

# Friday Church News Notes

## PRESIDENT BUSH SAYS HE PRAYS TO SAME GOD AS ADHERENTS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

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In an interview with ABC's *Nightline* program on December 8, President George W. Bush said that he prays to the same God as those with different religious beliefs. "I don't think God is a narrow concept. I think it's a broad



concept. I just happen to believe the way to God is through Christ, and others have different avenues toward God, and I believe we pray to the same Almighty" ("Bush Talks of Belief in God," AP, Dec. 8, 2008). Bush said that he doesn't believe that creation and evolution are contradictory. "I think the creation of the world is so mysterious it requires something as large as an almighty

and I don't think it's incompatible with the scientific proof that there is evolution." When asked if the Bible is literally true, Bush replied, "No, I'm not a literalist, but I think you can learn a lot from it, but I do think that the New Testament, for example ... the important lesson is 'God sent a son.'" His personal testimony of salvation is exceedingly weak. He said, "It is hard for me to justify or prove the mystery of the Almighty in my life. All I can just tell you is that I got back into religion and I quit drinking shortly thereafter and I asked for help." I like President Bush and will be sad to see him leave office (particularly in light of the man who is taking his place). Sadly, though, the President's Christianity is unscriptural and it is representative of that which predominates in America. This is the foundational problem with the nation and lies at the heart of all of her great ills.

## CHINA: THE EMPIRE OF LIES

The following is excerpted from "The Empire of Lies" by Guy Sorman, *City Journal*, May 2, 2007: "The Western press is full of stories these days on China's arrival as a superpower, some even heralding, or warning, that the future may belong to her. Western political and business delegations stream into Beijing, confident of China's economy, which continues to grow rapidly. ... But China's success is, at least in part, a mirage. True, 200 million of her subjects, fortunate to be working for an expanding global market, increasingly enjoy a middle-class standard of living. The remaining 1 billion, however, remain

among the poorest and most exploited people in the world, lacking even minimal rights and public services. ... I've been to many Chinese villages, and everywhere I have encountered the peasantry's feelings of helplessness and anger when dealing with the Communist authorities. ... Villagers often told me that it wasn't the local Party secretary whom they most hated but rather the family-planning agents. To ensure the proper implementation of China's single-child policy (in some provinces, the limit is two children, if the first is a girl), the agents keep close watch on childbearing women, often subjecting

## AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

The Lord Jesus likened the days preceding His return to the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37), and the Bible says that those days were characterized by great violence. "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11). The earth today is also filled with violence. Wicked, demon-possessed men are on a rampage, even murdering little children like Caylee Anthony, the three-year-old Florida girl that has been missing for six months and has been the focus of many news reports. Between 1976 and 1994 roughly 37,000 children were murdered in America alone. What is the cause of this world's great troubles? The Bible says that the problem lies in man's heart. It is not his environment or his lack of self-esteem or his poverty. It is his fallen heart. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). This is why the United Nations will never bring peace to the earth. It cannot change man's heart. UN workers can't even change their own wicked hearts. Only Jesus Christ can change a man from the inside out. There is peace today for those who trust Him, and there will be peace on earth when He returns to establish His righteous government with its headquarters in Jerusalem.



**EMPIRE OF LIES, from page 1**

them to horrific violence. In 2005, a family-planning squad targeted the city of Linyi and its surrounding rural area, in the Shandong Province, because the population had far exceeded the Party's child quota. The agents kidnapped 17,000 women, forcing abortions on those who were pregnant--in some cases, immersing seven- to eight-month-old fetuses in boiling water--and sterilizing those who weren't. The agents tortured the Linyi men until they revealed the hiding places of their daughters and wives. This nightmarish episode, admitted to by the Beijing government, would have gone unnoticed if not for yet another text message sent to a Hong Kong journalist, which ultimately led to the American press's picking up the story."



*Female babies are often abandoned near trash bins and are unnoticed by passers by.*

**AMERICAN BLACKLISTED FROM CHINA FOR ATTEMPTING TO BRING IN BIBLES**

Patrick Klein, founder of Vision Beyond Borders, has been blacklisted from China for attempting to bring Bibles into the country in August during the Summer Olympics. When he and three others tried to bring 300 Bibles into the country, they were detained at the airport and eventually kicked out. Klein debunks the idea that there are plenty of Bibles in China today. He says: "It just amazes me that I've been blacklisted just because I brought Bibles into the country. For a country that says they have freedom of religion, that is not freedom of religion. Everybody's going to China to print Bibles because it's so much cheaper--labor costs and production costs. So people are printing a lot of Bibles inside China. And China is giving the impression to the world that they're printing tons and tons of Bibles, but they're not for mainland China. From our sources, everything we're hearing, they cannot get Bibles. Last I saw, there's a 20-year wait. In the cities, there's a great need, but there's an even great need in the villages, and people are not able to get them in the villages at all. Some are available in the cities, but not in the quantity that they need" ("China Black Lists American," mnnonline.org, Nov. 21, 2008).

**RUSSIA TARGETING CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES FOR "LIQUIDATION"**

The following is excerpted from "Faith Under Fire," WorldNetDaily, Dec. 11, 2008: "Dozens of Christian organizations that have been providing social services, ministry and other help inside Russia are being targeted for 'liquidation' by the nation's Ministry of Justice, according to a new report. The information comes in a newsletter from a leader with an American Christian organization, Youth With A Mission, who reported he found a declaration recently on the webpage of the Russian Ministry of Justice listing the pending 'liquidation' of 56 religious organizations. ... '[A]t least 35 of the 56 listed qualify as Protestant organizations,' the newsletter said. 'These include the humanitarian World

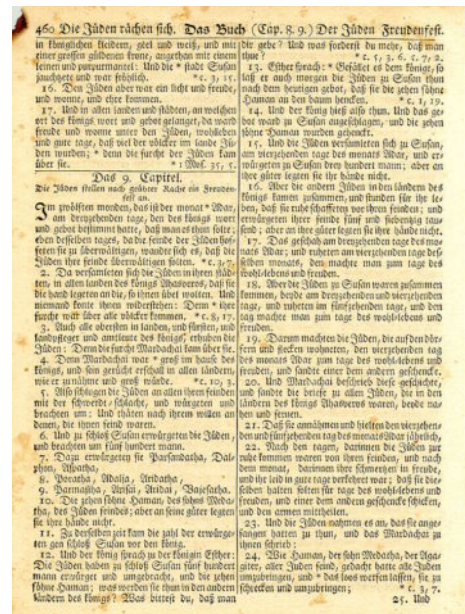
Vision and Youth with a Mission. At least six Baptist organizations are listed. These include one established by the Russian branch of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and three regional districts of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.' ... The leader continued, 'The situation in Russia has continued to worsen this past year as the new visa law went into effect. This limits missionaries to three-month stays after which they need to leave for three months then reapply for a new expensive three-month visa. This has made it especially difficult on families and many have been forced to leave. This has affected every mission.'"

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# THE WORST KIND OF FUNDAMENTALISM

*Newsweek* magazine claims that resorting to biblical authority is “the worse kind of fundamentalism.” This was stated in Jon Meacham’s “From the Editor’s Desk,” *Newsweek*, December 6, 2008. It accompanied a cover story that made the ridiculous claim that the Bible supports homosexual “marriage.” Meacham said: “No matter what one thinks about gay rights--for, against or somewhere in between--this conservative resort to biblical authority is the worst kind of fundamentalism. Given the history of the making of the Scriptures and the millennia of critical attention scholars and others have given to the stories and injunctions that come to us in the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament, to argue that something is so because it is in the Bible is more than intellectually bankrupt--it is unserious, and unworthy of the great Judeo-Christian tradition.” In fact,

after a millennia of critical attacks on the Bible, the critics have proven nothing except their own bias and spiritual blindness. The Bible says that man is a fallen sinner, and that is something that can be observed within one’s own heart and in the world at large. It also says that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who died to make atonement for man’s sin. That is the central message of the Bible, and the individual who rejects that message has no ability to judge the rest of the Bible properly. “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).



*A page from the first Bible produced with type from America. Americans by the millions have believed the Bible was true, to Newsweek’s great frustration.*

## TEN COMMANDMENT BOOGIE

The worldliness that dominates contemporary Christian music today is evident in the song “Ten Commandment Boogie” by Go Fish. It is even more frightful to realize that this Christian rock group targets children. Following is an excerpt from the lyrics to this ridiculous, unholy song. “It’s the ten commandment boogie, gonna dance until I die/ Ten commandment boogie, you can do it so can I/ If you follow it through, you’ll be amazed what you can do/ So get your groove on with us tonight We’ll do the ten commandment boogie, the boogie, the ten commandment boogie. ... Number one - no other God but the One who is true/ Don’t worship any other, that’s commandment two./ Number three - use the name of God only with respect/ Number Four - on Sunday take a rest...” My friends, there is no respect for God and His holy Law in this amazingly trite song. Children are not being taught to fear God. They are being taught to take His holy things lightly and make a silly little dance out of an event that was designed to bring fear to man’s heart and make him realize that he is a wicked sinner before a thrice holy God, that he is on his way to an eternal fiery hell, and to make him understand that he desperately needs a Saviour! The Ten Commandment Boogie is more reflective of what rebellious Israel did around the Golden

Calf while Moses was on the Mount receiving the Ten Commandments. Israel “got their groove on” that day! By the way, the sabbath was not on Sunday! “And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled” (Exodus 19:16).



## BEWARE OF THE ROCK AND ROLL FASHION INDUSTRY

Much of the fashion industry for the past 50 years has been driven by the lascivious rock & roll scene. Rock music has given us the Elvis look, the surfer look, the heavy metal look, the punk look, the goth look, and the Britney Spears look, to name a few. The latter came into stardom in 1998 when she was 16, appealing to adolescent girls as young as eight years old. She popularized tight and extremely low-cut blouses, midriff-baring shirts, super-short dresses, and low-rider jeans, yet she claims that she is not responsible for her influence and that her performances are harmless fantasy. In an article in *USA Today*, August 24, 2001, titled "Britney to little-girl wannabes: 'It's up to Parents,'" she is quoted as saying, "It's up to the parents to explain that [clothing and morality issues] to their children. I really don't like to be

considered a role model." Whether she likes it or not, morality is everyone's responsibility before Almighty God. Every person will be held accountable for his or her actions and influence. There is a judgment both for the saved and for the unsaved. Who is responsible for the moral climate of a nation? Every single individual. Entertainment personalities are responsible. Parents are responsible. Young people are responsible. School administrators and teachers are responsible. Pastors are responsible. Sunday School teachers are responsible. The sad fact is that multitudes of professing Christians allow the immodest fashion industry to set their clothing standards, and the average pastor and teacher is strangely silent on the issue.



## I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

*"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17-18).*

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