



“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 23, 2011

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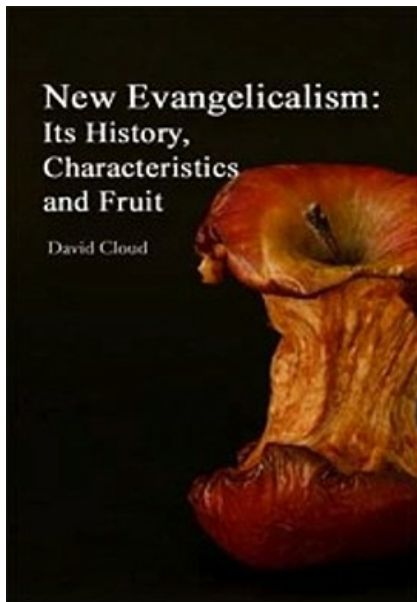
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The Insufficiency And Error Of The Fundamentalist Movement

by David Cloud

Let me emphasize my own conviction that old-line evangelicalism and fundamentalism at their best were biblically deficient. I am a fundamentalist insofar as I believe in biblical dogmatism and militancy for the truth and separation from error, but I am more than a fundamentalist. The goal of my Christian life and ministry is not to be a good fundamentalist (or even to be a good Baptist). My goal is to be faithful to Christ and His Word in all particulars. Following are two weaknesses in fundamentalism as a movement:

The first weakness is the transdenominational character that has characterized fundamentalism. I do not accept the philosophy that limits the basis of fellowship to a narrow list of “cardinal” doctrines,

such as the infallibility of Scripture and the deity of Christ. While the Bible does indicate that some doctrines are more important than others (e.g., Matthew 23:23), all teaching of the Bible is important and is to be taken seriously. Timothy was instructed not to allow any other doctrine than that which Paul had delivered to him (1 Tim. 1:3; 6:13, 20; 2 Tim. 2:2). Paul was concerned with the “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). This position on doctrine does not allow me to overlook denominational differences such as the mode of baptism, the manner of the Lord’s Supper, eternal security, the woman’s role in the ministry,

or the interpretation of prophecy. I can accept as true Christians those who differ with me on such things, because these are not issues of “damnable heresy” (2 Pet. 2:1), but I cannot have joint ministry with them, because I do not believe the Bible allows it.

The second error of historic fundamentalism is the “universal church” mentality. It is common among fundamentalists to view “the church” as composed of all professing Christians in all denominations. To call all of the denominations the “church” naturally produces an ecumenical mentality and makes the purifying of the churches impossible. Harold J. Ockenga used the many divisions of evangelicalism and fundamentalism as an excuse for the non-separatist mentality and warned about the “shibboleth of having a pure church” (Ockenga, “From Fundamentalism, Through New Evangelicalism, to Evangelicalism,” *Evangelical Roots*, edited by Kenneth Kantzer, p. 42). This is dangerous and unscriptural thinking. God’s Word does call for a pure church, but it is not a universal church that we are to purify; it is the New Testament assembly (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). To attempt to purify a universal church is something the New Testament never envisions or requires. God has given His people clear instruction about discipline of sin and heresy, and those instructions are in the context of the assembly (i.e., 1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3). Regardless of what one believes about the New Testament definition of the church, it is a fact that in any sort of practical sense biblical church truth can be applied properly only to the assembly.

Excerpted from Bro. Cloud's book *New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit*, first published in 1995.

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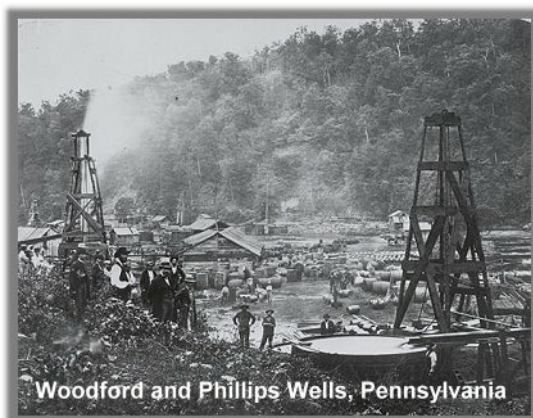
Sustainable oil?

By Chris Bennett

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(Many years ago a chemistry professor told me about "a-biotic oil", and that there is some evidence that oil is a renewable resource. From time to time I've come across an article that mentioned it, but very seldom. Greenies and left leaning politicians do not want us to know about the enormous reserves of oil that are being replenished from deep down in the earth's core. I encourage the readers of Heads Up to research this subject for yourselves. - Ed)

About 80 miles off of the coast of Louisiana lies a mostly submerged mountain, the top of which is known as Eugene Island. The portion underwater is an eerie-looking, sloping tower jutting up from the depths of the Gulf of Mexico, with deep fissures and perpendicular faults which spontaneously spew natural gas. A significant reservoir of crude oil was discovered nearby in the late '60s, and by 1970, a platform named Eugene 330 was busily producing about 15,000 barrels a day of high-quality crude oil.



By the late '80s, the platform's production had slipped to less than 4,000 barrels per day, and was considered pumped out. Done. Suddenly, in 1990, production soared back to 15,000 barrels a day, and the reserves which had been estimated at 60 million barrels in the '70s, were recalculated at 400 million

barrels. Interestingly, the measured geological age of the new oil was quantifiably different than the oil pumped in the '70s.

Analysis of seismic recordings revealed the presence of a "deep fault" at the base of the Eugene Island reservoir which was gushing up a river of oil from some deeper and previously unknown source.

Similar results were seen at other Gulf of Mexico oil wells. Similar results were found in the Cook Inlet oil fields in Alaska. Similar results were found in oil fields in Uzbekistan. Similarly in the Middle East, where oil exploration and extraction have been under way for at least the last 20 years, known reserves have doubled. Currently there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 680 billion barrels of Middle East reserve oil.

Creating that much oil would take a big pile of dead dinosaurs and fermenting prehistoric plants. Could there be another source for crude oil?

An intriguing theory now permeating oil company research staffs suggests that crude oil may actually be a natural inorganic product, not a stepchild of unfathomable time and organic degradation. The theory suggests there may be huge, yet-to-be-discovered reserves of oil at depths that dwarf current world estimates.

The theory is simple: Crude oil forms as a natural inorganic process which occurs between the mantle and the crust, somewhere between 5 and 20 miles deep. The proposed mechanism is as follows:

- Methane (CH₄) is a common molecule found in quantity throughout our solar system – huge concentrations exist at great depth in the Earth.
- At the mantle-crust interface, roughly 20,000 feet beneath the surface, rapidly rising streams of compressed methane-based gasses hit pockets of high temperature causing the condensation of heavier hydrocarbons. The product of this condensation is commonly known as crude oil.
- Some compressed methane-based gasses migrate into pockets and reservoirs we extract as "natural gas."
- In the geologically "cooler," more tectonically stable regions around the globe, the crude oil pools into reservoirs.
- In the "hotter," more volcanic and tectonically active areas, the oil and natural gas continue to condense and eventually to oxidize, producing carbon dioxide and steam, which exits from active volcanoes.
- Periodically, depending on variations of geology and Earth movement, oil seeps to the surface in quantity, creating the vast oil-sand deposits of Canada and Venezuela, or the continual seeps found beneath the Gulf of Mexico and Uzbekistan.
- Periodically, depending on variations of geology, the vast, deep pools of oil break free and replenish existing known reserves of oil.

There are a number of observations across the oil-producing regions of the globe that support this theory, and the list of proponents begins with Mendeleev (who created the periodic table of elements) and includes Dr. Thomas Gold (founding director of Cornell University Center for Radiophysics and Space Research) and Dr. J.F. Kenney of Gas Resources Corporations, Houston, Texas.

In his 1999 book, "The Deep Hot Biosphere," Dr. Gold presents compelling evidence for inorganic oil formation. He notes that geologic structures where oil is found all correspond to "deep earth" formations, not the haphazard depositions we find with sedimentary rock, associated fossils or even current surface life.

He also notes that oil extracted from varying depths from the same oil field have the same chemistry – oil chemistry does not vary as fossils vary with increasing depth. Also interesting is the fact that oil is found in huge quantities among geographic formations where assays of prehistoric life are not sufficient to produce the existing reservoirs of oil. Where then did it come from?

Another interesting fact is that every oil field throughout the world has outgassing helium. Helium is so often present in oil fields that helium detectors are used as oil-prospecting tools. Helium is an inert gas known to be a fundamental product of the radiological decay of uranium and thorium, identified in quantity at great depths below the surface of the earth, 200 and more miles below. It is not found in meaningful quantities in areas that are not producing methane, oil or natural gas. It is not a member of the dozen or so common elements associated with life. It is found throughout the solar system as a thoroughly inorganic product.

Even more intriguing is evidence that several oil reservoirs around the globe are refilling themselves, such as the Eugene Island reservoir – not from the sides, as would be expected from cocurrent organic reservoirs, but from the bottom up.

Dr. Gold strongly believes that oil is a "renewable, primordial soup continually manufactured by the Earth under ultrahot conditions and tremendous pressures. As this substance migrates toward the surface, it is attached by bacteria, making it appear to have an organic origin dating back to the dinosaurs."

Smaller oil companies and innovative teams are using this theory to justify deep oil drilling in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico, among other locations, with some success. Dr. Kenney is on record predicting that parts of Siberia contain a deep reservoir of oil equal to or exceeding that already discovered in the Middle East.

Could this be true?

In August 2002, in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (US)," Dr. Kenney published a paper, which had a partial title of "The genesis of hydrocarbons and the origin of petroleum." Dr. Kenney and three Russian coauthors conclude:

The Hydrogen-Carbon system does not spontaneously evolve hydrocarbons at pressures less than 30 Kbar, even in the most favorable environment. The H-C system evolves hydrocarbons under pressures found in the mantle of the Earth and at temperatures consistent with that environment.

He was quoted as stating that "competent physicists, chemists, chemical engineers and men knowledgeable of thermodynamics have known that natural petroleum does not evolve from biological materials since the last quarter of the 19th century."

Deeply entrenched in our culture is the belief that at some point in the relatively near future we will see the last working pump on the last functioning oil well screech and rattle, and that will be that. The end of the Age of Oil. And unless we find another source of cheap energy, the world will rapidly become a much darker and dangerous place.

If Dr. Gold and Dr. Kenney are correct, this "the end of the world as we know it" scenario simply won't happen. Think about it ... while not inexhaustible, deep Earth reserves of inorganic crude oil and

commercially feasible extraction would provide the world with generations of low-cost fuel. Dr. Gold has been quoted saying that current worldwide reserves of crude oil could be off by a factor of over 100.

A Hedberg Conference, sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, was scheduled to discuss and publicly debate this issue. Papers were solicited from interested academics and professionals. The conference was scheduled to begin June 9, 2003, but was canceled at the last minute. A new date has yet to be set.

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A Defender of the King James Bible

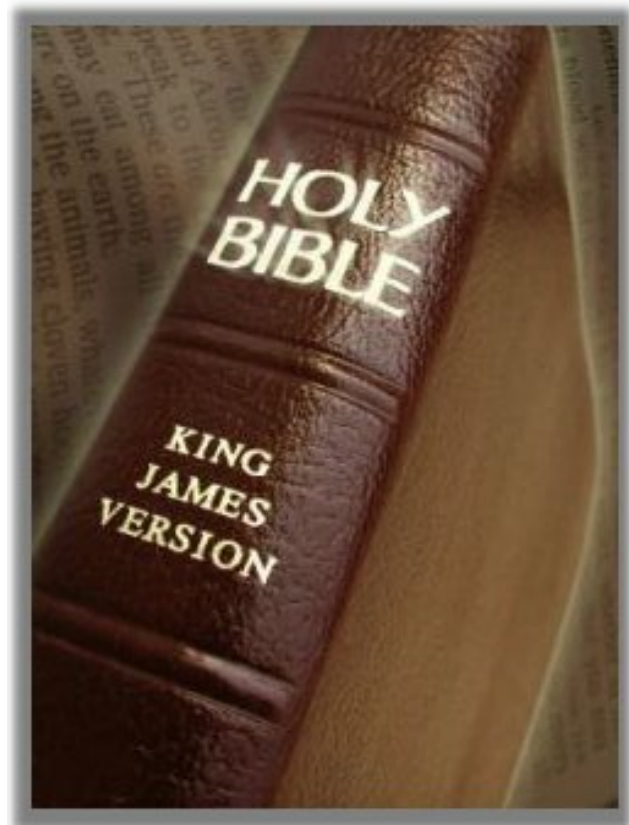
William Aberhart

Consider the following excerpt from Aberhart's booklet:

“How quickly Satan can get people to bow down to scholarship or the heroic in mankind. Let us be warned. ... Are we blind to the force of a statement such as this: ‘You have many different Bibles and no two are alike’? Can you estimate the effect upon the rising generation to have nothing settled? Will our children not soon begin to think that Holy Scripture is a nose of wax to be twisted hither and thither? No wonder the Roman Catholics smile as they say, ‘Where does the infallibility of your Bible come in?’ What a fog! Would to God I could use a dispeller that would roll back this fog in every direction, for I believe God has spoken. Psalm 11:3 - ‘f the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?’ ...

“I can still believe the Lord Jesus Christ, when he said: ‘For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled’ (Matt. 5:18). ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away’ (Matt. 24:35). **If these words mean anything, they inform us that the Lord Jesus intended to see to it that the Bible, His Word, would be preserved for us in a perfect, infallible state.**

“No one questions the need of Bible revision. It is an obvious fact, that, as centuries pass by, the spoken language will become different from the printed page. We are constantly changing the import of various words that we use. For example, take the word ‘let.’ In 1611, when the Authorized Bible was published, this word meant ‘hindered,’ the very opposite of its meaning today. ... But when the revisers take the ground that more reliable manuscripts and better translations have been discovered, I claim this is too uncertain and vague to carry conviction and it makes one become a living interrogation point. ...



“No, Modernists, serious-minded people who recognize the latest Modern Drift will need to be shown more convincingly before they will hand over the Bible of our forefathers. ... HERE AND THERE AND EVERYWHERE MEN ARE RISING UP ABOVE THE SCRIPTURES TO CORRECT THEM. THE TABLES ARE BEING TURNED TODAY. INSTEAD OF THE BIBLE CORRECTING MEN AND MEN’S OPINIONS, SOME ARE CORRECTING THE BIBLE. ... Personally, I am willing to accept Christ’s declaration at its face value. ‘Verily, I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled’ (Matt. 5:18).

“Why then should we be attracted by the error and nonsense which everywhere plead for a hearing because they are new? **To suppose that theology can be new is to imagine that the Lord Himself is of yesterday. To propose that we need a new Bible is to declare that God has not spoken. A doctrine that declares itself new must of necessity be false. Falsehood has no beard, but Truth is hoary with age immeasurable.** Pity should be our feeling toward those young preachers who cry, ‘See my new theology! See my latest Revision!’ in just the same spirit as little Mary says, ‘See my pretty new frock!’

“The time has not yet come when all things have been fulfilled. The heavens and the earth have not yet passed away. Therefore not one jot nor one tittle has passed. **The Authorized version is reliable. I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice”** (William Aberhart, *The Latest of Modern Movements*, 1925).

http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/9b9795260a482fe9e51aaa212c92d39a-918.html

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Links In the Media Chain

- Have You Ever Heard a Glass Harp? - Beautiful! - <http://wimp.com/glassharp/>
- Can We Keep Him? - <http://www.couriermail.com.au/entertainment/weird/seal-wonders-into-annette-swoffers-home-falls-asleep-on-couch/story-e6frep26-1226221406603>
- Want to Know Who is In Charge In Libya? - <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/11/10/meet-libya%e2%80%99s-new-islamist-boss/>

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Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

BETHLEHEM AND CALVARY

*If you haven't been to Calvary, how can you ever know
The significance of Bethlehem and the babe in the manger low?
How can you keep His birthday? How can you be a part
Of the deeper truths and meaning if He isn't in your heart?*

*If you haven't been to Calvary, if it doesn't mean a thing,
How can you sing the carols that greet the new born King?
How can you give and receive a gift, as friends and loved ones call,
If you haven't yet accepted the greatest gift of all?*

*If you haven't been to Calvary then the story of Christmas time,
The Shepherds, the angel, the stable, is all just meaningless rhyme.
And the manger cradled baby, Christ Jesus meek and mild,
If you don't own Him as Saviour, then He's just another child.*

*If you haven't been to Calvary, why not arise and go
To meet the Christ the Saviour at Bethlehem's stable low?
Go as the shepherds in humble awe, go as wise men and see,
Go bow at the feet of Christ, who was born and died for thee!*

Author Unknown



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Glorious, Glorious Providence!

(Bro. Jerry Wilhite and his family are serving in South Africa as missionaries. Recently, his wife Deborah was diagnosed with serious eye problems that required surgery in the USA. Bro. Wilhite describes the goodness of God in the following word of testimony. - Ed)

Dear Brethren,

So far this week has been a blur. Wonderful and timely is our Lord! He used our daughter to find a ticket at a good price into just the right airport at just the right time with three seats left on the plane enabling Deborah and I to be together for her surgery yesterday (Wed). A ticket was procured late Monday, we boarded a plane Tuesday and arrived literally two minutes after they took my wife back to prep her for surgery. I dashed into the waiting room after a 30 hour journey, asked for my wife, and then surprised her by going back into the pre-op room. Gratefully for us, the person immediately preceding her required more attention thus giving us about an hour together before she was taken back for the cataract surgery.

The ophthalmologist cut a 2mm incision in her eye, then shattered her God-given lens and replaced it with a flexible, man-made product that unfolded into position relieving the pressure. Apparently the lens had become thicker preventing the eye from draining properly and thus had to be removed. Today at her first post-op visit there was rejoicing in the exam room as the doctor had to attribute her condition today as nothing short of miraculous. When he first saw her a bit over two weeks ago her vision in the right eye was 20/400; I believe today it was 20/30 or 20/40. The pressure was down to 11 and recovery is looking good. She is to have visits weekly for the next 4-6 weeks. If she responds well in the next week or so, the doctor may then go ahead and do the left eye which eventually needs to be done.

As for payment? Well, we do have medical coverage with a sharing group, but it is of such a nature that we first have to pay the bills and then wait for reimbursement IF there is money from the group to pay, and then it may take awhile to recoup the amount. Well, as the Lord would time it, we stopped back by our home church to pick up the mail, and in the mail was a check from the IRS the likes of which I have NEVER received. With my family size and deductions I have not had to pay federal taxes in many, many years, but neither have I received any refund...until this year. For some reason the IRS this year decided that I had made a mistake, recalculated my return, and sent me a check in excess of \$5000! Why this year? Why this week? Why when the money was needed for airfare and medical expenses? Because there is a God in heaven who knows ALL about us. The medical for my wife, the timing of our trip and the provision to pay for it just HAD to be of God.

Praising the Lord,

Bro Wilhite

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Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.

Paul Brand - Medical Missionary to Lepers

Paul Brand was born in 1914, the son of Strict and Particular Baptist missionaries to the hill people not far from Madras, India. An excellent biography of Dr. Brand has been written by Dorothy Clarke Wilson, and is called **Ten Fingers for God**. Her book sketches out the framework of Dr. Brand's life, but if you would allow him to test the hardness of your heart, you must read the books he has written. There are four titles which bear his name, **In His Image**, **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**, **The Forever Feast**, and **Pain, The Gift Nobody Wants**. He has written other books, medical books dealing with his research into surgery on the human hand, but the ones we want are the ones listed above.

Paul Brand had no intention of becoming a medical missionary. When the time came for him to choose a career, he decided to follow the footsteps of his grandfather and become a builder. And so he did, but God was at work. Space will not permit us to explore all the paths down which the Lord led young Paul, but December, 1946 found him in India, a medical missionary. Man proposes, but God disposes. Every Christian who desires to do the will of God should read the story of Paul Brand.

It is not possible to tell the story of Paul Brand without introducing the hearer to Dr. Robert Cochrane. He is the man who persuaded (bullied?) Brand into coming to India to help keep the hospital in Vellore from folding up, he is the man who invited Paul to the leprosarium at Chingleput, and, when Paul inquired why the lepers' hands were so terribly damaged by leprosy, he was the man who said, quite simply, "Sorry, Paul. I can't tell you. I don't know."

Dr. Brand replied, "Don't know! Here you've been a leprosy specialist all these years, and yet you say you – you don't know! Surely something can be done for these hands!" Paul kept firing questions at the older doctor, "Why do fingers and toes of leprosy patients wear off? Is paralysis in the disease haphazard, or does there seem to be a pattern? Is there a possibility that surgery might be effective in making a claw hand useable, and if so why has it never been attempted?"

"You tell me!" Dr. Cochrane challenged.

And that was exactly what Paul Brand decided to do.

It is just such a challenge that determines the course of a man's life. Paul Brand was never the same after that visit to Chingleput. His interest in the lepers of India motivated Dr. Brand to spend the rest of his life studying lepers, even to the extent of dissecting the bodies of those who died of leprosy. His discoveries in the last half of the twentieth century have absolutely revolutionised our understanding of leprosy. The benefits to lepers are beyond description. Dr. Brand's innovative surgical attachment of healthy tendons to crippled hands, his transplanting of patches of scalp to leprosy eyebrows, his invention of shoes for lepers that would solve the problem of pressure sores on deadened feet, all these are expressions of a Christian's compassionate heart. You cannot read Paul Brand's books without having the hardness of your own heart tested.

Dr. Brand's love for lepers is the scarlet cord that binds all his books together. Two of his books, **In His Image**, and **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made** are most unusual in that the anatomy of the human body is used to teach many delightful spiritual truths. Along the way he shares helpful insights into the nature of leprosy (No preacher will ever feel he has preached accurately on the subject of leprosy until he has read Brand's books.) He opens the doors of our minds so that we westerners get a glimpse of what Indian culture is all about, and he shows us what a compassionate Christian can do for his world.

I must mention his other books. **Pain, the Gift Nobody Wants** completely revolutionised my attitude to physical suffering. He aptly points out the softness of western society and our aversion to discomfort. You will never read about Paul's thorn in the flesh (II Cor. 12:7) the same way again.

The Forever Feast marks a departure from Dr. Brand's focus on the human body. This book's theme is on food and hunger and the spiritual truths we can learn from them. My favourite portion of the book comes at the end of chapter 5, and has nothing to do with food at all. Here is a quote, "Near the Hoh river there is a row of trees that looks as if they were planted by a landscape gardener – they are in a straight line. Every one of those giant trees seems to be standing astride, with its legs apart. Each trunk is single, but only from maybe seven feet above ground. At that point it is supported by two huge root systems, like legs, that spread apart, leaving a tunnel between them. If one looks through the tunnel in the first tree, you can see the other tunnels in the other trees because they are in a straight line. That clue explains it all.

A hundred years ago or more a giant tree fell in the forest. It lay...decaying for many years. Seeds from other trees fell into cracks in its bark and rooted there, using the dead tree as rich soil. It became a "nursery" log for the new trees. As they grew, they needed support for their great size so they sent out roots around the old trunk to reach the ground on either side. Those roots became the whole support of the young trees, while the old tree disintegrated and finally disappeared.

I look through the space where the old tree once lay and think of the lessons it teaches. My active life is mostly behind me. Soon I will no longer occupy space. But I pray that my life and the principles that God has helped me to live by will continue to influence young lives. When we die we do not only leave seed, we also leave... soil in which future children grow."

Read Paul Brand. He will do you good.

Buddy Smith

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Blinded Minds -

The Vatican's Pact With Islam

Benedict XVI has made himself *a central player* in the post-9/11 era

Giulio Meotti Ynetnews Published:03 October 2011

It has been five years since he gave his controversial lectio about Islam at the German University of Regensburg.

On September 12th, 2006, Joseph Ratzinger claimed that the god of the Muslims is both *transcendental* and *unreasonable* and he severely condemned jihad and the use of violence in the name of Koran. ***It was the only public event in which a Pope told the truth about some aspects of the Islamic religion.***

Benedict XVI made himself *a central player* in the post-9/11 era: His speech against the link between religion and violence, typical of Islam today, ***was not a mistake or a false step***, as some observers wrote at that time. It was, rather, ***a vigorous attack against certain aspects of Islamic fanaticism.***

The reaction to the Pope's speech was a familiar spectacle: Threats, riots, and violence. From the religious leaders in Muslim majority countries to the *New York Times*, all demanded the Pope's apologies.

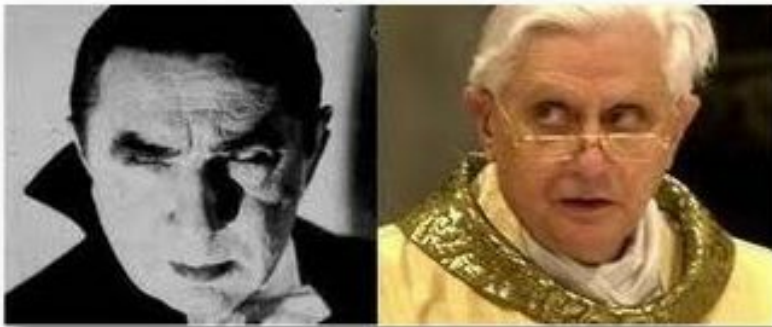
In the Palestinian areas, churches were attacked and Christians targeted. In the Somali capital, Mogadishu, an Italian nun was executed. In Iraq, Amer Iskander, a Syrian Orthodox priest, **was beheaded and his arms mutilated**.

In Islamic forums, **Ratzinger was depicted like Dracula**. He received many death threats: "**Slaughter him**", "**pig servant of the cross**", "**odious evil**", "**Allah curse him**", "**vampire who sucks blood**" and so on.

The highest Islamic representative in Turkey, Ali Bardakoglu, declared that Ratzinger's speech was "**full of enmity and hatred**." The Egyptian **Muslim Brotherhood** pledged "**reactions worse than those against the Danish cartoons**".

In Islamic forums, Ratzinger was depicted like Dracula

Iran's Supreme Ayatollah, Ali Khamenei, accused the Pope of being part of "**the conspiracy of the Crusaders**." Under pressure, and aiming to stop any further violence, **the Pope apologised**.



Benedict XVI recently visited again his native Germany, but this time with a **different agenda**.

Five years later, **the Vatican adopted a pro-Islam course and has capitulated to fundamentalists**.

In a recent book written by German journalist Peter Sewald, Pope Ratzinger expressed "**regrets**" about

the Regensburg lecture. The Vatican's Secretary of State, Tarcisio Bertone, **buried the Pope's lesson about Islam as "an archaeological relic."**

"The default positions vis-à-vis militant Islam are now unhappily reminiscent of Vatican diplomacy's default positions vis-à-vis communism during the last 25 years of the Cold War," writes George Weigel, a leading US writer about the Vatican.

The Vatican's **new agenda** seeks "**to reach political accommodations with Islamic states and forswear forceful public condemnation of Islamist and jihadist ideology.**"

Appeasement Agenda

In June, the Vatican sent Archbishop Edmond Farhat, who is the official representative of Vatican politics, to Tehran to attend an "international conference on the global campaign against terrorism."

After Regensburg, **the Vatican adopted an appeasement agenda**. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who is known for having **a pro-Islamic position**, was appointed by the Pope as the **head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue**.

Indeed, **Dialogue with Iran's mullahs is pivotal in the new Vatican agenda**. Recently, a delegation of clergy members of Iran's **Islamic Consultative Assembly visited the Vatican**, meeting with **top Catholic officials**.

In June, the Vatican sent Archbishop Edmond Farhat, who is the **official representative of Vatican politics**, to Tehran to attend an **“international conference on the global campaign against terrorism.”**

Last autumn, Vatican representatives met with Muslim leaders from around the world in Tehran for **“a three-day interreligious dialogue.”** In Tehran **Cardinal Tauran praised** Iran’s **“spirit of cordiality”** and **“the friendly Ahmadinejad.”**

Last month, the Vatican published a letter written by Tauran, addressing his **“Dear Muslim friends.”** In the letter, **Tauran asked for Islamic help to form an alliance against atheism.**

In 2008, the Vatican promoted **“Love of God, Love of Neighbour,” the first three-day forum with Islamic leaders.**

The Pope agreed to meet one the most dangerous Islamist in the Western world, the grandson of **Muslim Brotherhood** founder Hassan al-Banna, Tariq Ramadan - the Swiss scholar **who denies Israel’s right to life** and who has been **banned from entering the US because of his alleged association with extremists.**

Benedictus meets Saudi King Abdullah

Last May, Bishop Mariano Crociata, secretary general of the Italian Episcopal Conference, announced that **the Vatican is in favour of building new mosques in Europe.**

A month later the European Bishops met with European Muslims in Turin (Cardinal Tauran was also present) to proclaim the need for the **“progressive enculturation of Islam in Europe.”**

In Rimini, a seaside resort on the Adriatic coast, the Comunione e Liberazione movement, **one of the most powerful in the Catholic Church**, holds its massive annual **“meeting”** that **usually draws some 700,000 people.**

The Catholic movement last month hosted the president of Al Azhar, **the most important Islamic university in Cairo**, and **a senior leader of the Muslim Brotherhood**, despite the fact that for the first time the **US Commission on Religious Freedom** recommended that **Egypt be placed on a list of the “worst of the worst” countries for persecution of Christians.**

Targeting Israel

In January 2009, thousands of Muslims marched in front of Milan’s Duomo to protest against Operation Cast Lead in Gaza. They burned Israeli flags and chanted anti-Jewish slogans

The State of Israel is easily expendable in the new pro-Islam policy.

In January 2009, thousands of Muslims marched in front of Milan’s Duomo to protest against Operation Cast Lead in Gaza. **They burned Israeli flags and chanted anti-Jewish slogans.** Joaquin Navarro-Valls, **John Paul II’s spokesman for 22 years**, defended the **“freedom of expression”** of the **Muslims who burned the Star of David.**

Months later, Pope Benedict visited Bethlehem, where the Christian population has dropped from a majority to less than 20%. Benedict delivered a message of solidarity to the 1.4 million Palestinians isolated in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. **He said nothing of the suffering of Gaza’s 3,000 Christians since Hamas took over that territory in 2007.**

Benedict could have decried the bombings, shootings and other Islamist attacks against Gaza Christian establishments, ***the brutal murder of the only Bible-store owner of Gaza***, or the regular intimidation and persecution of Christians there. ***Instead, the Pope stood beside Mahmoud Abbas as the Palestinian leader deceptively pointed to a concrete separation barrier in Bethlehem and blamed that barrier, as well as Israeli “occupation,” for the plight of Christians.***

The Pope stood beside Mahmoud Abbas as the Palestinian leader deceptively pointed to a concrete separation barrier in Bethlehem and blamed that barrier, as well as Israeli “occupation,” for the plight of Christians.

A few weeks later, the United Nations ran “***Durban II***” and on the first day of the conference, ***Mahmoud Ahmadinejad***, the only head of state to attend, made a speech condemning Israel as “***totally racist***” and referred to the Holocaust as an “***ambiguous and dubious question.***”

When Ahmadinejad began to speak against the Jews, all European Union delegates left the conference room. ***The Vatican delegation didn’t say a word.***

To understand the ***new Vatican’s approach toward Islam***, one should also read what happened in the historical synod on the Middle East ***hosted by the Pope last autumn.***

Nothing was said about Islamist persecution of Christians; indeed, ***every effort was made to show the Roman Catholic Church’s sympathy toward Muslim grievances, especially against “Zionism” – a word evoked as a symbol of evil.*** Aside from Iraq, ***the only country singled out for criticism in the Middle East was Israel.***

Patriarch Antonios Naguib of the Egyptian Coptic church, who was the “***relator,***” or secretary, of the synod, expressed “***solidarity with the Palestinian people, whose situation today is particularly conducive to the rise of fundamentalism.***”

The lesson was simple: ***Islamism is the consequence of Israeli policies.*** The synod was carefully prepared for a year, and ***it produced a rash of radical anti-Jewish statements on both political and theological issues.***

Ethnic Cleansing Silenced

In the summer of 2010, Bishop Luigi Padovese, Vatican vicar for Anatolia and president of the Catholic Episcopal conference of Turkey, was slaughtered by Islamic fanatics in Iskenderun on the eve of the Pope’s trip to Cyprus

The rightful concern of the Vatican for co-religionists ***has also been silenced.*** Intimidation, thuggery and violence ***have succeeded in turning away criticism not only of Islam, but of violence committed in the name of Islam against Christians.***

Over the past several years, Christians have endured bombings, murders, assassinations, torture, imprisonment and expulsions. The very roots of the Christian heritage in the Middle East ***are being extirpated.***

When last winter Christians were killed in Egypt, Cardinal Tauran and the Vatican foreign office requested to “***avoid anger***” and ***downplayed the Islamist role in the butchering.***

In the summer of 2010, Bishop Luigi Padovese, Vatican vicar for Anatolia and president of the Catholic Episcopal conference of Turkey, ***was slaughtered by Islamic fanatics in Iskenderun on the eve of the***

Pope's trip to Cyprus. Vatican **diplomacy** did its part to convince the Pope to **immediately and pre-emptively rule out the idea that this was a "political or religious" murder.**

Elsewhere, the number of Christians in Turkey **declined from two million to 85,000; in Syria, from half the population they have been reduced to 4%; in Jordan, from 18% to 2%;** nearly **two-thirds** of the 500,000 Christians in Baghdad have fled or been killed.

In Lebanon, **Christians have dwindled to a sectarian rump**, menaced by surging Shiite and Sunni populations, and in Saudi Arabia **Christians have been beaten or tortured by religious police.**

It's **an ethnic cleansing of monumental proportions** that **makes it clear why the Vatican's submission to political Islam, along with its religious anti-Israel stance, will be remembered as one of the greatest moral failings of the 21st Century.**

Giulio Meotti, a journalist with *Il Foglio*, is the author of the book *A New Shoah: The Untold Story of Israel's Victims of Terrorism*

Editor; Mike Claydon

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes

- "Conversion is not a repairing of the old building; but it takes it all down, and erects a new structure. It is not the sewing on a patch of holiness; but with the true convert, holiness is woven into all his powers, principles and practice. The sincere Christian is quite a new fabric, from the foundation to the top-stone. He is a new man, a new creature; all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17)." *Joseph Alleine*
- Nobody ever became a Calvinist by reading his Bible. He became a Calvinist by reading a book written by a Calvinist.
- *Matthew Henry* was once robbed of his wallet. Knowing that it was his duty to give thanks in everything, he meditated on this incident and recorded in his diary the following: "Let me be thankful, first, because he never robbed me before; second, because although he took my purse, he did not take my life; third, because although he took all I possessed, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."
- God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves. *D.L. Moody*
- He that is down need fear no fall, he that is low no pride. *John Bunyan*
- When I get to heaven, I shall see three wonders there. The first wonder will be to see many there whom I did not expect to see; the second wonder will be to miss many people who I did expect to see; and the third and greatest of all will be to find myself there. *John Newton*
- Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote. *Benjamin Franklin*

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Angela Merkel and Super Glue



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So What About Infant Baptism?

"Today we talked about why it is sin to cause babies, who cannot at their age and mental capacity, repent and believe in the Lord, to be "baptized", be it by immersion or the popular other forms. The primary baptismal false doctrine we face here is the Roman Catholic version – the belief that water baptism removes original sin and engrafts the child into Christ.

To combat it, I read a bit from a book of rites, approved by the Vatican, called *Infant Baptism* published here in 1995. That book shows how far removed from heart-felt repentance and faith is the rite which purportedly effects the spiritual re-birth of a child. A quote from it:

"Baptism, the door of life and of the Kingdom of God, is the first sacrament of the New Law ..." (p. 10, emphasis added).

I also found this quotation on a local website: **"Baptism gives birth** for a new life in Christ. According to the will of the Lord, **Baptism is essential for salvation**, as is the Church itself, into which Christ leads [people]" (Emphasis added).

There are, of course, other forms of baby baptism, which are also perversions of the Biblical doctrine and also bear terrible fruit. An elderly Lutheran lady, when asked what her hope of eternal life is, told me: "I was baptized into the church and partook of first communion."

Thank the Thrice-holy God that His foundation for our faith is far stronger than that – it is Christ Himself, crucified, buried and risen again. Baptism is such a beautiful picture of new life in Christ that it's a heart-breaking shame to see it so perverted in many places."

(Quoted from a December 2011 prayer letter of a missionary serving in Eastern Europe)

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Deacon True Sez

"One thing I've learned is that some folks grow old without ever growing up!"

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Therapy For The Funny Bone

Travel Plans

I have been to a lot of places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito, either. I hear no one recognizes you there. I mistakenly thought I lived in Nocence, but my mother tells me I was Miss Informed.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips, thanks to my friends and family.

Because of the economy, I can't move to the big city so I just settled down in Capable. We'll have a small Christmas this year and just stay in Ventive.

One of my rich friends is holidaying in Dulgent. We might drive over and have a look in Spect, but may just explore in Ertia instead.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump. At my age, I am doing good just to be able to walk.

A lawyer defending a man accused of burglary tried this creative defense: "My client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offence committed by his limb."

"Well put," the judge replied. "Using your logic, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled. With his lawyer's assistance he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench, and walked out.

In the car on their way home after church, the preacher turned to his wife and said, "I could have gotten a lot more mileage out of that sermon if you hadn't said, 'Humph!'"

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Eddy-Torial -

Last week's issue of Heads Up! addressed the important question, "Whatever happened to virtue?" According to II Peter 1:5, the Lord's disciples are to add virtue to faith. We pointed out that the tendency is for us to add knowledge instead. We seem to have forgotten that "knowledge puffeth up." I Cor. 8:1

So how is it possible then for pastors to turn their own and their flock's affections away from the pursuit of knowledge and toward virtue?

Do you remember the definition of Virtue? It means, "moral life and conduct, moral excellence." It comes from Anglo-French and from Latin "virtute") and means "moral strength, manliness, valor, excellence, worth." It is related to "vir" for "man" (as in "virile".)

Knowing how God works by His Spirit through the preaching of His word, we see that "virtue" is worked in us when our preachers preach old fashioned sermons on right and wrong.

Like what, you say?

- Like sermons on the attributes of God.
- Like sermons on the ten commandments, which reveal the righteousness of God.
- Like sermons on the Beatitudes and the fruit of the Spirit.
- Like sermons on building godly convictions.
- Like sermons on separation to God and from the world.
- Like sermons on holiness.
- Like sermons on what it means to have a good testimony for Christ.
- Like sermons that name sin and proclaim righteousness.
- Like sermons that challenge the hearers to see how wicked Hollywood is.
- Like sermons that call on believers to mortify the flesh.
- And sermons that expose worldliness, superficiality, hypocrisy, and false profession of faith.



("But I won't have any people left if I preach like that! They will all leave!")

So which is better? A large congregation of worldly (and maybe even lost?) church members, or a small congregation of humble redeemed sinners who begin to grow in godliness and virtue!

Especially virtue!

It would do us good to go back and read the book of Ruth every once in a while. Ruth is the only woman identified by the Spirit of God as a "virtuous" woman. No doubt there were many virtuous women then and there still are, but she alone is identified as such in Scripture (Ruth 3:11). God brought into her life a valiant man, Boaz. In Scripture the "valiant man" or the "mighty man of valour" is the equivalent to the "virtuous" woman. So in the marriage of Boaz and Ruth we have the valiant man and the virtuous woman joined together. Three generations later David is born. The obedient son, the sweet psalmist of Israel, the slayer of the giant, the man after God's own heart, the anointed king, the gracious fugitive, the generous benefactor of the temple, the root from which the Messiah sprang, all these are the results of virtue in his ancestors.

Our generation has forgotten two things. We have forgotten that knowledge begets proud sons whom God resists. And we have forgotten that virtue begets giant killers.

Remember that last statement. Give me valiant men and a virtuous women, and in a generation or two, God will give us giant killers.

We need giant killers in the worst way, but we won't get them out of the seminaries. We get them out of churches where there is the old fashioned Bible preaching that genders virtue in the hearers.

We must go back to that kind of preaching, or we perish. It's what the centuries say to the hours!

Bro. Buddy Smith

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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