



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings - Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

September 13, 2023

Burning Man?

“Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods:

I am the LORD your God.” -- Leviticus 19:4

I don't remember hearing about an event called **“Burning Man”** until last week. It was in the news because tens of thousands of attenders were stuck in the desert of Nevada due to rain.

I was curious and so decided to do some research. Here is what I found:

It started in 1986, with 20 people gathering on San Francisco's Baker Beach for the Summer Solstice (it is now held during the last week of August until Labor Day). Artist Larry Harvey and his friend Jerry James erected an 8-foot wooden human effigy, which they then lit on fire. By 1989, more than 300 people convened to watch the Burning Man, as police attempted to break up the gathering. After that, they moved to the desert, specifically the Nevada desert about 120 miles north/northeast of Reno.

There on a “dry lake” (“a playa”) the attenders, called “burners” erect **Black Rock City**, a temporary encampment laid out like two thirds of a clock in a series of concentric streets. The open area is used for art and focuses on “The Man,” a giant effigy that gives the event its name.

The Man is set on fire on Saturday night – thus the name of the event – **“The Burning Man.”** This is followed by a massive dance party that lasts all night long. Other popular activities at Burning Man include art installations, live music, and costume parties

A second structure is also built – the Temple, where each year participants place photographs, shrines and memorabilia of lost loves, deceased friends and family and anyone or anything else they

would like to let go. The structure is burned at the close of the week after the man is burned.

The festival is part *Mad Max*, part Woodstock and part *Eyes Wide Shut*, and many “Burners” look forward all year long to these eight days of

completely unrestrained hedonism.

In 2004, Burning Man founder Lee Harvey set down ten principles for the event: radical inclusion, gifting, decommodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy.

Burning Man Project, the organizers of the event, describe their vision:

“Burning Man Project will bring experiences to people in grand, awe-inspiring and joyful ways that lift the human spirit, address social problems, and inspire a sense of culture, community and civic engagement.”

--[About Us | Burning Man](#)

They further state, “We believe that the experience of Burning Man can produce positive spiritual change in the world.”

--[Our Mission | Burning Man](#)

One observer calls it “one of the most bizarre spectacles in America:”

“To say that Burning Man is “weird” would not be doing it justice. In this very isolated corner of the Black Rock Desert, you will find nudists (lots of them), palm readers, neopagans, ‘ecosexuals,’ witches, sorcerers, shamans, New Age gurus, “goddesses”, Satanists, “polyamorists” and just about every type of fetishist you can possibly imagine.”

- Michael Snyder, Charisma News (09/1/2016)



The use of illegal drugs and public nudity are rampant. The *Sun* and *The New York Post* both report that a part of the event is an “Orgy Dome” where “all couples and moresomes” can engage in all kinds of sexual activity.

Close to 80,000 people attended the event this year looking for meaning, purpose, and peace. Sadly, they didn’t find it there, because it can only be found in Jesus Christ (John 14:6)

Perhaps that is why God rained on their “parade” by dropping what CNN called “2 to 3 months of rain in 24 hours of Friday and Saturday” turning the playa into a [giant mud pit](#), essentially trapping the “Burners” and stopping their activities.

Eagle’s Eye on the Nation

NORTH CAROLINA VOTES TO PROTECT WOMEN

North Carolina is now the [23rd state](#) that has passed a law protecting women’s sports -- the **Fairness in Women’s Sports Act**.

The Legislators had to overturn the Governor Roy Cooper’s veto to pass the law that keeps female sports distinct by prohibiting males from participating in female sports.

At the federal level, the House of Representatives passed the **Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023**, a bill which would ensure only females can play in female sports.

Source: AACCS’s Washington Flyer (9/8/2023)

UNDER THE KNIFE

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study Wednesday estimating that **48,019** Americans underwent “[gender-affirming surgeries](#)” from 2016 to 2020, and **3,678** of them underwent surgery between ages 12 and 18

Source: The Daily Signal (9/1/2023)

Eagle’s Eye on New York

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” -- Matthew 7:3

SHIFTING THE BLAME

New York City Mayor Eric Adams is upset about housing and feeding the 110,000 illegal immigrants that have invaded his city.

“Never in my life have I had a problem that I did not see an ending to. I don’t see an ending to this,” Adams said. “This issue will destroy [New York](#) City.”

Last week he blamed everyone but himself:

- **President Biden and the federal government**– “ We are getting no help from the federal government...I don’t see an ending to this [crisis]. This issue will destroy New York City. Destroy New York City.”
- **President Trump** –“...Trump Republicans created this mess, and we need to fix this mess with real immigration reform.”
- **Texas Governor Abbott** - “We’ve turned this city around in 20 months,” Adams said. “And then what happened? Started with a madman down in Texas, decided he wanted to bus people up to New York City: 110,000 migrants.”

Mayor Adams should look in the mirror and remind himself that he invited the migrants to come by declaring New York City a “Sanctuary City.”

Liberal Logic????

IT’S THE CAR’S FAULT: Several blue cities (Chicago, San Francisco and New York City) beset by numerous auto thefts have decided to sue the automakers Kia and Hyundai for making some of their vehicles too easy to steal.

You know what would be a better idea than looking for one business or another to blame? Punishing people for stealing cars and diligently enforcing the law. Novel idea, I know.

Source: *The Daily Signal* (9/8/2023)

Ministry Report

The Week of September 3-7

On Sunday, September 3, I had the joy of helping **Calvary Baptist Church** in Batavia celebrate it’s 50th Anniversary. I have had a close relationship with this church since I moved to New York in 1986. Carl Bish was the church’s founder, pastor, and the President of the New York Association of Christians Schools for many years. He was promoted to glory in 2020. Bruce Balduf, who is also a close friend, became the pastor 20 years ago, and will be retiring later this month.

I took Duane and Nancy Motley with me, and he was asked to share a testimony. Together, we took Mrs. Joanne Bish out for lunch after the service.

The rest of the week was busy – after Labor Day.

Tom Stiles Speaking Schedule

- September 17** Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church. Webster, NY
- September 24** Gospel Community Church, Sayville, NY
- October 1** Grace Baptist Church, Whitehall, NY (AM)
Greater Glen Falls Baptist Church (PM)
- October 5-6** NYACS Christian Educators Conference