



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Ecumenical Agenda bans Trinitarian Bible Society from Aberdeenshire Schools



Rev. Noel Hughes

During the last six years, approximately 3260 copies of the Word of God have been distributed to children throughout Aberdeenshire schools. These Bibles were published by the Trinitarian Bible Society and provided free of charge through the Society's grant system. Last year, however, a complaint was received from a parent regarding the source of the Bibles. When the Education Authority of Aberdeenshire Council investigated the complaint it took a decision to ban all Bibles and literature published by the Society and a letter to this effect was sent to all Head Teachers. Discrimination against the TBS became the official policy of the Council!

When the Session of Gardenstown Free Presbyterian Church (Ulster) made enquiry into this decision, Anne Darling, Head of Service replied, claiming that the issue was not the distribution of Bibles, but rather the policy of the Trinitarian Bible Society.

In her letter Anne Darling states:— "This decision was taken on the basis of information gathered from the Trinitarian Bible Society website which was clearly anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and anti-Unitarian. The Officers took the view that the Education and Recreation Service could not be seen to support such beliefs. Education Authorities have a duty to provide to a wide, ecumenical and multi-cultural population and to be associated with a society which clearly excludes a significant portion of the school community is unacceptable."

On Wednesday 3rd August 2005, Rev. Noel Hughes of the Gardenstown church, along with Rev David Blunt (Aberdeen Free Church continuing) met with Anne Darling and Alan Campbell, Chief Executive, to discuss this development. Mr Campbell informed the ministers that the Authority's decision was based not upon the complaint but the policy of inclusivism set by the Scottish Executive. Their aim, he said, was to follow an ecumenical policy. Consequently, the Authority could not be seen to endorse by association any society which was opposed to such a policy.

During the meeting it was pointed out to the Chief Executive that the ecumenical policy as defined in the Decrees of the Second Vatican Council is clearly a Rome-ward policy aiming ultimately at full ecclesiastical re-unification with the See of Rome. Therefore any such agenda pursued under the guise of inclusivism was in itself a contradiction. Unless a society has unity with Rome as its aim it is automatically excluded. The Education Authority had demonstrated by its ban of the TBS that it was not inclusive, nor multi-cultural. Their inclusive policy is selective, and that selection, which will determine whether a society will be included, depends on the view taken towards ecumenism.



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This decision taken in Aberdeenshire has serious ramifications for the whole of Scotland. It is evident that the ecumenical agenda now governs the Education Authority and any one who opposes it will be discriminated against. It is clear also that the ecumenical agenda is designed to marginalise, and where possible, exclude the Protestant faith.

Text of a letter from Ann Darling to Rev Noel Hughes

*Dear Rev Hughes Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2005 regarding the distribution of bibles from the Trinitarian Bible Society. I am informed by colleagues in the Education and Recreation Services that they received a complaint from a parent regarding the distribution of bibles sourced from the Trinitarian Bible Society. Officers investigated this complaint and determined that there was some substance to it. Senior Officers and the Head of Service (Schools) discussed the matter at one of their regular meetings. Head Teachers were subsequently advised that bibles sourced from the Trinitarian Bible Society should not be accepted. This decision was taken on the basis of information gathered from the Trinitarian Bible Society website which was clearly anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and anti-Unitarian. The Officers took the view that the Education and Recreation Service could not be seen to support such beliefs. Education Authorities have a duty to provide to a wide, ecumenical and multi-cultural population and to be associated with a society which clearly excludes a significant portion of the school community is unacceptable. I should make it clear, however, that distribution of bibles to school pupils is not the issue. This has been custom and practice over many years and is viewed as a valuable part of the life of the school community. I trust this answers your query.
Yours sincerely, Anne Darling.*

This is an alarming situation, especially in a country whose education system was largely the result of the vision of its Protestant Reformers, and whose legal framework establishes the Protestant religion by law. It is a timely reminder that Rome is only tolerant until she has the liberty to express and execute her intolerance!!!