



NOW I WANT TO UNDERSTAND  
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BETTER



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### News from Mali

*Dear friends,*

In the midst of a host of other activities, at *Reformed Faith and Life*, we stay in touch with a number of African radio stations that keep broadcasting the Gospel, despite difficult and even dangerous circumstances. One such station is Radio Tahanint, situated in Timbuktu (Northern Mali). About two years ago, RFL sponsored the buying of a motorcycle to help the staff move around (there is a small network of stations around Timbuktu that makes use of the programs aired by Radio Tahanint, ours included). Recently pastor Abdoulaye Cisse – its director –, sent us some news that we want to share with you. The need for solar equipment for Radio Tahanint is sorely felt, due to the high cost of electricity. After the 2011 Islamist takeover ended, during the time of the military presence of French troops in Mali (2011-2022), community radios operating in Timbuktu received some help to acquire solar panels in order to resume their activities. However, for some strange reason, Radio Tahanint was excluded from this help... Nevertheless, RFL's programs keep being aired there. A listener of Radio Tahanint recently wrote the following letter describing the kind of moral and religious situation of young Christians in a predominantly Muslim country like Mali:

*My name is A.D. When I was still very young, my parents entrusted me to a marabout [local Muslim leader] who taught me the basics of Islam, because they were very attached to this religion. So I grew up with many prejudices, especially concerning Christians, who were called "kaffirs" and seen as rebellious to their parents. Thanks to the broadcasts I regularly listen to on your radio, my views are not the same anymore. For me it is clear that the teaching I receive through these programs comes from a loving and merciful God. I understand that I was brainwashed with many lies. Now I want to understand the Christian faith better. It's just that I lack the courage to visit a Christian church out of fear of being marginalized. Please pray for me, that God may open my eyes and that my life may be transformed by his word.*

### In spirit and in truth

Still in Africa, the bilingual edition (French and English) of my book



Cover of the bilingual edition of "In spirit and in truth" published in South Africa

of 30 meditations *In spirit and in truth*, was released at the end of August, aiming to be of use to migrant workers from Central Africa who work in South Africa. An official presentation took place during a beautiful ceremony hosted by a Reformed church from the Western Cape celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are thankful for the effective collaboration with our fellow workers there, in particular *Corals Publishers* that made it possible to print 1000 copies at reduced costs.

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## Travelling through the USA

The month of October was a time marked by intensive travelling through the USA (Michigan, Indiana, California, New York State, Vermont and – last but not least – Florida, where I attended the convention of the *World Reformed Fellowship*). Fellowship was not reserved to the WRF, though, but was experienced during all stages of this very rich and blessed visit. Special mention must be made of my attending the Synod of the URCNA in Buffalo, where meeting old acquaintances and making new ones largely compensated for the rather windy and icy weather...

## Evangelical Convention in Paris

In a few days, I will be attending the French Evangelical Convention in Paris, as I do every year. Yet another time of fellowship allowing us to let the larger Protestant community in France know about who we are, what our mission and vision are, what we do etc.

In the midst of much national and international turmoil, let our thankfulness become manifest in the eyes of the world by continuing together to proclaim the Good News of the Lordship of our Savior Jesus-Christ over all nations. We will soon celebrate His incarnation, let us therefore remain focused on this glorious task.

*Rev Eric Kayayan*

Leading a worship service  
at Visalia United Reformed  
Church (California)



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