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ROOTED IN CHRIST: A HARVEST EXCEEDING THEIR WILDEST DREAMS:

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF ANDREW MURRAY JNR ON MISSIONS WITHIN THE DRC AND ELSEWHERE --

Notes for presentation at plenary session - C.M. Pauw

A. BACKGROUND:

a. THE LINK BETWEEN THE DRC AND THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS

1. Evangelical background –

The Scottish ministers who came to SA in the early 1820s mostly belonged to the “Auld Lichts Presbyterians” - a very sincere and devout section in the Church of Scotland (CoS). Most of them were part of “the Evangelical group” in the CoS. Hence many broke with the CoS when the Free Church of Scotland (FCS) was formed in 1843 and joined the new church. Amongst them was John, the elder brother of Andrew Murray (Snr).

This deeply affected the Murrays and other Scottish ministers in SA.

2. The coming of Scottish ministers to South Africa introduced a **different kind of spirituality into the DRC**. This had a definite impact on the Dutch brand of Calvinism in SA and helped to promote what could be called an evangelical emphasis with, what I would call, a *healthy pietism*.
3. This link with the Free Church, “closely connected in creed, way of government and spirituality” (AM: letter to PZV) later facilitated and opened the way for the **DRC to enter the Malawian field** at the invitation of Robert Laws of the Livingstonia Mission of the FCS which had commenced work in Malawi in 1875.

It subsequently also facilitated the **church union process** in Malawi which was initiated in 1924/26 between the Presbyteries of Livingstonia (FCS), Blantyre (CoS) and Nkhoma (DRC). This led to the formation of the **Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian**, one of the most remarkable achievements of its time.

b. GROWING MISSIONARY AWARENESS IN THE DRC – SOCIETAL MISSIONS

1. The 18th and particularly the 19th century can largely be described as the century of societal mission. In SA there arrived i.a. the Moravians (1737), London MS (1799), Netherlands (Rotterdam) MS (1799), Wesleyan MS (1816), Glasgow MS (1824), Paris EMS (1829), Rhenish MS (1828), Berlin MS (1834).
2. This provided the background for the SA Mission Society to be established in 1799 as “*De Zuid-Afrikaansche Genootschap ter bevordering van Christus Ryk*”, later the *ZA Sendinggenootschap – ZASG*, eventually *SASG*. Its first church building was the *SA Sendinggestig*, inaugurated in 1804 in Long Street, Cape Town. The aim of the SAMS included the formation of auxiliary (“meewerkende”) mission societies in various congregations. DRC ministers HR van Lier and MC Vos played a significant role in this development.

3. Such auxiliary societies were established in a number of DRC congregations
4. The first DRC synod was constituted in 1824 and in 1827 it called and ordained its **first missionary** in Clanwilliam, the Reverend Leopold **Marquard**.

c. **ANDREW MURRAY SNR. (1794 – 1866)**

The work of Andrew Murray Jnr cannot properly be assessed without taking note of the remarkable home in which he and his siblings grew up.

Andrew Murray Snr arrived in SA in 1822 as one of the Scottish ministers recruited by the British Government which had recently colonized the Cape. They were to serve in the DRC.. His entire ministry (1822-1865) was conducted in Graaff Reinet. He is noted for his emphasis on the need for revival and his home hosted many missionaries, including David Livingstone.

In 1824 he married **Maria Stegmann** (16) of Huguenot/German descent and sister of Rev G Stegmann, a Lutheran and later DRC missionary).

Of the 11 (out of 16) children who attained adulthood:

Five sons became ministers:

1. **John Murray**, first professor in the Theological Seminary, Stellenbosch 1859
2. **Andrew Murray jnr** father of 11 children of whom:
 - **Emma** served as a missionary in SA
 - **Mary** was mission teacher in **Mochudi (Botswana)**
 - **John N, (Rev)** missionary Waterberg, **Transvaal**,
 - his son **Paul** in Mochudi, **Botswana**
 - **Charles H Murray (Rev)** served in **Malawi** 1901-1906
3. **William Murray**, father of
 - **William Hoppe Murray (Rev)**, **Malawi 1894-1937** – served for many years as Head of the Mission Council and particularly remembered for his work in translating and revising the Bible in ChiChewa (1900-1936).
 - His daughter **Pauline** served as medical doctor in **Malawi**
4. **Charles Murray**: Six of his children served in **Malawi**:
 - **Andrew Charles Murray (Rev)**, pioneer in **Malawi** (1888-1900). Subsequently (1910-1928) he served as secretary of the General Missions Committee of the Cape DRC Synod. He succeeded J du Plessis who also played a very important role in promoting missions (cf his *Thrice through the Dark Continent* (1917) describing his epic journey across the length and breadth of Africa
 - AC Murrays daughter Jeanette served as medical doctor in Malawi
 - **George de Coligny Murray (Rev)**, Malawi, also initiated work in **Transkei**,
 - **Amie Murray**
 - **Isa [Isabel] Murray**
 - **William A Murray** - medical doctor
 - **James S Murray (Rev)**.

5. **George Murray**, father of:

- **Andrew George Murray** (Rev), Malawi, and pioneer of mission work at Mphatso in Mozambique
- **George Stegmann Murray, Mashonaland**
- **Louis John Murray, Malawi**. LM, wife and two children buried at Malembo
 - Daughter **Noeline Murray, Malawi** 1921-1947
- **Henry William Murray** (Rev), Mashonaland;
 - His son **George M Murray** and grandson **Henry William Murray** followed in his footsteps and also served in Zimbabwe
- **Helen Murray** – married **Rev JA Retief**, Malawi
- Three daughters of Helen eventually also served in Malawi:
 - **Louise (Hugo), Charlotte (Labuschagne), Helen (Burger)**

Four daughters were married to ordained ministers:

1. **Maria, m. Jan H Neethling** (served in Stellenbosch for 46 years). Stellenbosch undertook full support of AA Louw and others in Mashonaland
2. **Jemima, m. AA Louw** parents of
 - **Andrew A Louw**, pioneer of work in **Mashonaland** 1891. Of his descendants served in Zimbabwe up to the fourth generation.
 - **Rev Abraham F Louw**. In liaison with Andrew Murray he established a mission training centre in Worcester in 1902 for returning Prisoners of War of the Anglo-Boer War. 175 men had offered to enter into missionary work. Later he served in Stellenbosch.
 - Both his son, **Johan K Louw**, a noted linguist
 - and daughter **Magrietha Louw**, served as teachers in Malawi
3. **Isabel, m. JH Hofmeyr** parents of
 - **John Murray Hofmeyr** – pioneer of work in **Zambia** (Magwero 1899)
 - **Andrew M Hofmeyr**. Initiated work in **Natal and Qua-qua/ Witsieshoek**
4. **Elizabeth, m. HL Neethling** . In 1902 she served as a nurse in the St Helena Boer Prisoner of War camp where her cousin Rev AF Louw also chaplained.

NOTE:

(i) **A total of 45 in the first three Murray generations became ministers or missionaries. By 1931 sixteen Murrays had worked in Malawi.**

(ii) **A large number of Murray and Murray related men and women worked in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and elsewhere in South, Southern, Central and East Africa – and continue to do so**

B. LIFE AND WORK OF ANDREW MURRAY JNR (1828-1917)

a. Brief historical review

- i. **Born in Graaff Reinet 1828**
- ii. **Studied in Scotland (Marischal College) and three years Holland (Utrecht) 1838-1848; licensed 1848**
- iii. **In 1856 he married Emma Rutherford (1835-1905, from an Anglican home)**

- iv. **He served in 4 congregations: Ordained at age 20 in Bloemfontein (1849); Worcester (1860); Cape Town (1864); Wellington (1871 until retirement 1906).**
- v. **The 35 years in Wellington were of utmost significance for the development of the missionary endeavours of the DRC both within and outside of SA.**

b. Mission strategist.

Andrew Murray Jnr played a major role in arousing fervour and enthusiasm for missions in DRC and wider and provided most valuable guidance to the DRC D Crafford: "Mission strategist *par excellence*")

c. He also played a multi-faceted role in promoting the cause of mission.

- i. He served as member and mostly chairperson of **DRC (Cape) Mission Board or Committee** for almost 50 years from 1857 to 1906.
This began when the Synod of 1857 appointed Murray and others to a new Committee for Mission to extend the scope of mission, raise funds and recruit mission workers (also in Europe). As a result, Rev Robertson was delegated to Europe in 1860 to recruit workers and Murray negotiated with the Govt. of the ZAR to start work in Transvaal
- ii. From 1860 Murray was involved in a series of **Christian Conferences. Revivals** spread to many congregations and led to heightened **missionary awareness**,
- iii. Murray displayed a strong **ecumenical openness**. He was involved in a **series of ecumenical conferences** which involved various mission societies and churches – an early form of ecumenical unity. These conferences became the forerunner of what eventually became the **SACC** (South African Council of Churches)
- iv. His ecumenical approach enabled Murray to work closely with various **Mission Societies** – including the South African MS, the Paris, Moravian, Rhenish, Berlin and London Mission Societies and others. The **SAGM** came into being in 1894 with Murray as first president until his death. The **SAGM** (later known as the AEF) worked in the Cape, Natal, Gazaland, Swaziland, Malawi, Angola, Zambia and Kenya. The work in Angola was later named the *Andrew Murray Memorial Mission*
- v. Murray was directly involved in initiating Cape Synod mission **activities north of the Gariep**: Soutpansberg 1863; Saulspoort 1864, Mochudi (Botswana) 1877 *etc.*
- vi. In 1874 he founded the **HUGENOT SEMINARY** for ladies in Wellington:
 - Shortly after his arrival in Wellington he wrote to the principal of the Mt Holyoke Seminary in the USA requesting teachers to train ladies as missionary teachers and spiritual workers. In 1878 mss Abby **Ferguson** and Anna **Bliss** arrived.
 - Ms Ferguson in particular actively promoted missionary enthusiasm.
 - In 1878 they established the **Hugenot Mission Society** in order to support lady missionaries. This society led to the establishment in 1890 of the **Women's Mission Society (Vrouesendingbond -VSB)**. The first chairperson was Emma Murray, the wife of Andrew Murray who served until her death.
 - The first lady to be sent out by the VSB was Miss Martha Murray (not related) who served in Malawi from 1893 to 1906. For more than sixty years the VSB was a mainstay within the DRC to support mission work and in particular lady missionaries in all the countries where the DRC was involved.

- In 1951 the Huguenot Seminary became the Huguenot College, incorporating the former seminary building known as *Friedenheim*

vii. In 1876 he founded the **MISSIONARY INSTITUTE** in Wellington for training ministers and initially teachers specifically for mission work.

Murray recruited **Rev GR Ferguson** from the USA as first full time lecturer (1877).

He was joined in 1878 by **Rev JC Pauw** (recruited from Holland in 1860 by Rev Robertson and formerly serving at Zoar and Zuurbraak) who had just accepted a call to succeed Rev Isaac Bisseux (PEMS) in Wellington). He served for 35 years as lecturer at the Institute and also taught in the Huguenot Seminary.

- In 1883 a new building was inaugurated which was given the name of *Samuel*.
- The Institute was built, administered and funded by private funds and the Wellington DRC until the Cape DRC Synod took over responsibility in 1903.
- The Institute finally closed its doors in 1962. It had produced a total of 566 missionaries who served in many countries across the continent of Africa.
- Henceforth the training of ministers for mission work was to be continued at the Theological Seminary in Stellenbosch.

➤ **Today, the Samuel Campus is being inaugurated as the AMCS.**

d. **By 1885 Murray began to urge the DRC to expand further afield, beyond the borders of South Africa:**

- i. This led to the founding the **Ministers' Mission Union (MMU or in Dutch PZV)** in 1886, under the chairmanship of Murray. Every member would contribute ten pounds per annum.
- ii. In 1887 the MMU considered an offer by Theological candidate **AC Murray** and, in view an invitation by the FCS to come and work with them in **central Malawi**, decided to initiate work in what was then known as Nyasaland.
- iii. The following year AC Murray departed for Malawi and, after being joined by TCB Vlok in 1889, they established the first DRC Mission station at **Mvera Mission**.
- iv. The MMU continued to fully support the work in Malawi for 14 years until this responsibility was taken over by the Mission Board of the Cape DRC Synod.
- v. This field became one of the most fruitful and extensive of all the DRC fields.

g. **To summarise:** Murray was directly or indirectly involved in opening of work in Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Kenya and Nigeria

h. However, Murray's **most important contribution** came through his **many writings:** Articles, books (250+ publications, reports and tireless correspondence. Here his *The key to the missionary problem*, 1901 as well as his growing emphasis on the **importance of prayer** in mission deserves particular note.