



# Storming Fortresses

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,  
but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

Vol. 21; No.08

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August, 2002

## Thought Provoker:

Why is it that, today, the masses are so utterly unconcerned about spiritual and eternal things, and that they are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God? ... Why is it that defiance of heaven is becoming more open, more blatant, more daring? The answer is, "There in no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom. 3:18). Again; why is it that the authority of the Scriptures has been lowered so sadly of late? Why is it that even among those who profess to be the Lord's people there is so little subjection to His Word, and that its precepts are so lightly esteemed and so readily set aside? Ah! what needs to be stressed today is that God is a God to be feared.

A.W. Pink  
The Sovereignty of God

## Christian Reconstruction Alive and Well on Planet Earth

By

Ian Hodge

The transfer of FACS to Reformation Ministries, now a couple of years ago, has left some people wondering what happened to Christian Reconstruction and my involvement in the movement. In this brief update, I'll address both of these issues, for I think most people should be encouraged by the explosive growth in a Reformed-based ministry that is taking the business world by storm.

In late 2000 I was contacted by a young American Christian, Joe Johnson, who had in mind the idea of publishing a magazine that would take the princi-

ples of Christian Reconstruction (i.e. God's Law) and apply them to business. I was approached because at the time I was one of only a couple of writers that had published material specifically applying Christian principles to business. In 1994-95, in the midst of a debacle with a Christian organisation that had lost its way, I wrote three articles on management from a Christian perspective. Joe had found these articles on the FACS web site and they had been influential in his decision to start a magazine for Christian business people.

Joe also had another

motivation. He had been in businesses, with hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, and found at the end of the day he faced imminent bankruptcy. His search for biblical answers led him to FACS as the only supplier of applied Christianity in business articles, and the rest, as they say, is history.

So I was approached to be a part of the Business Reform Foundation's initial magazine. My book, *Making Sense of Your Dollars: A Biblical Approach to Wealth*, was the featured aspect of the inaugural publication. About a thousand copies were printed of

STORMING FORTRESSES is published monthly by REFORMATION MINISTRIES, a non-denominational organisation committed to maintaining and implementing Biblical truth as reasserted by the Reformers.

Subscriptions run from July 1 to June 30. Pro rata rates apply at other times. Current rates are as follows:

- \$40.00 Australia and New Zealand,
- \$75.00 United States of America,
- \$ 60.00 All Other Countries.

Amounts payable in Australian currency. Cheques made payable to:

REFORMATION MINISTRIES,  
PO Box 1656,  
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the initial magazine and I don't think we turned the world upside down with that edition. My views on debt aren't the most popular topic in any country. But Joe, to his credit, has taken the hard approach to publishing: no compromise on biblical principles.

In March of 2001 I was key speaker at the first Business Reform Conference, held in Atlanta. Again, the guest numbers were small, but important. I shared the platform with Terry Applegate, whose family company Applegate Insulation is the world's largest producer of cellulose insulation. That, for the uninitiated, is insulation made out of waste paper. The company also makes fertiliser out of waste paper, and it is a popular form of improving lawn and other plants. Their insulation products are delivered with biblical texts printed on the packaging a site not seen in this part of the world.

Terry just happens to be one of the most articulate Christians in business that I have had the pleasure of meeting. A long-time reader of FACS Re-

port and supporter of Chalcedon, Terry has a good understanding of Christianity and its implications for business.

At that time I also met Pastor Craig Dumont from Okemos Christian Centre in Michigan who happens to be Terry Applegate's pastor. Craig was also in business before becoming a full-time pastor, and under the influence of Chalcedon, his small church in Okemos has a small but powerful influence in the business community. I was invited to speak at their local businessmen's luncheon, and about thirty business people attended. Later in the week I preached in their church and had the chance to talk to more people about the things that concern us.

Since then, Joe Johnson has been a most remarkable ambassador for his publication venture. Other Christian business journals have been shutting down, so Joe has been able to enlarge his mailing list for almost no cost. After one year of publication, six issues since it comes out every other month, Joe's subscription rate had climbed to 1,500. Not bad, but not overly brilliant either.

The year 2002, however, has seen a response to the magazine that was never envisaged. With the help of people such as Larry Burkett, Dennis Peacocke and others, the credibility of Business Reform magazine (you can see it on the web at [www.businessreform.com](http://www.businessreform.com)) has expanded. Joe has been magnificent in making connections throughout the business community in the USA and has put together a fine group of writers who attract subscribers and provide good insight into business.

By the last quarter of 2002, the subscription numbers have increased to 30,000, an extraordinary result for a Christian magazine on business (or

any other topic, for that matter). But it does not stop there. An organisation has purchased 170,000 copies of each magazine, taking the subscription level to 200,000 commencing in 2003. These copies will be distributed with regional advertising copy inside, which is how the big buyer will make his money. But he has seen that Business Reform Magazine is a worthy vehicle to carry advertising copy to 170,000 Christian businesses in America.

At 200,000 copies per print run, this makes Business Reform about the fifth largest business magazine in the USA. But it is the only *Christian* magazine in the top of the publications list. This is a remarkable result for Joe Johnson who never, ever, thought that he would attract this kind of interest in a hard-hitting business magazine based on Christian principles.

I write a regular column, "Perspectives on Management" for the magazine, and I'm told it is a popular section of the magazine. I also contribute other articles as requested, and now also conduct business consulting activities for Business Reform. We recently ran our first project for a client in the US with quite good success.

If Business Reform can maintain its unique distinctiveness as it grows, it can be a powerful tool for transmitting the message of Christian Reconstruction: live by God's rules, not man-made rules in all areas of life.

So I am happy to report that Christian Reconstruction is alive and well on planet earth: perhaps more so now than ever before. True, its form has changed, and the medium has changed from small circulation newsletters to glossy magazine. Even the name "Christian Reconstruction" has disappeared But the message is

Christian Reconstruction, and I am privileged, by God's grace, to be a part of this.

I hope readers of this newsletter

will support Murray in his efforts to provide a home-based vehicle for Reconstruction. The work is not easy, and he needs all the encouragement you can give him. But please, do con-

sider your support, prayer and financial, and let's get Christian Reconstruction on the move in the land of Oz!

## The Belgic Confession

### Article V

#### *Whence the Holy Scriptures Derive Their Dignity and Authority*

We receive all these books, and these only, as holy and canonical, for the regulation, foundation, and confirmation of our faith; believing without any doubt all things contained in them, not so much because the Church receives and approves them as such, but more especially because the Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that they are from God, and also because they carry the evidence thereof in themselves. For the very blind are able to perceive that the things foretold in them are being fulfilled.

### Article VII

#### *The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures to Be the Only Rule of Faith*

We believe that those Holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein. For since the whole manner of worship which God requires of us is written in them at large, it is unlawful for any one, though an apostle, to teach otherwise than we are now taught in the Holy Scriptures: *nay, though it were an angel from heaven*, as the apostle Paul says. For since it is forbidden to *add unto or take away anything from the Word of God*, it does thereby evidently appear that the doctrine thereof is most perfect and complete in all respects.

Neither may we consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value with those divine Scriptures, nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, since the truth is above all; *for all men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself*. Therefore we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule, as the apostles have taught us, saying, Prove the spirits, whether they are of God. Likewise: *If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house*.