

Friday Church News Notes

Anglican Cathedral Peals Out Lennon's Atheistic Song

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The bells of the Anglican Cathedral of Liverpool pealed out John Lennon's atheistic song "Imagine" three times on May 16. A spokesperson for the cathedral said, "We feel this performance has inspired many people to think about their relationship with God in their lives" ("Imagine That," *The Daily Mail*, May 17, 2009). Indeed, many members of the Anglican Church have no problem imagining with Lennon that there is no heaven or hell. In 1994, it was reported by the *Sunday Times* (July 31) that at least 100 Anglican priests are atheists who do not believe in "an external, supernatural God." In 1996, the doctrinal commission of the Church of England said hell is not a place of fire and eternal torment, and Episcopal Bishop John Spong wrote in his paper that the image of God in the Bible is "no longer operative" (ENI, Dec. 6, 1996). In September 2008, the Church of England officially apologized to Charles Darwin for rejecting his theory of evolution ("Church Makes 'Ludicrous' Apology," *The Daily Mail*, Sept. 13, 2008). John Lennon was anti-christ. His book *A Spaniard in the Works* portrayed Jesus as El Pifico, a "garlic eating, stinking little yellow, greasy fascist ***** Catholic Spaniard." In this wicked book, Lennon further blasphemed the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the song "I Found Out," Lennon sang, "There ain't no Jesus gonna come from the sky," and in his song "God," he said, "I don't believe in Bible. I don't believe in Jesus. I just believe in me." In an interview with a British newspaper Lennon defined God in these words: "All the energy is God. Your own energy and their energy, whether doing god-like things or ungodly things" (*The Daily Sketch*, Oct. 9, 1967). Lennon and Yoko Ono were heavily involved in occultism. The books *Hellhounds on Their Trail* by Gary Patterson, *Nowhere Man: The Final Days of John Lennon* by Robert Rosen, and *Lennon in America* by Geoffrey Giuliano describe how the Lençons purchased entire sections of occult literature in bookstores, consulted tarot cards, astrologers, and psychics, learned how to cast spells, sought magical power from Egyptian artifacts, and believed in reincarnation.

PREACHING NO MATTER WHAT THE RESPONSE

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season..." (2 Timothy 4:2). We are to proclaim God's Word no matter how the people respond, and the prophets of old were a great example in this matter. God told Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and others that Israel would not listen to them, but they preached anyway. Oftentimes in the church age, as well, God's people have proclaimed the gospel with little results. Adoniram Judson (right) preached in Burma for six years before he had his first Burmese convert and after 12 years had only 18 converts. William Carey proclaimed the gospel for seven years in India, Robert Morrison for seven years in China, and Henry Richard for seven years in the Congo before they saw their first converts. Robert Moffatt labored for eight years in Kuruman (the northern cape of South Africa) before he saw his first convert. The first American Congregational missionaries preached in Thailand from 1831 to 1849 without one convert, and American Presbyterians labored in the same country for another 18 years before they saw their first convert. "And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee" (Ezekiel 2:7-8).



SPENDING REAL MONEY IN AN IMAGINARY WORLD



It has been reported that \$5 billion was spent in 2008 on "virtual goods" in Asia such as subscriptions to gaming services and the purchase of virtual property in online worlds similar to Second Life. The amount spent in the U.S. is less but is increasing quickly. Several Chinese online game companies are listed on NASDAQ and the New York Stock Exchange, and they have profit margins between 30% to 70% ("Virtual Goods in Asia," Plus8Star.com, April 8, 2009). The incredible amount of money spent on the pursuit of pleasure and escapism in modern society is a sign of the times. The Bible says that men in the last days will be "lovers of pleasures" (2 Timothy 3:4). God's people must not follow this foolish pattern.

COUNTRY MUSIC: SINGING ABOUT THE LIGHT BUT NOT SUBMITTING TO IT

The following report on the life and death of the country music giant Hank Williams, Sr. is excerpted from “Dead in the Back Seat of His Cadillac from Drug Overdose!” by Don Boys, *Preacher Helps*, May 2009, DBoysphd@aol.com: “Country singer Hank Williams, Sr. held the world in his grasp then lost it all in the back seat of his Cadillac dying from a drug overdose on New Year’s Day, 1953. He was age 29. His long-time manager Merle Kilgore called him, ‘the most cocky, confident man I ever met in my life.’ ... He was often drunk or drugged. ... His song ‘How Can You Refuse Him Now?’ reveals his knowledge of salvation. The chorus asked, ‘... how can you turn away from His side/ with tears in His eyes on the cross there He died/ How can you refuse Jesus now?’ Hank evidently refused Him. He wrote his famous ‘I Saw the Light’ in 1948 [and] often sang the song as if he was a man facing the end, desperate to believe in a salvation that he didn’t think existed. Was he trying to convince himself of the reality of the Gospel? He sang: ‘I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin; I wouldn’t ask my dear Saviour in. Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night; Praise the Lord, I saw the light!’ ...

Near the end of his life, he was doing a show in San Diego but stumbled off stage drunk after only two songs. His friend, country performer Minnie Pearl ... got him to join her in singing ‘I Saw the Light,’ thinking it might help sober him, but after one verse Hank put his head in his hands and said, ‘O Minnie, Minnie, I don’t see no light. There ain’t no light.’ ... On Jan. 1, 1953, Williams died in the back seat of his car on the way to a concert in Charleston, WV. ... More than 20,000 people attended his funeral on Jan. 4 at Montgomery’s (AL) Municipal Auditorium where an overflow crowd listened via loudspeakers. Roy Acuff sang ‘I Saw the Light’ as Hank’s body lay in front of him in its casket. Acuff was joined by Bill Monroe, Little Jimmie Dickens, Carl Smith, Red Foley, Webb Pierce and others. ... Williams is buried in Montgomery, AL, and across the front of his huge tombstone are the words, ‘Praise the Lord, I Saw the Light.’ What a tragedy that a man could talk, write, and sing about seeing the light, and never see it and apparently die in darkness.” “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).



JIMMY CARTER SAYS DISHARMONY AMONG CHRISTIANS IS “LIKE A CANCER”

Speaking at a New Baptist Covenant regional meeting in April, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter likened disharmony among Christians to “a cancer metastasizing in the body of Christ.” He said it is enough to believe that salvation is “by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ,” and that other issues should be “put aside” (“Jimmy Carter,” *The Christian Post*, April 27, 2009). It makes us wonder why the Lord gave us such a large Bible, if most of it is of little or no consequence! The April 25-26 meeting at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was one of a series of regional conferences that were launched out of the January 2008 New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta that brought together 15,000 Baptists representing more than 30 denominations and organizations. Jimmy Carter is a deeply confused man who does not believe the Bible. The only thing that is likened to a cancer in the New Testament Scriptures is false teaching. The Apostle Paul sounded the following warning: “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” (2 Timothy 2:16-18). In fact, the apostle could have been referring to men like Jimmy Carter who have spiritualized the return of Christ through allegorical interpretation of Bible prophecy. For our eye-witness report of the New Baptist Covenant Celebration see “The New Baptist Covenant: A Celebration in Liberalism” at the Way of Life web site.

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EMERGING CHURCH LEADER WANTS END-TIME BELIEVING CHRISTIANS “ROBUSTLY CONFRONTED”

The following is excerpted from Lighthouse Trails, May 4, 2009: “If you are a Christian who believes that the Bible is God’s inspired Word and believe that Jesus Christ will be coming again, you are being marginalized. And you might not even know it. It may surprise you to know where this marginalization is coming from. We’re not speaking of the world today . . . we are talking about people who say they are Christians and who happen to be very influential. In fact, one of them, Rick Warren, was just named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the entire world. In an April 2009 article in *Sojourner’s* magazine emerging church leader Brian McLaren clearly has targeted Christians who believe Jesus Christ is coming back again, suggesting that this type of Christian is the reason there is no peace in the Middle East. He says what these end-time believing Christians are doing is ‘terrible,’ ‘deadly,’ and ‘distorted.’ McLaren says that he grew up with a dispensational view (the belief that Jesus Christ will return and establish his kingdom on earth) but has come to

realize this view is ‘morally and ethically harmful.’ He likens this belief system to racism in the 50s and 60s. . . . Others have joined McLaren in this effort to silence and marginalize biblical Christians. Rick Warren’s chief apologist (and we were told a staff member at Saddleback) recently posted an article on the Internet that said ministries that defend the faith (he referenced Lighthouse Trails) were like mentally unstable cultists, ‘who are not normal people, average complainers, critics and typical dissidents who are generally unhappy about life itself . . . they are deadly.’ Tony Campolo, in his book *Speaking My Mind*, says that ‘rigid Christians who believe in the possibility of Jesus’ soon return’ are ‘the real problem for the whole world.’ .. In his book *Vintage Jesus*, Mark Driscoll ridicules Christians who believe there will be an Armageddon and a rapture (pp. 44, 157).”

VACUUM CLEANER LUNGS

The following is from Creation Moments, <http://www.creationmoments.com/radio/transcript.php?t=2441>: The air we breathe has always been filled with dust particles. And whether it is dust blown off the ground, smoke particles, or tiny particles of fabric or even paper in the house, these particles find their way deep into our lungs. In His wisdom, our Creator has provided us with tiny, but effective ‘vacuum cleaners’ in our lungs that collect and remove the particles that enter the lungs. These “vacuum cleaner” cells are actually a specific type of macrophage. They work in the deepest part of the lung, reaching out with tubular extensions to engulf any particle in much the same way that an amoeba eats. This ‘vacuum cleaner’ essentially eats the particles it finds, and every one of these ‘vacuum cleaner’ cells can clean an area forty times its own size. Scientists say that they still do not fully understand whether certain particles, like poisonous heavy metals, affect the working of these cells. They suspect that certain particles may prevent these ‘vacuum cleaners’ from effectively doing their work.”

BEWARE OF THE FALSE TEACHER HENRY WRIGHT AND HIS TOTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Henry Wright, pastor of Pleasant Valley Church, Thomaston, Georgia, and head of a ministry called Be In Health, claims that all sickness has a spiritual root. Such things such as aneurysms, strokes, hemorrhoids, and varicose veins, for example, are supposedly caused by fear and anxiety. He misuses both Scripture and medical science to “prove” his points. His web site says, “We are dedicated to the eradication and prevention of all spiritual, psychological, and biological disease,” and, “God’s perfect will is that you don’t get sick.” To the contrary, the apostle Paul himself had a sickness that God refused to remove (2 Cor. 12:7-10). The wise apostle concluded, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Cor. 12:10). The word “infirmities” is the Greek word “astheneia,” which is elsewhere translated “disease” (Acts 28:9) and “sickness” (Jn. 11:4). The faithful preacher Timothy was physically weak and often sick, and Paul did not offer him a perfect health program (1 Tim. 5:23). Paul had to leave his co-worker Trophimus behind in Miletum because he was sick and God did not heal him (2 Tim. 4:20). One distraught wife wrote to Rick Miesel of Biblical Discernment Ministries in November 2002 and explained how that her husband had attended Wright’s seminar and had come home “saying that sin is a demon, cancer is bitterness, diseases mostly have spiritual roots, anything less than 70 years on this planet is a curse, etc.” Wright said at the seminar, “Beware when you get home because Satan will try and use the person closest to you to make you doubt what we have taught you.” There was no warning at the seminar to test everything by God’s Word, to “prove all things” and to hold fast only to that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:21). To the contrary, the man was taught to receive the teaching without criticism. When his wife called him and asked if he was using biblical discernment, he gave the very foolish and dangerous reply, “I will not slander these people by disagreeing with them.”

BEWARE OF AMUSING CHILDREN WITH TV/VIDEOS

The following is excerpted from *Training Your Children to Turn out Right*, an excellent book by David Sorenson (Northstar Ministries, 1820 W. Morgan St., Duluth, MN 55811, 218-726-0209, www.northstarministries.com, dhs.northstar@charter.net) -- "I am convinced that discipline of the mind itself is a major key to learning. ... Parents are guilty on two scores here. First, many a parent errs by encouraging shallow habits of entertainment. Children are allowed and even encouraged to sit and watch TV entertainment. Let us assume that what they watch is not spiritually and morally harmful (though often it is). Yet, they are allowed to essentially place their minds in neutral. They are tacitly encouraged to just sit there and be entertained. The word 'amuse' is made up of the basic word 'muse' which means to think and the alpha prefix 'a' which means to negate or 'not.' Therefore, to 'amuse' one's self essentially means too not think. And that is exactly what an entire generation of American children are doing. Whether it is cartoons, or videos, or other video entertainment, many children are tacitly encouraged to seek to be amused. Children are conditioned to be mentally lazy and pursue only what entertains their little minds. When it comes to buckling down and actually concentrating, they just shift gears mentally back into neutral and seek something to entertain themselves again. Secondly, parents are guilty of not taking the initiative and [training the children] themselves, sitting them down and training their minds to concentrate on things which may not be interesting to them but are things which they ought to learn" (*Training Your Children to Turn Out Right*, 1995, pp. 53, 54).

WHEN THE DESERT SHALL BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:1-10).



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.