FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ALBERTA PASTOR KICKS HEALTH OFFICIAL/ POLICE OFF CHURCH PROPERTY AGAIN

The following is excerpted from “Polish Pastor,” The Daily Wire, Apr. 25, 2021: “The Polish pastor who went viral after forcefully ejecting police and health officials from his church in Calgary, Alberta, on Good Friday received another visit from them on Saturday, prompting him to kick them off church property again. Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who recorded the incident, went on to warn his viewers against what he believes is growing state tyranny in Western countries done in the name of public health. ... ‘I do not cooperate with Gestapo,’ Pawlowski told the health inspector, who was flanked by several armed, black-clad Calgary Police officers. ‘I do not talk to the Nazis. You came in your uniforms like thugs. That’s what you are. Brownshirts of Adolf

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ISRAEL PREPARING TO OPEN FOR TOURISM AFTER 14 MONTHS OF LOCKDOWNS

The following is excerpted from “Israel lifts outdoor mask requirement,” The Times of Israel, Apr. 17, 2021: “With fewer than a hundred new coronavirus cases diagnosed Friday, and just 201 Israelis in serious condition with the virus, Israel was set Sunday to lift the requirement for wearing masks outside, and to fully reopen all schools. The latest Health Ministry figures showed 95 new cases were diagnosed on Friday, accounting for just 0.7% of the 14,182 samples tested. There were 2,680 active cases, and the death toll since the start of the pandemic stood at 6,315. ... After suffering a severe third wave of the pandemic, Israel’s situation has rapidly improved in recent months as it has carried out the world’s fastest per capita vaccination drive. Over half of the population is fully inoculated against COVID-19, and the results have shown, with daily new cases and serious cases dropping to levels not seen in long months. ... The national virus czar Prof Nachman Asch has said the entire economy will be able to fully reopen next month if there is no new rise in contagion.”

CONCLUDING REMARKS: In 2020, democratic countries were ruled by elected officials. Now they are ruled by czars! The prophetic hour is very late, as the world prepares for the coming of the Czar of czars! Israel is planning to open for tourism on May 23, focusing on group tours. The new regulations are still being finalized, but they will probably require a negative Covid test and proof of vaccination or evidence of antibodies produced by the virus itself.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST APOLOGIZES FOR CREATIONIST WHO DEFENDED THE BIBLICAL SEXUAL ETHIC IN HIS PULPIT

The following is excerpted from “AiG’s Message Deplatformed,” Answers in Genesis, Apr. 16, 2021: “AiG [has been] ‘deplatformed’ by a church! And what issues do you think [caused] this ‘deplatforming’? Well, LGBTQ and the age of the earth/universe issues! ... Here is Dr. Terry Mortenson’s report in his own words: ‘Sunday morning [Grace Point Church, Bentonville, AR, on Jan. 17, 2021], I gave a message on the ‘relevance’ of Genesis, similar to what Ken Ham and all our speakers present for a first presentation in a church. I explained that Genesis 1–11 is foundational to the rest of Scripture and showed that the acceptance of millions of years and evolution undermines the Bible’s teaching on sin, marriage, death, the gospel, and morality. With respect to marriage, after quoting Jesus in Matthew 19:4–6, I said that adultery, fornication, pornography, homosexuality, and transgenderism are all wrong because they are contrary to God’s created order and commands. During the last song, the pastor asked me to go backstage to a room. He told me that what I said about the moral issues (especially my brief LGBT comment) was not what he wanted and that I needed to change the message before the second service and essentially replace that marriage section with comments about God’s greatness and design in creation. ... I found out that the next week in his sermon, the pastor apologized for what I had presented the previous Sunday morning. And all my presentations had also been removed from the church’s website and Facebook page.’
EXPOSITORY PREACHING TRAINING COURSE

Feed the Flock: Expository Bible Preaching is an extensive course that deals with the importance of preaching; the call of preaching; the necessity of the proper training of preachers; the preacher as a student; the characteristics of biblical preaching; the definition and benefit of expository preaching; planning the message; preparing the message; preaching the message; interpretation, illustration, and application; and following up the message.

The course includes a 38-point “Preacher's Evaluation Checklist” that we use to train preachers. The focus is on expository preaching, the goal of which is simply to let the verse or passage speak by drawing out the main lessons and then explaining and applying those lessons to the daily living experience of the audience. Expository preaching is letting a passage speak the message that God put there. A young preacher recently wrote, “I thank the Lord for you. The training in expository preaching has been, perhaps, the greatest blessing in my life. This has been a very great blessing for my personal studies and message preparing too.” There is a free video series on The Preacher's Preaching at www.wayoflife.org.

COMMENTS ON BIBLICAL SEPARATION

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Co. 6:14). “We are not to associate with idolaters in their idolatry; nor with the licentious in their licentiousness; nor with the infidel in his infidelity; nor with the proud in their pride; nor with the frivolous in their gaiety; nor with the friends of the theater, or the ballroom, or the circus in their attachment to these places and pursuits. And whatever other connection we are to have with them as neighbors, citizens, or members of our families, we are not to participate with them in these things” (Albert Barnes). “The text prohibits every kind of union in which the separate character and interest of the Christian lose anything of their distinctiveness and integrity. ... We are to have no compromising connection with anything in the world which is alien to God. Let us be as loving and conciliatory as we please, but as long as the world is what it is, the Christian life can only maintain itself in it in an attitude of protest. There always will be things and people to whom the Christian has to say No!” (The Expositor's Bible). “In a society in which idolatry runs rampant, a church that is not iconoclastic is a travesty. If it is not against the idols it is with them” (Herbert Schlossberg, Idols for Destruction).
CREATOR OF VEGGIETALES SUPPORTS HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANITY

Veggit Tales creator Phil Vischer has tweeted a series of messages supporting homosexual Christianity and the holding of heresies. He says, “I’ve been listening to stories of people who left the Church or left their faith entirely, and so often it comes down to a point where they just wanted to be loved, but we couldn’t love them because they asked the wrong question or doubted the wrong tenet of our faith or reconsidered their own gender or sexual identity and for us, it was a bridge too far. This child of God was no longer ‘us.’ They are now ‘them.’ And because they were ‘them,’ we now denied they were ever truly ‘us’” (@philvischer, Apr. 25, 2021). Vischer, like a great many so-called “evangelicals,” is a confused individual who is lacking spiritual discernment and following the mores of society more than the Word of God. He doesn’t understand repentance or discipline. The gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s expression of love for all sinners, but it demands repentance and saving faith. The Lord Jesus Christ, love incarnate, preached, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,” and He repeated it for emphasis (Lu. 13:3, 5). The apostle Paul preached, “God ... now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Ac. 17:30). The first churches were composed of members who were formerly idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and homosexuals, but they did not continue in their sins and demand that they be accepted in that condition. They were accepted as members of Christ’s church because they had repented and been born again. The following passage refutes Vischer’s theology: “KNOW YE NOT THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Co. 6:9-11). Further, if a church member returns to a wicked lifestyle, he is to be disciplined. “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an adulater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Co. 5:11). This is to bring the individual to repentance and also to preserve the moral purity of Christ’s church. “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Co. 5:6-7).