

Reformed Faith and Life

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“ *New technologies are never an end in themselves* **”**

Times change, the message remains

About forty years ago, when Rev. Aaron Kayayan was preparing from Paris audio recordings that would be aired in France and in French-speaking Africa, I helped him do so by operating the big REVOX 77 reel-to-reel machine that, at the time, was considered top-of-the-line, and made for excellent quality recordings in analogue technology. Back then, cut-and-paste literally meant using a pair of scissors and some special adhesive tape...When I took over the ministry of Reformed Faith and Life in the late nineties, recordings were done at a Pretoria studio by a sound engineer of Transworld Radio: each master tape was duplicated at TWR's offices in as many cassettes as were needed. They were subsequently sent to various FM radio stations in France or African countries. Finding enough plastic boxes for them was at times a real challenge. In the early years of the previous decade, cassettes became obsolete and were replaced by CDs. In time, it became necessary to copy the master recording at Reformed Faith and Life's office with a duplicating machine we purchased. Today, while CDs are still in use, it is possible to send audio files directly from computer to computer via a specialized application, avoiding the business of duplicating, packing, and dispatching via snail mail while hoping in fear and trembling that African postal services would deliver each parcel to its respective addressees.

Similar changes have affected other aspects of the radio component of our ministry: this year, in agreement with our various supporting committees, we put an end to our short waves (SW) broadcasts for Central Africa, which had been running since the very inception of Rev' Aaron's radio ministry in the mid seventies. It became evident to us that less and less people in Africa were tuning to SW, preferring by and large to listen to local FM radios, even receiving them via their cell phone. Having jumped on the internet broadcasting service of TWR (www.twr360.org) has proved to be an efficient means to reach out not only to Africans, but throughout the world, as some of the comments we regularly receive from internet users testify.

New technologies are never an end in themselves, and the media are definitely not the message, as many modern pundits would have us believe. Still these new means witness the exercise by mankind of a mandate given by the Creator to have dominion over the world. We should carry out this mandate as faithful stewards of resources embedded in His wonderful Creation. While technology can be (and is) used by many to foster the apostate motive of the serpent: "... ye shall be like gods..." we, at Reformed Faith and Life, do not believe that retreating into a kind of "neo-Amish" worldview would be acting in a faithful way, especially when it concerns the proclamation of the glorious Gospel of salvation to all nations.



Rev. Kayayan addresses 12 Graders at Guido de Bres Christian School

Coming on the air in Lubumbashi, DRC

One of our priorities is to come on the air in Lubumbashi, the second largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, via the national radio of the DRC: there, a growing community of Reformed believers wishes to reach fellow Congolese people. To give an indication of costs associated to such a venture, 30 minutes of airtime per week (likely to be divided into two separate broadcasts of 15 minutes each) amounts to US\$60.00, thus bringing the yearly cost to \$3120.00.

Whereas we have already received pledges from some churches for roughly two thirds of this sum, we still fall short of about \$1300 per year to be able to commit ourselves to a long-term partnership with this radio. The advantage of using the national radio of the DRC over private stations is the greater reliability of the service offered, as well as a wider audience and a larger geographic coverage of the area. If any of you would feel inclined to contribute to this significant project, please contact Rev Dan Schnabel at stpauls@rcus.com. Rev Schnabel is the chairman of the committee of Reformed Faith and Life-USA.

“ We should carry out this mandate as faithful stewards ”

U.S. and Canada October visit

It was a pleasure to meet with Rev. Schnabel again, along with other faithful members of both our U.S. and Canadian committees during my recent trip to North America. In addition to reporting and reflecting upon past and present activities as well as planning future ones, I was invited to preach the Word in six different churches from the U.R.C.N.A.

I also visited with other fellow Christians eager to hear about what the Lord is doing on the field of His mission and was asked to address young people in three Christian schools in Ontario, speaking to 11th and 12th graders about the challenge of keeping faith alive in our globalized world.

It was also an honor to be the guest speaker at the annual Reformation Rally held at Redeemer College and to speak about the necessity to keep challenging the world with God’s norms. I addressed this topic in the light of Romans chapter 13 and events that took place in France about four hundred years ago (here is the link to listen to the full speech: <http://www.immanuelurc.com/reformation-rally.html>)

As the end of another year approaches, fraught with many uncertainties about the course of affairs in a world bent on rushing towards more conflict and self-destruction, let us bear in mind these extraordinary words found in Hebrews 1:3: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

In His name
Rev. Eric Kayayan



Meeting pastors in Ontario

Please send your donations to the following address:

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