



APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 2

SEA TO SEA

Canadian RP News



New Creation RPC

The Person and Work
of the Lord Jesus

p. 4

Interview:
Rev. Kevin Jia

p. 6

Profile:
New Creation RPC

p. 15

RP Church in
Ireland

p. 14

EDITORIAL

CONTENTS

Not long ago, events at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky have revived attention to the issue of revival in the Church. Whatever may be one's thoughts on these particular happenings, and whatever may be the genuine gospel fruit, to be encouraged to consider "revival" again and afresh is surely a good thing.

Do we not sing, *"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"* (Ps. 85:6) Just before the 100th anniversary of the 1857-59 Welsh Revival, Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote, "I am profoundly convinced that the greatest need in the world today is revival in the church of God." While the Statistics Canada website can report that "In 2021, over 19.3 million people reported a Christian religion, representing just over half of the Canadian population (53.3%)", we know that a revival of "scriptural knowledge; of vital piety; of practical obedience" is wanting. Genuine Spirit-produced, Christ-exalting, God-glorifying revival in our own lives, in our congregations, and in our country should be our earnest prayer and eager expectation. Along with the prophet Habakkuk we pray, *"O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy."* (Hab. 3:2).

I am praying that "Sea to Sea" will be a testimony to God's reviving work in his Church. And I trust that it will also be used by God to stir us up, by his grace, to pray and work for the progress, peace, purity, and prosperity of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!"* (Ps. 72:6-8)



BY REV. MATT KINGSWOOD
Minister of the Russell RPC

3 RPCC Formation Service - Friday
May 12th

4 Person and Work of The Lord
Jesus by Rev. Allan McLeod

6 Interview with Rev. Kevin Jia of
Nissi RP Church

7 Mr. Joel Vedder reviews 'The
Glory of Christ' by John Owen

8 News: Winterlude Youth
Weekend

10 Living a Good Life? by Mr. Colin
Postma

12 Biblical Anthropology by Mr. Jim
Hughes

14 Reformed Presbyterian Church
in Ireland

15 Profile of New Creation RP
Church in Kitchener, Ontario

General Editor: Rev. Matt Kingswood
Features Editor: Mr. Jim Hughes
News Editor: Mrs. Karin Foster

magazine@rpccanada.org

All Bible quotations are from the ESV





THE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
CANADA

The Formation of the RPCC

what happens next?

7pm, Friday 12th May 2023

Public Worship will be held, God willing,
in Ottawa RPC, at which the following will happen.

- The Pastors and Ruling Elders of the church will be asked to give their public assent to the RPCC Vows of Office,
- The Deacons in the church will be asked to take vows affirming their willingness to abide by the contents of this Constitution.
- The communicant member's present will be given the opportunity to give their assent to the terms of membership of the RPCC.



THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS

In this series of articles, we are considering the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus. We began by examining the Uniqueness of his Person. He is the God- Man: totally God and totally man, united in one Person.

Therefore, as unique in his Person, it follows that he is unique in his Life. And that is the testimony of Scripture.

Firstly, the Old Testament makes prophetic pronouncements as to what will distinguish this unique life.

Amongst these are:

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Zechariah 11:12-13. And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"— the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

Psalms 16:8-10 I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

Psalms 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

In these passages we find a life which will include the accomplishment of his Father's will, a violent and horrific death, vicarious suffering, betrayal by a friend, resurrection from the dead, ascension, and sitting at the Father's right hand.

For millennia, prophecy was made which Jesus in the uniqueness of his life, totally fulfilled. Of no one else can this be said.

Secondly, the uniqueness of His life is seen in the words he spoke.

We all know that the words we speak, how we say them, when we say them, and to whom we say them, reveal much about us as individuals. That can either be for good or bad. The words Jesus spoke were always for God's glory and the good of his people. Likewise, the way he spoke and to whom he spoke revealed him to be without any contradiction, "*Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*" 1 Corinthians 1:24

For instance, we read in John 7 that the Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus. But they returned without Jesus. When asked why they hadn't arrested him, they replied,

John 7:46 "No one ever spoke like this man!"

His gracious words disarmed the officers who were sent to arrest him.

His tender words brought comfort and hope to those whom the law condemned.

John 8:3-5 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?"

John 8:10-11 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said,

"No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

His tough words were for those who saw themselves as the guardians and doers of the law.

Matthew 23:27-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

As he spoke, every consonant, every syllable, every phrase, every sentence, had as its intended outcome the revealing of a life that was totally committed to fulfilling the will of his Father. Listen to his words in John's gospel.

John 7:16 "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me."

John 8:28 "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me."

Through his words and teaching Jesus revealed his submission to the will of his Father, his teachable spirit, and his total and consuming desire to glorify his Father, only speaking what the Father told him to speak.

Can we say the same of the words? That in all our speaking and thinking we are submissive to the will of our heavenly Father, are of a teachable spirit and that our chief end in life is to glorify God and enjoy him?

Thirdly, the uniqueness of his life can be seen in its influence on the history of the world.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, what if Jesus had never been born? D. James Kennedy did in his book with that title. Kennedy clearly demonstrates the truth that if Jesus had never been born, every single aspect of human life would be worse. But, because Jesus did live, that is the only reason that we have many of the blessings that we know of and enjoy today.

Amongst many of the blessings and benefits we know of due to the ongoing influence and uniqueness of the life of Jesus, Kennedy notes the following:

- Hospitals, which essentially began during the Middle Ages.
- Universities, which also began during the Middle Ages. In addition, most of the world's greatest universities were started by Christians for Christian purposes.

- Literacy and education for the masses.
- The abolition of slavery.
- Modern empirical science.
- The elevation of the status of women.
- Higher standards of justice.
- The elevation of the status of the common man.
- High regard for human life (from conception to old-age)
- The civilizing of many barbarian and primitive cultures.
- Greater development of art and music. The inspiration for the greatest works of art.
- The countless changed lives transformed from liabilities into assets to society because of the Gospel.
- The eternal salvation of countless souls!

In conclusion, the question which needs to be asked and answered is: do you savingly know and rejoice in a Jesus whose life was, and still is, so unique? What answer you give determines where you will spend eternity. If you cannot give an answer, consider again how unique his life was and is. A life he wishes to share with you. Listen to him as he gives this invitation:

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

There is only one unique Person who lived such a unique life, who could promise and fulfill such an invitation: Jesus Christ.



BY REV. ALLAN MACLEOD
Minister of the RP Congregation
in Toronto, ON

THE INTERVIEW

Rev. Kevin Jia
Pastor of Nissi RP Mission Church in
Surrey British Columbia



Give us a brief life history (where were you born, early family life, etc.)

I was born in 1971, and grew up with three older sisters in a small village in the middle of China. My father was a middle school teacher, my mother was a housewife farming a little piece of land. In the early 1990's, I moved to Beijing to study at university. My major was mathematics. I worked in the field of software engineering in Beijing for several years after graduating from the university. In 2003, I immigrated to Canada, settling in Vancouver, BC.

What is your current situation (location, job, family etc.)?

I am married to Yvonne. We have two daughters, Vivien (university freshman) and Ashley (grade 12). In 2014, we moved to Pittsburgh for my MDiv program at RPTS. I graduated in 2017 and was ordained in the next year as a missionary by the Presbytery of Alleghenies for the ministry in a Chinese church in Pittsburgh.

In 2019, we moved back to Vancouver, and started to plant a Chinese RP church. In July 2021, Nissi Reformed Presbyterian Mission Church was formed by the Pacific Coast Presbytery. I was installed as the pastor of the church by the RP Presbytery of Canada in November 2022. I also translate English Reformed Theology books into Chinese as my parttime tent making job. So, currently, I am a husband, a father, a pastor, a biblical counsellor, and a book translator.

What has been the greatest influence in your life for Christ?

The village I grew up in was from a pre-industrial world. Almost all the people were not religious. I was an atheist, and superstitious in my belief in science. I used to think that evolving technology would solve all of mankind's problems. After I went to university, however, I started to ask myself "what is the meaning of life?", because I found that evil is everywhere, which is rooted in the depths of human nature and cannot be solved by technology. I knew neither why I lived nor where I was going. I tried to find the answer

from within Chinese culture and traditional religions and failed with disappointment.

On the day I arrived in Canada, I heard the story of Jesus, which answered my questions: "What are humans?" "What is our problem, and how do we solve the problem?" I was amazed since the answers were far better than I had expected. I came to faith and my whole life changed from that day.

What has been the biggest challenge in getting where you are today?

The biggest challenge in getting where I am today is lack of mentoring at my side since I was regenerated. When I was converted, I wanted to know the whole counsel of God and how to see the world from the perspective of God rather than simply being involved in some church activities. I struggled for many years on the issue of a calling to be a minister.

Soon after my conversion I was introduced to Reformed theology and began to study systematic theology. There were, however, no Reformed pastors beside me guiding me to study the Bible and to live according to God's will. I studied a lot of Reformed theology myself, but didn't have the wisdom to apply it. It took me twenty years of detours from conversion to becoming a Reformed church pastor. I hate to see this happen again and again to other Chinese Christians. Therefore, I have devoted myself to biblical counselling, using it to help myself as well as others, and it has become an integral part of my pastoral work.

What advice would you give to someone 10 years younger than you?

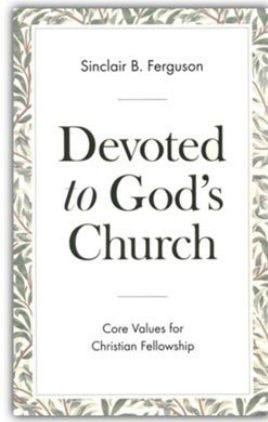
The world you live in is more fluid, complex, and challenging. The church will also be filled with more heresies that will be difficult to discern. You must seek God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Study the Bible diligently and meditate all the time. He will guide you and protect you. No one else can do this to you or for you.

If the Lord continues to bless, what would you like to see happen in the RP Church in Canada?

Even though there are hundreds of churches serving millions of Chinese people in Canada, few of them are Reformed churches. I would like to see that more Chinese Christians seek the old Gospel and live godly lives according to the faith. I hope that the RPCC will greatly contribute to this vision by planting more churches.



BY REV. KEVIN JIA
Minister of the Nissi RP
Church in Surrey, BC



REVIEWED

BY MR. JOEL VEDDER
Member of the Russell RPC

Throughout the book of Acts, those in the early church are noted for how “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42). From the beginning, the church was centered on belonging to a group of like-minded believers and uniting in fellowship with them. Centuries later, we are still devoted to these things. But what are the particulars of this devotion? What is our fellowship supposed to look like?

Sinclair Ferguson sets out to answer these questions in his book, *Devoted to God’s Church* (Banner of Truth, 2020). Ferguson writes for a wide audience, encouraging people towards being an active church member, wherever Christ’s church exists. Ferguson moves from a general description of the role and purpose of the church to the particulars of what it means to be involved in church membership. He covers topics including discipleship, worship, the role of God’s Word, baptism, prayer, service, and mission. Ferguson engages in a thorough yet highly readable description of the importance of these topics, all with Scripture delicately and accurately woven throughout.

Ferguson’s light-heartedness at certain moments of the book reminds the reader that life in Christ’s church ought to be filled with joy, and that being dedicated to the life and well-being of the church is not a stoic, gloomy, or unexciting enterprise. At the same time, he touches on heavier topics, such as the church’s all too often lack of prayer and service. Ferguson provides both direct instructions in how to pray and the reminder that no Christian struggles with prayer in isolation.

The strength of Ferguson’s book is found in how he selects, exposit, and applies God’s Word to the discussion of life in the church. One cannot read this book and come away feeling that the author skimmed on research. Rather, Ferguson illustrates the core values of devotion to the church while “rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

This book highlighted the importance of my thoughts, words, and actions towards the body of believers in which God has placed me. I felt convicted of my lack of devotion to them and to the church’s mission and a renewed sense of hope for God to carry out his work through us. For those struggling with commitment to God’s church, Ferguson encourages, “It is still possible today to go to worship and be ‘in the Spirit on the Lord’s day’ and sense the glory of the Lord among His people. And it is also possible simply to go to church and sense nothing. How much we need the Holy Spirit if we are to worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:23)! Thankfully, it is not too late to get into the service” (79).

If you looking for encouragement for your life and devotion to the church, Ferguson’s book may just be the book for you!



Winterlude Youth Weekend

“Our teens talked nonstop about how much they enjoyed the events and people at Winterlude.”

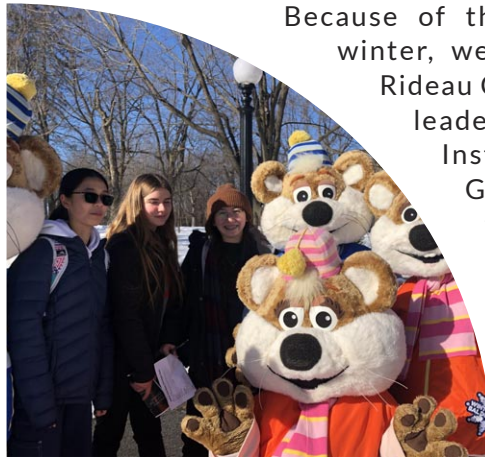
(a parent’s comment)

From Friday, February 10th to Sunday, February 12th the Ottawa RP Church hosted the annual Winterlude Youth Retreat. 46 youth from 9 different congregations gathered together for the weekend to celebrate Winterlude 2023. This event saw youth coming from the local Ottawa, Russell, and Almonte congregations. Others, farther afield, came from Kitchener, New York State, and some even flew in from Vancouver. With so many youths coming from all over we were able to meet and become friends with many new people. It was an incredible time for learning, fun, and coming together in fellowship.

People from the Ottawa congregation generously opened their homes to provide lodging for us to stay in. Some of us also stayed at the church building. From the Almonte congregation, the speaker, Pastor Matt Dyck delivered three excellent talks on the “Jesus as Your Awe”, “Jesus as Your Treasure”, and “Jesus as Your Identity”. The talks were very thought-provoking and relatable for everyone.



“When we returned to the church some of the activities included a fantastic Psalm Sing.”



Because of the unseasonably mild weather this winter, we were unable to go skating at the Rideau Canal, as is the tradition. However, the leaders of the event made alternate plans. Instead, we went to Rideau Hall, the Governor General’s property, where there was a large skating rink and plenty of Winterlude activities. The leaders put together a giant scavenger hunt in which you had to take photos of various events happening around the property. You could gather points by taking photos of the things they had listed from engraved monuments and statues, to hot chocolate and cookies, to the various scattered embassy tents. You got extra points if you participated in an activity at the embassy tents or got creative with your photos. The embassy tents all had fun cultural activities to try out, such as giant multi-person skis and kick sledding, etc. It was all great fun.

Later that day, when we returned to the church some of the activities included a fantastic Psalm sing (with a group of excellent singers) and an entertaining round of Kahoot, which was made even more amusing due to the fact that a few of the answers were incorrect. The weekend ended with morning worship on Sunday which was followed by a fellowship lunch with the congregation.

Thank you so much to all the amazing volunteers for this weekend, from cooking and organizing to helping with games, you really made such a fantastic, enjoyable weekend for all of us! Hope to see everyone there next year.

Anna Chan
Hillside RPC





CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

What Does it Mean to Live a Good Life?

What does it mean to live a good life? This is one of those big questions that many find impossible to answer. The big questions about the meaning of life and our purpose can't be explained by the typical fallback on science. People have fundamentally disagreed about how to answer these questions, but the paradox is that how we answer these questions will end up shaping our lives, our families, our communities, and our world. The answers to these questions have the power to bring order, fairness, justice, and peace, or they can bring chaos, injustice, and discord.

The variety of answers to the question, "What does it mean to live a good life?" played out at a Parliamentary Committee studying euthanasia last year. Here are the comments from two Canadian doctors on the issue of euthanasia (what they are calling MAiD).

"I am also a MAiD provider, and for the last 6.5 years have assessed about 750 people for MAiD and I have provided about 430. One of these was the one and only person who had MAiD for mental illness as the sole underlying medical condition...who as you know was approved by the Superior Court of Alberta to have MAiD before I was allowed to provide it." – Dr. Ellen Wiebe

"For babies from 0-1 years of age who are born with severe deformations, very grave and severe medical syndromes, whose life expectancy and level of suffering are such that it would make sense to ensure that they do not suffer given that their possibility of surviving is basically nil. This is something that has been used in the Netherlands as an argument, and we could explore that option." – Dr. Louis Roy

In their view, living a good life means living life how one wants to and, more importantly, having an easy solution to ending life when faced with suffering,

illness, or difficulties. Their answers to our question, "What does it mean to live a good life?" radically undermine the foundation of our society and what it means to care for the vulnerable.

Euthanasia has been sold to us as the caring and compassionate solution to most human suffering. But below this façade lurks another source of suffering for those who struggle to advocate for themselves. People with disabilities or mental illness, and even those who are from low-income backgrounds, will have a harder time defending themselves.

Mike and Jennifer Schouten, a Reformed, Christian couple from British Columbia, also had an opportunity to speak to this same Parliamentary committee. In May of 2022, their 18-year-old son Markus lost a battle with Ewing Sarcoma, an aggressive form of bone cancer. When asked about their view of euthanasia for minors, they answered that living a good life is not about making choices in life and death to avoid suffering, but rather about learning to suffer well and submitting to God's will.

In a recent video filmed about their experience with their son, they said the following:

"Embracing the uncomfortable work of God is humbling and difficult. But it is the path we must choose. We suffered much, and we miss him terribly, but Markus showed us all how to find meaning in suffering, by never living as though he was dying, and being thankful for each day that God gave him."

When we are visited with suffering, do we embrace and submit to it, or do we go to great lengths to escape from reality and God's providences in our lives. Our response to suffering can, and will, be a witness. Christians have a responsibility to share this message not just with the government, but also with the world around us.

J.R. Miller, a Presbyterian author and pastor, talked about the Christian's calling in an 1898 paper titled, "The Ministry of Comfort,"

"Ofttimes the primary reason why godly men are called to suffer is for the sake of witness they may give to the sincerity of their love for Christ and the reality of divine grace in them. The world sneers at religious profession. It refuses to believe that it is genuine. It defiantly asserts that what is called Christian principle is only selfishness, and that it would not stand severe testing. Then, godly men are called to endure loss, suffering or sorrow...because the Master needs their witness to answer the sneers of the world."

Our society is bearing the fruit of hopelessness (Ephesians 2:12). Christians need to show by our actions and our words that there are different answers to the question, "What does it mean to live a good life?" There are better answers. Answers like the one that Mike and Jenn have shared through their suffering. Biblically based answers to this question will bring light to our society. These better answers are necessary because people's lives are at stake.

I'm looking forward in faith to a time when Canada can one day not only change one or two of the answers to these big questions of life, but when through the work of the Holy Spirit Canadians will answer the question - 'Why do we exist?' - by answering - 'To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'

Let's pray and work toward that day.



BY MR. COLIN POSTMA
Ruling Elder in Ottawa RPC

Assisted suicide is **never** a solution to mental illness.

To help take a stand against the expansion of euthanasia in Canada, visit **CARENOTKILL.CA** AND **TAKE ACTION**

care NOT KILL

The graphic features a black background with a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders on the left. The main text is in white, with the word "never" highlighted in a yellow box. Below the text, there is a white banner with the website "CARENOTKILL.CA" and a yellow button that says "TAKE ACTION". The "care NOT KILL" logo is in the bottom left corner. There are also some green and white abstract shapes and a small illustration of a person in a green shirt on the right side.

Find us on Facebook

The Canadian RP Congregations page is where you can find up to date news and information about events happening in the churches across Canada.

Like and follow our page to stay informed.

@canadianrpcongregations

The Facebook section has a light beige background. It starts with the text "Find us on Facebook" in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below this is a photograph of a hand holding a white smartphone that displays a Facebook post. In the background of the photo, there is a laptop with a Facebook page open, a white coffee cup, and a small potted cactus. Below the photo is the blue Facebook logo. The text continues with a paragraph in italics: "The Canadian RP Congregations page is where you can find up to date news and information about events happening in the churches across Canada." This is followed by the instruction "Like and follow our page to stay informed." and the Facebook handle "@canadianrpcongregations".

ANTH NUMBER 1 IN THE SERIES ROPO MALE AND FEMALE LOGY



Biblical Anthropology – The Creation of Man

God's week of creative work ended with the creation of man. To this point all of God's activity had been accomplished without an explicit indication of deliberation and through impersonal commands— "let there be". However, when he created man, God changed from command to consultation— "let us make man." The dialogue is among the persons of the Trinity, not with angels or some other created entity (e.g., a man-god, as some cults suggest).

The uniqueness of man is implied by this consultation since God says:

- "Let us make" – The creators, co-equal members of the Godhead, decide together to make man.
- "In our image" – Man was created in God's image; not that of angels.

The dialogue is specifically between the Father and the Son, through whom everything was created (Heb. 1:2; Col. 1:16). It is likely true that the earliest readers of this account would not have understood clearly the passage to be speaking of the Trinity (or even of a plurality). However, this only means that it would require additional revelation (with the coming of Jesus) to provide fuller depth to the meaning of the dialogue. This is, in principle, no different from the NT providing insight to the purpose of Old Testament types and prophecies.

With the creation of man, God displayed the personal and social aspects of his nature. This adds weight to the fact that man is the pinnacle of God's creative work—creation progressed from non-living entities, to plants which have a form of life, to living beings with the 'breath of life', to man who has a rational soul and is created in the image of God. Many people do not want to accept the fact that God created the universe for man to inhabit and that man is honoured above everything else (including angels) that God created. We see an undermining of man's honoured position in a number of ways. For example, when men worship created objects such as stars or animals, they diminish

man as the object of God's special recognition. Similarly, the worship of angels is wrong (Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:9) because they are created beings and, though glorious, are not divine or even image-bearers of God.

Another way in which people undermine the unique position of man above everything else in creation, is through their belief in the presence of extraterrestrial intelligent life in the material universe. For example, the cover of *Popular Science* (Oct., 2011) trumpeted: "The Search for Alien Life – Why We're Closer Than Ever to the Discovery that Will Change Everything". The popularity of comic book characters such as Superman and Thor; and the thousands of science fiction books and hundreds of movies which have dealt with intelligent life in other parts of the Milky Way or in other galaxies also display the common belief that there is nothing special about man—man is one of many intelligent entities throughout the universe. We need to consider why this belief is so pervasive. Any scientist who is honest knows that the factors which had to be in place on the earth to generate life spontaneously are so remotely improbable that it is impossible. So, the real reason that men wishfully search for intelligent life (or any form of life) elsewhere is their hope that they can demonstrate that natural evolutionary forces must exist which can produce life. In essence, SETI ("The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) is a desperate attempt to dethrone God and demean man—we can call it instead, Silly Efforts Testifying Ignorance!

The most explicit way in which people undermine the uniqueness of man is by suggesting that mankind developed through an evolutionary process from an ape-like creature. Either he developed his rational capacities naturally as he became differentiated from the australopithecine or God intervened at a particular point to breathe into a grunting beast the mind of man.

Many in the church have capitulated with the view that man is less than the glory of God's creation. Some argue that 'science' does not support the idea that we can trace all of human ancestry to a single real couple. They base this claim on the presupposition that only accidental mutations could produce the variety found among humans, while ignoring the fact that God endowed Adam and Eve with a breadth of genetic potential that could produce ten times more unique offspring than there are estimated sub-atomic particles in the universe. Others suggest that the belief in a real Adam and Eve is not necessary and that we are to understand the Genesis account as symbolic.

However, in order to have a correct theology and anthropology it is necessary to believe that God created a single real pair of humans—Adam and Eve—in an instant, on the sixth day of creation; for at least the following reasons:

- The New Testament genealogy of Jesus (Lk. 3:23-38) records a father for every one of Jesus' ancestors except Adam, who is called the son of God. It is highly blasphemous to suggest that the God-man is the descendant of an ape.

- Paul informs the Athenian council that everyone is descended from one man whom God made (Acts 17:26), not from a pool of primates. Thus, God can demand that all men repent and believe in Jesus.

- Jesus declares that Adam and Eve were created at the beginning (Mt. 19:4). They must be historical people or Jesus is lying.

- Paul refers to Adam and Eve as real, uniquely created persons (1 Cor. 11:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:13)—as real as Jesus himself (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22). Paul's message is meaningless if Adam is only a symbol.

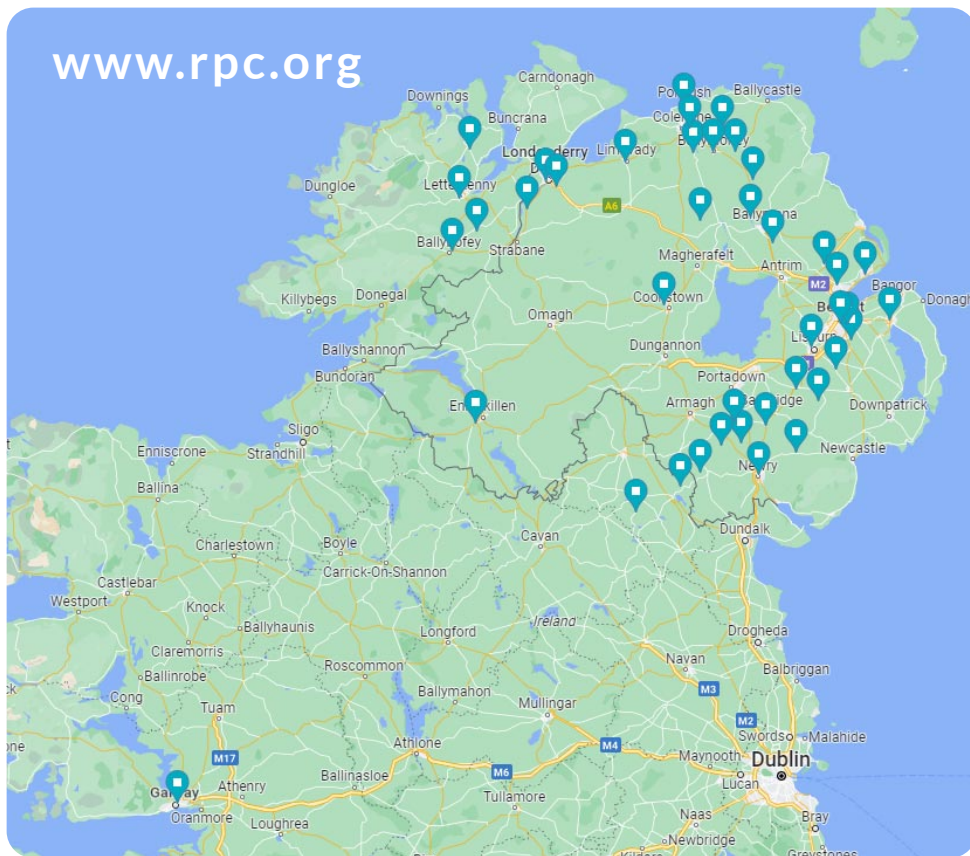
Adam and Eve introduced sin and death into the world. If there had been millennia of evolution prior to their appearance, mankind, represented by Adam, cannot be held accountable for the appearance of death.



BY MR. JIM HUGHES
Ruling Elder in the RP
Congregation in Toronto, ON

A banner for a 'Precentors Workshop'. The background is a close-up of a musical score with lyrics. On the left, there is a white logo of a maple leaf above an open book. The text 'Precentors Workshop' is written in a gold, serif font. To the right, the text 'with REV. BRIAN WRIGHT APRIL 14, 15 2023 OTTAWA RP CHURCH' is in white, and 'RSVP online rpccanada.org/precentors' is in white.

with
REV. BRIAN WRIGHT
APRIL 14, 15 2023
OTTAWA RP CHURCH
RSVP online rpccanada.org/precentors



Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland

The origins of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland dates back to the 17th century with the plantation of Ulster with Scottish settlers. The initial years of the church were difficult since the families were scattered throughout the Province in small groups and had no buildings to meet for worship and no ministers. One historian says that "their prospects were dim and might well have been hopeless had not David Houston thrown in his lot with them in 1692". David Houston was a Scotsman whom God used in the establishment of the church.

Today there are 41 congregations in Ireland divided geographically among four Presbyteries and two mission congregations, one in Nantes, France and the other in Seville, Spain.

Ministries of the RPCI include:

- **Theological College** in Belfast, Northern Ireland, for the training of men for the ministry. The Professors are full-time ministers in the church, and the college typically has two or three students in its three-year program.
- **Five week-long summer camps** for ages 10-20+ Boys Adventure Camp, Girls Adventure Camp, Boy's Discovery Camp and Girls Discovery Camp and Senior Camp, which usually have around 250 youth participating annually. Each of the Camps also runs a winter reunion.
- **Three Publications:** A monthly magazine called 'Covenanter Witness,' a bi-monthly youth magazine called 'The Messenger' and an annual Reformed Theological Journal produced by the Theological College.
- **GO Teams** (short-term missions), which provide opportunities for typically College age youth to join with congregations in week-long evangelical activities, like Vacation Bible Schools, literature distribution, etc. Eight GO teams will be serving in congregations in the Irish and Scottish RP Churches this summer.
- **Conferences:** The church also runs several annual Conferences, including the Young Adults Weekend, the Adult Conference and the Family Day Conference. Every two years, it either hosts the week-long RPC International Conference or runs the Family Conference.
- **The Covenantor Bookstore:** an online bookstore that distributes high-quality and biblically faithful Christian books and resources.

New Creation RP Church in Kitchener, Ontario



New Creation RPC began as a church plant in Kitchener/Waterloo in 2001. Pastor Scott Wilkinson and his wife, Elineke, started this work with a Bible study, a lecture series at a Chapters bookstore, and then a radio talk show called "The Measure of All Things." Regular worship services began in 2003 and the congregation was officially organized in 2010.

Currently, the congregation is comprised of 42 communicant members and 25 baptized members. We worship together twice on a Lord's Day and enjoy a fellowship meal together after the morning service once a month. Each Lord's Day the attendance averages about 60-70 souls for the morning service and 40 attending the evening, depending on health, members traveling, and visitors attending. The demographic is a broad spectrum of young and old, students and infants, and retired, from all parts of the world. There are some with Reformed church backgrounds but others from different denominations and some are new converts. We have doctors, farmers, computer programmers, plumbers, builders, accountants, and other various professions represented in the church. We are a diverse congregation who genuinely enjoy worship and fellowship together. Guests are welcomed, extended family members are greeted, the sermon is discussed, and events of the week are exchanged.

Throughout the school year we hold two Bible Studies mid-week as well as Two catechism classes for the high school students. Every other Wednesday evening, we hold a congregational prayer meeting using Google Meet. The youth also meet once a month between the worship services for a book study, food, and

fellowship. During the summer months our Bible Studies are furloughed and we spend an evening a week doing street evangelism in downtown Kitchener. It has been wonderful to see the Lord bless this work with visitors joining us for worship services.

The Session is comprised of Pastor Scott Wilkinson, and Ruling Elders Seyr Lemos, John Smid, and Rob Somers. Our deacons are Tom Gillelan and Sam Sutherland.

For the past four years we have been renting a United Church of Canada building as our place of worship. This building was built by a congregation made up almost entirely of Free Masons. One can see this in the design of the building. The United Church congregation that we rent from recently amalgamated with another and have informed us that they intend to sell the property to a real estate developer. We are still able to rent the building from them, but our time there is tenuous. We trust that the Lord will provide a place for us and have already been given his assurance through the possibility of another rental opportunity. However, we have been praying that, if possible, the Lord would allow us to purchase the United Church building rather than a developer.

We continue to pray for our growth and spiritual maturity and that the Lord would provide us with our own facility. We are looking forward to the work that the Lord is doing in Canada through the recent formation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada. We pray that the Lord will strengthen and grow our congregation as well as the other congregations across our country, using us to bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



September
8-11, 2023
Wesley Acres, Prince Edward County



- hear excellent preaching and praise God with many others
- accommodations with their own bathroom facilities.
- great food and fellowship plus activities such as; soccer, volleyball, gaga ball, and more.
- beachfront and multiple play structures for children.

Online Booking Open!
rpfamilycamp.org