

FOI ET VIE RÉFORMÉES



Dear friends

France is bleeding again

On July 14, the French national day, a vicious terrorist attack struck dead more than eighty people in the city of Nice (on the Riviera), confirming that France is definitely one of the favorite targets for Islamist attacks of civilians. Eight months after the shooting at the *Bataclan* in Paris, the country is mourning again while the state of emergency has been extended for another three months. During these past months, in addition to patrolling everywhere, exhausted police and army forces have had to face violent demonstrators, unions and loosely related thugs, and then secure the European soccer cup held in France. They can hardly continue at this pace, while many soldiers are still deployed in Mali, the Central African Republic and Iraq. As if it were not enough, divisions in the heart of the government weaken the executive while a presidential election due to take place in May 2017 offers the sad picture of a plethora of inflated egos,

each presenting himself or herself as the providential rescuer (if not savior) of the nation.

A cultural war is raging too

Another war, a cultural war this time, is raging in France, as it is in North America. On the one hand are the aging sons and daughters of the May 68 movement in positions of power, forming an elite, jealous of its status and cultural influence in the media. Still upholding their revolutionary ideal and zeal, they pretend that if mankind is to become the ultimate master of his fate, each individual must also become the master of his sexual orientation and gender choice. For them, basic freedom means deconstructing all given reality (all creational order) in order to reconstruct it as one pleases, aided by the latest bio-technological developments. They see this as a step forward in the emancipation of mankind from the brute force of a compelling nature and an oppressive, paternalistic God-centered culture.

Deconstructing the basics of learning (reading, writing and counting) via given educational methods is the best way to prevent children from acquiring the capacity to think critically, and from knowing and evaluating their past heritage (historical, literary, cultural). Instead of transmitting knowledge, all kinds of manipulative interactive plays are used to supposedly “educate” children; that is, to indoctrinate them to become what the new elite wants them to become. And this is pompously called: “*acquiring competencies*”... On the other hand is a mounting opposition to this state of affairs among intellectuals and people who refuse to become the mindless objects of the new elite’s attempts at mental, moral and cultural domination. It is wonderful to read well-articulated speeches or articles coming from these ranks. Quite understandably, due to France’s historical background, many Roman Catholics play a leading role in this healthy reaction, though many agnostics are not staying behind either.

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A French supporter during the Soccer Euro cup held in France

“All this is a matter of life and death for our civilization”

It shows that the French still have tremendous intellectual and critical resources, even though the mainstream media does its utmost best to silence viewpoints contrary to theirs.

Make no mistake: all this is a matter of life and death for our civilization. What can possibly preserve the life of individuals, families, communities and the nation, if not the Living Word upheld and proclaimed by those who have been called to be the salt of the earth and who realize the extent, breadth and width of their mission in this respect (Matt.5:13)? The Lord is mighty enough to glorify His Holy name through small signs and apparently insignificant messages. What a surprise the other day to see that a message I had posted on Facebook reached over 122,000 people in just a few days (France, but also North Africa).

General Assembly and visit to South Africa

Two weeks ago. *Foi et Vie Réformées* held its annual general assembly, in compliance with its statutes as a legally registered association. We had the privilege and pleasure of having with us the secretary of *Reformed Faith and Life-USA*, Rev Mark Vander Hart, who came to spend a few days with us. Not only was it for him an opportunity to discover our Anjou region, its beautiful landscapes and cultural heritage

and what our daily challenges, joys and frustrations are. Early in September I will be heading to Pretoria, South Africa, in order to attend a congress of research on John Calvin, where I am due to present a paper. In the meantime, some surgery done on both my eyes is reducing my capacity to stay long hours before the computer, but the prospects of an improved vision are definitely worth the while. Pray with me for clarity of vision as far as faith matters are concerned, though, especially in the troubled times we are going through. May the Lord enable us, through His Spirit, to have all the wisdom needed to keep up the good fight, persevering in the promises He gave us and staying focused on His Kingdom and its righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

In His service,

Rev Eric Kayayan



Visiting a 16th century dwelling dug inside the rock in the Anjou region. From left to right: Rev E. Kayayan, Rev M. Vander Hart, br. A. Houisse, Rev. A. Lewin (respectively treasurer and chairman of the Foi et Vie Réformées association in France).

“The French still have tremendous intellectual and critical resources”

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