

## Redeemer Central Church – Belfast: Any cause for concern?

Early in December 2018 I received the following inquiry – ‘**Cecil. Do you have any info about ‘Redeemer Central’ church in Belfast?’** In my response to the inquirer, and having visited the church web site on <http://redeemercentral.com/> I made a number of points including the following –

1. They have a quote that reads ‘**theology too is a conversation**’ – that sounded to me like ‘**emergent**’ thinking.
2. One of their regular speakers is Ryan Hawthorne who ‘specialises’ in **Spiritual Formation**. My good friend Gary Gilley has written extensively on this (he has a good book called ‘Out of Formation’) but you can access his thoughts on this link - <https://tottministries.org/spiritual-formation/>
3. The nearest to a ‘**Basis of Faith**’ is their web page setting out The Apostles and Nicene creeds.
4. They refer to ‘**101 prayer**’ and state it is ‘**centred round the eucharist**’ – definitely language that would appeal to Roman Catholics as would their ‘**table meetings**’ where they give this quote ‘**every table is an altar**’.
5. For study they are using a book called ‘**The Good and Beautiful God**’ by **James Bryan Smith**. He is involved with **Renovare** founded by **Richard Foster** that basically promotes mysticism. These links should give helpful information - <https://tottministries.org/devotional-classics-by-richard-foster-and-james-bryan-smith/> and <https://renovare.org/articles/by-author/james-bryan-smith> Mr Smith appears to fit neatly with the likes of Dallas Willard and Henri Nouwen (see <http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/February-2014/Dallas-Willard.pdf>)
6. For more information on **Richard Foster** I would recommend the book ‘**A Time of Departing**’ by the late **Ray Yungen** (available in the UK from <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Time-Departing-Practices-Christians-Religions/dp/0972151273> and available in the USA from [https://www.amazon.com/Time-Departing-Practices-Christians-Religions/dp/0972151273/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1547199363&sr=1-1&keywords=a+time+of+departing](https://www.amazon.com/Time-Departing-Practices-Christians-Religions/dp/0972151273/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1547199363&sr=1-1&keywords=a+time+of+departing))

Further research on the church web site showed that amongst guest speakers there in recent years they had featured the following: -

**Peter Rollins**: I have previously written on 2 occasions about **Mr Rollins** and these articles can be accessed on <http://www.takeheed.info/reflections-on-emerging-ikon/> and <http://www.takeheed.info/peter-rollins-of-ikon-is-about-to-emerge-in-america/> **Mr Rollins** is a close friend of **Rob Bell** who, having been moved on from the church where he was pastor in Michigan, due mainly to his book '**Love Wins**' that really promoted the heresy of 'Universalism', (see this helpful review on <https://tottministries.org/love-wins-universalisms-new-champion/>) has carved out a new career including appearing on TV with Oprah Winfrey and appearing in a night club as a comedian. In June 2018 he gave a newspaper interview and you can read what he said by going to this link <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/15-june/features/features/heresy-holiness-and-oprah-rob-bell-interviewed> Sadly, **Peter Rollins** still plies his strange philosophies around the world, whether online or in person (including Northern Ireland) as can be seen by current events listed on <https://peterrollins.com/calendar/> Clearly **Rob Bell** and **Peter Rollins** are well suited to each other's philosophies.

**Alain Emerson**: **Mr Emerson** is pastor of **Emmanuel Church in Lurgan** and he has experienced real and deep grief when after only months of marriage he then had to nurse his wife Lindsay through cancer which eventually took her life. He subsequently published a book called 'Luminous Dark' and he gave a talk by the same title in **Redeemer Central** on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018. I am conscious that this must have been an unbelievably painful experience for this young man and would not wish in any way to minimise his grief. This link goes to the talk he gave <https://www.buzzsprout.com/10218/680409> and as you will read **Mr Emerson** has "**a passion to see God do a new thing in Ireland**" – unfortunately that "**new thing**" includes '**false ecumenism**' and '**things charismatic**' (a duo that often go hand in hand). The online ministry '**Protestant Revival**' has documented much of this **ecumenical** and **charismatic** activity as you can read by going to this link <https://protestantrevival.wordpress.com/tag/emmanuel-church/> As you will read the author of these reports often employs a different approach to the subject matter from that of myself but nonetheless the factual information contained in the various reports gives a solid basis for warning people to steer well clear of **Mr Emerson**.

**Paul & Priscilla Reid**: **Paul Reid** was the founding pastor of the **Christian Fellowship Church (CFC)** on the Hollywood Road in Belfast and his wife **Priscilla** also served in an eldership capacity. Like **Emmanuel Church in Lurgan**, **CFC** was heavily involved in '**false ecumenism**' and '**things charismatic**' promoting people on the 'charismatic front' such as **John Wimber**, **Gerald Coates** and **Ken Gott** and on the 'ecumenical front' people like **Paddy Monaghan** (of the so-called 'Evangelical Catholic Initiative) and the '**Evangelicals & Catholics Together In Ireland**' booklet published in July 1998. I will now include images of the front cover of the booklet and also the page giving details of the **Group Participants** that include well-known and high-profile figures in the ecumenical movement from both Roman Catholic and supposed Protestant backgrounds. I should point out that **Pat Collins**, **Donal Godfrey** and **Paschal Scallan**, although referred to as '**Rev**', are in fact **Roman Catholic priests**.

Evangelicals & Catholics

# together

I N I R E L A N D

A Call to Christians

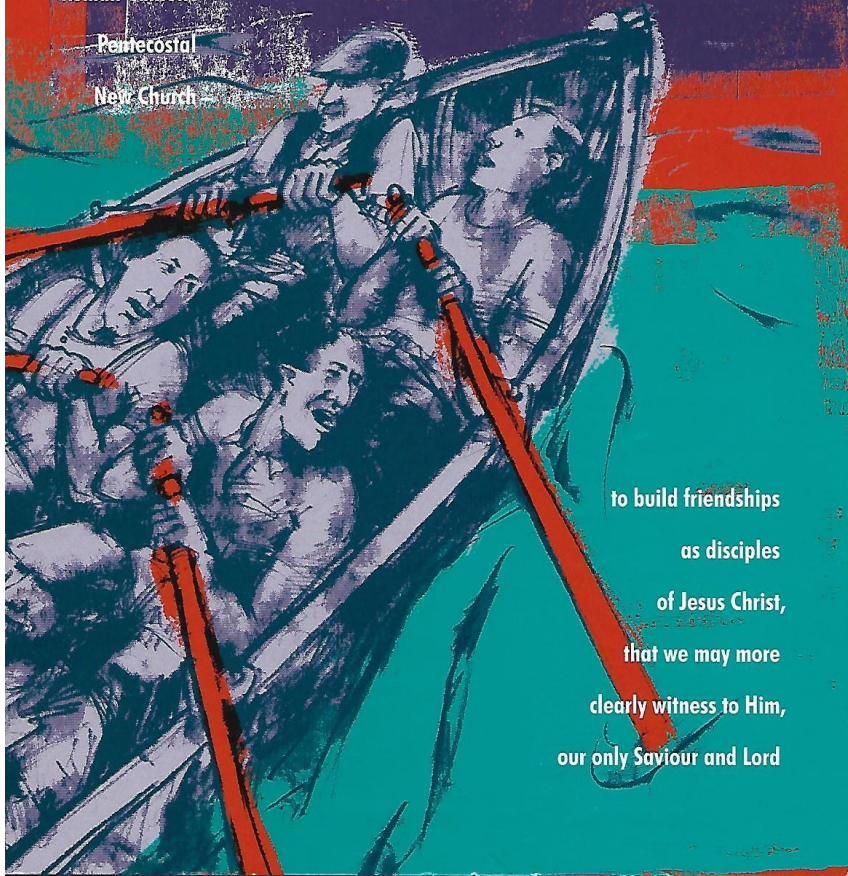
in Ireland

– Protestant

Roman Catholic

Pentecostal

New Church



to build friendships  
as disciples  
of Jesus Christ,  
that we may more  
clearly witness to Him,  
our only Saviour and Lord

## Conclusion

We cannot know what the Lord of history has in store for the Third Millennium. We do know that His promise is sure. We know that we are enlisted together in His service. We know that we must affirm, search, contend, hope, witness and pray together, for we belong not to ourselves but to Him who has purchased us by the blood of the cross,

We know this is a time of opportunity and of responsibility for Christians from all traditions to be Christians together in a way that helps prepare the world for the coming of Him to whom belongs the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GROUP PARTICIPANTS: Eugene Boyle; Rev. Ken Clarke; Rev. Pat Collins; Rev. Donal Godfrey; Sr. Anna Mary Hannon; Rev. Ivan Hull; Rev Cecil Kerr; John Kyle; Paddy Monaghan; Rev. David Montgomery; Rev. Trevor Morrow; Rev, Ken Newell; Pastor Paul Reid; Rev. Paschal Scallon.

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I titled this article as follows

**Redeemer Central Church – Belfast:  
Any cause for concern?**

and in the light of the information contained in it I can only answer  
**'yes' – there is cause for concern.**

**Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019**