

CHRISTMAS 2023 & NEW YEAR 2024.



SYMBOL OF THE REFORMATION FIVE SOLAS



**FOR THE WORD OF GOD,
AND FOR THE TESTIMONY
OF JESUS CHRIST,
REVELATION 1V9.**

**PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Founded 1925

PROTESTANT REVEILLE CHRISTMAS 2023 & NEW YEAR 2024.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

“Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth** peace, good will toward men” Luke 2V14.

The heavenly host’s glorious benediction announcing the Incarnation of the Son of God, Christ, in Bethlehem, is in stark contrast to the current reality “**on earth**”, of terrorism, wars, famine, plagues, and earthquakes.

In its unbelief this evil generation is increasingly sidelining any religious connotation with the birth of Jesus, and the calendar era of B.C. (before Christ), and A.D. (the year of the [our] Lord), and opting for neutral dating. This mindset governs the nations’ approach to social and political problems. Dreams of peace and the cessation of hostilities, which may help short term, are unfortunately ultimately doomed to fail!

“Probably never before has Peace been so universally talked of by the nations, and never before has sudden destruction among the nations been so near”.

Kenneth MacLennan of Scotland writing in a Foreward 5th January 1939, months before the outbreak of WWII on 1st September 1939. Grace Triumphant A. W. Baker.

The Christian Faith promotes peace, not violence, yet it never excludes the Lord from the equation, whose blessing of the Gospel, makes rich, and adds no sorrow with it, Proverbs 10V22. Lasting good news reconciles God with man, and man with man, as the Holy Spirit sheds in our hearts Christ’s constraining love which took Him to die on the Cross for our sins.

In dealing with the Gospel essence of Christmas, Martin Luther expressed his joy as “to much to bear”; and Isaac Watt’s champagne of Christmas carols, “Joy To The World,” shows his Evangelical delight, as he does in another hymn:

“Religion never was designed to make pleasures less.”

Watts quoted by Spurgeon.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King, Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing ... Africa, and the nations abroad, bend the knee to God.



In Jesus, with Christian love.

REV. CRAIG HOUNSOM

2.

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NO TURNING BACK.

A TIME TO GO FORWARD IN JESUS'S NAME.

“Even if there is no way through the sea and the enemy is mighty and near at hand. Tell them to for forward. There is a time to pray and also a time to work; a time to exercise faith; to believe that the prayers that have been offered have been answered, and a time to arise and do what God commands us to do”. Exodus 14V15.

Dr. Andrew Murray in his last year's calling on his Church missions to go ahead in the spirit of faith, joy, and love. His daughter, Miss Murray described it as a never-to-be-forgotten sermon about the reason why the Church exists to go preach the Word to every creature. Miss Murray added later in life: “I still hear the cry of Forward! Ringing in my ears”.

TURNING BACK - THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNBELIEF.

The Christian Church in its concessions to the world in its methods, training for the service of its denominations and missions, and looking to godless organizations for funding, is in a state of unbelief: a turning back from a walk of faith in the Bible's promises in a limiting of the Holy One of Israel. This is precisely what happened to the Hebrews in the Wilderness, during the leadership of Moses at the Exodus from Egypt, Psalm 78v41.

Why should we escape the judgement of the Lord, if the Jews did not in their Wilderness wonderings and futility? The apostle Paul labours this point and warns that if God did not spare the “natural branches”, that He would not spare the “wild olive tree”, the Gentile Christians, Romans 11v11-24.

ONE WAY – FORWARD!

This can only be achieved by the Holy Spirit's power in confirming the Word of God in the bold proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unbelief breeds confusion, a trumpet which gives an uncertain sound, 1 Corinthians 14v8, Luke 18v8. In Thy strength we will not turn back, but turn from our evil heart of unbelief and go forward, as Onward Christian Soldiers.

Christian denominations which tolerate those who openly espouse false teachings, and ridicule the Bible, the Word of God, have little to shout about, and no reason to go Forward, but have gone backwards to the fall of man, the subtle devil's “has God said...?”

CRAIG HOUNSOM

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To preserve the government we must also preserve morals. Morality rests on religion; if you destroy the foundation, the superstructure must fail. When the public mind becomes vitiated and corrupt, laws are a nullity and constitutions are waste paper..." (Daniel Webster – Senator and Secretary of State in the United States, died 1850's)

"...the moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws... All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." (Noah Webster, author of Webster's Dictionary – History of the United States, 1833)

A NEED FOR LAWFULNESS AND OBEDIENCE

Scripture repeatedly calls us to be obedient to the authorities over us (whether in the church, in our family, or in our nation) – despite the fact that these people are often ungodly. We must be model citizens that give the government no trouble. The only exception is where we are required to obey God in an instance where the government sets up laws that contradict those given by God. Then, and then alone, do we have the freedom to serve God and not man. As hard as this is, we should remember that Jesus submitted himself to the authorities over him, though he was perfect and they were sinful. **Submitted by Dr. Kenny Allen. (Chairman of PASA.)**

"In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe, and enough shadows to blind those who don't". Blaise Pascal.

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“The spirit of the Reformation, which was on the side of freedom and simplicity, and the return of Christianity to its source, had in England soon been diverted by political needs (ends).” John Buchan on Oliver Cromwell.

Go Forward in Faith:

Dr Andrew Murray, Jnr (1828-1917)

Over a century ago the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa was facing a financial crisis, and its missionary activity was threatened by cut-backs. The venerable senior minister, Dr Andrew Murray, stood before his denomination at the Wellington gathering, and deliberately read the injunction of God to Moses as Israel was hemmed in between the Egyptian armies and the Red Sea: 'And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

(Exodus 14: 1 5)

Mission Accomplished:

In an instant the tide of defeat was turned. The Word of God had accomplished its purpose --faith was restored. The work would go forward in Southern Africa!

Andrew Murray like Moses of old, endured 'as seeing Him who is invisible' (Hebrews 11:27). He was born in Graaff-Reinet, in the Great Karoo, Eastern Cape: second son after John, to Rev. Andrew Murray Snr. a Scotsman; and Maria Susanna Stegmann, of French Huguenot and German Lutheran descent. He was destined to achieve much, not only in missions, which he considered to be the chief end of the church, but also as theologian, writer, evangelist, and conference speaker. 'Like St. Paul, Andrew Murray was always forgetting the things which were behind, and pressing on to that which was before, ' is how WM Douglas puts it.

An All-round Ministry:

As with his friend Charles Spurgeon, Andrew Murray had a diverse ministry, which not only led him from pastorates in Bloemfontein, Worcester, the Groote Kerk (Cape

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Town), and to the one he is most associated with, Wellington; but also to international invitations to preach, such as at the Keswick Convention (in the Lake District, England), strongly associated with the holiness and deeper spiritual life movement. His indirect advice to pastors and ministers relates to his own decision regarding the call to Wellington:

Your first work, your calling is to be a pastor, and where you can be happy in this work thither you feel yourself drawn. '

● To a Christian sister he wrote:

'Your great difficulty is SELF-OCCUPTION. Your only cure will be SELF-OBLIVION, forgetting yourself. You do God's work outside. LET GOD ALONE DO THIS WORK INSIDE YOU!' (Very sound Biblically -- how Dr. Murray reconciled this with his respect for Henry Law's Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life, the most introspective of classics, is not easy to answer. There are reservations about whether there is any Gospel in Law's mysticism!

Mission challenges were on his heart (cf. DRC; & SAGM — now SIM):

'But where is all the money to come from? My brothers, if this is God's work, He surely has enough money to dispense. When he has opened heart and mouth and eye, He will not leave the hands closed.'

● Concerning theological undermining of the Faith:

'And 10! We suddenly hear a voice stating that we have deceived ourselves. And this voice is not, as in former times, that of enemies outside the Church and Christianity it is the voice of those who, while assuring us that they are Christians, reject altogether the confession of the Christian Church, and preach to us a perfectly new Christianity'!

● With regard to political interference in the lives of his fellow Afrikaners, the people whose piety he is said to have shaped, he wrote in a 'forcible' letter to Dr DF Malan, the future Prime Minister:

Article taken from Protestant Reveille 2014 – CRAIG HOUNSOM.

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'The Church surely is a spiritual body, especially created by the Lord with the purpose of uniting Differences of opinion are not in themselves sinful. They are the result of differences of temperament, of education, of environment It is not the difference of viewpoint, but the sin of self-will and lovelessness that yields the bitter fruit in which dissension and hatred are revealed'! DR ANDREW MURRAY.

AW Baker (Carpenter — Lawyer Missionary).

THE BOY FROM PIETERMARITZBURG (born 1st September, 1856):

One of the more colourful of South African Christian leaders and statesmen, was AW Baker; a generous supporter of the cause of Christ, including the Protestant Association. The following excerpts are largely from his autobiography, *Grace Triumphant*:

"It was in the year 1856 that I was born in the city founded by the Boers and named after their two leaders, Piet Retief and Gerrit Maritz, Pietermaritzburg. I had no glorious lineage to boast of; no genealogical tree..." The young Baker had as his Alma Mater, "The High School, Pietermaritzburg, (Maritzburg College?). This was followed by Hilton College: "It was opened in 1872 and I was one of the first pupils."

CONVERSION AND EARLY CHRISTIAN WORK: AW Baker had been christened Anglican by Bishop Colenso (whom he later opposed as did Dean Greene concerning the authority of the Bible and Genesis in particular). "In the year 1874 during a visit with my parents to England, and having been much solemnised by the death, on the voyage home, of a passenger to whom I had been reading the Scriptures, I began seriously to think about eternity, and during our stay in London used to spend the Lord's day by listening to CH Spurgeon in the morning, Newman Hall in the afternoon, and Dr (Joseph) Parker at night, but returned to Pietermaritzburg, Natal, still unsaved". The death of a friend brought things to a climax for young Baker. "In the Old Congregational Church, (St Johns United now?), I was deeply convicted of sin, and before the service was over had such a gush of emotion and sense of acceptance and forgiveness that I could scarce contain myself until I reached my room, where I literally sang myself to sleep".

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THE LAW AND THE PROFITS:

"When I was seventeen I was indentured to Mr. W. Nicolson, builder, of Pietermaritzburg, for three years, to learn carpentry. At the end of that period I was articled to H. Bale, Esq, to advocacy and attorney, who later became Sir Henry Bale, KC, and Chief Justice of Natal." This was followed by a life of Christian service that dominated, eventually superseded, his legal and business interests. Interspersed with visits to Australia; New Zealand; England; and USA (the latter at the invite of Booker Washington). He met the likes of Sammy Marks, the mining magnate (after whom the rare Sammy Marks gold tickey is named); Gandhi who assisted him in a law case (screened in the movie): 'I I had great difficulty in getting leave for him to travel in the same compartment of the train with me to the Convention in Wellington, and could get no separate accommodation for him there. My host, who was a Dutch Salvationist, put a double-bedded room at our service, and I had the great distinction of sleeping in the same bed with the now so highly esteemed Indian philosopher. May the Lord soon lead him into the full light of the glory of God which is radiant in the face of Christ!'

Another notable meeting was that with the ZAR (Republic) president, "Oom Paul" Kruger.

AW Baker visited him, on a mercy plea for a prisoner, at night' when the president was in bed! "I can only cite this as an instance of the facility of access to his presence, which was granted, not only to his own people, but to strangers."

MISSIONARY PIONEER: His formation of the South Africa General Mission (SAGM), with the eminent Dr Andrew Murray, and Spencer Walton, and later, The South African Compounds Mission, marks AW Baker as a pioneer in missions to all tongues, including the miners and Chinese mine labourers. His outreach into the heart of East Africa with the likes of the Methodist veteran, Haley, of whom medical missionary Dr JE Church, wrote: "Haley preached on the old Puritan prayer, 'Lord, give us the gift of tears.'" This all bore fruit that were watered by the tears of good men and women.

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CONCLUSION: AW Baker led a full life. He was happy that his eight surviving daughters were all earnest workers of the Lord Jesus. "Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life. If the Lord tarries I hope to reach a century -- and die in harness."

-- Craig Hounsom.

Taken from Protestant Reveille 2012.

"The claims of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy are so exclusive and so extreme that it appears to be sheer cowardice to let a milk-and-water modernistic cry of tolerance take the place of a sturdy resistance, even to the death, like our Protestant ancestors. The history of the papacy in Spain, Ireland, South America, and other lands which have been under priestly domination tells its own tale".

--AW Baker, pioneer missionary statesman on religious persecution..

FEEDBACK FROM MADAGASCAR

Dear Craig,

Thank you so much for still sending me the Reveille. I am reading it with great interest! it is upbuilding and inspiring.

I don't think you know me. I am German and studied at the then still called Baptist Theological College in Cape Town. For the past 3 years of my studies I lived in the little flat attached to the late Mr. Jeffree James house in Pinelands. He became my 'South African Father'. After my studies I returned to Germany to prepare for service in Madagascar, where I serve Christ since 1997.

I started a Theological Education Program (TEE) which has today over 300 Students. Mr. James visited me in the initial phase and was a great encouragement to me. My husband is a Malagasy Pastor and involved with hunger relief and church planting in the south of the island. Together we were able to visit Mr. James twice in SA.

I spent altogether 6 years in Cape Town. Very important formative years of my life! You can imagine that I love to get well written spirit filled articles and books in English.

Please keep me on your mailing list!

Many blessings in Christ!

Christa Bearivo (Buse) Madagascar

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COME YE APART – J.R. MILLER D.D. (1840 – 1912 USA).

POWER BELONGS TO GOD.

**“Knoweth Thou not that I have power to crucify Thee, and have power to release Thee?.....
Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above.”**

John 19v10-11.

AUTHORITY is one of the entrusted talents. Men talk very boastfully of their power, forgetting that it is delegated power which they hold, and that they must wield it for God, and must give account to Him for their use of it. No man's power belongs to himself to do with as he pleases; it is given him from God, the source of all power. This is true of the authority of parents and teachers, of the power possessed by civil magistrates, and of all power whatsoever.

Men are eager to obtain offices in the city or nation; and they do not always realize the responsibility which attaches to such positions. Power belongs to God, and must be used for God, or its misuse will bring sore penalty. It is a talent which is given to us to be accounted for, and no treason is worse than malfeasance (official misconduct) in the employing of power. This is true all the way from the power of the child on the playground to the power of the president of the nation or the king on his throne. “Thou couldest have no power.....except it were given thee from above.”

There is a comforting thought suggested by the words in this sentence. “Thou couldest have no power against Me.” Christ in this world was under protection of His Father, and no one on earth could lift a finger against Him but by the Divine permission. What was true of Him, the Son of God, is true of each one of the sons of God in all their earthly life. Each believer, the humblest, the weakest, is kept in this world as the apple of God's eye. No one can touch one of God's little ones save by Divine permission. This shows how safe we are, amid all the world's dangers and enmities, while we trust ourselves in our Father's keeping.

“With the Psalms is bound up the history of French Protestantism. Their translation into verse and their setting to music were, says Strada, among the chief causes of the Reformation in the Low Countries... The Psalms were identified with the everyday life of the Huguenots.” Rowland. E. Prothero.

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“ANDREW MURRAY once explained to a friend what he considered the practical difference between his own style of preaching and that of his brother John, then Professor of Theology in the Dutch Seminary, (NGK) Stellenbosch. He said: ‘Whereas my brother considers most Christians are merely feeble and weak, and need to be strengthened by wholesome food, I, on the other hand, regards the Church generally as sickly and spiritually diseased, which is the real cause of their feebleness’.”

ANDREW MURRAY AND HIS MESSAGE.

W.M. DOUGLAS.

**“The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it”.
Psalm 68V11.**

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followers stayed next to Bontebokskloof, in a place called Xairu. Graaf Caledon visited Xairu in 1808 and named it The Caledon Institute. When the Missionaries arrived they renamed the place Suurbraak, because of the Zuuragtigheid (acidity) of the land. During the 1960s the name was changed to Suurbraak.

Long before the colonists came to the Overberg, Hessekwa K hoi were already there. Hessequa (or Heissequa) means men of the woods. It is derived

to the Eastern Cape. The VOC outpost Riet Valleij was situated five kilometres from Suurbraak.

In 1812 the London Missionary Society established their mission work in Suurbraak.

In 1819 the head of The London Missionary Society, Dr. John Phillips, visited Cape Town. He had only one aim: "ending the slavery of the Aborigines within the Cape of Good Hope". On his arrival he declared: "Free the coloured population in your colony, permit the natives to

Suurbraak lies in what could easily be termed a little piece of heaven.

choose their own masters... allow them to bring their labour to a free market and the farmers will no longer have an occasion to complain of a want of servants". Because he had no political influence, he could not take any legal decisions,

During this time the coloured people's identity took shape in Suurbraak. Elphic (1997: 43-45) describes the identity formation of the coloured and

came into power in 1948, the political landscape in South Africa changed dramatically. On 13 August 1960 Suurbraak was declared a coloured area through the group Areas Act. On 2 April 1962 the Department of Coloured Affairs took over the management of the village. Property ownership was given to the coloured people and the whites were forced to sell their property in Suurbraak.

The heart of the village of Suurbraak has

