

Amazed Twice Over:

The Belhar Confession¹

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- (1) I fully agree with Dr. Timothy Palmer’s “humble opinion” with respect to Belhar (Sept, 2010, p. 8). All the more so, because one of its main promoters within the CRC, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, himself has said that the document does not express itself the way we would if we were to write it ourselves! Why in the world would we adopt and sanctify a foreign document that does not say exactly what we want to say? Amazing!**

- (2) I am amazed that Lugo, the CRC director of Race Relations, could, by his own admission (Oct. 2010, p. 8), so instinctively dismiss Palmer’s opinion “as a typical white person’s view of ethnic separation.” Uh? What’s this? An instinctive racism? And say that of a person who has spent his entire career among a race other than his own?! In my experience, people ready to charge others with racism often expect others to be thinking as they do. Amazed twice over.**

¹Letter to Editor, *the Banner*, a CRC magazine. Submitted on 24 Oct/2010. The editor mangled the letter: She deleted the original title (not the same as the current one), shortened the first paragraph and deleted the second altogether. The amazement factor was also left out. In short, little of it left. It puzzles me why they even bothered publishing any of it! This version has a minor addition. Palmer has taught theology at TCNN for over 30 years. Borgdorff, now retired, has served the CRC in various senior denominational positions for decades.