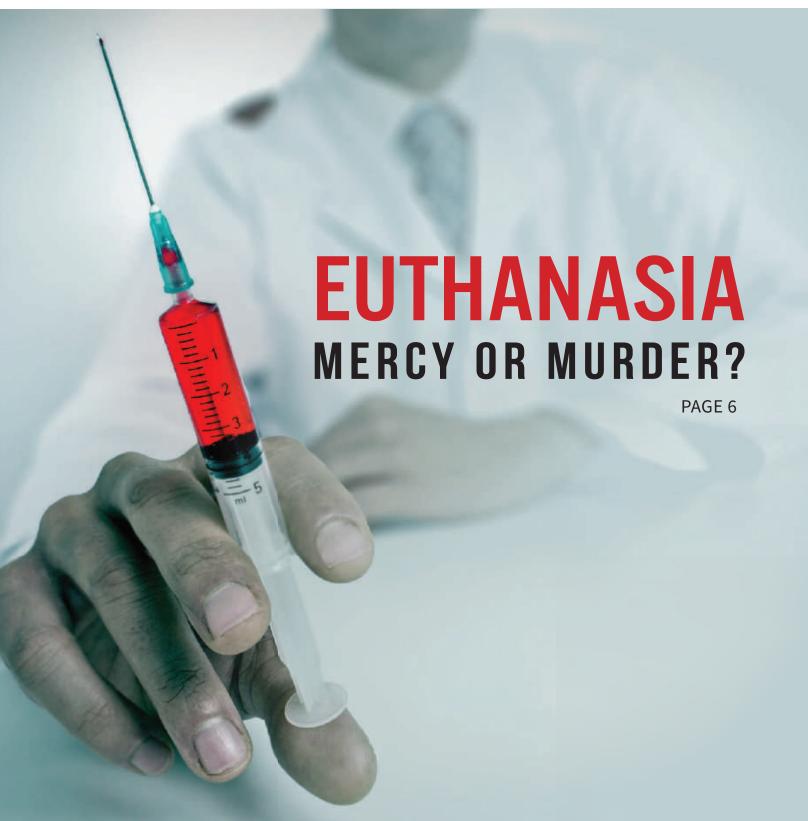


THE GOSPEL TRUMPET

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1



Editorial

2022 has come to a close, and we welcome 2023! Thank God for every mercy given unto man throughout the past year. He is working to awaken the multitudes to their need of salvation. O how this world needs God!

The spiritual realm has been vigorously agitated this past year, and you can be sure that it will only intensify in 2023. The powers of darkness, in desperate fury, lash against Almighty God and His creation. Yet, try as he might, there is one thing the devil is sure of—God will triumph! Satan is a believer and even trembles, knowing that his time is now very short before he is thrown into the lake of fire along with all his evil votaries.

Till then, God's holy army is engaged in the holy conflict. It seems we are fighting a Death Cult. From deadly jabs and pharma's sorceries, to the dark world of encouraged suicides and euthanasia, we are fighting for body and soul. And Big Government, Big Pharma, and Big Tech are setting the structure in place for further oppression under the smoke screen of COVID and climate change. The propaganda-dazed populace sleep through it all.

Satan's wrath is targeted against the church of the living God and all things righteous, even being intent on the defiling and destruction of innocent children. Truly, hateful to him is all mankind, being God's creation. The battle is hot! But for those who endure unto the end, the glory will be great! God is not mocked. Satan's war against Him has an end, and, thankfully, that end is in sight.

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF editor@thegospeltrumpet.com

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TESTIMONIES & LETTERS



Singing Your Hymns in Asia

Greetings in Christ,

I have 5 children and recently just moved from Florida to Asia. We sing hymns at night time and the children really enjoy listening to your congregational singing hymns.

Would you kindly inform us which hymn book is used for the hymns?

Thank you and God bless,

Grateful To See My Copy of Trumpet Dear Editor.

I am so grateful whenever I see my copy of The Gospel Trumpet in the mailbox. I note however, that some issues don't seem to make it to me. I am also concerned about the supply chain disruption that the kings of the earth have created.

Please send me a digital copy of The Gospel Trumpet so that I do not miss any issues.

Thank you very much, and please let

me tell you, Sister Susan, how much I love your writing and reading your articles. I am blessed by every single one.

> Warm wishes from California, Kathleen Kitts

I Appreciate Your COVID Information

I fully appreciate your information on Covid published in the November/December Gospel Trumpet. I have long been aware of the lies and misinformation disseminated by the establishment.

I am giving serious consideration to placing your information page in the local newspaper and if so, wondering if I need your permission and also what a statement would look like giving you credit? Grace and peace,

Everett Cook

The Apostles Set Me Free

Praise the Lord, ye saints of the most High, I am so thankful for the apostles and the teaching. I am so thankful that I was able to find my identity. The apostles set me free. I now know why I live and what my daily calling and gift is.

I desire that each of you seek and find your personal gift and identity in the body of the church. Bro. Gabriel Schall Austria

Refreshing Reminders of the Truth

I have been receiving the Gospel Trumpet magazines for decades. They have been refreshing reminders of the truth the Church of God was founded upon.

Please cancel my paper copies of the magazine and only send them in digital format. Thank you,

Sis. Kimberly Thomas

Taking a Stand

The Lord's blessing to all of you.

Thank you for taking a stand for the Lord's freedom for all Canadians.

Elisa Watson

— J. C. RYLE —

TRUE REPENTANCE is no light matter. It is a thorough change of heart about sin, a change showing itself in godly sorrow and humiliation-in heartfelt confession before the throne of grace-in a complete breaking off from sinful habits, and an abiding hatred of all sin. Such repentance is the inseparable companion of saving faith in Christ.

THE GOSPEL TRUMPET PUBLISHING CO.

ANTI-DENOMINATIONAL HOLINESS PAPER

Editor-in-Chief: Sis. Susan Mutch German Dept.: Sis. Doreen Ertmer Russian Dept.: Bro. Waldemar Anselm

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THE BIBLE TEACHES:

Godly Sorrow and Repentance Acts 3:19; 17:30, 2 Cor. 7:10

The New Birth-a Radical Conversion John 3:3-7

Freedom from Sin/A Holy Life 1 Jn. 5:18, Lk. 1:73-75, Tit. 2:11-12

Entire Sanctification-a Second Cleansing

1 Thess. 5:23, Act 15:8-9

Unity of God's People/One Church

John 17:21. Matt. 16:18

Divine Healing James 5:14-15, Isa. 53:5

Ordinances

Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 13:14-15, 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Plain, Modest Dress

Dt. 22:5, 1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Cor. 11:14-15

Sanctity of Marriage

Mt. 19:5-6, Mk. 10:11-12, Lk. 16:18, Rom. 7:2-3

Non-Violence Luke 3:14; 6:27-29; 18:20 Restoration (Sounding 7th Trumpet)

Rev. 10:7: 11:15

Eternal Punishment or Reward Matt. 25:46

This definite, radical, anti-sectarian holiness paper is published in the name of the Lord for the edification of the church of God. Its mission is to point souls to full salvation through Christ and to expose the errors of spiritual Babylon (false religion). We desire this paper to be used as a sharp instrument in the hands of the Lord, breaking the spiritual silence in this time of restoration.

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NEWS MAINSTREAM MEDIA DOES NOT REPORT

93 DEAD CANADIAN DOCTORS

NINETY-THREE DOCTORS HAVE RECENTLY FALLEN VICTIM TO SUDDEN DEATH in Canada after the introduction of the COVID injections. Doctors were under tremendous pressure to take the jab, as all the health leaders in Canada aggressively pushed COVID mandates on all their healthcare workers. Most doctors by now have had four COVID shots-some have even had five.

They are now dying at 4x the prior rate under age 40 and 8x the prior rate under 30. This report is from November 18, 2022.

McMaster University admitted they have lost 3 of their medical residents this summer, aged 25, 27, and 32. "This is not just unusual. This is unheard of," noted renowned health researcher, Dr. Paul Alexander.

THIS COVID JAB IS DEADLY!

https://redvoicemedia.com/2022/11/death-signal-canadian-doctors-are-dying-at-4x-prior-rate-under-40-8x-prior-rate-under-30/

UK DATA ON JAB DEATHS

UK data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveals that the jabbed have much higher all-cause mortality than the unvaccinated-in ALL age groups. The data also show that it takes about five months after the jab for the deadly consequences to set in.

Data derived from the ONS and compiled by *The Expose News* in May 2022, showed that 70,000 people died within 28 days of receiving the COVID jab; nearly 180,000 died after 60 days. Children who received the jab had an increase of all-cause mortality between 8,100% and a whopping 30,200%.

In October 2022, *The Expose* updated the data released by the UK government and the results were even more alarming:

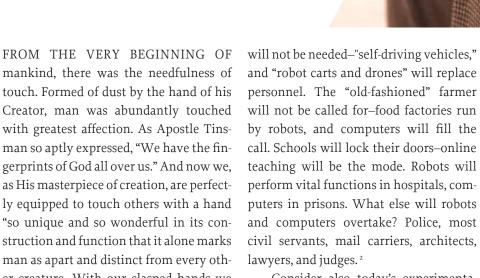
- 1 in every 482 Covid-19 injected persons in England sadly died within one month of the Covid-19 jab,
- 1 in every 246 Covid-19 injected person in England sadly died within 60 days of the Covid-19 jab, and
- 1 in every 73 Covid-19 jabbed people were dead by May 2022.

There's more disturbing UK data. In response to a Freedom of Information request, the UK National Health Service reported a doubling of heart-related ambulance calls from 2020 to 2021. In 2022, there were even more 911 calls, and most have been for persons under age 30. On average, there were about 24,000 annual ambulance runs between 2017 to 2020. In 2021 alone, the calls increased by nearly 50%, and 82% were for patients under age 30.

https://drtenpenny.substack.com/p/help-wanted-where-are-the-workers

Humanity Needs a HUMAN TOUCH

SIS. ELFIE TOVSTIGA



Consider also today's experimentation with remote touch. Cynthia Gorney, a contributing writer of National Geographic invites us to envision "one person in Los Angeles, one person in Cleveland. Across 2000 miles...they're trying to shake hands." Such scientific opportunities may seem intriguing (one can actually purchase "virtual reality gloves" and "virtual reality goggles" which can be "wired to make your actual fingers and palms feel something like contact as your virtual hands touch virtual things"). Still, I declare that a remote touch is unable to match the unduplicatable effect of

> the touch of a human hand. Indeed. the author herself agrees that, "Even the simplest touch to skin sets off neural messaging so complex that scientists are only

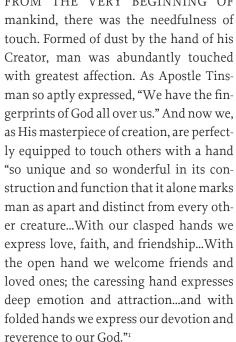
beginning to mimic it through engineering."3 Ah, it is but mimicry and imitation, not real.

The same article states that the first thing we felt in the womb was the sense of touch. For a newborn, the right kind of touch can actually be life-preserving. It is interesting to note from Harry Harlow's experiment that baby monkeys (macaques) revealed their need of a soft touch to be greater than the need of steady feeding. 4

So remarkably beneficial is the human touch for our wellness, that by it, studies suggest, we may experience lower stress and anxiety levels, a decrease in depression, reduced blood pressure, and a stronger immunity. Through touch, the hormone oxytocin is released, which produces feelings of bonding, gratefulness, generosity, and trust. It is no wonder that the handshake is of significance when greeting someone new!

By the way, cell phone messages cannot produce these same feelings. Oxytocin is not secreted digitally! How vital it is then to reinforce emotional attachments with a loving touch. 5 According to Virginia Satir, "we need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need twelve hugs a day for growth."5

Come, my brothers and sisters of humanity. For too long, we have been out of touch. The last three years, espe-Continued on Page 8



Consider a contrasting scene: a society robbed of the human touch, operated by robotic, digital, and virtual means. Dr. Vernon Coleman's description sounds somewhat like this: Large stores will not require cashiers nor employees to stack shelves-automatic tills and robots will do those jobs. Delivery men and taxi drivers



EUTHANASIA: MERCY OR MURDER?

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH



LETHAL INJECTION IS NOT A normal part of healthcare. It is only for dogs and cats, right? O how times have changed! At rapid speed, it is becoming the norm in Canada-and it is woeful. Since medical assistance in dying (MAID) was implemented in Canada in 2016, 31,664 people have chosen to be euthanized. 1

Initially, it was said that it was only for the terminally ill. Did you really think it would stay there? In 2015, the Supreme Court opened this devilish door when they declared that fears of "a descent down a slippery slope into homicide" were just that: fears founded on nothing more than speculation and scaremongering. But this slippery slope was, in fact, easy to forsee, and occurred just as the activists behind MAID intended. Legalize in limited circumstances, normalize, then after the basic "right" to die is established comes the sinister flood.

Pro-euthanasia activists continue to lobby successfully for ever wider access to the "right" to die.

No Moral Safeguard

Ashworth-Haves writes: "The incentives for individuals and the state to behave in diabolical ways are simply too strong to be ignored. Once the essential moral safeguard that murder is wrong is abandoned, the creeping normalisation of death by doctor inevitably expands.

"This is again visible in Canada, where 10,000 people were killed by their doctors in 2021 alone. The scope of the law has shifted now from people facing imminent death to those simply experiencing 'intolerable' symptoms in the view of the patient or doctor.

Legislators are now expanding coverage to the mentally ill, who will be offered the option of ending it all. Move fast, break things, and ask questions later."

Cold, Hard Cash

"There are people in Canada who will have begged to be put into suitable housing, or to have other accommodations made for them. But these things are expensive, and involve significant effort on the part of the state bureaucracy. Assisted dying only requires two signatures and the depression of a syringe. And while it might be a terrible outcome for those whose lives could have been saved. euthanasia is a tremendous fiscal boost to the state. The mentally ill are costly, the disabled are costly, the sick are costly. They take up hospital space, they take up doctors' time, they impose a burden on state services, they require state workers to work."2

Kevin Yuill stated that "Some seem to be justifying MAID in terms of a costbenefit analysis. In 2020, one Canadian senator requested details on the potential financial impact of expanding MAID. An official Canadian government document, produced in response, claimed that existing MAID legislation was likely saving \$87 million in taxpayer-funded healthcare costs, while expanding it would save a further \$62 million."

Apparently, the Canadian government places little value on the lives of their people, as already evidenced

through the COVID fiasco.

Jonathon Van Maren, of Lifesite News, reported that Canadian assisted suicide lobbyists make millions by pushing the vulnerable to take their lives. In his view, "Dying with Dignity is one of the most dangerous organizations in the country, working daily to exploit the compassion and empathy of parliamentarians and the public to persuade them that suicide is the answer to virtually any form of suffering. They claim that denying suicide to the mentally ill is 'stigmatizing and discriminatory,' apparently without considering how stigmatizing and discriminatory it is to tell mentally ill people that the government agrees that their lives are not worth living and is willing to facilitate their suicides should they happen to ask...

"Dying with Dignity is staffed with people who are getting money to push for an expansion of Canada's euthanasia regime-which, as we are seeing almost daily, is producing a conveyer belt of corpses as impoverished and desperate Canadians who cannot get the help they need are opting to die at the end of a needle instead." 4

The death industry is about money.

How about Living with Dignity?

The homeless, the lonely, the depressed-our brothers and sisters in the human family-deserve to be offered help and the proper resources to live with dignity, not death!

Christine Gauthier, a paraplegic and retired army corporal, asked for a home wheelchair ramp. She received a letter from a government official saying "if you are so desperate, madam, we can offer you MAID: Medical Assistance in Dying."

A mother reported that her son's social studies teacher told a class of 13-14 year olds that depression is considered long-term mental illness, and they qualify for MAID without their parents' knowledge or permission!

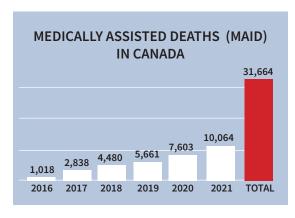
Others requesting palliative care are being offered the same. Many have reported that doctors and hospital staff are encouraging people to euthanize—and these are not all seriously sick or elderly. It is unsettling to know that doctors are offering this as a "treatment option." Such doctors are not focused on improving one's health and life. Doctors take an oath to do no harm. The Hippocratic Oath explicitly forbids euthanasia, but now they are facilitating death, and, with restrictions being broadened over these past six years, they murder with government approval.

Dr. Louis Roy of the Quebec College of Physicians recently recommended to Canadian lawmakers that MAID be offered to children born with severe disabilities up to the age of one, as well as the elderly who are "tired of being alive."

The original justification for euthanasia has clearly given way to ridding the nation of the undesirable and distressed. The population control zealots must be delighted when people voluntarily exit their planet.

Faltering on a Precipice

Kevin Yuill states: "Arguments marshalled in favour of euthanasia in Canada



Escalation of Doctor-Assisted Deaths in 6 Years

bear a striking resemblance to those made in the past to justify eugenics. At the turn of the 20th century, the most fierce proponents of euthanasia and eugenics were physicians and academics. In the U.S.A, Dr. Ella Dearborn cheerfully called for 'euthanasia for the incurably ill, insane, criminals and degenerates.' Dearborn thought it entirely reasonable that everyone should pass an examination allowing them to continue living."

Bioethicists have been writing about this for a long time. BEWARE when government is involved in whether you live or die! The trend is clear-and it is sinister.

Canada is leading the way with their liberal euthanasia laws, causing some international concern. Further, they are combining it with organ donations. Do you smell money? The nightmare does not end here. The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation-a respectable transplant medical journal-has published an article proposing beating-heart harvesting as a form of euthanasia where medicalized homicide is legal.5

In a recent Forbes article by Gus Alexiou, the author couldn't be more correct in stating that "the country's medical establishment is faltering on a precipice."

He further expresses concern that Canada's liberal euthanasia laws seem to be deliberately inserted into the routine dialogue between doctors and patients, setting Canada apart from other countries that keep it separate from other medical venues. Nor does Canada have the same checks and balances.6

The Canadian government does not

value life, especially of those they deem undesirable or useless. Tim Stainton, director of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at the University of British Columbia said "the country's uniquely permissive euthanasia laws were 'probably the biggest existential threat to disabled people since the Nazis' program in Germany in the 1930s."7 Eugenists would have us to believe that it is "mercy killings." This is not

Canada's euthanasia regime is producing a conveyer belt of corpses as impoverished and desperate Canadians who cannot get the help they need are opting to die at the end of a needle.

a service of compassion, as they would have you believe.

This coming year, Canada is set to extend its euthanasia laws to include people suffering from mental health conditions and potentially minors. Is it a coincidence that the government has also stated that those who refuse to be vaccinated are mentally ill? A danger to society? Don't agree with the government narrative? Here we go!

Human Life Is Sacred

We are not soul-less cats and dogs whose lives end with this life. Human life is sacred, given by God. He breathed into man the breath of life (Gen. 2:7)-a soul which lives on after this life through all eternity in either heaven or hell. People are ending their lives to escape distress, only to immediately face the shock in unspeakable, eternal woe.

Euthanasia is murder. Suicide is murder. Both are condemned by God (Exodus 20:13). He only has the exclusive right to end life, contrary to neo-pagan belief. "The opinion that euthanasia is morally permissible is traceable to Socrates, Plato, and the Stoics."8

When nations forsake the Word of God, they are left without a foundation and are in a bottomless pit. Morals now aside, it is a free-fall into a dystopian nightmare.

- 1) https://canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medicalassistance-dying/annual-report-2021
- 2) https://lifenews.com/2022/12/16/canada-killed-morethan-10000-people-in-assisted-suicide-last-year/
- 3] https://spiked-online.com/2022/10/26/how-canadabecame-a-world-leader-in-euthanasia/
- 4] https://lifesitenews.com/blogs/canadian-assisted-suicidelobbyists-make-millions-by-pushing-the-vulnerable-to-taketheir-lives/
- 5) https://nationalreview.com/corner/heart-harvestingeuthanasia-promoted-in-transplant-journal/
- 6, 7) https://forbes.com/sites/gusalexiou/2022/08/15/ canadas-new-euthanasia-laws-carry-upsetting-nazi-eraechoes-warns-expert/
- 8] https://www.britannica.com/topic/euthanasia

A Human Touch

Continued from Page 5



cially, have produced a people pining for lack of a touch, suffering under an evil, dehumanizing agenda instigated by the kings of the earth and their collaborators. It is time to remove our latex gloves, literally and figuratively, and stretch forth our hands towards one another-friend or stranger, young or old, happy or sad, rich or poor, no matter their culture, color, or language. Jesus, our ultimate example, walked among the people, stretched out His hands to embrace the children and blessed them by the laying on of His hands (Mark 10:16). Over and over, with the most life-changing results, He put forth His hand to touch the sick and needy. Equally beautiful it was, when the infirm reached forth toward HIM, to touch HIS garment, "and as many as touched Him were made whole" (Mark 6:56).

Is there no hope of receiving such a touch today? Must humanity, so greatly impoverished by the present circumstances of this cruel world, despair? The answer is a beautiful one: "Peace be unto you," said the resurrected Jesus as He showed His apostles His hands: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:20-21). God, still today, is "manifest in the flesh" through His church, His people, specifically His end-time apostles (1 Tim. 3:16). Still today, He has hands, and through these blessed human hands flows an all-sufficient supply of healing, comfort, courage, and inspiration. This is the touch humanity needs most.

Sources:

- 1. "The Human Hand" from The Wonders of Creation by Alfred M. Rehwinkel
- 2. "A third of all jobs will disappear by 2030..." Dec.
- 2, 2022. vernoncoleman.org
- 3. "The Power of Touch" by Cynthia Gorney. National Geographic 06.2022
- 4.https://dignityhealth.org/articles.blogs.taylormallory-holland
- 5. https://medium.com/@Bewith/why-we-need-8hugs-a-day-548863867123

The Operation of Divine Grace

ADAM CLARKE

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Titus 2:11-15

The extent of human redemption is here pointed out. The saving grace of this great God hath shone out upon every man. None has been passed by, none left uninfluenced, none without the first offer of life eternal, and a sufficiency of grace to qualify him for the state.

The operation of divine grace in preparing the soul for glory is next referred to:

- It cleanses us from all unrighteousness.
- It purifies us unto God.
- It makes us fervent and abundant in good works.

This system is worthy of God, and is properly suited to the state and necessities of man. These are truths which must be preached, which are not preached enough, and which cannot be preached too often. Awake, pastors! and do not the work of the Lord carelessly. Awake, people! and believe to the saving of your souls.

How shall he who is styled a minister of the gospel and who neither knows, feels, nor heartily inculcates these things, give an account in the Great Day of himself, his calling, and his flock, to God?

And when this gospel is preached faithfully and zealously, how shall the people escape who neglect so great a salvation? Neglect, in such a case, is the highest contempt which man can offer to his Maker. Surely such conduct must expect judgment without mixture of mercy.

Reader, lay this to heart.



ARMAGEDDON NEWS

REPORTED BY BRO. DANIEL EICHELBERGER



Wicked rulers of the darkness of this world have much to give account for. They rally and muster the blind, godless masses to be fodder for the cannons of Armageddon. They are prevented by their pride, their ego, their lust for popularity and money from seeing the individual worth of the souls they so casually sacrifice on the fields of Megiddo. They are blind leaders of the blind. Who can read the headlines and think differently? Can you?

Dragging awlong in Canada

Doug Ford, the progressive Conservative Premier of Ontario is making waves in Canada, and we aren't talking about in Lake Erie. Ford's government recently funded a holiday party called Jingle Bell Rock, an "All Ages Drag Night". The party, which was held on December 1 in Kitchener, featured Drew and Crew, three men dressed up as women. That's right folks. All for the enjoyment of your children.

Some Ontarians were incensed and affronted by government sponsorship of such an event. MPP Belinda Karahalios took to Twitter, asking, "Why is @fordnation using taxpayer dollars to pay for adult men dressed as women to 'perform' for children?"

Why indeed! She need look no further than the Prime Minister of her country, Justin Trudeau, who is setting the example for Premier Ford in monumental fashion. In November of last year, Trudeau appeared on the show Canada's Drag Race, much to the delight of the lead drag queen and other participants. "This is groundbreaking," the drag queen gushed. "The first-ever world leader to visit a drag race set."

For his part, the Prime Minister exhorted Canadians to be more welcoming of confusion, er, different perspectives. "Can we move beyond tolerate and start embracing, loving, and accepting and learning from and being challenged by? That's how you build a resilient society."

Of course, these values were on broad display by the Prime Minister during the trucker protests in his capital city last year. Lots of embracing and loving and accepting and learning going on while protesters were violently assaulted, had their assets frozen, and were arrested and arraigned. It's the Canadian way.

A Very Strict Satan

Perhaps you are tired of religion in general and need to find a way to shoot the breeze with a little blasphemy this coming spring. The Satanic Temple (TST) has just the event for you in Boston! Announcing SatanCon 2023, "the largest Satanic gathering in history," promises to be just the thing.

TST's webpage announcing the event states, "This event is dedicated to Boston mayor Michelle Wu for her unconstitutional efforts to keep TST out of Boston's Public spaces."

TST, which (witch?) is headquartered in Salem, Massachusetts, maintains that they neither worship Satan nor believe in his existence or the supernatural. They also state that they do not promote or believe in symbolic evil. "We acknowledge blasphemy is a legitimate expression or personal independence from counterproductive traditional forms," a statement on their website says. "Satan is a symbol of the Eternal Rebel in opposition to arbitrary authority, forever defending personal sovereignty even in the face of insurmountable odds."

A Satan who is no Satan? Who ever heard of such a thing! But it turns out this new-fangled Slewfoot is a veritable father of lies, just like his biblical counterpart. If you plan to attend SatanCon 2023, the website states that you "must be 18 or over and have proof of COVID vaccination. Attendees must wear an N-95, KN-95, or disposable surgical mask. Gaiters, bandanas, and cloth masks will not be allowed."

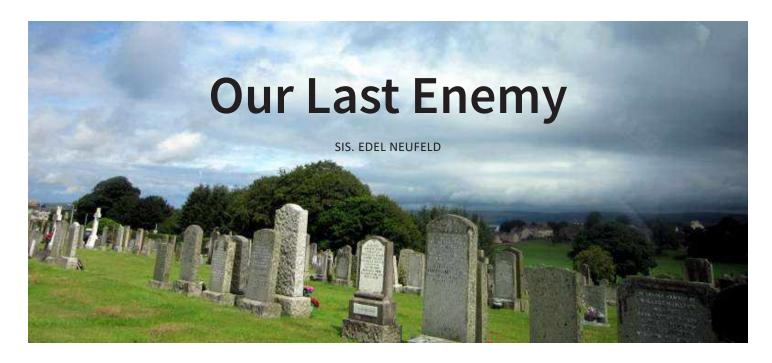
A very strict Satan, indeed! So much for defending personal sovereignty.

Leading Cause of Death in 2022

No, it isn't COVID-19. Nor is it heart disease. The Christian Post is reporting that abortion "was the leading cause of death worldwide in 2022 for the fourth year in a row." Citing statistics posted on Worldometer at the end of last year, deaths from abortion totaled more than 44 million, nearly quadruple that of communicable diseases (13 million), the second largest cause.

The World Health Organization, however, maintains that "around 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year." Why this number differs from the statistics put out by Worldometer is not explained. But one thing is for sure: a single death by abortion is one too many. All life is precious to God. When will this modern holocaust end?

If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch. Both will sink on the battlefield to rise no more. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh at the destruction of these abusers of themselves with mankind. And His saints, with holy love and zeal in their hearts for the salvation of souls, shall shout when the Almighty vindicates His eternal truth with the fires of everlasting destruction. Lord, hasten the day!



n today's world, it is easy to grow callous towards death. We may often not know what has transpired since we last checked the news, but as we open our news feed, one thing is certain—someone will have died. Our daily news feeds are replete with stories of people dying. The causes of their death are as varied as their ages and circumstances. A plethora of diseases, old age, suicide, accidents, and many forms of violence claim the lives of about 60 million people every year.

Our society only reinforces a casual attitude towards death. Covering the wickedness of abortion and doctor assisted deaths behind euphemisms like "women's rights" and "gentle death" effectively desensitizes the public to the sanctity of life and the gravity of death. Death is used as a form of entertainment

in our movies, video games, and music its portrayals ranging from the very vi-

olent to the grotesque and hilarious. This all aids in trivializing death in the minds of the people.

In the past, the death of a family member, friend, or acquaintance served as a somber reminder of the solemnity of death. A death meant attending a funeral, seeing the lifeless corpse in the coffin, and hearing the sobs of the grief-stricken family. The gravity of death is difficult to miss under those circumstances. But today, somber, thought-provoking funerals are being replaced more and more with festive celebrations of life. Gone are the open caskets, the sermons, and the allblack dress code. A celebratory mood, uplifting music, and humour is now the status quo. While completely comfortable with seeing violence, death, and carnage on the big screen every day, our society has become wholly uncomfortable with actual death.

When death ceases to be regarded as the heartbreaking, agonizing, and final event that it is, the effects can be dangerous. Too many are concluding that suicide is the most favourable solution to other times, a small traffic infraction is all it takes for someone's road rage to turn deadly. Evidently, our society has come to regard death as a simple quick fix to just about any predicament.

But nothing can diminish death's awful reality. No attempts to dress it up in jovial clothing can alter its solemnity or lessen the grief it causes. To those who have ever heard the wail of a child who has lost his mother or seen the grief-stricken anguish of bereaved parents, death can never become inconsequential. They understand that behind every humdrum news article about another death, another act of violence, another suicide, there is a cold, lifeless body and a world of grief and pain left in the hearts of those who outlived them.

Jesus Himself has felt this pain. As He walked towards the burial place of

> Lazarus, His grief is recorded in the two words, "Jesus wept." Yet there is much con-

tained in those simple words. It was not only for His personal grief that His tears fell that day. Neither was it only for Lazarus and his sisters. The pain that evoked a groan and caused hot tears to flow down His cheeks sprung from seeing—and feel-

Nothing can diminish death's awful reality. No attempts to dress it up in jovial clothing can alter its solemnity.

their problems. Some husbands would rather murder their wives than accept any of the myriad of alternative options. Sons are killing their mothers over minor disputes, and mothers are disposing of their "inconvenient" offspring. At ing-the awful shadow of death that had been cast over all His creation.

He never intended for His creation to experience death. But sin found an entrance and brought with it the dreadful curse of death. His beautiful, glorious world was forever changed. Now, all His creation lay captive in death's cruel, inextricable grasp. And Jesus wept. And the tears that He shed, the ache in His heart, and the groan that escaped His lips mingled with the pain and groaning of all His creation (Romans

This groan is creation's cry to be delivered from the grasp of death-our enemy. Many have ceased to see death in that light. As is the case when doctor-assisted deaths are called

"gentle death" and promoted as the way to die with dignity, death is portraved as a welcoming, benign saviour. In other cases, death is seen as a suitable solution. But no amount of polish-

Death has been trivialized in the minds of the people, effectively desensitizing the public to the sanctitiy of life and the gravity of death.

ing, downplaying, or legalizing death can ever change the awful reality that death is our vile enemy.

As long as we fail to recognize death in all of its cruel and heart-wrenching reality, we will miss the wonder and beauty of what Christ did when He left the glories of heaven and became flesh and blood so "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).

Today, we see death all around us. Death stalks the whole world, its icy fingers snatching, grasping, often without warning. When death reaches for us or even for a loved one, we are incapable of extracting ourselves from its grasp. A trail of suffering and profound grief are left in its wake.

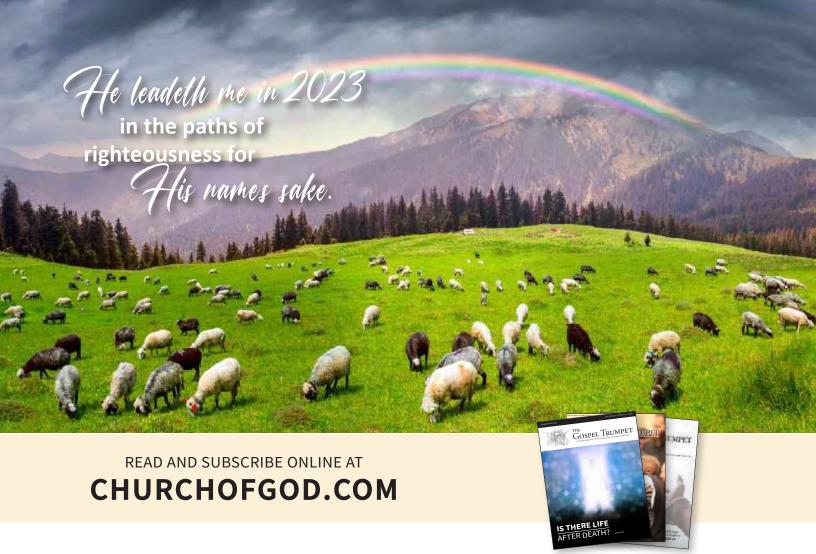
But, oh, there is coming a day when our last enemy shall be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:26)! The day is fast approaching when Death will be forced to relinquish every last victim it ever held in its grasp. What a dreadful day it will be for sinners who died in rebellion to God and must now revive in terror and angst to face God in Final Judgment! But for Christians, those that we mourned and missed for so long will escape their caskets and graves and stand before us with more vigour and life than ever before. In that day, we shall join Paul in his jubilant cry, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory" (1 Cor. 15:54-55)?

What a glorious, most wondrous day that will be! Only when we comprehend the gravity and atrocity of death are we able to appreciate the immensity of that final victory.

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