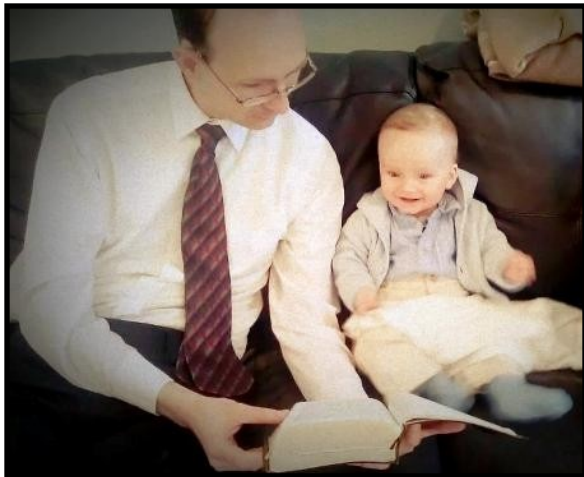


Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

In our bulletin yesterday we made the announcement that *baptism* has now been approved in the LRF. As you can imagine, we are all thrilled by this news, something we had been considering for many months (in consultation with the CPRC Council and the PRCA). Manuel and Emily-Kate Kuhs, whose seven-month-old son, Sebastian, will be the first baptised child in the LRF (D.V.), are especially excited. As I said to Rev. W. Langerak when he was here, “If Manuel was excited to see infant baptism for the first time when he was in America for the Calvin Conference, how much more excited will he not be when he witnesses the baptism of *his own child*?”



Sebastian excited about the Word

Forgive our exuberance, but this is a big step for us. The Kuhs will be inviting their families and friends. We expect that, if both Manuel’s and Emily-Kate’s families are represented, we will have a crowded meeting, a “problem” we are happy to have, as we usually have about a dozen people. God will-

ing, it will be a witness to both families and to any other visitors. My work will be cut out, trying to compose a sermon for the occasion, one that brings the gospel to unbelievers, explains the covenant and the practice of infant baptism to evangelical Baptists, and edifies the congregation *all at the same time*! The last time I preached to some of these people was at the Kuhs’ wedding, and their response was far from favourable! But we trust in the power of the preached Word! The Kuhs and I will study the Baptism Form soon, although they are already familiar with it, both being avid readers and RFPA book club members; plus, as you might recall, we studied the Baptism Form in the summer when we were “taking a break” from Essentials of Reformed Doctrine.

Excitement is also growing as we anticipate the wedding of Samuel Watterson and Anganeta (Anga) Dyck on Friday 2nd March, D.V. The venue will be the CPRC church building, with Rev. Stewart officiating. My role is to provide a German translation of the wedding sermon for Anga’s family and friends, a diverse mixture of Fundamentalist Arminian Baptists, nominal Roman Catholics, atheists, and radical feminists—and the wedding text is I Peter 3:7! Rev. Stewart will soon be sending the sermon to me to be translated. I will also be involved in the ferrying of people from Limerick to Ballymena and back. The logistical challenges of organising a wedding in Ballymena, when both bride and groom are living in Limerick, are slowly being overcome. Anga, as you know, joined the LRF recently, because she found a job in this area. She has fitted in very well to the congregational life of the LRF. We look forward to Sam and Anga beginning their married life together, which for us means an-

other young married couple, a great boost to a mission group such as ours.

Another wonderful (albeit temporary) addition to our group is Briana Prins of Trinity PRC. She and her sister, Kristin, spent some time in Ballymena. Kristin returned to America, but Briana is studying at the University of Limerick in their foreign studies programme (hint to young people: if you are considering studying abroad in an English-speaking place, forget Oxford and Cambridge; try Limerick!) until May, D.V. She, too, is fitting wonderfully into congregational life, attending our services, Bible study, and Essentials catechism class. Briana's family can rest assured that she is being well cared for by the saints here.



Briana Prins

One of the great highlights of our year is the reception of the Church Visitors, which you, through your Contact Committee, graciously send to us. This year, we hosted Rev. W. Langerak and Elder Sid Miedema. Rev. Stewart will tell you about their time in the CPRC (20th-28th January). Some of the LRF travelled up for the congregational dinner in Ballymena (27th January) and the next day, Rev. Langerak and Sid came to Limerick. Rev. Langerak preached for us on Sunday 29th January, and then we had a meal together in my new apartment. On Monday 30th January, I took the church visitors to Bunratty, so they could buy gifts for their family, and that evening

Rev. Langerak delivered an excellent lecture on "Why Does a Good God Allow Suffering?" We had nineteen at the lecture, including four who had never attended before. Given the importance of the topic, we even "splashed out" this time on a larger advertisement than normal in the Limerick Post newspaper.

Two weeks ago, we started the Heidelberg Catechism for the second time with a special sermon: "Why Heidelberg Catechism Preaching?" in which we answered some of the objections and misconceptions of many Evangelicals to creeds, confessions, and the preaching of our beloved Catechism. After wrapping up the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25), we started, and have almost finished, a six-part series on Psalm 23, "The Happiness of Jehovah's Sheep." In Essentials class we started Soteriology with Lesson 18 on "The Covenant of Grace," after we reviewed Christology (Lessons 12-17). This is a very profitable and enjoyable class.

I am also looking forward, this summer, to being one of the speakers at the PRC Young People's Convention (13th -17th August). The Committee of Hope (Walker) PRC asked me if I would be willing to speak. I count it an enormous privilege to have been asked. That will be after the British Reformed Fellowship Conference (28th July-4th August), so this summer looks like it will be a rewarding one. God willing, I will see many of you in America.

I have now moved into new accommodations. The new apartment is very comfortable. The week before the church visitors came, my flock helped me with moving, buying, transporting, and assembling the furniture for my new study.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown