



Fall 2016

54 years and counting: Stan Line in Colombia

By Leon Blosser

Stan Line grew up in the vicinity of Carlisle, Pa. and graduated from Carlisle High School in 1956. In the 1950s, the Line family had moved to a farm near the Conodoguinet Creek, northwest of Carlisle, where Stan enjoyed life in the country and all that it involved.

Each fall Stan, his father, two uncles and my father and I went hunting for small game, but the first week of December was always reserved for a trip to northern Pennsylvania to hunt whitetail deer.

We traveled and lived in an ancient bus that my father and one of Stan’s uncles had outfitted with bunks and a kitchenette. Although Stan and I were the same age, we lived in different townships and attended different public schools. Nevertheless, our friendship grew as we encouraged one another, for we each looked forward to mission work.

The Line family’s roots were in Carlisle’s historic First Presbyterian Church, the origin of which goes back into colonial times, well before the War of Independence. Stan’s father was an elder in that church, so it was no simple matter for the family to begin attending another church. However, Stan’s older brother, Lewis, was studying in Moody Bible Institute at the time, and through his encouragement, the



Stan and Bev Line sit above the city of Bogota, Colombia, where they have lived and ministered for more than 30 years.

family gradually transitioned to a church across town, named Grace Chapel.

The year would have been about 1954, and the pastor at the time was Robert Doepp (pronounced Depp).

In 2006, Stan told James Eshelman, author of “Reflections on Grace: A History of Grace Baptist Church of Carlisle, Penn-

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ASSOCIATION OF REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

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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Commentary: God-centeredness at heart of Reformed Faith

By Stephen Rees

The heart of the Reformed faith – the heart of biblical Christianity – is God-centeredness: the conviction that God Himself is supremely important.

We can define all our doctrine in a God-centered way. Sin is horrible because it is an affront to God. Salvation is wonderful because it brings glory to God. Heaven is heaven because it is the place where God is all in all. Hell is hell because it is the place where God manifests His righteous wrath.

That God-centeredness is the distinctive feature of the Reformed faith. A Christian may say lots of true things, say about sin (that sin is damaging, sin leads to wretchedness, etc). but if there is not the God-centered perspective, the most important emphasis of all has been missed.

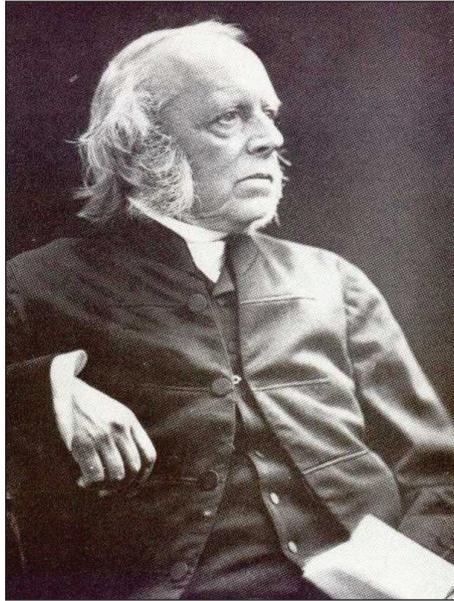
I remember how struck I was years ago reading an essay by Dr. Leon Morris on the theme of Romans, asking “What is the most common word in Romans?” (I presume he was omitting such words as “and,” “the,” etc.) What would you guess? Grace? Faith? Believe? Righteousness? Law? No! The most frequent word in Romans is “God.”

Just skim through the opening chapters and you see it immediately. All the great theological statements in Romans have God as their subject: “God gave them over...,” “God will give each person according to what He has done...,” “God set Him forth as a propitiation...,” “God justifies the ungodly...,” “God has poured out His love into our hearts...,” “God demonstrates His own love to us in this...”

We can preach things that are true – we can even be five-point Calvinists – but if we lose that sense of “from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” awareness, then we’ve lost the heart of Christianity.

And God-centered doctrine must work itself out in God-centered piety. Again, this is the distinctive note of Reformed Christianity. We are obsessed with God Himself. We are overwhelmed by His majesty, His beauty, His holiness, His grace. We seek His glory, we desire His presence, we model our lives on His attributes.

Other Christians may say that evangelism or missions or revival or social recon-



Andrew Bonar

struction is their great concern. But we have only one concern: God Himself – to know Him, to mirror Him, to see Him glorified. We refuse to absolutize any other objective.

The salvation of the lost is only important to us insofar as it leads to the hallowing of His name and the coming of His Kingdom.

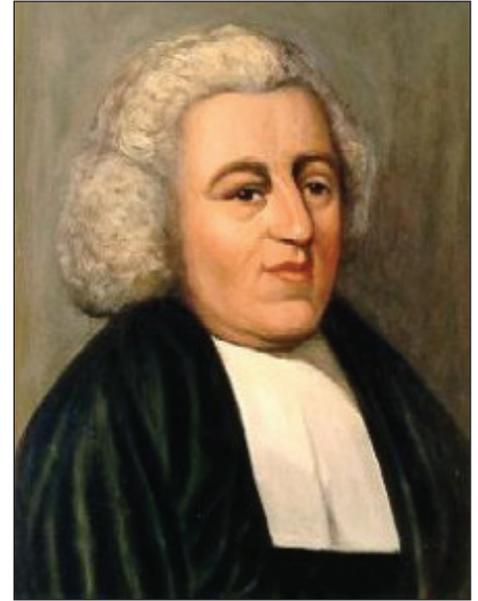
The purifying of society is only important to us in as far as it leads to the doing of His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Bible study and prayer are only important to us in as far as they lead us into communion with Him.

This has been the great hallmark of Reformed Christianity down through the centuries. Whether you are reading the theological writings of Independents like John Owen, or the journals of Presbyterians like Andrew Bonar, or the letters of Anglicans like John Newton or the sermons of Baptists like Charles Spurgeon, this is the note that comes throbbing through.

They are each obsessed with God Himself. They live their lives and do their theology and fulfill their ministry in passionate admiration for God Himself. Everything else flows out of their awed worship of God and their trembling love for Him.

Well, this is a note that has been all but lost in our churches. That is the greatest damage the charismatic movement and broad



John Newton

evangelicalism has done – they have introduced a casual, slushy view of God into our churches. It has undermined the fear of God and thus, the love of God.

But as I have said, it is not only the charismatics and the broad evangelicals who have done this. We, too, have lost our sense of God. God-centeredness gives way to man-centeredness and then to pragmatism. We worship in order to get an emotional buzz, to feel good. We always aim to give people what they feel they want.

The great Reformed evangelists of the past knew that their first objective was to confront men and women with God’s greatness and majesty – to exalt Him and humble them. But now we aim to be user-friendly, to make people feel at home, to avoid anything that will be unfamiliar and uncomfortable and to avoid confrontation at all costs.

We’re terrified we’ll lose our young people so we never ask them to gaze on the holiness of God and then to live out that holiness in their daily lives. We condone materialism and worldliness and triviality.

Why? Because we have no sense of an ever-present, infinitely holy God.”

– Stephen Rees is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Stockport, England. Pastor Rees spoke at the 2003 ARBCA General Assembly.

IRBS: Foundational doctrinal principles for a seminary

By Dr. James M. Renihan

At our last General Assembly, we spoke about the work we are doing to consider whether the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies should be advanced to a full stand-alone seminary. Much has been done and there is far more to do. But perhaps more important than all the excitement and effort, we must consider our foundational doctrinal principles. I recently came across this very powerful quotation from James P. Boyce:

“This it is that should make us tremble, when we think of our Theological Institutions. If there be an instrument of our denominational prosperity which we should guard at every point, it is this.

“The doctrinal sentiments of the Faculty are of far greater importance than the proper investment and expenditure of its funds, and the trusts devolved upon those who watch over its interests should in that respect, if in any, be sacredly guarded.

“For all the purposes aimed at, no other test can be equally effective with that confession of faith acknowledged in the Charleston Baptist Association – the doctrines of which had almost universal prevalence in this state at the time of the foundation of this institution. Let that then be adopted, and let subscription to it on the part of each theological professor be required as an assurance of his entire agreement with its views of doctrine and of his determination to teach fully the truth which it expresses and teaching nothing contrary to its declarations.”

(This is from Boyce’s address, “Three Changes in Theological Institutions,” made to the trustees of Furman University on July 31, 1856 and published in “Treasures from the Baptist Heritage,” edited by Timothy and Denise George, page 128.)

We agree wholeheartedly with this statement – it has been the guiding principle of IRBS from the beginning.

Every professor and every trustee signs a statement of subscription – of honest, open, public commitment – to our Second London (1689) Confession of Faith, and we agree that we will resign from our positions if we ever change our doctrinal views. This is a sacrosanct pledge.

While this public commitment is clear, perhaps it will help to summarize some aspects of what it means. In essence, I’m asking, to what does this commit us?

In its simplest form, historic Christianity. Perhaps a few points (given space limitations) will help.

We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God. From Gen. 1:1 to Rev. 22:21, every word is God-breathed, and is (as Paul himself says) “profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.”

For this reason, Scripture must be central in our curriculum. As professors, we must believe it, live according to it, and faithfully teach it to our students. Our desire must be to see them raised up with the same faith and commitment, so that if the Lord allows them to serve a congregation of His people, His blessing will be on their ministries.

Our Lord Christ does not honor human words and ideas, but He promises to use His Word to save sinners and sanctify saints. For this reason, we must “heed it as a light shining in a dark place” (2 Pet. 1:19) for it is the only lamp to illumine our pathway to heaven.

Our confessional commitment requires us to affirm the scriptural, historic, orthodox doctrine of God as it is clearly and carefully defined in the Confession. Unlike the past, too often in the post-modern world in which we live, even Christian believers fail to understand just how important a precise doctrine of God is.

The most popular devotional manual sold in the Puritan era was a book called “The Practice of Piety,” written by Lewis Bayly. While modern books proceed immediately to the “how” of devotion, Bayly spends the first 60 pages of his book explaining the Doctrine of God!

True worship is not first and foremost emotion, it is clear thinking that governs and enriches our feelings. God’s people must be instructed about the wonder and beauty of our Triune God.

The doctrine of God includes teach-

ing about the divine decree, creation and providence. God’s people must know these things, and their pastors must be able to teach them.

Many doctrinal issues follow. We unashamedly declare the historicity of Adam and Eve, the reality of their disobedience to the Covenant of Works, their fall into sin, and the imputation of sin to every human. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

These sad realities make necessary our proclamation of the person and work of Jesus Christ and free forgiveness in Him through the Covenant of Grace. We believe that our Savior is fully and truly God, the second person of the Trinity, who in the fullness of time took to Himself a true human nature.

The Holy Spirit came upon a virgin named Mary, and she gave birth to the Savior of sinners – Jesus Christ. He is forever one person with two natures, divine and human, a perfect mediator between God and man.

He lived a life of precise obedience to God’s Law, died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God against the elect, was buried in a tomb and literally and physically rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

He ascended into heaven and now sits at God’s right hand, holding all authority in heaven and earth. In God’s time, He will return to judge the living and the dead and to establish his eternal kingdom.

We believe that this message – the good news of what Jesus Christ has done – must be proclaimed around the world, for the only means by which sins may be forgiven is through faith in Him. He freely justifies all who come to Him. Our works have no merit and contribute nothing to our salvation.

There must be no compromise on this matter – and we reject every attempt to incorporate human actions into the gospel message. Jesus Christ alone saves. We must be clothed in His imputed righteousness, trusting solely for our salvation in

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RBMS missions around the world



After over four years of negotiations between the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Colombian government, an agreement was finally signed, and on Oct. 2 was submitted to a popular vote: “yes” or “no” to the agreement.

To the surprise of most, the “no” vote won.

That was a relief for us in that the agreement practically gave to the leftist guerilla organization, FARC, all for which they had battled for 50 years, using all types of violence against the government and civilians and supporting their efforts through drug trafficking, kidnappings, and extortions.

However, now the government and the FARC are back at negotiations supposedly taking into account the objections to the first agreement. There is a great hurry to get this done; the FARC are not likely to accept any substantial changes to the original agreement, and the new one, so we have heard, will not be submitted to a popular vote.

The negotiations with the FARC have taken place in Havana, Cuba. Now the government and the ELN (The Liberation Army), a smaller but just as ruthless guerilla force, have begun negotiations in Quito, Ecuador, using the agreement with the FARC as a guide.

No, the government and the general social situation in Colombia are not without blame when it comes to explaining why the armed opposition to the status quo. Corruption, inequalities, injustices, poverty, vice, drug trafficking, crime, the floundering health systems, and the educational deficiencies all contribute. These things, not to mention the contribution made by the popular religion which goes falsely under the name of Christianity, and the “evangelical” church which in most segments has very little of the Gospel.

God, in His righteousness, is not indifferent to the affront all this offers to Him. The fall in the price of oil and the rise in the price of the dollar against the Colombian

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COLOMBIA



peso, along with corruption and unnecessary government expenditures, these, too, have contributed to a very unstable economic situation.

So, the good news?

There are more pastors proclaiming themselves “reformed.” The different efforts to provide reformed theological training are succeeding in some measure. This is cause of great gratitude to the Lord.

At the same time, pray with us that the fissures existing among those professing to be reformed may soon be resolved. Pray that the reformation movement would be carried forward on solid biblical foundations.

While there is some growth in some of the reformed churches, most of these are very small and very weak. There are some baptisms taking place, but most of those now reformed have come already having professed faith in Christ in other non-reformed (mostly charismatic) churches.

So you might say that this report is basically pessimistic. True, and perhaps we have erred in not recognizing sufficiently the glory of God and of the grace of God in many.

But also, in the midst of not seeing all we would like to see of the progress of the cause of Christ in Colombia, this, in and of itself, is a strong stimulus to labor on in Christ with all the certainty that His will would be done in Colombia (and everywhere else), a stimulus to preach the Gospel by which the Lord works to build His church, and a stimulus to be much before the throne of grace praying constantly.

There, in His presence, believing the Gospel, we enjoy the place of fullness of joy.

By abiding in Him, there will be fruit for His glory.

And, not to be totally pessimistic about Colombia, it is one of the most beautiful and potentially most wealthy of the nations on the globe.

You will be even more encouraged to pray for Colombia when you see how much the Lord has given us and that this, therefore, is among the reasons for more Colombians to glorify Him. Check us out on internet. You may possibly be one of those surprised to know that “Colombia” is spelled that way, not “Columbia.”

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who he is and what he has done. And, we are covenantalists, committed to the ancient principle that God deals with us by way of covenant.

The Bible is structured by covenants, and our salvation is accomplished only by and through this means.

There is much more that might be said, but space does not permit. These are foundational truths, and they define who we are.

In the words of the letter at the beginning of our Confession, “we declare before God, Angels, & Men, our hearty agreement

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RBMS missions around the world

Greetings from Perth, Australia!

We have been here for just over half a year and are finally starting to feel settled. The children have adjusted very well and are already beginning to see Perth as their home.

Ethan and Thomas are in their fourth term at Subiaco Primary and will finish for the summer in December.

Many of you have been praying for our decision in whether or not to home school our children and we are very thankful for your prayers. After a great deal of wrestling with the issue, we have decided to begin home schooling the children next year. Because Logan falls into the mandatory age range for school, even though he's only 4, our decision means that Katie will be schooling all four children at the same time.

Obviously, this will be very hard for her and so, as often happens, we now need more prayer after our decision than before it. This may very well affect our ability to get to know families in our local community, so we will be working hard to reach the lost in other ways.

Our church fellowship continues to be blessed by the Lord. Our morning worship service and Sunday school hour averages around 40 or so people, although in the afternoon we average less since some parents take their young children home for a nap. The timing of our services can be a bit hard on children since we meet from 9:20 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., with a brief break for tea in the morning and a lunch hour.

However, just the other week we began renting an extra room in the community center, which will soon have an audio/visual feed of the service for any mothers with small children. This extra space should allow parents the opportunity to train their children or to give them a break if needed. Lord willing in the future we may be able to divide the room and have a Sunday school for the children but for now we're still all together.

The preaching has been centered

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AUSTRALIA

around Christ's Sermon on the Mount in the morning and the topic of Christian liberty from Colossians chapter 2 in the afternoon.

Because the law of God is so universally ignored or held in disregard by even many professing evangelicals, I have chosen to spend a good bit of time in Christ's exposition of the law. This past Sunday I preached on Christ's teaching on adultery and this coming Sunday will deal with the subject of divorce.

In addition, I have made Sinclair Ferguson's book on the Sermon on the Mount available to the members of our fellowship in order that they might be exposed to good Reformed authors. Our studies in the Confession continue to be well-received. In just over four months we've made it all the way to chapter 5 and as we go along I have become more and more thankful for the men who put together our standard of doctrine.

I cannot imagine trying to plant a church without a clear statement of truth to serve as a foundation for unity and maturity.

IRBS

From page 5

with ... that wholesome Protestant Doctrine, which with so clear evidence of Scriptures" has been asserted in the Reformed Confessions and believed through the ages.

The letter ends with these words: "We shall conclude with our earnest prayer, that the God of all grace, will pour out those

On Wednesday night we just finished our studies of Paul's prayers and this week we'll begin reading Martyn Lloyd-Jones' book, "Spiritual Depression." I don't think anyone in our fellowship has ever done this particular book in a Bible study-type format, or any book like it. My aim is not only to practically apply spiritual truth to people's hearts but also to get folks to become more comfortable with using these books in their own devotional life.

We still have not begun any formal outreach as a church plant. This is due to a number of reasons, one of which is my own limitation on time and energy. However, I have submitted two three-minute sermons to a local radio station that airs the preaching of various pastors in our area. The radio station has a committee which edits and selects the sermons, so I'm not sure whether mine will be chosen.

The samples I've listened to were not evangelistic, whereas I did my best to make mine speak to the lost; so perhaps my content will not be what the station is looking for.

measures of his holy Spirit upon us, that the profession of truth may be accompanied with the sound belief, and diligent practice of it by us; that his name may in all things be glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

Whether we stay in our present location or move forward with a full seminary program, this is our pledge to you. Please hold us to it.

RBMS missions around the world



Greetings to all our sister churches for whom we keep thanking God, asking Him to keep everyone of them and to cause them to grow in grace and perseverance!

Église réformée baptiste de la Capitale in Quebec City continues receiving many visitors every week and some of them keep attending. We are very thankful to God for those people He is sending to us.

Pastor Jacques Pelletier keeps teaching a small group on the south shore of the St-Lawrence every Tuesday night. He is teaching on the epistle to the Hebrews. On Sunday, he continues his series on the book of Genesis and Wednesday evening, for our prayer meeting, we are in I Thessalonians.

By the time you read this, as we have done for the last three or four years, we will have held a Saturday prayer for missions in November. We are having two missionaries. Most of the churches of our association are going to do the same on the very same day.

Every other Sunday we have a lunch together at church after worship. This is followed by teaching in the afternoon. The response has been very positive as many of the participants have been encouraging.

All of the churches in our association have also convened to take a special offering for three weeks in order to help people in Haïti who have lost everything during the passage of hurricane Matthews.

Our church plant in Montreal celebrated its first anniversary on Sept. 25. For this occasion Pastor Pelletier, president of our association, was invited to preach and the worship meeting was followed by a meal. It was a great time of fellowship. The sense of unity is more and more present among our group of believers.

Another blessing we are grateful for is the presence of our dear sister Kati Richardson. She is from Texas (a member of our Mansfield church) and she is in Montreal for about two years as she is pursuing doctoral studies in violin at McGill university.

We greatly appreciate her contribution as she plays a prelude and postlude each

The Perrons

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Dr. James Dolezal teaches at Centre d'études réformées baptistes.

Sunday for our services.

In November, we started a new monthly meeting every first Sunday of the month. After our morning worship and Lord's Supper we have lunch together and in the afternoon I provide teaching on church history. Our first meeting was Nov. 6.

Since Oct. 25 we have also begun a prayer meeting every Tuesday evening in the home of one of our members. My colleague Denis Pepin is leading it. We are also considering the possibility of holding two prayer meetings in two different locations in order to facilitate the participation of our people in this big city of Montreal.

We have a couple that started attending eight weeks ago and they have been very faithful in their attendance. They are of a great encouragement as they regularly express their appreciation for the preaching of the Word. They were attending an Anglican church. The man holds a Ph.D. in biblical text.

For the last few weeks I have been meeting with a young man who shows great interest in the Gospel. We are studying the Heidelberg Catechism together and he is very responsive. He is faithfully attending our worship meetings with his girlfriend.

On Sunday mornings I am preaching from the gospel of Luke. We are at the end of chapter 6.

As you likely know, our church plant in Aylmer has enjoyed some additions lately as two people were baptized. Another exciting moment for that church plant took place on Nov. 20 as we ordained our dear and faithful brother, André Pinard. We had examined him on Oct. 19 and we strongly recommended him for the ordination.

I had the privilege of preaching on the occasion. André and I have been friends for many years and I immensely rejoice over this recognition of his calling to the ministry of the Word.

October was the time of our yearly CERB intensive class. This year we had Dr James Dolezal teaching on Theology proper. Nineteen students registered and we had a fabulous time (see photos). Next year, God willing, we will have Dr. James

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RBMS missions around the world

2016 has undoubtedly been one of the most difficult years for my family and me, both professionally and personally.

At the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016 I suffered a herniated disc in my neck that caused the worst pain I have ever experienced. With that injury, I was unable to do any real exercise or fitness for almost six months.

Several months later during this past summer, we spent six days in the ICU with Elisa, 12, after she suffered a thyroid storm. The experience was very scary for all of our family.

In early fall, Janet's father was killed in a motor vehicle accident. His death caused, as deaths often do, significant relational issues within Janet's family further complicating an already difficult situation.

On top of these, the stresses of work, ministry, family and life continued. Yet, in the midst of difficulty the Lord always proves faithful giving strength to the weak, hope to the hopeless, and perspective to those who have lost it.

Elisa came out of the ICU almost completely recovered from her episode. And, to the Lord's praise, we were referred to the best pediatric endocrinologist in the Las Vegas Valley. Under her care, Elisa's symptoms have come under control and the physical signs of her hyperthyroidism (swollen thyroid and eyes) have all but disappeared. She is responding very well to her treatment and is able to do all the things that young women do.

For myself, the Lord allowed me to respond very well to physical therapy and as a result I have been able to return to regular exercise, which for me is mostly running. Just two weekends ago I ran a 205 mile relay race over 35 hours with 11 of my Active Duty NCO's. We did this run in remembrance of 36 men and women who have lost their lives in combat, most of whom had a person connection to each person on the team.

Participating on this relay team presented a unique ministry opportunity to

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Family photo taken (in April) on top of the Stratosphere in Las Vegas.



Joshua Stoley (yellow shoes) and 10 of his active duty folks celebrate the end of the 205-mile Las Vegas Ragnar relay.

connect with these folks in a more personal way. Over the 35 hours of the race we were able to talk about faith, family, military life, and a host of other issues. A key to effective ministry, especially in the military, is looking for opportunities to connect with

people in unique ways. Experience has shown me that doing so opens doors that would have otherwise been missed.

Janet is dealing well with the loss of her father. The Lord has used his death to strengthen her faith, renew her hope in Christ, and rekindle her love for the Word.

Still more, the Lord has used Janet to share the light of the gospel with her family through this tragedy. The Lord Jesus Christ is, was, and continues to be her Rock, her hope, and her comfort. We grieve, but we grieve in the sure and certain hope of the Lord, whose blessings abound.

Speaking of the Lord's blessings, he blessed us in mid-October when I was notified that I had been selected for promotion. Thinking on promotion, a chaplain friend

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RBMS missions around the world



We have been greatly encouraged over the past months, not because anything particularly noteworthy has happened, but simply because things have remained steady. That doesn't make for a very interesting report, though!

In the absence of anything particularly exciting to write about, allow me to provide a little insight into a typical Sunday at Crosspoint Church.

A little before 10 a.m., two or three cars will park in the street outside our venue above the shops in the central city. Their occupants have arrived for a prayer meeting which focuses on prayer for the ministry of the Word that day, but before we bow our heads in the Fellowship Room there is a little time for small talk, while two or three set out the elements for the Lord's Supper (included in the service every Sunday morning) and ensure our minimalist technical equipment is ready for the service.

While we pray, others will arrive and gather in our main meeting room which has seating for about seventy people (our usual congregation currently numbers about forty-five).

At 10:30, our morning Worship Service begins. Typically, a portion of a Psalm is read as a Call to Worship. During the service, we will sing six songs: at least one based on a Psalm; the others traditional hymns and one or two contemporary songs.

We will take up an offering as part of our worship, have readings from both the Old and New Testaments, and pray a number of times. Everything will prepare us for and lead us into the preaching of the Word of God, which currently is taking us through the Gospel of Luke. Since more than a third of our congregation are under the age of 16, we will have a brief time utilizing a children's catechism in the early part of the service. Our meeting will conclude with the Lord's Supper.

If it is the fourth Sunday of the month, then we will have a shared lunch after the service, instead of the simple tea/coffee

The Hugheses

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Dafydd, Maria, Ajinkya and Anjali
33 Sutherland Crescent
Palmerston North

NEW ZEALAND



on other Sundays. Every family will bring food to share, and more often than not, we are treated to a banquet!

Then the elders' families (and occasionally others also) will make the 15-minute drive to a home for the elderly, where our monthly service will begin at 2 p.m. It is a simple routine: three hymns chosen by our pianist will form the basis of the meeting. These hymns guide me (Dafydd) in what I will say. Rather than a "sermon," this is, more commonly, a series of comments leading into and coming out of the hymns themselves – a little trivia about the hymn writer or the background to the hymn, perhaps, and a few comments drawing out the theme or features of the hymn.

It is a rewarding 30 minutes, which the residents (numbering anywhere between eight and 18) look forward to with great anticipation.

This day of rest will find a number of us (perhaps half or even two-thirds of our morning congregation) resume our seats at the church venue at 5 p.m. to conclude our corporate worship begun in the morning.

This meeting is a little different from the morning: shorter and minimal. We sing a Psalm, a traditional hymn, and a contemporary song in succession, bridged by appropriate comments from the leader: usually the preacher.

On the fourth Sunday this is our elder, Ian Fuller (currently in the Psalms); otherwise, it will be Dafydd (currently preaching from the book of Numbers).

We then read the Scriptures and hear the exposition of the word. A final hymn

and benediction will bring to a conclusion a full but blessed day.

All that remains for Dafydd is to prepare the recorded sermons for uploading to SermonAudio and sending them to the local Christian Radio station, on which they will be broadcast Wednesday evenings.

We are thankful to God for this blessed routine and the many encouragements we have during these hours each week.

Our mid-week meeting is an oasis within the busyness of our lives, but the corporate worship on the Lord's Day is such a feast to hungry souls. Truly, it is a little foretaste of heaven. Thank you for your support and prayer, which helps to make this possible.

Soli Deo gloria!

Stoleys

From page 8

reminded me that for chaplains, promotion is not as much about rank as it is an invitation to continue to ministry to those airmen He has put under our care.

We are blessed to receive that invitation from the Lord, to be selected for promotion, and to ultimately be able to continue in this ministry. With that, we are looking at getting an assignment sometime this spring, and prayerfully await finding out where He will have us serve next.

As we await notice of what is next, we continue to labor here. This past weekend

See Stoleys, page 11



RBMS missions around the world

Ireland, it seems to me, is in a teen-age phase in which all that has been good and stable is no longer so. We had the same-sex marriage paradigm shift; now the drive to make abortion legal is gaining ground.

Again, like in the SSM issue, funds are coming from outside the country. We are doing what we can to raise a voice of objection, but it is a mere whisper in the madness.

Clonmel Baptist is very thankful to the Lord for His sustaining and encouraging hand upon us. I have an encouraging Bible study every second week, with good questions being asked. The radio work continues. Although, just recently, the station

The Brennans

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Matthew, Barbara, Simon and Timothy
Ballingarrane North
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

IRELAND



pulled two items from one of my programs saying “my opinions” were not to be aired for balance sake. The two issues were abortion and pornography.

We will have a busy December with a baptism in the midst of the evangelistic ef-

forts, which reminds us that this is what we are about – or, at least, should be about. We must not allow our call to preach and pray to be sidetracked by the good.

Gratitude to our sister churches that remember us before the Throne.

Perrons

From page 7

White on Apologetics.

Our radio ministry still generates many positive comments and some people have joined one of our churches through that ministry. I am in the process of preparing a new series of program, and this time it will be on the prophet Daniel.

Pray that I will find time and energy to do it.

There has been some movement among the churches of our association. Pastor Marcel Longchamps, who was serving in our church of Rouyn-Noranda for the last five years, is moving to Lac Mégantic where he will fill the pastoral vacant position.

The brethren in Lac Mégantic are very happy with this decision, especially since they just bought a new building. It is a kind of new departure for them. It means that Pastor Jean Lépine will have to take back the responsibility of our Rouyn-Noranda church.

Allow me to finish with a few prayer requests:

- The young man I am meeting for studying the Heidelberg Catechism;

- Micaël Beaulieu, our intern in our



Centre d'études réformées baptistes (CERB) participants gather for a seminar.

Acton Vale church as he works full-time, takes courses at CBTS, preach and teaches at his church, on top of taking care of his wife and two children;

- Pastor Marcel Longchamps, who begins his new ministry in Lac Mégantic, and pastor Jean Lépine, who will take his

place in Rouyn-Noranda.

- “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!” (Ps. 90:17)

Stan Line

From page 1

sylvania,” that Doepp “expounded the Scriptures. He was doing so in the book of Isaiah when we first visited, and I was fascinated with the twin facts of sin and grace as he constantly emphasized both from the text.”

Stan began to grow in his knowledge of the Scripture. He had professed Christ earlier, prior to coming to Grace Chapel, but his understanding was deficient. Now he began to read and study the Bible, engage in prayer and develop what he describes as a “concern that other people hear the Gospel and know the Savior.”

Stan told James Eshelman, “At Ligonier Camp (in western Pennsylvania) I was made to face the possibility of a call to the Christian ministry.”

During this time, Pastor Doepp left Grace Chapel in order to further his theological studies because he, too, was growing in his understanding of the Scripture. The church was in a state of transition. Pastor Anthony Cunio replaced Doepp when he left. Cunio was a Baptist by conviction but a graduate of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. (William Culbertson III, president of Moody at the time, was a bishop in the Reformed Episcopal Church.)

During Cunio’s tenure Grace Chapel’s constitution was rewritten, the name changed to Grace Baptist Church of Carlisle, Pa., and the London Baptist Confession of Faith was adopted as the expression



Stan and Bev with Shawna.

of what the church believed. Stan’s growth in Bible knowledge and his developing concern for preaching the gospel continued during this transition. By now, he was studying at Moody Bible Institute.

He describes his time at Moody as “an exciting time of growth in the Lord and His Word. Two professors especially were of outstanding impact. One, Dr. Howard Vos, instructed in Bible study methods, and the Bible came alive as never before. The second, Dr. David Gottas, a missionary with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) in Venezuela, taught Spanish – and something more than Spanish. He made us face the opportunities of the Lord’s work out-

side the USA. That was the beginning of the Lord’s call to missionary work.”

Upon graduation from Moody in 1959, Stan enrolled in Wheaton College, where he completed his BA in 1961. While in Moody, he knew George Verwer (founder of Operation Mobilization), and during several summers they had traveled to Mexico to do evangelistic work. The leadership of Grace Baptist Church encouraged Stan, because they recognized his gifts and shared his desire to spread the gospel. In fact, upon graduation from Wheaton he served as intern at Grace Baptist until shortly before departing for language school in San José, Costa Rica near the end of 1962.

This was 22 years before the birth of Reformed Baptist Mission Services, so it was not unusual that Stan would have applied to The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), with the encouragement of the church, in order to serve the Lord in South America.

Although Grace Baptist Church had generously supported missionaries since its inception, the church had not undertaken the total support of any of them. Stan Line was the first; others whom the church would fully support were to follow. Thus it was that in late 1962 Stan Line departed Carlisle to fine-tune his Spanish in language school in Costa Rica. The congregation in Carlisle was excited, enthusiastic and fully behind him.

In order to be accepted by TEAM, Stan had to attend a candidate training school

See **Stan Line**, page 15

Stoleys

From page 9

Janet and I took 21 families, about 100 total people, on a family retreat to a small Baptist camp called Camp Ironwood on the California/Nevada border. These family retreats give our families opportunity to rest, relax, enjoy one another, and to be renewed from the Word.

Our theme this weekend was “Remaining Faithful in a Faithless Culture” and centered on Paul’s encouragement “We do not lose heart” from 2 Cor. 4. The sessions

were very well-received and the discussions from the Scriptures were refreshing. At the end of one session, a husband pulled me aside and asked for advice on finding a good biblical church in Las Vegas, sharing that he wanted to make sure his family was worshipping the Lord in a solid church. Returning home today, I received word that one of my NCOs who has been battling cancer was called home early in the morning. He was diagnosed with leukemia in December, and has been fighting hard since then.

Through his battle, his faith was re-

newed and he trusted the Lord. His wife and two daughters will need our prayers in the months to come. His wife is a believer, but I am not sure about the children. We pray that Lord comforts them and grants them faith. With that, later this month I will be able to share his faith at a memorial service for his squadron, and I’m praying that the Lord uses the opportunity to save others.

2016 has been difficult, but the Lord is faithful and we do not lose heart. Janet and I are so thankful for our ARBCA family. Your prayers, cards, and notes are very encouraging. Thank you so very much.



These attendees were present for the first morning worship service of the San Tan Reformed Baptist Church on Sept. 4.

Church Planting: New Arizona church begins services

By Frank Urquidez

The people of God here in San Tan Valley Arizona greet all of you dear saints in that most glorious name, the name that is above every name, the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Sept. 4, San Tan Reformed Baptist Church began morning worship services at Frances Brandon-Pickett Elementary School in Queen Creek, Ariz.

We were blessed to have Pastor John Giarrizzo from our sending church, Grace Covenant Church, preach an applicable sermon from Luke 9:57-62, entitled "Follow the Lord Jesus."

That morning we had just over 70 people in attendance. What was encouraging to us was the majority of individuals who came were from the local community. We are thankful that some members from GCC came with Pastor John to encourage us in the launch of morning services.

Since that most blessed of days we have seen ups and downs, as one would expect from a new church plant.

We have been in the local communities passing out invitations. We have also developed a logo which we use to advertise our services in the community. We have also developed a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/santanreformedbaptistchurch) and a website (www.santanreformedbaptistchurch.com). Although we have not seen much fruit from our efforts, we have not grown weary in well doing. For a while we experienced a consistent group of 50 or more in attendance in the morning and 36 individuals attending our evening services. While the morning services have fluctuated, we continue to be encouraged by those who have been consistent in their attendance. We are especially encouraged by many of them coming back for the evening service to pray.

We praise God that one family who has been with us for over six months is going through membership class and, we hope, by the end of the year they will be added to the membership. We have also added to our number a few other mature couples in the faith who desire to be an encouragement to us in the work.



Leaders in the church plant effort include, from left, Pastor John and Roberta Giarrizzo, Robert and Cathy Holmes, and Frank and Donna Urquidez.

We are very encouraged that we have one couple who is not saved who have been attending quite regularly on Sunday mornings. Please pray for Tim and Laurie Rogers, that God would save their souls and make them a member of His glorious kingdom.

This year we have had two individuals who have been attending regularly battle cancer. Patrick Logan and Steve Jackson continue in their healing process. Please continue to lift these two men up in your prayers.

God has blessed Robert Holmes and myself as we seek the Lord's guidance to lead His church. Despite both of us being full-time employees elsewhere, the Lord has been so good to use the preached word to minister to His dear children.

I am preaching through I Corinthians and Robert is preaching

See **San Tan**, page 16

Church Planting: Valley City, N.D. effort needs pastor

By Doug VanderMeulen

Church planting in North Dakota is a lot like taking the gospel for the first time to an area of the world that has never before heard of Christ.

Of course, this is an overstatement but not entirely hyperbolic. The gospel, as we understand it as preachers of sovereign grace, has rarely been proclaimed in North Dakota and when it has it has born little fruit humanly speaking.

J. Gresham Machen came to North Dakota to strengthen the few churches in the newly formed Orthodox Presbyterian Church during the Christmas break at Westminster Seminary in 1936. Today, there are fewer OPC congregations in our state than when Machen was here. Today, Community Baptist Church (CBC) in Fargo is the only Reformed Baptist Church in the state. North Dakota has counties that by population are 50 percent Roman Catholic. Others are over 50 percent ELCA Lutheran churches, which tend to be very liberal.

Some of the earliest non-Catholic, non-Lutheran missionaries to North Dakota, other than Catholics or Lutherans, were students sent out from Oberlin College and were trained by Charles Finney.

The need is great. The challenge is great. The opportunity is great. The workers are few.

It has long been the desire of CBC to bring the gospel to the communities that have not had a solidly Reformed church.

In the spring of 2015, God brought CBC an opportunity it begin working towards this goal. Ten years ago, church planter Wayne Vleck took over the small congregation – working without salary to nurture his vision of a reformed church. Wayne passed away April 11, 2015.

Before his passing, Wayne approached the elders of CBC with the hope that we would care for his congregation. Since the Sunday after Wayne's passing, Community has supplied preaching and spiritual support to the small but faithful group of believers in Valley City.

Valley City is less than an hour's drive from Fargo and two hours from Bismarck, our capital city. In the midst of the farming



Valley Baptist Church

region of North Dakota, Valley City is also the home of a John Deere factory, and an ethanol plant. The campus of Valley City State College is also nearby, so there are ample ministry opportunities.

As its name suggests, Valley City is in the Sheyenne River Valley, a river fed from nearby Lake Ashtabula, a popular recreation area. The church is on the edge of downtown, across the street from the high school and the county courthouse. All we need is a pastor who has the desire to minister here full-time.

We are looking for someone who is very outgoing and willing to build relationships in the community, someone who can get beyond the ethnic and cultural background of Valley City. While friendly, it is quiet and reserved.

People move to East or West Coast cities all the time, and no one notices. Someone moving to Valley City from most anywhere other than North Dakota is sure to bring interest.

“You moved from where to come here?” is a question that may get asked more than once. For the person willing to work at building relationships will in time find Valley City a great place to live and raise a family.

With the presence of the state college, factories, and farms, the economic base of the city is stable and secure. There is also a wide diversity of age groups represented in the community. Valley City is far from a dying small farm town. While the city may never substantially grow, it offers a great place to reach people who from a wide-ranging economic and age background.

This person would work under the existing Community Baptist Church leadership in Fargo, so he would not be “in it alone.”

Several core members of Valley Baptist are also attending Sunday morning services in Fargo, and we routinely fellowship together throughout the month. Currently, VBC services are held on Sunday evenings, have a weekly prayer meeting, and a Friday night study on the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith.

There are additional opportunities for church planting in the oil-rich western region of the state. Many of the cities have seen unprecedented growth with the boom in fracking. Please be praying for workers and church planters that want to join us in bringing the gospel to North Dakota and who you might support us in this work.

– Doug VanderMeulen is pastor of Community Baptist Church of Fargo, N.D.

Church Planting: Lookout Mountain off to strong start

By Nathan White

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

As we reach the three-month mark of our labors here in Lookout Mountain, Tenn., we are exceedingly grateful for all the support, prayers, and encouragement of our association and sister churches. We have certainly seen the Lord at work during our time here so far, and we rejoice in how He has used many of you to bless this endeavor.

Our services began on Aug. 21, and in the 13 Sunday morning worship services until this writing, we've seen an average weekly attendance of 43, which has steadily been on the rise. The majority of these visitors are students at nearby Covenant College.

Specifically, right now we have four committed families, plus 28 college students who have been faithfully attending and have conveyed a desire to join the church in formal membership.

Currently, I'm preaching through the gospel of John in our morning services. And in our Sunday School hour, we are studying the history of redemption in the book of Leviticus. Furthermore, we are also holding mid-week Bible studies for men and women as we seek to instruct people in Reformed Baptist doctrine. All of our meetings very well-attended. And plans for a weekly congregational prayer meeting are in the works as well.

Brethren – please pray for us.

This is a community with a lot of history, tradition, and old money, so it's been difficult to break in as a newcomer. There have been several failed church plants in the area over the last five years, and even a few that met in the building we now occupy, so many people are keeping their distance for now and are waiting to see what happens. Not a few are convinced we will be gone in six months.

Additionally, this is also a very “churched” community, where average church attendance is high but an honest commitment to the Lord is significantly lower. The hardness to the deep truths of the gospel is palpable.



The White Family

Also, please pray that the Lord would raise up more men/leaders in our midst for the work of the ministry and the needs

of the body. There are many college kids

See **Lookout Mountain**, page 16

Stan Line

From page 11

for one month during the summer of 1962. There he met a young lady by the name of Bev Nelson, from Wausau, Wis., who also was in attendance at that same candidate school. Bev had studied nursing in Rochester, Minn. and graduated in 1958, and then spent the next year working there as a nurse. In the fall of 1959 Bev entered Moody Bible Institute, where she completed a one year course of study, and then trained as an anesthetist in Wisconsin. In 1962 she was sent by TEAM to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to work in Karanda Hospital as a missionary nurse/anesthetist.

When Stan set out for Costa Rica, he had not forgotten Bev, so he began to correspond with her. Eventually, she received a proposal of marriage from him. Of course, by now Stan was in Colombia, South America. Much to Stan's delight, this three-year courtship by mail finally ended when Bev accepted his proposal and transferred to TEAM's Colombia field in South America, where she became Mrs. Stan Line in Cúcuta in 1965.

Bev's training as a nurse has been put to good use in Colombia.

"I've used all of my nurse's training right here, not in a mission hospital, but as it fit around responsibilities of the home," she told Diane Powell Hawkins, author of "Ordinary People in God's Hands, A Tribute to God by TEAM



Colombia map courtesy of Wikipedia

Zimbabwe Missionaries," in 2004.

"After our children left for college in the States, I began doing volunteer nursing at a cardiology hospital.... It's not a mission hospital, but it's my mission field."

Prior to marriage, Stan had taught in Ocaña Bible Institute from

1963-67. After Stan was married, he worked with a Christian School in Cúcuta in 1968, and then from 1969-74 he worked to start a church in Pamplona, where there was a small group of about 8 professing believers by the time he and Bev left in 1975.

Meanwhile, the Line family was growing. By 1971 Stan and Bev were blessed with three children: Shawna, Brent and Dione. All three are now married, and Stan and Bev have nine grandchildren. The two daughters and their families live in Colombia; Brent and his family live in Naples, Fla., where he pastors a Spanish-speaking congregation of believers.

In 1975, after 12 years with TEAM, Stan was growing in his understanding of Calvinism, and it seemed advisable to withdraw from the mission in order to avoid doctrinal conflicts with his fellow workers, with whom he had a good rapport.

So, the Lines established a relationship with the Evangelical Assembly of Light and Truth. At that time this Colombian entity had perhaps eight workers or pastors with



The Lines with their children and grandchildren.

See Stan Line, page 16

Lookout Mountain

From page 14

seeking discipleship and desiring to be involved in the lives of older saints, but so far there are not enough adults to fill this role.

The young crowd brings energy and a hunger for the word that is encouraging and inspiring, but they need lots of pastoral care and direction as well. Please pray specifically that the Lord would raise up more men and leaders, more stable families, and more godly, older women in our midst too. This would help balance things out and provide a healthy environment for the many students here.

Furthermore, please pray for our church finances. Our budget is tight, which is compounded by the fact that the majority of our attendees are college students who do not have a steady income. But above all, pray that the Lord would be glorified in this work, that the gospel would go forth and bear fruit accordingly, and that God would give a spirit of unity and peace to our core group of attendees.

We thank God for all of you and the great encouragement you have been.

– *Nathan White is leading the new church plant in Lookout Mountain, Tenn.*



A worship service takes place in the church building that's been made available to the church plant in Lookout Mountain.

Stan Line

From page 15

eight meeting places in the state of Santander. Stan requested and was granted the opportunity to work in Bogotá.

The Lines relocated there and worked to see a congregation started. Meanwhile, Jim and Nancy Adams had arrived earlier in Bogota, so Stan and Bev moved to San Gil in the state (or Department, as it is more properly known) of Santander, where they worked with an existing congregation and other nearby congregations.

Jim Adams began teaching and preparing Enrique Abadia for the pastorate. Unfortunately, during this same time, the work in Santander Department decreased because some of the Colombian leaders went into hyper-Calvinism.

Later, when Jim and Nancy Adams relocated to Bucaramanga, the capital city of Santander, the Lines moved back to Bogotá, where the work had grown in their absence. Stan and Bev are still in Bogotá and the work has now grown to include four congregations around the city, a bookstore and library for area pastors, and a Christian School that was established in 1992. Although Stan officially retired after 50 years, the Lines are permanent residents in Colombia, where Stan's counsel and assistance continue as a valuable asset to the pastors there.

In this meagre and truncated attempt to cover an ongoing life of service in the ministry of the gospel, much has obviously been left unsaid. As in every Christian's life, there are times of

joy, times of stress, times of regret, times that require emergency medical care, and times of deep reflection.

No doubt Stan has had all of these, but they are well beyond the scope or aim of this brief reflection on a remarkable life and ministry that continues to have a far-reaching effect for spiritual good in the nation of Colombia.

– *Leon F. Blosser is a former RBMS missionary to the Middle East, who has retired in Carlisle, Pa.*

SanTan

From page 12

through the book of Philippians. Oh, what a privilege to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Lord willing, in 2017 we will begin a youth ministry for our young adults and a junior high ministry for our younger ones. We seek to minister to their never-dying souls. A few of our unsaved children are starting to ask questions about salvation so we desire to give opportunity to expose them to the means of grace.

We close with the famous hymn: "Praise God from who all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to further His kingdom here in San Tan Valley, Ariz.