

**Mark Oxley**

MA, Dublin University, 1976

MBA, University of Zimbabwe, 1991

Fellow of the Institute of Directors, 1991

Honorary Life Member, Institute of Directors Zimbabwe, 2016

Author of *The Challenge of the Shroud*, Authorhouse (UK) 2010, and *The Director's Handbook on Corporate Governance in Zimbabwe*, Weaver Press (Harare) 2015

Consultant, Oxley Consulting

[mark.oxley@latilla.co.zw](mailto:mark.oxley@latilla.co.zw)

*Mark Oxley is a businessman and consultant living in Harare, Zimbabwe. He has a business importing wine from South Africa for distribution in Zimbabwe and also provides consultancy services in corporate governance, business planning and private sector development. His interest in the Shroud began when he was a schoolboy at a Jesuit college in Harare, where he saw a film about the Shroud made by Leonard Cheshire. Some years later he was further influenced by Ian Wilson's book *The Turin Shroud*. In the early 2000s he wrote a book, still unpublished, about St Luke, and having completed that he decided to pursue his interest in the Shroud by writing a book on the subject. His book, *The Challenge of the Shroud*, was published in 2010. More recently he has developed a particular interest in the spiritual aspects and significance of the Shroud. He is currently working on a book on the history of gold mining in Zimbabwe.*

## ABSTRACT

### **The Divine Light and the Shroud of Turin**

Numerous hypotheses have been advanced as to how the image on the Shroud was formed. However none to date has been able to explain it in scientific terms, let alone replicate it. As one researcher put it, "Science can only do so much, and so far it tells us that the image is a wonder that remains unexplained." In 1991 Dr John P Jackson asked the question, Is the image on the Shroud due to a process unknown to modern science? He did not mention the term "supernatural" in his paper but phrased his question as follows, "...perhaps we need to be more flexible in our scientific approach and consider hypotheses that might not be found readily in conventional modern science." One such hypothesis could be derived from the Eastern Orthodox concept of the Divine and Uncreated Light which, according to Orthodox belief, is the light that surrounded Jesus at his Transfiguration. Such light can be viewed in numerous ways, for example as the first creation of God, as described in the Book of Genesis, and as a manifestation of God, as in the Transfiguration. An early Christian writer on the subject, known as Pseudo-Dionysius or Dionysus the Areopagite, described God the Father as "the light which is the source of all light" and Jesus as "the Light of the Father, the 'true light enlightening every man coming into the world'". One possible explanation for the image is that the body of Jesus emitted this Light at the moment of Resurrection and that this created the image on the Shroud. The Shroud itself thus becomes a light to enlighten every person who comes into the world, or at least those who care to look for the light.