

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL VOWS TO GO AFTER “ANTI-MUSLIM” SPEECH



*U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch*

Speaking to a Muslim legal advocacy group less than 24 hours after the mass slaughter of American citizens in California by Islamic jihadists Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch turned her legal guns on “anti-Muslim speech.” At the Muslim Advocate’s 10th anniversary dinner on December 3, Lynch said that her “greatest fear” is--not Muslim murder and mayhem--but the “incredibly disturbing rise of anti-Muslim rhetoric” (“AG Lynch vows to prosecute,” WND, Dec. 5, 2015). She vowed to take aggressive action against people whose anti-Muslim rhetoric “edges towards violence.” She said, “... we believe that there needs to be more attention, more resources put into investigating and prosecuting these cases...” Speech that “edges toward violence” is a vague term that could mean whatever the Attorney General wants it to mean, but we suggest that a good place to start in the investigation of such speech would be the Muslim mosques that dot the land from coast to coast.

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## HEZEKIA SEAL FOUND IN OPHEL

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has announced the discovery of a clay seal bearing King Hezekiah’s name in an archaeological site that is under the oversight of Eliat Mazar (“Impression of King Hezekiah’s Royal Seal Discovered,” Hebrew University, Dec. 2, 2015). The tiny seal (bullae) was found in 2010 in the Ophel at the foot of the southern wall of the Temple Mount, but recently it was more carefully analyzed by Reut ben-Arieh. It has a symbol of a two-winged sun, two ankhs, and an inscription in ancient Hebrew that is translated, “Belonging to Hezekiah (son of) Ahaz king of Judah.” The bulla originally sealed a papyrus roll tied with thin cords. The symbols of the winged sun from Assyria and the ankh from Egypt, show the pagan influence that had permeated Israel in that day, even in the court of the good king Hezekiah who led the nation in revival. Doubtless he gave the symbols different meanings than they had in their original pagan context, but the fact remains that he borrowed symbols of idolatrous sun worship. This is the first time a seal bearing the name of a king of Israel was found under a controlled archaeological excavation. Others exist, but they turned up on the antiquities market. The Hezekiah bulla is a wonderful piece of evidence supporting the biblical account of history, but we must not forget that we have a more sure word in Scripture than anything that is retrieved by an archaeologist’s spade.



## POPE CRITICIZES FUNDAMENTALISTS WHO BELIEVE THEY POSSESS “ABSOLUTE TRUTH”



The following is excerpted from “Pope Francis Criticizes,” *Christian Headlines*, Dec. 1, 2015: “Pope Francis has strictly denounced proponents of fundamentalism who claim that they possess ‘absolute truth.’ The Pontiff recently concluded his three-country tour of Africa, visiting the Central African Republic, Uganda, and Kenya.

The *Christian Post* reports that during an in-flight press conference on his return trip to Rome, Francis stated, ‘We Catholics have some--and not some, many--who believe they possess the absolute truth and go ahead dirtying the other with calumny, with disorientation, and doing evil. They do evil. I say this because it is my Church.’ He added that ‘ideas and false certainties’ can replace faith, love, and God.”

CONCLUDING NOTE: The confused pope needs to read the Bible, which never contrasts faith and love with doctrinal absolutes. The Psalmist represented the thinking of the true man of God when he said, “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:128). On his trip to Africa, the pope focused on unity between Christians and Muslims. He said that all “religious believers” need to “support each other as members of our one human family; for all of us are God’s children.” If this is true, we wonder why the Lord Jesus Christ said to some people, “Ye are of *your* father the devil” (John 8:44)?

## THE MOST LETHAL PERSON YOU CAN PUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD IS A MAN



The following statement is excerpted from the personal Facebook page of a highly decorated Marine combat veteran and non-commissioned officer who participated in the 2015 Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force (GCEITF). “We selected our best women for this test unit, selected our most mature female leaders as well. The

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There are more than 100 verses in the Quran that command Muslims to spread Islam with the sword, including the following: “Make war on those who have received the Scriptures but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day” (Surah 9:29). If the Obama Justice Department does turn its power to investigating and prosecuting “anti-Muslim speech,” and we have no reason to doubt Lynch’s word, the U.S. federal government will be taking the first step toward enforcing Sharia law, which labels any speech against Allah or Mohammed or Islam as blasphemy.

## THE MOST LETHAL PERSON ...continued from previous page

men (me included) were the most progressive and open minded that you could get. The commander of this unit was a seasoned and successful infantryman. ... No one went in to this with the mentality that we did not want this to succeed. No Marine, regardless of gender, would do that. With our limited manpower, we cannot afford to not train everyone to the best of their abilities. This was as stacked as a unit could get with the best Marines to give it a 100 percent success rate if we possibly could. End result? ... [The data showed that women] are slower on all accounts in almost every technical and tactical aspect and physically weaker in every aspect across the range of military operations. ... Make no mistake. In this realm, you want your fastest, most fit, most physical and most lethal person you can possibly put on the battlefield to overwhelm the enemy's ability to counter what you are throwing at them and in every test case, that person has turned out to be a man. There is nothing gender biased about this; it is what it is" (quoted by Hope Hodge Seck, "Marine War Hero: SecNav 'Off Base' on Women in Combat," *Marine Corps Times*, September 14, 2015).

## MARS HILL PASTOR RESIGNS, NOT FEELING COMFORTABLE WITH "GOD TALK"



Kent Dobson

Kent Dobson, who took the pastorate of Mars Hill Church in Grand Rapids after its founder left in 2012, has resigned, saying that he is uncomfortable around "too much God talk" and that he isn't sure who God is. "I've always felt restless and a bit homeless when it comes

to church and when it comes to God talk. When I hear too much God talk, I start to feel like (shudders) [it's] too much religion. I don't know; it gives me a restless feeling. ... I have always been and I'm still drawn to the very edges of religion and faith and God. I've said a few times that I don't even know if we know what we mean by God anymore. That's the edges of faith" ("Too Much God Talk," *Christian News*, Nov. 25, 2015). This poor man is as deceived as Mars Hill founder Rob Bell. Not knowing "what we mean by God" is not the "edges of faith"; it is wicked unbelief, because God has revealed Himself in the clearest manner possible in the Scriptures. The emerging church is a bewildering conglomerate of doctrines and practices, and it has "conservative"

elements as well as the most liberal and radical. As we explained in the book *What Is the Emerging Church?*, it is the logical outgrowth of New Evangelicalism and its non-judgmental, broad tent philosophy. Contemporary Worship Music is a bridge to the emerging church in all of its forms, and those who cross that bridge can never know where they will end up. They could end up in the radical camp occupied by the Rob Bells and Brian McLarens. Both are "interspiritualists." In 2008, Bell joined the Dalai Lama for the New Agey Seeds of Compassion InterSpiritual Event in Seattle which brought together Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims, and others to dialogue on "the themes common to all spiritual traditions." In his book *Velvet Elvis*, Bell gives a glowing recommendation of New Age philosopher Ken Wilber, who believes that man is God. Bell recommends that his readers sit at Wilber's feet for three months! Emerging leader Brian McLaren also recommends Wilber's work. McLaren has said that the emergents are targeting the children and grandchildren of today's "fundamentalists," and when I consider the weakness of the average independent Baptist and "fundamentalist" church and the shocking ignorance of so many pastors, I am convinced that the emergents will indeed succeed in this endeavor.

## THE SIN OF WORRY



The following is from William MacDonald's *Believer's Bible Commentary*: "Worry is unnecessary; there is no need for us to bear the burdens when He is willing and able to bear them for us. Worry is futile; it hasn't solved a problem yet. Worry is sin. A preacher once said: 'Worry is sin because it denies the wisdom of God; it says that He doesn't know what He's doing. It denies the love of God; it says He does not care. And it denies the power of God; it says that He isn't able to deliver me from whatever is causing me to worry.'" "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippines 4:6). "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

### INFORMATION

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).

## THE PLANT THAT BREATHES THROUGH A SNORKEL

The following is from CreationMoments.com, Dec. 8, 2014: "Plants need oxygen, and those that live on the land breathe through their leaves. Other plants are designed to live and breathe under water. However, when a land plant is submerged in water, it can drown, just like one of us. Rice is actually a land plant that draws its oxygen from the air; yet, most of the plant must be submerged in water for it to survive. It can grow this way in water as deep as fifteen feet. In flood-prone areas, rice has been known to grow as much as a foot per day in order to keep its topmost leaves out of the water. The reason that rice plants don't drown brings us to another of the Creator's clever designs. The rice plant draws air in through its leaves, as well as through a sheath of air that surrounds its submerged stalk. Rice gives off one carbon dioxide molecule for every oxygen molecule it consumes. But because carbon dioxide dissolves more quickly in water than does oxygen, a vacuum is created within the plant, pulling in still more air. It appears that God has created so many different forms of life that there are almost no conditions on Earth where something couldn't live. That itself is a witness that He, and not the forces of evolution, is responsible for creating all living things."

