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A contemporary drawing of
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“ THE LORD HAS HELPED US TO OVERCOME A HOST
OF INITIAL CHALLENGES ”

Seven years later...

Dear friends,

Seven years ago, on 25 August 2014, Olga and I arrived in France and settled in Fontevraud l'Abbaye, a small rural village situated in the heart of the Loire valley. Earlier that year, while still living in Pretoria, we had managed to secure affordable accommodation which, in time, could also serve as office and recording studio for the ministry of Reformed Faith in Life. At the end of these seven years (a cycle of sabbatical years!) I can truly say that the Lord has blessed our life in France and helped us to overcome a host of initial challenges. Of course there are still obstacles and even great frustrations at times. However, while facing minor afflictions, should we not bear in mind the Lord's response to Paul when he was pleading for some relief in the midst of a much more serious trial : *My power is made perfect in weakness* (2 Cor 12:9) ? Through the years the Almighty has enabled RFL to grow from strength to strength with the help of His powerful Spirit, and through our faithful supporters. Our initial team of fellow co-workers has been reinforced by new additions, thus enabling me to engage in some new projects that I could not do on my own otherwise. The most significant blessing I have experienced during the last twelve months, is perhaps this: in the beginning, we had to work hard to reach out and make ourselves known, whereas now Christian institutions and churches are increasingly reaching towards us, seeking our participation and advice, our teaching or preaching. New doors are opening to the ministry of RFL. Wisdom consists in hearing the voice of the Lord when He himself opens these doors, and in responding appropriately. On the one hand, you cannot get involved everywhere if that would mean neglecting the core of your calling. On the other hand, you cannot turn down pressing calls when you realize that the Lord has put before you a field to plough, especially when the internal reformation of churches is at stake and your inputs are requested.

A faithful servant that will be fondly remembered

We were much saddened early in March when our brother and friend Ed Gringhuis, chairman of the RFL-Canada committee, told us he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, giving him only a few weeks or months to live on this earth. His faith and courage during this period greatly inspired us. It was a privilege to see him

a last time on 1 May, during an RFL-Canada meeting that he chaired with his usual efficiency, calmness of mind, and sense of humor. Two weeks later, the Lord called Ed to be at home with Him. We shall greatly miss him and remember him as a faithful and dedicated servant of the Kingdom. We will also keep in our prayers Wilma, who throughout the years has been very active in the RFL-Canada committee.

“ WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE GODS? ”

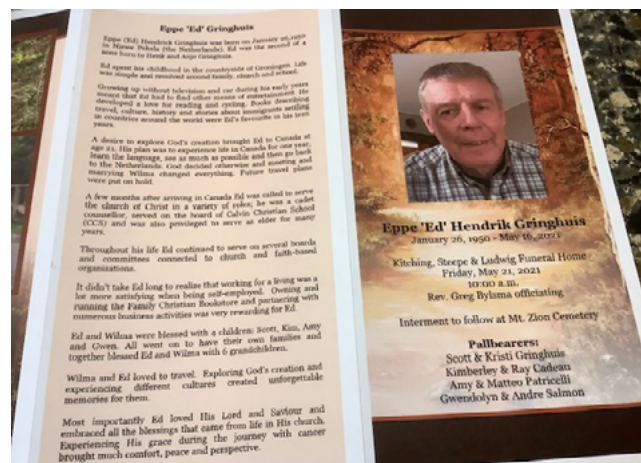
Keeping our sanity of mind amidst the insanities of earthly rulers

As things look like at the moment, it doesn't seem that I will be able to travel to North America for my annual visit this coming Fall, unless some significant changes occur. The current world situation and various measures taken by civil governments, lead me to share with you the following excerpt of a sermon on Deuteronomy 1 preached by Calvin in 1555, a much troubled year in Geneva in terms of political events. Electing people to positions of authority (as was already the case with bourgeois citizens in Geneva back then) is a great privilege that can change into a nightmare if you don't vote in the right people, that is competent persons with moral integrity (fear of the Lord) and a true sense of public justice:

Therefore let us advise properly, above all when God bestows this grace on us, even this privilege which is not common to all people, to elect people to govern us: that they may not abuse such a gift from God, otherwise we shall be quite astounded to find ourselves deprived of it. This is how tyrannies came into the world and liberty was lost in all the nations. There is not one election remaining, princes are even selling justice, things are so confused that it is sheer horror. What was the cause of this, if not the fact that nations which had some elections, abused of them, and because of this were found worthy of being deprived by God of the honor he was conferring on them?

Who are the people (elected or not) who think they are the ultimate gods, lording it over people's thoughts and bodies, trying to govern them by instilling fear in order to sustain and increase their power? They would do well to ponder the final words of Psalm 2: *Now, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

Rev Eric Kayayan



*“Most importantly
Ed loved His Lord and Savior...”*

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