

Friday Church News Notes

The New Y2K

Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2009 www.wayoflife.org

In 1999 there was near hysteria by many in regard to the Y2K computer bug. Prophetic speculators and doomsayers called upon people to stockpile food and guns and to otherwise prepare for a major catastrophe. Lots of money was made on the sale of fear-mongering books and survival gear. On October 11, 1998, I made the following statement: "The Year 2000 Bug will cause problems but not severe ones. There should be no hysteria about this. I have no survivalist plans. I do not believe planes will fall out of the sky or the electric grid will fail or the water system will cease to flow or the banking system will collapse or the military will dissolve into confusion. ... Many of those who are sounding the Y2K hysteria are the same scaremongers, the same prophetic speculators that have been proven
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HOMOSEXUAL "MARRIAGE" COLLIDING WITH PARENTAL AND RELIGION RIGHTS

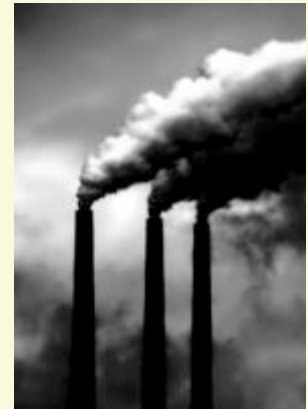
The following is excerpted from "Gay Marriage Colliding," Baptist Press, April 3, 2009: "Some say the sky hasn't fallen in the nearly five years since 'gay marriage' was legalized in Massachusetts, but Kris Mineau, a citizen and conservative activist in that state, begs to differ. Sure, he says, things may look the same on the surface, but if you dig a little deeper, you'll see dramatic cultural changes. Teachers are teaching children about homosexual families over the objections of parents. A major adoption agency has chosen to shut down rather than be forced to place children with homosexual couples. 'The sky is falling in Massachusetts in two key areas: parental rights and religious liberty,' Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, told Baptist Press. ... 'Religious liberties and the homosexual agenda are on a collision course,' said Douglas Napier [an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund], who grew up in Iowa and practiced law there for 16 years. 'I don't think anybody should think this doesn't affect them. It will affect them, and it will affect them in a very deep way.' [These cases are] but the tip of the iceberg in what has become a steady

load of controversies putting religious freedom on the line in same-sex disputes. ... 'The list goes on and on,' Mathew Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel, a religious liberty legal organization, told BP. 'Whenever you have same-sex marriage or same-sex civil unions, you end up having a clash between the same-sex agenda and freedom of religion. The two are not compatible, because the same-sex agenda seeks to force by law acceptance of its view, and that will inevitably collide with Christian values. People really need to wake up, because this, I think, is the greatest threat to our liberty that we face today--bar none.'"



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom conducts gay wedding ceremony

GLOBAL WARMING, AN ALL-CONSUMING SCAPEGOAT



The following is excerpted from OneNewsNow.co, April 9, 2009: "The author of a new book and the host of a popular website that debunks global warming science says the green agenda is all about control. Steve Milloy, the author of *Green Hell* and the host of JunkScience.com, notes his new book describes how environmentalists plan to control all aspects of life. 'They really are trying to implement a social and political agenda, which I don't think most Americans want,' he contends. Milloy describes that agenda. 'Global warming has just, for whatever reason, been the most successful scheme the greens have ever implemented.... [T]hrough global warming they can reach all of what, you know, population control has now become a global warming issue,' he contends. 'Meat production has become a global-warming issue. What color your car is? Global warming. What kind of community you can live in? ... Every aspect of our lives becomes a global-warming issue.'"

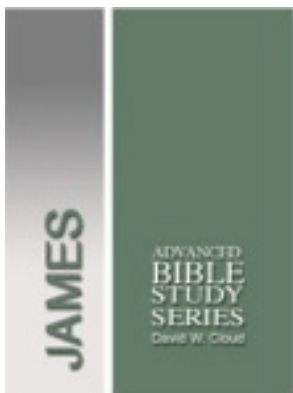
Y2K CONTINUED

wrong before.” As it turned out, the Y2K hysteria made many Christians look foolish. Now A NEW Y2K HYSTERIA is building steam. There are advertisements for emergency seed gardens; the sale of guns and ammunition, gold and silver is up dramatically. One influential fundamental Baptist preacher announced recently that “The Total Collapse of the Economy Will Result in Anarchy.” He predicted “the slide into massive national and international chaos” and said, “Every family will plant a garden or starve!” I wrote to this respected brother in Christ and said, “Have Baptist preachers started giving out prophecies now? We don’t know the future any more than David Wilkerson does. These are unsettled times, no doubt, and we know that the Bible says the last days equals perilous times, so we should always be ready for peril. But our business is fulfilling the Great Commission, and as we pursue that the Lord has promised, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.’ There is nothing unwise about planting a garden and holding some gold and silver, but there is not a lot more we can do and not a lot more that needs to be done. We plan to keep our focus on preaching the Word of God and planting churches and trust the Lord with the rest. My godly maternal grandmother told me many wonderful stories of how the Lord took care of

them through the darkest days of the Great Depression. In Christ, Bro. Cloud.” My friends, God’s people should not be characterized by panic. The apostle Paul lived under a far more brutal, unjust government than that of the Obama administration, and he didn’t panic or hide in a survival cave. When Abraham panicked and relocated to Egypt and Naomi and her husband fled to Moab, they lost a great deal because they were not living by faith. The imminent return of Christ is intended to cause us to lift up our eyes, to keep our focus on God’s business, and to provide comfort in this present evil world (Philippians 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:8-9; 1 Peter 4:7).

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Calvin College on the Emerging Path

In April, Calvin College of Grand Rapids, Michigan, held a Festival of Faith & Music that celebrated the emerging church philosophy. A “few hundred artists, musicians, critics, thinkers and listeners” convened to “discuss and discern the ways grace, love, compassion and the Christian faith are expressed in the world of popular music” (“Figuring It Out,” *Christianity Today*, April 21, 2009). Calvin College can probably say with Mark Driscoll of Mars Hills Church in Seattle, “We are theologically conservative and culturally liberal.” The school holds to a Reformed Calvinist theology, but it has jettisoned the Bible’s command to separate from the world. They have adopted the emerging philosophy of redeeming society by immersing oneself in the culture, of being a missionary to culture. Ken Heffner, Director of Student Activities at Calvin, said that Christians should “show up in the public square and do popular art and also partner with other people that are doing popular art.” The festival “operates from the assumption that popular culture is not the bad part of culture.” We wonder what pop culture they are talking about, because pop culture in North America is morally filthy and philosophically relativistic and exists in open defiance to God’s holy commands, and that is definitely BAD! Lupe Fiasco was a celebrated participant at the festival, even though “his own faith background is steeped in Islam,” his “spirituality is a smorgasbord,” and he uses profanity. Not surprisingly, one of the themes of the conference was reproving biblical fundamentalism. Heffner ridiculed Christians that have “a reputation as naysayers of

pop culture” and “separate themselves from society’s creative heartbeat” and “try to dictate what is of God and what is not.” What a pathetically confused festival this was! The Bible tells us exactly what is of God and what is not and God’s people are responsible to delineate between the holy and the unholy. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Our job is not to dialogue with culture but to preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:2). The Lord Jesus Christ was a friend of sinners, but he was holy at all times, never participated in anything sinful, preached repentance and warned about hell, and that will put a serious damper on any pop culture party! The apostle Paul was made all things to all men that he might win the more (1 Cor. 9:22; 10:33), but he also abstained from all appearance of evil, refused to be conformed to the world or unequally yoked together with unbelievers (1 Thess. 5:22; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 6:14-17). Jesus and the apostles were not rock & roll party animals! James warned, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). Do you think James and his negative preaching would be welcome to Calvin College’s Festival of Music! For an extensive critique of the emerging church’s unscriptural philosophy of delving into culture to redeem the culture see the book *What Is the Emerging Church*, which is available from Way of Life Literature.

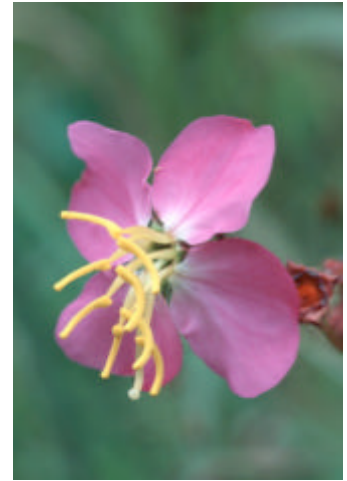


Lupe Fiasco, 2nd from left, is shown with Cornel West, 3rd from left. West is a Princeton professor who has been involved in the civil rights movement since in the 1960s.

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THE FLOWER THAT FAVORS BUMBLEBEES

The following is from Creation Moments, <http://www.creationmoments.com/radio/transcript.php?t=2346> -- “The tropical looking flower Virginia Meadow Beauty offers some rare tricks for those who would pollinate it. A honeybee can poke around the flower all day and never get any pollen from the gaudy pink flowers. In fact, researchers report that honeybees don’t seem to know what to do with the flowers. Rather, the Virginia Meadow Beauty is pollinated by bumblebees, not honeybees. The pollen of a newly opened pink flower is good only for that day. But the flowers stay open for several days. It signals the bumblebees that the pollen in old flowers are not good by changing colors. Yet, the spent flowers are serving one more purpose. Researchers report that large displays, even if mostly spent flowers, attract more bumblebees than small displays of all fresh flowers. How is it that the bumblebee can get the pollen and the honeybees can’t? They just buzz. And when a bumblebee buzzes, the flower ejects its pollen at 30 times the force of gravity--a force greater than any astronaut must endure! It’s not that the bumblebee gets the pollen because it is larger than a honeybee; no, even bumblebees no larger than the honeybee’s head can get the pollen. It’s the frequency of buzzing. The Lord has abundantly provided for the Meadow Beauty. And He has provided for your forgiveness and salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ.”



THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT (Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2009, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward” (Psalms 19:7-11).

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.