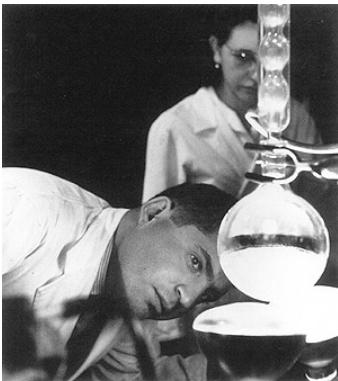


Friday Church News Notes

Creator of Birth Control Pill Regrets Population Decline

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Carl Djerassi, one of the three chemists whose formulation of synthetic hormones paved the way for the birth control pill, laments its consequences. In an opinion piece in the Austrian newspaper "Der Standard," Djerassi warned that his country is committing "national suicide" because women are not producing enough children to maintain the population. The average couple in Austria has only 1.4 children. Djerassi called the fall in the birth rate in European countries an epidemic worse than obesity, though it receives far less attention ("Pill Creator Regrets Population Decline," Baptist Press, Feb. 5, 2009). The birth control pill has fueled the "sexual revolution" since its invention in the 1960s. Baptist leader Al Mohler says, "I cannot imagine any development in human history, after the Fall, that has had a greater impact on human beings than the pill." It is also important to understand that birth control pills can destroy a fertilized egg. The "Christian News" magazine in 1986 reported the following: "The third function of the combination pill is anti-implantation or anti-nidatory. When this is the function that is dominant in the particular month ... there is fertilization and migration of the new human through the tube and into the uterus, but implantation does not occur. This is because the action of the pill has 'hardened' the lining of the



uterus, created a hostile environment, and the multicelled tiny human being cannot implant. THIS FUNCTION IS ONE OF AN ABORTION AT ONE WEEK OF LIFE. There is no definitive medical agreement as to what percentage of times this function occurs, in which women and with which pill" (*The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986).

EPISCOPALIAN BISHOP NOMINEE IS ALSO A BUDDHIST

Kevin Forrester, who has been nominated for the position of bishop of the diocese of northern Michigan, is an ordained Buddhist (Institute on Religion and Democracy, Feb. 5, 2009). Currently he is the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marquette, Michigan. Forrester must be confirmed by a special convention to be held on February 21. The Episcopal Church in America is filled with confused people who practice paganism. Bill Melnyk, a former priest, claims to be a Druid. Episcopal priest Matthew Fox promotes "creation spirituality," which is pure New Age. He believes in evolution, denies the fall of man, rejects the unique Deity, substitutionary atonement, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and calls God "Mother." He promotes astrology, Wicca, shamanism, goddess worship, and the "intelligent" use of drugs.

GODDESS WORSHIPPING CATHOLIC NUN

An example of the new pagan influx into the Roman Catholic Church is the nun Miriam MacGillis, who worships goddesses and the earth. This theology is called "eco-spirituality" or "earth spirituality." In late February she is scheduled to present a lecture, "Cosmology, Faith and Sustainability," at Saint Thomas University in Miami, Florida ("Gay-Friendly" Miami Archdiocese Features Goddess-Worshipping Nun at Diocesan University," *LifeSiteNews.com*, Feb. 5, 2009). Pioneered by Thomas Berry, a Passionist priest, eco-spirituality holds to a pantheistic view that the entire universe is the "body of God" and that it is evolving. It is a synthesis of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Native Americanism and it has

permeated many of the Catholic orders, including the Dominican, Cistercian, Jesuit, Paulist, and Benedictine. Other influential names in this new Catholic paganism are Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Merton, Thomas Ryan, Thomas Keating, Kevin Hunt, Alan Griffiths, Wayne Teasdale, Willigis Jager, Basil Pennington, John Main, and Anthony de Mello. At the heart of this movement is the contemplative mysticism that has spread widely among evangelicals through the influence of men such as Richard Foster and Brennan Manning. For more about this see the book "Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond," which is available from Way of Life Literature.



British Adviser Says Abortions Necessary to Combat Global Warming

The following is excerpted from “Abortions to Stop Global Warming,” *Worthy News*, Feb. 4, 2009: “Britain’s government adviser on the environment says abortions should be part of a policy against global warming and that couples who have more



than two children are being ‘irresponsible.’ In comments monitored by *Worthy News*, Wednesday, February 4, Jonathon Porritt, who chairs the government’s Sustainable Development Commission, said curbing population growth through contraception and abortion must be at the heart of policies to fight global warming. He said political leaders and green campaigners should stop dodging the issue of environmental harm caused by an expanding population. ‘I am unapologetic about asking people to connect up their own responsibility for their total environmental footprint and how they decide to procreate and how many children they think are appropriate,’ Porritt told ‘The Sunday Times’ newspaper. ... Porritt said, ‘I think we will work our way towards a position that says that having more than two children is irresponsible. It is the ghost at the table...’ **CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BROTHER CLOUD:** It is humorous how that the population control crowd always wants to volunteer others, particularly unborn children, rather than stepping up to the plate and volunteering to do away with themselves to help save the earth.

INCREASED PERSECUTION OF FORMER MUSLIMS

The following is excerpted from “Increased Persecution of Former Muslims,” *Worthy News*, Feb. 3, 2009: “The ‘persecution of Christians with a Muslim background’ has ‘drastically’ increased around the world, according to a report released Tuesday, February 3, by a leading Christian rights group. Netherlands-based Open Doors, which supports Christians ‘persecuted for their faith,’ said Communist-run North Korea still tops the top 10 of its annual World Watch List (WWL) of 50 countries with the worst cases of religious persecution. ‘However number two through seven are occupied by countries where people who converted from Islam to Christianity are in life danger,’ the group told *Worthy News*. ‘Christians with a Muslim background are a vulnerable group within the Muslim world,’ said Open Doors Director Tjalling Schotanus speaking from Open Doors’ headquarters in the Dutch town of Ermelo. ‘A Muslim who abandons Islam is seen as someone who offends his family, his country and his religion,’ he added. Saudi Arabia is mentioned at WWL’s number two as ‘only Muslims are allowed to openly express their religion,’ Open Doors said. Iran was mentioned at number three amid reports that ‘many Christians with a Muslim background have been detained and tortured,’ the group said. ‘In addition the country wants to introduce a law which will force judges to impose the death penalty on those abandoning Islam.’ Afghanistan also had the dubious honor of rising three places compared to a year ago, from number seven to four, due to what Open Doors described as mainly the ‘growing pressure from the Taliban and other Muslim extremist groups in the country,’ despite the presence of an international peacekeeping force. Other countries mentioned as worst violators of religious freedom are Iraq, Eritrea and India.”

ENGLAND’S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FORBIDS “PREACHING”

Last month Britain’s Department of Health published a new rule forbidding doctors or nurses to preach to staff or patients and warning that such will be treated as harassment or intimidation under disciplinary procedures (“NHS Staff Face Sack if They Discuss Religion,” *London Telegraph*, Feb. 5, 2009). Caroline Petrie, a Christian nurse who attends a Baptist church, was suspended after she offered to pray for an elderly patient who was offended and reported the matter to the authorities. Petrie was reinstated after a public outcry

that reached the House of Commons (one Tory MP said the case highlighted the “utter absurdities” of political correctness), but the new rule is still on the books and Christian medical practitioners are now in constant danger of being disciplined simply for practicing their religion and offering spiritual help to their patients.

BARACK OBAMA WILL SEEK TO RATIFY DANGEROUS UNITED NATIONS TREATY

The following is excerpted from "United Nations' Threat: No More Parental Rights," WorldNetDaily, Feb. 5, 2009: "A United Nations human rights treaty that could prohibit children from being spanked or homeschooled, ban youngsters from facing the death penalty and forbid parents from deciding their families' religion is on America's doorstep, a legal expert warns. Michael Farris of Purcellville, Va., is president of ParentalRights.org, chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association and chancellor of Patrick Henry College. He told WND that under the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, or CRC, every decision a parent makes can be reviewed by the government to determine whether it is in the child's best interest. 'It's definitely on our doorstep,' he said. 'The left wants to make the Obama-Clinton era permanent. Treaties are a way to make it as permanent as stuff gets. It is very difficult to extract yourself from a treaty once you begin it. If they can put all of their left-wing socialist policies into treaty form, we're stuck with it even if they lose the next election.' The 1990s-era document was ratified quickly by 193 nations worldwide, but not the United States or Somalia. In Somalia, there was then no recognized government to do the formal recognition, and in the United States there's been opposition to its power. Countries that ratify the treaty are bound to it by international law. Although signed by Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., on Feb. 16, 1995, the U.S. Senate never ratified the treaty, largely because of conservatives' efforts to point out it would create that list of rights which primarily would be enforced against parents. ... According to the Parental Rights website, the substance of the CRC dictates the following: Parents would no longer be able to administer

reasonable spankings to their children. ... Children would have the ability to choose their own religion. ... Children would acquire a legally enforceable right to leisure. Teaching children about Christianity in schools has been held to be out of compliance. ... Children would have the right to reproductive health information and services, including abortions, without parental knowledge or consent. ... At a Walden University presidential debate last October, Obama indicated he may take action. 'It's embarrassing to find ourselves in the company of Somalia, a lawless land,' Obama said. 'I will review this and other treaties to ensure the United States resumes its global leadership in human rights.' Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of the CRC, and she now has direct control over the treaty's submission to the Senate for ratification. The process requires a two-thirds vote."



THE HEATHEN WILL RAGE, BUT GOD WILL LAUGH

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me,

and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalms 2:1-12).

What is a Trillion?

The following is excerpted from “Numb and Number: Is Trillion the New Billion?” CNN, Feb. 4, 2009: “In that strange intersection of economics and politics, there is a new fashion: Trillion is the new billion. One trillion \$1 bills stacked one on top of the other would reach nearly 68,000 miles (about 109,400 kilometers) into the sky, or about a third of the way from the earth to the moon. A billion is a thousand million, and a trillion is a thousand billion. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said this week that Americans have become desensitized to just how much money that is. ‘To put a trillion dollars in context, if you spend a million dollars every day since Jesus was born, you still wouldn’t have spent a trillion,’ McConnell said. ... [Math professor John Paulos] says, ‘A million seconds is about 11.5 days. A billion seconds is about 32 years, and a trillion seconds is 32,000 years. People tend to lump them together, perhaps because they rhyme, but if you think of it in terms of a jail sentence, do you want to go to jail for 11.5 days or 32 years or maybe 32,000 years? So, they’re vastly different, and people generally don’t really have a real visceral grasp of the differences among them.’”



CONCLUSION: Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. 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. These things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? “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 list. To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbis/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org. David Cloud is the director of Way of Life Literature and author of the Friday Church News Notes.