



Constrained
by his
Love

A New Biography
on
Robert Murray McCheyne

LJ Van Valen



Christian Focus





ISBN 1 85792 793 1

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Published in 2002 by
Christian Focus Publications, Geanies House,
Fearn, Tain, Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Scotland.



www.christianfocus.com

Cover design by Alister MacInnes

Translated from Dutch edition © 1993,
by Laurence R. Nicolson.

Printed and bound by
WS Bookwell, Finland

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Preface

Nearly ten years after the first Dutch edition of my biography of Robert Murray M'Cheyne was published, it is a pleasant task to write a preface in a new English publication of my book. It is also a pleasant thought to know that the name of M'Cheyne has not been forgotten in the English speaking Christian world. The man and his work are a rare example of holiness and zeal in the Kingdom of Christ. I remember the preparations and research before finishing it, that I sometimes was so overwhelmed by the graciousness of this Scottish saint that I could not withdraw from weeping.

It is not my intention to write such a long preface as I did in the Dutch edition. I mentioned some names of persons who helped me to realize this great work. Two exceptions I will make: The first is Rev. William Macknight, retired minister of the Free Church of Scotland in Leith, now living in Northern Ireland, who inspired and helped me, especially with scarce information on M'Cheyne and his friends. I remember his and his wife's hospitality in their home in Edinburgh! Secondly I like to mention the translator of this book, Laurence Nicolson, who learned both English and Dutch in South Africa. How big a





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task it was for him and for his wife who both finished the translation about eight years ago.

The life of M'Cheyne is a rich ornament of the Lord's grace in a sinful being, or is it more? Is it not ashamed for us Christians in this postmodern age, where likely there is more of Laodicea's lukewarmness than of Pauline zeal. It is now almost one hundred years ago that the last great revival in Wales stirred up many minds. We need a new revival of the christian church in Western Europe! Happily I perceive some stirrings of revival spirit among young people in the Netherlands. Many among reformed young men and women are seeking peace for their heart and many had already found the Saviour. This may be an encouragement for our brothers and sisters in Britain to beseech the Lord for His powerful operations of His Spirit in their denominations.

Leen J. van Valen
October 2002

