

O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"There are all sorts of salvation experiences recorded in Scripture, and no one of them is the pattern. There is no one soul winning program in Scripture. There is no program! Each individual was dealt with in a different manner, and we need to follow this example and to learn to deal with people as individuals and not as robots." Page 9.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**



THE GETTYS - THE PIED PIPERS OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC ~ By David Cloud

The following is from the latest edition (September 2019) of the [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), which is available in print or as a free eBook from Way of Life Literature, www-wayoflife.org.

Keith and Kristyn Getty's "contemporary hymns" are used widely among "traditional, non-contemporary" churches, because they are considered relatively safe.

Keith and Kristyn Getty partner with Stuart Townend to form Getty-Townend Music (GTM).

"Up to 100 million people worldwide sing Keith Getty's hymns in church services each year" ("Hitting the right notes," *Belfast Telegraph*, Aug. 11, 2018). The Getty-Townend hymn (Townend wrote the lyrics and Getty, the



music) "In Christ Alone" has become one of the most famous hymns ever written, with an estimated 40 to 50 million people singing it in church services each year.

At least eight of the Gettys' songs are included in Majesty Music's *Rejoice Hymns*.

Twenty-nine of their songs are featured in *Hymns Modern and Ancient*, published by Heart Publications, a ministry of Steve Pettit Evangelistic Association and compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University's Department of Church Music.

Both Crown Baptist College and West Coast Baptist College, the two largest independent Baptist Bible colleges, have performed Getty-Townend material in their services.

The Gettys' popular songs include "Don't Let Me Lose My Wonder," "In Christ Alone," "Speak, Oh Lord," and "The Power of the Cross."

Typically, the lyrics are Scriptural and the tunes are not boisterous rock & roll (though the Gettys can and do rock out in their concerts).

What could be wrong with this?

Among all of the contemporary worship musicians, I consider the Gettys perhaps the most dangerous, because what they are offering is wrapped in a package that is attractive to "fundamentalists" -- their Irish brogue and

their physical attractiveness, their fairly conservative appearance and effervescent cheerfulness, their foot-tapping, Emerald Isle-tinged music, and the spiritual depth of their lyrics. They aren't writing the typical CCM 7-11 music (7 words sung 11 times).

But as likable as the Gettys are, that attractive, "conservative-appearing" package is a bridge to great spiritual danger.

The Getty's goal is to "bring everyone together musically" (www.keithgetty.com). They want to "bridge the gap between the traditional and contemporary" (<http://www.gettymusic.com/about.aspx>).

The Gettys have no boundaries. They don't believe in separation. They are positive-only, non-judgmental. They are representative of evangelicalism today, at the heart of which is "a renunciation of separatism," as Harold Ockenga stated it in the 1940s. The Gettys are people that say they love sound doctrine, but they don't separate from heresy. They say they love righteousness, but they don't hate worldliness. At least they don't speak out about it, and they should!

"Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things* to be right; and I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:128).

They don't draw clear lines as the Bible requires. They don't speak out against error and issue warnings as the Bible demands.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*" (Ephesians 5:11).

"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).

They don't preach repentance, though it is a major and essential message of Scripture.

They keep everything on a positive note.

When their song "In Christ Alone" was chosen to be performed for the enthronement of England's Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013, Keith Getty said, "We are so honored that one of our hymns would be used for such an historic occasion in British life" ("In Christ Alone Featured," Mar. 22, 2013, NeuFutur.com).

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He should, rather, have said that he was ashamed to be associated with the terrible apostasy of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and he could have reproved their wickedness.

- 1953, William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury - "... there is no such thing as revealed truth" (*Nature and God*).
- 1961, Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury - "I expect to see many atheists in heaven" (*London Daily Mail*, Oct. 2).
- 1982, Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury - "As to why Jesus suffered on the cross, I am an agnostic" (*Sunday Times*, Apr. 11).
- 2008 - The Church of England officially apologized to Charles Darwin for rejecting his doctrine of evolution.
- 2013 - The Church of England dropped its ban on gay clergy in civil partnerships becoming bishops.

Because of the lack of boundaries, the Gettys are a bridge to the exceedingly dangerous world of the "broader church" with all of sins and heresies, as surely as Hillsong or any of the other contemporary worship groups.

We are living in the age of end-time technology, which means that one can no longer use songs and hymns without the listeners being able to come into communication with the authors with great ease. Whereas even 30 years ago, it was difficult to contact and be influenced by authors of Christian music, that has changed dramatically with the Internet.

Today if people in a Bible-believing church hear songs by MercyMe or Stuart Townend or Hillsong, songs heard in "adapted form" in many Bible-believing churches, they can easily search for that group or individual on the web and come into intimate contact with them--not only in contact with their music (typically played in "real" rock & roll style as opposed to the watered-down soft-rock ballad versions performed in churches that are beginning to dabble with contemporary praise music), but also in contact with their ecumenical/charismatic/separatist hating/one-world church philosophy.

Let's say someone hears the choir perform "In Christ Alone" or "The Power of the Cross" by Getty-Townend. He likes the music and decides to check them out on the web. He comes across the Gettys rocking out at their

concerts and begins to question his church's stand against rock music. He sees the Gettys associating with anyone and everyone and begins to question biblical separation. "The Gettys seem so sincere and Christ-loving; maybe I've been too hard-nosed in my Christianity; maybe the separatist stance is all wrong; perhaps I should lighten up." He comes across Keith Getty's July 2013 interview with Assist Ministries and decides to listen to what the man has to say. He hears Getty speak highly of Bono and C.S. Lewis, so he decides to take a look at these people, and by so doing he begins to question fundamental Bible doctrines. After time, through the influence of the Gettys, the soul who was once a contented member of a Bible-believing church, raising his children in a Bible-believing path, is on the high road to the emerging church and his children and grandchildren will end up who knows where.

The same could be said for the influence of MercyMe or Hillsong or hundreds of other prominent contemporary worship musicians, because they hold the same philosophy and represent the same bridge to spiritual danger.

Men who are defending the use of contemporary praise music will answer to God for the souls that cross the bridges they are building to the dangerous world that is represented by this music.

The Gettys are a bridge to new Reformed Calvinism.

The Gettys are new Reformed Calvinists. Keith leads worship at Parkside Church, Cleveland, Ohio, pastored by Alistair Begg. This is the world of John Piper, David Platt, R.C. Sproul, Al Mohler, Jr., John MacArthur.

Reformed Calvinism is not biblically sound. It is a path to the world of Augustine, the church fathers, John Calvin, Protestantism, the Puritans, infant baptism. It is a path to Replacement Theology (the church is Israel). It is a path to Amillennialism and the rejection of the imminency of Christ's return and the loss of all of the spiritual benefits of that important doctrine.

New Reformed Calvinism, unlike old Reformed Calvinism, is ecumenical. There are no strict boundaries. The Gettys associate in ministry with almost anybody: Pentecostal, Charismatic, Roman Catholic, deniers of the blood atonement (C.S. Lewis), theistic evolutionists (John Lennox). Keith Getty favorably quotes all sorts of

unsound men. For example, in his 2017 book *Sing!* he quotes the Roman Catholic mystic J.R.R. Tolkien, Augustin, C.S. Lewis, and Sting.

New Reformed Calvinism is sympathetic toward Rome. The old Reformed men believed that Rome is the great whore of Revelation 17, drunken with the blood of the martyrs. But the new Reformed have ecumenical relationships with Rome. Consider The Gospel Coalition. The Getty's pastor, Alistair Beggs is the head. The web site promotes ecumenical unity. One report was entitled "The Urgency of Evangelical Ecumenism." The report "Should Christians Be Ecumenical?" said, "Can evangelicals and Catholics truly be together? ... Jesus' prayer for unity in the Body obligates me to see the ecumenical task as important for Christianity." This is false. Jesus' prayer has nothing to do ecumenism. In fact, a careful reading of this prayer refutes ecumenism. Yet this article was written by Trevin Wax, a Southern Baptist Wheaton College professor who associates closely with the Gettys.

And New Reformed Calvinism (also called neo-Puritan), unlike old Reformed Calvinism, is not separated from the world. In July 2019, longhaired rocker Alice Cooper gave his testimony at Parkside. They should rather have reproved him for his association with the vile world of rock & roll. Mark Driscoll, one of the most influential new Reformed Calvinists, said, "We are theologically conservative and CULTURALLY LIBERAL." His church in Seattle, Mars Hill, had New Year's Eve champagne dance parties.

Consider the issue of dress, which most churches today consider of little consequence, but it is a clear biblical issue. Kristyn Getty is one of the few contemporary worship artists that wears a dress of any kind in her performances, but she also wears tight pants and low-cut tops and other types of immodest attire, so there is no consistency. And some of the other female musicians in the Getty performances are even less modest. An advertisement for the Getty's *Sing! 2019* conference featured a young woman dancing an Irish dance in extremely tight pants. That type of thing is very sensual and has no place in Christian worship. A few years ago, when we asked for feedback from Christian men about how various types of female dress affect them morally, many made the observation that tight clothing is as seductive as slight clothing. One man wrote, "I would say the number one problem is any garment that is form

fitting, be it jeans, pants, skirt, dress, shirt, whatever. Anything that is tight, no matter how long it is, leaves nothing to the imagination, and that defeats the whole purpose of covering the skin in the first place!"

Another wrote, "One thing I see in my church is tight clothing. Oh, it may very well be covering but it is revealing the shape in a woman. This can be even more tantalizing to a man." (See "[Tight Clothing and Modesty](#)" at www.wayoflife.org.)

The Gettys represent the "cool New Calvinism" that is sweeping through evangelicalism and the Southern Baptist Convention and that is capturing large numbers of "young fundamentalists."

It is influencing Bob Jones University graduates, which is probably why the school is being drawn to the Gettys.

The Gettys are a bridge to the world of rock & roll.

The Getty's music is syncretistic. They "fuse the music of their Irish heritage with the sounds of Nashville, their newly adopted home." They are "crossing the genres of traditional, classical, folk and contemporary composition."

There are no effectual boundaries to the Getty's music that we can discern.

Their printed music is conservative and doesn't use rock building blocks such as the backbeat and beat anticipation. They do this to broaden their influence into the most conservative of churches, but their performances are often out-and-out rock. Their vocals incorporate rock stylings such as slipping and sliding and croaking. (See [A Plea to Southern Gospel Fans](#), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

And while they don't write hard rock worship songs, they don't speak against this, either. They are always "positive, non-judgmental." Keith Getty said that he is glad for edgy, hard-rocking renditions of his music by artists such as Newsboys, Ricky Skaggs, Owl City, Alison Krauss, and Natalie Grant, because "it is an honor" for him to witness popular modern musicians record them, and "it's also interesting to hear their interpretation of it and useful for the song because it helps the song get played more" ("The Gettys Exclusive: Famed Hymn Writers Talk Irish Christmas Tour," *Christian Post*, Dec. 2, 2014).

Rapper Trip Lee was featured at the Getty's Sing! 2019 conference ("Getty Music Continues Their Five-Year Journey," Sep. 24, 2018, gettymusic.com).

The Gettys list the Beatles as a major musical influence, and I have never heard them warn God's people to stay away from the Beatles.

In a July 2013 interview, Keith Getty mentioned vile rocker Sting and homosexual rocker Elton John in a positive light, with not a hint of warning. The interview was with Dan Wooding of Assist Ministries and was broadcast on Frontpage Radio from Nashville -- [www.assist-ministries.com / FrontPageRadio/FPR06.09.13KeithGettyMono.mp3](http://www.assist-ministries.com/FrontPageRadio/FPR06.09.13KeithGettyMono.mp3).

In the same interview Keith Getty heaped praise on Bono of the Irish rock band U2, calling him a "brilliant theological thinker" and saying that Bono "cares for a lot of the things that Christ asks us to care about." He also said, "I love his passion for life and his passion for learning." Getty had absolutely nothing to say about Bono by word of warning.

Bono rarely even attends church, and when he does it is often a viciously heretical "church" like Glide Memorial United Methodist in San Francisco (Bill Flanagan, *U2 and the End of the World*, p. 99). Bono's biographer said that he has been a frequent worshiper at Glide. Cecil Williams, former pastor of the church, doesn't believe in heaven; he began performing homosexual "marriages" in 1965; and church "celebrations" have included dancing with complete nudity.

This is Bono's type of Christianity. Bono says that he believes that Jesus died on the cross for his sins and that "he is holding out for grace," but Bono's "grace" is a grace that does not result in radical conversion and a new way of life; it is a grace without repentance; it is a grace that does not produce holiness, in direct contrast with Titus 2:11-15. Nowhere does Bono warn his myriads of listeners to turn to Christ before it is too late and before they pass out of this life into eternal hell. In fact, he says that heaven and hell are on this earth (*Bono on Bono: Conversations with Michka Assayas*, 2005, p. 254).

Bono says that the older he gets the more comfort he finds in Roman Catholicism (Bono on Bono, p. 201). But he has nothing good to say about biblical "fundamentalism," falsely claiming that it is a denial that God is love (*Bono*

on Bono, p. 167) and calling it vile names (p. 147). The problem is that Bono defines love by the rock & roll dictionary rather than by the Bible, which says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). Bill Flanagan, a U2 friend who has traveled extensively with the group, in his authorized biography describes them as heavy drinkers and constant visitors to bars, brothels, and nightclubs (Flanagan, *U2 at the End of the World*, p. 145).

Bono admits that he lives "a fairly decadent kind of selfish-art-oriented lifestyle" (Flanagan, p. 79). Many of Bono's statements cannot be printed in a Christian publication. Appearing on the Golden Globe Awards broadcast by NBC television in 2003, Bono shouted a vile curse word. Bono told the media that he and his bandmates planned to spend New Year's Eve 2000 in Dublin, because "Dublin knows how to drink" (Bono, *USA Today*, Oct. 15, 1999, p. E1).

In 2006 Bono said: "I recently read in one of St. Paul's letters where it describes all of the fruits of the spirit, and I had none of them" ("Enough Rope with Andrew Denton," March 13, 2006). In October 2008, *Fox News* reported that Bono and rocker friend Simon Carmody partied with teenage girls on a yacht in St. Tropez. The report was accompanied by a photo of Bono holding two bikini-clad teenagers on his lap at a bar (*Fox News*, Oct. 27, 2008).

(For more about Bono see the report "[The Rock Group U2](http://www.wayoflife.org)" at www.wayoflife.org).

This is the man that Keith Getty publicly calls a brilliant theologian and praises for caring about things that Christ tells us to care about! Doesn't Christ care about truth and holiness and a pure gospel and repentance and sound doctrine and separation from the world, Keith? Aren't these absolute fundamentals? Doesn't the Bible say, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4)? Doesn't the Bible say, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4)?

Any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond to the filthy world of secular rock, because the Gettys speak in positive terms of that world instead of reproving the unfruitful works of darkness

in accordance with Ephesians 5:11. Any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond the Gettys to people like Bono of U2.

The Gettys are a bridge to C.S. Lewis.

In the 2013 interview with Dan Wooding of Assist Ministries (broadcast on Frontpage Radio), Getty claimed C.S. Lewis as a major theological influence. Yet Lewis rejected the fundamental doctrines of the infallible inspiration of Scripture and “penal substitutionary atonement” and believed in purgatory and baptismal regeneration (“C.S. Lewis Superstar,” *Christianity Today*, Dec. 2005).

Lewis rejected the historicity of Jonah and Job. He believed in prayers to the dead and confession to a priest. He held to theistic evolution, believing that “man is physically descended from animals” and calling the Genesis account of creation “a Hebrew folk tale” (Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*). He denied the eternal torment of hell and claimed that followers of pagan religions can be saved without acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour (Lewis, *Mere Christianity*; *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*).

In its August 2019 cover story (“The Rise of the Bible-Teaching, Plato-Loving, Homeschool Elitists” by Louis Markos), *Christianity Today* stated that “increasing numbers of evangelicals” have followed C.S. Lewis to “fantasy lands populated by wizards” and “to the Catholic Middle Ages” and to the pagan “works of ancient Greek and Rome.”

Christianity Today says that “Lewis helped unlock in the evangelical soul a longing for things of which they had been taught to be suspicious: tradition, hierarchy, liturgy, sacrament, numinous awe, and literature that was not specifically Christian.” *Christianity Today* admits that “this tectonic shift in the evangelical world has led significant numbers of conservative Protestants to become Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican.”

(For more about Lewis see the free eBook [C.S. Lewis and Evangelicals Today](#) at www.wayoflife.org)

This is a man that Getty honors as a major theological influence and about whom he has nothing negative to say. No warnings. No separation. No boundaries.

Any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond the Gettys to dangerous heretics like C.S. Lewis.

The Gettys are a bridge to the Charismatic movement.

Keith arranged some of the songs on Michael W. Smith’s charismatic *Healing Rain* album.

The Gettys have a close working relationship with Stuart Townend. Their music company is GTM (Getty Townend Music).

Townend is radically charismatic and ecumenical. Not only do they write and publish songs with Townend, but they also tour together, joining hands, for example, in the Celtic Islands Tour 2012.

Townend is charismatic in theology. He leads worship at the Church of Christ, a New Frontiers church in Brighton, England. (New Frontiers is a network of charismatic churches that believes in modern apostles and prophets.) The senior pastor is Terry Virgo.

Townend supports the “extraordinary manifestations of the Spirit,” which refers to the demonic/fleshly charismatic mysticism such as meaningless gibberish, prophesying, spirit slaying, holy laughter, and shaking. (This church is also the home of the Christian rock band Phatfish, with whom Townend has toured. Their music is described as “jazz-funk-rock.”)

Townend is radically ecumenical in philosophy, supporting the Alpha program which bridges charismatic, Protestant, and Roman Catholic churches.

Townend’s testimony of salvation is extremely weak, as stated in the following biographical sketch from WorshipTogether.com:

“Stuart grew up as the youngest of four children in a Christian family in West Yorkshire where his father was a Church of England vicar. Stuart’s family always enjoyed music and one brother, Ian, went on to become a member of the group Heartbeat. Stuart himself began to play the piano at the age of 7.

“It was while living in West Yorkshire that at the age of 13 he made his Christian commitment. Then later at the age of 18, when helping to lead a children’s camp in Hand Cross, West Sussex, he had a profound experience of the Holy Spirit.”

Townend has a false concept of Christ. When asked, “What would Jesus sing?” he replied:

“I think he would be doing thrash metal or hip hop or something where we’d go, ‘He can’t do that!’ Because I think he would be challenging our comfortable perceptions. I don’t know what he would sing or whose songs he would sing, but I believe he would do it in a way that would surprise and probably shock us” (“What Would Jesus Sing?” from an interview with Stuart Townend, TV series *Principles of Praise*, 2011, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCW0oAAa7c>).

So, according to Townend, instead of singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, Jesus would be singing thrash metal and hip hop and trying to shock us with His musical choices.

That is not the thrice holy Jesus described in Scripture. It is true that Jesus shocked the religious crowd of His day, but that was not because He was performing worldly musical numbers, gyrating to rap, and screaming out thrash! It was because the religious crowd had rejected God’s Word and He was God’s Word incarnate, so they did not recognize, understand, or appreciate Him. He came to fulfill every jot and tittle of the holy Law of God (Matthew 5:17-19).

Jesus was a friend of sinners, but He did not sin with sinners and He was no sort of a party dude. He frequently preached on hell and demanded repentance, and that would put the brakes on any party!

Since the Christian rock crowd loves to shock people, they think Jesus is like them. Christian rockers lose no sleep at the fact that many of the saints are upset and discouraged with their music because they consider it worldly and inappropriate for the service of Christ.

Christian rockers have taken over countless once-traditional churches even to the extreme of pushing aside and running over anyone who got in the way of their musical “choices.” Instead of sympathizing with the saints who oppose their music, they slander them as Pharisees and legalists and mindless traditionalists.

This is not the spirit of Jesus. He solemnly warned about offending those who believe on Him (Matthew 18:2-10). Paul, too, issued this warning. “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way. ... Let us therefore follow after the things which

make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another” (Romans 14:13, 19).

The Gettys are a bridge to the Roman Catholic Church.

In July 2012, the Gettys joined Townend and Roman Catholic Matt Maher on NewsongCafe on WorshipTogether.com. They played and discussed “The Power of the Cross,” which was co-written by Getty-Townend. The 10-minute program promoted ecumenical unity, with Maher/Townend/Getty entirely one in the spirit through the music.

Fundamental doctrinal differences are so meaningless that they are not even mentioned. Spiritual abominations such as the papacy, the mass, infant baptism, baptismal regeneration, and Mariolatry were ignored. Jude 3 was despised and Romans 16:17 completely disobeyed for the sake of building the one-world church through contemporary Christian music.

Keith Getty collaborated with Catholic Margaret Becker in the song “Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer.” In an interview, Becker said, “One of my missions has been to say, let’s not label ourselves, let’s not put up walls between each other. I may go to a Catholic church, that does not mean I’m Catholic, in that I cannot (disagree with) any Catholic rhetoric or Catholic belief” (“US singer to make an appearance at Cross Rhythms ’95,” *CR Magazine*, June 1, 1995).

Getty also collaborated with Roman Catholic Máire [pronounced Moya] Brennan in writing “With the Early Morning.” Brennan says, “Christians fighting Christians, Catholics and Protestants! It breaks my heart, because we’re all stemming from the same rock. We should look at that and not at what we’ve become. I discovered an awful lot, being from a Catholic background and getting married to a Protestant” (“Back to the Rock of Ages: Maire Brennan Talks to Christina Rodden,” rootsworld.com).

The Gettys are a bridge to other heretics.

In October 2012, the Gettys joined hands with emerging heretic Leonard Sweet at the National Worship Leader Conference in San Diego. Sweet calls his universalist-tinged doctrine New Light and “quantum spirituality” and “the Christ consciousness” and describes it in terms of “the union of the human with the divine” which is the

“center feature of all the world’s religions” (*Quantum Spirituality*, p. 235). He defines the New Light as “a structure of human becoming, a channeling of Christ energies through mindbody experience” (*Quantum Spirituality*, p. 70).

Sweet says that “New Light pastors” hold the doctrine of “embodiment of God in the very substance of creation” (p. 124). In *Carpe Mañana*, Sweet says that the earth is as much a part of the body of Christ as humans and that humanity and the earth constitutes “a cosmic body of Christ” (p. 124). Sweet lists some of the “New Light leaders” that have influenced his thinking as Matthew Fox, M. Scott Peck, Willis Harman, and Ken Wilber. These are prominent New Agers who believe in the divinity of man, as we have documented in the book [*The New Age Tower of Babel*](#).

Sweet has endorsed *The Shack* with its non-judgmental father-mother god, and he promotes Roman Catholic contemplative mysticism and dangerous mystics such as the Catholic-Buddhist Thomas Merton. (For documentation see the book [*Contemplative Mysticism*](#), which is available in print and eBook editions from Way of Life Literature -- www.wayoflife.org.)

At their *Sing! 2019* worship conference, the Gettys featured flautist Pedro Eustache. He claims to be a “Christ follower” (not a Christian) and talks about Jesus and the

cross, but his Christianity is not Bible-based. It is doctrine-less, indefinable, and mystical. His gospel is so vague as to be meaningless. There is no mention of sin, the blood atonement, repentance, or saving faith. He claims that everything is “spiritual” and that nothing is “secular.” (“Pedro Estache,” interview, July 28, 2016, isharehope.com). Thus, he has no problem in playing background music for the *World of Warcraft* video game and a wide assortment of wicked movies. He has recorded with New Age musician Paul McCartney of the Beatles, Persian “diva Googoosh,” and many others of like spiritual caliber. He performed prominently for the soundtrack to Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of Christ*, which is filled with Roman Catholic myths about Mary.

This is the ecumenical Christianity of the Gettys. They are fairly conservative in their own theology and lives, but they have no boundaries. They don’t believe in biblical separation.

Therefore, any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond the Gettys to heretics such as C.S. Lewis and Bono, to the Roman Catholic Church, to the charismatic movement, to theistic evolution that denies the literal account of Genesis 1-2, to the filthy world of secular rock, to emergents and New Agers like Leonard Sweet, and to every element of the end-time one-world “church.”



Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians

By David Cloud

This directory contains information on influential contemporary worship musicians who are creating the music that is being used ever more frequently by fundamentalist and very conservative evangelical churches. All of them are radically ecumenical and the vast majority are charismatic in theology. To our knowledge, not one of them takes a clear stand against end-time apostasy. All are enemies of a separatist Biblicist stance.

Contemporary worship music is a dangerous bridge both to the world and to the “broader church” with all of its ancient and end-time heresies, and the Directory of Contemporary Praise Musicians contains more documentation of this than has ever before been gathered into one volume, to our knowledge.

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A FURTHER CONVERSATION ABOUT QUICK PRAYERISM

By David Cloud

After publishing “[Correspondence with a Missionary about Quick Prayerism](#)” (Nov. 6, 2019), I received the following question (which has been edited for publication). We will follow this with my reply to this question, which is expanded from the one I sent to him.

Bro. Cloud -

I am an Independent Baptist who has zero use for easy believism, or any other form of tricking people into a prayer. I also believe you are God’s man and I am inquiring and not rebuking you in this email. I enjoy reading your material and think you are incredibly smart as well as wise. I am not a preacher, but simply a business man who reads these daily devotions.

My questions are relatively simple minded and I realize this. I also recognize or get the impression these two ladies might have been Catholic which definitely makes this case different than a traditional lost person and their possible prior belief system.

It just seems like you are taking away the idea that people can’t still come to an old fashion altar (I’m from the Bible Belt which my verbiage will clearly represent) and be under Holy Ghost conviction and be Saved on the spot. When I got Saved 23 years ago when I was in my teens, I couldn’t wait for the special singing to stop. I jumped up and got to the altar as quickly as possible under conviction for my sin and repented and asked Christ to Save me. I don’t remember if I understood those multiple things you laid out that a person has to know. I just knew I was lost, condemned by sin, and on my way to hell. I did understand that repentance was turning from sin to Christ, but I didn’t know everything

you laid out. Am I lost because I didn’t go through that program you laid out? My life changed and has been changed since that day and I am now 42 years old and gloriously Saved. The thief on the Cross didn’t have time for off-site training, he just asked the Lord to remember him and it was enough. It just seems to me that we are going from one extreme to the other almost making it hard for someone to be led to the Lord. Some things come with growth and discipleship after being Saved. I realize one must understand repentance that Christ is the only way to heaven. The Lord didn’t send the thousands home to set up a meeting on the day of Pentecost. They heard solid Bible preaching and it did the job.

I guess I am simply asking this, do you still or have you ever believed that people do simply come to the altar a sinner and leave a Saved person? It just seems harder than it should be when I read your correspondence with your missionary friend. I don’t agree with the easy 1,2,3, repeat after me deals, but I also do not believe God wants it to be hard to come to know Him.

I also realize there are way too many false professions being pulled out of people making them two fold children of hell. I am NOT for the Hyles crowd or anyone like them in their form of soul winning. I just think an old fashion altar with a man under conviction is still a place where people can be Saved.

To put people off when God is conveying them to be Saved right now seems odd or backwards to me. To ask them to let you visit them at home in a couple of days almost sounds like changing God’s course of direction at that very moment. Isn’t today the day of Salvation?

I am dead against the emails you receive with people showing you utter disrespect for your stand on different

issues such as singing. I don't even agree with you on a few matters, but I do respect and love you as God's man.

REPLY FROM BROTHER CLOUD

Thank you for taking the time to write. I'm sure that is a common question.

The bottom line is that you can't be saved unless you understand the gospel, repentance, and saving faith. That's what the Spirit of God uses to bring men to saving faith. Salvation is 100% the work of the Spirit of God, but it doesn't happen without those things.

The Lord Himself taught us to preach the gospel to every creature and plainly stated that only those who believe the gospel can be saved (Mark 16:15-16). He also emphasized that no one is saved without repentance (Lu. 13:3, 5). Paul plainly stated that it is the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation (Ro. 1:16), and He gave us the content of the gospel in Romans 1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, etc.

How long does it take for people to be saved? It takes as long as it takes. God does the saving. If it takes an hour in the Bible belt with a person who already has a good background in those things, then it takes an hour. If it takes weeks, then it takes weeks. If it takes months, then it takes months.

There are all sorts of salvation experiences recorded in Scripture, and no one of them is *the* pattern. There is no one soul winning program in Scripture. There is no program! Each individual was dealt with in a different manner, and we need to follow this example and to learn to deal with people as individuals and not as robots.

How long did Philip spend with the Ethiopian eunuch? We don't know. How long did Paul spend with Lydia? We don't know. How much had Paul and Silas taught the Philippian jailer before he cried out "What must I do to be saved?" We don't know.

The thief on the cross is an exception, not an example. If we want to know how to deal with souls about salvation, we don't go to Luke 23.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter was preaching to Jews who knew the Old Testament and therefore had a foundation for understanding the true God, man's fall, sin, God's holiness and justice, Christ, and redemption through a substitute. This would be similar to preaching a gospel meeting in the "Bible Belt" in former days. (Today the Bible Belt is filled to the brim with apostate Baptist churches and people who are nearly as biblically ignorant as Hindus in India/Nepal or Buddhists in Thailand.) But even on Pentecost, Peter used "many other words" to deal with those people (Acts 2:40). We don't know how long they were dealt with.

And don't forget that we are talking about Pentecost! The coming of the Spirit of God! It was a special day that has never been repeated in church history. Soul saving power was operating at its peak!

If a fundamental Baptist today sees 3,000 saved in one day so that those 3,000 gladly receive the Word and continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, I will be happy to say that he is doing things right! But where is that man? Jack Hyles claimed that more than 15,000 people were saved on May 3, 1998, but he was a *very big exaggerator*. After that special day, he didn't have to try to find expanded space for seating in his church, because the vast majority those 15,000 were *nowhere to be found*.

You mention your own case, but that is a case of a person in a Baptist church who already knows the gospel and knows that he has to repent and believe in Christ. That has nothing to do with the case that I was addressing in "Correspondence with a Missionary about Quick Prayerism," which pertains to Roman Catholics attending a Baptist church for the first time and knowing nothing previously about the true gospel, repentance, and saving faith.

In your case, the fruit shows that you got saved, the fruit being getting baptized and loving God's Word and obeying God continuing in faith in Christ. But it would be a strange thing, biblically, to say that you had zero understanding of the gospel when you got saved.

No one's experience is the authority for how we are to deal with souls. We get our instruction from the Bible, and from the Bible alone. Otherwise, we are no better than the charismatic who trusts his experience to determine whether he is right with God.

Many people have been saved at a church “altar,” but I am reminded of the countless, countless false professions that have been made at Bible Belt altars--hasty, emotional, ignorant, non-repentant decisions, decisions that didn’t last two weeks, let alone a lifetime. I know about this. I grew up in a Baptist church in the Bible Belt. All of the kids that I grew up with made professions of faith at an altar, but I don’t know of even one person that actually got saved then among the Baptist young people I grew up with, if there is such a thing as biblical evidence. I have known of the same thing in a massive number of churches. I have personally communicated with hundreds of people on this subject over the years.

The altar invitation system (having sinners come forward and dealing with them for a few minutes during the service itself and pronouncing them saved right there) tends toward haste by its very nature and has resulted in *countless* false professions. We need to be Bereans and continually re-think our traditions biblically (Acts 17:11), but in my observation, the average fundamental Baptist is as tradition-bound as an Episcopalian.

I personally witnessed hundreds of false professions produced by this program at Highland Park Baptist Church in the 1970s. I worked in the bus ministry and in the chapel ministry and pastored one of their chapels. There were 63,000 baptisms at Highland Park during Dr. Lee Roberson’s 40-year pastorate (James Wigton, *Lee Roberson: Always about His Father’s Business*, p. 158). (The number of professions was vastly larger.) If 63,000 people were truly saved during those years, the moral climate of that part of the country would have been dramatically changed, but it wasn’t. In fact, the culture of Chattanooga and the surrounding area grew dramatically more wicked over the decades of the church’s ministry. As for the area of Highland Park itself, it deteriorated shockingly. “A fashionable, up-scale area of the city when Lee Roberson arrived in 1942, by the time he retired it had digressed into a typical ghetto-type area--with drugs, prostitution, and crime” (Wigton, p. 303). Yet a huge number of people in Highland Park had professed Christ and been baptized at the church.

Someone being born again quickly is becoming exceedingly rare even in America. Most people today are grossly Bible ignorant, even in the South (the “Bible Belt”). As I said, I grew up in a Baptist church in the South, but the man who led me to Christ spent four days

teaching me the Word of God and answering my foolish questions when I got saved at age 23. I hadn’t been in church for many years and had journeyed far from my childhood teaching and was steeped in New Age philosophy. I’m so very glad that he didn’t try to use the “Romans Road, pray the sinner’s prayer” program.

We have worked with Hindus for 30 years. I have never heard of a Hindu with no background in the Bible getting saved quickly. It didn’t happen under William Carey’s ministry, and it isn’t happening today. In our experience, it takes an average of working with them for several months, often much more after they become interested enough to listen to the gospel. A few years ago I had the men in our church figure out how long it was from the time they started attending church or a Bible study and learning about Christ until they were saved, and the average was a year.

If there is someone who is seeing Hindus and Buddhists saved quickly and truly, with lasting biblical fruit, more power to him, but I don’t know of such a thing.

The man I communicated with in “Correspondence with a Missionary about Quick Prayerism” works in a Roman Catholic country. Roman Catholics do not know the gospel; they know only a false gospel; and when they first hear the gospel, they tend to interpret it in terms of their false gospel.

We need to spend enough time with people to know what they are thinking and how they are interpreting the words we are speaking. We can and should tell people that they need to get saved today before it is too late, and we do, but a lot of the pressure in this business is manmade and destructive.

All I know is that we must teach the gospel, teach repentance, teach saving faith, instruct sinners to turn to Christ, and watch for God’s saving hand. And when God saves there will be clear evidence.

We do teach sinners to call on the Lord for salvation. We do teach them to respond to Christ’s invitation in Matthew 11:28-30. We don’t put people off when they want to get saved, but we do try to ascertain if they are biblically ready. It would be criminal on our part not to do this. To pronounce people saved and to baptize them and receive them as church members when they aren’t actually saved is damaging to them and to the church.

These days I'm going through the gospel with a medical doctor. I constantly urge him to go to Christ for salvation. I am not trying to hold anyone back. Far from it! We just want people to be saved, really saved!

I will say this, too. We are seeing a lot of people truly saved and we have very, very few false professions. The vast majority of our professions go on for the Lord. I'm talking about way more than 90%.

In fact, I don't know of many churches that are seeing more people genuinely saved than we are, and they are being saved out of the grossest darkness you can imagine.

I am talking about real, supernatural, born again, life-changing conversions. We have had about 15 "turn around and go the other way" adult conversions in the last year. All were saved out of pagan religion; all had to go against relatives and society at large and endure persecution for their faith. Some were addicted to drugs and alcohol and have had dramatic deliverance.

We have seen a lot of demon possessed people saved. One of those graduated from our Bible college three years ago and is a full-time preacher today. I'm talking about "they turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" salvations!

We are building churches through salvations. Ninety percent of our church members are our own converts and do not come from other churches.

Recently I heard an evangelist in Ohio say that 127 people had been "saved" in some kind of tent ministry this last summer. I hope so, but from long experience with this type of report, I would need to ask if those 127 souls are going on for the Lord before I would put any credence in it. There is nothing whatsoever wrong with such a question.

I would far rather have five true conversions than 500 empty professions, and a great many Baptist churches today aren't seeing even one real adult conversion a year, regardless of how many "salvations" they count.

The Southern Baptist Convention has been called "unregenerate" by one of its own evangelists. In 2005, SBC evangelist Jim Elliff said, "Our denomination, as much as we love it, is on the main, *unregenerate*" (www.ccwonline.org/sbc.html).

He presented the fact that only 10% or less of the members of the typical SBC church show up for anything other than Sunday morning service.

Life-changing conversions are as rare as hen's teeth. Consider the statistics for 2013: A full 60% of SBC churches baptized *zero* youth between ages of 12-17 and 80% baptized *zero or just one* young adult ages 18-29. **But there was an explosion in the baptisms of "five and under"** (*Annual Church Profile*, 2013).

That is "Baptist infant baptism"! And it is the sign of a dead denomination! I didn't say "dying"; I said "dead."

A great many Independent Baptists today are no different in spiritual character and saving power than those Southern Baptists. They should be on their faces before God in repentance and pleading for restoration power, but instead they are planning their next party, talking politics, and counting sports statistics. (That's *why* they are dead, by the way.)

By God's grace, I intend to keep on exhorting the brethren to be wise and biblical and careful--and zealous--about salvation!

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

In Christ, Bro. Cloud

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DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



JOHN MACARTHUR TELLS THE FEMALE PREACHER BETH MOORE TO "GO HOME"

(Friday Church News Notes, November 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- At a Truth Matters Conference at his Grace Community Church, October 16-18, 2019, John MacArthur was asked at a Q&A session about Beth Moore. MacArthur answered with two words, "go home." He followed this with, "There is no case that can be made biblically for a woman preacher. Period. Paragraph. End of discussion. ... I think this is feminism gone to church. This is why we can't let the culture exegete the Bible." That is biblical exhortation, 100%, and MacArthur will certainly not regret it at the judgment seat of Christ. While we can't accept MacArthur's Reformed theology, we very much appreciate outspoken preachers in this cowardly era. And he said this on the 50th anniversary of his ministry. In May of this year, Moore said that she has come to the conclusion that men who oppose women preachers are jealous and carnal. Apparently she had a revelation that gave her the ability to judge the heart motives of other people. After SBC professor Owen Strachan of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary said that "women should not preach on Sunday to the church," Moore publicly reproved him on her Twitter

account, saying, "I would be terrified to be a woman you'd approve of." In so saying, she is admitting that she refuses to be a woman the apostle Paul would approve of, since he is the one who forcefully forbade women to "teach nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Timothy 2:12). Beth Moore is not very good at being in silence, or, it would seem, with exhibiting the "meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:4). She called Owen's biblical position "sexism and misogyny." Not surprisingly, MacArthur was widely criticized, including by J.D. Greear, Southern Baptist Convention president, and Danny Akin, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary president. Some criticized MacArthur for his view, others for his "tone." But those who think John MacArthur is harsh need to spend more time with the old God-approved Bible preachers such as Enoch, who said of this present generation, "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are UNGODLY among them of all their UNGODLY deeds which they have UNGODLY committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which UNGODLY sinners have spoken against him" (Jude 15). How about that for "tone"! I wonder if Enoch is a misogynist?

BAGHDADI OPERATION NAMED AFTER CHRISTIAN WOMAN BRUTALLY TREATED AND MURDERED BY ISIS (Friday Church News Notes, November 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from

“Baghdadi Operation Named after Christian Woman,” CBNNews, Oct. 28, 2019: “The US military operation that resulted in the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi [in Syria on Oct. 26] was dedicated to Kayla Mueller, a young Christian woman who was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered by the Islamic State. Mueller, 26, was abducted by ISIS in August 2013 in Aleppo, Syria while serving on a humanitarian mission with Doctors Without Borders. US officials said Baghdadi tortured and repeatedly raped her at his compound before announcing in 2015 that she died in captivity. Her body has never been recovered. White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien told NBC's *Meet the Press* on Sunday that the operation against Baghdadi was named after Mueller. ‘The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff named the operation that took down al-Baghdadi after Kayla Mueller, after what she had suffered,’ O'Brien said, adding that Baghdadi was the ‘most vicious, cruel man.’ Her father, Carl Mueller, recounted his daughter's last days in an interview with *The Arizona Republic* shortly after President Donald Trump announced Baghdadi's death. ‘What this man did to Kayla — he kidnapped her,’ Mueller said. ‘She was held in many prisons. She was held in solitary confinement. She was tortured. She was intimidated. She was ultimately raped by al-Baghdadi himself. He either killed her or he was complicit



in her murder,’ Mueller said. ‘I’ll let people who read this article make up their own mind how a parent should feel.’ Mueller's fellow hostages, who were later freed, told *ABC News* in 2016 she never stopped caring for others and even defended her faith against the infamous British ISIS executioner named Mohammed Emwazias, also known as ‘Jihadi John.’ ... Mueller also spoke extensively about how she relied on her faith in a hand-written letter given to her parents while she was in captivity. Mueller’s cellmates who were eventually freed gave the letter to her family in the spring of 2014. Mueller wrote: ‘I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else.+ by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall...I have been shown in darkness, light + have learned that even in prison, one can be free. I am grateful.’”

BANK OF AMERICA FREEZES STEVEN ANDERSON’S ASSETS

(Friday Church News Notes, November 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Earlier this year, Steven Anderson’s bank account was frozen by Bank of America and his funds were held for weeks before being returned via a cashier’s check in the mail. He was told, simply, that his account was terminated, he would not be told why, and the decision was irreversible (“Bank of America Freezes,” *Pulpit & Pen*, Apr. 16, 2019). He has also been frozen out by Paypal, Easy Tithe, and six other financial



platforms, none of them giving a reason. He has been banned from traveling to about 34 countries, including England, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, and the Netherlands. This has to do with Anderson’s stand against homosexuality and possibly, too, his denial of the Holocaust. Anderson is a Baptist preacher who has wide influence through his YouTube videos and movies. He is laden down with heresies, as we warn in the book *What about Steven Anderson?* but corporations like Bank of America and PayPal should not be in the business of judging and punishing belief systems. Why should it be their business what their customers believe? This is moving in the direction of Communist China’s Social Credit system, but in this case it is faceless global corporations doing the rating and the punishing.

STEVEN ANDERSON’S POSITION ON HOMOSEXUALITY VS. THE BIBLE’S TEACHING (Friday Church News Notes, November 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Of the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting Steven Anderson said, “The good news is that there’s 50 less pedophiles in this world, because these homosexuals are just a bunch of disgusting perverts and pedophiles” (“Gay Hating Preacher,” *Sunday Express*, Sept. 16, 2016). He said it

was too bad some of the homosexuals survived. Of transgender celebrity Bruce (Caitlyn) Jenner, Anderson said in a sermon, “Listen to me – I hate him with a perfect hatred. I have no love for this Bruce freak. I hope he dies today, I hope he dies and goes to Hell – he’s disgusting, he’s filthy, he’s reprobate” (Adam Salandra, “Pastor Prays Caitlyn Jenner’s Heart Explodes,” NewNowNex, n.d.). Anderson teaches that there is no hope for homosexuals to be saved. On his video, “Born That Way?” he says, “Well, I’m just saying that the Bible teaches in many places that it can become too late for a person before that point sometimes, if they reject Christ enough. And I would say homosexuals fall into that category” (about 7:07f). He says, “There are no queers allowed in this church. No homos will ever be allowed in this church as long as I am the pastor here. Never!” (youtube.com/watch?v=ttxumEkHnKE). This is unscriptural nuttiness. Any sinner should be welcome to attend church services as visitors, so long as he doesn’t cause trouble, because the church’s commission is to invite all people to God’s salvation. Christ made the propitiation for the whole world (1 John 2:2), meaning He made salvation possible for all men, and He commanded the gospel to be preached “to every creature” (Mark 16:15), and every creature means every creature! On any given week we have adulterers, fornicators, homosexuals,



polygamists, idolaters, thieves, liars, and demon possessed people in our church services. Anyone is welcome to attend to hear the preaching of God’s Word. On the other hand, church membership requires born again salvation with evidence. The membership of the church of Corinth is described as follows: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Here we see that homosexuals *can* be saved and experience a changed life in Jesus Christ, and they are saved in the same way as any other sinner: by repenting of their sin against God and believing on Jesus Christ as Saviour with all the heart. “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Then, again, Steven Anderson doesn’t believe in biblical repentance, and this is probably his chief heresy. (See [What about Steven Anderson?](#) available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

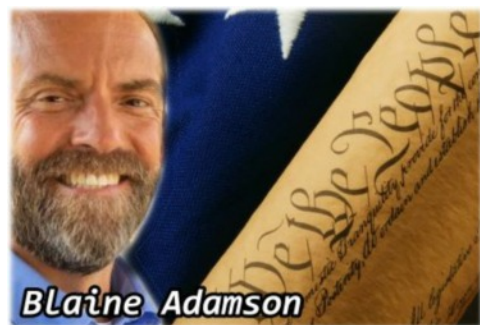
HOW CHARLES WESLEY’S HYMN SAVED A SOLDIER’S LIFE IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (Friday Church News Notes, November 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Dr. Julian’s Hymnology*: “During the American



Civil War the opposing armies of the Federals and Confederates on a certain occasion were facing each other. One night a Confederate sentry was on duty when he heard the sound of singing coming from the Federal lines. He proceeded cautiously in their direction, and observed an enemy sentry pacing up and down, singing ‘Jesu, Lover of My Soul.’ Bringing his gun to his shoulder, he was about to shoot, when the singer came to the words, ‘Cover my defenceless head with the shadow of Thy wing.’ This was too much for the Confederate and he lowered his weapon and allowed his would-be victim to go unharmed. Many years passed, and the Confederate, now a private gentleman, was aboard an excursion steamer on the Potomac River, when he heard an evangelist singing this hymn. Memories were aroused, and thinking he recognised the voice, he made his way to the singer and in conversation found that the evangelist was indeed the sentry he had nearly shot. Great was their mutual joy when he revealed to the singer the peril from which he had been saved in that night long ago, when on sentry duty he besought divine protection by singing, ‘Jesu, Lover of My Soul.’”

KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF PRINT SHOP OWNER WHO REFUSED TO PRINT MESSAGES VIOLATING HIS BELIEFS

(Friday Church News Notes, November 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Supreme Court Rules in Favor, *Daily Wire*, Oct. 31, 2019: “On Thursday, the Kentucky Supreme Court issued a unanimous 6-0 ruling in favor of a Lexington-based print shop owner who refused to print messages that violated his deeply held religious beliefs. The case dates back to 2012, when the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO) filed a complaint with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission against print shop owner Blaine Adamson, who, citing his Christian beliefs, declined a request to print shirts promoting the Lexington Gay Pride Festival. Adamson reportedly declined politely and referred the organization to another printer who was willing to print the shirts. The GLSO complained that Adamson was discriminating against LGBT customers by refusing to promote the event. In 2014, the commission ruled that Adamson must print messages conflicting with his religious convictions. The court system subsequently ruled repeatedly against the commission’s order, until the case eventually made its way to the state’s highest court. The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), who helped represent Adamson in the case, maintained that the business owner



has demonstrated that he ‘serves all people, including LGBT customers,’ as he did when his shop, Hands On Originals, printed promotional materials for an openly lesbian singer who performed at the Lexington’s 2012 Pride festival. Adamson also has taken a consistent stand on the issue of free speech, ADF underscored, refusing to print other messages that likewise conflict with his Christian beliefs, including shirts advertising a strip club, shirts containing violent messages, and ‘pens promoting a sexually explicit video.’ ... The ruling by Kentucky’s highest court, ADF argues in the release, ‘highlights why the U.S. Supreme Court should take up the important First Amendment issue at the heart of the case and decide whether governments may force creative professionals who serve everyone to print messages or create art that violates their beliefs.’”

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LEAVE CHURCH NO LONGER RETURNING LATER

(Friday Church News Notes, November 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following research is confirmed by the many Southern Baptist and fundamental Baptist churches that are populated predominately by elderly people. The young people are gone. This is excerpted from ‘Young People Who Leave Church,’ *Christian Post*, Oct. 23, 2019: “While pastors have long banked on social science showing that young people who leave church generally return when they’re older, a recent analysis of that trend suggests it might be over. In his analysis of data from the General Social Survey of five-year windows in which individuals were born spanning from



1965 to 1984 and published by the Barna Group, Ryan Burge, an assistant professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University and pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, shows that younger generations raised in the church aren’t typically returning to church when compared with members of the ‘Baby boomer’ generation born between 1945 and 1964. In Burge’s analysis of the boomer generation, four different five-year cohorts reflected the ‘trademark hump’ supported by traditional social science ‘when each birth cohort moves into the 36–45 age range. That’s exactly what the life cycle effect would predict: People settle down, they have kids, and they return to church.’ When he examined data for the younger cohorts 1965–1969, 1975–1979 and 1980–1984, the data show a fading of the life cycle effect. While the hump is still there in the cohort measured from 1965–1969, a shift in the life cycle effect begins to emerge by around 1970. ‘That trend line is completely flat—those people didn’t return to church when they moved into their 30s. You can see the beginnings of a hump among those born between 1975 and 1979, but in the next birth cohort the hump is actually inverted. That trademark return to church—which pastors and church leaders have relied on for decades—might be fading,’ Burge said. For anyone concerned with church growth, Burge says ‘this

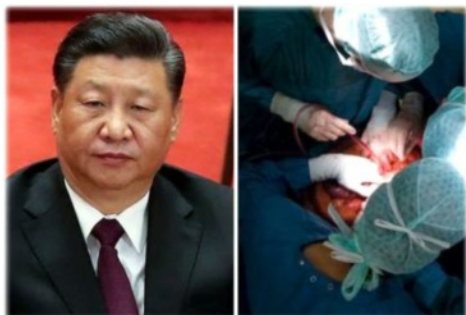
should sound an alarm.” **CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BROTHER CLOUD:** Of course it should “sound an alarm,” but the young people shouldn’t be leaving churches in the first place, and we do not believe this is a lost battle by any means. The book [*Keeping the Kids: How to Keep the Kids from Falling Prey to the World*](#), is filled with practical biblical help for homes and churches on this important subject. It is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

CHINA’S STATE-SANCTIONED ORGAN HARVESTING (Friday Church News Notes, November 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Survivors and Victims,” *Fox News*, Oct. 26, 2019: “[Forced organ harvesting is] the stuff of nightmares. And it has been buried from public view, hard to prove, and shrouded beneath the cloak of silence for almost two decades. ... After 12 months of independent assessment of all available evidence, the seven-person China Tribunal panel – which was initiated by the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC), an international human rights charity--delivered its final findings in June. The tribunal, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC who led the prosecution of Slobodan Milosevic in the International Criminal Trial for the former

Yugoslavia, stated with ‘certainty’ that ‘in China, forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practiced for a substantial period of time.’ ‘Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years, and Falun Gong practitioners have been one--and probably the main--source of organ supply,’ the report concluded, pointing to the growing transplant industry already worth more than \$1 billion. The report underscored that there were ‘extraordinarily short waiting times for organs to be available for transplantation,’ and numerous websites advertised hearts, lungs, and kidneys for sale--suggesting an on-demand industry. The Tribunal concluded that the commission of Crimes Against Humanity against Falun Gong and Uighurs had been committed. Witness testimonies provided to the tribunal, and interviewed by *Fox News*, paint the picture of an unfathomably callous trade often performed when the victims are still alive. ... Moreover, the China Organ Harvest Research Center (COHRC), which also testified before the China Tribunal, published its own incriminating report in July after years of underground research and analysis, deducing that the ‘on-demand killing of prisoners of conscience is driven by the state, run on an industrial scale and carried out by both military and civilian institutions.’ ... According to the COHRC, there are mountains of money to be made. Data from 2007 shows that hospitals charged more than \$65,000 for a kidney transplant, \$130,000 for liver, and more than \$150,000 for lung or heart. Desperate patients might make a high-price ‘donation’ for a new organ at top-speed. The practice is alleged to have

started in the 90s on a small-scale, but kicked into high gear around 2000 and focused on the Falun Gong. It was initially characterized as targeting the forcible removing of organs of prisoners on death row.”

A SOUTHERN BAPTIST SEMINARY HIRES “GAY AFFIRMING FEMINIST” WHO SAYS ABORTION ISN’T MURDER (Friday Church News Notes, November 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Pulpit & Pen*, Oct. 25, 2019: “Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forrest, a seminary belonging to the Southern Baptist Convention, just hired a radical leftist and gay-affirming feminist to its faculty. Karen Swallow Prior’s days at Liberty University were limited after promoting her pro-gay book on Liberty’s campus only months ago and her increasingly brazen liberal stances becoming more apparent since *Pulpit & Pen* began to report on her shocking liberalism since 2015. Our first post on this exceedingly wicked woman aged exceedingly well, and over the years, verified on every point beyond a question of a doubt. That article, *Gay Affirming Research Fellow at ERLC, Shocking Liberalism*, laid out how Prior repeatedly uses affirming language toward the LGBTQ ...



attended pro-LGBTQ fundraisers, supported pro-LGBTQ ad campaigns, and back-peddled and soft-handed abortion while pretending to have been a pro-life advocate (various claims about her past activism cannot be substantiated). Radical animal rights activists saw Prior as an ‘ally and resource contributor’ to ‘invade right-wing evangelical institutions with an animal-first agenda’ as far back as 2007. Prior said in *Christianity Today* that abortion is not murder and defended abortionists from the accusation of being ‘murderers.’ Prior said that calling abortion murder is unchristlike. ... Prior has been hired by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which has reverted to a pre-1979 liberalism every bit as progressive as it was prior to the Conservative Resurgence.”



WHAT ONE PASTOR WROTE TO ANOTHER PASTOR ABOUT BRO. CLOUD (Friday Church News Notes, November 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Excellent article in today’s (May 9, 2019) Friday Church News Notes on the first Televised Rock Worship service in 1969 at the Episcopal ‘Church’ in Manhattan. I appreciate the analysis and the comparison of what is now happening among Independent Baptists. We need that strong, scriptural warning. A few

weeks ago I shared the following comments with a pastor concerning your ministry: ‘Could I say a word concerning brother Cloud. This man has more discernment in his little finger than some pastors have in their entire mind. I know him too well to have preachers convince me that he is an unloving, nosy, hyper-judgmental, busybody who accomplishes little for God and “shoots” at good men. The facts are, Brother Cloud is a most diligent and faithful student of the Word of God, a wise and humble servant of Christ, a gifted teacher, preacher, writer and effective Gospel witness as well as a Biblicist, Baptist, separatist church planter who is leading radical Hindus to Christ in a dangerous part of our world, discipling them to be bold preachers of the Word of God and forming them into effective, New Testament Church members. His willingness to confront the waywardness of IB leaders who are ill affecting pastors and local churches across the globe has helped many believers avoid the shark infested waters of easy-believism, Calvinism, universalism, doctrinal neutrality, interdenominationalism and ecumenical, apostate bridge building.’”

FREQUENT MARIJUANA SMOKERS AT GREATER RISK OF STROKE, HEART PROBLEMS (Friday Church News Notes, November 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Frequent pot smokers,” *HealthDay News*, Nov. 11, 2019: “Smoking pot doesn’t do your heart or your brain any favors, a pair of new studies shows. Frequent pot smokers are more than twice as likely to suffer a



stroke compared with those who don’t partake, the first study found. They’re also more likely to be hospitalized for a dangerously erratic heart rhythm, according to the second study. Both studies are to be presented at an upcoming meeting of the American Heart Association (AHA), in Philadelphia, Nov. 16 to 18. Research presented at meetings is typically considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal. ... The findings are ‘thought provoking at a time when there is a great push to legalize marijuana, and the herb and its metabolites are being promoted as a cure-all for a myriad of medical conditions and ailments,’ said Dr. Ranjit [Suri](#), an electrophysiologist at Mount Sinai St. Luke’s in New York City. Suri was not part of either study. The first study found that non-smokers who use marijuana more than 10 days a month are nearly 2.5 times more likely to have a stroke versus non-users. ... The study team was surprised that people so young had such an elevated stroke risk, said lead author Tarang Parekh, a health policy researcher at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. ... In the second study, researchers found that people who compulsively use cannabis have an up to 50 percent greater risk of being hospitalized for an arrhythmia—an erratic heartbeat that can increase risk of stroke, heart attack or heart failure.”



CHINA'S NEW SUPER CAMERA CAN IDENTIFY A FACE AMONG THOUSANDS (Friday Church News Notes, November 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "China's New 500MP 'Super Camera,'" petapixel.com, Sep. 27, 2019: "Scientists at the Fudan University and Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics in China have developed a 500MP cloud-connected 'super camera' that can reportedly pick out facial details of an individual person among thousands in a crowded stadium. The new tech is raising serious concerns about privacy and government monitoring. According to a report by *ABC News*, the camera was revealed at China's International Industry Fair by Xiaoyang Zeng, one of the scientists who worked on the new system. The camera combines its 500MP resolution with a connection to the cloud and AI-powered, real-time facial recognition technology, making it possible to identify every individual in an ultra-wide image of a crowded stadium. As if that's not enough, the camera can reportedly record video at the same resolution. The applications were put aptly enough by the China News Service, who writes that the 'cloud-camera system [is] able to capture thousands of faces at a stadium in perfect detail and generate their facial data for the cloud while locating a

particular target in an instant.' According to the *CNS* report, the technology is being praised by 'most Chinese experts' for its potential 'military, national defense, and public security applications,' although 'some' have expressed concerns around privacy."

BEWARE OF BETHEL CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, November 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Bethel Church is a former Assemblies of God church in Redding, California, that withdrew in 2005 to become a "nondenominational" charismatic network of churches and ministries. Bethel's senior pastors are the husband/wife team Bill and Beni Johnson. Bethel Music publishes popular contemporary worship songs, promotes CCM tours worldwide, and operates WorshipU, an influential educational program. Bethel's most famous musician is Jeremy Riddle, co-author of "This Is Amazing Grace." The heretical emphasis is "encountering God" and "pursuing the presence of God" by means of releasing oneself to heavily sensual music. "At every service, our worship teams usher in the presence of God." Bethel's series "Without Words" uses instrumental music "to push the creative boundaries of worship."

There are no lyrics. Bethel's "dance and flag ministry" also "reveals God's heart with no words." This is blind, emotional mysticism to feed the modern frenzy for "an experience." It is open disobedience to the Bible's command to "be sober, be vigilant" and is a perfect recipe for spiritual delusion. True spiritual edification requires a biblical message that is understood. This is the theme of 1 Corinthians 14, where "edify" is a synonym for "understanding." "... except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. ... I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ... Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:9, 15, 26). Bethel Church also founded Jesus Culture, a contemporary, charismatic, ecumenical, music-oriented youth ministry that has its own Jesus Culture Music. Jesus Culture's conferences are attended by tens of thousands. Bethel's School of Supernatural Ministry has graduated 10,000 since 1998. "Students learn how to read, understand, and 'do' the Bible, how to practice His presence, to witness, heal the sick, prophesy, preach, pray, cast out demons and much more." Bethel teaches and practices all sorts of charismatic heresies, such as the continuation of



Bill & Beni Johnson - Bethel Music

apostles and prophets, gibberish tongues, the promise of healing in the atonement, angelic and demon sightings, clairvoyance, grave soaking (lying on a grave to soak up the deceased's "anointing"), and the appearance of "glory clouds," gold dust, and angel "feathers." Beni Johnson teaches that there are a variety of angels: messenger angels, healing angels, fiery angels." She says that one of her students in the Supernatural School of Ministry was told by God to go to a chapel and shout "Wakey Wakey!" Suddenly, a huge angel stepped out and said, "I am the angel from the 1904 revival and you just woke me up." When she asked, "Why have you been asleep?" the angel replied, "Because no one has been calling out for revival anymore." On Nov. 6, 2019, Bill Johnson tweeted, "To raise a generation of powerful people, we must build trust. We must have the core belief that people are good." In contrast, Jesus' core belief is that "there is none good but one, that is, God" (Mark 10:18).

FINNISH POLITICIAN ACCUSED OF "INCITEMENT OF HATRED" OVER BOOKLET "MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM" (Friday Church News Notes, November 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Finnish Politician, Pastor's Wife Accused," *Christian News Network*, Nov. 5, 2019: "A lawmaker and pastor's wife in Finland who was already being probed by police over a social media post in which she questioned the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland's partnership with a Helsinki Pride event is now also facing a preliminary 'incitement'



investigation over a booklet that she wrote 15 years ago entitled 'Male and Female He Created Them.' The Office of the Prosecutor General of Finland issued a press release on Monday noting that while Päivi Räsänen's 2004 publication--which remains online--'takes a stand on ecclesiastical policy, social policy, sexuality and marriage in regard to the Bible and its interpretation,' Prosecutor Raija Toiviainen believes the text potentially constitutes a hate crime. ... 'According to the prosecutor general, there is reason to believe that because of the defamation of homosexuals by the violation of their human dignity, Ms. Räsänen is guilty of incitement to hatred against a group,' it explains. 'Therefore, there will be a preliminary investigation in this matter.' ... As previously reported, Räsänen's husband is a pastor with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, which is the largest denomination in the country, having an estimated three million members. ... Räsänen is known for defending life and marriage, standing against abortion, euthanasia and homosexuality. ... In June, Räsänen, a member of the Christian Democrat Party (which is different from the Democratic Party in the United States), also tweeted her views about the unscriptural advocacy. 'How can the Church's doctrinal foundation,

the Bible, be compatible with the lifting up of shame and sin as a subject of pride? #LGBT #HelsinkiPride2019 #Romans 1:24-27,' she wrote, while sharing a photograph of the biblical text, as it directly addresses homosexuality. However, in September, it was announced that Räsänen had been placed under government investigation for her post, being accused of 'incitement against sexual and gender minorities.' ... She also told the Christian Broadcasting Network that she is 'worried that this case, the criminal investigation, might frighten some Christians to hide and to keep silent.' '[T]ruth usually comes with a price. One often has to pay for following truth, confessing truth and speaking it. Instead, however, people are tempted to sell the truth, to acquire advantage for oneself by yielding to popular, false ideas and by distorting the truth. Yet the Bible exhorts, Buy the truth, and do not sell it! Räsänen stated during a seminar in 2013, according to text posted to her website. ... 'If we neglect this right, the space for speaking will eventually get smaller. The more we keep silent about the teachings of the Bible on the painful issues of our time, the more powerful is the rejection. If there are not enough skiers on a ski track in a snowstorm, it gets difficult to proceed. We need people who ski before us.'"

BBC TEACHING BRITISH SCHOOL CHILDREN THERE ARE "MORE THAN 100 GENDERS" (Friday Church News Notes, November 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "The BBC teaching British school children," *Creation.com*, Nov. 14, 2019: "The BBC have released nine



online videos titled 'The Big Talk' for use in British schools as part of the UK's new Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum, which came into force in September 2019. In these films, typically running to four minutes, children are taught that sex is unrelated to gender, that people can go to prison for 'being disrespectful or hateful' (to others with different sexual orientations), and that there are 'over 100 different gender identities.' ... To question this

ideology is now considered rank heresy. However, the BBC's teaching will only sow further confusion in our society. The unpalatable truth is that a radical, dangerous philosophy is now being forced upon the young and vulnerable as part of the advancement of an extreme political ideology. It is of grave concern that the BBC is preaching this new 'all-inclusive doctrine' to children as young as 9–12 years of age. ... The material in the BBC videos should concern any parent or teacher who cares about the mental well-being of children, especially those seeking to raise children in accordance with biblical standards. Genesis 1:26-28 reveals that God created people as male and female in His image. Adam and Eve were the first married couple in Scripture, and Jesus Himself affirmed the Bible's definition of marriage as

one woman for one man for life (Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-8). ... However, in the BBC videos, school children are encouraged to transgress the clear standards of God's Word and to celebrate this behaviour. This is to light the fuse of a cultural and moral time-bomb. ... Recently, Canadian academic Christopher Dummitt, a leader in the field of historical gender studies, bluntly admitted: 'Everyone was (and is) making it up. That's how the gender-studies field works.' Dummitt confesses that his field is driven by the underlying, unproven, ideological belief that gender is socially constructed, that it is non-binary (i.e. not restricted to male and female), and that traditional masculinity empowers men to oppress women. Such thinking has dominated the liberal arts in Western academic

HOW DO YOUR OPALS GROW?

(Friday Church News Notes, November 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, Oct. 11, 2019: Opals are precious multicolored gemstones made primarily of silica. How do they form? Scientists admit that much of the chemistry is not well understood. However, according to the traditional explanation, their formation begins as water filters through silica-rich rock, dissolving some of the silica. When that water passes through a cavity in a suitable rock, the silica precipitates as a film on the wall of the cavity. After tens of millions of years, say the scientists, you will have an opal. Now opals have been found

along with fossilized soil bacteria, similar to typical soil bacteria you find today. With this finding, some scientists have suggested that the acids produced by the bacteria may have helped form the opals. They propose that the acids produced by the bacteria dissolved some of the minerals in nearby feldspar, forming the opals. Obviously, this process would not take as long as the purely natural process traditionally thought to form opals. Other geologists are reluctant to give bacteria any credit for opal formation. However, one opal expert, Dr. Len Cram, has been growing opals in a process that takes only a



few months. Creationists do not oppose real knowledge. We know that when truth is discovered it will never contradict Scripture. Actually demonstrating that opals can be produced in a matter of months is far better science than speculating about it taking millions of years. Ref: *Creation*, 12/00-2: 2001, p. 5, 'Opals from Bacteria?'

institutions since the 1990s. But such an ideology Dummit admits is 'bankrupt', not based on biological fact."

COLONIAL HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS, ANNOUNCES WORSHIP

CONFERENCE 2020 (Friday Church News Notes, November 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Colonial Hills Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, has announced "Worship Conference 2020: A Traditional Look at Contemporary Music" to be held in January. Speakers include Seth Custer and Greg Steikes of Bob Jones University, Adam Morgan of Majesty Music, Mark Herbster of Maranatha Baptist University, and Tim Fisher of Sacred Music Services. It is described as "a contemporary look at traditional worship." The problem is that Bob Jones and Majesty Music have capitulated to using Getty Townend Music (GTM) in their hymnals, so they are facing two ways. They have changed their former stand of accepting *no* contemporary Christian music to one of accepting *some* contemporary Christian music. This is a major turning point if there is such a thing as a slippery slope in this issue, and there most definitely is such a thing. Getty-Townend are out-and-out contemporary rockers with no boundaries either in musical styles or

associations. Townend is a "gibberish tongues-speaking, prophecies are for today, apostles are among us, kingdom now" charismatic. The Gettys partner with Roman Catholics such as Matt Maher, Margaret Becker, and Máire Brennan. GTM is a bridge to the one world church as surely as Hillsong. We have documented this extensively in the report "The Gettys - Pied Pipers of Contemporary Worship Music." Men who are defending the use of contemporary praise music to any degree instead of warning against it without equivocation will answer to God for the souls that cross the bridges they are building to the dangerous world that is represented by this music. In the Internet age, to recommend *some select* GTM songs is, in effect, to point people to Stuart Townend and the Gettys online and to their influence. I hope to hear in January that Worship Conference 2020 publicly renounces the use of Getty-Townend Music, repents of any former support for this music, and that GTM will be removed entirely from future editions of hymnbooks published by Majesty Music and Bob Jones University.

SPRITE'S COMMERCIAL PROMOTING YOUTH TRANSSEXUALISM

(Friday Church News Notes, November 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Sprite Puts Out Disgusting Commercial," ReformationCharlotte.com, Nov. 15, 2019: "When you think the big corporate push for a sexual revolution couldn't get any worse, think again. The LGBTQ mafia which is controlled by the corporate elites has continued to stay on the bleeding



edge of sexual immorality and Sprite is at the front of the line. Sprite recently released a commercial in Argentina depicting a teenage boy bundling up and transitioning into a girl. The commercial shows graphic images of the child's body while he changes into girl's clothes, puts on a wig, and paints himself up. ... Ten years ago, this commercial would have sparked outrage across the world and would not have been allowed, but now, this is celebrated like it's the greatest thing to happen to the world since sliced bread. It is clearly an indication that the world is being given over to sin and under the judgment of God."

OCEAN PLASTICS (Friday Church News Notes, November 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Ocean Plastics" *Liberty Nation*, Nov. 14, 2019: "[For] years, scientists have been puzzled by the discrepancy between the released and measured ocean plastic. More than 98% goes missing every year, causing researchers to wonder where it goes. A new study may have an answer: It is dissolved by the sun. Scientists from Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, East China Normal University, and Northeastern University conducted a lab experiment to study how plastic responds to direct sunlight while





floating in ocean water. Published in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, the study exposed various plastic polymers commonly found in ocean garbage to simulated sunlight while immersed in ocean water for two months. It observed degradation and dissolution at a far higher rate than anyone previously thought possible. The consensus has been that plastic survives in nature for thousands of years. This study showed that, when exposed to sunlight, the half-life--the time it takes for half of the material to disappear--of common types of plastic was reduced to only 2.7 years. The most robust plastic had an estimated half-life of 49 years, which is still orders of magnitude faster than previously believed. ... In the West, news of sea creatures trapped in plastic typically is met with more demands to ban plastic straws. This

is a classic example of narcissistic altruism, the misplaced belief that anything wrong in the world is to be blamed on America. Yet 95% of the plastic garbage in the ocean comes from only ten rivers in the world, most of them in Asia, and all of them in the Third World. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, China alone accounts for 8.8 million tons annually, whereas America releases only 0.3 million tons. The United States accounts for only about 1% of the combined world pollution. ... Until now, Third World countries have been given a free pass by the West. They get to produce as much CO₂ as they want, cheat on intellectual property, subsidize their national industry while tolling and strictly regulating foreign competitors, treat their workers in a way that would never be allowed in the West, and release most of the garbage that pollutes the world's oceans to the detriment of all. The main culprit is China."

SIGNET RING POSSIBLY BELONGING TO PILATE (Friday Church News Notes, November 22,



2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A copper alloy ring found at the Herodium in southern Israel was discovered to bear the name "Pilatus," possibly referring to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who condemned Jesus to death. The ring was found 50 years ago in Herod's palace, but only in late 2018 was it cleaned up properly and subjected to scientific tests ("2,000-year-old 'Pilate' ring," *The Times of Israel*, Nov. 29, 2018). This is the second reference to Pilate found in Israel. In 1961, a stone was found at Caesarea Maritima inscribed with the words "[Po]ntius Pilate ... [Pref]ect of Juda[ea]." According to the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, while Pontius was a common name, Pilate was "extremely rare."

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- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
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