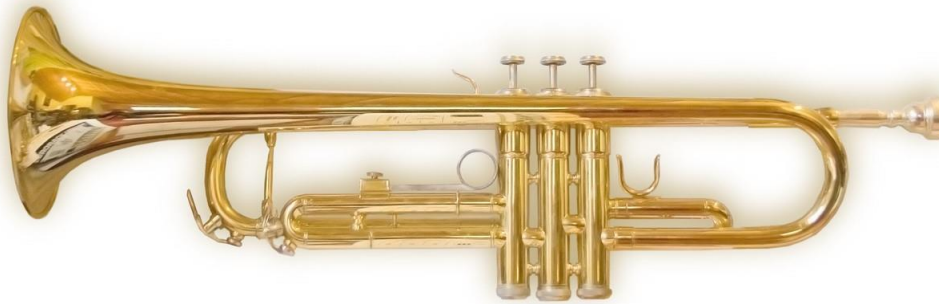


PROTESTANT REVEILLE



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

PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

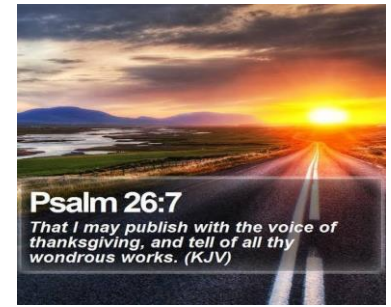
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"that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Thy wondrous works.

" Psalm 26V7.



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.

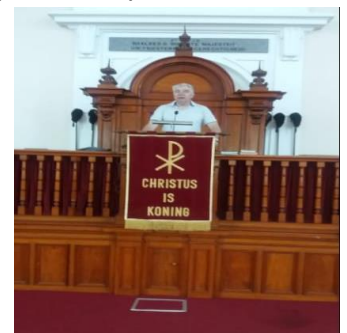
Dear Reader, may we walk by faith in the Bible's promises, as the Word of Christ dwells richly in us in all wisdom through God's grace, Colossians 3V16 & Proverbs 4V23. "Christendom" is gone; yet Christ builds His Kingdom in hearts, "beginning in Jerusalem", spreading East, West, North, and South in missions the Tree of Life's leaves for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22V2.

"And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her; and the Highest Himself shall establish (build) her." **Psalm 87V5 & John 1V13, of our Father's sovereign regenerative love.**

State Capture of S.A Church? Our Christian forbears stood faithful while "beneath the Cross", but the naive lightly concede as a non-issue what they died for. Persecution by State or Church is the track record of the devil down the centuries; hence our sensitivity over the CRL Commission's attempt to regulate ministry. Whatever motive, it is open to bias, accreditation subject to man's convention, possible divisions between preachers, compliant or not. One would think Churches with a P.B.O. and N.P.O. can choose pastors. A concern is that within our G.N.U. government are religious and ideological affiliations not sympathetic to our Faith. Vulnerable, mainly Christian, foreign nationals from Africa, were jailed and deported due to lack of legal papers, while others from Gaza were flown in and allowed pronto to stay after frenetic lobbying! Double standards? We do pray for our leaders to pursue nobleness of purpose, and not all is wrong in our country, but feel let down by them in this.

Changing Demographics of the Church: Tell me the old, old story,...of Jesus and His glory, with no garnishing of the Cross hopefully in the mushrooming new churches, but godly nourishment, and not materialism as the "bottom line", Philippians 1V11 - 19. "Custom-built" or "D.I.Y." religion can be convenient, but Christian worship in small or large fellowships with real people is Scriptural, so J.R. Miller writes. We remember brave ministers who pastor in denominations where the doctrinal Down Grade results in confused signals from leaders who occupy high places, as "Valiant for the Faith", J.G. Gresham Machen warned of in Christianity and Liberalism (1923). What a great legacy we inherit and how much we owe to so few faithful guardians.

"All the saints greet you". **2 Corinthians 13V13.**



Violence, Fraud, Greed, and Moral Degradation: the lack of the fear of God and His Law is a stain on our generation, with good and evil confused, the creature is worshipped more than the Creator, Romans 1V25. Resisting the Holy Spirit's witness to Jesus comes at a deadly cost!

"...may the Blessed Master be there - My Lord, since I've tasted the joy of Thy presence in something of its fulness, every meeting is a failure if Thou art not there." **E.J. Poole-Connor (1872 - 1962), the saintly founder of the U.K.'s F.I.E.C. Thus we pray: Lord, Abide with us.** Yours in Jesus, Craig Hounsom, Always on the winning side. Pray for troubled Zambia, officially "Christian".

"If the Gospel pleased carnal (unregenerate) men it would not be the Gospel".

Robert Murray M'Cheyne (1813 - 1843), Scotland.

THE DOWN-GRADE IN OUR CHURCH PULPITS!

Courting Judgement: How sad it is to read of sound Bible believing ministers "stripped" of their ordination vows they made to God to be faithful to His Word; then having to resort to the unthinkable, to appeal to our Civil Courts of Law, as did Paul to Caesar, 1 Corinthians 6V8 and Acts 25V11. This

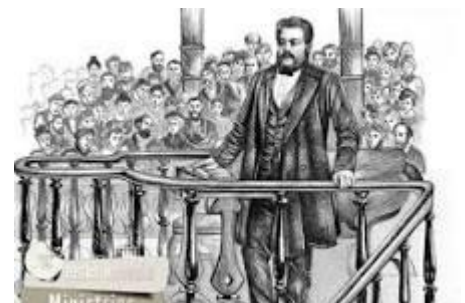
among churches rooted in the Protestant Reformation's Sola Scriptura. Let brotherly love continue, but where is the line drawn, Hebrews 13V1? That occupied the last chapter of C.H. Spurgeon's life, when he stood faithful with a handful of his pastoral colleagues, and published an incisive article attributed to his friend and fellow Baptist pastor, Robert Shindler, with the Prince of Preacher's input, and personal endorsement. How timely for us:

"Earnest attention is requested for this paper. We are going down at breakneck speed."

Sword and Trowel (March 1887). Spurgeon the editor, and pastor of Metropolitan Tabernacle.

Shindler's List:

Down-Grade 1/. "[At the end of the Puritan age] by some means or other, first the ministers, then the Churches, got on the Down Grade, and in some cases the descent was rapid, and in all, very disastrous. In proportion as the ministers seceded from the old Puritan godliness of life, and the old Calvinistic form of doctrine, they commonly became less earnest and less simple in their preaching, more speculative and less spiritual in the matter of their discourses, and dwelt more on the moral teachings of the New Testament, than on the great central truths of Revelation. Natural Theology frequently took the place which the great truths of the Gospel ought to have held, and the sermons



became more and more Christless. Corresponding results in the character and life, first of the preacher's and then of the people, were only too plainly apparent."

Down-Grade 2/. "He laid the blame for the downhill slide at the feet of the Church leaders. Even those who were orthodox in their teaching were not earnestly contending (Jude 3), but were weak in defending the faith," Shindler said. As one example, he cited Philip Doddridge (1702 - 1751), (who) "was as sound as he was amiable: but perhaps he was not always judicious; or more probably still, he was too judicious, and not sufficiently bold and decided." This refers to the Congregational Church leader's allowing pulpit exchange with men whose orthodoxy was called into question. Shindler draws the conclusion that Dr. Doddridge's tolerance led his famed academy to succumb to Socinianism (non-Trinitarianism), causing it to be dissolved a generation after Doddridge's passing. Re - Spurgeon's Down-Grade stand. Grace to You - John MacArthur.

Editor: The Down-Grade is said to have hastened Spurgeon's early death at 57 years of age in 1892. The Metropolitan Tabernacle, seceded from the Baptist Union in 1887. The Protestant Reformation's Foundation is Christ, not Luther, Zwingli, or Calvin. 1 Corinthians 3:11. They pointed to the Bible, translated and printed for the common people to touch and read firsthand.

"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 ends".

J. Buchan author of Oliver Cromwell (1599 - 1658). How apt is this warning to the Church today.

AFRICAN GOSPEL CHURCH S.A. (1949).

Humble Beginnings: I first heard of this church denomination when I pastored at Sea View

Congregational Church, Durban, and the isiZulu speaking African Gospel Church utilized the building to hold its services after ours. What struck me was their Christian bearing, respect, reverence, and tangible godliness. The little congregation faithfully paid a tithe from its offerings. How will the C.R.L. Commission regulate A.G.C.'s pastors? Its first one had a Congregational Church background through his old home church, the *American Board Mission (A.B.M.), which, together with the more well known London Missionary Society (L.M.S.), of Drs. John Philip, Moffat, Livingstone association, and the Congregational Union of South Africa, were merged to establish the United Congregation Congregational Church (U.C.C.S.A.) in Durban, 1967.

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job;..." Job 1:1.

Job Yenge Chiliza (1886 - 1962) from uMzumbe (near Hibberdene), KwaZulu-Natal: Job Chiliza appeared to be inhibited with his witness at A.B.M.; he also discarded the Zionist group (once connected to the Shembe) of Ezra Mbonambi, as it did not base its services on the Word of God, his expressed wish being, "...I was hungry for the



Holy Spirit." He joined the Full Gospel Church, and was baptized in water (immersion) by Pastor Archibald Cooper. But in 1949, he left and formed the African Gospel Church with indigenous African leadership, himself as first Moderator, after segregation followed Dr. D.F. Malan's (ironically a dominee) National Party's S.A., 1948 Election win. The A.G.C. then affiliated with the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Nicholas Bhengu (1909-1985) was influenced by Job Chilize, "Their relationship was like that of Elijah and Elisha", Bhengu, later to follow his calling of Gospel "revivalist", Assemblies of God, sought an anointing such as Chilize had in the healing power of God's answer to his prayers, insistence on confession of sin, gracious handling of backsliders, the church a type of "hospital and a college." Bhengu also aimed to "bridge the gap between the educated and the uneducated", an ongoing challenge in rural communities and independent churches. Names such as Job Chiliza, William Duma (Baptist), and Nicholas Bhengu still live on. africangospelchurch.my.canva.site.

Editor: N.B. The African Gospel Church (South Africa), roots South Coast, KZN, differs from the Africa Gospel Church (Kenya 1905) founded when missionary Willis Hotchkiss was in Kenya. Africa's Christian churches are mainly Evangelical/Pentecostal, with their differing "non-essentials". Liberation Theology, however, cannot bring the "dead" back to life, its chilling effects harmful to user and hearer. Protestant Reville is emailed to many, certain outside of the mainstream denominations; the Lord Jesus has others serving elsewhere who may benefit from it. The ungarnished Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Gentile), Romans 1V16. The Church believes in miracles, not of man, but of God! THE TRUE SIGN is that of Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Matthew 12V39. The independent African churches, like the ZCC and Shembe Zionist churches, are still to be featured; their distinctives in relation to the orthodox Christian Faith and heterodox synsethis.



***A.B.M. founded Adams Mission (1836)** initially medical care, then education, Inanda Seminary boarding school for girls (1869); both schooled many future public figures, including deposed dictator Robert Mugabe; McCord Mission Hospital (1905), now under KZN Dept. of Health, has also predominantly served the isiZulu speaking community with Christian dedication and care. We were honoured in attending a church English service on 2 August at CCQ Malvern (UCCSA), Durban, where an outright Evangelical Rev. Nkosi Khanyile, an ESSA graduate, serves with rare grace and Biblical familiarity in his sermons and prayers. The tone and mutual respect, led to my wife "Meisie" (Esme de Bruin), afterward commenting to me, that "a lot of churches can learn from this church", and that it was one of her highlights of our KZN visit. **Editor.**

*"In the midst of over-engrossment and exaggerated activity they have ceased
to hear the still small voice".*

Thomas Boston (1676 - '1732) Human Nature In Its Fourfold State, about Church business dominating attention and energy. How needed is this warning today, (Acts 6V1 – 6).

THE BIBLE IS THE RELIGION OF PROTESTANTS - **PRINCIPAL MURDO GORDON.**



Wells In The Desert: "Water is a necessity in our lives. We must drink it in order to live; our bodies require it...Abraham discovered there was underground water and painfully and laboriously he and his servants were able to dig wells and reach the precious water...However in process of time, the rival and jealous Philistines filled these wells with earth (Genesis 26V15)... Isaac had to re-dig these wells...He knew the water was there but had to go through the same digging process as Abraham had years before. They did not discover the water afresh but made it available again in their own time.

"Spiritually there is a parallel. The Bible contains all the truths we need for our lives but they are not codified in a doctrinal form, though clear doctrines must have been in the minds of the Prophets and Apostles. The Bible message is the water of life which is necessary for our spiritual welfare and safety...

"At the present time these doctrines are not refreshing and building the church as in the past. They are held as a true statement of what the church once believed - a sort of ecclesiastical museum piece. It is not as if archaic language has to be modernised, this would undoubtedly have caused them to have greater impact on the present. The wells our forefathers dug with much difficulty are neglected because people wish for a more "with it" type of Christianity.

"However, the real rubble in the well is of a more serious nature than a matter of language. The language issue is a sort of smokescreen that obscures the real issue. The arch-enemy of souls has created an anti-supernatural climate of opinion. Many people are no longer prepared to believe in miracles, foretelling in prophecy, or Divine intervention in human history. The whole Christian Faith is approached rationally; professing followers of the Creeds deny them altogether...in practice."

Rev Murdo Ross Gordon (1924 - 1993) of the Isle of Skye and Kalk Bay B.I.(S.A.) in his unpublished book **Wells In The Desert**. Rev. Gordon contributed the article on Regeneration in the New Bible Dictionary (I.V.P.) under M.R.G. He was a mentor to many of us.

"Dry wells send us to the fountains".

Samuel Rutherford (1600 - 1661). Scottish church leader.

PADDY D - A ROUGH DIAMOND.

An Irishman Digging In The Veldt (wide open grassland with low shrub): "I had a farm in the Ventersdorp district, part of which had been proclaimed an alluvial (surface sand, gravel, left by rivers or floods) diamond field. Among the diggers (prospectors), who had pegged off a claim, was the subject of this sketch. He was about sixty years off age when first I came in contact with him. He was a very well-known character on the fields and was reputed to be very eccentric, and...much addicted to strong drink.

"One morning, just before my lorry was starting for the farm, Paddy came up to me and asked for a lift. I handed him a tract (religious leaflet) and agreed to his request. The lorry was not in the best of condition, and being fairly heavily laden with goods as well as carrying several other passengers, had to be lightened when climbing up any steep ascent. At one of these accents Paddy and I became associated, some distance behind the others. He had been drinking rather freely, and had just returned from a spree in Johannesburg, where he had 'blown' the proceeds of his last good find. In his pocket he carried a small bottle of rum.



"After offering up a prayer for guidance, I lovingly turned to him and said: 'Paddy, why are you throwing away life so foolishly as this? God has a purpose of blessing for you, and wants to make you a blessing to others'.

"Throwing his arms around my neck, and kissing me effusively, he said: 'God helping me, I will give up the drink and be a new man'.

"Not knowing in how far this might be due to the influence of the liquor he had been drinking, I encouraged him in his resolve by kneeling and praying with him. On my return home I began a correspondence with him, and sent him some tracts. I copy some extracts from his letters, showing how graciously and wonderfully the Holy Spirit can lead a soul, bound by years of indulgence in sin and surrounded by vice, out into light and liberty and peace, and having had scarcely any means of grace or teaching but the study of the Word of God. **A.W. Baker.**

"Jan. 9th 1932, - "My dear Friend, - Your loving letter to hand of the 24th. It came as a great surprise. I thank you so very much for it. God seems to know when to guide others for His good purposes. I was in great need of same, hardly any food in the shanty. Paddy D. "We buried a very old digger in Ventersdorp a few days ago. I had a few words with him. He was so happy and grateful and comforted, and was prepared to meet his God. Poor old chap. What hardships he had gone through in his troubled life. We had quite a number of Ventersdorp people at his funeral. The service at the little church was great and simple. To tell the truth, I was sorry it was not myself. I

should now have been with my God Whose Son died for me. I felt much relieved after the burial to know that he was out of pain and in his real home at last, with great rejoicing round him.

Paddy D.

"**Dear Mr. Baker**, it seems our meeting was planned for great purposes". **Paddy D.** Taken from **Grace Triumphant by A.W. Baker. (Born 1856 Pietermaritzburg)**. The author's hopes for Paddy, "God...wants to make you a blessing to others" were fulfilled. P.A.S.A.'s beneficiary, missions promoter, met many personalities, yet he had time for an individual who appeared beyond reach. Matthew 25V40.

"The Divine intention of crosses is to make character, "Next to thanking Christ for His Cross, we shall thank Him, when we get to Heaven, for our own."

J.B. Figgis (1837 - 1916) of Brighton by J. Westbury-Jones M.A. His great-great nephew, the late Jim Figgis of the Society for the Protection of African Children, (S.P.A.C.), Scotland, was an avid reader of Protestant Reville.

I WAS IN PRISON - LETTERS FROM GERMAN PASTORS(1938 PRE - WWII).

A Church Beneath The Cross: The threatening authoritarianism of this world is a reminder of how essential it is to be vigilant as custodians of the Gospel. The Christian Faith only has one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, Ephesians 4V5 & 6. A century ago, Germany, the land of the Protestant Reformation's Church, had largely lost its rugged and basic Sola Scriptura faith to rationalism and Biblical Higher Criticism, and that certainly helped the nominal Roman Catholic Adolf Hitler, born in Austria, to impose himself as a Nazi Fascist on the nation which resented the terms of the Treaty of Versailles (Great War-WWI). However, what is not generally well known is that many Germans withstood the Nazi Brownshirts, while the Lutheran, Moravian, Reformed Churches' pastors, and Jehovah Witness members, suffered confinement in prisons and in concentration camps, the latter under control of the Secret Police. Names such as Pastor Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Boenhoffer (hanged by the Nazis), Lutherans identified with the Confessing Church, are an ageless protest against the persecutors of Jesus' children. Their theology was the pervading neo-orthodoxy, yet they stood beneath the Cross. Job 32V9.



Letters from prison were written under censorship, (hence the gaps):

A Pastor wrote on 1 Peter 4V15, 16: When we took leave from each other day in your sick room, the possibility of such a change was in theory envisaged by us both, but I never really thought it

would happen to me personally, and happen so quickly, especially since I have had very little to do with the matter I am charged with. I can't even remember that it was under discussion at all at that day's meeting. As one sometimes leaves the room during the discussions (which last for hours) to do something else, it could happen very easily that I was not even present when the matter of the giving of Notices* was debated and decided upon. But these are questions of minor importance. "Behind the mere accidents of the outward occasion there stands the serious reality of the Church struggle. We have entered upon as something to be fought with courage, and we know that we are bound before God to carry it through to the end, for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake also of our people. But that is also why we have all the promises of God on our side.

"You must not worry yourself about me. Under the circumstances I am really getting on quite well. Humanly speaking, the most hard thing for an old officer (servant of the Lord)...is the humiliation which lies in the very fact of being under arrest. But it is just this humiliation which is so necessary for us, and God uses it to unlock us inwardly and to ripen us for His Word and for His consolation...God has now comforted me most wonderfully and I am quite cheerful in my cell...



"How long this state of things is going to last is in the hand of God, and we must prepare ourselves inwardly for a long period of trial. But in the almighty and all-merciful hands of God we are all safe. May He watch over you too."

*Notices - This is reference presumably to the Decree forbidding the reading out of the names who are resigning from the Church – I Was In Prison Translator Mr. Vincent Brun.

Compiler Dorothy Francis Buxton. Preface By the Bishop of Liverpool, Albert Liverpool , August, 1938. (Pic of Luther's 95 Theses 31st October 1517).

"Precious remedies against Satan's devices - The strange opposition that I met with from Satan, in the study of the following discourse, has put an edge (sharpness) upon my spirit, knowing that Satan strives mightily to keep these things from seeing the light that tend eminently to shake and break his kingdom of darkness, and to lift up the kingdom and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the lives and souls of the children of men..."

Thomas Brookes (1608 – 1680).

Shaping memories from Summit 2026 in Jerusalem: **Replacement or Continuation Theology?**

I want to briefly focus on the theme of the Jerusalem Summit 9-11 June 2026 which I attended with a contingent of church leaders from South Africa; together with delegates from 54 other countries. Then I will conclude with some Christian theological observations.



The Summit Conference came about urgently. It convened to explore reasons for escalating international Christian militancy against Israel and the Jews, expressed as antisemitism. The foremost reason identified by the conveners of the Summit was replacement theology, also called supersessionism.

It is a version of Christian theology advocating the substitution of Israel by the Christian Church. Consequently, it brings into question the relevancy of the promises of God to historic Israel, presently extended to the people and the land. An alternative theology is Dispensationalist theology separating God's plan of salvation, one for Israel, the other for the Church.

Replacement Theology is a theological view popular among Protestants from a reformed perspective and evangelical by nature. It is influential, impacting prominent eschatological views. Particularly evident in its spiritualizing the founding of the nation of Israel 1948 and subsequent national events defying reasoned interpretation. A replacement interpretation centres on a particular salvific view of the Christian Church in Protestant theology. Is this the full story? No! Old Testament theology clearly distinguishes between circumcised nationalist Israel and true Israel, as the circumcised of heart. A remnant of faithful believers in the midst of the nation Israel. Now we step into early New Testament history.

At Pentecost 3 000 were added to the Church which included proselytes and God-fearing gentiles. Together they were grafted in to an existing group of Jewish believers. Paul in Romans 11, uses the analogy of an olive tree and grafting, to explain this coalescing of Jew and Gentile into one, the Church. Wild branches grafted into the existing cultivated Olive tree. A better theological explanation than Replacement Theology is a Theology of Continuation of what existed in early church history.

Now what about the present anti-Semitism?

Think of the Daniel 3 statue. Representative of worldly kingdoms, its feet smashed by the hewn rock and the kingdoms demolished. An immediate kingdom history unfolding to the appearance of Messiah. The Messiah Jesus ushers in the inevitability of present and eschatological fulfilment; announcing that the Kingdom of God is at hand. When the risen King ascended into heaven, the inevitable was announced: the King will return. That is what the universal Christian Church is waiting for, the return of King Jesus. In other words, since the ascension into heaven, the **Church and indeed the world** are on the path into distant future of prophecy and its fulfilment. Let's unpack this. The Sovereign God is preparing this world for the inevitable and triumphal return of His Son, Jesus. What is happening in the land of Israel and its people is a Sovereign God shaping global and national history into global eschatological reality. According to Scripture, that includes in

significant manner the city of Jerusalem, and the land of Israel. Satan knows this.

Is it any surprise, the global hatred towards Israel and Jews so prevalent in our time? Rhetoric spewing forth intense hostility, opposition, hatred, yeasting disinformation, at levels that defy reason. Merciless behaviour that challenges any definition of being human in its disregard for life. No doubt a demonic spiritual attack. Dark days have come about for Israel, the Church and for all who support Israel and its people.

Satan, a defeated foe, despite mustering all forces of evil, knows his days are numbered. Now ask, does Satan want the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, the millennial desire of all Jews for the reinstating of sacrifices, for King Jesus to return? Satan's ultimate challenge will be at the moment he will invade the rebuilt Third Temple, and for the third time historically the abomination that causes desolation will come about. Satan will be recognized for the anti-Christ that he is. An event that forces decision. (Image of King Solomon's Temple).



This decision inevitably, will have major consequences. Jews and people all over the world will face the choice of two possible Messiahs. The present messianic abomination in the Third Temple or the One who came two thousand years ago. Why must we wonder why Israel and the Jews are hated? It is a spiritual war, one in which the Church must decide which side it is on, as indeed all nations must.

That is the crux. Jew and gentile, the dispersed among all nations will come together united in the true Messiah of God. Together they will make up the true Church, a final number, complete, the elect.

This short paper clarifies the essential reason for the global hatred that exists for Israel and its people. But it should also encourage those who support the land and Jewish people to realize that, in so doing, they are in accordance with the finality of the sovereign plan of God, to usher in His Son "on whose robe and on His thigh, He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" Rev. 19:16.

Raymond Potgieter.

Editors Note: Prof. R. Potgieter is in the Dept. of Theology N.W.U. (Pukke). He is a former fellow student of mine at B.I.(S.A.), Kalk Bay, where he later became principal. No doubt this article will provoke a response, but it is needed to show that many Protestants, including Reformed, hold similar points of view on God's ancient people, the Jews, including Israel; what some Christians cannot receive, who are open to restoration of the Jews, but not to the state of Israel. From the early missions to the Jews by the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Moravians and other Churches, the N.G.K. mission to the Jews, has shown, that there has been a growing realization God has not cast away His people, and that their restoration will be life from the dead

for the Gentile Christians. Romans 11. **N.B.** There is a danger that Christians could end up reverting to Judaism, changing their names, appearances, and literally observing Jewish feasts, as if Christ is not the end of the Law. Romans 10V4. 1 Corinthians 7V20. The Jewish people have to bend the knee, and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Philippians 1V10, and that may occur only in the face of a cataclysmic event.

He earnestly endeavoured to give to Christ in his preaching the same supreme and central place that He occupies in the Word of God. His whole teaching is fragrant as a garden of sweets with that Name which is above every name".

Andrew Bonar (1810-1892). Writing of Thomas Boston (1676-1732).

JUBILATE DEO - BE JOYFUL IN THE LORD! **(PSALM 100).**

Overseas Missionary Fellowship (formerly China Inland Mission) - South Africa, a "sending nation" , has contributed significantly to missions in South East Asia, with the OMF playing a valuable part in spreading the Gospel among the region's diverse cultures. The author of the S.A. office of O.M.F.'s 50th anniversary book, Jubilate Deo (1993), Sylvia Houlston, was the wife of the mission's director, Don Houlston (1922 - 2004), a Presbyterian minister. We were honoured to know them and stay temporally at Andrew Murray House, Claremont, Cape Town, the imposing O.M.F. Mission office and residence. Lord gave them. This rousing ending of her book is for our nation to take to heart, and a fitting tribute to the Houlstons and O.M.F. team:



J. Hudson Taylor

Asia Still Beckons: "We thank the Lord for the high goals that have been set in each country for the year 2000. 'A church in every community and thereby the Gospel to every creature', may be said to be the motto of the Asian church, as well as a slogan coined by OMF. The Asian church has sent out a clarion call for help. **(written prior to 1993).**

"Yet David Ellis, national director for United Kingdom, notes sadly: 'In Britain, missions have never faced such apathy. (written over 30 years ago). Why?' He pin-points certain trends in a nation which has a noble record of mission endeavour:

'The spirit of tolerance and the growth of a pluralistic society undermine convictions as to the uniqueness of Christ. Heralding the message of reconciliation and proclaiming the Kingdom of God takes second place to personal issues. There is little appetite for the message of mission. The pursuit of happiness counts more than social responsibility.

'Pulpits pander to popular problems; evangelism promises healing for damaged emotions, rather than pleading with men to be reconciled to God. How then can there be a live interest in mission, if

man and his problems have come to occupy the centre stage?'

"In South Africa today we need to take heed that similar trends do not rob us of our opportunity, to serve the Lord. Beyond all suspicion and hatred, smashed relationships and shattered homes, beyond violence - beyond even the need for national reconciliation and country-wide rebuilding, beyond even the cry for brother to stretch out his hand to brother, to go forward in faith and hope and trust in one another, beyond all this must come reconciliation with God.

"And it will not be until God and His kingdom is the heart of the Gospel preached in this land that we will see breakthrough. It was His kingdom Christ came to proclaim. It was to redeem and reconcile the lost world to Himself that He suffered. Repentance, redemption, reconciliation, salvation by faith and obedience to His kingship were the heart of His message. Any message which fails to centre there become 'another Gospel'. (British East Asia Millions 1991).



"In South Africa today we must bend over backwards to weld all our people's into a unity of peace. We must accept one another, we must put others first, we must give way in many things. But we must not compromise in proclaiming our faith, for all men need the Lord. We must go forth in Holy boldness, making the proclamation of Christ our major concern. We must carry the Gospel 'to Jerusalem and to Judea and to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' that all men may have the opportunity of bowing the knee to Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord".

Sylvia Houliston - Jubilate Deo (1943 - 1993) OMF'S 50 years in South Africa.

Editor: What sanctified understanding from a veteran missionary on the Church's noble calling in the Great Commission with its beautiful pedigree,. Matthew 28V18 - 20. Mark 16V15 – 16. (Majority Text)

"Jesus was the first Missionary".

Dr. David Livingstone, missionary explorer, slave abolitionist.

POSSIBILITY OF BETTER CONDITIONS? (PIA DESIDERIA)

IF YOU KEEP SILENCE AT SUCH A TIME (1675) AS THIS: "(Esther 4V14). If we whom God restored the bright light of the Gospel through His servant Luther (the Protestant Reformer), fail to do our duty, God will get help elsewhere and preserve His honour. We must fear, however, that He will punish us grievously for our negligence by depriving us of this light and going to others with it, especially because we have already deserved such punishment a thousand times on account of our great ingratitude. In this connection I cannot refrain from remains to see with my own eyes, and perhaps I shall quoting the grieving lament (extreme grief) which that excellent theologian Erasmus Sarcerus (not Erasmus the Humanist), who knew more about the welfare of the Church (the German Lutheran) than most, wrote in his book...." **Philipp Jakob Spener,**

pietist. (1635-1705).

'Where the Word of God is neglected, real and true religion collapses.

Where this collapses, no one can or will be saved. If our sins, our reckless and godless shame, our secure and knavish (dishonest) life,...are compared to the Jews (in Biblical times) and our ancestors, I think that we shall not be far apart. It is my considered opinion and judgment that it is not possible for a real and true religion to survive amid our devilish (wicked), epicurean (indulgent)...living. Is it not a pity that we blind and callous (hard) Germans, should with our dissolute and disorderly life have driven out real and true religion? There is no stopping it. Nobody thinks of bettering himself. To sin is human, but to be unwilling to bear the punishment for sin is of the devil. There is still hope if, when one sins, one can bear the punishment for it. Accordingly I conclude that real and true religion has had its day. I fear that when the Gospel is still preached as a testimony and not for reform. Christ said in Matthew 24V14 that in the last days (and it was of our days that He spoke) the Gospel would be preached 'as a testimony'.



Even if that comes to pass which Christ also prophesied (when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?), nobody will pay any attention to decency and discipline.

'It will happen (God have mercy!) that although each of us poor preachers will teach and cry out, 'Repent and be converted', everybody will do just as he pleases. Governing authorities do nothing about discipline, and their subjects do not want it. Some faithful preachers wish to restore it, but this is not possible amid such confused and disorderly living. They must do their best and not give up the cause. It is a case of helping wherever possible. Now, as we are concerned about real and true religion, so we also give thought to ways and means of maintaining it. I have no counsel to offer. If I knew what to suggest, nobody would pay any heed. It remains to see with my own eyes, and perhaps I shall experience it without my desiring it, that on account of our sins and transgressions our dear religion will be lost through God's disfavour, even as it once came to us through God's favour.' **Erasmus Sarcerius (1501-1559)**, outspoken German theologian sounding the alarm at the rapid cooling off in their Church. I had to edit it!

More than a hundred years ago this dear man (Sarcerius) was worried that such a thing might happen. Since there has been no improvement in the meantime, we do not have less reason to worry, for wrath has only multiplied in the meantime." Philipp Jakob Spener PIA DESIDERIA "Heartfelt Desire for a God-pleasing Reform". Translated from German by Theodore G Tappert. Spener's life influenced August Herman Francke, Count Nicolas Zinzendorf, founder of the Moravian Church (Genadendal pic), John Wesley, and George Muller.



Editor: The late Dr. Billy Graham referred to the Lutheran Church as a "sleeping giant", that if it woke up it would lead to a great spiritual Revival across America. Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power. Psalm 110V3. If you keep silence, includes those who Dr Merle D'Aubigne in his classic History Of The Reformation, referred to who laughed at the faults of both parties, lacking conviction. Their neutrality is blind to the issue of Heaven and Hell!

“Now, lad, make religion the every day business of your life, and not a thing of fits and starts; for if you do, temptation and other things will get the better of you.”

David Hogg’s deathbed advice to young David Livingstone of Blantyre, Scotland, who became the Apostle of Africa. (Blaikie).

CHURCH ATTENDANCE J.R. MILLER (1840-1912).



Daily Readings in the Life of Christ – March 22nd.

“As His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day”. Luke 4V16.

“There are many evidences that Jesus had fixed religious habits.

Here we have a hint of His attending the synagogue worship on the Sabbath. This had been His custom from childhood, and although

He was the Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, and had been manifested as the Messiah, He still continued to observe the custom.

“Some people are careless about Church attendance. They find fault with the minister – he does not feed them, they say. They mean that he does not entertain them. Now no doubt Jesus heard a great many dull talks and sermons, but He did not on that account stay away from the synagogue. He went there to worship God, not to enjoy an intellectual entertainment. Others stay away from church, as they say, because there are so many inconsistent Christians who attend, because the church is so imperfect. We know that it was just the same when Jesus was on the earth. There were a great many church members in Nazareth and elsewhere who were very imperfect. Our Lord knew all about men’s true character, and He saw the worst there was in them. What He saw in some very prominent church people we may learn from some of His own bitter words against the prominent religionists of His day. Yet this did not keep Him from the services. If He could worship God in a congregation of faulty people, we should be able to do it.

“Another thought is that if He, with all the resources of His own Divine nature to draw upon, still needed means of grace, surely we need the far more. Still another point to be remembered is the importance of forming religious habits, especially the habit of going to church. Here the lesson particularly touches children and young people. Jesus brought this custom from His youth, and never intermitted (interrupted) it in His manhood.” J.R. Miller D.D. Come Ye Apart U.S.A.

Presbyterian editor who blended godliness with learning.

Editor: Where two or three are gathered in our Lord’s name, is a safe place to be: glorifying and enjoying God. Pastors look out for the “lost sheep of the house of Israel”, and miss them when absent. The Holy Spirit lifts up hearts to worship our Father in the beauty of holiness; some of the old mainstream churches still have the fear of the God, reverence and dignity often lacking in self-

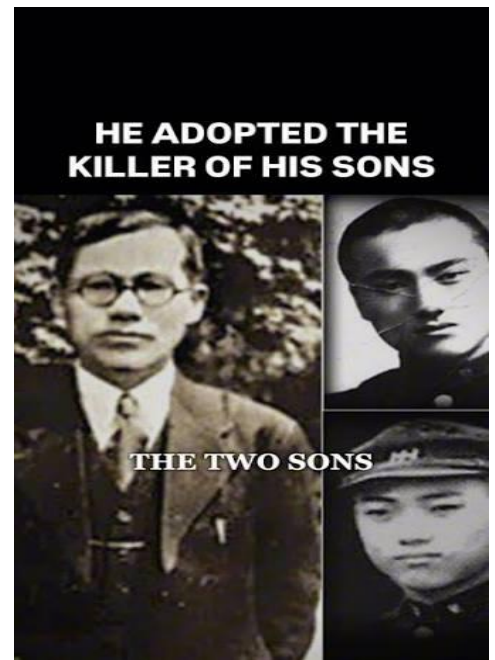
styled “spirit filled” churches’ effected familiarity with holy things. Music, lighting, designed to create herd mentality and hype in adults and children are anathema! Then I personally would look for a Bible based church with real people. “Very friendly place of worship”, and “The worship was powerful and genuinely focused on the presence of God”, are two better church responses, but what of, “We would see Jesus”...? John 12V21.

“Most men think in crowds, which is only to say that they are victims of thoughtless plausibilities” and, “Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter. “Paxton Hood (1820-1885).

PASTOR SON (1902 – 1950) A MODERN KOREAN MARTYR.

The Apostle of Love: “Yang-won Son grew up in Korea under Japanese rule, and while he was still at school his Christian Faith was severely challenged when worship of the emperor was made obligatory to all. This was the beginning of his characteristic unyielding faithfulness to Jesus Christ, which was to lead to his first imprisonment by the Japanese.

“After the defeat of Japan in the Second World War, Pastor Son was released, only to be imprisoned again – this time by the Communists. His story, part of which has already been told in *The Seed Must Die*, is one of triumph of faith under persecution. Pastor Son and Mrs Son faithfully served a large leper colony; he challenged his Presbyterian colleagues who had compromised their ministerial vows to God by showing undue deference to the Japanese Emperor, and confronted the godless system of Communism, which killed their two sons, Matthew and John he saved the life of, forgave and adopted as son their young executor! Chai-sun! Pastor Son did not survive his imprisonment under the Communists:



Pastor Son’s “Farewell”: “On Friday 13th October (1950), the funeral service was held. Streams of quite, sombre dressed people moved slowly towards the church, hundreds upon hundreds of them mourners who had come, some of them from long distances, to pay their last tribute of respect to the man who had stood upright among them for nearly half a century of Korea’s turbulent, troubled history. Leading the procession that slowly followed the coffin was a figure in the traditional funeral clothes made of hemp. It was Chai-sun. On the very day that Pastor had died the United Nations forces had reoccupied Seoul, and Chai-sun had come out of hiding. As soon as he heard of his adopted father’s death he had hurried to the leper colony to assume the responsibilities of the

eldest son.

“‘You saved my life’ (from the death penalty), he said brokenly as he looked down at the body of the man whose love had proved stronger than death – even the death of his two sons. ‘You saved my life,’ he said, then added with a sob, ‘but you’ve left me behind!’”

“And now as the chief mourner he followed the coffin, to stand with head bowed as it was carried into the Church for the funeral service. It was a quite morning, and the sun rode high in a sky without clouds. The countryside was peaceful once more, with people moving along the roads and working in the fields just as before the sudden invasion (of Communist Korean forces) had swept like a tidal wave over the land. But as the long procession passed through the ranks of silent mourners, many wept and sighed with sorrow that the man who had so often walked along that same road would walk along it no more.

“Those who had been moved by his preaching and strengthened by his stand against all godlessness would remember him for his courage. His wife and family would remember him for his warm, human love. Chai-sun would remember him for the love that was deeper than human. And the 1,100 lepers who stood somewhat apart from the other mourners would remember him because:

**‘He saw a beauty in the disfigured faces,
Touched eternal life in the hands of his friends
Found bodies incorruptible in decaying flesh,
In the colony of the friends he loved so much.’**



“The procession moved forward again, this time to take the body to its last place of rest on Tongdo Island. Matthew and John (his sons) were buried there, and Pastor Son was buried with them.

“Three graves. Three graves to testify that in twentieth-century Korea a father and his two sons took seriously the words of the Galilean ‘Peasant’ who said: (Matthew 16V25),

“‘Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel’s will save it.’” The Triumph of Pastor Son. Yong Choon Ahn with Phyllis Thompson (IVP). 1973. translated by Harvie M.Conn, formerly of Presbyterian General Assembly Theological Seminary, Seoul, and author of Contemporary World Theology, (Presbyterian and Reformed Publ.)

Editor: Presbyterian missionary pioneers led the way in sowing the Seed of God’s Word in Korea, whose believers were delighted to hear that Jesus was born in Asia (Minor). Sadly, Korea is a divided land, North under a Communist dictatorship dynasty, whereas the South is free, but not of cults, including the Unification Church (Moonies). The South African Airforce took part in the Korean War (1950-1953) under the United Nations Coalition. Spiritual warfare is ongoing. As a nation South Africa is currently witnessing a subtle undermining of its overwhelming Christian majority by

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strategically placed individuals, who will be revealed, hopefully not too late.

"It is time when those who murder their fellow-men become heroes, illegal power becomes the law of the land, False propaganda captures the mind of the mass, Cheating becomes a way of life, Unjust profits accumulate into vast wealth, Wine and song promise a paradise on earth, Adulterous stories become the gospel of the world, Deceiving oration is as the voice of an angel, idol-worship prevails as religion, Corrupt officials are official robbers, Military service a market for wealth and power. This is the Land of the Morning Calm." (Korea is known as the Land of the Morning Calm). Pastor Yang-son Son, martyr.

REFORMATION DAY – 31ST OCTOBER 2026.



"The Lord gave the Word: great was the company that published it."
Psalm 68V11.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

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THE END.