

# The Reformation Translation Fellowship NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015



## A Credible Testimony

A believer applying for church membership presents, at a minimum, a credible testimony. A mission group must also present a “credible testimony.” The credible testimony from a mission organization must include what it has done, what it is doing and what it will be doing. The more credible the testimony, the more confident you can be that your gifts will be used as you intend.

What is RTF’s testimony? What has it done? We are now in our 66th year. RTF has translated more than 60 reformed authors and published more than 110 titles. Recently house church leaders have benefitted from Edmund Clowney’s book *The Church*. Parents have received training from Joel Beeke’s book *Parenting by God’s Promises*. Chinese women now have access to *Women Counseling Women* by Elyse Fitzpatrick. RTF has been doing this since 1949. RTF has a credible testimony in what it has done.

What is it doing? RTF is extending our ministry to the large and growing Chinese student population in the USA. These students are presented with specially-written gospel tracts introducing biblical Christianity. In cooperation with Ligonier Ministries and Reformation Trust, RTF is producing the Chinese version of the Crucial Question Series project. Read more about that project in this Newsletter. RTF has a credible testimony in what it is doing.

What will it be doing? RTF is translating and will soon publish two important titles, one for pastors and one for family leaders. We are negotiating the translation of a book on the Sabbath. Lord willing we plan on continuing the important work of translating reformed theological works. RTF has a credible testimony in what it will be doing. This is our credible testimony.

Resources are needed to continue this important work. The needs are many. Individuals, churches and charitable Christian foundations receive many appeals for financial support. How does a church, a foundation or an individual know what mission to support? How does a contributor determine the “highest and best” investments for kingdom work?

First it takes prayer and wisdom. Add the counsel of experienced elders and deacons. The mission must be based on the doctrines of Grace. Probing questions must be asked about the doctrinal position and the theology being taught. The mission must have a credible testimony.

We receive testimonials of thanks from house church leaders in China. These men learned the doctrines of Grace because you supported RTF mission work. A pastor listed the benefits to his congregation, wrote:

*I give my sincere gratefulness to all the teachers, the translator and everyone who is involved in this wonderful labor. May God bless your ministry and your families. God will bless many people because of your work.*

Support for RTF has eternal and spiritual value.

Your support of RTF provides authentic reformed titles to appreciative house church pastors. Your contribution provides teaching tools for parents who want to raise their child using biblical principles. Because of you, many can learn the basic principles of biblical counseling.

There is plenty of “religious” literature. The choice runs from Mao’s *Little Red Book* to “prosperity gospel” heresies. If people do not receive reformed literature, if parents cannot read biblically based guidance, some will look elsewhere and may “be carried about with every wind of doctrine.”

You and your church can have an eternal Christian impact on house churches, Christian families and individuals in China. As you prepare your 2016 budget, prayerfully designate a generous amount to publishing reformed books. With your help and the Lord’s blessing RTF will continue to publish reformed literature for the church militant in China.

## Year-End Tax Planning

In preparation for “tax time” many of us review our financial resources and tally our charitable contributions for the past year. Consider special year-end contributions to your church and Christian missions such as Reformation Translation Fellowship.

You have read about RTF’s credible testimony. We have demonstrated the important Christian mission work RTF is doing among Chinese-speaking people. We remind our supporters of one more benefit: RTF is a recognized 501(c)3 organization. We provide a tax-deductible receipt documenting your generous support. Some contributors, knowing that deductions can be worth upwards of 35%, increase their support accordingly. Gifts postmarked not later than December 31st will be deductible in 2015.

## Crucial Questions . . . Answered

Christians often have questions about their faith. Some have basic doctrinal questions. Others have questions about how best to apply Christian principles to our daily activity. What does a new believer who did not grow up in a Christian family do? What does a young Christian do who lacks strong biblical teaching at home? Where can a parent turn who does not have a knowledgeable pastor from whom to learn?

That is the situation today in China: New believers, and there are many in China today, do not have the close-knit Christian family environment that many of us had as we grew up. Many do not have access to an educated clergy, pastors who have had seminary training or parents who are examples of Christian faith. They have questions, valid and important questions:

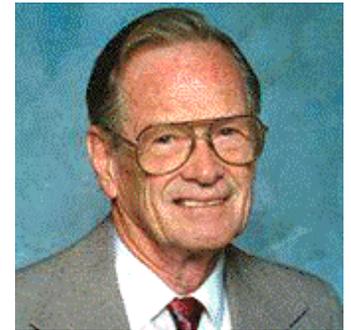
***Who is Jesus? - What Does It Mean to Be Born Again? - Can I Know God's Will? - Can I Trust the Bible?  
How Should I Live In This World? - Can I Be Sure I Am Saved? - Does Prayer Change Things?***

These and other questions are addressed in a Crucial Question series of booklets. Working with Ligonier Ministries' Reformation Trust Publishing and RC Sproul, RTF is publishing the entire 20 booklet *Crucial Question Series* in Chinese. A number of the titles have already been translated and are available at our RTF website. These documents, in both English and Chinese, are available for your study and benefit. More *Crucial Questions* will be added as translations are completed and posted. They can easily be linked and forwarded to family or friends.

## In Thanks to God for the Rev. Robert (Bob) Henning

July 12, 1917 - June 9, 2015

Rev. Bob Henning was a long-time Board member and the president of the RTF Board from 2002 to October 2004. Bob was a faithful pastor in the Reformed Presbyterian Church serving in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kansas. Bob had a great interest in missions. He was providentially prevented from going to China in 1948 and Ecuador in 1961. For more than a decade he served as the Executive Secretary of his denominational Foreign Mission Board. He is survived by his second wife, Esther, three sons and their families. Under the leadership of Pastor Bob, the ministry of RTF grew. We join an untold number of house church leaders to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Rev. Robert Henning.



## Remember China Day 2015

### REMEMBER CHINA DAY

- CHINA IS A LAND OF MORE THAN ONE BILLION PEOPLE
- MISSIONARIES WERE EJECTED AFTER THE 1949 REVOLUTION
- THE "CULTURAL REVOLUTION" LED TO A SPIRITUAL VACUUM
- THE CHURCH WAS SUPPRESSED FOR MANY YEARS
- THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE LORD HAS HIS PEOPLE IN CHINA
- TODAY THE CHURCH IS UNDER MANY RESTRICTIONS
- GREAT WALLS CAN NOT STOP CHRIST'S KINGDOM
- THE CHURCH IN CHINA IS GROWING
- REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP DELIVERS REFORMED BOOKS TO CHINESE PASTORS AND FAMILIES



YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF BRINGING REFORMED TEACHING TO CHINESE CHURCHES  
LORD, GIVE US A HEART FOR CHINA AND ITS PEOPLE



As is often the situation, we need to be reminded to pray for those who are not in our immediate circle. This includes our missionaries laboring overseas. The work of RTF is no exception. Our primary responsibility is not with books, translation or printing. Our responsibility, our primary concern, is for the Church in China and the Chinese people. Therefore it is appropriate and altogether fitting for RTF to remind all our friends to pray for the work, the translators, the titles and especially the pastors, elders, parents and children who benefit from the translation and publishing of these important reformed books. We have made available a bulletin insert for distribution at your church or Bible study to be used as an informative reminder to pray. Pray for the church in China as it exists under challenges, for the house church pastors who need Reformed teaching material, for elders, deacons and parents who raise children knowing that there are social, political and religious pressures fighting against the very teaching being presented from the pulpit.

The *Remember China Day* bulletin insert is available as a PDF from our website <http://rtf-usa.com/>. Printed bulletin inserts are available by request to [RTFDirector@GMail.Com](mailto:RTFDirector@GMail.Com)

### ARE YOU PREPARING AN ESTATE PLAN?

Have you included RTF in your Will?

To include a bequest to RTF in your estate, please note that our legal name is Reformation Translation Fellowship, Inc. and our tax ID number is 25-1449699.

### Contributions and bequests should be sent to:

MR. DAVID CARR, TREASURER  
REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP  
PO BOX 3825  
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47996-3825