

Sketch of the late Mr. J. M. Banfield



Joseph Marcus Banfield was born of God-fearing parents in Brighton in 1932. He continued in his father's footsteps, running the family business (M. L. Banfield's Ltd of Brighton) together with his brother John. His contacts with Holland grew. Marcus (as he was called by everybody who knew him) made friends easily. His mastery of the Dutch language was very good for reading, speaking went well but with a distinct British accent. Marcus was always looking for books to translate, and the first of any importance was the Children's Bible by Joh. Vreugdenhil. He went to see Joh.

Vreugdenhil first to get permission, which was granted. However, when he had finished the translation, a new translation had just been published in Canada. Marcus later learned that this contained Arminianism, which saddened him. His translation was stored in a box... Marcus was very fond of Protestant history, and translating a book involved research on the ground as well. He visited Julich while translating "De Vluchteling" by J. de Liefde, this was published by Zoar Publications under the title "The Fugitive" in 1975. (<http://www.amazon.com/The-Fugitive-J-De-Liefde/dp/0904435113>).

But Marcus also delved into "Ancient Writers", and in 1977 his next translation was published: "Redeeming the Time" (De Tijd Uitkopen) by Willem Teellink

(<http://www.amazon.com/Redeeming-Time-Apples-William-Teellinck/dp/090443513X>).

Marcus made friends with Mr. J. A. Saarberg (Utrecht), and together with him and Mr. D. Oldham (Stamford) he toured Woubrugge and environs to research his next translation: "The ABC of Faith" by Alexander Comrie, which was published by Zoar Publications, 1978 (<http://www.amazon.ca/A-B-Faith-Alexander-Comrie/dp/0904435334>). Another lifelong friend of Marcus was Mr. J. de Jager (Scherpenzeel), who also helped with post-editing of the ABC of Faith. Mr. de Jager and Marcus were very close friends who shared each other's moments of joy and sadness. Occasionally Marcus would also set his hand to the translation of Dutch psalms and poetry. He made a translation of Psalm 68, but also some poetry by Jacob Revius. Another book translated by Marcus and subsequently published was a book for young people: "Beveiligd in de Duist're Nacht" published by Gospel Standard Trust Publications under the title "Kept Safely in the Darkest Night"

(<http://www.heritagebooks.org/products/Kept-Safely-in-the-Darkest-Night....html>). This was published in 2008, the year of his sudden death... in Holland.