

Pierre-Sovann will seek to honour the faith that was once delivered to the saints, the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ, in its full-orbed beauty,

The vision of the Faculté Jean Calvin, since the beginning, has been to transmit the biblical faith, reformed according to God's word, in continuity with the tradition of Reformation theology.

At the time of the Reformation the good news of salvation was summarised by using five "sola" expressions. Taken together these give a résumé of the essence of Christian faith.

Salvation in all its aspects is attributed to the glory of God alone. It is experienced by faith alone, it is the fruit of grace alone, because of Christ alone and it is known by Scripture alone. This can be represented visually in a pentagon, with salvation in the centre.

The word "alone" added to these five factors of salvation points to the primacy of God and the helplessness of human beings to save themselves. God must do it because they can't.

The five factors qualified by the word "alone" are complementary: if you remove one of them from the equation, the meaning of the others is changed. For instance, if you say salvation is not by faith alone but by faith and good works the function of the other four is modified. If faith is not alone then neither can grace, the work of Christ on the cross or Scripture as God's revelation be alone. Man is God's co-worker and is called on everywhere to complete what God initiates. This is sometimes called synergism, that is the "working together" of two complementary factors. It undermines the *solus deo gloria* that the Reformers fought for.

This year, Pierre-Sovann Chauny takes over from me to teach Systematic theology at Aix. It's a reason for thankfulness and joy knowing, as I do, that Pierre-Sauvann will seek to honour the faith that was once delivered to the saints, the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ, in its full-orbed beauty, for faith and life.

Paul Wells

Emeritus professor of Systematic theology



Islam : a challenge for the Christian Church

In Africa today Islam is spreading as never before. In most African countries Muslims are in the majority ; they are in the forefront in economics, politics, science and throughout society in general. Islam is now no stranger in the West and the Muslim population has flourished under Western democracies. As Christians we can no longer ignore the presence of Islam in the world. Muslims everywhere resist the spread of the gospel. They need to hear the Gospel, and those who would introduce them to the Gospel must know something about Islam.

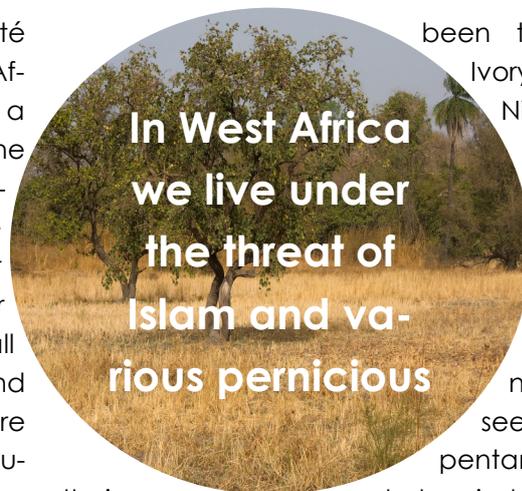
From 2009 to 2011 I was a student at the Faculté Jean Calvin working on my Bachelor's degree. After returning to Burkina Faso I began a Masters as a distance student, but had to stop because of the political and social upheaval in my country. Studying theology in greater depth has allowed me to gain theological insight and given me sharper tools for my ministry. In West Africa we live under the threat of Islam and various pernicious sects, all of which are making headway. Political strife and civil war have made for a situation in which there are so many poor and desperate people, particularly young people and women ; they are all easy prey for radical Islam or pseudo-Christian teaching like the prosperity gospel. Radical Islam is playing havoc as it recruits easily in countries where Islam is the majority religion : Burkina Faso (60% Muslim), Niger (98%), Mali (98%) and Nigeria (50%). Radical Islam is an enemy of the Christian Church but pseudo-Christian churches preaching the prosperity gospel are an even greater danger as they pervert the true message of the Gospel. This caters to man's selfish aspirations and no more. So many sincere Christians and even pastors have been led astray, but how can we condemn them when they have had no exposure to solid theology ? That's why I am so grateful for what I learned as a student at the FJC. Since coming back to Africa I have

It was this conviction that led me to enrol at the Faculté Jean Calvin. First I worked on the notion of the sovereignty of God in the works of Al-Ghazali, an influential Muslim theologian in 11th century Persia. I came to understand how the Allah of the Quran is very different from Yahweh, the God of the Bible. It seemed to me important to understand this difference so we can both evangelise Muslims and refute the notion, so prevalent today, that would have us believe that Muslims and Christians have the same God. Since 2012 I have been studying church planting among the Muslim Peuls in Guinea in a desire to see how further mission work can be done among the Peul peoples. With God's help and the support of the professors in the FJC I hope to finish this work very soon.

To God be the glory

Daniel TOLNO

Doctoral student at Faculté Jean Calvin



In West Africa we live under the threat of Islam and va- rious pernicious

been to Burkina, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Guinea, armed with solid doctrine, to train and encourage pastors and elders. How many people I have seen come to repentance, change their whole mindset and become more equipped to serve the church ! I can never be grateful enough to the FJC and its partners for having given me the opportunity to discover the great riches and depths of the Word of God and thereafter share what I learned by working as a teacher myself throughout French-speaking West Africa.

May the Lord continue to bless the FJC, a precious tool in his hand for his glory !

Marc D. NABIE

from Burkina Faso in West Africa





From the 27th April to the 1st May I gave a series of 6 lectures, teaching sessions and sermons in Bulles (Fribourg), Vevey, Nyon and Geneva, at the invitation of the Swiss Friends of the Faculté Jean Calvin. They had particularly asked me to speak on marriage, both the changes in the meaning of marriage in present society and what the Bible teaches about it, subjects relevant to the present situation in Switzerland. I also spoke on religious marriage in Protestant tradition and theology, and then on celibacy, a subject that doesn't often come up in Protestant theology.

I attended the annual meeting of the Friends of the FJC where some important subjects were on the agenda. A new theological seminary is due to open in Switzerland in September 2016, and this has given rise to a lot of discussion in the Reformed Evangelical Church in the Canton de Vaud. Also there is a new movement in Switzerland, the Movement for Reformed Renewal, in which several former students of the FJC are involved. The Friends of the FJC will have to take these new elements on board.

Michel JOHNER, Dean

In March we visited three countries in Asia : Indonesia, China and South Korea. In this letter I will talk only about South Korea and the Presbyterian Churches there.

Over the last century Christian Churches have grown amazingly, particularly Reformed Churches. This would seem to bear out the notion that the centre of gravity of Christianity is moving towards emerging countries !

The vitality and dynamism of the Churches and their institutions is really striking. They are firmly rooted in the Word of God and proclaim all the counsel of God. Their missionary zeal is second to none and they are eager to establish closer relations with Christians in Europe. We were touched and encouraged by their interest for the churches in France and particularly for the Faculté Jean Calvin. They see that we are faced with the challenges of secularism and neo-paganism and want to support and help us, keeping us in their prayers. Even as we work to further the kingdom of God in the West and in French-speaking countries, let us not forget to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Korea.

Pierre BERTHOUD, president, emeritus professor



News of ACEF/ Association for the upkeep of the Faculté premises

Year on year ACEF is gradually renovating the student housing block.

have
wer rooms

This year we
made new sho-
on the first floor, reno-

ated one of the professor's appartments and insulated the northern wall of the old house. This wall (built in 1870) was very porous, being made of stone infilled with earth.

Next we are planning to renovate more student rooms and bathrooms, as well as doing more work in the garden.

A few years ago we set up a chicken run and a small vegetable garden, so now we are going to set up a system to recuperate rainwater for watering. We have also planted some fruit trees that grow well here, cherry and vines for example.

We have been teaching the students how to use ashes to do their laundry and to make their own soap. This may seem a little quirky but we want to help the students to become more aware of what they can do to preserve the environment. We are called to look after God's creation, and in a small, practical way we can have a pedagogical role in the students' lives.

Above all we want to provide the students, professors and staff with as good living and working conditions as our financial and human means allow.

Jean-Paul De Smet

Your gift can help a student
to become a pastor.



You can support a particular student.

I would like to finance a student :

Tuition fees per student per year :

6,500€

Student's contribution :

1,350€

Donor's contribution :

5,150€

I am sending a one-off gift of :

I will send :

monthly quarterly six monthlly yearly

LAST NAME :

FIRST NAME :

e-mail :

ADRESS :

LA BANQUE POSTALE MARSEILLE CCP
01 106 60 X 029 IBAN : FR78 2004 1010 0801
10660X029 32 BIC:PSSTFRPPMAR

FACULTE JEAN CALVIN 33 ,Avenue Jules Ferry 13100 Aix-en-Provence