FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

LIVING GODDESS RESIGNS

The Kumari (virgin living goddess) of Bhaktapur, Nepal, has resigned just shy of ten years of age. Junisha Shakya was chosen as the Kumari of Bhaktapur when she was six years old. She says, “I enjoyed my time as a goddess and will forever cherish those three and a half years” (“Ex-Kumari of Bhaktapur,” The Kathmandu Post, Mar. 26, 2016). Nepal has three Kumaris, one in each of the old cities of Kathmandu Valley, which prior to the unification of the country in the 18th century were seats of three Hindu kingdoms. The Kumari is supposed to be the incarnation of the goddess Taleju. She is also known as Durga or Kali, all of which are emanations of the mother goddess. Living goddesses have been part of Hinduism since before Christ and have been a part of idolatry since after the Tower of Babel in the third millennium BC.

But Kumari as an official royal position in Nepal dates to the Malla kings in the 13th century AD. “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils” (1 Corinthians 10:20). According to legend, the goddess appeared to King Jaya Prakash Malla as a red serpent, and when she is in full regalia, the Kumari wears an image of a serpent around her neck. The goddess is supposed to possess the female shakti (power) or devi of the universe, and goddess worship is the attempt to unite with the power and wisdom of the universe, to channel it for one’s own benefit, and to recognize one’s own divinity. Ultimately, it is self worship. It is a prominent part of New Age thought and is helping create global unity in preparation for the coming of the Antichrist.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER LED TO GODDESS WORSHIP

Contemplative prayer, which was borrowed from Rome’s dark monasticism, has swept through “evangelicalism” in the past 20 years, as we have documented in the free eBook Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer. Popular contemplative practices include breath prayer, centering prayer, Jesus prayer, entering the silence, and lectio divina. It is an extremely dangerous field that has often led to heresy, apostasy, and even pantheistic concepts of God. For example, popular author Sue Monk Kidd, who was once a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher, found goddess worship through the path of contemplative prayer. As she began to delve into the worship of ancient goddesses, she traveled to Crete and worshiped in a cave of the goddess Skoteini. She says, “something inside me was calling on the Goddess of the Dark, even though I didn’t know her name” (The Dance of the Dissident Daughter, p. 93). Soon Kidd was praying to God as Mother, “the divine feminine presence.” Finally, she saw herself as a goddess and began to worship herself. “To embrace Goddess is simply to discover the Divine in...
In a recent interview, contemporary Christian musician Audrey Assad, who converted to the Roman Catholic Church in 2007, says that she is passionate about musical ecumenism and explains that it “disarms” people. “Ecumenism, true actual dialogue between different branches of Christianity, is absolutely one of my greatest passions, and so music is a great way to accomplish that. Christians of many different stripes can come together to sing worship songs with each other. It’s a good way to open up the potential of dialogue … And so I JUST THINK MUSIC IS DISARMING. I think it paves the way for people to put down their weapons for a minute. … So I’m just very intentional about making sure we remain in a conversation going to all different kinds of places” (“Audrey Assad Shares Her Inheritance,” JesusFreakHideout.com, Feb. 9, 2016). Assad attends Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Tempe, Arizona, which is devoted to Mary as Queen of Heaven. In 2012, Assad performed at Trinity Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, a prominent independent Baptist congregation, but Trinity’s leaders are far from the only independent Baptists who are too lacking in spiritual discernment to recognize that contemporary worship music “disarms” their people toward the one-world church agenda.

THE BIBLE AND ISLAM

In light of today’s news events, we do well to ask what the Bible says about Islam. Islam controls a large part of the world and is on a jihadic rampage that hasn’t been seen in hundreds of years. The 190-page book The Bible and Islam describes Islam’s beginning and history, the doctrine of Allah compared with the God of the Bible, the teaching of the Quran, Islam and salvation, jihad and world conquest, the three stages of jihad, the Koran’s doctrine of abrogation, the doctrine of Kaﬁr (pronounced kā’-fir), Islam and Judaism, Islam and Christianity, Sharia law, Islam’s slave trade, Islam as a judgment on apostate Christianity and apostate Israel, Islam’s divisions and internecine hatred (Sunni vs. Shiite), Islam as a preparation for the Antichrist, the Antichrist and the Middle East problem, and Muslim nations in Bible prophecy. The book explains what is happening in the Middle East and where these events will ultimately lead. Available in print and free eBook editions from Way of Life Literature.
POLICE IN SWEDEN ADVISE WOMEN TO STAY AT HOME TO AVOID BEING RAPED BY MUSLIM REFUGEES

Following six rape attempts and violent attacks on women in Östersund, Sweden, since February 20, including that of a woman on her way to work at 11 pm, the police recently broadcast a televised warning for women to avoid being alone. They warned that such targeting of women is a new phenomenon in their town. The police chief said, “As we see it just now, we recommend that women who go out late at night rather not do it without getting a lift, or that they go together as a group. We feel a strong concern that this could end with something much worse than an attempted rape. The incidents we have had, where women have been assaulted, have been very violent. I am sorry to say so, but I think they need to act out of a ‘better safe than sorry’ principle.” See www.wnd.com/wnd_video/police-in-sweden-women-should-stay-at-home-or-risk-being-raped-by-muslim-refugees.

MUSLIM SHOPKEEPER MURDERED AFTER WISHING SCOTLAND “HAPPY EASTER”

A Muslim shopkeeper in Glasgow was murdered hours after he tweeted “Happy Easter” to the nation. At 5:10 pm on Friday, 40-year-old Asad Shah tweeted, “Good Friday and a very Happy Easter to my beloved Christian nation. ... Let’s follow the real footstep of beloved holy Jesus Christ and get the real success in both worlds” (“Glasgow shopkeeper,” Daily Record, Mar. 25, 2016). Four hours later he was knifed and his head was brutally stomped. He died in the hospital. Breitbart reports that “Police have now confirmed that a 32-year-old Muslim man has been arrested in connection with Mr. Shah’s death, which is being treated as religiously prejudiced” (“Muslim Shopkeeper,” Breitbart, Mar. 26, 2016). Shah was an Ahmadiyyah Muslim, which is not considered true Muslim by Sunnis. The Sunnis, who are behind most of the Muslim terrorism worldwide, consider themselves the genuine descendants of Mohammed through Abu Bakr, the father of Muhammad’s favorite wife, Aisha.

NORTH CAROLINA PUTS STOP TO TRANSGENDER BATHROOMS

The following is excerpted from “North Carolina Limits Local Governments after Transgender Bathroom Rule,” Associated Press, Mar. 24, 2016: “North Carolina legislators decided to rein in local governments by approving a bill Wednesday that prevents cities and counties from passing their own anti-discrimination rules. Gov. Pat McCrory later signed the legislation, which dealt a blow to the LGBT movement after success with protections in cities across the country. The Republican-controlled General Assembly took action after Charlotte city leaders last month approved a broad anti-discrimination measure. Critics focused on language in the ordinance that allowed transgender people to use the restroom aligned with their gender identity. McCrory, continued on next page...
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who was the mayor of Charlotte for 14 years and had criticized the local ordinance, signed the legislation Wednesday night that he said was ‘passed by a bipartisan majority to stop this breach of basic privacy and etiquette’ ... Republicans and their allies have said intervening is necessary to protect the safety of women and children from ‘radical’ action by Charlotte. There have been arguments that any man--perhaps a sex offender--could enter a woman's restroom or locker room simply by calling himself transgender. 'It's common sense--biological men should not be in women's showers, locker rooms and bathrooms,' said GOP Rep. Dean Arp of Monroe before the chamber voted 82-26 for the legislation after nearly three hours of debate.”

CHRIST’S OMNISCIENCE

“For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel” (John 5:19-20). The following is from John Phillips' commentary on John: “This means that to creation’s remotest bounds, in the godhead's most distant and secret operations and councils, the Son knows what the godhead is doing. He knows it, not because this knowledge is communicated to him, but because he has an innate consciousness of it. The Father shows the Son all things--therefore the Son must have a mind coextensive with the mind of God, the mind of omniscience, in order to grasp what is being shown. Perhaps an illustration will help. It is said that the mathematics of Einstein's theory of relativity are so difficult that they are understood by only a small number of scientists. When someone asked nuclear physicist Sir Arthur Eddington if it was true that only three people really understood the subject, the famous scientist replied, 'I'm trying to think who the third person could be!' Well, Jesus knew. He invented those mathematics and all the concepts involved in them. The Lord, even while on this earth, was omniscient.”

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, fbms@wayoflife.org.