FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ONE WORLD CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The following is excerpted from “300 denominations meet for ecumenical gathering in Munich,” Christiantoday.com, July 5, 2016: “Some 1,700 Christians from around 300 denominations have met in Munich for a ‘Together in Europe’ gathering of the Ecumenical Congress promoting unity between Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals. In a meeting supported by Pope Francis and Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, leaders of the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, several Orthodox Churches, Protestant denominations and free evangelical denominations including some Baptists and Pentecostals debated for three days about how to walk towards ‘encounter, reconciliation and hope in a better future.’ … Pope Francis and Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople sent video messages to the meeting. ‘We want to contribute towards reconciliation of Christians and of Churches,’ the organisers said on their website. ‘Through our witness of unity and reconciliation we also hope to impact on society as a whole. We want

“800,000-YEAR-OLD” HUMAN FOOTPRINTS

The following is excerpted from Ken Ham’s Blog, July 9, 2016: “Researchers claim to have uncovered possible Homo erectus footprints from a desert in southeast Eritrea (a coastal African country bordered by Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti). These footprints—size 12 if they had been wearing shoes—appear to have been made by a group of tall individuals, and evolutionist researchers say the footprints were made 800,000 years ago. Now, in an evolutionary worldview, H. erectus is considered to be ‘physically close to modern humans,’ and these footprints were supposedly left behind 600,000 years before modern man. The researchers believe these prints ‘may provide important clues on how H. erectus’s gait evolved until Homo sapiens … came about.’ Despite their belief that these footprints offer an insight into evolution, the researcher who led the dig noted that ‘the prints show toe details, a marked longitudinal arch and an abducted toe, all features distinctive of human feet.’ Another article describes the prints as ‘nearly identical to modern human footprints.’ So human footprints that look just like modern human footprints provide vital clues into the evolution of the human gait? A view that’s much more consistent with the evidence is the biblical view. Homo erectus is not another human species that is ‘physically close’ to us. The observational evidence confirms these individuals were humans—descendants of Adam and Eve, just like us. They made and used tools, buried

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“800,000-YEAR-OLD” HUMAN FOOTPRINTS

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The minor differences we see between them and us are simply part of the enormous variety God built into the human genome. When we start with God’s Word, the observational evidence makes sense, can be consistently interpreted, and confirms the Bible’s true, historical science that humans have always been humans! That’s because it’s God’s Word—not human imagination—that provides the true history of the world.”

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to encourage all people of our time to respond with a decisive and hopeful yes for going ahead together and overcoming barriers among people, nations, social and cultural groups.” The Congress finished with an open air rally attended by around 5,000 people under the banner: ‘500 years of division is enough--unity is possible.” CONCLUDING NOTE: True Christian unity requires oneness of mind, not an ecumenical “unity in diversity.” The Word of God says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

AGATES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

The child of God is at liberty to enjoy life to the fullest in God’s perfect will. He “giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). To enjoy the creation without putting the Creator first in one’s affections is idolatry, but when God is put in the proper place, the creation can be enjoyed, and it all points back to Him and teaches us about Him. Geologist Bill Kitchens studies agates and has a web site GodMadeAgates.com that features studies about agates and beautiful photos of them. He says, “Agates are treasures of God’s grace that, through natural processes, fill voids in rocks around us for people to find, wonder at, and use. ... The appreciation of beauty and the desire to create beauty, and to understand it, are parts of the ‘image of God’ built into mankind ‘in the beginning.’” The Bible says of Israel in Christ’s coming kingdom, “And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones” (Isaiah 54:12).
The late Jack Hyles, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, was one of the most influential independent Baptist leaders. Though he is dead, his influence is still vast. Hyles pastored First Baptist from 1959 until his death in 2001 at age 74, when his son-in-law Jack Schaap (pronounced skaap) took the helm. In 2013, Schaap was sentenced to 12 years in prison for transporting an underage girl across state lines for sex. Hyles operated by the cultic principle of demanding unquestioning loyalty from his people and friends. He said on more than one occasion, “If I told my staff to jump off a bridge and commit suicide, they would do it.” He said this, for example, in a sermon on March 5, 1989. Hyles’ daughter, Linda, says, “Every member was in complete obedience to my father. They didn’t dare disagree or be disloyal, for fear of being publicly ridiculed or punished or banished for doing so. They didn’t go on a vacation without asking my dad’s permission, and if he had said to drink the Kool-aid, I’m not kidding, they would have” (Linda [Hyles] Murphey’s testimony at the TEDxOjaiChange event in Ojai, California, April 5, 2012). During a Sunday sermon, Hyles held up a cup bearing the image of the skull and bones, which is a warning that the contents are poisonous, saying to Johnny Colsten, one of the men sitting behind him on the platform, “I’d like for you, if you don’t mind, to drink this.” Colsten did not hesitate to drink the potential Kool-Aid (“Let Us Prey: Big Trouble at First Baptist,” Chicago Magazine, January 2013). The cultic thinking that was promoted by Hyles and exhibited toward him was evident at his memorial service at First Baptist Church, Hammond, February 6, 2001. After leading a rousing rendition of “This Is My Story,” the song leader said, “I’m sure somebody might say, ‘Bro. Evans you shouldn’t lead singing like that at a funeral.’ Well, folks, you’ve got to understand that the Boss is still watching me, and I’ve got to do it the way that he likes it done.” One preacher at the service said, “Sure, he was Moses, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Paul the Apostle, Billy Sunday, Bob Jones, Sr., and John R. Rice all rolled into one.” Another preacher said, “Brother Hyles was a lot like God in many ways. Since I believe that God can have a unique, individual relationship with everyone all at the same time, it was not difficult for me to understand that to an extent Brother Hyles could have a unique, individual relationship with thousands of people, all at the same time .... more than humanly possible, with some sort of supernatural ability that rubbed off on him by being with God, he was a good friend to thousands of us, all at the same time.” (For more on the continuing fruit of Hyles’ philosophy and methodology, see The Hyles Effect: A Spreading Blight, available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org. See also a new compilation of video segments about Hyles at vimeo.com/170110703, which includes the aforementioned video clips from Hyles’ funeral, as well as statements by his daughter and others.)
ONE BOMBER AGAINST ALL ODDS

America was still a praying nation during World War II and countless events that occurred during that global engagement can be explained in no other way than God’s gracious answer to prayer. My mother’s Baptist church was open seven days a week, and people were praying there every day. The following account is from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s *Fireside Chat*, April 28, 1942. Prayer was not mentioned in connection with this event, but it is very likely that someone involved was on “praying ground.” My maternal grandmother had two sons in the war that she prayed home, one miraculously surviving the sinking of his battleship. Here is Roosevelt’s account: “One more story that I heard only this morning: This is a story of one of our Army Flying Fortresses operating in the western Pacific. The pilot of this plane is a modest young man, proud of his crew for one of the toughest fights a bomber has yet experienced. The bomber departed from its base, as part of a flight of five bombers, to attack Japanese transports that were landing troops against us in the Philippines. When they had gone about halfway to their destination, one of the motors of this bomber went out of commission. The young pilot lost contact with the other bombers. The crew, however, got the motor working again and the plane proceeded on its mission alone. By the time it arrived at its target the other four Flying Fortresses had already passed over, had dropped their bombs, and had stirred up the hornets’ nest of Japanese ‘Zero’ planes. Eighteen of these ‘Zero’ fighters attacked our one Flying Fortress. Despite this mass attack, our plane proceeded on its mission, and dropped all of its bombs on six Japanese transports which were lined up along the docks. As it turned back on its homeward journey a running fight between the bomber and the eighteen Japanese pursuit planes continued for 75 miles. Four pursuit planes of the Japs attacked simultaneously at each side. Four were shot down with the side guns. During this fight, the bomber’s radio operator was killed, the engineer’s right hand was shot off, and one gunner was crippled, leaving only one man available to operate both side guns. Although wounded in one hand, this gunner alternately manned both side guns, bringing down three more Japanese ‘Zero’ planes. While this was going on, one engine on the American bomber was shot out, one gas tank was hit, the radio was shot off, and the oxygen system was entirely destroyed. Out of eleven control cables all but four were shot away. The rear landing wheel was blown off entirely, and the two front wheels were both shot flat. The fight continued until the remaining Japanese pursuit ships exhausted their ammunition and turned back. With two engines gone and the plane practically out of control, the American bomber returned to its base after dark and made an emergency landing. The mission had been accomplished. The name of that pilot is Captain Hewitt T. Wheless, of the United States Army. He comes from a place called Menard, Texas, with a population of 2,375. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. And I hope that he is listening.”

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 fulfill 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.