

CORRESPONDENCE

THE REFORMED FAITH IN THE PHILIPPINES

From Pastor Remegio Lapiz,
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"To God be the glory for the great things He's been doing in and through our lives.

Here in our country, mostly of the people are opened to the Gospel, but still 85% of the population belong to the Roman Catholic, and so we are praying for more [of] God's servants to spread the Gospel. "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."

As of now, we still hold our Sunday morning service in one of the rented space. We just trust the Lord to provide money for [a] church lot and building. You know, our church has no property because mostly of our members are poor and needy.

Our ministry is not only restricted to the city. We sometimes travel out into neighboring places of the city to hold some open air meetings. We do pray to God He will add more souls to be saved through our ministry. Please pray with us that God will also provide money for a vehicle to pick [up] church members due to their houses are not accessible to passenger cars, and they sometimes come late in our morning worship. I pity for them. Only rich people have their own cars here. Pray also for strength and protection for my family and for all saints here.

Last April 1 we held a one day seminar ("Life in Jesus") and we shared them how He loved us, that He is our Sovereign God and His

grace is sufficient. Many repented of their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour and Lord of their lives. The seminar ended successfully by God's grace and there were 12 individuals followed the Lord into water baptism.

We appreciate the British Reformed Journal and its contents. We are being blessed as we read over and over. We get many spiritual truths through this Journal. We hope and pray to God that the work here will become an extension of the British Reformed Fellowship. We would be glad to be a part of your fellowship. We would like to know if the British Reformed Fellowship will accept affiliation from other country. Please let us know about it.

May God keep you in the palm of His hand. Numbers 6:24-26.'

OUR HERITAGE

From Mr W F Spanner, Seaford East Sussex

I read Mr Jonathan McAuley's article in your issue No.6 and was very sorry to note his quite unfair comments and quote from the Rev A E Hughes about the English.

He makes no mention of the many Danish incursions into Ireland and their establishment of many coastal ports including Dublin and Waterford from whence they invaded western areas of England and carried away captive many Englishmen to Ireland. This alone would have given Henry II some grounds for his actions, but there seems no doubt that quarrels among the Irish chiefs resulted in Dermot, Duke of Leinster, actually appealing to Henry for help.

It further needs to be remembered

that in the hundred years prior to 1171 the English had been overrun by the Normans and their confiscated lands handed over for the most part to the Norman barons; also that Henry (of Norman French extraction) ruled over territory in France considerably larger than England.

Much more could be said - of how English christians were persecuted and burnt for their faith after Henry IV passed the Act "De heretico comburendo" in 1401, but I would remind Mr McAuley that for the last 150 years devoted Protestant missionaries have been carrying the Gospel to the Roman Catholics of Southern Ireland and I have before me the testimony of a grateful former Roman Catholic priest to the help he has received.

As you will know - after 1401 the Lollards were virtually wiped out as had been the Albigenses, and the Bohemians. William Sawtre, one time Rector of Lynn, was the first of many to be burnt by Royal command. The most prominent was Lord Cobham, Sir John Oldcastle, who was hung alive in chains and roasted, over a slow fire, to death (1418). By 1450 Lollardism had been almost completely extinguished.

I do not think any of our Irish friends were burnt alive for their faith - except perhaps when numerous protestants were herded

into churches and burnt by Roman Catholic fanatics.'

REPLY FROM MR JON. McAULEY:

I apologise if my comments offended any of my English brethren. I did not in any way make the comments with an intention to offend English Christians, although I would be surprised if an Irish interpretation of history was accepted in England. I appreciate the fact that many other nations left their mark on the history of Ireland. I would suggest however, that English incursions had more effect on the Island's history than any other nation. I agree there may have been a number of reasons for the invasion by Henry II but I would again assert that the real reason for the invasion was the desire of Henry to extend the authority of Pope Adrian IV and to bring Ireland under English domination. I have read of and have great admiration for the Christians of the land of England who gave up their lives for the cause of Christ the King; I hope I have made no comment that suggests otherwise. These martyrs were also, I would suggest, done to death by the same Roman Catholic rulers as the martyrs in Ireland.

Finally, in response to the last few comments, I agree that it is only the "Preaching of the Gospel" that brings any real hope to any nation or people.

REFORMED VIEW OF BAPTISM *(Continued from page 17)*

interpretation that these Baptisms were carried out by pouring and/or sprinkling. Everything cries out that they could not have been carried out by immersion. God willing we will continue the consideration of what we can learn of the mode of Baptism in the rest of the New Testament in subsequent articles.