



## NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



### Preaching the Word of Truth in City of Smiles

**WHO:** Rev. Brian Najapfour and ITEM Executive Director Will Hesterberg.

**WHERE:** Bacolod, Philippines, also known as “The City of Smiles.”

**WHY BACOLOD:** We visited Bacolod through the invitation of Student Missionary Outreach, a student training ministry, to present a series of seminars on reformed doctrine and to determine whether the Philippines might be a fruitful location for future ITEM ministry.

**WHAT WE TAUGHT:** First we presented a series of six lectures on “The Five Solas and Siempre Reformanda (the reformed church must always be reforming)” to more than 50 pastors and church leaders, some reformed and others interested in the reformed faith. That Sunday we preached in several local churches and presented a seminar on prayer to 100 faithful gathered from local churches.

Will Hesterberg also taught “15 Lessons on Biblical Covenantal Theology” to more than 50 church leaders. These enthusiastic students grappled with the truths of God’s progressive revelation in order to grasp a new concept they had heard very little of before this class—covenant theology.

**WHAT WE LEARNED:** We discovered leaders from a range of reformed and non-reformed churches willing to consider the implications of covenant theology. They asked insightful questions, and they were excited to see how covenant theology unified both Old and New Testament revelation so that Jesus could be clearly seen throughout. While they came from many different theological persuasions, they very graciously accepted each other and our teaching.

### Romanians prove hungry for gospel’s good news

**WHO:** Pastors Rob Toornstra and Bill Wilton.

**WHERE:** Campina, Romania.



**WHEN:** Fall, 2018.

**WHAT WE TAUGHT:** Preaching Christ from Exodus. For three days, we reflected on the grand story of God's rescue of His people—by Moses from slavery in Egypt, and ultimately, by our Lord Jesus Christ from our slavery to sin.

**HOW WE TAUGHT:** ITEM's three-day workshops consisted of teaching, preaching, worship and small group time to practice what had been taught. Typically, each conference follows the same core principles but focuses on a different area of Scripture. Pastors benefit from this because they hear the foundational concepts repeated—repetition is the mother of learning. They also enhance their preaching skills by learning about different genres of the Bible.

**WHAT WE LEARNED:** Romanians are hungry for the gospel. Though most Romanians who are religious are Orthodox Christians, a growing number of people are hearing and responding to the preaching of the gospel. Pastors are eager to meet this need.

### Prayer Requests

1. The following men will be teaching in November and would appreciate your prayers: Dr. Phil DeHart on Biblical Introduction in Indonesia, Cal Hoogendoorn on Living in Grace at Kiev Regional Bible College, Dr. Michael Payne on Christian Ethics in Latvia at Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, Mark Jenkins on Pastoral Counseling at Reformado Seminario de Bolivia in Cochabamba, and Mike McLaughlin on Church Planting, also at Reformado Seminario.
2. About 40 percent of the giving comes to ITEM in November and December. Would you pray about generously investing in the next two months?
3. Please pray for Executive Director Will Hesterberg, who will be having right shoulder replacement surgery Nov. 12.

## Beautiful worship breaks through horror of slums

**WHO:** Rev. Gareth Tonnessen.

**WHERE:** Bangalore and Chennai, India.

**WHEN:** Oct. 11-26, 2018.

**WHAT I TAUGHT:** Genesis. I spent the final month prior to departure writing the course. I love Genesis because it is foundational to the faith and serves as a summary of the rest of Scripture. Many issues and important doctrines are addressed there, such as a theocentric view of life, salvation by grace through faith alone, the institution of the Sabbath, etc. The many specific pointers to Jesus and his work also engender great confidence in the book's authority.

**WHY INDIA:** I have lived or spent significant time on five of the seven continents (lacking Australia and Antarctica), but I had never been to India. That changed when I became increasingly touched by the growing need for training of Indian pastors and increasing resistance of the Indian government.

**AN ECUMENICAL TRIP:** A Hindu festival was celebrated the week I arrived in Bangalore. I taught at a Roman Catholic conference venue. In Chennai, I stayed at the YWCA and had meetings at the Salvation Army. I preached at a church located in a slum. I was thrilled to see the beauty of worship in the expressions on the people's faces.

### How to Contribute

In the U.S. send contributions to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or at [www.ITEM.org](http://www.ITEM.org) through PayPal. Email: [lwhesterberg@gmail.com](mailto:lwhesterberg@gmail.com).

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, c/o Action International Ministries, 3015 A, 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7T1.

**Phone # 618-939-5069**