



APR 2025 ISSUE

KAREN MISSION NEWS

A Mission Outreach of Providence Canadian Reformed Church

Karen Reformed Fellowship Services

BY RICHARD HORLINGS

On December 15, the Karen Fellowship met at Streetlight for the first time. Many excited faces came into the auditorium of Streetlight, eager to have a Reformed service in the Karen language. Most of the service was done in both English and Karen. Richard led the service and Semula translated the service into Karen. Since this makes the service lengthy, some parts such as the Ten Commandments, the Bible reading and the Apostles' Creed were only read in Karen, with an English translation made available in the program.

The service consisted of:

- Congregational singing in Karen and from the Book of Praise
- Reading the Ten Commandments and Apostles Creed in Karen
- Prayer, Bible reading, and a collection
- a message on Philippians 2:1-6

After the service there was an opportunity for fellowship, which was enjoyed by all. There were 43 persons in attendance at the first service in December, of which 22 were Karen.

On February 9, the Karen Reformed Fellowship met again. Richard led the service as Rev, George van Popta was not able to attend, and read the sermon the pastor prepared on Hebrews 12:2. There were 39 people present, of which 14 were from the Karen community. There were a number of people who were not able to be present because of sickness or travel.

We are deliberately trying to have services that are Reformed in character. Karen churches are known to have long, drawn out services, with many solos and group songs. Prayers are often half an hour long or longer. Preaching often consists of a short moral story. Special occasions like Family Month, Mother's Day or Father's Day become the focal point. We, on the other hand, make use of the rich heritage that Reformed churches have. The word of God is in the centre of the service. The Bible is explained. We follow a well-organized program. All singing is congregational singing.

Attendees have expressed a great appreciation for these services. "When is the next service?" is a question we often receive now. Many have expressed a desire to have these services more often.

Our latest service on April 13th had 67 attendees, of which 31 were Karen. We also got to celebrate together the 13th birthday of a young brother from the Karen community.

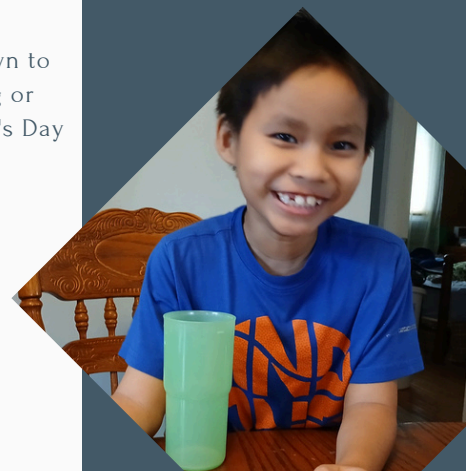
Joyful Activity

Feb 16th Snowstorm leads to 1st Karen Zoom Service

Youth Mentoring Continues every other Friday

Three Reformed Fellowship Services Held

Regular Pastoral Care of 43+ people





Why Reformed?

BY SEMULA HORLINGS

Why is it important to do Reformed mission among Karen people? Although many Karen people identify as Christians, few of them are familiar with Reformed churches. Some are familiar with their Baptist background, but most Karen people have been affected by liberal theology. Liberal theology inevitably leads to weak churches. I have seen many Karen people identify as Christian despite little Bible knowledge and a mind that is not transformed by the Holy Spirit.

When I first came to Canada, I began to attend Streetlight Christian Church. What drew me to Streetlight was the preaching of the Word. The faithful preaching strengthened my faith. It caused my knowledge of Christ to grow. As I continued to attend, I grew in the knowledge of the Bible. It helped me to defend my faith. It gave me the strength to stand up for my faith. As I grew in my faith, I came to have a strong appreciation for the following aspects of Reformed worship:

- The Bible is recognized as authoritative: The Bible is respected as the Word of God. It is not treated as having magical powers. The Bible is for every believer to read and study.
- Redemptive-historical approach to interpreting the Bible: When Reformed people read the Old Testament, they do not see only a number of examples of things that one should imitate and things that should not be imitated. Instead, Reformed people see the Old Testament as pointing forward to the coming of Christ. The New Testament is understood to show us Christ and how to prepare for his second coming.
- Rich confessional heritage: Reformed churches have a long tradition of systematically summarizing the Bible and teaching it to its members. This brings clarity and removes confusion for those who worship Christ.
- Christ centered worship: Reformed churches focus on putting the worship of Jesus Christ in the centre of the worship service. Reformed worship is not human-centered worship.
- Covenantal understanding: Reformed church emphasize that God establishes a relationship with believers and their children that is called a covenant. This leads to a relationship that touches every part of life.

In all these years, my desire has been to share these blessings with my Karen friends. I would like them to know that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone to the glory of God alone!



COME ALONGSIDE

Pray
Learn Common Karen
Rides to Church and Daily Activities
Leaders for Youth Group
Sermon Summary Help

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(EFT)

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KAREN
REFORMED
FELLOWSHIP
SERVICE.

EVERY
EIGHT WEEKS.

3:30PM.

STREETLIGHT
MINISTRIES.

UPSTAIRS
AUDITORIUM.

Next Service:

June 8th, 2025.
with
Rev. Paul
Aasman