexpected ways. Eight months ago a pastor of an evangelical church in Quebec died from pancreatic cancer. For the next three or four months, my co-elder Jacques Pelletier and I, as well as two other pastors in the area, were each in turn invited to fill the pulpit on Sundays. This church also contacted us regularly, asking for advice.

Three months ago they invited me to become their pastor. I proposed to provide them with six months of interim pastoral ministry. I am thankful for the warm welcome I received and for the way our Lord has led things this far.

First of all, it is a former Pentecostal church that came to the Doctrines of Grace a couple of years ago. They were still unclear on the question of the spiritual gifts. I addressed this delicate question and it has been well understood and received. In our Sunday school I am teaching a kind of introduction to the local church in order to prepare them to establish a membership, which they don’t have yet. I am also planning to present them with a constitution they will be invited to vote on. And then, God willing, we will see if this is the time to establish some officers.

At the end of my interim, in March, we will re-evaluate the situation. Will they want to remain independent or join our association or even merge with our own church in Quebec City? Your prayers would be more than appreciated as I have to give leadership to these people in this context.

On top of that, I also received an invitation from an association of African Pentecostal Churches, spread out in different parts of Canada, who would like me to become their chairman. They told me that they are Pentecostal by default since they

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never received sound teaching and they invited me to teach them the 1689. Though it sounds a bit awkward, I could not say no to such an opportunity. Here again, I covet your prayers.

I ask your prayers for two men I came in contact with through our radio ministry. Both show great interest in the gospel. I am also pleased to announce that Linda, a lady who came to Christ through our radio ministry, has asked for baptism. She is very faithful to the church as she attends every single meeting and she is also very supportive of our radio ministry.

There is another young lady who started to attend our church through our radio ministry as well. Her name is Jennifer and your prayers would be welcomed for her.

Our radio station now has its repeater in operation in St-Jérôme. We have been agreeably surprised to realise that our coverage was much larger than expected; as a matter of fact, we even cover the city of Montreal and its surroundings. Pastor Pascal Denault, in St-Jérôme was very helpful in the realization of this project.

Last October, just before starting my interim pastorate, I had the joy of visiting our church planting project in Aylmer where André Pinard is responsible for a little group meeting every Sunday in his home. It is certainly encouraging to see what the Lord is doing there and we are most thankful for André and his wife Carol who, on top of their full-time jobs, give themselves to this mission.

We look forward to see you at the GA. Since it is close to us, some of our pastors

are going to attend. So get prepared to hear more French accents this year.

As I thank God for the blessing of being a part of ARBCA, I also want to express my gratitude to you for your prayers and support.

Bloise

From page 5

try’s financial position, for there is not much work around.

People are frustrated and angry with God and His people. They would rather you speak to them about a job or where they could find food so the road ahead for the churches is going to be rough and hard and long. At Grace and Faith we will continue to work and depend on the God of Grace.

A young man I have been observing is not showing any interest in our doctrine. He is very happy in his Pentecostal setting and is not thinking of moving. He has some attributes that are admirable but he is wayward in his doctrine.

Up till now we have not had permission to enter an apartment block that we would like to reach with the Gospel. God seems to be opening a door for us through a young woman who belongs to the Moravian Church.

We are praying that she will return to service so that we can build a relationship with her and through her gain access to the apartment block.



RBMS missions around the world

This time of year is conducive to being retrospective in seeing how the Lord is merciful and faithful.

A few months ago we lost a family, but the Lord added. In our small churches, losing a family can be destabilizing. A few months ago, a couple Andy and Catherine, joined us. Andy is scheduled to begin a pastoral internship this winter. We pray the Lord will grant us wisdom in this project.

On Jan. 1 our son, Georges-Émile, preached for the first time. We thank the Lord for placing in him love for His Word and love for the brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are also grateful to the Lord because his wife is expecting a second child.

Since the beginning of my pastoral ministry, the Church of Montreal has never had a treasurer. We had to rely on professional services outside the church. About a year ago a family was added to the church and the father is an accountant. He agreed to take on the responsibility of treasurer.

In November we had the joy of seeing the Christian radio broadcast from Quebec City able to reach several districts in Montreal and St-Jerome (35 miles from Montreal). The Greater Montreal area has 3.5 million inhabitants; 60 percent are francophone. We are very encouraged by the contacts that this media can give us. We pray that as Word of God is preached souls will come to Christ.

We ended a year plagued with sharply contrasting circumstances: sometimes in the valley and other times on the mountain-top, but always following the Shepherd of the sheep, covered by the shadow of His hand.

In addition to our normal activities we had two special end-of-year church meetings:

The first, on Dec. 23, was a service

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CANADA



I began a Bible study in the fall with a Brazilian family that immigrated to Canada. They need to learn French before they can work. They attend church regularly. Pray that the Lord will help them settle and integrate into the community.

Every two months I preach in Acton Vale (between Montreal and Quebec) to help Pastor Georges Corriveau. I also began to preach at St. Jerome periodically to help Pascal Denault, who has many commitments (young family, pastor, secular work, radio). Pray for these two brothers that the Lord shall renew their strength. It is easy for me to help these churches because I can be back in time to preach at my church in Montreal.

On Sunday I am preaching a series on the Gospel of John, and each Wednesday I teach on the 1689. I thank the Lord for the love of the Word in his children. It is a joy to proclaim the Word.

In 2012 we anticipate a greater involvement of our members in the worship service. There are men who are able to

preside over the worship and preaching. In music, we have four teams that alternate with various instruments, such as piano, violin and oboe.

We are also encouraged by the Lord's work in Aylmer (near Ottawa). André and Carole Pinard have seen people join. A sister who emigrated from Cameroon has become a member. Her Cameroonian pastor was taught by Stuart Olyott. She is a devoted sister and is a great encouragement for André and Carole. We keep them in prayer and thank the Lord for their perseverance.

We are encouraged by the Lord's work in Montreal and in the Province of Quebec and our prayer is that we are faithful in his work.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who write, who send us cards, which encourage us and pray for us. We cannot always respond, but each time it's a pleasure to enjoy your fellowship.

May the Lord continue to be glorified through all of us in this new year.

The Molinas

Jorge and Bilma
Monte de Luz Iglesia de la Gracia
"Light on a Hill Church"
Rio Carcarana 551
Carlos Paz, Cordoba

ARGENTINA 5152





RBMS missions around the world

“Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us that we should be called the sons of God, and such we are!” exults the Apostle John in 1 John 3:1-3, and so should we as Christians.

If we know Christ, then we have everything. This glorious gift of salvation given by the self-sacrificial agape love of Christ can never be underestimated in its value or over appreciated in its graciousness as a gift to us. This is what it means to delight in such a great salvation.

As a church we have much to give thanks to God for and it is my joyful duty to convey some of the things that God is doing for us in Toronto. In November, it was my privilege to baptize three new Christians and bring them into membership at Covenant. All three came forward in July and August of 2011 bringing various testimonies to the work of Christ in their lives.

The first to approach the eldership was one of our teenagers, Zoe (whose name in Greek, appropriately, means “life”!). Zoe has been a prayer concern for the church all of her life that she has grown up in the church. Through a series of difficult and challenging situations, the Lord confronted her with the emptiness of the life that she was pursuing living for the world’s approval. In His grace, He saved her and pointed her towards Christ. She is now serving in the church and delighting in reading and learning more about her Savior.

Jonathan was next to approach the eldership about what God had worked in his soul. He had come to the church a couple of years ago and it became evident that he really wasn’t a believer at the time.

After some conversations with us, he declared he wasn’t a believer and left the church. We continued to meet with him and pursue him with prayer and witness. It was clear that the Spirit was at work in Him but it was a long struggle. He confessed to me that he knew that there was something more to life. He was ruined on the life he had led before – following the ways of the world, trying to deaden his conscience with the pleasures of the “party life.”

The Powells

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Chris, Val, Hannah, Noah and Abigail
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CANADA



The Lord began to work in his heart. At one point while taking a university philosophy course, studying the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, he told me in one of our many talks that Christianity was either true and what God said it is or that he would embrace nihilism.

The church continued to pray, and, ultimately in God’s amazing grace, the Holy Spirit regenerated Jonathan and has opened the floodgates of grace and joy into his soul. Jonathan has now embraced the Gospel and is evangelizing his family and all of his friends. As I will explain later, God has created another evangelistic opportunity for the church through Jonathan’s presence on campus to do outreach at the university.

The final of the three, Diana, approached us near the end of the summer. Diana, who was raised in the Eastern Orthodox religion, was formerly the high school student (10 years ago) of my sister, Rachel. I can recall back then, when she was teaching Diana, my sister had asked our people to pray for her salvation as Rachel had had the opportunity to share the Gospel with her.

In God’s providence, Rachel met her husband and moved out of Toronto while I was in seminary. When my wife and I returned to Toronto in 2008, we discussed with Rachel how we might continue to be a witness to Diana. The solution came naturally – we needed a babysitter.

So, we invited Diana, now a young adult out in the workforce, to come and babysit for us. We then had her over for dinner and started to pray for her again as

a Church. We didn’t say too much but she observed how a Christian family conducted family worship and how knowing Christ affected our lives and decisions.

After a few months we invited her to come to church for our special Good Friday evangelistic service (in Canada Good Friday is a national holiday and we’ll take any excuse to share the Gospel). She showed up again for Easter Sunday as well. But then, nothing.

She continued to come to babysit and hang out at our house. I remember several very one-sided conversations I had with her at our dining room table. She listened and said very little. I confessed to my wife afterwards that I wondered if I had scared her off.

But then, in God’s grace, she responded to our invitation and came out to Covenant again at Christmas in 2010. What joyfully fueled our prayers afterwards was that she then started attending every Sunday after Christmas.

In His grace the Spirit worked in her heart and there has been a great transformation in her life. She confessed her sinful idolatry of career and money and her pursuit of the “things” of this world. God arrested her attention through a major disappointment in her career path that caused her to question what she was doing and what path she was leading in her life. By His grace He changed her heart and she has begun on the path of discipleship. She has quickly become embedded in the church family.

West Port

From page 1

Anyone know where the West Port is? When I was a student in Edinburgh in the mid-1980s, I occasionally walked through it as I made my way to the Free Church College. I recollect it as decent enough, just a little run-down and nondescript.

It was very different in the early 1840s. Back then it was one of the worst districts in the city, notorious as the scene of the Burke and Hare murders, and infested with beggars, thieves, and prostitutes.

The following will give you a sense for just how bad it was:

“When Mr. Tasker, the minister of the West Port, made his first visits to some of the filthiest closes, it was no uncommon thing for him to find twenty to thirty men, women, and children, huddled together in one putrid dwelling, lying indiscriminately on the floor... Upon one occasion he entered a tenement with from twelve to twenty apartments, where every human being, man and woman, were so drunk they could not hear their own squalid infants crying in vain to them for food... He went once to a funeral, and found the assembled company all so drunk around the corpse, that he had to go and beg some sober neighbours to come and carry the coffin to the grave.”

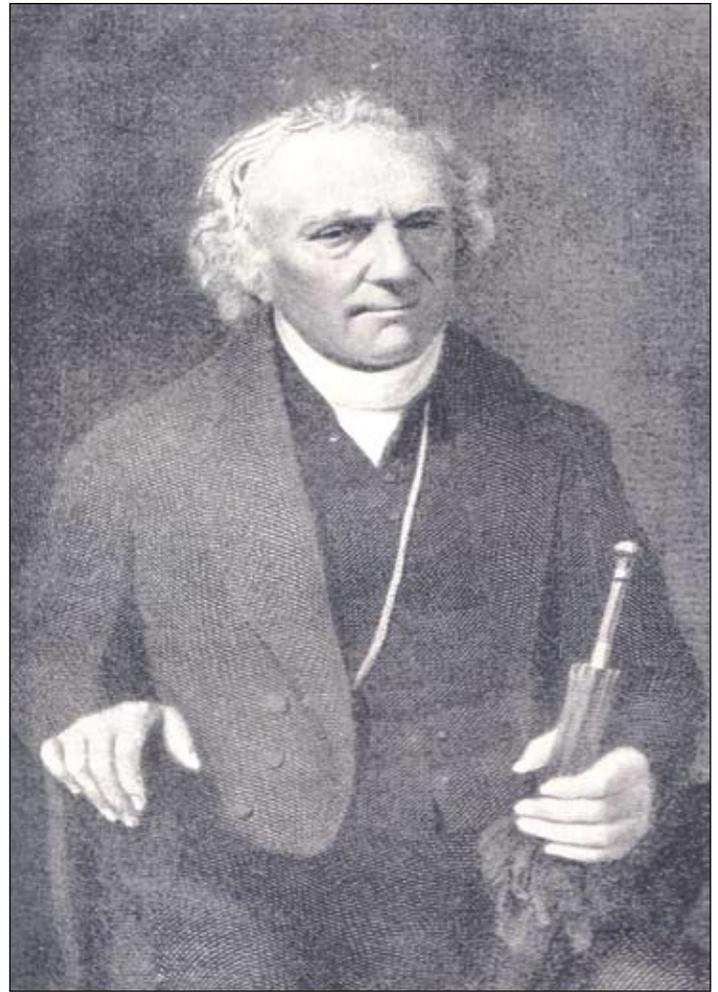
It was this poor and depraved district that Dr. Chalmers selected for his “territorial experiment.”

As the term is his so also will be the explanation: “The very essence of our scheme lies in the thorough operation of what we have called the territorial principle. We limit our attention to a single district or locality, itself split into sub-districts, having each a Christian agent attached to it; so that not a home or family which might not be frequently and habitually visited by one having the charge of not more, if possible, than twenty households.”

Chalmers believed this to be the only effective way of evangelizing the degraded and over-crowded districts of major towns and cities, and for years he had been eager to demonstrate what, with the divine blessing, could be achieved. With its 411 families and 2,000 inhabitants, its poverty and depravity, the West Port of Edinburgh was an ideal place for the attempt. It was a work, he admitted, “greatly too much for my declining strength” (he was then almost 65). But he threw himself into it heart and soul – and with wonderful results.

The first step was the opening of a school. Almost three-quarters of West Port children were growing up without any education at all. So successful, however, were the district visitors in persuading parents to take advantage of the provision (even though it wasn’t free), that when the school opened on 11th November 1844 there were 64 day students and 57 evening students. In the course of the first year the numbers grew to 250. Most of them were from the West Port.

The school was located in an old tanning-loft. In the same place, on Sunday morning the 22nd of December 1844, public worship was held for the first time. It was a far from attractive location: “The interior was bare and dilapidated; the walls coarse and unplastered, pierced here and there with little, dingy, unsightly windows; the roof low and scantily slated, scarcely affording decent shelter; the floor decayed, uneven, and shaking at every



Thomas Chalmers

tread.”

Dr. Chalmers’ son-in-law and future biographer, William Hanna, was present at the evening service. “When we looked round and saw that the whole fruit of the advices, and requests, and entreaties which for many previous weeks had been brought to bear upon all the families by the visitors, was the presence of about a dozen adults, and those mostly old women, we confess to strong misgivings as to the result.”

In April 1845, however, Chalmers secured the help of William Tasker, later the West Port minister, and attendance grew under his ministry.

Dr. Chalmers himself, as health permitted, met with the district visitors once a week for discussion, encouragement, counsel, and prayer. He also habitually attended the Sunday services, sometimes as a preacher, often as a hearer. An eyewitness records that “when he was a hearer only, one would see him near the pulpit, in a crowd of deaf old women, who were meanly clothed, but who followed the services with unflagging attention and interest.

“His eye was upon every one of them, to anticipate their wishes and difficulties. He would help one old woman to find out the text; he would take hold of the Psalm-book of another, hand to hand,

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West Port

From page 10

and join her in the song of praise. Any one looking at him could see that he was in a state of supreme enjoyment; he could not be happier out of heaven."

The West Port was deeply upon his heart. In prayers that only came to light after his death we hear requests like this: "Moving fearlessly onward, may I at length obtain such possession of the West Port, as that the gospel of Jesus Christ shall have the moral ascendancy over a goodly number of its families."

"O that I were enabled to pull down the strongholds of sin and of Satan which are there." "Do thou plentifully endow him [Mr. Tasker] with the graces and gifts of the Apostle Paul. May he have many souls for his hire." "O may he not only be himself

saved, but may he be the instrument of salvation to many."

On Friday, 19th February 1847, the West Port Church was formally opened by Dr. Chalmers. On the 25th of April, as we noted in the opening paragraph, Chalmers presided at the Lord's Supper.

On the following Monday he wrote to William Tasker: "I have got now the desire of my heart – the church is finished, the schools are flourishing, our ecclesiastical machinery is about complete, and all in good working order.

"God has indeed heard my prayer, and I could now lay down my head in peace and die."

And 35 days later that is exactly what he did.

It was feared that the work would founder with him gone. It did not. Three hundred seats had been rented when the

church opened and attendance continued to grow steadily. By 1879 the membership was in excess of 1,100.

By 1896 the number of communicants was upwards of 1,300 whilst, almost from the beginning, through the educating of the children, through the efforts of the visitors, and through the public preaching of God's word, the district itself began to visibly change for the better.

It was all a magnificent monument, not just to Chalmers' labours and prayers, but to his faith.

He loved the maxim of John Eliot, missionary to native Americans, that "prayer and pains can do anything." He used to quote it often. And he believed it.

David Campbell is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa., and a member of the ARBCA Administrative Council.

Powells

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In all three of these situations as we saw God's amazing salvific work it gives us joy to declare with Jonah, that "Salvation belongs to the LORD." Nevertheless, there are always reminders that this world is not our home as we face struggles both as individuals in our walk with God and as a Church.

Shortly after the baptisms we had a member leave the church suddenly, under irregular circumstances, which has sobered us to the reality and importance of the struggle and work to which we are called.

But there's more of God's work to tell and more of His grace to proclaim. Late in December I received a call from a source in the congregation who indicated their desire to increase their support of the church to the amount of support that ARBCA/RBMS has been providing up until now.

Shortly afterward our treasurer informed me that a cheque had appeared in our offering that equaled the amount of anticipated ARBCA/RBMS support needed for 2012. We have therefore decided to act in faith upon this answer to prayer, and, despite a small year-end shortfall in our general fund budget, we have formally requested to end RBMS support effective Dec. 31, 2011. We have also suggested that

the 2012 funds that were to be dedicated to the Toronto congregation be rededicated to some other missionary or church planting endeavors according to the wisdom of the elders of our supporting churches.

We are very grateful to the Lord for helping us through the National Pastor program and enabling us to end our RBMS support approximately two years early in a difficult economic climate.

We are deeply grateful to the four churches (as well as other individual donations through RBMS) who helped support us so faithfully since July 2008: our sponsoring church, Grace Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C.; Grace Baptist Church of Carlisle, Pa.; Faith Reformed Baptist Church of Media, Pa.; and Berean Baptist Church of Austell, Ga.

Their generosity has been a model that we hope to emulate as we move beyond self-government and self-support to our third missional goal in the years to come: self-propagation through missions and church planting.

While we will no longer be receiving financial support from ARBCA/RBMS beginning this year, we do still crave your prayers. After consulting with Coordinator Gordon Taylor, we will continue to provide updates and prayer requests as we maintain our spiritual lifeline with ARBCA for the next two years and as we begin our prepa-

rations to apply for membership in the association.

We believe that all of what has happened to us in this last year from our new location to the new converts to our new opportunities are all a result of the prayers of God's people not just in our congregation but all around the world. It is our joy to participate in praying for many ARBCA churches and missionary and church planting endeavors around the world.

Speaking of prayer requests, I have one that I would desire to bring to you all more urgently. After praying for this for three years, it would appear that we finally have an amazing opportunity to do campus ministry on the University of Toronto downtown St. George campus.

We will be conducting a beginners' Bible study on campus beginning in February and going through to April exams.

This is an incredible opportunity and it came through God's grace, of which I will bring more details in my next report. Please pray that unbelievers will come and hear the Gospel and that we will continue to see God's gracious hand of salvation in our midst. We have seen what He can do and we are hungry to act more and more as instruments of His grace.

Please pray that God would give us the strength to continue our labors faithfully for His name's sake.

Galyon

From page 1

flesh out his ministry and then describe the setting in which he ministers: Nellis Air Force Base.

Chaplain Galyon's Family

Chaplain Galyon and his family live near the Nellis AFB in Henderson, Nev. His wife Sharon is pleasant and very interested in other people. It was a delight for us to share a meal with the family in their home. The Galyons have three children. Jenna is a 16-year-old junior; Jameson is 14 and studies at home along with Jonathan, who is a 12-year-old.

Even though Chaplain Galyon has to spend long hours on the base, he faithfully cares for his wife and children. The entire family is content and happy with their military style of life.

One of the realities of military life is deployment overseas. This means that Capt. Galyon will need to be away from his family for months at a time. Please pray for him as he is scheduled to be deployed in the spring of this year.

Chaplain Galyon's Ministry

In addition to the regular preaching at



The Galyon family, from left: Jameson, James, Jonathan, Sharon and Jenna.

the base chapel, Chaplain Galyon exercises what is called in the military a "ministry of presence." This is what Jesus and Paul did as they were with the people, teaching the people and meeting their needs.

He spends times with the troops so they see him and he can get acquainted with them. The importance of this presence is illustrated by recent ministry opportunities he has had. Last year there were three suicides, a murder and a crash that resulted in the death of an airman. In these situations he is called to minister to the families

involved.

Lt. Col. William Ray, commander of the flight line, expressed his praise for Chaplain Galyon in the way he ministered to the family of the airman who had recently crashed. There are some 2,600 airmen for whom Chaplain Galyon is responsible and he is on call at all times to minister in crisis situations. He has a continual responsibility for counseling and many of these are crisis-counseling situations.

I learned that the top officers of the base depend on the chaplains to keep the Air Force "healthy." Col. Steven Garland, wing commander, explained to me that he depends on the chaplains to minister to the men and women so that their problems can be addressed and solved. Col. Robert Garland, who has responsibility for all the training for the airmen, agreed about the importance of the chaplains for the "health" of the Air Force.

Col. Robert Garland spoke about the airmen who fly the Predators, remote-controlled combat aircraft that have overseas missions, from high-tech rooms on the base. These men and women, who experience great stress during their 12-hour shifts, then go home and enter into family life. He explained that this is uncharted territory, and the Air Force expects this will produce a good deal of stress on these men.

It is in this kind of climate that Chaplain Galyon is able to minister the truth of the gospel. This made me very thankful that we have a faithful chaplain ministering



Nellis Air Force Base chapel is where Chaplain Galyon conducts Lord's Day services.

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Galyon

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the gospel to these airmen.

The Lord's Day chapel services have been a great opportunity for Chaplain Galyon to minister the Word of God. The attendance at the Protestant service has increased from about 140 to 185 under the ministry of the Word. Chaplain Galyon uses a simple service that includes readings from the Old and New Testaments and the singing of hymns, along with the preaching of the Word. He desires that we pray that the Lord will use this preaching to draw many airmen to Christ.

All the different faith groups share the chapel. Lt.

Col. Walter Bean is the Wing Chaplain. He too emphasized the need for a ministry of presence. He also spoke about the need for a "theology of war" and then asked me what was on my mind. I said that I wanted our chaplain to accurately represent our beliefs by presenting God as He is truly revealed in the Scripture and also to give a true picture of the nature of man. He appeared to agree that this was a very important function of a chaplain. Chaplain Galyon is thankful to have a theologically conservative man like Chaplain Bean as the wing chaplain.

There are numerous reports and accounting requirements for the chapel. Chaplain Galyon introduced Master Sgt. Tom Tipton



Chaplain Galyon, right, with Gordon and Rayna Taylor, in front of an F-16 Thunderbird aircraft.

who, as Chaplain Galyon said, "keeps us out of jail" by taking care of all these requirements in a professional and efficient manner.

The ministry of Chaplain Galyon is multifaceted and gives him many opportunities to preach the gospel both publicly and privately.

Nellis AFB

A military fact sheet states that "Nellis Air Force Base, a part of the United States Air Force's Air Combat Command, is located approximately eight miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nev. The base itself covers more than 14,000 acres, while the total land area occupied by Nellis and its restricted ranges is about 5,000 square miles. An additional 7,700 miles of airspace north and east of the restricted ranges are also available for military flight operations.

"Nellis is a major focal point for advanced combat aviation training. Its mission is accomplished through an array of aircraft, including fighters, bombers, refuelers, and aircraft used for transport, close-air-support, command-and-control and combat search-and-rescue. The Nellis work force of about 9,500 military and civilians makes it one of the largest single employers in Southern Nevada. The total military population numbers more than 40,000, including family members and military retirees in the area."

Chaplain Galyon is responsible for the Air Force's largest composite wing – the 57th Wing, including the United States Air Force Weapons School and the Aircraft Maintenance and munitions Officer School.

On a windshield tour of the base Chaplain Galyon drove us by the Red Horse Squadron Headquarters. RED HORSE stands for Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers. The 820th and 555th RED HORSE Squadrons here are two of only about 11 elite combat engineer squadrons in the Air Force that are self-sustainable and able to create and maintain an



The main gate facade welcomes visitors to Nellis AFB.

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Galyon

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air base from scratch.

Nellis also is the home of the Thunderbirds air show team. Staff Sgt. Anthony Graham gave us a private tour of the Thunderbird hangar. The Thunderbird emblem is never walked on and is cleaned and waxed daily. SSgt. Graham explained the precision with which maintenance is done: Every detail of the work is checked 10 times before it is approved. During air shows these F-16s fly 5 1/2 feet apart at a speed of 325 mph. SSgt. Graham explained that the crew begins training in November and by March they are able to perform.

Concluding Thoughts

The chaplaincy is a critical, yet most challenging work. The chaplain works in a pluralistic environment, yet must maintain his convictions. Thankfully, the philosophy of the chaplain corps is that each chaplain is to faithfully represent the beliefs of his endorsing agency.

This is the main reason why Chaplain James Galyon wanted to be endorsed by ARBCA. He is able to preach the Bible, counsel the personnel of the 57th Wing and do so based on the convictions that he and we hold to be dear the truths of God's Word as expressed in our Second London Confession of Faith. This man needs your prayers and your encouragement as he labors for Christ in the USAF.

Here are some final thoughts from Chaplain James Galyon: "It is an incredible joy to be a member of Miller Valley Baptist Church in Prescott, Ariz., where the folks love my family and me and provide constant support. Though my very good friend, Chris Marley, often speaks humorously of the 'miscreants' (excluding Rich Howe) who serve as elders there, they are, in fact, tremendous men of God with whom I feel a deep bond.

"Sharon and I are very grateful for their leadership and sponsorship, as well as having the generous support of the Miller Valley family as a whole. They are an incredible church family. It is also an unbelievable honor to be endorsed by ARBCA, along with my friend, Patrick Joyner.



Chaplain Galyon, center, is flanked by Wing Commander Col. Steven Garland, left, and Col. Robert Garland, who has responsibility for all the training of the airmen.

"Patrick and I attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary together, and we also worshiped at Rock Creek Baptist Church with our families several years ago."

The Galyons feel very much at home.

Chaplain Galyon has a personal message for his ARBCA supporters: "Many congregations or individuals may have questions regarding service in the USAF Chaplain Corps and such, and I am more than happy to provide you with any information I can. Please feel free to e-mail me at dr.james_galyon@yahoo.com .

"Thank you for permitting me to represent ARBCA."

Molinas

From page 8

of thanksgiving for God's love shown in the person of His Son given for us, and to praise Him for His saving grace. Seated in the round, we went around the circle choosing hymns and praise songs, singing with joy. Then two of us opened the Scriptures and preached Christ.

In the second on the 30th, we all gave an evaluation of our life in general and our walk with Christ. It was very moving.

On Dec. 19 we began an hour-long live radio broadcast in which three of us are working. My son Claudio and I both doing the preaching and explaining the Scriptures through dialogue with emphasis on the faithful doctrine, with Alejandro at the controls and answering the phones. The programs are Mondays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m., and they can be accessed on the Internet at www.radiomilenium987.com.ar. It's a beautiful ministry that is little by little showing good results.

We need prayer for:

Light on a Hill Church in Carlos Paz,

that God would raise it powerfully in its ministry and that it would be nourished by the multitude of His chosen.

For the radio broadcast, that it would be the voice of the Lord reaching the hearts of the people.

For my health, which is not good, that nothing would prevent me from serving the King with all my being.

Greetings to all the saints who support us and accompany us in their prayers, invisible to our eyes now, but well visible to the eyes of our God.