

be a theist or not," Habermas said. "By early 2004," according to the news service, "Flew completed his transition to theism and indicated his change of mind to Habermas in a telephone conversation."

Flew admits he can now best be described as a deist. A deist is one who believes in a God who created the universe, but maintains that this Deity is not actively involved in the lives and subsistence of His creation. Flew also states it is doubtful that he would ever embrace the Christian faith, citing the problem of evil as his primary contention with the God of Christianity.

—MKG

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL CONDUCTOR KILLS SELF

A holiday celebration turned tragic for the Rev. Robert Schuller and his Crystal Cathedral. Rather than kicking off its annual nativity pageant, "The Glory of Christmas," the church found itself with a nine-hour standoff between police and its longtime musical conductor who eventually barricaded himself in a church bathroom and committed suicide.

Two hours before the start of its Christmas show on Dec. 16, Johnnie Carl reportedly got into an argument with another church employee, then went to his office, retrieved a handgun, and fired four shots. A police

SWAT team was called to the Garden Grove, Calif., church complex and began searching its offices for Carl. Police initially made contact with Carl by phone, but later lost communication. The church was evacuated and electrical power to the building was cut off. About 100 members of the show's cast were already at the church preparing for the first of the day's two presentations.

Schuller came to the church in an effort to help persuade Carl to surrender. Schuller taped a personal message to Carl, but the police were not able to play the minister's plea or another message recorded by Carl's wife.

As the SWAT team approached the office where Carl was holed up, he escaped to one of the church's restrooms where he shot and killed himself. Authorities indicated that Carl had struggled with depression for a number of years.

Carl had been the musical conductor at the Crystal Cathedral for nearly three decades and had arranged or recorded music for such renowned artists as John Tesh and Celine Dion. Schuller issued a statement saying, "Johnnie was a beloved member of our church family and a close personal friend."

Although the Christmas program for Thursday evening was canceled while police attempted to resolve the situation, the holiday show was performed as scheduled the following day.

—MKG

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.