

PROTESTANT REVEILLE

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The War on Christians – a Raging Genocide

*Christians are being killed in the Islamic world because of their religion.
It is a rising genocide that ought to provoke global alarm.*

Ayaan Hirsi Auli, writing in *Newsweek* magazine, began with stunning and refreshing frankness, casting the restraints of 'political correctness' to the wind. She wrote:

"We often hear so much about Muslims as victims of abuse in the West and combatants in the Arab Spring's fight against tyranny. But, in fact, a wholly different kind of war is underway, an unrecognised battle costing thousands of lives. Christians are being killed in the Islamic world because of their religion. It is a rising genocide that ought to provoke global alarm.

The portrayal of Muslims as victims or heroes is at best partially accurate. In recent years the violent oppression of Christian minorities has become the norm in Muslim-majority nations stretching from West Africa and the Middle East to South Asia and Oceania. In some countries it is the governments and their agents that have burned churches and imprisoned parishioners. In others, rebel groups and vigilantes have taken matters into their own hands, murdering Christians and driving them from regions where their roots go back centuries.

The media's reticence on the subject no doubt has several sources. One may be the fear of provoking additional violence. Another is most likely the influence of lobbying groups such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation – a kind of United Nations of Islam centred in Saudi Arabia – and the Council on American Islamic Relations. Over the past decade, these and similar groups have been remarkably successful in persuading leading public figures and journalists in the West to think of each and every example of perceived anti-Muslim discrimination as an expression of a systematic and sinister derangement called 'Islamophobia' – a term that is meant to elicit the same moral disapproval as xenophobia or homophobia.

But a fair-minded assessment of recent events and trends leads to the conclusion that the scale of 'Islamophobia' pales in comparison with the bloody 'Christophobia' currently coursing through Muslim-majority nations from the one end of the globe to the other.

The conspiracy of silence surrounding this violent expression of religious intolerance has to stop. Nothing less than the fate of Christianity and ultimately of all religious minorities in the Islamic world is at stake."

– The Reformer (UK): March-April 2013 (Abridged)

Comment by the Editor: Since this article was written, Copts and other Christians in Egypt, for instance, have been facing increasing difficulties. Persecution takes on different faces, including the guise of political liberation in the interests of politicking:

St James Massacre (25th July 1993)

It is twenty years since the diabolical attack on Christians at St James Church of England in SA, Kenilworth, Cape Town. Four members of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA),

the former military wing of the PAC, entered the church during the service on a mission to kill and maim the unsuspecting worshippers of Jesus Christ. Amongst the casualties were sincere believers of great value to the wider community on the Cape Peninsula, and four Russian seamen.

South Africa was on the brink of a new democratic dispensation in 1994 -- but evil men had purposed together to spoil the euphoria of potential peace and mutual respect between its diverse citizens. Political leverage from violence against civilians, in this instance a congregation, has a sinister connotation. The wrath of man though clothed in sanctimonious political jargon, is to be condemned outright (James 1:20). The scars will remain; but justice will be meted by God in the day of reckoning, and where there has been no repentance.

The Church of England in South Africa (CESA) has played a significant role in the promotion of the Evangelical and Protestant cause in our sub-continent. It is to be commended for its loyalty to the Reformed Faith.

-- The Editor.

For your diary:
Reformation Sunday: 27th October, 2013
Remember our Protestant Heritage every day!

Three Pornography TV Channels for S A

In April 2013, *TopTV*, a company owned by *On Digital Media*, was granted permission by the *Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)* to broadcast three pornographic channels. Massive opposition from every religious community was not able to stop it. Christians of every stripe can surely only conclude that it was in the interest of Mammon and of BEE investors that the reportedly near-bankrupt *TopTV* was given the licence, because only a year ago the same ICASA had ruled that, to protect women's dignity, the broadcasting of porn was undesirable. The licence is clearly meant to save the company. First the *StarTimes* of China offered investment, but then "*a new South African consortium, Dynamic TV, led by Given Mkhari and Malose Kekana backed by MultiChoice funding*" made a bid. The total sum involved is "*in excess of R1.4bn.*" 1)

Errol Naidoo of the *Family Policy Institute* says: "*To launch this in a nation already reeling under the weight of sexual abuse against women and children is nothing short of criminal.*" 2) In Cape Town alone 144 women report a rape every day, but many, many others do not. Indeed, the *Medical Research Council* which conducted a study in Gauteng, states that only 1 in 25 victims report rape, and a news report suggests that as many as 3 600 women are raped in South Africa every day. 3)

Failing Authorities

The governing authorities are pledged to protect their people, for the Bible says: The ruler "**is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.**" (Romans 13:3-4)

The Belgic Confession adds: "*They (the government) should do it in order that the Word of God may have free course; the kingdom of Jesus Christ may make progress; and every anti-Christian power may be resisted.*" (Article 36)

'Anti-Christian powers', however, seem to be given full reign in the new South Africa. Though the RSA prides herself on being a democracy, her rulers are slow to respond to plights and protests. While nearly 80% of the population call themselves Christian, their value system is often ignored.

'Religious' Roots

Pornography is increasing all over the world, causing a great shift in world view. Pornographers want to change society and reap rich profits in the process. They want to free themselves and others from God and His law, and thereby shatter Christian civilisation. Pornography is one of the uglier battles in the revolutionary political and social struggle. It is a pseudo-religious expression of men and women -- often leaders of society -- who embrace a radical theory of man and the universe.

One of the best known advocates of porn was the Marquis de Sade (1740-1814), who lent his name to Sadism. Sade spent nearly half his life in prison and, with his unnatural habits and amoral writings, contributed much to the French Revolution. His thesis was that the Christian God, if He existed at all, should be murdered and His law and order destroyed. Instead, Nature should be exalted, and nothing in nature could be regarded as sinful. The Fall of Man, he said, had not taken place.

The American theologian, Dr Rousas Rushdoony, commented:

"Sade is the most modern of men. He is ahead of liberated people in that he openly vindicated murder and all other offences. If there be no God and no fall, then nature is normative, Sade held. Nothing can be called a sin or a crime, and all things are permitted except Christianity."

Rushdoony warns: *"The world will soon catch up with Sade, unless it abandons its humanistic foundations."* 4)

God's Law

Have we not witnessed sadistic rapes, applauded, filmed and spread abroad by laughing teen-agers? Have we not read about porn-inspired atrocities and murders? Pornography is the theory; rape all too often the practice. Rape is the most invasive of crimes, for which God demands capital punishment, as in Deuteronomy 22:25. Rape can lead to murder, and God says: **"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."** (Genesis 9:6)

Every culture which has indulged in sexual immorality has regressed. Every culture which has valued self-control has progressed. The licensing of three pornographic TV channels is a major moral attack on the people of South Africa. As Errol Naidoo says: it is indeed nothing short of criminal! The least we can do is to call decisively for -- and observe -- a total boycott of *TopTV*; and let our protests be known far and wide.

"Brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things." (Philippians 4:8-9) Let us not only THINK of such things, but also LOOK at such things, and DO such things. **"And the God of peace will be with you."**

-- Dorothea Scarborough.

Footnotes:

1] *MultiChoice bid for TopTV raises competition issues*, Internet.

2] The Family Policy Institute is associated with the World Congress of Families, the largest gathering of pro-family organisations in the world. Its director is Errol Naidoo, and its address is Office 207, MSK House, Cnr Buitengracht & Riebeeck Str, Cape Town 8000.

3] Christian Action Magazine, Vol 1/2013, *Rape and the Biblical Solution*.

4] Rousas J Rushdoony, *The Politics of Pornography*, Valiant Publishers, 1975, p.13.

‘Livingstone’ Edition of Reveille: Feedback & Response:

The following emails received reflect the legacy of Livingstone's impact on the continent where he left his heart, namely, Africa:

1] A Response from Dr Howard Moffat...

Dear Craig

Thank you for your emails and kind invitation to attend your Union Church's bicentennial on 5th May in Cape Town. I would have been honoured to be with you, but unfortunately it will not be possible.

I wish you every blessing and encouragement from the Lord

Thank you very much for the most recent edition of 'Reveille' with the brief account of Livingstone's life and the inspiring reminder of his deep faith and daily walk with God.

*With kind regards,
Howard*

Dr Howard Moffat is the great-great grandson of Dr Robert Moffat, the translator of the Bible and pioneer missionary. -- Editor

2] A note from Mr Angus Buchan...

Dear Craig

Thank you very much for sending me those beautiful insights of "Livingstone's life", and the other fascinating information. I was really touched, because he indeed is one of my mentors.

By the way, my grandmother on my mom's side was a Livingstone.

God Bless you, my dear Brother, and keep the flag flying for Jesus.

Angus. Isaiah 59:19

Angus Buchan is a household name, with an earthy faith and proclamation of the Gospel, and Mighty Men's ministry. As such he does not claim to be a Livingstone, though it is a family name, but has carried on where his Scottish mentor left off, i.e. flying the flag of King Jesus. -- Editor

3] A Letter from Dr Raymond Potgieter...

Dear Craig

Thank you for the clear and enduring message about David Livingstone; revered and reviled, nevertheless he persevered in the footsteps of Jesus proclaiming the gospel, though many misunderstood the mission he was on. He was not without fault, nor without failure, but he pursued his call; as did Mary, his dear wife who pursued her own call during the long absences, facing the tribulations of sick and naughty children, shame and hunger, and accusations that left her and her children feeling outcasts, leaving her with the temptations to doubt her husband's mission.

How we need to tell these stories to our children and to the grandchildren -- stories of gardening in an arid land, of two likeminded persons falling in love, of souls coming to Jesus, of dangers lurking in the bush only some to be escaped, about sacrifice and hardship that go hand in hand, and the joy of seeing a life of true purpose unfolding in the providence of God. A lifetime of prayer and seeking the Kingdom of Heaven, and seeing masses entering it with the light of God shining within their new hearts.

Praise God for the lives of David and Mary Livingstone and their children!

Praise God for the Congregational Churches that keep this vision and the story of David and Mary Livingstone alive for every generation until Jesus comes!

God bless you, brother, and the congregation you so faithfully serve.

Raymond Potgieter.

Theological Faculty, North West University (formerly "Potch")

Dr Raymond Potgieter is a former principal of the Bible Institute of South Africa, Kalk Bay. Earlier, we were fellow students there.

His loving feel for the calling on the Moffats and Livingstones reveals a deep sympathy and appreciation, and mirrors a wider tribute of the Church in Africa.

-- The Editor

4] Bi-centenary Service of the Cape Town Union Congregational Church...

The theme of Union's 200th anniversary service was taken from Revelation 3:8:

"I have set before you an open door which no man can shut".

The former chapel of the London Missionary Society has kept a faithful witness in spite of opposition, wars, a depression and recessions; and the political and social convulsions of the "beloved country" of South Africa.

"Great is Thy faithfulness", is the song of many generations that have been part of that noble heritage and effective foothold of the Ascended Christ in "A Dry and Thirsty Land".

-- Craig Hounsom (Pastor)

Book Reviews:

Jesus Christ is God

By John E. Davis (Time for Truth, Paperback, 40 pp)

Heresy concerning the nature and person of the Lord Jesus Christ dates from the Arians, through Servetus and radical Anabaptists on to Unitarianism and the present-day cults. This admirable booklet, hard-hitting and straight to the point, proves by using a wealth of Scriptural texts the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The author maintains a crisp, incisive style throughout, his argument being both clear and easy to follow. All texts are taken from the Authorised Version. An excellent tool for combatting error.

Reviewer: Peter Jamieson (in Ulster Bulwark, UK): October-December 2012)

Editor's comment:

Our Lord Jesus' divinity has indeed been an old battle ground, from the days of the early church, as epitomized by this well-known reference to Athanasius, the African champion of Truth: *Athanasius against the world, and the world against Athanasius!*

Christ's divinity is veiled from the world, which is at best content to see Him in mere human terms, with a divine mission, but not Himself divine (Matthew 16:14).

He Himself disclosed the key to understanding who Jesus is in Matthew 16:16 & 17, i.e. not by human reason, but by revelation. "Jesus Christ is God", is seen as the proto-Creed of our Faith. We cannot throw away what our forbears suffered for, notwithstanding the temptation to worldly expediency presented by our generation.

The History of Providence – as Manifested in Scripture

By Alexander Carlson (Banner of Truth, Paperback, 242 pp)

Much is made in our world of things like chance and good luck. Yet Christians should always be aware that in reality no such event-happenings are to be found in our world or universe. We owe the governing of our world and lives to an all powerful sovereign God, and not to chance happenings, good fortune, or coincidental events. We say in effect, 'we worship and trust in a God of providence'.

This book deals with the working of God's providence in the lives and happenings of people revealed to us in the Scriptures. Whilst other books have dealt with the doctrine of God's providence, the writer here takes us directly to Biblical narratives and events, bringing out invaluable instruction and help. He covers the whole breadth of the Scriptures – both the Old and New Testaments -- in short concise chapters.

Reading the dealings of God in the lives of His people, including those who were not, is not always an easy thing. When matters go well, we may credit that to God's doing. But when things go badly, we may be tempted to think – the devil! Yet the truth of the matter is God working out all things after the counsel of His own will. And that includes too, the evil that exists in our world and lives. You will be greatly helped and encouraged in the reading of this work.

Alexander Carson (1776 – 1849) was a well-known Baptist minister who ministered for more than thirty years in the village of Tobermore, Co. Londonderry. Though he wrote extensively, he is most widely known for his work on baptism, namely, *Baptism: Its Mode and Subjects*.

Reviewer: Stephen Holland (in Protestant Truth, UK, May-June 2013)

Editor's Comment:

God is still working today, but many can't see His Hand, to judge from the famous statement about the first Russian cosmonaut made by Nikita Khrushchev (former Premier of the now defunct Soviet Union):

"Gagarin flew into space, but didn't see any god there."

My late wife, Val, once drew my attention to one of Carson's striking comments regarding the days of the biblical patriarchs and famine:

"Plenty and scarcity are equally from the Hand of God".

Another telling observation, this time on Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Caesar, & Napoleon:

"They served God, but they did not intend to serve Him".

The Bible is crystal clear about Cyrus, a heathen king, in Isaiah 44:28 to 45:6.

The Sovereign God of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ, has all power in heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18.

Available to readers of *Protestant Reveille* ordering through the Protestant Book Centre (see also pg 9). Contact us for a pro-forma invoice:

Jesus Christ is God (John E. Davis)
R24-00 (Special Post-free Price)

The History of Providence – as Manifested in Scripture (Alexander Carlson)
R119-00 (Special Post-free Price)

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Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Robert Murray M'Cheyne, one of the best-known and best-loved Scottish preachers of the 19th Century, was born two hundred years ago, on 21st May 1813, in Edinburgh. M'Cheyne's life was short, for he died just twenty-nine, but he packed so very much into a few years; and, in some ways, he burned himself out for the cause of Christ.

As a young man, M'Cheyne was greatly affected by the death of his brother, David, in 1831; and shortly after this he came to Christ and subsequently entered the ministry.

While a student at Edinburgh University, he became friendly with others who would later dominate the church scene in Scotland – men such as Andrew and Horatius Bonar, Alexander Somerville and George Smeaton.

This group was marked by a deep spirituality and a close walk with God.

M'Cheyne was pastor of St Peter's in Dundee from 1836 until his death in 1843.

In the spring of 1839, he travelled to Palestine as part of a group that laid the foundation of today's Christian Witness to Israel. He spoke of his observations about Sabbath desecration in France and the influence of Romanism in central Europe.

Ulster was honoured by two visits by M'Cheyne. He attended the Presbyterian Assembly in July 1840 in Belfast which witnessed the union between the Synod of Ulster and the Secession Synod, and his appearance was described by Rev. Thomas Hamilton as 'seraphic'.

M'Cheyne was not afraid of controversy, and he took his stand on a range of issues as well as playing a full part in the debate within the Church of Scotland which led (shortly after his death) to the disruption and emergence of the Free Church. In January 1834, he produced his famous reading plan which is used by many to this day. M'Cheyne never enjoyed good health, and he once told a friend, "I do not expect to live long. I expect a sudden call someday – perhaps soon – and therefore I speak very plainly".

His last evangelistic tour was in the Deer and Ellon regions of Scotland in February 1843, and on 13th March, he fell ill at a church meeting. On 25th March 1843, typhus fever claimed his life and he went to be with his Saviour. His death shocked the city of Dundee and there were emotional scenes during the funeral, which was attended by about 6 000 people.

Today, very few in Dundee or in Scotland in general would even have heard of Robert Murray M'Cheyne. It was Andrew Bonar who said that we cannot weep men like M'Cheyne back, but surely we should pray that more like him would be raised up in these dark days, not only in Scotland, but across our land.

-- Ulster Bulwark, UK: April-June 2013

M'Cheyne: Quotes and Comments:

- *"We are immortal till our life's work is over"*.
M'Cheyne did more in a short life than many. The editor has been following his Bible reading plan, one that influences lives even today.
- *"There is nothing in the world so supremely attractive as holiness"*.
Quoted in the life of the female author George Eliot by her descendant, William Mottram.
Observers of M'Cheyne, had just such an impression of him!
- His best friend, Andrew Bonar, found on M'Cheyne's notebook:
"Rules worth remembering -- When visiting a family, whether ministerially or otherwise, speak to the strangers about eternal things. Perhaps God has brought you together just to save that soul".
- M'Cheyne on Isaiah 26:16-19: *"This passage, I believe, refers literally to the conversion of God's ancient people"*.
(M'Cheyne 'regarded prophecies as history yet to be', says Andrew Bonar).
N.B.: Regarding the Jews, his friend, Dr John "rabbi" Duncan ministered lovingly to them in Budapest, Hungary.
- At Kelso, Scotland, in February 1841, M'Cheyne, the gentle but firm saint, said to a little girl: *"Christ gives last knocks. When your heart becomes hard and careless, then fear lest Christ may have given a last knock"*.
- *"I feel persuaded that if I should follow the Lord more fully myself, my ministry would be used to make a deeper impression than it has yet done."* M'Cheyne to A. Bonar.
- *"Ah! There is nothing like a calm look into the eternal world to teach us the emptiness of human praise, the sinfulness of self-seeking, the preciousness of Christ"*. M'Cheyne
(While M'Cheyne was in the Promised Land, the Revival under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit at St Peter's, Dundee, started with his congregation there, but under the ministry of the young novice, Rev. William C Burns (Jnr), and *not* while the famous preacher was around!
Burns had the rallying call of: *"No Cross, no crown!"* It was to be prophetic of his latter missionary service in China where he met and befriended the pioneer missionary, Hudson Taylor.)
- *"A word spoken when your conscience is clear, and your heart full of God's Spirit, is worth ten thousand words spoken in unbelief, in sin"*. M'Cheyne.
- *"If the Gospel pleased carnal men, it would not be the Gospel"*. M'Cheyne
- *"Get your texts from God -- your thought, your words, from God"*. M'Cheyne.
- Though like a lion in the pulpit, M'Cheyne was fragile outside of it, and affectionate in manner. He challenged Andrew Bonar on his sermon on hell -- had he preached on it *"tenderly"*?
- M'Cheyne once said to some friends: *'Do you think Christ will come tonight?'*
One after another they said: *'I think not'*.
When all had given this answer, he solemnly repeated this text:
'The Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not'. Luke 12:40 (KJV).
(Quoted by the Chicago-based evangelist, DL Moody).

-- Craig Hounsom (Compiled).

Leadership Next: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture

By Eddie Gibbs (IVP Paperback, 224 pp, ISBN: 9781844740925)

Our culture is constantly changing, as fast as -- or faster than -- we can adapt to it. In this context Christian leaders have not only to acquire new insights and skills, but also to unlearn what they previously knew. Even our definition of leadership is under review.

In this sequel to the acclaimed *Church Next*, Eddie Gibbs examines how Christian leadership might change in the light of new cultural conditions. He considers recent developments in leadership styles, from hierarchies to networks and compartments to connections, and assesses the dynamics of leadership teams. Having specified the healthy characteristics of Christian leaders, he then explains how they can be identified and nurtured.

This incisive analysis, from an expert in church growth, will serve as a comprehensive resource for current and potential Christian leaders, and those who teach and mentor them.

R95-00: Special Post-free Price (List Price: R170-00)

Redemption: Freed by Jesus from the Idols We Worship and the Wounds We Carry

By Mike Wilkerson (Crossway Paperback, 208 pp, ISBN: 9781433520778)

Exodus is a real story about God redeeming his people from the bondage of slavery and how their difficult journey home exposed their loyalties -- though wounded by Egypt, they had come to worship its gods. Most Christians don't make golden idols like the Israelites in the wilderness, but we do set up idols on our own desert road -- idols like substance abuse, pornography, gluttony, and rage. And even those who don't know the pain of actual slavery can feel enslaved to the fear and shame that follow sexual abuse or betrayal by a spouse, for we suffer at the hands of our idols as well as those created by others. We need more than self-improvement or comfort -- we need redemption.

Redemption is not a step-oriented recovery book; it's story-oriented and Bible-anchored. It unfolds the back-story of redemption in Exodus to help Christians better understand how Christ redeems us from the slavery of abuse, addiction and assorted trouble and restores us to our created purpose, the worship of God. *Readers will discover that the reward of freedom is more than victory over a habitual sin or release from shame; it is satisfaction and rest in God Himself.*

R100-00: Special Post-free Price (List Price: R185-00)

Protestant Reveille (Editor: Rev. Craig Hounsom)

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