
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

PROMINENT BBFI CHURCH JOINS THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

In the latest example of the changing of the times and the breathtaking collapse of whatever spiritual zeal once existed among Independent Baptists, High Street Baptist Church of Springfield, Missouri, is in the process of joining the Southern Baptist Convention. The 81-year-old church is pastored by Eddie Lyons, who is also the president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI). The church will be dually aligned with the BBFI and the SBC. Pastor Lyons says, "We have the same heart, the same calling" ("Independent church aligns with Missouri Baptists/SBC," Baptist Press, Feb. 15, 2017). We have no doubt that Lyons is right about that, for the BBFI has long been moving toward the weak SBC stance. For some time I have been saying that the



average Independent Baptist church today is no different in character from the SBC church I grew up in. BBFI leader Jerry Falwell led the way when Thomas Road Baptist Church joined the SBC in 1996. By 2002, the host church for the BBFI's annual conference, Bethlehem Baptist of Fairfax, Virginia, had "no rule with regard to dress and modesty issues," used the New Living Bible, and had an earring-attired youth pastor who promoted secular rock bands. The BBFI is not the only group of Independent Baptists beating a path to the SBC. The same

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GETTYS TO LEAD WORSHIP AT SBC PASTOR'S CONFERENCE



Kristyn & Keith Getty

Keith and Kristyn Getty are scheduled to lead worship at the June 2017 Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference in Phoenix. The Gettys are the perfect fit for Southern Baptists. Neither of them believe in biblical separation and have no effectual boundaries. The fact that so many Independent Baptists love the Gettys is a loud warning. The Getty's ecumenical, one-world-church goal is to "bring everyone together musically" (www.keithgetty.com). They want to "bridge the gap between the traditional and contemporary" (<http://www.gettymusic.com/about.aspx>). In July 2012, the Gettys joined their close friend and ministry partner Stuart Townend and Roman Catholic Matt Maher on NewsongCafe on WorshipTogether.com. They played and discussed "The Power of the Cross," which was co-written by Getty-

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thing has happened, for example, in the Southwide Baptist Fellowship. In 2007, the number of Southern Baptist speakers at the Southwide conference equaled the number of Independent Baptists, and in 2008, Southwide's founding church, Highland Park Baptist of Chattanooga, Tennessee, went back into the SBC. But why would a fundamental Baptist pastor want to align his church with a spiritually powerless, pragmatic, worldly, ecumenical thing like the Southern Baptist Convention? And it has been in this condition as long as I have known anything about it, which goes back to the 1950s. It is, we would remind you, the convention of the pope-praising Billy Graham. In the SBC church in which I grew up there was probably not one born again young person, not if there is such a thing as evidence of the new birth. We all went through the motions of professing Christ, getting baptized, and joining the church, but most of us were gone by our late teens, following our hearts into the world.

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Townend. The 10-minute program promoted ecumenical unity, with Maher/Townend/Getty entirely one in the spirit through the music. Keith Getty collaborated with Catholic Margaret Becker in the song "Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer" and Catholic Máire [pronounced Moya] Brennan in writing "With the Early Morning." Brennan says, "Christians fighting Christians, Catholics and Protestants! It breaks my heart, because we're all stemming from the same rock" ("Back to the Rock of Ages: Máire Brennan Talks to Christina Rodden," rootsworld.com). This is the ecumenical Christianity of the Gettys. Any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond them to the world of radical ecumenism. Yet at least eight Getty/Townend songs are included in Majesty Music's *Rejoice Hymns*. Twenty-nine of their songs are featured in *Hymns Modern and Ancient*, compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University's Department of Church Music. Both Crown Baptist College and West Coast Baptist College, the two largest independent Baptist Bible colleges, use Getty material. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

ISRAEL POPULAR WITH AMERICANS

According to a new Gallop Poll, 71% of Americans view Israel favorably. That percentage has remained steady for the last four years. Six times between 1989 and 2004, Israel's favorable score was below 60%. There is a significant difference between age groups. While 77% of those 65 and older view Israel favorably, only 63% of those 18-29 hold this view. There is a significant difference, too, along party lines, with 81% of Republicans viewing Israel favorably but only 61% of Democrats holding that view.



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ROMAN BAAL ARCH ERECTED FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

A replica of a Roman arch devoted to Baal was erected for the World Government Summit in Dubai last week. The original arch was built in the second century AD in Palmyra, Syria, as a gate to a Roman temple of Bel, which is known in the Bible as Baal. The 28 meter (91 feet) tall arch was destroyed by ISIS in October 2015 and reconstructed by the Institute for Digital Archaeology, a joint project of Oxford and Harvard (“New World Order forming under pagan temple of Ba’al arch?” *BreakingIsraelNews*, Feb. 16, 2017). The combination of end-time globalism and ancient idolatry is telling. According to the great prophecy of Daniel 2, the Roman Empire has not died and will be reformed as the Antichrist’s kingdom. Revelation 17-18 teaches us this same kingdom will be the culmination of ancient Babylon, which was the beginning of idolatry. The Antichrist kingdom is an aspect both of ancient Babylon and ancient Rome. No sign awaits fulfillment before the rise of the Antichrist as the (deceptive) deal maker *par excellence*. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel, and the world will rejoice at his wisdom and power and rejoice in “peace on earth,” but it will all be a lie. He will break the covenant after three and a half years and set himself up in the Third Temple as God. “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

SELFIES

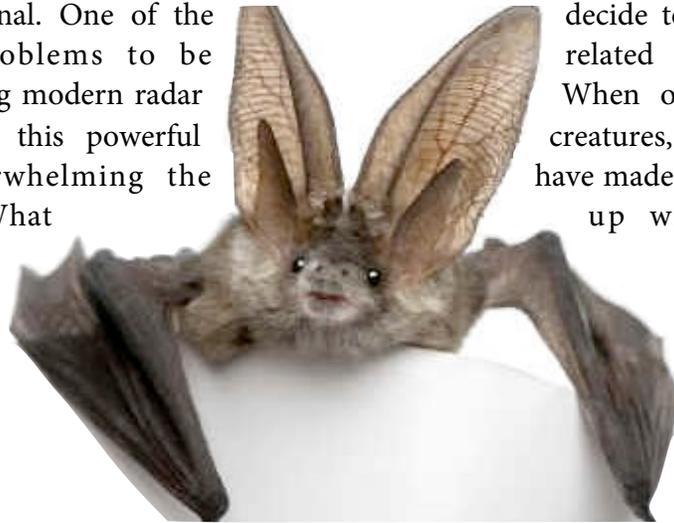
We live in the selfie age, and it is a weird age. In 2013, the third most popular Instagram hashtag was #me. A 2014 study found that young people today are “more narcissistic than during the 1980s and 1990s” (“Research Says,” *abc.net.au*, May 16, 2014). In 2015, 24 billion selfies were posted to Google photo, and that is only one forum. The average Millennial is expected to take 24,000 selfies in his or her lifetime. In some places selfies are called “ego-portraits.” Kim Karshashian captured the spirit of the age by publishing a book of selfies appropriately titled “Me.” Last year I sat in a restaurant drinking a cup of coffee and doing some work when a young man sat down at a table near me and began taking selfies. I couldn’t help but watch in amazement as he took perhaps 50 photos of himself in various poses from various angles. It was a breathtaking act of narcissism. I have the privilege of traveling widely and seeing some of the world’s most beautiful scenery, but when I am taking photos of the scenery, many people are taking photos of themselves in front of the scenery. Many people have become so absorbed in their selfie world that they have fallen off of cliffs and been smashed by trains. I have often wondered if anyone really likes to look at other people’s selfies, and a recent small survey from Europe found that they don’t. While 77% said they took a selfie at least once a month, 90% said they viewed other peoples’ selfies as “self-promotion” (“Study Finds People Like Taking Selfies But Not Looking at Them,” *PetaPixel*, Feb. 10, 2017). A 2013 study found that “flooding your social media with too many self-portraits could alienate your friends” and caused people to feel less intimate with the selfie enthusiast (“How Your Friends Really Feel about Your Selfies,” *Women’s Health*, Aug. 30, 2013).

THE BAT'S SPECIAL RADAR



The following is from CreationMoments.com, February 8, 2017: "If you wake up when it's still dark, you know how overwhelming it can be to turn on the light. Your eyes may even hurt at first. If you've had this experience, you can understand one of the problems that had to be solved when radar was developed. Basically, radar is made up of two parts. The transmitter sends out a powerful beam of radar waves. But the other part of the radar system is a very sensitive receiver that cannot stand the powerful outgoing signal. One of the major technical problems to be overcome in developing modern radar involved sending out this powerful signal without overwhelming the sensitive receiver. What

scientists finally developed was a fast switch that turns the sensitive receiver off every time a radar pulse is sent out. Bats, who have their own sonic radar, had this problem solved from the beginning. They have muscles in their ears that are the receivers for the echoes. These muscles close the ears for split seconds when the bats are sending out their high pitched signals. Without this feature, the bat's navigational system would be useless. How could a bat figure out that it needed this ability and then decide to grow the muscles and related tissue to do the job? When one decides to say that creatures, instead of the Creator, have made themselves, one can end up with some very silly



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.