

Reformed Faith and Life

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“ *Would God that producers and listeners would long for pure spiritual milk* ”

Dear friends,

Feeding Africa with pure spiritual milk

A few weeks ago I received a report from pastor Theophile M. from Kananga (centre of the Democratic Republic of the Congo). For the last ten years pastor Theophile has been a faithful partner of *Reformed Faith and Life*, ensuring that our programs are broadcast on a regular basis from the regional radio KHRT – with which we have a contract and pay a yearly broadcasting fee –, liaising with them and also with listeners. As RFL’s representative he had attended the annual meeting of the radio along with other producers of Christian programs. During this meeting the management of KHRT made it known that they had decided to take eight out of the twelve broadcasts previously aired off the air. The reason for this was that these eight did not preach the Word of God but rather tribalism, personal political views and heresies. In contrast with them *Reformed Faith and Life* was singled out as a model of Christian broadcasting and pastor Theophile was asked to convey to me the hearty congratulations of KHRT’s management for the quality of our teachings and messages.

You might think that I would derive great pride in receiving this kind of praise. On the one hand, hearing that *RFL* is recognized and respected by the staff of an African radio because we preach the unadulterated Word of God is a very encouraging sign. It merely confirms that the Spirit of God who inspired that Word is inwardly teaching people to discern properly between the spirits when the outward preaching remains faithful to His intention. Also, one can only rejoice to see the fruit of such discernment in the management of this radio: they consider it their duty to protect listeners from false and dangerous teachings.

Still, my immediate reaction was one of sadness. In a given African context characterized by deep pagan roots, tribal tensions and political violence, the umbi(b)lical cord had to be severed with the progeny of an adulterous gospel. No less than two thirds of the Christian programs running on this radio had to be stopped! As I wrote to pastor Theophile, would God that not twelve, but twenty four – and more! – faithful Christian programs prepared by Africans for their own people would run on the air, in Kananga or anywhere else in French-speaking Africa. Would God that like newborn infants both producers and listeners would long for pure spiritual milk, and that by it they would grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2). Remember, though, that it is also thanks to your faithful support that pure spiritual milk can continue to flow in Africa through our broadcasts...



Fifty percent of the population in Africa is under the age of fifteen

“ *The only true new humanity
is to be found in the New Adam* ”

Western paganism and syncretism

However, when speaking of paganism and syncretism, people in the West are not that very different from people in Africa. We sometimes tend to forget this due to our own spiritual short-sightedness and self-complacency. Captive to their own idols, addicted to the voice of the serpent whispering in their ears: *you will be like God...* the civilization that is emerging before our eyes is one of mad attempts to reshape mankind according to its wildest dreams, actually in the image of the robots it has gradually contrived. *Transhumanism* is the growing motto of a generation radically estranged from its Creator, believing that with the help of bioengineering and other technologies it has finally reached the point of becoming its own creator. Bearing this sad context in mind I was asked to speak about the Biblical notion of mankind at a theological gathering in Montauban (South of France) at the end of January. What better text could I have used as a basis for my reflection than the first sentence in the final edition of John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1560): *Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: that in knowing God, each of us would also know himself.*

As Christians we may soon experience that holding to that *true and sound wisdom* will ruthlessly push us into the corner of a “civilization” made by techno-zombies thinking that they have eventually reached the shores of a brave new humanity. But as we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us remember that the only true new humanity is to be found in the New Adam: the very Son of God became man and made full atonement for our sins that by the Spirit we may live as new creatures and partake in His eternal life, to the glory of the Father.

In His service
Rev Eric Kayayan



The city of Montauban used to be a Protestant stronghold during the period of the Reformation.

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