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BELIEVING IN FAIRIES IS BECOMING LESS AND LESS UNCOMMON

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Believing in God or in fairies?

Dear friends,

I believe in fairies my local pharmacist told me this morning as we were having a friendly chat over the counter. I replied that I didn't believe in fairies but in God, which led us to reflect together on the growing search for meaning through religions that people have and express nowadays. Let me illustrate this by way of a rather unpleasant incident that recently happened to the young pastor of a nearby Evangelical church: a medium or water diviner unexpectedly pitched up during a Sunday service, insisting that the pastor should let him speak and introduce his methods and techniques to the assembly, which the pastor flatly refused to do. The diviner took it very badly and went to complain to the local civil authorities. They in turn summoned the pastor, asking him why he hadn't approved of such a "reasonable" plea. They supported their claim noting that the priest of the neighboring Roman Catholic church had had no problem with a similar request. If religious syncretism is perfectly acceptable here, why not there? As the pastor stood firm, one of the officials made a hardly veiled threat to the effect that they had the power to close the Evangelical church if they wanted. Eventually the tension subsided and no further action was taken either against the church or the pastor. I heard that the official was later blamed by her upper hierarchy for having gone too far in this matter.

This incident tells something about the state of affairs with regards to the spiritual confusion reigning in our culture: in a country supposedly marked by rationality (call it rather *rationalism*) believing in fairies or trying to enforce syncretistic worship to a Christian church is becoming less and less uncommon. Add to it the growing use of cocaine or other drugs among the so-called "elites" of the country, and you will get an explosive cocktail of irrationality, erratic ways of life, sexual aberrations and lifethreatening behaviors progressively finding their way in the law book, leading to the rapid destruction of the social fabric. The new religion, pagan as can be, is marching forward, sweeping every single God-normed way in its advance. And so the question needs to be asked: how to speak adequately of God almighty, and not of *fairies*, to my fellow citizens? Last year I produced a book of 30 short meditations reflecting on Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman (John 4) inviting her to worship God *in spirit*

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and in truth. The book ended with a presentation of the Lord's Prayer, whereby God can truly be addressed as Father in Christ. A follow up book is currently discussed with the same Canadian publishers. This time the title should be: Do you understand what you are reading? (Acts 8:30). It will aim at providing elementary and necessary reading keys to a reader of the Bible who, though very interested by this book out of sheer curiosity, has never been instructed in how to read it to understand it as Holy Scripture, that is, according to its own categories of interpretation and internal message.

A youth camp of the theme of narcissism

The preparation for our 21-23 April youth camp in the South of France on the theme of *narcissism* is going full steam ahead (the full title is: *To be or to appear, our "ego" in the light of the Gospel*). The relevance of this topic, even among Christians, needs hardly be stressed in a world dominated by the projection of one's self-image via the social media. Please pray for a spiritually enriching camp that may help each attendee to grasp what the new image that we have received in Christ, the new Adam, means for everyday life.

Travelling again to the U.S.

In a month time I will be travelling again to the U.S. for a short but quite important visit with regard to the future of the ministry of *Reformed Faith and Life*. Pray that it may be a blessed visit and yield the expected outcome.

As we come closer to our annual celebration of Easter, and we remember very specially the wonder of our salvation through the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus-Christ, let us bear in mind the words of Ps. 68:19-20 that speak not of fairies, but of the One true God: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

Warmly in Christ,





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