



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Verbal and visible statues that ought to be pulled down but are not!!

There are times when immediate measures are required to avoid 'blowing up'!!!!

This article is just such a measure for me.

I have just listened to the teatime news on the local BBC channel and its treatment of the news of the death of IRA man, Bobby Storey was very difficult to have to listen to! The sombre earnestness displayed by the BBC, as the news of this murderer's demise was announced, is frankly, hard to stomach!

Here is my response.

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*"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20.*

*"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD," Proverbs 17:15.*

*"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God," Luke 16:15.*

The removal of statues erected to those who through slavery and related commercial enterprises made great fortunes and then employed some of those fortunes in charitable enterprises to help some poor and needy people back in their homeland, has been a central component of the protest movement which has come to the fore since the unlawful death of George Floyd in the USA, at the hands of a few policemen in the city of Minneapolis.

Public and educational buildings, named after those who have statues erected in their honour, and also those did not, but who made use of the money they gained to help erect such buildings, are likewise being targeted by the BLM agitators and activists, with demands that the names of such buildings and institutions be renamed.

Of course, it has not merely been names of personages from the seventeenth century, the heyday of slavery, that have been subjected to this campaign, the statue of Sir Winston Churchill was likewise targeted and had to have protective screening built around it to preserve it from those who would vilify his memory.

But just tonight on the 6.30 pm Northern Ireland news broadcast, I witnessed the other side of the coin, as it were.

The death of former IRA terrorist and latterly, prominent Sinn Fein party official, Bobby Storey, was announced. Viewers were subjected to a report of the death of a man who was stained by the blood of many, many innocent people during his time as a terrorist. We are informed on the NI BBC News website, that the north Belfast man was "considered the head of intelligence of the IRA for a period from the mid-1990s and was named as such under parliamentary privilege. Security sources linked him to several major incidents, including the £26m Northern Bank robbery in 2004."

Senior Sinn Fein members mourned his passing.

"Words cannot express the sadness I feel on the passing of one of the most amazing people I have ever had the pleasure to call my friend and comrade. To know him was to love him. Rest in peace Bobby x — Michelle O'Neill (@moneillsf)" "In a statement following news of his death, Mary Lou McDonald said: Bobby was extremely committed to the pursuit of a united Ireland with equality and social justice for all. He will be greatly



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missed. Today we have lost a great republican."

There was little difference in the tone adopted by the newsreader from that used when speaking of the death of the policeman in the Republic of Ireland on Wednesday past. Det Garda Horkan (49) was shot several times on Wednesday night in Castlerea, County Roscommon, and died at the scene.

References to Bobby Storey by the newsreader and the reporters who contributed to the broadcast, were almost reverential. Apart from a few mentions of his IRA past, there was little to inform the listener that he ranked with the foremost killers within the IRA ranks.

The "Belfast Telegraph", hardly a 'diehard' Unionist newspaper, carried an article entitled: 'Bobby Storey: Hated by the RUC, Sinn Fein figure was the hardest of IRA hardmen' It went on to report: "Bobby Storey was literally and figuratively a giant among republicans. And when the chroniclers come to write the definitive history of the IRA, Storey's admirers and foes will agree that no name will be writ larger than that of the New Lodge Road six-footer who towered over everyone else in the Provisionals' ranks in stature and strategising prowess. The 64-year-old, who died after an unsuccessful lung transplant operation, brought terror to the streets and into the hearts of not only police and soldiers, but also of republicans who knew from his reputation and his demeanour that he wasn't someone to be trifled with."

This is the man, the news of whose death the BBC would have us listen to with grief and sombre funereal demeanour!

It must be stated that Bobby Storey, whose life was given over to every form of terrorism, could only depart this world and enter that eternal abode which the Lord stated awaited such who lived as Storey. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," Revelation 21:8.

John the apostle, the apostle of love it must be stated, said: ". . . Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him," 1 John 3:15.

Doubtless, he will be buried with all the pomp and honour that Roman Catholicism can bestow upon him. It will be attended by some of the greatest convicted gangsters and criminals in Ireland and many who ought to have been tried and convicted!

All this the friends and grieving families of the victims of Storey and his terrorist compatriots must observe in silence, knowing that there is none in any position of authority who would hear a word of condemnation or who would be moved to declare the true evil pedigree of this man.

No, the Protestant people, who were the chief victims of this man's terrorism, though not solely, for many Roman Catholic families will have been brought to grief and sorrow by this man's activities, will have to stand, watch and listen as verbal and visual 'statues' are erected for one of this earth's most evil individuals. The police would not stand by and allow you to use a rope to pull down this statue, though he and his ilk, in past generations, would have met with the justice of the hangman's rope.

No, just as Ulster has had to endure the sanitising and elevating of IRA activists and sympathisers and supporters, to high office in Stormont, even so this too has just to be supped up in silence and endured!

As a Christian, I long for and rejoice over that coming day when the true evaluation of the Bobby Storeys of this world, of every nation and age, will meet with the verdict of God.

Here are some references to that glorious day in God's Word upon which you, Christian, may likewise lean for comfort.

*"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man*



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*whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead," Acts 17:30-31.*

*"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel," Romans 2:16.*

*"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine," 2 Timothy 4:1-2.*

*"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day," 2 Thesalonians 1:7-10.*

And finally, that wonderful picture presented to us of that glorious future time when men who lived to defy God will reap the eternal reward of their sins:

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire," Revelation 20:11-15.*

There is a terrible price to be paid, and that through all eternity, for rejecting and defying the truth of God and embracing the lie of the devil in whatever form it is received. It may be atheism, it may be false and heathen religions, it may be apostate 'Christianity' or it may be, as in the case of Bobby Storey, in the form of Roman Catholicism.

Roman Catholics are ever ready to 'damn' loyalist killers. They thus show that they believe that murder should be followed by damnation! I do not disagree with them. It matters not with God what 'loyalties' the murderers profess. They will meet with God's wrath if they die unrepentant!

Sadly, evil and all as the man Storey was, we cannot but tremble when we think upon his state now. Sadly, I say, even as the holy water was being doused upon his coffin and the words of empty ritual were being recited over his grave, Bobby Storey knew how awfully wrong he was in all his thinking and beliefs and actions.

He has, like Judas, gone "to his own place," Acts 1:25.

Not one who enters heaven will have deserved heaven! The sin of believers would have brought them down to the same hell but bless God for the grace granted to us to believe and embrace and trust in with all our hearts the glorious gospel truth of Christ's death for sinners on the cross. Here is one statement of that truth, out of hundreds of such statements contained in the Bible. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all," Isaiah 53:3-6.



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Belief in that truth will take men and women and young people to heaven when they die, who truly deserved hell.

May everyone who reads this article make sure that they are depending on the precious blood of Christ for salvation.

I could not end better than by quoting the words of Johnston Oatman's great hymn:

On the golden streets of heaven all men hope to walk some day,  
Yet so many are not willing to accept the living way;  
But while others build on good works, or opinions if they may,  
Hallelujah! hallelujah!  
I'm depending on the blood.

*Refrain:*

*In the soul-cleansing blood of the Saviour,  
I've been washed in the crimson flood;  
Tho' the world may say there is hope some other way,  
I'm depending on the blood.*

Some will tell us that God's mercy is their only hope and plea,  
That a soul He could not punish throughout all eternity;  
But I read that my dear Saviour died for sinners just like me,  
Hallelujah! hallelujah!  
I'm depending on the blood.

As we look back thro' the ages where the kings and prophets trod,  
We may see their altars reeking with the sacrifice and blood;  
But those types were only pointing to the Paschal Lamb of God,  
Hallelujah! hallelujah!  
I'm depending on the blood.

'Tis the burden of that chorus over on the streets of light,  
That the blood from Calvary's mountain has washed all their garments white;  
So I'll shout along life's pathway till I reach that land so bright:  
"Hallelujah! hallelujah!  
I'm depending on the blood."

May that be your sole dependance, dear reader.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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