



Summer 2010

# God's work carried out in Colombia

By Gordon Taylor

On my second Lord's Day in Colombia, I had a brother come up to me and say, "I want to tell you the story of Stan Line." He spoke good English but he wanted his daughter to interpret so the story could be told more fluently (his daughter attends an English-speaking school).

Sergio Moreno proceeded to tell me how, at 7 years of age, he had met Stan Line up north in Pamplono. Stan had rented a place to live from Sergio's family and through the witness of Stan he and his mother had come to Christ. Also, he said that through the ministry of Stan his entire family had heard the gospel and now his children are being taught the Word of God.

He wanted me to know that everything we saw here could be traced back to missionary Stan Line. He explicitly wanted me to thank the ones who sent and supported Stan Line over the last 47 years. Sergio is now a deacon in the church in La Alborada.

Now I know that Stan would not want to take credit for all of this. I heard from his lips more of the difficulties and failures and hardly anything of the success of his labors. Truly the progress of the gospel is because God has given the increase. And it is equally true that God has used missionary Stan Line along with his wife Bev to



*Stan Line, in rear, conducts a pastors training meeting in Curiti, Colombia.*

establish a foothold for the gospel of sovereign grace in Colombia.

The good news in Colombia is that a Reformed Baptist witness continues to make progress in that needy land. There are thriving Reformed Baptist churches in Bogota, church plants being attempted from these churches, and also Reformed

Baptist works some seven hours north of the city.

I had the privilege of attending the Men's Retreat while in Colombia. Every few years the Grace and Love Churches in Bogota host this event. About 30 to 40

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# ARBCA Update

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The Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America is a nonprofit organization registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The purpose of this association is to advance Christ's kingdom by providing a fellowship in which churches of common confession may find mutual encouragement, assistance, edification, and counsel, and may participate in cooperative efforts such as home missions, foreign missions, ministerial training and publications — all of which are often beyond the scope of one local church.

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Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Jackson, GA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, CA

Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Mercer Island, WA

# Commentary: Seeking revival in times of decline

By David Vaughn

In our first article, published in the Fall 2009 Update, we saw how the teaching of Micah 7 makes it clear that the Christian Church in Europe and America needs God's hand in reviving and restoring grace.

The first part of Micah 7 pictures our own contemporary situation too well for us not to see ourselves and our need mirrored there. But on what basis could we hope to see such a revival?

In the second article, published in the Winter 2010 Update, we discovered God's answer to that question through his prophet. All spiritual restoration and revival has its source in the merciful heart of our God who "does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread His people's iniquities underfoot." We also learned of the remarkable character of heaven-sent revival. We would have never imagined on our own that God could and does do the sorts of things described in Micah 7:11-17.

In the most recent article, published in the Spring 2010 Update, we looked at the burning practical question for us now is how to seek such revival, especially in times of spiritual decline such as our present situation in which our own guilt and responsibility are great. God gives prophet Micah instruction for just such a situation. He is given a vision of Zion's attitude and response as the Lord moves her from chastisement and spiritual decline to revival. We saw that God is our only help in spiritual decline and that we must respond in faith to such decline. Next we look at how Micah tells us to respond to God's chastisements.

## Bearing God's Chastisements with Meekness and Patience

True faith in God's forgiving and reviving grace is always accompanied by sincere sorrow over our sin and meek acceptance of God's chastisements. The third aspect of our seeking revival is found in verse 9:

*"I will bear the indignation of the*

*Lord because I have sinned against him,*

*Until He pleads my cause and executes judgment for me,*

*He will bring me out to the light and I shall look upon his vindication (literally: righteousness)."*

A spiritually weak and declining Church must learn to respond rightly to God's chastisement, which has given it over to such defeat and darkness as described in Zion's experience in Micah 7. What does it mean to respond rightly? Zion shows us the way.

Firstly, Zion's frank admission of sin and guilt must be ours as well: "I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him." In Micah's time and today, responding rightly to chastisement means that we recognize and confess our sins with an attitude that justifies God and condemns ourselves. We have not come far enough until we say to God "You are righteous in dealing with the Church in this way." Is this not the very spirit of Zion's wonderful response in the midst of her darkness and defeat: "I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him?"

In this verse our Lord implies, of course, that in Zion there is a real dealing with sin. We search our sins out. We repent from the ways in which we have been unfaithful to God. What are these sins in the Church in the Western world? What are our particular sins?

As one living in Europe for the last 20 years, my observations to my American readers are probably of limited value. But it would be of little or no help for me to write here of the plaguing sins of us Christians in France. And perhaps an "outsider" to the American scene may at times see some things easier than those living in it. So I will mention one example.

Not all those reading this article will be concerned by it and even those who feel concerned may judge that graver sins than this one should press upon the conscience of the American Church. So my example can be only that: just an example. Some months ago a young man I

know returned to his residence in France after a month's visit in his native country of the U.S.A. This young man is from a wonderful and godly American Christian family. He loves his country and sees the many ways in which she has been blessed. He has been living in France for some years now.

When he recently came back to France after his month in the U.S.A. he said to me with some degree of sadness: "America is the only country in the world where life revolves around shopping, entertainment and eating." After reflection I thought of a couple of other places that might fit that description, but there was enough truth in his statement to cause me to share his sobering sadness for my people.

Worldliness! How many its forms! How evil its character! And how greatly it grieves the Spirit of Christ who lives within us! Whether worldliness comes up on yours conscience's list or whether it be other sins, our God teaches us through Micah that we need to come to the place where we say concerning these specific things: "*I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him.*"

Secondly, through Zion's voice our Lord teaches us that we must also understand and meekly accept that our correction and discipline by God may take some time: "*I will bear the indignation of the Lord UNTIL ...*"

Part of the problem of American Christianity (and to a lesser extent in other places in the West) is that in our superficiality and selfishness we demand instant solutions to grave offenses against God and profound spiritual problems. We would like a 30-day solution to the Church's serious and prolonged backsliding. When we find that it takes much longer that this we may feel that the ways of God with us are incomprehensible and frustrating. Sinful attitudes may subtly rise in our hearts as we ask "Why has God given our culture over to such sin? Why,

See **Revival**, page 13

## Institute for Reformed Baptist Studies

# The benefits of having a church intern

By Dave Johnston

We tried to come up with all the downsides to using a pastoral intern fresh out of seminary.

Our elders sat with our deacons to pool our collective pessimism. “He’ll make mistakes.” “He’ll say the wrong things.” “He’ll cost us time and money.” “Nobody will listen to him.”

So far, we came up with all the reasons not to have *me* as pastor. We finally decided to call one of our sister churches that had a long experience in the ministry of interns. The summary quote from that pastor was, “There is no downside.”

We decided to seek out a young man to serve a prolonged internship as a pastoral assistant. It was one of the best gifts the Lord ever gave to this local church. If some of the benefits we have received could convince other churches to invest in one of these young men, it would add to our sense of blessing. To paraphrase Proverbs, “Who finds an intern finds a good thing.”

We are a congregation of some 60 members. We are located in northeast Pennsylvania in an area that is more rural than urban. We want to make a contribution to the broader Body of Christ. We have not been able to provide a gifted man for the ministry. Nor could we provide adequate training for a young pastor. All we could offer is a field of service. Experience in a protected context seemed like our division of labor.

We contacted Dr. Renihan. He put us in touch with IRBS graduate Jeremy Mendenhall. He has been with us since last fall. The benefits to our congregation have been significant.

An intern benefits a church by becoming a community project. His nurture, growth, and development are not the sole responsibility of the elders. The whole Body undertakes this stewardship. The church helps self-consciously to foster a positive environment for ministry. What was especially encouraging to us was the way most people took to this almost by reflex.



*Jeremy Mendenhall, here with his wife Laura, is interning at Bible Fellowship Church.*

We did remind them at the outset that their relationship to our brother could have long-term consequences. They could either alleviate his fears and deepen his joy in ministry or dampen his zeal. It has happened before that a church has left such a bad taste in the mouth of a young man as to totally discourage him.

Interns seem to bring out the exact opposite. Something of a parental instinct seemed to surface in many of our people. They wanted to encourage him. His success became their success. We were able to watch them play their role in the work of the Lord of the harvest sending out this laborer into His harvest.

“Labor” is the operative word when it comes to the benefit our congregation has received.

Interns are not mannequins to be dressed up for show. From their perspective, they are anxious to see whether the Lord’s blessing will attend their work. From our perspective, we are anxious to see the church edified

and the ministry expanded.

Our intern shares actively in the labor. He preaches often, here and in other churches. He has taught our adult and high school Sunday school classes. He has developed an outreach to the local public school. He leads one of our small group prayer meetings. He has started a college age Bible study. He is assisting in our Vacation Bible School. He schedules and attends most of our pastoral visitations. He planned and organized a week of classes on our confession, taught by Dr. Renihan.

Perhaps the most important contribution is the direct personal input he has brought to the spiritual life of individuals. No matter how approachable we pastors think we are, some individuals will always relate better to somebody else. His age, past experience, freshness of expression and difference of personality opens doors for an intern that are half closed to a pastor. He learns by doing.

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# RBMS missions around the world

Recent months have brought many changes to our country and church. First, in the earthquake that hit our country, although it left behind death and destruction, we see that God has sovereignly overcome its devastation. He has used the efforts of many of His people here to rebuild houses and church buildings, and with those missions of mercy opened many opportunities to preach the gospel to those who might not otherwise have listened. We want to thank all who gave, thereby enabling us to help with food and in the rebuilding of a gymnasium for a school in the community of Iloca.

As a local body of believers we have sorrowed over the tragic death of the wife

As I am currently preaching through Ephesians in our evening series, I am often struck by how many times Paul prays for the church and also requests prayer.

He takes his own teaching that he gave to the Thessalonians to heart and never ceases to give thanks for the Ephesians in prayer to the Lord (Eph. 1:16). Prayer is the lifeblood of our relationship with Christ, and I am convinced like Paul that it is one of the greatest gifts that fellow Christians can bestow on each other.

Please be assured of our prayers for your churches and RBMS mission works, which we offer regularly with thankfulness to our God. We praise Him for His wisdom and His gracious condescension to answer our prayers. To that end, I want to encourage all of you that are praying for us that God is hearing and answering prayer and growing our church both numerically and spiritually.

We have had our own little stream of new visitors to refresh and encourage our body over the past number of months. We have had to start our first-ever Covenant Baptist Church membership class, as, for the first time, we have more than 10 people who are all at various stages of applying for membership in the church. We started

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### Chile



of a brother in the church, leaving behind husband Freddy and two small daughters. In all of this we can say that God has helped us to comfort and to preach the gospel to family members and friends. We trust that all of this will give fruit to God's glory. In

other areas the church is moving forward. We have begun mid-week doctrine classes twice a week with differing groups of brothers and sisters.

Thanks for your prayers and constant support.

## The Powells

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### Canada



the course last week dealing with "What is a true Christian?" and we will continue throughout the summer looking at the various distinctives, privileges and responsibilities of being a member in a confessional Reformed Baptist Church.

We desire that this process will also encourage others to seek Christ while he may be found, particularly with our young people. Not all those who attend the class will necessarily become members, but, we are greatly encouraged to see an increased attendance at our services over the past six months and an increased desire to be formally integrated into the local church.

Please continue to pray that God will continue to increase our number and our joy by conversions and that he will use the instruction of this class to establish a strong

and committed membership to Christ in the Church.

We are also excited to report that on May 29 we held our first "Titus 2" ladies discipleship breakfast provided by our men's discipleship group who also provided childcare for the event. I spoke on the role of women's discipleship as defined in Titus 2:3-5 and we had 14 ladies of ages ranging from teens to senior citizens who attended. Several ladies invited friends.

In future months my wife, Valerie, will be leading the women in continuing studies based on the principles of Titus 2. If you are interested, you can follow their activities on-line at "Titus 2 for Life" [www.titus-24life.wordpress.com](http://www.titus-24life.wordpress.com)

See **Powells**, page 6



# RBMS missions around the world

Our hearts – mine and my wife Bilma’s – are full of joy and gratitude, first of all to our Lord God who gave us the blessing of visiting the beautiful United States and being a part of that special gathering of saints at the General Assembly and in the churches, all for His glory.

We also thank the brothers and sisters who helped to make it all possible, especially Grace Baptist Church Taylors, Crosspoint Church in Asheville, N.C., and Cornerstone Church in Mesa, Ariz.

God placed us in a part of His delightful garden where each of His redeemed is a lovely flower. He causes us to rejoice in His presence and His giving of Himself to us. We remember each of your faces, although not all your names! (Those are harder because of the language difference.) We hold in our hearts the warmth of the love that you lavished on us, your voices, smiles—the whole of those moments we lived. We want to express our gratitude to all of you who showered us with your love. Thanks, thanks to all of you dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Since our return, the Lord is blessing His work in Carlos Paz, our service to Him is receiving His blessing, and every day He is bringing to His church those who are saved.

The number of members of this local congregation, Monte de Luz, is increasing our joy and causes us to lift to God our gratefulness as we plead for His guidance and counsel to instruct and capacitate us to serve Him in complete surrender. To that end we also fear Him and seek His refuge to do His will alone.

The Doctrines of Grace are sweeping away prejudices and errors here.

## The Molinas

Jorge and Bilma  
Monte de Luz Iglesia de la Gracia  
Rio Carcarana 551  
Carlos Paz, Cordoba

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*The congregation in Carlos Paz on a recent Lord's Day.*

My plea is: “Holy God, glorify Yourself, open blind eyes and deaf ears

so that they may see and hear of Your power and Your sovereignty.”

## Powells

From page 5

Please continue to pray for our men’s discipleship group that God would use it to raise up the leaders needed to build His church. We have been encouraged to see men grow together in their knowledge and practical understanding of the Word as we are steadily working our way through the Old Testament. May God use us all men

and women and children in His service.

We continue to covet your prayers over our meeting place. We have an upcoming meeting with our landlord about the redevelopment of the property and the timeline of when we will have to move. Please pray that the Lord will direct us to a suitable temporary or permanent location that is within easy reach of all our members and that will best aid us in fulfilling our Great Commission responsibilities so that

we can continue to glorify God in the city of Toronto. Pray also for an outreach on the campus of the University of Toronto that we plan to launch in the fall semester. Please pray that we will be able to gain access to the campus and have a place to hold an evangelistic Bible study.

Thank you all so much for your partnership in the Gospel and in prayer – it is a true joy to be in fellowship with you all.

# RBMS missions around the world



It was 11 o'clock in the morning June 6, the sun shone with full radiance, sending great heat waves on the ground of the Norman Manley International Airport. Under such a condition, Orville and I stood in the corridors of the airport awaiting the arrival of our coordinator Pastor Gordon Taylor and his wife Rayna.

Yes, it was not long after we greeted them and welcomed them to our island and took them to their hotel.

After they were settled, DeeAnn and I took them for lunch. They were willing to eat Jamaican food, so we got them stewed peas with pig's tails and plain rice and oxtail with rice along with red peas soup.

They spent the rest of the afternoon with Dolly at the home. They gave us the gifts that God's people sent for us.

## Youth Fellowship

At 5:30 p.m. I took them to Grace to meet Oneil and the youth group. It wasn't a large gathering but Pastor Taylor spoke passionately to all present and he spoke using words that everyone understood.

Clonmel Baptist Church is enjoying a period of calm.

The preaching is well-received and the prayer meetings are well-attended. I have been having a Bible study with a group of eight every Tuesday night and so far those who come are showing interest and want it to continue. This group is diverse and each week there may be a new face in attendance but someone from the previous week absent. If they all came we would have a good-sized group.

I would ask prayer that the word would pierce the hearts of some attending and we would see Christ triumph in their lives.

We are expecting a theological student to come and work with us for some months starting in July and are hoping his coming among us will be a blessing. One

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Oscar and Dolly

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## JAMAICA



### The Lord's Day

I took them to Grace where some of the members from Faith Missionary came and worshipped with us. Pastor Taylor showed us slides of the work in Zambia, which speaks of the Reformed movement in that part of the world. We were happy to see men studying with the intent of planting churches in and around Zambia.

After the presentation, He opened the Word of God to us and again the Word was practical and Biblical. It was no less in the Evening Service and so we say it was a blessed day for I believe God was glorified

and exalted through the hymns and spoken Word.

### Monday

After another delightful day in another section of the island, we spent the evening in the House of God with Rayna taking the ladies aside in the study and Pastor Taylor talking to the men in the main hall. After many questions and answers we left convinced and we planned to be more obedient to the Word spoken. We wished that they would return for we found them to be persons who have hearts for the nations of the world.

## The Brennans

Matthew, Barbara,

Simon and Timothy

<matthewmbrennan@eircom.net>

## IRELAND



of our young men is in Peru for the summer working among college students and we trust that he would be kept safe and also be a blessing.

We are having our Holiday Bible Club in July as well as our Young Adults World-view conference. We would ask prayer for both these ventures.

We have just had a visit from Mike Renihan from Mission Ireland with good numbers attending and we hope further advance made for the Kingdom as a result. We are very grateful for all who help in this great venture. Our sincere thanks to all the ARBCA churches who pray for us regularly.



# RBMS missions around the world

Recently, our church members went through our town in suburban Grenoble distributing gospels of John with flyers about the church.

Unfortunately, the Saturday morning reserved for this outing turned out to be a rainy one, so we did not have the chance to run into people outside on a nice spring day as we had hoped. We did make it to about 2,500 residences and have had a couple of responses.

One person showed up for Sunday worship service the next Sunday and another called to ask about our church and say that he plans to come to a worship service. The flyer advertised a special visitors' Sunday, which will have taken place by the time you read this. We hope to have several people respond to this invitation and pray that this service would bear lasting fruit.

Meanwhile, last Sunday a family from our town showed up at the Sunday morning service who did not receive the gospel of John and the flyer. They were part of the 1 percent or so whom we somehow missed as we went from house to house. However, the Lord did not miss them and they stayed for almost an hour after church service chatting with us. Please pray that their hearts would be open to our ministry and that we could be a blessing to them.

We have also begun to have several Chinese Christians in our services. There were four present this Sunday. They are part of a small group of Calvinistic Chinese evangelicals in Grenoble. Their leader is working through Calvin's Institutes with them in Chinese. They are very happy to have discovered that there is a Calvinistic church in town, and even though their French is not strong they are learning more and more and do understand a good bit of what they hear.

We are excited about the privilege of getting to know these brethren and seeing what we can do to help their efforts among the Chinese population here.

The latest books sent to pastors under our Adopt-a-Pastor program are the French

**The Vaughns**  
 dvaughn@sfr.fr  
 David, Nicky, Caroline  
 Jonathan and Michelle  
 88 Place de l'Emendra  
 38920 Crolles  
**FRANCE**



translations of Walt Chantry's "Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic" and Kent Hughes' "Disciplines of a Godly Man." They were sent out a few weeks ago to over 60 pastors in France and Switzerland. We covet your most earnest prayers for the men receiving these books. These men are not reformed in their theology and a book like Pastor Chantry's could be absolutely revolutionary for their lives and ministries in this age of easy believism.

Please pray that its impact will be nothing less than that. In the fall we plan to increase the list of pastors receiving our books by about 80 percent. This is a huge jump and we are enthused to be able to get edifying, heart-stirring and theologically enriching books in French to this many more pastors. May God marvelously work through them!

We have sent out letters to numerous people in the French-speaking world and with French-speaking connections informing them of our search for a pastor to replace me. I am planning to leave next summer (2011) to begin a new church-planting work, perhaps in Aix-En-Provence in the south of France.

Since sending the letters out we have had an encouraging contact with a Frenchman who is member of a Reformed Baptist Church in London. After working as a lawyer for 14 years in London he has left his practice to study at the London Theological Seminary in preparation for pastoral ministry. The interesting thing is that he is from the Grenoble region and his father still lives

here. He visited his father a few weeks ago, came to our worship service and had lunch church members afterwards.

I am beginning correspondence with him and we have made plans for him to come to preach here at the end of August. Please pray for this young man and for God's guidance as we get to know him.

I continue to make trips to Aix-en-Provence to preach to the small group of Reformed Baptists there. If we do end up going there for a next church planting work, it will undoubtedly involve a good deal of ministry to Muslims, since the neighbor cities of Marseille and Aix-en-Provence (which almost touch each other now) have the highest percent of Muslims in France.

A number of "quartiers" of these cities are dominantly Muslim. In light of this I have recently had contact with a Reformed Baptist pastor who is a French speaker and ex-Muslim. I first had contact with him through a Banner of Truth Conference a few years ago which he was attending and where he learned about us. His wife is European and after years of ministry in his native land of West Africa, they have decided to settle in Europe for family reasons.

He has the reputation of a godly, mature man and gifted preacher. In August he plans to come for a visit to Grenoble to discuss the possibility of going to Aix-en-Provence with us next year to undertake church planting as a team. This possibility is a thrilling one to me, especially because

See **Vaughns**, page 14

# RBMS missions around the world



Brotherly greetings to all our sister churches! How good it is to be in fellowship with like-minded Christian people!

We thank our God who, in the exercise of His sovereign executive power over His creation, allows our ministry to go forward. After five months of silence, our radio station is back on the air.

We were forced out last December as we lost our frequency, but now we are back with a new and protected frequency (104.1) which means that no one can take our place any more. We started to broadcast again Tuesday, June 15. We received many e-mails and phone calls from our listeners, who rejoiced with us over our return to the air. We have two new programs that are going to be broadcast on the weekend. The first one is "Parole en Doctrine," which will be a summary of the main doctrines of the Bible. The second is "Parole en musique," a history of the great hymns. I continue my daily morning program as I am preaching on Romans. I ask for your prayers as I will have to talk about homosexuality in Romans one and, as you know, denouncing homosexuality is a hate crime in Canada.

Our CERB (Center of Reformed Baptist Studies) offered a course from May 31-June 4 on the History of Doctrines with Dr. Tom Nettles. Fourteen students registered and greatly profited from the excellent teaching Dr. Nettles has provided. We are pleased to announce that we have come to an agreement with Faculté de théologie évangélique in Montreal so our courses will now receive a university accreditation. We also plan to collaborate with Reformed Baptist Seminary in Taylors, SC, for many courses.

As I write these lines, I am preparing for going to Grace Baptist Church Family Conference in Pa., as I have been invited to fill in for Stuart Olyott who had to cancel because of health problems. I am scheduled to preach four messages on the Christian Life.

The churches of our Quebec association are doing well by God's grace in spite

## The Perrons

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CANADA G1H 4A9



*CERB students spent five days learning about the History of Doctrines from Tom Nettles.*

of struggles inherent to any church's walk. In Quebec City we are grateful to our Lord for the addition of three members. We ask your prayers for a family that just stopped coming for four months without giving any reason. We contacted them a few times and it has been impossible to know what it going on with them. At the beginning of June, one of our elderly ladies passed away and her funeral was a good occasion to preach the gospel to her family, as most of her children are unconverted. We also had the joy to witness the wedding of Pierre and Claudette, both of them being in their early 60s.

We still feel an emptiness following Caroline Vaughn's return in France after spending three months with us. She has been a real ray of sun as she got involved in our family life as well as in our church

life; she played the piano, she sang with our musical group, she was very active in our young people meetings, she did two radio programs etc... She returned to France at the beginning of May and we miss her.

We also have another visitor of renown in April on the occasion of our Quebec General Assembly as pastor Olivier Favré was our guest speaker. He brought three good messages on the doctrine of adoption.

In August, my wife Diane and I are going in Arizona as brother David Giarrizzo so kindly invited me to speak at the BTC Conference. His father John, graciously invited us to prolong our stay and take some holidays. We are very thankful for that as well.

May our precious God who made Himself known to us through diverse means be glorified in our life and our service!



# RBMS missions around the world

Thank you to all the folks who have been praying for this ministry to our Marines and sailors at Parris Island, S.C.

The summer heat, thunder storms and hurricane watches are upon us! We have been encouraged by the continued interest in our weekly theology study – there are about seven men taking part in this and we have enjoyed great discussions and fellowship. We have a number of other studies scheduled and that have not generated much interest unfortunately – please pray for these and for spiritual eyes to be opened.

I have been preaching through a book of the Bible each week at the chapel, al-

## The Joyners

Patrick, Rhonda, William, Audrey,  
Jordan, Maggie, Noah,  
Laurel Anna, Mary M'Cheyne  
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Chaplain, 2nd Recruit  
Training Battalion, USMC



ternating between the Old and New Testaments. Last week we went through 2 Kings and this week we'll be in Galatians, Lord willing. Our children are happy to

have a reprieve from school for the summer and have been enjoying time with their grandparents, hiking, camping, and fishing.

The last months have been very busy. The church in Montreal had the privilege to welcome the churches of our association for the General Assembly 2010.

It was an opportunity for the brothers and sisters to mobilize themselves to service. We were edified by the sermons of our beloved brother Olivier Favré on adoption.

On May 23 we had a visit from Peter Gentry, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who preached on the tie between sanctification and the new creation. On June 6, Tom Nettles, another professor from the same seminary, preached on the work of redemption. We give thanks to the Lord for their ministry.

We have had contact with several people from outside our church, which have given us opportunity to present them with Christ's gospel. These people have different backgrounds, different situations, and different problems, but there is only one solution: life in Christ.

From May 31 to June 4 we had an intensive course with Professor Nettles. There were 14 students, four from the church in Montreal, in addition to Vincent, a French man who visited us last year during his stay of six months and whom we

## The Durands

<aerbg danieldurand@hotmail.com>

Daniel and Loraine,  
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invited to the course. His stay last year was an opportunity for him to think about the theology and he is now fascinated. This year, although he is still at the university, he collected money to come solely for the purpose of traveling from France to take the course. He confessed to me that he is now considering the pastoral ministry. Please pray for him, that the Lord would direct him and bless him.

With regard to our son Étienne, he has cut off contact with us completely since last February. It is very difficult for Loraine and me. We are comforted by the conviction that the Lord has the power to lead him to the Christ. Thank you for praying for his soul.

We are encouraged by the growth of our church and we want to give thanks to

the Lord. At the same time, we are conscious that a church is a collection of fragile human beings. We ask the Lord to keep us in Him.

At the end of July, Loraine and I will be at the camp of Reformed Baptist churches in Alsace, France, where I will give two sermons at a Family Conference, "Self Denial in Relationships and Family Life" and "Prayer, the Christian's Breath."

We are very enthusiastic about the chance to meet the brothers and sisters in France and we give thanks to the Lord for this privilege.

It's a great privilege for us to read the news which we receive from you and to pray for each of you. May the Lord bless all his people for his glory.

# RBMS missions around the world



We ask again your continued prayers for a pastor for La Alborada congregation. The Lord has provided additional help, meanwhile, for the teaching ministry in the persons of Joel Zartman and Mauricio Posada.

Joel was born in Paraguay of missionary parents with whom he lived in both Colombia and Mexico. Joel and his wife Katrina moved to Colombia over a year ago to see about opportunities here for teaching theology after Joel completed his seminary studies. They joined our church, and as of three months ago, Joel has been teaching the Sunday School class or the Sunday afternoon Bible study. He does not feel the Lord is calling him to the pastorate, so he supports himself teaching English as a second language. Katrina does the same.

Mauricio has studied Bible Sciences in a Roman Catholic university, and like Joel, is well-prepared in the Biblical languages. He has been a professing Reformed Baptist for some years, and about a year ago he joined our church. Just a month ago he began helping with the Sunday afternoon Bible study.

In May, Bev's 95-year-old father returned to Colombia for his time of staying with us (for a couple of years, he's been taking turns living with his children). Jeff Crossman, Bev's nephew, traveled here with him from Toronto. Bogotá's altitude of 8,500 feet above sea level affected already fragile health, so that he had to be hospitalized for five days. He was able to return to Toronto with Bev and Sharon States, another of Bev's sisters, who came to help with Dad's care. Bev stayed for a short time to help.

The meeting May 27 at the Library had 23 attending, a good part of them pastors, a few of them there for the first time. Enrique Abadía and Ramiro Beltrán gave the studies on God's intervention in His eternal decision to save many and make them His people. Use of the library on a daily basis, however, hasn't increased much, and we have provisionally decided to end this part of the ministry at year's end – unless we find a rent-free suitable location and other people who would like to assume responsibility for

## The Lines

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Stan and Bev

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Bogota, 10, D.C.

## COLOMBIA



the library. Pastor Antonio and the deacons of The Grace and Love Christian Church are along with us looking at possibilities. Thanks for your prayers.

At this writing, the next meeting at the Library For Pastors was scheduled for June 24. The subject will be the vocabulary of victory in the work of Christ on the cross. We send out about 80 invitations now to each monthly meeting. Included in those receiving these are the pastors of the mega churches in the city, eight of them. Are these even read? We don't know, but we pray the Lord would make clearer to these pastors just what the Gospel is.

Rocío del Pilar Herrera continues with the Hebrón Reformed Bookstore ministry, and opportunities abound. She will need to seek relocation for the bookstore since she is operating out of the Library facility at the moment.

DVBS at La Alborada was held June 23-26. Pastor Antonio and one of the deacons (Carlos Rocha) of San José de Bavaria have organized and directed a "School for preparation of Sunday School teachers". The fifth was held last Saturday with over 50 attending, including some from four other churches.

We are still preparing an evangelistic letter bi-monthly, 1,000 copies for the neighborhood around the La Alborada chapel, and 1,000 copies for our neighborhood. The Friday evening study in our home or in those of people of the church close by, hasn't increased lately beyond the average of a dozen.

No new progress in the ministry of the Christian School. As of this writing, we still

don't have permits for rebuilding, and the neighbors still are opposing our rebuilding. It's almost mid year three week break time, and the teachers are ready for the rest. One of our preschool teachers (in her 30s, perhaps) must go on kidney dialysis, and it's still not clear if she will be able to continue next semester. Her name is Amparo Mateus.

As of almost a year ago, regular Sunday meetings are being held in San Gil, Santander, to reinitiate a church there. Roberto Rodríguez leads this with the help of Alirio Sierra and Agustín Ballesteros, pastors in Curití where the work remains at a standstill. Perhaps the Curití church is a bit weaker now since some resources are being siphoned to the work in San Gil. Much wisdom is needed in this situation, but especially we ask you to cry with us to the Lord for greater evangelistic effort and the Lord's merciful saving of many in both San Gil and Curití and surrounding areas.

Presidential elections were held recently. Like everywhere else in the world, even if Colombia presents greater political and economic stability than many if not most countries in Latin America and the world, there are immense problems still to be resolved, corruption and injustice to be corrected, and widespread poverty to be eliminated. Of course our worst problem, just like everywhere else, is idolatry of one form and another.

Our hope is for the Lord's intervention, especially His having mercy on many with the Gospel.

*Editor's note: Bev Line's father, Harvey Nelson, died after this report was written.*

# Colombia

From page 1

men attended the retreat with some of them coming from seven hours away.

The theme of the retreat was “prayer.” There was preaching on prayer, public as well as private times for prayer and meditation. Raul, a brother from the Grace and Love Church in del Norte, made up both small cards with prayer requests and a large banner that duplicated the smaller cards. Included among the requests was prayer for ARBCA churches.

This was very heart-warming. The men love to sing, pray and hear good preaching. What a joy to see men meeting and taking leadership in the Reformed Baptist work in Colombia.

One of the pastors at the retreat told of a large church in his area that had started preaching a counterfeit prosperity gospel. In another such church people are promised a multiplication of their wealth if they will but give.

However, the church had three lines for the donors. The line for those who can give the most money is the shortest while the poor people have to queue up in the longest line! The pastor reported, however, that some are getting fed up with this crass way to get money and are, by God’s grace, seeking the truth.

Through the ministry of the Pastors’ Library there is an effort to reach these professed evangelical pastors, who have fallen prey to the prosperity gospel, and lead them into the truth.

There are two churches in Bogota that have the name “Grace and Love.” One is in del Norte where Antonio Orjuela ministers. This church meets in the facilities of the Grace and Love Christian School. The school auditorium was filled with worshipers for both the Sunday school and the morning worship.

Because the other Grace and Love Church in La Alborada is without a pastor, Pastor Orjuela preaches there regularly. Missionary Stan Line fills the pulpit in del Norte and La Alborada regularly. One of the major prayer requests is for a full-time pastor for the work in Al Alborada. This congregation also fills their auditorium each Lord’s Day and even at times must resort to



*This is the core group in San Gil. Roberto, the church planter, is at left in the back.*

some watching on closed-circuit television. Both congregations are made up of dedicated Christians who rejoice in the worship of God and in the grace of God.

Why are there two churches? Where does the Christian school fit in?

Once the Grace and Love Church in Al Alborada reached 180 in attendance they were out of room, so some who lived in the north part of the city begin to meet. When this church plant began there were three pastors at La Alborada and they worked together. The Lord blessed and now the del Norte church has its own pastor.

This church also started a Christian school that has grades K – 9. When the school moved to a new location the church moved with the school to its present location. The Grace and Love Christian School has 190 students; however, they are praying for 240 so it can be fully self-supporting. The enrollment is down this year due to the economy. Also, the school needs to tear down its present buildings and build new ones due to the new earthquake regulations.

Another very important outreach in Bogota is the “Pastors’ Library.” There are four very distinct ministries that are conducted from this small second-story rented facility.

First, pastors may come and study at the library. There is a good solid Reformed library available along with some study desks. This is needed because most pastors are not able to afford books for study and preparation.

Secondly, there are regularly scheduled meetings for pastors in the city. At these meetings Stan Line and others teach the pastors about the great truths of the reformed faith. The meeting area can seat up to 40 pastors.

Thirdly, there are good Reformed books for sale at the library.

Fourthly, it is from this location that books are sent to pastors who request good literature. These books are free. However, to get the next book on the list, a pastor must send in a book report. Stan spends two days a week in the library.

At present he is assisted by Henri Abadia, former missionary to Colombia and member of Grace Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pa, who will be in Colombia until early fall. There are also other volunteers who keep the library open and available to local pastors.

During the week between the two Lord’s Days, Stan and Bev took us seven

See **Colombia**, page 13

## Colombia

From page 12

hours north to Curiti and San Gill. The church in Curiti, a village of about 3,000, has been in existence for about 40 years. This small work has three elders and one of them, Roberto Rodriguez, has been sent to begin a new church in San Gill, a town of about 33,000.

We had the joy of meeting with both of these churches, one on Wednesday evening and the other on Thursday evening. In addition, Stan spent Thursday morning praying with and teaching these three elders as well as one other pastor who responded to the invitation given to many pastors in the area.

The new work in San Gill opens its doors and broadcasts the entire service on speakers to this new neighborhood so that all can hear!

Colombia still needs the gospel. We rejoice in the progress that has been made, but there is still much to do. Operation World says that about 95 percent of Colombia is Christian. Of that percentage 90 percent are Roman Catholic and only 2.76 percent are Protestant with about 2.64 percent Independent. Of the professed Christian population there are 4.7 percent who say they are evangelical.

However, some of the professed evangelicals have now succumbed to the so-called prosperity gospel. So prayer is



*Sergio Moreno, center, with his wife Clara and daughters Camila and Marianna, is a deacon at Grace and Love La Alborada.*

greatly needed for Colombia. There is a need for laborers in the vast harvest field of this nation. The Lord has begun to raise up some faithful men in the country, but more are needed.

Here are some prayer requests for Colombia:

- 1) Pray for a pastor for La Alborada.
- 2) Pray for the success of the church

plant in San Gill and for Roberto Rodriguez who leads this effort.

3) Pray that the ministry of the Pastors' Library will be effective in teaching professed evangelical pastors the great truths of the Reformed faith.

4) Do give thanks to God for the ministry of Stan Line and his faithful wife Bev over the last 45 years.

## Revival

From page 3

after so many prayers for revival, do we see no answer?"

But God's dealings with us are infinitely wise and just. He is right on time with His righteous agenda. He is acting in perfect holiness with the Church of God in America and Western Europe. In Micah's vision, Zion has gotten past the phase of questioning God, His providence and His timing. She sees and confesses it is not hers to question, but to do the work of "bearing God's indignation" until he chooses to lift it from her. Have we come to see that in our spiritual decline God has

given us a particular work to do? Part of that work is patience and meekness.

It is the work of bearing the indignation of the Lord at this time as our just portion because of our sin. This meekness is not the lazy and complaisant passivity of those who are happy to sit in darkness and spiritual decay. Remember that Zion has said that she is calling upon the Lord and waiting upon Him for deliverance.

The biblical meekness Zion demonstrates is the one we need in order to seek revival aright. It is the meekness which leads us to wholeheartedly accept and defend God's present dealing with us even as we wholeheartedly long for Him to intervene with power and grace to change

things in the future.

### **Leaning expectantly on the saving righteousness of Jesus Christ**

Zion's third attitude in seeking restoration and revival is extremely important. Without it her faith would be deficient and her meekness without reward. We discover it in the last three phrases of Micah 7:9 quoted here:

*I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him,*

*Until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me.*

*He will bring me out to the light;*

See **Revival**, page 16

# Church Planting: 'Balanced' strategy needed

**By Hank Rast**

Missionary David Vaughn's message at the close of April's GA was the kind of message that could set a paradigm for a church planting philosophy and strategy.

Following are a few thoughts on how David's message might set our hearts and minds to the great task of penetrating the darkness of our land with the light of the gospel. These thoughts are not meant to be a simple rehearsal of what we heard last April, but a reminder of a few points applied to the home missionary endeavor.

First, we must be clear on the two-pronged nature of the vision of a balanced church. That vision (from Luke 24:46-47 and other passages) includes the Messiah's cross-work and resurrection from the dead, and "the proclamation of his name to all nations." It is this second aspect of the vision that must find its place at the heart of church-planting efforts. Often, Reformed Baptist church plants begin with a committed core group of Reformed believers that either crop up in a particular locale or are sent out from an existing church, or sometimes, a combination of the two.

Certainly, this beginning is often necessary, right, and good. But the plant needs immediately to see herself as a light in the surrounding community, charged with the blessed vision and task of proclaiming the gospel into that community. The church cannot see herself merely as a place for lonely Calvinists joining her from out of Arminian churches, or disenchanting credo-baptists leaving the ranks of the paedobaptists.

She must develop strategies that make a determined and thoughtful thrust into the unbelieving world around her. For this to happen, all of the members need to see themselves as part of that thrust.

One of the best ways, as we were reminded, is through hospitality and the "over-the-fence" kind of neighborly contact with unbelievers. Members of a church often have much more natural contact with unbelievers than do its pastors, particularly if they are full-time ministers engaged in ministering to the flock.

Perhaps the best example of this strategy working out in the New Testament is the

Thessalonian church. The apostle Paul attested to their "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:3) This labor Paul speaks of was surely that the gospel had "sounded forth" from them (v. 8) and that they had become "imitators of us (the apostles) and of the Lord." (v. 6) They had become servants of the Lord, turning away from their slavery to their former idols. (v.9)

We see this kind of call to servanthood earlier in our Lord's own ministry. He reminds disciples in the "sermon on the plain" of Luke 6 that a servant, one who knows the blessing of grace in his own life, goes to great lengths to engage the enemies of the gospel. The call to "love your enemies" (Luke 6:27) comes in the context of their sometimes violent opposition to believers "on account of the Son of Man." (v. 22)

That kind of opposition can only occur when believers are a light and a witness to Him. In spite of that opposition, disciples are to "do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." (Luke 6:27-28) That kind of response requires a steadfastness that Paul saw in the Thessalonian believers.

It is that steadfast servant mentality that defined the spirituality of the Thessalonian believers and serves as a reminder of what true spirituality consists. As Pastor Vaughn pointed out to us, too often our spirituality can be defined almost exclusively as "personal holiness."

But the believer must also see himself as a soldier, a laborer, a servant called to share in the great Messianic vision described at the end of Luke's gospel. For this the church needs to pray for boldness in gospel witness (Acts 4:23-31) and for a heart that overflows with the good tidings of peace. The remaining deadness and apathy for the souls of men must be supplanted with a desire for the Lord's glory and the good of souls. As the Lord reminds his disciples in Matthew 12, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (v.34)

Believers who are full of the gospel themselves, delighting in the truths of amazing grace, find themselves with a similar argument to that of Peter and John before the

high priest, rulers and scribes: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:5-20) While the disciple of Christ in these last days has not "seen" as the apostles of the first century, surely they have heard and felt the power of the gospel in their own lives. They, too, have a witness.

Another aspect of the strategy that Pastor Vaughn highlighted for us was the importance of evangelistic preaching. Not only may the church utilize evangelistic preaching at special times when unbelievers may be invited, preaching that searches the hearts of the unbelieving can fire the hearts of believers to long for the souls of those around them who sleep the sleep of spiritual death. It is this kind of preaching that has been paramount in times of spiritual awakening throughout history.

As Iain Murray recounts in "Revival and Revivalism," "The Great Revival taught the Presbyterian churches (may the Lord teach us as well!) that orthodoxy and correct preaching, indispensable though they are, are not enough. Authority, tenderness, compassion, pity – these must be given in larger measure from heaven, and when they are it can truly be said that theology has taken fire." (Revival and Revivalism, Banner of Truth, 1994, p. 109)

May the Lord be pleased to grant this unction, this "theology of fire," to our own preaching and in that of our church planting endeavors for His eternal glory.

*Hank Rast is a pastor at Heritage Church in Fayetteville, Ga., and a member of the ARBCA Church Planting Committee.*

## Vaughns

From page 8

of the great part that this man could play in ministry to Muslims. If this does not work out, there may also be a possibility of his coming to take over the work in Grenoble from me. I am told by those who know him and have sat under his ministry that he could easily minister in a French context. Please pray that God would guide in all these important matters.

# Revival

From page 13

*I shall look upon his vindication (lit. righteousness)*

What a wonder to see that God's guilty and defeated people can, in the above inspired words, lay hold of God as her advocate. In fact her whole discourse is filled with legal language as she anticipates her deliverance: until he pleads my cause... executes judgment for me... I shall look upon his vindicating righteousness.

We too, as God's people, though as guilty as Zion, may, just as much as she, fill our mouths with such words. God will "plead our cause as an advocate." He will "execute judgment for us" and no longer against us. It is God Himself who "will bring us out to the light" so that we "shall look upon His vindicating righteousness," which He lays in the balance on our side and for our cause as his redeemed Church.

We learn here in no uncertain terms that God will arise on behalf of his backslidden church. When He does so He will act both as an advocate that "pleads our cause" and as a judge who "executes judgment for us." The mighty, table-turning judgment of the Divine Judge will not be based upon any righteousness of our own. Zion says, "*He will bring me out into the light. I will look upon HIS righteousness.*"

The restoring and reviving of God's people always and only flows from one source: the holy saving righteousness of God Himself.

From the New Testament we understand the glorious fulfillment and meaning of this saving righteousness that brings the Church from darkness to light and from defeat to revival. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who comes forth to lay His perfect atoning righteousness in the balance as the reason for which we must be cleansed, acquitted, brought out of prison and clothed with light, strength and blessing.

Think of your conversion. When God called us to Himself He brought us out into the light and we looked upon the saving righteousness of Christ offered to us in the gospel. We saw its superabundance

to deliver us from all our sins. It is no different for us now as converted Christians. When we, as the Church, backslide we are delivered by the same glorious atoning Savior and by the same all sufficient divine righteousness! Our Lord Jesus' atoning righteousness not only satisfied God for our pre-conversion sins but also for all our backslidings.

Thus we must actively look for HIM to arise and plead Zion's cause in our day. How clear it is now why Zion, although in such a sad state, could have such assurance:

*Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise;*

*When I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.*

*..He will bring me out to the light;*

*I shall look upon his vindicating righteousness.*

When the time of our chastisement is over, Christ Himself will arise himself on behalf of the Church. He will arise plead His blood and His righteousness on our behalf in such a way that judgment is executed for us. This judgment is not simply for our deliverance. It is God's very glory that is at stake.

While God's people are under His paternal chastisement the appearance is that we have no right to blessing, that sin and guilt have won the day and that God has failed in His plans to glorify Himself in blessing us with redemption.

Look at the appearances in Micah 7. Is not Zion's enemy in this incident rejoicing over her plight, her darkness and her fall as if he has won the last battle? But Zion replies, in effect, "What seems to be the case now to you, my enemy, is not the truth. There is a reality infinitely greater than my fall and its consequences. That reality is the amazing righteousness of my Savior, which is able to lift me out of the deepest pit of sin and guilt and bring me into the most glorious revival of blessing and light."

Micah teaches us that a guilty and backslidden people of God will see Christ's righteousness visibly manifested in a vindicating power for her when she are taken up again by the Father and visibly treated as beloved children and full heirs upon whom all the restoring and

reviving blessings of God must descend because we are the cleansed and righteous ones in Jesus Christ.

## **How are we to seek revival in times of spiritual decline?**

In the same way as the non-Christian seeks and obtains salvation: by seeing the all sufficiency of the righteousness of the Lord Jesus to cleanse his sins, to bury them out of God's sight and to establish him as one completely right with his God. This is a hope for unregenerate sinners in their guilt and sin. And it is the hope of a Church sitting in darkness and under the chastisement of God.

Our one hope to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, comparable to that of Micah 7:11-17, is the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. Oh, what can that righteousness not do? Think of the heights of heaven to which it will one day bring us in eternity! Can we then not believe that it is sufficient in the present day to bring us up out of our defeated state into revival? Is Christ's righteousness not exceedingly sufficient to bring down upon us for its own sake those heaven-rending effusions of the Holy Spirit we long for?

Zion said that her Lord's righteousness which pleaded her cause was so glorious that it turned her darkness to light (v.8-9), brought a day for the building of her walls (v.11), drew converts to her from faraway lands (v.12), moved God to show her marvelous things (v.15) and caused her former detractors to put their hands over their mouths in awe (v.16). Zion says that all of this was the fruit of one glorious cause, the vindicating righteousness of her Lord laid in the balance on her side by His grace.

So if we are to seek revival aright, it must be at the foot of the Cross. It must be as unworthy sinners whose only plea is the Lord Jesus Christ and his righteousness. Let us establish it in our hearts that every reviving influence of God upon the Church, whether she is well and strong, or when she is backslidden and weak, comes to us as a blessing purchased by the blood spilled and the righteousness worked out on Calvary by the Son of God hanging between Heaven and Earth.

See **Revival**, page 16

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## Intern

From page 4

What he does is good for the whole congregation.

The presence of an intern broadens the perspective of a congregation. The first time he stands behind the pulpit he becomes a corrective lens through which our people view the relationship of our churches. It is never good when our vision is exclusively local. Our associational fellowship can be more of a theory than a practice.

An intern is living evidence of the broader church and our place in it. That is an unfailing encouragement. Our intern came to Pennsylvania from our sister church in Escondido, Calif. That automatically created a connection between our congregations. We have benefited from the Lord's gift to them of this godly young man. They have been blessed by the care and opportunity we extend to one for their own. The clearer our congregations see that we are co-laborers in a greater program of redemption the healthier they are. The bond of relationship between the churches is part of the blessing of having an intern.

Somewhat related to the above is the fact that our particular intern is a living advertisement for IRBS. We have often asked our people to pray for the training of future Reformed Baptist pastors. Most of our congregations do as well.

Our intern is our first taste of the answer to those prayers. Our awareness of the necessity and the benefit of ministerial training

has been upgraded to high definition clarity. For some, he represents hope for the next generation. For me, he represents the excellent level of training he has received. The educational foundation reflected in his doctrinal understanding and competence in the Scriptures is very solid.

One of the many benefits an intern brings to pastors is the fruit of his theological training. As a recent graduate, he is up on the current debates and controversies. He is aware of books and authors that are helpful. These young men are well-equipped, gifted brothers. Dr. Rehinan and all those associated with IRBS deserve prayers and gratitude.

Finally, it is difficult to exaggerate the benefit provided by a good role model. Serious-minded godliness cannot be taught by words alone. It is the Lord's way to put truth into shoe leather. To have a man in his 20s who loves truth, righteousness and the church is a blessing to any congregation. To have him visible and involved is invaluable.

He is an object lesson, used by parents to challenge their teenagers. He models a high standard of spiritual life and biblical churchmanship for young believers. He makes the prospects of a call to pastoral work seem more reasonable to people. He keeps in front of us everything that we want our young people to be. No honest believer can despise the youth of an individual who is a good example to the believers.

We have lost our pessimism about interns.

*Dave Johnston is pastor of Bible Fellowship Church in Greentown, Pa.*

## Revival

From page 15

Every revival has already been bought and obtained by Him and His righteousness. Paul asks the Galatians : "Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?" It is the hearing of faith that receives the good news of a gracious Savior and his saving righteousness given to us.

Dear brethren, if we pray Zion's prayer in Micah 7 we must pray it all! If we say, "I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against Him" we must not stop there! We can and must also say, "Until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindicating righteousness."

May God teach us to seek revival in His way: (1) Looking to God as our only help in the midst of our spiritual decline, (2) Responding in faith to our spiritual decline, (3) Bearing God's chastisements with meekness and patience and (4) Leaning expectantly on the saving righteousness of Jesus Christ.

If He finds us seeking Him in this way, will He not be pleased? And whatever measure of the Spirit He pleases to give, will we not know that our Lord has visited us again and brought us out into the light of His victory? And will His glory not be seen in our land once again?

May it be so, Lord Jesus! Amen.