

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Friends

One of the tricks I gathered in the teaching trade was to view every interface as a learning opportunity. The equivalent challenge in treasury has been to make every transaction, the vehicle of uplift. This has not always been easy, there are times when reverse flow might have been more appropriate. After 16 years, I see no reason for this flame to be extinguished now that we are a paperless office.

For many, the headline reads - BUC burns, nobody died, praise God.

Implied, is the suggestion that materials matter not when compared to the mortality of the mortal. Lost in this loose expression is the recognition that within the lattice of those bricks lie the life work of real people. To complicate our thinking, some suggest that event is in some way an expression of God's will. It is either, condemnation of incumbents and their past, or glorious opportunity for the future. Tabloid skeptics infer that a bunch of gullible fundamentalists have got their comeuppance. Fundamentalists wade in with lists of doctrines in defense.

At the centre of operations it has been days of rescue, intense conferencing in a cold car park and sleep free nights, with a burnout relieving holiday, itself on the back burner.

Clearly I will need to exorcise conflicting emotions in weeks to come, with the benefit of reflective distance.

In the mean time, the song that comes repeatedly to my heart, expressed in silent whistling, remains:

Thank you Lord for glorious life that flows within my veins!  
Its thrilling music born of heaven, throbs on in cease-less strains  
The grandeur of my mission here inspires me through all time  
And so I praise my Maker's love, who gave me life sublime.  
Thank thee Lord for mind and brain to guide my gifts and powers!  
For honest toil with which to fill and crown the golden hours.....

Yes – Our hearts burn within us?

May the Good Lord continue to bless your ministry together with the reflections that afflict your soul.

Thank you again for your commitment.

Yours truly,

Victor