

Limerick Reformed Fellowship  
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Dear saints in the  
Protestant Reformed Churches,



On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November *Jason Lars Watterson* was born. This means another covenant child and another baptism for the LRF, as well as great joy for Samuel and Anganeta and the rest of our little group here. The LRF is growing!



Recently, Terry Casey and Manuel Kuhs wrote a short history of the LRF for our website. To give you an idea of where the Lord has led us, I quote some of the highlights.

“The beginnings of the LRF stretch back to 2003. Around that time a number of men began to meet to discuss what to do about the issues they were facing within the evangelical world. Shallow preaching, modern worship and a distaste for unclear and ambiguous doctrine were some of the issues

they were facing. The Reformed faith with its views on Scripture and its interpretation, its confessional basis and its focus on a pure approach to worship, the church and the life of the believer was very attractive. Yet, there was a divergence of views and approaches amongst the small group on how to remedy the situation.”

“At that time cassette tapes of the worship services from the then CPRF in Ballymena were circulating in Limerick. Bill Davies, a founding member of the LRF, received weekly dispatches from the CPRF and was instrumental in passing the tapes out to various people, including the men in the small group in question. These tapes were very well received and various people began to subscribe to the weekly bulletins and tapes of the CPRF’s services.

“In 2004 Rev. Stewart, pastor of the CPRF, indicated that Prof. Hanko was touring around Ireland and in August of that year he gave an address in the home of Terry Casey to the assembled group of men on the subject of the covenant. The following September Rev. Stewart gave an address in Terry’s home on the subject ‘What is a Reformed Church?’ A venue was found for future lectures and thereafter a regular schedule of public lectures on a Reformed topic was given by Rev. Stewart in Limerick.

“Tensions surfaced within the group due to aspects of Reformed doctrine and by October 2005 the group of men supporting the work of Rev. Stewart to establish a mission field in Limerick dwindled to just three men. These three men along with two of Terry’s children began to meet each Lord’s Day evening in the living room of one of the men to worship the Lord with the means available to them. These meetings consisted of prayer, psalm singing, the reading of Scrip-

ture and a sermon from the CPRF website. Rev. Stewart continued giving lectures roughly every six weeks, at which various visitors attended regularly.

“This continued until Manuel, Emily-Kate and Samuel joined the Fellowship in 2008. This was a great joy and encouragement to the three ‘stalwarts’ who had by now been meeting on their own for almost three years—God was beginning to give growth to the Fellowship!

“In March 2009, following the inaugural meeting of the LRF Steering Committee, the Fellowship finally started having meetings outside of members’ homes in the City Centre. At the same time, the LRF began collecting offerings during worship services to support the renting of the Hall and other activities. Over the next year, the worship services continued to bless and strengthen the LRF, with several visitors attending. Three foreign University students attended for over a year until they returned to their respective countries, two of whom had become thoroughly Reformed at that time. Other families came and went, but the core group remained.

“Undoubtedly the single most significant event in the LRF’s history occurred on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010—our current pastor, Rev. Martyn McGeown, was ordained and sent to the LRF as missionary-pastor by the CPRC. The LRF now has live preaching twice every Lord’s Day. Not only this, but we now have mid-week Bible studies and, perhaps more importantly, catechism for the children in the Fellowship, as well as an *Essentials of Reformed Doctrine* class for the adult members.

“Since then, some people have left and others have joined. Our average attendance is now fifteen to twenty souls. Perhaps the most significant developments during recent years have been two marriages, two births and (soon) two baptisms. The Lord is now blessing us even with internal growth.”

I am sure you will agree that this is an encouraging report. We do not despise the day of small things, but we rejoice at signs of growth, both spiritual and numerical.

More important than numerical growth, the saints here are growing in grace. This is evidenced by attentive hearing of the Word, enthusiastic participation in the activities of the Fellowship, and the establishment of godly homes with godly conduct and sincere Christian love among the members. Is this not the fruit which every pastor rejoices to see?

On 28<sup>th</sup> October I finished 8 sermons on Samson (“Samson: Strong in Jehovah, Weak in the Flesh”) and on 18<sup>th</sup> November I began a series on the “I AM sayings of Christ.” In the *Heidelberg Catechism* we will be on LD 22 next week, D.V. The main *Essentials* class will not finish this year as I had planned because we spent *six* weeks on Lesson 29! At the same time the second *Essentials* class with the Mansonas is progressing well—we reached Lesson 8 recently on Creation. We also recently finished Lesson 18 of *Old Testament History for Seniors*—Stephen, Dale, and Chester are learning well!

We have also begun Family Visitation for the second year. Our text is Hebrews 12:1-2 (“Running the Race”). So far, feedback has been positive and participation enthusiastic.

Some of you will have heard that I had a car crash. On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November I was driving on the motorway between Limerick and Dublin, hit black ice, slid off the road and my car was wrecked. By the mercy of God, Marco and I escaped uninjured—even though I was driving at the normal motorway speed of 120 km/h or 70 m/ph! The speech in Wales—for Marco and I were heading to Dublin airport to give a speech on “Justification by Faith Alone” at the time—was cancelled. At the moment I am driving a rental car until my insurance claim is processed and I can purchase a new vehicle.

Thank you also for the cards and letters which are beginning to arrive at this Christmas season. It is good to be remembered by the saints!

The Lord bless you all,

In Christian love,  
Rev. Martyn McGeown