



THIS CALL FOR WISDOM
SHOULD RESOUND ANEW



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Despite the confinement, we can
still take daily walks in the fields
surrounding our village

Learning to count our days

Dear friends,

About forty years ago a French journalist coined the expression “mental AIDS” in order to describe the collapse of our moral and mental immunity system, caused by all kinds of social and cultural viruses. How appropriate this expression remains today! In Proverbs 1, godly Wisdom rebukes foolish mankind: *Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you...*

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom, responds Ps. 90:12. In a time of world pandemic this call for wisdom should resound anew in the hearts and minds of Christians. However, it should not just resound among ourselves, it should also be loudly heralded to the whole world. Through the years Western societies have become the prey of insane dreams of unlimited power - ideological, financial and military -, even of immortality through the transhumanist agenda. They are now suddenly confronted with their immense frailty and radical failures. But are we, Christians, devoid of any responsibility in this state of affairs? To what extent have we, at times, compromised our faith in Christ alone to adopt, in full or in part, some other ungodly agenda, thinking it could fit in with our own and perhaps promote it? And then, when it failed to bring the expected results, we thought we could exonerate ourselves from our shared responsibility by pointing the finger at others... Will we do the same this time, displaying immunity against genuine repentance from our own sins (not the sins of others)?

Visit to South Africa

I am thankful for more than one reason to have been able to travel to South Africa in January, just before the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic. This annual visit to the country where I lived between 1988 and 2014, is important in several respects. It allowed me to visit Rietvallei, the Reformed church in Pretoria that sent me to France in 2014 to minister the Gospel to the French. This year I was also privileged to visit the Western Cape province and meet with French speaking migrant workers from Central Africa working as guards in the parking

area of a large shopping mall. They regularly receive the printed scripts of radio messages produced by Reformed Faith and Life over the years. An enthusiastic and devoted Christian sister living in the vicinity distributes them weekly, also providing individual encouragement to these men whose families are far away. How special it was to meet them in the changing-room of the mall for a short Bible study before the start of a long day of work under the South African sun. How special to hear them singing a Christian hymn in Kirundi - their mother tongue - while in turn I sang for them a Psalm or a hymn in French! Of course the world wouldn't take any notice of such a small gathering in the name of the Lord, but of one thing I am sure: angels in heaven were singing with us...

“
OUR MESSAGES
ARE WELCOME
ON THEIR RADIO !
”

Making the best use of time

Due to the current circumstances, the seminar on church governance according to the New Testament which Foi et Vie Réformées planned to offer in May had to be postponed to a later date. To make the best use of this time of confinement, I have just started a new series of short videos posted on our Facebook page (you can visit us at www.facebook.com/foietviereformees) with a meditation on various Scripture texts. In the meantime the Catholic FM radio in Avignon I reported about in December has started broadcasting our podcasts. My French fellow workers and I were amazed to see that RCF-Vaucluse chose to air them on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM, which is certainly the best time one could ever hope for a Christian message to be aired. Whether this will eventually deter Catholics in this region of France from attending the Sunday morning Roman mass, I can't say for sure, but it certainly says that our messages are welcome on their radio!

I quoted above from Psalm 90, and would like to conclude with it as well: *Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!*

Commending all of you to the hands of our merciful Father in Jesus-Christ our Lord and Savior.

Rev Eric Kayayan

Visiting migrant workers from Central Africa at a large shopping mall with sr. Retha Van der Walt



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