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## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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### POPE CHARACTERIZES ISRAEL'S GAZA CAMPAIGN AS "TERRORISM" AND CALLS FOR WORLD PEACE

Speaking separately to a Palestinian delegation and an Israel delegation on Nov. 22, Pope Francis called Israel's Gaza campaign "terrorism," and in his general audience that day he called for world peace. He said, "[H]ere we have gone beyond wars, this is not waging war, this is terrorism" ("Pope calls Gaza war terrorism," *Crux*, Nov. 22, 2023). The 10 Palestinian delegates said the pope called the war "genocide," but the Vatican denied that. In his general audience and in a video appeal, the pope called "for peace in the Holy Land and in the world." The pope is ignorant of the fact that he is fulfilling prophecy, not only as preaching a false christ and a false gospel, and as a chief element of the Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17 (e.g., names of blasphemy, arrayed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication), but also the prophecies of the call for peace. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). The hour is very late.



*Pope Francis*

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### ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES SAME-SEX PARTNERS OF FALLEN TROOPS AS "WIDOW/ERS"



*Defense Minister Yoav Gallant speaks to troops near the Gaza border, October 19, 2023. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)*

There is no clearer evidence of Israel's current apostate condition than its acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex "marriage." Israel recognizes same-sex marriages from other nations and allows homosexual couples to adopt. Tel Aviv's annual gay pride festival is one of the largest in the world. Jerusalem has its own gay pride festival, fulfilling the prophecy of Revelation 11:8 which calls Jerusalem "Sodom." The following is excerpted from "Same-sex partners of fallen troops," *Israel21c*, Nov. 12, 2023: "Israel's Knesset recently passed an amendment that allows recognition of same-sex partners of fallen soldiers as IDF widows or widowers. The existing law was amended after

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## ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES...

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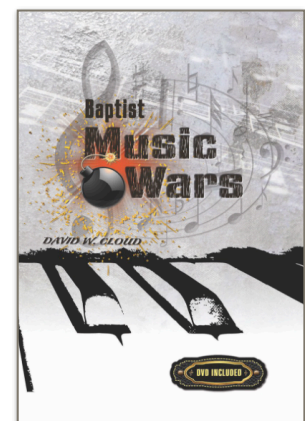
criticism from Omer Ohana, whose fiancé--IDF Reserve Captain Sagi Golan--was killed in battle with Hamas on October 7. The commander in Lotar, a special counter-terrorism unit, fell in Kibbutz Be'eri, where around 70 Hamas militants massacred more than 100 civilians. Ohana and Golan were scheduled to get married on October 13. Shortly after Golan's death, Ohana slammed the exclusion of same-sex couples from the Families of Fallen Soldiers Law. ... Earlier this week, the law was finally amended, leaving gender entirely out of the legislation. The amendment allows people whose spouse or partner of the same sex was killed in combat to be eligible for financial compensation and support." "So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them" (Ezekiel 37:7-8).

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## BAPTIST CHURCH IN CANADA WON'T ALLOW TEACHING AGAINST CCM

I received the following recently: "In my Sunday School class, I was about to embark on the topic of CCM in the new year giving out two of your books to my students that I already have with me now (*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music* and the *Baptist Music Wars*) as well go over your CCM videos that you have on your website (all 18 of them). The *Baptist Music Wars* is actually out of print but I talked to Bethel Baptist print ministry (since I am from Canada) and they printed copies of that book for me for my Sunday school class. However, I was informed today by the head of the Sunday school ministry at my church that I will not be allowed to show your videos on CCM. Our church is apparently not in agreement with them. This was very sad for me to hear. This would also mean that I probably won't be allowed to give out your books that I have already purchased. I am heartbroken with the state of our churches. The day an IFB church isn't allowed to show your

videos in Sunday school is a sad day. That day has already arrived at many IFB churches and that day has now arrived at my church. I just thought that I would inform you of this sad development." (Note: The eBook edition of *Baptist Music Wars* is available for free download and viewing at [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)



## BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, is the “flagship” church of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI). It provided classroom space for the founding of Baptist Bible College in 1950. Today High Street is on the high road to the apostate “broader church.” In 2017, High Street joined the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and is dually aligned with the BBFI and the SBC. High Street’s Pastor, Eddie Lyons, who was International President of the BBFI at the time, said, “We have the same heart, the same calling” (*Baptist Press*, Feb. 15, 2017). Lyons said, “There is no difference between us” (BBFI and Southern Baptists). He is right. Consider just some of the frightful facts about the Southern Baptist Convention today: Church discipline is almost unknown. The churches are incredibly worldly. Pointed preaching against worldliness is extremely rare. Christian rock is universally accepted. Deacons exercise unscriptural authority. Every strange Bible version is accepted. There is theological modernism in the liberal arts colleges. The heresy of textual criticism is widely embraced. Modern Bible versions of the greatest depravity (e.g., Today’s English Version, The Message, The Living Bible) are found everywhere. Charismatic heresies are rampant. New Reformed Calvinism is spreading like wildfire. Women preachers are accepted (e.g. Beth Moore and Anne Graham Lotz). Ecumenical evangelism with Rome is accepted (the SBC is Billy Graham’s denomination). Hundreds of thousands of SBC members are yoked with the

Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. The non-judgmental *Shack* god is widely accepted. Contemplative prayer has leaped from the darkness of Roman Catholic monasticism to the Southern Baptist Sunday School class. Southern Baptist churches are being leavened with the heresy that unrepentant homosexuals can be received as church members. In his book, *Breaking the Islam Code*, two-time SBC President J.D. Greear says that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. The root problem in SBC congregations is unregeneracy. In 2005, SBC evangelist Jim Elliff said, “Our denomination, as much as we love it, is on the main, unregenerate” ([www.ccwonline.org/sbc.html](http://www.ccwonline.org/sbc.html); see also *Founder’s Journal*, Feb. 7, 1999). (That he would love an unregenerate denomination is evidence of the weird and shocking blindness that accompanies denominational loyalty.) Elliff presented the fact that only 10% or fewer of the members of the typical SBC congregation show up for anything other than a Sunday morning service. Such an entity, regardless of what it calls itself, is certainly not a New Testament church. The Southern Baptist Convention is a fulfillment of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (For more documentation, see “Why I Am Not Southern Baptist,” <https://www.wayoflife.org/database/whynotsbc.html>)

# PLANTS THAT FOOL INSECTS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 15, 2023: “Many plants, especially orchids, offer different ploys to fool insects into pollinating them. Each of these ploys shows planning, design and the ability to create the design that will work. That there are so many examples makes it impossible for any rational person to believe that mindless, impersonal forces could have made these plants. Four different groups of orchids produce flowers that look so much like the female of the insect that pollinates them that pollinators will try to mate with them. The Brassia orchid found in southern Florida produces a flower that mimics the prey of its pollinator, the spider wasp. The flower is so designed that as the wasp stings its supposed prey--really the flower--pollen is deposited on his head. The pollen is then carried to a nearby female flower and deposited in just the right place during another attack. Another orchid imitates an aggressive swarm of bees as it blows in the wind. The strongly territorial bees that live in the area swarm and attack the flowers. In the process, they transfer the pollen from male to female flowers. The female flowers of at least 50 species of Mexican orchids offer fake pollen to lure pollen-eating insects that have been feeding on male flowers. Many of these insect-orchid relationships are so tightly interlocked that neither could survive without the other. This speaks of a planned creation. It also bears witness that all forms of life came into being in a relatively short time, not over millions of years as evolutionists would have it. Ref: Batten, Mary. “Sex & plants,” *Science Digest*, Oct. 1983.”



Brassia Orchid

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# FEAR IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Fear is one of the many signs of the end times. The Lord Jesus described the “beginning of sorrows” as a time of wars and rumors of wars, of famines and pestilences and earthquakes which will produce **troubled minds** (Matthew 24:6-7). In the Gospel of Luke, Christ described these things as “fearful sights” (Lu. 21:11). The beginning of sorrows is the beginning of the day of the Lord, and though we are not officially in that time, these things are also signs of *the approach* of the day of the Lord. Hebrews 10:25 says we can “see the day approaching.” Covid was a pestilence that was accompanied by great fear. Large numbers of people worldwide still wear masks, even driving alone in an automobile or walking alone in a private place, living in a strange realm of fear. It is a day of troubled minds. God’s people have the light of God’s Word and are instructed by Christ “be not troubled” at end times events (Mt. 24:6). If you are born again, don’t let the world’s fear be your fear. Don’t be shaken and troubled and fearful. How can you have a testimony of faith in Christ in such a condition? Christ taught His people to “fear not” (Mt. 8:26; 10:26, 31; Lk. 12:7, 32) and “let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:1, 27). In the Tribulation itself, men’s hearts will fail “for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). That will be a reasonable fear, for billions will perish in that day.

## 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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