



STANDING FIRM, BUT NOT STANDING STILL

PTS Newsletter

Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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REFORMATION DAY CELEBRATED IN PTS AND IN BHUTAN

The anniversary celebration of the Protestant Reformation began at PTS with a special worship service led by PTS worship team. Rev Steve Poelman brought a message from God's Word. Interim Principal Dr. Mathew Ebenezer presented a brief history of the Reformation. After the lecture, students were divided into five different groups to discuss the relevance of the historical Reformation today, especially with regard to leadership of the church in South Asia. The group leaders then presented the outcome of their discussion during the closing session.



Rev. Steve Poelman

For the first time in history, the church in Bhutan celebrated the Reformation Day on 31st October and 1 November 2016. A group of about seventy pastors and leaders of this young and persecuted church gathered together in Thimphu to focus on the cardinal themes of the Reformation. False teachings of various kinds have crept in and infected the church in this region. The Reformation slogan, "Scripture Alone" and "Grace Alone" were expounded as a needed corrective in this context. Other themes considered at the Conference included were biblical leadership, worship, and living under persecution.

PTS Faculty Members Dr. and Mrs. Mohan Chacko and Rev. Vijay Tagore were the main resource persons. The conference was organized under the leadership of Pastor K.J. Das, a graduate of PTS.

Christian Reformed Fellowship of India (CRFI) Celebrating Ten Years of God's faithfulness:

The 10th Anniversary of CRFI was celebrated with enthusiasm at Saputara, a hill station of Gujarat on 29th September 2016. Prior to the celebration, a 3-day seminar was held for the field workers. The organization was started by Mr. & Mrs. P. Newbegin together with Rev. Bert Kuipers of the GOSPEL, Australia. Starting with five workers, the organization has now seventy five inland missionaries working in five clusters within the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Three PTS alumni, namely Mr. Ravichandran ('13), Mrs. Jayalaxmi ('13), and Mr. Solomon Parate ('12) are giving leadership in this ministry. Vice Principal Rev. L. Roshyama, Chairman of the CRFI narrated the history of CRFI and Rev. Bert Kuipers addressed the gathering with the message of the gospel. The meeting was followed by a cultural program. Over a thousand believers from the nearby mission fields gathered for the occasion. PTS has been instrumental in training a number of workers in the CRFI.



Workers' Seminar



Some CRFI & GOSPEL officers



Worship service

Alumni Snippets: John Varghese ('90) was involved in children's ministry among the children of rag pickers while he was a student at PTS. This was part of the requirement for practical ministry. After his graduation, John continued to teach the children at their residences situated near Dehradun's railway station. However, as the environment was not fit for living, John felt that he had to take them away separately. So he took few children apart and started a home called Prathyasha Bal Bhavan (Hope for Children Home). The home celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 14 November 2016 which is also Children's Day in India.



The alumni of this Home serve the nation and the Church in a variety of professions. The children were brought to the saving knowledge of Christ through the ministry of the Home. Many parents have also committed their lives to Christ seeing the lives of their children.

Visitors: We were blessed to a number of friends visiting us during the last months: Rev. Bogdan Witecki, Ms Ginny Strom, Ms Penny Clark, Dr. Melle and Mrs. Hanney Oosterhuis, Dr. Mark T. Bube and Dr. L. Anthony Curto (OPC), Dr. Bruce Fiol and Mr. Carl Lingle. Our best wishes to them as they take back memories of us and our country.

SENIOR STUDENTS GET FIRST HAND MINISTRY EXPERIENCE: A semester ministry break gave senior students an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in ministry under the guidance of experienced local Christian leaders. Eighteen teams (fifty nine students) were sent out to towns and villages within the state of Uttarakhand and as far as Delhi, Kanpur and Roorkee for ministry exposure. Even though this is part of their academic requirements, it provides opportunity for some students to continue even after their graduation.

PROJECTS

Tile works around the men's hostel: For a better living atmosphere and easy maintenance of the hostel, tile work project for men's hostel is proposed. The cost: Rs. 308,400 with an area of 3084 sqft.

Walkway: The walkway from the Academic Centre to chapel is made of stone (pebbles). This causes inconvenience mainly for ladies and people with walking disabilities. It is proposed to have cement/stone blocks. The area is 200'x8' = 1600 sqft. The cost for the whole project: Rs. 80,000 (@ Rs. 50 per sqft)

Table tennis: Students need an indoor game for recreation. Cost: Rs. 20,000

Sponsor a student: There are several student candidates who are in need of support. Sponsor a student for 3 or 4 years, by investing \$ 1,800 per year (@ \$150 per month) to cover tuition and boarding fees. Any amount you can give is appreciated.

Gifts and donations indicating their purpose can be sent to any of the following:

1. **Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, Saving Bank Acct No. 306802010008768, Union Bank of India, Dehradun. Swift Code No: UBININBBDER, IFSC: UBIN0530689.
2. **Association for Reformed Ministries Abroad**. C/o Mrs Jean A. Schreur, 4544 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI 49426, USA.
3. **Mission to the World**, 1600 North Brown Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, USA.

WEBSITE: Please do visit our website www.ptsindia.com (temporarily under construction at the moment) for more information about us. The Newsletter and the Daily Prayer Guide are available at our website. Upon request, these can be sent to you by email. Please write to: revroshyama@ptsindia.com
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