

DISCERNMENT NEWS

Monthly newsletter by Discernment Ministry of "Layman Perspective"

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

01.31.2014

Discernment Categories

Wave mouse over each category for a description of what's covered under that category



Welcome to Layman Perspective first edition of it's discernment news letter.

The Objective

1. Bring about an awareness and discernment among those who have been born again, of the dangers of anti-Biblical movements, teachings and practices that have invaded the church.
2. Enable a more effective missionary ministry to those caught in the clutches of false teaching and apostasy.
3. Equip Christians with a relevant, fine tuned, cultural awareness enabling them to effectively contend for the faith, and to enter arenas of resistance to rescue those caught in the web of apostasy and heretical teaching.
4. Encourage believers to give greater attention to Biblical truth and discernment regarding anti-Biblical movements', teachings and practices currently promoted in the church

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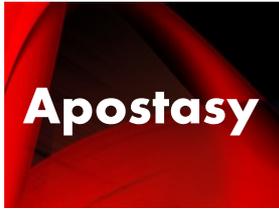
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Mennonite Church USA Ordains First Openly Homosexual 'Pastor'



NEDERLAND, Co. – Mennonite Church USA has ordained its first openly homosexual pastor, reports state.

According to Mennonite World Review, the Mountain States Conference, a division of the Mennonite Church USA, has approved the ministerial license of a Colorado woman who identifies as a lesbian.

Theda Good, who is in a relationship with another woman, began serving with First Mennonite Church of Denver in 2012, and has a master's degree from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia. Her church submitted a letter requesting her licensure last year, and the Conference has been reviewing the matter over a period of many months...[read more](#)

Philly's first gay Presbyterian pastor ordained at Broad Street Ministry



"This past weekend, history was made in the local Presbyterian community.

On Jan. 5, Broad Street Ministry ordained David Norse, the first openly gay male pastor in a Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia....

When he arrived at Princeton Theological Seminary, he immediately got involved with the LGBT student organization, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian And Straight Supporters.

He said the campus climate was supportive of his coming-out process..." [read more](#)

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Are Young Evangelicals Kissing the Culture Wars Goodbye?



"The Religious Right is dead," proclaim political analysts on both the conservative right and liberal left. Phrases like "Post-Christian America" and "Post-Evangelical culture" abound. Yet, a mere two decades ago, these accusations would have gone unspoken. Perhaps it is time to consider if something, indeed, has gone wrong within the Evangelical community.

It is true that a fast-growing separation between the traditional moral values of Evangelicals and their twenty-something kids – the Millennial generation – exists. An Evangelical identity crisis is certainly underway, but that does not mean it is time to write our eulogy just yet...[read more](#)

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Federal Judge Strikes Down North Carolina's Ultrasound Law as 'Harmful,' Unconstitutional



GREENSBORO, N.C. – A federal judge appointed by Barack Obama has struck down North Carolina's ultrasound law as unconstitutional and potentially harmful to pregnant women.

U.S. District Judge Catherine Eagle issued her opinion on Friday, asserting that the regulation was "an impermissible attempt to compel [abortion] providers to deliver the state's message in favor of childbirth and against abortion."

Lawmakers in North Carolina passed the Women's Right to Know Act in 2011, which required women to obtain an ultrasound prior to an abortion, and that the abortionist describe the child's features to the mother, as well as offer the opportunity to listen to the baby's heartbeat. Then-Governor Beverly Purdue vetoed the legislation, but was overruled by a majority vote...[read more](#)

2nd VIEW: Marijuana's potency & what churches can do



WASHINGTON (BP) -- President Obama's recent comments about marijuana are very troubling. Having smoked marijuana myself for many years as a teenager and young adult, I can say that the president's claim that marijuana is less dangerous than alcohol is an inadequate comparison...

Claiming alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana is essentially a distinction without a difference. Marijuana is associated with a long list of physical and psychological problems.

... the Justice Department's own statistics indicate marijuana is associated more often with other criminal behavior than any other illicit drug...In addition, marijuana is acknowledged by millions of users and multiple studies as the gateway to even more destructive drugs...[read more](#)

Beyoncé Vs. the Bible



At Sunday night's Grammy Awards, Beyoncé and Jay-Z performed a memorable rendition of her new single.

"Drunk in Love" is risqué (to say the least), but it highlighted a sexual relationship often ignored by secular artists: sex in the context of marriage...[read more](#)

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Rise of the exorcists in Catholic Church



By Nick Squires, Rome 04 Jan 2014

Dioceses across Italy, as well as in countries such as Spain, are increasing the number of priests schooled in administering the rite of exorcism, fabled to rid people of possession by the Devil.

The rise in demonic cases is a result of more people dabbling in practices such as black magic, paganism, Satanic rites and Ouija boards, often exploring the dark arts with the help of information readily found on the internet, the Church said... [read more](#)

Satanists Unveil Design for Proposed 'Homage to Satan' Near Ten Commandments Monument



(CN) -- A New York-based Satanist group has unveiled its design for its proposed 'homage to Satan,' which it seeks to place next to a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Oklahoma state capitol building.

As previously reported, the Satanic Temple issued a news release about its intentions last month, outlining that the placement of the display may resolve the dispute over the Ten Commandments monument, which is currently the subject of a federal lawsuit...

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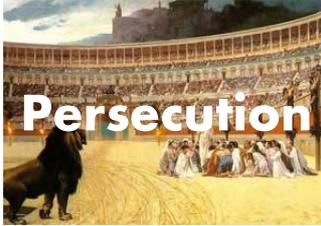
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Global Christian Martyrdom Doubled in 2013



(CN) -- The number of Christians killed for their faith doubled in 2013, according to a newly-released report on the international persecution of Christians.

Each year, Open Doors USA releases its World Watch List (WWL), in which it outlines the top 50 most dangerous places to live as a Christian. In this year's report, the organization documents 2,123 known murders of Christians, compared to 1,201 deaths in 2012...[read more](#)

Persecution of Christians reveals most abuse in Muslim countries



Nine of top 10 countries where Christians suffer are Islamic, according to Open Doors USA.

The majority of anti-Christian persecution in the world in 2013 took place at the hands of Muslims, according to a list by Open Doors USA ...[read more](#)

Legal Group Reports 'Dramatic Increase' in Hostility Toward Christian Students in Public Schools



"We have seen a dramatic increase of phone calls nationwide as it pertains to kids in public schools who are facing hostility because of their faith," General Counsel Bob Tyler of Advocates for Faith and Freedom told Christian News Network...[read more](#)

Syria: Muslims see cross hanging from Christian's neck, immediately behead him



"When you meet the unbelievers, strike at their necks..." — Qur'an 47:4

"Islamists beheaded a young Christian man and seriously wounded another in attack near Homs, a city in Syria. The pair was travelling by car from Homs to a majority Christian village known as Marmarita. A group of five armed jihadists intercepted the vehicle in which Firas Nader (29), and Fadi Matanius Mattah (34), were traveling and opened fire.

When the assailants reached the car and noted that Fadi wore a cross hanging from his neck, he was immediately beheaded"...[read more](#)

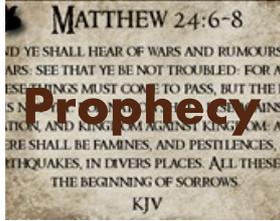
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DAYS OF LOT—Second sitting congressman to marry a same-sex partner



Rep. Sean Maloney (D-N.Y.) is set to be the second sitting congressman to marry a same-sex partner. Maloney's office on Tuesday announced his engagement to his partner of 21 years, Randy Florke...[read more](#)

More Americans Believe Aliens Have Visited Earth Than Believe That Jesus Is The Son Of God



According to a National Geographic survey, 77 percent of all Americans "believe there are signs that aliens have visited Earth", and according to a recent Harris poll only 68 percent of all Americans believe that Jesus is God or the Son of God. That means that the number of Americans that believe that UFOs have visited us is now greater than the number of Americans that believe what the Bible has to say about Jesus Christ. With each passing year, the frequency of UFO sightings seems to keep increasing, as does the number of movies, television shows and video games featuring aliens and extraterrestrial life. It is almost as if the population of the planet is being primed for something... [read more](#)

Biblical doom of Damascus 'right before our eyes'



With U.S. warships looming offshore, reports of chemical weapons and saber-rattling from Iran about the coming of Armageddon, the nation of Syria and its capital, Damascus, are at the epicenter of what some suggest may become a prophesied battle of biblical proportions.

...“More importantly, we are the first generation in history to see such dramatic and striking alignments.”

Gallups points to the biblical passage of Psalm 83 – which tells of the nations surrounding Israel conspiring against it...Isaiah 17, ...tells of a day when Damascus, will utterly destroyed...[read more](#)

170,000 rockets are aimed at Israel's cities, says IDF intel head



The head of Israel's most powerful intelligence agency depicted Wednesday a changing battlefield in which offensive cyber capabilities will, in the near future, represent the greatest shift in combat doctrine in over 1,000 years. For now, though, he said, the 170,000 rockets and missiles pointed by enemy states at Israel represented the most pressing threat,...[read more](#)

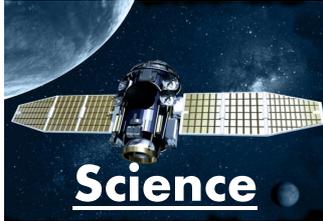
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Discovered Human Hand Bone Puzzles Scientists, Shows No Sign of Evolutionary Changes



KENYA – The recent discovery of a human hand bone in Africa has surprised evolutionary scientists, causing them to significantly revise their previous theories about early humans.

In a recent journal article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a research team announced the discovery of an ancient human hand bone in northern Kenya. Scientists have identified the bone as a third metacarpal, which is a bone found at the base of the middle finger.

Secular scientists assigned an age of 1.4 million years to the metacarpal, which means it is the oldest dated human bone ever discovered. According to the journal article, the discovery "provides evidence for the evolution of the modern human hand more than 600,000 years earlier than previously documented."...

According to experts, the hand bone appears to be fully human and is nearly identical to modern metacarpals. In the original journal article, the researchers wrote, "In all ways, this bone resembles that of a modern human in overall proportions and morphology."...[read more](#)

Live Streaming of Bill Nye/Ken Ham Debate



DEBATE
2.4.14
AT THE
CREATION
MUSEUM.



The **February 4 debate** between Bill Nye and Ken Ham at the Creation Museum has generated tremendous interest across America. Online debate tickets for a spot in our 900-seat Legacy Hall sold out in less than two minutes, and coverage in the news media, blogs, and other websites has continued to remain intense.

What: An evolution/creation debate between Bill Nye and Ken Ham at the Creation Museum.

Tickets offered online for the debate being held inside the museum's 900-seat Legacy Hall sold out in less than two minutes. The debate will now be available live and online, and FREE of charge, at debatelive.org...[read more](#)

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Steven Furtick and Elevation Church



On Oct. 23, 2013 it was reported by the Charlotte Observer that Pastor Steven Furtick of Elevation Church is building a 16,000 square foot gated estate on a large wooded lot in Waxhaw, NC. Which drew a lot of attention from the press. ([read more](#))

I'm not going to rehash any of the articles in their entirety about Furtick but I do think the portrait that is developing should be of concern for those in the church.

In Jan 2/2014 the Charlotte Observer ran two more extensive articles on what was occurring mentions the following

“...members have little to say in how the mega church is run or in how it spends its millions.

And except for the church's chief financial officer and its controller, no one who has made Elevation their spiritual home has any idea as to how much money Pastor Steven Furtick makes”...

Furtick's salary, which is set not by a group of lay members of the church, but by a board of five out-of-town pastors. Furtick is also on the board, but doesn't vote on his salary, Corbett said. These out-of-town board members are friends and mentors to Furtick and, like him, lead growing megachurches. They include Perry Noble of NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C., and Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist in Plano, Texas.

According to the Charlotte, “This board bases Furtick's salary, Corbett said, on a “compensation study formulated by an attorney's office” that's not tied to the church”.[read more](#)

What is really going on here? Is there a spiritual connection to the material indulgences that we are witnessing? Is there more to this story that one needs to understand...[investigate further](#)