

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## FATHER OF LIBERATION THEOLOGY WELCOMED AT VATICAN



*Pope Francis & Gustavo Gutierrez*

Gustavo Gutierrez, founder of Liberation Theology, was welcomed this week at the Vatican by Pope Francis. This is the second visit of Gutierrez to Rome during Francis' papacy, and it marks the mainstreaming of the Catholic version of the social gospel. Liberation Theology seeks to analyze and solve the underlying cause of poverty rather than preach the gospel to the poor. It is a Marxist approach to the solving of societal ills. It is shortsighted, focusing on this present life rather than eternity. It blames poverty on capitalism. It focuses more on America as the cause of global

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## TEENAGE ALTER-EGOS AND ONLINE PERSONAS

The following is excerpted from "Not White in the Head: The Tumblr teens convinced they were born the wrong species, sex and even race," Breitbart.com, Jan. 16, 2015: "Greed, selfishness, too much spare time and access to the internet can have a curious effect on some people. And when you throw in the modern tendency toward whining entitlement and the perpetual broadcast of every thought, feeling and inclination, something truly weird emerges: people who demand to be regarded and treated as things they are self-evidently not, such as white girls advertising to the world that they are 'mentally black' and tortured musicians who advertise their 'true' Romany identity despite having no gypsy blood in their veins whatsoever. ... To understand this bizarre world of people who believe they are trans-species or trans-ethnic or trans-cultural, it is best to start with the marginally less weird world of 'furries.' Furries are people who have created a 'fursona,' a sort

of animal character to which they relate and which in many cases they leverage as part of their sexual identity, normally to overcome self-doubt or self-confidence issues. ... Yet furries are merely a stepping stone between normal people and online cultures where people

reject their real identity entirely, because they say there is a mismatch between their mental identity and their physical bodies. The largest of these subcultures, after transgenderism itself, is known as 'otherkin.' ... Like furries, otherkin often create online avatars which they hide behind, but instead of keeping their real selves separate from psychosocial or sexual imaginings, they seem to believe that the character they have created is a truer reflection of who they 'really are.' Some otherkins believe they are literally not human, while others believe that only their soul is non-human and that they are trapped in the wrong body. It can sometimes look like an unintentionally funny free-for-all. But whether you think you are a reincarnation of a Cherokee man-beast, you think you come from a long line of otherkin field mice or you think your soul flew in from a parallel universe (we do not jest), anything is permissible in the ego-centric world of otherkin. .... And otherkin can sometimes believe they are very strange things indeed. Dragons, werewolves, angels, demons, elves, cartoon characters. It's amazing what alienation from mainstream society can do to the imagination."

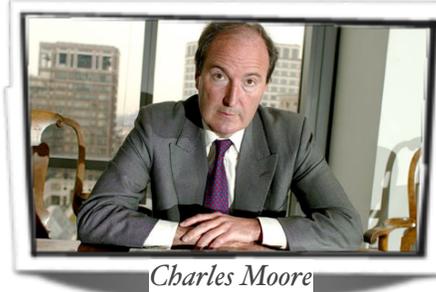


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social injustice than on Communism and petty dictatorships, even though America has lifted more people out of poverty than any communist government. “The literature of liberation theology consisted of the usual Marxist cant sprinkled with holy water, with unoriginal references to class struggle, oppression, imperialism, dependence, and especially how Latin America poverty was all the fault of capitalism emanating from the United States and western Europe” (Steven Hayward, “How Is Liberation Theology Still a Thing?” *Forbes*, May 10, 2015). The social gospel has become one of the major uniting factors of a one-world “church.” Even “evangelical” missionaries today tend to focus more on healing “social injustices” than preaching the gospel and building biblical churches, but there is no liberation theology or social gospel evident in the book of Acts.

## MAINSTREAM JOURNALIST WARNS ABOUT “GAY RIGHTS SHARIA”



*Charles Moore*

The following is excerpted from “Charles Moore: Gay Rights Sharia Has Silenced Common Sense,” *Breitbart.com*, Mar. 22, 2015: “Traditional parenting is being drowned out by ‘gay rights sharia,’

the respected journalist Charles Moore has said. Commenting on the recent spat between fashion designers Dolce and Gabbana and Elton John over the rights of gay parents to have children, Mr. Moore opined that the holding of socially conservative views is now ‘teetering on the edge of criminality.’ ... Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana hit international headlines last week when, during a magazine interview, they described children born via IVF treatment as ‘chemical’ children and said that, despite being gay themselves, they supported traditional families. ... Their comments drew the ire of the gay rights lobby, mostly via singer Elton John who called on people to ‘boycott’ the pair’s high end fashion line. ‘How dare you refer to my beautiful children as ‘synthetic.’ ... Your archaic thinking is out of step with the times, just like your fashions. I shall never wear Dolce and Gabbana ever again. #BoycottDolceGabbana.’ His boycott was backed by a number of celebrities including Martina Navratilova and Ricky Martin. Yet writing in today’s *Telegraph*, Mr. Moore insisted that ‘to think that a heterosexual man and a heterosexual woman, preferably married to one another, are--other things being equal--the best parents, is common sense. It derives from an inherited knowledge of the complementary nature of the sexes, the need for security and burden-sharing, and the fact that blood is thicker than water.’ ... But he pointed out that holding the common sense position was now close to being tantamount to thought crime. ... ‘Socially conservative moral views are now teetering on the edge of criminality, and are over the edge of disapproval by those who run modern Britain.’ ... Mr. Moore predicts that, as the children raised by gay couples, grow up, more and more will ‘be finding their voice,’ speaking up about ‘how difficult it was for them.’ One such voice is that of Heather Barwick, a former gay marriage activist turned children’s rights activist and mother of four.”

## NO EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW IN COLORADO FOR BIBLE BELIEVERS

The following is excerpted from “Commission Rules in Favor of Baker Who Refused to Decorate Cake with Bible Messages,” *Christian News Network*, Apr. 5, 2015: “Officials in Colorado have ruled in favor of a baker who refused to decorate two Bible-shaped cakes that featured messages and images against homosexuality, finding that she did not discriminate against the Christian who placed the order. William Jack of Castle Rock visited Azucar Bakery in Denver last March, at which time he placed an order for two cakes, both of which were to be shaped like Bibles. The first was to have read, ‘God hates sin. Psalm 45:7’ and ‘Homosexuality is a detestable sin. Leviticus 18:22’ and the second was to have stated ‘God loves sinners’ and ‘While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.’ Both cakes were to feature an image of two groomsmen with an ‘x’ through them ‘to illustrate that such a union is unacceptable biblically.’ Marjorie Silva, the owner, told Jack that she would bake the cakes, but would not write the Bible verses on them nor place the images on the cakes. She instead offered to give Jack a pastry bag and icing so that he could decorate the cakes himself. ... Following Silva’s refusal, Jack filed a complaint with the Civil Rights Division of

the Department of Regulatory Agencies, alleging discrimination based on his Christian beliefs. But on Friday, the Division ruled that there was “insufficient evidence” to support Jack’s claim that he was being treated unfairly. It said that Silva had a right to refuse the order because the decoration requested was deemed ‘derogatory’ and that Silva would refuse all ‘derogatory’ cakes to anyone. ... Jack said that he plans to appeal the ruling. ... ‘I find it offensive that the legal director of the Colorado division of the ACLU called the Bible verses on the cakes obscenities...’ He says that he placed the order and filed the complaint to make a point that business owners should have the right to operate in accordance with their conscience and convictions, and that if bakers have the right to refuse cakes against homosexuality, Christians should also have a right to decline cakes in favor of homosexuality. ‘I believe the baker should have the right to deny me service if my request violates her conscience or creed,’ he told the Christian Post in January. ‘[But] this statute is being applied inequitably; it so far is only being applied against Christians ... If we do not have liberty for all, then we have liberty for none.’”

## COMMUNIST CHINA IMPRISONS PASTOR FOR SPEAKING AGAINST CHURCH DEMOLITIONS

The following is excerpted from “China Jails Christian Pastor,” *The Telegraph* (London), Mar. 25, 2015: “A Chinese preacher who opposed an ‘anti-church’ demolition campaign that saw hundreds of places of worship partially or completely destroyed has been jailed for one year on charges supporters claim are trumped up. Huang Yizi, 40, was sentenced before a packed courtroom on Tuesday afternoon for ‘gathering crowds to disturb social order,’ Zhang Kai, his lawyer, said. ‘I think the whole trial was manipulated by the authorities,’ Mr Zhang told *The Telegraph*, adding that his client would appeal. The lawyer said around 1,000 Christian supporters gathered outside the court in

Pingyang County in the eastern province of Zhejiang. He met the pastor before the hearing and believed ‘his state of mind was good.’ Last year Mr Huang, who has a wife and young son, said he was ‘grateful that God has given him the chance’ to go to prison for speaking out against the demolition of churches and crosses in Zhejiang province where he is from. At least 400 churches were affected by the one-year campaign that saw elderly Christians repeatedly try to defend their places of worship from demolition teams and security guards. Authorities denied Christian churches were being targeted claiming they were taking action against all ‘illegal structures.’”

# THE SERPENT'S JAWS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 26, 2015: "When you are a small animal whose diet could injure or even kill you, eating can be positively dangerous. That danger increases if you belong to a family of animals that normally takes minutes or even hours to swallow a victim. An adult Texas threadsnake is only about six or eight inches long, a little thicker than a strand of spaghetti and has a jaw unlike any other creature. It eats ants – ants that could seriously injure or kill it. As you may know, snakes generally take several minutes or even hours to swallow their food as they slowly stretch their jaws around their prey. But this method wouldn't work for the threadsnake. By the time it was swallowed, the snake's lunch would have killed the snake. So the threadsnake has a lower jaw, filled with teeth, and a hinge in the middle. As the lower jaws hinge in and out--several times a second, like a swinging door--ants disappear into the snake in the blink of an eye. Thus, they are able to down dozens of ants a minute! The Texas threadsnake is more than a witness to God's wise design. Its unique jaw structure is essential to its survival. If evolution were true, the Texas threadsnake would have become extinct during the millions of years it

waited for evolution to find a solution to its problem. In addition, since there is no other vertebrate with a jaw like the Texas threadsnake, from what could it have evolved? Unlike the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the threadsnake truly bears witness to God's greatness."



*Texas threadsnake*

## 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](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).