

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



TENNESSEE TEMPLE TO CLOSE ITS DOORS



Tennessee Temple University of Chattanooga, Tennessee, has announced that it is closing after almost 70 years of operation and will merge with Piedmont International University of Winston-Salem, NC, thus reaching the end of the death spiral it has been on since the 1990s. My wife and I graduated from Temple the 1970s. In those days there were over 3,000 students in the Bible school, college and seminary (2,200 in the dorms), and the average Sunday School attendance at Highland Park Baptist Church was about 4,500. The founding vision to reach the world for Christ permeated everything. Half of the church's income was given to church planting and world missions. The annual missions conferences featured 80-100 missionaries. Hundreds of

Temple graduates dedicated their lives to world missions and preached the gospel in the far-flung corners of the earth. Great changes came in the 1990s, with the introduction of rock music and a "broader" evangelical philosophy. By April 2005, Highland Park and Tennessee Temple were rocking out, no holds barred, with a concert featuring the ecumenical Bebo Norman, Fernando Ortega, and Sara Groves, held in Highland Park's main auditorium. In about 2006 emerging church leader Dallas Willard taught the Spring Lecture Series at Temple. Willard believes that "it is possible for someone who does not know Jesus to be saved" ("Apologetics in Action," *Cutting Edge* magazine, Winter 2001). He rejects the infallible inspiration of Scripture, saying, "Jesus and his words have never belonged to the categories of dogma or law, and to read them as if they did is simply

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LARRY KING DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD BUT WANTS TO "GRAB" AT LIFE AFTER DEATH

Television talk show host Larry King says he doesn't believe in God or life after death, but he wants to make a "grab after" it anyway through the bogus science of cryonics. In an interview on the *Breakfast Club* radio program in New York City, Feb. 19, the 81-year-old said, "I'm not religious, so I believe when you die you die and that's it. [But] I'm so curious, and I like living and so I want one little chance. If I'm frozen and then they find a cure for whatever I died of and they could cure me ... It's the one way grab at eternity to live. I don't want to not



exist. I think it's the biggest fear people have. ... I'm probably an atheist. Ah, I respect religion. ... [But] I don't buy it. I think the only reason for religion is death." King said that the main reason he doesn't believe in God is "probably not getting answers to questions. The simple answer you get all the time is when you ask why does a baby die? Why is there a holocaust?" Contrary to what Larry King says, the evidence for God is literally everywhere. *Everywhere!* As for the problem of evil events, the condition of this world can be laid on man's shoulders, not God's.

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It is man who rebelled against God, not God who rebelled against man. The Bible reveals the secrets of man's heart, saying the atheist is willfully blind because he does not want to submit to God's authority. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:20-21). "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD" (Proverbs 19:3).

HOME SCHOOLERS TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE STRONGER IN THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH THAN PUBLIC SCHOOLERS

The following is excerpted from "Study finds homeschoolers less likely to leave faith," Christian News Network, Feb. 16, 2015: "The recently-released findings from an in-depth study of nearly 10,000 young adults show that Millennials who were homeschooled are less likely to leave the faith than individuals who attended private or public schools. Late last month, Generations with Vision and the National Home Education Research Institute published the results of their Gen2 Survey. The study explores the correlations between different educational methods and the spiritual decisions of Millennials who were raised in the church. ... Using a sample size of 9,369, 18 to 38 38-year-olds who were church-ed while growing up, the Gen2 Survey collected data on Millennials' educational backgrounds, worldviews, and religious beliefs. The study found that individuals who were homeschooled, attended church regularly, and had good relationships with their parents were most likely to remain involved in the Christian faith. ... 87% of study participants who were homeschooled said they have strong Christian beliefs. ... Statistically, homeschooled young adults were six times as likely to be believers and seven times as likely to be stronger in their Christian beliefs as Millennials attending private schools. **Homeschooled Millennials were also two times as likely to be stronger in Christian beliefs as those who attended**

Christian schools or public schools. ... Kevin Swanson, director of Generations with Vision, said the Gen2 Survey is 'vitaly important,' because 'it comes just as the largest numbers on historical record are migrating away from the Christian faith. Some other surveys indicate as many as 70-90% of millennials and mosaics are leaving the Christian church,' Swanson said. 'This is a major spiritual collapse.' One of the best ways to fend off the widespread secularism and apostasy of our culture is through homeschooling, Swanson contended. ... 'If your children are disciplined in a Muslim mosque or by NBC, ABC, CBS, or Facebook for 35 hours a week, they can generally be expected to take on the faith that disciplines them,' he asserted. 'If they are disciplined by parents or pastors for 35 hours a week, they will generally walk in the ways in which they are disciplined. It really is that simple.'"



GRANDMOTHER FLORIST REFUSES ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMPROMISE

The following is excerpted from "Flower Power," Todd Starnes, *Fox News*, Feb. 23, 2015: "Barronelle Stutzman, a Washington State florist who declined to provide flowers for a gay wedding, has rejected a deal by the attorney general's office that would've forced her to betray her religious beliefs--much like Judas betrayed Jesus. "You are asking me to walk in the way of a well-known betrayer, one who sold something of infinite worth for 30 pieces of silver," Stutzman wrote in a letter to state Attorney General Bob Ferguson. 'That is something I will not do.' Ferguson had offered to settle the case if she paid a \$2,000 penalty for violating the Consumer Protection Act, a \$1 payment for costs and fees, and agreed not to discriminate in the future. 'My primary goal has always been to bring about an end to the defendant's unlawful conduct and to make clear that I will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation,' Ferguson said in a prepared statement. On Feb. 18 a judge ruled Stutzman had violated the law by refusing to provide flowers for the same-sex wedding of a longtime customer. The state had not only gone after the flower shop but also Stutzman

personally. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), the religious liberty law firm representing Stutzman, said legal bills could be as high as seven figures. 'He's using the full power of his office to personally and professionally destroy her,' ADF attorney Kristen Waggoner told me. But the 70-year-old Southern Baptist grandmother said she will not violate her religious beliefs--no matter what. If that means losing her house - so be it. 'I certainly don't relish the idea of losing my business, my homes and everything else that your lawsuit threatens to take from my family, but my freedom to honor God in doing what I do best is more important,' Stutzman wrote in a letter to the attorney general. She said the attorney general simply does not understand her or what the conflict is all about. 'It's about freedom, not money,' she said. 'You chose to attack my faith and pursue this not simply as a matter of law, but to threaten my very means of working, eating and having a home.'"



SELFIE DEATHS

Several people have died while taking selfie photos. While there is nothing inherently wrong with taking a photo of oneself, there can be no doubt that the selfie craze is a sign of the times, being an evidence of the "me, me, me" generation. I love photography and I get to take photos of beautiful places in many parts of the world, and everywhere I go I see people who are too busy taking pictures of themselves to study the scenery! The latest victim of the selfie madness was an unidentified man who was killed on Feb. 21 in Washington State when he was so busy posing for a selfie on a railroad track that he didn't notice an oncoming train. Other victims include 17-year-old Xenia Ignatyeva, who fell from a bridge in Saint Petersburg, Russia; Courtney Sanford, who died in a car crash apparently while taking a selfie; Puerto Rican reggae musician Jadiel (Ramon Gonzalez), who died in a motorcycle crash moments after taking a selfie; Oscar Otero Aguilar, who accidentally shot himself while taking a selfie using a gun as a prop; 13-year-old Karen Hernandez, who fell into a river and drowned while taking a selfie; a 21-year-old man in Spain, who was electrocuted while trying to take a selfie from the top of a moving train; two men, who were trampled to death in the Kiptagich Forest in Africa while trying to take a selfie while holding on to an elephant's trunk; a Polish nursing student, who fell off a bridge in Seville, Spain; a 16-year-old Italian girl, who fell 60 feet from a cliff while taking a selfie; and a Polish couple on vacation in Portugal, who fell off a cliff while taking a selfie. Meanwhile, two unidentified Iranian women who had a car crash while taking a selfie while singing karaoke survived and took another selfie on the way to the hospital!



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to miss the point" (*The Divine Conspiracy*, p. xiii) By 2008, Highland Park had joined the Southern Baptist Convention. In 2012, Highland Park Baptist Church became the Church of the Highlands to reflect a location change as well as its new generic contemporary philosophy. Jeremy Roberts, Highland Park's 28-year-old Southern Baptist pastor, said, "It'll be the funnest church around" ("Chattanooga's Iconic Highland Park," *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, Sept. 10, 2012). In the book *The Old Highland Park Baptist Church*, we have documented some of the reasons for the downfall of this institution as a warning to others. It is available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org. Pastor Terry Coomer, who attended Temple in the 1970s, commented to me as follows: "It is a sad time for all those who have attended and received degrees. New Evangelicalism leads people to destruction a little bit at a time and they do not even realize it is happening. As you know, when people go down this path they are defiant. They will not listen to correction. How many warnings did they receive? They have defied themselves into destruction!"



THE KANGAROO'S HOP

The following is from
CreationMoments.com,
February 25, 2015:

"Those who believe that all living things are the product of millions of years of evolution tell us that living things develop features that aid their survival. They are quick to point out how some unusual feature of a plant or animal aids in its survival. That's why it's noteworthy that evolutionists cannot explain why kangaroos hop. The kangaroo has several special designs built into it that make hopping its most efficient form of transportation. For example, every time it hits the ground, 70 percent of the kangaroo's downward energy is stored in its tendons to be released for the next hop. By contrast, a running human only stores 20 percent of this energy. Also, kangaroos are designed in such a way that it is actually easier for them to breathe when hopping than when standing still. With each hop, the kangaroo's organs move within its body, pushing air out of its lungs. It uses its muscles only to inhale. Add all these features together and the faster a kangaroo goes, the less energy it uses for the same distance! If the kangaroo didn't have these special designs, hopping wouldn't be an advantage to it. At the same time, if the kangaroo originally didn't hop, its special design features would be of no value. In other words, the kangaroo is a complete package of special designs that had to come into existence all at the same time ... just as it left the hands of a wise Creator."

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.