



JULY 2026 | Issue #15

SEA TO SEA

Magazine of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada



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People of the Kingdom

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EDITORIAL

Several weeks ago, I attended a pastors' conference which had the theme of "Revival". What does the mention of the word "revival" call to your mind? Do you think of long past historical occurrences, only in other countries? Or perhaps you think of certain preachers like George Whitefield or John Wesley? Or, is it possible that the mention of revival raised a skeptical eyebrow, and what came to mind were only images of excessively emotional, disorderly and irreverent communal outbursts? The word "revive" simply comes from the word for "life". Jesus said He came that we might have life and have it abundantly. The Christian life begins with the new birth in sovereign grace by the Spirit of God. As believers, individually and corporately, we are in need of the constant reviving of our spiritual walk with God. We sing in Psalm 85, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Praying for revival, i.e., biblically-based, Spirit-effected seasons of refreshing and increased fruitfulness, should be a regular petition in our lives and in our congregations. We pray because, though God often chooses to use human instrumentality, revival is ultimately his work. Habakkuk 3:2 records the prayer of the prophet, "O Lord, revive your work". For the glory of God and good

of his people, we pray, "Will you not revive us again?" And the true revival of the Church is what our culture needs. Peter Jeffrey wrote, "Initially, revival is not the answer to a godless society. It is the answer to a lifeless and powerless church. And a revived church, filled with the power of the Spirit, is the answer to a godless society." As we continue to be revived ourselves by the Spirit and by "the words of eternal life" in Scripture, we will joyfully and thankfully proclaim to our society that same life bringing Word, and commend to others Jesus Himself— the Way, the Truth and the Life. When God brought about a remarkable revival and transformation of a notoriously sinful suburb of Liverpool (nicknamed "little Hell") in the late 19th c., the pastor there, Richard Hobson, encouraged his congregation to pray every day as the one o'clock gun was fired, "O God, for Christ's sake, send Thy Holy Spirit." I hope many will take up such a prayer for revival, and may this magazine always take note of what God has done!

Rev. Matt Kingswood
Minister, Russell RP Church



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All Bible quotations are from the ESV

NEWS

RPCC WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026

The second annual RPCC Women's Retreat was held April 10-11 and was a joy for all who were able to attend.

Attendees enjoyed two excellent talks from Mrs. Catherine Metzger (on the topic of discipleship), times of fellowship together, corporate prayer, delicious meals, and their choice of breakout sessions, which included topics like "hospitality", "adoption", "gardening", and several others.

During free time, we enjoyed walking around the Camp lawah grounds, and taking in God's beautiful creation.

The first talk was on the evening of April 10th. Mrs. Metzger focused on the "inward" aspect of discipleship, specifically on practical and helpful ways to approach our Bible reading. We were able to practice some of her suggestions in groups that evening, as well as in personal devotional times later that evening, or the following morning.

Personally, I found her tools very useful in my own devotional time. It helped me to slow down and really digest what I was reading, and I was richly blessed in doing so.



The second talk was the following morning. Mrs. Metzger spoke about the "upward" and "outward" aspects of discipleship, those being our prayer lives and our discipling one another.

One thing she emphasized regarding prayer was the blessing of being able to pray through particular Scripture passages. Some time was set aside for us to practice this, which was helpful and refreshing.

She also suggested taking some time later to pair off and pray for one another more personally using some of the Scripture passages we had begun to work through. In this way we were able to practice skills for prayer as well as skills for discipling other believers.

I personally found this time together especially encouraging and blessed.

We were all urged to continue to walk with faith, aim, and love for another, and ultimately for Christ.

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

We are thankful for the time of rest and growth that this weekend provided for us all, and for all the hard work put into making it happen.

Written by Tiara van Hoffen



KINGDOM LIFE: PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 5:7-9

Jesus has a rescue plan for his creation. His “Sermon on the Mount” is a radical vision of this blessed life that his Kingdom provides. This is a Kingdom that has a clear path with a singular door. The pathway that leads to the door; seeing one’s poverty of spirit, mourning over sin, and a meek plea of faith, vv. 2-5. It’s a kingdom of comfort that has the earth as its inheritance, but it has only one door, the altogether satisfying righteousness of Christ, v. 6.

However, as you listen to Jesus’ opening parables to his sermon you realize it’s not just about how one gets in, but how it gets into us. The pathway that leads to ‘its door’; the person of the Kingdom—Jesus, soon produces a certain kind of people that become like salt in a decaying world and light in the darkness (vv. 13-16). This is the description of the Kingdom of God in his people. When we become the people of Christ’s Kingdom then, as he says in v. 16, the world sees “your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

A blessed people, who have found their heart’s desire in Christ and his righteousness, are the first ‘downpay-

ment’ of his coming Kingdom. A people who bring that kingdom of grace as salt and light, as Christ continues now, through relationships with a powerful resource and new reason.

Kingdom Relationships

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Here is the first thing that Christ’s Kingdom does to its people—the God of all mercy makes us merciful. It’s notable to see that Jesus begins here, where God did with Moses. The basis of our hope of being in this covenant with this God of glory—his mercy. A God who is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,” Exodus 34:6. God is “rich in mercy,” Ephesians 2:4.

When you are utterly convinced of your own spiritual poverty, mercy becomes most precious to you. So much so that you begin to develop an eye for the distressed and a heart of pity that drives us out to help others, even an enemy. That’s mercy and that’s how the righteousness of Christ that satisfies begins to shape us re-



lationally. It makes us merciful; willing to bear others' burdens and play down the relational offenses around us. The longer you live in Jesus' kingdom, the more you see what it cost him to bring you in, and that changes you. That mercy of God begins to characterize all your other relationships.

Kingdom Resources

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Any Kingdom needs power, but living mercifully in this self-centered world requires a supernatural power. The Psalms ask, 'Who shall dwell with God?'. Both answer, 'He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.' The qualification for life in the Kingdom, holiness, becomes a heart governed by the Spirit who applies the righteousness of Christ to us. In this way, an imputed status becomes the power source for the Christian life; a heart purified in motivations and loyalties; a heart no longer of stone far from God, but a new heart with his Spirit (Ezekiel 36:25) with a new motivation. This is the effect of walking through that door of faith in Christ, into his Kingdom; a "true heart" with full assurance that is "sprinkled clean" (Hebrews 10:22).

By this will the children of God be known—by their peacemaking and display of love.

This says C. S. Lewis, is the difference between becoming a "nice person" and "becoming a new one". The "niceness" of religion lacks this resource; a new heart that enables us to know God. And seeing (knowing) God, says J. I. Packer, is the only thing that "catches our imagination and lays hold of our allegiance, and this the Christian has in a way that no other person has. For what higher, more exalted, and more compelling goal can there be than to know God?"

The Kingdom Reason

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

As the Kingdom defines its occupant's relationships with mercy and empowers them with pure hearts, it also gives them its purpose. The reason for the Kingdom Jesus defines is 'peacemaking'. This new heart is given to enable us to know God but is also essential for advancing the Kingdom we live in. Christ (who is our peace—Ephesians 2:11) ushers in his Kingdom of Shalom through his people. A people who are meek says Psalm 37:11, "...shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace."

The Kingdom of Shalom that is coming, is brought through the meekness of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5). By this will the children of God be known—by their peacemaking and display of love.

Rev. Matt Dyck
Minister, Hillside RPC



The RP Global Alliance website

www.rpglobalalliance.org

is the place to find news, information and prayer points about the RP Church around the world.

The RPGA Team also sends out weekly prayer emails and a monthly newsletter directly to your inbox.

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INTERVIEW

Mr. Cory van der Meer
Ruling Elder in Beckwith RPC



Give us a brief life history (where were you born, early family life, etc.)

I was born in 1983 and spent most of my childhood in Russell, Ontario. I am the oldest son of Ernst and Carla van der Meer, the second of their six children, and grew up in a home shaped by Dutch heritage and more importantly the Reformed faith. My father immigrated to Canada from Friesland, a province in the northern Netherlands, while my mom grew up in Canada, though her parents immigrated from Holland.

I attended Christian schools from grade 1 to 12. My family were members of the Christian Reformed Church until I was 11 years old, when we left the church due to liberalism, and began attending the Ottawa RPC in 1994. In June 1998, our family was among the families sent out from the Ottawa RPC to plant the Russell RPC.

My academic and professional background spans multiple fields. I graduated from Carleton University with a degree in Economics and I also hold a diploma in Horticulture. In 2014 I obtained my Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

What is your current situation (church, location, job, family etc.)?

I met my wife Vanessa in 2003 at a RP young adults' event. At the time, she was a member of the Hillside RPC, and yes, I do believe in love at first meet. We were married on August 5, 2006, and I thank God for my beautiful wife and helpmate every day. Together we have been blessed with our three handsome and smart boys Henry, Sam, and Teddy. This August, Vanessa and I will celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary.

In 2010, our family moved to Carleton Place, Ontario, and we began attending the Ottawa RPC. In 2014, I was ordained and installed as a ruling elder in the Ottawa RPC, where I served for nearly ten years. In September 2024, our family was among those sent out to help

plant a church in Beckwith, Ontario, and I was installed as a ruling elder in the Beckwith RPC.

For the last 11 years, I have worked as a forensic accountant conducting criminal investigations.

Our family moved to rural Ashton in 2015 to enjoy country life on our thirty acres. When I am not busy with family, church, or work, I enjoy playing soccer, gardening, spending time in the forest and greenhouse with our dog Toby in tow, producing maple syrup, caring for my flock of chickens, and using a chainsaw around the property while doing my best to stay away from poison ivy.

What has been the greatest influence in your life for Christ?

My father has been a godly example in my life and a man who serves others with genuine joy. He faithfully led our family in worship and always made the church a clear priority. One of the lasting images in my mind is seeing him sitting at the kitchen table early in the morning with his breakfast of yogurt and granola, his Bible open before him as he spent time in God's Word.

He is quick to speak of Christ and always willing to help those in need. Throughout the years, he has sacrificed much for the sake of his family. His life has shown me what it means to walk steadily with the Lord and to put Christ first in everyday life.

What has been the biggest challenge in getting where you are today?

Some might say it is stubbornness, but I disagree. I think my biggest challenge has been balancing the many competing priorities in my life, with limited time. It takes wisdom, discipline and prayer to continually balance my family's needs with the church's needs.

Interview continued on page 15...

RPCC INVOLVEMENT IN BRAZIL

BRAZIL - some facts

- Brazil is the largest country in South America.
- It is the world's fifth-largest country by area.
- The seventh-largest country by population, with over 213 million people.
- Brazil is a federation composed of 26 states and a Federal District, which hosts the capital, Brasília.
- Its most populous cities are São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.
- Brazil has the most Portuguese speakers in the world and is the only country in the Americas where Portuguese is an official language.

THE REGION - State of Paraíba, north east Brasil



BACKGROUND to our involvement

Following initial contacts in 2024 between Mr. Seyr Lemos and several Brazilian ministers who expressed interest in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery agreed at its October 2024 meeting that Seyr and Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley would travel to Brazil to meet with the ministers and determine whether we could assist them. Following further correspondence exchange, an online meeting was held in the spring of 2025 in preparation for the initial trip.

In April 2025, Andrew made the trip to Brazil, Seyr being unable to go. It comprised two parts:

- Lectures to the ministers and to the members of the Capim and João Pessoa congregations on RPC History, RPC Distinctive Doctrines, The Kingship of Christ, The Church, The Regulative Principle of Worship, The Office and Role of the Ruling Elder, and the RP Global Alliance.
- Meetings with the ministers: Revs. Evaristo Barros, Joelson Pinheiro (translator), Carlos Filho, Silvan Ramos, and ruling elder Everthon Araujo to discuss whether it would be possible to form a Brazilian RP Church.



Mr. Everthon Araujo, Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley, Revs. Carlos Filho, Joelson Pinheiro, Evaristo Barros, and Silvan Ramos.



Rev Dr. Andrew Quigley in discussion with some of the men

It became clear from these conversations why the Lord was giving the RPC this opportunity. Prior to our involvement, when some of the Brazilian ministers discussed how to form a reformed and presbyterian denomination with other denominations, the advice they had received was either to return to the liberal denomination they had left or to join the denomination with which they were speaking.

The approach taken during this first visit was different, as there was no reason to add layers to a process that was glaringly simple. It was communicated to them that what they needed was an agreed Constitution, and help in establishing the new church's body life. The men responded positively to this advice and agreed to begin work on a Constitution based on the RPCC Constitution and to consider an outline plan for developing the future denomination's body life.

Throughout 2025

Throughout 2025, regular contact was maintained with Rev. Joelson Pinherio, with constant encouragement being given regarding the drafting of the new Constitution. Joelson was also encouraged in his move from São Paulo to Campina Grande to take up a post at a new Christian school. This was a significant development, as it has allowed Joelson to meet with Revs. Silvan Ramos and Evaristo Barros in person. (Campina Grande is within a two-hour drive of both the Capim congregation, where Silvan is the minister, and João Pessoa, where Evaristo ministers, whereas São Paulo to João Pessoa was a 37 hour drive.)

The Second Visit - April 2026

Because of the progress made and an invitation for Andrew to return to Brazil, the RPCC Presbytery decided at its October 2025 meeting to send Seyr and Andrew back to Brazil in the spring of 2026. Andrew undertook this trip in April 2026 (Seyr being unable to go).

On this visit, in addition to preaching God's Word eight times, several meetings were held with the ministers. These meetings were opportunities to continue encouraging them in their work on drafting the new Constitution and to begin developing the future body life of the new denomination.

Arising from those discussions, it was agreed that:

- The Constitution of the new denomination would be completed by April 2027.
- The work of explaining the Constitution to the people would be completed by April 2028, at which point the new RPC of Brazil could be established.

A plan was also agreed upon for building the future body life of the church in Brazil. This included discussions about: *(in no order of priority)*

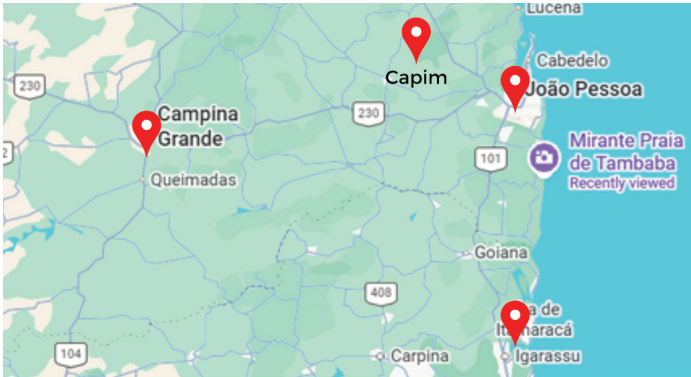
- The production of a publication to inform those in the existing two congregations and one 'mission' church of the progress being made towards the formation of the new denomination.
- The production of a denominational magazine.
- Setting up a social media presence for what will be the RPC of Brazil.
- The organization of annual day conferences for men, women and a weekend conference for everyone in the denomination.
- The establishment of a Seminary to train men for ministry. They have one highly gifted young man seeking training for the gospel ministry.

While some of these things will be easier to establish than others, the desire to discuss them shows the seriousness with which the men are addressing what they want to see happen. Practical help has also been provided by forwarding documents from both the lead-up to the formation of RPCC and in current usage as templates for publications, etc.



*Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley
Ottawa RPC
Translator Rev. Joelson Pinherio*

CONGREGATIONS



There are two congregations, one in the city of João Pessoa and the other in the town of Capim. There is a mission church in Igarassu, and there is potential for a fellowship group to start in the city of Campina Grande.

Capim - a town with a population of 6,800
 Minister - Rev. Silvan Ramos, pictured with his wife Danielle
 Congregation - 40 people



João Pessoa - city of population of 1,290,000
 Minister - Rev. Evaristo Barros pictured with his wife, Flaviana, and two of his children, Everton and Eduardo.
 Congregation - 30 people



Igarassu - a town with a population of 125,000
 Ruling Elder - Everthon Araujo, with his wife Nathanaely (on the left), their children, and some of the members from the Igrasus mission church.
 Mission congregation - 15 people



Campina Grande - a city with a population of 445,000
 Potential Minister - Rev. Joelson Pinherio, pictured with his wife, Natalaia, and sons, Jonathan, Josue and Joao.
 Congregation - none currently, but there is potential for a fellowship to start in the coming months through a direct request from those who have started the new Christian school where he teaches.



PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for these ministers and their families. Each of these men has a full-time career to sustain their families, and, as they have expressed, the idea of working to establish a denomination is daunting, if not a bit overwhelming.
- Please pray that the continued encouragement, counsel, help and support will be a blessing to them.

MISSION UPDATE

Sowing Among Ten Thousand Shrines: A New Work in Thailand



If someone were to walk the streets of Bangkok, he or she might not immediately notice spiritual hunger. Life appears vibrant—the people are warm, the city is welcoming, and a rich cultural tradition shapes every corner of daily life. Yet alongside its twelve million residents stand tens of thousands of idols. Temples, shrines, and spirit houses line every street, each one is a quiet witness to hearts that are full of religion yet still searching for peace. It was this striking combination—the multitude of people and the multitude of idols—that moved the Reformed Presbyterian Thailand team to begin a new work in this city.

The team has moved to Bangkok with a clear and patient vision. Recognizing that church planting in a predominantly Buddhist society will be slow, they have committed to fifteen years of faithful labour—three years drawing closer through learning the language and relationship, seven years going deeper by building Christ-centred communities, and five years reaching further by raising up indigenous leaders to plant more churches among Thai people, refugees, and expatriates.

For the first time, the full team is now on the field. Leila arrived in Bangkok in November 2025, and the Lu family (Hao and Amy with their four children) joined her in February 2026. All attend the same language school and worship together on Sunday evenings. On Sunday mornings, they join Grace Fellowship, a Thai-speaking congregation planted by Mission to the World

(PCA) missionaries. Life is full, but the team is grateful for God's abundant provision and content with the pace he has set.

The Lord has provided richly in this early season—five-year visas, a suitable home, an experienced language school, and a Thai Christian sister who cares for the Lu children during class hours. Thai grammar has proven more accessible than expected, but even for these Chinese Americans, it will be a challenge for Leila and the Lu's to learn this difficult 5-tonal language. Interacting in Thai with ordinary Thai people has already deepened the team's affection for those they serve.

Most encouraging has been the gift of church life itself. Worshipping alongside local believers and witnessing Thai people move, often slowly, from unbelief to faith has been a wellspring of hope and confidence that the gospel is the power of God, even in Bangkok.

Please pray for the Thailand team:

- for perseverance in language learning,
- for unity in team communication, and
- for meaningful relationships that open doors for gospel witness.

May the Lord establish the work of RP Global Missions in Thailand, for his glory.

Rev. Vince Ward
Interim Teaching Elder, Beckwith RPC



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act

Parliament's debate over Bill C-9 has drawn significant concern from many Christians across Canada, particularly because of changes made to the legislation during the committee stage. While the bill itself has not yet fully passed, as of writing (end of May 2026), it is getting close to the end of the process in the Senate.

The primary concern with Bill C-9 relates to an amendment introduced during the House of Commons Justice Committee stage. Earlier versions of the bill raised fewer concerns than previous hate-speech proposals because they retained certain legal protections for religious expression. However, the committee removed the longstanding "good faith religious defence" from the Criminal Code. This defence had previously recognized that individuals could express what was called "sincerely held religious beliefs", which could include moral and theological convictions, without automatically being treated as engaging in criminal hate speech.

The removal of this safeguard has raised serious questions about how the law may be interpreted and applied in the future. Individual Christians, pastors, churches, and others who publicly communicate biblical teaching on morality or identity could face greater legal uncertainty. While some dismiss these concerns as unlikely or exaggerated, history shows that even the possibility of investigations or complaints can have a significant impact. In some cases, individuals have al-

ready faced lengthy legal battles or public scrutiny for expressing views rooted in their religious convictions.

Even beyond the possibility of prosecution, legislation like this can create what is called a 'chilling effect'. People may begin to self-censor, avoiding honest conversations or refraining from speaking publicly about biblical truths because they fear complaints, legal costs, reputational damage, or professional consequences. Over time, this can narrow the space for open discussion and discourage Christians from participating confidently in the public square.

For believers, this concern is not simply political. It is ultimately a matter of faithfulness and conscience. Scripture calls Christians to speak the truth in love, to treat all people with dignity and compassion, and at the same time to remain faithful to what God teaches. Christians must reject hateful speech and personal attacks, but they must also retain the freedom to express biblical convictions respectfully and clearly.

As Parliament continues to consider Bill C-9, Christians should pray for wisdom for elected officials, courage for church leaders, and grace in public discussions. This is an important moment for believers to engage respectfully and faithfully in Canada's public square.

Christians must reject hateful speech but also retain the freedom to express biblical convictions

Mr. Colin Postma
Ruling Elder, Ottawa RPC



PRAYER'S PURPOSES

The reasons that Christians are to pray include:

- **Command.** Christians are to pray because they are commanded to do so by God (Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Constant prayer is a duty, not an optional extra, of everyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ.

- **Commendation.** We pray because we wish to give glory to God (Matthew 6:9; 1 Corinthians 10:31) as the creator and sovereign ruler (Revelations 4:11; 5:9).

- **Christian.** Prayer is an exclusively Christian activity. Although false religions may include an activity which they call prayer, it is not prayer. True prayer can only be offered by people who are empowered by the Holy Spirit (Psalms 34:16; Psalms 145:18; Proverbs 15:8, 29; John 9:31) and offer their prayers in the name of Jesus (John 14:13). Prayer is a Christian privilege. Private prayer reduces the prevalence of false motives and draws us closer to God.

- **Conversation.** We converse with our friends, telling them of what has been happening in our lives and of our needs and desires. Conversations are bi-directional. So it is in our relationship with God—reading the Bible is the primary means we hear his voice and prayer is a means (the other is praise-worship in song) whereby we can respond to him with our own voices.

- **Confession.** It is through prayer that we confess our sins before the holy and righteous God (Leviticus 26:40; Psalms 32:5; 1 John 1:9).

- **Conversion.** Prayer is an essential step in the process of conversion and is necessary for salvation (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9). There is no other means whereby a sinner can acknowledge his faith in Christ and repent of his sins than by offering a prayer to the Father in the name of Jesus (Romans 8:15).

- **Celebration.** When we are truly thankful, we express our thanks to a person who has given us a gift or helped us meet our need or has demonstrated friendship and kindness toward us. Thus it is with prayer. It is how we offer thanks to the one person who gives us temporal life (Acts 17:28) and everlasting life (John 1:4; 3:15-16) and provides us with abundant benefits in this life (Matthew 6:32-33; James 1:17) and in the life to come (2 Timothy 4:8). The more we come to know about God and observe how he works out his providences in our lives, the more we should be celebrating with abundant thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:20) his amazing grace toward us.

- **Comfort.** We receive comfort when we speak with God in prayer because we know that he hears our prayers (Jeremiah 29:12-13; Psalms 66:19; 1 Peter 3:12), even ones which we are unable to formulate into coherent words (Romans 8:26).



• **Confidence.** Because we know that our prayers are heard, they are also always answered (1 John 5:14-15). Of course, this does not mean that every prayer is answered the way that we might wish it to be, because our motives are often wrong (James 4:3) and we do not always acquiesce to the will of the Father, as did Jesus in his prayer in Gethsemane. In our common speech we often imply that God does not answer prayers. For example, a mother might say, “Our prayers have been answered, little Bobby has been healed.” However, if Bobby had not been healed this does not mean that God had not answered her prayers. Paul’s prayer was answered, but not in the way he asked for it to be answered—to have the thorn in the flesh removed (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). Likewise, Jesus repeated his prayer in Gethsemane three times (Matthew 26:42, 44) asking to have the cup of suffering removed (Matthew 26:39), if that was the Father’s will. God certainly heard Jesus’ prayer, but he did not answer it by removing the cup. God always answers the prayers of his people. His answer may be “No.” or “Wait.” Or, he might answer in a way that is very different from what we want or wish. But we can be confident that his answer will be for our good (Romans 8:28).

• **Cultivation.** Prayer is like air and water are for a plant. Without these, a plant cannot grow. So it is for the Christian. Where prayer is neglected because of the remnants of selfishness and laziness that still dwell in us (Romans 7:21-24), our spiritual growth will be stunted and laborious. Where prayer is offered often, spiritual growth and fruit are the result.

• **Challenge.** Prayer is a key contributor to our learning obedience. Reading God’s law will give us intellectual knowledge of what he requires of us, but it is only as we pray that that knowledge is converted into ac-

tion. As we pray, we are challenged to place our dependence upon the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world around us, and to divest ourselves of self-dependence, self-confidence, and self-glorification.

• **Channel.** God uses our works as means for accomplishing his purposes. One of the means he uses is our work in prayer. We won’t know how much our prayers have been effective (James 5:16) until we reach our glorious final abode. But that does not mean that we are to give up (Luke 18:1-8). Our prayers for an unsaved relative, for a fellow believer, or for the state of our nation may be the precise means that God uses to produce miracles of conversion, healing, and revival beyond anything that we can imagine. Prayer makes a difference!

• **Change.** That God uses the prayers of his people as a means of carrying out his providences in the world (Exodus 32:11-14; 2 Kings 19:14-37) often causes folks to ask, “Does prayer change God’s mind?” Our prayers never change God’s plans which he has predestined from the depths of eternity. Yet prayer changes things. Prayer is the means God uses to change individual hearts when they confess their sins and profess faith in Christ and to effect change in nations and in the course of history.

Christians pray because it pleases God, out of obedience to his commands, to follow the example of their Saviour, because of the benefits it has for their individual lives, and because of the great things that God accomplishes through the prayers of his people.

Mr. Jim Hughes
Ruling Elder, Toronto RPC



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CHURCH UPDATE

Vancouver Reformed Presbyterian Church

Church Members and Leadership

Vancouver RP Church has 20 communicant members and 6 covenant children. Our pastor, Rev. David Matthes, was installed in the congregation in December 2024, and we are thankful for his steady ministry. We are thankful for the years of service of Rev. Matt Kingswood and Rev. Vince Ward as interim elders. In February 2026, Matt stepped down from the interim session and was replaced by Rev. Scott Wilkinson and Mr. John Smid. Vince Ward also continues to serve as clerk of session.

Church Meetings

The congregation has no church building of its own, but are thankful for two suitable places to regularly hold services. We meet every Sunday for morning worship at 10:30am at 5425 Ladner Trunk Rd., Delta, and for evening worship at 3:30 pm at 4370 Sophia St., Vancouver. Our morning service began on April 19. Previously we only held afternoon worship. It is hoped that morning and evening worship will be better for families who wish to attend. Every Wednesday evening, we hold a midweek Bible study and prayer meeting. This has

been a very precious time of fellowship for us, giving us the opportunity to pray together for unsaved family, friends, and colleagues, and to pray for the work the Lord is doing around the world through missionaries and churches.

The Congregation

Our congregation may be small, but it has a very big age range from under 6 months to 101 years! Our ruling elder, Mr. Hugh Fraser, passed away in June 2025 and is greatly missed by all the congregation. We rejoice at the birth of Melody Grace Matthes in March and her reception into the fellowship of the congregation at her baptism on April 12th. In February, we had one family join as members of the church. There are a few families



who attend but are not members, and we also get a lot of visitors passing through on their holidays. It is a joy to be reminded we are part of a worldwide Church.

Outreach

Our congregation is prayerfully seeking ways to engage the communities of Delta and Vancouver with the gospel. In Delta, we are only just beginning to make our presence known through the local newspaper, flyers, and outreach events like the Church picnic and summer BBQ. South Delta is an area with no confessional Presbyterian Church reaching it, so we are praying that the Lord would help us to find our place here. This is also where our minister and his family are living. We are looking forward to having Mr. Marco Tochijara come for a summer placement, and we are excited to explore with him ideas for local evangelism.

Prayer

Please pray for our aging members. We have four members who are over 80 years of age. They have great strength and serve the Lord cheerfully. We pray for the Lord's upholding hand for them. Please pray for God's protection over those members who travel great distances to be part of our services. Pray for family members who are unconvinced to turn to Christ. Pray for new families to be added to the Church, and, in God's good timing, elders and deacons. Pray for open doors for the gospel in this vast city. Pray for the Lord's blessing on this summer's internship with Marco. Thank you for all your prayers. We feel how truly blessed we are to be part of this denomination.



Interview with Mr. Cory van der Meer continued from page 6.

What advice would you give to someone 10 years younger than you?

1 Corinthians 15:58 'Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that in the Lord our labour is not in vain.'

We are reminded that Christ has risen, death is defeated, and our hope in eternity is certain. Because these things are true, we should stand firm. True steadfastness will grow as you take confidence in Christ and his promises. Be like a deeply rooted and mature tree, that as the windstorms of life come, we are able to withstand them and remain unmoved by the grace of God.

Secondly, pray more. No Christian prays enough. This is an area of great weakness. We always want to spring into action but often neglect our prayer life. Pray!

If the Lord continues to bless, what would you like to see happen in the RP Church in Canada?

In Canada, I would like to see the RPCC denomination remain steadfast and faithful to the word of God. That we would teach our children of the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders that he has done (Psalm 78:4-7). That generations to come, children yet unborn, would know and tell their children. That the faithful labour and ministry of the RP church today would shape those future generations.

Locally, I would love to see churches planted out of the Beckwith RPC. Historically, Reformed Presbyterian churches in this region dated back to the 1820's and 1830's. Sadly, only the Hillside RPC remains today. There is a harvest in Canada that is ready and I am excited to see what the Lord will do.

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