

# SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVI

January 12, 2020

Number 2

## NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!  
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!  
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!  
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!  
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White  
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

## AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of January 5, 2019

Sunday School ----- 13  
Sunday Morning Service ----- 41  
Sunday Evening Service ----- 17  
Wed. Evening Service, 01/08/20 ----- 9

## AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of January 5, 2020 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 484.91  
**TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/05/20: \$ 484.91**

- Week of December 29, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 646.00  
**TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/29/19: \$ 646.00**

- Week of December 22, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 106.08  
**TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/22/19: \$ 106.08**

- Week of December 15, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 297.13  
Love Offering ----- \$ 25.00  
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 25.00  
**TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/15/19: \$ 347.13**

- Week of December 8, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,022.74  
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 15.00  
**Total Received for Week of 12/08/19: \$ 1,037.74**

**Average amount of Undesignated  
Offerings needed to operate the church  
EACH WEEK,  
as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



## Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

## Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist  
Don Diehl ----- Greeter  
Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher  
Larry & Mary Byars, Don Diehl, Susan Strain ----- Outreach  
Bertha Segebart ----- Custodian  
Flowers ----- Shirley White

## Christian Giving



## CHRISTIAN GIVING AND SOUL WINNING

by John R. Rice

**A**re you learning to be a good Christian? The Scripture says we should grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Scripture says, *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

When you get saved. You are a baby Christian and you need to learn, you need to grow. Since you are not a graduate of a theological seminary when you get saved, you need to learn. And I want to help you about that.

I have discussed about how to be a good Christian; now I come to your giving and your soul winning.

In Acts, chapter 2, we learn about those young Christians, *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.”* Then what? *“... and fellowship ... and in prayers.”* And now you see in Acts 2:44-47:

*“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*

### ‘ THESE NEW CONVERTS SET OUT TO GIVE

There was a time of persecution and trouble. People lost their jobs. These people got saved and now they are under persecution, and somebody has to help them, They brought their goods and sold what they had and put it at the apostles’ feet. They gave all they had to the Lord and to His work.

There was an emergency. This was not commanded. And later they gave up that plan when it was no longer necessary and when other people sent money in to take care of these poor saints in trouble at Jerusalem. So this is not like communism where there is a dictator and where the people are forced. But they felt like giving everything they had to Jesus and to His work. Isn't that wonderful? They didn't count what they had their own; it belonged to God.

Years ago in Texas, Dr. J. B. Gambrell had an article in The Baptist Standard, titled *“Who Owns the Wool?”* (He was talking about the sheep.) The normal and proper answer was, *“The man who owns the sheep owns the wool also.”*

**Well, the God who owns the Christian owns his money and his possessions.** Actually, all we have belongs to the Lord. We are not our own. We are bought with a price. **So God wants us to give.**

You know, the God who made the world doesn't need our money. But we need to give it. The cattle on a thousand hills are God's, and the silver and gold are His. But it is part of the loving kindness of God that He lets us share with Him. The Bible says, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* That is a saying the Lord Jesus gave but it was not recorded in Matthew. Mark, Luke and John but recorded later as they passed it among the people (Acts 20:35). So it is more blessed to give than to receive; and God lets us have a sweet part in His work.

I feel so glad and so blessed when I think about this giving and what God has done and what part He lets us have in giving to His cause. These people in Jerusalem were happy. Everything they had they gave to the Lord and divided with other people. That is a

*(continued inside)*



## AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER REPAIR FUND

Total Repair Cost, unit repaired 05/17/19 ----- \$ 4,800.00  
Amount received thusfar ----- \$ 1,468.72  
**TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO PAY OFF: \$ 3,331.28**

**Thank You For Your Generous Help With This Need!**

wonderful thing about giving - God’s way in giving.

These people here gladly gave everything. Later we learn one of the men was Joses who had some land out on the island of Cyprus. He went and sold that and brought the money and gave it to the apostles and said, “Use this for the poor folks.” And they did. The apostles gave him another name - Barnabas, the “son of consolation.” He became an apostle and went with Paul on his missionary journeys.

That was an example of the kind of Christianity they had in those days.

But some Christians were not very good Christians then. Ananias and Sapphira said, “Listen to these apostles bragging on Barnabas!” They said, “Now, we will sell some land, too, and we will bring part of the money and we will pretend that is all of it, so we will get credit, too.” Now that was selfish on their part, but you are still a human being when you get saved and you still have temptations. So Ananias and Sapphira sold some property and brought part of the money, and Peter said, “Now you didn’t have to sell it.”

“I know.”

“You don’t have to give it.”

“I know, but this is all of it.”

Peter said, “You lied to God, and men are here ready to wrap you up and take you out and bury you.” So Ananias fell dead.

Then Sapphire came in and Peter asked her, “Did you sell the land for so much?” “Yes, Sir, and we gave every penny of it.”

Then Peter said, “The boys are just getting back from burying your husband and they are ready to wrap you up and take you out.” She fell over dead and they carried her out and buried her, not because she was supposed to give all but because she lied about it, pretending to be better than she was. God hates hypocrisy. But what God wants is loving gifts given willingly.

### ‘ **IT PAYS TO TITHE AND MORE FROM THE HEART**

“Dr. Rice, do you believe in tithing?” people ask. Yes, **but I believe in a great deal more than that.**

“But Brother Rice, tithing, that is in the Old Testament, isn’t it?” It is in the Old Testament, but do you not think God wants a Christian under grace to be just as generous-hearted, just as loving as a Christian under the law, as a Jew under the law? Don’t we owe God as much as some Jew with ceremonies? The emphasis in the Old Testament is they brought the tithes in and some offerings; but in the New Testament it is not only that one-tenth belongs to God but that all belongs to God. Whatsoever you do, whether ye eat or drink or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God, the Scripture says. All belongs to Him.

I promise you two things: One, tithing is the way of great happiness. And it is the way of prosperity and blessing, too.

First, how many promises there are that it pays to give! Someone says, “It looks like it would pay one to save up and

keep all he can.” But that is not the way to have more. The way to have more is to give more. Jesus, speaking in Luke 6:38, said, **“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”** That comes up again and again in the Bible.

We read back in Proverbs 3:9,10, **“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”** Isn’t that wonderful?

You give in a way to honor God, and God will see that you have better crops. You give thus, and God will see that you get a better salary. You give, and God will see that you don’t have as many accidents, as many doctor bills, as much extra expense. He promises, **“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”**

Here it is again in Proverbs 11:25, **“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself”**-fat spiritually, and fat in material blessings, too.

Years ago a good woman, Mrs. Widner, was teaching a big Bible class in Dallas, Texas. She said, “Don’t talk about what you get out of it. You ought to give to God because you love Him. You ought not be talking about the rewards you will get.”

One woman said to Mrs. Widner, “Dr. John Rice says that if God says He is going to reward you, it is all right to tell what God said He is going to do, isn’t it?” She laughed and said, “That is right.”

And God did say He is going to reward those who give - **“Give, and it shall be given unto you.”** And, **“The liberal soul shall be made fat.”**

Over in II Corinthians 9 we read, **“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”** The Lord sure likes it when you enjoy giving.

**I have found such joy in giving.** I used to keep very careful account. When Mrs. Rice and I married, we had a little book where we listed everything that came in. We didn’t get much: we lived mighty cheaply. We spent \$5.00 to \$8.00 a month on groceries. We bought a pint of milk every two days. We kept very close account. On one page - I got today, \$11. Over here I would put down \$1.10 - 10% for the Lord, The next time I got \$2.30 - put down 23 cents over here.

I came in one day and I said to my wife, “I don’t like that way of doing. It looks like I am afraid God will get more than His share. I don’t feel that way.”

She said, “I don’t either.”

I said, “Let’s just start out giving 20% to foreign mission causes and what we want to to local expenses and other things.” That is the way we did it. So it has been through these years - always 20% and sometimes 50% or 60% and 70% of our income.

My how God has cared for us so wonderfully! It sure pays to seek first the kingdom of God. Jesus said, **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

Blessed is the Christian who delights to give. He prays so he can have money he can give. God loves a cheerful giver. So you and the Lord will get along fine if you will set out to seek His face, then to please Him with your giving. How happy that way is.

### ‘ **A MISSIONARY’S TESTIMONY**

Years ago, I was in a revival campaign in a country community in West Texas. In a daytime service I set out to teach people gathered under a brush arbor that God demanded first place in everything, that He wanted tithes and offerings from the loving and believing hearts of His people. Present in the service that day was a dear country preacher, Brother Kuykendal. He was then, and had been for years, county missionary in Palo Pinto County, preaching in churchless communities, building up weak churches, selling and giving away gospel literature as a rural missionary. He asked if he might tell how God had dealt with him about tithing. I gladly asked him to proceed. He arose and told his story about like this.

“Some years ago when I was county missionary of this county the famous Baptist businessman, H. Z. Duke, who founded the Duke and Ayers Nickel Stores over a wide area, came to this county and, speaking as a Christian layman, urged the men and women everywhere to try God and see if He would not make good His promises to bless them in material things when they gave tithes and offerings to His cause. After Mr. Duke had spoken in one community, I took him in my buggy to another community. Mr. Duke said to me, ‘Brother Kuykendal, do you believe in tithing?’

“‘I certainly do,’ I said. ‘I believe in tithing and I preach it myself.’

“‘But, Brother Kuykendal, do you practice tithing?’

“‘Sadly I had to answer, ‘No, I do not. I believe in tithing, but I cannot practice it. You see, I have thirteen children at home. Every meal fifteen of us sit down at the table. I receive only \$125 a month, \$1500 a year as salary. I have to maintain my own horse and buggy for constant traveling. It is just impossible to take care of all the needs of a family of fifteen out of \$125 a month and have money left to tithe. So I believe in tithing, and I preach it, but I cannot practice it.’

“Mr. Duke was a very kindly man. He said, ‘Brother Kuykendal, would you like to tithe? Would you tithe if I would back you up financially so you could be sure you would not lose by it?’

“‘Nothing would please me more,’ I said.

“‘So Mr. Duke made me the following proposition:

“‘I want you to set out to give God at least \$12.50 every month as soon as you get your salary. Then as you feel led, you may give more. I promise you that if you need help, I will give it. Simply write me a letter and say, ‘Brother Duke. I am giving a tithe, but I miss the money. I need it for my family. I have given this year so much.’ I promise you that I will send you a check by return mail. Are you willing to try tithing on that basis?’

“I hesitated a moment, moved with emotion, and Brother Duke said, ‘I have thirty-two stores. I have plenty of money to make good my promise. I will be glad to do it. Will you risk me and start tithing on my simple promise that I will make good any amount you have given, any time that you find you miss it and need it? Will you trust me about it?’

“I gladly accepted his offer. I said, ‘Yes, Brother Duke, I have long wanted to tithe, but I felt I simply could not do it. Now, thank God, I can tithe and I will be glad to. And I will not feel like a hypocrite when I tell others they ought to tithe.’

“‘So I started tithing for the first time in my life. Every month I took out first of all one-tenth of my salary and gave it to the Lord’s cause; then, as I felt led, I gave more. In the back of my mind I always had this thought, ‘Mr. Duke promised me that he would make it up any time I need it. He will send me the money if I simply ask him for it.’

“‘But a strange thing happened. It seemed our money went farther than before. I would preach in some country community and somebody would tie a crate of chickens on the back of my buggy. Somebody would put a ham under the seat. Or a godly woman would put some home-canned fruit in my buggy.

“‘A neighbor farmer said, ‘Brother Kuykendal, God has blessed me so that I cannot get all my corn in the crib this year. I have a big wagon load extra that I cannot keep. May I put it in your crib for your buggy horse?’

“‘Another neighbor drove over with a great hay wagon full of hay for the cow.

“‘It was very strange, but that year we had no doctor bills. The children’s clothes seemed not to wear out so badly. It was a happy, happy time. I never did have to call on Mr. H. Z. Duke to make up the money I had given to the Lord in tithes.

“‘Then one day when the year was about gone and the test was about over, I suddenly realized with shame that I had believed what H. Z. Duke said. He promised to make good anything I lacked because of tithing, and I believed him. But my Heavenly Father had made the same promise, and I had not believed Him! I had taken the word of a man when I did not take the promise of God! Now I had proven God’s promises and found that He took care of me and my big family on a small salary. I found that \$112.50 per month took care of our family better, with God’s blessing, than \$125 did without being under the blessed covenant which He has made with those who seek first the kingdom of God

and who tithe.”

That godly country preacher stood there before the congregation weeping. With the deepest emotion he said,

“Now I have tithed for many years. My salary has been increased year after year. We have always had enough. We have never been shamed. The greatest spiritual blessing of my life, aside from my salvation, has been in learning to trust God about daily needs for my home and a big family.”

## ‘ **WILL YOU NOW BEGIN TITHES AND OFFERINGS?**

Somebody says, “I can’t afford to tithe.” You can’t afford not to. You may starve to death if you don’t. So, young Christians, set out to tithe and then set out to win souls.

I don’t have time to go into that now, but a Christian can be a happy, giving Christian, and then set out to win souls day by day and God will help you in that. You can. You know, that is what those Christians did. That is the Great Commission get them saved, then get them baptized, and setting out to winning others and then teaching them to do exactly what I told you to do - get them saved and get them baptized.

Oh, what a happy life for a Christian, with the Bible day by day and following the Lord and reading and praying and giving and winning souls. You can be a happy Christian. ÷

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## **NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS**

### **‘ UK JUDGE RULES THAT WOMAN “NOT WORTHY OF RESPECT” FOR SAYING MEN CANNOT BE WOMEN**

A woman who was ousted from her job for writing on Twitter that men who identify as transgender are not women has lost her case before an employment tribunal that said her views are “not worthy of respect.” In a highly anticipated ruling, an employment tribunal decided that Maya Forstater, formerly a senior researcher at the London office of the think-tank Centre for Global Development, was not fired without just cause.

Forstater was fired from her job earlier this year for tweeting on her personal account that “men cannot change into women.” She was also critical of a decision to place a convicted pedophile and rapist who goes by the name Karen White - a biological male formerly known as Stephen Wood - in a women’s-only prison because he claimed to identify as female and subsequently sexually assaulted female inmates.

Judge James Tayler wrote in the 26-page ruling Wednesday, 12/18/19, “I conclude from ... the totality of the evidence, that [Forstater] is absolutist in her view of sex and it is a core component of her belief that she will refer to a person by the sex she considered appropriate even if it violates their dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. The approach is not worthy of respect in a democratic society.” Forstater and many others were stunned at the result. That stating basic biological facts were upheld as

legitimate grounds to be fired.

Voicing her support for Forstater, **J. K. Rowling**, author of the **Harry Potter** series, tweeted Thursday: **“Dress however you please. Call yourself whatever you like. Sleep with any consenting adult who’ll have you. Live your best life in peace and security. But force women out of their jobs for stating that sex is real?”**

Commenting Thursday, 12/19/19 on his blog at The American Conservative, author Rod Dreher noted that the decision is indicative of political efforts in the U.K. “This is exactly what LGBT activists want here in the U.S: people like Maya Forstater--who doesn’t appear to be any kind of conservative, but rather a feminist--to be fired and silence[d]. What is it going to take to wake people up? This is a totalitarian movement. It honest to God is. It has colonized the minds of the liberal establishment,” he said.

**‘ SPEECH NAZIS TRY TO FORCE ROWLING TO APOLOGIZE** - Last week (12/16/19), The Daily Wire reported that author J.K. Rowling was smeared as a “transphobe” and threatened with being “cancelled” because she spoke out in support of researcher Maya Forstater, who was fired from her job with the Centre for Global Development for saying that while transgender individuals can change their outward appearance, male-to-female transgenders remain male and can never be, biologically, “women.”

Forstater’s case is particularly egregious. Not only was she terminated from her position for articulating scientific facts, but when she brought a case against her former employer to a tribunal in the U.K., which found not just that CGD was justified in firing Forstater, but that Forstater’s basic beliefs - that men can never become biological women - **was harmful**, even if Forstater was simply saying what she believed. “Paying due regard to the qualified right to freedom of expression, people cannot expect to be protected if their core belief involves violating others’ dignity,” the court said. Forstater’s “absolutist” views on the subject of gender were actually violent, the court found, and her opinion “violates their dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.”

Rowling met with a torrent of abuse for her statement, with LGBTQ+ activists and their allies across the spectrum, threatening Rowling’s livelihood, and demanding that she apologize and admit that she was in error when she spoke out in support of someone who merely acknowledges biological and genetic reality.

On Friday (12/20/19), the pro-LGBTQ rights group GLADD put out a statement blasting Rowling and challenging her to meet with transgender activists and cherry-picked scientists in order to expand her worldview. In other words, Rowling should submit to indoctrination and bullying until she agrees that male-to-female transgender individuals are, indeed, women. ... Rowling herself ignored them. Her representatives declined GLAAD’s offer of re-education.

**‘ CATHOLIC BISHOPS PROCLAIM HOMOSEXUALITY “NORMAL”** - The Catholic bishops of Germany have proclaimed that homosexuality is “a normal form of sexual predisposition” and it should not be changed. On December 5, 2019, the German Bishops’ Conference announced the findings of its Commission for Marriage and Family, which included “bishops, sexologists, moral theologians, dogmatic theologians, and canon lawyers.” The only thing missing was the born again theologians who believe the Bible.

The press release said, “There was also agreement that the sexual preference of man expresses itself in puberty and assumes a hetero- or homosexual orientation. Both belong to the normal forms of sexual predisposition, which cannot or should not be changed with the help of a specific socialization. .... [For this reason] any form of discrimination of those persons with a homosexual orientation has to be rejected.”

This contradicts the 1992 Catechism of the Catholic Church, which states that homosexual acts are “intrinsically disordered” and “contrary to the natural law” (CCC 2357). The Bible condemns not only homosexual acts, but also homosexual lusts. Romans 1:24-27 describes same-sex “lusts” and “affections” and “burning in lusts” as unclean before God.

**‘ MOTHER REFUSES PRESSURE TO ABORT DOWN’S BABY** - A mother has opened up about the consistent pressure she received from doctors to abort her baby son, even at full-term, just because he has Down’s syndrome. Cheryl Bilsborrow wanted to speak out after figures published last week revealed that the number of babies born with Down’s syndrome has dropped by 30% in NHS hospitals that have introduced new non-invasive prenatal tests.

Speaking to The Sun about her experience, the clinical reflexologist said: “These tests and the scary, negative way in which the results are currently framed are leading pregnant women to abort their much-wanted babies. My two-year-old son Hector is the most wonderful baby. He’s got beautiful white hair and blue eyes, and he is always smiling and laughing, blowing kisses and coming for hugs. But when I was pregnant I was made to feel like his life would have no value and that I should abort him. Why? Because he has Down’s Syndrome.”

Cheryl was 43 years old when she fell pregnant with her fourth child. Because of her age, she was encouraged by doctors to have a screening test for Down’s syndrome. ... Cheryl said that from the start the doctors’ perception of the condition was negative and that she was encouraged to have an abortion every time she had a midwife appointment. “There was no offer of counselling, no discussion about how my life might be enhanced by this baby. Abort and get rid seemed to be the only answer.”

“Even, at 38 weeks, when I went for a scan, the sonographer said: You do know we abort babies full term with Down’s syndrome... The message came loud and clear: babies with Down’s were of no value. Now, having had Hector, I know there was nothing to be frightened of ... It breaks my heart to think that

so many babies, like [him], could be robbed of their chance to live happy lives.

**‘ NEW DISNEY CARTOON CENTERS ON CHILD WITCH WITH A DEMON SIDEKICK** - Although using storylines centered on witchcraft for entertainment are nothing new for Hollywood, used for movies like *Harry Potter* and children’s shows like *Wizards of Waverly Place*, having a demon sidekick is a bit of a novelty.

However, Disney’s new show ***The Owl House*** does just that. Premiering on The Disney Channel on January 10, the show will center on the character, Luz, a teenage girl who serves as a witch’s apprentice and has a demon as a sidekick friend.

As the IMBD page summarizes, **“A teenager finds herself stuck in the Demon Realm and battles the forces of evil alongside a rebellious witch and a pint-sized warrior.”**

The pint-sized warrior it refers to is “King,” a demon.

As CBN reports, **“Folks, if you think this latest *The Owl House* show is just ‘fantasy and fun,’ think again. Over the years, Disney has gone farther and farther into the darkness of the spiritual world that opposes the living God, coming up with programming and characters that lead the vulnerable into that dark world of deception.”**

**‘ SBC PRESIDENT SAYS IT’S OKAY TO BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION** - In a podcast dated December 16, 2019, Southern Baptist President, JD Greear, says it’s perfectly fine to believe in evolution and Christians should read the Book of Genesis with an “open mind.”

Entitled ***Is It Okay to Believe in Evolution***, Greear gives approval to denying God’s narrative of how He created the Heavens and Earth.

After acknowledging that his answer would “get him in a lot of trouble,” Greear says...

**“Can you be a Christian and believe in evolution and not have it show something significantly wrong with your faith? The answer is yes.”**

Greear went on to acknowledge that Tim Keller he thought held this view, as evidence that Christians “godlier and smarter” than he believed in “theistic evolution.”

Greear also acknowledged in the podcast that he didn’t personally hold that view, but that theistic is a perfectly acceptable view for Christians to hold.

**‘ SPRITE RUNS ‘TRANSGENDER’ PROPAGANDA AD TARGETING TEENS** - What does breast-binding and cross-dressing have to do with the sugary soft drink, Sprite? No idea.

Nonetheless, the soft drink company is running an advertisement depicting parents helping their kids cross-dress, including a woman binding her daughter’s breasts (a dangerous practice with longterm health side-effects) and putting makeup on her son.

The ad was released in Argentina.

It's pretty gross. It kinda makes you want to switch soda brands.

**' HILLSONG'S CHRISTMAS FLESH PARADE CONTINUES** - Hillsong is incorrigibly lascivious and they put their worldliness on display each Christmas season by productions that are a unique vaguely theistic blend between Cirque de Soleil and a Victoria's Secret runway show. This year is no exception, as Bobbie Houston's Instagram reveals.

Houston posted the photos of barely clad dancers and body contortionists on her Instagram from Hillsong's Christmas extravaganza.

Houston, posting a photo of a fire-eater, actually said, "Who needs to go to Vegas, right?"

**' PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS MADE TO KNEEL AND PRAY TO ALLAH IN ARABIC** - A Swedish school decided to familiarize its fifth-graders with Islamic worshipping by having a teacher recite Koranic verse to them and having them pray facing Mecca, in a bizarre set-up the educators called "role play."

An offbeat "religion lesson" was taught at the Bjurbäck school situated in the south of Sweden, according to Samhallsnytt news outlet. An outraged parent said pupils were told to face the Kaaba and kneel on prayer mats, while the whole class was divided by gender, with girls forced to the back of the room.

His daughters "did not even want to be there because they could not understand a word of what the teacher read from the Koran in Arabic," the man, called Markus, revealed. After the "prayer," the pupils "would dance to Arabic music and eat Arabic cake" in something used to replicate Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim festivities marking the end of compulsory fasting.

Local authorities confirmed the report, with an education official in Emmaboda – a serene southern county where the school is located – telling the news outlet that the class did take place.

When confronted by angry parents, the school management defended the activity, referring to it as "role play." But the awkward explanation didn't sit well with Markus who wants the school to apologize and its principal to be suspended.

"Calling this a role play is not OK as it hits me as a parent," he told the paper. "It's me, not the school, that raises my children ... they go there to learn things that will stay with them for the rest of their lives." ÷



### **DID THE WESLEYS USE TAVERN MUSIC?**

Did the Wesleys really use drinking song tunes for their hymns? This drinking tune myth pervades our denomination and has attained the status of truth in many people's minds, including pastors, musicians, professors, writers,

students, and our general laity.

Of particular importance is the distinction between the use of secular music as hymn tunes--a practice that the Wesleys did occasionally use--and the use of drinking tunes or saloon songs as hymn tunes--a practice that they did **not** use.

The Wesleys did not use tavern or drinking songs to carry their texts. Their theology as well as their sense of aesthetics would have made such an occurrence unthinkable. There are no such examples in their collections. There are no suggestions or recommendations that others do so in any of their writings.

The oft-repeated legend results from some poor, misinformed person who confused the medieval literary bar form, also sometimes known as bar tune, with tavern song. Once spoken out of ignorance, the confused version took on a life of its own and seemingly grows with each repetition.

The legend is now repeated by those who advocate this very practice in the church's worship and music today. They use the "fact" that the Wesleys did it as justification for their argument that we should also do it. I want to argue that those who wish to commend this practice to the church should not be allowed to appeal to an historical inaccuracy or lie as their justification. They should be able to argue the position on its own merits.

The Wesleys did, indeed, make use of secular music as hymn tunes--rarely. And when they did, **THE MUSIC ALWAYS WAS FROM SOURCES OF RECOGNIZABLE BEAUTY AND EXCELLENCE**, such as an original composition by the great composer Handel as a tune for "Rejoice, the Lord Is King." Other secular sources used by the Wesleys included the classical music of their day, a few opera tunes, and perhaps a folk song or two. But **IN EVERY CASE WHERE THEY MADE USE OF SECULAR MUSIC FOR THEIR HYMNS, IT WAS ALWAYS OF THE VERY HIGHEST CALIBER**, never a little ditty, jingle or disposable contemporary pop tune of the day that would be cast aside as soon as the next one was penned.

I feel quite comfortable casting my lot with ... the Wesleys in this matter. I'm happy for us to "redeem" and use secular music in our worship if it is appropriate (and legal) **AND IF THE RESULT IS SOMETHING WE NEED NOT BE ASHAMED OF IN OFFERING BACK TO GOD. USE OF THE MUSIC MUST NOT PUT US IN ASSOCIATION WITH ACTIVITIES, LIFESTYLES AND BEHAVIORS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH A LIFE OF LOVE IN CHRIST.**

The legend has a seductive quality to it. How can anyone argue against the kind of evangelical zeal demonstrated by one who would go out into the bars and taverns of our communities in search of lost souls, and who would be willing to make use of that culture's music to attempt to appeal to them to hear our message? It is that very appealing evangelistic zeal that makes us today repeat the story again and again, even if it isn't true. We want to think of the Wesleys as having done that, even if they didn't.

The truth is, while they quite likely preached to the lost, including a fair share of drunks and alcoholics, in many venues, **THEY DID NOT AND WOULD NOT HAVE USED THE MUSIC ASSOCIATED WITH THAT SINFUL BEHAVIOR IN THEIR HYMN SINGING.** They certainly did not use it in their hymnal publishing or in their journal or letter writing.

*- Dean McIntyre, Director of Worship Resources at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. United Methodist News Service, September 30, 2002*

### **LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM**

Scientists are trying to understand the language of the human nervous system to develop a new generation of medical implants. The heart pacemaker and deep brain stimulators for Parkinson's disease are examples of preliminary efforts. The field of bioelectronics studies the electrical signals and chemical messages that control all of the major organs and tissues in the body in an attempt to interface with them to monitor health and deliver treatments through the stimulation of specific nerves.

The problem is the incredible complexity of the neural network. "But neural data is incredibly noisy and complex. The human heart does not exist alone, its function is affected by other factors and messages coming from other organs, such as how fast you're breathing, what you've just eaten and so on. To accurately decode all this information, we need more neural data and better interpretation techniques so we can listen to the right words needed to understand the language of the human body. Scientists have turned to a form of artificial intelligence known as machine learning to help them do this" ("How hacking the human heart could replace pill popping," BBC, Dec. 17, 2019).

Note that the human nervous system is called the "language of the human body," and it is such a complex language that the most brilliant scientists stand in awe of it and can only understand it in a very rudimentary manner. For those who have not willfully closed their eyes, this is clear and irrefutable evidence for divine creation and against Darwinian evolution.



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A woman in a supermarket had been walking behind a grandfather and his badly-behaved, 3-year-old grandson. It's obvious to her that he has his hands full with the sweet aisle, cookies in the cookie aisle, and for fruit, cereal and soda in the other aisles.

Meanwhile, Granddad is working his way around, saying in a controlled voice, "Easy, William, we won't be long, easy, boy."

Another outburst, and she hears the granddad calmly say, "It's okay, William, just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, boy."

At the checkout, the little terror is throwing items out of the cart, and Granddad says again in a controlled voice, "William, William, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes; stay cool, William."

Very impressed, the woman goes outside where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car. She said to the elderly gentleman, "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time, you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you as his grandpa."

"Thanks," said the grandfather, "but I'm William ... the little brat's name is Kevin." ÷

