

Dear Friends

During recent meetings I had cause to reflect on "The GC policy on R&R". Wow!

I first became aware of R&R over a working meal in a Tirana restaurant during the Kosovo war. A couple of ADRA veterans showed up, resolved themselves into a committee and promptly voted themselves a Rest & Recuperation package before they had lifted a finger. Risibly rich thought I, before tucking into the remnants of my repast.



On reflection there are several R&R's of recent reckoning:

- i) The controversy between Right & Wrong
- ii) Reconciling Revelation & Reason
- iii) Balancing Rights & Responsibility
- iv) Reading Religion without Writing & Rithmetic
- v) Righteousness & Results
- vi) Repentance, Reconciliation & Rebirth

Even a seventh: "Revival & Reformation"! As a couplet I understand this to mean a renewed concentration on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study and piety, with a view to some form of religious activism. But -- to what end?

We consider a plant to have revived when it recovers from drought, or a person is revived when they regain vitality after an illness. So what does revival really mean?

The root of 'revival' is associated with the Latin 'vivi' as in vivid, I discover. Thus, *revival is about seeing more clearly, with a greater richness of colour and contrast*. If this is the object of the great disciplines, then I have every reason to engage.

Reformation is the name given to the organisational movement in which we find our pedigree. At the outset, there were two issues of concern: The purchase of power through the sale of salvific indulgences to build great cathedrals, and the purchase of priesthoods to populate these palaces. The church had to be re-formed to accommodate the total acceptance and sufficiency of God's grace. If an aversion to the pursuit of power and position is our goal, then I have even more reason to engage.

Yet, I am afraid that there is no simple recipe to hasten 'the return' save that Jesus said - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt 11:28-30

Thank you for your commitment to the "king who will Reign in Righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The fearful heart will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear." Isa 33:1-4

Regards & Respect

Victor