

Covenant Protestant Reformed Church Ballymena, NI

11 July, 2012

Dear saints in the
Protestant Reformed Churches,

CPRC

Since our last bimonthly letter, we had family visitation in the congregation, starting on 21 May. I found this year's family visitation the most encouraging in all my time here. Although we are far from perfect, slowly but surely we are "Working Out Our Salvation," as this year's theme from Philippians 2 calls us to do.

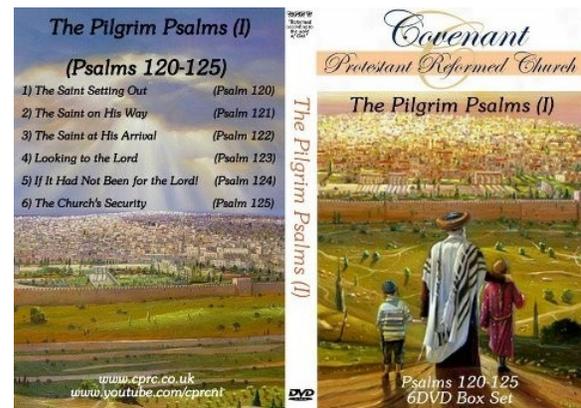
Philip Hall, one of our deacons, was our representative at the synod in Crete PRC (12-16 June). He greatly enjoyed his time at synod and with fellow saints in the US, as did his wife, Susan, and family.

Several members of the PRC have visited us recently. Mary's sister, Jan Westra, and her husband, Pete (Hull PRC), and their son, Kevin (Heritage PRC), were with us from 1-7 June. Kristin Prins (5 June – 18 July) and her brother Erik (3-13 July) of Trinity PRC are nearing the end of their stay. We greatly appreciate visitors from our sister churches, as does the Limerick Reformed Fellowship (LRF). David Crossett brought the two Prinses to Limerick for the services there on the past Lord's Day (8 July).

We had our last day on "The Last Days" in our Tuesday morning Bible study on 3 July. Attendance grew through the year's study on Scripture's eschatology, with the earlier subjects being "The Antichrist in the Book of Revelation" (Rev. 13 & 17) and "The Two Ages."

Recently the preaching has been on the ten commandments and I am almost half way through "The Pilgrim Psalms" (Ps. 120-

134). Our latest box set of DVDs and CDs is "The Pilgrim Psalms (I)" (Ps. 120-125). This, along with a set on "The New Birth" (John 3:1-13), means that we now have a total of 25 attractive box sets available (www.cprf.co.uk/audio/boxsets.htm).



Church Building

We had carpenters make three new additions for our narthex or foyer: a large noticeboard, a table, and a pamphlet rack. The rack contains 34 PR pamphlet titles plus 8 box sets of CDs and DVDs. Some of these pamphlets were moved from our church bookcase, also in the narthex, enabling us to display more fine RFPA books in the vacated spaces. These displays are a good witness to visitors (especially when we have lectures) and have generated sales and helped spread God's Word. Most people start some distance from the full biblical and Reformed faith, and prayerful reading of solid literature is necessary to bring them to the knowledge and love of scriptural and creedal truth, and keep them firm in it. The ignorance, apathy, and hatred of the Reformed faith on the part of most are appalling. But the Word of God is not bound, and humble, penitent saints delight in it.



Tommy Duncan and Julian Kennedy painted both wooden perimeter fences—front, back, and sides. Then they sprayed the soil with weed-killer, laid black ground cover fabric, and spread several tons of decorative stones. This has greatly improved the appearance of our main car park and lowered maintenance for future years. Several of us helped with weeding the overflow car park, and my brother Douglas did the strimming (aka weed-whacking).



Last night Ivan Reid, Philip Hall and I (representing the CPRC Council) met with our building contractor and quantity surveyor to go over the remaining items on

our snagging list. It was a positive meeting and all should be fixed in the next few weeks.

WWW.CPRC.CO.UK

As of 8 July, we transferred our main website (www.cprc.co.uk) to a new server, a company based in Utah. Our old webhosting company was bought out by another company a while back and its prices went up and its customer support went down. The new company we are with is much cheaper and provides better assistance and statistics. I was surprised to see that Peru and Egypt are in the top 10 countries of viewers for our website, but we only transferred to our new webserver 4 days ago, so I expect that this short period is giving atypical results. Another very significant advantage of our new hosting company is that it gives us unlimited webspace (within reason) for no extra cost. This means that we will be able to do live webcasting on our own website without paying for additional webspace. But we have a few other things to sort out before we get around to this.

In the last couple of months we have added 23 translations to our website: 7 Afrikaans (Nic Grobler); 4 Danish, including the *Heidelberg Catechism* (Silas Riisager Dahl); 2 Spanish (Brent De Jong of Holland PRC); 1 Hungarian (Balint Vasarhelyi); 1 Portuguese (Nuno Pinheiro); 1 Italian (Marco Barone); plus Bert Mulder (Edmonton PRC) sent us links to 5 Frisian translations of our major and minor creeds, and 2 Dutch versions (official and revised) of the “Declaration of Principles.”

It borders on the indefensible that our language page (www.cprc.co.uk/languages.htm) went so long without a single Frisian translation and that 115 or so languages were added before it, but this lamentable oversight has now been rectified. Johannes Bogerman, the president of the Synod of Dordt (1618-1619) and a delegate from Friesland, would be pleased.

BRF

Four thousand copies of the new book *The Reformed Worldview*, containing the speeches by Profs. Hanko and Engelsma at the 2010 British Reformed Fellowship (BRF) Conference, have been published in Michigan. The RFPA was of great help in this project, and copies are available from various PR churches or evangelism committees in the US: the Reformed Witness Committee, Redlands, Southwest, Crete, First (GR), Faith, Southeast, Trinity, Georgetown, Loveland, and Peace.

The CPRC Bookstore will get some of its pre-ordered copies through several saints coming to the BRF Conference in N. Ireland (28 July–4 August) from the Grand Rapids area. Final arrangements for the conference are progressing nicely. The week's programme has been produced and is available on-line on the conference page of the BRF website (www.britishreformedfellowship.org.uk). It should be a blessed time. Those of you who just didn't manage to make it this time might consider coming in the summer of 2014, D.V.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Rev. & Mary Stewart