

Reformational Study Centre

Building an online library of scriptural resources for churches in the Majority World

Newsletter Fall 2019

Introduction

Welcome to another newsletter on the work of the Reformational Study Centre! It's our joy to once again share with you some of the activities and developments in the work over the past few months, with the hope that you give thanks along with us to our gracious Lord for his church-gathering work in this world.

Christian Salvage Mission

We would like to start with an exciting development that has been in process since February. A charity organization in Hamilton, known as Christian Salvage Mission (CSM), was established some twenty-five years ago for the purpose of collecting Bibles and theological resources in order to share them overseas with Christians in great need of such materials. In the providence of our God, the Study Centre became aware of this organization, and submitted a request for



Christian Salvage Mission

a filled sea container of literature that CSM has gathered. The CSM Board of Directors approved the project, and agreed to invest some money itself toward the sea shipping costs—something the organization is in the habit of doing! From there, the process involved us finding a trucking company to pick up the shipment in Hamilton and move it to a location in Indiana, from where it would be shipped off to South Africa. After tackling a number of other logistical matters, here we are in October, and just under 30,000 lbs. of books, on 16 skids, have made their way to Albany, Indiana, and are in the process of sailing the Atlantic down to Cape Town, en route to the Study Centre!

We receive this as yet another of our Lord's manifold gifts, and we give all the praise to him! It is wonderful when we can work together with other organizations with a similar priority as ours, for the furtherance of the kingdom of God. Only he knows who will all benefit in time to come from this shipment of books alone, and so we seek after his blessing on this whole endeavour, for the glory of his holy Name!

Living Word

In the last report at the beginning of July, some time was spent explaining the Living Word project and my role in this endeavour. To recap, this project is providing an increasing number of sermon outlines for our users. We remain busy with building online software for this project, with a view to helping it grow into an interactive, ever-expanding Bible exposition and application tool. This will allow us to better help the many pastors who could really use a service like this.

While the full extent of my involvement in this project cannot be realized until the software is basically ready for launch, there is already now much that I have been privileged to do for it. To that end, a sizable amount of time in my daily work is now devoted to this project, which means that other aspects have seen a decrease in time allocated to them (more on that in a bit). Part of my work for Living Word is where I edit and finalize completed sermon outlines of ministers who are providing notes, for eventual uploading to the software. This is a priority, so that when the software is released, we can hit the ground running and already then have available a good number of notes for our users.



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My task in this project, however, will not merely be that of editor and gatekeeper, but also of contributor. In fact, this aspect of contributing will mean an overlap of my work for the Study Centre with my ongoing work of sermon preparation and writing. What I mean is this: for a part of my day I will be studying a text for the dual purpose of compiling notes for the Living Word software and preaching on

the text myself. As I have wanted to preach a series of sermons on the book of Judges, that is where I have then also begun providing my notes for the software. So you could say that this is of advantage for the project, and for my ongoing responsibility as a preacher of the gospel. As I am in the early stages of this process, please pray that it would go well, and develop as needed. And of course, the proof will be in the pudding at least for Dunnville, for the fruit of this endeavour will also reach your ears, and in short order, God willing!

Other Tasks

With the advent of my responsibilities toward the Living Word project, some of the longstanding tasks have received somewhat less time in the last quarter, and therefore the figures are generally less than in previous quarters. Article summaries I have submitted for publication on the Christian Library? 141. Article listings by other theologians that I have edited and published on the Christian Library? 508. Translated articles that I have edited? 45.

This decrease in numbers, however, is by no means something negative. For not only did we expect this, but we have also reached a point where the amount of material now available on the Christian Library is on the whole exceptional, in our estimation. That amount will continue to grow, but in a sense the time is now right for the Living



Coffee Social at the Study Centre

Word project to emerge and take on a high priority in the work. Furthermore, when it comes to editing translated articles, I have been able to spend less time because of our increase in volunteer editors, something for which we are very grateful!

These are some of the highlights of the past three months in the work of the Study Centre. Starting with this report, we as Committee aim to provide you each time with prayer points as you remember the work before the Lord. Please continue to wrestle in prayer with us for God's undeserved blessings on those who are his!

Points for Prayer

- ❖ Give thanks to the Lord for providing us with more pastors to help: currently we are helping 8,900 pastors in over 70 developing countries!
- ❖ Pray for the large shipment of books to make its way safely to South Africa.
- ❖ Pray for strength for our software developers, most of whom are volunteers, for their various contributions to the Study Centre, including their work on Living Word.
- ❖ Pray for our staff (18 of us) and volunteers (90 in total!).