

Friday Church News Notes

The Gaithers Accepting the Emerging Church and its False God

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The 19th annual Family Fest hosted by Bill and Gloria Gather will feature William Young, author of *The Shack*, and the 2005 Gaither Praise Gathering featured emerging church leaders Brian McLaren and Leonard Sweet (“Gaither Family Fest,” Lighthouse Trails, March 7, 2009). Young is tied into the emerging church (he spoke in February at Zondervan’s National Pastor’s Convention in San Diego, which was



an emerging church gathering with Brian McLaren and Rob Bell), and his book depicts the false god of the emerging church. “The Shack” is a fictional account of a man who is bitter against God for allowing his youngest daughter to be murdered and who returns to the scene of

the murder, an old shack in the woods, to have a life-changing encounter. The “God” that he encounters, though, is not the God of the Bible. Young depicts the triune God as a young Asian woman named “Sarayu” (supposedly the Holy Spirit), an oriental carpenter who loves to have a good time (supposedly Jesus), and an older black woman named “Elousia” (supposedly God the Father). God the Father is also depicted as a guy with a ponytail and a goatee. Young’s god is the god of the emerging church. He is cool, loves rock & roll, is non-judgmental, does not exercise wrath toward sin, does not send unbelievers to an eternal fiery hell, does not require the new birth, puts no obligations on people, doesn’t like traditional Bible churches, and does not accept the Bible as the infallible Word of God. The Shack’s god says: “I don’t need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment, devouring you from the inside. It’s not my purpose to punish it...” (p. 120), and, “Those who love me come from every system that exists. They were Buddhists or Mormons, Baptists or Muslims ... I have no desire to make them Christian” (p. 182). “The Shack” is another building block of the end-times Tower of Babel.

APPEALS COURTS SAY VATICAN CAN BE SUED FOR CLERGY ABUSE

Two U.S. federal appeal courts, the 9th and the 6th, have ruled that the Vatican can be sued for clergy abuse in America. The recent ruling by the 9th circuit court is in favor of an Oregon man who alleges that he was molested in the 1960s by a priest at a Catholic school. The priest, Andrew Ronan, who died in 1992, was transferred to America after

being accused of molesting children in Ireland (*Los Angeles Times*, Mar. 5, 2009). In November, the 6th circuit court of appeals ruled in favor of three men who also allege that they were abused by Catholic priests. The lawyer is seeking class-action status for “thousands of victims nationwide.”

YOUNG CHUCK AND THE OBAMA BAILOUT PLAN

I would love to give credit for the following, but I have no idea who wrote it. “Young Chuck in Montana bought a horse from a farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the horse the next day. The next day the farmer drove up and said, ‘Sorry son, but I have some bad news; the horse died.’ Chuck replied, ‘Well, then just give me my money back.’ The farmer said, ‘Can’t do that. I spent it already.’ Chuck said, ‘OK, then, just bring me the dead horse.’ The farmer asked, ‘What ya gonna do with him?’ Chuck said, ‘I’m going to raffle him off.’ The farmer said, ‘You can’t raffle off a dead horse!’ Chuck said, ‘Sure I can, Watch me. I just won’t tell anybody he’s dead.’ A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, ‘What happened with that dead horse?’ Chuck said, ‘I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a piece and made a profit of \$998.’ The farmer said, ‘Didn’t anyone complain?’ Chuck said, ‘Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back.’ Chuck grew up and now works for the government. He’s the one who figured out how this ‘bail-out’ is going to work.”





OLDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS BANNED UNDER NEW U.S. LAW

The following is excerpted from Walter Olson, "The New Book Banning," *City Journal*, New York City, Feb. 12, 2009: "It's hard to believe, but true: under a law Congress passed last year aimed at regulating hazards in children's products, the federal government has now advised that children's books published before 1985 should not be considered safe and may in many cases be unlawful to sell or distribute. Merchants, thrift stores, and booksellers may be at risk if they sell older volumes, or even give them away, without first subjecting them to testing--at prohibitive expense. Many used-book sellers, consignment stores, Goodwill outlets, and the like have accordingly begun to refuse new donations of pre-1985 volumes, yank existing ones off their shelves, and in some cases discard them en masse. The problem is the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), passed by Congress last summer after the panic over lead paint on toys from China. Among its other provisions, CPSIA imposed tough new limits on lead in any products intended for use by children aged 12 or under, and made those limits retroactive. ... Penalties under the law are strict and can include \$100,000 fines and prison time, regardless of whether any child is harmed. Not until 1985 did it become unlawful to use lead pigments in the inks, dyes, and paints used in children's books. Before then--and perhaps particularly in the great age of children's-book illustration that lasted through the early twentieth century--the use of such pigments was not uncommon, and testing can still detect lead residues in books today. This doesn't mean that the books pose any hazard to children. ... no one seems to have been able to produce a single instance in which an American child has been made ill by the lead in old book illustrations ... the commission did allow an exception for vintage collectibles whose age, price, or rarity suggested that they would most likely be used by adult collectors, rather than given to children. ... Whatever the future of new media may hold, ours will be a poorer world if we begin to lose (or 'sequester' from children) the millions of books published before our own era. They serve as a path into history, literature, and imagination for kids everywhere. They link the generations by enabling parents to pass on the stories and discoveries in which they delighted as children. Their illustrations open up worlds far removed from what kids are likely to see on the video or TV screen. Could we really be on the verge of losing all of this? AND IF THIS IS WHAT GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF OUR KIDS MEANS, SHOULDN'T WE BE THINKING INSTEAD ABOUT PROTECTING OUR KIDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT?"

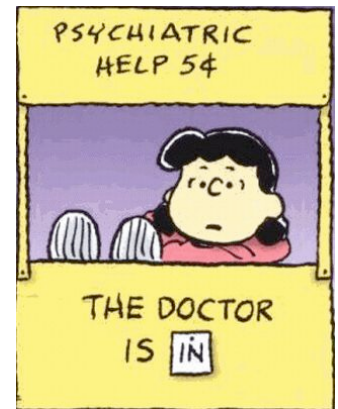
THE RETURN OF CHRIST IS IMMINENT

The Lord Jesus and the apostles and prophets taught that the return of Christ is to be expected at any time and that the child of God must wait in holy expectation. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44). "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:5). "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:5-6). "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter 4:7).

GRIEF COUNSELING PSYCHOBABBLE

Grief or bereavement counseling is big business. The Grief Recovery Institute claims that “hidden grief costs U.S. companies more than \$75 billion annually.” Whenever tragedy strikes today, from plane and car crashes to shootings and bombings to wild animal attacks to divorce and untimely deaths, you can be sure that grief counseling is not far behind. The firefighters who sought for survivors after the Twin Towers fell on 9/11 were given extensive grief counseling. After the shootings at Virginia Tech in April 2007 that killed 32 people a memorial fund was created to provide grief counseling and other aid to the “survivors.” After an ape viciously mauled a woman in February 2009, grief counseling was offered to the doctors and nurses who provided medical care. The logical question is whether all of this grief counseling is proper and effective and how did people get along for thousands of years without it, and the answer is that it is nothing more than psychobabble that can cause more harm than good. Dr. Tana Dineen, in *Manufacturing Victims: What the Psychology Industry Is Doing to People*, gives the following warning: “A battalion chief in a large metropolitan fire and rescue agency, writing about the ascendancy of the CISD movement in his field, noted a comment made decades earlier by a hook and ladder captain. ‘We used to have steel men and wooden wagons; now we have steel wagons and wooden men.’ He is one of an increasing number of people who are expressing concern that such procedures undermine the natural support and adaptation that keeps those with jobs like firefighting

resilient. Adding support to this concern is the growing scientific literature that finds that the debriefing movement appears to have no appreciable preventive or palliative effect, and may, in fact, be responsible for an iatrogenic effect of causing the problems it claims to treat” (p. 184). “[James] Pennabaker, critical of this simplistic approach [e.g., pop grief counseling] says: ‘Not everyone progresses through stages in grieving or coping. In fact, as many as half of all adults may face torture, divorce, the loss of a loved one, or other catastrophe and not exhibit any major sign of depression or anxiety’” (p. 207). “Another researcher, George Bonanno, a clinical psychologist at Columbia University, offers his empirical analysis of the so-called grief-work hypothesis: the widely held assumption that venting negative emotions and ‘telling your story’ are necessary for regaining mental health. ... ‘There’s really no evidence that these things are effective--and there’s even some to suggest that they can actually be detrimental,’ says Bonanno” (pp. 207, 208).



INSUBORDINATE AMERICAN COURTS RULE THAT FOOTBALL COACH CAN'T BOW HEAD IN PRAYER

In a ruling that disregards the constitution it is sworn to uphold, the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear a case involving a high school football coach who was forbidden even to bow his head during team prayer (“Coach Can’t Bow Head,” *WorldNetDaily*, March 3, 2009). This lets stand a foolish ruling by the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals against the coach’s religious liberty. The first amendment to the U.S. constitution forbids the government to interfere in the practice of religion. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Since congress is forbidden to prohibit the free exercise of religion, the courts, which only have the authority to interpret the law, obviously operate under the same restriction. What the courts are obligated to do under the constitution is protect the citizens’ rights, but instead they are advancing the power of the federal government, sanctifying the murder of unborn children, promoting pornography, and encouraging lawlessness. The case under consideration originated in 2005 when school officials at East Brunswick High School in New Jersey adopted a policy prohibiting employees from taking part in student-led prayer. Coach Marcus Borden sued with the assistance of the Rutherford Institute. John Whitehead of this organization rightly observes, “It’s a sad statement on our rights as Americans that schools are no longer bastions of freedom. We’ve become so politically correct and secularized that religious individuals who seek the same First Amendment rights as others are censored.”

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SURVIVING BEATLES PROMOTE TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION FOR CHILDREN

The two surviving Beatles are headlining a benefit concert next month to promote Transcendental Meditation (TM) among children. The concert benefits the David Lynch Foundation, which is dedicated “consciousness-based education and world peace.” The objective is to raise funds to teach one million children to meditate. Joining Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney are Sheryl Crow, Donovan, Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, and others. Though some try to deny it, TM is a Hindu practice and is based on the concept that the universe is God and man can tap into God through mysticism. The TM practitioner uses a mantra to put himself into an altered state of consciousness. One page of the David Lynch Foundation’s web site has a young girl saying, “It is quiet and comfortable and I feel connected to everything and everyone.” The practice was brought to America by the Hindu guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in the 1950s and popularized by the Beatles when they visited his lectures in Wales in 1967 and his ashram in India the next year. Beatle George Harrison went on to join the Hare Krishnas and died in the Hindu faith. Maharishi developed TM from the Hindu Vedas. He called TM “a path to God” and “the spontaneous flow of knowledge.” The Beatles have influenced an entire generation to commune with demons. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).



CONCLUSION: 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, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.