

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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February 18, 2013

Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

One of the recent highlights was the baptism of Jason Lars Watterson on 23 December 2012. We had a good number of the Wattersons' friends and family in attendance, and I preached on Acts 2:39 ("The Promise to Our Children"). This is only the second time that baptism has been administered in the Limerick Reformed Fellowship, and each time brings great gladness to our little congregation. The children are flourishing by the grace of God: both Sebastian Kuhs (baptized on 25 March 2012) and Jason Watterson are a joy to their parents and to the LRF.



Sebastian Kuhs with pastor

The other children are flourishing also. The Saturday catechism class finished *Old Testament History for Seniors* and we begin *New Testament History for Seniors* soon, D.V. Chester, Stephen, and Dale are good and enthusiastic students. They are the first children who have ever been catechized in the Republic of Ireland.

Many children, of course, have had the standard Sunday school fare, but that usually consists of disjointed Bible stories. I appreciate the systematic history in our catechism curriculum. The parents of Chester and Dale (Alfonso and Salome Mansona, who, you will recall, are from the Philippines) participate with great interest in an *Essentials of Reformed Doctrine* class in their home, which I have tailored to their schedule. Last week we had Essentials on Saturday evening from 9-11 P.M., a great class on the priestly office of Christ. We are almost halfway through the course already!



*Dale Mansona, Chester Mansona, and Stephen Casey
with pastor's catechism whiteboard*

In our Wednesday night class we finished *Essentials of Reformed Doctrine*. The thirty lessons took us from 8 September 2010 to 23 January 2013. It was a very enjoyable course, and the material has been edited and shared on our website so that the outlines can be downloaded and used by those who want to read an introduction to the Reformed Faith (<http://www.limerickreformed.com/articles/by-type/catechism-lessons>). We plan, after some further editing, to make it into an E-book. Do not worry, I do not know what that is either, but we have great technical minds here! Following the completion of *Essentials of Reformed Doctrine*, we started a class on the *Canons of Dort* on Wednesday 6 February. It was decided to

record these lessons and make them available on our website so that people could listen to them (<http://www.limerickreformed.com/sermons/by-type/canons-of-dordt-class>). The first lesson was a historical introduction to the Synod of Dordt; the second, we introduced Head One of the *Canons* and dealt with Head I, Article 1; and the third week we managed to cover Head I, Articles 2-5. So far interest online has been encouraging, with 57 and 73 listeners/downloads for the first two lessons. It does require more editing, etc., for the classes to be uploaded, but the extra work is worth it to get the word out about our glorious Reformed heritage. I dare say that almost nobody in Limerick (and that includes the churches) has heard about the *Canons of Dordt*, and many churchgoers in Limerick are hostile to Calvinism, so a thorough explanation of the *Canons* will be very worthwhile for our members. Besides, it works well for our brethren in the CPRC who record and publish their *Belgic Confession* class.

Speaking about the *Belgic Confession*, the project sponsored by our brethren in Singapore is going well. I, as well as our pastors, have been writing daily meditations for the saints there based on the *Belgic Confession*. Studying our confessions makes me marvel at the wisdom God gave our fathers when they formulated our creeds. Profound theology, beautiful expressions, and pastoral comfort combine to give us these wonderful documents as faithful summaries of the Word of God. We must not allow these precious deposits of the Reformed faith to be neglected or forgotten by the members of the churches.

Preaching is the chief means of grace in every age. Between 18 November and 6 January I preached on the seven "I AM" sayings of Christ. Since then I have been "between series," and I hope to choose a new series soon. The saints here appreciate series preaching. It helps them (and me) grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Having finished the Apostles' Creed section of the *Heidelberg Catechism*, we have now plunged into the sacraments section, another masterpiece of careful explanation of what is a difficult and convoluted subject, especially here where superstition concerning the sacraments (Rome) or neglect of the sacraments (Evangelicalism) prevails.

We have started live audio broadcasting of our worship services. Manuel Kuhs came up with the idea because he wanted to be able to hear the sermons on his cell phone while he took his young son out of the room. The broadcast has worked well for others who have been at home sick and others who have tuned in via the Internet. All that is required is a laptop with an Internet connection. We are blessed to have some many technophiles here! So, if you ever want to listen to us at 11.30 A.M. and 5.30 P.M. (GMT), feel free to tune in (the link is usually uploaded weekly on Facebook).

This Friday I plan to travel to Wales to give the speech I was supposed to give on 22 November, the day I crashed my car on the motorway. I have a new vehicle. The speech will be "Justification by Faith Alone." We pray that this time I will be able to give the lecture without any problems.

Recently the British Reformed Fellowship launched a Facebook site: now the CPRC, LRF, and BRF are on Facebook, so add those pages to your "likes" if you have not already done so. I am the administrator for the site. I am also the editor of the *British Reformed Journal*. The first editorial (to be published soon, D.V.) will be entitled, "A Double Minded God Unstable in All His Ways" (which is a critique of John Piper's free offer theology). I encourage you all to subscribe to the Journal (\$20 for four issues) and to make plans for the BRF Conference (26 July to 2 August, 2014, "Be Ye Holy! The Reformed Doctrine of Sanctification," near Stirling, Scotland, D.V.).

We also look forward to welcoming Rev. C. Haak and Mr. Peter Van Der Schaaf, the PRCA church visitors, to Limerick from 23-26 March, D.V.

May the Lord bless you richly,

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown