

# Covenant Protestant Reformed Church Ballymena, NI

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18 September, 2012



Dear saints in the  
Protestant Reformed Churches,

## **BRF Conference**

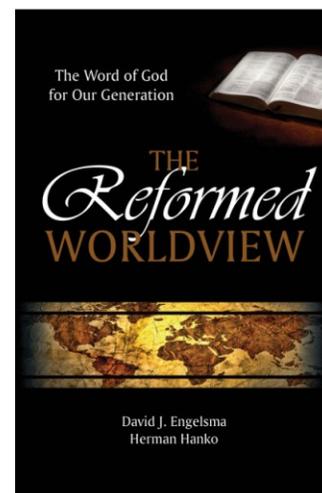
The 2012 British Reformed Fellowship (BRF) Family Conference has come and gone! For a blessed week of fellowship, speeches, activities, and rest (28 July–4 August), friends from North America (US and Canada), various parts of the British Isles, and continental Europe (France, Italy, the Netherlands and Hungary) came together to the lovely Lorne mansion near Belfast in Northern Ireland.

The number of full-time conferees was lower this time: just 59. The economic downturn made it impossible for some to attend, like the six Pinheiros from Portugal; health problems ruled out two former editors of the *British Reformed Journal*; two families from England could not make it because the conference dates clashed with wedding and work commitments; etc. On the other hand, this BRF Conference had far more day visitors and people staying over for a night or two than any of the previous eleven conferences. Over 50 people dropped by for part of the conference!

The audios of the six speeches and two Sunday sermons by Profs. Engelsma and Hanko on the theme “Ye Shall Be My Witnesses” and Rev. Martyn McGeown's special lecture on “Mission Work: Message and Methods” have been put in attractive box-sets of CDs and DVDs by Stephen Murray and are selling well. These excellent audios and videos are available free on-line in audio and video, and there are also videos of the six question-and-answer sessions

([www.britishreformedfellowship.org.uk](http://www.britishreformedfellowship.org.uk)).

During the conference, Profs. Hanko and Engelsma kindly consented to be interviewed by me concerning nine of their RFPA books. Kassandra Heynen (Hull PRC) did some of the camcorder work. The six videos are on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCD1114A5D7ABE96F](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCD1114A5D7ABE96F)) and are receiving a good number of hits. Hopefully, they will help these superb books become better known. Speaking of books, the conference also saw the unveiling of the fourth and latest BRF book, *The Reformed Worldview: The Word of God for Our Generation*. CPRC sales of it are going very well, with some buying copies for friends. The book is available from about a dozen Protestant Reformed churches or evangelism committees. The RFPA has some copies and the church in Redlands, CA, advertises it on their website ([www.hopeprc.org/book2.htm](http://www.hopeprc.org/book2.htm)).



Two of the BRF biennial general meeting's decisions will be of interest to you. First, Michael Kimmitt, due to declining health, is now the Honorary Editor (instead of Editor) of the *British Reformed Journal*, with Rev. Martyn McGeown being appointed the new Editor. (A subscription for four journals for those in North America is available through Mr. Fred Hanko, 2315 Chippewa, Jenison, MI 49428, and costs \$20.)

Second, the theme for the summer 2014 BRF Conference is "Be Ye Holy: The Reformed Truth of Sanctification." The BRF members decided on Scotland as the preferred country for the 2014 Conference. At present, we think that the most suitable venue there is Gartmore House, a magnificent eighteenth-century country mansion near beautiful Loch Lomond in Scotland (Saturday 26 July–Saturday, 2 August, 2014). They are offering us a good price, but they have a requirement regarding numbers. If you would consider attending, could you please check out their website (<http://gartmorehouse.com>) and e-mail me to indicate your degree of interest ([pastor@cprc.co.uk](mailto:pastor@cprc.co.uk))?



### CPRC

Before this summer's BRF Conference, we held a barbecue at the manse for the congregation and friends, plus believers from the US, Canada, and Italy already in Northern Ireland. We had a great night (27 July). To get the place ready, some friends from the church graciously helped us with replacing fence posts, painting the fence, trimming bushes, etc.

Profs. Engelsma and Hanko stayed in Northern Ireland for some days after the BRF Conference and preached seven times on four Lord's Day for the CPRC (29 July and 5, 12, and 19 August). This was of great encouragement to the congregation and we also had some visitors. The latter was in part because the two local papers (*Ballymena Guardian* and *Ballymena Times*) published an article, along with photos, that I sent them on the two professors speaking in the CPRC. The provincial *News Letter* also printed a short notice.

In the last couple of months, the congregation received two members. Emilia Rose, the third daughter of Gareth and Leona Halliday, was baptised (22 July), and Jennifer Hanko's membership was transferred from Lynden PRC. With Julian Kennedy's retirement from full-time work, he and his wife, Marie, have agreed to be the caretakers of our church building. Last night, Brian Crossett was reinstalled as an elder.

The new church season has started. On Monday night, three catechism classes began; this year we have nine catechumens. On Tuesday morning, we began a study on "The Millennium," and Wednesday night saw the resumption of our *Belgic Confession* class, with Article 16 on "Eternal Election." The men's Bible study continued over the summer, and the ladies' discussion group resumes this Friday.

### Others

Since my last bi-monthly letter, I gave a lecture in South Wales on "The New Testament Teaching on the Last Days" (18 July). There was good fellowship, attendance, and interest.

Reviews of Prof. Engelsma's *Federal Vision: Heresy at the Root* have been published in *Peace and Truth*, the *British Reformed Journal* (by Timothy Spence), and the *English Churchman* (by John Hooper). Felipe Sabino from Brazil had his review of Prof. Engelsma's *The Reformed Faith of John Calvin* printed in the *English Churchman*, which also carried a critique I wrote for them of a premillennial booklet by J. C. Ryle. We find the reviews helpful in selling books, and we also put them on-line ([www.cprc.co.uk](http://www.cprc.co.uk)).

Balint, whom we met for the first time at the BRF Conference, was our top translator in this past couple of months, with eight Hungarian pieces. The other recent additions are 2 Vietnamese creeds, 2 Portuguese, 2 Afrikaans, and 1 Danish.

The work of the Lord here continues and grows by God's grace. Along with the external and observable activities mentioned in this letter, the Holy Spirit uses the Word to build up the saints, extend the kingdom, and prevail against the gates of hell. May the Lord be with you all.

In Christ,  
**Rev. & Mary Stewart**