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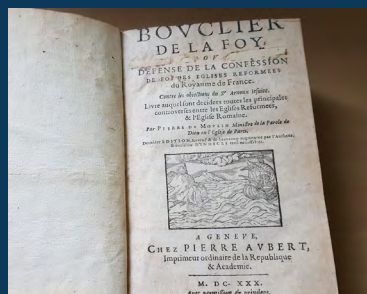
“ WHO IS GOING TO BE A SOLID BULWARK AGAINST
CONQUERING ISLAM IN FRANCE ? ”

Webinar on Christian education

Dear friends,

On 21 November *Foi et Vie Réformées* held its conference on Christian education as a webinar. We are thankful that everything went well, not only technically but also in terms of the contents and participation. The videos of the various presentations will be made available on our website. This seminar took place at time when the questions of confessional schools and home schooling are coming under very close scrutiny by the State. New laws are underway in an attempt to better control the influence of Islam (called “Islamism” in Orwellian Newspeak, as if there were any difference between the two terms, the first supposed to mean a traditionally peaceful religion, the second being an abnormal, violent version of the first). For the State, what is labelled “separatism”, or “communitarianism” is at stake. Incidentally, I recently heard from our neighbor, who is a town counsellor in our little village of 1500 souls, that there is a registered Muslim organization along with the JW's and *Reformed Faith and Life*...

Make no mistake, though : private Christian schools are in the State's sights as well. So are Christian churches and the message that they preach. The progressist, “anti-discrimination” agenda clearly aims at restraining any expression of Biblical norms, notably in terms of sexual ethics. Therefore, even if polygamy on French soil is (rightly so) going to be banned, our minister of “citizenship” - an arch-feminist - made sure to remind everyone in public that never ever would the State in any way limit three-way sexual activities, swingers clubs or any other “legitimate” expression of sexual freedom and inclinations (*God forbid!*). On the other hand, woe to those bigots who may condemn these practices openly, during church services, through the media or otherwise. How can we not be reminded of Paul's damning words against those who denied the very existence and rule of the Creator in Romans 1: *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves... For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions... And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done...* Promoting Christian education based on God's Word is to make an act of resistance not only against the general trend of our society and culture, but also against authorities that contribute to the under-



Pastor Du Moulin's “Shield of Faith” was first published in 1619, then revised in 1630.

mining of the social fabric and the disintegration of an already weakened nation. Who is eventually going to be a solid bulwark against conquering Islam in France? Our deeply secularized State which, claiming to be wise, became a fool, or Christian communities remaining solidly anchored in the Revelation of the Creator God? That is the only real question.

“ THE WAYS
OF THE LORD
ARE
INSCRUTABLE !

”

The shield of Faith

I recently had the good providence of finding and buying in a nearby antique bookshop a book printed in 1630 which I knew about but had never read before (it has been out of print since 1849): *The Shield of Faith* by French pastor Pierre du Moulin (1568-1658), the son of a pastor, and himself the father of two pastors. In his time, Du Moulin became a spiritual leader of the French Huguenots, and a very sought-after professor in theology. He was appointed at the Leyden academy at the age of 24 and taught there for five years, before going back to France and ministering at the famous church of Charenton, outside of Paris, before he was sent into exile by the French authorities. In *The Shield of Faith* Du Moulin defends and explains the French confession of faith of 1559 (known as La Rochelle) against the attacks of a certain Jesuit called father Arnoux. The latter was trying to debunk most of its contents, sticking to the Roman Catholic teachings about justification and good works as set forth sixty years before at the Council of Trent. The clarity of Du Moulin's explanations, his beautiful and at the same time sharp style make of this work (one among 75 books that he wrote during his long life span) a jewel of theology and piety. It is at the same time accessible and edifying. I have already posted several articles made of selected excerpts for the website of *Reformed Faith and Life* and will continue doing so.

The good providence of the Lord did not stop there, though. It was very encouraging to note that the Roman Catholic radio of Avignon, which broadcasts my podcasts on Sunday mornings, has just put on the air my series on the *solas* of the Reformation, which couldn't be more explicit about our beloved Reformed doctrines of Grace. *The ways of the Lord are inscrutable!*

One of the most inscrutable mysteries of our loving God is certainly the coming to earth of his eternal Son, Jesus-Christ, in a flesh similar to ours, except for sin. May we all, at Christmas, meditate on this mystery and be filled with the peace of knowing that in him we have a perfect Savior and Lord.

In His name,

Rev Eric Kayayan

There is a registered Muslim
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village of 1500 souls.



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