



PROTESTANT REFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Summertime and Election Season

As I write, it is very near the end of the hot season here, and almost the rainy season again. During the afternoons, the temperature and heat index are comparable to a hot and humid Iowa or Michigan summer day in late July or early August. The sun is indeed powerful, and on days where there is little breeze and no cloud cover, it is very easy to sweat without any effort. This season lasts for about 2 months, and in the Philippines is the "summertime." The national schools are not in session, and this is the customary time of year for family vacations.

Since it is summertime, this is a convenient time of year for government elections. Since there are no threats of typhoons and other weather-related disasters, it is the best time of the year for elections. Politicians can campaign with predictable schedules, and the polling stations for the citizens are also predictably accessible at this time of the year. Campaign posters have been plastered everywhere: trees, banners over roads, and along high-use roads and at important intersections, every available square inch of wall is covered with campaign posters. In the last weeks before May 13, election day, vans and trucks with huge speakers mounted on the vehicles, blared campaign songs and messages through the streets, even on Sundays. In fact, this caused disruptions to the worship services in First Reformed Church in Bulacan on Sundays at the end of April.

Since the schools are not in session, the school teachers are hired to manage the polls and the automated, ballot-processing machines. Election duty affected those who are teachers in our area churches. They were particularly busy from Election Day, Monday, May 13, until Wednesday, May 15, with their various duties. Processing the ballots seems like a rather slow process because the ballots in most of the areas are normally 24 inches long (crammed full of names for senators, governors, mayors, and councillors at the national, provincial, and town levels of government). You can well imagine how much time it takes to feed a 2 foot long, ballot into an automated ballot reader.

In the Lord's providence, the election season was peaceful. For civil peace in this area of the world, we are very thankful.


Annual Berean PRCP Conference in Manila

A more notable highlight of our summertime was the annual conference which has been hosted by the Berean PRC for several years now in the metro Manila area. The

advertising poster is pictured above, and displays our theme this year "The Sovereignty of God Over All Things." Rev. Kleyn and I gave 2 speeches each on the sovereignty of God in connection with creation, salvation, Scripture, and human responsibility (i.e. human accountability). The attendance was over 100 which for the Bereans was a first. Those in attendance included members of the area churches with whom we work, as well as new visitors.

Hinobaan Conference

The same speeches were given on Tuesday, May 21, in Hinobaan, Negros Occidental. This is located in the southern part of the province, near to the Inayauan-Sipalay area where we currently labor with the pastors and officebearers of local churches and groups which are Reformed or are emerging from their former Baptist affiliations. The attendance of this conference was limited to pastors and elders from the area. There were 12 pastors and 2 elders in attendance. 5 pastors were new contacts for us. In spite of the summertime heat, the conference went well as far as the delivery of the speeches and maintaining the interest and interaction of the men with us during our speeches. Another enjoyable part of the conference was the singing of the group. The unrehearsed, melodious singing of Psalter #381 without accompaniment by men was wonderful. In fact, I think that you can hear us singing in a video clip that has been posted on the Kleyns' online blog. After the singing, one of the pastors expressed to me how much he appreciates now the singing of the Psalms, rather than the empty, man-centred hymns he and his church had been previously singing before they reformed to Psalm singing in their worship services. We pray the love of Psalm singing may continue to grow in these pastors and in their congregations.



**PROTESTANT REFORMED FELLOWSHIP
IN ALBUERA, LEYTE**
BALUGO DOS, ALBUERA, LEYTE
PHILIPPINES

Schedule of Services:
 Sunday, 8:30 AM - First Worship Service
 Sunday, 10:00 AM - Children's Catechism
 Sunday, 10:30 AM - Second Worship Service
 Friday, 7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting

PASTOR JOHN L. FLORES
Minister of The Word

S.E.C Registry No. Cn200916244
SECURITY AND Exchange Commission

Mission Work in Leyte

The First Reformed Church in Bulacan has a mission work in Albuera which is located on the island of Leyte.

Part of the oversight and the work includes periodic visits to the Protestant Reformed Fellowship of Albuer. In April, Pastor John Flores was accompanied by Rev. Kleyn. Together they led the worship services and catechism class for the children on Sunday, April 7. They also conducted the Bible Study and Prayer Meeting on Friday, April 5. The delegates brought a supply of reading sermons for the fellowship to use until the next visit is possible for live preaching in Tagalog. It was clear from the delegates that there is work to be done with the PRFA, but it is difficult to do that by periodic visits. Thus, the long-term desire is that some day the Lord, subject to His will, might provide a missionary for the FRCB who can be sent by them to live and to labor in the PRFA. For the gift of such a man and his family, we wait upon the Lord.



Pastor and Mrs. Oseas Andres and Daughters

It would be good for you to be aware of the Andres family that has been led by the Lord to become members of the Berean Protestant Reformed Church. Pastor Andres had been labouring under the American Evangelical Churches as missionary in the metro Manila area until it was necessary for the tie to be severed because of his growing doctrinal convictions in the Reformed Faith. He had been labouring in the Christian Faith Ministry in Batasan Hills for several years. Membership in the CFM became steadily less because the CFM had been growing in the Reformed faith and practice. As a result, the CFM disbanded in May 2012 and, since then, they have found a church home in the Berean Protestant Reformed Church. While the children are currently in the regular, Sunday catechism classes for the youth, the adults have received regular catechism instruction for over a year from Rev. Kleyn in the Essentials in Reformed Doctrine towards the goal of confession of faith. Leading the members in this process have been Pastor and Mrs. Andres, and in the coming months others will follow their example. Pastor and Mrs. Andres recently made confession of faith in the BPRC on May 5 in the first worship service. On the joyous occasion of their public confession of faith in the BPRC, I was extended the privilege to lead that service, and I preached on the next text in an on-going series of sermons on I and II Timothy, which was I Timothy 6:13-14, "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Since Pastor Andres is considered a pastor without a fixed charge, according to Article 9 of the Church Order, the Berean PRC consistory will be leading Pastor Andres through some necessary training and preparation towards the future goal of being examined and approved as a

minister of the Word and sacraments in the future Protestant Reformed denomination here.

Federation Developments

Yes, that is correct, a future Protestant Reformed denomination here. This is so because this was the name that the two combined consistories, of the Berean Protestant Reformed Church and of the First Reformed Church in Bulacan, on May 1, 2013, adopted as the name for the future denomination: The Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines (PRCP).

This was made possible because earlier in that meeting on May 1, the two consistories had finalized the resolution of some non-essential differences. With that completed, the way has been opened up now for full ecclesiastical union.

The consistories are now in the stage of preparation for the completion of the formal union of the two churches as the PRCP. The next meeting for the two combined consistories is set for Wednesday, August 21, in which many items of preparation will be considered.

We are thankful to the Lord for the progress that He has made possible. We continue to commit our way unto Him.

Smits' Furlough

My family and I have planned to have our furlough in North America from June 4 to July 18. Our furlough plan includes visits in the Lynden, WA/Abbotsford, BC area (June 4 to 11, July 9 to 17), the Hudsonville, MI, area (June 11 to June 20; June 27-July 9), to the NW Iowa area (June 20-25), and an overnight stay in Crete, IL on June 26.

There are plans for me to do some preaching in our churches, and, in addition to that, some mission work presentations in the following places, the Lord willing:

- ❖ Sunday, June 16, Loveland, CO
- ❖ Monday, June 17, Redlands, CA
- ❖ Sunday, June 23, Hull, Iowa
- ❖ Tuesday, June 25, Sioux Falls, SD
- ❖ Wednesday, June 26, Crete, IL
- ❖ Sunday, June 30, Grandville, MI (SW PRC @ 8:15pm)
- ❖ Sunday, July 14, Lynden, WA

May our Lord and Saviour continue to remember you and bless you with His abundant mercy.

In His service,

28 May 2013