



"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

January 6, 2012

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Feature Article - When The Little Chickens Go Home to Roost -

Bro. Jeff Royall does a lot of research and passes on his findings to preachers. Last week he sent this very revealing article out. It documents what the Bible teaches about the nature of carnal rock music and its fruits. For the past generation, new evangelical musicians listened to their favourite secular (carnal) rock musicians. Initially their love of rock music was covert, since even neo-evangelical pastors once knew how wicked it was. As time passed, they let their masks slip and admitted that their favourite performers were the darlings of the rock scene, the Beatles and all their clones. Now they glory in their worship of every form of rock music available. Should it be any surprise when teens like Meghan O'Gieblyn find out the real roots of her CCM and then decide to go home to roost?



Here are some excerpts from an article written by *Denny Burk*.

The Girl Who Lost Her Faith Listening to CCM

"Despite all the affected teenage rebellion, I continued to call myself a Christian into my early twenties. When I finally stopped, it wasn't because being a believer made me uncool or outdated or freakish. It was because being a Christian no longer meant anything. It was a label to slap on my Facebook page, next to my

music preferences. The gospel became just another product someone was trying to sell me, and a paltry one at that because the church isn't Viacom: it doesn't have a Department of Brand Strategy and Planning. Staying relevant in late consumer capitalism requires highly sophisticated resources and the willingness to tailor your values to whatever your audience wants. In trying to compete in this market, the church has forfeited the one advantage it had in the game to attract disillusioned youth: authenticity. When it comes to intransigent values, the profit-driven world has zilch to offer. If Christian leaders weren't so ashamed of those unvarnished values, they might have something more attractive than anything on today's bleak moral market. In the meantime, they've lost one more kid to the competition.

I couldn't have told you what the word "irony" meant, but I knew I'd been cheated by Christian rock. This was crack, and I'd been wasting my time sniffing glue." (The words of Meghan O'Gieblyn when she found MTV)

I was homeschooled up until tenth grade, and my social life revolved around church. I grew up submersed in evangelical youth culture: reading *Brio* magazine, doing devotions in my *Youth Walk* Bible, eagerly awaiting the next installment of the *Left Behind* series, and *developing a taste in music that ran the gamut from Christian rap to Christian pop to Christian rock.*

While born-again rockers can be traced back to the Jesus People movement in the 1960s, the 1990s was *the* decade of Christian contemporary music, or CCM. In my early teens, new bands were popping up faster than I could follow. And Carman wasn't the only established act revamping his sound for a younger crowd. Jon Gibson, a pop artist who produced what is generally considered the first Christian rap song (1986's "The Wall"), argued that Christian musicians needed to be savvier in presenting teens with the gospel. *He told CCM Magazine, "I want to sneak into their hearts with the music. Contemporary Christian music needs to branch out a little more, get a little sneakier."*

Traditionally, the church's approach to secular music had been fear tactics: denouncing rock bands, staging record burnings. But this was the golden era of MTV, and Christian leaders, perhaps sensing they were up against a larger beast, opted for a more positive approach by promoting sanctioned (and sanctified) alternatives. Christian concerts became popular youth group events. My friends traveled to blowout festivals with names like "Acquire the Fire" or "Cornerstone." Our youth pastor let us spray-paint the basement teen room with graffiti and tack up posters of born-again acts like Third Day and All Star United. *At Wednesday night youth group, in lieu of a message, we'd often watch CCM music videos.*

By the time I was finishing up eighth grade, I had ditched my Carman albums and moved on to bands like Audio Adrenaline and Jars of Clay, groups who sported flannel shirts and surfer hair and did songs that sounded like praise choruses transposed into a minor key. "Lift me up—when I am falling / Lift me up—I'm weak and I'm dying." Or the Newsboys, who produced albums like *Hell Is For Wimps* and *Not Ashamed*, and gained popularity for the track "Shine," which assures teens that their faith can appear attractive to nonbelievers: "Shine, make them wonder what you've got / make them wish that they were not / on the outside looking bored."

By far the coolest CCM band when I was a teen was DC Talk. Short for "Decent Christian Talk," this trio of young men from Virginia—one black, two white—started their career as a hip-hop group. I might be guilty of still listening to their albums occasionally when no one else is around. Despite the cheesy lyrics, they had a fresh street dance sound—close harmonizing and poppy rap verses. I once played their album *Free at Last* for a friend who hadn't grown up in the church, and he thought it was Color Me Badd.

This, by the way, is considered the ultimate sign of quality CCM, even amongst Christians: the ability to pass as secular. Every band's goal was to have teenagers stop their grooving mid-song and exclaim, like a soda commercial actress who's just realized she's been drinking diet, "Wait, this is Christian?" The logic was that the more these bands fit in with what was playing on the radio, the more someone like me would feel

comfortable passing their album on to my non-Christian friends (supposing I'd had any), giving them a chance to hear the gospel. Korey Cooper, guitarist of a gospel band called Skillet, said it was crucial for artists to prove themselves musically before kids would entertain the message. *"You get up on stage and try to rock as hard or harder than everybody else and then you have some cred,"* she said. *"It's like, 'Hey, they can rock and it's okay, and they love Jesus.'"* Likewise, the website *Metal for Jesus* argued that "Christian metal is just as brutal and heavy as the secular when it comes to the music. What differs is the lyrics." Yes, there's Christian metal. There's even Christian death metal (Living Sacrifice). There's Christian glam rock (Stryper), Christian punk (Relient K), Christian ska (Five Iron Frenzy), Christian techno (World Wide Message Tribe), and Christian industrial (Circle of Dust).

I saw MTV for the first time when I was thirteen. My parents, like most of my friends's parents, didn't have cable, and I literally had to go halfway around the world to see it. In November of 1995, my grandfather went on a trip to Moscow and took my sister Sheena and me along. He was on the board of an organization that was lobbying to teach "Christian ethics" in Russian schools. It was supposed to be an educational experience, but we hardly left the hotel. All week, he attended back-to-back meetings while Sheena and I stayed in our room, eating duty-free chocolate and gorging ourselves on Euro MTV.

On one of those gray afternoons I saw Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" video. In a smoky warehouse, the band and a team of tattooed cheerleaders performed for bleachers full of kids. As the song progresses, the scene dissolves into anarchy: the students jump off the bleachers, strip off their clothes, destroy the band's equipment, and light the entire set on fire. I watched this perched on the edge of my bed, about three feet from the TV screen, while Sheena was taking a nap. I didn't catch any of the lyrics, but I was mesmerized by Kurt Cobain stumbling around the set, squinting into the light, barely suppressing a sneer. *I couldn't have told you what the word "irony" meant, but I knew I'd been cheated by Christian rock. This was crack, and I'd been wasting my time sniffing glue.*

That trip to Russia was a conversion experience.

(T)his music made me stop feeling like a sheltered and naïve homeschooler. I knew it made me smarter and hipper than the kids at church—that it made me less of a sucker in a world that was trying, on all fronts, to dupe me.

This trend spreads beyond CCM into many areas of evangelical culture. The church is becoming increasingly consumer-friendly. Jacob Hill, director of "worship arts" at New Walk Church, describes the Sunday service



music as “exciting, loud, powerful, and relevant,” and boasts that “a lot of people say they feel like they’ve just been at a rock concert.” Over the past ten years, I’ve visited churches that have Starbucks kiosks in the foyer and youth wings decked out with air hockey tables. I’ve witnessed a preacher stop his sermon to play a five-minute clip from *Billy Madison*. I’ve walked into a sanctuary that was blasting the Black Eyed Peas’s “Let’s Get it Started” to get the congregation pumped for the morning’s message, which was on joy. I have heard a *pastor* say, from a *pulpit*, “Hey, I’m not here to preach at anyone.” And yet, in spite of these efforts, churches are retaining only 4 percent of the young people raised in their congregations.

Despite all the affected teenage rebellion, I continued to call myself a Christian into my early twenties. When I finally stopped, it wasn’t because being a believer made me uncool or outdated or freakish. It was because being a Christian no longer meant anything. It was a label to slap on my Facebook page, next to my music preferences. The gospel became just another product someone was trying to sell me, and a paltry one at that because the church isn’t Viacom: it doesn’t have a Department of Brand Strategy and Planning. Staying relevant in late consumer capitalism requires highly sophisticated resources and the willingness to tailor your values to whatever your audience wants. In trying to compete in this market, the church has forfeited the one advantage it had in the game to attract disillusioned youth: authenticity. When it comes to intransigent values, the profit-driven world has zilch to offer. If Christian leaders weren’t so ashamed of those unvarnished values, they might have something more attractive than anything on today’s bleak moral market. In the meantime, they’ve lost one more kid to the competition."

Meghan O’Gieblyn http://www.guernicamag.com/features/2874/meghan_ogieblyn_7_15_11/

(Editor's note: The article is worth reading in its entirety, but the reader needs to be aware that Meghan O’Gieblyn writes from the standpoint of one who has forsaken the "faith" of her youth and passionately embraced everything the rock scene has to offer. It makes so much sense, doesn't it? Her youth leaders secretly loved and worshipped rock musicians and all their offerings. What kind of music did her youth leaders use and promote? Why, the music they taught their teens, their musical chickens, were hatched from eggs laid by the Beatles! It was inevitable that she should find out who laid the eggs. And even more sure that the little chicken would go home to roost!

The Holy Spirit moved Peter to write it another way, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2Peter 2:20-22)

Buddy Smith

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1 John 2:15-16

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Blessed Biographies –

Paul Davis - Blind and Crippled but with a Passion for Prayer

By Edwin Newby, with Dick York

Paul Davis had been the chief procurement officer for the State of Washington in the 1930s-40s--a task that involved the expenditure of millions of dollars and tremendous authority. Tragically, an arthritic condition developed which gradually stole his mobility, eventually claimed his eyesight, and rendered him nearly deaf. His wife, not wanting to be tied to an invalid, took their son and left.

Frustrated, lonely, and seething with bitterness, he lay helpless on his bed. One day, his Christian nurse left the radio on, tuned to a Christian station. Paul screamed and cursed at first, but then a "Haven of Rest" broadcast featured a program filled with hymns proclaiming the message of the hope of God. The announcer told of a Jesus who lifted men out of darkness and changed their lonely lives. Paul's spirit became calm, his almost sightless eyes filled with tears, and a longing to know Jesus filled his heart. The bitterness faded away as he called on the name of the Lord.

While his heart changed, his physical condition worsened. Eventually, his mobility was reduced to a single finger on one hand. Incredibly, the eternal hope he now had in Christ inspired him to use his nearly useless body in the service of his Savior.

Determined to "publish with the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all thy wondrous works" (Psalm 26:7), he learned to use his finger to manipulate a switch activating a telephone. A telephone amplifier over his head connected him to the outside world, feeding sound to his ears and letting his muffled voice go out over that same phone line.

Later, although still unable to move from his bed, Paul published (by God's truly amazing grace) a little magazine called *The Glory Road*, which was mailed to shut-ins around the world. Several women read to him over the telephone an incredible volume of scripture, which he memorized and quoted. He edited articles from other publications to include in *The Glory Road*, and dictated articles of his own. When time allowed, he would call the operator and ask her to begin dialing numbers of people from the phone listings. "Let's start with B," he might say. Those who answered would hear a joyous but curiously strained voice begin to tell them about his Savior.

Meanwhile, after the Korean War, a man named Harry Holt, along with his wife, Bertha, learned of the many children fathered by American soldiers and living as orphans. The Holts adopted eight Korean children, who were added to their existing family of six children. The Holts began helping others to adopt, and what began as something run from the Holt's kitchen table in Creswell, Oregon, grew into a major adoption movement called Holt International Children's Services. Bertha (now deceased) wrote that nothing was accomplished, or even attempted, without prayer. In her 1956 book, *The Seed From the East*, mention is made of many in the Eugene, Oregon, area who assisted in this major undertaking, particularly in their offers to uphold them in prayer. The individual mentioned most often, however, was Paul Davis, who, on hearing of the Holt's endeavor, had become a passionate prayer partner.

Among those influenced by Paul Davis was Dick York, who established the Shield of Faith Rescue Mission in Eugene, Oregon, now known as the Eugene Mission. Dick, in turn, went on to Korea as a missionary and, to this day, continues missionary training and teaching at Shield of Faith Mission International. Of Paul's testimony, Dick wrote:

"I had read Isaiah 35:1-6 [Paul's favorite passage of Scripture, which begins with the description of a time when "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" and ends with a promise that God has appointed a time when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a deer"] many times. But now as I read it, tears began to fill my eyes. Here was my friend, lame and blind and partially deaf. This was his hope, and because he believed it, he could wait with unexplainable joy for the day he knew would come as surely as tomorrow's sunrise.

There were thousands at that very hour, far less impaired in their bodies than Paul, who were filled with bitterness, soaking in self-pity, experiencing loneliness and unhappiness, waiting to die without hope. But there were others, reading his magazine, or having it read to them, who were hearing of his hope, and probably experiencing the contagion of his joy, who were being encouraged to look up to Him who is 'the author and finisher of our faith' (Hebrews 12:2)."

One day, Paul Davis summed up what he had learned from the Lord: "I know what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, 'All things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28). This arthritis has destroyed my body, but through it God has saved my soul."

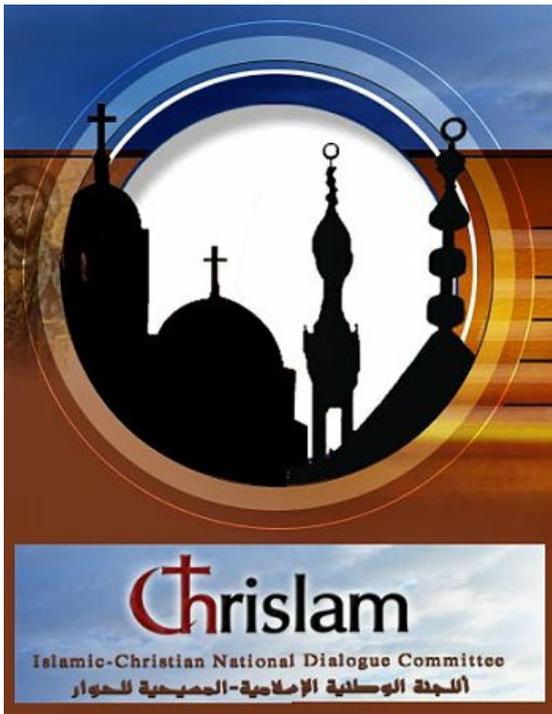
From wayoflife.org.

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Signs of the Times -



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Blinded Minds - Chrislam?

That attempt to combine Christianity and Islam in a common worship service would be a bad joke if it were a joking matter, but it's far from it. As I understand it, this teaching began as a way to help stop the genocide and bring peace between Muslims and Christians in Africa. Sincere in its concern, no doubt, yet sincerely wrong. Muslims who truly follow the Qur'an, and Christians who believe what the Bible presents, regard Chrislam as a blasphemous contradiction of their beliefs.

Why? The differences, which are very apparent, cannot be reconciled. Allah is a false god of man's making and is nothing like the God of the Bible, who sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the full penalty for the sins of the world (John 3:16). Allah has no son and condemns all those who believe that he does (Surah 18:4-6; 23:91). Allah is a singular entity (Surah 4:171); the God of the Bible is a Triune God: one God-three Persons. Isa (Jesus) of the Qur'an is not God; he

is simply a prophet of Allah (4:171). The biblical Jesus is God who became a Man (John 1:1-4; John 10:33). Allah denigrates Jews (Surah 5:59-60); God refers to the children of Israel as the "apple of his eye" (Deuteronomy 32:9-10). The Hadith (the sayings of Muhammad allegedly received from Allah) declares that the Judgment Day of Allah won't come until the rocks and trees cry out to Muslims to kill the Jews that are hiding behind them (Sahih Muslim Book 041, Number 6981-4). That is anti-Semitism at its worst.

The fundamental teachings of Islam and Christianity allow no compromise. Anyone can certainly believe or make up whatever he wants to about Islam or Christianity, but no one can make them compatible with each other on the basis of either one's sacred texts. Nevertheless, that obstacle is not holding back the multitudes who are letting their desires rush ahead of reason. Furthermore, such irrationality is being exploited by those who have as their agenda: "Faith Shared."

It seems that the apostasy (the undermining of biblical faith to prepare the way for the religion of the Antichrist) is developing at an exponential rate, and contributions are being made through a diversity of unbiblical agendas. One that is particularly aggressive as well as vicious in its attack on biblical Christianity is referred to as "Christian Palestinianism" (CP). The term was coined by Paul Wilkinson in his book, *For Zion's Sake*, which presents the biblical reasons why Christians need to support the restoration of the modern state of Israel, an endeavor known as "Christian Zionism." The enemy of that effort is Christian Palestinianism, which includes far more than a concern over the plight of the so-called Palestinian people (see Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, Resource Pages).

Excerpted from the Berean Call, written by T.A. McMahon

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2 Corinthians 11:4

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Evangelizing through Sunday Schools -

(Some years ago I stumbled across a book on Sunday Schools. Much of the book glorified pragmatism, but one chapter stood out. It dealt with the history of Sunday Schools in the early 19th century. I especially love the story of Stephen Paxson. He is an example to all who long to see children come to genuine faith in Christ. - Ed)

"Around 1829, the Mississippi Valley enterprise captured the imagination of Sunday School leaders in the East. The region west of the Alleghenies to the Rocky Mountains was practically void of religious influence despite its four million population. The American Sunday School Union spearheaded a massive evangelistic thrust to reach this area with the gospel. In May, 1830, they resolved to start a Sunday School in every town in the Mississippi Valley; they wanted to complete this project in two years. Two thousand people supported and promoted the project, including such well-known figures as Daniel Webster and Francis Scott Key.

Over 80 missionaries were sent out to establish Sunday Schools in the Midwest; one of these was a man who himself had been reached for Christ through the American Sunday School Union. "Stuttering Stephen" Paxson had overcome the double handicap of a limp and a stammer to become a successful hatter and the favorite fiddler for the Saturday night square dance in the little town of Winchester, Illinois. "I'll get a star if I bring a new scholar to Sunday School," said his little daughter Mary. "Will you be my scholar, papa?" she begged.

Paxson was a good husband and father and he was soon coaxed into becoming little Mary's "scholar." Paxson's first visit to Sunday School was different from most. Rather than being a mere spectator he was immediately saddled with the responsibility of teaching a boys' class. Somehow, with much coaching from the boys, he made it through the morning's lesson.

The class period had been a tremendous struggle for Paxson and he was relieved when it was over. The boys, however, had enjoyed having Paxson as their teacher and begged him to return the following Sunday. He finally agreed, but only on one condition: he would teach the same lesson again, only this time he would do it right.

This was only the beginning for Paxson, for as he studied to prepare those Sunday School lessons week after week, he met the God of the Bible. As Paxson learned more about God's Word, he caught the vision of the American Sunday School Union and moved his family to the Mississippi Valley. There he and his horse, appropriately named Robert Raikes, set out to establish Sunday Schools.

Over the next 25 years the two traveled 100,000 miles, stopping to speak to any child they passed. In the 1,314 Sunday Schools established by this zealous missionary, 83,000 children were reached for God.

During the next 50 years, 80 percent of all the churches in the Mississippi Valley came out of Sunday Schools. Between 1824 and 1874, some 61,299 Sunday Schools were organized, reaching 2,650,784 young people for Christ.

(From Elmer Towns' book, How to Grow an Effective Sunday School)

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Deacon True Sez –

Old cousin Jeb told me t'other day that he went to the big city to see his brother Charlie and went to a big church with him. Afterwards, on the way home, Charlie asked Jeb what he reckoned about their preacher.

Jeb never was one to mince words, so he told him, "Well, he dived deeper, stayed down longer, and come up drier than any preacher I ever heard."

Yep, I've "heard" one or two of them kind myself.

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Why Church Members Think It is Right To Stay Home From Church -

Dear Pastor:

You often stress attendance at worship as being very important for a Christian, but I think a person has a right to miss now and then. I think every person ought to be excused for the following reasons and the number of times indicated to the right:

Christmas (Sunday before or after)	1
New Year's (party lasted too long)	1
Easter (get away for the holidays)	1
July 4 (national holiday)	1
Labor Day (need to get away)	1
Memorial Day (visit home town)	1
School Closing (kids need a break)	1
School Opening (one last fling)	1
Family reunions (mine and wife's)	2
Sleep late (Saturday night activities)	4
Death in the family	4
Anniversary (second honeymoon)	1
Sickness (at least one for each member of the family)	5
Business Trips (a must)	3
Vacation (three weeks, but you can catch us at home in case of emergency)	3
Bad weather (ice, snow, rain, clouds)	6
Ballgames	4
Unexpected company (can't just walk out)	5
Time change (spring ahead, fall back)	2
Specials on T.V. (Super Bowl, etc.)	3

Pastor, that leaves only two Sundays per year. So, you can count on us to be in church on the Fourth Sunday in February and the third Sunday in August, unless providentially hindered.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Ima Faithful Member

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- *"Satan gives Adam and Eve the fruit, and takes away Paradise. Therefore, in all temptations let us consider not what he (Satan) offers, but what we shall lose"*
- *Richard Sibbes*
- The Samson type may well serve as the symbol of every Christian in the world. The believer has been helped by divine grace in his spiritual conflicts, and he has known "the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith." He has thus been made more than a conqueror through him that loved us, and now he stands in the midst of his fellow-men inviting them to Jesus. With the honey in his hands, which he continues still to feast upon, he displays the heavenly sweetness to all that are round about him, saying, "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." I have before now met with that popular artist, Gustave Doré, and suggested subjects to him. Had he survived among us, and had another opportunity occurred, I would have pressed him to execute a statue of Samson handing out the honey: strength distributing sweetness; and it might have served as a perpetual reminder of what a Christian should be, a Conqueror and a Comforter, slaying lions and distributing honey. The faithful servant of God wrestles with the powers of evil; but with far greater delight he speaks to his friends and companions, saying, "Eat ye that which is good, and let your souls delight themselves in sweetness."
- *Charles Spurgeon*
- Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the the universe. "
- *Albert Einstein*
- "A servant of God has but one Master. It ill becomes the servant to seek to be rich, and great, and honored in that world where his Lord was poor, and mean (lowly), and despised."
- *George Muller*
- "I got me back into prison and did sit down to write again. I have been away from my writing too long. Maybe this is not so much a prison as an office from which I can reach the world with Christ's message."
- *John Bunyan on being sent back to prison in 1675.*

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WHAT DISTURBED YOU MOST IN 2011?

"What disturbed you the most? A lost soul in Hell, or a scratch on your car? Your missing the church service or missing a days work? The church not growing very fast or the garden not growing? Your Bible unopened, or an e-mail unread? The tithes and offerings decreasing or your income decreasing? Your children late to Bible study or late to public school? Your church work neglected or your housework neglected? To miss Bible class or to miss your favorite TV program? Low attendance at church or low attendance at a party? Now how about 2012?"

- *author unknown*

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Therapy For the Funny Bone –

You don't have to be an engineer to appreciate this story.

A toothpaste factory had a problem: Some of their boxes were shipped with no tubes of toothpaste inside. So the boss got the engineers together to figure out a way to fix the problem.

It cost them \$8 million to engineer the necessary machinery, but they solved the problem. They used high-tech precision scales that would sound a bell and flash lights whenever a toothpaste box would weigh less than it should. The production line would stop, and someone had to walk over and yank the defective box off it, pressing another button to re-start the line.

When the boss checked a month later, no empty boxes were getting through. Money well spent!

But further inquiry indicated that the new scales were simply not finding any empty boxes. So the boss sent the engineers down to have a look, and they reported that the scales just weren't picking up any defects, because all the boxes that got to that point in the conveyor belt were ok.

Puzzled, the boss went down to the factory, and found the part of the production line where the precision scales were installed.

A few feet before the scale, he saw a \$20 desk fan, blowing the empty boxes off the conveyor belt and into a bin.

"Oh, that," said one of the workers, "One of the guys put it there 'cause he was tired of walking over here every time the bell rang".

New Year's Eve - Take the Bus Home

"I would like to share an story with you about drinking and driving. As you well know, lots of people have accidents and brushes with the law on the way home from a New Year's Eve party. A couple of nights ago, a neighbour was out for drinks with some friends and had a few too many. Knowing full well she was over the limit, she did something she'd never done before - she took a bus home. She arrived home safely and without incident, which was a real surprise, as she had never driven a bus before and couldn't remember where she got it from."

The 5 Riddles from last week answered

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires. The second is full of assassins with loaded guns. The third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes... Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?

4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?
5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd.... But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

Answers:

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. That one was easy, right?
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water; and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Of course you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today, and tomorrow!
5. The letter e, which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

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Stirring the Possum –

(In Australia when we say or write anything provocative, we call it "Stirring the Possum". Here are three articles about stirring the possum. - ed)



The Daily Mail [reports](#):

A thick layer of pig dung spread across a forest floor has put a stop to youths using an area of woodland as a drink and drugs den.

The unusual, and innovative, approach was taken in Middlesbrough after elderly residents complained about the behaviour of youths in nearby woods.

After the pig manure was put in place pensioners told the council there was 'a slight whiff' but that they would rather have 'a pong than a bong'.

<http://bayourenaissanceman.blogspot.com/2011/12/theyd-rather-have-pong-than-bong.html>

Classical music deters teenagers from shopping centre

Classical music was originally played to create a welcoming environment for shoppers.

The sound of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven has reduced anti-social behaviour outside a Birmingham shopping centre, according to police.

In November, the PA system on the ramp leading to the Pallasades on New Street was upgraded.

The aim was to pipe soothing classical music to create a welcoming environment for shoppers and commuters. Within days, police officers and shopkeepers noticed the number of teenagers hanging around had gone down.



PC Dominic McGrath & Happy Shoppers

But many of the youths returned when the system was temporarily switched off to allow for additional tracks to be uploaded.

PC Dominic McGrath, who masterminded the scheme, said: "We've been surprised by the effect the music has had on young people.

"Since the scheme went live, fewer young people are gathering on the ramp and we've seen a dip in the number of people who are asking us to move them on. Clearly, they don't like our choice of tunes."

The music is broadcast between 9:00 and 21:30 GMT on weekdays, and from 12:00 to 21:30 at weekends.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-16307364>

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Goobye, Chook

(Friday Church News Notes, January 6, 2012, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

Chook, the Adelaide Zoo's acclaimed lyrebird, has died. In the new book [Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes](#), we wrote the following: "Some birds can even recreate other non-bird sounds in nature and man-made noises. Starlings in the Shetland Islands can mimic sheep. The Australian lyrebird, the king of feathered mimics, can imitate such things as the whirring of a camera's motor drive and shutter, car engines and alarms, rifle-shots, explosions, a baby's cry, a dog's bark, and the screech of a chainsaw. There is a sound clip online of Chook, a lyrebird at the Adelaide Zoo, imitating construction equipment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeQjkQpeJwY>).

See also http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Superb_Lyrebird.

These amazing feats require not only a wonderfully-designed voice box but also marvelous intelligence, not only to control the voice apparatus but also to identify and recall sounds."

A pastor friend likened Chook to a preacher who merely repeats what his "crowd" believes. The Chook-preacher can imitate with amazing accuracy the position of the good old boy's network, but he doesn't think for himself with the Bible truly as his sole authority and Christ truly as his only Lord. I guess this isn't fair to Chook, though, since he was only a bird and had no wisdom to interpret the meaning of the sounds he reproduced. No preacher has such an excuse.

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The Preachers' Clearing House -

If you are looking for good sermon materials, we will occasionally place email addresses and weblinks preachers can use to obtain good materials for sermons. Evangelist Warren Roy (USA) is offering to send to anyone who is interested the materials he has accumulated in his notebooks. If you'd like to be on his mailing list, you can contact him at evangelistwmr2@yahoo.com

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Looking at Scientific Subjects With Both Eyes Open -

Dr Harry Rimmer, D.D., Sc.D., tells of personally meeting a sailor who fell overboard from a trawler in the English Channel and was swallowed by a gigantic *Rhincodon* whale shark. The entire trawler fleet set out to hunt the shark down and, 48 hours after the accident, the shark was sighted and slain with a one-pound deck gun. The carcass was too heavy for the ship's winches to handle, so the crew towed it to shore, intending to give their friend a Christian burial. When the shark was opened, the man was found unconscious but alive. He was rushed to hospital, where he was found to be suffering from shock alone, and was later discharged. He was on exhibit in a London museum at a shilling admission, and was advertised as 'The Jonah of the Twentieth Century'.

Harry Rimmer, The Harmony of Science and Scripture, Eerdman's, Grand Rapids, 1952, pp. 188–189.

14,000 abandoned wind turbines



November 19, 2011 by *Don Surber*

Minnesotans for Global Warming report that in the last 30 years, the United States has had 14,000 wind turbines abandoned.

Andrew Walden of American Thinker explored nearly 2 years ago [the demise of the 37-turbine wind farm at Kamaoa Wind Farm in Hawaii](#): "Built in 1985, at the end of the boom, Kamaoa soon suffered from lack of maintenance. In 1994, the site lease was purchased by Redwood City, CA-based Apollo Energy. Cannibalizing parts from the original 37

turbines, Apollo personnel kept the declining facility going with outdated equipment. But even in a place where wind-shaped trees grow sideways, maintenance issues were overwhelming. By 2004 Kamaoa accounts began to show up on a Hawaii State Department of Finance list of unclaimed properties. In 2006, transmission was finally cut off by Hawaii Electric Company. California's wind farms — then comprising about 80% of the world's wind generation capacity — ceased to generate much more quickly than Kamaoa. In the best wind spots on earth, over 14,000 turbines were simply abandoned. Spinning, post-industrial junk which generates nothing but bird kills."

<http://blogs.dailymail.com/donsurber/archives/46519>



Nobel Physicist Slams Global Warming Claims

Friday, 16 Sep 2011 01:48 PM

By Marc Morano

Nobel Prize winner for physics in 1973 Dr. Ivar Giaever resigned as a Fellow from the American Physical Society (APS) on Sept. 13 in disgust over the group's promotion of man-made global warming fears. Climate Depot has obtained the exclusive email Giaever sent to APS Executive Officer Kate Kirby to announce his formal resignation.

Dr. Giaever wrote to Kirby of APS: "Thank you for your letter inquiring about my membership. I did not renew

it because I cannot live with the (APS) statement below (on global warming):

"APS: 'The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring. If no mitigating actions are taken, significant disruptions in the Earth's physical and ecological systems, social systems, security, and human health are likely to occur. We must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases beginning now.'"

Giaever announced his resignation from APS was due to the group's belief in man-made global warming fears.

<http://www.newsmax.com/MarcMorano/Nobel-physicist-Global-Warming/2011/09/16/id/411303>

Chevy Volt Costing Taxpayers Up to \$250K Per Vehicle

Analyst: 'This might be the most government-supported car since the Trabant'

Each Chevy Volt sold thus far may have as much as \$250,000 in state and federal dollars in incentives behind it – a total of \$3 billion altogether, according to an analysis by James Hohman, assistant director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.



Hohman looked at total state and federal assistance offered for the development and production of the Chevy Volt, General Motors' plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. His analysis included 18 government deals that included loans, rebates, grants and tax credits. The amount of government assistance does not include the fact that General Motors is currently 26 percent owned by the federal government.

<http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/16192>

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Eddy-Torial -

Why Pastors Fellowships Become Ecumenical -

He was very young, and pastoring his second church when he discovered that the fellowship was drifting badly. No, that is incorrect. It had been drifting for years.

A friend came to him with a list of pastors who were no longer sound in doctrine. The question was, what should he do about it? Should he remain silent? Should he quietly withdraw? If he remained silent, he knew he would be swept away by their compromises. He could not simply disappear, his profile was already too high. He had one other option. He would approach the leaders of the fellowship and appeal to them to set forth a statement of sound doctrines that would draw a line in the sand.

To his surprise, when he met with the older pastors they did not heed his alarms. They scoffed and shook their heads. "Heresy? In our fellowship? Where is your proof? Bring us their names!" And when he asked his friend for the list, the answer was NO. So he withdrew. And he told why. And he was ridiculed. And it shortened his life.

The whole story is written down in the magazine he published. The magazine? The Sword and Trowel. Just look for [The Downgrade Controversy](#). Or read the book by that title. Oh, and his name was Charles Spurgeon.



We ought to learn a lesson from his experience, but I remember somebody saying, "The only lesson men learn from history is that men don't learn lessons from history." Too true.

If we could learn a lesson what would it be? Very simple. Pastors fellowships become ecumenical. All of them. Sooner or later they all become ecumenical.

How does it happen? Let us try to trace the steps.

1. Pastors of churches do not often find the comfort, the encouragement, the depth they need in their own congregations.
2. They come to realise that the only people who really understand what they suffer in their charges are other pastors.
3. And after a time they find a friend or two, men whose hearts beat as theirs, and they are helped.

(So far, so good.)
4. The pleasure of being with their helpful brethren becomes a secret addiction. A little is good. A lot is better. Frequent doses are best.
5. Other pastors hear and the news spreads; the more coals, the more warmth.

6. The gathering of pastors begins to acquire a life of its own. A certain inertia develops. Momentum grows an agenda that tends to conform to its culture.

(Uh-Oh! The older pastors, the founding fathers, lie awake at night, staring into the darkness in fear of what they see growing, no longer serving its original purposes.)

7. A new generation of pastors begins to take up the reins of leadership, and their vision is divergent, conceived "outside the box."
8. The original purposes for fellowshiping become dim, and are replaced by the spirit of the age.
9. The original narrowness of the founders is held in disdain, a new broadness is in vogue.
10. Until the doors are thrown wide open, and every viewpoint is welcomed. Every viewpoint except that of the founders of the fellowship.

(And the older pastors, if any have survived to this point, are quietly ushered out the door. One by one, they pass on to their reward, remembering the friends God gave them originally to encourage and to comfort.)

There is a strange phenomenon to be found among old preachers. It has to do with their sight. As these ocular orbs grow dim, often the eyes of the soul see more and more clearly. It may be that the nearer they get to Heaven, the more light they have. I'm not sure. I only know that I see that all pastors' fellowships become ecumenical.

In Australia, forty years ago, pastors gathered together to comfort, encourage and deepen one another's walk with the Lord. The gatherings became addictive and grew and acquired a life of their own. The spirit of the age imparted an inertia, a momentum of pragmatism. No longer did the fellowship confront its culture. Instead, the new leaders gave it a new watchword. Conform. Conform to win them. The gates were opened wider and wider. Anyone and everyone was welcomed in. Textual critics, Hillsong music and theology, Augustine and all his deformed offspring, Ruckman and Co., Riplinger and all her husbands (!), Mighty Men (?), Purpose Drivelled pastors, Schaap and his books, and Sexton's IBFI. All are welcome!

Pastor Charles Keen recently wrote, "We need to develop some 'ecumenicalism within the parameters of fundamentalism.' He was only verbalising what had been going on in pastors fellowships for years."

I have observed the same trend in the Baptist Union, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Bible Fellowship, The World Baptist Fellowship, The Fundamental Baptist Fellowship, The General Association of Regular Baptists, Southwide, the IBFI, and the IBFA here in Australia. The National Baptist Fellowship (Australia) is moving in the same direction.

All pastors fellowships become ecumenical as they drift away from their founding principles.

Is there a solution to this problem?

Of course, there is. But only if we believe in the sufficiency of Scripture. If not, then there is no solution.

If we believe in the sufficiency of Scripture, then we remember that there is no basis for any organisation apart from local churches.

Pastors fellowships are actually parachurch organisations, and parachurch organisations have no basis in Scripture.

So suppose a pastor desires to fellowship with sound men. Does he need to set up a pastors fellowship that is doomed to become ecumenical? Not at all. Let him leave off the NBF name, or any other denominational tag, for that matter. Let him invite sound men to a Bible conference at his church, and let him choose the theme, and select very carefully the speakers who will leave off all the cute innovations and hobby horses, and just preach the Word. Let him forget all about size and image and reputation (and webpages), and just focus on comforting and encouraging and deepening those who are hungry for that sort of fellowship. And if somebody wants to promote some other kind of conference besides a simple Bible conference, neither you nor I need feel any obligation to support it.

Traditions are hard to exterminate. More lives than a cat! Ecumenical pastors conferences ought to be identified and exterminated.

Even if the list of names has to be published at last.

Bro. Buddy Smith

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