

## [photocopie]

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### Présentation de la fiche

Coteb020\_f0089

SourceBoite\_020-3-chem | Protestants. Dissidents.

LangueFrançais

TypePhotocopie

Références bibliographiques[Stoeffler, The Rise of evangelical Pietism](#)

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

### Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

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Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 21/10/2020 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

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F. E. Stöcker. The rise of

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evangelical revival Leiden

1965

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The charge by his enemies that he thought of himself as a reformer of the whole Church is substantiated by the fact that he presently engaged in considerable literary activity in order to extend his influence over other pastors. They were informed that their preaching was wrong, that they talked far too much about the mercy of God and salvation by faith alone, without a proper emphasis upon the works which must follow. Everywhere, he complained, there is talk about grace, and about free salvation, as if the Christian had nothing more to do than to believe. All that must change. What is needed are sermons which call people to repentance and a general evangelistic campaign in which all pastors engage at the same time.

Gradually he evolved a definite program for the reform of the churches. This he laid down in his influential tract, *The Reform of the Church Through the Pastorate*.<sup>1)</sup> It is in the form of two pastoral letters written to the Voetian party which was interested in reform but had no program. Basic to it is his conviction that the much needed reformation of the Church must be brought about by the pastors if it is to become a reality at all. Unfortunately, he lamented, the present ministry is so ineffective that many preachers preach for ten years without converting ten souls. Such ineffectiveness must be removed. This can be done at once if pastors who are truly zealous will get together into a close fellowship and work jointly toward a reformation. They may hold a series of meetings in which texts are used and sermons preached which are specially designed to awaken dead souls. Or, they may all preach at a given time in various places. The main thing is that the emphasis be put on an intense attack upon the world which will not give it time even to breathe.

Five specific remedies are proposed which the friends of the reformation must be willing to apply if the unfortunate state of the Church is to be corrected. Briefly summarized they are:

1. Emphasis must be placed on the proper training of future pastors. Such training must begin at home, and later it must be done by teachers who are not only learned but holy in their lives. They must not only teach but act as spiritual advisers to their students. The curriculum must not be centered in theology but in Biblical studies. The practical writings of the church fathers and the mystical works of men like Tauler, Richard of St. Victor and Thomas à Kempis should not be neglected.

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<sup>1)</sup> *La reformation de L'Eglise par le pastorate*, 1667, an excellent summary of which is found in Goeters, pp. 164-171.

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