HOMOSEXUALS PERFORM AT BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

The following was sent to me by Pastor Steve Rogers, pastorsteverogers@gmail.com: “The music drift continues in ‘fundamentalism’ as Bob Jones University, under new head Steve Pettit, hosted the men’s music group Cantus for their Artist Series, Jan. 27, 2015. I called the school because I have friends and family that attend BJU, but no one would talk to me and my call has not been returned. Cantus’ website contains information about the performers. Tenor Zachary Colby says the person he most admires is Oprah Winfrey. Tenor Blake Morgan said that his idea of a great evening is ‘sunsets and craft beer’ and he is ‘a huge fan of vocal jazz.’ Tenor Aaron Humble is a homosexual who commutes from Minneapolis, where he works, to Seattle, where his ‘husband’ lives with their two cats. Tenor Shahzore Shah lives in Saint Paul with his ‘husband,” and his most admired living person is Thich Nhat Nanh, a Zen Buddhist master.”

CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BRO. CLOUD: Someone wrote to Pastor Rogers with the following comment: “It is common knowledge that BJU has always had secular artist groups in as part of their Artist Series. This is hardly a ‘drift’ as it has been going on for decades. The University has a liberal arts philosophy that exposes the students to various classical expressions of art and culture. Whether you agree with it or not, it is nothing new and unsaved classical performers have always come to the campus for these events. ... I believe the leadership also uses it as an opportunity to give the gospel to these accomplished performers.” In response to that I would say that I truly doubt that BJU has had open homosexuals with “husbands” as performers before. Therefore, this probably does represent a further drift and a sad milestone for the school. And though the “art” thing might explain their action, it doesn’t justify it before God. Sharing the gospel (assuming they do that) does not justify bringing unbelievers and mockers of God’s holy laws on campus to entertain Bible students. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

LARGE “EVANGELICAL” CHURCH CHANGES STANCE ON “GAY CHRISTIANS”

The large GracePointe Church near Nashville has changed its stance on “gay Christianity.” After country music star Carrie Underwood, who attends GracePointe, spoke in favor of “gay marriage” in 2012, the pastor led the church in a three-year process of “listening on the topic of sexual orientation and identity.” Though the issue has been settled in Scripture for thousands of years and Bible-believing churches since the apostles have universally treated homosexuality as a sin to be repented of, the very modern senior pastor Stan Mitchell has led GracePointe to accept homosexuals into “the full privileges of membership,” including “being able to serve in leadership.” It is yet another example of how that the ears of this generation itch for new things, and there are heaps of teachers...continued on next page
LARGE “EVANGELICAL” CHURCH CHANGES STANCE ON “GAY CHRISTIANS” ...continued from previous page

willing to scratch that itch (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Mitchell said that the responsibility for homosexual church members will be the same as for heterosexual members, which includes “holiness and godliness,” thus calling good evil and evil good. No amount of “listening” and cunning exegesis can change the Bible’s simple and clear teaching that marriage is limited to one man and one woman and that any sexual relationship apart from sacred marriage is sin before God. “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4). Mitchell framed the issue in terms of “love.” If we love the homosexual, we are supposed to sympathize with his condition rather than sit in judgment on him. In fact, the issue is love, but the first direction of our love must be toward God, as per His first law, and toward His infallible Word which cuts against the grain of this proud generation. Further, the call for sinners to repent is the truest definition of love, for this makes it possible for them to have a right relationship with God. Mitchell also framed the issue in terms of inclusion. He said, that “inclusion means that we can live together in agreement and disagreement.” That is not what Paul taught the churches. “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be NO DIVISIONS among you; but that ye be PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10). There is no unity in diversity here. We don’t know what the long-term effect will be at GracePointe, but in the short-term, Time magazine reports (“Nashville Evangelical Church Comes Out for Marriage Equality,” Jan. 29, 2015) that the church’s attendance and offering are half of what they were before the announcement.

ISLAMIC STATE DESTROYS ANCIENT NINEVEH WALL

An official of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Mosul, Iraq, told IraqiNews.com, “ISIS militants blew up today large parts and expanses of the archaeological wall of Nineveh in al-Tahrir neighborhood” (“ISIS destroys large parts of Nineveh historical wall,” Archaeology News Network, Feb. 2, 2015). It was possibly the walls and gates that have been reconstructed on original foundations that were blown up by the Islamic State. Nineveh was founded in the 23rd century BC during the era of the Tower of Babel by Asshur, a confederate with Nimrod, and about 1,500 years later it was glorified by Sennacherib, king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. In his day, Nineveh’s massive outer walls were about 7.5 miles long, 50 feet high, 50 feet thick, and pierced by 15 great fortified gates. Water was brought from up to 40 miles away by an aqueduct and a series of canals to irrigate beautiful parks, gardens, and fountains. Sennacherib built an extravagant 71-room “palace without rival” filled with amazing statues and with walls lined with carved stone depicting hunting and military scenes. It was Sennacherib who, after mocking Jehovah God and threatening Israel’s king Hezekiah, woke up one morning to find that his army had been slain by the angel of the Lord. He went back to his palace and died at the hands of his own sons while worshiping his god in 681 BC. In 612 BC, Nineveh was destroyed by an alliance of armies led by Nabopolassar of Babylon, father of Nebuchadnezzar. During excavations by the famous British archaeologist Henry Layard in the mid-19th century, many artifacts were excavated from Sennacherib’s palace and transported to the British Museum, where they can be seen today. For more about the fascinating ancient kingdoms, see Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms, available from www.wayoflife.org.
CITY UNIVERSITY NEW YORK BANS “MR” AND “MRS”

The following is excerpted from “New York college bans,” Fox News, Jan. 29, 2015: “Mr. and Mrs. Politically Correct have laid down the law at City University of New York, where gender-specific salutations are now a no-no. School officials sent out a memo barring professors and other staffers within the graduate program from addressing students with titles like ‘Mr.’ and ‘Mrs.,’ according to the Wall Street Journal. ... ‘Effective Spring 2015, the (graduate center’s) policy is to eliminate the use of gendered salutations and references in correspondence to students, prospective students, and third parties,’ read the memo to employees. ‘Accordingly, Mr. and Ms. should be omitted from salutations.’ While the directive specifically targets written interactions with students and prospective students, Tanya Domi, a spokesperson for the school told the newspaper that the policy should be ‘interpreted as broadly as possible.’”

ALABAMA CHIEF JUSTICE DEFIES FEDERAL COURT RULING ON MARRIAGE

The following is excerpted from Mike Cason, “Alabama Chief Justice,” www.al.com, Jan. 27, 2015: “Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore has released a letter to Gov. Robert Bentley saying that he intends to continue to recognize the state’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and urging the governor to do so. Moore’s office released the three-page letter that was delivered to the governor this morning in response to a federal judge's ruling Friday striking down the ban. ... Bentley issued a statement today after Moore's letter was released. ‘The people of Alabama voted in a constitutional amendment to define marriage as being between man and woman. As governor, I must uphold the Constitution. I am disappointed in Friday’s ruling, and I will continue to oppose this ruling. The Federal government must not infringe on the rights of states.’ Moore said the ruling by U.S. District Judge Callie V.S. ‘Ginny’ Granade ‘raised serious, legitimate concerns about the propriety of federal court jurisdiction’ over the Alabama amendment. ‘As you know, nothing in the United States Constitution grants the federal government the authority to redefine the institution of marriage,’ Moore wrote. ... Moore included a biblical passage in his letter, Mark 10:6-9, which describes God’s directive about marriage.”
BIRD’S EGG REVOLUTION

The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 21, 2015: “The creation is literally filled with millions of what those who believe in evolution call ‘happy coincidences.’ But when you encounter millions of instances of what appears to be thoughtful design, the obvious conclusion is that there is a Designer. Take the example of bird eggs. The shape of the egg makes it strong. This strength comes in handy in a busy nest. Mom and dad are coming and going, and they turn the eggs periodically during incubation. But all eggs are not equally egg shaped, and there is a pattern to their shapes. Birds like robins that build a nice, dish shaped nest tend to lay eggs that are more round in shape. Screech owls, which lay their eggs at the bottom of a hole in a tree, also have round shaped eggs. Birds like the killdeer barely build any kind of nest and lay eggs on the ground where almost-round eggs could roll away.

For this reason, birds such as a killdeer lay much more sharply pointed eggs which are designed to pivot on their small end. Likewise, eggs that are laid where predators are not likely to see them are usually pale or solid in color, but eggs laid out in the open are camouflaged. Moreover, baby birds that hatch in protected nests, like the bluebird, tend to be naked, blind and helpless. But the unprotected killdeer hatchlings are ready to leave the nest within minutes of hatching. All coincidences? It seems more scientific to say that here we have a few of the many fingerprints of our wise Creator!”