
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

“APOSTLE” C. PETER WAGNER DIES



C. Peter Wagner

C. Peter Wagner, a church growth guru who accepted the mantle of an apostle in the last decades of his life, passed away on October 21. Wagner was a missionary to Bolivia for 16 years and a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary from 1971-1999. While at Fuller, Wagner moved into the charismatic movement under the influence of John Wimber and became increasingly deceived to the end of his life. They jointly taught an influential course in the early 1980s called “Signs, Wonders and Church Growth,” promoting the use of “miracles” to make evangelism effectual. Wagner coined the term “Third Wave” to describe evangelicals who accept charismatic sign gifts and phenomena but do not want to be known as charismatics. (The first wave was classical Pentecostalism, and the second was the charismatic movement.) Wagner said, “A key part of my own spiritual pilgrimage was my close friendship with John Wimber, which began in the mid-1970’s” (*The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit*, p. 27). He claimed that Bible-style prophecy was being restored. In a message at Indianapolis ’90, Wagner said, “In 1980, God began speaking to the churches about the resurgence of biblical prophecy. ... I’m talking about Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah kind of prophecy, where God speaks to the churches. ... all these signs, all that the Spirit is saying to the churches, are pointing to the great

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BOB DYLAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Last week it was announced that 1960s rock legend Bob Dylan won the 2016 Nobel Prize for literature. The first musician to win the prize, Dylan is credited “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.” Except for his brief stint as a “Christian” songwriter in the early 1980s, Dylan’s music has presented questions without answers, which is what the world loves and acclaims. Chief among these is Dylan’s song “Blowin’ in the Wind,” which was made famous by Peter, Paul and Mary in 1963 and was used as a war protest and civil rights anthem. The song has since been covered by hundreds of groups and is one of the most famous folk-rock songs of all time. It consists of a series of questions about the human condition, such as “how many times must the cannon balls fly before they’re forever banned?” followed by the line, “The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.” In other words, no one knows. But there are clear answers to life’s great questions, and the answers are in

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revival, the capital ‘R’ revival ... children are prophesying, children are laying hands on the sick and they’re getting healed” (from notes taken at the conference by D. Cloud). Wagner claimed that he was healed of frequent headaches after John Wimber told him it was a “demon of headache” and that he had to “treat it like a cat on the back porch! yell at it and tell it to go away” (Ibid., p. 69). This is the type of nonsense that has so often passed for healing through all “waves” of Pentecostalism. Their sign gifts are nonexistent; their apostles are ridiculous; their tongues are gibberish; and their prophesies are a lie. In the 1990s, Wagner became a leader in the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), believing that Christ’s return will be preceded by the restoration of apostles and a great revival of apostolic signs. The “prophetess” Cindy Jacobs proclaimed Wagner an apostle and said the Lord showed her that Wagner was “going to change the face of Christianity ... like what Martin Luther did” (“Mobilizing the Prophetic Office,” National School of the Prophets, May 11, 2000). Wagner wrote many books on these subjects and had a vast heretical influence. We don’t know where Peter Wagner is today, but we do know that he now understands that he is no apostle. I heard Wagner, Wimber, and many other Pentecostal, charismatic, and “Third Wave” heretics speak at conferences in New Orleans ’87, Indianapolis ’90, St. Louis 2000, and elsewhere. For a report on these see *Charismatic Confusion*, available in print and as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org. For an extensive report on John Wimber, see *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, also available as a free eBook from Way of Life. And for much more on this subject see *The Pentecostal Charismatic Movements*, also available from Way of Life.

MORE EVIDENCE OF ROME’S DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH TEMPLE

Archaeologists have found evidence of the actual battlefield from the Roman siege of Jerusalem in AD 70. Found is a section of a “third wall” described by the historian Josephus, and outside the wall the ground is still littered with ballista and sling stones. Excavation directors Rina Avner and Kfir Arbib said, “This is a fascinating testimony of the intensive bombardment by the Roman army, led by Titus, on their way to conquering the city and destroying the Second Temple” (“Ancient Roman Battlefield Uncovered in Jerusalem,” *Live Science*, Oct. 21, 2016). This is a confirmation of Christ’s prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem and, of course, of Israel’s historic connection with the city. Josephus said that over a million Jews perished during the siege and ninety-seven thousand were taken captive. Many were sold as slaves. Some were put to work in Egyptian mines. Others were used as slave labor to

build the Coliseum. Gold and valuables confiscated from Israel helped finance that project. For an extensive pictorial presentation on Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and Titus’ victory triumph in Rome the next year, see *Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms* and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation “Herod’s Temple and the Roman Era,” available from Way of Life Literature.



Kfir Arbib, excavation director, cleans one of the sling stones. Credit: Yoli

BOB DYLAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE*continued from front page*

God's Word, the holy Bible. In 1978, Dylan made a profession of faith in Christ at a Vineyard church in California, but it was short-lived. Within a couple of years, he had repudiated his claim to the Christian faith and returned to his eclectic religious philosophy and rock & roll lifestyle. The *San Luis Obispo* (California) *Register* for March 16, 1983, quoted Dylan as saying: "Whoever said I was Christian? Like Gandhi, I'm Christian, I'm Jewish, I'm a Moslem, I'm a Hindu. I am a humanist." In 1997, Dylan made the following statement to David Gates of *Newsweek* magazine: "Here's the thing with me and the religious thing. This is the flat-out truth: I find the religiosity and philosophy in the music. I don't find it anywhere else. Songs like 'Let Me Rest on a Peaceful Mountain' or 'I Saw the Light'--that's my religion. I don't adhere to rabbis, preachers, evangelists, all of that. I've learned more from the songs than I've learned from any of this kind of entity. The songs are my lexicon. I believe the songs" ("Dylan Revisited," *Newsweek*, October 6, 1997). That is a sad and very empty foundation for one's faith. Five years before Dylan's fling with Christianity, I put my faith in Jesus Christ and in the Bible as God's infallible revelation, and I can say with the Apostle Paul, who was once a Christ denier, "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).



POPE URGES LUTHERANS TO SET ASIDE DOCTRINE TO WORK TOGETHER

*Pope Francis*

The following is excerpted from "Pope Urges," Associated Press, Oct. 13, 2016: "Pope Francis urged Lutherans to set aside doctrinal differences Thursday and work with Catholics to care for the poor, the sick and refugees as he laid out his vision for greater communion before his visit to Sweden later this month. Francis greeted about 1,000 Lutherans who were visiting the Vatican on an ecumenical pilgrimage. They had arrived in Rome from Germany, where Martin Luther famously sparked the Protestant Reformation by nailing his 95 theses to a church door to challenge the abuses of the Catholic Church. Francis will mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation with his Oct. 31-Nov. 1 visit to Sweden, where he will participate in an ecumenical service with the Lutheran World Federation. Like his predecessors, Francis has reached out to Protestants, Orthodox and other Christians to heal Christianity's divisions. But unlike his predecessors, Francis has said theological differences should be put aside so Christians can work together on issues of pressing social concern, including caring for the poor, the environment and helping Christians under assault in Iraq and Syria."

BLOOD: ANOTHER MASTERPIECE OF DESIGN



The following is from CreationMoments.com, March 16, 2016: “Have you ever wondered why blood cells look like red discs that are indented toward the middle?

Furthermore, is this distinctive shape an element of design or is it the product of millions of years of mutations and natural selection? Creationist and biologist Alan Gillen makes a strong case for design in his aptly named book *Body by Design*. According to Dr. Gillen, scientists used IBM mainframe computers to determine the ideal shape for a cell whose job is transporting oxygen to cells and taking away waste products. They discovered that the red blood cell's biconcave shape allows for maximum surface contact of oxygen-carrying hemoglobin with the cells. This facilitates the two-way exchange of blood gases. He also points out that this shape gives red blood cells flexibility and elasticity, so they can be folded when flowing through narrow blood capillaries. Plus, they have smooth, rounded edges that reduce the amount of friction as they scurry through veins, arteries and capillaries. Now, what if evolution's first attempt produced red blood cells that were shaped like cubes and had thin, sharp edges? What if the cells didn't have their distinctive biconcave shape? Obviously, blood cells had to be designed just right the first time or else the living organism would have died. And while we're on the subject, try asking an evolutionist which evolved first--the blood, the heart or the circulatory system with its veins, arteries and capillaries? Once again, God had to have created them all at the exact same time.”

SOUTHERN GOSPEL WORLDLINESS

The following wise comment about contemporary Southern Gospel (which is the vast majority of Southern Gospel today) was sent to us by a friend of the ministry. We would that more preachers had this level of discernment and spiritual conviction: “I am including links to a few examples of Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (EH&SS). On the song ‘Any Other Man’ they show their love for southern rock as the lead guitar goes into a jam session as any secular rocker would. You can see this at the 3:40 mark. The other videos show the showmanship seen in much of today's Southern Gospel. Bill & Gloria Gaither have influenced Ernie Haase and many other up and coming Southern Gospel artists. The Gaithers continue to influence many churches today, and they use their influence to promote CCM. I'm still surprised to see their songs being promoted in many Independent Baptist circles such as Bible Truth Music directed by Byron Foxx.” www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpjRKWDL21c

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.