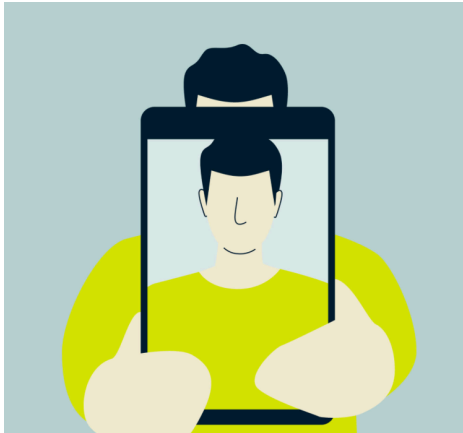

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

BE NOT CONFORMED TO THE SELFIE AGE



The selfie craze began in 2010 with the appearance of the iPhone 4 with its front-facing camera. “Selfie” became *Oxford Dictionary’s* Word of the Year in 2013. By 2022, an estimated 33 billion selfies were taken. Social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok are deluged with them. The word itself was invented in Australia, a land that loves catchy little words expressions, such as barbie (barbecue), biccyy (biscuit), brekky (breakfast), cupper (cup of tea), maccas (McDonalds), rellie (relatives), runners (running shoes), sickie (a sick leave), sunnies (sunglasses), lappy (laptops), and Facey (Facebook). Many have died in pursuit of the perfect selfie. A study by Carnegie Melon

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CLIMATE CHANGE MOGULS ARE AFTER YOUR MEAT

The following is excerpted from “First They Came for Your Car,” Powerlineblog.com, Dec. 6, 2023: “First they came for your car, now they are coming for your meat. Global warming, the universal excuse for left-wing policies designed to make your life worse, demands that modern agriculture be shut down. If you think that is an exaggeration, talk to anyone in Sri Lanka or the Netherlands. The UN’s COP28 global warming conference in Dubai is turning its attention to agriculture: ‘Climate advocacy groups are pressuring world governments gathered at this year’s United Nation’s COP28 climate conference in Dubai to commit to cutting global food sector emissions, as the conference host promises to put agriculture in the spotlight. Global food systems--including farming and land use, livestock production, household food consumption and waste, and energy used in the farm and food retail sectors--account for 31% of human-made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).’ How do you cut down on those emissions? Basically, by doing away with meat and substituting insects as a protein source for the masses. ... One thing you can be sure of: the liberals who are telling you to eat insects instead of steaks, pork chops, bacon and hamburgers will do no such thing themselves. Their plan is to drive up the price of meat to the point where you, and most people, can’t afford it, but they can.”



BE NOT CONFORMED TO THE SELFIE AGEcontinued from FRONT PAGE

University found that 127 died from 2014 to 2016, which is 63 per year. If that number has held true, it means about 440 died from selfie misadventure from 2017 to 2023, and a great many others have been injured. They have died by falling off of cliffs and high buildings, being run over by trains, by automobile crashes and drownings, by being attacked by bears and wild animals, and many other ways. A spokesman for the Lake Tahoe Basin of the U.S. Forest Service said, "We've had mobs of people that are actually rushing toward the bears trying to get a 'selfie' photo" ("Seriously people, stop taking 'selfies' with bears," *Reno Gazette Journal*, Nov. 28, 2018). Yellowstone asks park visitors to take a "safe selfie pledge." In July 2023, Queensland authorities fined two women \$1500 each for taking selfies with dingos (wild dogs). Death is not the only danger associated with selfies. Tourists in Venice recently capsized a gondola by ignoring the pilot's warnings not to stand up to take selfies. A selfie enthusiast in Salt Lake City caused \$200,000 in damage while pursuing her passion in a museum. Local authorities in some places have erected barriers to thwart selfie enthusiasts. These include Hallstatt, Austria, thought to be the inspiration for Disney's *Frozen*, and Grenfell Tower in London, the site of a multi-fatality fire. Portofino, Italy, fines tourists \$300 for loitering in popular selfie spots. What are selfies all about? Me, of course. It's me taking photos of me (perhaps including some other people, but always me). Dr. Mariann Hardey, marketing expert, says, "It's about continuously rewriting yourself. It's an extension of our natural construction of self. It's about presenting yourself in the best way" ("How selfies became a global phenomenon," *The Guardian*, July 14, 2013). Right. It is another sign of the times. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..." (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

GOD ADDRESSES THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AND THE UNIVERSE WILL HEAR

**Isaiah's great prophecy is not just for Israel.
It is addressed to the ENTIRE HEAVENS AND EARTH.**

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken" (Isa. 1:2). "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it" (Isa. 34:1). These words were not spoken in vain. All things are made by God and exist by God and are for God and are accountable to God, and all sensible creatures, angels and men, *WILL* hear God's Word, either in repentance or in judgment. Since Isaiah first wrote these living words on scrolls, multitudes have heard them and believed them; they have received the Suffering Messiah as their own and have lived and died in hope of His coming in glory. In Christ's kingdom, these words will again be proclaimed to the nations. At the Great White Throne, these words will witness against the unsaved ("and the books were opened," Re. 20:12). And for all eternity, they will stand as a testimony of God's compassion, wisdom, power, and sovereignty. "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89).

CANADIAN LAWMAKERS CONDEMN COMMISSION THAT SUGGESTS CHRISTMAS IS RACIST

The following is excerpted from “Christmas Isn’t Racist,” *The Christian Post*, Dec. 6, 2023: “In a motion unanimously adopted Nov. 30, the House of Commons, the lower chamber of the Canadian Parliament, voted in favor of condemning a paper from the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) that cited Christianity’s two biggest holy days as examples of ‘present-day systemic religious discrimination’ because they are statutory holidays in Canada. The motion included language which called on all the House to ‘denounce all attempts to polarize events that have been part of Quebec and Canadian heritage for generations’ and ‘invite all Quebecers and Canadians to unite as we approach the Christmas season,’ according to Canada’s *Global News*. Lawmakers adopted the motion just one day after a tense exchange between Bloc Quebecois House Leader Alain Therrien, who introduced the motion, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.”



Allain Therrien

ANCIENT SLING STONE FACTORIES IN ISRAEL

Two ancient sling stone factories have been discovered in Israel (En Esur in the northern Sharon plain and En Zippori in the lower Galilee). The 424 smooth, egg-shaped stones discovered there were manufactured from hard limestone/dolomite and are uniform in length, width, and weight (60 g). The archaeologists say, “The stones, that were intended to be projected from a sling, are smoothed, with a specific biconical aerodynamic form, enabling exact and effective projection” (“Archaeologists discover ancient sling stone factory,” *Israel365 News*, Nov. 26, 2023). “In Old Testament times, slingers were regular components of an army and were often used together with archers; during siege warfare their role was to pick off the enemy from the besieged city’s ramparts. Such slingers were capable of hurling a projectile at over one hundred miles an hour and their effective range was well in excess of one hundred yards” (Alfred Hoerth, *Archaeology and the Old Testament*). “Among all this people *there were* seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could SLING STONES at an hair *breadth*, and not miss” (Judges 20:16). “And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and SLINGS TO CAST STONES” (2 Chronicles 26:14). See also 2 Kings 3:25; 1 Chronicles 12:2

A MISSIONARY WHO UNDERSTANDS SAVING GRACE

The following is from a recent prayer letter from a missionary to the Philippines. It is refreshing to see a biblically sound understanding of salvation in contrast to the Quick Prayerism error that is so prevalent. Salvation is not a mere sinner’s prayer or a ticket to heaven. It is a dead stone being miraculously converted to a living stone (1 Peter 2:5). The missionary writes, “Pray for God’s word to take root and to flourish in the hearts of our guests and visitors (and non-visitors). Many attend the services, some respond acknowledging their need for salvation but very few follow through with genuine repentance and saving faith. We must see a real-deal life change. Salvation changes the entire human condition. And while we know that God does the saving, we are convinced that we must do our part in sowing and praying, and patiently coming alongside and witness to those who are lost in sin.” “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

THE BEETLE WHO IS A CHEMIST

The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 28, 2023: "Imagine a beetle that can move across the surface of water without any body movement. Some creatures have been given such ability and skill that it should be clear to even the most skeptical person that their Maker and Teacher is greater than any human being. One such creature is the large-eyed rove beetle. Like many other insects, this beetle can walk on water. The surface tension of the water is enough to support the beetle on top of the water, given the special structure of his legs and feet. Should you see the large-eyed rove beetle, you will notice that he moves across the water, stops, turns, and starts up again without moving any part of his body. How does this work? The large-eyed rove beetle



Large-eyed Rove Beetle

has special glands that produce a chemical--something like detergent--that changes the surface tension of the water. When the surface tension of the water near his back feet is different from the surface tension of the water near his front feet, the beetle is pulled forward. Such a unique method of movement requires sophisticated knowledge of both hydrodynamics and chemistry. Since the beetle is obviously not that smart, it is no wonder that evolutionists often speak of evolution as though it were intelligent and able to create such wonders. However, it makes a lot more sense to talk about a wise, personal Creator than it does to speak of the wisdom of a mindless force like evolution. Ref: *Science Digest*, Aug., 1983. p. 74."

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.