

# FOI ET VIE RÉFORMÉES



## Inside this issue

*God rules the world through Christ* 1

*Having compassion on the crowds today* 1

*The challenge of mastering social media* 2

*Did Jesus preach to highly literate people during his earthly ministry?*

## GOD RULES THE WORLD THROUGH CHRIST

### Dear friends

*“When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars”*. These verses of Psalm 75 testify to us that despite the tremendous international turmoil which we have witnessed throughout the previous year, the sovereign Lord maintains His creation and will bring judgment upon the wicked and the boastful: *For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another*. May we all meditate on the significance of these God-breathed words for our contemporary situation as we have just celebrated Christmas and the coming of Him whom the Father appointed Judge of all nations. The Church universal confesses it on each Lord’s Day: *... From thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end*.

## HAVING COMPASSION ON THE CROWDS TODAY

Something else to ponder at the beginning of this new year is the clear testimony of Scripture to the effect that God’s judgment begins with His family (1 Peter 4:17): in the form of judgment on unfaithful or unreliable members of His family. Under what guise might such unfaithfulness appear today? One of its many manifestations is undoubtedly a neglect of the call and mandate to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God to thousands, even millions, who cannot tell their right hand from their left, as was the case with the inhabitants of the pagan city of Nineveh in Jonah’s time (4:11). How, then, shall we reach out to crowds of hungry people which have fallen prey of a totally secularized, consumerist ethos, creating idols upon idols to fill up their empty lives? And what methods must we use to talk to them? The mission of *Reformed Faith and Life* in the French speaking world is to reach out to them through the media, not only by means of radio but through social media as

well, given that the latter have become a major means of communication, especially among the younger generation. For me, this is certainly not a matter of wanting to “follow the trend”. I was raised with books and spent a great deal of my youth reading books and magazines. Later in my life I learnt how to read musical scores and spent years studying them in depth (piano, chamber, opera and symphonic repertoire, often pieces of a very high complexity). But whether I like it or not, this is not what the masses do today; these are not the kind of activities the vast majority of people engage in. At a time when many quit school without even being able to read properly, when people aged 30 or more have not read a single book in their life, are we to consider them unworthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Did Jesus preach to highly literate people during his earthly ministry? Did he focus on the Pharisees and the doctors of the Law?



*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:36). If His Church is not moved by the same compassion and does not work assiduously to bring today's crowds to the divine Shepherd, can she claim to be faithful to her Head?*

## **THE CHALLENGE OF MASTERING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Learning to master some of these social media is quite a challenge to me, but little by little I am making good progress, being ably guided by my wife Olga. Short texts are regularly posted on our **Facebook page** ([www.facebook.com/foietviereformees](http://www.facebook.com/foietviereformees)). Even shorter messages are published daily on the Twitter account linked to it. Is it possible to express anything meaningful with just 140 characters at your disposal? Well, I didn't think I would ever consider doing this, but there again, it is not a matter of personal preference; it is a mere matter of obedience to the Lord of the harvest. Obviously, this is a long term endeavour, requiring patience and perseverance, something that will only bear fruit in the long term. It is also a lesson in humility for me, but surely a necessary one: for are we not commanded by the Holy Spirit to be *incarnational* in our preaching,

in line with what we read about Christ Himself in Phil. 2:5-11?

Despite having to wait a few more months before being able to settle into a properly equipped workplace in our new French home, we will also be giving attention to the setting up of a new website, geared towards the French public. In time, we will also start producing short videos to be posted on YouTube. I have already acquired the necessary material to make audio recordings from home. It is now a matter of learning how to use it properly and of commencing the production of new radio programs from home...



*Interview with Anaïs Sorce, journalist at Radio Phare FM*

There are thus quite a few challenges for the new year, which will start (DV) with a 3 week visit to South Africa (7-26 January), in order to work further towards the continuation of the African ministry of *Reformed Faith and Life*. I should be able to report positive developments about this in my next newsletter. Please pray that while giving heed to Paul's words to a certain Archippus (*Tell Archippus: See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord, Col 4:17*), I too would complete the tasks before me promptly, diligently and free from impediment.

In His service,

Rev Eric Kayayan

*If His Church is not moved by the same compassion and does not work assiduously to bring today's crowds to the divine Shepherd, can she claim to be faithful to her Head?*

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