



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The apostasy in North America.



The Editor recently returned from a five-week visit to some Free Presbyterian congregations in Canada and USA. He preached in Port Hope, Barrie, and Toronto Free Presbyterian churches in Ontario before travelling westward to Penticton and Cloverdale and returning home via Malvern Free Presbyterian church, near Philadelphia. During his visit, he was able to savour something of the moral and spiritual state of North America by the stories in the religious news. We feature some of those stories on this page. It is clear that the spirit of apostasy that we see at work in our society here in the United Kingdom is at work in North America also and producing the same wickednesses and corruptions. The whole world is sliding downward

and lies in the grip of evil. "And we know that . . . the whole world lieth in wickedness," 1 John 5:19.

Canadian Conservative MPs Tell Liberal Government to Stop Threatening Churches

Brian Fitzpatrick, MP for Prince Albert, and Jeff Watson, MP for Essex, called on the Liberal Government in Ottawa, Canada, to stop threatening the charitable status of churches for expressing their constitutionally protected rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Fitzpatrick noted that "the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency has threatened both Roman Catholic and Evangelical Churches with legal sanctions. Their mortal sin was freely and publicly expressing their positions on key moral issues." He said, "I find the government's actions outrageous. Our constitution guarantees every citizen freedom of expression and freedom of religion." He concluded by asking the Minister of Revenue John McCallum, "Why is the Minister attacking our cherished freedoms?" Watson recounted that some church leaders had been highly critical of the Prime Minister's position on certain matters of conscience. Now, Mr. Watson claims, the Prime Minister, through his tax collectors, is threatening to remove tax free status from Roman Catholic and evangelical organizations. He asked, "Why is the Prime Minister permitting government agencies to attack and threaten freedom of religion in Canada?" According to recent news reports, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) threatened to lift the Roman Catholic Church's charitable status in Calgary because of a letter Bishop Fred Henry wrote to his flock stating Prime Minister Paul Martin was not a good Catholic politician. Bishop Henry was also asked by a CRA official in June 2004 (during the election campaign) to remove his pastoral letter from the Calgary diocesan website. In March of 2004, the legal counsels for both the Catholic Church in Canada and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada were asked to be present at a meeting with the Canada Revenue Agency, where they were advised by revenue officials that should their churches become involved in "partisan" political activity during the then-upcoming 2004 federal election they would risk losing their tax-exempt status. "The very fact that



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these churches have been threatened by government officials to curtail their debate on social and societal issues is reprehensible," concluded Mr. Fitzpatrick. The Prime Minister should be ashamed of his government's actions...he needs to call off his minions and leave these churches alone."

Comment. If the Canadian government is issuing threats against those whose overall position is ecumenical and liberal, it is not hard to imagine what its attitude would be to the criticisms of churches faithful to the Bible!

Anglican Church of Canada "Affirms the Integrity and Sanctity of Committed Adult Same-Sex Relationships"

The decision by the Anglican Church of Canada, earlier this year, to withdraw a proposal to bless homosexual unions, was overshadowed by a new measure to "affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships." The new amendment was part of a resolution (according to an Anglican Journal report) that stated, in part: "That despite deeply held convictions on both sides of the same-sex blessings issue, 'we commit ourselves to strive for that communion into which Christ continually calls us.'" 'love' The motion to include the addition was introduced by Rev. Canon Garth Bulmer of the Diocese of Ottawa. The motion was seconded by a member of the Montreal Diocese, Rev. Dennis Drainville, who said that "sanctity" was an appropriate word to be used in the amendment, because "God is in the midst of that relationship between two committed partners. This says to thousands of people that we love you, we include you among the faithful, we seek to live with you, to work with you, to know you." In response to the Canadian decision to defer the vote on blessing of homosexual unions until 2007, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said: "It is important that the Canadian church has held back from a structural shift that would have run counter to the pleas and wishes of . . . so many around the Communion." He did not make any comment on the follow-up decision. no inhibitions Although the same-sex blessings decision was deferred for three years, Canadian Primate-elect, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, said that no ban was issued that would prevent bishops from unilaterally conferring blessings on same-sex unions for their own diocese. "Constitutionally, because there is no inhibiting legislation at the level of general synod, it does leave dioceses at liberty to make their own decisions," Hutchison said.

Comment. Evil men are determined to call holy that which God calls evil and in His name to overthrow the teaching of the Bible on the wickedness of sodomy. That God will not tolerate and His wrath will yet be manifested against such arrogant defiance.

Canadian Anglicans form Break-Away Group in Defiance of Same-Sex Couple "Blessings"

A group of Canadian Anglicans has broken away from the Anglican Church of Canada in defiance of its pro-homosexual position. The group, calling itself the Anglican Communion



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in Canada, says homosexual unions are not supported by Holy Scripture. Three Saskatchewan congregations have joined the new group, along with their pastor. Reverend Tom Needham of Regina resigned from his position as an Anglican pastor to become pastor for break-away groups in Regina, Qu'Appelle and Indian Head. "What happens to the church if the morals and the ethics of Christians are decided by a body of men?" he said, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Province of Saskatchewan has become the seventh Canadian jurisdiction to allow same-sex marriages. Madam Justice Donna Wilson of the Court of Queen's Bench ruled on Friday that the traditional definition of marriage, as it currently exists, discriminates against gay and lesbian couples. Five couples who were denied marriage licences because they were not of the opposite sex filed a statement of claim, seeking a declaratory judgment that the common-law definition of marriage be changed. The group wanted the definition changed to read "two people to the exclusion of others," rather than "two people of the opposite sex." The judge found that it is unconstitutional to exclude same-sex couples from civil marriage and changed the law to include them, said Greg Walen of Saskatoon law firm Scharfstein Gibbings Walen & Fisher, who represents the couples. "The judge agreed with the Ontario Court of Appeal that the dignity of persons in same-sex relationships is violated by the exclusion of same-sex couples from the institution of marriage."

Comment. Man would turn the pulpit and the court of law against the pronouncements of God and classify them as wicked. This is apostasy lining up itself to face God in the ultimate showdown, as set forth in Psalm 2:1-5 among many other places in the Bible.

Canadians too would vote to Eliminate sodomite "Marriage" if given the Chance

Canadians would reject same-sex "marriage" if given the chance to vote for it, as voters in the US did in its recent presidential election, Gwen Landolt, national vice-president of REAL Women of Canada, has said. "In many regards, we (Canadians) are no different," she said in comments to the Canadian Press. "We're just ordinary people and we're restricted in having a voice here. These referendums show that when you allow people to speak, it's just common sense: You want to have a man and a woman because children need a mother and father." USA Voters in 11 US states voted overwhelmingly to discard same-sex "marriage" in initiatives included in the US presidential election. In addition, nine states voted to make same-sex civil unions and any counterfeit of true marriage illegal. "Why on earth can Canadians not have the same democratic right to express their opinion as Americans do?" Landolt asked. "What we have in Canada is an elitist decision by a handful of judges who are appointed and not accountable." family "People are recognizing the value of family," Alberta Conservative MP Myron Thompson said, speaking about the US re-election of conservative, pro-family President George W. Bush. "Strong families make strong countries and that gives me some enthusiasm."

Comment. Undoubtedly, common decency and common sense agree with the Bible on the question of sodomy. Such perversion alarms and frightens the average parent, for they know that the paedophile springs from that same camp of per-



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version, and tolerance of sodomy leads to increased activity by those who prey on children. The whole course of society of late clearly indicates that to be true. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn," Proverbs 29:2.

Abortion Linked to Later Anxiety Problems, New Study Shows

Women who abort unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience subsequent problems with anxiety compared to women who deliver their unintended pregnancies, according to a USA study published in the latest edition of *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*. Using data collected from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), researchers examined a nationally representative sample of 10,847 women aged 15-34 who had experienced an unintended first pregnancy and had no prior history of anxiety. After controlling for race and age at the time of the survey, researchers found that compared to women who carried the unintended pregnancy to term, women who aborted were 30 percent more likely to subsequently report all the symptoms associated with a diagnosis for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). If the excess cases found in the study are projected onto the entire population of women having abortions, there may be as many as 40,000 or more GAD cases per year attributable to abortion. Since many women participating in the NSFG do not report their past abortions, the results may underestimate the full impact of abortion reactions. "Our study suggests that clinicians treating women with anxiety problems may find it useful to inquire about their clients' reproductive histories," said Jesse Cogle, M.Sc., the lead author of the study. "Women struggling with unresolved issues related to a past abortion may benefit significantly from counselling that addresses this problem." Abortion advocates have frequently asserted that carrying an unintended pregnancy to term is more emotionally harmful to women than abortion. But this new study linking abortion to general anxiety disorder comes on the heels of nearly a dozen other studies published in the last three years linking abortion to increased risk of depression, substance abuse, suicidal behaviour, and death from heart disease. Because of the increasing concern about the mental health effects of abortion on women, legislation has been introduced in Congress to expand funding for treatment programmes and research in this area.

Comment. No matter how it is excused, abortion is still murder. It must carry with it therefore, the psychological distresses that such a crime invariably produces. What a dreadful account will have to be given by those who have striven to excuse the murder of tens of millions of unborn babies in that great day of reckoning!