

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

Rev. Stewart and I have so organized our bimonthly reports that the PRCA should be receiving news from *some part* of the Emerald Isle every month. Of course, this does not mean that we necessarily reach the deadline for your congregational newsletters! As I write, I have just returned from a ten-day visit to Michigan. My primary purpose was to attend Synod 2011. It was a great honor to be there as an official representative of your sister church and to bring you warm greetings from your sister “across the pond.” May we together continue to reflect the unity and catholicity (as well as the holiness and apostolicity) of Christ’s church! The highlight of Synod was undoubtedly the graduation of three new candidates from the Seminary, men with whom I studied, men whom I count as friends and brothers, and men who showed themselves approved for the great work of preaching the Gospel. Outside of Synod I had plenty of time to fellowship with dear saints, many of whom invited me to their homes, and I was privileged to preach in Hudsonville and Southwest PRC. I will be back, DV, in August to chaperone the YPC!

While I was away, the LRF listened to DVD sermons of PRCA ministers. Because of a mix-up with the hall, the LRF had to hold services in the home of Manuel and Emily-Kate Kuhs. Sadly, too, a Dutch couple turned up, but declined to come to the Kuhs’ residence. That disruption lost us potential visitors, although it appears they were tourists, not residents of Limerick. As compensation the hall owners waived two weeks rent. Something similar happened on February 20, 2011. Then, too, we had the service in the Kuhs’ house, which is within walking distance of the hall.

Last time I mentioned that we had some new families attending the Fellowship. I am

thankful to report that they are still in attendance.



George and Irene Meletis, and Irene’s mother, Jill Braby, attend both services every week. They hail from South Africa, while George has some Greek blood. Although we are not on agreement on all doctrinal and practical issues, they express great interest in the preaching and in the fellowship. George and Irene attend the Wednesday Bible Study when George’s work schedule permits it. They are also avid readers and have just become RFPA book club members and received *Justified Unto Liberty* free. What a great RFPA offer!



Alfonso and Salome Mansona, with their two boys, Chester (15) and Dale (12), are also a welcome addition to the group. They attend when their work schedule permits. They are Filipino immigrants and often work on Sundays. Their boys, however, come to the worship services, even when their parents are absent. Lord’s Day observance is an issue on the Mission Field, and especially in Ireland, where, even among evangelicals, the Lord’s Day is seen as a

day of convenience or a day for the family. Much patient teaching is required in this and other areas. As it happens, soon we will be addressing the Fourth Commandment in our *Heidelberg Catechism* preaching. Chester and Dale have never been catechized, so we have begun a survey of the Old Testament with them. My aim is to have them ready for starting catechism (NT History for Juniors) with the others after the summer. So far, it has been going very well indeed. I teach in the Mansona home with the parents watching on, and they say that they have learned a lot from the lessons as well. Many Christians have difficulty with Bible history, as few teach it systematically. I, like many, grew up on a diet of disjointed Bible stories. That is another reason to be thankful for our catechism curriculum. We study the history from the viewpoint of God's covenant promise and we teach Christ from that history. In the lessons with the Mansona boys we have reached the life of Joseph. The week before I went to America, we invited the Mansona family and the Kuhs for dinner, had catechism here for Dale and Chester, and held our midweek Bible study (currently on John 11). It was a wonderful time of fellowship and gave us all opportunity to know one another better.

The other catechism class has not quite finished either. We had a lot of disruption throughout the year, especially because catechism is held in the Cesar home. Joanne Cesar was often unwell during her pregnancy, and other interruptions occurred, so, while most (if not all) PRCA churches finished catechism weeks ago, we are still on Lesson 24 of OT History for Juniors. Two more weeks (Lesson 25 and a review) will finish the season, DV.

You can see some of the practical issues faced by a small mission work in Ireland. First, we have no church building and are at the "mercy" of the hall owners. If they make a "blunder," we are greatly affected. Besides, we can use the hall only on Sundays and occasionally for special lectures, so we have to organize catechism and Bible studies in members' homes throughout the week. This involves working a lot around the schedules of other people, and requires flexibility by the members and the missionary. Thankfully, we have the "will," and "where there's a will, there's a way." Second, few members have their own vehicles, so getting everyone where they need to be can be a chal-

lenge. In the established churches the minister lives by the church and the members come to him; here, the situation is reversed. Third, it can be a struggle to get people to commit to two services on the Lord's Day. Most churches do not have an evening service and, for many, Lord's Day observance is a strange concept. However, the core group does show good commitment in that area, for which I thank God. These are not in any way complaints, but observations, which will enable you, I hope, to understand better life "on the field" and to pray for us more knowledgeably. Every field has its own peculiarities, as other missionaries will testify.



On May 4, Joanne Cesar gave birth to Charize Julianne. The Cesar family rejoices greatly at this addition, as do we in the LRF. Emily-Kate Kuhs is due to give birth on July 13, DV. These are exciting developments for us and they bring up the question of baptism on the mission field. To that end we had a very profitable study of the Form for the Administration of Baptism in our Wednesday night adult catechism class. We look to the Lord to bring us to the stage when we can administer the sacrament to our little ones.

Thank you again for your prayerful support and for the letters, cards, e-mails, and Facebook messages of encouragement.

"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown