



*Note: some photos here are from my former parish outreach in S. Providence—plus one that a very proud grandpa just had to sneak in!*



## The Reformed Parish

Please pray for us!  
And if you are able, could you help me as I raise monthly support?  
***Click here to donate.***



# The Reformed Parish

February 6, 2024

Greetings, brethren.

High times for the Ives these last few months, with Gabriel's wedding in November and the birth of our first grandson, (not so) little "Major Tom" Thomas Austin Dollaway. Truly, God is good to Israel.

In the mission, I continue to develop my relationship with [Hispanic Pastor "Lazaro."](#) We have been connecting by video call every week to visit and pray together. I'll pray in English and he'll pray in Spanish (a little *más lento* so I can keep up with my comprehension). He kindly extended an invitation to me to preach at his church, and I was happy to take him up. His daughter translated for me and did remarkably well; though, every once in awhile she was stumped, prompting a courteous helper from the audience to give a 'helping hand.' Something of a group effort at times! I preached from Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray," etc. It was very clear both during and after the sermon that it was very well received.

I've also developed another friend, an African American pastor who serves locally. We'll call him Pastor "Sam." Unlike Pastor Lazaro, I don't think he's even Calvinistic—maybe pentecostal-ish? In any case, this fellow *knows his Bible!* We very early on began finishing each others Scripture quotations. And it's clear to me that he is a minister who like the Apostle Paul glories in the "cross of Christ." I visited his church last Lord's day and was quite edified by his sermon. He in turn repaid the visit with his own later that day for our second service. Whatever this goes in terms of advancing Reformation, I definitely feel like I have a serious pastor friend right here in my zip code.

Door-to-door parish evangelism has continued with little hindrance from winter weather—it's been quite mild. Aubrey recently made a number of treats, and we've started paying visits to some who have proved more receptive. One Hispanic household invited us inside—an extended family from Chiapas, Mexico, the southernmost state that borders Guatemala. After getting to know more about them, I led us in a time reading and discussing Scripture from Luke 19:1-10 on our Lord's visit of Zacchaeus, followed by prayer. I'm hopeful this will be the first of many further times. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost."

Yours for Jesus' sake,

Michael Ives  
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**February 2024**  
Quarterly Update



## *The work of christianization*

“In other words, the work of christianization, even onward to the stage of its last and minutest subdivision, is at all times and essentially a missionary work. The missionary spirit, or the missionary effort, is required for short as well as for long distances. It is needed to reclaim a parish, as well as to reclaim a continent; and never, but by a system of aggression on the households of any given territory, shall we ever be able to retain and far less to recover a parochial [neighborhood] congregation.”

Thomas Chalmers, *Collected Works*, 17:336-337

### *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 may have heard, I've taken 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).*