

GLOBAL RE-DIRECTION BY THE REFORMATION

(A short story about the worldwide impact of the Reformation)

The posting of the 95 Theses on the 31st of October 1517 on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg-Germany by Martin Luther was an act that orchestrated a series of events from that local environment to the entire globe. The effects are much alive today and keep increasing, almost 500 years after. It is like Luther was putting on a light bulb and saying "Let there be light worldwide", when he was carrying out the act.

The zeal, with which people almost immediately began consuming the information, and joined forces to implement it, indicates that the masses had been languishing under a heavy yoke. Luther faced several threats from the Church leaders, but the divine passion in his heart was so strong an issue of do-or-die to him. As a result, the document was translated into several European languages, thus being made available for consumption by everybody. Within just two weeks, the news was in circulation in the entire Europe. The Bible was rapidly duplicated thanks to the invention of the printing press. The Holy Scriptures, in which is written: *"the unfolding of [God's] words gives light..."* (Psalm 119:130 - NIV) was then available to every body, and therefore many more people were re-directed to their divine assignment on earth. Ten of the major changes that the Reformation brought about since 1517 are:

1. Many more souls have been, and are still being won to Christ than before.
2. Many more people are courageous to risk their lives for Christ, inspired by Luther's example.
3. Civilizations are growing more rapidly. It is not an accident that the **Industrial Revolution** sprang concomitantly with the **Reformation**, following the previous 'Dark Ages'.
4. Many of the European explorers to Africa were Christian Missionaries. They had the desire to evangelize Africa because the Reformation had contributed something good in their lives to share with others.
5. The Holy Bible is the highest sold book in history. As it became humanity's focus, our brotherhood has become more evident.
6. A lot of communication gaps around the world have been bridged since then. European languages are spoken in virtually every country in the world.
7. Terrible cultural and traditional practices in Africa have been abolished or modified. Examples include cannibalism, barbarism, sacrificing of humans, witchcraft practices, female genital mutilation, slavery, inter-village/inter-tribal conflicts, burying people alive, etc.
8. Hundreds of Christian Schools have been established in several countries, and young people are being taught the word of God. Many of them in turn become influential leaders at various levels of the community.
9. Religious Studies is now a subject in the school curriculum of many educational systems.
10. The Constitution of many nations is based for most part on the laws of the Holy Scriptures.

Luther's example challenges us to put faith into action to glorify our Lord God. It reminds us that each of us is a missionary from God on earth. Sometimes, people on mission lose focus. Such misdirected people need to be brought back to their original divine assignment. Luther risked his life for God and stepped out of the masses to do just that. Today we learn from him that when God lays an issue in our heart, which is a problem among His people, we need to face it, and not avoid or escape from it. We can trust God to work through us to fulfill it.

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