



A COMMISSION OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PURPOSE

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said these well-known words: “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:18–20). Jesus’s parting directive to His disciples, known today as “The Great Commission,” is packed full of rich food for our spiritual nourishment. Thus, not surprisingly, these words have been the basis for numerous sermons.

While this commission was originally given to the twelve disciples, evidently it has an ongoing effect. Indeed, Jesus indicated His presence with His followers “even unto the end of the world.” What is more, having recently conquered sin on the cross and then rising in victory over death, King Jesus here declares that the mediatorial power

invested in Him is the very impetus for the gospel going to all the nations. What a glorious message of encouragement for all those called to work in God’s vineyard!

The Socinians of the 17th century, a heretical group who denied the Trinity, believed that these verses were evidence of His subordination. They falsely assumed that if Jesus had to *receive* power, it was not original to Him and, therefore, He is not equal to God. This faulty reading, however, fails to recognize the purpose of this power and commission. Jesus here is not referring to the essential power He holds as second person of the Trinity but to His mediatorial authority He exercises as God-man with the specific purpose of gathering, defending, and protecting His church. The Great Commission calls us, then, to labor for Christ’s cause with confident hope and purpose, all because we are assured of the great mediatorial power of our King Jesus.

—Dr. Jonathon Becke

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

PRTS is excited to announce the appointments of Drs. Bruce P. Baugus, David Kranendonk, and Maarten Kuivenhoven.



DR. BRUCE BAUGUS has accepted the call to the position of Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics. Dr. Baugus will assume his new role on August 1, 2022. He is the author of *Reformed Moral Theology* (forthcoming) and *China's Reforming Churches: Mission, Polity, and Ministry in the Next Christendom*, as well as numerous chapters, articles, papers, and reviews. He also frequently contributes to reformation21.org and Tabletalk. He is currently serving as interim senior pastor (PCA) and is involved in the global development of Reformed theological education and regularly teaches overseas and around the country. Born in Easton, Maryland, Dr. Baugus holds degrees from Penn State (BS in geography, 1996), Southern Seminary (MDiv, 1999), and Calvin Theological Seminary (PhD, philosophical theology, 2009). He is married to Tricia, and they have two sons.



DR. DAVID KRANENDONK has accepted the call to become the new Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Professor of Theology. He is the author of *Paul Bayes's Pastoral Teaching of Predestination* (2021), *Teaching Predestination: Elnathan Parr and Pastoral Ministry in Early Stuart England* (2011), and *Vital Balance: The Pursuit of Professors J. J. van der Schuit, G. Wisse, and L. H. van der Meiden* (2006). He served various congregations of the Free Reformed Churches of North America and is involved in various mission boards supporting theological education. Dr. Kranendonk holds degrees from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (MDiv, 2003), Calvin Theological Seminary (ThM, 2008), and the Theological University Apeldoorn, The Netherlands (PhD, 2021). He is married to Elly, and they have 7 children: Simon, Ruth, Elnathan, Leah, Thomas, Ezra, and Hannah Jo.



DR. MAARTEN KUIVENHOVEN has accepted the call to the position of Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies. Dr. Kuivenhoven will assume his new role on August 1, 2022. Dr. Kuivenhoven serves as a pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregations. He graduated from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and was ordained to gospel ministry in February 2010. Since then, he has served the Heritage Reformed Congregation of Grand Rapids while continuing his studies, and completed his doctoral dissertation on the interpretation of the Messianic Psalms in the Reformation and post-Reformation focusing on the commentaries of Wolfgang Musculus, William Ames, Johannes Cocceius, and Matthew Henry (Calvin Theological Seminary, 2020). He and his wife, Jennifer, are blessed with five children: Gwyneth, Justus, Judah, Jared and Silas.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for the addition of these men to the PRTS faculty.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Serving Christ in Orlando, Florida, was never among my ministerial hopes and dreams. Nonetheless, God changes hearts.

On the last day of July in 2020, I preached—and was asked to possibly candidate—at the historic Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church (ORPC), sitting in the heart of the Lake Eola Heights Historic District. The congregation has just begun its second century of ministry in that city. Eventually, an invitation to preach became something of a clarion call. The ruling elders set out why they believed God was calling me to be the next pastor of this growing, diverse, and changing congregation. As the ruling elders pressed, I took time to reflect on my 12 years in Los Angeles and what God has done. He has done wonderful things indeed!

The psalmist promises us “they that sow in tears shall reap in joy” (Ps. 126:5). In January of 2009, I came to the smallest presbytery in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), the Pacific Coast Presbytery. It was five congregations, from Seattle down to San Diego, along the western coast of the United States.



The youngest of the congregations was planted in 1951! Most were weak and struggling. God stirred in me a love for my new Los Angeles congregation as well as the Pacific Coast Presbytery. A vision of revitalizing the old congregations, raising up theological students, and planting churches was pressed upon our presbytery, and God was good to us.

In the last twelve years, the Los Angeles congregation was revitalized by God's grace. Since that time, the presbytery has raised up congregations and church plants—three in British Columbia, two in Nevada, and two more in California. Over a dozen men have been sent to seminary (one being Rev. Namsik Yang, PhD candidate at Puritan).

Hurting and dying congregations have been revitalized, and currently the Pacific Coast Presbytery is a healthy presbytery: growing, sending, and planting.

Reflection on God's wondrous deeds allowed for me to consider—then accept—the call to Orlando. On March 18, 2021, I was installed on the centennial of the installation of ORPC's first pastor. The congregation has 110 members and 23 adherents as well as weekly visitors. There are many young families in need of discipleship and growth in confessional understanding. Connected to this, my new presbytery is hoping to plant churches in the Southeast. I have already been put on a new committee to begin working toward that end.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord will do as He has given me another opportunity to sow in tears and to reap in joy. Would you pray for the Orlando Reformed Presbyterian Church?

—Nathan Eshelman

FACULTY ITINERARIES & PUBLICATIONS

MICHAEL BARRETT

September 5 and 19: Kalamazoo, Michigan: Kalamazoo Reformed Church

September 24–27: London: Salisbury Conference

November 14: Deckerville, Michigan: First Baptist Church

JOEL BEEKE | Itinerary

September 3–6: Hull, Iowa: wedding and preaching for HRC

September 14–15: Nashville, Tennessee: address on Puritan worship

September 16–17: Los Angeles, California: MacArthur's Spanish

Expositors Conference for Pastors

September 17–20: Visalia, California: conference for young people

September 30–October 2: Atlanta, Georgia: G3 Conference

October 4–16: Greece and Turkey: leading tour on "Following Footsteps of the Apostles John and Paul"

October 16–21: Milan, Italy: conference on "God's Glory"

October 23–24: Madrid, Spain: conference

October 30–November 2: Brazil: conference

Recent Publications

Beginning: Family Worship in Genesis, with Nick Thompson

Reformed Systematic Theology: Revelation, with Paul Smalley (vol. 1 in Korean) (Seoul: rMaeng2).

Reformed Systematic Theology: God, with Paul Smalley (vol. 2 in Korean) (Seoul: rMaeng2).

Apakah Kebangkitan Itu? (What is Resurrection?), (in Indonesian) (Surabaya: Momentum).

"Justification and Sovereign Grace," *Expositor* 34 (Spring 2021).

Editor, *Theoretical-Practical Theology*, vols. 1 and 2 (in Korean) (Seoul).

ADRIAAN NEELE | Itinerary

September 8–10: Sanford, Florida: Reformation Bible College

September 17–19: Kinnelon, New Jersey: Conference, Revival and Reformation

October 13–18: Windhoek, Namibia: International Reformed Theological Seminaries

October 21–29, São Paulo, Brazil: Martin Bucer Seminary

Recent Publications

That which we have seen: In Preparation of a Sermon (Kampen: Summum, 2021)

GREG SALAZAR | Itinerary

September 20–30: Faculté de théologie évangélique, Montreal: "The Writings"

DANIEL TIMMER | Itinerary

Recent Publications

Prophetic Otherness: Constructions of Otherness in Prophetic Literature, edited with S. V. Davidson (London: T & T Clark).

Theodicy and Hope in the Book of the Twelve, edited with G. Athas, B. Stovell, C. Toffelmire (London: T & T Clark).

WILLIAM VANDOODEWAARD | Itinerary

September 22–24: Cambridge, Nova Scotia: ARP Presbytery

October 18–20: Greenville, SC: Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, "Reformed Spirituality"

Recent Publications

Review of Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* in *Westminster Theological Journal* 83:1 (Spring 2021): 210–11.

Editor, *The Puritan Reformed Journal* 13.2 (July 2021).

FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2020–3/31/2021

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
Income				
Donations	\$2,288,004	\$ 2,410,030	(\$122,026)	95%
Tuition Income	613,995	600,000	(13,995)	102%
Scholarship Donations	630,239	500,000	(130,239)	126%
Other Income	838,492	349,970	(488,522)	240%
Total Income	\$4,370,730	\$ 3,860,000	(\$510,730)	113%
Expenses				
Instruction	\$1,458,695	\$ 1,905,171	(\$446,476)	77%
Scholarships	441,873	505,000	(63,127)	87%
Administrative	1,713,855	1,449,829	(264,026)	118%
Total Expenses	\$3,614,423	\$ 3,860,000	(\$245,577)	94%
Net Income	\$756,307			

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—CHRIS HANNA

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