

## Newsletter Summer 2021

### Introduction

Time again to bring you up to speed on some of the goings-on at the Reformational Study Centre. Before we get to Rev. Kampen's update, we alert you to a turnover in our Foreign Mission Committee. This spring, Jon Skinner and Mark Vandervelde requested to be relieved of their duties on the Committee as, respectively, council liaison and secretary. In their place, the committee could welcome Don Bos and Ben VanRootselaar, with Ed Kelly Sr. moving over to the role of council liaison. Welcome, brothers, and we look forward to working together! It is also then prudent to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the labours of Jon and Mark during their time of service on the committee. We were blessed to have each of you involved in committee work for various lengths of time, as your various contributions have helped to advance our mandate, our work, and our service in the kingdom of our Lord! We commend you to the LORD and his grace as you continue to serve the church in the tasks he has called you to fulfill.

Let's then move now to the report from Rev. Kampen regarding recent (and upcoming!) developments in his work at Study Centre.

### A Vox Viva Bible Study?

I have but one main matter to share in this newsletter, but it greatly excites me to do so! No...it is not the public launch of the Vox Viva software; that news will by all expectations have to wait till the fall newsletter. But the matter is still very much Vox Viva-related. I am currently gearing up for something that is intended to be of service to the Study Centre, but also bring the work of the Study Centre up close and visible to our congregation. What I am talking about is a local Bible Study, with a Vox Viva twist. 😊 Let me try to explain.

Vox Viva, you will hopefully recall, is our online Bible exposition and application tool, which aims to provide study notes on Scripture with a view to helping our users in sermon preparation, Bible study, and finding biblical guidance. The study notes will cover everything from a text's outline to its exposition, application, Christology, and so on. Each note, in the exposition section anyway, will be in question-and-answer format, homing in on one aspect of the text.

One of our top priorities is that we get a good base of notes on as many books of the Bible as swiftly as we can, to be expedient in helping our users. In this respect, we are hoping and praying for volunteers (ministers in particular) who are willing to contribute notes from their own sermon preparations. What we are anticipating in this regard, at least in the early stages, is that the majority of the notes we receive from such contributors are going to be on books of the Bible that are more commonly preached on. So we want to be on the lookout for opportunities to get contributions also on books that are less popular from a preaching perspective (think, e.g., of some of the minor or major prophets).

Well, in a discussion some time ago with Rev. van der Linden on how to tap into the lesser preached books, we considered to what degree I could assist in this endeavour. What came out of the discussion was the idea that I could allocate some time in the daily tasks to studying a book with a view to producing notes for the software, and at the same time leading an adult Bible study in Dunnville on the book. So, that is now indeed the plan! The idea is that once the study season starts up in the fall, I would lead a Bible study once every month, starting with...Zephaniah! The study would be intentional about not only interpreting the historical meaning of the book, but also discussing other vital components, like the main theme of a passage, possible applications, and lines to Christ.

This is of course the first you are hearing about this, and it is still in the development stages. Among other things, there are some logistics that still need to be sorted out. To that end, I have created a quick poll that I would *love* for you to participate in (anonymously). You can find it here: <https://forms.gle/vSeKKH3WCvptCfT26>.

We as committee are very excited to see where the Lord will lead this endeavour. May he get all the glory in this!

## Other Tasks

I will close off with the usual statistics regarding work done for the Christian Library:

- Number of article listings uploaded by other theologians that I subsequently edited and published on the site: 110.
- Number of translated articles that workers have edited and of which I have made a final review: 30.
- Number of children's devotions that volunteers have edited: 8.

## Conclusion

That's all for now! Wishing you a refreshing summertime, and we'll be back in the fall with more!