

'Rev' SIMON HENNING and RICHARD YARR

My Facebook post of 10th March 2021

'REV' SIMON HENNING

Back on 16th February 2011 the Radio Ulster '**Thought for the Day**' was presented by a '**Rev**' **Simon Henning** who at that time was minister of Ballyblack Presbyterian Church. He used his few minutes as a platform to promote '**Theistic Evolution**' and to basically 'trash' Biblical Creationism.

Interestingly the Rev Glen Jordan who was at that time the minister of the Kinghan Church for the deaf in Belfast (Mr Henning's previous charge as you can read below in the photo-bio) was planning a Creation Week and I wonder is that what provoked Mr Henning to use '**Thought for the Day**' to attack creation and creationists (labelling them as 'extremists').

I know that the evangelical group CALEB contacted the BBC about the misuse of this slot by Mr Henning but have no information as to how that complaint panned out.

Last Sunday morning (7th March 2021) the Radio Ulster Morning Service was from **First Presbyterian Church, Belfast** which is a church in the **Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church denomination** – many of their churches are Unitarian and judging by the 'prayers' offered during the service there was definitely a 'unitarian flavour' to them.

The minister presenting the service was '**Rev**' **Simon Henning** – obviously since 2011 he has left the PCI – whether he 'jumped' or whether he was 'pushed' I do not know.

Once again **Mr Henning** took the opportunity to 'crusade' against Orthodox Biblical Christian truth. He told a '**joke**' of a man dying and going to heaven and being shown around by St Peter and he was shown the section for 'good Buddhists', the section for 'good Muslims' and the section for 'Hindus etc'. Then the man saw a high wall with singing and music coming from behind it so he asked what is that? St Peter answered and said that is where the Christians are but could I ask you to be very quiet when you are near that wall because they think they are the only ones here. This so-called '**joke**' is of course a direct challenge to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in John 14:6 and to the inspired words of Paul in Romans 10:13-14.

That '**joke**' was then followed by a '**poem**' read by Bert Tosh who produces these Radio Ulster Services (Mr Tosh did all the various assorted reading contributions). Basically the '**poem**' could have been written by a devout Bahai namely that whatever your religion we are all '**brothers**' following different paths that will eventually bring us to God.

For those who can access the Radio Ulster Sunday Service online this is the link to the relevant programme and it would be available for about another 27 days – the section I have referred to is from 26.07 – 29.50

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000sy51>

Mr Henning has clearly found a 'home' to air his scripture denying beliefs and in view of his previous pro LGBT views (they were on a 2006 BBC blog that is no longer available) it's not surprising this is now his 'home' as the 'sister' Non-Subscribing church in Belfast (All Souls in Elmwood Avenue) has for a number of years played host for a 'service' for LGBT people on the Sunday after the Belfast 'Pride' Marches (obviously currently curtailed because of the COVID situation). You can see the notice for the 2016 'service' on this link

<https://belfastpride.com/events/annual-pride-service-2/>

I began this post by referring to a 2011 '**Thought for the Day**' presented by **Mr Henning** and in the wake of it I sent this email to a friend concerning my own follow-up to **Mr Henning** –

'I've just this minute spoken by phone to Mr Henning and calmly I explained to him that I thought this morning was an inappropriate forum to put forward the views that he did.

I also challenged his views by asking how death could have been present in the evolutionary process leading up to man – he didn't answer. I referred him to Romans 5 - 'as by one man etc' - he said that was one interpretation - I said it was not an 'interpretation' it was a clearly stated fact. I also said the 4th commandment would be meaningless if there wasn't truly a creation week.

I said his argument was weak so he created a straw man about the 'theory of gravity'. I said the effects of gravity or indeed no gravity could be observed and used in experimentation but not so with evolution.

He appealed to 'historic science' in defence of evolution - I asked what he meant by that and he said 'history of 14 billion years' - I rejected that as no one observed it and it can't be proven by experimentation it is not true 'science'.

Finally, he asked me the point of my call and I said it was to let him know that my Saviour who created all things, as Paul told us in Colossians, would have been deeply grieved by what was said by him this morning and that no true believer would reject the clear truth of creation as laid out plainly in God's word'.

One final point of concern that I noticed on the web site of his current church – the director of music is **Richard Yarr** – he presents the popular ‘**Sounds Sacred**’ programme on a Sunday at 5.00 pm. When he took over, he was in charge of music at the Church of Ireland Christ Church in Lisburn as you can read on

<https://connor.anglican.org/2018/05/25/sounds-sacred-role-richard/>

This move by him to Mr Henning’s church does not speak well of his measure of biblical discernment but more of his lack of it.

Both **Mr Henning** and **Mr Yarr** need much prayer for the state of their souls. The first photo below shows what **Mr Henning** wrote about himself during his time at Ballyblack – notice the term he used of himself - ‘**progressive Christian**’ – I am currently working on an article that addresses so-called ‘**Progressive Christianity**’. The second photo shows **Mr Yarr** in front of a number of music students being tutored by him.



Don't worry, I'm not as frightening as I look in the picture. At least I hope not.....

I'm Simon and I'm married to Amanda. I have three children (~~Simon, Amanda and Lisa~~) who have all caused me to go grey prematurely.

I have been the Minister in Ballyblack since May 2009. Before that I was the Assistant Minister in Stormont Presbyterian Church in Belfast for three years, and then I was the Superintendent of the Kinghan Mission for Deaf People in Belfast for seven years.

I consider myself an open-minded and progressive Christian and it's my aim at Ballyblack to create a welcoming congregation for anyone from any sort of background. The picture we have on the front of Order of Service (as well as on the



Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 10th March 2021