



Fall 2009

# Zambians display kingdom outlook

By Gordon Taylor

Zambian pastors and churches want to see the gospel reach their own country and the entire African continent.

In this way they are fulfilling the vision of the pioneer missionary David Livingstone who believed that the only way to reach Africa was for Africans to form churches and reach their own people. This is exactly what is happening in the Reformed Baptist movement in this strategically located country.

When I visited Zambia last summer, I found a group of men who understand the Great Commission, who are planting churches, who are ministering to the needs of the poor and who have a kingdom vision and have all this with a humble spirit.

Pastor Ron Baines of ARBCA church, Grace Community of Topsham, Maine, and I each gave 15 lectures the week of July 27 at the Copperbelt Bible College. Pastor Baines lectured on the Pentateuch and I on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. We had the privilege of teaching 23 pastors and theological students.

I found the men who attend the college to be very eager to learn. The men were pastors of Reformed Baptist churches with years of experience, while some were from other denominations or minis-



*Students of the Copperbelt Bible College in Zambia, shown here with ARBCA Coordinator Gordon Taylor, at left in second row, and Pastor Ron Baines, right, include pastors of Reformed Baptist churches, as well as those from other backgrounds.*

tries. A few are studying for the ministry. In addition to Reformed Baptist pastors, there was a man from an Anglican church, one from a Free Baptist church and yet another was the general secretary of the Scripture Union but who hopes soon to enter the pastorate.

Also, one of the pastors was formerly a medical doctor until the Lord called him into the gospel ministry. There were two or three who are coming out of the Char-

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# ARBCA Update

Vol. 26, No. 4 ■ Fall 2009

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Circulation: Circulation requests may be sent by e-mail to [arbca@reformedbaptist.com](mailto:arbca@reformedbaptist.com) or to the address below. Contributions to defray the costs may be sent to ARBCA Update, P.O. Box 289, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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: Why we need revival today, Part 1

By David Vaughn

Anyone who longs for the coming of God's kingdom in this world must have a keen and spiritual interest in revivals. For it is a simple fact of history that revivals have been a choice instrument of God to make His kingdom come in this world.

It is to the Second Great Awakening that we owe the birth of the modern missionary movement and its wonderful spread of the gospel to hitherto unreached lands. For example, all of the first band of American missionaries, with Judson at the head of its list, were converted in that revival and received their missionary burden in it. Every great revival has meant new and enlarged missionary vision and enterprise. This is true for home missions as much as for foreign missions.

Those who have God's kingdom at heart are concerned not only about the growth of the Church but its strength and purity as well. We need only to consult the facts of history to discover that here too God has used revivals as a choice instrument. Many of the great institutes of Christian learning were born as the result of revivals. And who can question the amazing power of revivals to strengthen, purify and empower weakened and declining churches?

The subject of revival is too concrete in its bearing, too clear in its significance and too momentous in its stakes and its possibilities to pass by us without arousing our most serious and sustained spiritual interest and concern.

Thus, in addressing these words to you I'm taking for granted that you believe in revivals. Joel prophesied of revivals to come in a time that he called "afterward" and Peter cited Joel in explaining the outpouring of the Spirit of God on the day of Pentecost. But instead of quoting Joel's term "afterward" Peter explained it as meaning "in the last days." Not just the last day, or that one day of Pentecost, but in "the last days," which we know is the whole the period of the New Testament Church until Christ comes again. What do Joel and Peter say that God promises to do in this period?

*"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."*

Peter describes this outpouring of the day of Pentecost as one instance of a special method of God's working which will be in vigor during the whole period of the Church. We are told by prophet and apostle that there will be special times of God giving extraordinary effusions of His Spirit. This will not be an everyday occurrence. It will not be the ordinary life of the Church. But there will be special seasons of these outpourings. In Acts 3 Peter refers to them in this way:

*"that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" [Act 3:20]*

Peter had understood from Joel, Isaiah and other Hebrew prophets that the Messianic Age was to be one in which the rains of a new and exceptional power from God would come on his people during certain seasons. We notice that the plural form of the word seasons speaks of something that does not happen just once, but many times in the life of the Church. And the word "seasons" itself alerts us that what happens is not constant and without interruption, but occasional. That they are seasons of refreshing informs us of their blessed effect. And we would expect to see, they come *from the presence of the Lord*.

Indeed, it has been God's way in history for the last 2,000 years since the day of Pentecost to give times or seasons in which He has drawn near to the Church in an extraordinary way. In these times He has manifested his presence and poured out his power in an unusual and surprising way. When this happens it is not that God does something strange and different than His normal work. It is the same work of regenerating, converting and sanctifying grace, but greatly intensified in its power and enlarged in its scope.

We might compare it to climatic events in a place like Bangladesh. There is rain throughout the year but at one season of the year there come the monsoon rainfalls. They are not ordinary rain falls. They are extraordinary. One doesn't find them at all times. This is not the ordinary climate of Bangladesh, but it is a normal part of the cycle of climate in Bangladesh. They must have the monsoon rainfalls or the cotton and the rice will not grow. In fact Bangladesh receives 80 percent of its precipitation through these unusual seasons of monsoon rain.

And we must have revivals. We must have extraordinary outpourings of the Spirit of God. When they don't come (and we have not seen widespread revival in most of the West since 1858-59) the Church eventually experiences sad decline in its witnessing power and even in its own spiritual vitality.

A revival is a sovereign gift of God. We cannot dictate or determine when He might give it, but He does. There is sometimes confusion about the difference between God's work in restoring a backsliding church (be it on a local level or larger) and God's work in revival. Part of this may come from the term "revival" itself, which normally implies a situation of deadness or lethargy that needs to be reversed.

The word is perhaps not well chosen, for we know that even healthy and strong churches sometimes receive these promised outpourings of the Spirit. God's goal in such cases is not to restore them from backsliding. So, though "revivals" certainly purify and strengthen weakened churches, they also occur where this is not needed.

This demonstrates that even where churches are healthy the ultimate reason for revivals stands and calls us to plead at all times for them: outpourings of the Spirit are given in order to advance the cause of the work of Christ's kingdom in an intensified way. We therefore need them in times of spiritual health as well as spiritual decline. A look at the book of Acts will show the truth of this.

In Acts 4 the Church is doing quite well and yet persecution comes and threatens the advance of the kingdom. The threat to the kingdom's advance is not that the Church is weak or sickly. It is a threat from outside: persecution. So the disciples cry out to the Lord (Acts 4:24-31) and He gives another unusual filling of the Spirit which must remind the disciples of Pentecost day. It is so powerful that it literally shakes the place in which they are praying. Luke tells us the result of this outpouring so that we can understand why the outpouring of the Spirit was given in this particular situation:

*"And when they had prayed, the place*

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## Institute for Reformed Baptist Studies

# Meet this year's new IRBS students

by James M. Renihan

It is always fascinating to observe the Lord's work in our midst.

His ways are marvelous, and he does things we cannot plan and often do not expect. But at the same time, he blesses us in the regular and expected routines of life. After 11 years of teaching at the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies, I have learned that every new school year brings its own blessings. Some are just what you anticipate, others come as a surprise.

As we began another school term, this experience was the same. The new students entering IRBS in the Fall Semester 2009 make this point for me. I would like to introduce them to you. Here are paragraphs, written by each of these men. They introduce themselves to you, in alphabetical order.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Leon Brown:** I am a graduate of the University of San Diego with a bachelor of arts degree in communication studies.

Prior to my university studies, I served in the United States Navy for 10 years with aspirations to become a physician. When it came time to take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), I believed the Lord was calling me to another vocation. Unaware of what that was, I began applying to nursing school.

After much time in prayer and counseling, however, I realized that was not his calling either. Through God's providence, I applied to Westminster Seminary California. In August 2008 I was accepted into graduate school where I am now working on a Master of Divinity degree and a master of arts degree in historical theology.

If the Lord wills, I desire to further my education in a doctoral studies program. Ultimately, I desire to shepherd a congregation upon completion of graduate or post-graduate school.

My heart has been changed over the years not only to be an evangelist, but to instruct the body of Christ in the full counsel of God. I believe Christians should be instructed in all things pertaining to life and



*New IRBS students this year are, from left, Leon Brown, Kris Marriage, Sam Renihan and Micah Renihan.*

godliness; this encompasses the entirety of God's written Word.

I am married to Rosalinda; we have no children yet.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Kristopher Marriage:** I grew up in Anchorage, Alaska.

My parents began early on to take my sister and me to a Nazarene church. I came to know Christ during my childhood while at the Nazarene church my family attended. As a young man I developed a love for God's Word and a desire to study it more.

I went to Northwest Nazarene University and was pursuing a Religious Studies major. I had been struggling with and working through the doctrine of God's sovereignty in salvation for awhile, but it was during my time at NNU that I realized that I must fully accept it in order to be holding to the Bible.

After my freshman year, God brought me back to Alaska. I attended the University of Alaska Anchorage, studying philosophy in hopes of future study of theology. While

at UAA I began to read authors like John Piper, who would have a massive affect on my life. I no longer just believed in the doctrine of election but Piper's teaching showed me how it was precious as well.

It was during this time that I continued to develop my theology and to begin looking at where God was leading me and following him one step at a time. Now, I have come to study at Westminster Seminary California with the IRBS in order to further discern the capacity in which God has called me and to further develop my theology.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Micah Renihan:** My name is Micah Renihan. I am an MDiv student in my first year at WSC. I am pursuing this degree because I have felt a call to the ministry and have been encouraged in that desire by elders in the churches I have attended.

I grew up in a Reformed Baptist home

## IRBS

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and was converted in a Reformed Baptist church as a teenager. Very early on I began to feel a call to the ministry, and silently began to think about it. Over time this call grew and was also recognized by people in my church.

While attending Biola University for my undergrad degree, I found great joy in studying the scriptures and theology. My studies there further confirmed the calling I have felt. The elders of the church I was attending (before I moved back to Escondido for school) kindly gave me many opportunities to exercise and discover my gifts in the ministry.

While I could see from these opportunities that my abilities need a great deal of training and honing, I believe that it was apparent that I did possess some measure of gifts from God in this area. It is my conviction that I ought to pursue further training for the ministry, and the church I was a part of previously as well as the church that I am

now a part of have both encouraged me in this.

As we approach the end of this first semester I am thoroughly enjoying my studies, and I am very grateful for the opportunity I have to learn at IRBS and WSC. I pray that God would use this time to prepare me to be a useful servant in His kingdom.

I have been married to Heather for three years.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sam Renihan:** I am 22 years old and reside in Buena Park, Calif. I have been married to Kimberly for three years, and we have a 16-month-old son named Owen.

Before attending IRBS at Westminster, I graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish Literature and Culture.

I use my knowledge of Spanish in the Spanish ministry at my sending church, Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, where I lead the Spanish worship service and preach once a month. I also preach and/or teach Sunday School as needed in the English services.

I am thankful to be at IRBS and am

blessed to be taught by my father while sitting next to my brother Micah. I feel bad for Kris Marriage, who has to put up with being in class with a father and two sons. The Lord has been good to my family.

My wife has lupus but is doing well, and my son Owen was born 11 weeks early, but is strong and healthy now. Please pray for their health and strength, and pray for God's continued grace on my family and my studies.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am very thankful for the Lord's blessings to me, and for sending each of these young men to study at IRBS. They have very different stories, but the grace of God in their lives is the same.

Leon has joined our program in his second year at WSC, having come to firm convictions about believer's baptism. He intends to complete the entire IRBS program. The other new IRBS students are all in their first semester of study. Please pray for us all, and for our returning students, as we seek to serve Jesus Christ our Lord.

*James Renihan is IRBS Dean*

## Revival

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*in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness... And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."* Act 4:31-33

That extraordinary effusion of the Spirit resulted in the gospel going out with boldness and power despite the persecution at hand and its potential to hinder witness to Christ. If we think about force of such persecutions against the Church in history we can understand how that sort of power was necessary for that situation. But there are other situations in which only "revival" power can cause God's kingdom to go forth and triumph once again. One of those situations is that of a spiritually weakened and declining Church.

As I am addressing an American audience, I will borrow an illustration from the

cartoons you may have watched when you were young. You will remember Popeye the sailor man and what happens to him in the different episodes, which are all variations on a theme. His adversary Brutus comes along and beats up on Popeye and often ends by throwing something really heavy on the beaten Popeye. We see the good sailor man under a pile of a dozen trees. Here he is, beaten and seemingly half dead, with these trees lying on top of him and Brutus sitting on top of the trees. With our hero in such straits, if the situation is to be changed and the balance of power is to be changed between Popeye and Brutus, it won't do for Popeye to simply receive a restoration to his ordinary level of strength. With this level of strength he could never escape the weight holding him down. Fortunately, he somehow gets a hand on his can of spinach and when he eats its contents he receives an extraordinary power that enables him to face this impossible situation and totally reverse it. With this out-of-the-ordinary strength he throws off the weight of the trees and Brutus with ease and triumphs over his enemy.

That is admittedly a silly illustration

but its picture is clear. There are times when the Church needs extraordinary revival. She has been weakened and the balance of power between God's people and this sinful world is such that it would not be sufficient for the Church to receive restoration by God's grace to an ordinary and normal spiritual health and strength. Things have gone too far for that to suffice. Therefore we have seen time and again in history that God has come down into the midst of a backslidden and weakened Church with an extraordinary "revival power" which has completely turned the tables, made the Church triumphant over her enemies and brought great numbers of men and women into the kingdom of God.

Any local church may receive restoration from backsliding if it responds to Christ's call of repentance and faith as addressed to several of the seven churches of Asia in Revelation 2-3. This is part of the ordinary grace available at all times to God's people. But even if your local church is doing well, or has been restored to a healthy

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# RBMS missions around the world

Many of you have prayed for a man who has been attending our services for about seven years now. I have mentioned him from time to time in my newsletters.

I will call him D\_\_\_ here. This man is from a non-practicing Catholic background. He is one of the five or six most highly placed executives in one of the biggest computer chip manufacturers in Europe. His company employs thousands of people in several sites in Europe and the United States. D\_\_\_ works at the international headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and lives in the suburbs of Grenoble, France, about 90 miles from his workplace and about five minutes from our church.

His wife, C\_\_\_ grew up in an evangelical family, but shortly after C\_\_\_'s conversion at 14 years old, the family was obliged to leave the Alsace region of France with its significant percentage of Protestants. C\_\_\_'s father had been transferred to Paris. According to her account, they found themselves in spiritual desert and her relationship with God suffered, though she did not cease believing in Christ and desiring to live for him.

She married D\_\_\_, a non-practicing Catholic and realized as the years went on that the dream of raising a Christian family nurtured on the teaching of Scripture was not to be fulfilled in her mixed marriage. The children grew up without any real religious roots and, by their adolescence, the older children became openly hostile to the gospel.

By this time D\_\_\_ and C\_\_\_ had moved to the Grenoble area and C\_\_\_ had begun to come to our services irregularly. D\_\_\_ did not come initially, but after a short while, he began to accompany her. As time went on it became evident that God's Word was increasingly bringing D\_\_\_ face to face with God and with his own sin. Two or three years ago, during an evangelistic Bible study with D\_\_\_ and a couple other non-Christian men, D\_\_\_ looked at me and another Christian who was present at the study and said, "These truths have a different relationship to you men than to me because you are born again and I am not and it is really working on me."

That time of conviction did not, howev-

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er, continue in such evident power. Sickness and other factors caused D\_\_\_ and his wife to be absent from our Sunday services often, sometimes for four or five weeks at a time. The church continued to pray and reach out to the family. How our hearts longed for D\_\_\_ to come to know the Savior and to love him. How difficult to see this period of spiritual concern fade away!

Last spring, their attendance became more regular again and, during a series of sermons on the Five Points of Calvinism, D\_\_\_ began to manifest a real sense of conviction of sin and guilt once again. He began to ask me and some of the other men in the church how one could know if he had come to faith in Christ. These questions were posed with a sense of solemnity that encouraged us.

Just before leaving for a long summer trip to the USA, I had a pastoral visit with D\_\_\_ and C\_\_\_, which opened up issues in their lives that enabled me to help them in a way I could not from the pulpit. We had a wonderful discussion and I was able to counsel and exhort them both concerning their respective spiritual lives. D\_\_\_ wanted once again to speak about conversion. We did so and I left him the French translation of Spurgeon's "All of Grace."

When I returned from the USA, I finished the series on the Five Points of Calvinism by preaching three sermons on Calvin's teaching on the Christian life. D\_\_\_ seemed to be gripped.

He immediately searched for whatever he could find of Calvin's works on the used book market and immediately bought several old volumes of Calvin's works in French and

began to devour them. By this time, and for the rest of autumn until today, the family no longer missed any Sunday services. We could count on them being there with eager hearts each week.

D\_\_\_ came to me after the Sunday service four weeks ago and asked to see me the next day and said that he would work at home instead of going to Geneva in order to be able to meet me at the church at the end of the afternoon. He was obviously moved and determined to see me right away.

The sermon that day had been on the free offer of the gospel from Acts 13: "By this Man is preaching unto you the forgiveness of sins..." It was the end of the series on the Five Points of Calvinism and Calvin. (During the last 20 years we have had three series on the "Five Points" and it has been our practice to end each series with a sermon on the free offer of the gospel.)

The next day, when I met with D\_\_\_, he fought the tears back the whole interview with me and confessed that he believed he had come to Christ and that he wanted to be baptized. The next Sunday after the service, I asked his wife how things were going.

She looked at me with a big smile and said, "Well, everything is our household has completely changed. D\_\_\_ is reading the Bible to the family every day and praying before every meal." (He had never done this before.)

She said that knowing that I was going to start a series on the book of Habakkuk, he had also read the book aloud to her during the

# RBMS missions around the world



The fall has been a time of both blessing and challenges.

First, as a family, we praise God for His providence, which enabled Hannah to start junior kindergarten at a small Christian school about 15 minutes away. We were concerned about finances, but after meeting with the school administrator, we worked out a deal in which we pay significantly less than regular tuition and we still get Hannah at home on our family day (Monday).

Despite some early misgivings about being away from home, Hannah has settled in nicely and is learning her letters and enjoying her new routine. All of this is an answer to prayer that as parents we have had for several years as we anticipated our return to Canada to minister. We are thankful for this answer to our prayers: "For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:5).

As a church, we held our annual Fall Family Camp up at Camp Shalom in Minden, Ontario. This year, through passages like Jeremiah 17, we were considering the topic of "How People Change" based on the book on gospel sanctification by Paul Tripp.

In the Lord's providence I came down with a serious flu on the way up to the camp. In His grace I was able to do all the sessions and preach on Sunday before succumbing to an unknown flu that then developed into pneumonia.

Val too caught the same bug and also was diagnosed with pneumonia, thankfully as I started to recover. The children then caught the flu as well. As a result, the end of

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## Canada



September and early October are rather hazy in our recollection. It would also appear that this is not to be our last bout as the family is once again sick as I write this.

Please pray that Val and I will be well enough to maintain our duties at home and in the Church.

On Oct. 31, as a church we celebrated the 492nd Reformation Day since 1517. Ron Santos, one of our members, wrote a brief play that depicted some of the major events of Martin Luther's life from his discovery of the Gospel to his famous "stand" for it at the Diet of Worms before the Emperor.

J.C. Ambrocio, one of our Covenant Youth Fellowship teenagers, portrayed Luther and did an excellent job memorizing and thoughtfully delivering his lines.

Following the play, the audience got into the act and we all had some fun playing a home-grown game called "Family Fellowship" (based on "Family Feud").

We divided participants into teams named after various Reformers. We then asked questions based on the life of Martin Luther. Afterwards we ended our celebra-

tions with a pot-providential supper fellowship.

Early in November we ended our first run of the Christianity Explored outreach Bible study in the book of Mark. The participants seemed to enjoy our study in the Scriptures and we are praying for some of the non-Christians who attended.

Two of the teens who participated have expressed interest in the Gospel and we look forward to following up with them soon.

In other outreach news, we are encouraged by the number of unbelievers that we anticipate coming to our annual Church Supper on Nov. 27, which will have happened before you read this. Please pray that the Lord will work through the Gospel message.

Finally, I have begun an informal discipleship program with several men in the church who have both time and the interest in learning more about the Gospel with a view of serving in the Church. We meet weekly before the prayer meeting on Wednesday. Please pray that the Lord will use this to better serve the needs of His church.

## Vaughns

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week.

Pascal, my fellow elder, and I met with him a few days later and heard his testimony together and joyfully received his candidacy for baptism. His wife, who was not a member of the church, then asked to meet us two weeks ago and asked to become a member. Two of their girls are also presently under

evident soul concern, one of whom is a 21-year-old university student who detested our church and our message when the parents first began to irregularly attend the church seven years ago.

Praise to God! How good He is to sinners and how sovereignly powerful!

Please pray for D\_\_\_, his wife and their children. Pray that God would mightily work to bring conversion in the lives of the children and that He would strengthen and ma-

ture D\_\_\_ in his faith. A man with a high position in a very competitive field like that of the computer chip market faces tremendous stresses and pressures to compromise his moral convictions. Pray that the Lord would give D\_\_\_ to be a man of God and to walk in integrity and Christian godliness.

Pray that his eyes would be increasingly opened to see and wonder at the saving love and grace of God and that Jesus Christ would be his heart's treasure.



# RBMS missions around the world

We give thanks to the Lord for the 13 who were baptized on the last Sunday of October – eight from the San José de Bavaria congregation, five from La Alborada. We continue to wait on the Lord for a pastor for La Alborada.

The school continues to request approval for plans for reconstruction. Some neighbors have sought to have this denied, and this is a matter for special prayer. This year's closing exercises are Dec. 5. We will need more teachers for the additional grade (tenth) for next year, beginning in February.

Bev and I visited in Curití and San Gil Nov. 6-9. There is very little growth to report, and this, plus a variety of difficulties or failures, tend to discourage. The annual meetings in Curití are scheduled for Jan. 4-7, with attendees and preachers also from Bogotá and Medellín. The emphasis will be on the family. Pastors Alirio Sierra, Roberto Rodríguez, and Agustín Ballesteros ask for your prayers.

On the Monday morning of our visit, pastors from three churches in Curití ac-

Some months have passed since we lost some of our congregation to a man who was in membership with us for seven years.

He, his wife and five children, along with his parents, two sisters and brother all left to start a new church in our small town. We are continuing to adjust to the new situation we are forced into.

My response to this division has been to step up the work of evangelism, advertising and youth work. I do not do this as a reaction to their being here but because I cannot think of anything better to be doing.

We have seen the numbers coming to our junior youth club increase and so far we have been able to maintain the work of the senior youth club. The desperate need for a visitation of the Holy Spirit is the need of the moment, not just with us but throughout the country.

Economically, Ireland, like many countries, is in a very serious state with 500,000

## The Lines

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## Colombia



cepted Alirio's invitation to meet with us for a time of discussion in areas of concern we have regarding the evangelical church in Colombia. We also left a selection of good literature with them, the same we distributed to 10 evangelical churches in San Gil.

Contacts like this with other evangelical pastors are a principal reason for the Library For Pastors in Bogotá. The meeting there for pastors Nov. 13, on the subject of "The Sovereignty of God and Human Responsibility," was our last meeting this year.

A new development at the Library is

the formal beginning of a bookstore, Librería Reformada Hebrón, administered by Rocío del Pilar Herrera. Rocío has needed some way to support herself and also some way of ministering the things of the Lord.

She's a CPA, and she has officially registered the bookstore with the district, so as to have everything legal and to be able to import books.

Other Reformed ministries continue to make a positive impact: Miami International Seminary; Reformed Baptist Seminary of Easley, S.C.; and Ligonier Ministries.

Some months have passed since we lost some of our congregation to a man who was in membership with us for seven years.

He, his wife and five children, along with his parents, two sisters and brother all left to start a new church in our small town. We are continuing to adjust to the new situation we are forced into.

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Economically, Ireland, like many countries, is in a very serious state with 500,000

## The Brennans

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Matthew, Barbara,

Simon and Timothy

## Ireland



unemployed and rising. The government is trying to rein in public spending with the European Central Bank looking down on them to see whether they have what it takes to bring public spending under control. This financial budgeting is in the teeth of the trade unions wanting the government to reduce spending over a longer time scale but that will bring further complications. We await the December budget!

The Roman Catholic Church will be

releasing the report of the Archdiocese of Dublin any day now and the Archbishop of Dublin has told the media to expect some shocking revelations. What this amounts to is a country in desperate need and the ultimate need of the country is the Gospel.

As a family we continue to be sustained by God's abundant grace. The boys are growing up fast and loving their rugby.

See **Brennans**, page 9

# RBMS missions around the world



We certainly make ours these words of the Psalmist: "All my fountains are in you." (Ps 87 :7). Indeed, in all of life's seasons, there is no other fountain to draw from except our faithful God.

We are so thankful to report that all the seven churches of our association are enjoying a season of peace and of some growth. I had the opportunity of visiting all of them during the last couple of months and it has been of a great encouragement to me to see the Lord's work in each one of them.

In August I attended a baptismal service in Lac Mégantic, followed by a meal, which was a wonderful occasion to fellowship with the people and to see their attachment to Christ and to His Church. August has also been the occasion of visiting Aylmer, where André Pinard, under the supervision of Daniel Durand and myself, is working to establish a church. We had our ministerial meeting. It was a wonderful time. And then I preached in our church in Montreal on the morrow.

September was also an eventful month, as I kept visiting our congregations. On Saturday, Sept. 12, I taught on prayer at a well-attended men's breakfast in our Acton Vale Church, where our dear brother pastor Georges Corriveau does a fantastic job. We do thank our God for spreading His rich blessing upon that congregation.

On Sept. 27 I preached in our St-Jérôme's Church in the morning service before preaching at a baptismal service in Montreal in the afternoon.

In October I spent a week-end with Pastor Jean Lépine and his wife Jasmine in Rouyn-Noranda. I preached three times in their church.

As I write this, I am looking forward to spending a weekend around the Word of God in St-Jérôme on Nov. 21-22 as we are going to have a ministerial meeting on Saturday and the ordination of one elder and three deacons on the Sunday. I am scheduled to preach on both occasions.

Our CERB (Centre d'études réformées baptistes) continues its activities. Last Sep-

## The Perrons

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Raymond and Diane

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tember we hosted Pastor Bob Selph, who provided us with a 35-hour course on pastoral theology.

It was a tremendous time of refreshment as well as a time of challenge as we were reminded of the unique call that God has sovereignly and graciously placed on each of His servants in the Word.

Now, an update concerning our radio station. As most of you know, we have presented a detailed request to the CRTC for obtaining another frequency. We have not received an answer yet, though it looks good. It goes without saying that we would appreciate your prayers in this regard.

We also ask your prayers as this change is going to cost us about \$30,000 in consultants, new equipment and labor. We are still receiving e-mails and phone calls as the number of our listeners is increasing. We keep having new people visiting our church because of our radio ministry.

We are grateful to our God, who has spared us during the financial crisis that hits at the present time. Our churches have not seen any decrease in their offering due to this crisis. Our church in Montreal has seen its revenue going down for other justifiable reasons.

We are very excited by the perspective of having Caroline Vaughn with us for three months in 2010. We are finalizing discussions with our beloved brother David Vaughn for setting the details for his daughter's visit. Caroline would help us with our young people, and with our radio station. As she is planning to study in communication, we know that she would be a great asset for our radio ministry during her time with us.

I don't want to close this letter without thanking our sister churches for their prayers, interest and support. ARBCA is such a wonderful family. Rest assured of our love and gratitude.

## Brennans

From page 8

Barbara does her best to have several sets of sports gear ready each week for the games they play.

Let me close with a few words from a hymn by J. Newton:

Chief Shepherd of thy chosen sheep,  
From death and sin set free;  
May every under shepherd keep  
His eye intent on thee.

With plenteous grace their hearts prepare

To execute thy will;  
Compassion, patience, love and care  
And faithfulness and skill.

Inflame their minds with holy zeal  
Their flocks to feed and teach;  
And let them live, and let them feel  
The sacred truths they preach.

Our thanks for your fellowship in the Gospel.



# RBMS missions around the world

My speech may be a bit slurred at this point but hopefully you won't detect my condition as I write this. The nine-mile hike I just walked with Marine recruits wasn't so bad – it's getting up at 1 o'clock in the morning that gets me more! This officially completes their recruit training and is culminated in a ceremony in which they receive the symbol of a Marine: the eagle, globe, and anchor.

I continue to have tremendous opportunities to share the gospel to numbers of young men who seem very eager and sober about their need for Christ. I have been greatly assisted by pamphlets provided by Grace Baptist in Hartsville, Tenn., and books provided by Solid Ground Publishers. We currently have about 1,400 recruits and 200 drill instructors in the battalion.

My preaching assignments are at the recruit chapel and the "permanent party" chapel. The recruit chapel typically brings in about 1,000 recruits for each of two services but the permanent party chapel is much smaller, with 50 to 75 people – mostly retired Marines and active-duty Marines and families who live on the base.

I am expecting to be assigned as the "pastor" of the permanent party chapel and would appreciate your prayers as I purpose by the grace of God to proclaim His Word to them and lead them into the Light.

We are enjoying our fellowship and association with Ephesus Church in Rincon, Ga. and are thankful for their spiritual care. The Joyner family is well. Our schooling is clipping along and we are thankful to our loving and tender Father in heaven for His grace and sanctification.

Two of our children, William and Jordan, a Marine Captain (James Sumler), and myself competed in the recent "USMC Mud Run" event to benefit families of wounded and killed Marines and won second place in the military division.

We had a great time; the whole family competed and got very, very muddy...but it was good, clean mud!

## The Joyners

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Patrick, Rhonda, William, Audrey,

Jordan, Maggie, Noah,

Laurel Anna, Mary M'Cheyne

†Chaplain, 2nd Recruit

Training Battalion, USMC



*At left, members of the Joyner family compete in a 4.5-mile "Mud Run" to benefit families of wounded and killed Marines. Patrick, his oldest son William (in front) and daughter Jordan, and Marine Capt. James Sumler (in rear) competed in the event and won second place in the military division. Above, Patrick teaches Marine recruits.*

# RBMS missions around the world



*For the word of the LORD is right, and all His works are done in truth.*

(Psalm 33:4)

It is good to look behind us to see the loyalty of God.

On Oct. 23 and 24 we celebrated in Montreal with many conferences observing John Calvin's 500th birthday. Among the speakers were André Pinard, leader of the Aylmer's church plant and president of the organizing committee for the conferences.

We want to give thanks to the Lord for the efforts which André and Carole expend in the establishment of this church and for the contacts which the Lord gives them.

During the last report, I mentioned that our son Georges-Émile was going to begin courses in theology. At the time of writing these lines, he is at the middle-session. Georges-Émile is very happy with what he is learning, he succeeds very well, and especially, he wishes to be of usefulness to the church. May the Lord provide him and his wife all their needs during these years of studies.

On Sept. 27, we celebrated the baptism of a brother with a unitarian and apostolic background who came to convictions on the Trinity and on the central character of God's Word. His wife, having already been baptized

I have just preached three times at Neuchâtel on the doctrine of adoption and the 14 blessings mentioned in article 12 of the 1689 Confession. I cannot help being overwhelmed by the riches of the new status that children of God are given purely by grace through the merits of our beloved Saviour.

What a privilege to enter into such an intimacy with the sovereign God after having been pardoned by Him and reconciled with Him in Christ. What a powerful motivation for the ministry to know that we are members of the family of God for eternity!

These truths have greatly renewed me in my ministry and they have spiritually refreshed several brothers and sisters from the church at Neuchatel. Praise God.

## The Durands

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## Canada



in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is going to become member soon after I write this in November. God's Word continues to make God's work in 2009.

Approximately three months ago, a colleague of my daughter lived the drama of losing her father who committed suicide. We proposed to her a Bible study and she agreed to begin in January. In the meantime, she asked for some Christian literature. We give thanks to the Lord for these opportunities which He gives us to share the Good New of Jesus Christ.

Some weeks ago, I learnt that Eddy, a brother from another church, was dying. I contacted his wife to ask to visit them. I was able to discuss with their 33-year-old son, who is not a Christian, a proposal to study

the Bible. He accepted, and since the beginning of October we have been meeting every week.

Eddy asked me to officiate his burial, and on Oct. 17 it was the opportunity for me to preach the Gospel to unbelievers. I had the privilege of being with this brother and his family while he was dying. I was able to see how the Christian's hope brings peace in these particular moments – that the Lord can console the family during such a trial and give them hope in Jesus Christ.

We want to praise our God, the Builder of His Church, for the ministry which He entrusts us, for his Word which strengthens us, corrects us, consoles us, exhorts us, steer us, for the unity which the Spirit gives us to live, for the various contacts towards which the Lord leads us.

## The Favres

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Olivier, Denise, Loic, Sylvain and Joel

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## Switzerland



A big thank you to all of you who prayed about the teaching that I gave at the retreat for the beginning of term of the Free Faculty of Reformed Theology at Aix-en-Provence (France) (cf. Mission Prayer Focus of October). Many people were touched by the sermons where the particular unc-

tion of the Spirit was felt especially on the Sunday morning. Praise the Lord.

**At Payerne**

A larger building is still our most pressing need. We now have three families with

See **Favres** page 12



# RBMS missions around the world

## National Issues

The economic downturn is weighing heavily on us here on the island. As in other parts of the world, people have lost their jobs. Crime has escalated and so many of our citizens have died. This crisis, I believe, should drive mankind to their knees but no, it is bringing out the worst in many.

Even in this dilemma God has been good to us, for we have been spared the ravages of this hurricane season. We give thanks to God for His mercies.

## National Pastors

Many of our pastors have been fasting and praying regularly for our nation's crime wave. Some have invited prominent international pastors to the island to show them the way forward. Others have all-night prayer meetings, seeking God's help in our everyday troubles.

## Grace Reformed

Some of our members have come together in prayer and fasting, not only for

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## Jamaica



our nation but for our own spiritual growth and edification. We see the need to evangelize our area and so Oneil, one of our young men, has been distributing tracts on a regular basis.

The Executive Committee of the church has been meeting once weekly in prayer for the church's wellbeing.

Our Wednesday night Bible study has taken on a new format. We are studying the person of Christ and almost all have been actively participating in the discussion. This is saying that they are understanding and where they need further explanation

they are not afraid to bring it forward. We are seeing the effect of the preached Word from the Lord's Day messages.

## Faith Missionary Baptist

At Faith the community folk are still supporting the work by their presence even though the students from the hostel do not come on a regular basis. The problem we have is that outsiders are unwilling to come and worship in that area. We have to put on hold all night activities because of the violence there. We know that the Lord is on our side; therefore, we will not be overcome with fear.

## Favres

From page 11

babies. When they start crying the mothers have no other solution than to go out onto the street in order to not disturb the service too much. We have visited a building that is for sale and it seems to meet our needs. There is a large hall, as well as two apartments. We are currently looking at how the hall could be transformed, as well as at our financial budget. Pray that the Lord would guide us in these important decisions.

Following the teaching of Gordon Taylor on "pastoral visits" during his latest visit among us, the elders are setting up regular visits to members and friends of the church. Please pray that God would bless these times and they would result in individual spiritual growth. Pray that He would give discernment and courage to the elders to approach problems in depth with indi-

viduals.

Pray for G\_\_\_ and M\_\_\_, who followed the last Discovering Christianity course. Olivier continues to have Bible studies with them and it seems that the Spirit is really working in their lives. We are pleading with God to save them.

At the beginning of November we are going to distribute leaflets again advertising a daily Bible verse calendar. Last year we saw a decrease in the number of orders. Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of people to His word.

## At Neuchâtel

As indicated in the last Update, we have begun a Discovering Christianity course. There were three non-Christians present and we are expecting others to be their next time. Pray in particular for a young hairdresser, who met a lady from the church, and has promised to come next month. She wants to study the Bible but has difficulty doing it on her own.

Pray for the B\_\_\_ family that the Lord would help them in the education and support of the five children that they have adopted. It's a big task and they need spiritual wisdom and strength to carry it out well. Pray especially for their second daughter who is going through a difficult time.

We realize that it is really difficult to give the time and energy needed for this church when we live 50 kilometers (a little over 30 miles) away and where the majority of members are widely dispersed. It's a real challenge. That is why we would ask you to continue to pray that God would raise up pastors in these French-speaking regions because there is such great need.

What encourages us over recent months in this church is the renewed spirit of prayer by which we are able to bear one another's burdens. We are waiting upon the Lord to take care of this church and send us

See **Favres** page 13

## Revival

From page 5

position through faith and repentance, you will agree that in the Western world today the balance of power between the Church and the World is such that we must have an extraordinary outpouring of the Spirit if the Kingdom of God is to go forward with triumph once again.

It would be hard to find a biblical passage more urgently relevant to our own spiritual situation than the seventh chapter of Micah. In it God shows us a time when God's people found themselves weakened, defeated and chastised by God for their sin. But in this chapter we also find surprising news about God's way with His people in such a circumstance. And we learn unexpected lessons about how God's people are to look at themselves, at God, and at their future prospects in such sad times.

Four verses of Micah 7 are especially full of light for us in these needy days. They are verses 7-10. They speak of the Church's response under spiritual decline and God's chastening hand. We will eventually come to them and dwell on them and their uplifting truth from God. But first let us carefully notice the situation of God's people at that time and God's promise in the midst of all its sad decline and chastisement.

### The Picture of a Backslidden and Chastened Church in Need of Revival – Is this Picture Our Own?

In Micah 7:1-6 God gives us the picture of a Church in desperate need of both restoration and revival. The picture is given to alert us, to instruct us, to give us discernment about our own times. (1 Cor.10:11)

God tells us in this passage that there are times when the enemies of God prevail against

the Church. God's people are not triumphant at every stage of the battle in this world. At such times though some local churches may have different spiritual situations, the Church at large falls, finds herself in darkness and in a weakened state in which her enemy triumphs over her.

In verse 1 we notice, through the image of fruitless grape vines and fig trees, that in such times of spiritual decline the number of godly dwelling in a land dwindle:

*“Woe is me for I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned, there is no cluster to eat, no first ripe fig that my soul desires, the godly has perished from the earth and there is no one upright among mankind.”*

This almost perfectly describes Europe today. The United States corresponds more and more to this picture as well.

Secondly, the Lord tells us that when a land is in need of revival common grace itself becomes hard to detect in the lives of unbelievers. The most morally upright of non Christians are increasingly immoral and ungodly:

*“Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand.”* (Mic 7:3-4)

**‘Where is the Lord your God?’ has become the open and unashamed sentiment of many, many non-Christian people in the West, whereas a couple of generations ago people would have been ashamed to speak in this way.**

Don't we see this very reality in Western society more and more? Common grace is at an alarmingly low ebb.

God's word goes on to inform us that during times like this the polarization between believers and unbelievers becomes much more pronounced so that even unconverted neighbours and family members begin to manifest a much more

open hostility towards the true faith.

*“Put no trust in a neighbor; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms; for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.”* (Micah 7:5-6)

Finally, God's picture of a land in need of revival is completed by a detail reported in verse 10. It is the fact that during such sad times the enemies of believers become confident in their claims that there's no good reason to think our God exists.

*“Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, ‘Where is the LORD your God?’”* (Micah 7:10)

We have seen many in recent years emboldened as never before to write and speak against Christianity, and against all belief in God. Richard Dawkins and many others have no shame and no hesitation in challenging Christians and their faith in the most public and demeaning manner. “Where is the Lord your God?” has become the open

See **Revival** page 14

## Favres

From page 12

people prepared by his Spirit.

The market stand remains a real struggle, especially as the cold weather returns. Continue to pray for Emil that the Lord would give him good opportunities to clearly share the gospel, because often

people jeer and don't want to listen.

### Adopt a Pastor

Another batch of books should have been sent out by the time you read this. This package includes the following: A.W. Pink's “The Sovereignty of God,” and John MacArthur's “Reckless Faith, When the Church Loses Its Will to Discern.”

Pray that these books would be wel-

comed, read and would produce a renewed vision for God and for the ministry of these pastors who receive them.

Thank you once again to those of you who support this important project. We have received several encouragements from pastors who appreciate the books we have sent them and that they encourage them to be read in their churches. Persevere with us in this long-term project!

# Church Planting: Meet the RBC of Kansas City

By Brad Swigard

The Church Planting Committee of ARBCA has decided to use our article space to help others become acquainted with pastors and planters involved with church planting.

This article about Martin Nish, pastor of the Reformed Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kan., is the first of such articles. We hope that this will help everyone be more informed and encouraged.

Martin and his wife Anita came to their first General Assembly in 2008 at East Moline. I met them there and was encouraged that there were groups in the Midwest interested in becoming part of ARBCA. He told me that that trip was a surprise gift from his congregation for their encouragement. They were to get to know people because the church was looking for “association and a covering of accountability.” After that Gordon Taylor visited their church. Martin says that this was a good visit and it was “very instrumental in their move towards ARBCA.”

RBCKC began as a group that came together Sept. 7, 2007 after their previous church dissolved that August. The group asked Martin and Mike Chandler to be their elders. The group “went public” on Jan. 20, 2008. It was at that time the church became constituted.

The following spring, Jim Gutsch became a deacon in the church. When Martin and Anita came to the GA, they were already a constituted church past the planting stage. Since Bartlesville is only about three hours away, our church sponsored them and they became members of ARBCA at the General Assembly in 2009.

Although not technically a plant of ARBCA, much like a plant, RBCKC is a small church seeking to grow and become a Reformed witness in the Kansas City area.

According to Pastor Martin, the greatest blessing so far for him was the church’s first baptism, his 15-year-old daughter Hannah. Martin and Anita have four other children: John, 13; Daniel, 8; and Karis, 8. Martin’s family and the others make up a congregation of about 20.

He says that another great blessing is being part of the ARBCA family and having travelling “pilgrims” come through and rest with them as they travel across the country.

He encourages anyone to come through and visit and worship with them. It is a real blessing to them to have other like-minded Christians worship with them. I know this first-hand as we took a group up from Bartlesville to worship together on a Lord’s Day evening. We had a meal together and were greatly blessed with the fellowship.

Pastor Martin says that they have recently begun to have visitors at the church. Some travel a good distance, even coming from the Missouri side of the area. The church meets in a Seventh Day Adventist building on the west side of the Metro area.

Like all of us with small churches, people unfortunately come in with agendas. Martin says that he has made a decision to clearly and lovingly say, “This is who we are.” He wants people to feel loved and know they are welcome, but they need to know where the church stands and what will be taught.

The most common issue is New Covenant Theology.

“We want to be clear about doctrine and who we are,” Martin said concerning his perspective on ministry. But he wants to “establish and maintain relationships” with believers who differ. “We are hoping people will see the love of Christ in us.”

Regarding the church and its ministry, Pastor Nish says that they “purposefully and proactively want to promote a loving

fellowship.” Right now he is preaching through Philemon and says he is amazed at how Paul expected the body of Christ to act and express love.

“People should be seeing the love of Christ exemplified by the body of Christ,” he says.

According to Pastor Nish, his church and other churches need to “love Christ and one another and preach the gospel to ourselves and unbelievers.”

As I have become acquainted with Pastor Martin I have come to know him as a humble man who loves the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a tentmaker, working with computers. He has no expectations that he will be the fully supported pastor of his church, often telling me that he is sure there are far better men out there who could do a better job. But he also understands that his Lord has called him to this task and will faithfully carry out his call as long as the Lord is willing to have him.

Please join us in praying for Pastor Martin and his family and Reformed Baptist Church of Kansas City that people will see the love of Christ in them and be drawn to the Savior. Pray that God would be pleased to strengthen and establish them so they can be a strong light for the gospel in the Kansas City area.

*Brad Swigard pastors Grace Baptist Church in Bartlesville, Okla.*

## Revival

From page 13

and unashamed sentiment of many, many non-Christian people in the West, whereas a couple of generations ago people would have been ashamed to speak in this way.

David Wells has recently said of America today, “It is one of the defining marks of our time that God is now weightless; I do not mean by this that He is ethereal but rather that he has become unimportant. He rests upon the world so inconsequently as not to be noticeable.” And so this sentiment about the Christian Church has become increasingly common in our land: “Where is your God?”

Has God’s Word not spoken in this passage of our day, as well as of Micah’s? Such were the signs of the times in Micah’s day, but we are seeing those very signs again in our land and our day.

As we will see in the rest of the chapter, God tells us that the solution called for in Micah’s day was a divinely powerful and extraordinary work of restoration and revival. It cannot be otherwise for us in this day in the West. It is to that hope that we will address our attention next time as we continue to reflect on Micah 7.

*David Vaughn is an RBMS missionary to France. This is the first of a two-part series on Revival. The second will appear, Lord willing, in the Winter issue of the Update.*

## Zambia

From page 14

ismatic movement. They listened and seemed to accept the teaching on the Holy Spirit, even the part where cessationism was argued.

I believe that, with this kind of men serving the Lord, that the future of the Reformed Baptist movement looks bright in Zambia. The Reformed Baptist movement in Zambia has been richly blessed over the years and now there are about twenty Reformed Baptist Churches in Zambia.

J R Williamson from the Reformed Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. has helped to set up the curriculum and recruit Reformed Baptist pastors to teach the courses. Not only do American RB pastors teach at the college, but also RB pastors from Zambia and England. The college is set up specifically to train men either in the gospel ministry or men who are training for the gospel ministry. Below is what is found in the prospectus of the College.

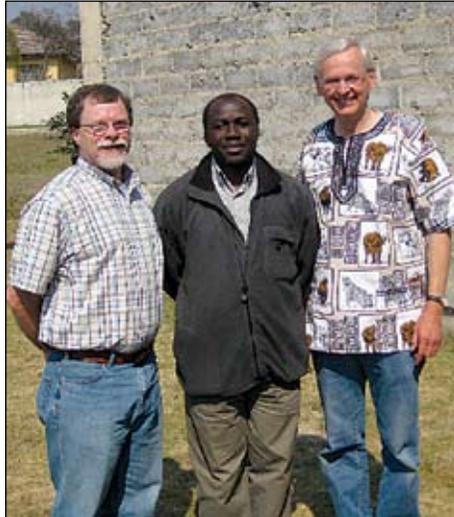
“The Reformed Baptist churches of the Copperbelt, in conjunction with their brethren from churches of like mind in the U.S., have committed themselves to the systematic training of men for the ministry via the establishment of the Reformed Baptist Pastor’s College of the Copperbelt.

“This college shall exist for the specific purpose of helping to equip men for the pastoral ministry. The courses shall be taught by Reformed Baptist pastors from abroad and from within Zambia, and will follow the format of one week modules in which two courses shall be taught consisting of 12-15 lectures each.

“These modules will be conducted each quarter over the course of the year, thereby totaling eight courses per year. Zambian pastors will teach at least two of these eight courses per year.

“The subjects covered are intended to expose the student to the essential teachings of the Scripture in each discipline of theological study.

“Together with the mentoring of the student’s pastor, these courses are intended to sufficiently equip the student for the



*Pastor Ron Baines, left, and ARBCA Coordinator Gordon Taylor are shown here with Kabwe Kabwe of Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Ndola and co-administrator of the college.*

work of the pastoral ministry.

“It is our earnest prayer that God may use this college to prepare laborers in the gospel who will make disciples and plant local churches both here in Zambia and throughout other parts of the continent.”

The co-administrators of the college, Kabwe Kabwe and Choolwe Mweetwa, are both pastors in Zambia and both teach courses in the college. Kabwe pastors the Grace Reformed Church in Ndola, where the college meets, and Choolwe pastors Central Baptist Church in Chingola, which is located about two hours northwest of Ndola. The men who attend the college are expected to attend the lectures and to take tests and/or write papers.

Another very encouraging development is the interest among some of the pastors to organize into a more formal association.

In prior visits then-coordinators David Straub of RBMS and Bob Selph of ARBCA both encouraged the churches to enter into such an association and some steps have been taken in that direction, but some see the need for a more formal association.

I had four different pastors quiz me about ARBCA, as to how we cooperate in home and foreign missions. It was during these conversations that I learned of the burden these men have to reach Zambia and the rest of Africa.

They long to be able to, in a united way,

support men to plant new churches and then also to reach across the borders of the eight African nations that surround them. These men have a vision, not only for their own local church, but also for the entire continent of Africa.

### Grace Reformed Baptist Church

The Grace Reformed Baptist in Ndola is an example of the outreach and vision that is present in the churches of Zambia. This church not only hosts the Copperbelt Bible College, but is also reaching out to the poor and needy in the shantytown on the edge of their city.

The church in Ndola conducts a Sunday school in this very poor area, where they teach the gospel and give bread and an energy drink to the children who attend. About 130 children attended on the Sunday we were there. It was emotionally moving to see these children, who have such great physical needs, sing the songs of Zion, listen to the Word taught and crowd around seeking to get acquainted with an American.

One young boy of 14, Daniel, asked me if I would not take him with me to the States. Of course, I had to say no. Then he asked me if we would ever see each other again. I said that I did not know but that if he would believe on the Lord Jesus we would see each other in heaven. He then proceeded to say, “I believe that Jesus shed His blood for our sins and by faith we are forgiven of our sins and that we are clothed with His righteousness.”

This young man is one who is able to attend the Sunday service and has come to believe on our Savior. So fruit has come from this ministry to the poor. The church in Ndola is also very hospitable. We ate in four different homes and the ladies feed and house all the men at the college during the week. In addition they have an active ladies group. My wife, Rayna, had the privilege of speaking to them.

### Trinity Baptist Church

The other church I wish to mention is Trinity Baptist Church in Livingstone. We had the privilege of worshipping with them on Thursday night before we began the lectures at the college and then Ron Baines preached to them on the Lord’s Day. Here

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## Zambia

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is a vibrant congregation that too is reaching their city with the gospel.

The pastor, Michael Bwembya, wanted me to thank the churches of RBMS that funded a revolving loan fund to complete church buildings in Zambia. The Trinity Baptist Church used that money to put on a steel roof, paid the money back and then another church was able to use the money to, in turn, put on a roof.

On the Thursday night we were at this church Ron Baines was told that at 6:30 p.m. the lights would go out while he was preaching and indeed they did, at about 6:25. Zambia sells electricity to Zimbabwe so on a rotating basis the electricity is turned off in sections of the city to allow more to be sold. But they were well prepared and immediately put in place battery-operated lights for the preacher so the service finished without interruption.

There are other examples of fine churches in Zambia. A church in Lusaka is helping to support a brother so a church can be planted in the eastern province. And the brothers in Zambia want to be able to send men across the borders of the eight nations around them to plant churches.

Zambia is strategically located because its borders Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and the Congo.

Kabwe Kabwe, the pastor of the Ndola church, explained the beginning of this mod-



*Ron Baines teaches during a class session at the Copperbelt Bible College last July.*

ern interest in the gospel. He said that the Lord brought many Zambians to faith in the early 1980s and on into the 90s. After this, Reformed literature began to be available to this English-speaking country. Some men read this and the Reformed Baptist movement began.

Now there is more progress as the pastors of Zambia are theologically trained. We need to pray that these men will keep their hearts aflame with a zeal for evangelism and

church planting as they continue to receive training for the gospel ministry.

A good work is being done in Zambia. Now that there are about 20 Reformed Baptist churches in this country, it appears they are in a good position to have a significant impact in spreading the gospel to the rest of Africa. I encourage everyone to pray that the kingdom vision of these pastors and churches will come to full fruition.