

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

First, thank you to the many saints who sent me Christmas cards and letters. These expressions of love, as well as e-mails and other messages, are of great encouragement to me and the saints in the LRF. Many smiling family photos now grace my study wall.

Mission fields have their ups and downs. As many of you no doubt know, our Fellowship will see the birth of two babies in May and July respectively, DV. On a sad note, we bade farewell to Jessie-Li, who returned to her homeland (Beijing, China) on January 29. She will be dearly missed, but she has informed us that she is able to access sermons on the CPRC and LRF websites. She also hopes to be able to attend the British Reformed Fellowship Conference next summer, DV. Moreover, Jiang, about whom I reported last time, is no longer in Limerick. His university course took him to Galway, but he hopes to come back to us when his work placement there is over. One of our members gave him *Doctrine According to Godliness* as a parting gift. A superb choice!



Catechism Class

The regular work of the Fellowship continues. After 20 sermons on Hebrews 11, I am approaching the immortal words of verse 32, “And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell....” The Bible study, Essentials class, and Old Testament History for Juniors classes are going well. In fact, we started a second Essentials class in the home of the Cesars on Thursday evenings. So far, Chris and Joanne Cesar and one neighbour attend, and we hope more will show an interest. My primary goal, however, is to build up our own members. Thus edified they can influence others in their personal witness. It is of great help to my work that the members are very enthusiastic in making the truth known through all possible means.



The Cesars

A few weeks ago, in our first Essentials class, we had a review of Lessons 1-7 (Theology), which really helped to reinforce the material. One of the group kept exclaiming, “This needs to be *taught*...!” He was referring to the fact that nobody else seems to teach this. Alas, do churches today teach *anything*? What a precious heritage of the truth we have, and what a grave responsibility we have to pass it on to our children, and also to others to whom we witness. Last week in Essentials, in connection with God’s providence, we looked at common grace. It was a good

opportunity to give instruction in that area, and it was very well received. We also have one new (occasional) visitor at that class.

We are planning another public lecture for February 21. These have become an almost monthly occurrence. Again, I have chosen something basic, the New Birth, or “What Does It Mean To Be Born Again?” In my experience talking to Evangelicals (the Reformed are as rare as hens’ teeth in Ireland!) most have no clue what the New Birth is. They think the New Birth is something *they* do or at least something God does in response to what they do. The notion of a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit is a strange idea to them. As part of the preparation, I re-read Billy Graham’s, “How To Be Born Again,” a book which *not once* explains what the New Birth is, and which perfectly illustrates the prevailing ignorance on this subject.



After AM service

The highlight of the past months was, without doubt, the visit of Rev. Doug Kuiper and Mr. Jim Holstege on behalf of the PRC Contact Committee. I can hardly express in words how encouraging their visit was to our group here. The visitors were also of great encouragement to me personally with their helpful advice. Their visit was, alas, too short. After the CPRC Congregational Dinner, we drove down to Limerick on Saturday morning (January 15), a journey shortened by the completion of the motorway between Dublin and Limerick. That afternoon, the church visitors accompanied me to my catechism class and we had dinner at the Cesars. On the Lord’s Day, Rev. Kuiper preached for the Fellowship twice and most of us had lunch

together at the “manse” (11 The Laurels). On Monday, the visitors came with me to visit the Osbornes (Luke, Catriona, Joshua and Caleb) and Bill Davies. That evening (January 17) Rev. Kuiper gave a public lecture in Limerick, “What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?” at which we had a record attendance of 19 people. We had several new visitors including one Pentecostal who bought a book, *The Work of the Holy Spirit* (Profs. Engelsma and Hanko). God willing, the Lord will use it to sort him out theologically. The lecture was well received and perfect for a mission setting.



Rev. Kuiper’s Lecture

Next week, we have two lectures planned, one in Limerick (on Monday) and one in Wales (on Thursday). The plans for my first lecture in Wales were disrupted in God’s providence by weather. God willing, I will be able to speak on “God Is Love” this time.

Our website has been developed. First, we have made an online bookstore, so we are eagerly awaiting our first order; and second, we now make our sermons available on You Tube.

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you” (II Thess. 3:1).

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown