

Friday Church News Notes

Columbine Mayhem Revisited

Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2009 www.wayoflife.org

Ten years ago this week, two high school seniors filled with occultic hatred murdered 12 of their fellow students and a 47-year-old teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, before taking their own lives. The shooters, Eric



Harris and Dylan Klebold, also wounded another 20 students. Witnesses reported that “they were just hooting and hollering, having the time of their lives.” They had planned to kill hundreds, but by God’s grace none of their larger bombs exploded. This carnage was perpetrated by self-centered, hateful, vengeful, foul-mouthed students. Early reports speculated that the boys lashed out at athletes and other popular teens because they had experienced constant bullying and

social ostracism. In fact, both boys had a fairly wide circle of friends and were the bullies rather than the bullied, and they did not target athletes or any other particular group. They hated everybody! Early reports speculated that the murderers were driven by a lack of self-esteem, when in fact they were exceedingly proud and CONTINUED, Page 2...

QUEBEC FATHER SUED BY DAUGHTER AFTER GROUNDING LOSES HIS APPEAL

The following is excerpted from “Quebec Dad Sued by Daughter,” CBC News, April 7, 2009: “A Quebec father who was taken to court by his 12-year-old daughter after he grounded her in June 2008 has lost his appeal. Quebec Superior Court rejected the Gatineau father’s appeal of a lower court ruling that said his punishment was too severe for the wrongs he said his daughter committed. The father is ‘flabbergasted,’ his lawyer Kim Beaudoin told CBC News. ... The family’s legal wrangling started with a dispute over the girl’s internet use. She had been living with her father after her parents split up when he grounded her in 2008 for defying his order to stay off the internet. The father caught her chatting on websites he had blocked, and alleged

his daughter was posting ‘inappropriate pictures’ of herself online. ... Her punishment: she was banned from her Grade 6 graduation trip to Quebec City in June 2008, for which her mother had already granted permission. The father—who had custody—withheld his written permission for the trip, prompting the school to refuse to let the girl go with her classmates. That’s when the girl asked for help from the lawyer who represented her in her parents’ separation, and petitioned the court to intervene in her case. ... A lower court ruled in the girl’s favour in 2008. ... Beaudoin believes the ruling reflects a loss of moral authority in Quebec’s court system.”

ATHEIST WINS RIGHT TO HAVE INFANT BAPTISM ANNULLED



A British atheist has won the right to have his infant baptism annulled. John Hunt, a nurse, obtained a “de-baptism certificate” from the National Secular Society that reads: “I reject all its creeds and other such superstitions in particular the perfidious belief that any baby needs to be cleansed of original sin” (“Atheist Wins Right,” *London Telegraph*, April 9, 2009). His 1953 baptismal record was also amended by the Church of England. It is true that baptism (infant or believer’s) does not wash away sin, but Hunt is dead wrong in thinking that there is God, no “original sin,” and no need for salvation. The Bible says, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). Salvation is not through baptism, but through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. It is wise to renounce false Christianity, but it is foolish to renounce biblical Christianity.

COLUMBINE....

thought that they were better than others. Dylan wrote, "I am GOD compared to some of these un-existable brainless zombies." Eric said, "I am higher than almost anyone in the ***** world in terms of universal intelligence" (*Columbine*, p. 234). This is not an isolated problem. Modern American culture is producing many such young people. Between 1992 and 2006 there were 330 murders committed by students on school property in the United States, and in many other cases plans were thwarted. The Bible teaches that murder is in the heart of every fallen sinner (Mark 7:21-23). If the natural propensities of the fallen heart are encouraged and not restrained, there is no evil that man is not capable of perpetrating. The battleground lies particularly with the imagination. If evil and darkness is entertained continually, the heart grows increasingly perverse. The Bible describes this downward process in Romans 1:21-28. Dave Cullen's book *Columbine*,

which was published this year after a decade of research, delves deeply into the teen's lives. It is obvious that pride, anger, hatred, murderous revenge, and other natural lusts of the flesh were fueled by Western pop culture (violent video games, vicious Hollywood movies, and raging rock music), encouraged by godless philosophy (evolution, moral relativism, and Nazism), and enflamed by alcohol and drugs (the boys drank hard liquor and used marijuana). The Bible plainly warns that "evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33) and "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). What young people put into their hearts and minds will bear fruit in their lives. At the very least, it will be manifest in an improper attitude toward their parents, teachers, the police, and other forms of authority.

THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDES FORUM FOR ANTI-ISRAEL RANT

The United Nations has provided yet another forum for a vicious anti-Israel, anti-American rant. This time the venue was a Racist Conference in Geneva. The featured speaker was the anti-Semite Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran. This time the anti-Semite was met with jeering protesters in wigs who tossed red clown noses at him. Protesters held placards reading "This is a circus. A racist cannot fight racism." The protest was led by a Jewish student group from France, who said that the clown noses "symbolized the masquerade that this conference represents" ("Iran's Leader Sparks Western Walkout," *USA Today*, April 20, 2009). We could not agree more. In addition, about 40 diplomats from Britain, France, and other European countries walked out of the meeting. The United States and eight other countries boycotted the event entirely. The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said that he had counseled the Iranian leader to "avoid dividing the conference," but asking Ahmadinejad to avoid anti-Israel rants reminds me of the turtle who was talked into giving a scorpion a ride across a lake. When the scorpion asked him for the ride, the turtle was hesitant, saying, "But Mr. Scorpion, you will sting me." The scorpion assured him that he would not, because he wanted to get to the other side, so the turtle acquiesced. Half-way across the lake, the scorpion stung the turtle. As the turtle was sinking, he exclaimed, "But Mr. Scorpion, you promised!" And the scorpion smugly replied, "But you knew I am a scorpion."

**MOST PROFESSING CHRISTIANS IN U.S.A. DON'T BELIEVE SATAN IS REAL**

According to a new Barna poll, the vast majority of professing Christians in America do not believe that Satan and the Holy Spirit are real persons. Only 35% believe Satan is "a living being" and only 25% believe that the Holy Spirit is a "living force." The rest believe that Satan is "a symbol of evil" and the Holy Spirit is "a symbol of God's power or presence" (ChristianityToday.com, April 14, 2009). The root problem with the host of moral and

social ills in America is the apostasy and compromise in her churches. "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land" (Jeremiah 23:15).

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BUDDHISTS ATTACK CHURCHES IN SRI LANKA

The following is excerpted from Compass Direct, April 17, 2009: "Buddhist mobs attacked several churches in Sri Lanka last week, threatening to kill a pastor in the southern province of Hambanthota and ransacking a 150-year-old Methodist church building in the capital. ... The Easter incidents are the latest in a long series of attacks against churches and Christian individuals in recent years, many of them instigated by Buddhist monks who decry the growth of Christianity in the country. Members of Sri Lanka's Parliament may soon enact an anti-conversion bill designed

to restrict religious conversions. Human rights organizations and Christian groups have criticized the vague terminology of the legislation that, if passed, may invite misapplication against religious activity. ... According to the most recent government census, Protestant Christians number less than 1 percent of the total population in Sri Lanka, but they remain the primary target of religiously motivated violence and intimidation."



Pulling Weeds or Sowing Seed

Recently I heard a sermon by an influential independent Baptist pastor who spoke very negatively of "critical" ministries. He said: "I heard of the story of an old farmer who decided that he did not want one weed on his farm. He hired additional help and he finally reached his goal, not one weed on his farm. Now the problem was he had not planted a single crop. And most divisive, issue-oriented leaders live that way to the peril of their own ministry." If ever there was a time to sound forth godly warnings it is today, yet there is a growing resistance to this within the independent Baptist movement. There is a neglect of clear warning about issues. Some say that it is O.K. to warn about such things as liberalism and charismaticism and ecumenism, things "out there," but we should not criticize fellow independent Baptists, but where does the Bible say that independent Baptist preachers are above reproof? Many would like to place such things as music and dress standards and the Bible version issue into a "peripheral" category that is off limits for warnings. The independent Baptist movement is a hodge-podge that envelopes much error. Within this movement there is Calvinism, Ruckmanism, modern textual criticism, Purpose Drivenism, Christian rockism, Quick Prayerism, and many other errors. The fact is that we need to pull weeds *and* sow seed, not one or the other, but both, and that is what we are doing. We are pulling weeds through our warning ministry and sowing seed through our missionary church planting ministry, and we intend to continue doing both by God's grace.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS ORDAINS HOMOSEXUAL

(Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2009, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, ordained a homosexual as pastor on April 12 (“At One Lutheran Church,” Fox News, April 11, 2009). The church is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The new pastor, Brad Froslee, has lived with his male partner for over five years. Prior to this, the church was pastored by a husband-wife team. The ELCA officially prohibits “non-celibate gay pastors,” but it does not always enforce the issue. In August the liberal denomination will vote on whether or not to change the policy. It is just as wrong to ordain a woman as pastor as it is to ordain a homosexual. Both are an affront to God’s standards for pastors in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

**CHINA’S ONE-CHILD POLICY**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2009, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *WorldNetDaily*, April 10, 2009: “A new study published by BMJ, which used to be known as the *British Medical Journal*, has documented a worsening problem on which WND has been reporting for 12 years: the domination of males in a Chinese society that encourages the abortion of unborn daughters. The new report says males under the age of 20 outnumbered females by more than 32 million and warned, ‘China will see very high and steadily worsening sex ratios in the reproductive age group over the next two decades.’ ... Chinese families often use abortion--or actual infanticide--to eliminate daughters in favor of sons. Some estimates suggest there have been hundreds of millions of deaths because of the policy. ... WND has reported Chinese adults desperate for children have fueled a major criminal industry in child kidnappings. ... Some Chinese couples who want a boy simply choose to abandon female infants to die. Desperate couples without a son sometimes resort to buying one on the black market.”

MORE CHRISTIANS KILLED IN IRAQ

(Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2009, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Christian News Today*, April 10, 2009: “International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on April 1 and 2, four Iraqi Christians were killed Baghdad and Kirkuk. Though the perpetrators of the murders are not yet indicated, Islamic fundamentalists, criminal gangs and other armed groups have been behind attacks against Christians in Iraq in the past. ... Iraqi Christians have been paying a heavy price due to the instability in the country following its invasion in 2003. In a recent press conference, Archbishop Louis Sako, said, ‘A total of 750 Christians have been murdered in the past five years.’ ... ICC’s Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East, Jonathan Racho, stated, ‘The suffering of Iraqi Christians has been beyond description and is not yet over.’”

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.