

Covenant United Reformed Church - Fresno, California

Our vision for Covenant United Reformed Church:

"The faith once and for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)

To understand this faith, to internalize it, and to work it out into our daily activity, so that we can pass it down to

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Services:
Location: Mountain View Elementary School
2002 E. Alluvial Avenue
(corner of Alluvial and Maple)
Times: Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Afternoon 5:00 P.M.

Meet Mike Reith!

The purpose of this newsletter is to find out a little more about each other beyond the context of our Sunday morning worship. People are interesting. We have all found our place here at CURC. But what path did we take to get here? What path will we take together as a congregation? Where will our lives lead us individually? How can we support and pray for each other?

Let's meet Mike Reith. Mike grew up as an Army 'brat'. He spent the majority of his childhood in Texas. Mike first professed faith at the age of 16. But, like many of us, he did not fully comprehend the Gospel until much later, around the age of thirty.

Mike used to attend a non-Reformed church. There was an elderly woman in that church who used to slip him literature about Calvinism. While Calvinism was not being taught at the church, the literature about Calvinism opened the truth of God's sovereign

election to Mike.

Shortly after being exposed to this literature, Mike moved to a different state. Unable to find a church of his former denomination, he landed on the doorstep of a Presbyterian Church in America congregation. He was delighted to find a church that was actually teaching what he had been reading about.

Mike is currently a certified hand therapist and manages the occupational therapy clinic at Saint Agnes Medical Center. Most of his work involves the rehabilitation of hand injuries.

Mike and Hui Son (pronounced /heson/) met 25 years ago when he was a legal clerk and she was a legal secretary. Mike worked for the military defense counsel and she worked for the military district attorney in Korea. Cupid struck during one of many trips to pick up and drop

off things at work.

Mike and Hui Son have one son, Ian, who is working as a programmer-analyst for the medical laboratory at Community Medical Center. He is also attending Fresno State (See next page for More on Mike.)



MORE ON MIKE! (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

where he is majoring in computer science. Mike shares that his goal for his family is to develop a Christ-centered program of home worship.

Since attending CURC Mike continues to read literature about the Reformed faith. For light reading Mike enjoys reading political articles with a Libertarian leaning, and anything to do with computers.

Mike's hobbies include, no surprise here, working on computers. For the past year he has been exploring Linux, an alternative operating system to Windows. (Wow, thinking outside of the window!) He also enjoys computer games. And, he shares that he enjoys "preaching" about the virtues of peace and a free market and the pitfalls and dangers of democracy and war.

Mike found CURC after having just moved to Fresno. He was searching for a solid Reformed congregation and could not find one. He then started searching the internet and found us, only two blocks from his house!

Mike's prayer request for himself and family is that Christ would be the center of their lives and that they would be better disciplined in the Three Forms of Unity.

BOOK REVIEW: PUTTING AMAZING BACK INTO GRACE BY MICHAEL HORTON



If you find the pace of our culture, the preoccupation with the material things, and the inundation of information all distractions to the truth of the Gospel, then you will find Michael Horton's book Putting Amazing Back into Grace a refreshing antidote. According to W. Robert Godfrey, Horton calls us away from the trivial to the foundational, from the contemporary myopia to biblical clear-sightedness. The message of "saved by grace" with all its implications, is what Christians need more than anything today.

This book is written for Christians living in our culture and time and helps us step

outside of this context. For example, have you heard this Christian slogan, "Let go and let God"? According to Horton, this popular evangelical saying can lead us to one of the biggest potential stumbling blocks in our growth in Christ, that is that we can just sit back, let the Spirit have his way and, presto, we are victorious Christians. On the contrary, Horton reminds us that we are not called to passivity. Once we are born again, we are active. Horton reminds us of Paul's response in Phil. 2:12-13, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and to act

according to his good purpose."

Each chapter in Horton's book also includes helpful study questions with Bible references. For example the first question in the chapter titled Righteous Sinners asks, "Can a person still be considered a Christian and be confident that he is acceptable before God even if he continues in sin?" (See Romans 7.)

"Your stubbornness, faithlessness, doubt, and self-will cannot stand in God's way." (Putting Amazing Back into Grace page 213.)

"There is only one 'victorious Christian life.' There is only one 'sold out Christian,' only one 'totally surrendered, completely consecrated' servant of the Lord." (Putting Amazing Back into Grace page 176.)