

Reformation Christian Ministries

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
AND ITS
NEW WEBSITE**

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

***May-June-July 2008
News and Prayer Letter***



Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

May-June-July 2008

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? [Galatians 5:7]

In the context of the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul chided the Galatians who had succumbed to the false teachings of the Judaizers. They sought to add their own ideas about the Mosaic law to the true gospel. They took the law, which was intended to be an instructor, and **turned that same law into their personal savior** (do this and live). When Paul came preaching the true gospel, the Galatians started out well. But when false teachers came as subtle missionaries for the cause of a lie which they called "the truth", they lured the Galatians by an appeal to their flesh by adding just a little something extra from man to what God had done to either secure or to maintain their salvation. In so doing, they began to move the Galatians from the realm of the truth into that of a lie. While it was a seemingly subtle difference, it was nevertheless a momentous move; one which Paul calls "*another gospel*". So, Paul writes and says, *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

One sad, but fascinating fact of these false teachers, is that they were missionaries themselves. We don't know specifically their origin, but they came into the group after the Apostle Paul had left. They were seeking to counter the missionary work of the Apostle Paul, and may well have been doing so very sincerely. Nevertheless, they became the useful idiots of the father of lies.

Consequently, as the early church was confronted with more and more such false doctrine, it came up with some of the great early creeds to fight them. Gradually over time, however, they succumbed to the **grace-plus-works** doctrines which became the hallmark of both Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church traditions, each of which then sent out their own missionaries. Instead

of salvation by grace alone, they **turned the church into their savior instead of Christ**. *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

Protestantism, in its heyday during the Reformation and the next several centuries, was solidly grounded in biblical truth. It returned to the biblical gospel. However, false teachers/missionaries again began working amongst them. They took this gospel truth, reinterpreted it with their flesh and **turned the superficial knowledge of the truth into their savior instead of Christ**. Man has now made salvation something he can do (in cooperation with Christ of course) merely by holding to certain truths and doing certain things. *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

It seems, in God's wise providence, that the church is required to be repeatedly tested through the fire of both adversity and false teachings in order to refine it and come to grips with the truth and realize that it was not God who hindered them from obeying the truth, but themselves. They preferred a lie to the truth because the truth opposed them. No matter how spiritual it may have sounded (whether the law of God, the church or the truth of Scripture), they managed to put something in the place of Christ Himself and Christ alone as their savior.

This one "who did hinder you" was *the world, the flesh and the devil*. It has its missionaries just as does the true church. They masquerade as "the truth", while spreading lies, all in the name of the truth. The church is going through such a time again. *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

In all such times, God shows through history His grace to His people by raising up those who will tell people the truth in the Gospel so they are confronted with the impossibility within themselves, others, the law of God and even the church as their savior. God made Christ the only Savior and their only hope of salvation. In our impossibility, we come to see that through Him, all things are possible. He who hinders has been crucified on the cross and put to death. We therefore can no longer live in a dead lie, when we have in Christ the living truth.

God called RCM to serve as missionaries for Christ, who like the Apostle Paul, must oppose any other gospel; and seek to bring those from all other "gospels" (which are not gospels) to the true gospel. We thank you for continuing to stand with us as we press on in the battle.

 Geoffrey Donnan

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The RCM News & Prayer Letter is available upon request without obligation
(an annual donation of \$15.00 is suggested to cover costs).

Reformation Christian Ministries, an international, educational missions ministry, is under the oversight of The King's Reformed Presbyterian Church and Sharon Orthodox Presbyterian Church. RCM is eligible to receive tax-exempt donations in both the United States and Canada and is underwritten by donations from individuals and other churches. The Board of Directors for RCM in Canada is responsible for the affairs of RCM in Canada. RCM in the U.S.A. and Canada cooperate on like-minded projects. RCM cooperates by agreement with like-minded churches and denominations by assisting with mission work in specific fields and/or projects. Ecclesiastical authority for missionary ministers comes from their respective churches, not from RCM.

Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Congo, Zambia, and Suriname.
Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

Editor: G. W. Donnan
Layout: G. W. Donnan

TEACHERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Christian Liberty Academy is RCM's Christian school in Paramaribo, Suriname. We have K-4 through Grade 12 and use an exclusive Christian curriculum. The school has more than 300 students from more than 18 countries and a wide variety of religions. While it is primarily educational in nature, it does present an excellent Christian witness to a wide-range of young people whose parents have specifically agreed that their children can be instructed from a Christian world-life view.



- Teachers needed to help teach various classes and grades.
- Teacher certification not necessary.
- Imperative to have desire to be a leader and helper in young lives.
- Must be mature believer who loves the Word of God and is teachable regarding "how to teach". Courses are all laid out, but require effective administration to the students.
- Minimum commitment re for one school year (August to May).

CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD?

General information: <http://www.reformation.edu>

Information on Suriname: <http://reformation.edu/content/blogcategory/93/414/>

Information on specific work in Suriname: <http://reformation.edu/content/view/238/372/>

For further information contact

Rev. Rudy Poettcker (rep@reformation.edu) or Phone: 772-480-0159

Please visit RCM's New Website

www.reformation.edu



At long last, we are able to introduce you to RCM's new website.

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What we do • Opportunities •
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Contact info on all offices
and much more.

The website is not complete, but development continues and we'll keep you posted.

RCM Headquarters Update

As you can see from this newsletter and our new website, we have made great strides in spite of the loss of David Card. We are in the midst of preparing a rather complicated **shopping cart** that will be able to receive on-line donations by credit cards in multiple currencies since it will be used for our U.S., Canadian and foreign websites. This will enable us to have donations, book purchases, and tuition payments all made on-line.

Our next major project after that is to incorporate and automate our **on-line Bible courses, college and seminary courses** to the website so that all our educational programs will be available on-line as well. We will also have an **on-line administration of the school** so that our professors from around the globe and access their student's files and put in grades. **LOTS OF WORK IS GOING ON.**

As we write this newsletter, we are still interviewing prospective employee candidates from the local area advertising we have done. It looks like we will have to do a good bit of training once we find the right person.

Quite a bit of preparatory work has been done on the **Albania** and **Italy** websites. We have secured a translation of the **Westminster Larger Catechism in Italian** and are in the final stages of revising the **Westminster Confession of Faith in Albanian** and hyperlinking it with Scripture texts for

the website. We are also on a search for someone to assist in the development of our planned Russian and Chinese websites, but are keeping busy enough with the others. We are in process of doing the same with the **Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort**. We are also in the planning stages for a Suriname website.

As we celebrate our 30 Year Anniversary, we are in the midst of planning the next 30 years. We have prayed for God's guidance and wisdom and His direction is quite clear that the foundations being laid now, will pay great spiritual dividends in the future. We trust that it will not be said of us, *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"*

There is much that lays before us by way of challenges. Overcoming them is not the work of one man, one church or one outreach ministry. Yet, true laborers are few. God has called us to find them, bring them the gospel and train them so that they not only run well, but also run aright in th power of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot do this without you. **We urge you to join us in prayer, in helping, in giving, in participating and being an integral part of the RCM team.**

PLEASE STAND BY US AS WE CONTINUE INTO THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

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May-July 2008

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- The Great Commission, RCM & You
- Albania Fact Sheet
- Russia Fact Sheet
- Italy Fact Sheet
- Suriname/Guyana Fact Sheet
- Kitchen Table Mission Stations

Enclosed is a contribution of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$ _____

METHOD OF DONATION: I plan to contribute per mo. qtr. year

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\$ _____ Albania \$ _____ Congo-Zambia \$ _____ Good News Bible Study Ministries

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I would like to teach at C.L.A. in Suriname.

I would like to assist with the college and/or seminary program. I am sending a resume.

Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

Reformation Christian Ministries Celebrates 30 Years of Ministry.

Donnan family in 1978



RCM effectively had its beginning when the Lord sent the Donnan family (left) to Suriname in April, 1978. By August of that year, a church was started and by 1979, a school was started. From there, both were grown by the grace of God and the help of many others. The church now has its own local pastor trained by RCM's missionary trainer Rev. Rudy Poettcker (right with family) who spent twelve years in Suriname from 1994 to 2006. The school now employs 20 people and has around 350 students. Many of these students over the years

Poettcker family in 1994



have professed Christ and have gone on to live Christian lives. In 1986 the Donnans returned to the U.S. and in 1987 work began in Nicaragua. In 1992, the field of Albania was opened. Russia was begun in 1994 and Italy in 1995. Other fields such as Zambia and Congo began in 2003 and China in 2004, though remain undeveloped at the moment.

Additionally, we have now had 13 years since the beginning of Reformation International College, Reformation International Theological Seminary and Reformation Media and Press; and 28 years of the Good News Bible Study Ministry.

We are now preparing for the next 30 years by the preparation of our electronic web-based Bible course, college and seminary program and the significant expansion of the use of the internet for web-based research and outreach materials. While the Donnans and Poettckers hope to live this long, we are now laying the foundations for those who will carry on in their stead.

**1978 — *Suriname* • 1992 — *Albania* • 1995 — *Italy*
1992 — *U.K.* • 1993 — *Russia* • 2003-4 — *China, Africa***

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