The following is adapted from some thoughts on the recent terrorist assaults by Hughie Seaborn of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, a former Pentecostal who is today a friend of the Truth and a friend of the editor of the Friday Church News Notes: “The Babylonians and Syrians are now well entrenched amongst the peoples of the nations who have rejected the God of the Bible and refuse to retain Him in their knowledge. The events of 9/11 in New York City are happening today in other countries because they’ve rejected the God of the Bible and made a ‘god’ of their own imaginations. The nation’s leaders make strange and dangerous decisions about immigration, because they’ve

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PETA SUES IN BEHALF OF SELFIE MONKEY

The animal rights organization PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has sued photographer David Slater who published photos of a monkey using his camera to take selfies. PETA claims that the monkey should be the legal owner and should receive proceeds from the sale of the photo (“PETA’s Lawsuit over a Monkey Selfie,” Petapixel.com, Nov. 12, 2015). This is a publicity stunt by a nutty organization, but it is also probably an attempt to get some court somewhere to accept an animal as a legal entity and thus try to set a precedent. “Nutty” is definitely an accurate description of these people. PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk said, “The smallest form of life, even an ant or a clam, is equal to a human being;” and, “there really is no rational reason for saying a human being has special rights.” She says, “A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy.” She likens the death of broiler chickens to the Nazi’s murder of Jews. In 1990, she told Reader’s Digest that humans “are the biggest blight on the face of the planet.” As elitists, though, she and her friends haven’t volunteered to step up to the plate to decrease the human population. PETA types also haven’t answered this question: “If evolution is true, as you say, and man is merely an animal and we came from nothing and are nothing and go to nothing and there is no ultimate meaning or absolute morality, why does it matter what we do, and why don’t you, therefore, mind your own business?”
rejected God and He gives them over to think strange thoughts and to make strange decisions, so it says in Romans chapter one. God brings His enemies upon them to cause those who claim to be His people to reconsider their evil ways. Sometimes they repent, like in the book of Joel, but sometimes they get worse, like what’s happening in France. A man brings his mobile piano to the scene of the crime, where people had been ‘innocently’ enjoying a filthy Death Metal concert just hours before, and plays John Lennon’s blasphemous, God-rejecting song ‘Imagine’ (“Man bikes grand piano to attacked Paris concert hall, plays Lennon’s Imagine,” CBCNews, Nov. 14, 2015). The song says we should ‘imagine that there’s no Heaven or Hell, and no religion too’ (especially not that narrow-minded Bible type). Maybe the man should drag his piano over to Iraq or Syria and play that song to ISIS. Not to be outdone, Pope Francis responds to the Paris attacks by shuffling to the window overlooking St. Peter’s Square and offering a prayer of world peace to ‘Mary, Mother of mercy’ (“It’s blasphemy to use God’s name to justify violence,” Zenit.org, Nov. 15, 2015). The pope called the French nation ‘the eldest daughter of the Church, all of Europe and the whole world,’ referring to the long history of the Catholic Church in France. Doesn’t sound like anyone’s going to repent any time soon, does it?”

**THE OTTOMAN MUSLIMS AND DEVSHIRME**

The Ottomans had a horrible practice called devshirme, whereby the sultan’s agents would periodically take one-fifth of all boys from Christian families. Also called Blood Levy, it was introduced by Sultan Orkhan (1326-1359). “On a fixed date, all the fathers were ordered to appear with their children in the public square. The recruiting agents chose the most sturdy, handsome, and intelligent children. Any father who shirked his duty to provide children was severely punished. This system was open to all kinds of abuse. The recruiting agents often took more than the prescribed number of children and sold the ‘surplus’ children back to their parents. Those unable to buy back their children had to accept their being sold into slavery” (Ibn Warraq, *Why I Am Not a Muslim*, 1995, p. 231). Parents who resisted were killed. Some parents deliberately mutilated their children to make them unattractive to the recruiting agents. Some of the strongest and fittest of the children enslaved through devshirme were raised to join an elite military corps called Janissaries (“new soldier”) that formed the Sultan’s guard. It lasted from about 1350 to 1826. The slave boys were forced into Islam and trained in strict discipline and warfare. In 1826, Sultan Abdul Hamid II slaughtered all 26,000 of the Janissaries.
RUSH LIMBAUGH-THINKING PASTORS

Rush Limbaugh is a conservative political commentator and entertainer who makes no profession of being a born again Christian, to my knowledge, but many Baptist pastors don't seem to be much wiser than he is on political and social issues. Limbaugh understands the problems and he understands politics, but he doesn't understand the root issues and the fundamental elements of how to solve the problems, because these are spiritual rather than political and social. Problems such as the homosexual agenda, abortion rights, feminism, liberal economics, racial disharmony, Islamic terrorism, and the gross lack of wisdom in the political realm can be effectively addressed only if one understands the underlying causes and spiritual realities. One must understand such facts as God's holiness and justice, His hidden activity in world events toward the fulfillment of His eternal program, man's fallen nature, the reality of the devil and demonic powers, the Great Commission and the church as God's program for this age, and the mystery of iniquity, the end times, and other elements of Bible prophecy. It is my understanding of such things that makes me dramatically different in my thinking than any unsaved conservative American pundit, from Rush Limbaugh to Shawn Hannity, from Breitbart to Fox News. I see the same problems that they see, but I know that the solution is beyond the reach of politics and social action. I don't share their frustrations, because I know that God is ultimately in control and that His plans cannot be thwarted. I have His promises for today and His prophecies of the future. I am well informed about current events, but I know that I can do more to help America by keeping my focus on fulfilling the Lord's Commission of world evangelism and building sound churches and being a prayer warrior than the efforts of all of the conservative political action committees and news agencies combined. (For more on this see “Rush Limbaugh and Christian Dittoheads” at www.wayoflife.org.)
THANKFUL FOR A PASTOR OF GOOD CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

The following is from “The Vanishing Ethics of the Ministry” by Buddy Smith, Heads Up! Sept. 18, 2015: “How I thank God for my Christian parents, for my Sunday School teachers, and especially for my Preacher. He never cheated on his wife; he never lied; he never stole from the church; he never turned a blind eye to a song leader having an affair with the pianist or even the janitor playing his guitar in a beer joint. He discerned the difference between good and evil and never mingled them together. He preached on hell, on separation, on dancing, on movies, and on bad language. He preached a saving gospel with fire and power; he challenged the Sunday School teachers to visit more and study harder and teach better. He saw our church grow when every other church in town went into decline during the summer months. He had virtue and integrity and morals and godliness and Christian ethics! He knew what was right and stuck to it, and we loved him for it! He was our preacher for thirteen years. We never had better! ... It was because of our preacher and his helpers that I saw through the hypocrisy and deceitfulness of the pastors who had virtually no Christian ethics: Men who spent church money on themselves and were asked to leave; men who kept a mistress; men who smilingly lied to their congregations; men who stole sheep from other churches; men who covered up for each other when they were caught; men who slandered those who questioned their immoral conduct; men who stole faith promise money for missions and spent it; men who did their best to split another pastor’s church; men who lied to the tax department; and men who shut struggling churches down, sold the building, and pocketed the money, ad infinitum, ad nauseum.”

INFORMATION

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.