FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

TONY CAMPOLO AND FORMER CHRISTIANITY TODAY EDITOR COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANITY

More “evangelicals” recently came out in support of the heresy of homosexual Christianity. Influential teacher and author Tony Campolo issued a news release saying, “I am finally ready to call for the full acceptance of Christian gay couples into the Church.” Though this has been framed by many as a major change of stance, Campolo has long been wishy-washy on the issue of homosexuality, and like the good emerging church leader he is, he is adept at the miracle of facing two ways. For many years he has stated that homosexuality is a birth condition and not a “volitional” matter. When I interviewed Campolo in 2008 at the New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta, he was wearing a rainbow scarf in support of homosexual rights. Campolo’s wife, Peggy, is a national leader of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB), which urges Baptist congregations to receive homosexuals into full membership privileges. At the New Baptist Covenant Celebration, I interviewed an AWAB council member named Kathy Stayton who said that she rejects the

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ABC NEWS’ GLOBAL WARMING PREDICTIONS FOR 2015 WERE WRONG

In 2008, ABC began hyping the documentary Earth 2100, which predicted that by 2015 New York City would be engulfed by water, flames would cover hundreds of miles, a gallon of gas would cost more than $9 and a gallon of milk $13. The predictions were wildly inaccurate, because they were based on bogus science. New York City is not covered with water, flames cover nothing, gas is $2.75 a gallon, and milk is $3.39. “Seven years later, the network has quietly ignored its horribly inaccurate predictions about 2015. When it comes to global warming claims, apparently results don’t matter for ABC” (“ABC’s ’08 Prediction,” NewsBusters.org, Jun. 12, 2015).
first three chapters of Genesis as literal history, does not believe that marriage is a divinely-ordained institution or that homosexual acts, even outside of “committed relationships,” are sinful. The AWAB booth distributed an article by Peggy Campolo entitled “Some Answers to the Most Common Questions about God’s GLBT [gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered] Children” from the Summer 2000 edition of The InSpiriter. Agreeing with Campolo’s recent statement was David Neff, retired editor of Christianity Today, who said on Facebook, “God bless Tony Campolo. He is acting in good faith and is, I think, on the right track.” Neff told Christianity Today: “I think the ethically responsible thing for gay and lesbian Christians to do is to form lasting, covenanted partnerships. I also believe that the church should help them in those partnerships in the same way the church should fortify traditional marriages.” (Does Campolo Announcement Signal Move,” Christian Newswire, Jun. 12. 2015). (The current senior editor of Christianity Today, Mark Galli, quickly reaffirmed the magazine’s official stance against same-sex “marriage,” though in typical New Evangelical fashion, Galli also stated that they won’t condemn or distance themselves from those who differ.) Neff’s position is impossible to reconcile with two clear teachings of Scripture. First, any sexual relationship outside of holy matrimony is sinful and under God’s judgment (Heb. 13:4). Second, holy matrimony is restricted to a covenant between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:18-24). This was affirmed by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6. “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4). The issue of homosexuality is revealing the apostasy of a large number of “evangelicals.”

Professors at some U.S. universities are warning that the earth is entering a new period of extinction. They say that creatures are going extinct at alarming rates. Gerardo Ceballos, lead author of a study by Stanford, Princeton, and Berkeley, says, “We are now entering the sixth great mass extinction event. If it is allowed to continue, life would take many millions of years to recover and our species itself would likely disappear early on” (“Earth ‘entering new extinction phrase,’” BBC News, June 20, 2015). The scientists are calling for “intensive conservation,” but this type of thing is ridiculous at multiple levels. First, if life is a product of blind evolution, it has no meaning or purpose. Man would have no more ultimate meaning or importance than a slug. Second, the alleged previous mass extinctions were not manmade, since man did not exist then according to the evolutionary timetable, and could not have been prevented. If evolution is true, some event will eventually destroy the world, whether it be warming, cooling, drought or deluge. Third, man has not shown himself capable of solving any of the world’s big problems, such as war, crime, poverty, disease, and death. Man cannot save himself, let alone the earth. (The first three supposed Mass Extinctions--Ordovician-Sirurian, Late Devonian, Permian-- probably all occurred during the global Flood of Noah’s day. When the bogus evolutionary dating systems are rejected as the fallible “science” they are, these “mass extinctions,” which consist of massive fossil beds, are powerful evidence for the biblical Flood.)
This month, the Christian owners of the Gortz Haus Gallery in Grimes, Iowa, announced that they were closing their business as a result of attacks by homosexual activists and a ruling by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. In 2013, Richard and Betty Odgaard refused to allow a gay couple to rent their facility for a wedding. The couple sued the Mennonite couple and the Civil Rights Commission ruled that they had discriminated and ordered a $5,000 settlement. “Inspired by their experiences, the Odgaards have organized God’s Original Design Ministry, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, to advance Christian teachings, Biblical ordinances and natural laws as God intended, the gallery’s website announces” (“Another Christian Family-Run Business Closing after Refusing to Host Gay Wedding,” Christian Post, Jun. 21, 2015).

In a corporate note to its employees, the Goldman Sachs investment banking firm warns that they must “help create an environment for open and honest dialogue.” This so-called open dialogue requires inclusive language and frowns upon descriptors such as “wife,” which should be replaced with “partner” (“Goldman Sachs Tells Employees ‘Wife’ Insults Gays and Transgenders,” Breitbart, Jun. 21, 2015). The corporate document also tells employees to “explore your personal beliefs, increase your awareness about issues impacting the gay community, include LGBT issues in your everyday life, attend events that celebrate diversity and inclusion, and speak out against hurtful comments.” In truth, an “open dialogue” gives liberty for the airing of all sides of an issue. There is nothing open or free about the homosexual agenda.

The following is excerpted from “Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell,” The Blaze, June 19, 2015: “An evangelical pastor in Northern Ireland is under fire and will be prosecuted after calling Islam ‘satanic’ and claiming that its doctrine was ‘spawned in hell’ during a controversial 2014 sermon that streamed over the Internet. Pastor James McConnell, 78, of Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle in Belfast, Northern Ireland, made his comments—which included calling Islam ‘heathen’--in a sermon delivered last May, the BBC reported. ... ‘Now, people say there are good Muslims in Britain. That may be so, but I don’t trust them.’ McConnell continued, ‘Islam’s ideas about God, about humanity, about salvation are vastly different from the teaching of the holy scriptures. Islam is heathen. Islam is satanic. Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell.’ He initially defended his comments, but relented and apologized for offending anyone after a public outcry; the police were subsequently called to investigate him for a potential hate crime. McConnell, who is accused of violating the law, reportedly denied the issuance of an ‘informed warning,’ which is not a conviction, though it stays on a person’s criminal record for the period of one year. Accepting the informed warning, though, would have prevented the pastor from being prosecuted in court. A representative for the Public Prosecution Service in North Ireland told the BBC...
CONCLUSION

The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 31, 2015: “Psalm 45:8: ‘All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.’ Until recently it was commonly thought that humans can smell approximately 10,000 different odors. But that’s no longer thought to be true. So how many different odors can that nose in the middle of your face detect? Scientists at Rockefeller University in New York set out to test the idea of 10,000 different odors. The number dates back to 1927, but it was never scientifically investigated. So they asked 26 people to identify a scent from three samples containing 128 molecules – two that were the same and one that was different. From this, they were able to tell how many different scents the average person would be able to distinguish if they were presented with all the possible mixtures that could be made from the 128 molecules. So what was the official number? One trillion different odors--and even this, they say, is most likely an underestimate! Now, why would our Creator endow us with such an amazing sense of smell? Could He have been showing us how much He loves us? After all, the sense of smell enables us to appreciate the delightful aroma of flowers and food. In fact, we couldn’t enjoy the food we eat if it weren’t for our ability to smell. Our sense of smell is one example of what is called God’s common grace. He has given this gift to everyone, believers and unbelievers alike. But only believers can appreciate this as a gift from God and not an evolutionary accident of nature.”

HOW MANY SMELLS CAN YOU SMELL?

BELFAST PASTOR FACING PROSECUTION FOR SERMON  …continued from previous page

that McConnell had violated the Communications Act 2003 and that his offence was ‘one of sending, or causing to be sent, by means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that was grossly offensive.’ But McConnell—who retired from Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle following the controversy—isn’t backing down, proclaiming in an interview that he is ‘not going to be gagged.’ ‘The police tried to shut me up and tell me what to preach. It’s ridiculous. I believe in freedom of speech. I’m going to keep on preaching the gospel,’ he said, according to the Guardian. ‘I have nothing against Muslims, I have never hated Muslims, I have never hated anyone. But I am against what Muslims believe.’ McConnell continued, “They have the right to say what they believe in and I have a right to say what I believe.”