

Reformational Study Centre

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

Newsletter Summer 2019

Introduction

Welcome to our first newsletter in this format! One of the central tasks of the Foreign Mission Committee (FMC) is to raise the profile of the mission project we've come to support in recent times, the Reformational Study Centre. In line with other mission projects in our circles, we judged it appropriate to help fulfill our task by way of a periodic newsletter. The more immediate benefit of such newsletters is that these will offer our congregation the quarterly updates on Rev. Kampen's work for the RSC, along with other items of interest related to the mission work. Yet it is our hope that in the long run, we will be able to share these newsletters also with other churches that may be interested in them. In this way, more may also join us in prayerful support of the work of the Study Centre.

As this is a new venture for us, we heartily welcome feedback from you on it, including what you might like to see in these newsletters. For, the FMC and Council may be the ones collectively supervising the mission work, but this work is and will remain something that you are all to be invested in. So, our lines are always open for input from you!

For this first newsletter, we thought to restrict ourselves to updating you on Rev. Kampen's work in the second quarter of 2019.'

Visit to South Africa



Entering Pretoria, South Africa

Likely the most notable happening over the past months is my family's visit to South Africa and the Study Centre in the first two weeks of May. We are so deeply grateful for the prayerful support from Council and congregation in this venture; your prayers in no small measure contributed to the very blessed experience that this

trip was. Officially, the visit was work-related, and Rev. Jopie van der Linden and I certainly took full advantage of our time together as colleagues in the work (more on that momentarily). But the unofficial aspect of the visit is equally significant: the developing and deepening of the bonds of friendship, trust, and love between the two missionary families. It was so special to see the Lord's kindness in bringing this about, between couples, between children, and between children and "Oom Jopie and Tannie Jennie, Oom Ryan and Tannie Esther." We together gave thanks to the Lord for the bonds that he established during our time with each other, and thereby also the increase in opportunities for mutual encouragement and support in the times we are apart. It was an added blessing for my family to meet the on-site staff and volunteers, and to spend some quality time with Rev. van der Linden's parents, who have been so involved with the work of the Study Centre since its start.

Alas, there was even more to the visit than fellowshiping, seeing some of the sights, and shaking hands with lions, zebras, giraffes, and elephants. Rev. van der Linden and I enjoyed many one-on-one discussions revolving around different aspects of the work. What we discussed for the majority of our time was the Living Word (sermon outline) project. It was hoped that the visit to South Africa would coincide with a significant step forward in the Study Centre's development of this project.

Living Word

Let me explain in brief; there will be more opportunity in time to come to expand on what's here. But until now, the LW project has consisted of full-fledged sermon outlines that ministers have contributed, for the young church. But the Study Centre's software developers have for some time been developing software for this project that will in essence retain its



Arrival at the Reformatory Study Centre

function as offering sermon outlines, but also transform it into an ever-expanding Bible exposition and application service. This will make it much easier for users to access what they are looking for, and contributors to supply notes on the passage they are working on.

My role in this project will consist of gatekeeping, where I review the contributions of ministers who are providing notes; such has already started (by editing completed sermon outlines, which

will later be uploaded to the software). Yet in time to come, I myself will also have opportunity to contribute exposition or application notes of my own, as I carry on with my own regular sermon preparations.

While we were able to cover much ground in bringing me up to speed on many of the ins and outs of the work that lies ahead, we regrettably were not able to view the software itself, since it was not yet ready to launch. Ideally, the software would have been ready upon our family's arrival, so that Rev. van der Linden and I could work through some trial runs while together, but in the Lord's providence this did not happen. We will have to settle for second best: when the software is ready to launch, we can have tutorials over the internet. Please pray with us that the software developers will receive patience and perseverance from the Lord, as they are eager along with us to see this all come to fruition!

Progress of Other Tasks

So far the activity surrounding our trip. In the meantime, the normal, longer-standing tasks have continued unabated, whether that's submitting (265) article summaries for publication on the Christian Library (CL), edited and publishing on the CL (1,022) article listings submitted by other theologians, or editing (28) translated articles (many of a longer length than usual).

I cannot neglect to mention the increase in volunteers that has occurred as well in the last bit. We have gained the help of another editor, another transcriber, and also someone who is summarizing certain Dutch articles into basic English, for our more basic users.

We are always so grateful for the willingness of others to pitch in and help where the need is so great!



Conversation with Mr. Koos van der Linden

Children's Devotional Material

An additional task that has emerged is the editing of children's devotional material! We have someone from Australia who is composing these devotions, and then they get passed down the assembly line for a final edit. Ultimately, this material will be incorporated into the Living Word project, but for now you may actually see it available on the homepage of the CL (for a direct link, use this link: <https://www.christianstudylibrary.org/children>; note the list on the top left of the screen). The devotions are written for children aged 6 to about 11. So if you have children of that age, you might want to check it out!

Concluding Remarks

I think that about covers the main items of interest in these past few months. Please continue to bring the work of the Study Centre, and our Foreign Mission Committee, before our heavenly Father in prayer, asking him to lead all things for the glory of himself and his kingdom!