



QUITO, ECUADOR

Pastor Pablo & Verenice Landázuri

Our work in Quito continues with God's providential direction.

The goal of helping to establish a confessional Reformed denomination in Ecuador that is self-governing, self-supported, and self-propagating is advancing.

Our church in the north of the city, Luz de Vida, has grown to a size of 136 members, including children. We meet twice per Sunday and our catechism and Sunday school activities are well attended. I also teach a Bible study every Wednesday. We have 3 elders and 3 deacons.

Perhaps, more moving is the fact that Luz de Vida has now 3 licentiates that hope to be ministers of the Word in the future, here in Ecuador. They are students of the Seminario Reformado de las Américas, a work that started in connection with our Programa de Formación Pastoral, now under the leadership of City Seminary of Sacramento (RCUS). I have the privilege of teaching one course at the time, along with Rev. Alpuche and Rev. Zartman. The program currently has 21 students from different places in Latin America.

The desire we have had to plant another church became a reality. A group of 15 to 20 people are now meeting in the South of the city in what we call Misión Reformada del Sur (Reformed Mission of the South). This work started in November of 2021 in the neighborhood of Quitumbe, in a place we rented for our two Sunday meetings. Thankfully, this week, the Luz de Vida consistory decided to rent a



place in the area of Chimbacalle, that can be used all throughout the week, that includes 3 classrooms that can be used for catechism and Sunday school. Praise the Lord!

Financially speaking, Luz de Vida is a very responsible church. It covers all its own expenses. It supports the Misión Reformada del Sur, and their 3 Seminary students with a monthly stipend. My salary of course is funded by my calling Church, Covenant Reformed Church in Pella and the help of other Classis and URCNAs.

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IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE IN MISSIONS?

Cross-Cultural Mission Training (CCMT)

CCMT is an opportunity to experience evangelism and disciple-making in a foreign context. This one-month intensive program combines missiology, language, and cultural instruction with mentorship and field experience.

Missionaries and pastors from the URCNA and OPC will invest their time and expertise in you!

- WEEK 1:** Boot Camp with Missionaries
- WEEK 2:** Cultural Immersion
- WEEK 3 & 4:** Full-time On-field Service & Debrief

- WHEN:** May 14 – June 14, 2022
- WHERE:** Central Mexico
- WHO:** Young adults (18+)

For more information, contact
Pastor Richard Bout at
ccmissiontraining@gmail.com

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During the first week of February, we were visited by delegates of Covenant in Pella, led by Rev. Pontier. Providentially, my wife and I tested positive and contracted Covid, right when they arrived. Although, we were sad for not being able to spend time with our brother and sisters, the Luz de Vida members stepped up and managed to receive and take good care of them.

We are doing well health wise now and pray in gratitude to the Lord for the work He is doing here. We are also thankful for your prayers and support. If you would like to know more about it, you can contact me at: pablo.landazuri@hotmail.com or through the chairman of Covenant URC in Pella: Elder Bruce De Bruin, brdbruin@gmail.com.



DIVINE HOPE REFORMED BIBLE SEMINARY

Pastor Nathan Brummel

Back Teaching in Person at the Indiana State Prison

It is good to be back behind the walls again. Last night my daughter prayed at bedtime, thanking the Lord that her dad could go to prison again. She then laughed about what she had said. After a two-year hiatus, I had gone behind the high walls of the Indiana State Prison. My students hadn't changed much. Professor Ipema noticed that one student's goatees had turned gray. Not surprising given the challenges that our students faced during the last two years of the Covid-19 lockdown. Prisoners have assaulted officers. One correctional officer was murdered. After Covid-19 lockdowns were lifted, there were disciplinary lockdowns.

I am teaching a class on the Doctrine of God to some 15 students at this maximum-security prison. The first day of class the students learned about the nature of systematic theology, what the big word "prologemona" means (a first word), what topics are studied in Theology, the importance of the doctrine of the holy Trinity, and why we should speak about God with love and respect. I was showered with questions. Students have saved up their questions about the trinity, Melchizedek, and the epistle to the Romans. So, I happily take time out of class to answer burning questions that are on the forefront of their minds.

It is a joy to teach at the prison. The students are ready and willing to learn. They are excited about doing reading assignments. They have a great attitude and are supportive of the program.

One of the graduates of our program, who is also a member of Immanuel United Reformed Church in Demotte, Indiana, Kelly Holland, is helping me out in the classroom as a teaching assistant. He was so glad to be back in the classroom, mentioning that when he is in the seminary, he doesn't feel like he is in prison. Kelly has become a blessing to the church in DeMotte, sending a monthly "Report from Holland" in which he provides updates and devotions. This semester he is assisting me with teaching and grading. He keeps quite busy in prison since he is a fireman and the head of the veteran's program. He also delivers chapel messages from time to time.

So, it is good to be back behind the tall walls. Things are bleak in the maximum-security prisons in Indiana and Illinois. And it is a blessing to bring hope and joy and light to students who live in such a depressing environment.

