



Greetings in Christ our Lord and Saviour,

The CRBA is the Canadian Reformed Broadcasting Association producing the “Voice of the Church” radio ministry. Since many of you may be yet unfamiliar with us, let us take a moment to explain who we are and why you are receiving this newsletter for the first time. It is our intention to deliver more of such to you in the coming years.

The purpose of you receiving this newsletter is to build a greater awareness in the Reformed Churches of our ministry - which has been in existence for about 30 years now. The mission or purpose of the CRBA is to spread the gospel through radio and the internet. Brief 12-15 minute meditations are broadcast weekly over several radio stations, and then uploaded to both our own website, www.voiceofthechurch.org, and to www.sermonaudio.com, a larger and much more accessed sermon archive site. We expect that in doing this we can provide some additional support for the work of local evangelism efforts everywhere.

How can you take advantage of what we do? As you take the time to listen to meditations produced by the CRBA, you will likely come across ones useful for recommending to those to whom you are trying to introduce Christ. Simply direct them to www.sermonaudio.com and the message you would like them to hear. These messages can also be listened to by church members while on vacation or while traveling for business.

It is with thankfulness to the Lord our God that we can report increasing attention to our broadcasts. For the month of December 2012 we had a total of 142 internet downloads, and 400 in the month of January 2013. Data reports reveal that our listeners are from 20 states and 14 countries, and for 2013 alone we are now up to 830 downloads (at the time of writing), and a total of 32,042 since we started keeping record. This shows a marked improvement over the average. We can certainly tell from the comments and the amount of listeners that there seems to be some traction in listening to meditations and sermons online.

Our usual advertorial has already been sent to the churches that are financially supporting our broadcast along with our budget for 2013. We have attached this for your convenience as well.

Over the past several months the CRBA executive has been hard at work, re-evaluating our mission, our purpose, and our plans. In the past month we have been begun focusing on letting the churches know what the meditations are for each month, as well as where they can hear them via radio and on the internet. Please watch for the listings of our meditations in your local church bulletin. We encourage everyone to listen to these meditations and give us as much feedback as you feel warranted. We want to become better and better at what we do. In this way we can be a better asset to your local Evangelism programs. It is yet another tool in your toolbox that you can use to help people understand the good news that Christ died for our sins.

Another development is that we have recently entered into a partnership with our Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary beginning in the upcoming fall semester, as part of the Evangelistics course under the direction of Dr. AJ deVisser. Through this training program we will have the seminary students prepare and read meditations for The Voice of the Church. This will be organized by the Canadian Reformed Broadcasting Association and the meditations will be uploaded to www.sermonaudio.com. There are several benefits to this program.

- 1) Students learn to communicate brief effective messages geared towards a general public audience. The meditations are about 13 minutes in length.
- 2) Seminary students and faculty have the opportunity to listen and critique these messages prior to uploading them to www.sermonaudio.com. Hearing your own voice and listening to your own meditations and those of your colleagues will be of great benefit to the students, allowing them to fine tune their skills as they prepare for their vocation and calling as pastors and preachers of the Word.
- 3) Students will get more practice in preparing and delivering messages.

Another recent development includes the securing of a fulltime reader...Reverend Chris Bosch. Not all meditations require a reader, however, as some Ministers prefer to read their own meditations (especially those living close by the Burlington based production studio). However, this is not always the case. We now also have two back up readers, Jason Heemskerk and Rick Ludwig. This will give us a well rounded team for the reading of the meditations prepared by our ministers. As mentioned before however, Seminary students will be encouraged to prepare, critique, and read their own meditations.

Lastly, we are now going to be exchanging meditations with the reformed churches in Australia, broadening the scope and penetration of the preaching and teaching of the Gospel.

Over the past several months we have also received much encouragement from radio broadcast listeners giving us positive feedback. It is much more difficult to track the number of broadcast listeners on the airwaves, but as mentioned earlier, we are able to see that the sermon downloads off of the internet continue to increase. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed this ministry, and the CRBA as a result feels encouraged to continue with our labours in the coming years, in His service.

On behalf of the CRBA,

Bill van Huisstede, Chair

Dave Dykstra, Clerk