



Reformation 500 Edition
2017



REFORMATION
— 500 —

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PROTESTANT
ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA

LEST WE FORGET

The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (31 October 2017)

“Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget!”
Recessional Poem on Deuteronomy 6V12 (Rudyard Kipling)

Lest we forget! - Five hundred years ago God raised up Martin Luther to reform the Church; centuries of spiritual drought made way for showers of blessing, with the Gospel later reaching many of the world's nations.

The natural man, however does not receive the things of God without resistance, and hostility at a high level is gathering momentum before our eyes. This is not unique to South Africa, which has historically been open to the Christian Faith, the majority religion. But times are a changing, and there is a subtle attempt by the CRL Commission, to control the ministry. The Erastian tendency for the subordinating of the ecclesiastical (Church), to the secular power (state) comes at a time when the general lawlessness, and corruption, threatens the nation's well being.
Check out FOR SA's website www.forsa.org.za

Lest we forget! - The “hammer” of God's Word, the Bible, was the means of breaking the rock of man made traditions, layered on and throttling pure religion (Jeremiah 23V29). Luther and the Reformers gave credit to the Scripture alone as effecting the change, while they, “gossiped over (their) Wittenberg beer!”

The current yearning for a “prophetic word”, could be a signal of a move away from the settled Word, the Holy Bible! (Psalm 119v89)

Lest we forget! – The central theme of the Gospel is Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2v2). It is the Blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all our sin. The apostles and reformers sang the same tune of God's love, and placed faith as the hand that received the grace of salvation. The Roman papacy in turn built its Vatican “tollgate” between God and man; but the Protestants gave the Son of God His rightful place, as the “one Mediator between God and men.” (1 Timothy 2v5)

May God the Holy Spirit, quicken our hearts and minds, lest we forget!

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

“Buchanan was left without aid ... to make a little room for God's Word in
God's world!!” From EARNEST MEN about Dr CLAUDIUS BUCHANAN

Monica

Mother of a giant

Monica (AD 332-387) was the devout mother of St Augustine the greatest of the early Church Fathers. She had married Patricius, a pagan, and borne him three children. Of these, Augustine (AD 354-430) was particularly gifted. At age 16, his parents sent him to school in nearby Carthage, a famous city in present day Algeria, which was an offshoot of the ancient biblical Phoenician seaport of Tyre. But Augustine wasted his time, fathered a child, and embraced the Manichaeian heresy. - The Roman Empire was then in its last stages of decline, threatened by attack from without and licentiousness from within. - Monica was heartbroken. She prayed day and night that her beloved son might renounce sin and commit his life to Christ.

Son of tears

Augustine enjoyed Rhetoric and, in his early twenties, in spite of Monica's pleadings, he left Africa for freethinking Rome to teach the art there. She was so distressed that she went to her bishop and asked him to speak to her son. Augustine later recalled this in his "Confessions:" - "She would not be satisfied, but urged him more, with intreaties and many tears, that he would see me, and discourse with me; he, a little displeased at her importunity, saith, 'Go thy ways, and God bless thee, for it is not possible that the son of these tears should perish.' Which answer she took as if it had sounded from heaven."

Two years later, he moved on to Milan where he became the Professor of Rhetoric, and Monica joined him there. God was already at work. For Augustine loved to listen to the sermons of the masterful orator Bishop Ambrose, and was gradually absorbing God's truth. He later wrote: "Thou sentest Thine hand from above, and drewest my soul out of that profound darkness, my mother, Thy faithful one, weeping to Thee for me, more than mothers weep the bodily death of their children. For she, by that faith and spirit which she had from Thee, discerned the death wherein I lay, and Thou heardest her, O Lord."

Out of the mouths of babes

He became increasingly distressed about his sinfulness, and at last, lying under a fig tree in a friend's garden, he suffered "the most bitter contrition of (his) heart." - "I heard from a neighbouring house," he wrote, "a boy or girl chanting and oft repeating.. . 'Take up and read; Take up and read...' Interpreting it to be no other than a command from God... my eyes first fell (on the text) 'Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh...' No further would I read; nor needed I, for instantly, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away."

Together with his friend who was also converted, Augustine went "into my mother; we tell her; she rejoiceth: we relate in order how it took place; she leaps for joy, and triumpheth, and blesseth Thee, who art able to do above that which we ask or think... Thou didst convert her mourning into joy, much more plentiful than she had desired."

Monica had found peace. God had shown her: A son of so many prayers cannot be lost. "I do not know why I am still here," she said one day, "since I have no further hopes in this world. I did have one reason for wanting to live a little longer: to see you become a true Christian before I died."

God has lavished His gifts on me in that respect.” Days later she fell ill with a fever and told Augustine and his brother to bury her where they were, in Ostia, Italy. She asked for one favour only – “that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be.”

Augustine went back to Africa and four years later became bishop of Hippo until his death. He helped to bring peace to the heresy-torn Church and, through his teachings and writings, laid the foundations of Christian doctrine and Christian culture in Europe for the next almost 2000 years.

Source: St Augustine, Confessions.

*Written by
D Scarborough*

“The foundation of wisdom is the fear of the Lord”.
Dr. Campbell Morgan

SIM

Sowing in tears, and reaping with joy

“By Prayer,” the motto of SIM, is a fitting tribute to the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father, the God of Israel. Founded by three young men, Walter Gowans and Rowland Bingham (Canada), and Thomas Kent (USA), the infant missionary society was a disaster in human terms. West Africa, at times seen as the “white man’s grave,” was no exemption for those who came to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with only Bingham surviving a bout of malaria after his young associates died! The dream was abandoned for a season only for Bingham, “out of weakness”, to be made strong again. Hebrews 11v34B.

DR ANDREW MURRAY JNR

Of South African interest is that AEF (SAGM), formed in 1889 by the NGK’s Dr Andrew Murray Jnr, Martha Osborn and Spencer Walton, is together with other missionary bodies, now under or part of the SIM branding. Dr Murray considered missions to be the “chief end of the Church”. When there was talk of the NGK trimming its missionary work due to financial restraints a century ago, the veteran preacher and patriarch stood up in the famous Wellington pulpit, and rallied his timid brethren to go forward, as he opened up Exodus 14v15.

It was an honour for the editor to meet the new international director of SIM, the first African to lead this respected mission, Dr Joshua Bogunjoko a medical specialist (as is his wife). I was heartened to hear his commitment firstly to the Gospel as the core of the message, i.e. to change lives and not just transform society in humanistic terms. Those mothers and fathers who gave their sons in 1889 as a love gift to the Lord, and Africa, would in hearing that Dr Bogunjoko is one of SIM’s own, reared from childhood, exclaim with SIMEON (if they were alive today): “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace! Luke 2v29.

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

“I try to make up for lost time”. Martyr bishop John Coleridge Patteson
(Three Martyrs of the Nineteenth Century SPCK)

Bishop Hugh Latimer:

A light for future generations

Bishop Hugh Latimer: the man who helped to light a candle for England

Hugh Latimer was born in England in about the 1480s. He started Latin grammar at the age of four. He attended Cambridge University, received his Master of Arts degree in 1514, and was ordained as a priest in 1515. In 1524 received his Bachelor of Divinity degree for his disputation refuting the teaching of the Reformation and the Protestants. He was, in his own words, "as obstinate a papist as any was in England" – a devoted follower and supporter of the Roman Catholic church.

And yet, 31 years later, he was burnt at the stake in Oxford, with Nicholas Ridley, for refusing to bow his knee to the teaching of Rome. Preaching before King Edward VI a few years earlier, he said: "[a bishop of this realm ...] sent for me and marvelled that I would not consent to such traditions as were then set out. And I answered him, that I would be ruled by God's Book, and rather than depart one jot from it I would be torn by wild horses." Saul had become Paul: How?

Little Bilney catches a big fish

Thomas Bilney (subsequently martyred) spoke to Latimer at his disputation in 1524, and helped Latimer to see the light. Latimer thereafter preached the Bible and called for the Bible in English: a dangerous call, as the translation of William Tyndale had been banned (Tyndale was subsequently martyred). Latimer was charged with heresy and warned by cardinal Wolsey and bishop Tonstall, but happily obeyed God, not man (Acts 5:29). He was persistently persecuted. For a time, he was imprisoned in the tower of London. He opposed Henry VIII's Six Articles of 1539, which were Roman Catholic in nature and included the doctrine of transubstantiation – the teaching that the bread and wine used in the Mass become the actual body of Christ.

When Edward VI took power, Latimer was given freedom to proclaim the Bible. Alas, under the reign of Queen "Bloody" Mary, who held strongly to Roman Catholicism, he and numerous others were martyred for their refusal to accept the teaching of Rome. In 1554, the papal party – including Bishops Bonner and Gardiner – cross-examined Latimer (now about 70 years old!), Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer, who all argued that the Roman Catholic teaching of Transubstantiation and the propitiatory nature of the mass are in absolute contradiction to the Bible.

Glorifying God in his death

Latimer had no doubt that a correct understanding of these matters is central to salvation – as did his cross-examiners! After his death sentence had been pronounced, Latimer said: "I thank God most heartily that He hath prolonged my life to this end, that I may in this case glorify God by that kind of death". The prolocutor [ecclesiastical spokesperson] replied, "If you go to heaven in this faith, then I will never come hither, as I am thus persuaded."

Friend, biblical doctrine is not an unimportant subject intended only for academics. Could the importance be more obvious? These matters are Health or sickness, Freedom or slavery, Life or death, Heaven or Hell. If you do not have a right – a biblical – knowledge of who God is and how He saves in Christ Jesus, how can you be saved? (cf Rom 10:2)

When tied to the stake, Latimer spoke to Ridley, saying: "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." God lit such a candle. Sadly, there are only flickerings here and there in England now, a faithful remnant. But collectively there are many around the globe who have benefited.

Brother and sister in Christ, do you treasure the Scriptures – the Word of God! - in your own tongue? Do you appreciate those who gave their lives so that the Word of God would be available to you? Don't despise this gift. Give thanks – study – learn – proclaim – for the Glory of God in Christ Jesus, who is our only advocate and mediator.

For more information, see Five English Reformers by J.C. Ryle, or Foxe's Book of Martyrs.

*Written by
Dr Kenneth Allen*

“A judge is condemned when he condemns the guiltless”. About Chief Justice George Jeffery’s notorious handling of the Puritan, Rev Richard Baxter.

The Brave Comradeship of God

Oswald Chambers – My utmost for His Highest (Aug 4)

“Then He took unto Him the twelve.” Luke xviii.31.

The bravery of God in trusting us! You say – But He has been unwise to choose me, because there is nothing in me; I am not of any value. That is why He chose you. As long as you think there is something in you, He cannot choose you because you have ends of your own to serve; but if you have let Him bring you to the end of your self-sufficiency then He can choose you to go with Him to Jerusalem, and that will mean the fulfilment of purposes which He does not discuss with you.

We are apt to say that because a man has natural ability, therefore he will make a Christian. It is not a question of our equipment but of our poverty, not of what we bring with us, but of what God puts into us; not a question of natural virtues of strength of character, knowledge, and experience – all that is of no avail in this matter. The only thing that avails is that we are taken up into the big compelling of God and made His comrades (cf 1 Cor.i 26-30). The comradeship of God is made up out of men who know their poverty. He can do nothing with the man who thinks that he is of use to God. As Christians we are not out for our own cause at all, we are out for the cause of God, which can never be our cause. We do not know what God is after, but we have to maintain our relationship with Him whatever happens. We must never allow anything to injure our relationship with God; if it does get injured we must take time and get it put right.

The main thing about Christianity is not the work we do, but the relationship we maintain and the atmosphere produced by that relationship. That is all God asks us to look after, and it is the one thing that is being continually assailed.

*Taken From:
My Utmost For His Highest
by Oswald Chambers
August 4th*

“It is only now that I begin to be a disciple”. Ignatius Quoted by Dr Andrew Bonar.

Access to God

Access through priests and saints

What did many people understand about access to God in the early 1500s in Europe? For many, here as no direct access to God at all. They needed to go through priests or one or more deceased saints or get to God. The official church in Western Europe (the Roman Catholic Church) had drifted further and further away from the truths of Scripture, and access to God was restricted.

The Reformers' Beliefs

One phrase associated with the Protestant Reformation is “Christ alone” (Latin: solus Christus). The Reformers held that the believer has come into direct relation and union with Christ, as the one, only and all-sufficient source of grace. We come to God through Christ alone, and our access to God continues to be through Him alone. This did away with the need for the virgin Mary as mediator, the clergy as priests, and the departed saints as intercessors.

The Priesthood of all Believers

One of the great Reformation principles was the priesthood of all believers. That doctrine is taught in 1 Peter 2:4, 9; Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10. The Reformers argued that there was no precedent in the New Testament or in the early church for a priest as mediator. Such a role was not part of the gospel. Passages such as Hebrew 4:14-16 and 10:19-25 encourage ordinary Christians to approach God directly; there is no need for a special man to act as an intermediary.

*Murray Grindlay
Taken From: Run with Good News (New Zealand)
Issue 3 September 2017*

“You do need a Mediator between yourselves and God (the Father), but you do not need a Mediator between yourselves and Christ; you may come to Him just as you are”. Rev. William Jay of Bath (heard by young Spurgeon)

MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

Showing the sense of the Holy Bible with deep insight.

The Puritan Bible commentator, Matthew Henry, was born in Wales but spent most of his time in England. His eminent father, Philip Henry, was ejected under the 1662 Act of Uniformity. They were men of conviction.

Matthew Henry died at the completion of Acts -his classic commentary was finished ie Romans to Revelation, by a team of 13 other nonconformist ministers. The "Awakener", rev George Whitefield, read it through four times, the last on his knees, and Spurgeon advised every minister to read it in full. He scoffed at those who only relied on what God said to them, but dismissed what the Lord said to others! John Wesley wisely noted Henry's spiritual insights, and not just the "form", ie letter. Many modern commentaries are learned but dry as dust.

Ezra the priest gave the "sense" of the Law (Nehemiah 8v8), and the Spirit led deacon, Philip, explained Isaiah 53 to the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8v26 F). It is helpful to find gold in godly servants of Jesus' labours of love.

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

“Many things are thought to be beyond belief, only because the infinite nature and perfections of Him that has revealed, performed, and promised them, are overlooked.” Matthew Henry’s Commentary on Acts 26v8.

In the News

Passage to India

It is August 10, 2017. Emirates Airlines departs from Cape Town International to Dubai. It takes about nine and a half hour to reach Dubai, from where I got a connecting flight to Chennai, a flight of 4 hours. I’ve prayed for a long time, asking God to provide another opportunity to visit India. My vision is to visit congregations, help train pastors, and where possible, to help financially. The Church in India is going through difficult times, as there is much adversity. India has a population of about 1,2 billion people and in a city like Chennai lives nearly half the population of South Africa - over 20 million people. The Christians make up approximately 2 percent of the population. However, this is more than the Christians in South Africa, and I mean Evangelical Christians. The rest of India’s population has different religions. The Indian listens to the Gospel, because they realise that their 3 million gods cannot do anything for them, and they realise that Jesus Christ is the only Redeemer. The Indians are very friendly people, especially those living in remote villages where I brought the Gospel. They are also prepared to share with one the little they have. In one village a woman had to be delivered, as an evil spirit possessed her. We can only praise the Lord that our King Jesus is more powerful than the adversary and the spirit had to leave her.

To travel India, is quite easy, as they have a good transport system. The only problem is that there are so many people, and the buses and trains are overcrowded. That means that one has to stand sometimes for three or more hours to your destination. The people stand in the doorways of the trains and the doors cannot close. On the roads one experiences what traffic is all about. A journey of 150 kilometers can last up to 8 hours! Rice is the staple food and is really cheap. One can live in India on approximately R100 per day, if you are a tourist. Tap water is not recommended for drinking. Bottled water costs about R4 per one liter and the humidity is high and one goes through about three liters per day. Toilet conveniences - well, it's different. You won't find toilet paper anywhere and I took a roll with me everywhere I went. I can share lots more about my experience, but due to space, I think enough is said. I praise God for His grace and that I could serve Him in India for nearly three weeks.

*Written by
Ben Booyens (Ph D, D Min)*

Preachers Promoted to Glory

This term for death is borrowed from the Salvation Army of General William and Catherine Booth, as it can be applied to all who love and serve the Captain of our Salvation, King Jesus.

“The righteous perish, and no man lays it to heart: and merciful men are taken away.”
Isaiah 57V1A.

It is some years since the Baptist leader, Dr Rex Mathie, passed on. This large- hearted and humble preacher deserves never to be forgotten, but there is little written in the public domain about his promotion to glory, as far as I know? During the last few years Dr. Joh van der Cloff Jnr of Revival Challenge slipped into heaven so quietly, that I was not aware of it. He together with his gracious late wife Esme, showed much kindness – indeed sacrificial – to us prior to my entering the ministry.

More recently (9 June 2017) the well known UK preacher and Bible scholar, Dr Michael Eaton (74) died in hospital after preaching at the Cornerstone Church in Johannesburg. His mentor was Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, the medical specialist turned preacher at Westminster Chapel, London. His close friend from the USA, Dr R.T. Kendall's tribute goes:

*“Good-bye old friend. I will see you in
Heaven. We will find out then if the Lord
really approved of what we taught!”*

The former editor of Reformation Today (UK) Rev. Errol Hulse entered the presence of the Lord on August 3, 2017. Tom Nettles' tribute spoke of “A Beautifully Proportioned Life”, about the South African born architect turned preacher of the Gospel. His contribution to the Banner of Truth Trust with Iain Murray, revealed a deep love for the truth as it is in Jesus. A genial spirit indeed.

*Written by
Craig Hounsom*

**“Nothing else but heaven”. German Lutheran reformer, theologian Philip
Melancthon's dying words in Latin.**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Craig

One of your best issues so far... Well done and congratulations!

If either you or Colin Habberton would allow us to use extracts from your stories as well as JPG images, we'd be much obliged.

Regards,

Johan Lottering (Pneuma Magazine)

Hi Johan,

It is a privilege to get Reveille exposure in Pneuma SA. Your kind words strengthen our hands.

In Jesus,

Craig

My dear Brother Craig,

Very many thanks for including me on the mailing list of the Protestant Reveille. The articles in this edition covering the lives of WM Tyndale & Florence Nightingale were fascinating & awe inspiring. Your article on the visit to Berlin & Wittenberg illustrated to me how much the work of Martin Luther influenced Bible believing Christians for almost 500 years. O for a return to these times. Bless you for your comments.

In His Precious Name,

Neville Lobb

Thank you brother Neville,

Your support is always appreciated. Colin Habberton wrote the article on the visit to Germany, and yes, we yearn for the Lord to revive His Church, with His Holy Spirit.

Keep up your prayers for this,

In Jesus,

Craig

Thank you for the encouragement, Craig, and also for your partnership with us in keeping the Gospel open in South Africa!

Blessings to you,

Adv Nadene Badenhorst (FOR SA)

Dear Nadene,

Thank you for your and Michael Swain's legal talents being used for King Jesus and His cause in SA.

In Jesus,

Craig

Good morning Craig,

Thanks once again for the bumper edition of the Winter Reveille. There is plenty of good reading about the 500th celebration!!!

With appreciation,

Philip (Ds Philip Meyer NGK)

Dear Ds Philip,

Your encouragement is valued. Thank you for the faithful stand you have made for the Lord, and every blessing on the NGK's CMD (Christian Social Service).

In Jesus,

Craig



“He never let me go, He never let me down, He never let me off.” Dr Pauline Hamilton. To a Different Drum. OMF

Book Reviews

The Beauty and Glory of God's Word – Joel Beeke (ed) Reformation Heritage Books

'Without the word of God, we have no light. Christ is our light, and we cannot trust Christ apart from the word of the Lord. Unless we are expositing a word from the Lord, no preacher has the authority to say anything about hell, heaven, or the way to escape the one and enter the other. When unbiblical traditions reign, the church enters into twilight and spiritual winter ensues'. So writes the editor of this book, Joel Beeke.

This well produced book is the substance of the 2015 Puritan Reformed Conference. Its message and theme is the most important one for the Christian – the Word of God. Much confusion abounds in our own day concerning the Bible. The Bible itself has always been the point of attack for the devil. Man of himself though also hates and despises the very Word of the Lord. Although we must never be surprised at this, we must never allow ourselves to take a back seat, refusing to defend its message and authority. While it is certainly true that the Bible is its own authenticating authority, God has called his people and church to give a defense of that truth.

The book is neatly divided into three sections:

The Bible as the Written Word of God; The Glorious Properties of God's Word; and The Beautiful Life of Feeding on God's Word. There are a total of eight different contributors to this work, each bringing their own particular style and appeal. Yet they each express a high value for God's Word and present their work in a clear and forthright way. Beginning with a look at Psalm 19, the Wonder of the Word, we are then taken through to the Authority; Challenges; Clarity; Sufficiency; Inspiration & Authority; then we are encouraged to Hold Fast; from there to that Word making us what we should be, and finally we are exhorted to find our Joy in the Word; and to be putting what it teaches into being Doers of God's Word.

One is thankful to the men who preached these original messages, which can also be listened to online. However, there is something to be said for having a book in one's hand where one can meditate and ponder what is being said. In a day of much ignorance of Scripture, even among Bible-believing Christians, this work comes highly commended.

Review by Stephen Holland

The Puritans Day by Day
Harry John Horn (Banner of Truth)

In an age of shallow, man-centered preaching anything from the hand of the 17th century Puritans has to be welcomed. One of the best ways to introduce people to something new or unaccustomed is by short selections of their writings. And this is what the author has ably done. As the title suggests, this is a day-by-day reading plan that is designed to be read each day of the year. Just as we need to eat daily, we need - and must - eat spiritual food. We must, if we wish to experience a healthy growth, eat of the best foods. Pigging out on a spiritual diet equivalent to that of a McDonald's is a sure way to spiritual ship- wreck. Beginning to read the Puritans is to start your day by feasting on the best of diets.

The daily readings from these greatest of preachers and theologians are neatly divided into themes. Each day begins with a selection of Bible verses. This is followed by suitable sentences and sayings from the Puritans. Some of the themes covered include: Christ Pre-eminent, Silence, Personal Accountability; Union With Christ, and so on. Hear something from these spiritual giants: Satan never beats us but with our own weapons. The heat of the fire cannot be made more intense without a supply of fuel. Our enemies are on every side, so must our armour be.

We are given encouragement that 'Young preachers should keep this volume, with its careful ordering, and its full indexes, lying at their right hand, and in days when the mind is dull and the spirit is weary, they will find it to be the brook in the way.' We would though by no means limit this useful book to preachers, but to all Christians, the young in the faith and the mature alike.

The compiler of these quotes, H.J. Horn, was born in London in 1868. He served during the First World War with the Soldiers Christian Fellowship, and is described as a great Bible teacher and an enthusiastic seeker of souls.

Review by Stephen Holland

“One Saul is worse than a host of Philistines”
William Huntington S.S

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