

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints
in the Protestant Reformed Churches,

Eleanora Watterson was born on Thursday 24 September, and baptised on 25 October. I preached on Romans 5:12 (“Our and Our Children’s Condemnation in Adam”). As you can imagine, a new child brings great joy to our little fellowship—Eleanora’s is the fifth baptism since my ordination in July 2010.

On 7 June, I finished the series on Jonathan, followed by a 6-sermon series on “Jesus Tempted by the Devil” (21 June-19 July). After a long gap between series, I started a series on Psalm 137 (“Remembering Zion by Babylon’s Rivers”) on 4 October, which I will finish next week, DV (5 sermons). In *Heidelberg Catechism*, we have reached LD 39 (our third time through the catechism).

The summer was busy, and as I write it still seems like summer, because it is very sunny for the beginning of November. The highlight of the summer was my visit to the USA (31 July-19 August), where I chaperoned at the Young People’s Convention (10-14 August) and gave one of the three speeches, always my privilege and pleasure. This year, I brought Chester and Dale Mansona from the LRF along. They thoroughly enjoyed their experience—the steering committee of the YPC, the host families, and countless members of the PRCA made them feel very welcome. They were amazed at the large numbers of godly young people from all across the USA, Canada, and beyond. It was refreshing for them to be in the company of teenaged Christians, because they have no Christian friends in school/university in Limerick. I want to thank the young people of the PRC on their behalf for opening their hearts and lives to them while they were in the US. Truly, the communion of the saints is a wonderful thing!

While I was in the US, I preached twice, once in Southwest PRC and once in Wingham PRC. Southwest was my internship congregation, so I know many people there. Also, it was wonderful to meet the saints in Wingham, a place I had never been before. It was exciting to be there at that time, not only because it is wonderful to meet new people and visit new churches (the fellowship is always wonderful, wherever I go), but also because the congregation was just about to open their new Protestant Reformed Christian School, which has now been providing covenant instruction for several months. What an exciting venture for a congregation! Rev. and Mrs. denHartog brought me to Wingham: he preached in the morning and I preached in the afternoon (1 P.M.).



Rev. Carl and Mary Haak with the LRF

Before and after my visit to the States, we had quite a few visitors. My parents came from 3-6 July. Ryan Schipper (Southwest PRC) was in Ireland from 22-31 July, and while I brought him to Northern Ireland for part of that time, where I preached for the CPRC in Ballymena, Rev. and Mrs. C. Haak visited the LRF—with Marco as their guide to the Cliffs of Moher. We also met up with the Haaks and visited the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh, Co. Tyrone. In Northern Ireland, David and Kristin Crossett hosted a number of young people at their house (part of the Europe trip organised by Covenant Christian High School in Michigan. A Europe trip *should* include a visit to Ireland!). It was good to see the American visitors and to preach to quite a full church in Ballymena on 26 July.

After my return from the States, I hosted Peter Kleyn (Grace PRC) for a few days (10-12 September), before he headed north to visit the Stewarts. Finally, my sister and brother-in-law (Shelley and Michael) visited me from 24-27 October.



Rev. McGeown, Marco Barone, Ryan Schipper

Marco Barone's last day in LRF was 23 August, a few days after I returned from the USA. He also visited recently (21-26 October), so that he could attend his graduation ceremony (MA in philosophy) in Limerick. The timing worked out well, because he was also able to attend Eleanora's baptism. It was good to have him in the LRF again, albeit only for one weekend. He has settled in well in the CPRC, although he is greatly missed in the LRF.

We are continuing with our "Back to Basics" lecture series, a series of lectures aimed at the theologically ignorant, which describes the vast majority of people here, and that includes churchgoers. We have had five lectures since May. The topics were "The Meaning of Life" (30 May), "Where Did We Come From?" (11 July), "Who Is Jesus?" (29 August), "Why the Trinity?" (12 September) and "Why Trust the Bible?" (10 October). A Hindu (Gayathri from India) and two Muslims (Saeed and his wife from Iran) attend and are keen for more. Their presence makes the lectures especially worthwhile. All lectures are live-streamed and recorded, and can be accessed on our website.

Our other regular activities are the Tuesday Bible study, which finished Daniel on 29 September and began Romans on 6 October, and our catechism classes on Saturday morning (with Chester and Dale Mansona, in Essentials of Reformed Doctrine, currently on Lesson 5, "God's Communicable Attributes"), Monday afternoons (with my niece, Anna, on Old Testament History for Beginners, Book 2, by Google Hangouts)

and on Monday evenings (Old Testament History for Beginners and New Testament History for Seniors [currently on Lesson 12]). In addition, I hold a weekly Bible study (Thursday or Saturday) at the Mansonas' on Revelation (currently on chapter 11). I have written summaries of Revelation, Hebrews, and Daniel on our website.

Our oldest member, Bill Davies (80 years old), underwent surgery on Tuesday (a partial colectomy, or removal of part of the colon/large intestine). The surgery went well. However, it will take some time for him to recover. After he is discharged from the hospital, which should be some time this week, he expects to be in a nursing/convalescent home for a few weeks, and, after 10-12 weeks, he will then have a second operation to reconnect the colon. As you can imagine, that is a serious trial for Bill, and for the congregation. Bill will be unable to worship with us for the foreseeable future, which is something he greatly misses.

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:16-18).

Pray for us, as we do for you,

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown