

Covenant Protestant Reformed Church Ballymena, NI

24 March, 2015

Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

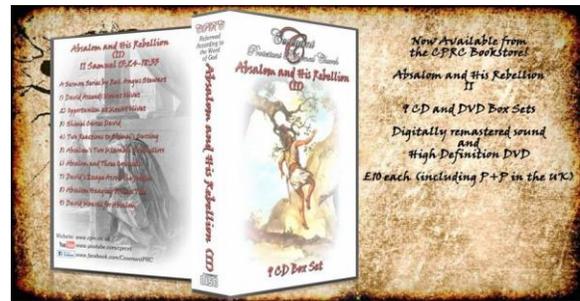
Teaching

Several means or subjects of instruction in the CPRC concluded recently. The three Monday night catechism classes have finished for the season. Some New Testament History for Seniors students thought that the mid-term test was too easy, so the end of the year examination was made stiffer for them. The parents and children put a lot of effort into learning the materials. Such labour is never in vain in the Lord (I Cor. 15:58).

The current topic of our Tuesday morning classes, the kingdom of God in the gospel accounts, has concluded. This grand subject ended with a study of the relationship between Christ's kingdom and the church. Before that, we looked at the coming of the kingdom; entering the kingdom; greatness in the kingdom; the kingdom as the sphere of salvation, righteousness, and blessedness; God's sovereignty in the kingdom; and the kingdom in Old Testament prophecy.

We had 22 classes on *Belgic Confession 24*, "Man's Sanctification and Good Works," the audios of which are on-line (bottom of www.cprf.co.uk/audio/belgicconfessionclass.htm). Two attractive box sets of CDs have been produced: "Definitive Sanctification and Its Anthropology" and "Progressive Sanctification." If any of you would like these box sets or any of the others (www.cprf.co.uk/audio/boxsets.htm), please let me know. We post to the US and Canada, and indeed any country, at reasonable rates, with the various sizes of box sets (containing 6, 8, 10, or 12 discs) selling at about \$20 (US).

Stephen Murray, our audio-visual man, has been very busy, for now the 19 sermons on "Absalom and His Rebellion" (II Sam. 13-18) are also available in two box sets of CDs or DVDs. Can you work out the scene to which this cover alludes?



Evangelism

The CPRC has bought a gazebo for country shows, etc. It got its first run out on St. Patrick's Day (17 March) at Mt. Slemish, a few miles north of Ballymena. It is traditional that Patrick kept sheep below this hill after he was kidnapped from western Britain and brought to Ireland as a slave. So each St. Patrick's Day, about 2,500 people climb the little mount. Julian Kennedy ran the stall, being helped in various ways by Tommy Duncan and Chris Hutchings. CDs of a speech (www.cprc.co.uk/real saintpatrick.mp3) and a pamphlet (www.cprf.co.uk/pamphlets/patrickbrochure.pdf) on Patrick, and other items, were distributed free.



The 75th South Wales lecture was on "The New Life Within Us" on 19 March (www.cprc.co.uk/newlifewithin.mp3). We had a good turnout and fellowship, with a number of box sets and books sold. Please continue to pray for this witness.

Our best-selling book of late is *Just Dad* by Lois Kregel. It is getting more difficult to remain "topped up" with RFPA and PR literature via trans-Atlantic couriers from the PRC and CPRC. For instance, it will be some time before

our bookstore will get supplies of the new book *In the Beginning God* by Prof. Homer C. Hoeksema. Mary and I, as well as Rev. McGeown, plan to be in America this summer, and we travel light to maximize the amount of literature we can bring home with us. Even with this, we are thinking that another pallet will probably be needed this year. This literature ministry is of great value to our members and our witness, especially in the UK.

Our main website is doing very well (www.cprc.co.uk). We are currently averaging more than 1,900 people per day on the written pages. There is a strong correlation between the countries with most users on our website and the amount of material we have in various languages. Consider the top eight nations so far in March (not in order): US and UK (English), Germany (German), Peru and Columbia (Spanish), Indonesia (Indonesian), Brazil (Portuguese), and Italy (Italian). All of these other languages have a significant number of translations on our website.

Translations

Though the last couple of weeks have been very slow, we have added 57 new translations to our website since the last bimonthly letter (www.cprc.co.uk/languages.htm). One of these is a Polish translation of an article by Prof. Engelsma on Christian schools. Is this the first Polish translation of anything by the PRC?

Others include 1 French (3 *Covenant Reformed News* articles on Melchizedek translated by a widely-travelled French missionary), 1 Lithuanian (*Heidelberg Catechism*), 3 Russian (on creation, justification, and amillennialism), 4 Spanish (excerpts from *Doctrine According to Godliness*), 4 Italian, and 6 Hungarian (articles from the *CR News* which our Italian and Hungarian translators send to those on their e-mail list).

Thirty-seven translations, almost two-thirds, are in Indonesian from Irwan and Cai in Java. These include much of *The Five Points of Calvinism* by Profs. Hanko and Engelsma (the Foreword and the first two chapters); *CR News* articles on marriage, divorce, and remarriage; and materials on God's sovereign grace.

Varia

Due in part to various corruptions in some charities or non-profit organizations (e.g., fraud,

the largely homosexual abuse of children, Islamic groups funding terrorists), new legislation has been enacted for Northern Ireland and the other parts of the UK. All charities, including churches, have been required to register with the state by filling in lots of forms, drawing up a child protection policy, and showing the government how we benefit the community. Our thanks to Julian Kennedy for his labor for the CPRC in this regard. Such legislation would also enable the state more easily to put pressure on Christ's churches, if it were so minded.

The CPRC has bought a defibrillator for our church building. Several operatives have been appointed.

Castlewellan, Northern Ireland, the venue for the 2016 British Reformed Fellowship (BRF) Conference has a lot to commend it: a castle, a lake, an arboretum, a hedge-row maze, etc. In the last couple of years, a more extensive network of footpaths and biking trails through the forest park has been created. Mary and I checked them out and were impressed. As well as the type of accommodation (rooms with many beds), this is another feature which especially suits younger people and families.



Summer 2015 is time for our biennial holiday to the US. I am to preach for two Lord's Days in Loveland PRC (19 & 26 July). In the morning of 2 August, we will be in Georgetown PRC. Other preaching slots will be filled nearer the time, D.V. It will be good to see many saints in the PRC again!

May the Lord be with you all.

In Christ,
Rev. and Mary Stewart