

Friday Church News Notes

Paul McCartney Says Transcendental Meditation Will Take Over the World

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Performing at a "Change Begins Within" concert in New York City on April 5, Paul McCartney exalted Transcendental Meditation (TM). He said, "It started for us when we met the Maharishi in India and it's going to get bigger and bigger and rule the world" ("McCartney and Starr Reunite for Meditation," Reuters, April 5, 2009). The two surviving Beatles headlined the concert, which aimed to promote TM among one million children. The sponsoring organization, the David Lynch Foundation, is dedicated "consciousness-based education and world peace." Joining Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney were Sheryl Crow, Donovan, Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, and others. Though some deny it, TM is a Hindu practice and is based on the concept that the universe is God and man can tap into God through mysticism. The TM practitioner uses a mantra to put himself into an altered state of consciousness. One page of the David Lynch Foundation's web site has a young girl saying, "It is quiet and comfortable and I feel connected to everything and everyone." The practice was brought to America by the Hindu guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in the 1950s and popularized by the Beatles when they visited his lectures in Wales in 1967 and his ashram in India the next year. Beatle George Harrison joined the Hare Krishnas and died in the Hindu faith. His ashes were scattered on the Ganges River. Maharishi developed TM from the Hindu Vedas. He called TM "a path to God" and "the spontaneous flow of knowledge." The Beatles have influenced an entire generation to commune with demons, and it is a shameful thing for Contemporary Christian musicians to exalt the Beatles as they do. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)



NEW AGE PRACTICES SPREADING IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

According to the American Hospital Association, 37% of hospitals in the USA are using "alternative treatments," including acupuncture, yoga, music and art therapy, and Reiki ("More Hospitals Offer Alternative Therapies," *USA Today*, Sept. 15, 2008). This is an increase from 25% in 2005. Alternative treatments are a \$19 billion a year industry. In 1992, only 2% of U.S. medical schools offered courses in alternative medicines, but by 2004 that figure had risen to 67% ("More Medical

Schools Teaching Spirituality in Medicine," *Lighthouse Trails* newsletter, March 4, 2008). The famous Mayo Clinic has a section at its web site on "complementary and alternative medicine," dealing with touch therapy, yoga, tai chi, acupuncture, cupping, biofeedback, and hypnosis. (For an extensive study on alternative health care practices see the book "The New Age Tower of Babel," available from Way of Life Literature.)



DEAN OF EPISCOPAL DIVINITY SCHOOL SAYS ABORTION IS A BLESSING

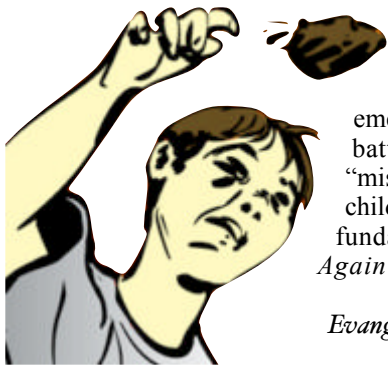
In a message in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 21, 2007, to the New Women All Women Health (abortion) Clinic, a lesbian leader in the Episcopal Church in America said that abortion is a blessing. In fact, she repeated these words seven times in one sermon, and also stated that those operate abortion clinics are "heroes" and "saints." Katherine Ragsdale, Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said: "And when a woman becomes pregnant within a loving, supportive, respectful relationship; has every option open to her; decides she does not wish to bear a child; and has access to a safe, affordable abortion--there is not a tragedy in sight--only blessing. The ability to enjoy God's good gift of sexuality without compromising one's education, life's work, or ability to put to use God's gifts and call is simply blessing" ("Abortion Is a Blessing," blogs.telegraph.co.uk, April 2, 2009). "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:20-21).

OUTPOURING OF HATRED TOWARD DISPENSATIONAL FUNDAMENTALISTS

Evangelicals talk much about love and unity, but there is one group of Christians that are excluded from their compassion and that is biblical fundamentalists. Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren has likened Christian fundamentalism to Muslim fundamentalism and has called it “one of the big enemies of the 21st century” (“The Purpose-Driven Pastor,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Jan. 8, 2006). In his interview on *Larry King Live* on December 2, 2006, Warren said: “There are all kinds of fundamentalists, Larry, and they’re all based on fear.” In an appearance at the Pew Forum, Warren called fundamentalism “a very legalistic, narrow view of Christianity” (the Pew Forum’s

biannual Faith Angle conference on religion, politics and public life, May 23, 2005). Brian McLaren, a major voice in the emerging church, calls the theological battles fought by fundamentalists “misguided” and predicts that their children and grandchildren will reject fundamentalism (*Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient*

Practices, p. 133). Mark Driscoll of Mars Hills Church in Seattle likens fundamentalists to Pharisees, calling them “arrogant, self-righteous, and judgmental,” “mixed nuts,” and “old legalists who want to argue about the King James Bible” (*The Radical Reformation*, p. 140; *The Relevant Church*, p. 25). Those judgments pale, though, when compared to the following remarks on PlanetPreterist.com pertaining to my report “The Emerging Church Is Coming.” “Cloud is a blowhard clinging to the fundy Titanic as it sinks beneath the waves. The sooner they go down and lose their public influence [the better].” “It’s so encouraging and rewarding to see Dispensational fundamentalist Christianity fading away while kicking and screaming.” “Fundamentalism is anti-Christ.” Evangelicalism’s attack upon fundamentalism is an exercise in hypocrisy. They say that we shouldn’t use labels, but they are quick to label the fundamentalist. They say we shouldn’t be judgmental, but they are viciously judgmental of the fundamentalist. They claim to hold the high ground on Christian compassion, but they are anything but compassionate toward fundamentalists. They mock the fundamentalist’s standards and rules, but they have plenty of standards and rules of their own.



Evangelicals, emerging church types, seeker sensitive pastors....they all enjoy throwing rocks at fundamentalists.

EPISCOPAL PRIEST DEFROCKED AFTER BECOMING A MUSLIM

Ann Redding was defrocked last week as a priest in the Episcopal Church in America for claiming to be both a Muslim and a Christian. Three years ago Redding became a Muslim after attending an interfaith meeting in which an imam demonstrated Muslim chants and meditations. She said that she had a mystical experience in which she was overwhelmed with a conviction that she “needed to surrender to God and this was the form that my surrender needed to take” (“Episcopal Minister Defrocked,” CNN, April 2, 2009). She began saying the *shahada*, which is the Muslim declaration of belief in Allah and in Mohammad as his prophet. Though she believes that Christians and Muslims “are talking about the same God,” in fact, what Islam teaches about God and Jesus is irreconcilable with what the Bible teaches. The Muslim faith rejects the Trinity and denies that Jesus is God and only Saviour and that He died on the cross for man’s sins and rose from the dead. We would make two final observations about this news item. First, observe that it was interfaith ecumenism and mysticism that resulted in Redding’s conversion to Islam. The Bible warns that Satan transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Those who flirt with heresy and false religion are flirting with the devil. Second, the Episcopal Church is hypocritical. Why defrock someone who becomes a Muslim but not someone who otherwise rejects the God of the Bible? There are many Episcopal priests who do this with impunity, including the retired bishop John Spong, who has said, “I would choose to loathe rather than to worship a deity who required the sacrifice of his son” (*Christianity Today*, June 15, 1998).

Ann Holmes Redding at prayer



PROTESTANT DENOMINATION REFUSES TO DISCIPLINE ATHEIST PASTOR

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands has refused to discipline a self-proclaimed atheist pastor. Klaas Hendrikse published a book in November 2007 entitled "Believing in a God Who Does Not Exist: Manifesto of an Atheist Pastor." In spite of this, his denomination said that disciplinary proceedings will not be pursued, because it would only be "a protracted

discussion about the meanings of words that in the end will produce little clarity" ("Church Authorities Not to Discipline," ENI, March 27, 2009). The Protestant Church in the Netherlands was formed in 2004 from a merger of Lutherans and Reformed.



GENERATION DIVA

The following is excerpted from *Newsweek*, March 30, 2009: "Girls today are salon vets before they enter elementary school. Forget having mom trim your bangs, fourth graders are in the market for lush \$50 haircuts; by the time they hit high school, \$150 highlights are standard. Five-year-olds have spa days and pedicure parties. And instead of shaving their legs the old-fashioned way--with a 99-cent drugstore razor--teens get laser hair removal, the most common cosmetic procedure of that age group. If these trends continue, by the time your tween hits the Botox years, she'll have spent thousands on the beauty treatments once reserved for the 'Beverly Hills, 90210' set, not junior highs in Madison, Wisconsin. Reared on reality TV and celebrity makeovers, girls as young as two are using beauty products earlier,

spending more and still feeling worse about themselves. Four years ago, a survey by the NPD Group showed that, on average, women began using beauty products at 17. Today, the average is 13--and that's got to be an overstatement. According to market-research firm Experian, 43 percent of 6- to 9-year-olds are already using lipstick or lip gloss; 38 percent use hairstyling products; and 12 percent use other cosmetics. ... According to a *Newsweek* examination of the most common beauty trends, by the time your 10-year-old is 50, she'll have spent nearly \$300,000 on just her hair and face. ... A combination of new technology and the Web, is responsible—at least in part—for this transformation in attitudes. Ads for the latest fashions, makeup tips and grooming products are circulated with a speed and fury unique to this millennium—on millions of ads, message boards and Facebook pages."

EL SHADDAI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A FEMININE ASPECT OF GOD

William Young, author of *The Shack*, claims that it is proper to depict God as a woman because the Bible allegedly describes God in feminine terms. He cites the name *El Shaddai* as an example, claiming that it describes God as "the breasted one." In fact, the Old Testament Hebrew word "shaddai," is translated "Almighty" in the King James Bible and it has nothing to do with breasts. It is derived from "shadad," which means "to be burly, i.e. (figuratively) powerful (passively, impregnable)" (Strong). The following is from George Pember: "In order to corroborate the doctrine (of sex in deity) just mentioned, certain Theosophists have invented a new derivation for the Hebrew *Shaddai*, which in

our versions is correctly rendered 'Almighty.' They suppose it to be connected with a word *shad*, which signifies a woman's breast. But such a derivation is impossible, and, so far as we are aware, has never been proposed by an unbiased scholar. More than one Christian scholar has taken up this Theosophical derivation of *Shaddai*, and explained the word as meaning first 'full-breasted,' and then 'bountiful.' The irreverent use of one of the grandest titles of the Most High should have checked them" (*The Church, the Churches, and the Mysteries*).

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ANT MATHEMATICS

The following is from Creation Moments, <http://www.creationmoments.net/radio/transcript.php?t=2183>: “Can ants count? It seems so! When a scout ant finds an item of food too big to carry, but especially good, the scout will return to the nest to get help. Scientists have discovered that ants apparently size up the task ahead so that they can return with just sufficient help. One scientist cut a dead grasshopper into three pieces. The second piece was twice as big as the first, and the third was twice as big the second. He then left the pieces in different locations where ants could find them. He watched as each was discovered by a scout, inspected, and each scout returned to the nest for help. When the scout returned with help, the scientist counted the number of ants working at each piece of grasshopper. The smallest piece had 28 ants and the piece that was twice its size had 44 ants working on it, almost twice as many as the smallest piece. And how many ants do you think were working on the piece that was twice the size of the second? If you doubled that 44 to 88 you would be within one of being right. Yes, there were 89 ants working to return the biggest piece to the nest!”



CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.