
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



Claudio Carvalhaes

UNION SEMINARY TEACHING STUDENTS TO “THINK AND FEEL WITH TREES”

Union Seminary in New York City is teaching students how to communicate with trees. In the course Master of Arts in Social Justice for 2023-24, taught by Claudio Carvalhaes, students learn to “think and feel with other species, with the trees, with the soil, with the rivers” and “how do we connect with those other species in our communities and how to create ritual to honor them?” (@UnionSeminary, Nov. 29, 2022). In a chapel service in 2019, Union students asked forgiveness of some plants that had been set up in the auditorium. From its official account, the school tweeted, “Today in chapel, we confessed to plants.

continued on NEXT page

APPLE DANCING TO CHINA’S CENSORSHIP TUNE



Elon Musk

The following is excerpted from “Apple Blackmailed Developer,” *PJMedia*, Nov. 28, 2022: “Apple threatened at least one developer with banishment from the company’s lucrative App Store if they didn’t remove all search engine returns regarding COVID-19 from their library application. LBRY bills itself as ‘an open, free, and fair network for digital content,’ designed to circumvent social media and government controls. But the company told Twitter owner and CEO Elon Musk on Monday that, ‘During Covid, Apple demanded our apps filter some search terms from being returned. If we did not filter the terms, our apps would not be allowed in the store.’ ... Musk quickly replied, ‘What terms?’ LBRY answered, ‘Apple disallowed almost anything related to Covid, especially vaccines or human origins of the virus.’ Musk tweeted back, ‘Secret suppression of free speech by Apple. Customers were never told. What ***** is going on here?’ So far, there has been no public response from the notoriously tight-lipped company, but I can tell you what’s going on here in just two words: Communist

continued on NEXT page

UNION SEMINARY TEACHING STUDENTS TO “THINK AND FEEL WITH TREES” continued from FRONT PAGE

Together, we held our grief, joy, regret, hope, guilt and sorrow in prayer; offering them to the beings who sustain us but whose gift we too often fail to honor. What do you confess to the plants in your life?” (@UnionSeminary, Sept. 17, 2019). This is the final stage of theological liberalism. It leads to atheism and pantheism. Union Seminary was founded in 1836 by the Presbyterian Church in the USA; but by the end of the 19th century, it was roaring drunk on liberal theology, the essence of which is the rejection of the Bible’s infallibility. In January 1891, Charles Briggs attacked the Bible in his inaugural address at Union Seminary after being appointed to the Edward Robinson Chair of Biblical Theology. He questioned the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch and one-Isaiah authorship of Isaiah. He questioned the Bible’s miracles. He claimed that the doctrine of verbal inspiration is a “barrier” that hinders a proper approach to the Bible. He denied Scripture’s predictive prophecy. He claimed that the doctrine of inerrancy is “a ghost of modern evangelicalism to frighten children” (Jabez

Sunderland, *Is the Bible Infallible?*, 1906). When Briggs was found guilty of heresy and suspended from the ministry by the Presbyterian Church in 1893, Union Seminary stood behind their heretic and broke away from the Presbyterians. In 1897, Union professor A.C. McGiffert published *A History of Christianity in the Apostolic Age*, in which he denied the supernatural inspiration of Scripture and “questioned the genuineness of half the books in the New Testament.” McGiffert implied that the Lord Jesus was mistaken in some of His views and denied the doctrine of Christ’s substitutionary atonement. In 1931, Henry Sloane Coffin, President-Emeritus of Union Seminary, wrote, “There is no cleansing blood which can wipe out the record of what has been. ... The Cross of Christ is not a means of procuring forgiveness” (Coffin, *The Meaning of the Cross*, pp. 118-121). When the Bible’s infallible inspiration is rejected, one is driven about by every wind of false doctrine. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5).

APPLE DANCING TO CHINA’S CENSORSHIP TUNE continued from FRONT PAGE

China. According to Apple’s latest quarterly results, the Greater China region (including the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) generated more than \$15 billion in revenue over the previous three-month reporting period. That was nearly 20% of the company’s quarterly revenue. So when communist strongman Xi Jinping says ‘Jump!’ Apple CEO Tim Cook probably doesn’t even bother to ask ‘How high?’ before he starts making himself airborne. ... In 2019, Apple notoriously removed an app that Hong Kong protesters used to track where police were headed next to crack protesters’ skulls. ... Just in the last few days, Apple handicapped iPhone’s nifty AirDrop feature--but only in Communist China, [thus hindering protesters’ efforts to bypass the nation’s draconian control of social media] ... On Nov. 29, Elon Musk tweeted, ‘Apple has also threatened to withhold Twitter from its App Store, but won’t tell us why.’”



Illustration: Quartz

DESCRIPTION OF A “WOKE” ENGLISH COURSE AT A PREEMINENT U.S. COLLEGE

Following is excerpted from the actual course description of Reading and Writing Gender and Sexuality ENGL 214 at Kenyon College, where annual fees are “upwards of \$80,000.” “This course serves as an introduction to queer and transfeminist theories and practices in gender and sexuality studies. Conceptualized through its intersections with race, ethnicity, coloniality, class, and ability, the sex/gender system of oppression has long served as a taxonomizing apparatus. And yet, the literary, in league with anticolonial, civil rights, and LGBTQ social movements, not only sheds sharp light on how gender and sexuality are regulated and troubled, but also animates the liberatory potential of imagining embodied relations otherwise. At once world-building and world-shattering, representations of gender and sexuality can leverage critiques against normativity in the same gesture as they bow to reproducing it. Taking our transnational cue from subjugated knowledges and intersectional epistemologies, we’ll constellate the diverging genealogies and methodologies that have shaped the politics and aesthetics as well as the ethics and affects of gender and sexuality.” In “The Babylon Bee Publishes a Hysterical Spoof,” *PJMedia*, Nov. 27,

2022, George Harbison comments: “Sadly, this nonsensical, unintelligible gibberish was copied, word-for-word, from an actual English course description currently appearing on the website of Kenyon College, one of the nation’s preeminent liberal arts colleges. That Kenyon approved a course description (and course) so replete with esoteric academic jargon and hackneyed, woke buzzwords reveals the intellectual vacuousness that currently permeates the college. ... [The course description] reveals its true agenda: indoctrinating students in cultural Marxism. Kenyon parents shell out upwards of \$80 thousand per year to have their children exposed to this dangerous pedagogy and agenda. Are they aware of what those dollars are going for? And why in the world is this garbage part of an undergraduate English curriculum? As a Kenyon alumnus, I am saddened by the steep degradation in academic rigor at Kenyon revealed by this situation. Unfortunately, Kenyon is not alone in propagating such mindless, worthless dreck. **Most of America’s colleges and universities are woke cesspools, spitting out ill-informed and arrogant social justice warriors steeped in bitterness, victimhood, resentment, entitlement, and guilt.**”

I,000 CHURCH OF ENGLAND CLERGY SAY THEY WOULD PERFORM SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

The following is excerpted from “Over 1,000 Church of England clergy,” *Premier Christian News*, Oct. 27, 2022: “At least 1,100 clergy have indicated they would conduct same-sex marriages should it become allowed in the Church of England, according to a survey. Carried out by the Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England, the survey was launched at the beginning of September to compile a list of those favouring changing the Church of England’s current stance on same-sex marriages. During this year’s Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby, acknowledged there’s a ‘plurality of views’ within the Anglican Communion regarding the same-sex marriage issue, but admitted the Church only recognises a Christian marriage as between a man and a woman.”

THOMAS JEFFERSON SPEAKS OUT

The following is from CreationMoments.com: “The theory of evolution did not begin with Charles Darwin. The Greek philosophers who chose not to believe that there is a Creator God tried to explain the origin of everything by time and chance. That great Statesman, Thomas Jefferson, lived in the generation before Charles Darwin and had been influenced by the writings of some of the German and the English philosophical writers. Jefferson was at home in six languages, had three earned doctorates and was well versed in the sciences, yet he pointedly rejected the idea of evolution. Jefferson was not a believing Christian, but he wrote in defense of the Creator. Here are some of his words: ‘I hold --without appeal to revelation--that when we take a view of the universe in its parts, general or particular, it is impossible for the human mind not to perceive and feel a conviction of design, consummate skill, and indefinite power in every atom of its composition. It is impossible for the human mind not to believe that there is, in all this, design, cause, and effect, up to an ultimate cause, a Fabricator of all things.’ We might add, that the creation testifies abundantly to the Creator, or Fabricator, as Thomas Jefferson calls Him. Moreover, this Creator has a deep love for His creation and especially for you and me, through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

PASTOR PREACHES AGAINST “MODERATE DRINKING”

“Tennessee Pastor Robby Gallaty (Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville) urges believers to hold the traditional Baptist line. He wishes he had earlier in life. Gallaty was raised in New Orleans in a culture where drinking was part of life. He started drinking alcohol at 15, became an ‘alcoholic’ and was in his second attempt at treatment before he found sobriety--and Jesus. Now sober for 16 years, Gallaty said he discusses alcohol in his preaching ‘all the time.’ He said, ‘I used to think I could drink in moderation ... The problem is the line between buzzed drinking and drunkenness is a blurry line, and so I abstain completely from alcohol.’ He added, **‘I’ve never met a person drinking who becomes more holy as a result of it.** I have seen people destroy their lives because of it though” (“Baptists & Alcohol,” Baptist Press, Nov. 2, 2018). For more about this subject, see “Christian Drinking Is a Bellwether Issue,” https://www.wayoflife.org/search/search.php?zoom_query=bellwether+issue

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.