THE IMMORALITY SURROUNDING HILLSONG MUSIC

Former Hillsong pastor Pasquale “Pat” Mesiti has pleaded guilty to assaulting his second wife and is awaiting sentencing (Christian Headlines, Feb. 29, 2016). He was forced to step down in 2002 because of adultery and visiting prostitutes. In an interview with Sight Magazine in May 2006, he said he had a “sexual addiction.” That was the year he was back in “ministry” after divorce and remarriage and a “restoration” process. He is now known as “Mr. Motivation” and promotes a “millionaire mindset” that comes from the charismatic prosperity doctrine. Hillsong, a prominent voice in Contemporary Worship, began in Australia and has branched out in recent years to establish megachurches in many cities, including New York and London. The following is from a report by Hughie Seaborn titled “Warning: What Do You Know about Hillsong?” which was published in response to Hillsong’s World of Worship Conference at the Cairns Convention Center September 4-7, 2002. This report by a former Pentecostal exposes the immorality that is rampant in these circles: “Hillsong had its beginnings in 1986 and was the inspiration of Mark and Darlene Zschech and Geoff Bullock. Bullock was a leader in the ‘music ministry’ of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s Hills Christian Life Centre at Castle Hill, Sydney. Along with Pat Mesiti who eventually founded Youth Alive, the Zschech’s were formerly part of a band that had an outreach to high school kids. (Mesiti, who rose to the exalted position of National Director of Australian Christian Churches, was sacked after it was discovered he was involved in adultery.) The Zschech’s were introduced to Hills Christian Life Centre by Mesiti and were soon thrust into the ‘music ministry’ alongside Bullock. When Jeff Bullock ‘resigned’ from Hillsong after divorcing his wife, Darlene Zschech stepped into his position and was ‘worship pastor’ of Brian Houston’s Hillsong Church. Brian is the son of Frank Houston, an ex-General Superintendent of the AOG in New Zealand. Frank moved to Australia from NZ in 1977, in controversial circumstances of a sexual nature, and established Sydney Christian Life Centre. Despite the sexual offences committed in NZ, Houston rose to a position of eminence and great respect in the Pentecostal churches, as well as to the most senior position in the AOG in NSW. In 2000, Frank Houston was sacked after the NZ sexual offences became public, offences that were so serious he was not even given the option of quietly retiring [Sydney Morning Herald, March 27, 2002].”

CRYSTAL BIBLE TO LAST BILLIONS OF YEARS

Researchers in the United Kingdom have developed digital data discs that can survive an alleged 13 billion years and can withstand temperatures up to 1,832 F. The data is encoded by laser onto a glass disc that can hold 360 terabytes of information, which is equivalent to the information capacity of 25,500 basic iPhones (“Crystal Bible to last a billion years,” CNN, Feb. 26, 2016). One of the first books they encoded is the King James Bible. In truth, the Word of God is eternal. After 13 billion years, the believer’s life with Jesus Christ will only be starting. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).
FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE FILING SUIT IN BEHALF OF CHRISTIANS WHO LOST BAKERY OVER RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

First Liberty Institute is appealing the case of Aaron and Melissa Klein on the basis of religious liberty and free speech. The Kleins, owners of Sweet Cakes in Oregon, were forced to pay $135,000 for refusing to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple. The Kleins tried to explain to the lesbians that baking their wedding cake was against their religious convictions, but instead of going to another bakery, the lesbians brought a complaint against the young Christian couple. Melissa Klein says, “My faith teaches that God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman. For me to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding would go completely against what I believe” (“The Kleins,” firstliberty.org). First Liberty Institute is appealing the case to the Oregon Court of Appeals and higher if necessary. They are joined by Boyden Gray, former White House Counsel for President George H.W. Bush, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, and law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren.

FLASHING LIGHTS, LOUD MUSIC INTERACT WITH BRAIN LIKE DRUG ADDICTION

A study by the University of British Columbia found that flashing lights and loud rock music, as in casinos, encourage rats to make “risky decisions.” The study found that rats generally learn to avoid risky behaviors that result in punishment, but under the influence of bright lights and loud music they take more risks (“Lights, music in casinos interact with brain like drug addiction,” UPI, Jan. 20, 2016). The reason is that the light and music activate the dopamine D3 receptor in the brain, the same receptor suspected to be involved in drug addiction. This was demonstrated when the dopamine receptor was blocked and the rats returned to their natural conservative stance toward risk taking. Casino owners have obviously known of this connection for a long time, which is precisely why they create the specific light/music environment found in gambling rooms. Many top secular rock & rollers have testified that rock music is a drug, but contemporary Christian rockers scoff at any such danger. Now a scientific study has confirmed a music/drug connection, at least with the addition of bright flashing lights, which are common in “secular” rock concerts as well as in contemporary worship. Sober-minded Christians whose brains have not been corrupted by the world’s music are able to analyze these facts more properly and biblically.
The United States Navy operates two hospital ships, the USNS Mercy and the USNS Comfort, which are tasked to support U.S. armed forces as well as to provide medical aid and humanitarian assistance. “Both serve as 70,000-metric-ton symbols of how much America cares as a nation and as a people” (“Hospital Ships,” navy.com). The ships are huge, the second largest in the U.S. fleet after the super carriers, and the fifth largest ships in the world. Converted from oil supertankers, the two ships originally cost $560 million. Each one is 894-feet long (the length of three football fields) and the height of a 10-story building. In full capacity, each ship can carry 700 medical personnel. They are 1,000-bed hospitals (including four intensive care wards). They have 12 operating rooms, an emergency/triage room, full medical labs, pharmacies, and are equipped with the latest technology such as CAT scanners and digital X-ray. They offer radiological, optometry, and dental services. They have their own medical oxygen producing plants, blood banks with a 5,000 unit capacity, and water distilling plants (300,000 US gallons per day). A flight crew operates the ship’s helicopter pad which can handle the Navy’s largest helicopters. Kitchens can provide meals for 1,000 personnel. They assist in natural disasters such as the Southeast Asia tsunami of 2004 and the Haiti earthquake of 2010. On a visit to Southeast Asia in 2010, the USNS Mercy treated 109,754 patients and performed 1,580 surgeries. In 2015, the USNS Comfort provided care for more than 120,000 patients (including 1,200 surgeries) in 11 countries in the Caribbean and South and Central America. These projects are largely funded by the U.S. government, but they are also assisted by volunteer medical personnel and supplies donated by private organizations. This level of benevolence can be traced to the Bible’s great influence on America, even at this late stage in her history.

The following is from Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville, 1835: “While I was in America, a witness, who happened to be called at the assizes of the county of Chester (state of New York), declared that he did not believe in the existence of God or in the immortality of the soul. The judge refused to admit his evidence, on the ground that the witness had destroyed beforehand all confidence of the court in what he was about to say. The newspapers related the fact without any further comment. The New York Spectator of August 23rd, 1831, relates the fact in the following terms: “The court of common pleas of Chester county (New York), a few days since rejected a witness who declared his disbelief in the existence of God. The presiding judge remarked, that he had not before been aware that there was a man living who did not believe in the existence of God; that this belief constituted the sanction of all testimony in a court of justice: and that he knew of no case in a Christian country, where a witness had been permitted to testify without such belief.”
The following is excerpted from “Music and the Brain” by Laurence O’Donnell, cerebromente.org.br: “Albert Einstein is recognized as one of the smartest men who has ever lived. A little known fact about Einstein is that when he was young he did extremely poor in school. His grade school teachers told his parents to take him out of school because he was ‘too stupid to learn’ and it would be a waste of resources for the school to invest time and energy in his education. The school suggested that his parents get Albert an easy, manual labor job as soon as they could. His mother did not think that Albert was ‘stupid.’ Instead of following the school’s advice, Albert’s parents bought him a violin. Albert became good at the violin. Music was the key that helped Albert Einstein become one of the smartest men who has ever lived. Einstein himself says that the reason he was so smart is because he played the violin. He loved the music of Mozart and Bach the most. A friend of Einstein, G.J. Withrow, said that the way Einstein figured out his problems and equations was by improvising on the violin.”

GOD’S CALL TO SINNERS

The repetition of God’s call to sinners is evidence of the greatness of God’s great love and mercy to undeserving sinners. This call is repeated in the prophets so much that it is almost tedious. In Isaiah alone we see this in 1:16-19; 8:13-14; 27:5; 28:12; 30:15; 31:6; 33:13; 34:1; 40:26; 41:1, 21-24; 42:18, 23; 43:9, 26; 45:20-22; 46:12-13; 48:14-18; 49:1; 51:4-6; 52:10; 55:1-3, 6-7; 56:1-2; 57:19; 61:1; 65:1-3. God says, “I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people” (Isa. 65:2). God is not obligated to give any invitations, but He is motivated by love for His creatures. He went to great lengths to provide redemption, and He yearns for all sinners to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-5; 2 Pet. 3:9). Think of your most beloved loved one, the person you love most in the world. If you knew that this person was in danger, you would plead with and beg him or her to turn back and be saved. One or two or three pleas would not suffice. That is God’s heart for every sinner.

INFORMATION

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