



## The Reformed Parish

Please pray for us!  
And if you are able, could  
you help me as I raise  
monthly support?  
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# The Reformed Parish

May 8, 2024

Greetings, brethren.

Spring has sprung, and we relish the beauty and glory of the Lord's handiwork all around us. Aubrey and I also had the opportunity to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – in beautiful Puerto Rico! It was a delight to visit this enchanting Caribbean island and to stay with good friends, the Riveras.

Which leads me to mention that they are definitely on their way to S. Jersey! In fact, they will live in my very parish, the little town of Woodbine. By God's grace, they have a very encouraging zeal for the Lord and for the work of gathering souls for Christ. And what is icing on the cake is their commitment to historic Presbyterianism and, of course, they are bilingual. That is already proving a blessing as Peter is more and more helping with translation.

And *that* leads me to share that I'll be preaching again for my **pastor friend, "Lazaro"** in a couple weeks. Only this time—God willing—it will be *in Spanish*. Yikes! Now, make no mistake: I am far from fluency. But with the help of (now) free SermonAudio AI-transliteration of my sermons, much-improved online translation services such as DeepL, and Peter Rivera as quality control, I hope to begin periodically preaching from a Spanish translation of a sermon I have previously preached in English. I've done something like this before. It will stretch me for sure: but I think it will work. May be a little clunky, but I have to press on to the mark! Thankfully, my Spanish comprehension has improved, and my pronunciation is relatively good.

Once the Riveras land here this summer, our ministry to Spanish-speakers will be strengthened. My hope is to get our infrastructure better readied for inviting Spanish-speaking contacts to our services. But we can always visit various folks in their houses. And I hope to get at least one regular Spanish study in a Woodbine household up and running by the end of the year. But we look to the Lord for His grace in all of these aspirations.

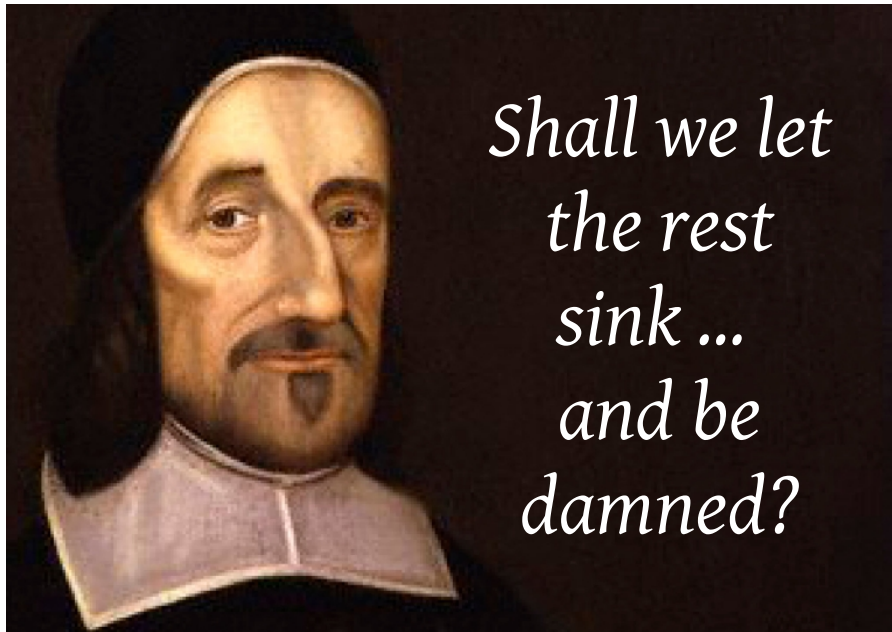
Also in the works is an evangelistic effort I'll be doing in June with two of my Hispanic pastor friends in the area, "Lazaro" and another Reformed Baptist brother who is bilingual. I'm going to take a team to Vineland, about 30 minutes west of here and highly populated with Hispanics and African Americans, do door-to-door evangelism, and **promote a preaching series** geared to the lost and to poorly-taught Pentecostals.

In the Woodbine parish itself, good progress and some encouragements. We got our first unsaved visitors to church. This was "Deion" and a lady friend of his. They were under the preaching of the Gospel and stayed for the meal afterwards. They seemed rather positive. Pray that God may give them the birth from above.

Yours for Jesus' sake,

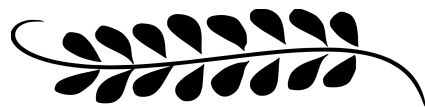
Michael Ives  
[reformedparish.com](http://reformedparish.com) (outreach)  
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**May 2024**  
Quarterly Update



“It is easy to separate from the multitude, and to gather distinct churches, and to let the rest sink or swim; and if they will not be saved by public preaching, to let them be damned: but whether this be the most charitable and Christian course, one would think should be no hard question.”

Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*



*West Port Experiment*

On parish missions, the care of souls, and all things Reformed

# *Shore to Shore:*

*Rhode Island to South Jersey*

*And beyond*



As you have probably heard by now, last October I took a call to serve our congregation in South Jersey. We're so grateful for our new home and church family, but also for the opportunity to return to Rhode Island periodically to see Gabriel and Mikayla and also keep outreach leads back there alive.

Yet this decision was not totally straightforward. I no longer have much of a 'runway' to launch a full-time cross-cultural ministry, as I had earlier planned. Taking this call has meant surrendering a full-time salary, as the S. Jersey church can only manage to support me at a third of that amount. They are fully supportive of my laboring there with an explicit view to serving the local congregation and engaging in aggressive missions, especially to Hispanics. They also understand that my vision reaches beyond their local witness.

So I am increasingly visiting other churches to preach and give RPM presentations. If your church would be interested in **giving me an opportunity to serve** in this way—even if it's just a pulpit supply need—please drop me a note at [michael@reformedparish.com](mailto:michael@reformedparish.com) or call me at 609-459-3580.

I'm happy to report that progress has been promising! As of now, I am making steady progress in monthly support, between my presbytery's commitment and the generous giving of many friends. We give God thanks! And for those of you have contributed, I am in your debt.

***But I could really use your help.*** If you can make a monthly commitment of any amount, however small, it would be a tremendous blessing. And one-time gifts of course would be wonderful. My hope is to give myself full-time to cross-cultural missions here in the U.S., become fluent in Spanish, do outreach on the parish model, and all the while working closely and organically with one of our established local congregations. This is my passion. **Donation options are here.** But please don't feel pressured. I would rather have just your prayer support if you are already fully committed in your giving. Thank you.

*“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea” (Hab. 2:14).*