



REFORMED FAITH & LIFE - FRANCE

Rev. Eric & Olga Kayayan



Rev. Eric Kayayan was recently called to be an associate pastor by Glen Oak URC to work in Reformed Faith & Life.



seminary of the Potchefstroom University. During that period, he also completed a Master’s Degree on the French text of John Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. His interest for the writings of the French Reformer led him to publish several articles in peer-reviewed academic journals. Rev Kayayan is married to Olga, they have two children.

What is Reformed Faith and Life?

Reformed Faith and Life (RFL) is a media ministry of Reformed convictions in the French language. Initiated in the late nineties by Rev. Aaron Kayayan (former director of the French department of the *Back To God Hour* in the Chicago region), RFL (*Foi et Vie Réformées* in French) is the fruit of the collaboration between North American Reformed churches (RCUS, churches of the URCNA, the Canadian Reformed Churches...) and local congregations of the Reformed Churches in South Africa (RCSA). They have worked together and supported this ministry since 1998.

Rev. Eric Kayayan, son of the late Rev. Aaron Kayayan, has been the minister in charge of RFL since his ordination as a minister of the Word in 1998, initially within the RCSA (a member church of the ICRC). A supporting committee made of North American churches - mostly RCUS and URCNA’s - follows up with the work of Rev Kayayan and meets once a year (generally early in October at Mid-America Reformed Seminary). Rev Kayayan attends these yearly meetings and, upon invitation, visits North American churches to preach and provide information about the developments of his ministry. A Canadian supporting committee collaborates closely with RFL-USA.

Rev. Kayayan was born and grew up in France. Most of his youth was spent in Paris. French is his mother tongue. In 1988 he emigrated to South Africa where he completed a ThB (theological studies degree) at the Reformed

After 15 years of ministry exercised in South Africa with French speaking Africa as main focus, the Kayayans moved in 2014 to the Western part of France, somewhere between the cities of Angers and Tours (Loire valley). A section of the house where they settled was transformed into an adequate office and library space with some audio and video recording facilities. The use of social media, webinars, youth camps, publication of articles and sermons provides the core of the ministry, which functions as legal entity under French law (the equivalent of a 501 c 3 in the U.S.).

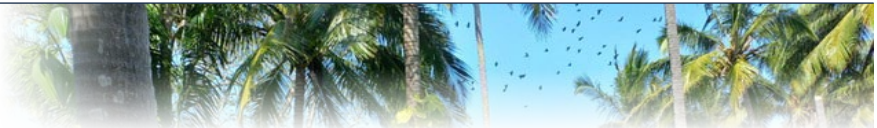
After undergoing a *colloquium doctum* during Classis Central of the URCNA on 11 April 2023, Rev Kayayan was called by Oak Glen URC to continue the work of RFL in France. He was installed as an associate pastor on 30 July 2023. His ministry now falls under the oversight of the consistory of Oak Glen URC. Regular contacts are now taking place with Oak Glen’s consistory, fellow pastor and several church members.

Rev Kayayan can be contacted at the following email address: erickayayan@gmail.com



 **TEPIC, MEXICO**

Rev. Matt & Anne-Marie Van Dyken



Greetings from Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico!

At the end of October, we had our joint retreat with the Reformed church in Puerto Vallarta (Pastor Zack and Sandy Anderson). We had a total of 87 people present. Our retreat theme was a walk through the Old Testament in 40 steps, with actions. I had previously seen it presented by Pastor Ken Anema in May. We invited a pastor from Chihuahua to come and teach, and with his help, I taught the other sessions. It was very rich to see all the connections in the OT and how the whole of the Scriptures point to Christ. The people loved it! The retreats are always a wonderful time of fellowship. Each year we grow closer as congregations.

This past May, if you remember, we hosted the Cross-Cultural Missions Training (CCMT) for one week of the month-long program. Different members of our church hosted the 25 young people who came. Eric and Emma Heida stayed on for an internship with us after. I mention this as we are planning on hosting



again this coming year (May, 2024). I would encourage anyone who is interested in missions or in becoming a pastor to speak to Pastor Richard Bout via urcnamissions@gmail.com.

Different new members' classes are coming to an end, and we are looking forward, the Lord willing, to receiving them as members (and numerous adult baptisms!). We are grateful to see the Lord's work in their lives. One lady was baptized in a Baptist church as a young woman and then wandered away from the Lord. But many years later she has now brought her husband and her son to our church, and they have barely missed a Sunday for months!

In terms of prayer, different people continue to struggle to find steady work. We also have some health issues in the congregation again.

Jaime our deacon had been quite sick, but is now much better. A number of young men in our young people's group have really begun to grow in the Lord lately. They want to be there, they are willing to lead Bible studies and to lead prayer. Not a small thing. We are grateful. Please pray for them. As always, we need godly leaders.



God's blessings in Christ,
Pastor Matt Van Dyken

