



Mission News

Mission Activities of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Volume 6 – January 28, 2011

Project Quebec – Owen Sound

Chairman's Year End Report

As I write this, another year is drawing to a close. As a Mission Board, it has been a year filled with blessings. We can clearly see how our Heavenly Father has worked throughout so many in the St. Georges area. He has shown his love and mercy by guarding his church and blessing our brothers, Rev. Bedard, Rev. Veilleux, and the elders and deacons, who serve as overseers, with strength to continue in his work. He has blessed them with wives who very actively support their husbands in this role. Even though it is a very young congregation, the LORD has also worked in the hearts of the members, the desire to be active members of the communion of saints and I can say this because my family has experienced this first hand.

Again this year we made our annual visit and each time we come back strengthened and encouraged to continue in our work. It is a blessing to see the bond between the two congregations continuing to grow. Their desire to serve the LORD helps us to realize how often we take for granted God's grace and the need for us to continue in being active in God's service.

We have also been blessed with having the support of so many across the country. This has come not only from churches, but also individual supporters. This support has come to us in the form of prayers, as well as financial. Again this year we were able to meet our commitments to Rev. Bedard and his family and for this we are very thankful. We are asking everyone to please consider this work in their giving, so that our work can continue.

Thank you to everyone and it is our hope and prayer that our Heavenly Father bless you over the Christmas season and into the New Year, remembering the ultimate gift we received in Christ Jesus.

*In Christ's service, on behalf of the Board,
Gary Nordeman*

Report of the Annual Meeting Nov. 12, 2010

Held at the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church where Rev. Bedard of the ERQ church in St. Georges, Quebec presented the work he is involved with and also gave a presentation regarding the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec. The chairman of the Mission Board, Br. Gary Nordeman, introduced himself and also welcomed everyone to the meeting after which he opened the meeting with the reading of Romans 10 and prayer. Everyone was then requested to sing Ps 40:1-3.

Gary gave a short summary of the work that the mission board has been doing with the Rev Bedard and the ERQ church in St. Georges, noting the many blessing that could be seen since the work began. He noted also that the relationship between the Canadian Reformed Churches and the ERQ churches has changed since this project first began and that the Mission Board has been dealing with how this affects the way we deal with one another. Gary then gave a short summary of the visit that he and Br. Matt Hutten had made to St. Georges recently and that this again was a reminder of how important the work of Rev. Bedard is. The struggles that the members continue to face living in a predominantly Roman Catholic society as well as their extended families is ongoing. Even though the ERQ has existed for around twenty-two years, it is still relatively new and they do not have many of the resources, practices and history that we often take for granted. The work of Rev. Bedard is being used locally but is also being used in other churches in Quebec and abroad. Even a local Baptist church is using his Reformed study material.

Rev. Bedard, minister in the ERQ church in St. Georges was then given the floor and he spoke about the work that he has been doing in the past year since his last visit here. He has been teaching Belgic Confession in the study classes. A children's day camp was held this past summer for children from the community. At the end of the week a meal has held where the parents of the children also were invited and the gospel was presented.

A Reformation Day evening was held where a presentation was given on the work of reformers. Rev. Bedard is currently working on translating the Belgic Confession. The current French version of the Belgic Confession is very old French and is not understandable for the French speaking people in Quebec.

The translated version will make it possible for them to be able to use this confession in their churches. Rev. Bedard continues to publish the Reformed magazine "*Lumiere sur mon Sentier*" ("Light on my Path") four times per year. These are sent to many libraries, universities, colleges, and to other churches in Quebec. Rev. Bedard taught at a conference in Quebec City to train future office bearers. He was also very involved in helping in the church in Charny (south shore of Quebec City) which does not have a minister. He also continues to teach the adult catechism classes which are held Sunday mornings before the worship services.

Recently the consistory of St. Georges has directed Rev. Bedard to look at forming an association of Christian parents with the goal of encouraging Christian parents in providing Christian education for their children. The current goal is to encourage and assist the parents in providing Christian education whether that is through home schooling or supplementing the education they receive in the public school. The future goal is that they may at some time in the future with the Lord's blessing be able to establish Christian schools if that is his will.

Opportunity was given for questions and the following questions were asked and answered. What songs are sung in the ERQ churches? The ERQ does not have a standard song book as the Canadian Reformed Churches do. Each church tries to find suitable songs that can be used in the worship services. It is difficult to find suitable songs. How are ERQ churches supported? They are supported either directly by another church or through churches giving towards the ERQ general fund which is then distributed to the congregations according to need. Even though the members give to support the church, most ERQ congregations are not able to be self supporting. What liturgical forms does the ERQ have? There is a form for baptism and for profession of faith which have been approved by Synod. It is hoped that with the Lord's blessing more forms can be made up and approved in the future.

Rev. Bedard then spoke about the Roman Catholic (RC) church in Quebec. The RC church is a mix of many false doctrines mixed with the true gospel. Nicene and Apostles' Creed along with many superstitions. The Lord Jesus Christ along with worship of Virgin Mary. The Lord Jesus Christ as head of church along with the pope. The RC church believes in Christ plus many other man made things. The current RC church is drastically different on

the outside today. Previously the focus was on hell and God's anger whereas today it talks of God's love, but the falsehood of this church is still the same: Christ plus something else. There are difficulties in dealing with converts from the RC church. Some come to see the falsehood of the RC church but then react by rejecting all creeds and doctrines not realizing that some creeds and doctrines are true and scriptural. There may be a resistance to memorization of Heidelberg Catechism because this is something that the RC church did, etc. Also there are some that reject the falsehood of the RC church



but then still hold onto some of the superstitions they had learned from their youth. It is a challenge to work with these converts through what is truth and what is falsehood. The RC church still wields a lot of power over the lives of people in Quebec often without them even realizing it. Priests hold the power of the church's "heavenly bank" and your eternal life. According to them Jesus Christ and all saints "deposit" extra good works into this bank. The only way that you as a member

can use these is through the church by praying to saints (who they designate as such), paying for a mass to be said for you or a loved one. The RC church is foundationally very humanistic. There are many good things that they stand for but the foundation underpinning these stances is humanistic. Gary Nordeman thanked Rev. Bedard for his presentation.

Br. Matt Hutten, treasurer of the Mission Board presented a financial report. Total collected this year is \$58,000 with \$52,000 coming from churches and \$6,000 from private donations. There are an additional six churches contributing this year over last year. Total expenses to date are \$61,000 with the support cheque for Rev. Bedard for November 2010 having been written.

Another opportunity is given for questions and the following questions were asked and answered. How is Rev. Veilleux's and Rev. Bedard's work related? Rev. Veilleux preaches three Sundays per month and Rev. Bedard one Sunday. Rev. Bedard is more focused on the teaching in Bible Studies, catechism classes, and conferences, writing and translating Reformed materials in French, writing the Reformed magazine "*Lumiere sur mon Sentier*," writing materials for the website, etc, all with the goal of educating those who come to the church and increasing their knowledge of the Reformed faith.

After the singing of Ps 40:5 and 7, Br. Shane Peiterman closed the meeting with prayer.

Contact information:

Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church - Mission Board,
P.O. Box 304, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 5P5
(Tax receipts will be issued for all donations received.)

Reformed Churches' Bible College



Vol 4
No 5
Sept '10

SAW DUST FIRES

YOUTH CONFERENCE

In the last year the cooking has been done in 'haus kuks' (lean-tos that act as an outdoor kitchen), which has worked really well. All the houses now have their own *haus kuks* and we're cooking over open fires. However, finding fire wood is always tricky. There isn't always a dead tree floating around and buying fire wood is expensive.



The sawdust burner made out of a 4L paint tin.

The neighbours were using an innovative sawdust burner and one of the students decided to copy it. He made his first one from a concrete pipe. He stood a pipe on its end and made a hole on the side near the bottom the size of a baked beans tin. A 50mm plastic pipe is held in the middle of the concrete pipe and sawdust is crammed down around it. After removing the pipe a fire is lit through the baked beans tin with little bits of shavings until the sawdust takes light. Well, it was such a good idea that everyone wanted one! But the concrete pipe was too big and so burned too long. We found 4 litre paint tins were just right. So every cabin now has sawdust burners! Sawdust is easy to get hold of as the local sawmill sends out trucks to get rid of it for some fuel money. What a blessing to have found such a simple, innovative way to cook without the expense on fuel!!



Mado getting her fire ready to cook on.

The youth conference is now over and was a blessed time for all involved. It was wonderful to see the students work together to serve the youth from the various churches. Each student was in charge of a group of about ten youth. Over seventy youth came from the various churches and as far as we heard they all enjoyed the conference.

Thursday night we opened with an items/games night. Then after a devotion on the armour of God by Pastor Alan, Br. Wayne spoke on Satan and how he tempts God's children. After lunch Sr. Odette gave a talk about HIV/ AIDS and we finished the day with a movie on facing our fears and praying to our God for strength. On Saturday we had a devotion by Pastor Henry on resisting the devil. Br. Wally gave a talk on prayer. After each speech the youth went into their groups to discuss or complete activities related to the topic. The Bible College students, as leaders of the various groups, did a great job in leading them.

Students were also responsible for preparing the food with the help of their groups, along with making sure everything ran smoothly. Each youth group had a *waspapa* or *wasmama* (guardian) from the church accommodation.



Br. Aisi leading his group through an activity on song lyrics.



Introducing ...

Jonah and Janet are from East Boroko Church and have three girls: Susan, Moale, and Madline. Jonah is in his last year of the Certificate program.

Ben is from Aroma (3 hours from Moresby) and is in his third year here at the Bible College. He joined the Reformed Church through the church plant of Vanagi and is a brother of Nawai (also in the Diploma program).



from the principal

As I write these words there are about sixty extra people wandering around the College premises. The Bible College is hosting a youth conference where young people from all six churches in NCD and Central province will meet together for two days to study God's Word and enjoy fellowship. They will learn about the temptations of this world and how to stand firm, hear a paper on prayer, attend a lecture on AIDS/HIV, as well as enjoy a games and items evening where we can get to know each other.

The students are playing a key role in leading discussions and other activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to practice many things they have been taught. May God bless this event and cause it to be a blessing for the youth in the churches.

At this time we are making preparations for 2011. As mentioned in the last newsletter, a number of students do hope to continue their studies and enter into the Diploma Program. At the same time we are preparing Handbooks, brochures, and application forms for people who are interested in applying to join the Certificate Program.

Recruitment has started in earnest. Brochures were handed out at the youth conference and more brochures will be handed out by the Bible College students in the upcoming break. I also hope to visit each church group personally to encourage further applications. People who are interested in applying to study at the College can get a College Handbook 2011 from myself or one of the Reformed Church leaders.

As we speak about recruitment for 2011, it goes without saying that the 2010 school year is drawing to a close. It has been a wonderful year! We have enjoyed many enjoyable times together. The students have also learned a lot and each of them has grown in so many ways. It is therefore with both joy and sadness that we look forward to the upcoming graduation. Mark it on your calendars! We would love to see you at the Bible College on the 12th of November to witness this special event.

Wayne van der Heide

Contact Details

Reformed Churches' Bible College
PO Box 590
Waigani, NCD
Papua New Guinea
Email: rcbcpng@yahoo.com
Principal: tripela31@yahoo.com

Please pray for Aisi, a student in the Diploma (Pastors) Course. Aisi is blind in one eye and now has an infection in the other eye. We pray that God will grant complete healing. Pray that as brochures encouraging people to consider coming to study at the Bible College go around the churches, people will seriously consider whether God would like them to come and study here. Pray that every church will be able to have a student studying at the Bible College next year.

Prayer Points

Pray that the youth conference will have been a blessing for the youth who face many temptations in their lives. Pray for the young people in the churches that they will stand firm in the faith, resisting the temptations of the devil and grow in knowledge of God's Word and love for their Creator.



Isidore and Clothilde cutting out their material in sewing class

Introducing our staff:

Sr. Odette Douma, the wife of Pastor Alan, is from New Zealand. She is, together with Sr. Rita, teaching Health and Hygiene at the Bible College and is also teaching the Scripture Memory Course this year.

