

PROTESTANT REVEILLE

The Voice of the Protestant Association of South Africa (1925)

VOL. 70

SECOND QUARTER

2015

LET there be LIGHT: the BIBLE in AFRICA

The Entrance of Thy Word brings Light (Psalm 119:130)

The reported recent statement by Jacob Zuma, that the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape of Good Hope in 1652 was the beginning of the land's problems, is short-sighted; and more alarmingly, anti-Christian! A president should not play party politics, specifically if such is designed to 'divide and rule', particularly in South Africa with its on-going complications and challenges. If the 'miracle is incomplete' as certain observers of the nation's development read things, it won't help saying by innuendo that a significant part of our population is not welcome!

There exists in our country an unfortunate but not uncommon mindset that is slow to give credit to those who – despite their many shortcomings -- helped build the nation. Fortunately there is another, positive mindset exemplified by a leading businessman with similar roots to our leader – KwazuluNatal and Congregational – who is clear in his gratitude that the pioneers and settlers (Dutch, French Huguenot, British, and German) gave 'the Book' to the sub-continent. With the help of his church-funded education, this man of faith rose from the scullery of the Oyster Box Hotel, in Umhlanga Rocks, to sit on the board of many companies, and to advise our leaders. His aim is to mentor others, while building his house in heaven -- the material secondary to the spiritual.

The Bible -- so faithfully translated by the likes of Dr Robert Moffat of the London Missionary Society (Sechuana: 1857), up till our last complete local official language (isiNdebele: 2012) by the Bible Society of South Africa -- has impacted for good on all of our peoples. These Scriptures point to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, and herald:

'Behold your King comes to you'. (Zech. 9:9; Matt 21:5).

Arise, shine for your Light has come. (Isaiah 60:1)

Certain of *Protestant Reveille's* readers were surprised to read that St. Augustine, bishop of Hippo, was an African. As were Tertullian and Athanasius, the two other star theologians of the great Christian doctrine of the Trinity -- more accurately -- of the Triune God: One God -- Three Persons. (*Reformation Reveille*: October 2014).

The ancient Romans expressed their dim view of our continent in the Latin dictum:

'EX AFRICA NON ORITUR ACTA'! ('From Africa nothing -- happens'!)

A Christian lawyer pointed this out to me, and we were speaking about the general negativity of many regarding our continent even in our day. Yet Africa is often seen approvingly in theological terms as, 'Evangelical or Pentecostal'. Also, in Biblical times it fed and hosted the ancient Hebrews while Joseph was governor of Egypt, under Pharaoh; and when bloodthirsty Herod sought the infant Jesus' life, refuge was sought by Joseph and Mary in the same land: *'I called my Son out of Egypt'*! (Matthew 2:15)

Spread the Light

Secular humanism has been eating the soul of a materialistic West, and eroding its so-called Christian values, yet many in Africa have embraced the Truth as it is in Jesus. A foretaste of things to come was the East African Revival of the late 1920's and 1930's: the Evangelical

Anglican medical missionary Dr JE Church, recorded the moment in 'Quest for the Highest'! Here we see the yearning heart of William Nagenda of Uganda:

"We can't go on like this; the world is perishing and I hear His voice calling me to take responsibility not only for Uganda, but for Africa, and the whole world Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain that they may live"!

And again –

"We can't work in this land full of darkness unless we are filled with the Holy Spirit But if we let our eyes dwell too much on our troubles and problems, we will lose the vision of the world's need"!

Standing on the Word of God

It is imperative that our people put the past behind them, and so avoid the temptation to major on our 'troubles and problems' with those who sow bitterness and hate over our history. **The correct approach to history**, is particularly well put by John Buchan in his classic on Oliver Cromwell:

"A great man lays upon posterity the duty of understanding him ... for we have still in our interpretation to recover an atmosphere which is not our own!"

The Church and Christians are the custodians of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which, if maintained in its purity without politically correct modifications, will exalt our nation and Africa, God enabling. (Psalm 126)

-- Rev. Craig Hounsom: Editor

Footnote:

There was another aspect to the President's rally that should be of deep concern to *each and every* Christian, and is surely even more sinister than the RSA Parliamentary State of the Nation (SONA) debacle on 12th February 2015:

A praise singer told the crowd he needed to exorcise the spirit of Dutch coloniser Jan van Riebeeck before the rally could get under way.

"I have to clear the spirit of Jan van Riebeeck from this place first."

-- News24 (10th January)

oooOOOooo

".... and is not the new creature most noble, proceeding from the Father's purpose, the Son's purchase, and the Spirit's power?"

-- The eminent English preacher, William Bagshaw, on man's salvation.

"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stones." -- Martin Luther. (See Psalm 19:1).

The Bible's Teaching on Mary

Of all the women of all ages God chose Mary to be the mother of His own dear Son. She was of the family of David, young, a virgin, and full of faith and piety. When the angel Gabriel greeted her with *"Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee,"* she was troubled and afraid. When he told her that *"the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Highest would overshadow her,"* she praised God with joy that she would bear *"that holy thing,"* the very *"son of God"*. -- *"He shall be great"* said the angel, *"and ... of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

This message, coming to a girl who was betrothed but not married, was almost too great to understand, but she meekly answered, *"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."* (Luke 2) With this was fulfilled the 500-year old prophecy: *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* (Isaiah 7:14)

It was the beginning of a miraculous act of God, the incarnation of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, who brought light to shine in the darkness of this world, while He suffered, died and rose again to save His people from their sins. Jesus is God's gift of love to a lost world, and His grace and truth have changed every nation. All who believe in Him do not perish but have everlasting life: "*He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*" (John 3:18)

In her humility God had singled Mary out for greatness. We catch a glimpse of her deep faith when she breaks into praise:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." (Luke 1:46f)

These prophetic words have come true. All generations have indeed called her blessed, and regarded her as the essence of the godly woman who offers herself totally to her Lord. But in their admiration of Mary some of her devotees have gone further. They have not only honoured, but imputed divine attributes to her:

- As early as the Council of Ephesus in 431, the Catholic Church started worshipping Mary and calling her the '**Mother of God.**'
- Around the year 600 **prayers were directed not only to Mary, but also to dead saints and angels.** Her husband too, was made semi-divine.
- In 890 the Church began to **worship St Joseph!**
- The *Rosary*, a string of prayer beads, incorporating the Ave Maria ('Hail Mary'), was introduced by Peter the Hermit in 1508, and approved by Pope Sixtus V at the end of the 16th century. By means of these prayers Catholics ask Mary to intercede with God for them. But the Bible states that only Jesus, being a priest forever, can do so. (Hebrews 7:21 f.)
- In 1854, the **Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary** was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX. This dogma claims that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb free from sin. But Mary was not sinless! Only Jesus Christ is! She acknowledged this herself when she said: "*God is my Saviour.*" (Luke 1:47)
- In 1931 Pope Pius XI reaffirmed the doctrine that Mary was the '**Mother of God.**'
- In 1950, the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary** (her bodily ascension into heaven) was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII. He declared this as a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church by his own **infallibility**, stating:
"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."
- Finally, in 1965, Mary was proclaimed the **Mother of the Church** by Pope Paul VI. As mother of the person of Christ, she is deemed also to be the mother of the faithful.

When we consider the many un-Biblical doctrines which the Roman Catholic Church has woven around Mary, we need to be very careful of the rapprochement toward Protestants on the part of the present Pope. In defending its un-Biblical doctrines, the Roman Catholic Church claims that these were '*divinely revealed,*' and established by infallible papal authority. Mary, the pious virgin, the obedient and trusting young woman, has been made into a goddess who is worshipped by millions of people, even at the expense of the true Saviour who is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Mary never sought to share in her Son's glory. She never regarded herself as divine. She simply said: "*He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name... He hath holpen his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation*". (Luke 1:49-50)

-- Dorothea Scarborough

"Did you ever hear of any one being very much used for Christ, who did not have some special waiting time, some complete upset of all his or her plans first?"

-- Frances Ridley Havergal, hymn-writer and poet on St Paul.

Understanding the Times

Rev. Dr Michael Cassidy of African Enterprise has kindly provided us with an edited transcript of his address at Church on Main, Cape Town, in July/August 2014:

As leaders in South Africa at this moment in our history we need to be like the men of Issachar, "who had *understanding* of the times -- to know what Israel ought to do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). This seems to me a HUGE challenge for all of us because the times, generally -- and especially here in this country -- are very complex, and getting more so!

UNCHANGING CHALLENGES IN CHANGING TIMES

Of course some things stay the same such as the Person of God (His existence), His Nature (which is holy, just, loving, seeking, and incarnate in Jesus Christ), and of course His Call and Commission to, "Go into all the world" (Mark 16:15). There is an unchanging challenge to Christians to be witnesses in the places where we are -- enabling people to understand the Gospel, respond, and be born again. So prophetic witness and prophetic action must come from ALL the Lord's people everywhere -- whatever domain or situation they are in. Insist that your clergy train you in this (see Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:2).

We are also challenged to personal holiness, a godly life, deep devotion, and sacrificial service. There is a problem of behavioural inconsistency among the Lord's people. In an age of endless superficialities, there never was a greater need for the Lord's people to go deeper with Him and develop godly characters marked by deep devotion and sacrificial service. Many come to Christ singing *Just As I am* -- and then remain *just as they were!* That's no good. We have to let ourselves be challenged as to the quality and depth of our discipleship. You see, whatever our changing times are going to require of us, we'll fail, be lost, and be irrelevant, unless we are deeply tuned in to the Lord. This requires regular personal devotions, systematic Bible reading and study, plus holiness and purity of life. Beloved friends -- don't fail here. As leaders we need to be preaching a 'Kingdom Gospel' and not just a 'Salvationist Gospel'. We can rise to this to be a new generation of Kingdom Christians where we seek to bring the Kingly Rule of Christ into every arena of life.

Another unchanging reality is the eschatological movement and plan of God for the Home-Straight of History. We need to see and live under the *sovereign movement of God in history* i.e. history moving to the climax of Jesus Christ's return. As Christians we need to live aware of His hand on the *Helm of History*. We need to live as the Mediaevals said: '*Sub specie aeternitatis*,' which means: 'Under the aspect of eternity'. We need by faith to see our Lord (as per the book of Revelation) seated at the right hand of the Father in the Glory of Heaven. This earth is NOT our Final Home. But we still need to grasp the challenges of the Here and Now -- and respond to them. So we have to face courageously into the truth in the Lord's Prayer: "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on EARTH as it is in Heaven.*"

SO WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE FACING? (What do we need to understand if we are to understand our times -- and what do we need to be doing?)

Firstly, we must understand that here in South Africa, as elsewhere, we are in a complex 'Culture War'. Culture is critical because it is all about how people live and behave in different situations and contexts, and as different nations, tribes and races. And the Gospel is all about God addressing us, from His perspective, about how He wants us to live and behave in our various cultural contexts. Thus for example when John Stott was launching the *London Institute for Contemporary Christians* a good many years ago, he wrote:

"God has not called us to live in the first century or in the Middle Ages or even in the first half of the 20th century, but in its last decades. We must therefore struggle to understand the contemporary scene We aim to help Christians develop both a Christian critique of its assumptions, values and standards, and a Christian response to its challenges." (The Gospel in the Modern World - A Tribute to John Stott - Ed. Martin Eden and David Wells - p. 29). NB: Written last Century!

So Stott is saying that Christians must develop a critique of the assumptions, values and standards of the world. Why? Because the Bible as God's Word stands as a divine authority ABOVE culture and speaks God's truth into culture. Thus it will sometimes affirm culture; sometimes critique it; and sometimes judge it. And in South Africa that is exactly what we as the Church of Christ need the courage to do -- namely affirm our culture where we can; critique it where necessary; and judge it where it violates the Christian way.

CULTURE WAR

Something important in addition to grasp is that while this 'Culture War' starts in our heads, in the intellectual arena and in the spiritual mechanisms by which we make moral decisions, it doesn't stop there. Says James Davison Hunter:

"Though intellectuals and activists of various sorts play a special role in this cultural conflict, it would be very wrong to assume that this conflict is really just the lofty and cerebral machinations of squirrely academic types who roam the corridors of think tanks and universities. To the contrary, this culture war intersects the lives of most Americans, even those who are or would like to be totally indifferent. This is so because this conflict has an impact on virtually all of the major institutions of American society." The same is true for South Africa.

So it is a war about *ideas* and *values* which we are in -- that's its basic nature. The major arena of this war is, of course public culture; but it is also deeply affected and can be ever more deeply affected by 'private culture', i.e. our own private, individual, personal commitments and convictions. In many ways Truth is the key issue: its nature, its expression, its propagation, and where it is found. This takes us directly to Jesus (see John 1:4; John 1:17; John 14:6; John 17:17; & John 17:19). In a post-modern culture can we rise to being a people of Truth, for whom Truth matters and through whom it will be propagated? How do we follow Him meaningfully, convincingly, relevantly, and winsomely, so we make Him attractive to the world? This is the major challenge before us.

HUGE GIANTS

Of course, it goes without saying that in South Africa we have some huge giants to face. One of these is the challenge of family and marriage break-ups. In South Africa we have one of the highest divorce rates in the world which produces massive pain, trauma and on-going problems for the family and others involved. Church leaders need to address this -- and indeed the whole sexual revolution -- and teach on what really makes a marriage work. Very few in their home churches ever hear a sermon on how to be a better spouse or parent. So, people are left floundering and at sea. In consequence marriages and families break down even further with dreadful consequences for our society, especially the young.

Secondly, we are in a post-apartheid country:

- This means we have a lingering legacy of racial pain and in some cases deep bitterness. This kind of thing does not heal overnight. So we daren't assume it's all dealt with, because it isn't. But also grasp 2 Cor. 5:18 which says, "God has committed to US (that's the Church) the ministry of reconciliation."
- Sadly also, we are in a country that is massively corrupt. This we must address. We need Christians of integrity in every area.
- Alongside that there is a massive discrepancy between the *rich* and *poor*. Forty-five percent of South Africans live on less than R20 000-00 per annum, & we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, with an average of fifty murders per day.
- We also face the pervasive and rising challenge of Islam.

SO WHAT MUST WE DO?

Yes, we must understand the times so we know what to do. For sure we have to start with the unchanging things mentioned at the beginning of this article (the God who is there -- and His call and commission). Embrace the Biblical mandate to witness and preach the Gospel, and the need for new birth. Face the challenge to personal witness and a godly character and life. Grasp the eschatological nature of the times and the unchanging plan of God for the Home-Straight of History. We must also live knowing we have 'dual citizenship' -- as both citizens of earth, and citizens of heaven. This gives life proper perspective. We need to educate ourselves and be educated into a Christian world view and how to defend it. We need to pray and study more and face with fresh seriousness the issue of Truth -- its nature, its locus in Jesus Christ and the Bible, and the challenge to propagate it.

South Africa is a country with not only massive spiritual potential, but a great spiritual destiny.

While we grasp our massive potential and possibilities as a nation, and in the Church of Christ, we also need to register that we still have some huge giants to face. These we dare not evade. Thus it surely is that the Lord is putting on all of us believers a real call to action.

-- Rev. Dr Michael Cassidy: African Enterprise

AFRICAN ENTERPRISE *Evangelsing the cities of Africa through word and deed in partnership with the Church.*

TEAM LEADER: AFRICAN ENTERPRISE

The African Enterprise Board in conjunction with its Founder, Michael Cassidy, are looking for a new Team Leader for the South African Team based in Pietermaritzburg. The applicant should be:

- An evangelical Christian
- Passionate about evangelism
- Strongly committed to the mission of the Church
- Characterised by a deep personal devotional life
- Appropriately qualified theologically with a sound understanding of the South African context
- Able to supply three or four reliable references
- A team player with a proven leadership track record
- A networker with people skills and able to bring people together
- A visionary leader
- A preacher and evangelist with at least some administrative skills

Please send references plus a two page CV together with a photograph to secretary of the AE Board at secretary@ae.org.za. Closing date: 17 April 2015.

“When you forget the thread of your discourse, it is advisable to ROAR.”!
 ('Gimel' MacMillan's advice to Dr J. Gresham Machen, formerly of Princeton Theological Seminary, and founder of the Westminster Theological Seminary. PA, USA.)

The New Reformation of the 21ST Century

INTRODUCTION

As many denominations have since the Second World War moved away from traditional evangelical Protestant theology, the problem for those congregations that have held to Protestant theology and believe the Bible to be God's inerrant inspired Word, has been whether to stay within their denominations, or to leave.

John Stott was a firm believer that evangelical churches should stay and work from within the Church of England -- but is that still a valid approach today? The truth is that evangelicals today are not represented in the decision-making bodies of the church, nor in their hierarchy.

What is seldom disputed is that the evangelical churches with a mission-spirit, are by-and-large numerically and financially stronger (and thus a good source of revenue for their denominations which tolerate them). Recently there were three gatherings of the largest Anglican churches in the UK where the minimum cut-off was 350 adult membership (most were between 450-500). Out of 150 that qualified, 140 were evangelical, and they are still around!

THE COST of 'WALKING'

However, today any suggestion of a re-alignment involves such practical issues as: pensions; church buildings; manses or rectories; vehicles; & moveable assets, etc.

Some years ago in the USA when individuals sued the Roman Catholic Church over allegations of child abuse, I recall that the US Courts ruled that as the church's assets had been paid for by individual congregations, such assets could not be attached to settle claims against the RC Church.

The same logic however did not succeed when those Episcopal Churches that did not want to remain under what they saw as un-Biblical leadership from within their denomination, tried to secede with their assets.

A similar pattern followed in Canada and in Scotland -- in all cases it was a Bible-believing evangelical congregation in opposition to what they perceived as a heretical leadership that had moved away from the fundamental teaching of the Bible, in favour of a politically-correct approach, particularly to moral issues; marriage; and the place of women within the church.

One UK commentator recently said:

"The truth is that people have stopped going to church because there is nothing to hear. (More than 1 500 Anglican churches have been knocked down, sold, or rented [made 'available for disposal'] by the Church of England's Closed Churches Team.) And it's not hard to understand why -- when church leaders claim, 'a church always looks like a church, no matter what it's used for.' Churches are now being 'used' as pubs, rock climbing centres, supermarkets, high-end flats, libraries, temples, mosques, and even a circus school. In none can be found a King James Bible or a Book of Common Prayer!"

The truth is that while non-Anglican churches are growing by small numbers, they are no match for the nearly 2 300 mosques and affiliated organizations in the UK, of which the largest -- each -- hold 8 000. Some claim Baitul Futuh will be *"the largest mosque in Western Europe, holding 10 500. Regents Park Islamic Cultural Centre already holds nearly 10 800 every Friday."*

THE DILEMMA

Co-existence within the same structure appears today to be less and less an option. The old divide of Anglo-Catholic / Evangelical where both sides co-existed within the larger framework, has been replaced with a new divide centred around the place and authority of God's Word, The Bible, which is splitting denominations.

The tragedy of this is that those who hold to traditional Bible teaching are now viewed as being out of line and being forced to conform or go -- when in reality those who no longer hold to traditional Biblical teachings are the ones who should go!

In another context it is rather like a salesman employed (for example) by the *Alpha Insurance Company*, going to his clients and saying, “*Alpha’s* products are useless -- why not try *Betas?*” Can you for one minute believe that the courts would fail to uphold a dismissal notice served on *Alpha’s* salesman? Yet the ‘church’ tolerates its false salesmen in the interests of peace at all costs. One in 50 Anglican clergy in the UK believes God is merely a human construct, according to a new survey; just eight in ten believe there is a personal God; a further three in 100 believe there is some spirit or life force; while nearly one in ten believes: ‘No-one can know what God is like.’

THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD

The issue of the place of the Bible was illustrated some years ago during a radio debate in the UK between the Secretary of the Christian Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA) and an Evangelical leader. The standpoint of the Evangelical was that the Bible is God’s authoritative Word -- full stop.

The Secretary of the CGLA disagreed, saying that while the Bible was a strong *guide* to morals and living, it co-existed with *tradition* and *current thinking*. In other words there were no absolutes and over time what is right could become wrong, and what is now wrong could in time become right. (Already one sees today the beginning of pressure to lower the ‘age of consent’ which will end up legalising paedophilia, as well as the push to legalise euthanasia).

Just last year, one UK bishop suggested that the Koran should be read at Prince Charles’ coronation!

COMPROMISE OR STAND FAST?

So the persecution and vilification by the state, the established churches, and secular society of Bible-believing members is intensifying and essentially forcing congregations to make a choice -- stay and toe the line; or leave and walk away with nothing (a new spin on the definition of ‘tolerance’).

Many are choosing the latter option trusting in God to lead and to provide facilities, assets, pensions, and spiritual oversight.

The issue of **SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT** of independent congregations has resulted in many new structures arising – some loose, others denominational. (An example of the former is the **Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches** (FIEC) – see *Protestant Reveille* Q2 2014). Another factor which is forcing a re-alignment is the growing African Anglican Church which holds fast to Biblical truth and which is prepared to break with their western counterparts when there is a divergence in theology.

I trust the above has been of help to seeing how the **New Reformation of the 21st Century** is coming about. If God’s hand is in it, it will prosper; if not, it will follow into decline like much of the church today.

-- Dr Chris Molyneux, Simon’s Town

“The nearer the church, the further from God”!

-- Bishop JC Ryle, quoting Rollock on the Jerusalem Jews of Bible times.

***For your Diary:
Reformation Sunday: 25th October 2015:
Remember our Protestant Heritage every Day!***

Joy in Heaven -- JOY Magazine and the Pope

In our Reformation edition of *Protestant Reveille* (October 2014), we expressed our concern with the naive feature in JOY Magazine on the Pope. (JOY: October 2014; & editorial & article **'We must work Together'**: Jan. 2015). It is nearly five hundred years since the Protestant Reformation broke the hold of the Roman Catholic Church, over the souls of mankind. Martin Luther's analogy was his perceptive treatment of the enormity thereof in his major work, *The Babylonian Captivity*.

JOY does good work in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ through its presence in retail outlets, etc. But it needs to be more theologically discerning. If JOY wants us all to join hands, why was the article on the Pope to the best of our knowledge, not repeated in JUIG, the Afrikaans edition, which seems similar in content?

Protestants don't claim to have a monopoly on the world's salvation, as Rome does via its Vatican tollgate. We maintain that in spite of the trappings of some of the churches, e.g. Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Egyptian Coptic, people are saved not *because* of the system, but *in spite of* its man-made traditions.

"Where Christ is, there is the Church". (St Ignatius)

JOY seems to imply that its position on so-called Christian unity must be accepted by the Reformed churches as a mark of their love for God.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty in which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage ..." (Galatians 5:1)

-- Rev. Craig Hounsom: Editor

Letters: Responses to our 'Reformation' Edition:

1] To the Editor:

Hi Craig

I have just read the 4th quarter issue of Protestant Reveille and want to congratulate you on an excellent issue. I believe that it is serving a good purpose in upholding the truth.

Warm Regards, Graham

[Graham Wood is a former Chairman of the Protestant Association of SA.]

2] To the Editor:

Thanks Craig

Fantastic reading, I love it. Such intellects give their all to God and His Truth.

Regards, Syd

[Syd Joelson is a longstanding friend of the editor's, but his kind email was unsolicited! Syd is now no longer at UKZN, Howard College campus, but is currently pursuing his writing career. He was a top sportsman, including being a champion boxer. We were once notable rebels *without* a cause, and King Jesus has turned our lives into rebels *with* a Cause!]

The Lord Upholds – Dr Laurie Rauch's Testimony

Laurie was out training for SA triathlon champs when knocked off his bicycle by a drunken container truck driver. In the final year of a PhD in Exercise Science, Laurie now had to refocus every last bit of his energy on intensive daily rehab. The knowledge he had gained in his PhD was of no practical use since his research focused on muscles, metabolism and feedback from the muscle to the black box of the brain. The very systems that were now working against him -- his withered muscles, from bed-rest, brain and spinal cord damage -- sent out alarm signals every time he got out of bed.

Laurie was desperate to understand how the brain motivated and moved the body. After tapping into his pre-accident sporting experiences he started making headway. Learning to walk out of the parallel bars with non-existent stump & core muscles, damage to his sensory-motor brain circuits on top of spinal cord damage, demanded a very particular brain state. A brain state consequent upon a quickened spirit. (John 6:63) This same brain state can be put to use by anybody who wants to overcome life's challenges. Laurie's current research shows that the younger you learn to optimize your brain state via a quickened spirit the better, but it is never too late to start with God.

John 6:63: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

-- Dr Laurie Rauch: Neurobiologist of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine in the Department of Human Biology, University of Cape Town. He worked under the well-known Dr Tim Noakes.

“God cannot train one without mystifying him, without baffling him”.

-- Paul Billheimer in 'Don't Waste your Sorrows'.

(A quotation my late wife, Val, pointed out to me. The book was kept with her Bible, and her 'Streams in the Desert / Springs in the Valley' – Mrs C. Cowman.)

***“I found that I only had an historical Christ,
and not a personal Saviour who could take me to the other side”.***

-- Rees Howells: the Welsh miner, turned intercessor, on his early sickness and conversion later. From Biography by his son-in-law, Norman Grubb.

‘Desired Identity’

*Dr Laurie Rauch is closely associated with **Desired Identity** which was started with the aim of empowering youth to make decisions against drugs and gangsterism:*

We are a Christian-based organization seeking to assist any person who has a desire to come off drugs or **stay away from** drugs in the first place.

There are many support groups for drug addicts, but we are focussing our efforts on children who come from dysfunctional and disadvantaged backgrounds, who -- with help and guidance -- are able to become our future leaders.

Strandfontein will be run as a pilot program where there exists both an individual desire and a community desire to overcome this demon called drug addiction. There is thus a desperate need for support groups in the area that are both **visible** and **committed**. Strandfontein is thought to have 28 operating drug houses. This equates to MOST of Strandfontein's residents having easy access to drugs.

Desired Identity was started in June 2013 by Amanda Sables and Dr Laurie Rauch. Amanda Sables grew up in Strandfontein and has done volunteer work with court diversion cases, drug users, ex-gangsters and ex-prostitutes to help assimilate them back into society.

Why the Name, DESIRED IDENTITY? We believe that our young people are searching for their identity, desiring to find out who they are and where they fit into society.

We hold seminars & fundraisers such as the one in Cape Town on 21st March on: TRANSFORMING THE IDENTITIES OF OUR YOUTH. Speakers:

Dr Laurie Rauch; Pastor Russel van Wyk (of Desire of All Nations Christian Church); & Zane Meas, of the Fatherhood Foundation, and well-known actor.

Our contact details: **E-mail: desiredidentity@mail.com or Whatsapp: 072 677 8133**

People in the News: Tribute to the Late Dr Myles and Ruth Munroe

The tragic passing of Dr Myles and Pastor Ruth Munroe has been a devastating shock. It was a shock because we had been privileged to be with them during their very last two weeks before they were recalled to our Home Country. When I saw them in Johannesburg and Durban during their last days, they were full of life, passion and love as always. Little did I know that they were left with a few days before their ultimate departure for our beloved Home Country, where our King of Glory reigns forever!

The kind of love Dr Myles Munroe poured out to me during our last three encounters was almost unprecedented. We had always hugged before as part of our Kingdom embrace and greetings. But as part of saying 'goodbye' he said to me: "Khayo, I love you, I'm proud of you, you're a great leader." When we bade farewell to each other in Durban, Dr Munroe said to me: "We'll see you in the Bahamas ... I'm believing it, I'm believing it!" I now understand his last words to have meant: "We'll see you in Heaven...I'm believing it, I'm believing it!"

-- Khayo E. Mpungose, MBA: Executive Chairman: Africa Mayibuye Leadership; Member of Board of Trustees: International Third World Leaders' Association (Founded by Dr Myles Munroe)

Comment by the Editor:

The above is an abbreviated tribute from my long-time friend, Khayo Mpungose, whose first encounter with Dr Munroe was in 1993 through reading his book, *Understanding your Potential*. That led to a strong friendship and association. ***Alongside the renowned preacher, and his wife, Ruth Ann, seven others were killed in the Bahamas air crash!***

Dorette Knoblauch -- registered Pastoral Counsellor:

"The glory of God is a person fully alive" Saint Irenaeus

Dorette utilizes the Bible in her counselling of people alongside the churches. She is a graduate of Stellenbosch University, and Cape-based, though the family are from Gauteng.

This gentle and caring lady has a definite call on her life to a ministry of 'helps', and is 'heeltemal tweetalig' (bi-lingual).

Contact details: Cell: 072 565 0708; E-mail: doretteknoblauch@gmail.com ; Website: www.dorette.co.za

Protestant Association turns 90 years old!

1925 saw men of vision and conviction form the Protestant Association of South Africa (PASA). Its main aim was to promote the noble truths of the Protestant Reformation, such as those of the great German church reformer, Martin Luther, who was captive to his conscience and the Word of God, the Bible. Against the tide of compromise and expediency, they would "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints". (Jude: 3)

Ninety years on, the battle is more subtle; indeed main-stream Christian denominations have been infiltrated through the pseudo-ecumenical movement, which is not shy about joining with other religions (Inclusivism and Pluralism).

PASA is associated often with the legendary AH Jeffree James, an Englishman who adopted South Africa as his home. His last advice to me on the telephone in early 2011, was that we must not panic! He knew the battle belongs to the Lord Jesus!

Please pray for, and support the work as you are enabled.

-- Rev. Craig Hounsom: Editor

BOOK REVIEWS:

1] George Whitefield

By Arnold Dallimore: (2 volumes): Banner of Truth:

Special Post-free offer (within RSA): R740-00: (Allow 10 days)

Here are a few impressions to encourage fellow ministers to read these volumes:

To all called to the preaching ministry of the church, this book is a must to read not once, but at intervals throughout one's ministry.

I was again challenged and encouraged by so much from Whitefield's life. but here I touch on only three aspects:

1] His call:

At the age of twenty-one Whitefield preached his first sermon in the church where he was baptised as an infant. After much heart searching he was ordained in 1736. His preaching was of such clarity, simplicity, and power, that people flocked to hear him. Like the Apostles he saw his life, not of comfort and peace, but of labour and reproach. He spoke of seeing his body as disposed and worn out in His service.

2] His Courage:

Many times his life was nearly taken by the rage of those who were enemies of the cross. Once a certain Henry Tanner filled his pockets with stones to knock the preacher down. But not a stone left his hand as the Gospel pierced his heart, and later Tanner became a Pastor in Exeter!

There was also his Theological courage. He stood his ground against Deism and the ordaining of unconverted men to the ministry.

3] His Compassion:

Despite his disagreements with John Wesley, Whitefield remained a true, loyal friend and initiated reconciliation on many occasions.

Whitefield did much to alleviate the suffering of slaves in America.

He built an orphanage to meet the needs of homeless children.

Whitefield left behind a rich legacy of hundreds of thousands of converts, new churches, and many were called to the ministry.

These two volumes will restore the fire of God's grace in your eyes and the thunder of His love in your voice. A favourite quote of Whitefield's:

***I love those that thunder out the Word! The Christian world is in a deep sleep.
Nothing but a loud voice can waken them out of it.***

– Rev. Mike Taylor: former Head, Bible Society of South Africa: Western Cape.

2] Joseph: His Arms Were Made Strong

David C. Searle: Paperback 268pp: Banner of Truth: £7.50:

Special Post-free offer (within RSA): R114-00: (Allow 10 days)

Good author, good subject, good publisher, and good production -- what is there not to like about David Searle on Joseph? Excellent value and with the Banner's customary production quality, erstwhile Scottish Presbyterian minister, David Searle, has made an extremely helpful contribution to the available literature on Joseph.

Searle does numerous things very well and at all the same time. The story narrated, Joseph is rightly seen as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ; the book is full of gospel; regular connections are made with relevant New Testament passages; and constant applications are made to the Christian living for Christ in the contemporary world.

Preachers will find inspiration here and Sunday School teachers fresh insights, but this is also a book for any serious Christian.

It will more than repay thoughtful reading and is heartily recommended.

-- Reviewer: Rev. Jeremy Brooks: in *Protestant Truth*, UK, November-December 2014

3] Evangelical Holiness

Iain H Murray: 175pp: Paperback; Banner of Truth: £6.00:

Special Post-free offer (within RSA): R92-00: (Allow 10 days)

The quality and standard of Iain Murray's books need no promotion or introduction to many Christians. This little gem is no exception. It consists of five addresses given by Mr Murray at various conferences, including the Keswick, Crieff, and Leicester conferences. The last chapter is taken from his booklet *Rest in God*, dealing with the importance of the Lord's Day.

One of Murray's many gifts is that of a thorough grasp, not just of theology, but of church history. This is essential if the Christian is to take heed of the many dangers that face the contemporary church. We cannot ignore the failings of others.

The first chapter deals with *Evangelical Holiness*, followed by *The Attack on the Bible*, *Apostasy*, *The Benefits and Danger of Controversy*, and finally a treatment on keeping the Lord's Day – *Rest in God*.

The author deals with each of his subjects with a clear grasp of the issues at hand. We are presented with good detail on the rights and wrongs of the subject being discussed. We are warned, for example in his treatment on *The Attack on the Bible*, of those otherwise good men, yet who had been influenced by the Higher Critical Movement in the 1800's. This would indicate to us all that none are beyond being wrongly influenced by dangerous thinking and practice -- be that of wrong understanding of holiness, being warned of the dangers of apostasy, warding off attacks on the Bible, knowing the benefits and dangers of controversy, or misunderstanding the place and importance of the Lord's Day.

This book is a must for those concerned to know how to accurately discern the varied ways in which the enemy of man's soul attacks, confuses, and undermines the Christian faith. Highly recommended.

-- Reviewer: Stephen Holland: in *Protestant Truth*, UK, September-October 2014

Interested in any of the above titles? Request a pro-forma invoice from:

PROTESTANT BOOK CENTRE

- Tel: 021 685 3015 □ Fax: 021 685 2618 □ E-mail: protbookctr@xsinet.co.za
□ 61 – 65 Main Road Mowbray 7700 □ P.O. Box 13068 Mowbray 7705

We stock a wide range of Bibles, commentaries, reference works, devotionals, & bible study aids (for individuals & cell groups); Hymn Books & Prayer Books

Latest catalogues available: # Study Bibles # Communion-ware

Contact us to source the books you struggle to obtain!

Don't miss our 'FOUR for THREE' Autumn Sale:

***All purchases or orders of any items not already marked down:
Buy FOUR – Get the cheapest one FREE!***

***Scores of Bibles & good titles at low, low prices:
Sale tables always kept full!***

- Protestant Reveille*** (Editor: Rev. Craig Hounsom)
is the official organ of the ***Protestant Association of South Africa***.
□ 026-692-NPO □ PBO-930007292.
□ P. O. Box 13068 □ Mowbray □ 7705
□ Telephone: 021 685 3015 □ Fax: 021 685 2618 □ E-mail: protestantsa@xsinet.co.za

Your contact details changing?

Kindly let us know, to ensure that you receive *Reveille* regularly in future.

Feel free to forward ***Protestant Reveille*** to interested friends, and encourage them to send us their contact details.

Current & back issues of ***Protestant Reveille*** (English & Afrikaans) are available **free of charge** upon request, in both **print & electronic** formats.

Feed-back and suggestions are welcome – feel free to contact our editor.

You are welcome to use ***Protestant Reveille*** to promote an interest in Reformation and Protestant issues. If so, please acknowledge the magazine and relevant contributor as your source.

Donations toward the distribution of ***Protestant Reveille*** and the work of the ***Protestant Association*** are greatly appreciated:

- Name of Account: Protestant Association of South Africa □ Bank: Standard Bank
□ Cheque a/c nr: 071391592 □ Branch: Mowbray □ Br/code: 024909 □ Depositor's reference:
Kindly give your name; and contact us separately by e-mail, fax, or letter. Thank you!

Protestant Reveille: Second Quarter 2015 ex Draft8 as at 19th March am.

***“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it;
but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel’s
the same shall save it.***

***For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?***

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37)