
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

OVERWEIGHT TO BE IDENTIFIED AND MONITORED IN BRITAIN

According to the London *Telegraph*, Britain's National Health Service (NHS) will ask doctors to identify anyone who has put on weight and is at risk of diabetes so they can be placed under "close monitoring to ensure that they are eating healthily and exercising more" ("Doctors told to report patients who put on weight," *The Telegraph*, Dec. 25, 2014). Businesses will be asked to reward employees who lose weight with shopping vouchers. It's part of a new program to fight obesity, which has risen from 15% in 1993 to 25% today, and the NHS spends ten billion pounds a year treating diabetes. This type of thing is the natural product of nationalized healthcare. For the government to encourage weight loss is one thing, but government "monitoring" is another thing altogether. We are reminded that government largess always comes with government control. No nation has the resources to provide every type of modern medical care that every person needs, so care is rationed, and people's lives are monitored for "the system's sake."



THE \$100 MILLION FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Russell Wilson is in place to become the National Football League's (NFL) next \$100 million quarterback. Over the last three seasons the superstar performer made a "measly" \$2.2 million as a drafted player, but now he is eligible for a new contract and is predicted to be offered \$131 million for a six-year deal. Of that, an estimated \$64 million will be guaranteed, with the rest dependent on various bonus factors. Currently, there are five quarterbacks with guaranteed contracts of \$54 million and above. Of course, this doesn't include advertising endorsements, etc. Peyton Manning, for example, makes an estimated \$15 million a year in addition to his football contract. In 2013, the 100 top athletic endorsement earners made a collective \$772 million. That athletes and other entertainers can make this type of money is a testament to the idolatry of modern society. The average person is wasting the fleeting hours of this life to vanities, oblivious that he will give account to God for every idle word, the believer at Christ's Bema and the unbeliever at the Great White Throne.



CANADIAN COURT UPHOLDS RIGHT OF CHRISTIANS TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE AT UNIVERSITY

The following is excerpted from “Canadian Court Upholds Right,” Christian News Network, Dec. 24, 2014: “A Canadian court has upheld the right of two Christians to distribute literature on university campuses despite dislike for their message, and has found the men not guilty of a mischief charge following their arrest this past spring. As previously reported, in April Peter LaBarbera, the director of the U.S.-based Christian ministry Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, and Canadian activist Bill Whatcott were placed in handcuffs and escorted off the University of Regina campus when they refused to leave and stop distributing pamphlets on homosexuality and abortion. ... When Whatcott and LaBarbera proceeded with their outreach, they were arrested, charged with mischief and later released. ... A trial was held in October, and on Monday, Judge Marylynne Beaton found both men not guilty, releasing a 27-page opinion that upheld the Christians’ right to disseminate their views under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. ‘I find that the purpose of Mr. Whatcott and Mr. LaBarbera attending the University of Regina was to



communicate information and their actions were passive and non-aggressive,’ she wrote. ‘Therefore, notwithstanding that the university may be private property, I find that [the Charter] may be used as a defense to a finding of mischief by interfering with university property as they had the right to communicate in a peaceful manner on university property.’ Beaton also stated that the university’s reasoning to remove the men and stop them from sharing their message in order to ‘prevent students from feeling discriminated against’ was improper. ... LaBarbera says that he is pleased with the

decision and hopes that it will be used as a precedent for other free speech matters in the country. ‘Hopefully, this ruling will open up the door to a resurgence of true tolerance and freedom in Canada,’ he wrote in an update on Tuesday. ‘The Left in Canada, as in the United States, does not want debate but rather control. They fear unfettered exposure to moral truth and compelling facts about homosexuality--hence their campaign to silence Christians and others who speak out against sexual immorality and gender rebellion.’”

LESBIAN ACTIVIST APPOINTED DEAN FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE AT STANFORD

A lesbian homosexual rights activist was appointed the new Dean for Religious Life at Stanford University this fall. Jane Shaw, an Episcopal priest who formerly served as the first openly lesbian dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, said in a recent interview, “I don’t think church is to be more churchy. I think church is about, anyone should be welcome. I’m really interested in how you welcome many different kind of constituencies, certainly not convert them, not even necessarily to do religion all the time” (“First Person: A conversation with Jane Shaw,” *Palo Alto*

Online, Dec. 22, 2014). According to the university press release, Shaw will “provide spiritual, religious and ethical leadership to the university community.” She is a founding member of the Chicago Consultation, which seeks “the full inclusion of LGBT people into the church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.” Dr. Shaw doesn’t want to “do religion all the time.” It’s too bad that “doing religion” is all that she has known, because there is no life-changing, eternity-changing power in any religion. Salvation is only found in a regenerating conversion experience through repentance and faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ. Having experienced this at age 23 and enjoyed the fruit of it for 40+ years, I highly recommend it to everyone.

COURT DECLARES ORANGUTAN “NON-HUMAN PERSON”

The following is excerpted from “Court Declares,” Wesley J. Smith, Dec. 21, 2014, evolutionnews.org: “I have been warning you and warning you: It takes just *one judge*, wanting to make history, to kick the props out from under our tottering societal embrace of human exceptionalism. In Argentina--next door to Brazil, where a judge was previously poised to grant a writ of *habeas corpus* to a chimp, when the animal died--a court has declared an orangutan a ‘person.’ From the Reuters story: ‘An orangutan held in an Argentine zoo can be freed and transferred to a sanctuary after a court recognized the ape as a “non-human person” unlawfully deprived of its freedom, local media reported on Sunday.’ ... One hopes this will be overturned on appeal. If it isn’t, some will simply shrug. Others will laugh and roll their eyes. But indifference is the enemy of maintaining a righteous society and there is nothing funny about erasing human exceptionalism. ‘Breaking the species barrier,’ as Peter Singer put it in *The Great Ape Project*, will have a calamitous impact on human self-regard, and eventually, freedom. The animal rights agenda--completely unnecessary to protect animal welfare--won’t elevate animals to the level of humans, but will reduce us to the value of animals. And that means that the weakest and most vulnerable--the disparaged and the outcast--will eventually lose their inherent protections based simply on being human. I don’t have time here to make the argument again: It took an entire book to engage in my *A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy*.”



THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY

According to a new Pew Research study, less than half of children in the U.S. currently live in a traditional family (referring to two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage) (“Less than half of U.S. kids,” PewResearch.org, Dec. 22, 2014). In 1960, 73% of children lived in traditional families. Many factors have combined to produce this frightful change, including no fault divorce, the rock & roll philosophy of “do your own thing,” the welfare state, the feminist movement, and above all, apostasy, spiritual compromise, and worldliness in the churches.



THE POWER OF A TESTIMONY

One of the most effective ways to witness is to give your personal experience of being converted, of a changed life, of answer to prayer. Testimonies must be very effective, since they are modeled in the Bible (Acts 2:22-36; 4:8-12; 5:29-32; 9:10-22; 10:34-43; 13:16-38; 17:22-31; 26:1-23). We are commanded to be witnesses for Jesus (John 15:27; Acts 1:8). Peter used personal testimony (2 Pet. 1:16-19). John used it (1 Jn. 1:1-3). A testimony is accepted in courts of law. In fact, positive testimony can overthrow negative testimony. If two men are sent into the woods to gather mushrooms and one returns and says he saw no mushrooms while the other returns and says he saw mushrooms, which one will the people believe? Likewise, if one man says he has never experienced God while another says that He has, the positive testimony will be more memorable.



WOOLLY BEARS AND THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

The following by William Pelletier, Ph.D., is from *Bible Science Guy*, BibleScienceGuy.WordPress.com, March 8, 2010: “The problem of evil is the skeptic’s most frequently raised objection. He points to suffering in the world as ‘obvious proof’ that a loving all-powerful God cannot exist. How does the woolly bear caterpillar provide illustrative insight about the problem of pain? Of course pain has value. It serves as a warning system to protect the body from injury for one thing. But what about seemingly purposeless pain or horrible evil? Is that evidence that God cannot exist? A moth’s torturous struggle to exit a woolly bear

cocoon looks painful and completely unnecessary. So much so that some cut cocoons open to ‘help’ the moth. But this removal of ‘suffering’ dooms the moth. It needs to struggle through the tiny aperture to develop strength and force fluid from its abdomen throughout its body. Without the struggle, it dies. Is it possible that likewise there is a beneficial purpose to human suffering and evil? Could removal of an ‘evil’ cancel a much greater good as illustrated by the moth? Just because we don’t understand God’s purpose for suffering does not mean that a good purpose does not exist. *‘My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts, declares the Lord’ (Isaiah 55:8-9)*. Demonstrating the purpose for some cases disproves the skeptic’s claim that there is no purpose to suffering and evil.”

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, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click “Manage My Subscription.” Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.