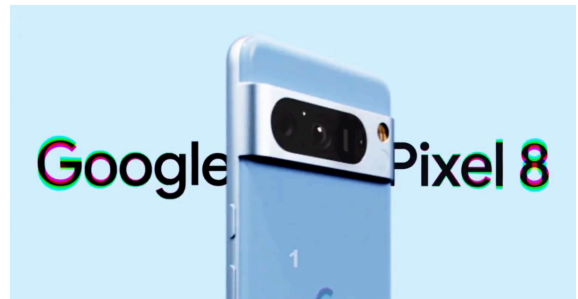

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

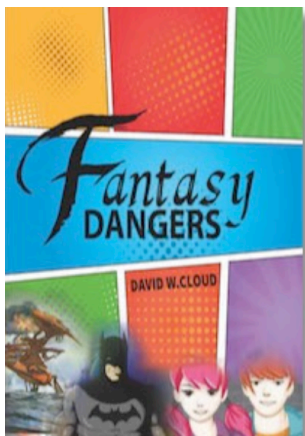
CREATING A MYTHICAL LIFE VIA PHOTO EDITING

The following is excerpted from “Google Pixel 8’s new editing feature is dystopian,” *UnHerd*, Sept. 27, 2023: “A video has leaked showing the new camera specs for Google’s latest phone, the Pixel 8, which launches in early October. The video demonstrates the new and improved Magic Editor tool, which, with the click of a button and the help of AI, will allow users to move subjects around in an image, erase objects or people, change backgrounds altogether, get rid of unwanted noise in videos, and, most creepily, change people’s faces altogether by swapping in expressions from other photos. Apps like FaceTune, which allow users to easily tweak and tamper photographs in the pursuit of physical perfection, have already existed for years. However, the difference between FaceTune and the new Google Pixel is that the former allows users to distort memories, whereas the latter can manufacture completely new ones. ... In our increasingly deceptive digital world, photography has become less about seeing, and more about projecting. By documenting every aspect of our lives online, personal experiences have become public consumption, and the inevitable self-consciousness that comes with sharing means that moments only carry meaning if we can crop, filter and airbrush them into a carefully-curated highlights reel. These **fictionalised visual narratives** are having profound effects on the ways in which we think about ourselves and each other. The pressure to look ‘perfect’ means that 90% of young women report using a filter or editing their photographs before posting ... This new editing software will also change how we process memories. ... we will remember things as [to] how we *wanted* them to happen, rather than how they actually did.”



(Image credit: EZ / Twitter)

END-TIME FANTASY WORLDS



The following is excerpted from “Could ChatGPT be your new girlfriend?” *UnHerd*, Sept. 27, 2023: “This week, OpenAI announced that ChatGPT can now ‘see and speak,’ broadening its interactive range. ‘Settl[ing] a dinner table debate’ and ‘request[ing] a bedtime story for your family’ are among the list of potential use cases suggested. OpenAI seems to be positioning ChatGPT to be more than just a tool--perhaps an AI companion. ... These developments could well mean that we are heading towards an ever more atomised future in which people feel more comfortable with robots (or chatbots, as it were) than with other people. ... [This is already happening and] has been well-documented in Japan, in books like *The Moe Manifesto*, where people regularly become attached to pop idols and anime characters. ... AI companionship might not be such a far-off prediction after all.” (For more on this, see the free eBook *Fantasy Dangers*, <https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php>.)

CONSERVATIVE BLACK MAYOR OF DALLAS JOINS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Eric Johnson, mayor of Dallas, Texas, announced his departure from the Democratic Party in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed entitled “America’s Cities Need Republicans, and I’m Becoming One.” Johnson wrote, “I have been mayor of Dallas for more than four years. During that time, my priority has been to make the city safer, stronger and more vibrant. That meant saying no to those who wanted to defund the police. It meant fighting for lower taxes and a friendlier business climate. And it meant investing in family friendly infrastructure such as better parks and trails. That approach is working. Alone among America’s 10 most populous cities, Dallas has brought violent crime down in every major category, including murder, year-over-year for the past two years. In a recent Gallup poll asking Americans to rate the safety of major cities, Dallas came out on top. We have also reduced our property tax rate every year since I took office, signaling to investors that Dallas intends to remain the nation’s most pro-business city. ... After these

wins for the people of Dallas--and after securing 98.7% of the vote in my re-election campaign this year--I have no intention of changing my approach to my job. But today I am changing my party affiliation. ... **The future of America’s great urban centers depends on the willingness of the nation’s mayors to champion law and order and practice fiscal conservatism.** Our cities desperately need the genuine commitment to these principles (as opposed to the inconsistent, poll-driven commitment of many Democrats) that has long been a defining characteristic of the GOP. In other words, American cities need Republicans—and Republicans need American cities. ... Unfortunately, many of our cities are in disarray. Mayors and other local elected officials have failed to make public safety a priority or to exercise fiscal restraint. **Most of these local leaders are proud Democrats who view cities as laboratories for liberalism rather than as havens for opportunity and free enterprise.** ... with my change in party affiliation, I recognize that the number of Republican mayors leading the nation’s 10 largest cities has increased from zero to one. This is hardly a red wave. But it is clear that the nation and its cities have reached a time for choosing. And **the overwhelming majority of Americans who call our cities home deserve to have real choices--not ‘progressive’ echo chambers--at city hall**” (*Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 22, 2023). In February, Johnson posted a *Fox News Digital* article on social media “outlining how Austin police officers are retiring in droves due to low morale resulting from defunding and encouraged those officers to move to Dallas and work there” (*Fox News*, Sept. 22, 2023). (For more on this subject, see “Black American Conservatives,” www.wayoflife.org.)

OXFORD GROUP RANKING CHURCHES ACCORDING TO SUPPORT FOR HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

The following is excerpted from “They’re Ranking Churches Now,” *PJMedia*, Sept. 27, 2023: “This probably shouldn’t come as a surprise to us, but a group at Oxford University in the UK has begun rating churches in the area based on their capitulation to the heresy of the LGBTQ movement. ‘The Oxford Safe Churches project, run by a coalition of LGBTQ+ organisations and Churches in Oxford, have published their first faith report, titled *Attitudes to Queer Christians in Oxford Churches*,’ reports the *Oxford Student* news website. ‘The report, published on Friday 22 September, uses a ‘traffic light’ system to rank the LGBTQ+ inclusivity of churches in Oxford.’ Needless to say, the red light means that a church preaches sound doctrine about gender, sex, and marriage, while a green light represents a church that affirms and celebrates open sin. Furthermore, churches receive a numerical score on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 and 2 corresponding to red lights, 3 equating to an amber (or yellow) light, and 4 and 5 representing green. ... The only reason there’s this debate about LGBTQ+-affirming churches is that the Rainbow Mafia demands acquiescence and will take nothing less. These days, we can’t simply love gay people for who they are; we must celebrate their lifestyles if we are to be in good standing with the Pride Mob. ... Stand firm. Don’t yield to the pressure to ‘affirm’ the LGBTQ agenda. Know the truth from scripture and be confident in the knowledge that we know how the war ends. Forget ‘the right side of history.’ What’s most important is being on the right side of eternity.”

CANADA GENDER WARS AND TAXPAYER FUNDED TRANS SURGERIES

The following is excerpted from “In Canada, the gender wars are now a national issue,” *UnHerd*, Sept. 21, 2023: “Yesterday, Canadians turned out by the thousands in cities and towns across the country for the 1 Million March 4 Children--the most visible pushback to date against what many Canadians see as indoctrination into a radical set of new beliefs about sex and gender being pushed on their children in schools and healthcare settings. Now, it seems as though Canada’s long and uncomfortable silence on gender is breaking down quickly. ... In the province of Ontario, over 200,000 people are on the waiting list for surgeries--and that includes patients waiting on life-saving procedures. The last few years have also heralded the dystopian rise of *Maid*, Canada’s Medical Assistance in Dying programme, which has seen a surge of applications from patients with unmet needs for healthcare and social services. But even as basic needs go unmet, provincial healthcare systems have expanded access to bespoke cosmetic interventions for those seeking to transition. All provinces and territories now cover mastectomies and genital surgeries. Provinces and territories that cover genital surgery but lack clinics to perform these surgeries may cover travel expenses for patients who wish to seek care elsewhere. The Yukon covers the widest range of ‘gender-affirming’ interventions, including laser-hair removal, facial-feminisation surgery, vocal surgery, and chest contouring.”



THE BOTTOMLESS SUITCASE

The following is from CreationMoments.com, September 20, 2023: “It was first discovered in 1855, but many scientists debated its existence for another 50 years. Once its existence was finally proven to everyone’s satisfaction, it was another 50 years before science had any tools to begin studying it. Finally, in the late 1980s, scientists began to learn a little about the secrets of one of the tiniest, yet most amazing structures in the body. At the back of the eye, between the deepest layer of the retina and the cells beneath it, lies a tiny moat made up of about 10 drops of a mysterious fluid. The entire moat is thinner than a sheet of cellophane. It seems that the clear fluid in the moat serves the surrounding light sensing tissues of the eye in place of blood, bringing in nutrients and carrying away waste. It *also* transports light-sensitive chemicals needed by the light detecting cells in the eye. *In addition*, it seems to glue the retina in place. *More than that*, the moat is rich in a growth factor. This fact makes scientists believe that the gel may also be important to repairing injuries to the retina, keeping the cells of the retina young and active, as well as helping in the growth of new cells. As one researcher said, the more they study this tiny structure the more unexpected abilities they find--something like a bottomless suitcase. Charles Darwin, who didn’t even know about the moat, was right when he said that it was impossible to believe that natural selection could have produced the eye. REF: Weiss, P.L, ‘Eye diving,’ *Science News*, v. 138, Sept. 15.1990, p. 170.”

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.
