

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

Reformation Church Planting

By Pastor Brian De Jong

One of the most worn-out and tired old criticisms of Reformed theology is our supposed disinterest in missions and evangelism. Our zealous critics often pit predestination against evangelism, as if the two are mutually exclusive.

Nothing could be further from the truth, especially when it comes to the track record of John Calvin. While many examples would prove the point, I like especially what happened in France during the Reformation era. Specifically, I appreciate the church planting zeal of Reformed believers in that great country.

To adequately understand the scope of reformation church planting efforts in France, you must realize that Calvin felt strongly that the Church must be a gospel preaching institution. Calvin's doctrine of the church was centered around the gospel. Calvin himself modeled this gospel preaching approach in Geneva, but he also exported this perspective throughout Europe.

Calvin's zeal from France was unsurpassed, and understandably so. Calvin was a Frenchman by birth, and owed much to his mother country. As a believer, he remained concerned for the spiritual welfare of his countrymen according to the flesh.

To that end, Calvin and the church in Geneva began training missionaries to evangelize France. Due to the hostility of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and the king and queen, the

beginnings were modest. In 1553 the first missionaries were sent to France. In 1555 there were five Reformed congregations throughout all of France. The numbers climbed, so that four years later there were around 100 churches. By 1562, that number stood at 2,150. It is estimated that the membership of the Reformed churches was around 3 million, which was 15% of the total population of 20 million. During the year 1561, the number of missionary pastors sent into France was 142 men. This led Fred Klooster to write, "the mission activity that emanated from Geneva under Calvin's inspiration was itself of monumental proportions. It was perhaps the greatest home missions project that history has yet seen since the time of the apostles."

This effort was extraordinary, provoking biographer Williston Walker to observe that "A great national Church, for the first time in Reformation history, was created independent of a hostile State; and the work was one for which Calvin had given the model, the inspiration, and the training."

This work was done at great personal risk. If caught, the pastors could be imprisoned, tortured and even killed. Going into France with the gospel would mean death, if caught. Hence suffering was part of the regular experience of these heralds of the good news of Christ.



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Mnemonics...

- *Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast, November 3rd*
- *Harvest Home, November 10th*
- *Meadowview Manor, November 11th*
- *Thanksgiving Service, November 21st*

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Christ's Neighborhood



Posted on a wall in Resurrection OPC is a large map of the city of Oshkosh, WI. Resurrection is pinpointed, and five blocks in every direction from the church are highlighted. Every Saturday at 10am, Pastor Bob Holda and a small group of church members gather in front of the map to plan their route for door-to-door visits that day, and to pray. It is a densely populated area, and in the span of these blocks there are thousands of homes and countless souls who need Christ.

Armed with a checklist, outreach materials, and copies of *Christ Proclaims a Better Way*, Holda and the church members break into groups and spend about an hour canvassing the neighborhood. The checklist is for the church's sake, to keep record of their visits. But they're not taking notes while talking to people; they do this between visits and pray as they walk from home to home. The things they write down include every address where a door was opened, if the people already had a church home, or if they weren't interested in talking.

This is their first pass of the neighborhood and they are seeking to do it very intentionally. On the second pass they hope to re-connect with those who seemed open to their visit, return to the homes where no one answered the door, and also respect those who did not wish for a return visit. Holda says, "If someone is frustrated with us, then it could be that the Lord is not calling that person right now. We trust these people to the Lord."

What are some of the things they say when the door is opened? It's usually quite simple: "Hi, my name is _____. I'm a member of a church in the neighborhood, and we'd like you to know that we're here. If you have any needs we can help you with, we want you to know that we're happy to serve you." Holda shares they're also careful to ask questions with respect when it comes to things like the person's name or background. "May I ask _____?" comes across as less threatening and more kind.

Resurrection only recently moved to the neighborhood, but the church where they worship still has some lingering roots in the community. Holda says, "This was originally a Roman Catholic church, and ten years ago the neighborhood was filled with Roman Catholics who walked to church each Sunday." The Roman Catholic church was also a hub of activity in the city, hosting a huge festival in their parking lot every fall. "The former presence of this church is still on the consciousness of the middle-aged and older people in the neighborhood," and that sometimes opens the door for conversation on their visits. Holda and the crew at times will say, "We're new to the neighborhood- is there anything you can tell us about it? Were you here when this was a Roman Catholic church?"

Respect and boldness are two things they keep in mind as they walk. Holda says that sometimes it can feel like they are imposing on the neighborhood, but he encourages and reminds his people that, in fact, "this is Christ's neighborhood. We don't need to be ashamed. Yes, we need to be kind and respectful, but we're submitting to Christ first and foremost... Our confidence is not in us, but in God who has providentially put us in this neighborhood to serve it."

Holda further confesses, "This is the turf we've been given by God to interact with, and we feel that burden. On Sunday mornings, the homes are full and the pews are empty. We want to see that reversed! But in order for that to happen, we have to go where people live and not simply wait for them to come to us."

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Christ's Neighborhood Continued....

Already they are experiencing fruit from this outreach, with three visitors coming as a direct result of their door to door invitations. But God is also blessing this outreach in another way; he is using it to teach the church members involved. "We are growing in boldness, in zeal, in wisdom. An interesting thing we've seen is that the most receptive people are not those who have the nicest homes or who appear to have it all together. We can have a misconception that those who look good on the outside are closer to the Kingdom, but it's often those who are broken and needy who are, in fact, closest," says Holda.

He goes on, "Sometimes when you're a new church and you know that you need to grow and fill the collection plate, the temptation can be to think, 'this person has it all together- they may have something to contribute.'" But instead, he says, "We should want to be the kind of church that has vagabonds in the pews. People who are only receiving. Who are broken. Needy. Like us. People with an obvious earthly need that reflect the deeper need we all have spiritually. When we look at the example of Christ, we realize that he didn't choose to be served as much as he chose to serve others. We should have that same heart."

"We're not here, yet," Holda confesses. "These convictions are just dawning on us. But we hope and pray that they brighten and increase and warm the gospel in our hearts even more."

Thanksgiving Service

Our annual Thanksgiving service will be on November 21st at 7:00pm. Plan to join us for this time of thanksgiving and encouragement!



Anchor of Hope Newsletter



The lotus flower was the theme of our banquet.

From the words of Jennifer Ludens:

"[The lotus flower] grows in murky and dirty swamp water. The plant takes root in the muck and mud, the stem sprouting up through the dirty water until the bud emerges just above the surface. The lotus flower then opens into a beautiful symmetrical flower which rests perfectly above the filth below without showing any sign that it had ever been submerged in the muddy water. This is a beautiful example of the transformation we go through when we allow Christ to rule in our hearts. It is a symbol of the hope that we have because of Christ's sacrifice, and a symbol of the hope that Anchor of Hope wishes to pass on to the community we serve."

We believe that through your support both at the banquet and going forward, as well as God's ability to do what we may think impossible, we will continue to be that symbol of hope that we pass on to the community we serve.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend, sponsor, speak at and pray for our 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet on October 9. We at Anchor of Hope feel very blessed to have such supportive people like you.

To our guests, thank you for taking time to come and be a part of the evening. It was wonderful to see all of your smiling faces. It was also very humbling to see so many people come out to show support for Anchor of Hope. A thank you to our featured guests: U.S. Congressman Glenn Grothman, State Senator Devin LeMahieu and State Representative Terry Katsma.

To our sponsors Sargento Foods, The Vollrath Company, Oostburg Concrete, Shing Wako , CG Warehousing, Sheboygan Chevrolet, Wenig Funeral Homes, Cedar Creek Surveying, Sartori Cheese, Victorian Chocolates, GT Graphics, Lee Anne Gilson, Ruth Vanderpuy, Lake 98.1, Sheboygan Pizza Ranch, Thrivent Financial: thank you for your financial support and in-kind donations. Your contributions helped make the night happen and they help us reach for our lofty goals. We know nothing is bigger than God can handle, and we appreciate you giving us the financial courage to believe that truth.

To our speakers Dr. Mark Knabel, Dr. Mark Bettag: thank you for sharing your knowledge and passion for

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Anchor of Hope Continued....

LIFE with us. Your passion for life ignited the room that night and encouraged us to continue the fight.

To those unable to attend but who kept us in your prayers: thank you for your spiritual support. We know God can do so many things through Anchor of Hope, and we appreciate you believing in that mission with us. We had close to 350 guests in attendance and we reached our budgeted goal for 2018.

As stated at the banquet, our two main goals for 2019 are to purchase a mobile unit and to develop a program on healthy sexuality to be integrated into our local schools. The mobile unit would be a fully-functional location providing privacy for pregnancy tests, STD tests and treatment and ultrasounds, while reaching our clients in their communities. Approximately 87% of our current clients reside in one of two Sheboygan zip codes. We believe God is calling us to provide mobile services to reach those outside our current area. The program to be integrated in the schools will include additional staff and materials to be used within the schools. The start-up cost for both of these goals is \$250,000. While we realize these may be lofty goals, we know our God is big. Bigger than we can imagine.

Thank you for helping us grow and show love to more lotus flowers.



Check out Anchor of Hope's new website!

John Ploughman

Chapter 18: Men with Two Faces

Even bad men praise consistency. Thieves like honest men, for they are the best to rob. When you know where to find a man, he has one good point at any rate; but a fellow who howls with the wolves and bleats with the sheep gets nobody's good word unless it be the devil's. To carry two faces under one hat is, however, very common. Many roost with the poultry and go shares with Reynard. Many look as if butter would not melt in their mouths and yet can spit fire when it suits their purpose. I read the other day an advertisement about reversible coats; the tailor who sells them must be making a fortune. Holding with the hare and running with the hounds is still in fashion. Consistency is about as scarce in the world as musk in a dog kennel. You may trust some men as far as you can see them, but no further, for new company makes them new men. Like water, they boil or freeze according to the temperature. Some do this because they have no principles; they are of the weathercock persuasion and turn with the wind. you might as well measure the moon for a suit of clothes as know what they are. They believe in that which pays best. They always put up at the Golden Fleece; their mill grinds any grist which you bring to it if the ready money is forthcoming. They go with every wind, north, south, east, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest, north-northeast, southwest-by-south, or any other in all the world. Like frogs, they live on land or water and are not at all particular which it is. Like a cat, they always fall on their feet and will stop anywhere if you butter their toes. They love their friends dearly, but their love lies in the cupboard; if that be bare, like a mouse, their love runs off to some other larder. They say, "Leave you, dear girl? Never, while you have a shilling." How they scuttle off if you come to the bad! Like rats, they leave a sinking ship.

When good cheer is lacking, Such friends still be packing.

Their heart follows the pudding. While the pot boils, they sit by the fire; when the meal tub is empty, they play at turnabout. They believe in the winning horse; they will wear anybody's coat who may choose to give them one; they are to be bought by the dozen like mackerel, but he who gives a penny for them wastes his money. Profit is their god; and whether they make it out of you or your enemy, the money is just as sweet to them. Heads or tails are alike to them so long as they win. High road or back lane, all's the same to them as long as they can get home with the loaf in the basket. They are friends to the goose, but they will eat his giblets. So long as the water turns their wheel, it is none the worse for being muddy; they would bum their mother's coffin if they were short of fire wood and sell their own father if they could turn a penny by the old gentleman's bones. They never lose a chance of minding the main chance.

Others are shifty because they are so desperately fond of good fellowship. "Hail fellow, well met," is their cry, be it traveler or highwayman. They are so good-natured that they must agree with everybody. They are cousins of Mr. Anything. Their brains are in other people's heads. If they were at Rome, they would kiss the Pope's toe, but when they are at home they make themselves hoarse with shouting, "No Popery." They admire the Vicar of Bray, whose principle was to be the Vicar of Bray whether the Church was Protestant or Popish. They are mere time-servers, in hopes that the times may serve them. They belong to the party which wears the yellow colors not in their button-holes, but in the palms of their hands. Butter them, and like turnips you may eat them. Pull the rope, and like the bells they will ring as you choose to make them, funeral knell or wedding peal, come to church or go to the devil. They have no backbones; you may bend them like willow wands, backwards or forwards, whichever way you please. Like oysters, anybody may pepper them who can open them. They are sweet to you and sweet to your enemy. They blow hot and cold. They try to be Jack-o'-both sides and deserve to be kicked like a football by both parties.

Some are hypocrites by nature, slippery as eels, and piebald like Squire Smoothey's mare. Like a drunken man, they could not walk straight if they were to try. They wind in and out like a Surrey lane. They were born of the breed of St. Judas. The double shuffle is their favorite game, and honesty their greatest hatred. Honey is on their tongues, but gall in their hearts. They are mongrel-bred, like the gypsy's dog. Like a cat's feet, they show soft pads but carry sharp claws. If their teeth are not rotten, their tongues are, and their hearts

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Ploughman Continued....

are like dead men's graves. If speaking the truth and lying were equally profitable, they would naturally prefer to lie; for, like dirt to a pig, it would be congenial. They fawn, and flatter, and cringe, and scrape; like snails they make their way by their slime, but all the while they hate you in their hearts and only wait for a chance to stab you. Beware of those who come from the town of Deceit. Mr. Facing-both-ways, Mr. Fair-speech, and Mr. Two-tongues are neighbors who are best at a distance. Though they look one way, as boatmen do, they are pulling the other; they are false as the devil's promises, and as cruel as death and the grave.

Religious deceivers are the worst of vermin, and I fear they are as plentiful as rats in an old wheat stack. They are like a silver pin, Fair without but foul within.

They cover up their black flesh with white feathers. Saturday and Sunday make a wonderful difference in them. They have the fear of the minister a good deal more before their eyes than the fear of God. Their religion lies in imitating the religious; they have none of the root of the matter in them. They carry Dr. Watts' hymn book in their pocket and sing a roaring song at the same time. Their Sunday coats are the best part about them; the nearer you get to their hearts, the more filth you will find. They prate like parrots, but their talk and their walk do not agree. Some of them are fishing for customers, and a little pious talk is a cheap advertisement; if the seat at the church or the meeting costs a trifle, they make it up out of short weights. They don't worship God while they trade, but they trade on their worship. Others of the poorer sort go to church for Soup, and bread, and coal tickets. They love the communion because of the alms' money. Some of the dear old Mrs. Goodbodies want a blessed almshouse, and so they profess to be so blessed under the blessed ministry or their blessed Pastor every blessed Sabbath. Charity suits them if faith does not; they know which side their bread is buttered on.

Others make a decent show in religion to quiet their consciences; they use it as a salve for their wounds. If they could satisfy heaven as easily as they quiet themselves, it would be a fine thing for them. It has been my lot to meet with some who went a long way in profession, as far as I could see, for nothing but the love of being thought well of. They got a little knot of friends to believe in their dime talk, and take all in for gospel that they liked to say. Their opinion was the true measure of a preacher's soundness; they could settle up everything by their own know, and they had gallons of XXX experience for those who liked something hot and strong; but dear, dear, if they had but condescended to show a little Christian practice as well, how much better their lives would have weighed up! These people are like owls, which look to be big birds, but they are not, for they are all feathers; and they look wonderfully knowing in the twilight, but when the light comes, they are regular boobies.

Hypocrites of all sorts are abominable, and he who deals with them will rue it. He who tries to cheat the Lord will be quite ready to cheat his fellow men. Great cry generally means little wool. Many a big chimney in which you expect to see bacon and hams, when you look up it, has nothing to show you but its empty hooks and black soot. Some men's windmills are only nutcrackers, and their elephants are nothing but sucking pigs. It is not all who go to church or meeting that truly pray, nor those who sing loudest that praise God most, nor those who pull the longest faces who are the most in earnest.

What mean animals hypocrites must be! Talk of polecats and weasels, they are nothing in comparison to them. Better be a dead dog than a live hypocrite. Surely when the devil sees hypocrites at their little game, it must be as good as a play to him; he tempts genuine Christians, but he lets these alone, because he is sure of them. He need not shoot at lame ducks; his dog can pick them up any day.

Depend upon it, friends, if a straight line will not pay, a crooked one won't. What is got by shuffling is very dangerous gain. It may give a moment's peace to wear a mask, but deception will come home to you and bring sorrow with it. Honesty is the best policy. If the lion's skin does not do, never try the fox's. Be as true as steel. Let your face and hands, like the church clock, always tell how your inner works are going. Better be laughed at as Tom Tell-truth than be praised as Crafty Charlie. Plain dealing may bring us trouble, but it is better than shuffling. At the last, the upright will have their reward; but for the double-minded to get to heaven is as impossible as for a man to swim the Atlantic with a millstone under each arm.

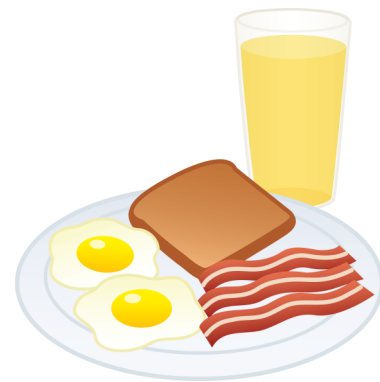
Harvest Home Dinner



Harvest home dinner will be on Saturday, November 10th, at 5:30pm. Our speakers are the Wingards and the Falks, who will talk about the challenges of life on the mission field. Submit your questions to Pastor Brian in advance!

Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast

The Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at 7am at the church. Join us for this encouraging time of food and fellowship!



November Birthdays

Becca Oliver 14th
Gabe Froh 30th



November Anniversaries

Jay & Gail Buyze
~November 6th, 47 years~





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

November 2018

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church's



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	Men and Boy's Leadership Breakfast
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Harvest Home Dinner, 5:30pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Meadowview Manor, 3pm		Session Meeting, 6:30pm				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Thanksgiving Service, 7pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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CHEX SCOTCHEROOS

Ingredients:

- 6 cups Chex cereal (*Rice or Corn*)
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- 1½ cups peanut butter
- 2 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups butterscotch chips
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla

Instructions:

- In a large bowl, add 6 cups of Chex cereal. Grease or line a baking sheet with wax paper.
- In a small saucepan, combine the corn syrup and sugar over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Once boiling, immediately remove from heat and stir in 1½ cups of peanut butter. Pour over cereal and fold together. Use a large cookie scoop and scoop onto wax paper in the size that you like. Use your hands to press together and form them.
- Using a microwave safe dish or a double boiler, melt together chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, ½ cup of peanut butter and vanilla. If microwaving, heat in 10 second intervals, stirring in between to prevent the chocolate from burning.



*“For He
has satisfied
the thirsty
soul,
and the
hungry soul
He has filled
with what
is good.”*



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church's

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Spurgeon Corner

"In thy light shall we see light."

Psalm 36:9

No lips can tell the love of Christ to the heart till Jesus himself shall speak within. Descriptions all fall flat and tame unless the Holy Ghost fills them with life and power; till our Immanuel reveals himself within, the soul sees him not. If you would see the sun, would you gather together the common means of illumination, and seek in that way to behold the orb of day? No, the wise man knoweth that the sun must reveal itself, and only by its own blaze can that mighty lamp be seen. It is so with Christ. "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona:" said he to Peter, "for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee." Purify flesh and blood by any educational process you may select, elevate mental faculties to the highest degree of intellectual power, yet none of these can reveal Christ. The Spirit of God must come with power, and overshadow the man with his wings, and then in that mystic holy of holies the Lord Jesus must display himself to the sanctified eye, as he doth not unto the purblind sons of men. Christ must be his own mirror. The great mass of this blear-eyed world can see nothing of the ineffable glories of Immanuel. He stands before them without form or comeliness, a root out of a dry ground, rejected by the vain and despised by the proud. Only where the Spirit has touched the eye with eye-salve, quickened the heart with divine life, and educated the soul to a heavenly taste, only there is he understood. "To you that believe he is precious;" to you he is the chief corner-stone, the Rock of your salvation, your all in all; but to others he is "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." Happy are those to whom our Lord manifests himself, for his promise to such is that he will *make his abode with them*. O Jesus, our Lord, our heart is open, come in, and go out no more forever. Show thyself to us now! Favour us with a glimpse of thine all-conquering charms.

Morning, November 4h, C.H. Spurgeon

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Front Page Concluded...

How many faithful believers lost their lives in France during those years is impossible to know, but it is not a small number.

So what lessons can we take away from the thrilling story of the French Reformation, and its evangelistic bent? First, that we are not compromised by our doctrine of election and predestination. Those doctrines didn't hinder Paul from being a zealous missionary, nor has it hindered many faithful believers throughout history.

Second, the work of the gospel finds its proper fulfillment in the establishment and

promotion of churches. To evangelize a population in order to introduce a "churchless Christianity" is a travesty of justice.

