

# Baptist Church Cancels Gungor Concert for Rejecting Genesis as Literal

[excerpts]

From an email from the Berean Call ministry on Sept 19, 2014

A Baptist church has canceled an upcoming concert with the worship band Gungor after learning that it no longer accepts the Genesis account of creation as literal, according to a new blog post from lead singer Michael Gungor.

Gungor and his wife Lisa, who in 2006 formed a congregation called "Bloom" in Denver, are known for their the Dove Award-winning and Grammy nominated worship music, such as *Beautiful Things*, *Say So* and *Dry Bones*. In 2013, they won an award from the Independent Music Awards for their live performance album *A Creation Liturgy*.

But in 2012, Michael Gungor, the son of pastor and author Ed Gungor, revealed in a blog post entitled *A Worshiping Evolutionist?* that he had concluded that the Genesis account is only figurative. "I guess I'll have to come out of the closet and admit... I don't believe in a literal six-day creation," he wrote. "Genesis is a poem if I've ever seen one."

Earlier this year, Gungor revealed his thoughts even further, explaining in a blog post entitled *What Do We Believe?* that he "has no more ability to believe" in Genesis as being literal. <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=15886>

[TBC: Gungor's conclusions should be no surprise in view of what he has previously revealed about his "Christian" walk. Each step away from biblical doctrine takes an individual further away from God that may very well fulfill what Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Consider the following information.]

Michael Gungor [gives] detailed information on how to practice contemplative meditation in a three part article. He explains to his readers that he went on a "spiritual pilgrimage" in September 2010..."The first week was a week of silence and meditation at a spiritual retreat that I found by googling "best spiritual retreats in the world." He said that he went on this pilgrimage because he was "on the brink" and "didn't really know what [he] believed in." Gungor began his journey with a trip to the Vatican where he heard the Pope speak: "Not a bad way to start out my spiritual journey. Made me want to be Catholic actually." After this, Gungor caught a flight to Assisi and on the flight he "listened to a couple Rob Bell sermons on [his] iPod." Gungor explains that the retreat was "a cross religious retreat, so they had statues of Mary in the room next to a Buddha next to a Hindu something or other."

In part 2 Gungor [does] what most emerging figures do - he de-emphasizes beliefs and doctrine, calling evangelism a "pyramid scheme" and says in many ways he agrees with the "new atheists." He says he doesn't "believe in the old guy in the sky," talking about God, adding: *To me, God is the basic Reality of the universe. God is what is. That's how Moses wrote that God introduced Himself, isn't it? "I am that I am." God is. Whatever is, that is God.*

Gungor tells his readers that "encountering" God is more important than beliefs and doctrine. In part 3 of his article, he teaches how to "encounter" God, through meditation. "Assisi helped me discover a new discipline for me that I can't believe I had gone so long without - meditation."

Gungor isn't talking about biblical meditation where one ponders on and thinks about the Word of God. That is not something "all religions do." He is talking about Eastern-style meditation where either the breath (or something else) is focused upon or a word or phrase is repeated.

A de-emphasis in doctrine and beliefs is very common among those who practice contemplative meditation....The result of ongoing meditation is spiritual deception. After awhile a meditator begins to see himself as connected to everything and everyone. He also begins to believe that God is *in* everything and everyone. Eventually, for the Christian [professing Christian] who practices meditation, the doctrines of Christianity begin to grow dim and become less important than how he once may have viewed them. And once these doctrines diminish, even the doctrine of the atonement can take on new meaning (e.g. how could a loving God send His son to a violent death for the sins of others?). We believe this is the spirituality that many of these young people like Michael Gungor and Ann Voskamp could end having if they continue on this contemplative path.

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=6717>