

Reformed Faith and Life

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“ *Is it not what paganism is about, a smell of death ?* ”

Dear friends,

A smell of death

The week of uninterrupted mourning that very recently followed the death of French rock star Johnny Hallyday (74) truly took on insane proportions, fuelled as it was by a nonstop homage paid on TV, radio and Internet channels, to someone who had indeed marked the music industry with his strong personality since the early sixties. Once more it brought to light the pathetic cultural and spiritual condition of millions of people who, to some extent, identify themselves with the life, career and death of their “idol”. Try, in the midst of this media hysteria, to proclaim the Good News of He who was never a rock star, nor an alcoholic nor a compulsive smoker, married to half a dozen women and linked with twice as many women (it is fair though, to mention that the deceased claimed to be a Christian, and often wore a crucifix round his neck). Try to engage people not with the vanity of human careers – as successful as they may be in the eyes of the public – but on the giver of life, the new Adam in whom eternal breath is restored in those who breathe through His life... Most people seem to prefer breathing through the powerful lungs of a rock star and his hoarse voice heard during six decades, even though these very lungs were eventually consumed by cancer caused by cigarette abuse and heavy drinking. They prefer to breathe, inhale, move and die in symbiosis with their “idol”. Is it not precisely what paganism is about, a smell of death?

This being said, as the yearly celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ approaches, let us consider our own priorities and agendas, lest we should be found wanting in the very same way...

Our Lord Jesus, explaining the Parable of the Sower to his disciples, warns us (Matt. 13:22): *As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.* How deceptive indeed can the cares of the world be, the things we consider to be priorities in our busy lives, without noticing that they gradually choke the Word of life in our heart, letting it beat to a different drum, not the drum of the Spirit of God! How vital to ponder really and honestly this petition in the Lord’s prayer, which we so often repeat like a mere mantra: *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.*



The banderole upheld reads : Johnny our God », a deadly token of idolatry.

“ What we celebrate is the Incarnation of the Son of God ”

A new Christian radio in Mali

Along with our brothers and sisters from Manantali, in Western Mali, we are eagerly waiting to hear that the license granted to them by the Department of Communication of the government to set up a new (Christian) radio station, has finally been sent to them (DV in January). In addition to the already existing one, which will remain in operation, this new one will be able in time to cover a much larger area (reaching as far as neighboring Guinea, Senegal and Mauritania), since permission to set up an unlimited number of relay towers is part of the new license. I am following this exciting development with my partners of FEBA Radio in South Africa. May this new radio, once it is operational, serve as powerful lungs and mouth to bring masses of people to the saving knowledge of our dear Lord Jesus-Christ.

Partnering with young artists

Reformed Faith and Life is privileged to receive support and encouragement from many people, in particular from America and South Africa. I was greatly encouraged to see that three talented sisters who play the cello and have recently formed a trio together (Mari, Ine and Luka Coetzee, from Calgary, Canada) decided to take *RFL* as one of their partner ministries. I was befriended by their parents many years ago, actually from the time of my early years in South Africa. The continuation of this friendship through their daughters is but another sign of the wonder of God's covenantal faithfulness with His children. I invite you to have a look at their website (www.3sisterscellotrio.com) and to listen to their inspiring video "Journey of Remembrance".

Remembering the coming of our Lord, anticipating his return

Jesus' birthday as such is not what we celebrate at Christmas (still not knowing without the shadow of a doubt the exact day of his birth or even the exact year; these issues are still being debated, but, as fascinating as those discussions may be, they do not constitute the core of our Christian faith). What we celebrate is the Incarnation of the Son of God in human history *when the fullness of time had come* (Gal. 4:4). Much less do we know when our Lord will return to judge the living and the dead and destroy all resistance and rebellion against his eternal Kingdom. But what we await with eager anticipation is the fulfillment of the message of the angels to the disciples at the time of Jesus' Ascension into heaven: *This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven* (Acts 1:11). Our thoughts and priorities should thus mirror this anticipation daily. The apostle Paul expresses this active and dedicated state of mind, heart and hands, with the following words (Col. 3:1-2): *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* In that spirit, I wish you all a very blessed celebration of the Incarnation!

In His name
Rev. Eric Kayayan



The 3 Sisters Cello Trio chose to partner with our ministry

Please send your donations to the following address:

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