

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## CHINA POSES GREATEST THREAT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The following is excerpted from “2023 International Religious Summit,” *CBN News*, Feb. 1, 2023: “Thousands of world leaders, activists, lawmakers, and more are in Washington this week with the goal of shining a spotlight on those being persecuted for their faith. They’re a part of the International Religious Freedom Summit, which was created to highlight the issue of religious freedom for everyone, everywhere, all the time. With an uptick in global unrest over the last year, organizers believe religious freedom is not only a fundamental human right but also an important foreign policy issue. ‘The United States must continue to be a voice for the voiceless who are persecuted for their beliefs,’ said Rep. Mike McCaul (R-TX) during the opening session of the IRF Summit. ... Former Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Sam Brownback, says this issue plays a significant role in current global events. ‘Take Ukraine right now. Ukrainians splitting off a Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the Russian Orthodox Church was one of the things that caused Putin to move.’ ... It’s Russia’s ally China, however, that Brownback believes poses the greatest international threat to religious freedom. ‘It’s an authoritarian regime; it’s seeking to expand their model, and to export their technology to do it,’ Brownback said.”



*Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, President of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum speaks through an interpreter at the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2023 (Travis Henry)*

## THIEVES BANKRUPTING AMERICAN BUSINESSES

American businesses are being destroyed by theft. It is a product of the destruction of the American character by the apostasy of churches and the proliferation of humanism, and it is the product of foolish laws that coddle lawbreakers. The National Retail Federation estimates that businesses lost nearly \$95 billion in 2021 due to theft, up from \$91 billion in 2020. Walmart alone loses \$3 billion annually by theft. Organized crime theft rose 26%



(“Major retail brands threaten to close stores,” Fox KTVU television, Dec. 8, 2022). The national retail chain Target lost \$400 million in just three months last year. California’s crazy laws allow individuals to steal up to \$950 worth of goods and, if caught and charged, which is rare, they are only charged with a simple misdemeanor. Thieves can go from store to store and steal \$949 in merchandise at ten places, totaling \$9,490 worth of goods, but it’s still a

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# THIEVES BANKRUPTING AMERICAN BUSINESSES

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misdemeanor. So gangs of thieves enter stores, each individual stealing \$949 worth of goods, and they walk out of the store as if nothing happened. (In March, California authorities arrested and charged nine people with stealing \$135,000 worth of merchandise, but this is a drop in the bucket.) The security office of a San Francisco Target store said, “There’s no consequences. Literally zero consequences. ... I’ve been here since 9 AM today. I probably have already kicked out eight or nine people and I’ve recovered a thousand dollars worth of stuff alone off of that. Whether we kick them out, tell them they can’t come back, whether I put them in handcuffs and take them down to the county jail—there is no difference. Because they will not be prosecuted by the district attorney. ... There is zero consequence. And that’s

why ... in the city the same couple percent of people are committing all the car break-ins, all the robberies and all the shootings, any aggravated assaults right in town ... It's all the same exact people, and there are zero consequences. Therefore you take them to jail, they get out of jail. They do it again. It's a big circle" ("Iconic Target Store to Close," *California Globe*, Oct. 21, 2021). This same lawlessness is perpetrated in many other parts of the nation because the laws aren't being enforced. As a result, large stores and smaller retailers are closing their doors every day. Walgreens is closing 22 stores in San Francisco. Target and Walmart are closing stores. An "iconic" Target store on Mission Street closed after losing \$25,000 DAILY to shoplifting. Neighborhoods are being left without convenient shopping.

# EARTH'S POPULATION REFUTES EVOLUTIONARY WORLDVIEW

The following is excerpted from Ken Ham, “Be Fruitful and Multiply,” Answers in Genesis, Nov. 21, 2022: “Earth just hit a significant milestone. For the first time ever (that we know of—no one knows what the pre-flood population was), there are now eight billion people on the planet. ... I would also like to point out that humanity’s population size is actually a challenge to the evolutionary worldview. Why? Well, consider that evolutionists believe modern man has existed for over 200,000 years. And yet, as the article I linked above states, we didn’t hit even a billion people until about 200 years ago. So, for tens and tens of thousands of years, humanity’s size somehow just didn’t grow? Did it stay ridiculously small for an almost incomprehensible amount of time before suddenly exploding in our modern era? That doesn’t make any sense, even with our medical advances! In this

view, if we use conservative numbers, there should be a whopping 10,000 people on the planet (more atoms than there are in the universe!)—and that’s only going back 50,000 years in supposed human history! Go back to 200,000 years and the problem just gets worse! But consider the 8 billion number through the lens of Scripture. Humanity has only been around for about 6,000 years—and the population dropped to just eight about 4,350 years ago during the global flood. **Even using a conservative estimate for population growth, 8 billion is a very reasonable number for us to be reaching in 2022.** As always, the observational evidence confirms God’s Word, not evolutionary imaginings.”



# THE WORLD IS READY FOR THE ANTICHRIST

The world today is ready to worship the Antichrist. Multitudes have rejected the gospel and mock the things of God. “Jesus Christ” is a major swear word, and the movies are filled with blasphemy and ridicule of holy things. The vast entertainment industry overwhelmingly falls into this category, and as the movie stars and comedians and entertainers laugh at the things of God, the world laughs right along with them. Blasphemous, Christ-denying books and plays and movies such as *The Da Vinci Code*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ* are loved by millions and given rave reviews in this world’s popular media. Influential publications regularly run articles tearing down the authority of the Bible. Millions upon millions of young people are deluded by the entertainment industry and the educational field into thinking that God is “evolutionary chance” or a mere “force” that can be harnessed for one’s purposes. The world gives its most prestigious titles and awards to those who deny God’s very Creatorship, such as when the 2006 Nobel Physics Prize was given to two scientists for their work in discovering the “the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB),” which is alleged to be the “oldest light” in the universe and “comes from a time 380,000 years after the Big Bang.” Men who believe that a massive explosion resulted in the incredible complexity and order of the universe are acclaimed as brilliant. Yes, the world is ready for the Antichrist!

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## DOCTORS REVEAL CENSORSHIP OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE “TRANS CHAOS”

The following is excerpted from “Bold doctors stand up,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 30, 2022: “As the debate heats up over the impact of the transgender movement on children, two bold doctors are speaking up about what they see as bullying tactics aimed at silencing critics--and the truth. Dr. Quentin Van Meter, a pediatric endocrinologist and president of the American College of Pediatricians, and Dr. Andre Van Mol, a family doctor, are just two of the subjects in ‘Generation Indoctrination,’ a new podcast from *Christian Post* reporter Brandon Showalter. Both have unique insight into this arena. In an interview, Van Meter passionately expressed his concern over the handling of those who choose to question the current affirmation-only approach for kids who identify as transgender, revealing a mass silencing. ... Van Meter shared his belief that medical societies and institutions have so swiftly signed on board the affirmation-only bandwagon because of fear. Those who choose to speak out--or want to tell the truth--often fear retribution. ‘Their

division heads will say, I’m sorry ... you’re not speaking for this university. This is your personal opinion, and this is bigoted and hateful, and we’ll have none of it. And if you don’t retract what you wrote, we’re going to have to reconsider whether or not you’ll ... achieve tenure and whether or not you can publish in journals because you’re representing us,’ he explained. ... Meanwhile, he said, parents are being indoctrinated into the fold as well, and are being given few options outside of the affirmation-only paradigm. ‘The kind of intimidation that’s thrown at parents--Do you want a live son or a dead daughter? Do you want to be planning a transition or a funeral?’ Van Meter said. ‘It’s incredible that people are hearing this from their healthcare and mental health professionals.’ ... He also highlighted the monies purportedly being made from surgeries and treatments--something particularly disturbing in light of the fact many young people reportedly outgrow transgender identity.



# SCIENTISTS REINCARNATING THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH



*Colossal Biosciences co-founders Ben Lamm, left, and George Church.*

The following is excerpted from “Scientists Are Reincarnating,” *Popular Mechanics*, Jan. 30, 2023: “The long-dead woolly mammoth will make its return from extinction by 2027, says Colossal, the biotech company actively working to reincarnate the ancient beast. Last year, the Dallas-based firm scored an additional \$60 million in funding to continue mammoth gene-editing work it started in 2021. If successful, not only will Colossal bring back an extinct species--one the company dubs a cold-resistant elephant--but it will also reintroduce the woolly mammoth to the same ecosystem in which it once lived in an effort to fight climate change, according to a recent *Medium* post. Colossal calls the woolly mammoth’s vast migration patterns an active part of preserving the health of the Arctic, and so bringing the animal back to life can have a beneficial impact on the health of the world’s ecosystem. While Colossal originally hoped to reintroduce the woolly mammoth into Siberia, the company may explore other options based on the current political framework of the world.”

## INFORMATION

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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](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).

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