

GAY ACTIVISTS RELEASE BIBLE TRANSLATION

Critics of contemporary Bibles, including paraphrase and gender-neutral translations, will now have an even more scandalous version to censure. Late last year, gay activists released what they call, *The Queen James Bible*.

The book's description says that, "The Queen James Bible is based upon The King James Bible, edited to prevent homophobic misinterpretation." The advertisement further states, "Homosexuality was first mentioned in the Bible in 1946, in the Revised Standard Version. There is no mention of or reference to homosexuality in any Bible prior to this — only interpretations have been made. Anti-LGBT Bible interpretations commonly cite only eight verses in the Bible that they interpret to mean homosexuality is a sin; Eight verses in a book of thousands! The Queen James Bible seeks to resolve interpretive ambiguity in the Bible as it pertains to homosexuality; we edited those eight verses in a way that makes homophobic interpretation impossible."

Offering justification for the publication's title, it is explained that, "Commonly known to biographers but often surprising to most Christians, King James I was a well-known bi-sexual. Though he did marry a woman, many gay relationships were so well-known that amongst some of his friends and court, he was known as 'Queen James.' It is in his great debt and honor that we name The Queen James Bible so."

The editors argue that they "were faced with the decision to modify existing interpretively ambiguous language, or simply delete it." Saying that simply deleting passages doesn't "address the problem of interpretive ambiguity" and "renders an incomplete Bible," the editors chose the former.

One example of the editorial revisions is Leviticus 18:22 which reads in the KJV, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination." The unnamed *Queen James Bible* translators render the verse, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind in the temple of Molech: it is an abomination." In defense of their translation, the editors maintain, "Since abominable offenses aren't all punishable by death like this one leads us to believe there was translative error at some point: If having sex with a man is punishable by death, it wouldn't be called an abomination. ... Archetypal pagan rituals for worship of Molech included child sacrifice (literally referenced here in verse 20, and which we know was a 'zimah,' punishable by death), as well as sex with

the male temple prostitutes. In fact, having sex with these male prostitutes in a pagan temple was the most popular form of Molech worship and therefore of 'abominable' pagan idolatry."

Said to be "the perfect Bible for ceremony, study, sermon, gift-giving, or simply to put on display in the home or Church," the 610-page homosexual-friendly version of Scripture is sold on Amazon.com for \$34.95. The website's product page lists God as "Author" and Jesus Christ as "Contributor" of *The Queen James Bible*.

—MKG

CULT KILLING HAS IHOP CONNECTION

The death of a 27-year-old Kansas City woman has drawn unfavorable attention to the International House of Prayer (IHOP), the Charismatic church and ministry headed up by modern-day, self-proclaimed prophet Mike Bickle.

In late October, Bethany Deaton's body was found inside a minivan with a note which read: "My name is Bethany Deaton. I chose this evil thing. I did it because I wouldn't be a real person and what is the point of living if it is too late for that? I wish I had chosen differently a long time ago. I knew it all and refused to listen. Maybe Jesus will still save me." An empty bottle of over-the-counter pain medication was found with the note and officials said that Deaton's death appeared to be a suicide. Less than two weeks later, that conclusion would change as a story of sex and religion was revealed.

Deaton and her husband, Tyler, were part of a group which worshipped together at IHOP in Grandview, Mo., a Kansas City suburb. In 2009, she and Tyler moved from Texas to Kansas City to take part in a six-month internship at IHOP University, a non-accredited school and ministry for missionaries. The couple married in August 2012, less than three months before her death. Tyler had previously launched his own religious group and designated himself its spiritual leader. The Deatons shared a communal home with other male members of the prayer group.

According to a report in *The Kansas City Star*, "Bethany was sexually assaulted over a period of months while drugged with someone else's prescription anti-psychotic, witnesses in the house told authorities. This was happening, the witnesses alleged, in a period of time that

(continues on page 21)

determined like some kind of robots just because of what parents did or did not do? A study of all the Old Testament kings with offspring who turned out the opposite of their parents seems to provide proof that parental behavior patterns are not determinative. The kings of the Old Testament in particular show that God's grace even offsets parental influence. It shows a mix of good kids from bad parents and vice versa. Some children of kings willingly followed the example of their parents, whether good or bad.

Ezekiel 18 sets the record straight. God will judge each individual based on their own sins and not the sins of their parents. God will hold parents accountable for their bad behavior and hold children responsible for their bad responses to that behavior. Jesus did not have perfect parents, but He showed that one can still increase in wisdom and stature in favor with God and man with imperfect parents (Luke 2:52).

Someone may say, "Well, I was abandoned or not loved by my parents." Join the club! This writer grew up in a broken home with divorced parents and a derelict and drunken father. Home life was a nightmare. After my conversion, God in His grace, goodness, and providence allowed me to find Psalm 27. For me it put all the past to rest as far as ever being a place to focus on. The psalmist extols God as being his light and salvation. He focuses on God as his strength. He exalts the beauty of God and knows God is his hiding place. Whatever his father or mother may have done or not done, the psalmist is confident in his perfect heavenly Father and proclaims, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me" (v. 10). This one psalm could save countless minds and countless dollars spent on a psychologist or psychiatrist who wants to spend years doing archaeological research into our past so that we can continue to scrape our insides. It is true, after all, that we become what we focus on. In the end our pocketbooks are lighter, but not our spirits.

The old Helen Griggs chorus says: "Gone, gone, gone, gone! Yes, my sins are gone. Now my soul is free and in my heart's a song; Buried in the deepest sea. Yes, that's good enough for me; I shall live eternally, Praise God! My sins are gone!"

We could put the word "past" in the place of sins in that chorus. "Praise God! My past is gone!" Psalm 27 (mentioned above) focuses on both the present and the future and the psalmist prays, "Teach me Your way, O LORD" (v. 11).

Someone may ask me, "Have you forgiven your father?" Only God can forgive and that is not my prerogative or responsibility. My responsibilities are to not carry any bitterness or hold or nurse grudges and to extend mercy and pity. I am to obey Philippians 3:13-14,

"forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul did not want to do any mental rehearsing that did not encourage his spiritual life. This kind of biblical understanding and approach would put all the confusion of what is called generational curses and deliverance through various forms of exorcism "ministries" out of business!

Unless the Word of God rules us, we will live selfishly looking for excuses. We excuse our own sins, faults, failures, and bitterness, but lack any mercy toward our scapegoats. We require perfection of the living and the dead, but not of ourselves. A Galilean carpenter once said something about planks in our own eyes and how they come first as far as our attention and removal is concerned (Matthew 7:3-5).

Much of our spiritual and mental health is dependent upon our focus. We are to focus on Jesus and His will for us according to Philippians 4:8-9, Colossians 3:1, and Hebrews 12:2 (look them up). We are to focus on the great grace of Jesus and not on an ugly past or parents who were broken. Pity them. Reread Psalm 1 as far as our proper focus. Our minds and spirits depend on it. And in so doing we can say, "Bye-bye, Geraldine."

—GRF

NEWS UPDATES

(continued from page 3)

male members in the house were involved in sexual relationships with [Tyler] Deaton, one saying it was part of a 'religious experience.'"

Because Deaton was seeing a therapist, Tyler as well as other members of the group feared that she would divulge how she was being repeatedly sexually assaulted. Tyler then ordered Micah Moore, a 23-year-old member living in the home, "to kill Bethany Deaton because he knew Moore had it in him to do it," the *Associated Press* stated. The *AP* report further revealed, "Moore told police that he had placed a bag over Bethany Deaton's head and held it there until her body shook."

It was Moore who detailed to police the bizarre episodes and confessed to the murder, causing authorities to abandon the suicide theory. On Nov. 9, three days after the funeral for Deaton, Moore showed up at a Kansas City police station to disclose the sordid series of events leading to her killing. At an earlier time he had told Shelley Hundley, a minister and member of the executive team at IHOP, about the specifics surrounding the homicide.

Police charged Moore with first-degree murder, and *The Star* indicated that according to prosecutors, "[Tyler] Deaton and others in the group are under investigation."

The newspaper also stated that insiders of the group described Tyler as “charismatic [and] controlling.”

One individual who formerly attended Tyler’s Bible study said, “Everything had to go his way. One time he said there would be no discussion until everyone agreed that the King James Version was the only true version of the Bible. Well, I was Catholic so I had a problem with that. So we argued and of course Tyler won everybody over because that’s what he did.”

Moore was a student at IHOPU, and others of the group worshipped together at IHOP. But church officials and their members quickly tried to limit public reaction by putting distance between themselves and Tyler and his group, saying the events are not reflective of IHOP.

Meanwhile, *Charisma* magazine quickly rallied to Bickle’s and IHOP’s defense by publishing an online article titled, “IHOP Kansas City Is Not a Cult, but Cults Are Rising.” The magazine reported that, “*The Huffington Post* published an unfortunate article penned by a radical gay activist characterizing the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo., as a cult. It’s clear ... that [the article’s author] Wayne Besen doesn’t understand the Holy Spirit or how He moves. How could he? He’s not saved and he’s been on a witch-hunt for years.”

Charisma also noted that, “in response to the tragedy IHOP Director Mike Bickle taught on the seven characteristics of a cult. I’ve heard Mike teach on this in the past, but he dusted off his notes to address the IHOP community earlier this month — a responsible response to the heartbreaking story.”

But not all share *Charisma*’s commendation of IHOP. Keith Gibson, apologist and author of *Wandering Stars*, indicates that while the IHOP ministry appears to many to be within the mainstream of Christianity, a closer examination reveals that the group is built upon the shaky foundations of personal revelation and that it promotes heresy.

—MKG

SISTER AIMEE GOES TO BROADWAY

Jesus found Himself headlining Broadway shows in the 1970s with *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*. More recently, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints found itself the casualty of a contemptuous and irreverent — but Tony Award winning — Broadway musical, entitled *The Book of Mormon*. Now the Pentecostal vanguard and Foursquare Church founder, Aimee Semple McPherson, took her turn on New York City’s theatrical stage.

Scandalous: The Life and Trials of Aimee Semple McPherson opened last Nov. 15 and ran through Dec. 9 at the Neil Simon Theatre in New York City.

The Broadway show marks several “firsts.” It is the first Broadway musical about McPherson — narrating the highs and lows of the controversial evangelist’s life. It is also the first time that the Foursquare Foundation has invested in a Broadway production. The group’s customary use of funds is for evangelism and social ministry work. In addition, the show is the first with a book and lyrics written by Kathie Lee Gifford, popular co-host of the *Today* show and former longtime co-host of *Live! With Regis and Kathie Lee*.

Gifford wrote the musical and, before appearing on Broadway, the show had a month-long run in Seattle in 2011 under the title *Saving Aimee*. Gifford’s husband Frank, a former professional football player and sportscaster, attended McPherson’s church as a child. Gifford describes herself as “a very bad follower of Jesus. Every day I try to be a better one.”

Christianity Today magazine, in an online posting, writes that, “The show opens with a scene about the biggest scandal of McPherson’s career. In 1926, she disappeared while swimming in California. When she resurfaced five weeks later in Arizona, she said she had been kidnapped and held prisoner in Mexico. Her critics said she disappeared to be with a married lover. She was charged with lying to a grand jury and conspiracy to commit a hoax in connection with the case, but those charges were dropped. The show flashes back through key moments in McPherson’s life, including her decision to leave her second husband and travel the country holding tent revivals that drew thousands. She began her ministry a few years after the birth of Pentecostalism, and almost single-handedly popularized the movement that’s best known for speaking in tongues and faith healings.”

McPherson’s career spanned from the 1910s until her death in 1944. The International Church of the Four-square Gospel claims 8 million members worldwide.

—MKG

COURT VERDICT IS A SETBACK FOR SCHULLER

In what is being described as “the final chapter” in the court battle between the Rev. Robert H. Schuller and the church and ministry he founded, the erstwhile pastor received only a fraction of the money he claimed was owed to him.

Schuller stated that for decades the books and other materials he wrote were given to the Crystal Cathedral without compensation. He was seeking over \$5 million which he claimed was due to him for his intellectual property, and for copyright infringements and contract violations. Judge Robert Kwan thought otherwise, awarding Schuller just \$615,625 and nothing to his wife,