

Canadian Reformed Missions Association Annual Conference

June 9/10 2017

Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church

The conference will feature two keynote speakers this year. James Beeke will speak on Christian schools in mission settings. Jim will present two speeches. Julius VanSpronsen will speak on care of missionary families after returning to their passport country.

James Beeke

- has been principal at Timothy Christian School in Chilliwack for 20 years
- worked for 10 years as deputy inspector and inspector of independent schools in BC
- has been very active in developing schools in China with BC curriculum
- has extensive experience in establishment of new schools and evaluation of existing ones
- has negotiated *Memorandums of Understanding* with various agencies and governments
- Is a well-known speaker at various educational conferences and forums
- runs a consultancy, assessing Christian Schools across Canada (and also public schools that need help)

Julius VanSpronsen

- has served in pastoral ministry in Canada for 5 years
- has served as a missionary in Brazil for 9 years.
- has recently returned from the field and is again serving in pastoral ministry in Canada

1. Christian Schools in China

How many Christian schools have opened in recent years and are operating today? What are these schools like – size, grade levels, facilities, etc? How are they governed and financed? Are there any Christian school curriculum and resources in Mandarin? Are there trained Christian school teachers for these schools? Is any training being provided? Where are these Christian schools located? What strategies have worked and not worked in attempts to help this rapid-growing, fledgling Christian school movement? How could we help as Christians?

These and many more questions will be addressed by our speaker. Come and be informed of an amazing work that God is doing in China! A power point presentation with photos will be shared. Don't miss this interesting opportunity of learning about what is happening today in China.

2. Evaluating and Assisting Christian Schools in Third World Mission-Related Settings

How can we assist Christian schools in third world countries to identify their strengths and weaknesses? To grow in self-assessment? To develop growth plans? To follow through on

improvements? What assistance can Christian churches and schools provide that is really helpful? What strategies have worked and not worked in this regard? How can clearly defined rubrics assist those using them, not only to use assessment for measuring attainments but also to use assessment for learning -- to set clearer goals and standards for teachers and leaders?

The speaker will share a rubric evaluation scale he has created and used that spans 60 traits of quality schools under the following headings: board governance, school administration, curriculum, teaching practice, teaching faculty, student environment, safety & emergency preparedness, facilities & grounds, office operations, finances, and larger community.

Julius will present some reflections on the care of missionaries and their families to aid in reintegrating them into their passport country.

In this presentation, our speaker will begin by sharing some insights that his family gained concerning the care that missionaries and their families need due to the specific challenges of their calling on the mission field. He will highlight some contextual differences that they noticed between the home-front and the field which could assist those seeking to give proper care and attention to the physical, mental and emotional health of missionaries and their families. Understanding the lifestyle, workload and cumulative stress of a missionary will also allow us to take a holistic approach to reintegration. He will end the presentation by investigating the attitudes, words and activities that his family found to be helpful during the difficult process of repatriation.