

Limerick Reformed Fellowship
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Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

On June 30, the LRF witnessed the third baptism (Penelope Kuhs) since I came to Limerick. For the happy occasion I preached on Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers (and Mothers) Nourishing Their Children.” Although we did not have any visitors, we were edified by the Word and sacrament. One Baptist man who has been attending regularly in the evenings asked me when I would be applying the “holy water!” He also expected immersion (as “in the movie”)



Samuel Watterson with Jason

Last month I received an e-mail from a Tour Company in the Netherlands asking if a group of 40 Dutch Christians could join our worship services. They were supposedly from a Dutch Reformed Church. We were more than willing to accommodate them (despite our restricted space) but, as discussions continued, their interest waned more and more. They told me at one point that they had contacted a Baptist church in Limerick, and finally, that they would worship in their hotel instead. I never did find out with which denomination they were affiliated, but I have a sneaking suspicion that they pulled out because we are too Re-

formed for their liking. Perhaps they did some research on our website and did not like what they saw.

As God ordered it in His perfectly wise and inscrutable will, those extra 40 people would have been a burden for us, and in hindsight it was good that they did not come. That was the Sunday (July, 21) when Carolyn, Briana, and Alicia Prins (from Trinity PRC) joined us. They had been in Ballymena for the (David) Crossett and (Kristin) Prins wedding, and since Briana had been in Limerick from January-May 2012 she was keen to see the Limerick Reformed Fellowship again, and we were keen to see her and introduce her family to Limerick.



Carolyn, Briana, and Alicia Prins

We had a wonderful time with the Prinses, who stayed from July 19-23. Because I am the only one with a vehicle in the Fellowship (Terry Casey was on vacation), and because I wanted everyone to enjoy a meal together after the service, we organised a “potluck lunch” in the hall. The stipulation was that the food had to be able to be enjoyed cold, as we had no oven facilities. We had more than enough food for everyone (although 40 extra Dutch people might have stretched us

a bit!) and we were very glad to be able to do that. Some members want us to do it more often, and I think it is a great idea for our small congregation to enjoy such times together. That afternoon the Prinses, Marco, Rene, and I sat in the People's Park (gorgeous weather) until it was time for the evening service. Visitors are always welcome in the LRF. It is always a great encouragement for our group to meet saints from other places. The Prinses even joined an Essentials Class with the Mansona family. Appropriately, we studied the attributes of the church (unity, holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity). We even had time on Monday 22 July for a forest walk at the beautiful Clare Glens.



Dewey and Margaret Hodges with Rev. McGeown

For five Sundays (June 30-July 28) a couple named Dewey and Margaret Hodges from Chalcedon Presbyterian Church in Cumming, Georgia, USA joined us. Dewey was lecturing in aeronautical engineering at the University of Limerick. We very much enjoyed their visit.

Thanks to Manuel Kuhs the LRF is technologically well advanced. His brothers, Rene and Sven, are also good at computers. It was Manuel's idea to start audio live streaming. That is going very well. He recently created an android app (application) for the LRF website (enabling users of certain electronic devices to download sermons and search the website, which he also designed, more efficiently). We get good feedback from that. So, if you (especially young people) have an android, tablet, or iPad device, *make sure you download it.*

Better than angry birds! On top of that, the new PRCA website, also his design, has "gone live." It is good for a small Fellowship like ours to have such talent. It promotes our witness to have a website where people can listen to sermons and the Canons of Dordt class, read catechism outlines and articles, and subscribe to Pastor's blog. Recently, for the blog, I have been studying Islam. I finished reading the Qur'an, and have written three blog posts on Islam ("Jesus, the Trinity, and the Qur'an;" "The Qur'an and the Cross;" and "The Qur'an, the Atonement, and Salvation").

Our main work is still preaching and teaching. Since coming to Limerick I have preached through Hebrews 11; the Armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18); Psalm 32; Matthew 24-25 (on the Signs of Christ's Coming and Watching for Christ's Coming); Psalm 23; Esther; Philemon; Samson (Judges 13-16); the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus; and Titus. In addition, I am on my second time through the Heidelberg Catechism (halfway through the Ten Commandments), the second time through the Essentials of Reformed Doctrine class, and we just started the Fifth Head of the Canons of Dordt. I am blessed to have such an enthusiastic group of saints hungry for the Word!

We still get occasional visitors. One man found the preaching so good that he *yawned* very loudly during the sermon, and when the Prinses visited, there was a cacophony of sounds outside the window (a table saw and multiple car alarms). We are trying to find ways with our recordings to eliminate much of the background noise. Rene is making good progress there.

Next week, DV, I will be travelling to the USA (Illinois and Michigan) for the Young People's Convention. I look forward to fellowship among you.

May the Lord bless you richly,

In Christian love,
Rev. Martyn McGeown