

PSALM 67—A WORLDWIDE VISION FOR GOD'S GLORY

From its inception, Puritan Reformed has always had a worldwide mission and vision. Our seminary's aim has long been to reach the ends of the earth with biblical, confessionally Reformed, experiential, and robust education. Recent developments in the online MA program have seen an explosion in international interest and growth; for this we are immensely thankful. Our prayer is that God would bless this work so that people from every nation around the globe would together praise our God, and as Psalm 67 anticipates, that the earth would yield its increase.

Psalm 67 encapsulates well this worldwide vision. This Old Testament missionary psalm has been described by one commentator as “the joyful outpouring of a heart which longs to see the God and King of Israel acknowledged and worshiped as the God and King of the world” (Richard Phillips, *Reformed Expository Commentary*, 258). You might say that Psalm 67 is a prayerful declaration of joyful and expectant hope that our God would pour out His blessings upon *all* nations and so, undoubtedly, gather a rich and bountiful harvest of worshipers.

What cannot be missed, however, is that this worldwide harvest of worshipers has one singular purpose: the praise and glory of God (and not the glory of any one individual or institution). This is emphasized by the poetic structure of Psalm 67. You will notice that a refrain is repeated in verses 3 and 5. But what you may not notice immediately is that Psalm 67 is a chiasm—that is, the psalm employs a Hebrew literary device in which ideas are presented and then repeated or paralleled in the reverse order, often with an emphasis on the center. Notice how in this psalm the prayerful request for God's blessing is made in verse 1, and the answer is paralleled in verse 7: “God *shall* bless us.” In verse 2, the psalmist prays that God's way and power would be known throughout the earth; this is answered in verse 6: “then shall the earth yield her increase.” As noted, the refrain of verse 3 is repeated in verse 5. Put simply, verse 1 matches verse 7; verse 2 matches verse 6; and verse 3 matches verse 5. It is verse 4, then, that sits at the center of Psalm 67. This verse, which is *not* repeated or paralleled, forms the heart of the psalm.

This central verse reads, “O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth.” How can the psalmist pray with such boldness? How is it possible that we pray confidently for God's blessing to have universal scope and significance? Does it rest on our gifts or the number of Christians involved? While God uses human instruments for the spread of the gospel, our confidence does not rest on our numbers or abilities. No, the psalmist's prayer is centered on

God's just and equitable rule over all nations. The answer to our prayer rests on the one to whom we are praying. He is Lord over all; He is the one who can make His own fame cover the earth! He can use us, weak as we are, to bring glory to Himself. Not only does the psalmist recognize the sovereign power of God to rule all nations but He does so with equity—our sovereign God rules with perfect justice and leads all nations. Interestingly, the same verb often used to describe God *leading* Israel out of Egypt to the promised land is used here. It is the covenant Lord who guides the nations, leading them to Himself. It is only then that the nations will be glad and rejoice. In today's context, where the nations (including our own) rage against the one true God, let us join together in confident, expectant prayer that God *will* gather to Himself a multitude of worshipers from all nations, all for His glory.

—Jonathon Beeke

Academic Dean / Associate Professor of Historical Theology



PURITAN REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



REFORMATION HERITAGE BOOKS

Rhine River Reformation Cruise



MAY 12 – 24, 2025




See tour description on page 3.

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: KUSHAL RAI



After graduating from Puritan Reformed, where have you been serving Christ and His church, and in what capacity?

Having returned home in the year 2010 (fourteen years have gone by), I resumed my responsibility as a faculty at Darjeeling Hills Bible School (DHBS). In 2013, I was ordained as the minister of the Word in a Presbyterian denomination. Since 2017, the

Board of DHBS, after the demise of my father, appointed me as the principal of the Bible school, and I was also elected as the Clerk of the Session, the post which I continue to hold till this date.

What does a typical day/week of ministry look like for you?

As someone engaged in teaching ministry, my day at the school begins at 9 in the morning to 4:30 in the evening. On Tuesdays, after class hours, I, along with a co-pastor, usually do home visitation (either one or two). On Wednesday evenings, we have a prayer meeting in the church. On Thursday evenings, I do Bible study with the students, and on Fridays we have cottage meetings.

Saturdays are an off day for the school, but at least twice a week, I'm traveling either to attend church meetings or programs or for Sunday ministry. On Sundays, I usually preach three times a month.

Looking back on your seminary training, do you think it helped you for the ministry? Why or why not?

My training at Puritan Reformed has been of greatest help to me in my ministry. I must say, my time there gave me a strong sense and call to pastoral ministry; molded my heart as a pastor; and developed within me a deep sense of personal piety, a greater hunger for the Word, love for the church as well as the lost, and a perpetual need for His grace and mercy both in my life and in my ministry.

Have you found experiential theology, as taught at Puritan Reformed, robust or missing in your ministry context? What are you doing to foster a deeper appreciation of it among those you serve and co-labor with?

I have found experiential theology taught at Puritan Reformed robust as well as essential in my ministry context. Experiential theology is manifested not only in the context of preaching but equally in the context of personal engagements with various believers. It has taught me to be more patient, compassionate, gracious, kind, and loving as I engage with believers in their spiritual warfare.

Experiential theology in my context was a strange idea; most, if not all (when I first spoke) had never heard the term. I began by teaching (to students) and preaching (to congregants) experientially. Another method to foster experiential theology was to introduce the writings and sermons of the

Puritans and the like to my co-pastors. I talked about PRTS, about the faculty, their manner of teaching and fellowshiping as one large family. Many today appreciate and practice Reformed experiential theology in their respective ministries.

What part does family worship play in fostering a personal faith and piety among the people you serve?

Family worship plays an integral as well as essential role in the lives of the majority of our families. In many families, there is the practice of morning (often around 6:00 a.m.) as well as evening devotions. Nearly all families do have evening devotions. Sadly, there aren't many good Reformed materials to use in my native language that can be used for family devotions.

What are some challenges you face in the ministry and why?

In my context, a minister of the gospel is expected to be a multitasked man; as a result, there is constant pressure, which at times is overwhelming. Due to lack of learning opportunities, resources, and like-minded ministers, ministry can become mundane, and there can be a lack of freshness. Another area of challenge is the lack of growth and fruits within the church.

What advice would you give to students currently studying at Puritan Reformed?

I strongly believe that Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary is the best center of learning anywhere with a perfect blend of academics, pastoral emphases, and personal piety. My advice to students studying is to take advantage of the opportunity of learning and developing, whether it is in the classroom, personal study, interacting with faculty and fellow students, or attending conferences. For many, it is the only opportunity we may receive. Your lifetime of ministry depends heavily on your time of development at the seminary.

How could the Puritan Reformed community pray for you?

Pray for me that the Lord would continue to grant me sound health spiritually as well as physically so that I may serve the Lord faithfully and with joy and gladness.

Pray for my family—my wife, Tina Esther, as administrator of a Christian school (Mount Zion School), which is a part of our ministry; my two boys, Calvin (six years) and Joel (four years), that they would be saved to love and serve the Lord.

Pray for my ministry at the Bible school, our local church, as well as the Christian school that the Lord, who is able to do far exceedingly and above of that we have asked and thought, would continue to provide for our personal and ministerial needs.

Pray that, as we pray and plan to further the construction and expansion of both of our schools, that the Lord would provide for our expenses.

Pray that the church in general and the Reformed/Presbyterian church in India would continue to grow, both in quality and quantity, to be a beacon of light to those in darkness.

FACULTY ITINERARIES AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | *Itinerary*

September 1: Pompton Plains, New Jersey: Free Reformed Church
September 15: Burgessville, Ontario: Heritage Reformed Church
September 29: Deckerville, Michigan: East Marion Baptist Church

Publications

“Theocentric and Trinitarian Worship” in *Puritan Reformed Journal*, Vol. 16, number 2; July 2024
“Called to Holiness,” *Tabletalk*, July 2024
“3 Things to Know about Zechariah” at Ligonier.org

DR. JOEL R. BEEKE | *Itinerary*

September 1–2: Zambia, Africa (preaching)
September 11: Kalamazoo, Michigan: Kalamazoo Reformed Church (topic)
September 14–16: Sacramento, California: Doxa Church (preaching)
September 21–23: Franklin, Tennessee: Stonebridge Bible Church (preaching and topics)
October 8–9: Williamstown, Kentucky: Creation Museum Conference for pastors (address)
October 10–12: Wuppertal, Germany: Voice of Hope Conference: A Family with God at the Center (several addresses)
October 13: Munich, Germany: preach for Matthias Lohman
October 17–19: Kaiserslautern, Germany: Puritan Conference (several addresses)
October 20: Kaiserslautern, Germany: preach for Pastor Peter Krell (a.m.)
October 20: Giessen, Germany: preach for Confessing Evangelical Reformed Congregation for Jochen Klautke (p.m.)
October 21: Giessen, Germany: lecture in seminary
October 30—November 2: Birmingham, England: Creation Mega Conference with Ken Ham (3 addresses)
November 3–4: Wolverhampton, England: preach for Andrew Whithead (a.m.) and Conrad Pomeroy (eve.)

Publications

Edit with Paul Smalley, *The Lord of Endurance and Encouragement: Suffering and the Sovereignty of God* (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books) *Puritan Reformed Journal*, 16, 2 (July 2024); edit with Paul Smalley “Practical Application in Preaching,” *Expositor*, no. 47 (Summer 2024).
Vivendo para a Glória de Deus: Uma introducao a fe Reformada, 2nd edition (Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil: Editora Fiel).
Ten Puritans Who Changed the World (Focus on the Family).
Series editor with Michael Haykin, *An Infinite Treasury: Grace in the Piety of William Bridge*, intro. and ed. Brian Hedges (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books).
4 books published by Eden Publications in Portuguese: *How Should I Live as a Single?: One Man and One Woman*; *How Do We Plant Convictions in Our Children?*; *How Should We Develop Biblical Friendship?*

DR. GERALD M. BILKES | *Itinerary*

September 22: Pompton Plains, New Jersey: Pompton Plains Free Reformed Church
September 23–24: Ancaster, Ontario: PRTS Consultation
October 18–19: Kalamazoo, Michigan: Kalamazoo Reformed Church Young Adults Retreat
October 20: Kalamazoo, Michigan: Kalamazoo Reformed Church
October 21–22: Dundas, Ontario: FRC Theological Education Committee Meetings
December 15: Fenwick, Ontario: Fenwick Free Reformed Church
December 29: Hamilton, Ontario: Hamilton Free Reformed Church

DR. MARK KELDERMAN | *Itinerary*

September 25–26: Chilliwack, British Columbia: Biblical Counseling Conference
September 27–28: Lynden, Washington: Biblical Counseling Conference

DR. MAARTEN KUIVENHOVEN | *Itinerary*

September 1: Oxford FRC and Burgessville HRC, Ontario: preach
September 8: Grand Rapids: Redeemer FRC and Kalamazoo Reformed Church: preach
September 15: Grand Rapids: Redeemer FRC: preach
September 23–30: Alexandria School of Theology, Cairo, Egypt (lecturing)
October 6: Grand Rapids: Redeemer FRC: preach
October 13: Grand Rapids: Redeemer FRC: preach
October 27: Burgessville HRC, Ontario: preach

Publications

“In Christo Homine Restituitur: William Ames’ Exegesis of Psalm 8 and 40,” in *The Old Testament, Calvin, and the Reformed Tradition*, ed. Yudha Thianto. Leiden: Brill, 2024, 133–51.
Various articles for the *Banner of Sovereign Grace Truth*

DR. DANIEL TIMMER | *Itinerary*

September–December: Montreal, Quebec: Teach Herméneutique Biblique at the FTÉ

Publications

“Reconsidering Textual Coherence: Complexity, Unity, and the Historical-Critical Task,” *Vetus Testamentum* 74 (2024): 1–22.
“3 Things to Know about Nahum,” May 2024, <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/topics/biblical-studies>
“3 Things to Know about Habakkuk,” May 2024, <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/topics/biblical-studies>

PRTS-RHB RHINE RIVER REFORMATION CRUISE

I am excited to let you know that (together with my fellow tour guides Jerry Bilkes and David Woollin) the final brochure together with the registration sheet for our forthcoming trip, May 12 – May 24, 2025, D.V., along the beautiful Rhine River, where many important events of God’s Reformation in Europe took place, is now ready. Some of these sites include Geneva, Strasbourg, Worms, Heidelberg, Dordrecht, and much more. This year Puritan Reformed and Reformation Heritage Books are combining efforts to make this a refreshing and invigorating trip for all who join.

Besides seeing Reformation sites up close, we will tour some of the areas where the Reformation had its strongest foothold, countries like Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands, D.V. We will hear some insightful lectures that will deepen our appreciation for the Reformation in our hearts. In addition, we will have a wonderful time of fellowship and relaxation as we enjoy one of the most beautiful areas of God’s world.

This year we have room for 100 people on the beautiful and premium MS Symphonie cruise ship. We expect that our Rhine River Reformation Cruise will fill up quite soon, so please be sure to send in your registration form as soon as possible.

Learn more here: <https://heritagebooks-my.sharepoint.com/.../EWd75IgN79VLq...>

For technical questions, feel free to contact Kristina at Witte Travel: Kristinac@wittetravel.com 616-954-7492.

If you have questions we, as tour leaders, can answer, please contact Jerry Bilkes: jerry.bilkes@prts.edu 616-202-8067.

—Joel Beeke, Jerry Bilkes, David Woollin

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Alejandro Riaño joined PRTS in April 2024 as coordinator of the Translation Center. He leads and oversees the translation process of the MA program into five different languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic). He is also directly involved in Spanish translation projects and serves as an English-Spanish interpreter for meetings and events related to our seminary's partnerships in Spanish-speaking countries.

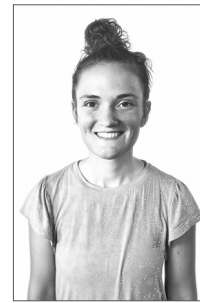
Recently, he has been exploring ways to enrich the work of the Translation Center with AI tools, especially for dubbing and subtitling video lectures.

Alejandro is originally from Bogotá, Colombia. He holds a BA in language education, a BA in political science, and a master's degree in applied linguistics. He has previously worked in diplomacy, translation, podcasting, and language teaching. He has been accepted into the MA program at PRTS and will begin this fall.

Alejandro and his wife, Susan, are members of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). They both enjoy learning foreign languages, traveling, hiking, rollerblading, and going to the beach. Outside of work, Alejandro also enjoys reading, writing, and growing bonsai trees.

Alejandro is grateful to serve the Lord and His church at PRTS and prays that God will use him as an instrument to advance His kingdom through the translation

of Reformed education and resources into many languages around the world.



Sarah Paga joined PRTS in April 2024 as the business administrative coordinator. She is the first point of contact for both internal and external communication. Sarah welcomes

visitors and manages campus access while assisting the chancellor and chief financial officer with administration and organization. She holds a bachelor's degree in business with minors in global communication and theology.

Sarah is a member of Christ Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors, appreciating the creation that God has made.

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