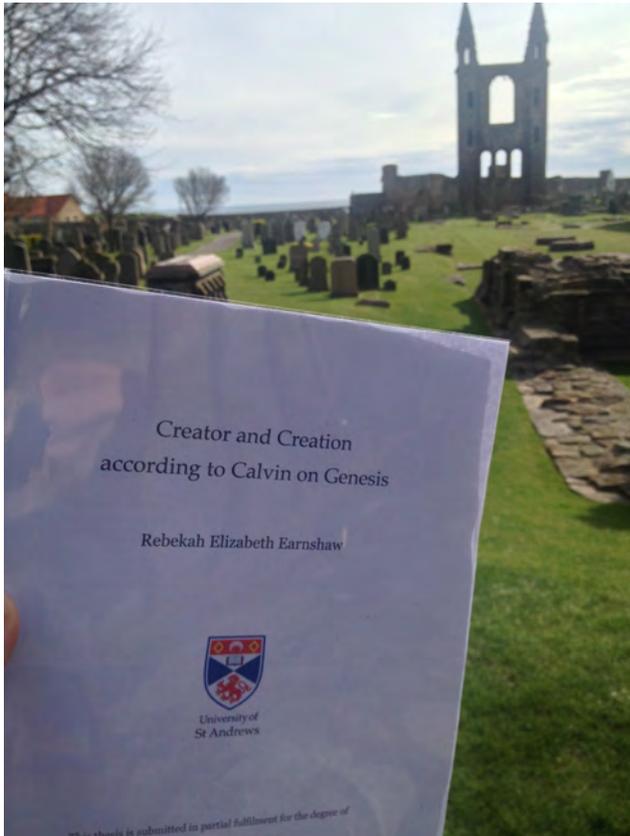


2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

### It is ~~finished~~ submitted

He hung in glory and he hung in agony when he cried, "It is finished." And heaven and earth still praise our God and Saviour.

My PhD is not finished, but the thesis is submitted. And I submitted it on Good Friday; it's not a holiday in Scotland.



I'm so thankful to our God and Father for his abundant grace in Christ, for life, for salvation, for strength for each day, for patience and perseverance, for family and friends, for faithful provision, for so many prayers answered. Submitting at Easter was a great time to reflect on priorities and accomplishments and to give glory and praise to the One to whom it is due.

I'm so thankful we're saved by grace through faith and there's no doctrine exam to get into heaven. As one friend has quipped, the road to hell is paved with PhDs. Just like going to college, the good news does not change. Our Father is faithful in his goodness every moment. The answer is still Jesus, but I've been granted the great joy of dwelling on him and growing in him in a very special way these 3 years.

### Now what?

Lots of being tired. Sunshine. Golf. Cricket. Conference. Edinburgh. England. France...



## What next?

I've been putting off writing this ramble. Partly because it really does mean coming to the end of this phase. I will only write to you twice more in this form, in June and July. Through May I will travel in the UK with my mother. In June I will be at my desk to study and prepare to defend my thesis. The oral defence of the thesis is called a viva, and this is the testing of the work. This is what I need to pass to go on to graduate at the end of the year. At the start of July I will say goodbye to St Andrews and return to Australia to see my family and friends once more.

There is joy and sorrow at the completion of a time that has been an amazing adventure and a demonstration of God's kindness and generosity again, and again, and again.

Now, as before, my desire is to serve Christ in all I do and with all I am. I hope and pray that this might be in theological education in Australia, but this does not appear to be my immediate future. I continue to have conversations with people in churches and colleges around the place, but it does not appear that I will be staying long in Australia this time around. This is another reason I've procrastinated over writing this.

There is again a mixture of joy and sorrow. Joy at God's call to proclaim Jesus, to teach his Word, to use the training he has given me, to grow more like Jesus in a new place, to serve his church and his kingdom. But there is sorrow to continue far away from family and friends, and to move again to a new continent, even if it is only a quarter of the way around the world instead of half way around the world this time.

From August, I will be Assistant Professor of Theology at Dordt College Iowa, USA. (In the middle at the top.) It's a small christian college. This means teaching uni-aged students within a dutch reformed tradition, in a small town in the rural mid-west. It will be a challenge. It will be a privilege. The college and the community are an immensely supportive environment. There will be lots of teaching and some research. There will be... ???

I'm excited to see what God has planned ☺



## Pray

Praise God for all that he is and all he has done! Give thanks for an amazing 3 years and for all God has done through your prayers and your partnership in this project.

Praise God for rest.

Praise God for the chance to see the PhD through and get to the defence stage. Pray that I might pass my viva and be thoroughly equipped for every good work that he has prepared for me to do.

Praise God for academic theology and the chance to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour in this forum. Pray that I might continue to grow into the ministry he has planned for me. Pray that the coming weeks and months of transition would go smoothly. Pray that my visa would be approved. Pray that packing and moving would be straightforward. Pray that I might be prepared to give an answer for the hope that I have and that I might proclaim Christ clearly as I should.

Praise God for friends and family around the world. Pray for the people God has put around me during my PhD in St Andrews. Pray that I might show his love to them as I say goodbye. Pray that those who don't yet know Jesus might repent and put their trust in him.

Praise God for the chance to return to Australia. Pray that I might be refreshed in Christ and by time with family and friends. In these encounters pray that I might love as Christ has loved me, in word and deed, in action and in truth.

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie. Oi, Oi, Oi.