
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

WEST COAST STAFF MEMBER BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CONTEMPORARY SBC POSITION



Pastor Jim Schettler & Ben Schettler

The compromise at West Coast Baptist College and Lancaster Baptist Church is evidenced by the affiliations of its staff members, some of whom are comfortable straddling the fence between a fundamentalist and a contemporary position. This is dangerous, unscriptural bridge-building. Jim Schettler is an example. He was the pastor of the campus church at Pensacola Christian College for many years, then moved to California to pastor First Baptist Church of Santa Maria and to be the Vice President of Student Affairs at West Coast Baptist College. Pastor Schettler's son, Ben, is founder of Ask or Think Ministries and a teen ministry called Pure Truth Conferences. He is also a member of and

preaches at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, a rock & roll Southern Baptist congregation that uses modern versions (NIV, NASV, The Message) and despises "separatism." Olive Baptist's pastor, Ted Traylor, was First Vice-President of the SBC in 2000 and President of the SBC's 2004 Pastors' Conference. Olive Baptist rocked out in both services on June 28 with the Jason Lovins Band. At his blog, Ben Schettler currently recommends a book by John Piper's son, Barnabas, that glorifies doubt, which is an emerging principle, as we have documented in *What Is the Emerging Church?* [See "Glorifying Doubt" under the Emerging Church section of the Articles Database at www.wayoflife.org.] West Coast's

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FANTASY SPORTS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

Fantasy Sports, not long ago the province of a few die-hard fans, is now a multi-billion dollar a year industry that attracts more than 51 million American participants. Fantasy players spend an average of \$465 a year on their fantasies, more than four times what it was just three years ago. Two leading fantasy companies, DraftKings and FanDuel, are worth an estimated \$1 billion each. "In fantasy sports a participant creates his own team, selecting players from a real-world sports league like the NBA, National Football League, or England's Premier League football. As real games are played, a fantasy team competes and is ranked against others based on the actual-game performance of its players" ("Like the

real game, fantasy sports now worth billions," AFP, Jun. 28, 2015). I don't preach against sports in general, as there is some value to it at a certain level, but it is a dangerous thing that seems to easily capture the heart and become an idol. As for professional sports, there is no doubt that it is one of the chief gods of these end times. Professional sports are characterized by the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, which is the exact definition we find in God's Word of "the world" that we are *not* to love (1 John 2:15-17). There is a tremendous amount of misplaced enthusiasm, money, and time spent on the vanities of this life by those who profess the name of Christ.

WEST COAST STAFF MEMBER BUILDING BRIDGES ...continued from previous page

Jim Schettler is partnering with Ben in ministry. He is a prominent speaker at Ben's conferences, most recently in April 2015 in Cincinnati. Rand Hummel, director of the Wilds of New England, is also a speaker at Ben's conferences. We believe that a man should love his son no matter what he believes and should show it and seek to win his heart to the truth, but fellowship with a son on a personal basis is one thing, while joining hands in ministry with a son committed to the contemporary, anti-separatist, rock & roll SBC philosophy is an entirely different one. Many Lancaster members and West Coast students will walk across the bridges that are being built by its teachers and staff members. (See also "Next Generation Rocking at Lancaster Baptist Church," Apr. 23, 2015.) Following are sites that document the things stated in this report:

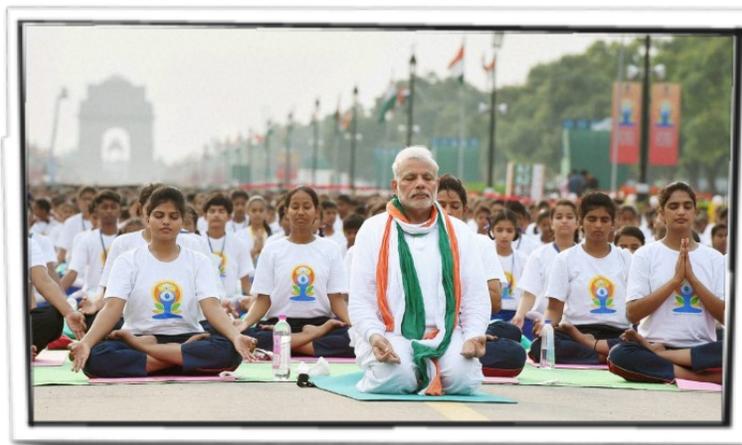
<http://www.puretruthmovement.com/speakers>

<https://www.facebook.com/puretruthconference>

<http://wcbc.edu/welcome-dr-jim-schettler>

INDIAN LEADER PROMOTING YOGA

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a massive yoga session in New Delhi on International Yoga Day, June 21, a day he has pushed for since coming to power last year. He sat in front of tens of thousands of other Indians posed in yoga positions and chanting "Om." Yoga is one of India's most successful exports, said to be a \$27 billion industry in America. In a speech beforehand, Modi said, "This program is only about human welfare, about freeing the universe from stress and about spreading the message of love, peace, unity, and goodwill" ("Yoga Day," ReligionNews.com, June 22, 2015). If that were true, India would be an entirely different country, for the birthplace of yoga is anything but filled with love, peace, unity, and goodwill! As for love and peace and unity, consider the way that Modi's Hindu friends in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have treated Christians



and Muslims in murderous rampages! Yoga is a Hindu concept of attuning oneself with one's own godhood; and when tested by the Bible, it is found to be a dangerous spiritual practice that can connect the individual with demons masquerading as angels of

light. Before I was saved in 1973, I was a member of the Self-Realization Fellowship Society, a Hindu organization based in Los Angeles, and I practiced meditation. I also practiced hypnotic techniques that are alleged to take one back to his past lives.

We agree with

Laurette Willis, who practiced yoga for 22 years before she came to the truth in Jesus Christ. She told the Religious News Service that yoga left her vulnerable to psychic influences that she believed to be demonic. She said, "Yoga led me down a false rosy path. It opened the door to 20 years of involvement in the New Age movement."



BRITISH EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL ACKNOWLEDGES CHRISTIAN'S RIGHT TO BELIEVE THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN

In ruling against a company that fired an employee for saying that homosexuality is sinful, a London employment tribunal says that Christians have a right to believe this. The tribunal ruled that Sarah Mbyui was wrongly discriminated against when she was fired for telling a lesbian co-worker that her lifestyle is condemned by the Bible. The co-worker instigated the discussion when she asked Miss Mbyui “whether she would be welcomed at church and whether God would approve of her civil partnership and allow her to marry in church” (“Woman fired for answering lesbian’s church question,” *WorldNetDaily*, June 10, 2015). The intolerant attitude against biblical Christianity that is leavening British society is evident in the fact

that Mbyui’s company fired her. But in his ruling, Judge Broughton stated, “The issues in this case arose out of the claimant’s belief that homosexuality is a sin. Such a belief has effectively already been accepted by the higher courts ... as capable of amounting to one that attracts the protection of the Equality Act 2010. It was a genuinely held belief that was more than an opinion or viewpoint and had attained a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance. **It is a belief worthy of respect in a democratic society, is not incompatible with human dignity and is not in conflict with the fundamental rights of others.**” As they say in Australia, “Good on you, Judge Broughton, for ruling honestly on the law.”

ALPHA BUILDING THE ONE-WORLD “CHURCH”

Alpha is an interdenominational evangelistic program that has grown phenomenally since its inception in the early 1990s. More than 18 million people have participated in the program in 169 countries, and its materials have been translated into 112 languages. It was birthed at the charismatic Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican church in London, England, and the developer, Nicky Gumbel, said that he experienced “massive electricity going through” his body in 1994 when the charismatic “revival” broke out at the parish. The May 2015 Alpha Leadership conference at Holy Trinity Brompton featured Catholic priest Raniero Cantalamessa (household preacher to the pope), Archbishop Justin Welby, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Female preacher Joyce Meyer also spoke. Nicky Gumbel opened the conference with a speech

entitled “A Vision for a United Church,” saying: “Unity doesn’t mean we have to agree on everything--disagreement is healthy. ... I have come to love the Catholic Church--if God has given them the same Spirit, who are we to oppose God? ... The same Spirit lives in the Catholics, and the Orthodox, and the Pentecostals and the Protestants, even the Anglicans have the same Holy Spirit living within them. That’s what makes us one!” (“Letter to the Editor: Alpha Course Founder, Nicky Gumbel, Asks for Ecumenical Unity with Catholic Church,” *Lighthouse Trails*, May 28, 2015). Alpha is promoted by influential contemporary musicians such as Stuart Townend, Tim Hughes, Matt Redman, and Chris Tomlin, because Alpha and Contemporary Christian Music share the same enthusiasm for ecumenicism.

NOT RELIGION, JESUS!

Recently I witnessed to two people while taking photographs of wildlife. One was a young man who had just graduated from high school. The other was a folk singer about my age who was performing for offerings at a pier near Seattle. When I mentioned my faith in Jesus Christ, both said they didn't like religion. I replied, "I am not

I am living my dream, because I surrendered my life to Christ and pursued Him; He has given me the right desires and then has fulfilled them.

talking about religion; I'm talking about a personal relationship with the Creator through His Son." The young man is from the Philippines, and I explained that men have

corrupted the Bible's gospel with human religion and tradition, and I gave the example of Roman Catholicism. I explained to him that the New Testament says nothing about masses and priests and infant baptisms and confirmations and prayers to Mary. That is vain religion. Salvation is not religion. It is to be born again through personal faith in Jesus Christ and then to walk with Him as Saviour, Lord, Father, and Friend. When I told him that I get to travel extensively and take photographs and teach and research and write books, he said that was his dream job. Many people have told me that. I urged him to read Psalm 37:4, because that verse describes the essence of the true Christian life. I am living my dream, because I surrendered my life to Christ and pursued Him; He has given me the right desires and then has fulfilled them. I urged this young man to surrender to Jesus Christ and to seek His will and never to be afraid of His will. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psa. 37:4).

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.