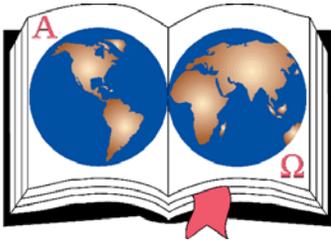


*Brought Together by RCM in Italy
Report after four years*

*March-April 2008
News and Prayer Letter*





Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

March-April 2008

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:11-12

The context of this passage is that of the apostles giving an account of their Holy Spirit sustained courage and patience through all of their sufferings. By contrast, the Christians in Corinth were living a comparatively struggle free life as far as any significant persecutions were concerned, and thus why it is said "so then death works in us but life in you." There is often a surprising similarity between the life that many of we Christians live in contrast to that of the Lord Jesus Christ, who in the midst of being delivered unto death, was going to bring forth a life through that death. Not everyone is called to go through the suffering of the apostles and none can go through the suffering of Christ. Yet in the variety of life's circumstances we can find ourselves relating to the challenges before us and how though we may not be being delivered unto death, yet the life of Christ can be made quite manifest in them.

As I get progressively older, the limitations and pains of age become increasingly evident. At the same time my mind is increasingly exercised by the Holy Spirit such that I continue to think of and laugh about that old proverb, "Too soon oldt and too late schmart." Our life is full of sins and regrets, but the joy of knowing Christ and His forgiveness, is that we no longer are to live in those things which are death to us, but to rejoice in His life prevailing over all obstacles, even death itself. And in so doing, we find it is His life showing forth in the midst of our death. Wow. Ponder that sometime. So, with that perspective, I have come to realize that as this body winds down, by the grace of God the things accomplished which might previously have been attributed to youth and vigor and

human drive, increasingly must be attributed to the work of Jesus Christ in our mortal flesh as verse 11b says.

With many health issues, all gradually being overcome, and with the economy slowing and affecting things, it is tempting to get caught up in the "Elijah" complex. Remember in 1 Kings 18 where a great victory over the prophets of Baal took place and yet when Jezebel pursued him, he ran into the wilderness and ***sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die*** (1 Kings 19:4). However, the ensuing verses make it clear that there was more work for him to do and that God wanted to make Himself manifest in Elijah's mortal flesh. And then Elisha followed in Elijah's wake, doing even more. By parallel, this is somewhat where we find RCM now to be. God has taken us through some depths, but is clearly bringing us forth out of them and we are in the process of waiting upon the "Elishas" to whom He will direct us when we "Elijahs" must eventually leave the RCM scene.

Over the past years RCM has seen some incredible progress and overcome many great obstacles in the work to which God has called us. We are now going through another one of these phases of challenge and testing. Our conclusion is that there is yet more God wants to do with us both in missions and education centered about the Gospel. And so while some may see the challenges we are facing as a sort of *death in us*, while there is *life in you*, we look upon it as yet another great opportunity for the life of Jesus Christ to be made manifest in our flesh, i.e. for God to be glorified through our challenges (2 Corinthians 12:9b, *my strength is made perfect in weakness*) and also an opportunity to prepare for those whom God is preparing to take over RCM in the future.

We see ourselves called to a new view of missions, which we have been expostulating over the years, which we will be seeking to better articulate in the coming months via our new website. It is one to which all at RCM are committed, and yet one for which we need a great deal of prayer and assistance in achieving. We say that knowing that God is behind it all and with no confidence in ourselves, but complete confidence in the God whom we serve, by whom we are called and in whose name we seek to minister.

The RCM News & Prayer Letter is published monthly by
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Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Congo, Zambia, and Suriname.
Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

Editor: G. W. Donnan
Layout: David L. Card

 Geoffrey Donnan

David Card leaves RCM:

David Card joined RCM in 1995 after marrying the daughter of Geoff and Nancy Donnan and gaining his discharge from the U.S. Navy as a nuclear power plant reactor operator on one of its nuclear submarines. He has served with us faithfully during this time and assumed increasingly responsible administrative roles. However, the increasing size of his family (now nine children) and RCM's inability to practically meet their growing financial needs necessarily led them to consider other job alternatives. Consequently, when a job opening arose at Florida Power and Light's Ft. Pierce nuclear power plant, he applied, passed and began working for them on April 1, 2008. This is providing him with a job that essentially is almost double his income level and gives their family benefits which RCM has not been able to provide. He has offered to help in the transition of training a new employee as soon as we find the right person(s), but his new work schedule is extensive and exhaustive, so clearly most of that work will have to be done by us. While we knew of Dave's impending departure, we had figured on a late April or May start date giving us plenty of time to make the transition. However, they wanted him sooner and so we found out on a Friday that he would begin the following Tuesday. Consequently, final preparations which we were expecting to make with a two or three week notice did not take place. Pray for us as we seek new personnel and also have to fill the gaps in the interim.



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Job Opportunity at RCM

RCM is in need of one or two people to fulfill both administrative and development functions. At the time of this newsletter, we have not quite completed our application and job description but intend to have this on the web by the time you receive this newsletter. Visit the front page of our website for a direct link to this information at www.reformation.ws.

VISIT OUR SERMON OUTREACH

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/krpc>

Just a brief report that to date, our sermon outreach through King's Reformed Presbyterian Church in Palm Bay is also reaching into other countries. We have had cumulative downloads of over 1,800 sermons, 268 in March alone. And aside from the U.S. and Canada, we also are reaching the countries in the following order: AUSTRALIA (9); POLAND (8); CHINA (8); GERMANY (3); U.K. (2); ALBANIA (2); and one each for BRAZIL, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SINGAPORE, SWEDEN, KOREA. Please pray with us that these sermon outreaches will increase.

Poettcker's Prayer Partners



Greetings in Christ!

Thank you for your prayers for my trip to Suriname and for Sharilyn's surgery. The Lord was pleased to bless both! Heavy on our minds was the surgery, and in God's grace and goodness it went very well. She has been recovering well from it; in fact so well that, Lord willing, she will be having the same operation done to the other knee (on March 18th). We do ask you to pray for her recovery and the physiotherapy she will have.

The trip to Suriname was also blessed by the Lord. Several of the B.Ed. students wrote final exams for their courses and began the next course. They are making consistent progress in their studies. I was also able to help in the school (Christian Liberty Academy), in giving and grading Quarter Tests and working with Rev. Hamid in various administrative matters. I am constantly reminded of how the Lord has blessed CLA and uses the school in the lives of students. While in Suriname I received the following (edited from an email), from a graduate who is now studying in his home country of Korea: *I always feel grateful for your teachings of history and for the most part, theology. I still thank God for letting me into CLA and opening my eyes to His Word. Before CLA, to be honest, Christianity was merely a religion to me; just like Roman Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and so forth. But as I keep taking theology, it not only increased my biblical knowledge but also brought spiritual maturity...thank you.*

Please continue to pray for the school; that the Lord might continue to use its influence in the lives of many. Also, continue to pray for the ministry of the church there (First Presbyterian Church). We continue to pastor two cases of discipline and we pray that the Lord may use this for the edification of those who know Him. Pastor Hamid is now beginning a study of church membership and we pray for several covenant young people to seek membership. We also have received a membership request from an older man. We are encouraged by the Lord in the ministry of the Church, even while we face challenges and concerns.

We also ask you to pray for our financial situation and especially donations to SALT. Recently I have learned that several people assume that, by donating to RCM, a portion of their donation will go to SALT. If you wish to donate to our ministry (SALT) you need to make the donation out to RCM, but then designate it to SALT. We receive no funds from RCM other than what is donated to SALT. Over the past six months we have averaged a short-fall of about \$1200 per month. Obviously if this continues we will be in a difficult situation in regards to being able to continue with this ministry and work. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Serving the Lord in partnership with you,

Rudy & Sharilyn Poettcker

[If you would like my brief regular prayer emails, to let me know by emailing me at rep@reformation.edu.]

Update from Albania & Kosovo reformimi.org ungjilli.org

The work in Albania & Kosovo proceeds forward on our website. We are adding Kosovo to the mix now that they have declared their independence from Serbia, since their language is almost identical to that of Albania. We have now secured four very significant names: *reformimi.org* is equivalent to *reformation.org* and *ungjilli.org* is equivalent to *goodnews* or *gospel.org*. It will still be a number of months before we can feel confident in opening up the website to the public, but there is much behind the scenes work being done.



On the personal side of things, Nardi & Enkelieda Doka go back a long way with RCM. They befriended Rev. Patrick Dickens when he and his wife were there in 1992-1995 and have remained in contact with us ever since.

In fact, Rev. Dickens conducted their marriage in Albania in September, 1997 and the Lord blessed them with their daughter Sarah some years later. One of the challenges that the Doka's faced after the birth of their daughter was the lack of a church in Albania of the Reformed faith. They were members, until recently, of a non-denominational church that did not believe in covenant baptism of children and so many options were considered over the past years. They thought of coming to the U.S. to have her baptized, or having someone come from the U.S. (Rev. Donnan was asked as well), but the prevailing counsel was that baptism not be conducted apart from a church of which both the Dokas and their daughter could be members since baptism was a sign and seal of the covenant of grace and their union with the visible body of Christ in a local church as manifested in local church membership. By God's grace, the Dokas patiently awaited the arrival of their old friend who spent some years studying in the United States, Rev. Berti



Kona (who also was a student with RCM for a while in Albania). Rev. Kona is now beginning the first Presbyterian Church in recent years in Durrës. Their daughter was baptized on April 20, 2008. Nardi writes: *Sara was baptized today. It was a beautiful day, even a beautiful weather. She is happy now when we asked her Are you baptized and this time she said "yes" finally, because before she responded (in a Sabbath catechism question) "not yet."*

Pray with us we continue the work on the Albanian website over the next few months along with the new RCM website. The Albanian website will be in two languages, Albanian and English, so that everything that is available on the website will be understandable in both languages. This will enable you to have access for ministry throughout the world to Albanians with solid Reformed material available in their language.

IN MEMORY OF REV. LATIMA BUPE

We bring to your attention for prayer that RCM lost its colleague in Zambia, Rev. Latima Bupe. We met in 2003 and he traveled extensively with me during our 2003 trip to Zambia and Congo. He was the headmaster of a primary school in the Kwama neighborhood of Ndola, as well as the senior pastor of a church in Ndola. He suffered frequently from malaria attacks and was often unable to do the seminary organization work. We have no more details other than to say that he collapsed on way to visit his sister in Mufulira, Zambia on February 17, was rushed to the hospital that night and died the next day. He was buried on February 20 and is survived by his wife and their seven children, many of whom are married. RCM has sent a gift over to the family and your prayers are coveted.



Pray for Rev. Julius Pezulu who hopes to be able to revitalize the seminary project in the future. He copastored the church with Pastor Bupe and also runs an Aids Assistance program in Ndola. We will keep you posted as things progress and develop.

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March-April 2008

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Contact me about working on the RCM Advisory Board I would like to teach at C.L.A. in Suriname.

I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.

Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

Four Years Later: Report on the GROENS



In November, 2003, we took a group of people to Italy on an Educational Tour (see front picture) little knowing that the Lord would use this trip as a providential means of bringing people together in marriage. We have been reporting off and on over the years on the results of one of those marriages between Andrea & Piera Modolo from Italy. But RCM was paid a visit by the “other couple” in March, so we thought we would bring to you an update on them.

Among the thirteen people that joined us on this trip to Italy, twelve were from the United States and one from Canada. Henry Groen was from Ontario, Canada and had been widowed in the previous year and decided to take a trip to Italy where in God’s providence he met Trace Prins, a widow for many years from Hudsonville, Michigan. They actually met in Rome, Italy (a good conversation starter for anyone who asks), and through the course of the trip, they gradually found themselves talking with each other so much that when the trip was over, they continued the conversations and decided they did not want to stop them. This led to Henry visiting Trace in the U.S. and eventually her taking a trip up to Canada. After lengthy discussions amongst themselves and discovering that love has no age boundaries, they began discussions with their families about the prospect of their marriage. The wedding took place at Bethel United Reformed Church, Jenison, Michigan and was performed by Rev. Derrick Vander Meulen on July 30, 2004 (as reported in our August, 2004 newsletter).

Both Henry and Trace have taken a great interest in RCM and have made a number of efforts in promoting the work in Italy. As a result of their interest, during a recent trip to Florida, they spent an afternoon and evening with us, staying in our “guest quarters” for one night and leaving the next day. With Henry’s background in business as a successful nurseryman, he hopes to be of assistance to RCM in various ways as we plot our charts for the future. We thought you would rejoice with us as they will soon be celebrating their 4th anniversary after having first met in Rome, Italy.



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