

# Glad Tidings



Building Renovations and the Garden at Nakekela Christian Community Centre  
for HIV Patients, Tweefontein, KwaMhlanga, South Africa



*"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,  
and bring glad tidings of good things!" – Romans 10:15*



## Glad Tidings

Official Publication of the Mission Committee of the  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Heritage Reformed Congregations missions program is to glorify the Triune God, by proclaiming the message of salvation alone in Jesus Christ throughout the world, in order that lost sinners might be reconciled to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit.



*At Nakekela Christian Community Centre for an appointment with Dr. Sonja Miskin*

You can find this magazine electronically at  
<http://www.heritagereformed.com/index.php/glad-tidings>

## MEDITATION

### Blessed are the Peacemakers

Rev. Bartel Elshout

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God (Matt. 5:9).*

These words constitute the seventh beatitude by which the Lord Jesus Christ defines for us the seventh characteristic of the citizens of His spiritual kingdom. Christ hereby completes the perfect picture that He draws for us of His people a picture consisting of seven masterful strokes of divine wisdom.

It is significant that only in this beatitude He specifically refers to the citizens of His kingdom as "the children (or sons) of God." Why is this so? The Beatitudes are cumulative in nature; that is, each beatitude builds on the previous one. Thus, one will never be a peacemaker unless one is poor in spirit, mourns, is meek, hungers and thirsts after righteousness, is merciful, and is pure in heart. Only persons in whom all these Spirit wrought graces are functioning will be peacemakers. Therefore, when Christ refers to them as the children of God, He is implying that this designation applies to all seven beatitudes.

However, the reason He reserves this designation as the final stroke of His spiritual portrait is because there is no grace that so fully reflects the character of God in His people as their being peacemakers. For in designating peacemakers as the children of God, Jesus uses the Greek word *huios* rather than *teknon*--a word which communicates that the character of the child of God bears resemblance to the character of His heavenly Father.

How clearly Scripture reveals a Triune God to us as the great and eternal Peacemaker! From all eternity, God was moved within Himself to make peace with His fallen creature. In the eternal Counsel of Peace, a Triune God covenanted with Christ as Mediator to bring about reconciliation between God and fallen sinners.

Therefore, as soon as Adam and Eve fell, God revealed Himself to His fallen image bearers as the great Peacemaker, unveiling to them the gospel of peace concerning the Seed of the woman, who would come in the fullness of time to restore peace between God and man.

To that end the Father, as Peacemaker, sent His only begotten Son into the world, of whom Isaiah had prophesied that He would be the Prince of Peace, in order to make peace by way of the cross. That blessed reality caused the angels to sing in the fields of Ephrata that the birth of the Christ Child would not only bring glory to God but also peace on earth and, as a direct consequence of this, good will toward men (Luke 2:14).



On the cross we also behold the Eternal Son of God as Peacemaker. There He "abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace!" (Eph. 2:15).

However, the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the blessed Trinity, is also the great Peacemaker. As the Spirit of the Father and the Son, it is His special work to apply the work of Christ to the hearts of sinners, uniting them to Christ of whom Paul says, "He is our peace" (Eph. 2:14). By means of His marvelous work, He bestows on sinners that peace which passes all understanding (Phil 4:7).

But that work He accomplishes preeminently through the proclamation of the gospel of peace, a task for which He equips the Church of Christ and more specifically, a task for which He equips men whom He has made partakers of this peace, and who, by His transforming grace, as children of their heavenly Father, have also become peacemakers. The fruit of that grace will therefore not only manifest itself in the fact that true believers will seek, as much as lies in them, to "live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18), but also to do whatever their hand finds to do to make peace with their perishing neighbor by communicating the gospel of peace to them.

It is thus the sacred calling of the Church of Jesus Christ to be peace makers that is, to be diligent in preaching the gospel of peace in Jerusalem (at home) and to the ends of the earth. It is in that way that God, as the great Peacemaker, is pleased to accomplish His eternal Counsel of Peace. May it therefore be our earnest desire to be used of God as peace-makers to disseminate the gospel of peace, so that His good pleasure in Christ may prosper. Then we shall experience the blessed reality of this beatitude, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God!"

## EDITORIAL

### Christ's Blessings Multiplied

James Beeke

*"And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children" (Matt. 14:19-21).*

Jesus' blessings often are multiplying blessings. In this case, His disciples inform Jesus that "We have here but five loaves, and two fishes" (Matt. 14:17). Like the disciples, if





we would view the size of the crowd and then look at the meager supply of our bread and fish, the task appears impossible. But Jesus replied, "Bring them hither to me" (Matt. 14:18). This is key. Bringing our little to Christ's wonderful blessing hands!

This is a wonderful and encouraging truth! Our Lord's blessing often multiplies far beyond our expectations. How many mothers think, "I'm just a Mom"? These mothers have no idea how God may bless their parenting by making their sons and daughters blessing influences in the lives of others, who in turn will bless others, and they will bless many more, etc. Their "few loaves and fish" may also be blessed by Jesus' blessing hands to bless 5,000 and more!

Toward the end of my father's life here below, I asked him, "When did you first experience impressions of the Lord in your life, and how?" He answered, "My first impressions were from my first-grade teacher. I do not remember anything she said, but she loved the Lord, and this love made a deep impression on me. I realized that knowing and loving God is a wonderful thing." I do not know who this teacher is, and the Lord has taken her home long ago. But if I could meet her and ask her, what did you do in your life? She might answer, "I was just a first-grade teacher." Just a teacher? Really? God blessed her example to my father. Unbeknown to her, my father was a blessing to many in his life, and by God's grace, his descendants have been to many more. Without her knowledge of it, Jesus has used her "few loaves and fish" to bless 5,000 or more! And this is true for only my father, only one of her many students.

What an encouragement to persevere in the way of the Lord! God Himself has instructed us, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it" (Isa. 55:11). And often in multiplying ways! Sometimes we may not even be aware of the multiplying blessings, like the case of my father's first-grade teacher, but the reality of the blessing remains.

God is richly blessing the ministries of Mukhanyo Theological College. At present, more than 800 theological students, teachers, and church leaders are being instructed and blessed by Mukhanyo's theological education, teacher training, and distance study courses offered on three campuses and through more than 50 distance-learning support centres. And God's Word will not only bless the Mukhanyo students individually. How many lives will be blessed by God through the means of Mukhanyo graduates? And how many lives will those people bless? The multiplying impact of Jesus' blessing hands through Mukhanyo graduates is

staggering! Our perceptions are often so immediate and limited, but God's blessings are future-oriented and multiplying. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9).

God is richly blessing Mukhanyo's ministries. Would you like to partner with this work? We need your prayer and financial support. Due to God's faithful promise, your contribution will contribute to multiplying blessings. To God be the glory.

### **Miskins' Retirement**

On behalf of the HRC Mission Committee and denomination, we wish to sincerely thank Dr. Arthur Miskin for his 12 years of service as theological instructor at Mukhanyo Theological College and for his years as pastor of the English Reformed Church Rietvallei. We also express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Sonja Miskin, not only for her faithful support for her husband and his labors, but also for her dedicated leadership at Nakekela Clinic.

This meditation is most applicable for the Miskins' service. We trust that our faithful God will continue to multiply the fruit upon the Miskins' labor of love for their students and patients, far beyond their and our expectations.

We wish them God's blessing, guidance and health as they retire from service at Mukhanyo and Nakekela. We pray that Arthur may be restored to full health and strength, and that they both may serve the Lord in whatever ways the Lord will open in the future.

We wish the Miskins the closing blessing of Psalm 91, "With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation" (Ps. 91:16).

## **MISSION UPDATES INDONESIA – Sumba Update**

**Bill & Marion Sommer**

In our last update from Sumba, we wrote about the bridge that was so precarious to cross. Well, during one of the recent big rain storms it was carried away to the ocean! We heard that there were some people on the bridge when it happened, but they survived the ordeal. Now we have to drive through the river-bed, which works fine until the monsoons start again.

Elections are being held for a new governor for Sumba Tenga. Governor Bintang was a good governor and has helped us over the last 8 years. There was a rally for a new governor attended by more than a thousand people. I was invited to sit with the governor as guest of honor, which was a total surprise to me.



We had many visitors the last few days before we left for Holland and Canada.

The school and the home are running well. Teacher Julius and his wife, who is also a teacher in our school, are leaving this August to take care of his ailing father. We pray that the Lord will provide more teachers.

Essa has finished his studies for the ministry. He graduated Cum Laude and will soon start in TanaMbanas. We pray that the Lord will bless his work among his own people.



*Early morning before school starts*



*A place of honor*



*Bill invited to sit with the governor*





*Bill surrounded with his guests*



*Children of the home*



*Election rally*



*Evening meal with guests*



*Family group*



*Governor honoring Bill for all the work he has done for TanaMbanas*



*Lining up for class*



*Music lessons*



*New road*





*Part of consistory. Yanrus at the front*



*People coming to say goodbye to Bill*



*Students from outside the home*



*Teacher Julius with wife and children*



*The king of TanaMbanas speaking at the rally*



*Yard cleanup*

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

**Developments at Mukhanyo  
Dr. Brian DeVries**

So much is happening at Mukhanyo Theological College these days! We are thankful for God's blessings that are evident in many aspects of the ministry. What follows is a brief account about some areas of recent growth.

Two new academic programmes were finally approved in May by the accreditation authorities: a redesigned and upgraded B.Th. degree and a B.Th. Honours degree. These



new qualifications will be offered as from January 2019. The new B.Th. is better designed and finally replaces the old B.Th. programme that has been offered for twenty years. Please continue to pray for issues related to our accreditation as we are still awaiting response on submitted qualifications and other matters.

The new Honours qualification will be led by the newly appointed programme manager, Dr. Bryson Arthur. He and his wife May are originally from Scotland but have served globally in various theological educational and academic leadership roles. He has much teaching experience in many places including Kenya, Israel, Jordan, and South Africa. Dr. Arthur will teach both B.Th. and Honours level modules, together with other Senior Lecturers on our faculty as well as several visiting lecturers.

Mukhanyo is extremely grateful for the huge donation of books that we received from a number of donors in America. The shipping container of books arrived in April, and our library staff are still working to catalogue them all. These books will first be added to our three library collections in KwaMhlanga, Pretoria, and Johannesburg. Then the rest will be distributed to distance learning support centres, our alumni and students, and other Bible colleges in southern Africa. The cataloging work will continue for months, but we are already making plans for the second container which is to be shipped at the end of this year.

The architect's plans for Phase 2 renovations of our Johannesburg campus are almost finalized. So with the Lord's blessing, construction will start in the third quarter this year. Included in Phase 2 are three new larger classrooms, renovated lecturers' office space, a reception area, and – most importantly – a large library to house at least 10,000 books. The total renovation costs will be about \$65,000 USD. Much of this amount is already in the bank, but we still need another \$20,000 USD in capital funding. As with past projects, the Board insists that all money is collected before construction can begin.

Mukhanyo is also still praying for a technology manager “missionary” – someone who can serve on the team to solve and manage our growing computer needs. We've advertised locally for several months, but the right person seems hard to find. Perhaps you know a gifted computer expert who God is calling into missional service for an assignment of at least 2-4 years? There is huge potential for growth in this area if the Lord sends the right person for the job.

The Bible College Consultation this year was also a huge success! For three days in June, the leaders and lecturers of more than thirty Bible schools in southern Africa gathered

for a time for mutual learning and fellowship. We were more than 100 participants in total this year, our biggest event ever. As a whole we represented many thousands of theological students in southern Africa – the vast majority of whom are studying at reformed evangelical schools. May the Lord continue to add His rich blessing on each of these schools, for the healthy growth of His church in this needy continent!

We are especially thankful for the wonderful team of people the Lord has called to serve at Mukhanyo. These dedicated people include the governance team of ten seasoned directors on Mukhanyo's Board, our executive management team of six gifted leaders, our growing faculty with considerable ministry and academic experience, and the support staff in every area at our various locations – we are grateful to serve with such a team of committed people who the Lord is using for the good of many church communities in southern Africa.

Please continue to pray for Mukhanyo's developing educational ministry. You can stay informed about what is happening by registering for our digital newsletter at [www.mukhanyo.ac.za](http://www.mukhanyo.ac.za). Please pray especially for revival in churches across southern Africa – while we work hard for growth and positive results, God alone can give the increase and spiritual success upon our labors in His service.



*Students at the KwaMhlanga campus during a break*

*Generous book donations for Bible schools in Africa*



## SOUTH AFRICA Ministry Update

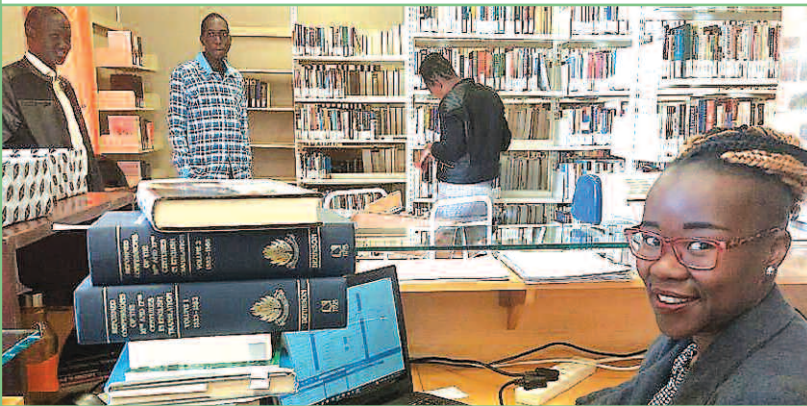
Rev. Arthur and Dr. Sonja Miskin



*Mukhanyo officiating the Rainbow Church Association launch*



*Johannesburg campus building in need of renovation*



*Mukhanyo's librarian and her team in KwaMhlanga*



*Participants at the Bible College Consultation 2018*

I read somewhere in a preaching text book that you should never start a sermon with an apology because it usually means that the preacher has not done his homework. That being said, I nonetheless do begin with an apology for not providing an update for the last edition of Glad Tidings. So much has happened this past year, especially with regard to our future, that I simply overlooked the cut-off date.

Both Sonja and I have for some considerable time prayerfully been considering our options in terms of the future. My various health issues of the past have taken their toll – I no longer have the stamina I once had. My wife too has been feeling the strain of her various responsibilities and has particular health struggles of her own. In consultation with our MLC, it was decided that I consider assuming emeritus status seeing that I was to turn 65 years of age in 2018. As you probably know by now, this was approved at this year's Synod meetings. In April the local classis of Southern Pretoria also approved my application for emeritation and the necessary recommendation was sent to the Synod.

It has also become quite clear to both of us that though one era of kingdom service is nearing its end, other (hopefully) less demanding opportunities are beginning to crystallise. My love for teaching and mentoring men continues unabated. My earnest desire is to continue teaching and training men in preparation for ministry, especially those who are strongly called but do not have the academic ability or necessary resources to attend any kind of formal college. There are many such men in the rural and poorer areas who are, in many ways, lost and forgotten. Our plans are, the Lord being willing, to eventually move to the Western Cape area, to a little town called Sedgfield, once we have sold our home in Pretoria. This, however, has not yet taken place due to various land issues in the area in which we live. We do pray that the Lord in His sovereign wisdom will sort all of this out for us. With these many changes and challenges bursting in on all sides, our constant comfort has been the promises of God (Ps. 37:5, 62:5).

My work as theological instructor has come to an end after a period of twelve and a half years. It's hard to believe; it seems like yesterday that we returned back to South Africa from Grand Rapids. It has been an immense privilege for me to be involved in the education of men and then to also see some of them growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my firm conviction



tion that my work at the college is done and that it is time to move on to other avenues of service. I will forever be thankful to the Lord for granting me 12 plus years in theological training. In the end I am the one who probably learned the most. I was forced to read deeply and widely so as to get a grip on the course content, then present the course in a manner that the students could comprehend – perhaps the hardest task of all -- and then witness the students laying hold of theological principles in a manner that their illumination at times was visible. The years of practical instruction in preaching classes benefitted me the most. Every week we were busy studying the Scriptures, analysing preaching portions in search of the main theme and a suitable outline for the biblical text. This repeated wrestling with God's word and how to deliver, explain, outline and apply God's word to contemporary audiences has had an immeasurable impact on my own sermon preparation and delivery. One of my greatest joys remains seeing men who started off in the beginning as what seemed to me to be hopeless cases actually coming out the other side as able to preach. I will forever thank God for the many wonderful opportunities that He granted me not only to instruct men for the ministry, but also to mentor, counsel and come alongside of students when they experienced the trials and vicissitudes of life.

my first grandson, Thomas Arthur. Three people have made public confession of faith over the past 7 months and at present there are five students in the Confession of Faith class, one of which is an adult lady who was raised as a Roman Catholic. This too has been a very encouraging aspect of ministry over the years. Several youngsters (and adults) have completed the confession classes and what has amazed me is the progress some of these students have made afterwards. One young man is now doing biblical studies at a local college in the Cape. There is no greater joy than seeing "spiritual children" placed under your care blooming forth with the fruit of the Spirit. Another joy to both Sonja and me was witnessing the confession of faith of Isaac Ndlovu, a man who for many years has been a gardener for us and others.



*Baptism of Thomas Miskin*

*Also see photos in December 2017 Glad Tidings of additional baptism and confession of faith.*

The future of our church in light of my retirement is uncertain at this point. A replacement pastor will need to be found to not only continue this work but to take it to the next logical stage of church planting and the establishment of a self-governing church. A committee is already in place comprising members of both our church and the mother church to plan ahead in terms of both these ends. The Reformed Church of Tshwane is at this point still affiliated to the Gereformeerde Kerk Rietvallei. For the time being, however, I have been granted approval to serve as an emeritus minister at the church until suitable arrangements are in place for the continuation of the ministry in my absence.

It is with great thankfulness to the Lord that a third elder, Guy Stubbs, has been recommended and approved by the church council in the Reformed Church Tshwane. Guy is a deeply committed Christian who has been a member of the church for roughly the past ten years and who is ardently committed to Christian community development. Part of his



The work at the Reformed Church Rietvallei continues to be very encouraging. There has been considerable internal growth. Three babies have been born within the last year with another one on the way sometime later this year. One special occasion was the baptism of a mother and her infant daughter. This was preceded by the confession of faith of the mother, who had been raised in a Jehovah Witness home. It was also a momentous privilege for me to baptise



work as a beekeeper is training beekeepers to become self-sufficient. A simplified catechism, developed as a ministry of the Reformed Church Tshwane, is distributed to these beekeepers, together with Bibles, and is proving to be a wonderful evangelistic tool among rural people with limited education. Plans are afoot in the future to develop trainers in rural KwaZulu Natal by taking them through a basic Bible course developed and sponsored in part by a local Bible college. Those who qualify would then be used to further instruct rural bee keepers and their families.

Nakekela clinic is progressing wonderfully under the Lord's care and oversight. Donations from various individuals and churches have enabled us to repaint both the inside and outside of the building and tile the floors of the clinic, which were very slippery at times. The clinic is now a cheerful blue, chosen by the staff. The Ndebele artwork also has been redone giving the clinic a local cultural appearance. All work was done by local artisans.



*New Floor Tiles  
at Nakekela*



*Dorcas  
Mathibela, the  
General  
Manager*

A few points are worth mentioning with regard to the activities of the clinic. Dorcas, the clinic manager, truly has grown into her managerial role. The progress she has made is truly remarkable. Jane Korevaar ably assists her weekly with among other things, financial issues, budgeting, book-keeping and monthly/yearly financial reporting.

Two of our staff members, Martha who is our Home-Based Care Coordinator, and Sello, our night watchman, have undergone community development training with Guy Stubbs (mentioned above) in KwaZulu-Natal. A

programme has been set in place at Nakekela among recovered patients – patients who were treated and brought back to health at the clinic. These folk are, as it were, re-entering society and some if not most do not have the wherewithal to support themselves or their families. Martha and Sello are now equipping them in the area of micro-financing and micro-lending, small-scale vegetable tower gardening and also small-scale chicken and egg farming (starting with 20 or 30-day old chicks). By employing this simple method, families are able to grow their own vegetables, provide their own meat and eggs and through the system of microlending (together with suitable oversight of the funds) the project keeps on running. With Guy's help, Martha has established a tower veggie garden as well as a chicken cage and the first harvest of veggies, chickens and eggs has appeared. The joyful aspect of all this is that once a month, or more, these ex-patients come together at Nakekela as a support group for training, Bible reading and the hearing of the preached word. It is simply marvellous to hear some of these folk, who at one time were perilously close to death, openly testifying to the grace of God in saving their souls. Is this not ultimately what we as Christians are actively to labour towards? There can be no greater joy than hearing first-hand the manner of God's dealings in the lives of the destitute. Space is limited and more on this and other things will be reported in a future Glad Tidings, because Sonja will continue on there as Medical Director until the Lord directs us elsewhere.



*A  
tower  
garden*



*Our first harvest from chickens producing eggs*



## CHURCH EVANGELISM

### Heritage Reformed Congregation, Hull Iowa

Mission Outreach  
Rev. Bartel Elshout



On a more personal note, my 65th birthday has come and gone. A wonderful meal with all of our children was enjoyed in a local restaurant. With great thanksgiving we are humbled by the fact that they are all walking in the ways of our Lord ... there surely can be no greater joy for parents than this.



I am, at the time of writing, in my postoperative week after radical prostatectomy surgery. Recovery is slow but there is improvement day by day. I was ill-prepared for the whole episode because I did not fully appreciate how extensive the surgery would be. Many a day in total weakness I have had to entrust myself fully to the Lord's care, regardless of what was happening, and now I can truly say with the Psalmist, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes" (Ps.119:71). There is nothing in the world that so draws you to the word of God in all earnestness as calamity and trouble, for it is here that the Lord speaks most clearly.

In closing, please pray for complete healing after the surgery, the sale of our house and the provision of a pastor to shepherd the flock as we plan to relocate, all the Lord willing. We are looking forward to this new season of life in which we intend not to retire, as secular society defines the term, but to redirect our gifts and experience in other areas of usefulness as the Lord directs. Until then we wait upon the Lord. Right now, we remain busy with whatever our hands find to do. In the future we intend to keep the churches updated as to the way the Lord takes us and hopefully uses us.



*Striving to be  
the Hands and  
Feet of Jesus*

Each year the Hull congregation offers Vacation Bible School to the young children of the church, and to their extended family, friends and children in the community. In 2017, the three-day event was held in the evening. The VBS theme was *Children of the Bible*, and Bible lessons were taught by Pastor Elshout on Samuel, Joseph, and Josiah.

The lessons focused on the Gospel call, serving God, the sin of jealousy, joy in forgiveness, and not forsaking biblical training. The children gathered in the sanctuary for the bible lesson, scripture reading, reciting memory verses, and singing various songs and Psalters. The last hour included a snack and craft in the church basement, and outdoor games.

On the last evening of VBS, the children visited the long-term care center in Hull and presented a short program with everything they learned. Following that, the children interacted with the residents, and the elderly smiles made it obvious how much they treasured the presence of children. During the week, donations of wash cloths, towels, and sheets to include in hygiene kits were collected for Mission Haiti.

We pray that the Vacation Bible School experience will plant the seed of faith in the young lives and tender years of each one attending. *Ecclesiastes 12:1* - "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not."



Vacation Bible School



# OUTREACH REPORT

## Heritage Reformed Church, Bradford, Ontario

Evangelism Summary  
Rev. Don Overbeek

Outwardly, our church remains basically the same from last year's report, but we pray our hearts have been enlarged in love for the Lord, for each other, and for our neighbor. Large-heartedness is the result of God's Spirit changing our hearts and transforming our lives. It is this largeness of heart that we pray for the Spirit to cultivate in us and that God uses for Kingdom growth in the towns of Bradford, Newmarket and beyond. In this report, we hope to demonstrate how this largeness of heart shows itself among our church family and in our reaching out to others.



### Fighting our Natural Tendency

Human nature causes us to focus on ourselves. This tendency can exist in churches both large and small. No church is immune to the dangers of "self-centeredness" (one writer has referred to this as the "ingrown church"). As a matter of fact, this is one of the great dangers and difficulties facing so many smaller churches—the sense among the few members that the local church exists to try to ensure that it continues to exist. This might be seen in constantly focusing on the numbers (of those who are members, attendees, or communicants) or possibly in trying any evangelism tactic possible, just to look as if we are making a difference and are worth the support of the denomination.

As a small local church, it is hard to admit that this natural tendency is at work in us too. We need to reckon with the fact that God's purposes do not focus on us. As a church, we need to see that the bigness of God's Kingdom does not guarantee that our church will exist next year or in five years. When we give the future of our church into the Lord's hands, painful though it may be, we are truly liberated. Focusing on the greatness of the King of the Church allows us to enhance our view of our place and role in the spreading of His Kingdom throughout this world.

### Believers' hearts enlarged by the Love of God

It is our longing, as we confess our sinful selfishness, to have our hearts enlarged by the experience of God's love. This is the goal in all our ministries, and it serves as the fuel for lives of evangelistic zeal and blessings.

God's mercy towards our small flock can be seen in the weekly visitors that attend our worship services. Worship is the focal event of our church, a time where the love of God

engages us, transforms us, and enlarges our hearts by His grace. We are so thankful to share this with guests who visit and join in this blessed opportunity.

What do we want people to see in our worship services? We want people to see that we worship a glorious God! All our songs, sermons, prayers and giving flow from the consideration of Who this great God is. Sadly most visitors look at us and see what is not there – there are few youth, there are few people of color, there are few professionals... there are many old, Dutch people. But, we pray that some of these visitors are able to look past our physical limitations and behold our God, the One we worship and the One that fills us with joy and love. What is it that we want to draw people to return and stay with us? We long that it would be the God we serve! This would transcend any human identification and would be a solid rock to build upon.

At the same time, we long that people would see our hearts filled and enlarged by God's love. The way we sing should indicate a feverish love for the One we praise. Our giving should indicate that passing the collection bag is not a merely a requirement but a confidence that God will do great things with ordinary resources. The ministry of the Word, while it is but ordinary speech brought through an ordinary man, should make us glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ alone. Our times of prayer should be the corporate outpouring of our hearts in dependence on the God Who hears and answers prayer.

Hearts enlarged in this way point to the Triune God Who fills them and brings the emphasis not on outward dimensions or numbers, but on the faith that defines and mobilizes the Church.

### Enlarged Hearts in Action

Where God fills hearts, the result will be like a rain-barrel overflowing its capacity and spilling over the edges. The over-flowing heart will have a far wider impact, spreading the love of God far and wide.

Specifically, in the past several months, we have sought to show Christ's love through the action of hospitality. When families visit our congregation, church members invite them over for fellowship, to give the children an outlet for their energy, and just to show our care. We hope that by engaging these people further over coffee and a meal, they can see our heart for God and them.

Also, the enlarged hearts God is giving manifest other-centeredness when we move out of our "comfort zones", especially in care for and ministry to people. When God's grace changes a life and it starts to make a difference, it doesn't always do so in a neat and tidy way. We visit people who are friends/non-attending family of members



from the congregation and even serve them in times of tragedy and loss. As our roots in the community have grown, there are opportunities to teach others Reformed truths even if, for the time being, they remain in a non-Reformed church. As we spread God's truth to those around us, our heart is for the coming of His Kingdom. We recognize we have only a small place in the Kingdom of God and hope to be of service to other professing Christians within the larger Kingdom.

A last way we try to reflect life as big-hearted Reformed Christians is through giving and practical service. A small church often feels like a leech on the larger self-supporting churches – and we are ever grateful and feel lastingly indebted to Heritage Reformed Congregations' brothers and sisters who think of us and give for our support. We encourage our people, and they respond by giving open-handedly and generously to denominational causes as well as to our own church fund. Big heartedness is not exclusive, but it seeks to spread blessings and to multiply gifts wherever it can.

While we may not have the funds or volunteer support to run a food bank, we look for opportunities to serve the few people in need who may cross our paths. Recently, a woman called us (one of many churches she had tried to contact for help), sharing her desperate need in the face of having her electricity cancelled. We invited her to worship (she came once!), had her and her children over to our house ("the first time anyone has ever invited us over"), and collected food for their support. We hope she is led to see the provision of God, through us, and see hearts that resonate with people in their practical needs and a willingness to get involved in their lives, problems and all.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, we thank God for the largeness of heart He has worked in you and how the Bradford Congregation (and others!) have received abundantly. We strive to reflect the same heart for God and others with the prayer that God will be glorified and that His Church may grow!



*Gardening for the an elderly member*

## MISSION FINANCES

William Kuivenhoven and James van den Brink

Dear Friends of the Mission,  
Presented here is our current financial statement. We thank God for the means He has given us through you, our supporters, to continue our mission endeavours.

We are currently paying our missionaries on a month to month basis, rather than a quarterly basis due to shortfalls. We have recently released a letter to the denomination asking for your continued support and to bring our needs to your attention.

Please remember the Mission Committee in your prayers and in your financial giving. Your support continues to assist in spreading the light of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through this dark world.



*Bradford Bible Study*



**HRC General Mission  
Financial Reports  
For the Nine Months Ended April 30, 2018**  
*Actual and Budget figures presented in CAD*

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Act vs Bud Variance	Prior YTD Actual	CY vs PY Variance
<b>Revenue</b>					
HRC Church Donations	\$ 127 710	\$ 191 037	\$ (63 327)	\$ 199 136	\$ (71 426)
Individual Donations	7 346	-	7 346	12 876	(5 530)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 135 056</b>	<b>\$ 191 037</b>	<b>\$ (55 981)</b>	<b>\$ 212 012</b>	<b>\$ (76 957)</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Mission Staff Related Support	\$ 177 588	\$ 168 502	\$ (9 086)	\$ 236 038	\$ 58 450
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
Glad Tidings - Pub. & Dist.	7 275	7 985	709	6 744	(531)
Administration Costs	-	1 500	1 500	2 688	2 688
Delegate Travel	1 761	3 000	1 239	6 198	4 437
Mercy Ministries	-	1 800	1 800	-	-
Bank Charges	438	750	312	1 285	846
Emergency Fund	-	7 500	7 500	-	-
Exchange Loss (Gain)	(2 194)	-	2 194	(463)	1 731
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 184 868</b>	<b>\$ 191 037</b>	<b>\$ 6 168</b>	<b>\$ 252 489</b>	<b>\$ 67 621</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>\$ (49 813)</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (49 813)</b>	<b>\$ (40 477)</b>	<b>\$ (9 336)</b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	YTD Actual	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank	\$ 8 218	\$ 20 592	\$ (12 374)
Due From (To) DOC	4 487	6 229	(1 742)
Prepaid Expenses	18 471	48 037	(29 566)
Other Current Assets	6 005	4 965	1 040
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 37 181</b>	<b>\$ 79 823</b>	<b>\$ (42 643)</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Donations Rec'd for Other Orgs.	\$ 1 991	\$ 4 586	\$ (2 595)
Other Current Liabilities	5 877	5 877	-
<b>Total (Current) Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 7 868</b>	<b>\$ 10 463</b>	<b>\$ (2 595)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>29 313</b>	<b>69 360</b>	<b>(40 047)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 37 181</b>	<b>\$ 79 823</b>	<b>\$ (42 643)</b>

**HRC Domestic Outreach Committee  
Financial Reports  
For the Nine Months Ended April 30, 2018**  
*Actual and Budget figures presented in CAD*

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Act vs Bud Variance	Prior YTD Actual	CY vs PY Variance
<b>Revenue</b>					
HRC Church Donations	\$ 72 154	\$ 59 637	\$ 12 517	\$ 81 225	\$ (9 071)
Other Donations	-	-	-	25 139	(25 139)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 72 154</b>	<b>\$ 59 637</b>	<b>\$ 12 517</b>	<b>\$ 106 364</b>	<b>\$ (34 210)</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Outreach Support	\$ 58 444	\$ 59 262	\$ 818	\$ 71 640	\$ 13 196
Bank Charges	411	375	(36)	365	(46)
Delegate Travel	-	-	-	96	96
Exchange Loss (Gain)	(537)	-	537	(127)	410
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 58 318</b>	<b>\$ 59 637</b>	<b>\$ 1 319</b>	<b>\$ 71 974</b>	<b>\$ 13 656</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>\$ 13 836</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 13 836</b>	<b>\$ 34 390</b>	<b>\$ (20 555)</b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	YTD Actual	Prior YTD	CY vs PY Variance
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank	\$ 7 926	\$ 7 112	\$ 814
Prepaid Expenses	23 322	23 941	(618)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 31 248</b>	<b>\$ 31 052</b>	<b>\$ 196</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Due To GM	\$ 4 487	\$ 6 229	\$ (1 742)
Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
<b>Total (Current) Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 4 487</b>	<b>\$ 6 229</b>	<b>\$ (1 742)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>26 761</b>	<b>24 823</b>	<b>1 938</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 31 248</b>	<b>\$ 31 052</b>	<b>\$ 196</b>

## SPECIAL DATES and PRAYER NEEDS

Please remember the following with prayer, praise and/or greetings:

Pray for the conversion and/or spiritual strengthening of all that read this magazine and all those that are included in these pages.

- Titus DeVries Birthday - August 14
- Dr. Brian DeVries Birthday - September 13
- Andrew DeVries Birthday - November 5



*Nakekela Christian Community Centre in South Africa*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PLEASE SHARE AND DONATE

Your contributions will help bring the gospel and spiritual encouragement to the areas where our missionaries/domestic outreach pastors are serving the Lord.

Please include your name, telephone, address, city, province/state, country, postal/zip code, email and a reference of what person/project the funds should be directed to. (Tax receipts available)

All Canadian donations should be forwarded to:

HRC Mission Fund, P.O. Box 147, Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1C0 Canada  
or

All U.S.A. donations should be forwarded to:

HRC Mission Fund, c/o 540 Crescent St., NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 USA  
Spending of funds is confined to Board-approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a Board-approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the Board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.



## Come Over and Help Us

A voice comes o'er the waters,  
A voice both loud and clear,  
"Come over here and help us,  
We're bound in slavish fear!  
Our chains do now confine us  
In darkness and in doubt,  
No light to shine upon us,  
No hand to bring us out."

"Our idols cannot help us;  
We only deeper fall;  
And dimmer grows our vision,  
When on their names we call,  
We look and wait and wonder  
If someone o'er the sea  
Will hasten to relieve us,  
Will come and set us free."

"We hear that o'er the waters  
A glorious light doth shine,  
A light sent down from heaven,  
Oh, send that light divine!  
We hear that one called Jesus  
Can save us from our sin;  
We want to hear his footsteps,  
We want to let Him in."

Come over and help us!  
Come over and help us!  
Come over and help us!  
Come over and help us today.

A.F. Myer