

# PROTESTANT REVEILLE

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## Africa's Best Friend: 'A fighter for Right and Righteousness'

*The world is in turmoil, and it is calling out for true leaders who fear God,  
and regard their fellow man with respect.*

### From the Isle of St Helena to the Cape of Good Hope

A tiny man who had to overcome stunted growth, Saul Solomon hardly gets a mention today. But his name stands tall in South Africa's early annals. A Jew who loved Jesus and the peoples of his adopted continent, once on a visit to Britain had an encounter with the veteran missionary, Dr. Robert Moffat:

"Mr Moffat not expecting to meet him there was taken by surprise and his emotion on seeing him deeply affected the company who were present: Embracing Mr Solomon, the veteran missionary exclaimed: *'Africa's best friend!'* while tears of genuine affection fell upon the pious statesman's head. For in truth personal religion was at the root of all Mr Solomon's philanthropy and political liberality and zeal."

### Larger than Life

The former SACS (Cape Town) schoolboy was one of those larger-than-life men of faith. Founder of the re-organised *Cape Argus* (1863), and parliamentarian he turned down the honour of becoming Prime Minister of the Cape Parliament.

Saul Solomon embraced the cause of justice and truth, at any cost:

***"It was for measures rather than men that he stood."***

He never put friendship before political causes. No wonder he was called, 'the Gladstone of South Africa'. He was a principled, and able statesman, so lacking in our day and age.

Mr Solomon's name is closely associated with the present South African Parliament building, the completion of which he never lived to see; the harbour development in Cape Town; and the railway line to Wellington.

Contrary to common trends that avoid the subjects of religion and politics, it is said that Saul Solomon cared for nothing else. Significantly, he was once described by a contemporary as, 'the smallest man here, yet the greatest member of parliament that South Africa has ever known!'

### Stand your Ground

Saul Solomon's legacy is to overcome adversity, and hold fast to Christian principles, and their outworking in every area of life that people find themselves in. Keep fighting the gravity of expediency and popular applause, no matter how lonely the path is.

You never walk alone, if it's God's cause:

***'The struggle might be long, the education of the people slow, but if principle were adhered to, the victory would be secure!'***

No wonder such a man was loved in return by all our people of whom he was a protector:

**'Saul Solomon: a Giant in Intellect:  
A Fighter for Right and Righteousness!'**  
(President Reitz (OFS) through Rev. A Dreyer).

### **In Weakness**

Here are some significant causes Saul Solomon adopted:

- He approved the **abolition of state grants** to older churches, as the system was unjust, and tending to control the sphere of religion.
- He worked towards **responsible government**, i.e. greater power for the Cape Colony. Later on he supported resistance to the authoritarian High Commissioner for Southern Africa, Sir Bartle Frere, in his schemes of Confederation.
- He supported **calming tensions on the Border** (now the Eastern Cape), and the protection of the local tribes of Southern Africa.
- He made **personal financial contributions** to the welfare of the widows and orphans of some of the burghers of the old Transvaal who had lost their lives.

Such was the scope of a little man, so broad in his affections!

Saul Solomon was a man who looked away from his own physical limitations, to the **God of the Promise unveiled in Jesus Christ**; and to the **'Irresistible might of our weakness'**  
(John Milton, author of *Paradise Lost* & of *Paradise Regained*)

-- Craig Hounsom

### **Bibliography:**

*Saul Solomon: The Member for Cape Town*, by his son, WEG Solomon.

***"There is not in history a more consoling spectacle  
than the embarrassment of force  
when engaged in a contest with weakness".***

-- French Chambers, as quoted in *Saul Solomon: The Member for Cape Town*

## **The Man in the Arena**

by Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt, former USA president

**It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.**

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be those cold and timid souls who neither know victory or defeat.

-- Quoted by Jeffrey Bennett of Ireland, ex SA.)

# Tears in Heaven

## Abortion – Infanticide?

In 1973, a single woman wanting to abort her third child, challenged the Texas abortion law (Roe vs. Wade), and the court ruled in her favour. This led to an unprecedented world-wide slaughter of unborn babies. More human beings have since been killed by abortion than were slain in all the wars of mankind.

At present, an estimated forty-two million unborn babies are murdered per annum. Since 1980 over a billion children have been aborted, of that, 6.4 million in Africa. In USA, since 1973, fifty-seven million have lost their lives, and in Europe an unborn child is destroyed in the womb every 11 seconds. (2)

This is an awful situation! God warns: *“Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.”* (Numbers 35:33) God knows these little ones intimately. As the Psalmist says:

*“You [God] created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be”* (Psalm 139). What, if this army of slain children were to stand up to face us and claim its atonement?

In spite of God’s Word and all biological evidence, today the absurd question is asked: Is the unborn child a human being or just a blob of tissue? In 2011 a New Zealand judge ruled that unborn children have no right to life (3), whereas in other parts of the world an unborn child has the right to inclusion in legal matters, such as inheritance. (4)

### Lucrative Business

Abortion has become one of the most profitable money spinners:

*“In 2005, the average cost of a non-hospital abortion with local anesthesia at 10 weeks of gestation was \$413. The Women’s Medical Center estimates that a 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester abortion costs up to \$3 000. That means that each year, in the U.S., the abortion industry brings in approximately \$831 million through their abortion services alone. If you add in the \$337 (or more) that Planned Parenthood (America’s largest abortion provider) receives annually in government grants, the annual dollar amount moves well past one billion. Abortion, to put it plainly, is a very lucrative business.”* (5)

### Sex Education

Carol Everett, an abortion doctor who was converted and has since defended the right to life of the unborn, asked: *“How do you sell an abortion? In the US it’s very simple. You do it through sex education.”* From 1977 to 1983 she ran a chain of four abortion clinics in Texas, where an estimated 35 000 unborn children were aborted. She wanted to become *“a millionaire by selling abortions to teenage girls. We had a goal of 3-5 abortions from every girl between the ages of 13 and 18, because we all work on a straight commission inside the abortion industry.”*

### Creating a Market

But first they had to create a ‘market for abortions’: *“We started in kindergarten,”* she said, and aimed at eroding the children’s *“natural modesty.”* Everything was calculated

to “separate the children from their values and their parents’.... My goal was to get them sexually active and pregnant.” If the sex education is done correctly... “the girl is going to call our clinic... And there we had telemarketers trained with a script designed to overcome every single objection.” The success of the sex education strategy was measured by the number of abortions a repeatedly pregnant young person was prepared to undergo. (6)

### **Back to God’s Law**

Today, whole nations are coerced into legalising abortion. This is justified by claiming that the world is overpopulated. However, most industrialised nations have a negative population growth which now endangers their future. Even the populations of third world countries are no longer ‘exploding’.

Sadly, the sexual revolution has brought untold heart-ache and misery into the world, of which abortion is the most cruel and unnatural. It is time that both Church and State re-assert God’s commandment:

**“Thou shalt not commit adultery,”** which means:

**“The duties required in the seventh commandment are, “chastity in body, mind, affections, words and behaviour...” (7)**

-- Dorothea Scarborough

### **Footnotes:**

1] Title: **Tears in Heaven** (From the lyrics of Eric Clapton’s tribute to his toddler son, Conor, who fell from a New York skyscraper to his tragic death. While others take an active part in their baby’s killing!)

2] Loveundefiled.blogspot.com; Discover happiness: Abortion Statistics worldwide.

3] Family Policy Institute, 4.6.2011.

4] Internet research.

5] [www.abort73.com/abortion\\_for\\_profit/](http://www.abort73.com/abortion_for_profit/)

6] LifeSiteNews.com *Life, Family and Culture News*: Peter Blaklinski, 12.5.2014, We created demand for abortion by pushing sex ed on kids...

7] *Westminster Larger Catechism*: Question 137, The Seventh Commandment.

### **Editor’s Comment:**

**How will history judge our generation, that has adopted a cruel Spartan treatment in many cases, of its weak, particularly babies? Jesus said, "Suffer the children to come to Me" (Matthew 19:14). Dr Campbell Morgan of Westminster Chapel, London, called this the Magna Charta of children. That is: not to terminate life, but to welcome with divine and tender compassion!**

## **‘To God be the Glory’ -- an Anonymous Testimony**

"I am thinking of the man who said to me a short time ago as he came out of a lecture: 'I have just been converted through reading *The Institutes* (of the Christian Religion).' And when I asked him to tell me what exactly had been the message which had effected this transformation in his life, he replied:

***'I learnt from reading Calvin that all the worries about health, and about the uncertain future, which had hitherto dominated my life were without much importance and that the only things that counted were obedience to the will of God, and a care for His glory.'***

-- Craig Hounsom (inscribed in my Bible)

# For the love of God and His Word: Remember the Reformation and the noble army of martyrs!

The Reformation of the Church is generally considered to have started in earnest almost 500 years ago, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his *Ninety-Five Theses* to the Wittenberg church door, “out of love for the [T]ruth and a desire to bring it to light...” A few years later, at the Diet (congress) at Worms in 1521, the Church of Rome demanded that Luther recant his belief and teaching, or be declared a heretic. He responded:

“Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, not embellished: **Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason**, for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradict themselves, **I am bound to the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand. May God help me, Amen.**”

The Church of Rome declared him a heretic, and Charles V, emperor of the ‘Holy’ Roman Empire, placed him under imperial ban. For the rest of his life, Luther could be hunted down and killed, with the approval of the ‘Holy’ Roman Empire!

(see S.J. Nichols, *Martin Luther*, 2002)

The Reformation of the Church spread rapidly throughout Europe and Britain, yet despite the efforts of Rome to prevent it, there were those who were prepared to die for their faith, so certain of the truth were they. And yet, *now*, as Bishop JC Ryle wrote in the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

*“It is fashionable in some quarters to deny that there is any such thing as certainty about religious truth, or any opinions for which it is worthwhile to be burned. Yet, 300 years ago, there were men who were certain they had found out truth, and were content to die for their opinions.*

*It is fashionable in other quarters to leave out all the unpleasant things in history, and to paint everything with a rose-coloured hue. A very popular history of our English queens hardly mentions the martyrdoms of Queen Mary’s days! Yet Mary was not called ‘Bloody Mary’ without reason, and scores of Protestants were burned in her reign.*

*Last, but not least, it is thought very bad taste in many quarters to say anything which throws discredit on the Church of Rome. Yet it is as certain that the Romish Church burned our English Reformers as it is that William the Conqueror won the battle of Hastings.”* (J.C. Ryle, *Five English Reformers*, 1960 Banner of Truth Edition)

Queen Mary ordered the burning of at least two hundred and eighty-eight Protestants in England during the last four years of her reign, including an Archbishop (Cranmer, who was largely responsible for the 1552 Anglican Prayer Book and the Thirty-nine Articles), four bishops, twenty-one clergymen, fifty-five women, **and four children.**

*These martyrs, “were not rebels against the Queen’s authority, caught red-handed in arms. They were not thieves, or murderers, or drunkards, or unbelievers, or men and women of immoral lives. On the contrary, they were, with barely an exception, some of the holiest, purest, and best Christians in England, and several of them the most learned men of their day.... One by one they were called before special Commissions, examined about their religious opinions, and called upon to recant, on*

*pain of death if they refused. No third course, no alternative was left to them. They were either to give up Protestantism and receive Popery, or else they were to be burned alive. Refusing to recant, they were one by one handed over to the secular power, publicly brought out and chained to stakes, publicly surrounded with faggots [logs of wood], and publicly sent out of the world by that most cruel and painful of deaths -- the death by fire.” (Ryle, Five English Reformers)*

**What relevance does this have to us, in the Church today?  
Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Freedom!**

-- Dr Kenneth Allen

***For your Diary:  
Reformation Sunday: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014:  
Remember our Protestant Heritage every Day!***

# **A Glimpse at the Life of George Whitefield**

The year 2014 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great preacher, George Whitefield.

George Whitefield was born in England in 1714. In 1732 he began attending Oxford University. There he met Charles Wesley, a devout Anglican student who encouraged Whitefield toward devout Christianity.

Whitefield was ordained after receiving his BA. He immediately began preaching. He became an itinerant preacher and evangelist. He made his first trip to North America in 1738, traveling to the newly established colony of Georgia. There he established an orphanage, which he named Bethesda. For the rest of his life, he raised money for the orphanage.

After he returned to England, Whitefield's preaching became increasingly popular. Whitefield preached in a dramatic style that crowds loved. His voice was powerful, and able to reach the large crowds that gathered in the open air to hear him preach.

Whitefield preached with conviction. He proclaimed man's need of the new birth by the power of the Holy Spirit. He preached sin, repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

In 1739 Whitefield returned to preach throughout the Colonies, from New England to Georgia, in a trip that lasted over a year. What made Whitefield's preaching in New England at this point so important was that it came during the height of several local revivals. These awakenings led to many converts.

On his return to Britain in 1741, Whitefield continued his preaching ministry, though his popularity was waning. Over the years, Whitefield made several trips to preach in America. His final visit was in 1769. It was during this visit that Whitefield died, in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and was buried there.

Whitefield was a man with a remarkable gift and a relentless energy for preaching. Whitefield, more than any other man, turned a series of awakenings into the 'Great Awakening'.

-- *Protestant Truth*, UK, July-August 2014

**Editor's Comment:**

***Whitefield is also associated with John and Charles Wesley and the Evangelical Revival in the UK, when Britain was in a moral mess.***

***Meanwhile, across the Channel the French Revolution left a godless legacy!***

## **Responses to our 'Andrew Murray' Edition:**

*There was a great response to this edition, with most being encouraging of its content.*

### **1] To the Editor (translated from Afrikaans):**

*I receive your publication regularly and am grateful that there is usually something that reminds me of – and even elicits appreciation for -- my Protestant tradition. It is however also the case every time that there is one-sided and unfair criticism of the Roman Catholic Church. Sometimes I wonder if the Second Vatican Council has been forgotten, as well as (the fact) that within the Church there are many emphases.*

*As far as I am concerned, the article about Time and the Pope as Man of the year was particularly distasteful. The comparison with the Ayatollah was exceedingly unfair. The quotation:*

*“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets”*

*is equally unfair, especially if one considers how Andrew Murray and John Knox are quite rightly highly honoured in the same publication. Does the pope fall into the condemned category merely because the editor is of another persuasion?*

*I was also not comfortable with the manner in which the CPSA was deliberately disparaged due to its being in line with the 'social gospel' (in itself a very woolly concept); whereas the CESA and REACH, which in my experience is more fundamentalistic, (was) excessively praised.*

*We must guard against committing character assassination in the name of the truth! Whose truth (is it) in any case?*

*Greetings*

### **1] Reply by the Editor:**

I received a copy of your email regarding our recent edition of Reveille, and it confirms my fears that there is a blurring of distinctions in modern Protestantism.

Concerning Roman Catholicism and the papacy, our publication maintains the historic Reformed position which your denomination has held and played a noble part in preaching, and which many still hold dear in both pulpit and pew. I do not subscribe to Time's sense of self-importance, and its superficial pronouncements by innuendo on matters religious, and that is the graphic point made! For Reveille to attempt to honour Dr Murray and John Knox simultaneously in a sentimental gesture with the pope, would be a betrayal of our heritage, and more importantly our Saviour and Lord Jesus whom the pope claims to represent as His vicar on earth! I have cut to the quick and seen beyond Rome's councils and the papal platitudes designed to grab the limelight. Is our salvation from above or of men, i.e. the Reformers' doctrine of Christ alone, or a human substitute?

The *Anglican Bicentennial* feature reflected the composition of the old CPSA, and was a mere stating of facts, while generally honouring its forebears, and the Reformation

tradition. The social gospel is when ethics ignores the Gospel, i.e. first coming to God through the death of Christ on the Cross for our sins; and focuses on man, i.e. application.

We are not in the work of character assassination, but are called to be watchmen. CESA which you felt was praised to high heaven, comes from a similar Reformed tradition as your church. It has played a valued salting effect on the Cape Flats, even prior to the St James massacre.

The Truth is not hazy, but is declared in the Bible in a clear way. It belongs to no human monopoly, but is revealed by the Holy Spirit to men, women and children who believe.

***"The final object of ecumenism, as Catholics conceive it, is unity in faith, worship, and the acknowledgement of the supreme spiritual authority of the bishop of Rome."*** J Cornell, a Roman Catholic priest. (Quote from *Christian Library*).

Cape Town Union Congregational Church, where I serve, is the oldest English speaking church in SA. It has played a part in spreading the Gospel as chapel of the London Missionary Society, and in the upliftment of mankind, e.g. through Dr John Phillip, and Dr David Livingstone. That never meant compromising truth, but rather its propagation.

May every blessing rest on you and your congregation.

In Jesus, Craig.

## **2] Reveille is honoured to have received a response from Hugh Wetmore:**

***To the Editor:***

*Dear Craig*

*Our Pietermaritzburg North Baptist Church secretary circulated Protestant Reveille (Second Quarter, 2014) to the elders, and I appreciate your work very much. You must enjoy editing this publication!*

*I was intrigued by the Andrew Murray article, especially **'LET GOD ALONE DO THIS WORK INSIDE YOU,'** and your comment: **'Very sound Biblically...'***

*As you may know, Andrew Murray is part of my heritage ... he founded the SA General Mission which I joined in 1961 (later AEF, later SIM) and he was instrumental in importing the Keswick Movement into South Africa.*

*Generally, I was influenced by a 'Let Go and Let God' theology.*

*In later life I have questioned this, because there are so many commands in Scripture that place a responsibility on the believer in an active way – not a passive way. I have even re-worked that classic hymn 'Have Thine own way' to reflect what I consider a more biblical emphasis:*

*'Mould us and make us after Your will, **as we're obedient to Your wise skill.'**  
(Instead of: **'while I am waiting yielded and still'**.)*

*Just today in my devotions I read again 2 Peter 1:3&4 which speak of God's work in us, followed by verse 5: "For this very reason, **make every effort ....**"*

*How then do you reconcile Murray's quotation with the 'sound Biblical' words of 2 Peter 1:5 about **making an effort** (not letting God make the effort)?*

*Yours in Christ, Hugh*

*PS: Jeremiah 18:11 places the responsibility on the men of Judah (the clay) to 'return every one from his evil way and amend your ways and your deeds.'*

## 2] Editor's Comment ...

Hugh has worn many hats for his Lord Jesus, as:

- Bible scholar and lecturer.
- Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of South Africa (EFSA).
- Organizer of the SA Keswick conferences.
- An architect with Phillip Capp (USA) of the present ESSA (Evangelical Seminary of South Africa).

## ... and Response:

***"I do not forget the saying of the wise, that to 'speak of God even what is true is perilous' ".*** (Tyrannius Rufinus, Presbyter of Aquileia: 360-410 AD).

Hugh Wetmore has raised the old theological question surrounding God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, here regarding the outworking of our Christian walk in sanctification. Was Andrew Murray correct in advising the lady to ***"LET GOD ALONE DO THIS WORK IN YOU"***?

## Looking to Jesus

Dr Murray, as a wise physician of souls, would have prescribed a suitable remedy for the Christian sister's condition. She was clearly too introspective, with a tendency to pre-occupation.

His own personal walk with the Lord Jesus reveals a Biblical balance -- a man taught by the Holy Spirit in the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10). His dealings with other less anxious enquirers who were so 'laid back' that they were 'spiritually horizontal', may have been more jolting:

*Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light!*  
(Ephesians 5:14).

He rightly divided the Word of God!

There is an inherent self-righteousness in the heart which confuses human activity, albeit in the name of religion, with Divine favour:

- *'What shall we do to do the works of God?'* (Matthew 6: 28:29). Jesus' answer to the Jews was the singular, 'work', i.e. to believe in Himself.
- Martin Luther, the greatest teacher of Jesus since the apostles, grasped this clearly in his spiritual pilgrimage: *'To believe God is to worship God.'*
- Gospel faith is not a dead thing -- intellectual assent -- but dynamic and living. *'Do we then make void the law by faith? God forbid: yes, we establish the law'*. (Paul to the Romans: 3:31).

Three wise men of godly heritage are worth heeding:

- *Samuel Rutherford*, Scottish leader:  
*"As holy walking is a duty coming from us, it is no ground of true peace. Believers often seek in themselves what they should seek in Christ."* &  
*"Your heart is not the compass that Christ sails by"* (turning away his friend from looking inward, to looking upon the heart of Jesus). &  
*"Take Christ for sanctification, as well as for justification."* (cf 1Corinthians 1:30).

- *Phillip Henry, English Puritan:*  
"Remember two things. One, that you are not under law, but under grace; and two, that you are on earth, not in heaven" (to one who complained of weakness in duty).
- *Henry Venn, Anglican rector:*  
"Unless Christ the Saviour is first known, all treatises to promote holiness will prove defective, unless the Cross of Christ be laid at the foundation."  
(Quoted by EJ Poole-Connor, founder of the FIEC).

Probably the text that best shows Hugh Wetmore's point, is:

***"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and do His good pleasure."*** Philippians 2:12&13.

**In conclusion:**

***Your great difficulty is SELF-OCCUPATION. Your only cure will be SELF-OBLIVION, forgetting yourself. You do God's work outside. LET GOD ALONE DO THIS WORK INSIDE YOU.***

**In effect, with these words the good Doctor was counselling the lady:**

***You attend to the means of grace, namely the Word of God; prayer; and church. The Holy Spirit's regenerating work will produce that faith in you which will give you the victory over the world (1 John 5:4).***

## Stop Islamic State

While Israel ramped up its offensive in Gaza on Sunday, with appalling loss of life and injuries, 1 200km to the north-west in Iraq a different, but hardly lesser, tragedy was under way as the Christian community of Mosul poured out of the city where they have lived for 1 600 years.

The organisation we are invited to call the Islamic State (IS) possesses the virtue of clarity if nothing else. Hitler's genocidal plans for the Jews became public knowledge only years after he came to power. The Soviet gulags were for a long time shrouded in secrecy. But IS has never made any bones about either means or ends.

The ends: to establish a worldwide Islamic state based on the most reductive and intolerant version of Sunni Islam. The means: the elimination of everyone who believes different and refuses to convert.

Since their capture of Mosul on June 10, these fanatics have wasted no time slaughtering large numbers of brother Muslims who follow the Shia tradition. They boast of having 'executed' 1 700 Shia soldiers in the town of Tikrit.

But there was no reason to suppose they would look more benignly on other types of 'infidels' and now they have turned their attention to the remnants of the other communities that until recently made Iraq a rich patchwork of ancient beliefs. So it was that on Friday the Christians of Mosul, a community of thousands settled in the city since the early days of Christianity, were given 24 hours to either convert or face the sword. A third alternative was to pay *jizya*, an Islamic tax historically levied on religious minorities.

For the Christians this is not a new catastrophe, but rather the consolidation and systemisation of a terrible process of extirpation from their historic homelands that has been under way for years.

This may be the first time that an up-and-coming power has advertised its genocidal intentions while starting to carry them out. How these monsters are to be confronted is not yet clear, but confronted they must be.

-- *The Independent* (in the *Cape Times*: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014)

**Editor's Comment:**

***One casualty is too much! Our prayers are for the Peace of Jerusalem and the region, indeed a 'tough neighbourhood'. May Hamas recognise the right of Israel to exist. Our hearts go out also to the minority Christian Arab population that is caught in the middle of conflict.***

## Big Greek Outreach

There is one project in Greece that Christian writers from South Africa might consider getting involved in: We could really use somebody with writing skills to come across to Greece and write up some of the wonderful stories coming out of the ministry there. Some that come to mind immediately are:

- The lady who was on the point of suicide when she found the Bible bag on her doorstep. She opened the Bible in the package. God spoke to her. And now she is actively serving the Lord in a small evangelical church in her town.
- A lady who travelled from Australia to sort out her deceased father's estate in Greece. When she arrived she found out that her brother had swindled her out of all of her share. Devastated, she returned to her house in Greece and found the Bible which our workers had left for her. She opened it and read, I Peter 5:7: "**Cast all your care upon Him for He cares for you**". She continued reading and found many more wonderful promises and assurances. She returned home to Australia and joined up with an evangelical church in Melbourne.
- Javad is a refugee from Afghanistan. As an 8 year old boy he had seen his entire family shot and wiped out by the Taliban. As a teenager he made his way across Turkey and into Greece. He came to our Refugee Centre and his life was changed. Today he is working with our mission and serving other refugees.

We need a writer to record all these and many more stories. We need someone with writing skills who will assist our staff with the writing of their newsletters. We need someone who can help our Director put out regular news releases to the Christian media around the world.

This is an opportunity to come over to Greece as a short term missionary to tackle this project. You would need to raise your own support and cover your own expenses as there is no remuneration. But it would be the experience of a lifetime. It would be a blessing for the mission and your own life, and writing skills will be deeply enriched.

If you are interested, contact me at: [nico@bougas.info](mailto:nico@bougas.info) and I will be glad to respond.

-- Dr Nico Bougas: International Director of Development: [www.hellenicministries.com](http://www.hellenicministries.com)  
(Written to the Christian Writers' Guild – CWG)

# A Heartfelt Tribute to Val:

***"There is nothing sweeter on earth  
than the heart of a woman in which piety dwells."***

(Martin Luther, the German reformer, referring to Ursula Cotta, the wife of the Eisenach burgomaster, who showed him much kindness as a poor young scholar).

I want to acknowledge my lovely late wife, Val, who prior to our move from Durban to Cape Town in 2011, typed the original text of the feature on John Knox. ('Andrew Murray' edition, Reveille, Second Quarter, 2014).

Val was a rather unconventional and hip minister's wife -- often seen with a flower in her long blonde hair she combined a youthful spirit that made children gravitate toward her, with a faith and inner strength that Flo Currin, the treasurer of Sea View Congregational Church, likened to 'a rock'. Val was brought up with her two sisters and two brothers, in a strict Roman Catholic environment. We both came to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord not long after we were married. Her spiritual discernment was apparent, often reminding me of the Blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses us from all our sins. It is interesting that the man some rate as the 'greatest Englishman', ahead of even Shakespeare and Churchill, the martyr William Tyndale, had a similar focus in his theology. (See the review on him, below). Val also liked reminding others that our Lord 'neither slumbers nor sleeps' (Psalm 121:4).

A graphic picture of Elizabeth Burns, mother of the 19th century Scottish evangelist and missionary to China, Rev William Chalmers Burns, reminds me of my wife: *'active, bouyant, all life motion, the glad sunshine and bright angel of the house'*.

It was Val who encouraged me, notwithstanding the pull of our people we loved, to go as minister to Union Congregational Church, in Cape Town, and accept the editorship of *Protestant Reveille*. The wives of pastors are seldom given the credit they deserve, but they too will receive the reward of a prophet (Matthew 10:41). And if I know Val, as she had intimated to me personally, she would be the first to cast her crown at the Feet of Jesus.

-- Craig Hounsom

**The following extended quotation was copied out by hand by Val for our encouragement. It is from Mrs Cowman's classic, *Streams in the Desert & Springs in the Valley*:**

## **Work for God – Impossible. Difficult. Done!!**

Habakkuk 2:3:

Delays are not denials

"Delayed Blessings Department" by Jesus.

Therefore will the Lord WAIT, that He may be gracious unto us.

He is watching in the hard places and will not allow one trial too many, He will let the dross be consumed, and then He will come gloriously to your help.

Do not grieve Him by doubting His love.

Yes, lift up your head, and begin to praise Him even NOW for the deliverance which is on the way to you, and you will be abundantly rewarded for the delay which has tried your faith.

Trials are the food of faith.

God hedges in His own that He may preserve them, but oftentimes they only see the wrong side of the hedge.

Whenever God has required someone to do a big thing for Him, He has sent him to a lonely furrow. He has called him to go alone. Great men have sprung from the furrows, you were made to MOUNT and not to crawl. One lonely soul on fire with the love of God may set the whole universe on fire.

God is to be Trusted for what He is. We may be sure that God will so act as to honour His own justice, mercy, wisdom and power, beyond all doubt. He will fulfil his promises.

**Praise God for the famine in our lives that drives us in utter helplessness back to Him.**

-- Mrs Charles E Cowman's *Streams in the Desert and Springs in the Valley*  
(in one volume: Zondervan)

**Editorial Comment:**

***The Cowmans of the USA, did missionary outreach in Japan and China from 1901-1917, which saw the formation of the Oriental Missionary Society (OMS). Charles Cowman burned himself out at a relatively young age. Mrs Cowman's legacy of the above daily devotionals -- an anthology of faith -- includes quotes from:***

***St Augustine (Bishop of Hippo); Luther; Madame Guyon; Spurgeon; George Muller; and from our very own Dr Andrew Murray, Jnr.***

## **Book Review:**

### ***The Roots of William Tyndale's Theology***

**Ralph S. Werrell: Paperback: 196 pp: James Clarke & Co.**

**Special Post-free offer (within RSA): R745-00: (No stock: 4-6 wks)**

Werrell's thesis is that Tyndale was less influenced by the continental Reformers (Luther, et al) than is usually thought. Indeed, by the time Tyndale wrote the 'Preface' to his 1525 New Testament translation, his theology was already fully developed.

This book is a follow-on to the author's first book, *The Theology of William Tyndale*. It is divided into two parts, with the second outlining key areas of Tyndale's theology, beginning with 'The Blood of Christ'.

Tyndale's focus on the blood of Christ was in many ways the focal point of his theology. Nothing happens without the sacrificial blood of Christ, not merely the death or even the cross of Christ, but specifically the blood -- the blood shed in sacrifice and sprinkled now upon believers at the beginning of Christian life and throughout.

***'It is through the blood of Christ the Christian can repent, have faith, pray and worship God and do good works, for the whole of the Christian life is only possible through the blood of Christ. To repair every fault the Holy Spirit has to sprinkle Christ's blood on each broken part; then having been repaired those parts are able to work to the glory of God.'***

The blood of Christ does not merely provide forgiveness of sins, and the work of the Holy Spirit is not to be divorced from the work of Christ on the cross. This is the key thing I received from this book and it is in keeping with the Bible itself.

'The blood of Christ is mentioned in the writings of the New Testament nearly three times as often as the 'cross' of Christ, and five times as frequently as the 'death' of Christ.' (Vincent Taylor credited by Alan Stibbs in *The Meaning of the Word Blood in Scripture*).

The work of the Holy Spirit is to apply that sacrificial blood to the believer, chosen and called by God's grace. Before that, man's salvation is dependent on the covenant made in eternity past between the three Persons of the Trinity.

Werrell shows that Tyndale was not merely a Lutheran, and concludes that:

***'Tyndale's theology depends completely on the Scriptures... When he drew on his Wycliffe background, or Trevisa's and Erasmus' writings, he tried them by God's word until he was certain that what he had left was true to the Scriptures'.***

**This fact alone makes the book well worth reading!**

-- Reviewer: Oliver Rice: in *Protestant Truth*, UK, March-April 2014

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