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## Feature Article - Serving God Creatively - Part 2

**Exodus 25:40** *"And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."*

In the last issue of Heads Up the subject of creativity was addressed. God created man to be creative, and that within bounds, we are to be creative in our worship and service of God. There are two viewpoints held by most Christians on the subject of serving God creatively.

### The "Let-George-Do-It" viewpoint -

Among fundamental churches the prevalent opinion is that creativity in service to God should be left to others, to anybody but us. If books need to be written, let George do it. If Bible study computer programs are needed, George knows how. If Sunday School materials are outdated and need to be upgraded, George has the time. Does our young people's ministry need a series of sermons on DVD or power point presentations to guard our teens against rampant moral perversion? Well, there's always old George. Just leave it to him.

There are a number of problems with the George solution:

1. George isn't omnipresent. He doesn't live and serve where we do, and cannot make one size fit all.
2. George isn't immutable. He is almost always new evangelical in outlook and trained to adjust his beliefs whenever he wants to accommodate error.
3. George isn't jealous for the glory of God. He is cool, laid back, easygoing, and unwilling to confront the spirit of the age or stand up for truth.
4. George isn't committed to the doctrines of inspiration and preservation of Scripture. He uses Bible translations that leave out or water down essential Bible doctrines. We always feel that he has a putty sword instead of the Word of God.
5. George isn't infallible. He doesn't know everything we need to know.
6. George can't do what God called us to do. No amount of delegating our tasks to George will excuse our laziness.

The secret to the "Let-George-Do-It" viewpoint is slothfulness. It's so much easier to pay George to do our thinking, our writing, our building, our preaching, and our witnessing than it is to do it ourselves. Do we wonder why we have so few really good new hymns? Or why it is that fundamentalists write so few good books? We don't write the hymns or books because we are closet sluggards! This mindset is so deeply ingrained that if God wakes one of the brethren up and revives him and he writes a good book or a hymn, he is often shunned and ridiculed by his brethren. Is it because the creative brother is an embarrassment to the sleepy multitudes, or is it because George's kinfolks in our churches are afraid the new author might put George out of work?

Somebody ought to preach a hot sermon on slothfulness and remind all us lazybone Baptists that the sluggard is a man who always makes the soft, easy choices. He is quite happy for George to do everything.

### The "Creativity-Needs-No-Guidelines" viewpoint -

Anyone who has ever visited an art gallery has sooner or later come across an object de art (?) that disgusted him and made him wish he'd stayed at home. Whether the offending article is modern "art", or immoral photographs, or a collage of rusty beer cans, there are in every exhibition many proofs of man's great depravity. The twisted creativity of lost men's imaginations continually pushes the boundaries. What is culturally acceptable today is violated by artists tomorrow. This tendency is an outgrowth of humanism. To understand it we only need to study the Renaissance. Though we are grateful for the overthrow of Rome's Dark Ages, we must remember that the Enlightenment brought with it all the errors of Greek humanistic philosophy. If man was "enlightened" to learn and write and publish and print and sculpt and compose, then his enlightenment is only exercised within the boundaries that he set for himself. Men's values and morals are his walls made of spider webs. They are his fences of built out of mist and they move with the wind. They are not the strong boundaries which God set forth in His Word centuries before, perfect, eternal, trustworthy, true and right. The cultural boundaries set by men, the historians tell us, are ever shifting and surging and plunging downward. We have observed more than five hundred years of decay since the Renaissance began. Yes, from time to time, God has directly intervened and revived His people and lifted our cultural values nearer Heaven..... for a time. But as soon as possible, as soon as they could, a Strauss, a Darwin or a Nietzsche or a Stalin or a Pol Pot or an Obama legislated a weakened morality and dragged them downward again toward the kingdom of the Antichrist. Same sex marriage and Gay Rights are perfect examples.



Jeremiah preached to a dying nation. He called upon his people to repent and turn back to God. The sixth chapter of Jeremiah is a cameo of the entire book. He witnesses against Judah and documents their apostasy. He testifies of their depraved creativity in making to themselves idols. And when he calls them back to God, they proudly refuse to listen, "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken." Jeremiah 6:16-17

Is this not the catch cry of our generation? "We will not walk therein! We will not hearken!" The boundaries of Holy Scripture are tooooooo restrictive for modern man.

CCM musicians and Emergent church leaders of our day perfectly epitomise the "Creativity-Needs-No-Guidelines" viewpoint. For years evangelicals have quoted approvingly the least trustworthy authorities, from atheists to modernists to Hindus. A decade or more ago they began screening Hollywood film clips as sermon illustrations and then as sermon texts. Soon they were using the Beatles' hits as worship hymns (!?!!) and offering the defence that "creativity-needs-no-guidelines."

When a discerning brother or sister raised a voice of concern and pointed out God's requirement of purity and consecration to God for those in His service they sneered and laughed at preachers who preach the old paths. They willfully proclaimed, "We will not walk therein! We will not hearken!"

### There is a third viewpoint - "God-Works-Creativity-In-All-His-Children-And-Provides-Guidelines-In-His-Word"

Wise men see through both of these errant viewpoints. They know God works in all His children to worship and serve Him creatively, so they tell George that his services are no longer required. They also know that God set clear biblical guidelines for creative service to God. Scripture is full of examples of godly creativity that followed biblical guidelines. Noah built an ark according to God's blueprint. It was not a cruise liner for rich retirees or a nuclear submarine. It was an ark, built to God's specs. When Solomon built the temple it was built according to the plan God gave David, "And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:" 1 Chronicles 28:12 When holy men penned the Holy Scriptures at the mouth of the Lord they were warned repeatedly not to add to nor take away from His words. Why? Because God sets the guidelines for creative ministry.

Bezaleel would have some very pointed things to say to our generation. His creative ministry for God in Exodus 31, and in chapters 36 to 39 had very distinct guidelines laid down by God.

### Note first that Bezaleel's example teaches us that godly creativity is spiritual, not carnal:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee; The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle, And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture, and the laver and his foot, And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments

of his sons, to minister in the priest's office, And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do." Exodus 31:1-11

Further, we read that The spiritual man's heart is:

#### 1. A wise heart -

Exodus 31:2,3 "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,"

Exodus 35:10 "And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;"

Exodus 35:35 "Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work."

Exodus 36:1 "Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded."

#### 2. An eager heart -

Exodus 35:21 "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments."

#### 3. An obedient heart -

Exodus 36:1 Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded." I challenge every Bible student to read through these chapters and find even one example of Bezaleel, Aholiab, or any of their craftsmen who deviated from God's guidelines for creatively in constructing all the implements of worship in the tabernacle.

It is patently clear that God, by His Spirit works in us a creativity that is spiritual, wise, eager and obedient.

There is an example of carnal, foolish, impulsive and disobedient creativity in Exodus, but it was not done by Bezaleel and his co-workers. It was done by Aaron when he made the golden calf that caused Israel so much trouble.

Just so, in our time, pastors, youth leaders, musicians, speakers and authors stand at a fork in the road. To the right there is biblical, spiritual, wise, eager, obedient creativity in service for God. To the left there is worldly, carnal, foolish, impulsive, and rebellious creativity.

Each one has its consequences.

In the next issue we will consider the issue of discerning one's own creativity.

*Pastor Buddy Smith*

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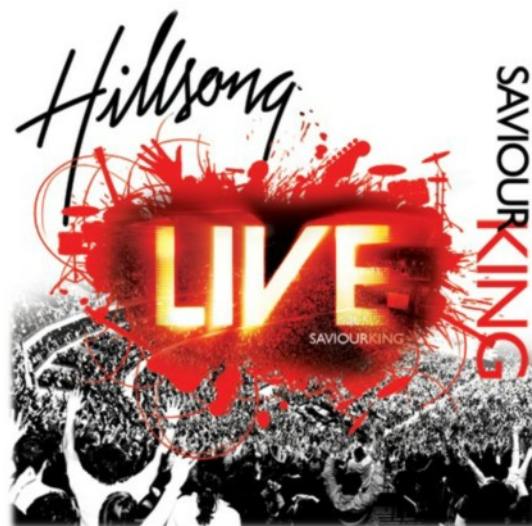


## Rock Evangelism -

*By Hughie Seaborn*

I produced my now badly out of date website, "[The Lamp](#)", in response to the onslaught of the Toronto Blessing and Brownsville false revivals that flooded into the Pentecostal churches during the early 1990s. I was disfellowshipped from the AOG movement in Australia due to my persistent warnings to my friends, and anyone else who would stand still long enough to listen, that the revivals were a gross deception and that their leaders, such as Rodney Howard Browne, et al, were nothing more than false teachers and wolves in sheep's clothing, and that we should resist their ungodly teachings and activities from entering our churches.

My website was essentially a platform where I could have my say about why I was kicked out of the AOG, but it also served as a successful tool for broadcasting the truth about certain other heretical teachings, mainly in the Pentecostal churches, and who was promoting them.



As could be expected, I received an avalanche of emails immediately my website went on line, the majority of which could only be described as ad hominem hate mail. Strangely enough though, I soon realised that anything I wrote about the obvious error of unholy rock music, and using it as a medium for supposedly worshipping our holy God, received the greatest inundation of hate mail into my "In Box" than anything else. Nothing compared with the response I received when poking the god of Rock Music in the eye, especially if it was to do with Hillsong.

One of the articles I wrote in 2004 I entitled "[Rock Evangelism](#)" which was an expose of Greg Lawrie's "Hunter Harvest '03" meetings held in Newcastle, just north of Sydney, in Australia. It generated a flood of abusive, and sometimes filthy, emails. However, to my amazement, there was also a trickle of emails that were positive. Some writers could see the truth of what I had written and were genuinely seeking answers as to what was going on. These few positive emails were a great encouragement to me and far outweighed any self-pity I might have suffered from all the abuse.

Although I haven't added anything new to the website for a couple of years, I still receive emails about its content, both negative and positive, but every now and then there is one that is especially encouraging from someone who professes to have had a change of mind through what they have read. Maybe they haven't come all the way out, but there is a change and they are demonstrating that they are prepared to have their beliefs challenged from Scripture. One such I received recently which I share below, with my response to the writer following.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Peter

Sent: Friday, 27 July 2012 12:09 PM

To: [rseaborn@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rseaborn@ozemail.com.au)

Subject: Rock Evangelism

Hi Hughie,

Wow I just have been reading your webpage which I found after listening to an interview with one of the Hillsong founders. Reading your article has opened my eyes.

In my area in Nelson New Zealand we have radio stations (Life FM) which are playing continuously the music you talk about. It is absolutely the same as you talk about. They never mention the word Jesus and its just something not right. But until now I wasn't properly able to quantify it.

Thanks in Jesus name

Peter  
New Zealand

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-----Original Message-----

From: Hughie Seaborn [\[mailto:rseaborn@ozemail.com.au\]](mailto:rseaborn@ozemail.com.au)

Sent: Friday, 27 July 2012 4:27 PM

To: 'Peter'

Subject: RE: Rock Evangelism

Thanks for taking the time to write, Peter.

I'm glad my article was helpful to you. Music is the Ecumenical Movement's favourite tool to unite all churches, denominations and religions. When the Pope last visited Australia Hillsong was involved with their Rock Music.

What have we come to when a Pentecostal church entertains the Pope???

The Pentecostal churches have come to a place where they no longer see Roman Catholics as unsaved people who need to be saved. They're buddying up to them. Like you say, "Something is not right!" What's not right is that we are right in the midst of the prophesied great apostasy of Scripture, the falling away of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, and not the prophesied great end time revival as taught by heretical Pentecostal teachers.

For a good insight into what is happening in the churches with regard to music, I would recommend you go to the web page copied below and download the free eBook "The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music."

[http://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/index\\_c.html](http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/index_c.html)

Also "Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians" is available on the following page:

[http://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/](http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/)

There are also videos that can be purchased and downloaded from the Way of Life Website that would be valuable in helping you stand against the errors that are flooding into the churches.

Thanks again for getting in touch, and if I can be of any further help, please get back to me.

Yours in the Lord,

Hughie Seaborn (Cairns, Australia)

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## Wonderful Answers To Prayer in Paris -

Several years ago, we preached three months of meetings in Paris, France. Before we began the campaign the Lord burdened our hearts to ask believers to fast and pray for a day, that God would move in the meetings. We sent out emails and letters around the world and the Lord touched people's hearts to sign up to fast and pray on certain days. Someone signed up for every day to fast and pray for the campaign. It was amazing to watch God work as believers from different nations would pray and people of that nationality would be saved in Paris.

During the day gospels of John and Romans would be distributed throughout Paris and every week night we would preach in the small store front church. We had weeks when Christians in Africa were fasting and praying and during that week Africans in Paris would get saved. We had a Chinese church in Kuwait that took a week to fast and pray and during that time as a result three Chinese nationals living in Paris received gospels and came to the church, heard the message and were saved. When Brazilian Christians were praying we saw Brazilians in Paris saved. When some of the French Christians saw what was going on they said, "We have never been taught this truth of fasting and prayer but we would like to try it." When they began to seek the Lord God sent conviction on French men and women and we saw many of them come to know Jesus.

The Lord Jesus said in Mt 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. In addition we saw a Jewish gang member saved when a French Jewish believer began fasting and praying. The warfare the church faces today is spiritual and we must use spiritual weapons to combat the Enemy. We encourage believers to use the means that God has given us to obtain the victory and see conviction fall in our communities and congregations.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Part of the purpose in fasting is that our own hearts might be searched and fellowship with God be restored. It is then our prayers become effectual and we can see a great measure of revival.

*Evangelist Randy Bane* ([tntrbane@gmail.com](mailto:tntrbane@gmail.com))

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## Learning to Mine the Unsearchable Riches -

*By Pastor Tom Hill*

As I sat, listening to the speaker that the church chose for the week, I cringed when he loudly declared, "We're Greekin' and Hebrewin' our people to death! Give me a loud AMEN!" I did not give an "amen," but a verbal "no."

Since we believe that the Scriptures are our rule of faith and order and that they are "given by inspiration of God," (2 Timothy 3:16), I am convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that as God's people, we are to

be very wise in the Scriptures. The word "inspiration" is the Greek word "theopneustos" which literally means "God-breathed." Each word, beloved, is exactly what God intended for us to know and understand as His revelation. Based on that reason alone, we should seek to understand the Scriptures as clearly and as accurately as possible. If we have the attitude that we are "languageing" our people to death, then we are promoting Biblical ignorance. Beloved, the language and a basic understanding of at least the meaning of the words of those languages of the Scriptures IS important.

The King James Version, as we all know, whose translation from the Greek and Hebrew, was completed in 1611. To some, it might be surprising to find out that the English language of the seventeenth century has changed a bit over the last four centuries. Some of the words mean something quite different today than they did when they were translated. That is why it is important for pastors, teachers, and serious students (of the which all should be), to take the time to look up words, and see what they meant in the original languages.

For example, consider the word BAPTIZE. As Baptists, we all know what that means. It means "to dip, or to immerse." Technically, the word "baptize" is what is termed as a "transliterated" word. That means it was essentially taken letter for letter from the original Greek, and brought into the English language. How would we know what that word meant, if we did not look it up in a reliable language reference book? False religion around us believes that the word "baptize" means "to sprinkle or to pour." The words "sprinkle" and "pour" are two completely different words in the Greek language than "baptize."



Consider another example of the importance of looking up words. Many use Proverbs 20:18 to promote a desire that they have for a new building, a new work, or something along that line. We read, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Without giving thought to the words and what they mean, based upon a faulty interpretation of that passage, they declare, "We have got to have a vision for the lost, and for a new work, etc." (I

understand the idea that they are suggesting, in the sense of a conception or anticipation of something, but to base that upon a Scripture verse that is saying something quite different, makes that text a pretext.) That sounds very much like the business motto that became popular during the 80's and 90's. Is that what the verse means? The word "vision" is the Hebrew word "hazon," which refers to a vision that God gave to specially selected men in both the Old and New Testaments. Does God give visions like that today? No. He has given His completed Word to us. The word also means "the oracle, the prophecy, the divine communication." That is how that Solomon used the word here. Consider the word "perish." Many take that to mean "to suffer complete ruin or destruction or to die." The word "perish" in the Hebrew is the word "para." When we look up "para", we find a number of ideas associated with it. But there is one recurring thought throughout the definitions, and that is the idea of "a lack of restraint." Technically, the Hebrew stem tells us that it means "to be loosed of all restraint themselves." When you put the definitions together, the verse is simply saying when there is no divine communication, (i.e. the Word of God), then the people will be unrestrained in their lives.

As my Greek teacher used to say, "These are the unsearchable riches of the truth that we can find." Such study takes time, and more effort on the part of the pastor and teacher to look up the words and gain that



more "perfect" understanding ("more exactly" – Acts 18:36). Basic Bible dictionaries, called lexicons, are essential. There are sources online for works like Strong's Concordance and Vines Expository Dictionary. A general rule for choosing a Greek or Hebrew lexicon is that the older it is, the better it will be. The older ones will be more exacting in defining the words. I personally use Gesenius' Hebrew / Chaldee Lexicon, Wilson's Word Studies of the Old Testament, Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Bullinger's Lexicon, and Vines Expository Dictionary of both the Old Testament and New Testament along with some other rather involved language and linguistic reference books. There are sources online of many of these books. A good all-around KJV Bible program, which is free to download, is called "E-sword," which includes (in modules) a wide variety of language helps (also free).

Beloved, the forefathers of our faith were known as "people of the Book." One group was the Waldensians. A majority of their pastors knew the languages of the Scriptures very well, long before they compromised and joined the Protestants. The enemy could not refute our forefathers' knowledge of the Scriptures and understanding of God's truth, due to the fact that they studied and learned those precious truths. I would remind all of my brethren, that we have an enemy. He also knows the Scriptures, but he will always twist them. The enemy's people, such as occupy the cults, use those twistings of the Scriptures to teach their heresy. That is yet another reason why we must know at least how to look up words, find out their meanings, and then convey those words of life more perfectly. Peter admonishes us in 1 Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." The word "answer" is the word "apologia" from which we get the word "apologetics." That means "to defend." We are to defend the truth, beloved. May we be like those Christians of Berea "in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched (investigating, examining) the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (Acts 17:11)."

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## Blinded Minds –

(The increasing confusion among religious leaders is symptomatic of the deep apostasy that is rampant all over the world. G. Campbell Morgan used to say that he needed to read his Bible for three hours before he could read the newspaper with understanding. It is only when our hearts and minds are saturated with the Word of God that our eyesight is clear enough to see that Roman Catholics, Mormons, and evangelicals, (as below) are speeding nearer and nearer to the one world government and one world religion of the Antichrist. - Ed)

### Is the Pope in Jeopardy?

*By Richard Bennett*

**Berean Beacon - 26 July 2012**

The season of Benedict XVI's Papal reign is passing. Now, late in the day, a dark spectre has appeared in the form of a major financial scandal swirling around the Vatican bank. The Pope seems uninterested in dealing with such issues.

Maybe, rightly so, for in the not too distant past, John Paul I suddenly died when he



attempted to look into the then current scandals at the Banco Ambrosiano. Reportedly, Benedict XVI has retreated to his library. Is he safe there from the power struggles, and perhaps deadly intrigues that now surround him? Is it there that he will deal truthfully with the deceptions that he, as Cardinal Ratzinger and now, also as Pope, has perpetrated? These factors are dealt with in our following article; Richard Bennett

Amidst pictures of the ailing condition of the Pope, news of an intense power struggle within the Vatican has overflowed publicly. The serious difficulties reveal ongoing financial corruption amidst ruthless infighting. These latest revelations regarding the affairs of the Vatican Bank are not startling as the Papacy has a long, long history of financial scandals. The current one was reported in The Australian on June 18, 2012,

"In the latest scandal to engulf the Pope a church official has warned that a 'time bomb' is about to explode over mafia money allegedly invested in the Vatican bank. Prosecutors are investigating claims a Sicilian mafia godfather laundered cash through the Institute for Religious Works [IOR], as the bank is officially known. The move follows the arrest of the Pope's former butler and the leaking of files outlining Vatican corruption, cronyism and infighting, in the worst crisis of the Pope's seven-year papacy."

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## Fuller Theological Seminary President Why Evangelicals Need to Be Quick to Listen to Mormons

*Interview by Peggy Fletcher Stack*

Christianity Today

23 July 2012

(Right) Mouw; a long-time participant in Mormon interfaith dialogues - "evangelicals have "sinned against Mormons."

### From The president of Fuller Theological Seminary on 'Talking with Mormons.'

Richard J. Mouw startled many in the Christian world with a seven-minute speech in November 2004 that detailed how evangelicals had "sinned against Mormons." By that, the president of Fuller Theological Seminary meant evangelicals had misrepresented what Mormons believed in order to critique them.



Mouw, a long-time participant in Mormon interfaith dialogues, has spent endless hours defending his statements to evangelical friends and colleagues. Salt Lake Tribune religion reporter Peggy Fletcher Stack spoke with Mouw on the evolving nature of Latter-day Saint (LDS) theology, where it touches and where it diverges from historic Christianity, and how believers can systematically consider faiths outside the Christian fold.

***Mormon angel Moroni...Mouw; "I find those teachings to contain some elements of biblical orthodoxy"***

*Why do you think understanding LDS beliefs is more than just being nice but about being obedient to God?*

"One thing that really upsets me is when evangelicals say, "We don't have time for dialogue with Mormons and all the niceties. We have to stand up for the truth and denounce error. They fail to recognise that if we are to be people of the truth, we need to be sure we are criticising Mormons for what they really believe, lest we commit the serious sin of bearing false witness against our neighbours. To be concerned about the truth means we ourselves better be sure we are being truthful, to listen to others and really understand before we tell them that they're wrong".

*What are your chief theological differences with Mormons? Have those changed over years of discussions with Mormons?*

"Mormons deny the Trinity, but they talk about "the three Persons of the Godhead." They say that God has a humanlike form, but they sing "How Great Thou Art" (which is in the Mormon hymn-book). "Other basic differences include issues like baptism, temple worship, and authority. Evangelicals emphasise the Bible alone, while Mormonism not only adds scriptures, but also sees the scriptures themselves as an expression of a prophetic office restored in the early 19th century. We have to make a distinction, though, between the "working theology" of Mormonism today and its previous declarations. In the past, they put much more emphasis on good works. The most important development in recent decades has been an increasingly strong emphasis on the substitutionary atonement of Christ on the cross".

*Why do you not classify Mormonism as a cult?*

"Cult often connotes secrecy, duplicity, and a rigid "one true church" mentality. None of that really fits present-day Mormonism, [!] which scholars instead call a "new religious movement." "Ordinary Mormons love Billy Graham. They read Christianity Today as a helpful resource for their own growth in faith. Many Mormon scholars enjoy attending evangelical-sponsored theology conferences. None of this is true of Jehovah's Witnesses, Scientology, or Hare Krishna, which are typically described as "cults."

*How have you come to understand Mormon founder Joseph Smith?*

"The Joseph Smith topic is the most difficult one for evangelicals. Many see him as Satan-inspired, or—with equal hostility—as a deceiver or a deluded person. I obviously do not see him as an inspired prophet delivering messages from God. To focus on the character of Smith and his claims about himself diverts us from talking about the central issue of what Mormons have taught about sin, redemption, and the person and work of Jesus Christ. I find those teachings to contain some elements of biblical orthodoxy—along with other teachings that I find off the charts".

**Mouw; "Mormonism not only adds scriptures, but also sees the scriptures themselves as an expression of a prophetic office restored in the early 19th century".**

And yet....here are some of the more egregious errors of Mormonism...how can Mouw fail to see that this is one of the most deceptive cults in the world???

The Mormons believe in many gods - these gods procreate spirit children. Latter Day Saints believe that God the Father was and is a man of flesh and bone who once lived on another planet and who progressed to become the God of this world

Mormons say Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Spirit, they say that Father God had physical sex with Mary to produce Jesus. Mormons believe that Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers

The Latter Day Saints teach the doctrine of universal salvation and that there is no eternal hell except for those who will not progress. Hell only applies to those who leave Mormonism or will not become Mormon in the next life.

They say when Jesus returns that the Mormons will be gathered together in new Jerusalem in Missouri before the judgement

The Latter Day Saints have three heavens - one for the heathen, one for the Christians and one for good Mormons. When Mormons progress enough to be 'gods' they will get a planet of their own to rule

The Mormons have added to the word of God by adding to the canon their Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price and the Book of Mormon. The books have contradictions with each other and with the Bible

The Latter Day Saints say that all Christian sects are wrong and that all their creeds are an abomination.

Mormons are told to wear holy underwear with mystical Masonic markings to protect them from harm.

If this is not cultish and anti-Christian Mr. Mouw....what would it take for you to recognise one?

*from the Apostasy Alert*

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## Dangerous Parachurch Organisations -

*Pastor John White*

It is clear in the New Testament that the Great Commission not only entails and ensures the propagation of the gospel but the propagation of scriptural New Testament Churches in every age as well. The parachurch phenomenon is not to be found in the New Testament. It is of very recent origin and has resulted in the



development of some quite dangerous heretical organizations and trends Not the least among these would be YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and Campus Crusade. The danger of association with these two groups is illustrated by an occurrence that happened many years ago in my own ministry. The tragic effect of this incident continues until today. I was privileged to have a particular family in the membership of a church I pastored in America.. This was a fine family; committed to the Lord and following the Word of God. Their daughter was my daughter's best friend. I left this church in order to come to Australia to win souls and plant New Testament Churches. I understand that their son later attended a well known Christian University. Somehow, along the way, he became involved in a short term mission trip with one of these organizations to an Asian country, Nepal I believe. Those on the trip included Roman Catholics whom he evidently became good friends with. Later, upon return to the U. S., he "converted" to Catholicism and trained for the priesthood. He even spent quite some time serving in the Vatican in Rome. Quite recent word indicates that he ultimately became an alcoholic and has been in rehab from time to time, but still has problems.

The above account is accurate as far as memory serves me. The reason for sharing such a personal story is to confirm the dangers of becoming involved with such unscriptural ecumenical organizations. The two

organizations mentioned above have very similar ecumenical philosophies and methodologies and have been in practical fellowship with Pentecostal and Roman Catholic Charismatics for many years. I believe the information pasted below correctly and accurately represents the unscriptural philosophies and activities of these dangerous organizations and at least partially explains why association with such organizations resulted in a life destroying experience for a fine young man and tremendous heartbreak for his family:

“Around February, 2006, I ran into a group of young people who had just completed a Discipleship Training School (DTS) with Youth With A Mission. They said that they were on a mission working with Roman Catholics at a conference in Brisbane City Hall. Not being able to understand how Protestant missionaries could get into a Catholic conference to evangelise, I questioned them to discover that they were practising Catholics (not ex-Catholics) fully integrated with YWAM, and merely helping out at the conference. They vigorously defended Mariolatry, the Mass, Tradition and other errors of Roman Catholicism. These kids had just been processed by a so called Protestant mission organisation. They had joined YWAM as Catholics and after their Discipleship Training School were still Catholics. It was most upsetting to see these kids on the Broad Road yet thinking they were serving our Lord. I rang YWAM to be told, “Catholics are welcome, and the beauty of it all is that there is no conflict between denominations.” Since when has Roman Catholicism been a Christian denomination? ....” “Jesus Festival, YWAM Latvia - A 30 kilo cake marked YWAM Latvia’s 5th anniversary during their biggest annual Jesus Festival yet. In Liepaja, on the Baltic coast of Latvia, a city known for festivals and concerts, 500 believers from different denominations gathered to hear speakers including Peter Iliyn, Tjebbo v.d. Eijkhoff, Maris Dzelzs and Loren and Darlene Cunningham in plenary sessions and in seminars on worship, evangelism and Holy Spirit. An evangelism team of Swedes and Latvians, led by Tjebbo, saw over 700 responses. The event was marked by breakthroughs in unity with a Catholic bishop participating as well as singing groups from both Catholic and charismatic churches. Prayer and repentance for the nation and for the Church was a testimony of unity, with people from different denominations together praying for unity. Press and TV coverage was very positive.”

(Ed- A YWAM team came to Malanda some years ago and took the primary school RE class. A charismatic lady was the convener then. There was NO Bible lesson at all. They lined their "team" up in ranks and did a five minute dance in front of the students as they sat on the floor. When they finished and their leader stood up to give his YWAM spiel, one of the little boys on the front row held up his hand to ask a question, so the leader motioned for him to ask it. He said, in childlike simplicity, "What did that dance you did have to do with the Bible?" And the leader was caught right out. He looked blank for a few seconds, and grinned in embarrassment, and then replied, "Well, nothing. We just saw it done in Townsville and liked it so we learned it and wanted to do it here in Malanda." I remember thinking how much wiser the little boy was than the YWAM leader. Even a little boy knew that, if it didn't have to do with the Bible, it didn't belong in an RE program.)

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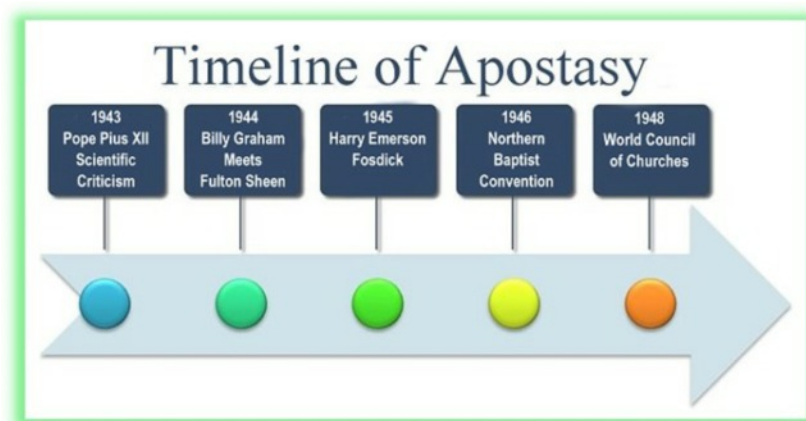
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## Deacon True Sez –

I went out to chop wood with a friend once and learned a lesson about being irritated by what other people do. You see, when you chop wood, there's lots of chips that fly off everywhere and hit the other fellow, in the eye, in the ear, on the nose, and sometimes it hurts. I learned that his woodchips only bothered me if I was just standing there watching. If I was busy choppin', then his chips never bothered me at all. Same as in a church, the people who do the most work do the least complainin'. My old pa used to say, "Just like a mule, you can't pull and kick at the same time."

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## Decades of Decadence - A Timeline of Apostasy

**1943--Pius XII**, in his *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, became the first Pope to endorse the use of the "scientific criticism" of Scripture.

**1944--Youth for Christ** evangelist Billy Graham met the famous Roman Catholic leader Fulton Sheen on a train, and Graham recalled later:

"We talked about our ministries and our common commitment to evangelism, and I told him how grateful I was for his ministry and his focus on Christ. ... We talked further and we prayed; and by the time he left, I felt as if I had known him all my life" (Graham, *Just As I Am*, p. 692). Sheen's hope for Heaven was in Mary, by his own testimony.

----- **Pentecostal evangelist Smith Wigglesworth** paved the way for the Word-Faith movement when he stated: "What you say will come to pass. Speak the word and the bound shall be free, the sick shall be healed" (Wigglesworth, "Power from on High," *Pentecostal Evangel*, May 27, 1944).

----- **G. Bromley Oxnam**, Methodist bishop and one of the first presidents of the World Council of Churches, endorsed calling the God of the Old Testament a "Dirty Bully" in his 1944 book *Preaching in a Revolutionary Age*. Oxnam wrote: "Hugh Walpole, in *Wintersmoore*, tells of a father and son at Church. The aged rector read from the Old Testament, and the boy learned of the terrible God who sent plagues upon the people and created fiery serpents to assault them. That night, when the father passed the boy's bedroom, the boy called him, put his arms around his father's neck, and, drawing him close, said, 'Father, you hate Jehovah. So do I. I loathe Him, dirty bully!' We have long since rejected a conception of reconciliation associated historically with an ideal of Deity that is loathsome. God, for us, cannot be thought of an angry, awful, avenging Being who because of Adam's sin must have his Shylockian pound of flesh. No wonder the honest boy in justifiable repugnance could say, 'Dirty Bully'" (p. 79).

**1945--Harry Emerson Fosdick**, in a letter written in January 1945 to an inquiring individual from Peru, Indiana, said, "Of course I do not believe in the virgin birth or in that old-fashioned substitutionary doctrine of the atonement, and I know of no intelligent person who does" (*The Christian Beacon*, January 3, 1957). Fosdick would become the featured radio speaker for the Federal Council of Churches in America (the forerunner to the National Council of Churches) after its formation in 1950.

**1946--The Northern Baptist Convention** held its annual meeting at Fountain Street Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The host pastor, Duncan Littlefair, had made the following statements in his published sermons: "God may be identified as a piece of this world's stuff ... God is a part of a great whole and as such is constantly being broken and destroyed and frustrated. ... I must say that God is not eternal. ... There is no reason whatever from the nature of God to assume that God is the strongest or the biggest in the universe or that he can exercise his 'will' at will. ... On the basis of our study and approach we must say that God is not omniscient and cannot 'know' in any normal sense of the term for he is not a person. ... Jesus is not and cannot be God."

----- **In the founding document of UNESCO** (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), which was used internally for 30 years before publication in 1976, radical Darwinist Julian

Huxley wrote, "The general philosophy of UNESCO should be a scientific world humanism, global in extent and evolutionary in background." Huxley called for the unity of religions and a one-world government.

1948--The newly established World Council of Churches adopted a confession of faith weak enough to provide practically any heresy a comfortable home and was soon preaching universalism and participating in syncretistic worship activities with pagan religions.

----- Harold Ockenga coined the term "Neo-evangelicalism" and announced that his generation had "repudiated separatism" and intended to put a more positive, intellectual face on Christianity. Looking back on this 38 years later, Ockenga said, "The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals" (Ockenga's foreword to Harold Lindsell's The Battle for the Bible, 1986).

----- In his book Mahatma Gandhi: An Interpretation, Methodist missionary E. Stanley Jones testified that he went to India to convert the heathen, but in the end the heathen conquered him; he became an idolizer of Gandhi and a promoter of pacifism.

1949--Oral Roberts' magazine Healing Waters described the visit of William Branham to a Roberts' healing crusade in Tampa, Florida, noting: "Both felt the healing power in their hands. Brother Branham in his left through vibrations, Brother Roberts in his right with power to detect the presence, names and numbers of demons."

----- The Cursillo movement, which began this year in Spain, would become instrumental in bringing Roman Catholics and other sacramentalists (such as Anglicans) into the charismatic movement. Cursillo consists of religious retreats that seek to "deepen the faith" of those who have been baptized as infants, but there is no renunciation of baptismal regeneration and other heretical doctrines and practices and no scriptural preaching of the new birth. The movement spread to Latin America in the 1950s and from there to the United States.

*from wayoflife.com*

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## Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- "I sent YOU to reap" John 4:38. Think about this. God does not send us out to play tiddelee winks with manhole covers. I get depressed when I hear people say we can't all be soul winners. Excuse me but that is pure unbelief. God said "the harvest is plenteous" the problem is "the laborers are few" Matt. 9:37. Dear Dad, your family, your church, the WORLD especially, needs YOU. Please don't live in the stands but we need your help in the game of life. Someone was in the game and helped you to get saved and go to heaven instead of hell. I am 90 years old, still in the game. I need you and your help to change this world back to God. If not already doing it, come go with me and bring your family. - C.

*Sumner Wemp*

- "I prayed for Faith, and thought that some day Faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But Faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, 'Now Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God'. I had closed my Bible, and prayed for Faith. I now opened my Bible, and began to study, and Faith has been growing ever since. " D. L. Moody

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## A Suggested Statement on Church Music -

(Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2012, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - We recently received the following request: "My father asked me to write to you and see if you have a statement about music standards that we could draw from in revising our church constitution. Music has become such a big topic in our day that he feels as senior pastor that we should have a clear, somewhat timeless statement about it in our constitution." I sent the following, which is an update of a statement that we use in our churches in South Asia:

1. The church music must teach sound doctrine (Col. 3:16). The words of the songs must be right according to the teaching of the Bible. Most Contemporary Christian Music is unacceptable because it represents the ecumenical charismatic philosophy or it presents a vague message that lacks doctrinal clarity and strength.
2. The church music must be holy and separate from the world (Eph. 5:19; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15-16). This means that the church's music will not sound like the popular music played on the radio and the music that the world uses for dancing and drinking and partying. Our church music will not use the backbeat and other forms of dance syncopation, because this has always been associated with sensuality and has been characterized as "the sexy" part of pop music. We believe it is not wise to use drums (except in an orchestra) and electric guitars in church music, because they are so easily used in a pop music fashion.
3. The church music must not borrow from the world of contemporary Christian music, since it is a major element of building the apostate one-world church and represents a foreign spirit (1 Cor. 10:21; Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 3:5; Rev. 18:4). This is evident by examining the history of this music as well as the lives and beliefs of the contemporary musicians as we have done in The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians.
4. The church music must not be designed to produce a charismatic style mystical experience (1 Peter 5:8). The objective of charismatic music is to produce an experiential worship and toward this end contemporary worshipers use music with a strong dance rhythm, non-resolving chord sequences, repetition, and electronic modulation so that people will get carried away emotionally. The Bible tells us to be sober-minded and not to allow anything to capture our hearts other than God and His Word. We are not supposed to open ourselves up unquestioningly to any experience but are to continually test everything by the standard of God's absolute Truth (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

*By David Cloud*

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## Lawlessness Arising! -

Flash Mob at Wal-Mart Destroys Merchandise, Terrorizes Customers, Shoots Guns (VIDEO)

*By Myles Collier, Christian Post Contributor*

July 17, 2012 | 3:57 pm

Flash mobs have been growing in popularity over the past few years by attracting large groups of people to come together to dance and sing, but a recent flash mob in Florida overran a local store, terrorizing customers and destroying merchandise.

A Wal-Mart in Jacksonville was the site of a flash mob when 300 teenagers descended upon the store after police officers disrupted a party they were attending close by.

According to a police report, the mob destroyed an electronic anti-shop lifting security scanner that costs about \$1,500. The police report also detailed the massive crowd could have arrived at the store after a party that was broken up.



Local crime analyst Ken Jefferson explained that in any situation where there is a crime and when there is a large gathering of people, who may or may not be intoxicated, it is a very serious and dangerous situation.

"You've got a large number of people going and coming at the same time they are throwing produce," Jefferson said.

"They are stealing items, they are all over the store," he added. "You can imagine how fearful the customers were who were in there at that particular time."

A party that was underway nearby was disrupted after an individual was shot in the leg which alerted authorities to the scene, according to TheBlaze.com. The flash mob was reportedly comprised of members of that disbanded party.

One of the individuals of the flash mob uploaded a video to YouTube video which showed the mob throwing food and merchandise around the store. There are also reports of gunshots being fired outside of the store, but no customers or vehicles were hit, according to The Florida Times-Union.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has yet to make any arrests, but the incident remains under investigation. If any person is suspected of involvement they could face criminal charges.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/flash-mob-at-wal-mart-destroys-merchandise-terrorizes-customers-shoots-guns-video-78417/>

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### **Matthew 24:4-8**

**"...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

## Links In the Media Chain -

- Anybody in your family interested in science? Here's a good link that tells about the origins of the vocabulary that describes electricity. Very interesting!  
<http://www.wimp.com/electricvocabulary/>
- The discovery of the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects of nuclear explosions. This is the weapon that could totally destroy all electronics and put us back in horse and buggy days -  
<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2012/07/09/the-50th-anniversary-of-starfish-prime-the-nuke-that-shook-the-world/>
- Maybe we should invest in red tape? -  
<http://www.theospark.net/2012/07/lets-add-more-red-tape-huh.html>

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## Politicians Want to Shut Down Businesses Which Oppose Same Sex Marriage -

<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38353>

Experts: Politicians can't legally block Chick-fil-A - Updated Thursday, July 26, 11:01 p.m. Eastern



CHICAGO (BP) -- Attempts by Chicago and Boston politicians to block the opening of Chick-fil-A restaurants because of the company president's views on marriage would be unconstitutional and also set a dangerous precedent for other businesses, say several attorneys.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel each have been quoted as saying they want to prevent Chick-fil-As from opening in their cities, with Menino declaring in a letter to Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy, "There is no place for discrimination on Boston's Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it." The Freedom Trail is a path through the city's streets highlighting historic buildings. Emanuel voiced agreement with a Chicago alderman who also opposes a new Chick-fil-A, saying of the company, "They disrespect our fellow neighbors and residents."

Menino and Emanuel backed off their statements Thursday (July 26) -- with each saying they realize they constitutionally cannot block a restaurant from opening -- but the Chicago alderman has not.

Cathy, in two interviews in recent weeks -- including one re-posted on Baptist Press -- has said he believes in the biblical definition of marriage. The company issued a statement saying it treats every customer with "honor, dignity and respect" and that, "going forward," it is going to stay out of the gay marriage debate.

David Cortman, an attorney with the legal group Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), said a restaurant cannot be blocked from opening because of the restaurant's or the owner's beliefs.



"It absolutely is not constitutional," Cortman told Baptist Press. "And I think the irony here is that they are claiming this is an issue of freedom and civil rights, but they're actually the ones who would be violating the civil rights of Chick-fil-A not to allow them to open up their business simply because of their views."

But the issue concerns more than just Chick-fil-A, Cortman said, and impacts any business or organization in America whose owners hold views different from that of the government. Boston and Chicago would be practicing viewpoint discrimination -- a violation of the Constitution's Free Speech clause, Cortman said.

"It does create both a dangerous and an illegal precedent," Cortman. "The government shouldn't be in the business of threatening or punishing people for their thoughts or ideas -- whether they are individuals or businesses themselves. And, there's certainly a double standard. You did not hear a politician threatening to deny permits to companies like Home Depot or Starbucks or Target over those companies' aggressive promotion of the homosexual agenda."

Mat Staver, president of the legal group Liberty Counsel, said he, too, believes the attempts would be unconstitutional.

"No city can ban Chick-fil-A because the [company] president has his own view regarding marriage -- a view that is held by much of the American public," Staver told Fox News. "To discriminate against Mr. Cathy because of his biblical view and then to extrapolate that to Chick-fil-A is illegal. It would be unconstitutional and certainly any city trying to do so would not win that battle."

Eugene Volokh, a law professor at UCLA, wrote on his blog, "Denying a private business permits because of such speech by its owner is a blatant First Amendment violation."



The Chicago alderman who initially spoke up against Chick-fil-A, Joe Moreno, told local media he might simply block a proposed new Chick-fil-A in his ward because of traffic concerns. Moreno, though, previously said he opposed a new Chick-fil-A because it was "intolerant" and because he disagreed with Cathy.

On Thursday (July 26) Moreno told WBEZ radio he wants an explicit guarantee from the potential local owners of the restaurant that they won't donate to political causes. But that, too, apparently would be unconstitutional.

Cortman, the ADF attorney, said Moreno won't legally be able to use a legitimate reason -- traffic concerns -- as cover for his previous comments.

"His true motivations already have been made public, so I think any attempt to backtrack to create what normally would be a legitimate reason wouldn't work in this situation," Cortman said.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) -- which supports gay marriage -- also said the politicians' attempts would be unconstitutional.

"If they're serious about that, and they're willing to put that in writing and they're willing to adopt that, I think those are the grounds where we can move forward," Moreno said.

The Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and Boston Globe editorial boards -- normally not sources of traditional beliefs -- have defended Chick-fil-A's right to open restaurants.

"Which part of the First Amendment does Menino not understand?" a Globe editorial read July 25. "A business owner's political or religious beliefs should not be a test for the worthiness of his or her application for a business license."

The Chicago Tribune editorial board wrote, "We're sure there are plenty of businesses in town run by people whose views are offensive to some. It's not up to the mayor or the alderman to decide which opinions are appropriate."

Meanwhile, support for Chick-fil-A continues to grow. Sign-ups for "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day," launched by Mike Huckabee, surged past 250,000 Thursday (July 26). The event will take place Wednesday, Aug. 1. (More information is available at [www.ISupportChickFilA.com](http://www.ISupportChickFilA.com).)

Billy Graham also spoke up for the company Thursday.

"I want to express my support for my good friends Truett Cathy and his son Dan Cathy, and for their strong stand for the Christian faith," Graham said in a statement. "I've known their family for many years and have watched them grow Chick-fil-A into one of the best businesses in America while never compromising their values. Chick-fil-A serves each of its customers with excellence, and treats everyone like a neighbor. It's easy to see why Chick-fil-A has become so popular across America."

"Each generation faces different issues and challenges, but our standard must always be measured by God's word. I appreciate the Cathy family's public support for God's definition of marriage."

Graham added, "I also appreciate Governor Mike Huckabee's leadership and for encouraging Americans to support Chick-fil-A on August 1. As the son of a dairy farmer who milked many a cow, I plan to 'Eat Mor Chikin' and show my support by visiting Chick-fil-A next Wednesday."

Huckabee has said Chick-fil-A deserves support.

"Let's affirm a business that operates on Christian principles and whose executives are willing to take a stand for the Godly values we espouse by simply showing up and eating at Chick-Fil-A on Wednesday, August 1," he wrote on Facebook. "Too often, those on the left make corporate statements to show support for same sex marriage, abortion, or profanity, but if Christians affirm traditional values, we're considered homophobic, fundamentalists, hate-mongers, and intolerant. This effort is not being launched by the Chick Fil-A company and no one from the company or family is involved in proposing or promoting it."

"There's no need for anyone to be angry or engage in a verbal battle," Huckabee added. "Simply affirm appreciation for a company run by Christian principles by showing up on Wednesday, August 1 or by participating online -- tweeting your support or sending a message on Facebook."

Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press.

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## The Batman Movie Massacre -

(Editor's comments: The influence of Hollywood upon Bible believing churches is greater than at any time in history. Its evil morality does enormous harm. It makes spectators out of our people, instead of participants. It makes them couch potatoes and recliner rhubarbs. It fills their minds with sensual imagery. It teaches them that beauty and popularity are worth more than character. It addicts them to a narcissistic perspective on life. It projects upon their hearts and minds the perverted morals and values of the wickedest men and women in our world. It teaches them the language of the gutter. (No, "gutter" is too polite. "Sewer" is more accurate.) It makes a mock at sin, whether fornication, adultery, sorcery, altered states of consciousness through drugs, alcohol, or the occult. It deafens the ear and the heart through megadecibels of trashy music. It indoctrinates them with New Age cultic philosophies. It creeps into our church members' homes via television, DVD's, iPods, and computers. It sets the scene for our people to be existentialists (focused entirely on experience) rather

than realists who are focused on Truth. And it promotes violence. In fact, putting all these criticisms together, Hollywood's favourite means of harvesting Christians' money is through violent movies that embody all its evils and then encapsulates them into Ying/Yang, evil/good, lawless lawmen who answer to nobody. More needs to be said, much more.

We who know Christ must remember that the Holy Scriptures teach over and over this precept: It is the lawless man who makes his own laws, and then applies them with more ferocity and severity than the lawful man ever did the laws of God. It is the lawless Man who will be the Ultimate Tyrant, the Antichrist. If our eyes were not so blinded by Hollywood, we would see clearly that all her darlings, the actors, script writers, producers and directors are present incarnations of that Man of Sin that will come. How sad that our children are so completely schooled in lawlessness by parents who welcome the villains of Hollywood into their homes!

The mystery of iniquity doth already work.

Are we not subsidizing it in our perpetual infatuation with Hollywood?)

HURT: An open letter to Christopher Nolan, Sean Penn and Warner Brothers

**ANALYSIS/OPINION:** *by Charles Hurt*

It is all so perfectly fitting that in the wake of a murderous rampage in which 70 people are shot, 12 fatally including a 6-year-old girl, and countless families are sacked with unspeakable grief, you would take the time to share with us your feelings.

Because, really, at this moment, all that matters to most of us is what a bunch of smutty purveyors of violent fantasy, half-rate actors and an industry of sick narcissism is feeling at this moment.

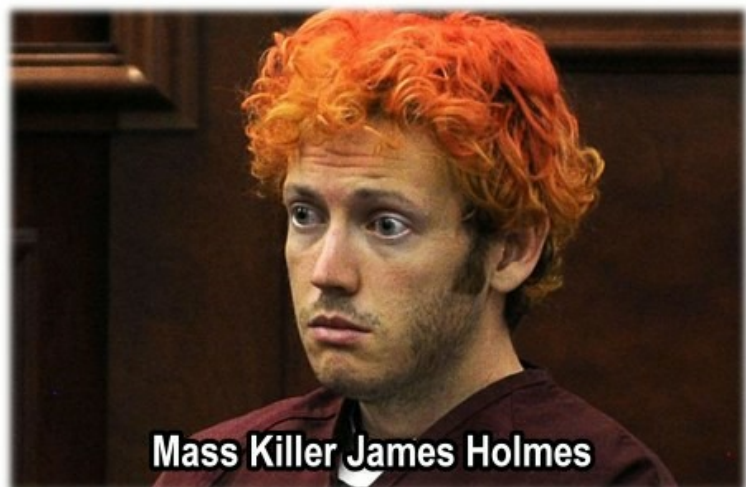
Director Christopher Nolan, speaking on behalf of the cast and crew of "The Dark Knight Rises," you told us how much you love going to the movies and how they are "one of the great American art forms." You are

devastated that such an "innocent and hopeful place" - here you are talking about the movie theaters that play your twisted movies - would be violated in such an "unbearably savage" way. I mean, really, who could think up such monstrous hatred and nihilistic violence? Um, have you watched any of your own movies lately? And, in the selfless modesty that is the hallmark of an Academy Awards Ceremony, you tell us that that your "feelings" about the massacre are so deeply profound that the mere words of the English language built up over hundreds of years are simply not up to the task of describing them. Wow. You do have a gift for fantasy. But the real clue that you remain shrouded in guilt-free delusion is when you mention the "senseless tragedy that has befallen the entire Aurora community."

Senseless? Really? If by "senseless" you mean carried out almost precisely from the scripts of your own movies, then, sure, it was "senseless."

As for you, Sean Penn, you paragon of endless moralizing, we would like to thank you, too, for underwriting last week's ultra-violence and real-life carnage at the movie theater. One of the last scenes that 6-year-old saw in her precious life was a trailer for your movie. In the final clip of a trailer filler with orgiastic bloodshed, you have a some classy "actors" with machine guns unload from behind a movie screen into a crowd seated in a theater, watching a film. Ring a bell, Sean? Sound familiar? I realize how busy you are, so loudly and obnoxiously jet-setting around to save the world, but do you have time to think about what you have done here? What your life amounts to at this moment? No, you did not pulled the trigger in this case. You did not don the gas mask. But you were the inspiration and you are the architects. Your celebrations of diabolical mayhem and pornographic violence prey on the fantasies of sick, fragile minds. You insulated them from the painful reality of bloodshed. You have inspired mass murder. You are the Osama bin Laden of this travesty. This, of course, is all legal and has made you a fabulous fortune. But, never forget, this is who you are. It is what you do. This is your legacy.

When you die, your grave stones should read: Here lie men who created such horrific, meaningless violence in such realistic scenes that a sicko carried it out for real and shot 70 people, killing 12, including a 6-year-old girl. To be fair, you haven't only inspired murderous rampages. It is true that you have also entertained. But is the fleetingness of that entertainment nearly so profound as the terror you inspired here? Will it outlast the irreversible permanency of 12 deaths, including that of a 6-year-old girl?



Which brings us to Warner Brothers, those titans of decency. You bankrolled "The Dark Knight Rises" and so many other pointlessly violent movies that infect feeble minds and bring hatred upon America. You, it is reported, are feeling really sad about those poor saps who paid to see your wicked movies - only to have the very scenes come alive and kill them in the dark, sticky rows between seats of a movie theater. Out of your "respect" for these people, you declared you would not announce box office receipts from this weekend's snuff film. Instead, you will count your \$150 million in bloody money - privately.

One day, you will meet the original Joker, the inventor of all evil who is diabolical and depraved so far beyond your furthest, sickest imaginations and there, in his lair, you will spend the rest of eternity wishing you had had a little decency back when you had the chance.

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## Will This Be The Reason Why America Does Not Appear in Prophecy?

**June 27, 2012 – CANARY ISLANDS**

Seismic activity has increased on the volcanic island of El Hierro.

The INVOLCAN, the Volcanological Institute of the Canaries, and the PEVOLCA (the Civil Protection Plan for Volcanic Risk), have raised the alert status in parts of El Hierro to “Yellow.” About 580 earthquakes were registered from Monday to Wednesday. Thirty of them were greater than magnitude 3 on the Richter scale – a level at which they can usually be felt. The volcano 24 hour monitoring network, National Geographic Institute (IGC), recorded a total of 221 earthquakes on the island of El Hierro, specifically in the municipalities of Frontera and El Pinar, on Tuesday June 26.

El Hierro is currently the most volcanically active of the Canary Islands. According to ElHierro.com, “El Hierro has the largest number of volcanoes in the Canaries with over 500 open sky cones, another 300 covered by the most recent outflows, and some 70 caves and volcanic galleries. Since the Spanish occupation, there have been seven eruptions. More than 200 years have elapsed since the last eruption.

The island of El Hierro emerged from the ocean after three successive volcanic eruptions and consequent accumulations, crowned by a volcano more than 2,000 metres high. During seismic tremors some 50,000 years ago, a giant piece of the island cracked off, crashed into the ocean and caused a giant tsunami that most likely rose more than 330 feet (100 m) high and probably reached as far as the American coast.

About a half a million years ago, the volcano, Taburiente, collapsed with a giant landslide. In a BBC Horizon program broadcast on 12 Oct 2000, geologists hypothesised that during a future eruption a similar landslide could potentially generate a “megatsunami” some 2000-3000 ft (650–900 m) high in the region of the islands. The huge wave would radiate out across the Atlantic and inundate the eastern seaboard of North America including the American, Caribbean and northern coasts of South America a mere six to eight hours later.

See also <http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/elhierro/news.html>

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### **Psalm 85:8-9**

**“I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.”**



## Poems That Preach -

### TEACH ME TO SURRENDER

*By Colleen Seaborn*

*Draw me into Thy presence dear Lord and still my racing mind.  
Help me now to come aside and in Thy presence find  
Thy strength to live this day for Thee, Thy peace to dispel all fear,  
Thy joy to fill my hurting heart and wipe away each tear.*

*Show me now, please Lord, I pray, how to live for Thee.  
Forgive my sinful, selfish ways, I plead on bended knee.  
Take me deeper into a life surrendered to Thy will.  
Teach me what it means to be, in Thee, quiet and still.*

*O Lord I cast myself upon Thee, my doubts I cast aside.  
They only reflect a soul self-absorbed, all rooted in human pride.  
Teach my wandering heart to stay always fixed on Thee -  
From wicked self-pity and love of self ever at once to flee.*

*My precious hope, my only help with Whom I have to do,  
O Thou Who knowest my innermost heart, rest not till my heart be true.  
True to Thee only, O Lord, my God, true to Thy Word and Thy cross,  
Till willing I am, for the knowledge of Christ, to suffer required loss.*

*Search me O God and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts,  
For wicked ways in me O Lord spring up like ugly warts.  
Lead me in the everlasting way – Thou art the way, the door  
That leads to everlasting life. Bring me safely to heaven's shore.*

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## What Do The Greens Mean When They Tell Us To Reduce Our Carbon Footprint?

*Reduce your carbon footprint by stopping having children:*

"One of the best all-around things for the environment would be fewer people in the world. Until governments wake up and start passing "one child per-family" laws, the best way you can help reduce the collective Carbon Footprint is through voluntary sterilization. Most insurance policies cover the cost of tubal ligations as well as vasectomies, and for the poor, many clinics will do these procedures for free. And let's face it--there are just too many poor people in the world!"



*Reduce your carbon footprint by stopping using toilet tissue:*

Consider switching to a reusable toilet sponge. Store your toilet sponge in a mild vinegar and water solution in a receptacle next to the commode and use it the same way you would toilet paper.

*Reduce your carbon footprint by buying baby credits:*

Baby Credits are similar to regular Carbon Credits, however, instead of being backed by non-productive parcels of land, Baby Credits are backed by non-productive women of child-bearing age.

*Reduce your carbon footprint by Euthanize your pet:*

One of the best ways to reasonably enjoy your pet and reduce your overall Carbon Footprint is to determine in advance how long your pet should live. Teach your children to think of the occasion as a birthday in reverse.

[http://greentremayne.com/Carbon\\_Free\\_Living.html](http://greentremayne.com/Carbon_Free_Living.html)

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## The Great God Entertainment –

*By A.W. Tozer*

A German philosopher many years ago said something to the effect that the more a man has in his own heart, the less he will require from the outside; excessive need for support from without is proof of the bankruptcy of the inner man.

If this is true (and I believe it is) then the present inordinate attachment to every form of entertainment is evidence that the inner life of modern man is in serious decline. The average man has no central core of moral assurance, no spring within his own breast, no inner strength to place him above the need for repeated psychological shots to give him the courage to go on living. He has become a parasite on the world, drawing his life from his environment, unable to live a day apart from the stimulation which society affords him.

Schleiermacher held that the feeling of dependence lies at the root of all religious worship, and that however high the spiritual life might rise, it must always begin with a deep sense of a great need which only God could satisfy.

If this sense of need and a feeling of dependence are at the root of natural religion, it is not hard to see why the great god Entertainment is so ardently worshiped by so many. For there are millions who cannot live without amusement; life without some form of entertainment for them is simply intolerable; they look forward to the blessed relief afforded by professional entertainers and other forms of psychological narcotics as a dope addict looks to his daily shot of heroin. Without them they could not summon courage to face existence.

No one with common human feeling will object to the simple pleasures of life, nor to such harmless forms of entertainment as may help to relax the nerves and refresh the mind exhausted by toil. Such things, if

used with discretion, may be a blessing along the way. That is one thing, however, the all-out devotion to entertainment as a major activity for which and by which men live is definitely something else again.

The abuse of a harmless thing is the essence of sin. The growth of the amusement phase of human life to such fantastic proportions is a portent, a threat to the souls of modern men. It has been built into a multimillion dollar racket with greater power over human minds and human character than any other educational influence on earth.

And the ominous thing is that its power is almost exclusively evil, rotting the inner life, crowding out the long eternal thoughts which would fill the souls of men, if they were but worthy to entertain them. The whole thing has grown into a veritable religion which holds its devotees with a strange fascination; and a religion, incidentally, against which it is now dangerous to speak. For centuries the Church stood solidly against every form of worldly entertainment, recognizing it for what it was—a device for wasting time, a refuge from the disturbing voice of conscience, a scheme to divert attention from moral accountability.

For this she got herself abused roundly by the sons of this world. But of late she has become tired of the abuse and has given over the struggle. She appears to have decided that if she cannot conquer the great god Entertainment she may as well join forces with him and make what use she can of his powers.

So, today we have the astonishing spectacle of millions of dollars being poured into the unholy job of providing earthly entertainment for the so-called sons of heaven. Religious entertainment is in many places rapidly crowding out the serious things of God.

Many churches these days have become little more than poor theaters where fifth-rate "producers" peddle their shoddy wares with the full approval of evangelical leaders who can even quote a holy text in defense of their delinquency. And hardly a man dares raise his voice against it.

The great god Entertainment amuses his devotees mainly by telling them stories. The love of stories, which is a characteristic of childhood, has taken fast hold of the minds of the retarded saints of our day, so much so that not a few persons manage to make a comfortable living by spinning yarns and serving them up in various disguises to church people.

What is natural and beautiful in a child may be shocking when it persists into adulthood, and more so when it appears in the sanctuary and seeks to pass for true religion. Is it not a strange thing and a wonder that, with the shadow of atomic destruction hanging over the world and with the coming of Christ drawing near, the professed followers of the Lord should be giving themselves up to religious amusements? That in an hour when mature saints are so desperately needed vast numbers of believers should revert to spiritual childhood and clamor for religious toys?

"Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach. The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned ! For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim."

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## Therapy For The Funny Bone -

A father and son saw a fisherman standing waist-deep in the water, repeatedly casting a net into the surging tide, but it seemed every time he pulled it in, the net was empty.

"Look how hard he works to support his family," Dad observed. "We can learn a lot from his perseverance."

"Aw, Dad," quipped his computer-savvy son, "He isn't working; he's just netting the surf!"

*Reader's Digest, July 1999*

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A televangelist from Texas died while he was on a preaching tour in Australia. He was a big man, so big they couldn't find a coffin that would hold him. So they let all the hot air out of him and buried him in a matchbox.

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My Granddaddy used to come out with some good stories. He'd say, "See that old boy over there? He's the dumbest feller I ever met. He was in the third grade all four years I was in the first grade!"

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Bubba wanted to be married SO bad, but he couldn't ever seem to find a girl that would even talk to him, much less marry him. He was sitting in the airport passenger lounge one day when a beautiful girl walked in and sat down across the room. He said to himself, "Boy, I wish I could marry somebody like that!"

Would you believe that, when they boarded the plane, she was seated right next to him, so Bubba did his best to strike up a conversation with her. After they talked for a while he asked, "Just out of curiosity, what kind of men do you like?" The girl thought for a bit and then replied, "Well, I like American Indians because they are so solemn and have such deep voices, ...and I like Jewish men because they are so thoughtful and wise, .... and I like country boys because they are so polite and say 'ma'am' and open doors for you..." And then she turned and said to Bubba, "You know, I don't even know your name." Bubba sat up straight, lowered his voice, and said, "You are not going to believe this, but my name is Geronimo Goldstein....., and you can call me Bubba if you want to."



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## Eddy-Torial - Humble Pie and a Poker Game at Church

It came as a surprise to me when I heard that our little church building in Missouri was a gamblers' den on Saturday nights.

You ask how such a thing could happen to a fundamental Baptist church?

Southwest Missouri in the 1960's was not far removed from the wild and woolly days of

moonshining and fighting over somebody's stash of "corn likker." Al Capp penned a cartoon strip about hillbillies back then called "Lil Abner." All of his characters lived in our area. When we first moved to the

Ozarks we were warned to avoid any places where smoke was rising from the wooded hills. Most likely it was somebody's still. A family of kids we picked up for church were of Amerindian extraction. Their family distilled their own "white lightning" with dreadful results. An uncle died of alcohol poisoning from a bad batch (it's all bad!!!!!!) and their dad lost the sight of one eye on that occasion and another time fell out of a barn loft and broke an arm so badly that it had to be amputated.

Our little church building had fallen into disrepair and the front doors wouldn't lock. Breakins were rare and churches were respected somewhat, so we didn't worry too much about security. We never suspected that anybody would sneak in for a Saturday night poker game. There were gas heaters, so it was an attractive venue for gamblers.

Our neighbour, Audie Johnson, pulled me aside one day and said the sheriff told him about the poker games. I was furious! And that was a mistake. It was the first of several.

It is a good thing for preachers to review their blunders every once in a while. And it is even better for us to confess them. To God. To our churches. To the people we offend. And to our preacher brethren. We used to call it "eatin' humble pie."

(To eat humble pie (1830) is from umble pie (1640s), pie made from umbles "edible inner parts of an animal" (especially deer), considered a low-class food. The similar sense of similar-sounding words (the "h" of humble was not pronounced then) converged in the pun. Umbles, meanwhile, is M.E. numbles "offal" (with loss of n-through assimilation into preceding article), from O.Fr. nombles "loin, fillet," from L. lumulus, dim. of lumbus "loin" (see lumbago). (Online Etymology dictionary entry)



Humble Pie is lowly vittles for lowly people.

Over the years I have discovered a few pertinent facts about eatin' humble pie, that is, making a humble and sincere confession of my faults.

- 1) Only God can cook humble pie like it ought to be cooked.
- 2) Nobody enjoys eatin' humble pie. Nobody!
- 3) Humble pie is an acquired taste. I never met anybody who just naturally loved it without being taught how by a lover of humble pie.
- 4) The first bite is the hardest to take. After that, it's easy.
- 5) Eatin' humble pie is good for your (spiritual) health.
- 6) Growth spurts always follow the digesting of humble pie.
- 7) It is a fact that (spiritual) pygmies and dwarves are very, very allergic to humble pie.
- 8) Every (spiritual) giant is addicted to humble pie. Some of them even say that it is their favourite food.
- 9) Humble pie is not a fast food. It has to be eaten very slowly and thoughtfully if it is to benefit the eater. I can testify that some servings of humble pie took me years to eat.
- 10) Humble pie never causes indigestion. It sets right easy on the digestive system once the eater swallows it down.
- 11) It's not so much the taste of humble pie that makes it hard to eat. It's the smirk on other people's faces as they watch you eat it.
- 12) The sooner a man learns to eat humble pie, the better the outcome.



But back to my mistakes. It was awfully immature of me to fall into the trap of fury when I heard about the Saturday night poker games. My rights had been violated! How dare they play poker in MY church. Didn't they know that a great and mighty preacher had come to be pastor there and that the church was now a mighty bastion of fundamentalism, and a powerful lighthouse of the gospel, and that if God was anywhere on earth, He was there!!!! And that was because of Who Was Pastor!!!! How foolish I was to think these things, and if you asked me I would have blushed and denied it. But I did think it. And that was why I was so angry!!!! My rights as Pastor were being violated!!! That was **Mistake #1**.

**Mistake #2** was that I wasn't content to be furious on my own. I had to spread it around. So I told my associate pastor. Bro. Clyde was a good ol' country boy from North Carolina, and when I told him about the poker game, he went up like a skyrocket. I thought, "What a friend! Here is a man who can get angry with me when my rights are violated!!! He's a real kindred spirit!" But we were both wrong. Tozer once said, "When a diseased Christianity becomes evangelistic, it merely spreads the area of infection." Ouch! My anger and bitterness became evangelistic and spread the infection to a brother in the Lord. Of course, we told our wives, and we told the few that were still in the church. Is it any wonder that IB churches are so full of anger, gossip, and bitterness? And even worse, that it often starts in the pulpit?

**Mistake #3** - Well, me and ol' Bro. Clyde, we hatched out a plot to deal with them gamblers, yessireeee. We decided we would get our little .22 caliber pea shooter, squirrel hunting rifles and we would go up there to the church the next Saturday night and we would hide our car and we would lay low in the church and we would pull down on them there dirty, low down, no good gamblers and we would lay the law down to 'em and if it came to it, we would remedy their mineral deficiency by supplying a good dose of copper jacketed lead. Now that would do the job, wouldn't it? (Please forgive me my foolishness. And excuse me while I eat another bite of pie.) I think we'd read too many cowboy stories.

Did we do it? I am sorry to say, we did.

Did we shoot anybody?

**Mistake #4** - We waited there for some hours (while we should have been home studying and praying in preparation for the next day's services.) And then it happened. A car pulled into the driveway and started up toward the church. It slowed and stopped. And then the driver reversed out of the driveway and drove away. We breathed a sigh of relief, and packed up all our heavy artillery and went home, feeling that we were the mighty conquerors. It was obvious to our fevered minds that we had somehow scared them away.

**Mistake #5** - Of course, the next day we boasted of how we'd faced down the wicked gamblers, and we basked in a few milliseconds of glory. We must have looked like fools. I don't know why, but they never came back.

God was grieved, and He spoke to my heart about the utter sinfulness of our actions. He gave this silly young preacher slice after slice of humble pie to eat. Have you ever read that quote, "Sooner or later every man sits down to a feast of consequences." Well, the Lord began serving my consequences up to me. I don't know how many years it was till I took the first bite, but I finally did and have, by the mercy of God, chewed my way through quite a few servings of humble pie since then.

I keep coming across verses in my daily Bible reading that have "Fork" written all over them. And when I do, I know that God is reminding me to take another bite of pie. Just the other night at prayer meeting, in the middle of a sermon, the Lord handed me a few fork verses. ""For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds:) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the

knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." II Cor. 10: 3-6

The parts of that text that really spoke to me were "we do not war after the flesh" and "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal." Luther was said to have thrown an inkpot at the devil once. Well, he missed. And we would have missed, too, even if we had filled those gamblers' hides full of lead. We would have done the Devil no harm at all. Bullets are a joke to him. The damage would not have been to him, but to that little church, and to our future ministries, and we'd have broken our wives' hearts, and blasphemed the name of Christ, and ridiculed the gospel, and been sent to prison. I shudder now to think that those poker players may have carried pistols, and we could have been killed in a gunbattle at Grace Baptist Church. Oh, we might have been heroes for a minute or two among our redneck preacher friends and maybe had our photos on the cover of Time magazine, but we were wrong. You see, we let my rights, my pride, and my emotions drag us into the error of believing that the weapons of our warfare ARE carnal. We mistakenly thought that we could shoot the Devil out of gamblers in a Baptist church with a couple of squirrel guns. What fools we were!

This is a major problem with modern day Christianity. Every shade of the theological spectrum proudly uses carnal weaponry to do what it thinks is the work of God. Whether the modernists use science (falsely so called), or the emergent church gurus use New Age mysticism, or the church growth movement uses rock music, or evangelicals flaunt their learning, or fundamentalists deploy all the gimmicks of pragmatism, they have one thing in common. They all "war after the flesh." And none of their carnal weapons have the blessing of God. Prayer and the preaching of sound doctrine and the work of the Holy Spirit and the fear of the Lord, combined with the full armour of God are the weapons of our warfare, not intellectualism, mysticism, hedonism, or pragmatism. Anger and bitterness and pride and guns and wild eyed yelling at the enemies of the gospel are not mighty weapons. They are just noise.

So I confess. I used the wrong weapons. What should I have done? Well, there's another fact about humble pie I forgot to list above. It is #13) Eatin' humble pie is good for your eyesight. You see everything so much more clearly, the more you eat.

How do I know?

I see now, after eating quite a bit of pie, that I should have asked Audie if he would tell me who the gamblers were. And I should have gone to my associate pastor and discussed it with him over a piece of humble pie, and we should have prayed much about God's way to confront the poker players. We should have gone to them with the saving gospel of Christ, and sat down with them as poor old hell deserving sinners saved by grace and preached to them the Lord Jesus Christ and told them that he is able to save to the guttermost. Certainly, we should have called them to repentance and faith in Christ. Who knows what their response would have been? I will never know because I used the wrong weapons. All I know is that God blesses the strategies, and the sermons, and the soulwinning efforts of men who use spiritual weapons. These weapons alone are mighty through God, not the carnal, silly, useless, powerless weapons of the flesh.

One of the most important weapons of our warfare is our rations. Soldiers all over the world eat MRE portions. Meals Ready to Eat ration packs for preachers always contain a big piece or two of Humble Pie.

Had any lately? Drop in for a visit sometime and I'll share some of mine with you. I'm always working my way through another piece of pie. You might even develop a taste for it and start buying some for yourself.

*Bro. Buddy*

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Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia

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