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REFORMATION
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PROTESTANT
ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA

Against The Tide - Victory

Challenging Times

The convulsions of recent times in South Africa, when law and order are under threat, and the constitution a distant memory, has shaken the faith of many, including Christians. In the face of wickedness, hope has become a dimly burning wick at the Cape of Good Hope. The voice of the blood of our brethren and sisters violently killed, has cried out from the ground to the God in whom whose image they were made!

And yet we are not the only nation with immense challenges; the world is in crisis as it increasingly leans on its own wisdom, and rejects the Word of God, the Bible. Right back in the early church the apostle Paul knew fears within, and fears without. The Corinthians who he loved, were prone to act "as carnal" believers, a contradiction in terms. With these burdens on the apostle to the Gentiles' shoulders, he asked the rhetorical question that will touch a chord in many hearts, today:

"And who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Corinthians 2:16.

The answer of course, is God, "...who always causes us to triumph in Christ..." 2 Corinthians 2:14. As bad as things are, we continue to hope against hope because Jesus is the Conqueror of Death. Paul did not have excellency of speech or of wisdom, but he had something far more powerful, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. That turned the world upside down! But this is being undermined today as never before.

Against The Tide

The tide of compromise and blurred distinctions has entered the church of God. "Anyone who makes his doctrine of Scripture dependent upon the historical examination of its formation and structure, begins already with rejecting its testimony, and therefore does not stand in the attitude of faith to Scripture". Dr. Herman Bavinck. In quoting the Dutch theologian, Hywel Jones, stresses that it is impossible to salvage Biblical conclusions from anti-Biblical presuppositions. Knowledge must not be in the way of our faith in God and His Word.

Another threat to the Gospel is the modern pseudo Ecumenical movement. It is in total contradiction to the exclusive salvation that Jesus taught, "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. "No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6. There is a vast difference between freedom of religious belief, and showing respect for others, and an acceptance of error and falsehood as equals. This tide of suspect goodwill plays straight into the hands of the Papacy, which boasts that it is God's vicar on earth; it has an ability to baptise wrong practises into its midst.

Education that does not begin with the fear of the Lord, is a tide sweeping our youth and others:

"Freedom of thought in the Middle Ages was combated by the Inquisition, but the modern method is far more effective. Place..... childrenunder the intimate control of experts appointed by the state, force them to attend schools where the higher aspirations of humanity are crushed out, and where the mind is fill with the materialism of the day, and it is difficult to see how even the remnants of liberty can subsist". So wrote the USA Christian leader, Dr. J Gresham Machen, in 1923.

How essential it is that the church aims to offset the spread of anti-Christian thinking amongst impressionable young people.

A Beacon of Light

Like a rising tide, the world has entered the church, and sad indeed are those in the pastorate that enter its ranks only looking for peace. Dr. Machen knew first-hand all about the travails of making a stand against the tide.

"There have been previous great crises in the history of the Church...One appeared in the second century, when the very life of Christianity was threatened by the Gnostics. Another came in the Middle Ages when the Gospel of God's grace seemed forgotten. In such times of crises, God always saved the Church. But He has always saved it not by theological pacifists but by sturdy contenders for the truth".

By Divine grace and strength, we will stand firm.

*Bibliography- Christianity and Liberalism - Dr. J G Machen
The Doctrine Of Scripture Today - Hywel Jones (EP)*

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

**“All my clear arguments are good for nothing; unless the Lord stretch out His Hand, I speak to stones.” Rev Henry Martyn (Cambridge University),
Anglican missionary to India**

Gladys Aylward - Protector of China's Children

Inn Of The Sixth Happiness-Ingrid Bergman

Gladys Aylward

Gladys Aylward was born on February 24, 1902, as the eldest of three children of a London postman. She was practical and lively by nature, and having left school at 14 she became a parlour maid. When she was 18, some friends took her to church, and at the close of the service a congregant said to her: "Miss Aylward, I believe God is wanting you." She became very disturbed by these words, and after counsel committed her life to Christ.

She also started reading and talking about China and applied to the China Inland Mission (CIM) for training. The CIM recognized her "consistent witness in her place of employment and work in the open air and at young people's meetings." And so, "in view of her manifest strength of character" they accepted her for "one term's testing." But Gladys failed and was rejected.

Yet God's call remained. At the age of 30 she prayed: "Oh, God! Here is me. Here's my Bible, here's my money! Use us, God. Use us!" She bought a rail ticket to Tientsin and travelled all alone through Europe, Russia, Siberia, Japan and by mule to the Shansi Mountains in North West China without a contact except an elderly Scotswoman, Jeannie Lawson, whose address someone had given her. - It was the perilous age of the Soviet Gulags, of Stalin's Terror, of the rise of Mao Zedong, and of China's looming war with Japan.

Inspector of Feet!

Yet, trusting in the Living God, Gladys Aylward got safely to Yangcheng in China and to Mrs Lawson. This unusual missionary had a courtyard which she had turned into an inn. It was Gladys' job to entice the mule caravans which came from across the mountains to overnight there. "We have no fleas! We have no bugs", she would say, and once inside they would get the good news of Jesus Christ. - But Mrs Lawson died, and Gladys, now called Ai Weh Teh, had to find a paid job to survive. The cruel binding of girls' feet had been outlawed, and Ai Weh Teh was appointed Inspector of Feet to enforce the law. Thus began her mission in the villages. She was a gifted story teller, and the people were eager to listen to the message of Christ.

But as in London, her main interest was the children. She found that some were unwanted, some orphaned, some in danger of being trafficked. In 1937, when the war came to her region, when she herself was declared a 'spy' with a price on her head, she gathered more than 100 mostly orphaned children and took them across the mountains and over the Yellow River to safety in Sian. It was an incredible feat, and on arrival in Sian she collapsed and nearly died.

After 20 years in China, she returned to England and became a most popular speaker. She featured in a BBC documentary, a book, "The Small Woman," and in a Hollywood-film, "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness." But England was no longer her home. She had become a Chinese citizen. "These are my people," she said. "God has given them to me; and I will live or die with them for Him and His glory." - China had become a Communist nation. So she continued her work in Hong Kong and later in Taipei, Taiwan. - At New Year 1970 she caught a cold, but insisted on going to speak at a meeting. She died that night, greatly mourned by her people.

Source: Phyllis Thompson, "A London Sparrow."

Written by
D Scarborough

"Then her path which had been so long hidden, cleared, and she saw it stretching out plain and straight before her". Mary Slessor Scottish missionary to Calabar, Nigerian Delta

The Reformers and Education

When we look back at the Reformation, we rightly focus on the most important event: the rediscovery of the Gospel and the absolute authority of the Word of God (the Bible). That said, it is also instructive to look back with gratitude at some of the other areas where we have benefited from their labours and convictions. One of these is education.

Because the Reformers were convicted about the absolute centrality of the Bible (*Sola Scriptura*), it was critical to them that people be educated and able to read. While a handful of universities had been around from at least the 12-13th century, the Reformers placed a new emphasis on the education of all – not just a select few.

Their view of education was a system shaped by the Word of God, enabling its application to all areas of life, including the sciences. Children were to be educated first and foremost by their parents; teachers were seen as "officers and servants of the church"; and the purpose of education was to train people to be good citizens of the church and the state.

A Nation's godly heritage

The effect of this emphasis on education is possibly best illustrated in North America, where the Protestants (including Puritans) had a huge influence during the foundation years. Literacy for children was reportedly mandatory in all New England colonies except Rhode Island by 1670.

Harvard was founded to educate ministers with the motto "Truth for Christ and the Church". "After God had carried us safe to New-England, and we had builded our houses: One of the next things we longed for, and looked after was **to advance Learning and perpetuate it to Posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches** it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a godly gentleman and a lover of

learning...) to give one-half of his estate ..." (New England's First Fruits, 1643) Some other places of education worthy of mention include: Princeton (1746, "Under God she flourishes"); Yale (1701, "Light and Truth / Urim and Thummim") Columbia University (1754, "In Thy light we shall see light"); Brown University (1768, "In God we hope"); Dartmouth (1769, "A voice crying in the wilderness"); Rutgers University (1766, "Sun of righteousness, shine upon the west also").

Martin Luther devoted hours to teaching his children and the children of Wittenberg. "The youth is the church's nursery and fountainhead. When we are dead, where are those who will take our place if there are no schools? Schools are the preservers of the church."

As important as education is, however, it is essential that it be the right sort of education. We would do well to take his warning to heart: "I would advise no one to send his child where the holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God's word becomes corrupt I greatly fear that the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on the young students, are wide gates to hell."

In our day, we see the truth of this as most universities blatantly undermine the Bible – evolution and humanism being two examples of this attack.

*Written by
Dr Kenneth Allen*

"To believe God is to worship Him." Martin Luther

CT Studd-A good innings for Captain Jesus (WEC International 1913)

A former England cricket captain, CT Studd, was together with his young associate, Alfred Buxton, one day to be his son-in-law, the founder of WEC International. Initially called HAM, (Heart of Africa Mission), it became via a process, World Evangelisation for Christ. "CT" was no "chocolate soldier", who would melt in the midday sun of tropical Africa. At an important stage of his life CT Studd was challenged in the midst of his brother's illness, and he soon gave back his life to the One who gave His life for him:

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

Early Influences

CT's father, Edward, a "gentleman", was converted through a Moody & Sankey meeting he and his friend had supposed was some type of vaudeville show, and were unable to

exit. The Word of God touched a chord through the unconventional Chicago evangelist, Moody. In 1878 CT himself came to know the Lord Jesus as Saviour, but cricket dominated until that crisis already mentioned, and a personal encounter with Moody. The British press reported the so called, "Cambridge Seven", joining of the China Inland Mission formed by the visionary and medical doctor, Hudson Taylor. Dressed in their adopted Chinese gear they were a sensation in Victorian Great Britain. It was in China that Studd met and married an Irish "Salvation Army hallelujah lass", Priscilla Stewart. If only she could have seen how CT would put all on the altar, one day:
"CT Studd's life stands as some rugged Gibraltar-a sign to all succeeding generations that it is worthwhile to lose all this world can offer.....to follow Jesus". Alfred Buxton, his son-in-law.

It was in China that CT signed away his huge inheritance, apart from an amount set aside for his wife's future. China and later a chapter in India, the land where his father had made his fortune, were the formative influences of the missionary statesman.

Heart of Africa Mission (HAM)

CT, Priscilla and family, battle weary, returned to a very different "old country", as the UK was known. But the restless spirit was ready for another innings, and the advert sign outside a hall, "Cannibals want missionaries", only ignited the fire within. The frail would be servant of Africa, set out alone in 1910 for the Belgium Congo. The medical reservations of doctors, family and friends could not prevent the middle-aged Word wielding, and banjo strumming, evangelist, from turning back after having put his hand to the plough. Following his return to the UK, he left forever in 1913 with the young Alfred Buxton, to reach Africa's heart with the eternal Gospel. He felt God saying to him as they were en route, not knowing what the future held:

"This journey is not for the heart of Africa only, but for the whole un-evangelised world".

WEC International now has over 1,800 missionaries internationally. CT Studd had a good innings, and his influence on my own life is acknowledged with gratitude.

Bibliography: CT Studd – Cricketer and Pioneer Norman Grubb (a son-in-law)

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

“O! how I wish I devoted my early life , my whole life to God and His Word. How much have I lost by those years of self pleasing and running after this world's honours and pleasures.” CT Studd

Africa's Best Friend

Saul Solomon

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) school boy 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).

Bibliography:

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

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

“Jesus Christ is the centre and circumference of the Bible.” Martin Luther

More Than Conquerors **Morning & Evening April 23rd-Spurgeon**

*“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” –
Romans 8: 37*

We go to Christ for forgiveness, and then to often look to the law for power to fight our sins. Paul thus rebukes us, “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” Take your sins to Christ’ cross, for the old man can only be crucified there: we are crucified with Him. The only weapon to fight sin with is the spear which pierced the side of Jesus. To give an illustration – you want to overcome an

angry temper, how do you go to work? It is very possible you have never tried the right way of going to Jesus with it. How did I get salvation? I came to Jesus just as I was, and I trusted Him to save me. I must kill my angry temper in the same way? It is the only way in which I can ever kill it. I must go to the cross with it, and say to Jesus, "Lord, I trust Thee to deliver me from it." This is the only way to give it a death-blow. Are you covetous? Do you feel the world entangle you? You may struggle against this evil so long as you please, but if it be your besetting sin, you will never be delivered from it in any way but by the blood of Jesus. Take it to Christ. Tell Him, "Lord, I have trusted Thee, and Thy name is Jesus, for Thou dost save Thy people from their sin: Lord, this is one of my sins: save me from it!" Ordinances are nothing without Christ as a means of mortification. Your prayers, and your repentances, and your tears – the whole of them put together – are worth nothing apart from Him. "None but Jesus can do helpless sinners good;" or helpless saints either. You must be conquerors through Him who hath loved you, if conquerors at all. Our laurels must grow among His olives in Gethsemane.

"Anyone should blush with shame if he did not begin the day with a Psalm, since even the tiniest birds open the day with sweet songs of holy devotion."

Bishop Ambrose of Milan, Church Father.

In the News

FOR SA Uses the Law to Defend the Gospel:

The South African churches are indebted to the skills of FOR SA's Executive Director Michael Swain and Adv. Nadene Badenhorst, who have been "tracking", the report of the CRL Rights Commission on Commercialisation of Religion and Abuse of People's Belief Systems.

In an attempt to halt the miracle mongers out to fleece naive congregants, the mindset of the CRL is to legislate, and thereby unwittingly threaten freedom of religion in SA: "There has been a near unanimous and strong objection to the CRL's recommendation that all religious practitioners and places of worship should be licensed by the CRL, since this would result in the State controlling religion in South Africa".

The CRL Commission should remember that it was set up by Mr. Nelson Mandela and Gen. Constand Viljoen, and signed into legislation by the then president, Thabo Mbeki, to protect the minority religions and cultures -not to undermine the majority religion by aiming to make ministers and pastors state controlled!

"Touch not My anointed." 1 Chronicles 16:22

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

SAA - JB Magwaza

In a desperate bid to halt our national airline SAA's losses, the state has turned to senior brother, "baba", JB Magwaza. "JB" is a highly respected businessman who has chaired Mutual & Federal, sat on the board of NEDCOR, etc etc.

Above all his achievements "JB", rates his church membership and his being an elected deacon at New Forest Congregational, Durban, as a priority. He insisted that this be reflected on his CV.

It was a great privilege to be included with other pastors, in his prayer meeting at home, as he took on the daunting challenge. Apart from "JB"'s wish to mentor young business persons, his aim was, as he once told me, to build his house in heaven. The Lord Jesus has meanwhile called him to help our air transport to take off. Our prayers go with "baba" Magwaza.

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

Dr Ben Booyens – takes mantle

First of all I would like to thank the Board for the vote of confidence in me as chairman. Also thank you to Rev Craig Hounsom for the many years that he served as Chairman. Rev Craig did a fantastic job under leadership of the Holy Spirit and we are grateful for the time and effort he has put in. His dedication, knowledge and wisdom is inspiring. He travelled many kilometres over the years to chair the meetings. I would like to give Craig Psalm 1:1 for his journey on earth "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked" and then verse 2 and 3 "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."

I would like to ask the pastors receiving the Reveille to please invite us to preach in your congregations. It will be a pleasure to talk about the Protestant Association and the work we do, under leadership of the Holy Spirit. Should you have any queries or suggestions regarding the work, please feel free to contact me directly on 079-626-7597 or ben.booyens@gmail.com.

*Written by
Ben Booyens*

Man, for God's Work: A Tribute to R. C. Sproul (1939-2017)
by LIGON DUNCAN

It is singularly appropriate that R. C. Sproul would go home to be with the Lord in 2017, the year in which we are remembering Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg 500 years ago. Many thousands of people were introduced to the teaching ministry of R. C. Sproul through his book and teaching series "The Holiness of God."

Commitment and Conviction

R. C. was a force of nature. Everything he did, he did with all of himself, with every ounce of everything he was. I think that is one thing that congregations and conference attendees sensed in him.

He was a man of copious knowledge (he was an omnivore, after all!) and intellectual brilliance. He had an extraordinary ability to popularize theology and philosophy. He had a deep love for the Bible and his skills as a storyteller were spell-binding, especially when conveying important scenes and moments from church history.

But along with all this, his hearers sensed his passion for and belief in what he was saying. His teaching dripped with commitment and conviction. In a time characterized by cynicism, indifference, and uncertainty, R. C. was a category 5 hurricane of declaration, persuasion, and instruction.

*Supplied by
Dr. Nico Bougas of
Hellenic Ministries*

"One word of truth shall outweigh the whole world." Alexander
Solzhenitsyn - exile of Russia.

Letters to the Editor

*Dear Craig,
Thank you, All I can say is “wow” I was personally under the teaching of Rex Mathie, Dr Johannes van der Colff and Dr Michael Eaton, I never did realise then the giants of faith I was sitting under,
Thank you,
Helen*

Dear Helen

Your response to Reveille is really appreciated, as it is not the first time you have sent an email..We continue to exalt our Lord in season and out of season. The Word of God, the Bible is the standard our consciences stand on.

God's leading of you to the medical world, and then to study at Glenvar Bible College (AEB), Constantia , under Colin & Mary Peckham, equipped you to reach people beyond the scope of many churches..Reveille honours those sound words of your Biblical training..and its impact for good in health care, and the community.

In Jesus
Craig

Hello Craig,

Thank you for the Afrikaans edition. It was so insightful to read. A little easier for me in Afrikaans, your English is very good.

*Regards,
God Bless,
Erika Blok*

Thank you, dear Erika, for your kind words about Reveille. It is always good to hear from our NGK friends, who appreciate what we are all about, ie being faithful to the great teachings of the Reformation, as they proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus
Craig

Hello Craig,

I was re-reading the Protestant Reveille I was given on my first visit to St John's United. It's brilliant. How often do you put it out? How much does it cost to subscribe to it?

*Thank You,
Sheena*

AND

Hello Craig,

After a hectic day I eventually got to reading the Protestant Reveille. It's so good to read Christian literature of that quality. I enjoyed it as much as I did the Easter edition.

*Thank You,
Sheena*

Dear Sheena,

Thank you for your 2 encouraging w/apps received in response to the Reveille hard copies. There are Easter; Winter and Reformation (October), ie 3 editions that go out in English and in Afrikaans. That may be cut to 2 ie Easter and Reformation issues and short news releases. There is no cost to readers, but they can join PASA or give donations as led by the Lord Jesus.

It is heartening to cross paths again with my former fellow BI(SA), Kalk Bay, student, now that I'm back in KZN. The Lord places one in a large place, and He makes a ministry that we hope touches a chord in the SA churches. Reveille is a token of this.

In Jesus
Craig

Hi Craig,

Greetings to you and Esmé,

Hope you are keeping well. I always look forward to getting the Protestant Reveille and the interesting content. This time I noticed to your reference to Oswald Chambers and I have heard a lot about his book 'My Utmost for His Highest' which has been a blessing to so many around the world. But I wanted to know about who this man was. I had read a little here and there but not enough to satisfy me. Then recently I came across a gem – his biography – a paperback written by one David McCasland! What a wonderful book it is, and with a number of photos too! It only cost me R15 and was the best book I have read for a long time! If you are interested I can mail it to you so you can also be blessed. Just send me your postal address.

God Bless to you both,
Yours because His,

Graham

Dear Graham,

Your comments as a former chairman of PASA, are always welcome.

We look forward to Reveille's continuation of its calling to speak the Truth in a gracious way, and to remain a beacon of light in an age of confusion.

Thank you for contribution to the wider SA church.

*In Jesus
Craig*

Hello Craig,
I always enjoy reading it from cover to cover as soon as I receive it. Have a great Tuesday and love to Esme.

God bless,
Warren

Dear Warren

Your gracious comments on Reveille are truly well received. The trust that God gives us is a cause for wonder-He has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

Thank you for the Booyesen family's loyalty.

In Jesus
Craig

Friends,

With the celebration of the Reformation it is appropriate that you read the Reveille. Thank you Craig - we easily forget what suffering there was and it is good to learn and / or to remember.

*Regards,
Dana*

Dear Dana,

We value your comments on Reveille, and pray the Lord's bountiful mercy to the farmers of our land, especially the Western, Northern and Eastern Cape, North West Province, as they look to the heavens for rain.

His promise is not in vain, the Word of God abides the test of time, though it tests us at times.

In Jesus
Craig

“John Calvin called the Bible the school of the Holy Spirit.” Prof Pieter Potgieter in “Victory-The Work of the Spirit.”

Book Reviews

Wells In The Desert – Rev Murdo Ross Gordon (1924-1993)

"The late Murdo Gordon was born on the Isle of Skye, Hebrides, Scotland. He spent most of his career as principal of the Bible Institute of SA, Kalk Bay, after Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones the medical specialist/preacher at Westminster Chapel, London, had given his ok to Rev. Gordon's health in regard to a move to South Africa.

Apart from his mentoring of many of our country's ministers, pastors and missionaries, including the reviewer, Rev. Gordon is remembered for his preaching, and writings, eg the ministerial set-book, New Bible Dictionary (IVP) in which he contributed a solid article on Regeneration. Wells In The Desert, which is the subject of our review, is an unpublished small book - a basic introduction to the Christian Faith.

The author uses the analogy of water and truth: "Water is a necessity in our lives. We must drink it in order to live....We cannot manufacture water." How topical is this in the current drought in parts of SA. Rev Gordon adds, "Spiritually there is a parallel....The Bible is the water of life..necessary for our spiritual welfare and safety." He maintains that the church needs to re-open the wells of the Christian Faith, which are now only a trickle. Doctrinal preaching is neglected, and entertainment has replaced the truth.

Rev Gordon starts with the doctrine of Scripture, which is "foundational", to the Christian Church, and quotes an unknown source:

"The Bible is the religion of Protestantism".

He deals with the Trinity, which is not a "sterile issue-hardly related to Christian life". And regarding The Person of Christ, the man of God says compactly:

"Christianity is Christ...Unless He is central to our faith, whatever else we are, we are not Christians"!

Thus the preacher comes to the fore of the theologian.

Rev Gordon also writes on the Work of Christ; Man In Sin; Justification by Faith; Sanctification; the Church of God, etc.

How privileged were those who studied under Rev. Murdo Gordon. This book deserves to be published, so that his works will follow him, and the ministry can continue to draw water from this well of truth.

Review by Craig Hounsom

SA German Lutheran Mission
'AFRICA CALLING' – Compiled by Dr Udo Küsel

This comprehensive cultural-history of the Hermannsburg Mission and its descendants in South Africa, covers the period following onto the earlier arrival of the Moravian Brethren, followed by the Berlin and Rhenish Missionary Societies. Ludwig Harms (1801-1865) targeted “uneducated, peasant boys, largely based in the Lüneburger Heide, Northern Germany, to engage them in evangelic work”. In 1853 the specially-built, mission sailing boat, the ‘Kandaze’ was consecrated and dedicated to the service of the Mission run by the Congregation of Hermannsburg, Germany. No fewer than 14 sailing trips were undertaken from Hamburg to Durban (return) over a period of 20 years. Between 1853 and 1967 some 272 qualified missionaries, excluding their brides, wives and assistants came to South Africa. ‘Africa Calling’ is a richly illustrated authoritative work of 456 pages and has many images (some in full colour), which makes for good reading. It embodies a wealth of information, covering the early history of the old Natal and the Transvaal, including the hardships endured by missionaries, their families and employees during the Anglo-Zulu War (1879) and the Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902). Many were murdered and those surviving lost their churches, homes, crops and their belongings – some up to three times in succession. “Only faith, perseverance and hardship brought Christianity to the Zulu and Tswana people”. Conflict already started with the 1st Commandment, clashing with Ancestry worship. A softer approach worked better, namely the educational route leading to the establishment of many mission schools. The historical information covered is extracted from 93 translated biographies, personal recollections, diaries, correspondence, etc. “It is indeed a story never told before and not to be missed”. Copies are available from ernstuken@gmail.com at R550 per copy.

Contribution by Prof Ernst Uken

"Prof Ernst Uken, a Lutheran lay preacher, is a retired nuclear chemist and a former Head of the CPUT Energy Institute and Chair of the Western Cape Tourism Board. He now resides, after a lengthy chapter away, in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal".

*“It will take all our learning to make things plain.” Archbishop Ussher
primate of the Church of Ireland on Dr. John Brown of Haddington, Scotland.*

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