

Friday Church News Notes

Indian Cricketer Worshipped

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Fans of Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni are building a temple to worship him. The temple in Ranchi, in eastern India, will feature a white marble statue of the sports star and relief carvings of the player in action looking down on his disciples ("Temple Built to Cricketer," Anaanova.com, Jan. 1, 2009). Jitendra Singh, president of Dhoni's fan club, says, "Dhoni is God to cricket and we have decided to construct a temple; he will be worshipped like other gods are worshipped." Indian cricket historian and Oxford scholar Boria Mazumdar said, "I think the act exemplifies what cricket means to India." It is not only Indians who worship sports stars. This idolatry is committed by Americans and Canadians and British and Germans and French and South Africans, you name it. Professional sports is one of the



American worshippers at the altar of sports

gods of modern times. Can a born-again child of God commit idolatry? Indeed, otherwise why did John write, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21)? And why did James write, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4)?

U.S. CONGRESS SUPPORTS ISRAEL

On January 9, the U.S. House of Representatives followed the Senate's example by passing a resolution backing Israel's battle against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The lawmakers voted 390-5 to "recognize Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza." The United States has been Israel's strongest supporter since President Harry Truman became the first head of state to recognize the newly formed nation in May 1948. He did that against the strongest recommendation of the State Department and the Department of Defense, both of which were counseling him not to anger the Arabs and endanger the flow of oil (David McCullough, "Truman," pp. 601-620). In his history of the United Nations, Stanley Meisler says, "The American veto in the Security Council served as Israel's only shield at the U.N." ("United Nations: The First Fifty Years," p. 183). In 1975, when the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution stating that "Zionism is racism," Daniel Moynihan, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, delivered the following words of defiance: "The United States rises to declare before the General Assembly of the United Nations, and before the world, that it does not acknowledge, it will not abide by, it will never acquiesce in this infamous act" (Meisler, p. 215). After World War II, England abandoned

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING GLOBAL WARMING TAX ON COWS



The following is excerpted from "Government Considering Gas Tax on Cows," WKYC TV, Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 6, 2009: "Scientists say an average dairy cow can pass 50 to 100 gallons of gasses into the air daily. The federal EPA is considering a gas tax on dairy cattle and other farm animals. For dairy cows, the tax could be \$175 for each animal per year. The American Farm Bureau Federation says that could cost a medium sized dairy farm \$40,000 a year. 'We won't even make that in profit this year,' said Brenda Hastings of Hastings Dairy in Burton. ... Hastings pointed out that Farm Bureau research shows dairy cattle emissions account for only 0.66 percent of greenhouse gasses. 'More than two thirds of greenhouse gasses come from water vapor. Maybe they should tax Lake Erie instead,' she said."

Perhaps the Argentines have it figured out. The photo above shows an Argentine cow with a gas tank for trapping expelled methane gas.

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Israel in her hour of need, but America did not. England lost her empire, and America gained hers. If you think that is a coincident, I suggest that you read God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3. "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." America has not supported Israel in all situations and has, indeed, tied Israel's hands at times and pressured her into making foolish agreements with her enemies, but the fact remains that no nation has stood behind the modern state of Israel more effectually than America, diplomatically, militarily, and financially.

FOX NEWS LISTS FIVE WAYS THE WORLD COULD END

We were reminded of the complete secularization of the mainstream news media in a recent report on *Fox News* entitled "Five Ways the World Can End" (Jan. 7, 2009). The article begins by saying that the world will not end by global warming or global cooling. The rest describes five possible



situations, preceded by this statement: "But at any given time, four of the five following scenarios really could cause the end of life on Earth--and the fifth almost certainly will." The five are: massive asteroid impact, massive volcanic eruptions, nuclear war, black hole, and the expanding sun. Observe that *Fox News*, though considerably more conservative than most mainline media outlets, does not give even a

moment's thought to the possibility that the Bible could be true and that the world could end as it predicts. Near the end of the report are these words: "Some scenarios say we've got only a billion good years left on this planet--rather gloomy, since life in some form has been around for about 3.7 billion years and this means we're already close to the end." What they don't say is that if evolution is true, then it matters not one iota what happens to man, because he is just an accident and death is the end and there is absolutely no meaning to life. If evolution is true, what does it matter whether the earth ends tomorrow or a billion years from now? The fact is that men know in their heart of hearts that there is a holy creator God and that there is a judgment to come. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

SCOTTISH RADIO ANNOUNCER FIRED FOR OFFENDING MUSLIMS

The following is excerpted from "Presenter Sacked for Supporting the Bible's Teachings," *London Telegraph*, Jan. 11, 2009: "The Rev Mahboob Masih, a Church minister, claims he was unfairly dismissed and that the action taken against him was a case of religious discrimination. He had been host of a regular Saturday morning show on Awaz FM, a community radio show in Glasgow, for six years before the row with the station's management blew up. ... The Rev Masih was accused of not being balanced enough on air. ... The Rev Masih and his co-presenter Afzal Umeed were discussing the views of a prominent Muslim speaker, Zakir Naik, who the Rev Masih accuses of belittling the Christian faith on Peace TV, a digital channel. The Rev Masih says that Mr Umeed asked Asif Mall, a Christian on-air guest, about Mr Naik's remarks. Mr Mall said Mr Naik's comments showed a lack of knowledge of the Bible and of the Koran. In particular, Mr Mall disputed a claim by Mr Naik that Jesus Christ was not the only prophet to be 'the way, the truth and the life'. ... [In a letter of complaint to the station's management] Masih said: 'Our comments were directed to "insulting" and/or "controversial" remarks made by Mr. Naik in relation to Christianity. This was no more than religious debate under the general principles of British law and within the Ofcom Code. No intemperate language was used on our show.'"



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The Believer's Eternal Home

“And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl;

the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysopterus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof” (Revelation 21:16-23).

Japanese Government Controls Citizen's Waistlines

The following is excerpted from “Universal Healthcare and the Waistline Police,” ABC News, Jan. 11, 2009: “Imagine a country where the government regularly checks the waistlines of citizens over age 40. Anyone deemed too fat would be required to undergo diet counseling. Those who fail to lose sufficient weight could face further “reeducation” and their communities subject to stiff fines. Is this some nightmarish dystopia? No, this is contemporary Japan. The Japanese government argues that it must regulate citizens’ lifestyles because it is paying their health costs. This highlights one of the greatly underappreciated dangers of ‘universal healthcare.’ ... Hence, Americans should beware that if we adopt universal healthcare, we also risk creating a ‘nanny state on steroids’ antithetical to core American principles. Other countries with universal healthcare are already restricting individual freedoms in the name of controlling health costs. For example, the British government has banned some television ads for eggs on the grounds that they were promoting an unhealthy lifestyle. This is a blatant infringement of egg sellers’ rights to advertise their products. In 2007, New Zealand banned Richie Trezise, a Welsh submarine cable specialist, from entering the country on the grounds that his obesity would ‘impose significant costs ... on New Zealand’s health or special education services.’ Richie later lost weight and was allowed to immigrate, but his wife had trouble slimming and was kept home. Germany has mounted an aggressive anti-obesity campaign in workplaces and schools to promote dieting and exercise. Citizens who fail to cooperate are branded as ‘antisocial’ for costing the government billions of euros in medical expenses. Of course healthy diet and exercise are good. But these are issues of personal--not government--

responsibility. So long as they don’t harm others, adults should have the right to eat and drink what they wish--and the corresponding responsibility to enjoy (or suffer) the consequences of their choices. ... If we still value our freedoms, we must reject both the nanny state and universal healthcare. Otherwise, it won’t be long before the ‘Waistline Police’ come knocking on our doors.”





ASTRONAUT OPPOSES GLOBAL WARMING FRENZY

The following is excerpted from “Astronaut Jack Schmitt Joins Skeptics,” *The News Blaze*, Folsom, Calif., Jan. 6, 2009: “American astronaut Dr. Jack Schmitt--the twelfth person to walk on the Moon, when he and Eugene Cernan were the last two to walk there--is the latest scientist to be added to the roster of more than 70 skeptics who will confront the subject of global warming at the second annual International Conference on Climate Change in New York City, March 8-10, 2009. The conference expects to draw 1,000 attendees including private-sector business people, state and federal legislators and officials, policy analysts, media, and students. Schmitt, who earned a PhD from Harvard in geology, wrote, ‘As a geologist, I love Earth observations. But, it is ridiculous to tie this objective to a “consensus” that humans are causing global warming when human experience, geologic data and history, and current cooling can argue otherwise. “Consensus,” as many have said, merely represents the absence of definitive science. You know as well as I, the “global warming scare” is being used as a political tool to increase government control over American lives, incomes and decision making...’ Schmitt will be joined by more than 70 other economists, public officials, legal experts, and climate specialists calling attention to new research that contradicts claims that Earth’s moderate warming during the 20th Century primarily was man-made and has reached crisis proportions. Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute, producer of the event along with more than 30 co-sponsors, explained, ‘At the first conference last March, we proved that the skeptics in the debate over global warming constitute the center or mainstream of the scientific community while alarmists are on the fringe. Now in the past nine months, the science has grown even more convincing that global warming is not a crisis.’”

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