

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

EUTHANASIA MADNESS IN THE NETHERLANDS

A Dutch woman in her 20s was euthanized recently after her doctors and psychiatrists concluded that “the woman’s post-traumatic stress disorder and physical health were incurable” (“Child sex abuse victim in 20s euthanised,” *International Business Times*, May 11, 2016). The woman, who was said to have suffered abuse between age five to 15, suffered from “severe anorexia, chronic depression, suicidal mood swings, tendencies to self-harm, hallucinations, obsessions and compulsions.” It could be her psychiatrists and their drugs who turned the poor woman into such a basket case. Though she had been showing some signs of progress, her psychiatrist concluded that “there is no prospect or hope for her.” So much for the power of psychiatry. There would have been wonderful hope for her in Jesus Christ! Even humanly and naturalistically speaking, there is no reason why she could not have found some level of healing as many others have. In Britain, Labour MP Robert Ffello rightly condemned the death and said that “it serves to reinforce why any move towards legalising assisted suicide, or assisted dying, is dangerous.” Tory MP Fiona Bruce added, “What this woman needed, at a desperate point in her young life, was help and support to overcome her problems, not the option of euthanasia.” Amen.



PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE DOCTRINE IN DECLINE

According to a new survey, only 28% of preachers 45 years old and younger hold to a Pre-tribulation Rapture. This compares to 36% of preachers overall. The survey of 1,000 pastors was done by Lifeway Research. Less than half believe the Antichrist is a literal figure who will arise in the future. Of Baptist pastors, 75% believe in a literal Antichrist; of Lutherans 29%, of Methodists 28%, and of Presbyterian/Reformed 31%.

PALESTINIAN MUSEUM AS EMPTY AS THE PALESTINIAN CLAIM TO ISRAEL’S LAND

The following is from “Oh, the Irony!” *Israel Today*, May 22, 2016: “The Palestinian Authority last week officially opened The Palestinian Museum of Art, History and Culture just outside their de facto capital of Ramallah. Now, as those who take historical accuracy seriously are aware, the people today known as ‘Palestinian’ Arabs bear no distinction from the Arabs living in the nations roundabout, nations that only gained their current borders and distinct nationalities in the past century. As

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Palestinian Museum Opens With No Exhibits

such, there is no distinct ‘Palestinian’ history or culture. And, so, it was absolutely fitting that The Palestinian Museum of Art, History and Culture opened its doors with NO EXHIBITS. The facility, which cost a whopping \$24 million, was described as modern and luxurious by *The New York Times*. The newspaper spoke to the museum’s chairman, Omar al-Qattan, who confirmed that he had opened the doors of an empty building. But, al-Qattan insisted, the move was of symbolic importance. He and other Palestinian officials said they hope at some point to put actual exhibits in the museum.”

IRAN MILITARY COMMANDER BOASTS OF ABILITY TO DESTROY ISRAEL

A top military official in Iran boasted that if given the order they could destroy Israel in eight minutes. Ahmad Karimpour, senior advisor to the elite al-Quds force, said, “If the Supreme Leader’s orders [are] to be executed, with the abilities and the equipment at our disposal, we will raze the Zionist regime in less than eight minutes” (“Iranian Commander,” *The Times of Israel*, May 22, 2016). In March, Iran tested ballistic missiles emblazoned with the words “Israel must be wiped off the map.” Last year, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei tweeted that Israel “will not see the next 25 years.” This is delusional, for the Bible says that Israel cannot be destroyed and that is her God-given land. Her judgments at God’s hand during the “times of the Gentiles” as prophesied in Deuteronomy 28 will be completed during the reign of the Antichrist and the conversion prophesied in Deuteronomy 30:6 will occur and a truly spiritual Israel will be at the heart of Christ’s kingdom. Israel is back in the land, praise the Lord, and it is an exciting thing for Bible believers, but she is far from “circumcised in heart” at this time.

AUNT PUDGIE’S PASTOR AND REPENTANCE

I received the following reply to “Paul’s Doctrine of Repentance” in last week’s Friday News Notes, “I want to reply to ‘Paul’s Doctrine of Repentance!’ I hate it when you can hear gospel presentations after gospel presentations and never hear the word ‘Repent!’ I see repentance as a necessity not an option. Jesus told men to repent (Luke 13:1-5)! Paul told men to repent (Acts 17:30; II Cor. 7:10; Rom. 2:4)! Peter told men to repent (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; II Pet. 3:9)! It is sad when professed Bible-believing preachers are no better than my late Great Aunt Pudgie’s United Methodist Pastor from the 1980’s. When he would read the word ‘repent’ in the Bible he would say, ‘There’s that word that I don’t like!’ I am sorry to say this, but that is not a word to cut out or dislike but rather a word that we ought to obey! Repent!” (For more on repentance and salvation see *Sowing and Reaping: A Course in Evangelism*, available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.)

AND EVERY MAN

“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, AND EVERY MAN” (Genesis 7:21). Here the Scripture emphasizes the fact that every man, every single individual, died in the Flood. It says that all the beasts died, but then it says that every man died. This is to emphasize the fact that men are made in God’s image and have eternal souls. The beasts that died in the Flood could be lumped together in one group, but man is different. Each man is made by God, formed in the womb by God, known of God, loved of God, dealt with by God, given light by God (John 1:9). God would save every man, and every man can be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-6). God was longsuffering before the Flood (1 Peter 3:19-20). Prophets like Enoch and Noah preached (2 Peter 2:5). The people had no excuse. They willfully and wickedly rejected the compassionate Creator and His holy laws, and they remained steadfast in their stubborn rebellion to the very end. The wicked today

still blame God for the destruction of the old world. They either mock and disbelieve the Flood or they slander God for bringing the Flood. This is because they do not know and fear God. They know not His almighty power nor His wonderful compassion nor His longsuffering nor His great holiness. But God is not to blame for that, as He has revealed Himself to all of mankind in Jesus Christ, the Bible has been published in every major language and most minor ones, and the gospel has been preached to the ends of the earth for 2,000 years. Noah lived at the end of an age, and we, too, live at the end of an age. This age is drawing to a close and it will conclude in judgment as did Noah’s, and the only reason the judgments have not yet fallen is God’s great love and mercy for undeserving mankind. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

TESTIMONY OF A SONG LEADER WHO IS PROMOTING HYMNS AND AVOIDING CCM



“I’ve really enjoyed leading the music for our church. We use sound hymns. No CCM and no songs by CCM

artists. That has caused a little angst as I’ve pushed back and denied some songs that people wanted to do for specials. (I always ask, unless I already know, who the author is, and if I don’t know the name immediately I look them up before approving or disapproving. I usually know the name immediately, having read all of your published materials on the music issue). Pastor has stood on the same position, and we haven’t allowed CCM to go forward. I keep

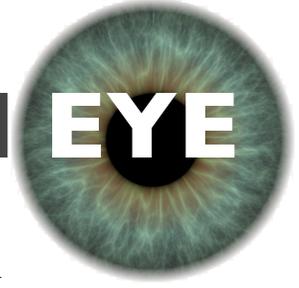
track on a spreadsheet of the songs we’ve sung, how often and what dates so I can vary them a bit. As a congregation, we’ve learned several songs that are new to the church. I also plan the songs based on the sermon topics, attempting to tie them to the progressive idea of the message step-by-step by song. (This is harder to do sometimes than it sounds; sometimes there is a lot of overlap between songs and ideas, but they are always tied to the message topic one way or another.) I also try to vary the way we sing (women doing some verses, men others, etc.) as well as providing some brief information from time to time about a hymn, its author or about a passage from Scripture tied to the hymn, or about the words we are singing to get people to think about them. I used your message on song leading to do this, and I believe that it has really improved the service and increased the

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church's love of hymns. I think the reason many churches don't do music better is because it is seriously time consuming. I spend an hour and a half to two hours a week planning the songs to try and make sure it is as edifying and proper as possible. It's no light task. Each week I prepare a Music Ministry Sheet, and when I take my family to visitation on Saturday morning, we go early and stuff Sunday's bulletins with the sheet so everyone has it." (For more on this see "Marks of Good Song Leading" at www.wayoflife.org/index_files/marks_of_good_song_leading.html).

THE BLINK OF AN EYE



The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 6, 2016: "I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears' (Psa. 6:6). The miracle takes place in the blink of an eye. Literally. Every time you blink, you bathe the surface of your eye with a miraculous fluid called tears. Tears are not simply a salty water solution. They are made of water, but also have oils, electrolytes and sticky carbohydrates called mucins. In addition, they contain antibacterial and antiviral substances. One of

these substances is called lysozyme. Any bacteria or virus that finds itself in tear fluid has a 95 percent chance of being dead within ten minutes. That blink of an eye keeps the surface of the eye properly moisturized so that our vision remains clear. Without this moisturization, your eyes would become red and painful, and, if untreated, you would probably go blind. Tear fluid also provides needed oxygen to the surface of your eyes. But perhaps the most amazing property of tears is even more unexpected. Humans are the only creatures that cry emotional tears. Studies have shown that the ability to produce tears and cry actually helps us cope with emotional situations. There are some inherited diseases which make people unable to cry tears. Studies have shown that people with this disease cannot deal well with stress. Tears are a blessing in many ways. But we also remember that God has promised to wipe away all our tears when we reach heaven."



INFORMATION

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.