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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## MUSIC FESTIVALS AND THE ONE-WORLD “CHURCH”

Soulfest in Gilford, New Hampshire, one of the biggest contemporary Christian music festivals, is Exhibit A that music is at the heart of the one-world “church.” Since at least 2002, the festival has had a Roman Catholic presence, and this year promises more of the same. The August 6-8 festival will feature a daily Catholic Mass and performances by Roman Catholic musician Matt Maher. Joining hands with Rome this year are some of the most popular and influential CCM groups and artists, including Big Daddy Weave, Switchfoot, Kari Jobe, Third Day, Natalie Grant, For King & Country, Toby Mac, David Crowder, Mandisa, Thousand Foot Krutch, Britt Nicole, Scott Stapp, The Vespers, Peter Furler, Rachel Taylor, The Wrecking, Andy Needham Band, Epic Season, Kardia, Chasing Cooper, Sleeping Giant, Five Iron Frenzy, Steve Taylor, Children 18:3, Bread of Stone, 3 Shades of Blue, Sanctus Real, The Violet Burning, I Am Clay, Chelsea Amber, Nibba, Exit 244, Jo Petty Band, and All 4Faith. Also participating are Word of Life Fellowship and the Salvation Army. Bands and artists participating in past Soulfests include Skillet, Casting Crowns, Family Force 5, Phil Joel, Chris Tomlin, Jeremy Camp, Jars of Clay, Mercy Me, Audio Adrenaline, P.O.D., Michael W. Smith, Rebecca St. James, Steven Curtis Chapman, The Call, Sam Phillips, BarlowGirl, Israel Houghton, and Bethany Dillon. Roman



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## POPE SAYS DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF CHRISTIAN DISUNITY

In a video message to the John 17 Movement’s recent conference in Phoenix, Pope Francis says that “division is the work of the ‘Father of Lies’” and that he “does everything possible to keep us divided” (“The Devil Knows Christians Are One,” *Catholic Herald*, May 25, 2015). The Pope said all Christians are one, whether “Evangelicals, Orthodox, Lutherans, Catholics, or Apostolic.” The John 17 Movement is based on the heretical ecumenical interpretation of John 17:21, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” Leaders of the Movement include Robert Briggs of the American Bible Society, Roman Catholic Bishop Eduardo Nevaes, and Pentecostal pastor Giovanni Traettino. In John 17, the Lord emphasizes that true Christian

unity is one based on supernatural salvation and obedience to revealed truth. It is not a “unity in diversity” that ignores doctrinal differences for the sake of a broad tent and that reduces truth to “essentials” and “non-essentials.” Christ emphasized that He was praying for those who love and obey the Word of God and keep its doctrine (John 17:6, 8, 14, 17, 19). This is not a prayer that envisions the modern ecumenical crowd that downplays the Word of God for the sake of a broad, lowest-common-denominator “unity.” It is not a unity of all denominations with their multiplicity of heresies. As usual, the Pope has it exactly backwards. The devil is not the father of doctrinal division; he is the father of the ecumenism that is building a one-world “church.” Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

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Catholic leaders use the Mass as a mystical tool to recapture "lapsed Catholics." Commenting on the 2009 Soulfest, the Catholic News Agency observed, "Among the various Christian denominations represented at Soulfest, the Catholic presence was significant. Daily Mass was celebrated Thursday through Saturday at 10 a.m., with a lively music ministry guided by the talented Matt Maher, one of the most popular, critically-acclaimed Catholic musicians in the country. ... David Simon ... explained how wonderful it is to have daily Mass at Soulfest. 'It's an opportunity for Catholics who left the Church to want to come home; it's such an opportunity to see the power of the Eucharist'" ("Strong Catholic Presence at Large Music Festival," Catholic News Agency, Aug. 13, 2009). The Catholic Mass has occultic power. I have read the testimonies of many individuals who have been converted to Rome through attending the Mass. In 2009, the Catholic band Glenridge performed on the main stage at Soulfest. The members of Glenridge testify of their one-world church faith as follows: "We love being Catholic, but know that we are one body under the love of Jesus Christ no matter what Christian church you go to on Sunday" (Ibid.). Soulfest has a strong emphasis on social work and social justice, another major element in building the one-world "church." Donald Miller, emerging church author of *Blue Like Jazz*, has spoken at Soulfest. (For more information about the bands and artists mentioned in this report see *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, which is available in print and as a free eBook from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org). Every preacher and Bible teacher should own and use this valuable resource.)

## SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS

"Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us" (Isaiah 30:10-11). In Isaiah's day, Israel rejected God's Word and tried to corrupt the prophets. The people professed to love God and they participated in the temple rituals, but they despised God's holy laws. They wanted to live as they pleased. They wanted preaching, but not right preaching. They didn't want to hear reproof of sin and sound doctrine. They wanted to hear "smooth things" that encouraged them regardless of how they lived and that did not interfere with their plans. They wanted God, but not "the Holy One." They would rather hear "deceits" than the truth. Israel has continued in this terrible condition until today. She rejected the greatest Prophet and Preacher, Jesus, her own Messiah. The Isaiah 30 passage is also an apt description of apostate Christianity as Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. They profess to love Christ and the Bible, but in reality they love their own lusts. They flock to hear teachers who downplay repentance and conversion and holy living, who preach smooth things and invent fables such as gibberish tongues, spirit slaying, laughing revivals, non-judgmentalism, self-esteemism, positive confession, the veneration of Mary, contemplative prayer, rock & roll worship, theistic evolution, ecumenism, non-essential doctrine, and universalism. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

## RADICALIZATION OF EUROPE'S MUSLIMS REACHES A CRISIS POINT

The following is excerpted from “Radicalization of Europe’s Muslims,” Breitbart.com, Mar. 23, 2015: “In 2013, Ruud Koopmans published the results of a pan-European study, based on interviews with 9,000 European Muslims, which showed large numbers of European Muslims believe in many of the ideas championed by the Islamic State: a return to the roots of Islam, the conviction that religious (Koranic) law stands above all secular laws; a hatred of Jews and homosexuals; and a view of the West as the enemy of Islam. ... More recently, in the aftermath of the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre, the BBC surveyed 1,000 British Muslims and found that 24 percent consider ‘violence against those who publish images of the Prophet’ is justified. Asked whether ‘Muslim clerics preaching that violence against the West can be justified are out of touch with mainstream Muslim opinion,’ 45 percent disagreed. Put another way, nearly half of British Muslims stand comfortably by those clerics who justify violence against the West. ... And that’s

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just in the U.K. Sadly, one can no longer pass these views off as those of a ‘small minority’ of Europe’s Muslims. Across Western Europe, Koopmans’ study determined, ‘Two-thirds of the Muslims interviewed say that religious rules are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. Three quarters of the respondents hold the opinion that there is only one legitimate interpretation of the

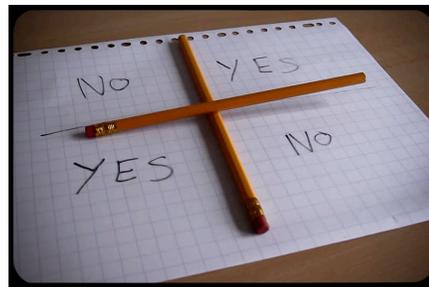
Koran.’ ... Moreover, 56 percent of Belgian and 64 percent of Austrian Muslims responding to Koopmans’ survey in 2008 agreed that “Jews cannot be trusted,” and indications are strong that Muslim attitudes towards Jews have only worsened. Indeed, with the targeted killings of Jews in Brussels, Paris, and Copenhagen over

the past year, Muslim hate towards Jews in Europe has now reached a crisis. Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch across all of Europe. The issue here is one of trends, and these trends, which involve hundreds of thousands of radical, fundamentalist Muslims, paint a deeply disturbing picture.”

## CHARLIE CHARLIE CHALLENGE

Called the new Ouija board, the Charlie Charlie Challenge is a new teen craze. It consists of laying pencils in a cross shape on a sheet of paper on which the words “yes” and “no” are written and saying, “Charlie, Charlie, are you here?” or “Charlie, Charlie, will you come out to play.” The hashtag #CharlieCharlieChallenge has been tweeted 1.8 million times and the Charlie Charlie Challenge was one of the most searched terms on the Internet over the Memorial Day weekend. Secular sources such as NBC, BBC, and Fox News dismiss the activity as

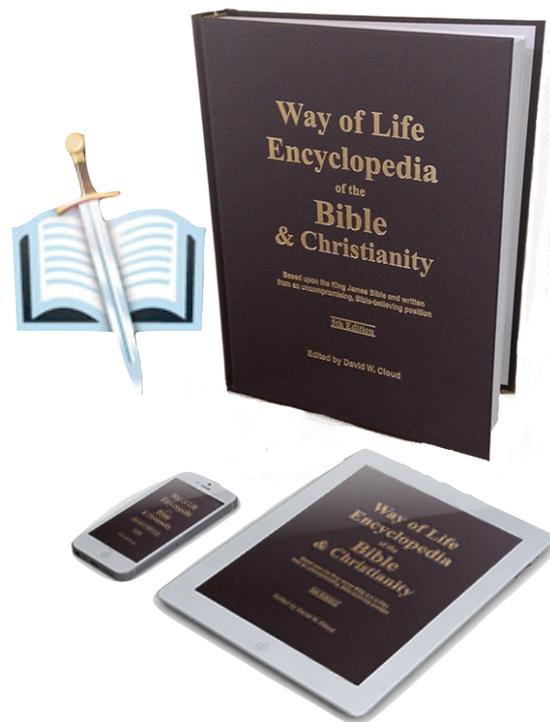
harmless fun, but the Bible says that demons are real, and playing around with the occult is forbidden by God and can have serious consequences.



## PREACHER SAYS HE WOULD SAVE HIS BIBLE AND HIS WAY OF LIFE ENCYCLOPEDIA

The *Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity*, first published in 1993, currently is in the fifth edition. It contains 640 pages of information, over 6,000 entries, and over 7,000 cross-references. A product of 40 years of intensive Bible study and research, it is a complete dictionary of biblical terminology and features many other areas of research not often covered in Bible dictionaries, including Bible Versions, denominations, cults, Christian movements, typology, the church, social issues, practical Christian living, Bible prophecy, and old English terminology. Many preachers have told us that apart from *Strong's Concordance*, the *Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia* is their favorite study tool. A missionary told us that if he could save only one study book out of his library, it would be our Bible encyclopedia. An evangelist wrote, "If I were going to the mission field and could carry only three books, they would be the Strong's concordance, a hymnal, and the *Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia*." Missionary author Jack Moorman said, "The encyclopedia is excellent; the entries show a 'distilled spirituality.'" Recently a preacher in

Zimbabwe said, "If my shack catches on fire, I will grab my passport, my Bible and my *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, and run out!" The encyclopedia is available in print, eBook, and *Swordsearcher* editions.



### CONCLUSION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).