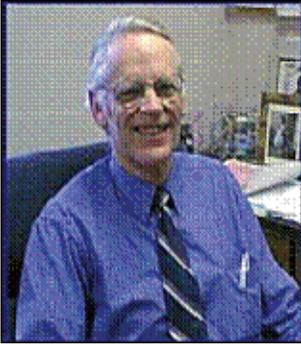


MEDIA RELEASE

Sir Anthony Buzzard



He is an accomplished classical musician who gained his Masters degree in Modern Languages at Oxford and also has a Master's in Theology. He was a nominee for the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. His father was Britain's Director of Naval Intelligence. His grandfather was Personal Physician to the King George V and VI of England. He is the third in a distinguished line of baronets.

So why would Sir Anthony Buzzard write *"The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-inflicted Wound"* (1998) and *"Jesus was not a Trinitarian"* (2007) — books that question the validity of a doctrine that's been accepted in the Church for nearly 1700 years? Why is he coming to Brisbane as the keynote speaker for an inaugural "Creed of Jesus Conference"? Is he just the latest in a parade of churchmen who've opted to drop out of traditional Christianity?

"What I do is nothing new," says Sir Anthony. "I am only processing in our time what minorities in the Church have believed for the past 2000 years. Many scholars have been fully aware that Jesus was not a Trinitarian and that the doctrine of the Trinity arose many years after the time of the New Testament. What we are attempting to do is read the Bible in its first century setting. We have gained from the insights of many scholars past and present who investigated the first century in depth. Many statements can be produced to show that Jesus did not believe in the Trinity. Why then would his followers?"

What caused Sir Anthony to write the kind of book that he must surely have known would put him at odds with the Church of England?

"I was invited to read the Bible intensively at Oxford. I had not done this ever in my Church of England days. I was shocked at what I found in the Bible, and have spent my career attempting to account for the vast gap between traditional church and the Bible. It has seemed to me unfair to tell a Church of England member that the church is dedicated to the teaching of the Jesus found in the Bible, when it is largely not the case."

The response of some religious leaders to his books, he says, has been approval and encouragement. "Often their approval has been rather quiet because they realize that issues of 'heresy' and 'orthodoxy' are involved. There are reputations to be preserved and this often interferes with forthright expression of what one really believes."

Sir Anthony sees Restoration Fellowship as simply an 'umbrella' name for many around the world who are dissatisfied with their various religious backgrounds. "They relate to our website and literature, and some fellowship with each other in various places." He sees such conferences as encouraging sincere Christians to meet others who have a similar desire for the restoration of Biblical ideas. They alert all who are interested to the fact that the present state of denominational confusion does not reflect the will of God. They raise the great issues. Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is the meaning of life?

Sir Anthony also believes that those who wonder why there are so many denominations, all claiming to be based on Jesus and the Bible, might be interested in the Conference.

"Who God is has to be the most important question one can ask. At present, world religions are at loggerheads over who God is. The doctrine of the Trinity keeps Moslems and Jews away from Christians. Can it really be that Jesus the Jew did not clearly define who God is?"

"The Creed of Jesus": the inaugural Restoration Fellowship National Conference. Keynote speakers: Professor Sir Anthony Buzzard, author of *'The Doctrine of the Trinity, Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound'*; Frank Selch, author of *'Dancing with the Scimitar of Islam'*; and Greg Deuble, author of *'They Never Told Me This in Church'*.

July 18 to 20 at the Virginia Palms Conference Centre, Sandgate Road, Virginia, Brisbane. Call Peter Barfoot on (07) 3286 7358 for further information.

Conference Website: www.restorationfellowship.info