

Autumn 2013

Good News

Working to see what Christ is going to do in Scotland tomorrow!

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST - HIS GLORY AS MEDIATOR

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF MR DONNIE MACKINNON

A DIFFERENT TAKE - THE MYSTERY OF PROVIDENCE

NEWS - CAMPS, WEEKENDS, MEN UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY

SEMESTER IN SCOTLAND - BLOG POST

RPCS YOUNG PEOPLE ON GO TEAMS

RP MISSION TEAM TO UGANDA

RPCS 2013 REFORMATION TOUR QUOTES

MAN TO MAN & WOMAN TO WOMAN



STIRLING REFORMED FELLOWSHIP



Service Times: 10.45 am & 5.45 pm (weekly)

Mayfield Community Centre

Sunnybank Road, Stirling FK7 0DB

Rev Donnie Mackinnon, minister of Stirling Reformed Fellowship, warmly invites you to the services each Sunday in the **Mayfield Community Centre** (next to St Ninian's Health Centre).



Reformed Presbyterian
Church of Scotland

"Be Still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

Good News

'Good News' is the official church magazine of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland and is published four times a year. The goal of the publication is simple, to inform and encourage those who are either participating or interested in the life of the RPCS. www.rpscotland.org

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contents

page 2	Stirling Reformed Fellowship
page 3	Editorial
page 4	The Glories of Christ
page 5	Mr Donnie Mackinnon
page 6	Craig Scott in America
page 7	Reformation Tours
page 8	A Different Take - Providence
pages 9-12	News
page 13	Semester In Scotland - Blog Post
page 14	Go Teams
page 15	RP Mission Team Uganda
page 16	Reformation History
page 17	Man To Man
page 18	Stephen McCollum in Airdrie
page 19	Woman to Woman
page 20	Scottish RP Theological Seminary

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Good News

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And what you have heard from
me in the presence of
many witnesses entrust to
faithful men who will be able
to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

One of the signs of a healthy church is the character, conviction, and courage of its membership and leaders. One of the signs of a healthy denomination is whether it is, by the grace of God, entrusting the gospel to faithful men, who are then called by Christ to teach others those same truths.

For the past 150 years the RPCS has not undertaken this task of teaching such faithful men. The reasons for this: A lack of such faithful men? A lack of vision and expectation on the part of the leadership that Christ will build His Church? A fear of the impact such men might have on the church? Whatever the reasons, and without a serious historical consideration one can do little more than speculate, the fact remains that the Scottish RP Church has relied heavily on both the Irish and North American RP Churches for ministers throughout the past 130 years. Without this ministerial investment and the often accompanying financial support, the RPCS would have struggled to have survived. The Lord provided for her though through these churches, and for that we are genuinely thankful.

Now He has moved us forward, a small step, to the point where we are able to begin training Scotsmen for the ministry once again. This does not mean that our need of manpower and financial support from the RPCI and RPCNA are at an end, far from it, but it does mean that God is now beginning to provide potential ministerial fruit in addition to the conversion and sanctification fruit of recent years. A cause for thanksgiving!

Yours In Christ,

Andrew

Rev. Andrew Quigley

Ordination and Induction of Mr Donnie Mackinnon

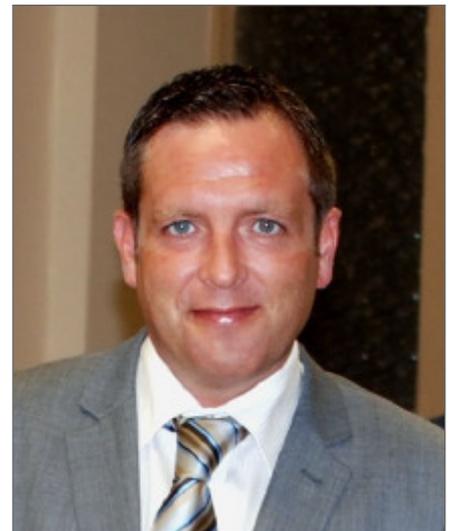
On Friday the 30th August, Mr Donnie Mackinnon, a licentiate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland, was ordained and inducted as organising minister of the new Stirling RP church plant.

The service of ordination and induction was held at Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church. Beside the members of Presbytery, there were many there from the Airdrie, Glasgow, North Edinburgh, and Stornoway congregations as well as visitors from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, the Free Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, Continuing, and other churches.

Rev. Kenneth Stewart, the moderator of Presbytery, gave the charge to Mr

Mackinnon and the congregation. Preaching from 2 Timothy 4, he powerfully set out the work of the minister in preaching the Word, reproof, rebuking, and exhorting with patience and teaching. Rev. Andrew Quigley, the Presbytery Clerk, put the ordination vows to Mr Mackinnon. Mr Mackinnon was then ordained to the Biblical office of the Ministry and inducted as the organising Minister of the new RP church plant in Stirling through prayer by Rev. Donald Macdonald and the laying on of hands by the members of the RPCS Presbytery.

After the service a light supper was served and people had time to enjoy each other's company and rejoice in what God is doing. Presentations



were then made to Rev. Donnie Mackinnon, his wife, Karen, and his son, Samuel. Mr Mackinnon then thanked his family, those who had been a great help to him in his preparation for the ministry, and the Glasgow Session for their oversight and care of him as a licentiate.

Please pray for Mr Mackinnon and his family as he commences his work as the organising minister of the new RP church plant in Stirling.



Members of the RPCS Presbytery who participated in the ordination and induction of Mr Donnie Mackinnon

The Glories of Christ:

His Glory as Mediator

In past studies we have considered the Lord Jesus as divine, human, and sinless, but it is essential to recognise that these two natures were united in the one person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was this sinless God/man who was appointed by God to be the mediator between God and men.

It is a sad fact that many people in our world believe that if there is a God he is some kind of benevolent grandfather figure that they can ignore for most of their life and then call on him to help when they have a particular need. There is no concept of the eternal, sovereign God whose power is infinite, whose wisdom is unsearchable, whose majesty is incomparable and whose judgements inevitable. They have no idea that there is a vast gulf of enmity that separates man from God, a gulf that man is totally incapable of bridging. There is no way that man can reach up to God even if he should wish to do so. If sinful man is to know anything of God except his wrath, condemnation and displeasure, he needs somebody who is able to bridge the gap that exists – he needs a mediator. A mediator is one who intervenes between two parties to make or restore peace and friendship. This is absolutely necessary in the case of God and sinful men.

Scripture teaches that God is absolutely holy, ‘your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and you cannot look on wickedness with favour’ (Habakkuk 1:13). Man, in contrast, is described as being totally depraved. That does not mean that every person is as bad as they possibly could be, but that every part of his being is corrupt in the sight of a holy God. Man is conceived in sin and ‘brought forth in iniquity’ (Psalm 51:5); his heart is ‘full of

evil and insanity’ (Ecclesiastes 9:3), and is ‘deceitful above all things’ (Jeremiah 17:9). Because of the condition of his heart, man is at war with God. Paul makes this clear when he told the church in Rome that sinful man cannot please God because ‘the sinful mind is hostile to God’ (Romans 8:7-8). It is no surprise, therefore to read that ‘God is angry with the wicked every day’ (Psalm 7:11).

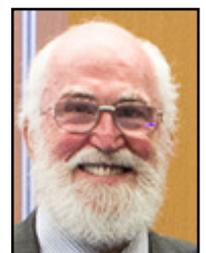
There needs to be a very special kind of mediator to be able to bridge such an enormous gulf. God requires that all men keep his holy law, and that to break the smallest part is to break the whole law (James 2:10), so the mediator must be able to keep the law of God perfectly. God is righteous and cannot simply overlook breaches of his law; sin must be punished, ‘the wages of sin is death’ (Rom. 6:23). Not only so, but because the offense is against an eternal God, the punishment will also be endless. The mediator therefore must have no sin of his own to be able to pay the penalty for others, and to be an eternal being whose sacrifice will have eternal efficacy. It is impossible that any mortal man would be able to serve as mediator between God and his fellow men – there is an absolute need for the mediator to be divine.

If all that was required for the mediator was to be without sin, the task could perhaps have been performed by one of the holy angels, but there is another indispensable requirement. As the offenses have been committed by men, the one who stands between God and sinful men must also be human. The mediator is to represent sinful men without participating in their sin. The writer of Hebrews speaks of the Lord Jesus

Christ being made like his brothers so ‘that he might make atonement for the sins of the people’ (Heb. 2:17). The mediator was to be the ‘second Adam’. Just as man ‘fell’ through the sin of the first Adam, so men would be ‘made righteous’ through the obedience and sacrifice of the second Adam (Rom. 5:12-20). The mediator who was to represent sinful men had to be like those he came to represent – truly human and fully obedient to the same divine law that every other human being had broken (Gal. 4:4-5). Though not breaking the law himself, he had to suffer the penalty of the broken law for those he represented. This truly human mediator was to enter fully into the experiences, frustrations, sufferings, and temptations that are common to all men, with the sole exception of sin.

These conditions could not be met by angels on the one hand or by a mere human on the other. There was only one way in which sinful men could have any hope of being reconciled to God; the gulf could only be bridged by one who was both truly God and truly man. When God sent His beloved son into the world He sent Him as the God/man, the divine and human natures existing in the one person of Jesus, the Messiah.

The Lord Jesus Christ is glorious as God, and He is glorious as the perfect man, but for the child of God He is supremely glorious as ‘the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men’ (1 Tim. 2:5).



Rev. Tim Donachie

Craig Scott My Summer in the



The Lord's blessing continues to astound me. Even though I am sitting writing this report, I still cannot believe that I have just spent 9 weeks in the United States on placement. I am cut from the cloth where a week down the Ayrshire coast is an exotic holiday, so to serve across the big pond is an experience I will never forget. During my time on placement I truly believe I have grown as a Christian, and it has cemented my confidence in the call to the ministry. Our Lord's promise to the church is '...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' (Matt. 28:20), and throughout the 9 weeks I truly saw Christ in the lives of His people.

After spending my first weekend at Second RPC in Indianapolis, I travelled to the 2013 RPCNA Synod. There were over 200 delegates present, and the welcome from everyone I met was amazing. The business went smoothly, and there were several items that were of interest to me, but the standout was the missions committee. There are currently over 20 missions, plants, and preaching stations active throughout North America. The missionary work is also being carried out abroad as well as at home. It was exciting to hear about the missions in Asia, South Sudan, Japan, and South America. To paraphrase Rev. David Karoon, 'sometimes we in Scotland view our parish as our world, whereas we ought to view the world as our parish.'

Topeka, Kansas was the main hub of my internship where I served under Pastor Brad Johnston. The congregation were incredibly welcoming and gracious towards me. During my internship I preached a series entitled 'Bound for Glory' and gave a 6-part lecture series on the Second Reformation in Scotland. It was a joy

to proclaim the glory of God in covenant salvation, blessing, and cursing. Speaking twice on the Sabbath (sometimes three times) was very much a challenge, but I always felt the guidance of the Spirit as I sought after precious time to study.

I learned a lot under the godly guidance of the Topeka elders as there were a few pastoral challenges present in the congregation. Studying in an academic environment can leave one short on practical experience, but after 8 weeks in Topeka I believe I have gained such valuable



experience during the internship. I am truly grateful to everyone in the congregation for the love, honesty, and kindness shown to me. Throughout my life I hope to keep in contact with the many friends I have made in the Sunflower State.

Part of my internship was to counsel at two RPCNA family camps. The first was at Horn Creek, Colorado; the second was in Iowa. I was nervous at counselling at the camps due to lack of experience, but after both camps I gained the invaluable experience that I needed. Every day there were lectures and the counsellors

were to engage the youth in reflection and discussion. This was a time of spiritual growth as we discussed 'What happened on the cross?' (Horn Creek), and the 'Coming of the King in Matthew' (Iowa). The lectures were full of meat, and the discussions were beneficial to us all. During the camps there was also time for fellowship. Every day I would sit with ministers and spend hours discussing the things of Christ. I was richly blessed by their wisdom and love for Christ. I received many contact details and D.V. will keep in contact with the many men that I fellowshiped with.

The United States is simply massive! The distance that people drive is crazy, but I thought I would put this to the test in the context of a conference. Pastor Johnston asked me if there was anything I would like to do whilst I was in the States. The only thing that really excited me was if I could attend the Puritan & Reformed Seminary Conference in Grand Rapids. This was granted as we drove the 12 hours from Topeka to Michigan. I absolutely loved my time here listening to powerful sermons from men I listen to regularly on the internet. I love P&R for their emphasis on confessional theology and experiential preaching. This was the cherry on top for a most wonderful internship as I once again had fellowship with many brothers in Christ.

I praise the Lord for all that He does for me, and the opportunity to serve in Topeka was wonderful. I will never forget all the experiences and believe I have come home with a renewed zeal for Christ and for the gospel to be proclaimed in Scotland with the prayer of John Knox; 'give me Scotland or I die!'

Craig Scott
Student for the RPCS Ministry



In 2013 there have been 15 Reformation Tours over 44 days for a total of over 300 people.

Here are quotes from letters received from some of those who were on these Tours:

"To hear about the Scottish Covenanters defending their faith to the point of death puts our struggles into perspective and helps us to realise the brevity of life."

Eleanor McCollum

"Reformation Tours helped me see how the Covenanters and blood of the martyrs became the seeds of the church."

James Sauereisen

"Our experience with Scottish Reformation Tours exceeded every expectation. This is the most meaningful and moving vacation we have ever taken."

Paul and Lisa Medved

"Please accept our thanks once more for the great Reformation Tours you provided, both in St Andrews as well as in Edinburgh. It was definitely the highlight of our two week visit to Scotland, and I can highly recommend it to anyone that is visiting your beautiful country and has any interest in the Reformation history of Scotland.

What a spiritual blessing the Lord has poured out upon Scotland in the past, but how this has been through incredible suffering and bloodshed, is something that every Christian must know about.

Keep up the good work of telling other about this, and it is our wish that the Lord will continue to bless your endeavours."

Peter & Nellie Van Oort

"We would highly recommend SRT to anyone interested in Covenanter sites or the Reformation history of Scotland."

Steven and Betty Anderson

"I've been doing these Tours for 25 years, and Jimmy Fisher is the best Tour Guide I've ever had."

Dr. Marshall Foster



One of the Tour parties



verse (though we continue to use such language from our earth-bound perspective). We are delivered from so many of the fears and burdens of those whose world is the product of blind chance, a place that is without purpose, a succession of events that has no rhyme or

contribute to the unfolding of the purpose of God. One of the great Puritans, John Flavel, wrote a treatise entitled *The Mystery of Providence*, first published in 1678. The title is well chosen. For finite and still sinful creatures like us much of the working of divine providence is a mystery. Often in the midst of some overwhelming experience the Christian's question is 'Why?' It's not usually asked in unbelief or in a rebellious spirit, but the question is real and heartfelt. We crave answers - we believe there are reasons for God's providential dealing with us - we long to have some small insight so as to ease our pain. The honest answer in such circumstances, however, is often 'I don't know.' Of course we know in general. We know the 'big picture. We don't, however, know the way in which God's purpose is served by these precise events.

The Mystery of Providence

The doctrine of divine providence is full of comfort and reassurance for Christians. How good it is to know that our God 'works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will' (Ephesians 1:11). The Creator is also the Governor of all that He has made. He is in control of all that takes place, with the result that His glorious, eternal purpose is worked out in every detail. Whilst many of our plans never come to fruition, the Lord is never frustrated or disappointed by the way in which events turn out, since he planned them thus from eternity. He is not taken by surprise, as we often are; He is not forced to find some 'Plan B' when His preferred option proves to be impossible.

We can therefore rest content in the knowledge that the Lord makes no mistakes and that there are, in a profound sense, no 'accidents' in His uni-

reason. Whatever 'meaning' their lives have must be the product of their own minds, an exercise in self-delusion and wishful thinking. The Christian knows he does not control the future, but is content to leave it in the hands of his all-wise and infinitely loving Lord. It could not possibly be in better hands. The goal of existence for the child of God is also clear: it is that we 'might be for the praise of his glory' (Ephesians 1:12). What higher end could our existence serve? What greater privilege could be granted to those who are saved by God's wonderful grace?

Providence is indeed most comforting and reassuring. And yet an acceptance of the doctrine, firmly rooted as it is in the Word of God, does not answer all the questions that life throws at us. There are many times when events and experiences leave us perplexed, unsure how these things

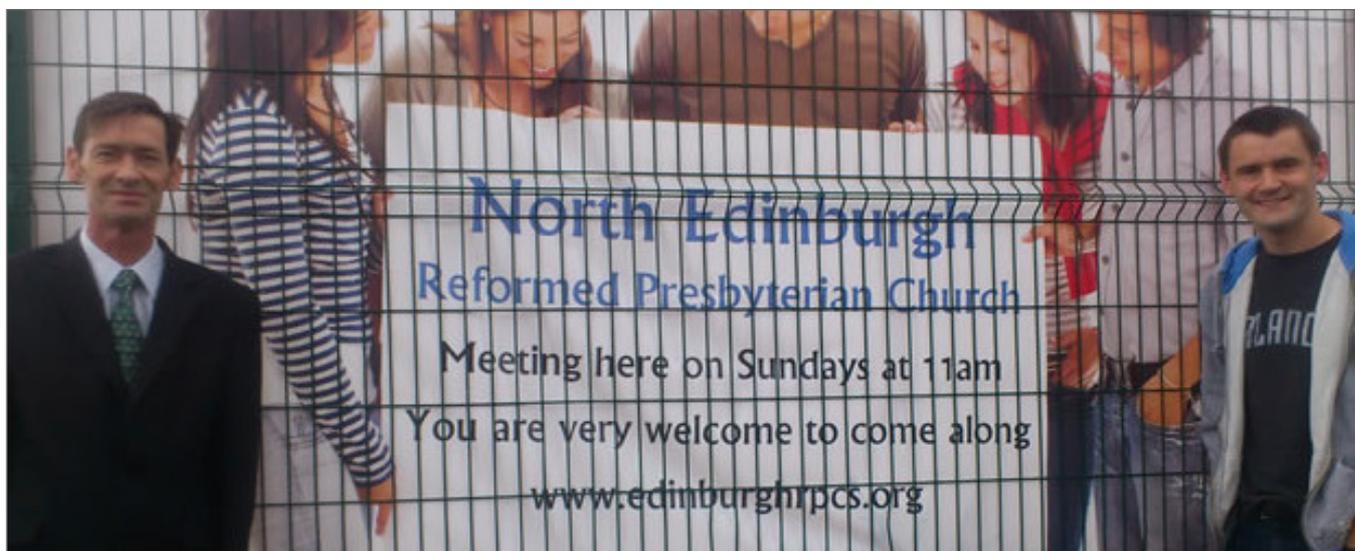
If we are honest (and sometimes Christians fear they are dishonouring God if they are), we all experience unanswerable questions about God's providential dealing with His people. Sometimes in life things happen for which there are no easy answers. However the fact is the Lord does not make mistakes, and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



Rev. Dr. David McKay
Shaftesbury Square RPCI
Belfast, N. Ireland

NEWS

North Edinburgh RP Church plant



New Church Sign at Craigroyston School

We are pleased that the Craigroyston Community High School where we meet has given us permission to put up a banner on the school fence advertising our worship services.

We're very thankful for the ongoing opportunity to be able to use the school's excellent facilities. We are grateful too for the professionalism of their staff and the good relationship we have with them.

Please pray that people will see the new banner and will come to services.

(Pictured: Mr Leslie Russell, Business Manager at Craigroyston Community High School, with Rev. Peter Loughridge)

Summer visitors from the Airdrie and Glasgow RP Congregations

Once again, as last year, during the months of July and August we received weekly visitors from Airdrie and Glasgow.

The purpose of this was to help boost our own numbers a little when some of our students are away over the summer months. It also helps practically with things like the singing and having people there who can speak to other visitors. More than this, it is a very real and visible expression of the support, and love, and prayers that we know we receive from the other congregations in our

church. It means a lot to us and we want to thank our sister congregations for encouraging us and helping us in this way.

Wedding of David & Kirsty Ferrier

We thank God for His goodness to David Ferrier and Kirsty Irving as they were married on Friday 9th August in Glasgow RPCS.

We also thank God for His kindness in providing them with a home and jobs in the Edinburgh area. We look forward to them continuing their participation in the life of our church as a married couple, and we pray for God's blessing on them as they settle into married life together.



NEWS

RPCS Young People at Camps



On the 27th July, 7 young people from the Airdrie and Glasgow RP Churches set off for a week at the Irish RP Camps. Calvin Quigley and Andrew Turnbull were at Boys Adventure Camp in Newtownards; Adam Smith was at Boys Discovery Camp in Armagh; and Jessica Muir, Caitlin Nichol, Catherine Quigley, and Emily Robertson were at Girls Discovery Camp in Coleraine. 4 of the 7 were going to Camp for the first time ever.

These Camps are run by the Irish RP Church and have proved over the years to be a great blessing to the Scottish RP young people.

We asked the young people 3 questions about their time at camp – what their favourite activity was, something that stood out to them from the talks, and their favourite overall thing about camp. Here are their responses:

Calvin Quigley – My favourite activity was when we went to the Belfast Activity Centre where they had a climbing wall and a vertical obstacle course. The talks were on Love, Obedience, Faith, Prayer, Humility, and Service. Some of the things I remember from the talks were that a true man loves a woman, loves his friends, loves his family, and loves Christ. On the talk on ‘Faith’, they said that we really need to study God’s Word for faith, and I liked Hebrews 11:1 and how the things you’re hoping for you don’t always see coming. On the talk on ‘Humility’, I remembered this quote: “Humility is the earth in which all the graces of godliness grow.” On the talk on ‘Prayer’, I really liked how they said we should pray because of who we are and who God is. My favourite part about camp is just being with all the other boys and meeting new people.

Andrew Turnbull – My favourite activities were squad games. One of the things I really learned from the talks was that we all must make a sacrifice as Christians, like no sport on Sundays or different friends. My favourite part about camp was the experience of being together and the talks.

Adam Smith – My favourite activity was tubing. The talks were on Jesus’ Seven ‘I Am’s’ in John. One of the things that really stuck out to me was that Jesus is the way to Heaven. My favourite part about camp was the discussion group.

Jessica Muir – My favourite activity was lasertag. The talks were on Esther. One of the things I learned in the talks was how to become wise and what it means to be wise. I liked everything about camp.

Caitlin Nichol – My favourite activity was horse riding. They made the story of Esther quite clear. My favourite part about camp was meeting new people.

Catherine Quigley – My favourite activity was horse riding. I don’t remember hearing about Esther before, so I liked hearing about her. My favourite thing about camp was the horse riding.

Emily Robertson – My favourite activity was horse riding too. The talks were really good as they explained each step in the story really well as it happened. My favourite part about camp was being able to meet new people who were Christians as well.

NEWS

Airdrie RP Church Weekend



The Airdrie RP Church Family Weekend took place the 9th-11th August. This was the first church family weekend we've had in about five years. Unlike other church weekends this one was non-residential, but like our other church weekends from the past it was a great time of fellowship, fun, and growing together as a congregation.



The weekend started on Friday night with a BBQ at Drumpellier Park followed by an informal football game and lots of fun at the play park.

On Saturday we met at the church hall for breakfast and then travelled to Beechraigs Country Park. Stephen McCollum gave his first of three talks on the subject of Christian Adoption. He set out the glorious reality of the believer in Christ being adopted into the family of God. After the talk we had lunch, and then it was off to the play park for the younger children, walks for

others, or just sitting around and chatting over coffee and tea. Then it was off to Calderbank Community Centre back in Airdrie for our evening meal and entertainment.



On the Lord's Day Stephen preached in the morning on the privileges of being an adopted child of God. After the morning service we all enjoyed a congregational lunch. Then we travelled to Peden's Stone in Harthill for a conventicle

service. Despite the intermittent heavy rain, nearly the full congregation came together to worship God at this historic location and listen to Stephen's third sermon on the responsibilities of being a child of God. It was a really great weekend and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



NEWS

Men Taken Under Care

At an RPCS Presbytery meeting held on the 31st August, Mr Gary Gunn and Mr Craig Scott were examined by Presbytery following their application to be taken under care of Presbytery.

Conscious of its responsibility both to these two men and to the church, the Presbytery gave serious consideration to these applications. Having asked both men a number of questions and then deliberated on the respective applications, the Presbytery agreed to take the two men 'under care' and to grant them a provisional license to preach. This means that they have the Presbytery's permission to preach for the duration of their training, but they are not eligible to receive a call from a congregation to be a minister in the Church.

Both men will now begin their respective periods of training at the Scottish RP Theological Seminary, and we would encourage the church to be in prayer for these men as they train for the task which, God willing, awaits them.



Craig Scott and Gary Gunn

Glasgow Sabbath School Outing

On Saturday the 29th June, Glasgow RPCS had their annual Sabbath School outing to the Gillies' home. Everyone had a great time!



extract from the student blog

It has been three weeks to the day that we left our homes stepping out of the proverbial boat to enter these uncertain waters we call Scotland. This is the first time that I have left the country before or even been away from home for more than a month's time for that matter. If I might say, I was a little nervous about it, though I knew that it was God's will for me to be here, and His people have confirmed that for me. One of the three things (I'll get to the other two later, don't worry) that have really stuck out to me is the love of His church here in Airdrie. From the first Sunday till today we have been smothered with love by the people of the church. Every Sunday people would almost line up to introduce themselves to us, to let us know that they have been praying for us to arrive safely, and that they'd be praying for us in our studies while we're here. Someone new makes us a meal on Sunday afternoon, and on Wednesday someone new will take us out to see the beauty of Scotland, sometimes bringing us home after for dinner.

In September we went to a retreat in Northern Ireland that Andrew was speaking at for the young adults of the RP Church. Considering the fact that we didn't know anyone when we came to this country, it was safe to say that we wouldn't know anyone going to this new one. Most of the young adults there knew each other from other events that the church holds, so they knew that we weren't from the area. In America you might get a leader of the event come introduce themselves,

but many more people than just the leaders came and introduced themselves. We made a lot of new friends this past weekend, and at least I can say that I felt very welcomed there. It is just a beautiful picture to me of what I think Christ wants His church to look like. When Jesus was travelling around during His ministerial years He didn't shy away from those that didn't belong, He welcomed them in and spent time with them and ate with them (Luke 19:1-10). I look forward to continuing to grow in this community God has placed me in.

The second thing that has stuck out to me here is the desire for our growth in knowledge, particularly from Rev. Andrew Quigley. Andrew is the lead professor here and has set the tone of our studies. Our studies (and yes it may be hard to believe that we study with all the pictures of our adventures on the blog, but we do I promise) are much different than our classes in America. The way it works is we have time to read for seminars in the morning then after lunch we have discussion about what we read. The program is very focused on our personal growth in knowledge so that our lives might be changed to be more like what Christ calls us to be, and that we might better serve Him. It is very evident to me that this is the reason this program exists, to glorify God.

The third thing that stuck out to me when I got here was the beauty. Something that I began to notice more over the summer was God's creativity. I worked at a summer camp in the middle of the woods and I was



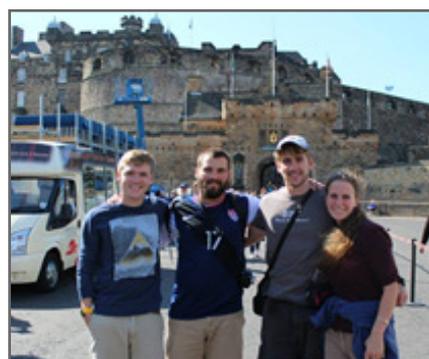
Semester in Scotland

to find out more about the Semester in Scotland programme check out the website semesterinscotland.org

surrounded by God's creation, so I made it my goal to be more observant of it and more appreciative. Little did I know what I was going to see when I got here. Simply driving to the different castles we've visited would have been enough for me. Everywhere you look there are beautiful rolling hills covered in a mixture of farms and woods. A comment one of my classmates made to another, I think is a great testament to God's creativity and power. He said, "I will never understand how one just speaks and makes that," in reference to the mountains we saw off in the distance.

This time we've had here already has been a great testament to God. To His loving church that welcomed us in like family to the passion for us to grow He has put in Andrew and all those that make this program happen, to His beautiful creation He has surrounded us with. I look forward to the next thirteen weeks God has blessed us with here.

Timothy Wolff



for weekly student updates visit the SIS blog semesterinscotland.wordpress.com



Galway Go Team

The Galway Go Team commenced on the 20th July 2013. The Hamiltons, Billy & his wife Mary, have been in Galway since 1991 and have been at the coal face of evangelism there ever since. Their 2 boys, Michael and Patrick, were to join myself, Ruth Greer, Anselm McDonnell, Phil Aicken, Reuben McCollum, and Sarah McCulloch on this year's team (Rebekah Kerr arrived on the Tuesday). Peter Jemphrey has been the Pastor there for over a year and has quickly settled into his work there. His wife Jenny and 4 children, Thomas, Rachel, Christopher, and Timothy, were also a big part of the week.

Each morning would open with Bible study on 1st Corinthians, then in the afternoons there was a mix of leaflet distribution of the 4you magazine, some questionnaires in Galway city centre, and bookshop duty in the Aisling Christian Bookshop. Mr Hamilton would do street preaching in the evening, and the team were charged with creating a crowd around this to get others interested. The main event of the week was a public talk/conference on the subject of "All Religions Lead to God – Don't They?" The invitations for this were to be posted to people with 4you magazine.

The Lord's Day morning Mr. Jemphrey preached on Luke 15, the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin. There was a church lunch afterwards, and it was wonderful to get to speak to many people of all ages in their congregation. The Galway Covenant Fellowship, as the church is known, has perhaps 30 or 40 people attending, and a variety of ages, races, backgrounds, and experiences. It was wonderful to speak to them all if only for a short time. The team were introduced one by one, and I was also encouraged by the interest and prayers said for the church in Scotland and our own congregations there.

The Go Team week was a wonderful blessing to me, mixing with Christians from different RP churches was quite enjoyable, and the Lord showed me that through Him, He will give power to those who wish to proclaim His word.

Jonny Malseed, Glasgow RPCS

Letterkenny GO Team

On the 17th of August I set off on the long journey from Glasgow to Letterkenny to take part in the GO Team. I was looking forward to being involved in God's work there and hoped to learn more about church planting and the RP Church in Ireland.

As I had been warned, the week was a busy one! However, although the afternoons and evenings were filled with leaflet distribution, door to door outreach, psalm singing in a local care home and community service, the mornings always began with a time of prayer. After this time of prayer Mark led seminars on apologetics. In these we discussed common objections to the Christian faith and how to respond to them Biblically. We also listened to some debates and shared experiences of our own conversations. This equipped us not just for the week but also for our personal evangelism back home.

Before the team arrived, Mark had arranged an outreach event in a local cafe. He wanted to provide Biblical answers to some of the big questions the people in the community had about God by delivering a short talk there. The team went round the houses in the nearby area asking them what these questions might be as well as inviting them to hear the answers at the event. We were hopeful that a few people we talked to would come to the event as they seemed particularly interested. When not one of them turned up, we were admittedly discouraged. Sometimes God doesn't work in the way you expect or hope for! I think this simple truth is all too evident to those involved in church planting work, but of course it applies to the rest of our lives too. The next day, we set up a stall in the shopping centre with free gospels, tracts, invitations to take part in Christianity explored courses, and pretty low expectations! But God brought two people to our table looking to start a Bible study with Mark! Our disappointment from the previous evening was lifted and we remembered that God's ways are always higher than ours.

I would really encourage others to take part in GO Teams. It's a great opportunity to serve God in His church, learn from other Christians, and to grow in Christ.

Katie Wyllie, Glasgow RPCS

RP Mission Team to Uganda



Stacy Muir
Airdrie RPCS

For a long time I have always had the desire to visit Africa and look into mission work and for God to open that door this year was such a blessing to me. I remember before I left for Uganda I was so scared and nervous. Now I could easily jump on a plane and go back. I can honestly say that a bit of me has stayed there, it sounds so cliché, but it is true. I fell in love with the place, people, and culture.

This trip has been the best missions trip I have ever done, due to the missionaries, the people, and the culture, but a huge part of my enjoyment of this trip was the wonderful ladies who joined me: Steph, Liz, Rachel, and Emily Pihl. Apart from teaching at the schools and the other girls working at the clinic, we did a number of things such as cleaning, organising, visiting villages and teaching Bible stories, going to Bible classes down in Namalu, hanging out with the missionary children and the missionaries, and teaching health lessons around villages.

During my time in Uganda I learned and grew a lot; you have to trust and rely on God a lot more, and I definitely learned that when I was there. It has opened my eyes to the needs of many people physically and spiritually, and the right way to help

them. Before I came on this trip I had the idea that handouts were really good for people, and it will help them a lot as they are “poor” and have nothing. Quickly I realised by talking with the missionaries that this idea of giving out free stuff is not good; it causes more harm than good. Another problem in Karamoja is polygamy - men have many wives in different villages and have lots of children by these wives. This causes a number of problems: first, and most importantly, it is a sin, and God does not approve of it. It also causes many fights between the wives, and some of the men have lost track of their own children. Another major issue is alcoholism - most of the Karamojans are alcoholics. This makes it hard for the mission to interact and tell them about Christ, to implement their aim of working to gain, and to build honest, trustworthy relationships. There are many other needs and issues in Uganda. Please pray for the missionaries as they seek to serve Christ in this hard culture, that God will open opportunities for them to share His Word, and that the men and woman in Karamoja will change and love Christ.

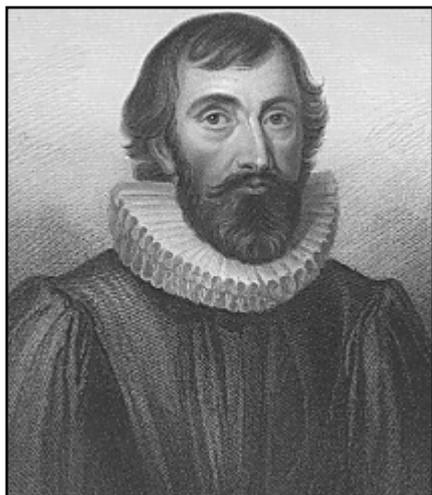
For the school programme we taught the kids about the ocean as

most of them don't have a clue what it is! Tying in with this theme, we taught Creation and the Fall, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the whale, the woman at the well, and Jesus catches fish. We wanted to show the kids how sin entered the world, how Jesus came into the world and led a perfect life, and then died for our sins so we can have eternal life. Please continue to pray for these children and their teachers as the missionaries work with them. The first week we were at a school called Nakallee where we started with four children and by the end of the week we had around 90 kids! Please pray for these children and their schools; pray that the teachers will actually teach them the meaning behind letters and numbers so that they aren't just memorising; that Nakallee school will get a roof and toilets so that the children can stay dry during rainy season; and most importantly that God will work in these two schools bringing more people to come to know Him.

I thank God every day for opening up this opportunity for me to come here, and I thank you all so much for your support and prayers. I had an amazing time in Karamoja and one day soon, God willing, I hopefully will return.

Whilst we do not live in the past, it is important to know our church history, as one prominent author has written, 'we need to be refreshed, challenged and nourished by our past.'

Reformation History



Alexander Henderson was minister at Leuchars, near St Andrews, and then in St Giles in Edinburgh. He has been described as 'easily the most important covenanting minister' but he had not even been a Christian when he became a minister in 1612! He had to climb in a window to get into his new church building as the people had locked the door. However after going secretly to hear the famous Robert Bruce preaching (on John 10:1) he was converted. After this he became a strong defender of Presbyterianism and led the opposition to the Five Articles of Perth at the General Assembly of 1618.

By February 1638, the Presbyterians in Scotland were facing accusations of treason by the king for their protests against the bishops, the Book of Canons, and the Book of Common Prayer. They decided that they needed some way of uniting together so they could stand firm against these attacks on their religion.

They agreed to renew the

Alexander Henderson

1581 King's Confession with two extra sections. These were a legal section which listed over sixty acts of Parliament (many against Roman Catholicism) which supported the Presbyterian cause and a practical application. The legal section was written by Archibald Johnston of Wariston, and the practical application by Alexander Henderson.

The National Covenant pledged those who swore it to defend the true religion against innovations such as those that had recently been introduced that were against the Bible, the teachings of the Reformers, and the acts of Parliament – and which would lead to Roman Catholicism. This desire of the covenant was to maintain 'the true worship of God, the majesty of our King, and the peace of the kingdom', for the happiness of those who swore it and their children. They also promised to live lives that showed they were in covenant with God and to be good examples to others.

The covenant was first signed at Greyfriars churchyard in Edinburgh on the 28th of February 1638, after any objections to it had been heard and answered. Within days it had been signed by the people of Edinburgh and copies were then sent around the country for other people to sign. Signing the covenant was not rebellion but an appeal to the law of the land against the tyranny of

the king. To sign it was to say that Jesus Christ was the only head of the church, and so it should be free from any control by the king or the government.

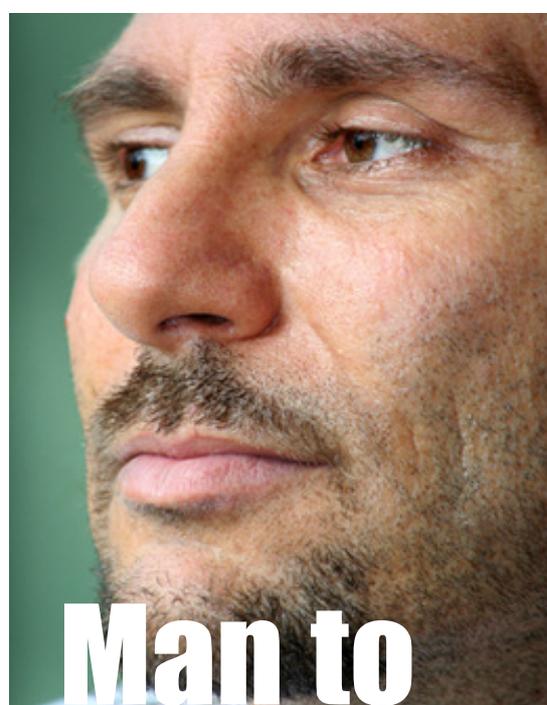
Henderson wrote one of the three sections of the National Covenant of 1638, was Moderator of the Glasgow Assembly of the same year and 'in the crucial few years that followed, his leadership cannot be overestimated'. His fellow minister Robert Baillie described him as 'incomparably the ablest man of us all for all things'. Henderson was also the main author of the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643 and one of the Scottish commissioners to the Westminster Assembly.

He died in Edinburgh in 1646 and was buried in Greyfriars kirkyard. He had been behind almost every important development in the Covenanting movement since 1637. At the General Assembly the following year, Baillie declared that Henderson 'ought to be accounted by us and posterity, the fairest ornament, after John Knox, of incomparable memory, that ever the church of Scotland did enjoy.'

Read more:

John Howie, 'Alexander Henderson' in *The Scots Worthies*
John Aiton – *The life and times of Alexander Henderson*

Stephen Steele
Student for RPCI Ministry



Man to Man

Recently I have come across a worrying trend. I have seen it in Scotland, Ireland, and America. It is not just in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, but the fact that it is in our midst is concerning. It is simply this: some of our men (and perhaps our women too) have not read through the entire Bible.

Now I make allowances for those of you who have recently become Christians. You have begun a lifelong journey of reading and studying your Bible, but it is just physically impossible that you could have read it all yet. You'll get there. Don't give up! No, I'm talking to those men who have been Christians for many years, or who grew up in covenant homes, and still haven't read through their Bibles.

How did I come to see this problem? I have had conversations with Christian young people, who have grown up in fine Christian homes, and somehow they say, "Oh, I don't really know that part of the Bible very well." This is not very surprising. An average person cannot know everything there is to know about every chapter. Even if you are

a seminary student, or a minister, there is still much to learn. God's Word is so deep that a lifetime of study still will find much treasure.

But perhaps the conversation progresses, and it becomes apparent, "Yeah, I've never read the Minor Prophets before," or, "I just skip all those parts in Leviticus."

Now hold on a minute! I have all the sympathy in the world for you if you don't understand parts of the Bible. Often I am baffled when I read Scripture. We can rejoice that even the Apostle Peter struggled to understand some of Paul's sayings (2 Peter 3:16). But don't we have a responsibility to read all of Scripture; to learn the breadth of it as well as the depth?

I have found myself speaking to men after preaching in their churches and I don't just hear, "I've never heard a sermon on that passage before," but sadly, "I've never read that book before."

Do you turn to the same parts of the Bible again and again for your personal devotions? Are you just reading the easier parts to your children in family worship? If we want to be men who are Godly and who lead our families well, surely we need to get into Scripture in its entirety. Why can we be diligent in many things but not in reading the Word of Life?

How can we defend the Bible before non Christians if we are not at least in the process of reading through the whole thing daily? How can we expect to be Godly or put to death that particular sin if we are failing to believe that ALL Scripture is breathed out by God and that it is ALL useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness? Can we really expect to be competent men, equipped for every good work if we aren't trying to understand the very Book that prepares us?

Are we teaching our children that certain parts are not important for them? Are we teaching recent converts that they have to wait until they are mature before they attempt to read Leviticus or Numbers? Surely each time we read the Bible our understanding is being built up. Little by little we learn more, we understand more, we make connections. And all the while the Spirit of God uses the Word to make us more like Christ.

Perhaps you need to find a Bible reading schedule. The internet is full of them. Perhaps you need to find time. Every day is a good place to start, and the Lord's Day is a great day for extra Bible reading. Perhaps you need someone to hold you accountable. One of your elders would be delighted to help you out. But perhaps more fundamentally you just need to see the importance of getting into the Word of God in its entirety.

As members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, we have made particular promises. We have stated before God and man that we believe that the Bible is "the infallible Word of God and the supreme rule of faith and practice" and therefore that we will diligently read it. We must take these vows seriously.

But yet it would be easy to miss that the start of each vow begins with "By grace..." At the end of the day, the only thing that will help us is the grace of God. That is why we pray for God's help before we read the Scriptures; we need God's grace. Perhaps you have never read through the Bible in its entirety even though you have had the time to do it. Don't wallow in shame, but confess your sin and throw yourself on God's grace. He will help you. Perhaps even those difficult parts will become your most treasured verses for personal meditation.

*Stephen McCollum
Student for the ministry at RPTS America*

We need to get into reading the Bible and all of it!

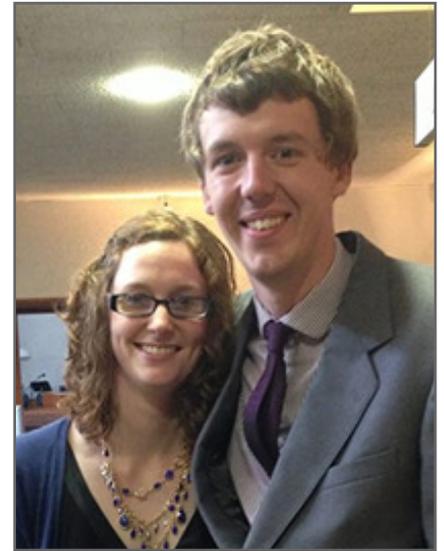
Airdrie Internship

When I came over to begin my internship in Airdrie, I knew what to expect. I knew each of the members of Session well from when I was a member of the Church. So I was excited about the opportunities, and I was excited about what I would learn.

In May and June I led the RP Missions team. You can read Elia's report in the previous edition of Good News. For me, the best part was meeting everyone. Many members in Stornoway and Glasgow were not in our church when I was here; the church plant in North Edinburgh had not begun. Since we are in the same denomination it is good to get to know each other. In July I preached in Airdrie to cover Rev. Andrew Quigley's holiday, and in August I preached when he was in Stornoway for their Communion season. I was also able to preach once in both Stranraer and North Edinburgh. I organised (with help from lots of people) and spoke at the Airdrie Church weekend in August. On top of these more prominent tasks, I had the privilege of meeting with an individual for

Bible study, sitting in on Session meetings, participating in Session prayer meetings, and having several conversations with the minister and elders that helped me think through the role of the minister.

One of the most important things that I learned was the necessity of prayer. This was something that I knew before. I grew up in a covenant home and my parents had taught me this. However, I learned this lesson in a deeper sense. Every Thursday morning the Airdrie Session meets for prayer, and so during my internship we were wrestling together in prayer. As an unordained man perhaps I had no right to be there, but I was welcomed in. I saw the heart of the leaders of the church as they prayed over many different people and situations. Scripture is clear that the shepherds of the church are to pray for the sheep; I knew this. But in my internship I experienced this. The Session prayer meeting is something that I see as crucial to the health of the church. Of course it doesn't have to look exactly like Airdrie's, but there needs



Stephen & Brenda McCollum

to be a pleading for God's grace for the sheep.

There is so much that just can't be learned in the classroom. I love all my professors at RPTS; they have taught me so much. Seminary has been a great experience. But many of my professors have said that the real growth comes by getting out there and learning from pastors as they deal with real people. They expect students to grow in gifts through summer internships which has certainly been my experience this summer.

*Stephen McCollum
Student for the ministry at RPTS America*

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a website devoted to bringing to you recordings of congregational psalm singing.

Who am I?

How do you see yourself?

The world offers two choices for how you should see yourself. On the one hand, there is the evolutionary slime option. You are nothing more than a collection of atoms who came together by chance. There is nothing special or significant or worthy in you any more than in the fly buzzing around outside. Your goal is to survive as long as possible before ceasing to exist or just give up now.

On the other hand there is the 'evolutionary top of the food chain' option. You have survived, so you must be the fittest. You are an amazing, wonderful person and the world is better just because you exist. So, love yourself, have confidence in yourself, respect yourself, and let yourself be happy for as long as possible before ceasing to exist

But let's be honest, discard the evolutionary bit at the start, and how many Christians are living these same philosophies and attitudes? I know this is a sensitive area, but just hear me out. How many Christian bookstores are filled with books about how to love yourself better, increase your self-esteem, see yourself as special, and be good to yourself? I don't wish to be unkind, but how often do we live and act and make choices and update our statuses as though the world revolved around us and we are the pinnacle of Creation. What role is Christ playing in our quest to define ourselves as "kind of a big deal". Why are we giving ourselves value outside of Christ?

But arrogance can often be an easier sin for some of us to avoid than despair. And there are too many Christian women in despair. Of course you don't think of yourself as the pinnacle of Creation, you think you're the lowest of Creation...if your theology didn't walk in and tell you to be quiet, you'd almost call yourself a

mistake. The broken record in your head spins out a daily sometimes hourly mantra of your faults, failings, and general worthlessness and often you leave the door wide open for Satan to be the DJ at this particular party. And my heart goes out to you, but I have to tell you this is still sin. Your world is still revolving around you. Inverse pride is still pride, it's not humility. You're still defining yourself outside of Christ.

So if mentally (and sadly sometimes physically) ripping yourself to shreds is just as sinful as mentally patting yourself on the back, what the solution? Is the one an antidote to the other? No! And this is one of the areas where I'm afraid we get it so wrong! We adopt the shallow solutions of the world without thinking twice. We tell the proud person he needs to see himself as nothing special and compare himself to others who are so much better than him. We tell the one in despair that she needs to love herself and be kind to herself and see herself as so much better than many others. But we're still defining ourselves with no reference to Christ.

The truth is that whenever we define ourselves outside of Christ, the result is always going to be either arrogance or despair.

Who are we in Christ? Well, for the Christian, we are made in His image, a little lower than the angels. We are part of the Creation that was pronounced good. But we are also part of the Fall that twisted and corrupted every aspect of our being. We are born dead in sin and desiring to sin and constantly sinning. But God demonstrated His great love to us even when we were His enemies by choosing us, and sending Christ to die and be resurrected for us. He has justified us, and adopted us as His sons and daughters. He sees us as right-

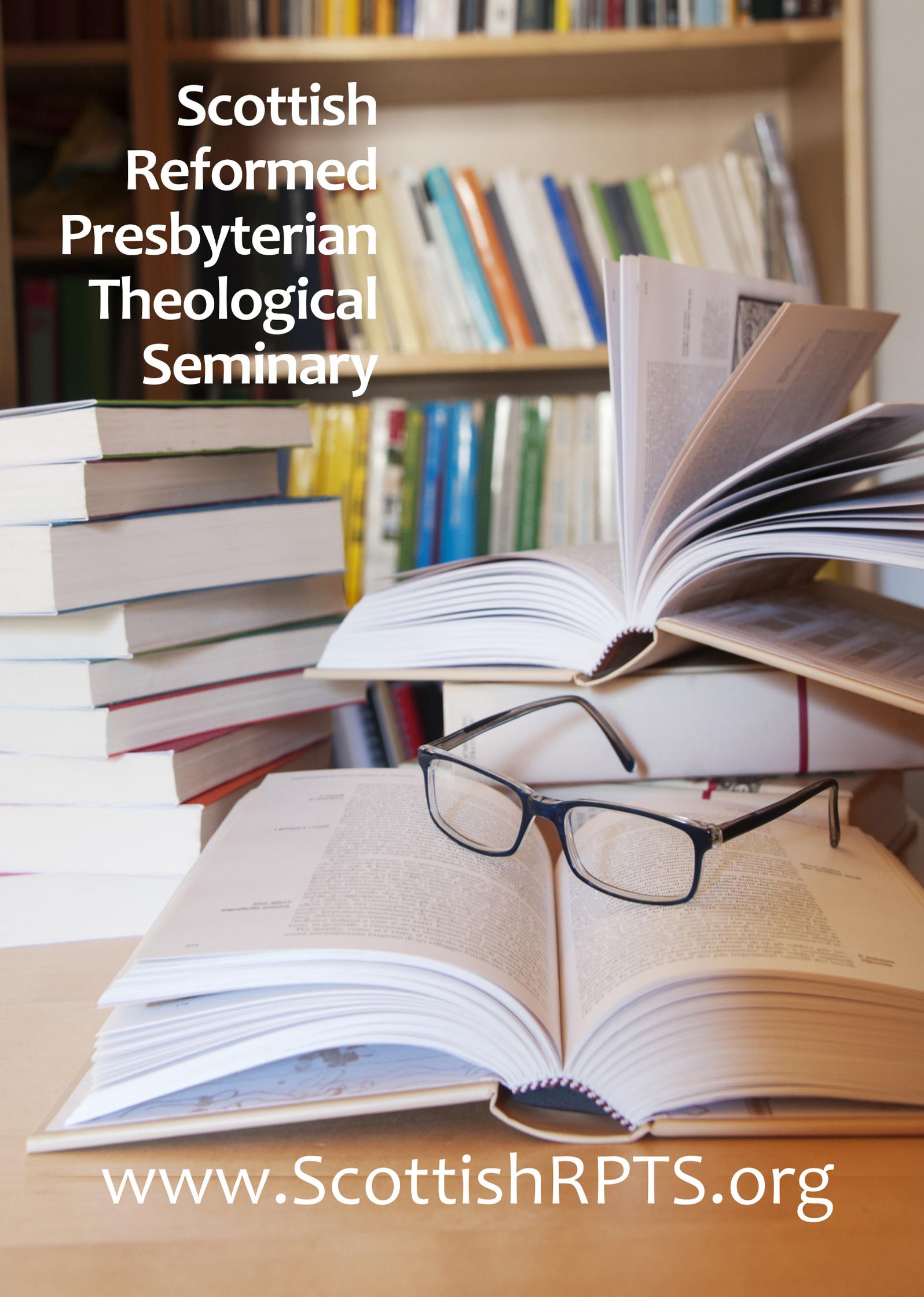


woman
to woman
not the last word!

eous in His sight because we are covered by Christ who is righteous. When our Father looks at us whom He loves, He sees not just what we were, not just what we are, but what we will be - perfect and glorified and good inwardly and outwardly for all eternity. This is how we define ourselves in Christ. The Christian has no reason for pride...we were dead in our sins, and we have nothing that we did not receive as a gift from God, but the Christian has no reason for despair... we are loved, redeemed, forgiven, adopted, and God is working good in us and will complete that work. Yes, we are a broken, sinful mess, but we are a broken, sinful mess being fixed by One who loves us.

And how does the unbeliever define himself in relation to Christ? Well, he too has no reason for pride - all good things that he has or has done have been a gift. He is broken and dead in his sins, he has no reason to boast, and every reason to fear his current status as an enemy of God. But amazingly, if He runs to Christ, he has no reason to despair. God has promised that the one who comes to Him, He will not cast out regardless of who it is or what he has done. There is hope. There is hope if you turn to Christ, trust in Him, and throw yourself on His mercy and love.

Beth Bogue,
Airdrie RPCS

A photograph of a study desk. In the foreground, a pair of black-rimmed glasses rests on an open book. To the left, a stack of several closed books is visible. In the background, a wooden bookshelf is filled with numerous books of various colors. The scene is lit with warm, natural light, creating a scholarly atmosphere.

Scottish Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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