

Friday Church News Notes

Ben Stein Fired from New York Times

PERSECUTED FOR HIS STAND FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH

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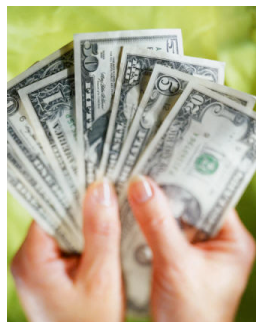
Ben Stein, who exposed the vicious intolerance of evolutionary scientists and educators in his brilliant documentary *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, is getting a taste of that intolerance. The following is from *Evolution News*, August 2009: "Ben Stein probably thought he could do his work on the film *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* and not himself endure the kind of personal attacks that, in the film, he defended Darwin critics against. In fact, what he found was that Darwinism is at the root of the worldview of the materialist Left and even the materialist Right. You can't say or do anything to offend them. You can't even advocate academic freedom. The people who demanded free speech in the 60s and shouted down figures of authority are now the tenured faculty and newsroom editors of the Establishment. And now they are disallowing any criticism at all. So, unlikely as it seems, Ben Stein became a martyr. Richard Dawkins intervened at the University of Vermont last spring to deny Stein a gig as Commencement Speaker. Now Ben has been disingenuously trashed by *The New York Times*. Typically, when firing Stein as a business columnist the *Times* couldn't give the actual reason--which is ideological--and instead had to insinuate that he had a 'conflict of interest.' That is a joke as well as an insult."



COPELAND AND GANG STILL PREACHING PROSPERITY GOSPEL

Kenneth Copeland and his gang of Word-Faith buddies are still preaching an unabashed prosperity gospel. The recent Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, featured five days of preaching by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Jesse Duplantis, and Jerry Savelle. The 9,000 attendees heard endless appeals to plant "seed faith" offerings in order to gain God's blessing. Mrs. Copeland said, "God knows where the money is, and he knows how to get the money to you" ("Believers Invest in the Gospel of Getting Rich," *New York Times*, Aug. 16, 2009).

All you have to do to get that money rolling your way is to exercise faith in God and give generously to Pentecostal Word Faith ministries so they can live high on the hog. Savelle advised, "Any time a worried thought about money pops up in your mind, the next thing to do is sow in good ground [give money to their ministries]. Stop worrying, start sowing. That's God's stimulus package for you." Edwige Ndoudi, one of the attendees, explained, "If God did it for them, he will do it for us." The Copelands' ministry takes in about \$100 million annually.



BBC SPORTS ANNOUNCER REFUSES TO WORK ON SUNDAY

Dan Walker, of BBC's *Football Focus*, has refused to play sports on Sunday since he was a boy. He was first confronted with the issue at age 12 when he was asked to play for various teams because of his extraordinary height. He says, "The problem was all their games were on a Sunday. I had only recently become a Christian and this was the first time I was confronted with the issue of how I should be spending my Sundays" ("Christian BBC footie Host Who Refuses to Work on a Sunday," *The Sun*, Aug. 11, 2009). He doesn't even watch football on Sunday, saying, "I spend Sunday at church and with my family." He has continued to be confronted with the issue and was told that he would never get anywhere in sports broadcasting. I don't know what kind of church Walker attends, but the man is to be commended for standing by his convictions in a day when professional football (either American or soccer) is one of this world's chief gods. There are multitudes of Christians, even fundamentalists, that neglect the Lord's house for sports. At one of my recent Bible conferences, many young people and adults missed services to attend a softball playoff. That is the same priority that unsaved people have. If that is not lukewarm Christianity, I don't know what is, and Jesus said that He hates it (Revelation 3:15-16).

ATHEIST SAYS CHRISTIANS SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED TO EXPRESS THEIR FAITH IN PRIVATE

The following is excerpted from “Jerry Coyne on Francis Collins,” EvolutionNews.org, August 4, 2009: “Atheist Jerry Coyne has been ‘chewing over’ the President’s selection of Francis Collins as head of the National Institutes of Health. Collins, by consensus, is superbly qualified as a scientist and an administrator to run NIH. He’s a distinguished geneticist and directed the Human Genome Project. He’s also a Christian, and has no problem with publicly discussing his reasons and faith. For Coyne, that’s the rub. ... ‘[I] do want to emphasize again that the guy is deeply, deeply superstitious, to the point where, on his website BioLogos and his book *The Language of God*, he lets his faith contaminate his scientific views. So I can’t help but be a bit worried.’ So

Coyne believes that faith ‘contaminates’ science. About his own contamination of science with fundamentalist atheism Coyne seems oblivious. Coyne [says further], ‘I expect Collins to resign from BioLogos if he wants to maintain any scientific credibility. ... Certainly, private expressions of faith are absolutely fine, but Collins has chosen to make his views public, and discuss their relationship to science....’ What arrogance. Collins’ membership in a perfectly mainstream Christian organization on his own time is no business whatsoever of Coyne’s. ... Regrettably Collins did in fact resign from BioLogos, giving in to the atheist thought police who seek to quench any expression of the intimate link between Christian faith and modern science.”



Christian basher Jerry Coyne says that faith is nothing more than superstition - he wants believers in a closet.

BARACK OBAMA FURTHER DEGRADES THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Barack Obama has taken the Presidential Medal of Freedom to new lows by awarding it to homosexual activists and socialists. On August 12, Obama awarded the nation’s highest civilian medal to 16 people, including Billie Jean King, Desmond Tutu, Harvey Milk, (shown right) and Ted Kennedy. King is a lesbian tennis star and homosexual activist. Milk was a homosexual activist who “went after teenage boys” and lied about being discharged from the Navy for his homosexuality (“Presidential Medal Recipients,” OneNewsNow, Aug. 13, 2009). Tutu, Anglican Bishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa, supports the ordination of homosexuals. Kennedy has done probably more than any other man in this generation to turn America into a humanistic socialist state. This is not the first time that the Presidential Medal of Freedom has been bestowed on people who did not serve America’s best interest. Past recipients include Roger Baldwin (founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, an organization that has done much to remove Biblical influence from American society), Rachel Carson (deluded environmentalist activist), Cesar Chavez (pro-communist activist), Jesse Jackson (black racist shake down artist), and Nelson Mandela (former leader of the African National Congress, a vicious communist organization that burned people alive). The Presidential Medal of Freedom has been used to honor a wide variety of people, including athletes (Jesse Owens), actors (James Cagney), comics (Bob Hope), singers (Aretha Franklin), musicians (Van Cliburn), generals (Wesley Clark), astronauts (Neil Armstrong), authors (James A. Michener), inventors (Edwin Land of the Polaroid Land Camera), presidents (Ronald Reagan), artists (Norman Rockwell), corporate founders (Sam Walton of Wal-Mart), journalists (Edward R. Murrow), ambassadors (Jean Kirkpatrick), activists (Helen Keller), historians (Will Durant), military heroes (Jimmy Doolittle), and economists (Milton Friedman).



Harvey Milk

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SCHOOL OFFICIALS FACE JAIL TIME FOR MEAL-TIME PRAYERS

The following is excerpted from OneNewsNow, Aug. 11, 2009: "A principal and an athletic director are facing criminal charges for a lunch-time prayer. Last year, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against Pace High School in Santa Rosa County, Florida. The ACLU claimed some teachers and administrators were endorsing religion, but the school chose to give in to the ACLU's demands rather than fight them in court. According to the settlement, all school employees are banned from engaging in prayer or religious activities before, during, or after school hours. Now two school officials are facing criminal charges for offering meal-time prayers at an appreciation

dinner for adults who had helped with a school field house project. Principal Frank Lay and athletic director Robert Freeman are scheduled to go on trial next month on criminal contempt charges. If convicted, both are subject to fines and imprisonment. Matt Staver is founder of Liberty Counsel, which will argue the court order prohibiting prayer at school-related events violated Lay's and Freeman's constitutional rights. ... Staver [says that] it is outrageous to punish a school official with potential jail time for simply praying."

HARRY POTTER STAR RAILS AGAINST PARENTS WHO OPPOSE HOMOSEXUAL SEX EDUCATION

The following is excerpted from "Harry Potter Star Blasts Parents," LifeSiteNews, Aug. 13, 2009: "20-year-old Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe has, in an interview with a homosexual magazine, expressed anger and intolerance for parents who oppose education about homosexual sex in the classroom. 'Then there's all this stuff at the moment, which is hateful, about people being up in arms about the idea of gay sex education in schools. Hello!?! Actually for the one or two gay kids in the class, it's ***** vital! It really makes me angry,' he said in an interview with *Attitude*. The magazine quotes Radcliffe continuing his tirade against pro-family parents saying: 'I just loathe homophobia. It's just disgusting and animal and stupid and it's just thick people who can't get their heads around it and are just scared.'"

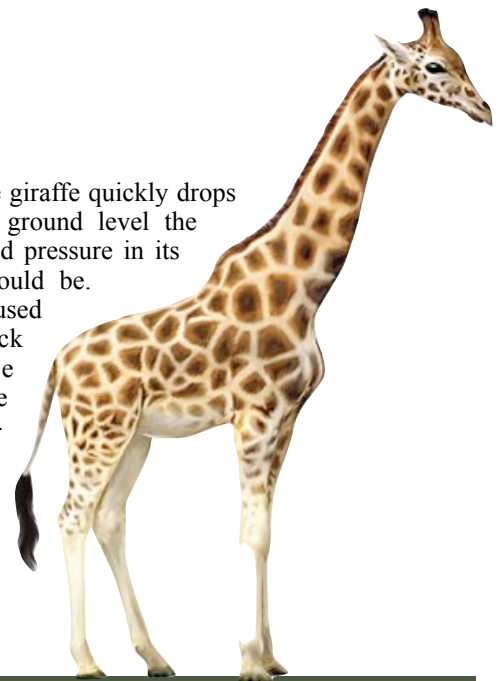
TO FAIL TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH IS TO BETRAY CHRIST

"The church, in its conflict, may be compared to persons striving to ascend an agitated and rapid river, when the wind and the tide are both strong against them. They can advance only by hard rowing and the moment they intermit their efforts they fall down the stream. The church has to fight for every inch of ground; and whenever she ceases to contend for the truth, she ceases to advance. She may contend with an improper spirit. If she does this, it is her mistake and her sin. But to contend no more, is to disregard the command of her Master in heaven, and BETRAY HIS CAUSE TO THE ENEMY" (Prof. Samuel Miller, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1813-1849).

THE GIRAFFE'S WONDER NET

The following is from Creation Moments, <http://www.creationmoments.net/radio/transcript.php?t=2210>: "Did you ever stand up a little too quickly and get dizzy? It can happen because by standing, you may have temporarily lowered the blood pressure in your brain. Can you imagine what might happen when the giraffe swings its head from the ground to a treetop? The giraffe's cardiovascular system is very different from ours and most other creatures. The giraffe's heart pumps at twice the pressure expected for a creature of its size in order to get the blood all the way up that long neck. However, since the giraffe's brain is very sensitive to high blood pressure there is a special structure that has been called the 'wonder net' where the blood supply

enters its brain. Even if the giraffe quickly drops its head, from treetop to ground level the wonder net keeps the blood pressure in its head exactly where it should be. Furthermore, to prevent used blood from draining back into its brain when he lowers its head, the giraffe has a special set of one-way check valves in its neck."



Paul's Doctrine of Repentance

In Acts 26:13-20 the Apostle Paul recounted the ministry that Christ had given to him by revelation. He was sent to the Gentiles “to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God” by exhorting them “that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:18, 20). Consider three lessons from this. First, repentance was at the very heart of Paul’s ministry. His objective was not to get men merely to “believe” in Christ in a shallow sense, not just to get them to pray a “sinners prayer,” but to have them experience a radical turning by God’s power. Second, we see that repentance must issue in faith (Acts 26:18). Repentance alone does not save; it must be accompanied by faith. In Acts 20:21 Paul described salvation as “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Third, repentance results in a change of life (Acts 26:20). Paul preached the same thing as John the Baptist in this matter of repentance (Mat. 3:8). Some preachers today call this doctrine of repentance a lordship or works salvation, but it is not. How can it be wrong to follow Paul’s doctrine of repentance? Those who don’t like it need to examine their own faith and trade their man-made “quick prayerism” tradition for the pure Word of God. Biblical repentance is not works. It is not a change of life; it is a dramatic change of mind toward God that results in a change of life. Charles Spurgeon wisely commented, “Do you imagine that the gospel is magnified, or God glorified by going to the worldings and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by simply accepting Christ as their Saviour, while they are wedded to their idols and their hearts are still in love with sin? If I do so, I tell them a lie, pervert the gospel, insult Christ, and turn the grace of God into lasciviousness.”

CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.