

Hugo Bouter

Some biographical notes



I was born in the city of Rotterdam in 1946, just after the end of World War II, and raised in a nearby town, in a family of Protestant descent originating from Flanders. My parents had been raised in one of the Dutch Reformed churches (Gereformeerde Kerken synodaal), but they had also been influenced by Revivalist movements brought to the Netherlands by men like the hymnwriter Johannes de Heer, who visited the Revival in Wales in about 1905. My parents joined the Brethren movement shortly after the War. They realized that the teachings of the Church on baptism, on the future of Israel and the Coming of the Lord etc. were not quite Scriptural. But my older brother, Alfred Bouter who is also a writer (now living in Canada), was born during the War and baptised as an infant in the local Church.

In those days the Brethren movement had a clear emphasis on Gospel preaching, later on it was *doctrine* that was placed in the forefront. I have profited from both, and after a profound conversion experience was led to devote my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. I was baptized by immersion at the age of seventeen, and am a clear supporter of believer's baptism. I wrote my first treatise, a letter against wrong teaching related to universalism, at the same age and began to realize the value of writing. As the Latin proverb says: Verba volent, scripta manent. Also I felt that I could better express myself in writing than in speaking.

This was the start of my career as a writer and publisher of Bible study books, both part-time and fulltime, as the Lord would lead me. I was raised in a family of businessmen and trained in business administration and commercial correspondence. I experienced a clear calling from the Lord to start a writing ministry, after having worked initially in secular jobs and as a translator of Brethren writings. This ministry has been going on for over thirty years, and it has resulted in many publications in Dutch and in English, and in several other languages (German, French, Spanish, Italian, Norwegian and Romanian).

In the course of time many thousands of books and booklets have found their way around the globe, for instance by the efforts of the Chapter Two Trust. The print runs are normally not so big, for the interest on the part of our readers is limited, but I recall that the Romanian version of 'Jacob's last words' (published by GBV in Germany) had a print run of 10,000 copies. A more recent activity is that 10 Spanish and English publications have been made available to our readers through Lulu printing on demand. And through the efforts of the webmasters at Oude Sporen (www.oudesporen.nl) almost all my publications are now freely obtainable online.

As has been stated in the introduction to the cd-rom 'Writings by Hugo Bouter', my main emphasis is on basic Bible studies, in which the Old Testament types furnish suitable background for expository New Testament teaching regarding the truth of the Gospel, the privileged position of the Christian, the Assembly or Church of God, the Lord's Coming and future events in connection with the people of Israel. We are urged by the Lord, 'Do business till I come' (Luke 19:13 NKJV). This is the true incentive for any work in God's Kingdom.

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