

# Friday Church News Notes

## Egyptian Coins with Joseph's Image Discovered

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The following is excerpted from "Archaeologists Find 'Joseph-era' Coins," *Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 25, 2009: "Archeologists have discovered ancient Egyptian coins bearing the name and image of the biblical Joseph, Cairo's *Al Ahram* newspaper recently reported. Excerpts provided by MEMRI show that the coins were discovered among a multitude of unsorted artifacts stored at the Museum of Egypt. ... 'A thorough examination revealed that the coins bore the year in which they were minted and their value, or effigies of the pharaohs [who ruled] at the time of their minting. Some of the coins are from the time when Joseph lived in Egypt, and bear his name and portrait,' said the report."



## CHRISTIAN COUPLE IN ENGLAND ARRESTED FOR DEFENDING THEIR FAITH TO MUSLIMS

The following is excerpted from "Christian Hotel Owners Hauled Before Court," *Daily Mail*, Sept. 20, 2009: "A Christian couple have been charged with a criminal offence after taking part in what they regarded as a reasonable discussion about religion with guests at their hotel. Ben and Sharon Vogelenzang were arrested after a Muslim woman complained to police that she had been offended by their comments. They have been charged under public order laws with using 'threatening, abusive or insulting words' that were 'religiously aggravated'. The couple, whose trial has been set for December, face a fine of up to £5,000 and a criminal record if they are convicted. Although the facts are disputed, it is thought that during the conversation the couple were challenged over their Christian beliefs. It is understood that they suggested that Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was a warlord and that traditional Muslim dress for women was a form of bondage. They deny, however, that their comments were threatening and argue that they had every right to defend and explain their beliefs. Mrs Vogelenzang, 54, who has run the Bounty House Hotel near Aintree racecourse in Liverpool with her husband Ben, 53, for six years, said: 'Nothing like this has happened to us before. We are completely shocked.' She added that the episode had damaged their business and they had been forced to lay off staff and run the nine-bedroom hotel by themselves, leaving them exhausted. ... The use by the police of the Public Order Act to arrest people over offensive comments has dismayed a number of lawyers, who say the legislation was passed to deal with law and order problems in the streets."



## ELEVEN MILLION IRISH AMERICANS LEAVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Sex Scandals to Blame*

The following is excerpted from "Holy Mess," *IrishCentral.com*, Sept. 25, 2009: "A new survey shows 34 million Americans, or 15 percent of the population, say they have no religion. Even more significant is that one-third of those, about 11 million people, are Irish Americans. The survey by professors at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, does not explain why Irish Catholics are by far the highest number of people who are losing their religion every year in America. ... Why are so many Irish Catholics leaving the faith? The obvious reason to me is the church sex scandals. They disproportionately affected Irish Catholics and most of the abusers we read about were Irish Catholic priests. Certainly, based on evidence from Ireland where hundreds of thousands have fled the church and vocations have plummeted after the church scandals there, America with a similar experience is unlikely to be any different."



## EX-MUSLIMS ASK FOR GOVERNMENT PROTECTION

The following is excerpted from "Muslim 'Apostates,'" *Washington Times*, Sept. 25, 2009: "Five ex-Muslims who founded a group called Former Muslims United put out a public appeal Thursday to the U.S. government for protection, saying the lives of thousands of 'apostates from Islam' are in peril. Speaking at a Capitol Hill press conference, the Granada Hills, Calif., group cited the case of Fathima Rifqa Bary, a 17-year-old from Ohio who converted to Christianity four years ago. She fled to Florida this past summer in fears that her parents would murder her for "honor" reasons. Her father, the girl said in a court filing, had already threatened to kill her. ... Syrian-born Wafa Sultan, one of the five founders of the group, has received death threats, the group said, going on to predict that cases will increase and worsen as a generation of U.S.-native Muslims, born mostly to immigrant parents, reach adulthood. 'We are going to have a lot more Rifqa Barys in America because the kids are rebelling,' said Nonie Darwish, the Egyptian-born director of the group. 'I know families in Los Angeles whose kids are not attending mosque and their parents are threatening them.' ... Islamic law mandates death for adult male apostates. Female apostates are imprisoned for life or sometimes killed. If one member of a married couple leaves Islam, the marriage is declared void and the apostate loses custody of any children. ... 'There is a tendency to downplay the dangers of Shariah law and the creeping Islamization of the West,' said the Pakistani-born author Ibn Warraq, author of the 2003 book 'Leaving Islam.' 'The left tends to be very critical of Christianity but not of Islam,' he added. 'Islam gets away with it.' ... Mrs. Darwish said she had reported personal threats to the FBI but that nothing was done. 'We in America are scared for our lives,' she said. 'No other religion on earth demands the death of those who leave it--except the mafia. And at least you choose to enter the mafia. But you are born into Islam.'"



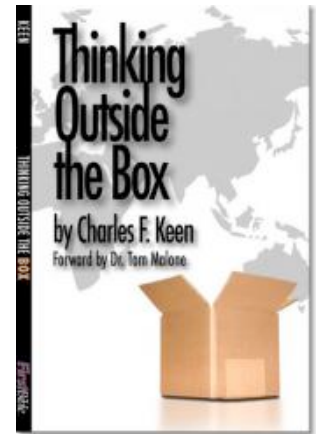
## THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND EUGENICS

The following is excerpted from "Eugenics Impulse Alive and Well on SCOTUS," *UncommonDescent.com*, Sept. 25, 2009: "In the infamous case of *Buck v. Bell* the court considered a Virginia law authorizing the forced sterilization of mentally challenged people. The state proposed to use the law to sterilize Carrie Buck on the ground that she was feeble minded and thus a genetic threat to society. The court upheld the law, and Ms. Buck was in fact forcibly sterilized, as were tens of thousands of other people across the nation after *Buck v. Bell* was decided. In his opinion upholding the law [Oliver Wendell] Holmes wrote: 'It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes.' Famously, Holmes concluded his argument with the phrase: 'Three generations of imbeciles are enough.' *Buck v. Bell* has NEVER been overturned. It remains the law of the land in the United States of America. To be sure, forced sterilization of the mentally challenged is currently out of fashion among legislators and the last such procedure was performed in 1981. But what if eugenics were to make a legislative comeback, perhaps in response to a crime wave. Would the current United States Supreme Court follow *Buck v. Bell*? Yes, I am afraid it would if Ruth Bader Ginsburg is to be believed. In a recent interview Ginsburg was asked what she thought of the lack of federal funding for abortions. She replied: '... Frankly I had thought that at the time *Roe* was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don't want to have too many of.' Scary stuff that. Does anyone else get a chill down their spine when a high ranking official of their government starts talking about controlling the growth of 'populations that we don't want to have too many of'?"

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST ECUMENISM, PART II: ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

Last week we warned about the New Evangelical doctrine that permeates the book “Thinking Outside the Box” by Independent Baptist leader Charles Keen. Another of these is the division of truth into essential and non-essential and the idea that unity and world evangelism is more important than “non-essential” doctrinal differences. Consider the following excerpt: “I’m a slow learner, but I finally realized that not all truth is of equal value. Some truths I differ from others and divide over even die for (as least I should). With others, I might be uncomfortable with how they are handled by my brethren, but I can still fellowship with them either personally or in some cases, ecclesiastically. We need to develop some ‘ecumenicalism within the parameters of fundamentalism.’ ... Let’s decide who the enemies of the cross are and divide from them. Then let’s decide who the friends of grace are and tolerate them. We don’t have to unite but we do need unity” (p. 81). While we know that Bible doctrines are not equal in importance (e.g., John 3:16 is more important than 1 Corinthians 11:14-15), every teaching of Scripture has some importance and nowhere are we taught to despise anything God has said, not for the sake of an Independent Baptist unity or world missions or any other reason. Paul taught Timothy to keep the truth “without spot” until Jesus comes (1 Timothy 6:14). That refers to small, seemingly insignificant details. That part of the truth that we should defend is that part that happens to be under attack in the present time, regardless of how supposed “non-essential”

it is. Personally, I believe that Romans 12:2 (“be not conformed to this world”) and 1 John 2:15-17 (“love not the world”) are very essential. The same is true for what God’s Word says about music or modest attire or ecclesiology or repentance or preservation or any other thing. Rather than tolerating and unifying with, we should separate from those that are promoting such things as sensual contemporary worship and “Christian” rock, that are throwing away modest dress standards, that are affiliating with the unabashed New Evangelical Southern Baptist Convention (a denomination that is rife with emerging church heresies), and that are promoting the heresy of modern textual criticism and its denial of biblical preservation. An hour in which compromise is running as deep as the Grand Canyon among Independent Baptists, an hour in which many are heading pell-mell toward the Southern Baptist Convention and the emerging church, is not an hour to discredit separation and to call for a “fundamentalist ecumenism.” Not for world missions or for any other reason.



## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST ECUMENISM, PART III: RECOMMENDING THE WRONG BOOKS

Returning to a final look at Charles Keen’s book “Thinking Outside the Box,” there are loud warning signs, too, in the Recommended Reading section. This is said to have been “prepared and furnished by David Parker of Milford, Ohio.” The list includes a biography of the neo-orthodox Dietrich Bonhoeffer, three books by the charismatic ecumenist Jim Cymbala, eight books by the Hyper-Calvinist John Piper, two by the radically ecumenical World Vision, six by George Verwer, the radically ecumenical founder of Operation Mobilization, an organization shot through and through with charismatic error, and six books published by InterVarsity Press, which is at the forefront of the emerging church. IVP and Zondervan sponsor the annual National Pastor’s Conferences that push the emerging church agenda. I attended the one this past February in San Diego with press credentials, and it was a breathtaking mishmash of heresy and compromise. I do not know of even one book by InterVarsity Press that I could recommend with a clear conscience. Dr. Keen gives absolutely no warning about these dangerous books. If fundamental Baptists read deeply of New Evangelicals and Ecumenists, they will doubtless imbibe their compromise. In fact, it all comes back to separation! “Be not deceived: evil companions corrupt good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33). “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

## BLESS THE LORD AND FORGET NOT ALL OF HIS BENEFITS

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Psalms 103:1-5).

## THE GOOD CAUSE SYNDROME

The following is excerpted from John Ashbrook, *Axioms of Separation* (Mentor, OH: Here I Stand Books, n.d.): “In 2 Chronicles 18, godless Ahab trapped godly Jehoshaphat with the ‘good cause’ syndrome. The Syrians held the border town of Ramoth-gilead. For the safety of both Israel and Judah, that town needed to be secured. On the basis of that good cause Jehoshaphat joined with Ahab. Jehoshaphat's faith was compromised as he listened to Ahab's false prophets. With a believer's discernment he saw that they were not men of God. A true prophet, Micaiah, was summoned to the scene and spoke the truth; but, by that time, Jehoshaphat was so enmeshed with his compromise that he stood with Ahab instead of Micaiah. Compromise ties your tongue so that you cannot rebuke evil. As Charles Spurgeon said, ‘Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it.’ God, in His grace, delivered Jehoshaphat. However, when King Jehoshaphat arrived home at Jerusalem, God sent Jehu the prophet to meet him as a reception committee with the words” ‘Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from the Lord’ (2 Chron. 19:2). Jehoshaphat's kingdom was never the same after that. I think he would have denied loving Ahab. He might have said that he could hardly stand him. But, he said ‘Yes,’ when he should have said ‘No.’ ... I read somewhere that ‘evangelism is the soft underbelly of fundamentalism.’ That is true. ... The line which has trapped more pastors into some endeavor of ecumenical evangelism is, ‘Brother, this is for the cause of souls.’ Do not allow any cause, even the cause of souls, to lead you into disobedience to God's command. There is one more practical thing to remember on the ‘good cause’ syndrome. You can be for or against a cause without joining anything. You do not have to join Right to Life to fight abortion. You need not join a society to fight communism or an association to be against pornography. ... Missions, movements, and evangelistic efforts will come to you seeking your support. Some of them will appear to have good policies, but they do not want to declare themselves separatists. Beware! Actively reproofing apostasy is a part of biblical separation. If any group will not pay that price it will lead to the assembling of a mixed multitude.”

### 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, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).