

Covenant Protestant Reformed Church Ballymena, NI

18 July, 2014

Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

Sunday Services

The CPRC has bought a refurbished projector. We already had a projector screen for Power Point presentations during lectures. Now, instead of reading sermons, we view a PR sermon on DVD, with an elder leading the rest of the service.

Sermons by Rev. denHartog and Prof. Engelsma were watched on our first Sunday under the new regime and the congregation reckoned that it worked well (8 June). That Lord's Day, I preached in the Limerick Reformed Fellowship (LRF) since Rev. McGeown was in Grand Rapids as our church's delegate to Synod. On the other two Sundays that he was in the US, the LRF met to view the live webcasting from the CPRC (1 & 15 June).

It has been encouraging to see the statistics for the live webcasting of the CPRC rising steadily as more people get to know of it (www.cprf.co.uk/live.html). Currently, I am finishing off a series on "The Seven Churches in Asia" (Rev. 2-3). We enjoyed having Kyle Prins with us in mid May, and Mary and Katie Van Overloop in mid June.

Other Activities

With the end of the Monday night catechism classes and the Wednesday night *Belgic Confession* class for the summer, only the Tuesday morning class on "Christ's Controversies" is continuing. Our next meeting will be our seventh considering the Lord's teaching on the great article of justification.

The Scripture passage for this year's family visitation was Ephesians 4. We began with the Buchanans (26 May) and concluded with Rev. McGeown (14 July)—it is more difficult to meet up with our missionary, since he is a four-hour drive away. For the first time, William Mawhinney, Ivan Mawhinney, and Alan Hermon (relatively new members from Belfast) were included.

With the conclusion of most of the family visitation by then and after a lot of yard work by Tommy Duncan and Julian Kennedy, we held a congregational barbecue at the manse (20 June). The weather and fellowship were good. Some of the more athletic ones played volleyball.



Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was very enjoyable (23 June). William Graham brought the Treasurer's Report and Stephen Murray spoke of his audio-visual work. Since that meeting, the CPRC bought a new camcorder, so now our DVDs and YouTube videos are in HD or high-definition (www.youtube.com/cprcni). I gave a report on the Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church (CERC) in Singapore and fielded questions about the CERC, for our two congregations are seriously considering becoming sister churches. We also distributed handouts of sales. Our best selling CD/DVD boxsets in the last year were "The Heidelberg Catechism Conference" and "The Man of Sin" (II Thess. 2). Numbers 1 and 2 for books were *The Reformed Worldview* by Profs. Hanks and Engelsma and *All Glory to the Only Good God* by Herman Hoeksema.

Last Sunday (13 July), Rev. McGeown and I had a pulpit swap so that he could spend some time with his family, fulfill some appointments, and pass on to us the RFPA books and PR DVDs that he brought back from his recent trip to the US. Mary and I had a lovely time with the saints in the LRF.

Main Website

Here are some audio statistics for (roughly) the first half of the year (1 January-23 June) on

our main website (www.cprc.co.uk). Our most listened to sermon is “God and the Tsunami” (34,166). The top ten countries for sermon hits in order are China, Spain, USA, UK, Afghanistan (foreign soldiers?), Italy, France, Sweden, Germany, and Australia, with China listening to more audios than all the other countries in the world put together! Concerning articles, it is a different story, for China does not even make the top ten: USA, Brazil, UK, Peru, Italy, Germany, Colombia, the Netherlands, Canada, and Russia. Obviously, major English-speaking countries are represented. There is also a strong correlation between the other countries and the languages in which we have a significant number of translations on our website, such as, Portuguese, Italian, German, Spanish, Dutch, and Russian.

Since St. Patrick’s Day (17 March), we have added 26 articles in 9 different languages: Hungarian 8, Italian 8, Tagalog 3, Spanish 2, Portuguese 1, French 1, Swedish 1, Afrikaans 1, and Swahili 1 (www.cprf.co.uk/languages.html). Our thanks to all those who donate to the special fund from which we buy RFPA books to post to our translators.

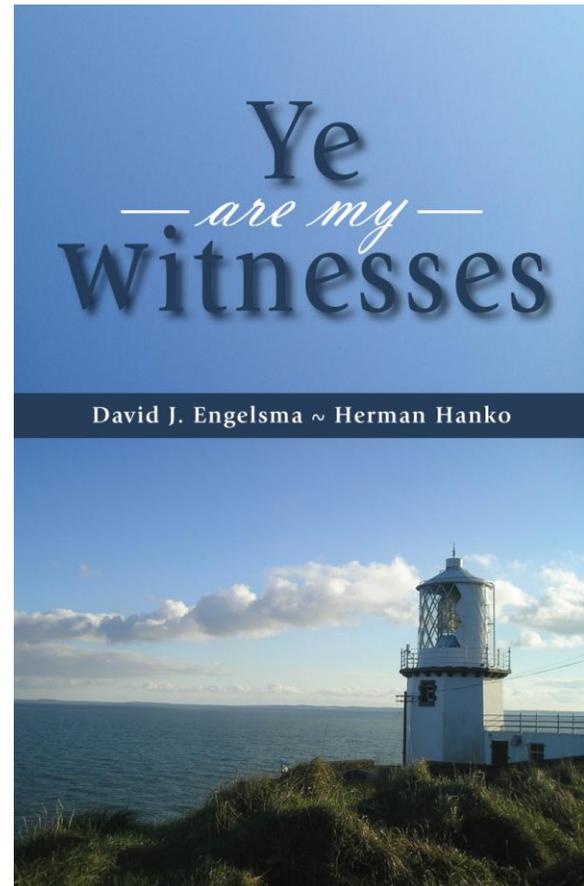
We added 103 audios in Burmese containing worship services by Rev. Titus (www.cprf.co.uk/languages/burmese.html). John VanBaren of Hope PRC forwarded the files to us and Brenda Hoekstra of Hudsonville PRC formatted and uploaded them for us. I would doubt if there are many other Burmese sermons on-line. God willing, those Burmese speakers around the world with Internet access who want to hear God’s Word in their own language will come across these audios and learn the biblical and Reformed faith!

Ishu Mahtani of the CERC sent us the text of two books he published consisting of responses by Prof. Hanko to his questions. *Letters to a Believer* and *Letters to a Young Believer* can now be read on-line (www.cprf.co.uk/articles.htm#others).

British Reformed Fellowship (BRF)

Thanks to Manuel Kuhs, the BRF website now has a new look and a new url (www.britishreformed.org). The new BRF book, *Ye Are My Witnesses*, has been published and delivered to the RFPA building in Jenison. Copies of this excellent work by Profs. Engelsma and Hanko, which includes a chapter by Rev. McGeown, will not only be available

from the CPRC in Northern Ireland and the LRF in the Republic of Ireland, but also from various churches and evangelism committees in the US, Canada, Singapore, and the Philippines.



Issue 60 of the *British Reformed Journal (BRJ)* has been printed and posted. US subscribers who are going to the BRF Conference in Scotland (26 July–2 August) will receive their copies there. Other US subscribers will get their *Journals* after the BRF Conference when they are transported to America and distributed within the country’s own postal service, since international postage is so high.

The BRF Conference is now just over a week away (<http://brfconference.weebly.com>). The coaches, day trips, guided tours, programme, etc., are finalized. May the Lord grant us all safety, good weather, and rich fellowship as we meet around our theme: “Be Ye Holy: The Reformed Truth of Sanctification.”

May His grace be with you,

Pastor and Mary Stewart