
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

HILLSONG APPOINTS NEW “GLOBAL SENIOR PASTORS”



Philip and Lucinda Dooley

The multi-million dollar Hillsong empire has appointed another husband-wife team--Philip and Lucinda Dooley--as the new “global senior pastors.” This follows the dismissal of former global senior pastors Brian and Bobbie Houston. In March 2022, Brian stepped down after the church sent a letter to its members exposing him for “inappropriate behavior” with two women. Hillsong churches have been inundated with moral scandals. In 2021, Hillsong Dallas was shut down due to the worldliness of its leaders, husband-wife “pastor team” Reed and Jess Bogard, who were “using church money to fund their lavish lifestyle” (“Hillsong Caving in on Itself,” *Reformation Charlotte*, Apr. 12, 2001). On March 25, 2022, *The Christian Post* reported that “an internal investigation commissioned by Hillsong Global showed that the married father of three [Bogard] was accused of rape by a junior female staffer with whom he had a months-long affair while serving at Hillsong NYC years earlier.” In November 2020, Carl Lentz was fired as pastor of

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DID JESUS SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

In a 2014 interview with *Christianity Today*, Carl Lentz, who was then co-pastor of Hillsong New York City with his wife Laura, said, “I am still waiting for someone to show me the quote where Jesus addressed it [homosexuality] on the record in front of people” (“Hillsong New York Pastor Carl Lentz,” *Christian Today*, June 6, 2014). Perhaps we can help him out with his query. What Jesus did say in regard to homosexuality was three things. **First, Jesus exalted the law of Moses as God’s holy law.** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19). The

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Hillsong New York City after having an affair with a Muslim fashion designer. In 2019, Yelp identified Hillsong Los Angeles as one of the top ten “gay friendly churches” in the city. In 2017, Lentz and pop star Justin Bieber were photographed in New Zealand drinking heavily and partying in a tavern. Lentz had baptized Bieber in the bathtub of a pro-basketball player. In February 2016, former Hillsong pastor Pasquale “Pat” Mesiti pleaded guilty to assaulting his second wife and was awaiting sentencing (*Christian Headlines*, Feb. 29, 2016). In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Hillsong Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a “naked cowboy” wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. According to the *New York Times* for October 17, 2014, a homosexual couple, Josh Canfield and Reed Kelly, sing in choirs at Hillsong New York City, and Canfield is a volunteer choir leader. In a 2014 interview with *Christianity Today*, Laura Lentz, Hillsong NYC co-pastor, said, “It’s not our place to tell anyone how they should live, it’s--that’s their journey” (“Hillsong New York Pastor Carl Lentz,” *Christian Today*, June 6, 2014).

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law of Moses that Jesus exalted as God’s holy law says, “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). **Second, Jesus limited marriage to one man and one woman as in the beginning of creation** (Matthew 19:3-9). This completely destroys the biblical legitimacy of “same-sex marriage.” **Third, Jesus said that His Spirit would lead the apostles into all truth** (John 16:13). The canon of Spirit-taught truth is the New Testament Scriptures, where we find the strongest statement against homosexuality in the entire Bible (Romans 1:24-28). To separate the authority of the Gospels from the authority of the apostolic Epistles is rank heresy, for we are told that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Obviously Jesus left no room for homosexual Christianity and “same sex marriage,” and His teaching on this was very public. The Hillsong churches are so “culturally relevant” that they are traitors to the truth of God’s Word, yet their music is influencing large numbers of Baptists and biblical fundamentalists. When asked by a reporter why Hillsong is so successful, Brian Houston of Hillsong Sydney replied, “We are scratching people where they are itching” (“The Lord’s Profits,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, January 30, 2003). That is right out of 2 Timothy 4:3, which is a warning of apostasy. It describes people who itch for a new kind of Christianity, and heaps of preachers who will scratch this illicit itch. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” That describes Hillsong to a “T.”

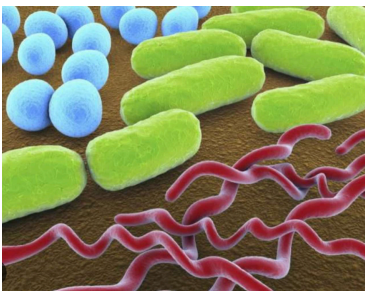
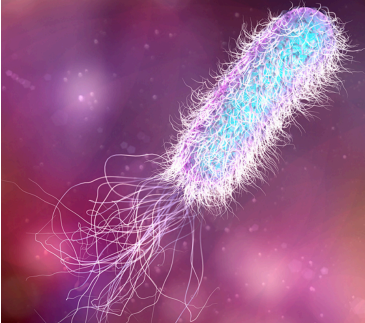
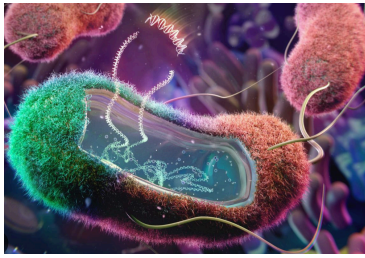
CHINESE PRISON CAMP HORROR

The following is excerpted from “Uyghurs detail Chinese prison camp horror stories,” *Christian Post*, Feb. 3, 2023: “Two Uyghurs who fled from China detailed their family members’ experiences in concentration camps and called on the United States government to take stronger action against the Chinese Communist Party at the third annual International Religious Freedom Summit. ... Many discussions focused on the plight of Uyghurs, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group primarily residing in the far-western Chinese province of Xinjiang. **Uyghurs are targets of harsh treatment by the Chinese Communist Party, which views the ethnic group as inferior to the dominant Han Chinese. Hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs have found themselves subject to forced labor and torture in the concentration camps to get them to pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party.** ... Jewher Ilham ... hasn’t heard from her imprisoned father in six years. ... In a 2019 interview with CP, Ilham revealed that her father was set to teach at Indiana University in the U.S. in 2013 when Chinese authorities detained him before he could board a flight to the U.S. ... While Ilham hasn’t heard from her father in six years and doesn’t know if he is alive or dead, she provided an account of what she learned at the beginning of his captivity. ‘The first few months actually when he was arrested, we learned that he was denied food twice, each time for 10 days. And so he lost over 40 pounds just within a few

months, and all his hair turned gray.’ ... Ilham shared information she received from a former inmate who was locked up in the same prison as her father but was later released. ... The former inmate informed Ilham that her father ‘had a small TV in his room that plays Chinese propaganda 24/7 with very loud volume and strong light, the light won’t shut off. So he basically lives in an environment where it’s 24/7 bright and loud and full of noise of only about praising the Chinese Government, all this propaganda [about] how China’s great, how [the] Communist Party is great.’ Ilham suggested that the Chinese Communist Party wants to humiliate her father in retaliation for ‘his criticism over [the] Chinese government’s practices in the Uyghur region.’ ... Like Ilham, Kazzat Altay’s father is in prison for criticizing the Chinese government. Altay has resided in the U.S. for nearly two decades after fleeing the country following ‘harassment by Chinese intelligence.’ ... Based on conversations Altay’s father had with his brother about his experience in detention, he learned that ‘at night, he didn’t want to get up for the restroom because if he gets up, there’s no space for him to sleep.’ Altay cited this as an example of ‘how tight that place is’ and ‘how miserable that place is’ where ‘people were taking turns to sleep at night because [there was] not enough space.’ He also noted that ‘the restroom was just in the corner, there was no wall, there’s no doors.’”

MURDERER IDENTIFIES AS “INFANT” IN BRITISH PRISON

It is difficult to know who is nuttier in this case, the “infant” or the British government. The following is excerpted from “Killer now identifies as an infant,” *Daily Mirror*, Jan. 28, 2023: “A killer who transitioned from male to female while in prison has demanded that guards hold her hand while outside her cell because she identifies as an infant. Sophie Eastwood, 36, was named Daniel when she was jailed for life in 2004 after using shoelaces as a garrote to strangle her cellmate. Eastwood, who has lived as a woman in Her Majesty’s prisons for the past four years, has been described as ‘attention-seeking’ and ‘manipulative’ by sources inside the jail. The murderer has now told chiefs at Polmont prison in Brightons, Scotland, that she identifies as a tot, and should be allowed to wear diapers and have her meals pureed like baby food. Prison bosses are taking Eastwood’s requests seriously and have already supplied her with a dummy [a pacifier], sources tell the *Daily Record*.”



BACTERIA'S EYES AND EARS

The following is from CreationMoments.com: "Modern researchers are learning that bacteria are not a simple form of life. Rather, a bacterium is a tremendously complex creature that thinks. Scientists have discovered that bacteria actually have molecule-sized sensors. Some of these sensors act as eyes, while others act as ears. A dozen other proteins have been discovered that receive the information gathered by the bacteria's 'eyes' and 'ears.' The collected information is then processed the same way your brain gathers and makes sense of information. Bacteria have specialized senses and a brain. In fact, bacteria are better at sensing some things than you and I are. A bacterium can, for example, sense the difference between two parts and one part in 10,000. This is the same as if you could tell the difference between one jar with 9,999 pennies and another jar with 10,000 pennies! The idea that bacteria are just 'simple' forms of life comes from evolution. Growing research is showing that even one-celled creatures are not simple at all. Think of it. Every single-celled bacterium must accomplish, within that one cell, all the tasks we accomplish using the trillions of cells in our bodies. Eating, digestion, metabolism, waste removal, reproduction--and even thinking--all take place within a single cell! **There is no such thing as a simple form of life.** Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Pietsch, Paul. 1983. 'The mind of a microbe,' *Science Digest*, Oct. p. 69."

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.