

Perspectives from the Peninsula ~ 4
Ruach (Breath of Life) Ministries

In this edition

Ruth Fazal's extraordinary "Oratorio Terezin:" This is something really special.

Prayer Perspectives:

- 1) **Italy's most celebrated writer is committed to trial brought for 'vilifying' Islam. The trial of Oriana Fallaci: journalist, interviewer and novelist extraordinaire.**
- 2) **Should New Orleans be rebuilt?**
- 3) **Follow up from Peter Lillington to the word we published in the last edition**
- 4) **Prayer request from Northern Ireland**
- 5) **Perspective on the Iranian Revolution.**

A Visit from Ruth Fazal & Oratorio Terezin

If you've never heard of Terezin, this town in the former Czechoslovakia, was occupied by the Nazis in 1941, and renamed Theresienstadt. Originally a Gestapo prison, it soon became a full-scale concentration camp. The Nazis smartened the town up through an elaborate façade that fooled the International Red Cross into thinking that it was a spa town for privileged and prominent Jews. (The Nazis called it 'Paradise Ghetto').

The ruse worked and the Red Cross backed off, allowing the death camps to continue their horrific work, starving many of the inmates without pity to death. A propaganda film was made to celebrate its supposed virtues, with lots of girls and children in their frocks doing okay things in the open air, with an orchestra playing . . . – but the orchestra was transported two days later to the death camp at Auschwitz.

Some years ago, worship leader Ruth Fazal from Toronto, well-known around the world for her distinctive song-writing, came across a collection of poems written by children during the Nazi occupation of the city. Read the poem written by fourteen-year-old internee of Terezin, **Eva Píckova**).¹

¹ **Of the 140,000 people interned at Terezín, 33,000 died and 87,000 were transported to Nazi death camps. Of 15,000 highly gifted children, only 132 children survived. The following poem is taken from the collection "I have not seen a butterfly around here."**

Ruth was profoundly moved by this discovery. It began a process that opened her eyes to God's heart for the Jewish people. Her previous attitude had been to look down on people who had a heart to pray for Israel, but, perhaps because she had always prayed that she would know the Father's heart better, He used these letters that had miraculously survived from the ghetto in Terezin to touch her heart.

Weaving these letters together with Hebrew Scriptures, she produced a full-length oratorio scored for symphony orchestra, children's choir, adult choir, and three vocal soloists. (The baritone represents the voice of God, the tenor the voice of the prophet, and the soprano, who never sings any actual words, the voice of the Jewish suffering).

We were privileged last Sunday morning to watch a remarkable 25-minute DVD clip of the oratorio. It is truly stunning. Many in the church were in tears. Ruth describes the musical style as being both 'dramatically intense, and sweetly lyrical.' The poignant innocence of the poetry, set against the cry of 'How long will the wicked exult?' brings us face to face with the testing of faith, in the context of unspeakable depravity. Despite the suffering, the oratorio offers the prospect of hope for mankind even in the midst of utter degradation.

Holocaust survivors were present at the performances that have been given using top class orchestras, choirs and soloists in the Toronto Centre for Performing Arts, in the cathedral in Bruno, in Bratislava, in the KonzertHaus in Vienna, and in the Smetana Hall in Prague, as well as in the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the

FEAR

**Today the ghetto knows a different fear,
Close in its grip, Death wields an icy scythe.
An evil sickness spreads a terror in its wake,
The victims of its shadow weep and writhe.**

**Today a father's heartbeat tells his fright
And mothers bend their heads into their hands.
Now children choke and die with typhus here,
A bitter tax is taken from their bands.**

**My heart still beats inside my breast
While friends depart for other worlds.
Perhaps it's better-who can say?
Than watching this, to die today?**

**No, no, my God, we want to live!
Not watch our numbers melt away.
We want to have a better world,
We want to work-we must not die!**

Jerusalem Theatre and Karmiel Cultural Hall. Everywhere it has been performed Jews have been touched to the depths of their being ~ and profoundly grateful. Isaiah 53 is quoted, and although the text never specifically mentions the Lord Jesus, Ruth tells us that people's hearts were everywhere opening to their Saviour, as in Zechariah 12:10.

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on Me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Sample tracks can be obtained via <http://www.oratorioterezin.com/N1731864.htm>. A CD of the world premiere can be purchased.

What a treat to have been able to catch a flavour of this significant event down here in sleepy Devon! The time of prayer we had in church last Sunday morning after Ruth had led worship was explosive, as people poured out their hearts in prayer.

Praise God for creative musicians who step out in faith to launch large-scale initiatives: particularly Nigel Swinford (Symphony for the Nations) and Gerard le Feuvre in Jersey. Pray that God may use all such ventures mightily to impact this God-starved generation – not least to touch God's ancient Hebrew people.

Prayer Perspectives

(If you disagree with any of the following points, please just follow the Lord's leading and turn the topics into better and more anointed prayer!)

We have been warning for a long time that attempts to 'protect' religions from being spoken against is leading to all manner of complications and self-censorings, and worst of all, show piece trials. The following example is more than a salutary taste of what may lie ahead.

1) The trial of Oriana Fallaci

Oriana Fallaci was well known as an outstanding journalist before writing a *La Forza della Ragione* (*The Force of Reason*), which quickly became the best selling Italian book of 2004. In it, she argues forcefully that Europe is throwing off its values in the face of what amounts to a cultural invasion from the Moslem world.

In her mid seventies and dying of cancer, Oriana has now been indicted, and potentially faces jail as a result. Her crime? 'Vilifying' a religion. Oriana's reaction is that she is unlikely to live long enough, but that she is highly likely to be found guilty at a trial she is says she will refuse to attend. All of which goes to show, of

course, how seriously how hard-hitting are the criticisms she makes of modern Europe.

Oriana is tormented by the impending fall of the West that she foresees. What saddens her most is the almost casual way in which the West is marching toward its fatal decline. Oriana is quoted in The Wall Street Journal as saying,

'The West no longer appreciates its own traditions, such as freedom of speech. Look at the schools. Students do not know history. You cannot survive if you do not know the past. The moment you give up your principles and your values, you are dead, and your civilisation is dead.'

Oriana explicitly approves an essay the new pope wrote last year entitled "If Europe Hates Itself." [One extract reads]

'The West reveals . . . a hatred of itself, which is strange and can only be considered pathological; the West . . . no longer loves itself; in its own history, it now sees only what is deplorable and destructive, while it is no longer able to perceive what is great and pure.'

Oriana is saying from a secular point of view much the same things that we have been warning of concerning our own government's ill-advised intention to push through the Incitement to racial and Religious hatred bill. The footnote tells us more about Oriana's extraordinary career and stand for her principles.²

Writing is so close to my heart! Pray for writers everywhere to be used of God, not least in sounding necessary warnings.

² Amongst other people Oriana has interviewed (often almost brutally): top Nazi scientist von Braun, (her father was jailed and tortured by the Nazis), Henry Kissinger, Willy Brandt, The shah of Iran, Golda Meir, Ayatollah Khomeini, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, formerly President of Pakistan, from whom she extracted such criticism of India's Indira Gandhi that the peace treaty of 1972 between the two countries was nearly called off. Already as famous as many of the figures she interviews, Fallaci is a freethinker passionately committed to her craft. "I do not feel myself to be, nor will I ever succeed in feeling like, a cold recorder of what I see and hear," she writes in the preface to *Interview with History*. "On every professional experience I leave shreds of my heart and soul; and I participate in what I see or hear as though the matter concerned me personally and were one on which I ought to take a stand (in fact I always take one, based on a specific moral choice)."

A fifty-year-old concierge of Milan wrote: 'Your books have taught us courage.' A student of Shanghai declared: 'I learnt from you the meaning of the word freedom.'" Oriana writes,

'Through my books I hope to die a little less when I die. To leave the children I did not have . . . To make people think a little more, outside the dogmas that this society has nourished us with through centuries. To give stories and ideas that help people to see better, to think better, to know a little more . . . Writing is my way of expression.'

Learn more of her life at <http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/tvaradarajan/?id=110006858>

And pray for Oriana, who, in the advanced throes of cancer, has to endure a public trial with the prospect of two years imprisonment if found guilty.

2) New Orleans

When London was struck by two earthquakes at the end of the eighteenth century, it led to a widespread awareness that God was warning the nation of the dangers of sin and the realities of judgement. Pray that 'Katrina' may have the same effect in America and far beyond.

George Bush has announced that America wouldn't be America without the 'Crescent City' being rebuilt. Pray for the right decisions to be made as to how this comes about.

We thought you might find this potted history of the city helpful.

- Ø 1718 New Orleans was founded as a French outpost in a malarial swamp.
- Ø 1719 Wiped out by a hurricane.
- Ø 1720 Pleas by engineers to rebuild the city above the swamp were refused by the French authorities.
- Ø New Orleans became the capital of French Louisiana. Like San Francisco, it was chosen as a site purely because of its immense commercial advantages despite the known risks of natural catastrophes.
- Ø 1820-1840 Was the main port for ships bringing their human cargoes ashore to toil as slaves in the plantations. The city was meanwhile gaining a reaching reputation for elegant glamour, whilst upholding all manner of outright vice.
- Ø 1892 ruling upheld by the Supreme Court against a black shoemaker who was jailed for using a white carriage on a train. This decision was used as the basis of justifying segregation in the South right up until the 1960's.
- Ø 1990 The New Orleans Police Department was voted the most corrupt police force in the United States. The city it also had the highest murder rate. 14 state judges have recently been convicted.
- Ø www.crescentcity.com claims to be New Orleans premier information source, and plays the most attractive music on launch, proudly declares, "Welcome to the "City That Care Forgot". What dreadful irony!
- Ø Is it right to authorise a full scale rebuild in the light of this? (The main headline in the Independent today points out that the Arctic icecap is

melting at unprecedented rates. Nobody is under any illusions, either, that hurricanes are becoming both more frequent and more deadly.) Sea levels are rising to the point where New Orleans could well be under the waves within a hundred years anyway.

- Ø Type the words 'Rebuild' and 'New Orleans' to find a great deal more comment on the subject, 'Should we provide homebuilders and landlords millions in federal funds to reconstruct apartment buildings without any guarantees that rents will be affordable to the families who need them? And if we're going to spend billions of dollars to rebuild homes, offices, warehouses, and stores, should we subsidize rebuilding them in areas that we know will be the target of future hurricanes?' A good starting point for serious thought would be <http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0915-27.htm>

3) Peter Lillington writes from Canada as a follow up to prophetic word we shared in the last edition:

'We followed the New Orleans disaster and saw God's hand in many aspects of it - the total catastrophe that was averted at the last minute as the Cat 5 storm veered East and the western eye mysteriously weakened (had it not done so, the front right hand side of a Cat4-5 hurricane would have hit directly and there would have been little left to save after that. We also noted that this hurricane - Katrina ('purity') - came just before the infamous Southern Decadence festival. Coincidence, perhaps? Or then again perhaps not.

You spoke of temples, and that really rang bells for me: *'This is a generation that has all but forgotten Me. It has everything it wants, but it does not know or honour Me, and My Spirit is **not in them. These are the Temples they have made – and they will take the consequences'***

The Lord said something similar to me: 'The land is corrupt and evil, there is no knowledge or love of God. Each person goes their own way, and they do what pleases them. They will reap what they have sown! I the Lord have spoken!' What, I wonder, are we bringing on ourselves? We sow to the wind, are we to reap the whirlwind? Lord, have mercy.

Then when you spoke of the coming storm, that spoke deeply to me again. I can only concur with all my heart. In March, I was given the word 'tsunami' and the passages Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 37 and Luke 6:46-49

I saw a wave in the distance. It looked benign, insignificant to begin with. I was made aware that the old house – the house of God as it is currently – cannot withstand what is coming. What is coming? A tsunami, a storm. A storm of both persecution and revival. And we are ready for neither.

We have to be ready, for it is coming. The old structure will not stand. We cannot run for we are called to stand, but we are called to build the house anew. A stronger, deeper house, built on the Rock of Ages.

I saw a tree, against the blue sky, just coming into leaf/flower. I asked the Lord what I was seeing. A voice called 'listen', so I listened. I heard 'When you see these things you know it is near, almost at the door'. *Compare this with Jesus' words about the fig tree and I think we will find that it is near indeed.* Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

4) Prayer request from Northern Ireland.

David McClay is the rector of Willowfield Church, a growing Belfast inner city Anglican Church, situated in one of the most socially deprived areas in Northern Ireland. He also leads New Wine Ireland. He has recently written to the Manx Prayer Net as follows:

'We would really appreciate your prayers at present - riots in the local streets have got totally out of hand. Years of what is termed "recreational vandalism" has come to a head in reaction to the perceived crushing of 'loyalist culture'. The greatest issues though are social deprivation, poverty and a sense of hopelessness. People here need to know the impact of the fullness of God's rule and His grace upon their lives. Please pray for us as we seek to live out the gospel in deed as well as in word in these troubled days. Pray for the safety of our people and for God's love to fill our streets instead of violence and despair.' *David and Hilary McClay*

5) *Perspective on the Iranian Revolution*

We have been so encouraged by what God is doing to bring Iranians around the world to Himself. Nearly one thousand met together in Holland for a week's conference earlier this summer. There are many signs of a spiritual burgeoning forth. At the same time, we cannot afford to be naïve. Niall Ferguson argues in *The Sunday Telegraph* that the West has underestimated the dangers posed by the Islamic revolution that catapulted Ayatollah Khomeini to power in 1979.

Niall considers that it bears direct comparison with France's revolution in 1789 and Russia's in 1917, changing at a stroke the balance of power in the Middle East. Effectively, it gave a focus for radical Islam to spread across the world. 'As with these earlier upheavals,' he wrote, 'the effects of the Iranian revolution could last for decades. We still await its Bonaparte or Stalin. Or do we? No one is more keen to acquire weapons of mass destruction than Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a fervent critic of 'the corrupt Western way of life.' (He's got a point there!) He has snubbed EU negotiators and resumed Iran's nuclear programme. He concludes, 'Far from being on the brink of democracy, Iran is now on the brink of becoming the biggest threat to democracy in the world.'

The Peninsula Pilgrimage (September 17th 2005)



Greetings from the land of Muckworthy, Cookworthy and, er, Madworthy. It is a delight to be able to report that life is beginning to feel refreshingly 'normal' again. Long may it continue!

I have felt blissfully happy since the arriving in Devon. We are getting far more time together, really like the house and garden, and I am working hard on the next draft of

'The Still Small Voice' whilst drinking in the presence of the Lord.



Tim says he is happy in Shetland, and we had a visit last weekend from Tim and Barbara Finch, along with their newborn, Esther Louise. Do pray for Tim: Kensington Temple is sending out 20,000 copies of the DVD he is making about the Incitement to Religious Hatred Bill. He has also ended up with the mega responsibility of editing 48 tapes to produce the UCB broadcasts from

the Shetland conference). We have been to visit dear friends near Exeter, (see above) which was a real treat.

Ros is taking time to adjust to all the changes. She is appreciating having less responsibility at work (even though that is odd too), but is finding the commuting tiring during this six-week induction period, and is still feeling quite numb and exhausted.

Dom continues happy at school. I was amused to bump into a mum in the playground who is seriously thinking about buying a farm and moving to Shetland. She wouldn't be the first to head north from this region!

George Bernard Shaw is quoted as saying, 'The English are not a very spiritual people so they invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity(!)' When Ros was heavily pregnant with Ruth, she sat marooned on the sofa, following a particularly gripping Test series with Australia. That was when she learnt where all the fielding positions were, and quickly became hooked – so much so that she now listens to Test matches on the car radio even when I am not there. Now *that* is genuine conversion!

The present Ashes series certainly deserves the title 'The greatest Series Ever.' I couldn't resist taking a picture as England pressed for victory in one of the absorbingly tight finishes this summer has produced. It has been like watching the equivalent of a crucial penalty shootout, except that cricket is a much more long-drawn out process! (So too was their well publicised celebratory booze-up, but we won't mention that.) As Dad said, "Ashes are ashes and to Lord's they shall return!"



It's so unusual to see so many English fielders clustered round the bat – for so many years it has been us on the receiving end!

God bless everyone, in these testing times. Stay close to the Lord and to each other. In His love,

Robert, Rosalind & Dom

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