



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Letter to the editor of The Belfast Newsletter published but edited

I have just sent out this reply to a letter which has appeared in the Belfast Newsletter of 19th April 2021.

I am grateful to one of our readers who drew my attention to it a few minutes ago as I had not read it.

For your information the newspaper letter read as follows:

Many unionists complain about Stormont, without offering a detailed workable alternative.

The Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd) writes that unionist leaders were foolish and blinded for political power when they entered into a 'power sharing' coalition with SF/IRA and its nationalist allies.

Bearing in mind that political unionism no longer holds a majority in Stormont, I would like to ask Rev Foster what the workable alternative was that excluded Sinn Fein/IRA and its nationalist allies and voters?

Please pray that the Bible reference in my reply may have an impact on the hearts of some.

The letter has appeared, in an edited form, in the Belfast Newsletter of 22nd April 2021.

I have highlighted in RED the portion omitted by the newspaper Editor.

That it was removed indicates the dread there is in 'the establishment' of offending Sinn Fein/IRA. I would defend my statement since I believe that it is very evident that Sinn Fein and the IRA are yoked together and are 'pigs of the one sows' litter'!!

Dear Editor,

May I be given the space to reply to Mr Thomas Stewart who asks "what the workable alternative was that excluded Sinn Fein/IRA and its nationalist allies and voters" from government in Northern Ireland.

I am not a professional politician who is required to give alternatives to that which he sees as wrong in the government here. However, I have heard others put forward alternatives.

I believe that I have heard it suggested that we should have a 'voluntary coalition' rather than the present form of 'enforced' power-sharing which must include Sinn Fein, who repeatedly have acknowledged demonstrably it be their prime objective to destroy Northern Ireland as a state.

I think that in any discussion of this matter the operative word is 'workable'! In truth, it is hard to envisage a system that will work as long as preference is given to the forces of former terrorism, in the fear that they will return to that which is their 'forte', if they deem that their political ambitions are being thwarted!

Sinn Fein simply 'blows up Stormont' by withdrawing whenever they feel that they are not getting their way **in the same spirit as they literally blew up men, women, children and property when they felt that they did not get their way in years past. Out of that 'terror campaign was born the present 'power-sharing regime'.**

The IRA terror campaign should have been crushed rather than rewarded, as is presently the case.

Of course, the Westminster Government played a major part in bringing about the present situation and no help or sympathy can be expected from that quarter in rectifying the present debacle!

Furthermore, Ulster Protestantism has forfeited the help of the only Friend it ever really had, the Lord, by



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its departure from Biblical truth and its embracing of ecumenical apostasy.

What is happening to our Province is akin to that of which the prophet Hosea said: "Yet I [am] the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for [there is] no saviour beside me. I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought. According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me. Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe [them]: I will meet them as a bear [that is] bereaved [of her whelps], and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them. O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me [is] thine help," Hosea 13:4-9, AV.

The only real alternative and way out of this mess which is of our own making, is a humble acknowledgment of our sins and a return to God in faith and an obeying of Him.

Failing that, we will continue to sink down into the pit we have dug for ourselves!

Sincerely,

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

Kilskeery.

19th April 2021.