

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints
in the Protestant Reformed Churches,

One thing, but certainly not the only thing, which encouraged me about my recent visit to America was the number of people who remarked that they 1) Read the LRF Newsletter, 2) Enjoy it, and 3) Pray for the work here. Thank you for this encouragement and please continue to pray.

In August, both Rev. Stewart and I were in the USA; he mostly in the West; while I spent most of my time in Wisconsin and Michigan. In fact, our paths crossed only on Sunday, August 14, at his well-attended presentation on the work of the CPRC/LRF at Georgetown PRC. Thankfully, his anecdotes did not embarrass me too much! My trip to the USA was to chaperone the Young People's Convention, and I had a wonderful time. What a privilege to meet the saints in Randolph (first, and I hope not last, time there), preach there, enjoy the excellent hospitality of Rev. Doug Kuiper and his family and then to spend a week at the Convention! Randolph did a superb job hosting the Convention. What I enjoy about Convention is time to get to know the people, to be impressed—as I always am—by the godly behaviour and Christian commitment of the youth and the chaperones alike. What a joy to see you walking in the truth! God's covenant faithfulness continues from generation to generation. After the Convention (which is a spiritually refreshing but physically exhausting experience for chaperones) I was able to spend about a week in Grand Rapids, where I enjoyed the fellowship of God's people and preached in Providence and Southwest PRC. On my homeward journey, Rev. Na-

than and Carrie Langerak were excellent hosts for an overnight stay before my flight from Chicago the next morning.



People asked me: "Who is looking after Ireland while both pastors are away?" Thankfully, our God who keeps us does not slumber or sleep, and He provided excellent oversight in the CPRC Council and in my good friend and colleague, Rev. Bleyenbergh, who filled the pulpit of the CPRC and LRF for four Sundays (three in Ballymena, and one in Limerick).

The weeks before my US-vacation were a flurry of activity. First (and this is now "old news," which I should have mentioned in previous newsletters), Samuel Watterson (LRF) and Anganeta Dyck (CPRC) are engaged to be married, and they intend to live in Limerick. They intend to marry in March 2012, with Rev. Stewart officiating (D.V.). So we are looking forward to that addition to our group. Second, Manuel and Emily-Kate Kuhs were blessed with the birth of a son, Sebastian Levi Colm Kuhs, on July 23. Everyone, of course, is thrilled at the newest addition to our group, and we are very thankful for a healthy covenant child. This comes after the birth of Charize Julianna Cesar on May 4. The Lord

continues His covenant mercies. Third, we had the visit of Rev. Heath and Deb Bleyenberg. In addition to filling our pulpits, Rev. Bleyenberg gave an excellent lecture on “Proper Observance of the Sabbath Day” on August 8. This is a subject very much needed in Limerick, so I was very glad that he chose that topic.



Rev. and Deb were able to spend a few days with me before I went to America, and they brought me to Shannon Airport, only about 30 minutes from where I live. Their visit was invaluable to the morale of the group. It always strikes me how small and isolated groups of Christians receive a boost when brethren come to visit. “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country” (Prov. 25:25). After I left, Rev. and Deb continued their sightseeing of Ireland, preached and lectured for us, and visited with some of the families, about which I have heard good reports.

Working in Ireland brings unique challenges. Rev. Bleyenberg discovered that one must be very careful about geography. In Rev. Bleyenberg’s excellent lecture on Sabbath Observance he made a few incidental geographical references. At the Q&A afterwards one man challenged his remark about the “mainland” (“mainland” can mean Great Britain, continental Europe, or something else, depending on your point of view) and then became offended when Rev. Bleyenberg called Ireland part of the “British Isles”! The man is a regular at LRF lectures but not a member or even an attendee

at the LRF. Rev. handled the situation with the meekness becoming a servant of Christ. I mention this, not to embarrass Rev. Bleyenberg, but to illustrate the pitfalls. Another controversial matter in the Republic of Ireland is the term “Protestant.” It has too many anti-Irish, pro-British connotations here, so that it is best to avoid the term altogether. That is why in our literature we avoid the term, even referring to our speaker as the minister of “Providence PR Church.”

In July, I traveled to Wales to give a lecture, “What Happened at the Cross?,” one I had given in Limerick many months previously but the recording had been lost, so I was able to record it again for the website. I plan to travel to Wales on Thursday (September 1) for my fourth speech there, “Friendship with God.” After that, I need to think of new speech titles both for Wales and Limerick.

The new church season is about to begin, although it did not really end throughout the summer, because the Bible study on John (now chapter 14) and the Old Testament Catechism class (now on Lesson 18) continued. Come September, D.V., we hope to resume Catechism with the material for New Testament for Juniors, and to resume our adult Essentials class with Lesson 14, “The Offices of the Mediator.” Last night I also began a new series of sermons on Matthew 24, “The Signs of Christ’s Coming.” We have not had many visitors of late, although one lady came last night, a friend of Bill Davies. On July 24, we also had a “Pentecostal heckler,” a troubled young man who objected audibly, during one sermon on Joel 2, that dreams and visions are for Christians today! Afterwards, he “prophesied” to us that God would pour out His Spirit and we would miss out because we are a dry, dead, lifeless church. This coming from a man who did not even know where Joel was in the Bible! The older I get, the more I despise Pentecostalism and pity the sad souls enslaved to it.

Thank you again for your prayerful support and the many tokens of your love.

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown