

Voice of the Church

October 2021 Newsletter

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It has been a while since we last sent out a report on our activities. Certainly, to some extent, Covid-19 restrictions have played a role in this and we waited for a number of things to be completed before sending it.

Recent Accomplishments

- We are pleased to announce that the Canadian Reformed Church at Taber, Alberta has confirmed that CIAM Radio in Taber has, in principle, agreed to add our broadcast to their programming schedule. This station ([CIAM Radio • Bringing Good News To Canada's People](#)) has 22 affiliate radio stations throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC and is in the process of finding a spot for our weekly outreach program. This exciting development has the potential of increasing our current listenership on 5 radio stations to 27 stations. As it stands right now, there will be no added cost to our annual budget, other than increasing our production cost somewhat. We are grateful for this opportunity to reach a much larger audience and thank our Lord for His blessings.
- Our meditations continue to be posted to SermonAudio as well, with a consistent downloading of about 500 meditations per month. This is an increase from about 225 per month a little more than 2 years ago.
- We have successfully completed and posted two series of videos on our own website as well as on YouTube and SermonAudio. Reverend Ian Wildeboer and Dr. Cornelis Van Dam participated in this effort. Pastor Ian preached a series of sermons on the Book of Ecclesiastes and Dr. Van Dam did a lecture series on the 10 Commandments, also known as the Decalogue. On SermonAudio, each of these has received 1,160 and 601 views respectively to date and this is with very limited marketing.
- Our new website is soon to be finished. We expect the transition from the old to the new before the end of this year.
- Over the next three months we will be developing a new strategic plan that will include a comprehensive plan on the effective use of social media. We already have our own YouTube Channel but it has not been widely advertised. We will now look to add other social media platforms such as Rumble. The latter is less likely to cancel the work we do and we will also investigate others so that, should one decide to cancel the important work of spreading the Gospel, we will have several platforms as back-up.
- We are looking to find a handful of local congregations willing to add more to their budget allowing local church members to make donations to cover what will likely become an increased budget. This will help us avoid having to apply for charitable status and all the increased costs and reporting requirements associated with it. We also will have a "DONATE" option on our website but there will be no tax receipts for these donations, since we are not registered as a charitable organization.

- In addition, we have continued to develop our relationship with the United Reformed Churches in Canada. At the time of writing this newsletter at least five URCNA ministers contribute to our programming each year. We expect there to be more good news coming soon about this very important relationship.

We thank the Lord for these important steps forward during a difficult period in our country's history.

We live in an increasingly secularized culture and we are seeing increased pressure from this culture for the church to let go of Classical Christianity, that is Reformed Doctrine and Theology. The pressure, in other words, is for the true Church of Christ to conform to culture rather than have culture conform to the clear teachings of Scripture. Now more than ever in recent history, the Church needs to become more aggressive in promoting Biblical Theology. It is "right theology" that changes minds, not the weak theology that promotes cheap grace. If ever you have any suggestions on teaching series you would like to see us do in order to tackle the issues in our culture today from Scripture, please feel free to contact us.

Attached is our budget for 2021, updating the income and expenses to the end of August, as well as expected expenses to the end of this year. As always, we continue to do our best not to excessively burden our supporting churches.

Once our new website is fully functional, we plan to approach more congregations in our own federation as well as the URCNA to become supporting members. We pray the Lord will bless this effort as it will allow us to continue this important work of spreading the Gospel message.

Finally, I, as Chairman will be looking for someone to replace me in the very near future. After serving many years as VOTC chairman the time has come for me to focus more of my attention to family and other causes that continue to be of interest to me personally.

If you know of someone who would like to take on this leadership role, please contact me at 905-627-3867 or by email at bill.vanhuisstede53@gmail.com. I will take the time to assist the next VOTC chairman with whatever information he/she needs to understand what the role of chairman will involve, as we look forward to continuing this outreach program into 2022.

As always, your feedback is most welcome.

Kind Regards in Christ,

Bill Van Huisstede, VOTC Chairman