



### Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of CC News. We hope this will become a regular publication to keep you up to date with our activities and plans for the future as God leads us. Information on all our activities, upcoming events and also our monthly PS.... blog postings can of course be found on our website [www.contemporarychristianity.net](http://www.contemporarychristianity.net) We are now Social Network friendly on Facebook and you can also comment on PS there. All of our 'In Conversation with...' talks and the Catherwood lectures for the past 3 years are available to listen to online. The transcript of the most recent Catherwood lecture by Bob Goudzwaard is also downloadable in pdf form.

Regarding our accomodation at 21 Ormeau Avenue our landlord has just 'repackaged' us into a slightly smaller area adapted for our needs. The rent remains unchanged.

We are heavily indebted to our faithful Admin Volunteer Stephen Adams who has given so much of his time over the last few years while the organization has been regrouping and revisioning. The organization is on a much more secure footing but the vision needs taking forward. The Board hope to take time out in the next few months to further consider the future. We should seek to discern a best way forward and value your prayers as we seek the Lord's mind on the next steps.

3 years ago our immediate past chairperson Cheryl Meban requested financial support 'which would enable us to subsist simply and creatively.' We greatly value the generous contributions and prayers of our supporters which we believe have so enabled us. If you would like to start supporting us standing order forms can be obtained by e-mailing the office [info@contemporarychristianity.net](mailto:info@contemporarychristianity.net)



Noel McCune,  
Chairperson.

### Cluster Groups

#### *Art and Faith.*

The Faith and Art Cluster group was established in 2011 to address the relationship between Art and Christianity. After the annual Catherwood lecture in November 2010, delivered by Dr.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, many were challenged with images of mainstream art which incorporated religious symbols. The group is a collaboration of people interested in exploring faith and art, and their aim is to

encourage each another as Christian artists, explore the potential of engaging non-Christian viewers with their work, and address the sacred/secular divide in the art world.

#### *Economics*



Bob Goudzwaard answering questions after the 2011 Catherwood lecture.

Following on from the interest stimulated by our well attended 2011 Catherwood lecture by Prof Bob Goudzwaard, ('Money, Magic, Greed and the Power of Illusions') a small group of interested people have met to discuss how a cluster group might engage with the

subject of economics. They hope the discussion will be more practical than theoretical and have the aim of stimulating and helping the wider church to engage with the subject of economics and how the Bible and economics relate to each other.

*Centenaries*

The Centenaries cluster group has been busy planning for the roadshow with the play about the Ulster Covenant. " 1912 - One hundred Years on " which has been jointly authored by Philip Orr and Alan McGuckian and will be presented in a number of Community and Church settings during March. There is a possibility of a further 'run' in September. We have engaged the services of trained facilitators to facilitate discussion after each

performance which will last just over an hour. The Community Relations Council and Dept of Foreign Affairs have helped to fund this initiative. We hope and pray the play will lead to thoughtful reflection about this significant event in the history of Ireland which the Protestant Christian public at the time strongly supported and which has influenced a lot of what has happened since. If you want to find out things that will perhaps

explain some of background to the Covenant and the wider political issues of that time come and see this play. Dates and venues of presentations are on the website.

***In Conversation With...***

Our monthly 'ICW.....' evenings got off to a good start in January with a thoughtful presentation by Dr John Kyle on "Where Faith and Loyalism Collide." He explained how he joined the Progressive Unionist Party in 2000 to support David Ervine, a man who he found to be 'refreshingly honest, progressive, thoughtful and self critical'. He went on to describe the social and economic disadvantage in 'working class unionist' communities who view themselves as being 'loyalist.' Despite his impression that most loyalists

have little church involvement, he gave some examples of how local churches have positively engaged in loyalist communities and found respect. Our next ICW... on 21 Feb is "Imagining a united Ireland: the novelist's opportunity" with Colin Neill author of the novel Turas. His book imagines Ireland has been united. During the first year of striking change, a group of men meet together in a church cell group to wrestle with uncertainty through the filters of their faith and God's word. This should make for

an interesting evening. The April ICW...will be with Tony McCauley on 17th April who will talk on faith involvement in community work in NI .

***Catherwood Lecture***

Our annual Catherwood lecture will be held in Edgehill College on 8th March. It is earlier this year to

lead in to the Covenant play roadshow which begins on 9th March. The title is "Beyond

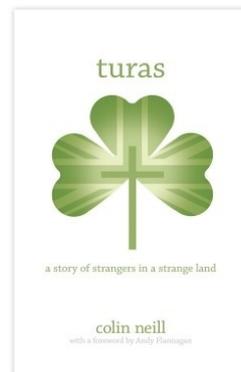
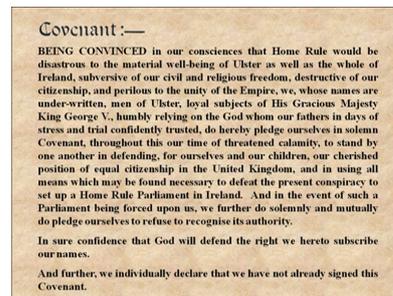
Covenant to Hope for the Future" for 2012 will be given by Dr. Johnston McMaster.

***Future Plans***

We hope to run a further retreat for leaders later in the year with Roy Searle of the Northumbria Community as facilitator - the last

one we held with Roy in November 2010 was much appreciated by those who attended. There is a possibility of

½ day conference with Miroslav Volf in September.



Colin Neill's book, Turas.