



*"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I will answer when I am reproved." Hab. 2:1*

December 16, 2011

### Table of Contents

[Feature Article – Flirting With Wolves](#)  
[My Father's Fingerprints](#)  
[What's Next After Legalising Gay Marriage?](#)  
[Cartoons to Make One Wise](#)  
[Is Healing in the Atonement?](#)  
[Christmas Made In China, or Not?](#)  
[Deacon True Sez](#)  
[Blinded Minds](#)

[Therapy For The Funny Bone](#)  
[Beware of the Occult](#)  
[Poems That Preach](#)  
[Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes](#)  
[Climate Science Falsely So Called](#)  
[Is Socialism's True Father – Satan?](#)  
[Eddy-Torial – Whatever happened to virtue?](#)

### Feature Article – Flirting With Wolves



*"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." Acts 20:28-29*

We have been thinking about the increasing use of secular, carnal music in worship. There is an underlying question that needs to be addressed. How is it that unconsecrated music gets into the church? How is it that secular, carnal music was ever allowed in the door? This music is the Wolf's Whiskers. It precedes the Wolf's Fangs only slightly. But how did the pastors and songleaders and musicians ever allow the wolves to stick their noses in the doors of our churches?

They did it by flirting with wolves.

**Fundamental Bible Christians have never been "avant-garde."** (from French for "advance guard" or "pioneers or innovators of a particular period. "Especially used in communist and anarchist publications. – from the online etymology dictionary).

We believe that God gave His people the Bible, and that it is perfect and unchanging, so we feel no need to be forever thinking outside the box or pushing the boundaries. When Paul wrote to Timothy, *"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Jesus Christ,"* he exhorted Timothy to cling to the old faith. Paul advocated the maintenance of the apostolic body of theology.

Jeremiah knew this precept and voiced it in Jeremiah 6:16, where he wrote, *"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..."* Sadly, the verse does not end there. It ends with these tragic words, *"But they said, We will not walk therein."*

This statement on the part of Jeremiah's fellow Jews reveals the beginnings of apostasy. Would they call it that? Not at all. They would say they were "thinking outside the box." They would say they were being "avant-garde." In reality, they are flirting with wolves.

***"Ah, Brother Wolff, what a large following you have!"***

Flirting with wolves begins with a rejection of the old paths.

When Balaam counselled Balak to send Moabite women to seduce God's men, it worked. But his plan would have failed if the men had clung to the old paths. They turned away from the commandments of God, and flirted with wolves. When king Ahaz saw the altar in Assyria and sent its blueprint home to the high priest to have it copied for use in the temple, he was flirting with wolves. When good king Hezekiah invited the ambassadors from Babylon to inspect his treasures, the prophet Isaiah warned him that he was flirting with wolves. When the Philistine women caught Samson's eye (one after another) he was flirting with wolves.

We all know how dangerous it is to flirt with wolves. They are very cunning, ever so swift and strong, amazingly persistent in the pursuit of their prey, deadly in their attacks, and ravenous in their appetites. But the very thought of getting that close to the overpowering strength of a wolf, of matching my wits with his, of taming his savagery by subtlety, of being so near to something so dangerous, and doing so without injury, ah, that is where the thrill of the emergent church is found.

To go far beyond what the oldtimers ever thought could be safe, ah, this is the challenge. This is where the adrenalin rush is! This is being "avant-garde!" Flirting with wolves is high adventure to so many 21st century pastors. When Rick Warren boasts of having tens of thousands of pastors in his Saddleback association, he is telling us that there are that many who have learnt to flirt with wolves. What a large following they have!

***"Oh, Rapper Wolff, what lovely whiskers you have!"***

Who is it that is flirting with wolves?

For the most part it is the youthleaders and songleaders in the most "progressive" of our churches. They are often young men in their twenties and thirties who are tuned in to modern culture. They know all the hip language and music. They own and use the very latest tech gadgets. Their favourite music is found on the pop music stations, and their clothing is usually trendy.

If their pastors do not openly engage in their flirtatious conduct, they smilingly approve and fund their jaunts to big praise and worship conferences. They see no danger in New Age movies like Avatar and take their teens along to see it. Morality, to them, has more to do with coral reefs, saving the whales, and global warming than it does with sexual promiscuity in the

youth group. Holiness is at best a foreign word, and at worst, a swear word. In their vocabulary separation is a synonym for legalism, and biblicism has been replaced by postmodernism. "Cool" is more often on their lips than, "Amen" or "Praise the Lord."

*"Oh, Emergent Wolff, your moves are so cool!"*

### Why do our future pastors flirt with wolves?

There are two reasons. First, they are bored with our old fashioned beliefs. And second, they love the world and all its culture. No doubt, the simple gospel, as they heard it, was not always preached with zeal and sincerity as it should have been. And our singing WAS often listless and indifferent. So they decided to turn away from the old paths and flirt with wolves. Jeremiah lamented similar conditions in his day, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out **cisterns**, broken **cisterns**, that can hold no water." **Jer. 2:13**. His people were bored with the temple, the feasts, the sacrifices, and the law of God. The trumpet sound of Jeremiah's preaching grated in their ears, and they sought out the husky, sensuous pan flutes of pagan worship. So it is today. Young songleaders say publicly, "When I hear the hymns we sing at church, I say, 'If that's all they've got, I'm not interested.'" That is boredom with truth in the form of godly music. So where do they turn? They turn to flirting with wolves. Consider the following examples given by David Cloud in his article on CCM musicians and the Beatles:

"(O)ne of the rock groups that CCM musicians love is the Beatles.

When CHRIS REDMAN, one the most influential names in the contemporary worship movement, was asked in 2011, "Who are your musical influences?" he replied: "All sorts. But all time favorite must be the Beatles. I love it now that my five kids even get into their music" (<http://www.louderthanthemusic.com/document.php?id=2526>). It is obvious that Redman is rearing his children on secular rock & roll so that they have a taste for the world even at very young ages.

**PHIL KEAGGY** performs an unholy combination of secular rock and Christian rock/folk, and those who listen to his music are drawn toward worldly rock & roll. On his 1993 *Crimson and Blue* album, for example, he pays "homage to the Beatles" with several of the songs. In a June 2008 interview Keaggy said that performing at the wedding of Linda McCartney's sister and jamming with Paul McCartney is one of his most cherished memories ("Reconnecting with Phil Keaggy," Crosswalk.com, June 25, 2008). Keaggy's 2011 CD "Live from Kegwood Studio" features "homage to George Harrison with a spot-on rendition of the Beatles' hit 'Here Comes the Sun.'"

**CAEDMON'S CALL** often performs Beatles music.

**RANDY STONEHILL** says that it was the Beatles who gave him the inspiration to play rock and roll: "Really it was after I saw the Beatles. I saw them on television when I was twelve and I knew that that was what I wanted to do" (Stonehill, cited by Devlin Donaldson, "Life Between the Glory and the Fame," *CCM Magazine*, October 1981).

**The GALACTIC COWBOYS** lead singer says, "I'd have to say that The Beatles are still the biggest influence on us, all the way around--except for maybe the guitar tones. They were great songwriters and vocalists." (Ben Huggins, cited by Dan Macintosh, *HM* magazine, September-October 1998).

Some of **DC TALK'S** musical role models are the Beatles, David Bowie, and The Police, all of which are wicked secular rock groups (*Flint Michigan Journal*, March 15, 1996). dc Talk opened its "Jesus Freak" concerts with the Beatles' song "Help." During their 1999

"Supernatural Experience" tour, dc Talk performed "Hello Good-bye" by the Beatles (*CCM Magazine*, April 1999, p. 55).

**JARS OF CLAY** names Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles as their inspiration (Dann Denny, "Christian Rock," *Sunday Herald Times*, Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 8, 1998). The lead guitarist for Jars of Clay is said to be a "Beatles fanatic" (*Christian News*, Dec. 8, 1997).

**MAYFAIR LAUNDRY**, a group which got its name from a scene in a Beatle's movie, cites influences from the Beatles to Red Hot Chili Peppers (*Heaven's Metal Magazine*, May-June 1998).

The cover to **STEVE GREEN'S** *It's a Dying World* album was drawn by the same artist who did the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* album, which included pictures of satanist Aleister Crowley and LSD proponent Timothy Leary, among others.

**JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT** performed Beatles songs during concerts in the late 1990s.

In a May 1987 interview with *CCM Magazine*, **LESLIE PHILLIPS** spoke of her love for the Beatles: "[In the 1987 album *The Turning*] I just sort of returned to what I loved originally. You know, returning to your roots and all that. The Beatles were the first rock group I remember hearing, and I dearly love them. They were spectacular, even in their mistakes. There was a spirit in that kind of music that we don't have today."

The "Heart of David Conference on Worship & Warfare," sponsored by Rick Joyner's Morning Star ministries, concluded with the praise team singing the Beatles song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as if God were singing it to believers. The worship leaders were Leonard Jones, Kevin Prosch, and Suzy Wills.

During the February 18, 2002, premier show for the Michael W. Smith/Third Day *Come Together Tour*, the CCM group Third Day took the stage to the strains of the New Age Beatles song "Come Together" (press release, Nashville, April 24, 2002).

**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL WORSHIP CIRCUS'** musical style is "reminiscent of rock's glory days" and "combines the best elements of classic seventies style power pop ala David Bowie, The Kinks and Cheap Trick, Pink Floyd, The Beatles and U2" (from their web site).

To read the entire article go to:

[http://www.wayoflife.org/index\\_files/dabeb31c8cb721802ddf324fb7240a53-881.html](http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/dabeb31c8cb721802ddf324fb7240a53-881.html)

*"Rocker Wolff, your eyes are so seductive!"*

There is a seductive power in the eyes of the wolf.

Paul questioned the Galatians regarding their departure from the faith into the "law works" of the Judaisers, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

**Gal. 3:1.** Postmodern worshippers are not interested in sound doctrine, even when it is preached with faith and zeal. Those who flirt with wolves are seduced by the gaze of the wolf, by the breath of the wolf, and by the twitching of the wolf's whiskers. Little do they know that the wolf sees and smells and craves the sheep's very life, even while the sheep flirts with him. It is a dreadful truth that ALL SHEEP WHO SEE WOLVES AS HAVING A SHEEP'S NATURE, AND A SHEEP'S APPETITES WILL BE EATEN BY A WOLF!

I was a baby Christian when Johnny came to our church. He was a man of the world, maybe 22 or 23 years old. He was "cool" and smooth and experienced. None of us saw him as a threat. After all, he was the songleader's little brother. We should have recognised the wolf in him, but we didn't. He wasn't there long before he made his move. He picked his mark, and her name was Judy. She was only about 14 or 15. I never saw the look that passed between them, never saw her eyes sending flirtatious signals or the body language that invited his attention. But it didn't take much flirtation on her part for him to respond. Within a month Johnny swept her off her feet and she was gone. We never saw either of them again. Even a little flirtation was deadly for Judy. Johnny didn't come to our church for the gospel that was preached there. He didn't come to be convicted of his sins and be saved. He didn't come to serve God. He was a wolf looking for someone who would risk flirting with a wolf. And he found her. And he devoured her.

I always wonder if our pastor spoke to her parents, or whether he warned Judy in person about flirting with wolves. I know he preached against trying to win wolves by flirting with them. That's what Paul did when he admonished the elders from the church at Ephesus about the grievous wolves that, even at that moment, were prowling around their church. He was warning them not to flirt with wolves!

Paul also knew that the last words of those who flirt with wolves sound like this:

*"Mr. Wolff! Your fangs are so sharp!"*

This will doubtless be the cry from many a family, and many a church which have flirted with wolves, hoping to win the wolf to Christ. We must remember that no wolves ever enter God's flock, but to destroy it. If they will enter as believers, they must die to their "wolfness" and be born again as a sheep under the Shepherd's rule.

*Pastor Buddy Smith*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



## My Father's Fingerprints –

Most of us are familiar with the body's response to foreign tissue. Transplant patients must be carefully matched and then patients still must be given powerful drugs to prevent destruction of the transplanted tissue. Our bodies' immune system identifies tissue that's not its own and then tries to destroy that tissue.

As we have learned more about the immune system, doctors began asking themselves why a pregnant mother's body doesn't reject the foreign tissue of the baby growing inside her. The answer to this mystery is not fully understood, but research has suggested some answers.

From conception, the unborn child is a genetically unique individual. Researchers think that the most important protection the unborn child has is the trophoblast. This tissue, known as the caul, seals the growing infant from its mother. However, the trophoblast itself develops from the same cells as the infant. So why doesn't the mother's immune system attack? It appears that under normal conditions the trophoblast is a special set of cells that the body cannot identify as foreign. In addition, the trophoblast makes cells that encourage the

mother's immune system to protect it. Scientists now believe that this amazing feature may actually be provided by the father's genetic information.

In effect, the baby, with the help of the father, immunizes the mother's system so that it doesn't reject the baby! So, even before birth, the mother nurtures and the father protects the child.

from Creation Moments

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## What's Next After Legalising Gay Marriage?

If any two adults can marry, why not three?

*Andrew Bolt*

Saturday, December 10, 11 (01:52 pm)

Yet again I will ask: once you change the definition of marriage to include the union of any two consenting adults, gender irrelevant, what's the argument for stopping at two?

Yes, this is the "slippery slope" argument that same-sex marriage advocates hate, but which recognises a human frailty – that once a fundamental principle is abandoned, far more may follow than was demanded:



FOR weeks, Sydneysiders and Melburnians who believe menages-a-trois and other polyamorous relationships can be just as committed, loving and valid as marriage between a man and a woman, slaved away together to earn their place in the sun...

Finally, in early March, it was ready: the first float celebrating polyamory to join the colourful flotilla in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

For psychologist Nina Melksham, it marked the moment when the poly community, like gays and lesbians a generation ago, had come out of the closet to stand up and be counted...

The polyamorous community has a further cause for celebration. They believe last weekend's vote by the ALP national conference to change the party platform to legalise same-sex marriage is a base on which they can build.

The agenda now is to seek recognition and the removal of prejudice against multiple-partner relationships, perhaps legislation to grant them civil unions and even legalised polyamorous marriage.

"My personal view is that any change that moves us towards a more loving, open and accepting society can only be a positive," Melksham says...

... they may form, in polyamorist lingo, a "polyfidelist triad" in which there is an equilateral triangle of sexual activity.

Such was the argument of 46-year-old Victor de Bruijn and his 31-year-old wife of eight years, Bianca, when they were formally united in 2005 in a small Dutch town with Mirjam Geven, a recently divorced 35-year-old whom they'd met several years earlier.

Although Dutch law bans polygamy, because there was no actual marriage in the technical sense, just a common law civil contract, the trio's union was allowed.

Two court cases, one in Canada last month and one in Australia earlier in the year, show that while British-based law remains resolute against multiple partner marriage, it accepts that a common law threesome is not illegal or even necessarily family-unfriendly.

## First Trio "Married" in The Netherlands



From the desk of Paul Belien  
Mon, 2005-09-26 23:08

The Netherlands and Belgium were the first countries to give full marriage rights to homosexuals. In the United States some politicians propose "civil unions" that give homosexual couples the full benefits and responsibilities of marriage. These civil unions differ from marriage only in name.

Meanwhile in the Netherlands polygamy has been legalised in all but name. Last Friday the first civil union of three partners was registered. Victor de Bruijn (46) from Roosendaal "married" both Bianca (31) and Mirjam (35) in a ceremony before a notary who duly registered their civil union.

"I love both Bianca and Mirjam, so I am marrying them both," Victor said. He had previously been married to Bianca. Two and a half years ago they met Mirjam Geven through an internet chatbox. Eight weeks later Mirjam deserted her husband and came to live with Victor and Bianca. After Mirjam's divorce the threesome decided to marry.

Victor: "A marriage between three persons is not possible in the Netherlands, but a civil union is. We went to the notary in our marriage costume and exchanged rings. We consider this to be just an ordinary marriage."

Asked by journalists to tell the secret of their peculiar relationship, Victor explained that there is no jealousy between them. "But this is because Mirjam and Bianca are bisexual. I think that with two heterosexual women it would be more difficult." Victor stressed, however, that he is "a one hundred per cent heterosexual" and that a fourth person will not be allowed into the "marriage." They want to take their marriage obligations seriously: "to be honest and open with each other and not philander."

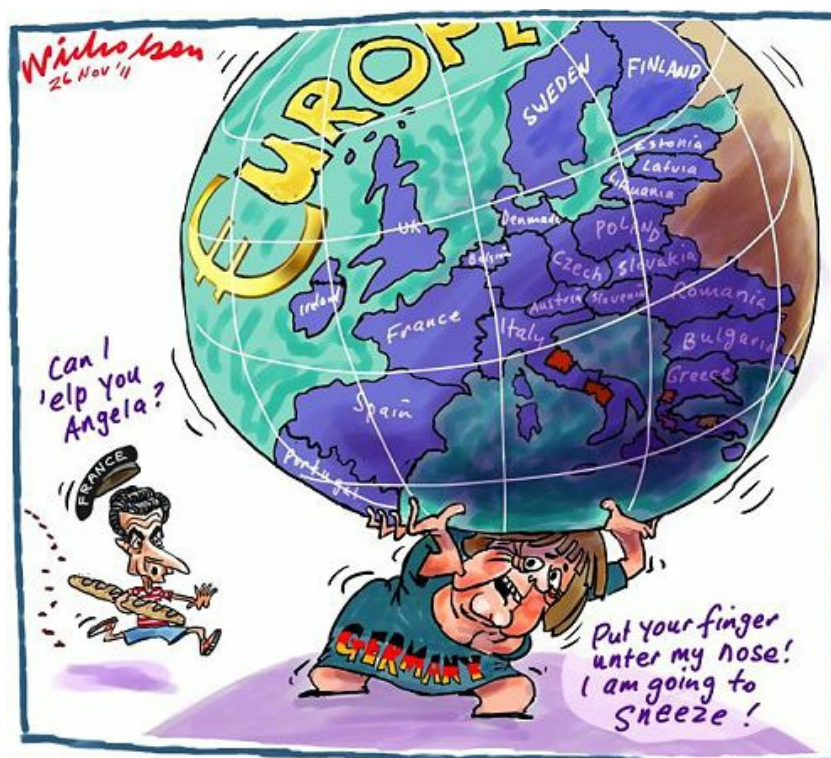
<http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/301>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

### **Mark 10:6**

**But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.**

## Cartoons To Make One Wise –



[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## Is Healing In The Atonement?

*by David Cloud*

"And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel." Matthew 15:30-31

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. ... Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." Acts 5:12,15-16

One teaching which seems to attract many to the Charismatic movement is the idea that physical healing is promised in Christ's atonement. It is commonly taught by Pentecostal-Charismatic preachers that if a person is saved and right with God he never has to be sick. Healing is guaranteed, so to speak, for those who exercise faith. This doctrine has been closely connected with the Pentecostal movement throughout the twentieth century. The Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements notes: "The formative years of development for the classical Pentecostal churches were from 1907 to 1932. As the movement aggressively grew and spread, so the doctrine and practice of divine healing was extended since it was one of the movement's cardinal doctrines" (p. 370).

Most Pentecostal historians trace their movement to the "tongues speaking" experience of students at CHARLES PARHAM'S Bethel Healing Home in Topeka, Kansas, in January 1901. Parham believed that healing is in the atonement. One of Parham's disciples, WILLIAM SEYMOUR, founded the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, California, in 1906. From Seymour's Azusa Street and Parham's Apostolic Faith movements, Pentecostalism spread and gained momentum. The Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements notes that all of the Pentecostal denominations today--including the Assemblies of God (1914), the Church of God (1907), and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (1923)--find their roots in the aforementioned movements.



From its inception, then, the Pentecostal movement was affiliated with the doctrine that physical healing is in the atonement. The man called the father of healing revivalism in America was JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE (1847-1907), who established a community in 1900 called Zion City north of Chicago. Dowie's magazine, *Leaves of Healing*, had a worldwide distribution and a vast influence. He taught that healing is promised in the atonement and insisted that those who sought faith healing must give up all medical care. He viewed druggists and physicians as instruments of the devil. When his own daughter was severely burned, he banished one of his followers for trying to alleviate her pain with Vaseline. He refused to allow her any medical treatment and she died in that condition. Many others who came to his faith cure homes died of their illnesses without any medical attention. The Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements notes that many of the most famous Pentecostal evangelists--including F.F. Bosworth, John Lake, Gordon Lindsay, and Raymond Richey--went out from Zion (p. 368) and dozens of Parham's followers at Zion joined the Assemblies of God at its formation in 1914. In fact, three of the original eight members of the AOG general council were from Zion City (p. 370).

The largest Pentecostal denomination, the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, founded in 1914, promote the doctrine that healing is in the atonement. Consider their Statement of Fundamental Truths, section 12: "Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16)."

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON (1890-1944), founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, exemplified the widespread Pentecostal view that the Gospel includes physical healing. Her autobiography of 1921 was entitled *Divine Healing Sermons*. McPherson taught that healing is guaranteed in the atonement. She falsely promised to the eager crowds: "Your chains will be shattered, your fetters crushed, your troubles healed, if you only believe--for where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (Epstein, Sister Aimee, p. 221). It is blessedly true, of course, that the Lord is a very present help in time of trouble and that He goes with His children through all their trials, but to promise that in this present life all problems will be removed and all sicknesses healed if one only has enough faith is a false promise. McPherson warned against saying, "If it is His will to heal me, I am willing." She said such an attitude brings no results (Epstein, p. 224). In fact, McPherson claimed that physical

healing is part of the gospel. The "foursquare" gospel she promoted was Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King. She claimed that she had obtained this gospel through a vision in 1922, in which God showed her that the Gospel was for body and soul and spirit. It was the same "foursquare gospel" being preached by the Elim Foursquare Gospel Association in Ireland (McPherson had worked with Elim's founder, George Jeffrys), the Assemblies of God in the States, and other Pentecostal groups.

(To read the entire article, go to:

[http://www.wayoflife.org/index\\_files/00507af4db4acc1e1e3149466afb28b8-667.html](http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/00507af4db4acc1e1e3149466afb28b8-667.html))

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

---

## Christmas Made In China, or Not?

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Australians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods --merchandise that has been produced at the expense of Australian labour.

This year will be different. This year Australians will give the gift of genuine concern for other Australians. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Australian hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. For the Gardeners on your list - how about some lovely healthy pot plants or plants for the garden or even a gift certificate from the local lawnmowing man.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of buying a Chinese made flat-screen Panasonic? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. If your intended recipient isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local cafe. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Australian working guy?

What about a gift certificate from a local home handyman for some chores to be done around the home?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mum? Mother would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

Someone's computer could use a tune-up and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewellery, pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants.

Honestly, .... do you REALLY need to buy another 10,000 Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a \$5.00 string of lights, about 50 cents stays in the community. If you have that much money to burn, give a donation to your favourite charity.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Australian pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about Australia, encouraging our small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. When we care about other Australians, we care about our communities and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS could be the new Australian Christmas tradition.

Better still .... Share the Gospel – it has eternal value!!!

*by Peter Jannsen (Excerpted).*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## Deacon True Sez –

"My old Pa used to say that politicians oughta be limited to two terms. One in office and one in jail."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

### **Matthew 1:20-21**

**"...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."**

## Blinded Minds – The Ultimate In Betrayal

### Senior Leaders Of Large Melbourne Church Servicing Abortion Industry



The following information is mostly from the "Human Rights for Unborn Children" website.

"The abortion industry in Australia is a morally corrupt and evil industry. It is a massive, billion dollar a year business which profits by distorting and hiding the truth about abortion. More precisely, by providing false and misleading counselling to distressed mothers, and ripping little babies out of their mothers' womb or dropping them in a bucket of formaldehyde – and finally collecting their broken bodies and incinerating them like garbage. This is the abortion industry exposed: bloody, callous and shocking.

So what do we say then, when we find prominent church leaders managing a company that is involved in such a horrific industry? Because this is exactly what is occurring."

(<http://www.humanrightsforunbornchildren.com/facts/26.html>)

### Denial & Cover Up

*"For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." (Proverbs 5:21-22)*

The "Human Rights for Unborn Children" website tells of the shocking discovery made by a woman in February 2011. She accidentally stumbled upon information that directly linked leaders of City Life Church in Melbourne with the abominable abortion industry in Victoria. A number of elders serving in this well-known church are also board members of a clinical waste company called SteriHealth. Together with their morally acceptable services to health facilities they also conduct grossly immoral services to hospitals and abortion clinics in Victoria by collecting and disposing of aborted babies in their furnaces and callously discarding their remaining ashes in landfill.

Distressed at what she had discovered, the lady contacted City Life Church's Senior Minister, Mark Connor (son of international Bible teacher, Kevin Connor) and the Chairman of SteriHealth, Lorenzo Coppa. She also revealed what she had discovered to a number of pro-life supporters who also contacted Mark Connor and Lorenzo Coppa for explanation.

Instead of being ashamed and embarrassed that their grizzly activities were out in the open for public scrutiny these esteemed church leaders attempted to discredit not only the information, but also the people who were concerned enough to question their involvement in the horrific abortion industry. Australian Christian Lobby even became involved, whose director, Rob Ward, personally phoned the woman in an attempt to convince her that SteriHealth would not be involved in collecting aborted babies from abortion clinics intentionally, and that there was nothing to worry about.

But there definitely was something to worry about, as the woman soon discovered when she rang SteriHealth head office in Melbourne pretending to be the owner of an abortion clinic who specifically required aborted babies to be disposed of. SteriHealth replied that they definitely could provide the services she required.

(Could Rob Ward's defence of SteriHealth have had anything to do with the fact that SteriHealth regularly placed full page advertisements in the Australian Christian Lobby's quarterly magazine: View Point?)

Taking this information back to Rob Ward of Australian Christian Lobby, which he passed on to SteriHealth, which they passed on to Mark Connor of City Life Church, earned the woman a rebuke for "acting in an unethical manner". She also received misleading email communications from City Life's Senior Pastor, Mark Connor and his Executive Pastor, Peter Leigh, strongly supporting the SteriHealth Board members/church leaders.

"Mr Conner and Mr Leigh even stated that they are satisfied no church leader associated with SteriHealth, such as CEO Dan Daniels, Chairman Lorenzo Coppa, Executive Director Markus Koch, etc, were aware that the company was involved in selling products to abortion facilities or collected and incinerated aborted babies."

This despite SteriHealth's Chairman, Lorenzo Coppa, previously stating that SteriHealth CEO/City Church Elder, Dan Daniels, knew that the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne carried out abortions.

([http://www.humanrightsforunbornchildren.com/facts/City\\_Life\\_Church\\_leaders,\\_SteriHealth\\_and\\_aborted\\_babies..pdf](http://www.humanrightsforunbornchildren.com/facts/City_Life_Church_leaders,_SteriHealth_and_aborted_babies..pdf))

## Freedom Of Information

*"...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."* (Luke 12:2)

The Chairman of SteriHealth, and others, finally gave assurances that they would take the necessary steps to get out of any contracts which had anything to do with aborted babies. But, contrary to their professed assurances, documents obtained by a Mr Trevor Grace through Freedom of Information requests to a number of Victorian hospitals, as late as the end of June 2011, clearly demonstrate that SteriHealth continued with this obscene, but lucrative, business activity.

(<http://www.humanrightsforunbornchildren.com/facts/Freedom%20of%20Information%20responsest.pdf>)

## The Betrayal of the Most Vulnerable

*"...whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."* (Luke 12:3)

For professing Christians, those who claim to be followers of the teachings of Christ, to be involved in the abortion industry, however remotely, is unethical and hypocrisy in its grossest form – not to mention a denial of their profession of faith. To unknowingly assist in the works of darkness is one thing, but to continue in this work after having the truth revealed, even attempting to justify or rationalise rather than acknowledge fault, is the height of spiritual deception.

Psalm 193:12 warns that, although sinners might sometimes be able to conceal their evil works from man, God sees all. *"Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."*

And God has a way of dealing with those who profess His Name, but who by their works deny Him. Numbers 32:23 warns, *"Your sin will find you out."*

It is now public knowledge that people in leadership positions at City Life Church in Melbourne are also in leadership positions in the company called SteriHealth. It has been demonstrated that SteriHealth is a vital part of the abortion industry in Victoria. The company specialises in products and services that enables the gruesome industry to run smoothly, systematically and cleanly. By its very support it legitimises and endorses the abortion-killing-machine which endeavours to make acceptable and commonplace what God regards as abominable and a practice that provokes God's judgment.

Abortion is more than murder, it is the betrayal of our smallest and most vulnerable neighbour in the womb – the unborn child. Ultimately abortion is an attack on the King Himself – for we are made in His image. (Genesis 1:27)

For more information and evidence regarding the involvement of City Life Church in Melbourne in the abortion industry of Victoria, go to the Human Rights for Unborn Children Website at:

(<http://www.humanrightsforunbornchildren.com/facts/26.html>)

**(From the CityLife Church webpage:** CityLife Church, formerly Waverley Christian Fellowship began in 1967. The founding pastor was Richard Holland. In 1983, the Parkmore Full Gospel Church and its Christian School merged with WCF (now known as Waverley Christian College.) In 1986, Richard Holland handed the church of approximately 600 people over to Kevin Conner. In February of 1995, Mark Conner, Kevin's son, was appointed Senior Minister. – Ed)

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

---

## Therapy For The Funny Bone –

"Dear Abby, I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions? – From Sam in California."

"Dear Sam, Register as a Republican, and run for public office. – Abby."

---

The Baptist pastor received a phone call from a neighbour down the street asking him to call on her husband and pray for him because of his poor health.

When he had visited with them for a few minutes and then prayed with the old man, he asked, "Aren't you folks Methodists?"

The wife nodded, "Yes, we are. We belong to the First Methodist Church downtown."

"Well," the pastor queried, "I am surprised that you asked me to come and pray for your husband. Why didn't you ask your own pastor?"

"Oh," said the wife, "My husband is really contagious, and we didn't want our pastor to catch what he's got."

---

Phone conversation overheard in the White House –

"Hi. This is the President. Is Senator Lieberman in?"

"Not today, Sir. This is Yom Kippur."

"Well, hello, Yom. Can I leave a message?"

---

One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the road-side eating grass.

Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate. He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."

"Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the lawyer said.

"But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree."

"Bring them along," the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You may come with us, also."

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!"

"Bring them all as well," the lawyer answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was.

Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really love my place. The grass is almost a foot high."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



## Beware of the Occult –

*"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 19:31).*

Shakespeare's Macbeth is famous for its witches. These three crones are not out producing butterflies and gum drop forests. They are cauldron-fillers who consult with evil spirits, who use baboon's blood, nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips in their foul brews. In the end, their words deceive Macbeth and direct him on a path that eventually leads to the demise of him and half the cast. As we enter the time of year when young

people are tempted to visit graveyards and conjure spirits, to play with ouija boards and consult the dead, it's vital we remember that these spooky pursuits may seem like harmless Halloween fun, but can open doors that allow in evils far more real than Macbeth's witches.

## The Exorcist:

In 1973, *The Exorcist* terrified audiences by portraying a little girl possessed by demons and the efforts of two priests to cast out the spiritual forces and free her. William Blatty's tale was

inspired by a teenage boy from a Washington suburb in Maryland who was reportedly exorcised in 1949. *The Washington Post* offered one of many reports on the story August 20, 1949 in an article entitled, "Priest Frees Mt. Rainier Boy Reported Held in Devil's Grip." In it, Bill Brinkley writes:

"...In all except the last of these, the boy broke into a violent tantrum of screaming, cursing and voicing of Latin phrases—a language he had never studied—whenever the priest reached the climactic point of the ritual, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, I cast thee (the devil) out.'"

Despite the horrifying content, movie goers flocked to *The Exorcist* as well as to other movies like *Poltergeist* (1982) and *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* (2005). Demon possession and the paranormal fascinate audiences.

## I Am ZoZo:

The Indy crowd is capitalizing on the paranormal too in an independent film called *I Am ZoZo* shot on San Juan Island off the Washington coast last autumn. While it will not likely arrive in local theaters across the country, this film interestingly enough shows the dangers of playing with spirits. It is supposedly based on a true story of a group of teenagers who use a Ouija board and meet an evil spirit called ZoZo that is out to harm them. The movie web site's header declares, "Warning: ZoZo is an evil Ouija spirit! – this Super8 Movie is based on a real Ouija Board experience gone wrong." (As though they can go right?)

Darren Evans tells about his true-life experiences with an entity named ZoZo, whom he met through the use of a Ouija board. He states, "Too many times to count, it has *at first pretended to be a nice spirit, or pretend to be whomever I was trying to contact.* (italics ours) But eventually it showed it's (sic) true self, cussing me, threatening me and others present in the room." Evans describes his ZoZo-related poltergeist activities and his small daughter's various maladies from near-drowning to an iron-tongue affliction. One day, Evans exclaimed, "I rebuke this curse in the name of Jesus Christ!" The disturbances stopped... until re-invited.

It is easy to get too interested in demonic activity. In the Bible, Jesus told demonic forces to be quiet before he cast them out (Luke 4:35). He did not engage them in conversations past finding out their names (Mark 5:7–13). The law repeatedly orders the children of Israel to stay away from occultic activities:

*"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."* (Deut 18:10–12).

## The Truth About Evil Spirits:

- Evil spirits are smart. Remember the shrewd serpent in the Garden (Gen 3:1). Just as Satan knew how to trick Eve, demonic forces know exactly how to get to us. It's foolish to even talk to them, let alone ask them questions for the sake of knowing the answers.
- Evil spirits can know unexpected amounts of information about us and our loved ones. About history. Which means they can pretend to be anybody. The girl possessed with the spirit of divination in Acts 16:16–18 was not putting on a show. When Paul and Silas cast the demon out, the girl's masters were angry that their source of income had been ruined.
- Evil spirits are amazing at deception. Satan is an expert liar and can appear as an angel of light (John 8:44, 2 Chron. 11:14).

Jesus and Satan are not equals. Jesus has all the power and authority of the universe and we can have authority over evil spirits in Jesus' name (Luke 4:36, Luke 9:1; Phil 2:9-11). Satan is overcome by the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:9-11).

Messing with spiritual forces we don't understand is dangerous and completely foolish. We might be able to win a fight with demonic powers, but it doesn't mean the wrestle won't leave scars.

One of the most telling lines in Macbeth is spoken by Banquo shortly after he and Macbeth first encounter the witches. The witches correctly called Macbeth "Thane of Glamis" out on the heath, and Macbeth soon learns he's been named Thane of Cawdor, just as the witches predicted. Certainly, he would therefore be *king* as they promised as well? Banquo recognizes the supernatural power at work, but he's suspicious. He says, "And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray's in deepest consequence." Banquo's distrust turns out to be well founded. Macbeth is tricked with honest trifles, which sends him on his way to the dragon's mouth.

Macbeth is just a story, but the same tactic is found in the Bible. Satan tempted Jesus in the desert by twisting the meaning of the scriptures, but Jesus quoted the scriptures right back, in context. This is why it's so vital we study the whole word of God and test the spirits, as 1 John 4:1 describes.

As Christians, we do not have to fear demons. Jesus Christ has authority over all spirits. Yet, we should absolutely not allow ourselves or our children to treat spiritual things lightly, even if they are packaged as an innocent-looking cardboard game from Parker Brothers. As 17th century Dutch jurist Hugo De Groot once said, "Ignorance of certain subjects is a great part of wisdom."

*-Selected*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## Poems that Preach –

*What though wars may come,  
With marching feet and beat of the drum?  
For I have Christ in my heart!  
What though nations rage,  
As we approach the end of the age?  
For I have Christ in my heart!  
God is still on the throne,  
Almighty God is He.  
And He cares for His own,  
Through all Eternity.  
So let come what may,  
I only say that I have Christ in my heart,  
I have Christ in my heart!*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

## Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes –

- I discovered something wicked yesterday. I was looking in the Thesaurus in MS Word for an alternative to the word "wicked" and found that, somewhere along the way Microsoft have changed all their synonyms for this word to equate with something good. Here are the alternatives they supply: "good, great, terrific, cool, fabulous, fab, fantastic, impressive". *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..." (Isaiah 5:20) – Hughie Seaborn.*

### Good quotes from *Billy Sunday*:

- Whiskey and beer are all right in their place, but their place is in hell."
  - Lord save us from off-handed, flabby-cheeked, brittle-boned, weak-kneed, thin-skinned, pliable, plastic, spineless, effeminate, ossified, three-karat Christianity."
  - "Trying to run a church without revivals can be done when you can run a gasoline engine on buttermilk."
  - "When I hit the devil square in the face some people go away as mad as if I had slapped them in the mouth."
- 
- "The backslider likes the preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a house, while the real disciple is delighted when the truth brings him to his knees."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## Climate Science Falsely So Called –

(The Medieval Warm Period is a serious embarrassment to global warming alarmists like Al Gore. The article below from Anthony Watts' website is worth reading. I have not included the entire article, but the link is at the bottom of the article. – Ed)

### The Medieval Warm Period – a global phenomenon, unprecedented warming, or unprecedented data manipulation?

**Posted on November 29, 2009**

*by Anthony Watts*

*Guest post from Von Rudolf Kipp*

Of great interest is the global graphic below, which shows that the MWP is a worldwide event, not just limited to portions of the Northern Hemisphere.

*"Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past."* –  
**George Orwell, 1984**

We live in an age of superlatives. When you turn on the TV nowadays, you get offered the choice of best films, the greatest hits or the dumbest opening lines of all time. And even with

a detergent it is long ago not sufficient when it washes whiter than white. Again, the constant sale appeal to the consumer can be maintained only if the product is billed as "The best thing ever."

Naturally, also the reporting on climate change must follow this trend. Therefore the upcoming conference in Copenhagen is optionally about the salvation of mankind, of whole ecosystems, or for those who like it even more bombastic, the salvation of the planet. To achieve this, we continue to learn, enormous changes in our economic and financial system are needed. Production companies and countries should put on bureaucratic manacles to control their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Best with the help of worldwide dedicated government-like organizations.

What is the purpose of all this? You suspect or know it already. We are experiencing a warming, which has not existed in the history of mankind, or even in the history of the earth. And as a result we will experience the greatest disasters of all time. Honestly!

## Medieval Warm Period thesis contradicts the unprecedented warming

However, one must mention that, already the first half of the statement, that about the unprecedented warming, elicits significant question marks in many climate scientists and even at many historians. Wasn't there something like the medieval warm period? And in the opinion of many scientists, wasn't it warmer during this period than today?

The idea of a medieval warm period was formulated for the first time in 1965 by the English climatologist Hubert H. Lamb. Lamb, who founded the UK Climate Research Unit (CRU) in 1971, saw the peak of the warming period from 1000 to 1300, i.e. in the High Middle Ages. He estimated that temperatures then were 1–2 °C above the normal period of 1931–1960. In the high North, it was even up to 4 degrees warmer. The regular voyages of the Vikings between Iceland and Greenland were rarely hindered by ice, and many burial places of the Vikings in Greenland still lie in the permafrost.

## Glaciers were smaller than today

Also the global retreat of glaciers that occurred in the period between about 900 to 1300 speaks for the existence of the Medieval Warm Period. An interesting detail is that many glaciers pulling back since 1850 reveal plant remnants from the Middle Ages, which is a clear proof that the extent of the glaciers at that time was lower than today.

Furthermore, historical traditions show evidence of unusual warmth at this time. Years around 1180 brought the warmest winter decade ever known. In January 1186/87, the trees were in bloom near Strasbourg. And even earlier you come across a longer heat phase, roughly between 1021 and 1040. The summer of 1130 was so dry that you could wade through the river Rhine. In 1135, the Danube flow was so low that people could cross it on foot. This fact has been exploited to create foundation stones for the bridge in Regensburg this year.

Clear evidence of the warm phase of the Middle Ages can also be found in the limits of crop cultivation. The treeline in the Alps climbed to 2000 meters, higher than current levels are. Winery was possible in Germany at the Rhine and Mosel up to 200 meters above the present limits, in Pomerania, East Prussia, England and southern Scotland, and in southern Norway, therefore, much farther north than is the case today. On the basis of pollen record there is evidence that during the Middle Ages, right up to Trondheim in Norway, wheat was grown and until nearly the 70th parallel/latitude barley was cultivated. In many parts of the UK arable land reached heights that were never reached again later.

Also in Asia historical sources report that the margin of cultivation of citrus fruits was never as far north as in the 13th century. Accordingly, it must have been warmer at the time about 1 °C than today.

## Archaeology and history confirm interglacial

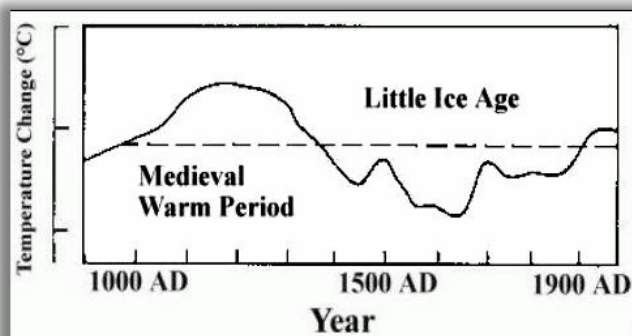
Insects can also be used as historical markers for climate. The cold sensitive beetle *Heterogaster urticae* was detected during the Roman Optimum and during the Norman High Middle Age in York. Despite the warming of the 20th century, this beetle is found today only in sunny locations in the south of England.

During the medieval climate optimum, the population of Europe reached hitherto unknown highs. Many cities were founded at this very time with high-altitude valleys, high pastures and cultivated areas, which were at the beginning of the Little Ice Age again largely abandoned.

The Middle Ages was the era of high culture of the Vikings. In this period their expansion occurred into present-day Russia and the settlement of Iceland, Greenland and parts of Canada and Newfoundland. In Greenland even cereals were grown about this time.. With the end of the Medieval Warm Period the heyday of the Vikings ended. The settlements in Greenland had to be abandoned as well as in the home country of Norway, during this time, many northern communities located at higher altitudes. The history of the Vikings also corresponds very well to the temperature reconstructions from Greenland, which were carried out using ice cores. According to the reconstructions, Greenland was at the time of the Vikings at least one degree warmer than in the modern warming period.

## Climate scientists want to eliminate contradictions

Until about the mid-90s of last century the Medieval Warm Period was for climate researchers an undisputed fact. Therefore in the first progress report of the IPCC from 1990 on page 202, there was the graphics 7c, in which the Medieval Warm Period was portrayed as clearly warmer than the present. However, the existence of this warm period became quickly a thorn in the side for the scientists responsible. When in 12th century without human influence the climate has been even warmer than at the height of industrialization, why should the current warming have non-natural causes?



Thus, the Medieval Warm Period was soon declared an odious affair. Meanwhile, an e-mail is legendary, which was sent to a U.S. climate researcher David Deming in 1995. This scientist published an article in the prestigious journal *Science* in which he had presented research on climate change in North America based on cores.

With this publication, he was immediately known among climate researchers, and some of them obviously thought that he was toeing their line:

"With the publication of the article in *Science*, I gained significant credibility in the community of scientists working on climate change. They thought I would be one of them, someone who would pervert science in the service of social and political causes. So one of them dropped his guard. An important person working in the field of climate change and global warming sent me an astonishing email with the words: 'We must get rid of the Medieval Warm Period'."

Meanwhile, the climate machinery for the eradication of the Medieval Warm Period has already started. In 1995, the English climatologist Keith Briffa published in the journal *Nature* a study with sensational results. According to his studies of tree rings in the Siberian Polar-Ural, there had never been a Medieval Warm Period and the 20th century, suddenly appeared as the warmest of the last 1000 years. The real breakthrough was the thesis of 20th Century

experience as the warmest of the millennium, but not until three years later, and that with the release of Michael Mann's infamous Hockey stick.

(To read the entire article, go to: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/11/29/the-medieval-warm-period-a-global-phenomena-unprecedented-warming-or-unprecedented-data-manipulation/>)

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

---

## Is Socialism's True Father--Satan? [Excerpts] *from the Berean Call*

(This is especially interesting since President Obama openly speaks of being a community activist in Chicago - Ed)

The Bible of modern community activists--Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*--contains a surprising yet highly illustrative dedication, a paean to Satan. And as unorthodox as this move might seem, it is actually a Marxist trope to dedicate oneself to the Devil. In fact, many early socialists did this before Alinsky was born. And the depth of seriousness and feeling is not to be doubted. Satan is highly regarded by some socialists. For example, *Time* magazine reports one socialist exclaiming: "I thank Satan," exclaimed the Socialist delegate, "that I have lived to see the day when the great popular masses united. I beg Satan to give me six months more, so that I shall see the Front in operation."

A few highly influential early socialist writers shall suffice in understanding the stunning pro-Satan tissue from which socialism arose.

**Mikhail Aleksandrovich Bakunin** (1814-1876), founder of Russian Nihilism...described Marx's beloved Hegelian political theory as the "Algebra of Revolution." Bakunin hated religion, saying "Socialists recognize each other by the words, 'In the name of the one to whom a great wrong has been done'..." He was determined to change the world through radical politics.

From his book *God and the State*, we have the following anti-religious gems: "Jehovah, of all the gods adored by men, was certainly the most jealous, the most vain, the most ferocious, the most unjust, the most bloodthirsty, the most despotic, and the most hostile to human dignity and liberty.

"The Evil One is the satanic revolt against divine authority, revolt in which we see the fecund germ of all human emancipation, the revolution. Socialists recognize each other by the words 'In the name of the one to whom a great wrong has been done.' Satan [is] the eternal rebel, the first freethinker and the emancipator of worlds. He makes man ashamed of his bestial ignorance and obedience; he emancipates him, stamps upon his brow the seal of liberty and humanity, in urging him to disobey and eat of the fruit of knowledge."

**Pierre Joseph Proudhon:** Considered the "Father of Anarchism," Proudhon was a French thinker who lived from 1809-1865. Born to humble circumstances, Proudhon became a well-known French social theorist by the 1840s. Anarchy is technically the absence of law, but also the idealized final phase of Marxism. Proudhon taught "anarchy is order" and borrowed J.J. Rousseau's belief that man in his natural state is good, but institutions are bad.

And like many post-French Revolutionary Parisians, Proudhon was of a decidedly anti-clerical bent. He vigorously opposed the Church, and even went so far as to write panegyrics to Satan. The following quotes are from his writings...."And for my part I say: The first duty of man, on

becoming intelligent and free, is to continually hunt the idea of God out of his mind and conscience. For God, if he exists, is essentially hostile to our nature, and we do not depend at all upon his authority. We arrive at knowledge in spite of him, at comfort in spite of him, at society in spite of him; every step we take in advance is a victory in which we crush Divinity. I shall purify myself, idealize my being, and become the chief of creation, the equal of God. By what right should God still say to me: Be holy, for I am holy? Lying spirit, I will answer him, imbecile God, your reign is over; look to the beasts for other victims. For God is stupidity and cowardice; God is hypocrisy and falsehood; God is tyranny and misery; God is evil."

Proudhon was not content to simply anathematize God, but also heaped up praise for Satan: "Come, Satan, come, thou the calumniated of priests and of kings! Let me embrace thee, let me press thee to my bosom! Long is it that I have known thee, and long hast thou known me! Thy works, O blessed one of my heart! not always are they beautiful and good; but they alone give a meaning to the universe, and save it from absurdity. What would man be without thee? A beast."

[http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/42085?utm\\_source=CFP+Mailout&utm\\_campaign=bd9836c095-Call\\_to\\_Champions&utm\\_medium=email](http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/42085?utm_source=CFP+Mailout&utm_campaign=bd9836c095-Call_to_Champions&utm_medium=email)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

---

## Eddy-Torial – Whatever Happened to Virtue?

I remember when even football players were expected to live exemplary lives. Some of my muscle-bound friends told me that our high school coach lectured them about the dangers of alcohol and immoral conduct and told them they would not be on the team if they broke the rules. I know I am getting old, but it doesn't seem like it was all that long ago that baseball players had short hair and played for peanuts, not the mega millions they are paid now. Even sports stars were expected to have virtue. Those days are long gone.

### So whatever happened to virtue?

Like so many Bible words, "virtue" has had its savour leached out by a godless and profane world. Originally it meant, "moral life and conduct, moral excellence." It came from Anglo-French. and from Latin (*virtute*) and meant "moral strength, manliness, valor, excellence, worth." It is related to *vir* for "man" (as in *virile*).



A simple overview of its uses in Scripture reveals the following:

1. The translators of the KJV saw the word "virtue" to be a synonym for power (dunamis) as in **Mark 5:27 –30** "When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that **virtue** had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, "*Who touched my clothes?*" **Godly virtue has a power that moves and changes lives. So it was in Christ.**
2. Again, the translators of our Bible saw fit to render the word for virtue (arete) as "praises" in **1 Pet. 2:9** "But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar

people; that ye should shew forth the *praises* of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" Here we are taught that it is the disciples' responsibility to show forth the virtues/the praises/the moral excellencies of Christ.

3. In **II Pet. 1:3** we read "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and **virtue**:" God calls us to be virtuous, to be morally excellent, to be all that He can make us to be. That's our calling. We are not called to be handsome, wealthy, or famous, but we are called to be virtuous!
4. And in **II Pet. 1:5** we read, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to **virtue** knowledge;" We are to diligently add **virtue** to faith. It is no Deeper Life doctrine (laid back, no sweat or effort on our part issue!), but we are to add virtue to faith! Virtue is given priority over knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.
5. In **Phil. 4:8** we are taught to focus our thoughts on virtue (as on the other aspects of godliness.) "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things *are* true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things." It is to be ever in our thoughts.

There is one aspect of virtue especially that has been mishandled by Independent Baptists over the past generation. It is the priority that virtue is to have in our spiritual growth. Look again at number 4 above. Where does "virtue" come? Immediately after faith. And immediately before knowledge. I am not sure exactly when or exactly how it happened, but virtue has been bumped out of its place. In our churches it appears that "moral life and conduct, or moral excellence" has lost its place in the list. Correct me if I am wrong, but it seems to me that knowledge is what is added to faith. The kind of preaching and teaching that emphasises gaining a strong grasp of right and wrong, that works at building in us real biblical convictions on what pleases God and what displeases God, that kind of preaching has all but disappeared. Agreed, God always has His remnant, and it is still possible to find a few embers, a tiny wisp of smoke here and there, but for the most part the religious scene at present appears to be a frozen landscape, covered in frost, ice, snow and sleet.

Wait! Maybe I am reading the picture entirely wrong. Maybe what I see with these feeble eyes is not snow and ice. Maybe, just maybe, what I am seeing is our churches covered with diplomas and degrees. Maybe we have been frozen into immobility by snowdrifts and blizzards of proud intellectualism. Oh, we know a lot (or we think we do) but virtue has somehow disappeared in the rush to gain intellectual respectability in the information age. Maybe the truth is that virtue lies under a mountain of diplomas.

Our knowledge has not only puffed us up, but it has frozen us out of blessing.

Recently, I have been pondering the possibility that Peter was describing in II Peter 1 the method of discipleship His Lord used as He trained the twelve. Is Peter telling us here that Jesus apprenticed them stage by stage, level by level, adding one grace to another, adding to faith virtue, and then to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, finally charity? There is a chosen progression here, and a divinely ordained progression.

So in our YPBS (young preachers Bible studies) on Tuesday nights we have begun to work our way through the methods of training used by Christ in the gospels as He disciplined His first disciples. And do you know what we are finding? We are finding that our dear Saviour

laboured to add virtue to faith, or rather that He laboured to teach them to add virtue to their faith. The focus was not initially on knowledge. It was on virtue.

It was just at this point I suddenly realised that most Bible training for new Christians is not done according to this pattern. Whether in Sunday School, in church, in discipleship classes, Bible colleges, or seminaries, most Bible training has jettisoned virtue altogether and exalted knowledge to sit upon the throne in its place.

Dare I throw down the gauntlet? Dare I challenge pastors and missionaries and Bible college lecturers to stop for a moment and re-evaluate your training program for baby Christians? At the risk of losing the last two friends I have on earth (Is it so many, Lord?) I feel that I must challenge the methodology we are using to train our people. For fifty years at least, maybe longer, we have mass produced a generation of "walking Bible encyclopaedias" who are increasingly without virtue.

And the result? Frostbitten saints and permafrosted churches. Knowledgeable churches but without the needed emphasis on virtue. I have a friend who tells me that in one (Bible) university town, you have to have a PhD to be an usher in a Baptist church.

Presbyterians jokingly call themselves the "frozen chosen". They are not alone.

Maybe it's time we did fan the embers again. And search out every wisp of smoke in hopes of a thaw.

More on this next week.

*Bro. Buddy Smith*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

**Heads Up!** is a weekly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith, Grace Baptist Church, Malanda, Qld., 4870, Australia.  
To be included to receive copies please contact us by one of the following methods:  
**Post:** P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;  
**Phone:** 07 4096 6657  
**Email:** [smiletex@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smiletex@bigpond.net.au)