



CHURCH ARISE!

ISSN 1595-63426342

Vol. 15 No. 1 January - February, 2012

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

Boko Haram Peace Moves

It is now an open news, that Boko Haram handlers are desperately seeking peace deals with the Federal government. The big question is, what would be the terms of such a deal? Obviously, the least BH could ask for, even if it drops its demand that we all must be their slaves, would be that their prisoners be released. With all the efforts to compare the situation with the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, it won't be any surprise if a hefty financial demand is also brought into the bargain.

Now that would be utterly suicidal for any sensible government. If anybody thinks Christians' refusal to be provoked into reprisals over the scores of lives wickedly terminated in the name of Allah, means the deaths were not painful and could be glossed over in order to buy supposed peace, that fellow will be making a grave mistake.

Though refraining from fighting evil with evil, Christians are certainly fighting – and are winning! With our prayers, severely compromised state machinery is working again; and against all odds, BH is fizzling out. The call for “peace” from BH is nothing but a confirmation of the desperate strait it is in. All it seeks is a breather so it can go re-gather steam. It is obvious that the insurrection is designed to last till the next presidential election in 2015!

To summarise our position: there is nothing wrong with talking peace with BH. Whether the insurrection is crushed on the field or on the table, it makes no difference – as long as the snake loses its head. What will never be accepted is anyone trying to ask that justice not be applied to the terrorists apprehended. Anyone who tries to test that ground will find the full weight of the Force that is humiliating BH turned against his personal life and family. Korah and company (Num 16), Sennacherib (2 Chr 32:21) and Herod (Acts 12:21-24) are examples of people who have tasted what we are describing here!

New Security Technology to use remote physiological monitoring to gauge motives

In the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is putting fine touches to a new technology which they claim will be able to quietly track and monitor people at airports and in other public places, in order to check for suspicious or shifty people

➡ page 7

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. - 1Jn 2:17

Over Half of South Jersey's Catholics Believe Jesus Sinned

In a shocking revealing study commissioned by a Diocese of the catholic Church in southern New Jersey, 60 percent of practicing Catholics in the region said they believed that Jesus sinned during his time on Earth. Whereas the Bible clearly teaches otherwise: the Lamb of God required to atone for the sins of the world must be free of its own personal sins that would have needed to be atoned for.

A very worried Bishop Joseph Galane of the Diocese of Camden, sponsors of the study, told a Press Conference: "The number of Catholics who have a very flawed, a seriously flawed, understanding of who Jesus is, that's troublesome,"

➡ page 3

Moslem persecutions of Christians, January 2012

Assaults on Christians from their Moslem neighbours is not subsiding in the new year. Raymond Ibrahim, in his chronicle of January persecutions, includes reports “from Nigeria, where an all-out jihad has been declared in an effort to eradicate the Muslim north of all Christians, to Europe, where Muslim converts to Christianity are still hounded and attacked as apostates.” He posted a warning that considering the unprecedented and ever increasing flight of Christians out of some countries, “Christians might disappear altogether from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Egypt.” Please check these details from Raymond Ibrahim's website at <http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11152/muslim-persecution-of-christians-january-2012>.

Hooking Kids on Sex: Amazing Video documents Planned Parenthood is more in the sex business than health business

American Life League (ALL), one of the America's largest grassroots pro-life organizations, has produced a video, part of the American Life League Report, that documents Planned Parenthood's promotion of sex toys, sex contests, sex balloons, sex cupcakes, sex fruit rollups and sex costumes in an astounding manner.

The video, called “Hooking Kids on Sex,” exposes Planned Parenthood's decades-long endeavor to push sex on youngsters, much like a drug dealer hooks potential customers on narcotics.

Paul Rondeau, executive director of American Life League, told WorldNewsDaily (WND) that the “Hooking Kids on Sex” report shows how Planned Parenthood uses tax money to push disturbing sexual behavior on kids, “because it drives future business for them.” The ALL says the abortion industry giant's “business model” essentially “is aimed at making money from people who are engaged in sexual activity.

➡ page 4

Saudi Arabia cracks down on Christian prayer meeting

Dozens of Ethiopian Christians were arrested for holding a prayer meeting, though under charges of "mixing with the opposite sex": "the Saudi officials are accusing the Christians of committing the crime of mixing of sexes because if they charge them with meeting for practicing Christianity, they will come under pressure from the international human rights organizations as well as Western countries."

The women among the Christians were strip-searched and the men assaulted (<http://www.christianpost.com/news/ethiopian-christian-prisoners-assaulted-strip-searched-in-saudi-arabia-68013/>). It is instructive that this was a purely prayer meeting among Christian foreigners and did not involve any proselytization of any moslem or Arab.

As at early February 9 the Christians were still being held without trial. (<http://www.charismanews.com/world/32553-saudi-arabia-arrests-ethiopian-christians-for-mixing-with-the-opposite-sex>)

Islamists Nearly Wipe Out Christians In Syrian City

The Christianpost, based on figures given by the Syrian Orthodox Church, reports "an ongoing ethnic cleansing of Christians" by members of the militant Islamist outfit, Brigade Faruq, which has links with al-Qaida. The militants have expelled 90 percent of Christians in Homs, which has faced the brunt of violence related to the uprising, and grabbed their homes, it said. They went door to door in the neighborhoods of Hamidiya and Bustan al-Diwan forcing Christians to flee without giving them the chance to take their belongings, it added.

About 10 percent of Syria's 23 million people are estimated to be Christians, who have generally supported President Bashar Assad, a Muslim from a Shiite offshoot who is autocratic but protects religious minorities. On the other hand, the majority of the Muslims in Syria are Sunni.

The ChristianPost further reports a car bomb explosion targeting pupils at a school of the Franciscan fathers in Aleppo. "By a miracle a massacre of children was avoided, at the Center of catechesis of the Church of St. Bonaventure: only because the Franciscan, sensing danger, made the children leave 15 minutes before the usual time." (<http://www.rescueChristians.org/2012/03/25/syria-islamists-have-expelled-90-percent-of-Christians-in-homs/>)

Islamic terrorism in France

In France, a 23-year-old Islamic jihadist named Mohamed Merah confirmed the threat of homegrown Muslim terrorism when he went on an 11 day killing spree. Before he was finally subdued, Merah, had killed three French paratroopers, three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi with close-range shots to the head. A French citizen of Algerian origin, Merah filmed himself carrying out the attacks that began on March 11 to "verify" the deaths. Merah later died in a hail of gunfire on March 22 after a 32-hour standoff with police at his apartment in the

southern French city of Toulouse.

Incredibly, the European Union's 'Foreign Minister', Catherine Ashton of Britain, declared that "what happened in Toulouse," -- the deliberate murder of the Jewish children -- was morally equivalent to the accidental war deaths of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip. Read details in the articles Europe's Islamic Future Has Arrived at (<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org>) and Europeans Horrified To Discover That They Must Contend With Homegrown Terrorists at (<http://www.ynetnews.com/>)

Not so simple, saying "Merry Christmas"

Until some years ago, nobody batted an eye at the traditional "Merry Christmas" greetings at Christmas. Suddenly emerged the post-modernists, protesting the religionization of Christmas, and advocating as appropriate greetings "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings"! Now the stakes are considerably upped as in America some Islamic clerics have ruled it a grand sin for a Moslem to wish anyone a "merry Christmas". According to cleric Al-AhMad' "saying Merry Christmas is even worse than fornication or killing someone." (<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2011/12/islamic-scholar-saying-merry-christmas-is-worst-then-fornication-or-killing-someone.html>)

In Malaysia, even Christians had restrictions placed on their expression of Christmas felicitations. As reported by Malaysian Insider, "Parish priests and church youth leaders were required to get "caroling" permits before they could "visit their fellow church members and belt out 'Joy to the World,' [or] 'Silent Night, Holy Night.'" For 30 years, it had been required that permits be obtained because Carols are conducted in public, outside residences of hosting Church members. The conditions for obtaining a permit include submission of full names and identity card numbers of the clergy at police stations. But last Christmas new conditions were added including that the full names and contact information of the householders that would be visited. (<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/print/malaysia/tis-the-season-to-be-jolly-with-a-police-permit/>)

Even in western countries, moslems are aggressively putting pressure on Christians at Christmas. For example at the university of London, apparently to appease moslem folks, readings from the Quran were featured during the Christmas service; while "a posh Montreal suburb chose rather to remove a nativity scene and menorah from town hall rather than acquiesce to demands from a Muslim group to erect Islamic religious symbols."

As an example of tawriya in action, a Sheik has suggested a way out to bail out pious moslems from the "great sin" of having to acknowledge Christmas; while at the same time not sounding antagonistic. On YouTube, a Sheikh suggests Muslims to tell Christians, "I wish you the best." (http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=-ssc7MB32Sk). He explains the ingenuity of this new Christmas greeting: whereby the latter might

"understand it to mean you're wishing them best in terms of their [Christmas] celebration." (here the wily sheikh giggles), you actually "mean in your heart *I wish you become a Muslim*." Of course, in the thinking of the learned Sheikh, being a muslim is the best for anybody. Such "creative lying" is fully endorsed in Islam and is known as Tawriya. For more on this Islamic doctrine, see <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2012/02/raymond-ibrahim-tawriya---new-islamic-doctrine-permits-creative-lying.html>.

Meanwhile elsewhere on the planet, Christmas carols, greetings and symbols were the least considerations as Islamic militants went on a killing spree. In Northern Nigeria, the major assaults of the period included the Boko Haram massacre of over 40 people at St Theresa's (in Madalla, Niger state) and MFM Church (Jos, Plateau State) on Christmas day. (see <http://www.galaxytvonline.com/news/main-news/boko-haram-40-killed-in-christmas-massacre>)

Entire Mosques Coming to Christ in Sub-Saharan Africa, Says Former Church Planter (culled from <http://www.ChristianPost.com>)

A former church planter among Muslims in West Africa is reporting incredible number of conversion among Muslims. According to Jerry Trousdale, even entire mosques in Sub-Saharan Africa are coming to faith. Trousdale, now director of International Ministries for CityTeam International, reports in his new book *Miraculous Movements*, amazing and inspiring stories of faith among Muslim communities in Africa. These include:

Multiple cases of entire mosques coming to faith

Thousands of ordinary men and women being used by God to achieve seemingly impossible outcomes

Tens of thousands of Muslim background Christians becoming dedicated intercessors who fast and pray for the gospel to penetrate the next community

Muslim people groups that never had even one church among them now have more than fifty church planted, and in some cases more than one hundred churches – within two years of engagement

Former sheikhs, imams and militant Islamists making up 20 percent or more of the new Christian leaders in Muslim regions.

Speaking with Christian Post, Trousdale said: "We had seven years now in Africa. And of the people in Africa, 81 different people groups that have at least 50 percent Muslim have now significant movements among them. Of those 81, 45 are people groups with 99 or 100 percent Muslim...So we are talking about fairly extreme areas of Islamic influence. These are people who have been Islamic for well over a hundred years, some hundreds of years."

In one of the many narratives, a successful businessman and a respected leader at his mosque dreamed that Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah) appeared to him and said that he (Jesus) was the light of the world. His life did not remain the same and he ended a committed and effective soul winner for the Lord Jesus.

An enthusiastic Trousdale concludes: "This is just good news that God is in the same business as He was in the book of Acts. Disciples are multiplying greatly and even priests, imams and sheikhs are becoming obedience to the faith. So I no longer doubt that we can finish the task in this generation." (<http://www.Christianpost.com/news/entire-mosques-coming-to-christ-in-north-africa-says-former-church-planter-72123/>)

In Asia also, Moslem mass conversion to Christianity continues

Despite all the restrictions and persecutions, it has proved impossible to stop moslem folks, upon seeing the light of the Gospel, from embracing the lordship of Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God and the salvation He freely offers mankind. In Malaysia, the development got a former state-commissioner lamenting that "It could be hundreds, maybe even thousands" of Muslims converting to Christianity. He has therefore started "collecting data" to "persuade" the apostates to return to Islam: "We are helping them, hoping they will come back to Islam" he said. Likewise, the Sultan of Selangor, a Malaysian state, has ordered top-level Islamic organizations to take strategic steps against proselytism, "so that Muslims who have began distancing themselves from Islam will return to the fold and repent."

Meanwhile in *Kuwait*, a royal prince is one of the latest to openly declare that he has converted to Christianity. He said he took the necessary step despite being aware of the reality that he now might be targeted for killing as an apostate.

Catholic Poll (continued from page 1)

The study was commissioned by the diocese with the hope that the results would help it to better evangelize the communities it serves. The study was conducted by the Barna Group, a Ventura, Calif.-based research organization, which surveyed 612 adults living in the six New Jersey counties within the diocese.

Other findings of the study that got the Bishop worried included the following:

- Four out of ten of the Catholics respondents disagree with the idea that sex should be reserved solely for marriage.
- Only a paltry 28 percent of them agree strongly with the idea that the Bible is "totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches,"
- 38 percent favor attending church only on holidays. One-third of lapsed Catholics said they have other priorities or are too busy to attend, while others said they just aren't interested in church (27 percent).
- //Other issues investigated in the study was the clergy abuse scandals within the Catholic Church. -Nine out of ten (89 percent) adults interviewed said they know about scandals; and all 89 percent consider it a "major issue". (<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2012/May09/0951.html> based on <http://www.christianpost.com>)

Family feud rocks TBN

The Christian post describes it as “a drama fit for reality television: Larger than life characters, familial infighting, private jets, mansions, pink poodles, and of course contentious litigation.” But it is not one of the popular soap operas but the first family of Trinity Broadcasting Network. Brittany Koper, granddaughter of TBN founders Paul and Janice Crouch, alleges that her grandparents are scamming the public with their prosperity gospel message and using the contributions of their viewers to sustain a lavish lifestyle that would make a hip hop mogul blush. Mama and Papa Crouch counter that granddaughter Brittany is merely attempting to distract attention from her own wrongdoing. They've accused her of misappropriating ministry funds while she served as finance director for the organization.” Read the rest of the article at <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2012/May09/0952.html>

Planned Parenthood is sex business (from front page)

Revealing that 51 percent of Planned Parenthood income for 2010 came from abortions, the ALL explains: “Those [young girls] are the women who will have abortions,”

Among the campaigns attributed to Planned Parenthood is a book pushed on a website for young readers titled “It's Perfectly Normal,” which contains cartoon depictions of naked boys and girls, images of masturbation and cartoons of people engaged in sex.

“If a dirty old man showed this book to kids in a park, he'd be arrested,” said the host. “Why does Planned Parenthood, a taxpayer-funded organization, get to distribute these books to our children and get more government money?”

A statement on Planned Parenthood's teen website, for example, encourages kids to seek arousal through breasts: “They are basically 'freebies,' since you can't get pregnant or catch sexually transmitted infection by going to 'second base,’” the statement said.

Other body parts are described in great detail on the website, including many declarations about “pleasure” and “feeling good,” as well as detailed instructions on engaging in homosexual acts.

The ALL video has been posted in an adult section on YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=j7XR9yH2ETk) and, **ALL recommends that the video being quite explicit, should not be accessed by children.**

In addition to showing viewers the indoctrination Planned Parenthood is delivering to younger and younger audiences, the report also brings to light internal Planned Parenthood memos dating from 1969 that show strategies on how to reduce the American population through methods such as “forced abortion” and “fertility control agents” dispersed in the nations water supply, “Restructure Family,” (by encouraging people to “Postpone or avoid marriage” and by “Alter(ing) image of ideal family size.”) Other more radical measures suggested in the memo include:

“Discouraging private home ownership,” “Additional taxes on parents with 1 or 2 children in school,” “Compulsory abortions for out-of-wedlock pregnancies” and “Require women to work and provide few child care facilities.”

After desperate efforts by the Planned Parenthood to have the video removed from the YouTube (claiming copyright issues), ALL made some minor revisions and re-posted. The must-see video is also now available online at other sites, including all.org, to ensure no further disruptions to the message. http://www.wnd.com/2012/03/planned-parenthood-now-sex-inc/?cat_orig=education

Pastor Chris on masturbation (from back page)

It would appear Pastor Chris is deliberately trying to challenge the Scriptures: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. (1Co 3:16 -17). For good measure, that Scripture adds: “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (1Corinthians 3:18)

In his advice to those, who being weak in “faith” truly needs to get rid of this habit (as the original question requested), Pastor Chris counsels: “So once you make up your mind that you want to break a particular habit, you just do it, you make up your mind...in fact the best way to break a habit is to replace it with another habit.”

One wonders, if masturbation truly were just another innocuous habit as the Pastor would have it, what other sexual “habit” would be strong enough to be used as replacement?

The pleasant surprise, considering the considerable moral downturn of the age, is that most commentators on the internet – including members of the Pastor Chris Church, Christ Embassy, could not agree with this clearly carnal and immoral teaching. While a number of Pastor Chris disciples groped for words to express reservations about their mentor's teaching, others simply pointed to several Scriptures, such as those warning about fornication not necessarily limited to the physical acts but thoughts as well, or the need to walk not in uncleanness or carnal lusts. Indeed the Bible is emphatic in Ephesians 5:5-7:

“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”

Caught in the sin of masturbation? Please seek the help of the holy spirit through prayer and fasting. If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed.

Sweden pushes forward with Gender Neutrality

Sweden is proudly living up to its dubious title of 4 “the most gender-equal country” in the world. In a new

gender neutrality initiative being proposed, lobbyists are proposing that a new gender-neutral pronoun be adopted for boys and girls. Instead of “he” (han in Swedish) and “she” (hon), a new neutral pronoun “hen” (Swedish) is being proposed to apply to either boys or girls. According to Slate.com, the idea is in tandem with the determination of the Swedish society not to “tolerate any distinction between sexes” and its commitment to “entirely [eradicate] traditional gender roles and stereotypes at even the most mundane levels”.

This proposal is already being implemented in a number of children's book, with other new gender-neutral words being evolved. The Christian Post further reports that the Swedish Bowling Association is planning on merging male and female bowling tournaments so that competitions are more gender-neutral; and a clothing company has removed the “boys” and “girls” sections from its store in order to promote the concept of genderless children.

Thankfully, there are still sane voices in Sweden, warning against these fruitless exercises. Famous author Jan Guillou considers the introduction of the pronoun “hen” as “silly because it doesn't change anything.” She referred to gender-neutral lobbyists as “feminist activists who want to destroy our language.” www.Christianpost.com

Ex-lesbian woman's daughter to be given away... announced lesbian at a psychiatric hospital

President Obama's desperate war against the old sexual order – even in an election year – is reflective of the enormous clout the homosexual lobby has in the United States. Recently Obama became the first ever sitting president of the United States to openly endorse gay marriage. Dangerously drying Campaign funds shot up immediately after this endorsement, with generous donations from Hollywood.

With this background, it's not really too difficult to imagine why Lisa Miller is going through virtual hell in the hands of the new sexuality-obsessed Obama regime. She is a living testimony debunking all the stereotypical lies used to justify and promote the anti-christ new age sexuality. Her story features aspects of Contraceptives, Divorce, Pornography, Abortion, Homosexuality, etc. She is just one bad customer!

First, her conception and birth was as a result of failed contraceptive, and her mother never tired of reminding her she was a birth-accident. When her parents divorced at the age of 7, she found herself growing up with “an increasingly mentally ill, distant, and cruel mother”. She sought solace in unhealthy fixations on food and pornography.

Soon after, she entered a troubled marriage which culminated in a suicide attempt. Saved after days of intensive care, a counselor in a psychiatric ward informed her that she was actually a lesbian and must seek the sexual companionship of other women for fulfilment. According to Lisa: “As part of my treatment, in order to be released, I had to meet with my immediate family, including my husband, and tell them I was a 'lesbian.' I complied, and not surprisingly, my marriage ended.”

The end of that troubled marriage was a major gain the homosexual advocacy groups will not allow to fritter away. A “civil union” was arranged between Lisa and another troubled soul, recovering alcoholic Janet Jenkins. Thereafter, Lisa was artificially inseminated, resulting in the birth of her daughter, Isabella.

Now, Lisa's problem with her unseen new sexuality mentors began. During a particularly difficult period during her pregnancy, she had made a vow to the God she faintly remembered from Sunday School classes as a child, that if her baby lived, she would give up the homosexual lifestyle. And guess what, 17 months after delivery, she recollected that vow, and simply called it quits with homosexuality. Now that is not good at all for homosexuality advocacy where the mantra is that people are born with homosexuality just like the colour of their skin!

The account of her torment in the hands of new sexuality agents in the Obama administration is now documented in a book written by one of her lawyers. The easy-to-read book is titled: “Only One Mommy: A Womans Battle for Her Life, Her Daughter, and Her Freedom” (New Revolution Publishers, 2011). It waltzed through a maze of legal arguments used by Judge Richard Cohen to decree, first, that Janet Jenkin, being in civil union with Lisa at the time Isabella was conceived, was a co-mother with Lisa. Eventually, the Judge has also determined to grant custody of Isabella to Jenkins – a woman who has no biological or adoptive link whatsoever with the baby!

Currently, state agents are making frantic efforts, including international police cooperation, to track down Lisa (who had since fled the USA, presumably) and wrest Isabella from her into the custody of Jenkins. Read more about this typical judicial tyranny from the New Age sexuality group against their targets at <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/i-promised-god-that-if-he-would-save-my-baby-i-would-leave-the-homosexual-l>

Famous “Pregnant Man” splits with wife

The inevitable end of the road has come for one of the hyped relationships that has been used to showcase Man's alternative to God-ordained order between the male and female genders. Thomas Beatie, a transgender man (i.e. a woman who underwent sex-transplant to “become” a man) has finally decided to call it quits with the woman “he” married, nine years after.

Beatie was born in Hawaii as Tracy Lagondino in 1974. “He” was a Girl Scout, model, and finalist in a Miss Hawaii Teen USA pageant before he decided, in his twenties, that he felt more like a man and so began to dress and live as a man. Goaded on and encouraged by the folks promoting the new sexuality ideas, he had the very expensive but government-subsidized sex-reassignment surgery in 2002; got two perfectly healthy breasts removed, and started a twice-weekly intake of hormones to make him look masculine on the outside. Thereafter, he

had his gender legally changed on his passport and driver's license and in 2003, got legally married to Nancy, a divorced mother of two.

Who is fooling who? It certainly takes much more than a moustache, a deep voice and government approval to become a man. Beatie had no male reproductive organs – even if for cosmetics. And since “wife” Nancy had had hysterectomy and could not carry a baby again, it was Thomas who opted to be artificially inseminated by donor sperms and gave birth to the three children attributed to this man-made family.

Who is fooling who? It certainly takes much more than a moustache, a deep voice and government approval to become a man. Beatie had no male reproductive organs – even if for cosmetics. And since “wife” Nancy had had hysterectomy and could not carry a baby again, it was Thomas who opted to be artificially inseminated by donor sperms and gave birth to the three children attributed to this man-made family. It's difficult to see what's in this kind of relationship for the two partners, except to conclude that they are extremely confused and are groping at whatever they thought could bring fulfillment and happiness. And yes, there are the ever-present agents of the new sexuality agenda who goad and encourage them along such foolishness, turning them into laughing stock “celebrities”. Bearded Thomas certainly had his gigs and moments of stardom as he was featured on top talk shows as the first pregnant man in history. However, like the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, who had had five husbands, and was co-habiting with a sixth man before having an encounter with the Lord Jesus (John 4), the story of Thomas and Nancy clearly indicates a sad, tormented life. On one of the several shows he featured on, Beatie described the various medical complications associated with his having to take testosterone, twice a week, for several years. He also lamented his not being accepted beyond the circle of his handlers in the new sexuality world. He seemed pained as he complained: "Doctors have discriminated against us, turning us away due to their religious beliefs. Health care professionals have refused to call me by a male pronoun or recognize Nancy as my wife"

As at the time when Beatie was recording his latest interview with People Magazine, he and Nancy had been separated for an undisclosed period of time. Details of whether they will divorce or not is reserved for yet another episode of another talk show. (<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/upshot/pregnant-man-thomas-beatie-splits-wife-222259218.html>)

What Can Be Learned From the Tragic Life of Whitney Houston

In a Feb 19 article with the above title, Todd Strandberg of Rapture Ready examined the awful price people pay for being pop celebrities. Todd wrote:

“Being a pop singer is one of the most dangerous occupations on the planet. There are dozens of websites that track the premature death of musicians. One of the most extensive sites that I found averaged all the deaths and came up with a life span of 36.9 years. The average for

the general population is 75.8 years.”

Referring specifically to the death of singer Whitney Houston who was found in the bath of her Beverly Hilton hotel room with her face underwater, Todd noted that “Houston had a long history of drug problems; and that . Los Angeles cops are said to have found six prescription pill bottles—Xanax, Lorazepam, Ibuprofen, Midol, Amoxicillin, and Valium. It seemed obvious enough that “a cocktail of prescription drugs and alcohol” is the cause of Houston's death.

At 68 The longevity of . Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones is often talked about. But Todd attributed that to just uncommon luck. But then he added, “Since Mr. Richards looks and talks like he died in 1980, there is something to be said about the quality-of-life factor “. Back home in Nigeria, many will agree that the quality of life factor is certainly a reality in the case of reggae maestro, majek fashek. See The Westerner (Compass), May 6)

This is how Todd concluded his thought-provoking article:

“People take drugs to escape from pain, and it's not the physical kind. Whitney Houston wasn't doing handstands the day before she died. I don't think she needed narcotics for back pain. Before Michael Jackson died, he was taking enough drugs to tranquilize a team of horses.

“The pain that celebrities are trying to escape from is the realization that success can't bring happiness. Mike Tyson is one of the best examples. The former heavyweight boxing champion manage to do the seemingly impossible: He blew the \$300 million he earned from his career. He had excessive spending on mansions and expensive cars, but these item would hold their value. What put him in the poorhouse was women and parties that would cost \$200,000 per night.

“The tragic death of people like Whitney Houston is a warning for us to be ready. Even though you and I are nobodies in the eyes of the world, we have a precious commodity that dead celebrities no longer possess: the opportunity to seek God's will.

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). [<http://www.raptureready.com/nm/393.html>]

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2Co 11:13-15

Gauging motives by high tech from front page)

The Future Attribute Screening Technologies (FAST) program according to the DHS, is being established “to determine whether technology can enable the identification and interpretation of a screened subject's physiological and behavioral cues or signatures, which, in turn, “will allow for security personnel to remotely (and therefore, more safely) identify diagnostic cues of malintent.

In other words, by utilizing a variety of sensors placed in key positions to capture such things as video images and audio recordings, as well as cardiovascular signals, pheromones, perspiration, changes in the electrical properties of the skin in response to stress or anxiety and respiratory measurements – people who are nervous or shifty (as potential terrorists or drug couriers are presumed to be), could be identified, remotely.

However, not only are critics questioning how reliable this new technology could be (especially relative to other options available), they are also wondering if the government has the right to monitor citizens bodily metabolic functions without first obtaining their consent. <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2012/May09/0975.html>

Progress in achieving total control of earthlings

Desire to remotely monitor people, and the development of appropriate technology to achieve it, is a global affair. From Japan comes the announcement of a new camera technology which can scan days of camera footage instantly, and find any face which has EVER walked past it. The Hitachii Hokusai Electric, makers of the camera claims it can scan 36 million faces per second. According to UK's Daily mail, “The technology raises the spectre of governments - or other organisations - being able to 'find' anyone instantly simply using a passport photo or a Facebook profile.” <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>

And talking about Facebook, a CBS news report says that unlike the past when potential employers would pull up the social media profiles of job candidates, they are now actually demanding the passwords to their Facebook accounts, as part of the vetting process. http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505144_162-57401868/want-a-job-give-up-facebook/.

Even before the series of official announcements now being made, it has always been an open secret that major security agencies all over the world do systematically monitor social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter for intelligence information. In fact, some people insist the Facebook was sponsored by the CIA just to encourage people to keep chatting in a format that can easily be monitored. As the recent developments in the UK (the Murdoch affairs) clearly show, even the snooping Press could go to considerable length to gain clandestine access to people's digital communication.

It is of course well known that your Internet

Service Provider has a record of all your activities on the Internet. Indeed, (now ex) President of France, Sarkozy threatened to prosecute people who visit too frequently site preaching hatred and violence (<http://blog.alexanderhiggins.com/2012/03/23/we-punish-visiting-websites-justify-terrorism-103181/>). And for those who still don't understand that every transaction on their phone or internet-connected computer is being recorded, stored, and monitored, perhaps they will get it better as from Thursday July 2 on which date when, the largest Internet Service Providers ISPs in the US have agreed to begin the voluntary implementation of a new anti-piracy plan that will prevent people downloading potentially copyrighted software, videos or music.

The bottom line is that all Internet activities (postings, downloads, etc) of everybody on the planet, are being monitored and stored up – permanently; that there are an increasing number of people and organizations who are interested in these digital activities, and that new technology to facilitate the search are becoming common place. All these of course are laying firm groundwork for the coming world ruler, who according to the Scriptures will have absolute control over the lives of every person living on the planet. The Bible calls him the anti-christ. These developments abundantly warn that the coming of this man is very much at hand. How prepared are you for these imminent events?

Kundalini Energy (the effects of Soaking Prayer) by Ray Yungen

“Many Christians might have great difficulty accepting the assessment that what is termed Christian mysticism is, in truth, not Christian at all. They might feel this rejection is spawned by a heresy hunting mentality that completely ignores the love and devotion to God that also accompanies the mystical life. To those who are still skeptical, I suggest examining the writings of Philip St. Romain, who wrote a book about his journey into contemplative prayer called Kundalini Energy and Christian Spirituality. This title is revealing because kundalini is a Hindu term for the mystical power or force that underlies Hindu spirituality. In Hinduism it is commonly referred to as the serpent power.”

“St. Romain, a substance abuse counselor and devout Catholic lay minister, began his journey while practicing contemplative prayer or resting in the still point, as he called it. What happened to him following this practice should bear the utmost scrutiny from the evangelical community—especially from its leadership. Read the rest of this article at the website of LightHouse Research(<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=1757>)

*I have no greater joy than
to hear that my children
walk in truth. - 3Jn 1:4*

TOPICAL ISSUE:

Masturbation Not A Sin — Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome of the Believers Love World, a.k.a Christ Embassy shocked both fans and critics when he recently declared that masturbation is not a sin and God is absolutely not bothered a hoot about what a Christian does with his body. Masturbation involves deriving sexual pleasure by fondling one's own body and actively using the mind to get sexually aroused. Apparently, many members of Pastor Chris church had problems with this issue – which they consider as a sin; and having discussed it extensively on a chat forum, decided to get the Pastor's assistance.

In his comments which is available on the YouTube (http://www.youtube.ng/watch?v=DBi8l621wbQ), Pastor Chris was responding to questions from his members and fans, moderated by Pastor Kwadu from Ghana. Kwaku asked: “Pastor, how does one overcome masturbation?”

The response by Oyakhilome was surprising: “The reason you are thinking of stopping it is because you think it has become a habit for you...masturbation is not more than a habit than any other habit” And then he added the shocker: “This habit has nothing to do with God but a lot to do with the body of the person practising it”

For the avoidance of doubt, Pastor Chris explained what he meant by “habit”. Masturbation is just another habit, just like “the habit of playing football”. And to break that habit, one simply replaces that habit with another habit.

The Pastor was not done yet, as he veered off the original question of how, to the issue of why? Why think of breaking the harmless “habit” of masturbation? “There is one thing I would like to bring to your mind that may be of help to you because the reason you are thinking of stopping this is because of what you think it is.” With characteristic charm and emphasis Oyakhilome then proceeded to say: “No matter how wrong you think this is in your mind, get this straight, in itself, it is not a sin against God,”

Speaking further, Pastor Chris said it was only Satan that is oppressing the people of God by troubling them with the unnecessary guilt that masturbation is offensive to God. As a result of this belief that masturbation is a sin, Satan uses it to oppress people of God “making them feel ineffective and inefficient in the things of God.” (See updates and white-washing efforts at <http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2012/03/21/masturbation-not-a-sin-oyakhilome-insists/>)

The main issue then, according to Pastor Chris, is that members of his church that have become steeped in the “habit” of masturbation need not feel bad about it. What offends God, is one's feeling guilty about masturbation. In his words: “Masturbation is about you and your body. God is not offended by it, He is only offended by any habit that takes hold of your mind and if this takes hold of your mind and dominates your body, God is offended.....so if you don't like it, stop it, but God's got nothing to do with it. It is your own body.”

➡ page 4

EXHORTATION:

DISTINGUISHED BY HOLINESS

Our God is not like any god known to man. Those that compare God with idols or make a visage to represent Him make a terrible mistake. Isaiah 40:18, He asks: “To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him?”

One attribute that sets God apart from any other thing imaginable to man is His holiness. This attribute is so unique that in the throne room of heaven it is constantly being declared (Revelations 4:8). It is amazing that because of the love with which He loves us He wants this unique attribute to be reflected in our lives as His children (Hebrews 12:10). Holiness sets us apart and makes us peculiar. If you profess to live a holy life and yet your holiness does not make you positively different, that holiness is questionable.

You are called to be different. You are called to shine forth as light in the midst of a crooked generation. This is why you are peculiar to God (1 Peter 2:9). How different are you? If your life radiates His light, there is hardly anything you will desire that you will not get. It is through Jesus we have access to all that God provides for us. In light of this, Christians who rush out to work or school in the morning without praying, ought to be pitied as they are losing a key anchor for that day. Each time you begin your day with the Lord, your day's success would have been settled ever before leaving home. Those that wait on Him realize that success is far simpler and cheaper through waiting on Him than when you go in your power. Leaving your house without fellowshiping with God shows that He is not relevant in your life. God does not like to be ignored, which is why it is those who recognize Him that end up being recognized. How God-dependent are you?

Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye

(From Open Heavens Devotional reading for Monday 13th February, 2012)

Church Arise! is published bi-monthly by the Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM), P.O. Box 1674, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria

Editor: **Joshua O. Ojo**

Library: Niyi Famuko Circulation: Adeleke Adewale

Secretariat: LivingWater House, Surulere Line 2, Oke-Opa, Ife

Phone: 0805 710 6482 or 0708 645 2044

e-mail: Joshua@churcharise.org **Website:** www.ChurchArise.org

BLOG: <http://churcharise.blogspot.com/>

This newsletter is mailed out free of charges to interested subscribers. To subscribe or for some reason end your subscription, simply send a note to that effect.

Financial donations are **most welcome** from children of God, as led by the Holy Spirit. Please address cheques to CALM, Ile-Ife. **We operate current account No:** 1992010018999 at First Bank Plc, Ile-Ife branch