

FOI ET VIE RÉFORMÉES



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News from the Congo

Dear Friends

A few days ago, I received the following letter from a young Reformed pastor serving a church in the Kasai province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: *It is with a feeling of joy and thankfulness in the Lord for us who serve him and to whom we must give an account, that I acknowledge receipt of the 10 books and 24 audio tapes which you sent me (...) We are in charge of more than 50 primary, secondary and professional schools in the regions of Luebo, Tshikapa, Ilebo Dekese and Mweka and therefore we need from you and your fellow believers bibles as well as teaching material for the course on religion.*

How to provide not only radio programmes, but also enough written material for all the needs which are brought to our attention, that is the question... One of the books we have sent the most to our African correspondents is a compilation of Reformed confessions of faith (Gallicana, Westminster, Scottish confession of 1560, Heidelberg catechism, Belgica confession, Canons of Dordrecht) put together by the late Rev. A.R. Kayayan several years ago.

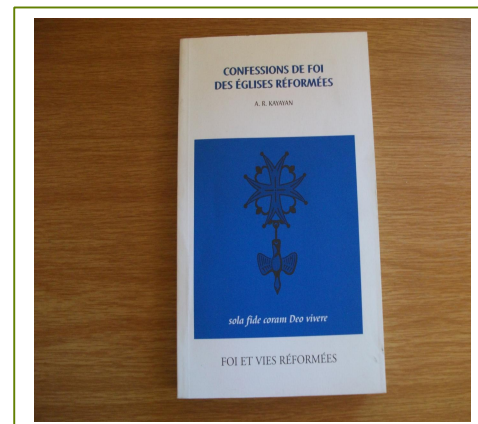
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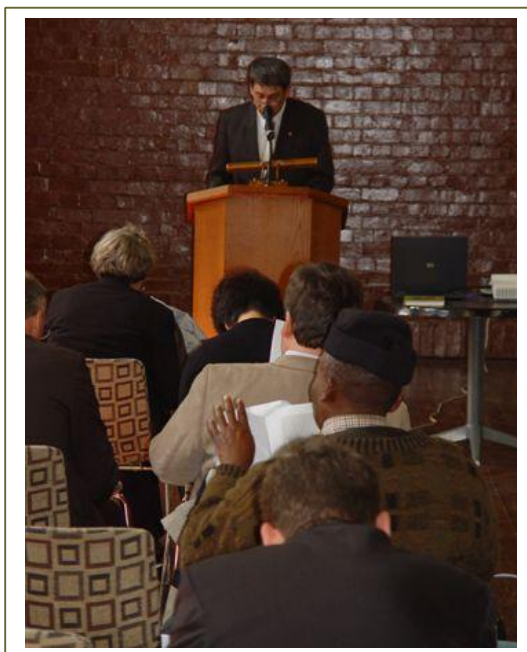
Through the years, this book greatly contributed to the advancement of the Reformed faith and the proper understanding of Scripture in French speaking Africa, where sects and heresies flourish under the guise of Christianity.

Recently, however, it came out of print. To have it reprinted (2000 copies) will cost us some US\$15000 for which we have not budgeted. As for bibles, so much in demand, we also have a very limited budget which does not allow us to respond positively to all the requests we receive, from the DRC to Mali. Nevertheless, whenever we can, we do send bibles to our correspondents, and they are always received with joy and gratitude.



New DVD production

Combining the text and sound of the radio messages with pictures of African nature scenes... The idea would have never crossed my mind, but the director of a South African based organization called Light for the Nations suggested this idea to me, and came about with an attractive DVD movie destined to be widely distributed in the islands of the Indian ocean, in particular in the Grand Comore (which for years has been a very active center of Islamic propaganda towards Africa, funded by Muammar Khadafi...) At the moment, one such DVD contains 4 of my radio-programmes, playing against the background of interesting sequences of South African wild life. We hope to produce more such DVDs, which Light for the Nations will duplicate and distribute wherever they can.



I already dealt with the topic of contemporary slavery in a radio message a few years ago

Scholarly research

In order to remain both intellectually and spiritually alive, so as to introduce solid and interesting contents in new programmes, I have always thought it necessary to keep theologizing and doing scholarly research. Last month I attended the International Congress on Calvin Research (held in Bloemfontein, South Africa) where I held a lecture on John Calvin's views on slavery. A topic more actual than ever, as slavery (forced labor of children, sexual exploitation of women etc.) has never been more widespread than today, in particular on the African continent. I already dealt with the topic of contemporary slavery in a radio message a few years ago, being pressed to do so by one of my West African listeners.

At the eve of departing for a long visit to North America (5 full weeks, leaving my family behind in the midst of a chronic situation of violent crime in South Africa), the words of the apostle Paul in Galatians 1:10 come to my mind: If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a slave of Christ. The nature of the proclamation of the Gospel is not to try to please man, but to present Christ as clearly as possible to the listeners of Reformed Faith and Life's radio programmes, that they may come to the saving knowledge and transforming power imparted by the gift of his divine Person. Are you still co-slaves of this proclamation?

In his name

Rev. Eric Kayayan

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OUR MISSION AND VISION

The ministry of “Reformed Faith and Life”, is wholeheartedly committed to:

- Proclaiming the whole counsel of God in the French language through the means of radio-broadcasts, literature and any other appropriate means;
- Maintaining strict adherence to the Reformed creeds and confessions (Gallicana & Belgica confessions; Heidelberg Catechism; Dordt Canons inter alia);
- Presenting a Biblical world and life view in its ministry and underscoring a non-dualistic approach of life, whose totality stands under the lordship of Jesus-Christ;
- Underscoring a covenantal approach to the Proclamation of God’s Word.

The ministry and minister of “FOI ET VIE RÉFORMÉES” do not stand on their own, independent of any church supervision. They stand under the oversight of the Church Council of Rietvallei Reformed Church (R.C.S.A., Pretoria – South Africa) in full cooperation and agreement with the Reformed Radio Administration Committee (R.R.A.C.) a Reformed interdenominational response to the Lord’s great commission to the Church, based in the U.S.A.

We’re on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.foi-vie.org.za

Our bank account is at ABSA Bank, Menlyn, Pretoria, Rep. of South Africa (name: Reformed Faith and Life; branch Menlyn; account number: 40-4878 6755)