

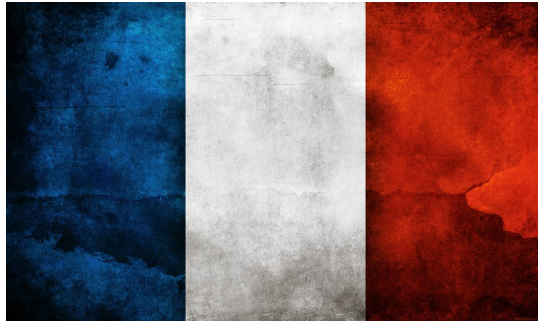
REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

THE REFORMATION & FRANCE

By Pastor Brian De Jong

The year was 1984 and a young college student was wandering the streets of Paris, France. It happened to be Bastille Day, and this young man watched the fireworks in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. Riding the subway back to his lodgings, he savored the enjoyment of that time. Yet during this experience, he had seen first hand how entirely secular France was. Apart from their historic relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, France had no obvious interest in Christianity. From his studies he learned that the number of mediums and spiritists vastly outnumbered members of the clergy in France. For centuries, France had been a godless nation. A beautiful country with a fascinating heritage, but very few signs of spiritual life were found.



That young man was ... me. This was part of a summer missions program run by Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship – Overseas Training Camp – Europe. In God’s providence, one of the female students in our group lost her passport in Paris, and had to wait until the following Monday to visit the American embassy. I volunteered to stay with her, and travel with her to England the following week to re-join our group. That provided a weekend in Paris, and a fireworks display and a chance to stroll the Champs-Elysees and to photograph the Arc-de-Triumph up close. Though I spoke no French, it was a memorable experience.

In the years that followed, I became increasingly fascinated by a Frenchman from history who also walked the streets of Paris in his early years – one Jean Calvin. Calvin’s commentaries, his Institutes of the Christian Religion, and his overall theological contribution to the

Reformation had an enormous influence in my life. Though remembered for his long ministry in Geneva, Switzerland, Calvin was French through-and-through. His heart always yearned for the conversion of his homeland. Through his efforts at the Academy in Geneva, young church planting missionaries were trained and sent over the border to establish protestant congregations in France. These protestants, called the Huguenots, had incredible success in France. Though many of them were arrested, imprisoned, and tortured, and although some died for their faith, the gospel went forth with power in France. It seemed at points that France might become a Protestant country.

Two forces were arrayed against that possibility – the King of France and the Roman Catholic Church. Between King Francis and the Pope, they determined to snuff out Reformed Christianity from that land. The history of the Huguenots is gripping and sad, yet God’s hand was in all of the events that followed. Of all of the Reformation histories, the French Reformation is one of the most gripping.

This year’s Reformation Conference features the foremost authority on the

Continued on last page...

Volume 13, Issue 10

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Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor’s Article</i>	1
<i>Reformation Conference</i>	2
<i>Project Angel Tree</i>	3
<i>Anchor of Hope Newsletter</i>	4-5
<i>John Ploughman</i>	6-7
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	8
<i>Men and Boys’ Leadership Breakfast</i>	8
<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	9
<i>October Calendar</i>	10
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	11
<i>Spurgeon Corner</i>	12

Mnemonics...

- *Men and Boys’ Leadership Breakfast, October 6th*
- *Ladies’ Presbyterial, October 6th*
- *Session Meeting, October 9th*
- *Progressive Hospitality Dinner, October 13th*
- *Reformation Conference, October 27-28th*

Reformation Conference 2018

The French Reformation

Saturday, October 27th

9:00 - The French Reformation: Unique Features

10:30 - The Huguenots: Tragedy and Triumph

Sunday, October 28th

9:00am - Why Was the Samaritan 'Good'?

10:45am- Where Is the Reformation Today?

A Bit About Our Guest Speaker...



Seminary in Philadelphia. He spent some of his childhood years in Paris, France and Geneva, Switzerland. He studied at Harvard University, earning a Honors BA in Music. He also received his Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Theology from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has taught at Aix-en-Provence in France and is currently the Coordinator of the Apologetics Department at Westminster Seminary. He serves as the President of the Huguenot Fellowship. He has written numerous books and articles on Christian apologetics, music, the French Huguenots and history. His hobbies include Brazilian soccer, playing jazz piano, and managing a professional jazz band. He and his wife Barbara have two children and three grand children.

Project Joy Tree



I'm sending this email to you to let you know about "Project Joy Tree" which gives Churches the opportunity to provide **Christmas** presents to children of inmates incarcerated in the Sheboygan County Detention Center and Jail. This is a local version of "Project Angel Tree" operated by Prison Fellowship. "Project Angel Tree" provides **Christmas** gifts to children of inmates who are housed in the State and/or Federal Prison system. We've been operating "Joy Tree" since 2005.

In 2017, through Project Joy Tree we provided **Christmas** presents to 124 children in 58 families. We had seven Churches partner with us. In 2018, we hope to provide the message and hope of Jesus and provide presents to even more families. We can only make this possible by partnering with local churches.

The vast majority of presents provided through Project Joy Tree go to inmates from Sheboygan County and it is a way for local Churches to reach out to families in our area. Each inmate who requests to sign up their child/children meets with Chaplain Rick Cawthon or Gayle Janzen. This is a great opportunity to begin to share the love and hope of Jesus to members of our communities.

I share this with you to give you some background on Project Joy Tree. I'm also seeking your involvement for **Christmas** 2018. Mid-September we will begin having inmates sign up their children for Project Joy Tree. Our goal is to have sign-up sheets distributed to Churches by mid-November. **Churches would then distribute these sheets to members of their church to purchase and wrap **Christmas** gifts for the children of a family.**

If you're willing to participate, please RSVP to Vi Janke at butterfly4832@att.net with the contact info a the person who will coordinate this for your Church.

Thank you for your time. I look forward in partnering with your Church to reach families in our area with the love of Jesus.

Blessings,

Chaplain Rick

The logo for "40 Days for Life" features a stylized blue figure with arms raised, resembling a person or a dove, positioned above the number "40". The text "40 DAYS FOR LIFE" is written in a large, serif font, with a trademark symbol (TM) at the end.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

What is **40 Days for Life**? It is a cross-denominational, faith-based effort involving a peaceful, prayerful presence outside an abortion facility asking God to put an end to abortion. There are three components of **40 Days for Life**: (1) Prayer and Fasting, (2) Constant Vigil, and (3) Community Outreach. From September 26 to November 4 for twelve hours a day, from 7 am to 7 pm, we will be praying on the bike path in front of Planned Parenthood at 909 S. Taylor Drive in Sheboygan.

A small organizational group has been working hard to spread the word about 40 Days for Life . Letters were sent to over 100 churches in Sheboygan County asking pastors for their active support and to ask them to encourage their members to participate. We have been raising funds for a billboard to help educate the community. We have been talking to groups and family and friends about it. We have been setting up radio announcements and display ads in local publications.

We are gaining momentum, but have a long way to our goal of filling all 480 hours of the vigil. We know there is a strong pro-life base in our community, but for some reason many are reluctant to step out of their comfort zone and stand up (or in this case, pray and walk) for the unborn. Some shy away from getting involved saying, "It is a political issue." Instead, it is a moral and spiritual issue that has been politicized. 40 Days for Life takes the fight out of the political arena to the grass roots where abortions are being performed --right here in our community and in communities all around the world-- asking God to put an end to abortion.

Our God is an awesome God. Prayer is powerful. Since 40 Days for Life began over 10 years ago, 14643 babies have been saved that we are aware of, 96 abortion facilities have closed and 177 abortion workers have quit their jobs.

Out of love we will be praying for the unborn babies, **out of love** we will be praying for mothers and fathers especially those who are considering abortion, **out of love** we will be praying for those working in the abortion industry, and **out of love** we will be praying that those who have had abortions will come to know God's love, compassion and forgiveness. Now that you are settling into your fall routine, won't you join us and commit to praying an hour or more each week of the 40-day campaign?

You can sign up for vigil hours by visiting www.40daysforlife.com/Sheboygan. Signing up on line in advance, will allow us to work effectively to fill in any gaps as needed.

Peace and Blessings,

Bernice Gruenke, bcgruenke@aol.com 920-209-5311

Germaine Souik, ggsouik@gmail.com 920-458-9120

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Anchor of Hope Continued....

Investing in Others

A KINGDOM Request for Client Advocates

Have you felt a calling to walk alongside Anchor of Hope clients and be a part of their life and faith journeys? That is the exact role of a client advocate. Client advocates are those precious individuals who roll up their sleeve to love, accept, and support clients, many who are in the middle of the mess of life. If God has given you a heart for the Kingdom and for people, He may be nudging you to take a step forward and act on that calling.

We ask client advocates to commit to 2–4 shifts per month, each shift consisting of 2–3 hours. We will provide the training, support, and resources to equip you to serve with excellence. The next client advocate training is scheduled to start on **Thursday, September 27 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM**. This session is designed to give you a better understanding of what an ordinary day looks like for our client advocates.

We would love for you to join us in this amazing adventure. We promise you will be blessed. To get more information or to register to attend, please call Cassie at 920–452–4673 or email: cassie.matthias@anchorofhopewi.org. RSVP is encouraged!

Time is Running Out!

Don't miss the banquet on October 9th.



John Ploughman

Chapter 5: On Patience

Patience is better than wisdom: an ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains. All men praise patience, but few enough can practice it. It is a medicine which is good for all diseases: therefore, every old woman recommends it, but it is not every garden that grows the herbs to make it with. When one's flesh and bones are full of aches and pains, it is as natural for us to murmur as for a horse to shake his head when the flies tease him, or a wheel to rattle when a spoke is loose. But nature should not be the rule with Christians, or what is their religion worth? If a soldier fights no better than a plowboy, off with his red coat. We expect more fruit from an apple tree than from a thorn, and we have a right to do so. The disciples of a patient Savior should be patient themselves. Grin and bear it is the old-fashioned advice, but sing and bear it is a great deal better. After all, we get very few cuts of the whip, considering what bad cattle we are; and when we do smart a little, it is soon over. Pain past is pleasure, and experience comes by it. We ought not to be afraid of going down into Egypt when we know we shall come out of it with jewels of silver and gold.

Impatient people water their miseries and plow up their comforts; sorrows are visitors that come without invitation, but complaining minds send a wagon to bring their troubles home in. Many people are born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed; they chew the bitter pill which they would not even know to be bitter if they had the sense to swallow it whole in a cup of patience and water. They think every other man's burden to be light and their own feathers to be heavy as lead. They are hardly done by in their own opinion: no one's toes are so often trodden on by the black ox as theirs, the snow falls thickest round their door, and the hail rattles hardest on their windows. Yet, if the truth were known, it is their fancy rather than their fate which makes things go so hard with them. A litany would be well off if they could but think so. A little sprig of the herb called content, if put into the poorest soup will make it taste as rich as the Lord Mayor's turtle. John Ploughman grows the plant in his garden, but the late hard winter nipped it terribly, so that he cannot afford to give his neighbors a slip of it; they had better follow Matthew 25:9, and go to those who sell and buy for themselves. Grace is a good soil to grow it in, but it wants watering from the fountain of mercy. To be poor is not always pleasant, but worse things than that happen at sea. Small shoes are apt to pinch, but not if you have a small foot; if we have little means it will be well to have little desires. Poverty is no shame, but being discontented with it is. In some things, the poor are better off than the rich; for if a poor man has to seek meat for his stomach, he is more likely to get what he is after than the rich man who seeks a stomach for his meat. A poor man's table is soon spread, and his labor spares his buying sauce. The best doctors are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merryman, and many a godly plowman has all these gentlemen to wait upon him. Plenty makes dainty, but hunger finds no fault with the cook. Hard work brings health, and an ounce of health is worth a sack of diamonds. It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness. There is more sweet in a spoonful of sugar than in a cask of vinegar. It is not the quantity of our goods, but the blessing of God on what we have that makes us truly rich. The parings of a

Continued on next page...

Ploughman Continued....

pippin are better than a whole crab; a dinner of herbs with peace is better than a stalled ox and contention therewith. better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith A little wood will heat my little oven; why, then, should I murmur because all the woods are not mine?

When troubles come, it is of no use to fly in the face of God by hard thoughts of providence; that is kicking against the pricks and hurting your feet. The trees bow in the wind, and so must we. Every time the sheep bleats it loses a mouthful, and every time we complain we miss a blessing. Grumbling is a bad trade, and yields no profit, but patience has a golden hand. our evils will soon be over. After rain comes clear shining; black crows have wings; every winter turns to spring; every night breaks into morning.

Blow the wind never so fast,
It will lower at last.

If one door should be shut, God will open another; if the peas do not yield well, the beans may; if one hen leaves her eggs, another will bring out all her brood. There's a bright side to all things, and a good God everywhere. Some where or other in the worst flood of trouble there always is a dry spot for contentment to get its foot on; if there were not, it would learn to swim.

Friends, let us take to patience and water gruel, as the old folks used to tell us, rather than catch the miserables and give others the disease by wickedly finding fault with God. The best remedy for affliction is submitting to providence. What can't be cured must be endured. If we cannot get bacon, let us bless God that there are still some cabbages in the garden. "Must" is a hard nut to crack, but it has a sweet kernel. "All things work together for good to them that love God." Whatever falls from the skies is, sooner or later, good for the land: whatever comes to us from God is worth having, even though it be a rod. We cannot by nature like trouble any more than a mouse can fall in love with a cat, and yet Paul by grace came to glory in tribulations also. Losses and crosses are heavy to bear, but when our hearts are right with God, it is wonderful how easy the yoke becomes. We must go to glory by the way of Weeping Cross; and as we were never promised that we should ride to heaven in a feather bed, we must not be disappointed when we see the road to be rough, as our fathers found it before us. All's well that ends well; and, therefore, let us plow the heaviest soil with our eye on the sheaves of harvest, and learn to sing at our labor while others murmur.

Prayer Meeting

Our weekly prayer meeting is every Wednesday night from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We are currently continuing our study of the patriarchs by looking at the book of Genesis. Come join us for "the midweek hour of power."



Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast

The Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 6th, at 7am at the church. Join us for this encouraging time of food and fellowship!



October Birthdays

Roger Arndt	3 rd
Shaun Froh	9 th
Jason Will	19 th
Carla De Master	31 st



October Anniversaries

Randy & Lynn Jensema
~October 8th, 30 years~

Chris & Sandy Kaeiser
~October 25th, 15 years~

Steve & Moni Doro
~October 10th, 37 years~

Mark & Virginia Berenschot
~October 23rd, 47 years~



Grace OPC

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

October 2018



Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Men and Boys' Breakfast Ladies' Presbytery
7	8	9 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	10	11	12	13 Progressive Hospitality Dinner
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Reformation Conference 9am-12pm
28 Reformation Conference	29	30	31			

Raspberry Almond Bars

Ingredients:

- 1/2 c. Butter
- 1 pkg. (10-12 oz.) Vanilla or white chips (divided)
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. Sugar
- 1 tsp. Almond extract
- 1 c. Flour
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 c. Seedless raspberry jam
- 1/4 c. Sliced almonds

Instructions:

In a saucepan, melt butter. Remove from heat; add 1 cup chips (do not stir). In a small mixing bowl, beat eggs until foamy; gradually add sugar. Stir on chip mixture just until combined. Add flour, salt and almond extract. Spread half of the batter into a greased 9 in. Square baking pan. Bake at 325 degree oven for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. In a small saucepan on low heat, melt jam; spread over warm crust. Stir remaining chips into the remaining batter; drop by teaspoonfuls over the jam layer. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake 30-35 minutes longer until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool. Cut into bars. I doubled in a 9x13 and used parchment paper.

Megan Boss



*“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

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Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

Spurgeon Corner

"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

John 4:14

He who is a believer in Jesus finds enough in his Lord to satisfy him now, and to content him for evermore. The believer is not the man whose days are weary for want of comfort, and whose nights are long from absence of heart-cheering thought, for he finds in religion such a spring of joy, such a fountain of consolation, that he is content and happy. Put him in a dungeon and he will find good company; place him in a barren wilderness, he will eat the bread of heaven; drive him away from friendship, he will meet the "friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Blast all his gourds, and he will find shadow beneath the Rock of Ages; sap the foundation of his earthly hopes, but his heart will still be

fixed, trusting in the Lord. The heart is as insatiable as the grave till Jesus enters it, and then it is a cup full to overflowing. There is such a fulness in Christ that he alone is the believer's all. The true saint is so completely satisfied with the all-sufficiency of Jesus that he thirsts no more—except it be for deeper draughts of the living fountain. In that sweet manner, believer, shalt thou thirst; it shall not be a thirst of pain, but of loving desire; thou wilt find it a sweet thing to be panting after a fuller enjoyment of Jesus' love. One in days of yore said, "I have been sinking my bucket down into the well full often, but now my thirst after Jesus has become so insatiable, that I long to put the well itself to my lips, and drink right on." Is this the feeling of thine heart now, believer? Dost thou feel that all thy desires are satisfied in Jesus, and that thou hast no want now, but to know more of him, and to have closer fellowship with him? Then come continually to the fountain, and take of the water of life freely. Jesus will never think you take too much, but will ever welcome you, saying, "Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved."

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Morning, October 6th, C.H. Spurgeon

Front Page Concluded...

French Reformation – Dr. Bill Edgar. When Dr. Godfrey was with us for a Reformation Conference on the Dutch Reformation, I asked him to recommend someone to speak on the French Reformation. Without missing a beat, Dr. Godfrey said, "Bill Edgar!" We are so pleased that Dr. Edgar is willing and able to come to our conference.

He will speak twice on Saturday morning, October 27. Then he will preach for us and do a combined Sunday School on Sunday morning, the 28th. This is a unique opportunity for us to

learn about the oft-overlooked history of the French Reformation.

