

O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Soft separatism is ... characterized by professing to believe in separation but doing things that make the separation ineffective, such as avoiding “negativism and criticism”; avoiding dealing with “personalities”; refusing to issue clear warnings; refusing to distance oneself properly from those who are headed in a wrong direction...” Page 5.

Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. Page 12.



BURLINGTON TENT REVIVAL - By David Cloud

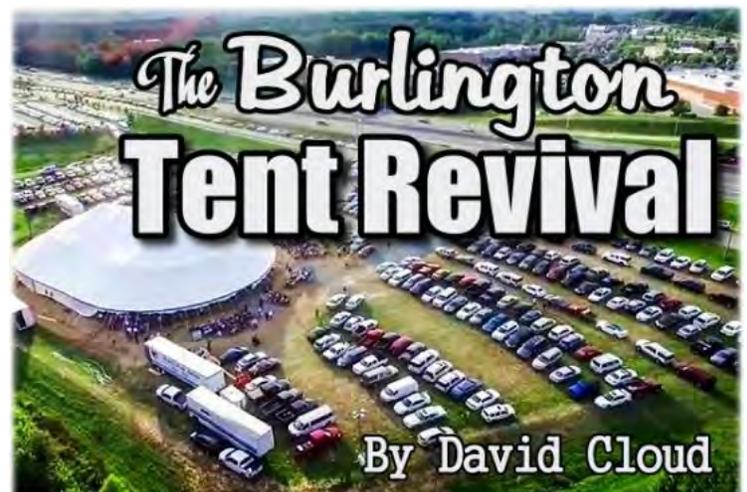
The “Burlington Tent Revival” ended on July 29 after 11 weeks of services in Burlington, North Carolina.

It began in May with a scheduled revival service led by evangelist C.T. Townsend at New Hope Baptist Church, pastored by Randy Hobbs. The meetings were extended and eventually moved into a large tent where there were two services a day, Monday through Friday. Many thousands attended.

A reported 1,250 people “accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.”

According to reports, New Hope has been praying for revival on Mondays for ten years. Prayer meetings were held each morning of the revival, and a prayer team prayed under the speaker’s platform during the services.

This is commendable, and I have no doubt that some lives were changed to the glory of God in answer to prayer.



But I do *not* apologize for my warnings about the Burlington Tent Revival.

I have heard from a wide variety of defenders and have considered the challenges carefully and prayerfully. I have done further research into New Hope Baptist Church

of Burlington and other aspects of the revival, and I stand 100% behind my warnings.

I have been treated as some sort of carnal crackpot but God is my witness that my reason for publishing things like this is my love for Jesus Christ and His truth, my passionate concern for the character of Bible-believing churches, and my deep concern that there be strong churches when my grandchildren are grown.

Over the past 10 years, I have become convinced that unless there is a dramatic, deep-seated, far-reaching change in the average Independent Baptist church, that the vast majority will be contemporary-emerging within a decade or two. What happened at Burlington, even at its best, did nothing to change this fact.

Take New Hope Baptist in Burlington, North Carolina, for example. It is a conservative, sincere Baptist church. The dress is modest, at least at the Sunday meetings. They don't preach false doctrine. They try to reach souls for Christ. They have Sunday Schools and youth ministries, and they support missionaries. They preach holy living. They have special prayer meetings, which is more than most churches have today. There are doubtless many sincere and godly saints in the congregation. I have no doubt that the pastor is a sincere man who knows and loves the Lord and truly wants to see spiritual revival. We have the same Lord and

Saviour. We have the same Bible. From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Lord for every good thing that is in this church, and there are many.

But all of the good things that this church represents are not sufficient to make it the church that it needs to be today to build the type of individual saints, families, and youth disciples we need, and it is not sufficient to stop the slide toward the contemporary-emerging church.

That slide will be the result of such things as the following:

CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN GOSPEL AND GENERAL CARELESSNESS AND IGNORANCE ABOUT THE MUSIC ISSUE.

In the case of the churches that participated in the Burlington Revival, they say they are opposed to "contemporary Christian music," but they love contemporary Southern Gospel. They don't love the Gettys; they love the Gaithers (or people like the Gaithers). But there isn't two cents worth of difference between the world of contemporary worship and the world of contemporary Southern Gospel. It is fleshly music that gets the people emotionally addicted to honky tonk, ragtime rhythms and even pure rock & roll.

Southern Gospel also yokes the church's people into association with the likes of the Gaithers and the National Quartet Convention crowd, and a more radically ecumenical crowd does not exist.

The Burlington crowd got offended at my suggestion that they are ecumenical, but anyone who is hooked into Southern Gospel is holding hands with and playing footsie with ecumenists and is on a fast road to full-blown ecumenism. In a recent message on "How to Continue in Revival," Pastor Randy Hobbs of New Hope Baptist Church said, "In too many churches you can't tell the church song from the Honky Tonk." Not being properly educated about sacred music, and not being willing to get educated with material that is readily and even freely available, the pastor doesn't understand that he is talking about his own church.

About 20 years ago I preached at a church in Cowpens, South Carolina, and the music was raucous honky tonk S. Gospel powered by a white-haired grandmother pianist that would put any 1920s barroom ragtimer to

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shame. After the service, the elderly pastor asked me what I thought of the music, and I replied, “It is boogie woogie.” He exclaimed, “I don’t want boogie woogie.” I said, “That’s what you’ve got, pastor.” I never heard from him again.

There is not any significant difference between rock & roll and the specials that are sung at New Hope and the music that is sung by visiting evangelists such as C.T. Townsend.

Having been born and raised in the South, saved in the South, educated in the South, and begun preaching in the South, I have watched as Baptist churches there have grown ever weaker over the past 30 years, and one of the major reasons is the influence of Southern Gospel and the worldly, ecumenical baggage that it carries. I refuse to have anything to do with it. Even 20 years ago, I wouldn’t have preached in the church at Cowpens had I known what their music was like. I feel much stronger about this today.

BIBLICAL SHALLOWSNESS IN THE PREACHING AND IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE.

I have listened to the preaching, and it is not the type of preaching that builds people up in God’s Word. Those who sit under this type of preaching do not grow strong in Bible knowledge. They are not even accustomed to trying to learn something new from the sermons, because there is not much biblical substance. It’s pretty much grabbing a text as a launching pad and then whooping and hollering. The people get almost zero education in context, word definitions, etc.

The fruit of this type of ministry is evident in the answer to the following question: How many of the church members are serious, effectual Bible students who know *how* to study the Bible, who know sound principles of Bible interpretation, who know how to use tools such as *Strong’s Concordance* and *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* and a good Bible dictionary? How many of the young people are serious, effectual Bible students?

If a church is biblically shallow, it has a weak spiritual foundation that makes it impossible for it to stand against the spiritual, moral, and doctrinal dangers that are encroaching from all sides in this day and time. It might continue to stand for a while out of tradition, but the next generation will fold like a house of cards.

QUICK PRAYERISM.

This is an evangelistic methodology that is quick to get people to pray a sinner’s prayer after a shallow gospel presentation and usually without dealing with the necessity of repentance. It is quick to pronounce those people saved and give them “assurance” even if they give no biblical evidence of having been born again.

Quick Prayerism is characterized by soul winning reports that are grossly exaggerated, since the number of real, life-changing conversions are small compared to the overall statistics.

Quick Prayerism was on display at the Burlington Tent Revival when the workers dealt with strangers for a few minutes during an invitation then pronounced these people saved. It is impossible to deal with a stranger properly in 10 or 15 minutes at an altar during a high pressured “invitation” atmosphere driven by hyped-up invitation exhortations and sensual, emotion-driving music.

Quick Prayerism is on display in these churches by the way that children are dealt with, in how they are pronounced saved and received into church membership without clear evidence of salvation, and how it is often even looked down on to doubt their salvation later on.

IGNORANCE ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE CHURCHES.

The prophet Hosea bemoaned the fact that “my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). This is exactly what is happening in the average Independent Baptist church.

There is widespread ignorance about important issues such as contemporary music, New Evangelicalism, the Southern Baptist Convention, Reformed theology, reconstructionism, charismaticism, Neo-orthodoxy, Darwinian and theistic evolution, contemplative mysticism, and the emerging church.

The average congregation isn’t well-grounded and properly-taught. Rather, they are shallow and largely ignorant of important issues facing God’s people today. The parents aren’t properly educated by the church so they can effectually train, disciple, and protect their children.

This problem is a reflection on the pastors. Not only are they themselves ignorant of important issues, oftentimes they are willfully and boastfully ignorant. When a church member starts getting a proper education and approaches the pastor about various important issues, the pastor isn't challenged to become a more serious student and teacher. Rather, he treats the church member as a trouble maker.

About 15 years ago my pastor rented a table at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship annual conference for two or three years running. He offered Bible study books such as the [*Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity*](#) and [*Things Hard to Be Understood*](#) and seriously-researched books on issues such as music and New Evangelicalism. Though the books were deeply discounted, there was pathetically little interest by the hundreds of preachers in attendance.

The apostle Paul was a passionate student to the end of his life. Even during his final imprisonment he urged Timothy to "bring the books" (2 Tim. 4:13). How far removed the average Independent Baptist pastor is from this godly example, and nowhere is this more true than in the South. Ignorance is a recipe for apostasy. We desperately need preachers who will walk a different path than the typical "southern" traditional style preachers who will be serious students and serious teachers, both of God's Word and of every issue that is relevant to God's people today. Serious training material is readily available. What is lacking is the will to pursue this business with sacrificial passion. God's Word is clear about a preacher's responsibility in this regard.

See, for example, 1 Timothy 4:6, 13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:13; Titus 1:10-11; Jude 3.

ENTERTAINMENT-ORIENTED YOUTH MINISTRIES.

Instead of serious discipleship and serious Bible training, the young people in the average Independent Baptist church are being entertained to death. Typically, the youth ministry is a Christianized version of the world. It is a lot of entertainment shellacked with a veneer of Bible. At best, the average young person stands on the fence with one foot in the world. His daily life does not reflect passionate love for and obedience to Jesus Christ. If you look at what he loves to do and how he uses his free time, you don't see a real disciple of Christ. You see a worldly young person who knows how

to "talk the talk" when necessary. This is the rule, whereas it should be the exception.

MALIGNING WARNING AND BIBLICAL REPROOF.

A friend in the South wrote recently to give the following observation in regard to the Independent Baptist churches he has visited over the years. The all caps are in the original.

"I don't think 98% of Independent Baptist churches have ANY type of warning ministry in their preaching and teaching. ... I'm talking about SIMPLE statements of warning here, not a ministry of warning."

My warnings about Burlington were treated as carnal junk and dismissed out of hand. Not only do most Independent Baptist preachers not give clear warnings, they believe that warnings are largely unnecessary and probably wrong.

It is typical among fundamental Baptist churches today for godly reproof to be treated as "casting stones," "shooting the wounded," "touching the Lord's anointed," and other such things, none of which are principles that can be supported from Scripture.

A pastor told a friend recently that warnings such as those I give "probably do more harm than good." This pastor considers himself to be conservative and Scripturally solid, yet he thinks it is harmful to give warnings about preachers who are leading God's people astray.

When warnings are given about something like the downgrade of music standards or shallow evangelism methodology or the error of building an Independent Baptist "friendship unity" on the basis of treating certain biblical issues as "non-essentials," those warnings are despised and the reprover is maligned. That is a recipe for spiritual destruction. When Israel demanded that the prophets preach smooth things, her downfall was already sealed (Isaiah 30:10).

SOFT SEPARATISM.

Another reason why I am convinced that the average fundamental Baptist church will be well down the emerging path within 10-20 years is the prevalence of

“soft separatism.” Soft separatism is separatism that is ineffective to protect the Lord’s people from spiritual dangers. It is characterized by professing to believe in separation but doing things that make the separation ineffective, such as avoiding “negativism and criticism”; avoiding dealing with “personalities”; refusing to issue clear warnings; refusing to distance oneself properly from those who are headed in a wrong direction in order to cut off the leaven of compromise from one’s personal life and family and church (such as having the vice president of the Billy Graham Association lead in prayer at the Burlington Revival); and messing around with dangerous things such as contemporary music, Southern Gospel, and compromised authors. Soft separatists are more concerned about the danger of “disunity” and are more desirous of getting along with the brethren than about standing for the truth, if such a stand proves to be divisive.

For more about this see [Why Most Independent Baptists Will Be Emerging within 20 Years](#) and [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church](#), both of



BGEA VP Tom Phillips (2nd from Left). C.T. Townsend (center) with BGEA bag.

which are available in print and as free eBooks from www.wayoflife.org.

For a video presentation on Southern Gospel see the [Music for Good of Evil](#) series, # 8 “[Southern Gospel](#).” We deal with the history and character of Southern Gospel, its current influence, and the role of the Gaithers in the renaissance of Southern Gospel. The presentation is packed with audio, video, and photos. It is available for purchase on DVD or as a free eVideo download at <http://www.wayoflife.org/>

The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church

A Youth Discipleship Course

by David W. Cloud

Many Christian homes and churches are losing a frightful percentage of their young people to the world.

This practical and far-reaching youth discipleship course deals with the parent’s part, the church’s part, and the youth’s part in winning and discipling young people. It covers salvation, child discipline, the Christian home environment that produces disciples, reaching the child’s heart, Bible study techniques, how to protect young people from dangers associated with the Internet and smartphones, how to use apologetics, and many other things.

It deals with how to train young people to be effective Bible students and how to involve them in the church’s ministry.

[Available From Way of Life Website](#)



Burlington Revival Defenders

By David Cloud



“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren” (1 Timothy 5:1).

This week we published a couple of reports on the Burlington Tent Revival and were inundated with feedback. (See [“*Burlington Tent Revival Ends*,” www.wayoflife.org.](http://www.wayoflife.org))

If I had any doubt about the spirit of the Tent Revival when I wrote my original report, it was dispelled by the railing spirit and biblical ignorance reflected in the bulk of communication I have received from Burlington defenders. There were a couple of exceptions, but the following definitely represent the majority.

These Burlington Tent Revival defenders did not respond to my report biblically; they knee-jerk reacted to it. They seem to have a gift of missing the point, and I’m pretty sure that isn’t a spiritual gift.

(At the same time, there was a lot of feedback from those who agreed with at least some part of our warning and supported our right to publish it.)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BURLINGTON TENT REVIVAL DEFENDERS

“You do realize God is not obligated to move in any form that fits your narrow minded Way Of Life. I personally witnessed people coming under conviction and coming to Christ. Your old way is NOT the only way. To post an article such as the one I read belittling the revival, man of God, and salvation numbers is in itself stupid, idiotic, and foolish. I am ashamed that you and your mentality wear any name associated with Jesus Christ.”

“You seem to have the answers to what is ‘true’ revival. I’ll be praying it starts with you since you seem to have the exact formula. Also I will warn my SBC friends to not come cause they are not worthy enough to be in your presence. I feel heaven may be a shock to you when you find out others who were saved by grace through faith and who were truly converted and changed are there with the Lord. It’s people like you my friend who are holding God back because of your unbelief and hardness of heart. Also, you may be like many preachers who are jealous of the meeting because it did not happen at your church or even your way. ... Don’t you think we as independent Baptist often place God in a box scared to death he might do something through others who don’t look like us, talk like us, walk like us?? ... the tone and attitude of your article stinks with self righteousness.”

“As far as ‘hyped-up’ or ‘camp meeting style’ services, I am supposed to be Christ-like I am told and the Jesus I read in the Bible was a very emotional person. Surely a ‘man of God’ would know that the most repeated word for praise in the Bible means ‘To make a show; celebrate.’ Look it up people! ... This preacher needs to go sell cars cause his heart is surely not in serving the Lord! ... You weren’t there and you don’t know those peoples hearts, so quit trying to play God. ... Jesus said you make the Word of God of no effect because of your traditions. And no sir, they are not all Biblical and any time you want to debate, I’m up for it. You haven’t the right Biblically, Spiritually, or morally to rebuke someone else just so you can increase your ratings. We will pray for you that God will open your eyes to the truth, the Biblical truth not your traditional dogmatic religion.” (from a woman)

“You Mr. Cloud don’t seem to understand compassion, common courtesy and concern for the cause of Christ.”

“People like you that write negative articles about another man of God is what’s wrong with this world. Sinners see how judgmental so called Christians are and

want no part of it. Unity with the preachers was an honor to see. If you did not attend the Revival you missed out on the raw power of the Holy Spirit. Please let God do the judgment of man instead of you. You are not in unity with God when you judge others. Praying for God to open your eyes to his word.” (from a woman)

“Shame on you and the ugliness you wrote.” (from a woman)

“One thing CT Townsend did tell us was the devil (such as your article) will try to get us.” (from a woman)

“I’m not really sure what your point in writing the article about the revival was other than to voice your narrow minded opinion of something you were not involved in.”

“First and foremost it is words such as yours that terribly divide the Body of Christ. ... You sir leave an air of legalism and self centered religion in your words.”

“Your report on this revival was disgraceful. ... perish the thought of a child wanting to make a salvation decision for our Lord. I guess you want folks to wait until their thirty to consider making a decision. ... Your report and commentary was, once again, disgraceful, not very Christian-like and, I suspect, not very pleasing to The Lord.” (from a woman)

“From what I have read in this article, I think your spirit is not one where you can be used of God. The truth is, God can & will use whomever & whatever He chooses to further His kingdom. You don't have to agree with it all for God to use it.”

“There is ALWAYS one thing that follows the REAL word of God and that is the serpent, satan himself, questioning what God has said and done! Thank you David Cloud for providing the satanic fight piece of the puzzle as the final confirmation that Jesus Christ is on the move!!!!!!!!!! And thank you Pastor CT Townsend for being man enough, Daniel-like enough, Joseph-like enough, Paul the Apostle-like enough, Christlike enough to have prayed through it all and served God's purpose!!!!!!!!!! ... These preachers are just jealous that it wasn't their meeting that exploded” (signed “A daughter of the king”)

“Wow. You never attended in person? You only watched online? How can you judge something you

never attended in person? ... They banned you from FB and Twitter? On CT Townsend's pages. So what. ... I will pray for you. Because you obviously need it.” (a woman named Sue)

“Your article sounded like it was full of jealousy, which the bible says is as cruel as the grave. If one soul was really saved then IT WAS WORTH IT.”

“You have NO place at all to say the things you said. ... You can turn your ears from this truth or you can apologize but you sir are wrong for your so-called ‘ministry.’ I think you opened people's eyes to the fact that there certainly are still Pharisees, vipers wolves in sheep's clothing. ... I'm have contacted a few pastor friends of mine who have supported you in the past, they will no longer.”

“You sir are nutty as a fruitcake. Seems you love quoting scripture. Well, here's one for ya. 1 Chronicles 16:22. ‘Touch not mine anointed.’” (this comment was sent to a friend who was asking pointed questions about the Burlington Tent Revival)

“Your article about the Burlington Revival is blasphemy. You do not have the right to question one's salvation. I have attended an independent Baptist just like yours...Holier than thou. You're not the only one going to heaven and frankly I question your salvation seeing I do not sense your Christ like love. ... But if you think the Independent Baptist Movement has it all right you're dead wrong.”

“I just saw an article you did on The Burlington Revival. Just who do you think you are? Your article was total untruth. You are pathetic to write such things. You had several things wrong as well. You couldn't even get the facts straight, much less all the garbage you were spitting. Take your devilish attitude on down the road. God help your soul. And another thing.....you may want to be careful what you say about God's work. You may just cross that dreaded blasphemy line. You have a lot of nerve talking trash about brother CT. God had His hand all over my church family and the whole revival. Take your opinions and shove ‘em” (a woman named Karen)



Is Proverbs 22:6 A PROMISE ?

By David Cloud

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

A foundational thing that Christians need to learn is child discipline. The next generation is very important to the cause of Christ. Children belong to God, and they are given to parents to be fashioned as sharp arrows and sent out into the world to engage in spiritual warfare as pilgrims and ambassadors of Christ (Psa. 127:3-5).

Both married and unmarried believers need to learn about child discipline and training. It is better to learn about it before marriage and enter into marriage informed and forearmed than it is to try to learn it after the kids have come.

God has encouraged Christian parents that they can train their children in such a way that they will continue in the right path (Proverbs 22:6).

I personally believe that Proverbs 22:6 is a promise, and I have seen large numbers of parents who have had the joy of seeing their children walk with Christ and raise future generations in godliness.

Following are other similar promises from God’s Word:

“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell” (Proverbs 23:13-14).

This is an amazing promise. To think that parents can discipline their children in such a way that they will be saved and escape hell is a most incredible thought, and this is exactly what this Proverb promises.

Of course, we know that salvation is an individual matter and it is a supernatural thing. The new birth cannot be inherited or caught, but godly discipline prepares the way for salvation by teaching the child the holiness of

God, the seriousness of God’s Law, and the reality of his own sinful nature, thus emphasizing to his heart his lost condition and urgent need of a Saviour. This provides fertile soil on which the Holy Spirit can work.

God has a special concern for the family. It is the first human institution that He created at the dawn of man’s history, and He has always had a special interest in it.

Consider the promise of Psalm 127:

“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Psalms 127:3-5).

This is a promise, but it becomes reality only when a father and mother are committed to God’s Word, when the father is the priest of his home and the mother is his devoted help meet. Children do not become effective instruments (“arrows”) against the enemy just because they are born into a Christian home and are brought to church; they become that when they are raised properly by a father and mother that are “mighty” in the spiritual sense and are devoted to shaping and sharpening their children by the guidelines of God’s Word.

BUT IS PROVERBS 22:6 A PROMISE?

Many disagree with me on this and argue that since the child has a free will, the church and family can do everything right and a child could still turn out wrong. They point to families that seemingly did things right but the children didn’t “turn out right.”

I understand that thinking and sympathize with it from a human perspective. One of my children went into the “far country” for awhile and it broke our hearts. I could have

said that his rebellion was *entirely* a matter of his own will, that we did *everything* right and yet he still rebelled, but the fact is that though his rebellion was definitely an act of his own will, I know that I had a clear role in the matter by neglect and other factors. I didn't stay close to him. I allowed his heart to be stolen. I simply wasn't there in the right way when he needed me. I wasn't the father that I should have been at that time.

I am convinced that the failures only prove that Christian homes aren't always as spiritual and consistent as they might appear and that Christian parents that love the Lord and that do some things right, even many things right, might not be doing an effective job in raising disciples for Christ. David was a true man of God, a man after God's own heart, the sweet Psalmist of Israel, a man as passionate about God as any natural man that has ever lived (e.g., ***“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God,” Psalm 42:1***). But David failed as a husband and father.

Consider some fundamental lessons about this from Proverbs 22:6:

First, the parents must fulfill the first part of the verse - “train up a child in the way that he should go.”

There is a lot encompassed in these few words of Scripture. Biblical child training is a broad, far-reaching activity that involves many things, and there are many ways that the training can be ineffective.

For one, the discipline and training can be weak, inconsistent, and not thorough enough. Many parents do right in some areas but fail, even miserably, in other important areas. Many parents seemingly love the Lord and are faithful to church and have other good Christian qualities, but they are very weak in discipline and child training. Consistency and thoroughness is essential. In the book *Keeping the Kids* we have covered a wide range of things that are included in the business of child training, and wise parents will seek to be effective in all areas.

Another thing that can cause the training to be ineffective is a carnal spirit. Parents who allow themselves to be carnal in the home can affect the children in a negative way. One father recently told me that his wife and daughter call him “old grouchy.” I can see myself in that. When my kids were growing up, I was too often grumpy,

irritable, and angry. Such character traits are carnal and selfish, and parents must guard their spirits so as not to spoil their child training efforts. The little foxes can spoil the vine. If you fall into grouchiness or anger or some other carnal spirit, get alone with the Lord and read His Word and ask Him to give you a right spirit and then return to the family circle. And don't hesitate to confess your sin to your family when necessary. Public sin should be confessed publicly.

Another thing that can cause the training to be ineffective is neglect on the part of the father. Ephesians 6:4 emphasizes the fact that it is the father who must take the lead in discipling and training the children. He doesn't do everything, but he oversees everything. He is involved. He is engaged. He knows what is going on. He is making all of the important decisions in conference with his wife. He is not an absentee in regard to the rearing of his children.

Fathers are the key. There is a saying, “Get the man right, and you get the home right.” Consider the promise given to the Philippian jailer,

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30-31).

This verse bears out the observation that if a child or even a mother comes to Christ, there is not necessarily a large chance that the rest of the family will come to Christ, but if a father comes to Christ there is a great chance that the entire family will be saved. This is because God has put the man at the head of the home and has given him divine authority that can be exercised when he takes his responsibility seriously.

A mother approached me at one of my youth discipleship conferences and was weeping about how that her children are being neglected by both her and her husband because both work full time. She said that she sits her children before the television and video games so that she can get some sleep. She was weeping about the fact that she has facilitated the children's addiction to video games. The Lord had awakened her about her responsibility to train up her children in the way of the Lord, and she was asking where she should start in trying to rectify things, but an even deeper problem is that the husband isn't interested in these things and will not support her if she tries to

change the status quo. He professes to know Christ, but he is lukewarm at best and doesn't want to be "fanatical" about religion. This dear mother must begin doing everything she can on her part to raise her children right, but she is greatly hindered by the condition of the husband, who should be the one leading the way but instead he is a real hindrance.

The main thing that a woman must and can do in such a situation is become a prayer warrior, exercising earnest prayer with fasting (Matthew 17:21) for a spiritual change and revival in the husband's heart and in the hearts of the children, trusting that the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). And that goes for a righteous woman, too!

My maternal grandmother was a prayer warrior, and she told me how that the Lord had mightily worked in her husband, my grandfather, after he had gotten drunk and been arrested for disturbing the peace. Through her fasting and prayer, the Lord took that evil completely out of his life and it never returned. A woman of God is not without resources if she is on "praying ground."

Pastor Terry Coomer, who deals with many rebels from Christian homes, says:

"Notice that the first part of Proverbs 22:6 is a command, specifically stated to fathers! This is commanded activity; it makes us responsible. ... The lie that many Christians have bought into is that it is not their fault if the children turn out wrong. It is a good rationalization of sin, and it is really hurting the cause of Christ. The Bible says do it right, train him up right, and the promise of God is he will not depart from living for God. My question: is God a liar? No. Then what is the problem? I mean why are we having an epidemic of children who grow up in Christian homes and do not serve God? Not only do they not live for God, but many live like barnyard animals. ... It is the fault of the parents, specifically the father. My purpose is not to be unloving or to be mean, but God said this; I did not" (*Rearing Spiritual Children*, pp. 31, 32).

Another thing that can cause the training to be ineffective is if the parents raise the children in a weak, shallow, worldly church that undermines their efforts. In the book [Keeping the Kids](#) and in the youth discipleship course [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church](#) we deal with the type of church that is required to "produce" godly young people for the Lord. Parents should relocate, if necessary, in order to raise their family in a strong church that is truly separated from the world, where the preaching/teaching ministry is solid and effectual, where the leaders are qualified and wise, where

the music is spiritual, where bridges are not being built to the contemporary music world, where the standards for all of the workers are spiritually and doctrinally high.

Another thing that can cause the training to be ineffective is neglect. If both parents work full time and aren't with the children enough, there is little likelihood that things will turn out right. By faith, the parents need to put this matter first and foremost in their priorities and do whatever is necessary to spend enough time with the children to train and discipline and disciple them. The mother should be a keeper at home (Titus 2:5).

But fathers also need to spend sufficient time with their families, and if a father finds that his job is causing him to neglect his family, he should do whatever is necessary to change that situation. Parents must put God and His business first and trust Him to meet their needs as He has so wonderfully promised to do (Matthew 6:33).

Another thing that can cause the training to be ineffective is secular education or education in a worldly Christian school. 1 Corinthians 15:33 warns that "evil communications corrupt good manners." Psalm 1 warns God's people not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of the scornful, and those things are an exact description of the character of the public school system throughout the world today. 2 Corinthians 6:14 commands us not to yoke together with unbelievers. Too many times the training of a Christian home is undermined by the negative influence of a school.

Second, God's Word says "and when they are old they will not depart from it."

The term "old" here is a relative term. It differs from child to child and situation to situation. This means that there is no promise that a child will not go through some rebellion or struggles. There is no promise here that a child will be perfectly and quickly conformed to God's will. Each child has his own will and must make his own choice in regard to salvation and surrender to God.

I believe that every child goes through some rebellion, though it might not take the form of the Prodigal Son going into the far country. Our oldest daughter never ran away or gave us trouble in the form of open rebellion, but she has testified that she was a secret rebel at certain points in her life and went through a time of struggle with

surrendering to God and having a right attitude toward authority.

Third, this verse does not promise that my children will be passionate disciples of Christ.

Proverbs 22:6 simply says they will come to the place in their lives wherein they do not depart from the training they have received. Passion and fruitfulness in the Christian life is a matter of the individual's will and level of surrender. Some bear 100 fold fruit, some 60, some 30 (Mark 4:20). This is why Paul beseeches the child of God to present his body as a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1). God wants devotion to be an act of the individual saint's free will. I can be as passionate about loving and serving Christ as I want to be. Therefore, in a family we

sometimes see a wide variety of spiritual devotion in the lives of the children.

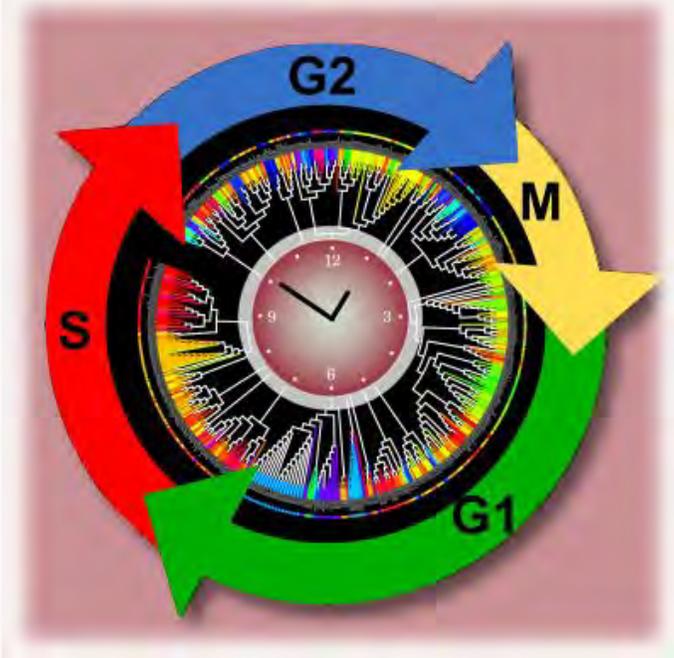
In the same family children can exhibit dramatically different responses to the discipline and training. I know that this has been true with our four children. A missionary who has several children wrote:

"Some children are more responsive than others. Some come into understanding their responsibilities sooner than others, and this can cause problems. My 17-year-old son likes to compare himself with the older children, but my older children were more responsible. He's not as responsible as I would like him to be; therefore, he doesn't have the same privileges the others had. Sometimes he thinks that's a double standard, but it's not. I told him just recently, 'Son, you'll have as much privilege as you want if you show responsibility; with privilege comes responsibility.'"

CIRCADIAN CLOCKS, GENES, AND RHYTHM

(Friday Church News Notes, August 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Circadian Clocks" by Jeffrey Tomkins, Ph.D., Institute for Creation Research, *Acts & Facts* 45: "Life could not exist without organisms' engineered ability to keep track of time on a 24-hour day-night cycle called a *circadian rhythm*. Even sophisticated electronic machines such as computers or microcontrollers have a central clock or an oscillator. This critical design feature must be in place for complex systems to work on a schedule, interface with other system components, and interact with the environment. The circadian clocks in plants and animals are far more advanced than those in man-made systems. These living clocks regulate many aspects of genetics, metabolism, physiology, growth, and behavior in numerous types of cells and tissues throughout the entire organism. In fact, animals typically have not only a centralized circadian clock in their brain but also many peripheral clocks in different tissues and organs. These peripheral clocks regulate temporal and spatial organization and physiology in whatever cell, tissue, or organ they are located, and they also keep systems in sync with the central clock in the brain. Clearly, a complex cellular communication network connects tissues and body parts within a time-based context—a phenomenon that still isn't fully understood. ... This level of interconnectivity and complexity is essentially impossible for humans to comprehend and unravel, yet its existence is unscientifically ascribed to the random processes of



evolution. An internetworked and interdependent system like this is an excellent example of irreducible complexity, specifically the myriad of components that must be in place all at once for it to work. Appealing to evolution to develop this vast complexity through random mutations and alleged selective pressures bit by bit is absurd. Only a masterful, omnipotent Engineer could have put such a fantastic and orchestrated system as this into place—not just once but in thousands of uniquely created kinds of plants and animals. The more we understand about the genetics of living things, the more glory we should give their Creator."

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



MASSIVE GAY PRIDE PARADE IN JERUSALEM (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The 15th annual gay pride parade was held in Jerusalem last week, with an estimated participation of 25,000. Some participants waved rainbow flags with the Star of David at the center ("A year after tragedy, big, colorful Jerusalem pride parade is a celebration of tolerance," *The Times of Israel*, July 21, 2016). Last year an ultra-orthodox Jew stabbed a 16-year-old girl to death during the parade, apparently convinced that indiscriminate, cold-blooded murder is morally superior to marching in a "gay pride" parade. In light of Jerusalem's "gay pride," the description of the city in Bible prophecy as "spiritually Sodom and Egypt" is telling (Revelation 11:5-8).

OBAMA'S HALF-BROTHER VOTING FOR TRUMP (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Half-Brother Malik Obama," Newsmax.com, July 24, 2016: "President Barack Obama's half-brother says he's voting for Donald Trump--fed up with his relative's politics and encouraged by the Republican nominee's 'fresh and new'

approach, the *New York Post* reports Sunday. 'I like Donald Trump because he speaks from the heart,' Kenyan-born Malik Obama, tells the *Post*. *Make America Great Again* is a great slogan. I would like to meet him.' Malik Obama told the *Post* he's coming to the United States to vote in November; he's registered as a Democrat in Maryland, where he used to live and work, the *Post* notes. ... Malik Obama and his younger half-brother share a father, Barack Obama Sr., who left Kenya in 1959 when Malik was a year old and enrolled at the University of Hawaii, where he met and married the president's mother, Stanley Ann Dunham. Malik Obama tells the *Post* his 'deep disappointment' with his half-brother came when FBI Director James Comey recommended not prosecuting Hillary Clinton despite her 'reckless' handling of classified data on a private email server. 'She should have known better as the custodian of classified information,' he said. He's also angry with the Democratic Party's support of same-sex marriage."

RABBI HAS RAISED OVER A BILLION DOLLARS FOR ISRAEL FROM CHRISTIANS (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein's International Fellowship of Christians and Jews has raised \$1.25 billion for "global Jewish needs," largely from Christians, even though he preaches non-proselytizing. Eckstein says, "Christians are called to bless Israel and the Jewish people, and that is their form of witness. If God wants Jews to believe in Jesus, He will take care of it. ... Proselytizing is a line [evangelicals] cannot cross" ("Rabbi: Jews Will Come to Jesus When God Decides," *Israel Today*, Aug-Sep. 2016). Eckstein urges Christian donors to "put messianic groups aside," referring to those who believe in preaching the gospel to Jews. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded that the gospel be preached to Jews, and His apostles boldly set about that task even though they were perse-





cuted unto death. The apostle Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

“HONOR KILLINGS” ON RISE IN PAKISTAN (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Islamic “honor killings” are on the rise in Pakistan, having increased 39% since 2010. Last year there were 1,096 reported cases, but many go unreported. One of the latest was Maria Sadaqat, a Pakistani teacher who was burned alive after turning down a suitor (“Pakistan burned teacher’s death was ‘not suicide,’ investigation says,” BBC, July 21, 2016). Four men, including the owner of the school where she taught, held her hands and feet while she was set on fire. She had spurned a marriage proposal from the school owner’s son, because he was already married with a child. Police had ruled the case a “suicide” even though she lived long enough to identify her killers. Honor killings are driven by “fundamentalist” Islam. After Pakistan’s Punjab province passed a law in February criminalizing all forms of violence against women, more than 30 Islamic groups “threatened to launch protests if the law was not repealed.”



RUSSIA’S NEW LAW RESTRICTING EVANGELISM (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Putin Signs,” Forum18.org, July 8, 2016: “Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has signed into law legislation on so-called ‘missionary activity,’ further restricting the public expression of freedom of religion and belief, including in the media and online. The amendment--which has been rapidly introduced--caused widespread protests, but was signed on 6 July and the signing was made public at Moscow lunchtime on 7 July. It was published on the presidential website that day and comes into force on 20 July. Lawyers working to protect the right to freedom of religion and belief are already preparing for an appeal to the Constitutional Court. ... Against international human rights obligations, the amendments to the Religion Law restrict those who can share beliefs to people with permission from members of state-registered religious groups and organisations. This excludes people from groups which have chosen to operate without state permission, such as certain Baptist congregations. The amendments also bar even informal sharing of beliefs, for example responding to questions or comments, by individuals acting on their own behalf. The amendments also restrict the beliefs that can be shared, specifies a restricted list of places where beliefs may be shared, and explicitly bans any beliefs from being shared in residential buildings, or on another association’s property without permission. An allegedly ‘anti-terrorist’ part of the amendments bars the conversion of residential property to religious use. There are now heavy financial penalties of up to 50,000 Roubles for individuals and up to 1 million Roubles for organisations who violate the amendments. A fine of 50,000 Roubles (about 6,500 Norwegian Kroner, 700 Euros, or 780 US Dollars) represents about six weeks’ average wages for those in work. Maximum fines for

organisations would be up to 20 times as much.”

GLOBAL WARMING EXPEDITION STUCK IN ARCTIC ICE (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from



“Another Arctic Alarmist Disaster,” RealClimateScience.com, July 20, 2016: “A group of climate clowns were planning on sailing around the entire Arctic Ocean through the Northeast and Northwest Passages (to prove there isn’t any ice in the Arctic) but are stuck in Murmansk because the Northeast Passage is completely blocked with ice. It is July 20, and they haven’t made it to the Arctic yet. The melt season is more than half over, with temperatures near the pole persistently below normal. This is what happens when people listen to climate scientists, who are some of the most dishonest people on Earth--after Democratic politicians.”

THEY DON’T UNDERSTAND ZEAL FOR TRUTH (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:128). I have long observed that those who don’t have zeal for truth don’t understand zeal for truth. A zeal for truth is missing from modern evangelicalism. They say they love the truth, but they don’t hate every false way and don’t understand those who do. The spirit of Psalm 119:128 is glaringly absent. The dividing of doctrine into “essentials” and “non-essentials” is evidence of this. They confuse zeal with arrogance, Phariseism, and a selfish “agenda.” Now we are witnessing a

rapidly growing number of fundamental Baptists with the same inability to understand zeal for the truth since this has disappeared from their lives and ministries. They divide truth into essentials and non-essentials, and whatever zeal for the truth they might have is directed only toward the “essentials.” They don’t get worked up over much of anything other than reproving the reprovers. If the brethren err in “non-essential” matters, they keep quiet. They want to keep things “positive.” They don’t want to disrupt the unity.

THE MIRACLE OF MOTHER’S MILK (Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - New research continues to discover the amazing power of mother’s milk to nourish and protect infants. Each type of mammalian milk has ingredients varying according to “what each species needs,” and “human milk is a particular marvel,” just as we would expect as the product of divine creation (“Breast-feeding the Microbiome,” *The New Yorker*, July 22, 2016). For example, human milk contains large numbers of “complex sugars called oligosaccharides (H.M.O.s), the third-most plentiful ingredient in human milk, after lactose and fats.” The baby cannot digest these H.M.O.s. Instead, they pass through the small intestine and land in the large intestine where they are eaten by special bacteria that in turn nourish the baby’s stomach cells. The microbe, *Bifidobacterium longum infantis* (*B. infantis*, for short) has a cluster of thirty genes that are specially designed for devouring the H.M.O.s from the mother’s milk. There are other Bifs in the human



gut, but only *B. infantis* has this genetic cluster. As it digests the H.M.O.s, “it releases short-chain fatty acids, which feed an infant’s gut cells” and “encourages gut cells to make adhesive proteins that seal the gaps between them, keeping microbes out of the bloodstream, and anti-inflammatory molecules that calibrate the immune system” (Ibid.). *B. infantis* does this helpful work for the baby only when it is fed with H.M.O.s from the mother’s milk. If fed lactose, instead, “it survives but doesn’t engage in any repartee with the baby’s cells.” Human breast milk “has five times as many types of H.M.O.s as cow’s milk, and several hundred times the quantity. Even chimp milk is impoverished compared with ours.” And scientists are only beginning to understand what the various types of H.M.O.s in human breast milk do for the baby. The report concludes its discussion of this incredibly complex, finely-turned, perfectly orchestrated process by speculating as to how it evolved. A couple of ridiculous “just so” stories are tossed out for good measure. Instead of engaging in “just so” fairy tales, scientists should stand back in awe, humbling themselves before the almighty Creator and seeking Him through the gospel of Jesus Christ while there is opportunity.

EMERGING YOUTH LEADER WARNS ABOUT “LEGALISTS” (Friday Church News Notes, August 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Greg Stier, founder and president of Dare 2 Share Ministries, recently published “10 Warning Signs You May Be Attending a Legalistic Church” (*Christian Post*, July 25, 2016). Though his “warning signs” are a bit “tongue in cheek,” it’s obvious that this influential youth leader is targeting “fundamentalist” type churches and trying to prejudice youthful minds against them. While I can’t speak for all “fundamentalist” churches, and some of them, in fact, turn my stomach, those that I preach in and associate with are not



guilty of these alleged “legalisms.” Consider some of Stier’s 10 Warning Signs: “**There is a huge emphasis on holiness, but little to no emphasis on grace.**” In fact, the churches we fellowship with have a *total* emphasis on grace. They teach that there is no true holiness apart from Christ and His blood-grounded grace. We can’t save ourselves, and we can’t live the Christian life, not for a moment. It is Christ from beginning to end (Galatians 2:20). That is most definitely our emphasis. Just ask our young people. “**If the pastor ever met the Apostle Paul he would rebuke him for not using the King James Version of the Bible.**” In fact, we teach that the King James Bible is right because it is translated from the Hebrew text that was preserved by the Jews and the Greek text that was preserved by Bible-believing churches going back to Paul. This young emerging preacher is ignorant even of the ABCs of the Bible version issue. “**Every Gospel invitation ends with ‘... and now for the bad news.’**” In fact, every Gospel invitation I have ever heard in a “fundamentalist” church ends with God’s wonderful offer of salvation through Christ’s atonement, though it does *begin* with the “bad news” of man’s sinful and condemned condition, which is how Paul began the Epistle of Romans. “**The contemporary service uses a pipe organ.**” In fact, the churches we lead and the churches we fellowship with use every type of instrument, and some of them have orchestras. “**The pastor has got a big BUT - ‘Sure salvation is by faith alone BUT you also have to _____.’**” In fact, I don’t know of any fundamentalist church that adds anything to faith for salvation. They teach, in fact, that if anything whatsoever is

added to salvation by grace alone through faith alone it is to be condemned as a false gospel. We merely do what the apostle Paul taught us to do, which is to teach that “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). **“Taking the youth group swimming includes separate swimming pools and wet suits for everyone...loose ones.”** This is the one of the ten that the young emerging preacher almost got right, but it is *not* “legalism” to be careful about nudity and morality and about protecting young people from fornication (Matthew 5:28). The “cool guy emerging preachers” have the ears of this generation in fulfillment of Bible prophecy (2 Timothy 4:3-4), but they are mockers of the holy things of God and libelers of those saints who are trying to be faithful to God’s Word in an evil hour. They are the blind leading the blind. The true grace of God was defined 2,000 years ago by the apostle Paul under divine inspiration, and it sounds far more like “fundamentalist” theology than emerging: “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).

ATTEMPT BY A CALIFORNIA DISTRICT TO SHUT DOWN HOMESCHOOL DEFEATED (Friday Church News Notes, August 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - An attempt by a public school district in northern California to declare homeschooling illegal was defeated by the efforts of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). The San



Benito High School District issued a letter to homeschooling parents declaring that “under California Law, a home school is not a private school, nor is it a lawful alternative to public school...” This was in spite of the fact that the legality of homeschooling has long been established in California. HSLDA President Mike Smith says, “Many school districts and the California Department of Education took the same position that the San Benito High School is now taking. But despite years of official opposition in numerous places in a variety of ways, HSLDA successfully advocated for many families whose homeschooling was challenged by school districts and other public agencies” (“CA district says homeschooling not lawful,” OneNewsNow.com, Jul. 31, 2016). HSLDA approached the public school district on behalf of the homeschooling families and cleared up the matter. Smith warned parents that there would probably be future challenges and that they need to “gain an understanding of their legal rights as home educators in their state.” Even more, they need to pray every day and passionately in obedience to 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

FOREIGNERS CHEATING IN AMERICAN COLLEGES (Friday Church News Notes, August 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Reports of cheating on the ACT in China,” *Business Insider*, July 26, 2016: “Evidence of ‘widespread’ cheating has emerged in a Chinese program designed to help foreign students gain admission into US schools, according to an investigation by Reuters. The program, called

the Global Assessment Certificate (GAC), can cost more than \$10,000 a year and helps foreign students whose first language is not English prepare for college and ace the ACT college entrance examination. Seven students who spoke with Reuters allege that school officials and proctors knew about and allowed cheating on the ACT at three different program locations. ... Additionally, eight teachers or administrators at seven different centers also claimed that cheating occurred during the courses, and, in two instances, was encouraged by officials, according to Reuters. US colleges are starting to take note and some are becoming concerned over the reports. ... And it’s not the first time allegations about cheating on the ACT in Asian countries has emerged. ... In June, the ACT college examination was canceled in South Korea and Hong Kong, China because of suspected cheating, *The New York Times* reported. ... A *Wall Street Journal* analysis into cheating found that foreign students were more likely than American students to cheat. Citing data from 14 large



public universities, *The Journal* noted that public universities recorded 5.1 reports of alleged cheating per 100 international students, compared to one report of cheating per 100 American students. At nearly every school, reports of cheating involving foreign students were twice as high, ranging up to as much as eight times as high at some institutions.”

THE AUTHORSHIP OF ISAIAH (Friday Church News Notes, August 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Multitudes of Bible teachers today deny or question the unity of and sole



authorship of the prophecy of Isaiah. The following excellent summary of the refutation of that view is by W.J. Hocking, in his preface to the fourth edition of William Kelly's *Exposition of the Book of Isaiah*, 1946: "With regard to their authorship, men of faith will be content to accept without question the testimony of the Lord Himself and His apostles and prophets that Isaiah was the writer of both parts (chaps. 1-38 and 40-56) of the prophecies prefaced by his name. There are in the New Testament about forty quotations from these prophecies, and more than half of these are there stated to have been spoken or written by Isaiah. The quotations are taken from four chapters in the first volume (6:9, 10; 9:1, 2; 10:22, 23; 11:1, 10) and from five chapters in the second volume (40:3; 42:1; 53:1, 7, 8; 61:1, 2; 65:2). There is therefore ample New Testament authority for believing that Isaiah was the sole author of the collection of prophecies bearing his name. He is twice named by the Lord Himself, Who also read aloud one of the prophecies concerning Himself which was fulfilled in their hearing that day. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all mention Isaiah by name; and Paul in his Epistle to the Romans quotes five passages from Isaiah, each by that name. Modern literary taste and scholarship, however, repudiate these clear testimonies, including that of Him Who is 'the Faithful and True Witness,' preferring the cloudy creations of their own imaginations." William Kelly's commentaries can be found in "The Treasury of Rare Dispensational Commentaries," which is part of [The Fundamental Baptist Digital Library](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from www.wayoflife.org.

WORLD VISION HAS GIVEN MILLIONS TO A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

(Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from "World Vision's Christian Donations Funded Hamas," *Israel Today*, Aug. 4, 2016: "World Vision International is perhaps the world's largest Evangelical Christian humanitarian aid organization. It can now add direct, if inadvertent, funding of terrorism to its resumé. World Vision has been operating in Israel, the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and the Gaza Strip since 1975. It has now been revealed that 60 percent of World Vision's annual budget for the Gaza Strip was diverted by Hamas to the tune of \$7.2 million per year. Much of that money was given in cash to Hamas militants, while even more was used to finance the construction of terror tunnels and to purchase weapons. All of this was discovered during a lengthy investigation beginning in mid-June, when Israel arrested Mohammed El Halabi, World Vision's Gaza branch director, on suspicion of terrorist activity. During the investigation, El-Halabi revealed that he has been a Hamas member since his youth and had undergone organizational and military training in the early 2000s. In 2005, Hamas dispatched El-Halabi to infiltrate World Vision. El-Halabi related that Hamas believed that he had a good chance of infiltrating the humanitarian aid organization because his father works for the UN. He added that his father, Halil El-Halabi, who has served as head of UN-WRA's educational institutions in the Gaza Strip for years, is a member of



Hamas and uses his position as a UN employee to help the terrorist organization. Shortly after being employed by World Vision, El-Halabi began to use his position to benefit the Islamist terrorist organization, primarily by diverting funds meant as aid to strengthen Hamas' terrorist arm. Over the years, El-Halabi advanced in the charity's hierarchy until he was appointed director of the Gaza branch. In this capacity, he controlled the budget, equipment and aid packages which amounted to tens of millions of dollars."

ISLAMIC STATE MAGAZINE'S RECENT RANTS

(Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



The Islamic State's propaganda magazine *Dabiq* promotes a Sunni reading of the Quran and Islamic history. They know exactly what they are doing: waging global jihad in the name of Allah in obedience to Mohammed. The 15th issue of the magazine, titled "Break the Cross," says that Jesus was a "slave of Allah" and that he will return with Mohammed to "wage jihad" to bring all nations under submission. The article promotes standard Islamic teaching that Jesus was not crucified and that the doctrine of the Trinity is a polytheistic doctrine invented by Paul, a "treacherous Jew." The magazine corrects the Pope for claiming that real Muslims want peace, that acts of Islamic terror are not true Islam, and that Islamic terrorism is not "a religious war." The Islamic State says, "This is a divinely-warranted war between the Muslim nation and the nations of disbelief. Indeed, waging jihad—spreading the rule of Allah by the sword—

is an obligation found in the Quran, the word of our Lord. The blood of the disbelievers is obligatory to spill by default. The command is clear. Kill the disbelievers, as Allah said, ‘Then kill the polytheists wherever you find them.’” The Islamic State knows its Quran.

12 BOOKS BILL GATES SAYS EVERYONE SHOULD READ (Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and one of the world’s richest men, reads about a book a week and has published book recommendations for years. Recently *Business Insider* gathered a list of “12 books Bill Gates thinks everyone should read” (Aug. 8, 2016). *Tap Dancing to Work* is about Warren Buffet. *The Sixth Extinction* is a warning about global warming. *The Better Angles of Our Nature* presents the case that mankind is getting less violent and “much more humane.” *On Immunity* defends vaccination. There are eight others, but the book that is glaringly missing is the Bible, the book worth more than all other books combined, for it is the infallible Word of God, the compassionate divine light to a human race sitting in spiritual darkness. In the Bible we find the truth about human history, human nature, the human condition, eternal salvation, wise living, and the future. The major theme of the Bible is that “the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14).

CHILDHOOD SCREEN ADDICTION (Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “iPad Alert: What Exactly Is Your Kid’s Brain Doing to Your Kid’s Brain?” *Observer.com*, Aug. 3, 2016: “Addiction psychologist Nicholas Kardaras ... has spent the last decade examining young tech addicts, and the result is the book *Glow Kids: How Screen Addiction Is Hijacking Our Kids—and How to Break the Trance*, which will be released August 9. Video games, computers, cell phones and tablets are all ‘digital drugs’ in Kardaras’ estimation, and there is more and more evidence to back him up—recent studies have shown that electronics activate pleasure circuits in developing brains. The amount of dopamine in the brain doubles (food and sex have the same effect) while the amount of gray matter shrinks, compromising the frontal cortex (the decision-making center of the brain). This leads to delays in neurological development and verbal intelligence. ‘An MRI of a tech addict and an MRI of a drug addict are the same—they both neurophysiologically affect the brain,’ Kardaras said. ‘Digital media is a continuum, just as substances are.’ Having observed roughly 1,000 teenagers over 15 years, Kardaras has noticed some societal changes. ‘Ten years ago patients could keep their phones in their pockets,’ he said. ‘Now that’s almost impossible. Kids lose their innate sense of curiosity when they’re constantly stimulated.’ One rapidly growing engine of stimulation is elementary schools—many of these institutions have purchased iPads for children to use in the classroom. Educators may think they’re helping children, but Kardaras actually links this increase in digital learning with the statistic that one in 10



children has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ... [‘The video game industry is] a multibillion dollar industry that has a financial stake in creating addictive product and making sure this information isn’t out there.’” (In *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*, a youth discipleship course, we give many tips for families and churches that want to protect their young people from the negative effects of social media. It is available in print or as a free eBook from [Way of Life Literature](http://WayofLifeLiterature.org).)

METHODISTS ELECT HOMOSEXUAL BISHOP (Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



The following is excerpted from “Methodists Elect,” NewsMax.com, Jul. 16, 2016: “The Western district of the Methodist church has elected an openly gay bishop despite the denomination’s ban on same-sex relationships. The Rev. Karen Oliveto was elected late Friday night at a meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, of the church’s Western Jurisdiction. Oliveto is pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. She is the first openly gay bishop in the 12.7 million-member denomination. The United Methodist Church is deeply divided over LGBT rights. Church law says same-gender relationships are ‘incompatible with Christian teaching.’ But several regional districts are openly defying the prohibition by appointing gay clergy and allowing same-sex weddings in churches. Some instances have led to trials under the church legal system.”

CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS (Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness..." (Romans 1:4). The following is combined from John Phillips' commentaries on Romans 1 and Matthew 5: "The expression 'spirit of holiness' suggests that the Lord Jesus lived a life of victory over the power of sin, and indeed, His life was perfectly holy. He never looked with lust; He never uttered a hasty, unkind, untrue or frivolous word; and He never entertained an impure thought. He was never accused by conscience, never inflamed by wrongful passion, never out of step with the will of God. His time was never wasted, His talents never debased for selfish ends, His influence never bad, His judgment never wrong. He never had to apologize for anything He did or retract a single word He said. He was never too late or too soon; never upset; never insipid, shallow or afraid. He lived on earth approximately twelve thousand days and every one of them was a marvel of holiness. There was never a single moment when the Lord Jesus did not absolutely fulfill every detail of every divine commandment. As a baby, as a boy, as a teenager, and in the prime of life, at home, at school, at work, at play, as a son and as a brother, as a neighbor and as a friend, as a village carpenter, as an itinerant preacher, in secret and in public, when surrounded by family and friends and when confronted by formidable foes--at all times, in all places, in all ways, He kept the law of God. He kept it in letter and in spirit. He kept the law in its injunctions and in its intentions. He kept it because it was His nature to keep it. He would never dream of not keeping it. It was His Father's will, and Jesus always did those things that please the Father. He was 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners' (Heb. 7:26). From the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration He could have stepped straight into glory. He had absolute victory from the mo-

ment He first drew breath in that Bethlehem barn until the moment He closed His eyes in death on the cross of Calvary. He was 'declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness.'"

SOME FAVORITE QUOTES (Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money" (Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1835).

"When the taste for physical gratifications among them has grown more rapidly than their education ... the time will come when men are carried away and lose all self-restraint ... It is not necessary to do violence to such a people in order to strip them of the rights they enjoy; they themselves willingly loosen their hold. ... they neglect their chief business which is to remain their own masters" (Alexis de Tocqueville).

"Society will develop a new kind of servitude which covers the surface of society with a network of complicated rules, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate. It does not tyrannise but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd" (Alexis de Tocqueville).



SCHOOL FOR TEMPLE PRIESTS OPENS IN JERUSALEM (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from "School for Temple Priests," *Israel Today*, Aug. 11, 2016: "The Temple Institute has announced the opening of a school to train descendants of the Tribe of Levi for their eventual return to service in the Third Temple. 'We are extremely excited to announce this new step towards the restoration of the Holy Temple service. We call first and foremost upon Kohanim [Levitical priests] worldwide to support this special project, which signifies a return to their birth right,' read a statement from Temple Institute director Rabbi Chaim Richman. In a separate comment, Rabbi Richman noted that 'preparation for the Temple is no longer a dream, it's a reality, in which everyone can play a part.' ... The Temple Mount in Jerusalem is currently occupied by the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, which Muslims now claim as their third holiest site. Many Jews and Christians believe a Third Temple will one day take the place of the Muslim holy sites in accordance with several biblical prophecies."

SATANIST LEADS INVOCATION AT ALASKA ASSEMBLY (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

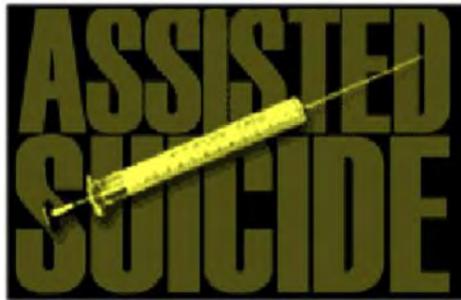
The following is excerpted from "Satanist Leads," *mrcvtv.org*, Media Research Center, Aug. 12, 2016: "A debate over religious freedom has led to a Satanist leading an invocation at one Alaska borough's assembly meeting.



Following a discussion over whether to do away with invocations entirely, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly decided to open invocations up to all religions. According to Assembly President Blaine Gilman, a group of pastors used to previously lead the assembly's invocation. Under the new rules, however, anyone can choose to lead an invocation in the name of his or her religion. During Tuesday's assembly meeting, Iris Fontana led an invocation in the name of Satan on behalf of the Satanic Temple. KSRM reports Fontana said: 'Let us stand now, unbowed and unfettered by arcane doctrines, born of fearful minds in darkened times. Let us embrace the Luciferian impulse to eat of the tree of knowledge and dissipate our blissful and comforting delusions of old. Let us demand that individuals be judged for their concrete actions, not their fealty to arbitrary social norms and illusory categorizations. ... That which will not bend must break and that which can be destroyed by truth should never be spared its demise. It is done. Hail Satan.'" The Bible says Satan is a defeated foe: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus Christ] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

CALIFORNIA'S ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Calif-

ornia Says It's Okay to Target the Disabled with Assisted Suicide," LifeNews.com, Aug. 11, 2016: "[California's assisted suicide] law, currently under litigation, has been allowed to remain in effect for all other Californians until a ruling expected later next month. But in the meantime it is proposed that no prisoner, no matter how ill, may avail of the 'right' that other ill people have been offered; the supposed 'right to be dead.' ... Individuals in California are currently 'free to be dead' when given a terminal diagnosis and an MD approximates that within 6 months they could die. If despondent and 'hopeless' in their own judgement, the patient is free to simply 'get things over



with.' And 'accommodating individuals' may attend. They may be given a lethal dose of medicine. No psychological evaluation or counseling is required for those patients. As in Oregon and elsewhere, only certain physicians who view mercy killing as benign, are inclined to employ medicine in a deadly manner. As in Oregon, no investigation is launched into the intentional killing, and as in all 'assisted suicides', the 'assistant', the third-party agent, is free to go, unquestioned and unhindered, even if he or she is an heir or should they in some other way benefit from the intentional killing. ... Perhaps the experience of Belgium can give us insight into the Brave New World our voluntary euthanasia laws are attempting to impose on both the vulnerable as well as murderous prisoners. There, 'assisted suicide' via medicine is authorized even for the non-terminal, provided the patient themselves feel their lives have no purpose. This 'freedom' was given new meaning in January 2015 when serial-

rapist and murderer Frank van Den Bleeken was denied execution at trial, though he desired it, as the death penalty is outlawed in Belgium. Several years later and diagnosed with incurable illness, van Den Bleeken did not wish to spend the remainder of his life in prison. Initially the courts ruled that he indeed could kill himself at his own hand, since anyone can in Belgium. Grieving family members of his victims were content with the 'self-execution'—justice would finally be done. But it was not to be. The courts in their newfound sense of justice ultimately ruled that what Mr. van Den Bleeken needed is what all despondent and suicidal individuals should always be offered, psychological intervention and counseling. In Belgium only innocent people may be killed. Murderers must get counseling and protection. Today capital criminals cannot be killed in California even if they desire it. The finest counseling and interventions are instead offered."

EVIDENCE FOUND OF HUMAN SACRIFICE TO ZEUS IN ANCIENT GREECE (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Chilling Mountaintop Find May Confirm Greek Legend," *Associated Press*, Aug. 10, 2016: "Archaeologists have made a sinister discovery at the top of a Greek mountain which might corroborate one of the darkest legends of antiquity. Excavations this summer on Mount Lykaion, once worshipped as the birthplace of the god Zeus, uncovered the 3,000-year-old skeleton of a teenager amid a mound of ashes built up over a



millennium from sacrificed animals. Greece's Culture Ministry said Wednesday that the skeleton, probably of an adolescent boy, was found in the heart of the 30-meter (100-foot) broad ash altar, next to a man-made stone platform. Excavators say it's too early to speculate on the nature of the teenager's death but the discovery is remarkable because the remote Mount Lykaion was for centuries associated with the most nefarious of Greek cults: Ancient writers—including Plato—linked it with human sacrifice to Zeus, a practice which has very rarely been confirmed by archaeologists anywhere in the Greek world and never on mainland Greece. According to legend, a boy was sacrificed with the animals and all the meat was cooked and eaten together. Whoever ate the human part would become a wolf for nine years. 'Several ancient literary sources mention rumors that human sacrifice took place at the altar, but up until a few weeks ago there has been no trace whatsoever of human bones discovered at the site,' said excavator David Gilman Romano, professor of Greek archaeology at the University of Arizona. 'Whether it's a sacrifice or not, this is a sacrificial altar ... so it's not a place where you would bury an individual. It's not a cemetery,' Romano told *The Associated Press*. A very unusual detail, he said, was that the upper part of the skull was missing, while the body was laid among two lines of stones on an east-west axis, with stone slabs covering the pelvis. The mountaintop in the Peloponnese region is the earliest known site where Zeus was worshipped..."

LUTHERANS DRAWING CLOSER TO UNITY WITH ROME (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "US Lutherans approve document recognizing agreement with Catholic Church," *Religion News Service*, Aug. 17, 2016: "Nearly 500 years after Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Castle Church



door, the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S. has approved a declaration recognizing 'there are no longer church-dividing issues' on many points with the Roman Catholic Church. The 'Declaration on the Way' was approved 931-9 by the 2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church-wide Assembly held last week at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called the declaration 'historic' in a statement released by the denomination following the Wednesday (Aug. 10) vote. 'Though we have not yet arrived, we have claimed that we are, in fact, on the way to unity. ... This Declaration on the Way helps us to realize more fully our unity in Christ with our Catholic partners, but it also serves to embolden our commitment to unity with all Christians,' Eaton said. The declaration comes as the Lutheran and Catholic churches prepare to kick off a year of celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. ... Most notably, the 'Declaration on the Way' includes 32 'Statements of Agreement' where Lutherans and Catholics no longer have church-dividing differences on issues of church, ministry and the Eucharist. Those statements previously had been affirmed by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. ... the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation released a joint document in 2013 titled 'From Conflict to Communion' that focused on the progress made in Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in the past 50 years, rather than centuries of conflict.

OBAMA'S TRANSGENDER EDICT (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Transgender edict: You will be made to comply," *OneNewsNow.com*, Aug. 18, 2016: "The Obama administration has announced it is imposing its transgender bathroom policy on thousands of federal buildings across the country. NBC News reports the notice has been issued today in the Federal Register. According to the notice, 'federal agencies occupying space under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the GSA [General Services Administration] must allow individuals to use restroom facilities and related areas consistent with their gender identity.' The rule applies to federal courthouses and offices of government agencies such as the Social Service Administration and the Department of Veteran Affairs. It doesn't apply to the U.S. Capitol or to national parks because they aren't under GSA control. The federal notice also states: '... [T]he self-identification of gender identity by any individual is sufficient to establish which



restroom or other single-sex facilities should be used.' The NBC report also notes that the administration's edict states that the requirement to provide equal access cannot be met by requiring transgender employees and visitors to use single-user washrooms."

ALBUQUERQUE SCHOOL TEACHERS INSTRUCTED NOT TO CALL STUDENTS BOYS AND GIRLS (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



“Teachers at school directed to stop addressing students as ‘boys and girls,’” *KOB-TV*, Albuquerque, New Mexico, *KOB4.com*, Aug. 19, 2016: “Teachers at Carlos Rey Elementary School are in a tough situation after their assistant principal told them to stop calling their students ‘boys and girls.’ It seems the school administrators decided to take the new transgender bathroom policy for Albuquerque Public Schools a step further. This appears to be the first example of something that started as a bathroom issue now expanding into daily life in the classroom. A letter sent to teachers at Carlos Rey this month titled ‘Gender Identity Procedural Directive’ states teachers can no longer refer to their students as boys and girls starting this month, telling them to eliminate gender in their classrooms. ... Adrien Lawyer with the Transgender Resource Center believes the assistant principal was actually trying to do the right thing. ‘What the principal was trying to say is let’s think about how we address students and all of the gendered language that we use all day every day and whether or not we really have to do that,’ he said. Lawyer said that kind of policy would have taken a lot of the daily suffering out of his childhood, growing up as a girl who knew in his heart he was a boy. ... The district said this was a complete mistake on the assistant principal’s part and that she was immediately addressing the overreach. APS said nowhere in their transgender policy does it say to not call students boys and girls. Sources at the school, however, tell *KOB* they were told to continue with that policy.”

HOMESCHOOLING IS SMARTEST WAY TO TEACH KIDS (Friday

Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Homeschooling is the smartest way to teach kids in the 21st century,” *Business Insider*, Aug. 20, 2016: “Alison Davis doesn’t see homeschooling as some strange alternative to traditional school. If anything, says the mom from Williamstown, New Jersey, when it comes to raising her two children, she’s doing the sensible thing. ‘You’re not going to be put in a work environment where everybody came from the same school and everybody is the same age,’ she tells *Business Insider*. ‘In my opinion, the traditional school atmosphere is not the real world at all.’ ‘Homeschooling,’ she says, ‘that’s the real world.’ Davis’ satisfaction with keeping her kids out of local public and private schools is one shared by a growing pool of parents around the US. Recent data collected by the Department of Education reveals homeschooling has grown by 61.8% over the last 10 years to the point where two million kids--4% of the total youth population--now learn from the comfort of their own home. Contrary to the belief that homeschooling produces anti-social outcasts, the truth is that some of the most high-achieving, well-adjusted students are poring over math problems at their kitchen table, not a desk in a classroom. **According to leading pedagogical research, at-home instruction may just be the most relevant, responsible, and effective way to educate children in the 21st century.** ... Davis says her son Luke struggled early on with reading. Even into the second grade, he didn’t enjoy it and found it overwhelming. In any other



school, teachers may not have been able to spend the necessary time helping Luke become a stronger reader because they had 20 other kids to worry about. That’s not the case in the Davis household. ‘I could take that extra time with him,’ Davis says. Plus, reading time became more than just a push toward literacy; it was Mommy-Luke bonding time--something no school could compete with. ‘Now he devours books in like a week’s time or less,’ she says. The long-term effects of personalization are equally massive. According to a 2009 study of standardized testing, homeschoolers scored in the 86th percentile. The results held true even when controlling for parents’ income level, amount of education, teaching credentials, and level of state regulation. Research also suggests that homeschooled kids get into college more often and do better once they’re enrolled. ... The biggest stereotype surrounding homeschooling is that constant one-on-one teaching deprives kids of the socialization they need to thrive. Not so. Homeschooled kids are just as likely to play soccer and do group projects as any other students. Davis’ family is heavily involved in their local church, so Luke and his older sister Amanda both have friends in the choir. They both play an instrument, so they have friends in a homeschooler orchestra. ... It’s not just that homeschooled kids enjoy the upside of normal school, though; they also get to enjoy the absence of its many drawbacks--namely peer pressure and cliques. On several occasions, Alison says, other kids have expressed jealousy that Luke and Amanda get to learn at home, away from the social hierarchies of normal school.”

BLACK FAMILY OF “GENIUSES” CREDIT HOMESCHOOLING

(Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “This Black ‘Family of Geniuses,’” *Atlanta Black Star*, Aug. 17, 2016: “A multi-talented family has taken Boca Raton,



Florida, by storm with their incredible academic achievements. The family of 11 includes two teenage daughters who have graduated college with master’s degrees and a mother who is an architect and attorney. In a July 30 profile, the Bush family reveals their secret to success—homeschooling. The children have been home-schooled and have been immersed in the arts and sciences since they were very young. Gabrielle Bush tells NBC’s ‘TODAY’ that she wants everyone to have accessible healthcare. At just 19, the young woman is working in her chosen field after earning two degrees. However, her sister may have topped her. Grace Bush, 18, graduated college and high school at 16 and earned a master’s degree at 18. She hopes to be a Supreme Court Justice.”

FOLLOWING MARY’S INSTRUCTIONS, CATHOLICS SMASH ROCKS FOR GOOD LUCK (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Thousands of Catholics smash rocks,” *ChristianToday.com*, Aug. 17, 2016: “Every year, in the third week of August, Bolivian Catholics meet on the outskirts of La Paz, a cultural centre in the west



of the country. There, they collect river rocks and try to break them. The rite is performed to call for blessings as part of the festival of the Virgin of Urkupiña. Legend has it that Virgin Mary appeared to a shepherd girl to instruct her to take rocks from this dried river that miraculously turned into silver when she reached home, pulling her family out of poverty. Pilgrims strike rocks to try to similarly improve their fortunes. When a rock is easily split, they believe their wish will be soon fulfilled. If they have more difficulty striking and splitting the rock, it will take more time. ‘You can ask for a house, a car, all your wishes are fulfilled,’ said believer Ricardo Tarqui. ‘I broke the rock with a second blow and in a third attempt. I have been able to buy a house and also a car.’ Lots of other activities take place as part of the festival, including a huge parade and a central Mass.”

MONK WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE WORLD’S OLDEST MAN ATTRIBUTES LONGEVITY TO YOGA (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



Hindu monk Swami Sivananda claims to be 120 years old and attributes his longevity to a yogic lifestyle. His passport says he was born on Aug. 8, 1896, which was based on a temple record. An Agence France Presse report notes that “it would be extremely difficult to independently verify his age” (“Oldest Indian man ever,” *The Himalayan Times*, Aug. 19, 2016). Regardless of his age, he is far from the oldest man who ever lived. According to the Bible, the most accurate record of human history, Methuselah died at age

969 (Genesis 5:25-27). In Christ’s kingdom, man’s normal lifespan will increase dramatically as in the days before the Flood (Zechariah 8:4-5). Man’s lifespan in the kingdom is likened to “the days of a tree” (Isa. 65:22). Isaiah says, “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed” (Isa. 65:20). This means that if a man dies at age 100, it will be like a toddler dying in this present age. Some will die prematurely because of unrepentant sin.



FINCHES SING TO UNBORN CHICKS (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from “Birds sing special song to babies through the shell,” *news.sky.com*, Aug. 20, 2016: “One species sings a special song to their eggs to warn their offspring if the weather outside is getting too hot. On hearing the song, baby zebra finches hatch sooner and gain less weight--meaning they’re smaller and better able to keep themselves cool. Ducks and chickens also ‘speak’ to their eggs, meaning that when they hatch they already recognise their parents by their voices. ... Scientists spotted the behaviour among captive zebra finches in Australia--while they often call to one another, they noticed that sometimes the birds sang a specific song when alone with their eggs. This occurred when the weather was warmer, and it was found that it caused the birds to hatch sooner.”

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER THAT BIRDS SLEEP ON LONG FLIGHTS (Friday Church News Notes, August 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Scientists have just seen birds sleep during flight for the first time ever,” ScienceAlert.com, Aug. 4, 2016: “Scientists have been able to observe birds falling asleep mid-flight for the first time--an ability that’s long been suspected but never been proven. ... The new research found both the expected and the unexpected. By measuring the brain activity of frigatebirds--seabirds known to fly for weeks at a time over the ocean in search of fish--researchers showed once and for all that birds can shut down one hemisphere at a time during flight, as expected. But they can also rest both hemispheres at once--something scientists didn’t expect them to be able to do while remaining airborne. To figure this out, a team from the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany developed a small device that was able to measure electroencephalographic (EEG) changes in birds’ brain activity. ... they attached it to 15 adult female frigatebirds. The team recorded their brain activity over 10 days and more than 3,000 kilometres of



flight, while a GPS device also tracked the birds' position and altitude. ... More often than not, the birds just rested one hemisphere at a time, which is something the researchers had expected. ... But the EEG recordings also showed both hemispheres going into slow wave sleep at the same time, which unexpectedly suggested that birds were able to maintain aerodynamic control even when their entire brain is asleep.”

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