

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints
in the Protestant Reformed Churches,

Since my last newsletter, in which I outlined some of the recent disappointments that we have suffered as a Fellowship, the outpouring of Christian love and support has been overwhelming. Many of you wrote to me, assuring me of your prayers and concern for me and for the group here. The communion of the saints has been clearly evident, even from across the ocean. I am grateful for and deeply humbled by your love. Please continue to remember us in prayer, as I know you do.

The dust, you might say, has settled. Although those who have left us have not returned, the group as a whole is unified in the truth. As we have heard in our recent sermon series, the Christian ministry and the Christian life are characterised by trials, but “we faint not” (II Cor. 4:1, 16). By God’s grace, we continue our witness to the Reformed faith. Last week (8 February), I finished the series (16 sermons) on II Corinthians 3-4, “The Glory of the Christian Ministry,” with the profound truth that “our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (v. 17). Now, I am looking for another series.

In Heidelberg Catechism preaching, I have reached LD 23-24 on *justification*. Given that one of our members recently left, having been bewitched by *Romish* justification, I am giving this subject ever greater attention. The sermons so far have been entitled, “Declared Righteous in Christ” (LD 23; Acts 13:38-39); “Righteousness Freely Imputed” (LD 23; II Corinthians 5:21); “Justified by Faith and Works” (LD 23; James

2:24); and “Christ Unprofitable to the Self-Justified” (LD 24; Galatians 5:2-4). I still plan to preach on (or, I should say, “against”!) “merit”—that “profane, impious word,” as Luther memorably called it; then, on the reward of grace; and, finally, on the impossibility of a careless and profane Christian, before I finish LD 24 this time round, D.V.

The weekly catechism classes continue, which I enjoy immensely. Chester and Dale Mansona have reached *Heidelberg Catechism* LD 37. The classes in Shannon, Co. Clare (New Testament for Juniors; Old Testament for Seniors; and *Heidelberg Catechism*) will learn Lesson 20 on Monday, D.V. Alfonso and Salome Mansona are progressing well through the *Belgic Confession*. We reach Article 33 on the Sacraments this week.

We started our weekly Bible study on Hebrews in May 2014, and we are now in chapter 12. Recently, we studied the rich section of Hebrews 12:5-11 on divine chastisement, a necessary reminder “lest [we] be wearied and faint in our minds” (v. 3).

Barry, Jimmy, and Teresa are still regular visitors on Sundays. Jimmy has been coming since April 2013, Teresa since November 2013, and Barry since July 2014. These are encouraging signs. We pray that the Lord will gather others unto Himself.

On Wednesday 4 February, we conducted a second Bible study in Shannon with some of the parents of my catechumens and their friends. We had our first Bible study there, if you recall, on 13 November on the subject of “Sin.” This time, the topic was “The Sovereignty of God.” Eight people attended the study, and the subject was again well received. The people there attend a variety of evangelical churches, which are mostly Arminian and Pentecostal. Few

churches today produce members who know very much at all about the Bible, so they had many questions.



Facing: Dave & Mary Kregel,
Lori and Prof. Gritters. Backs: Manuel Kuhs,
Marco Barone, Barry Purcell

On 9 January, I brought Sam, Anga, and Jason Watterson and Chester Mansona with me to attend the CPRC congregational dinner, at which the PRC church visitors (Prof. and Lori Gritters, and Dave and Mary Kregel) were guests of honour. The dinner is always a good time of delicious food, edifying fellowship, and enjoyable quiz participation. The following week, the church visitors visited Limerick. Prof. gave an excellent speech on “The Meaning of Reformed” (Friday 16 January), at which we had a total of 23 people—I think that is the highest number we have had since I came here. A few were newcomers and came out of curiosity. The visitors were with us only a few days, for they had to leave on Monday 19

January, but we visited most of the families. The young mothers were especially appreciative of the fact that the visitors brought their *wives* along. Titus 2:4 is difficult to practise here!



Emily-Kate Kuhs (holding Penelope), Lori Gritters,
Mary Kregel, Anganeta Watterson

May the Lord bless you richly,



Dave & Mary Kregel, Lori Gritters, Manuel Kuhs

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown