

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS CONVICTION OF STREET PREACHER WHO QUOTED THE BIBLE

On December 11, an appeals court in the United Kingdom overturned the conviction of a street preacher who quoted from the Bible against homosexuality. Michael Overd was convicted in March of offending public order because he quoted Leviticus 20 in a public conversation. The homosexuals who brought the accusation had actually instigated the conversation in an apparent attempt to antagonize Overd. He was fined \$300 and ordered to pay compensation and costs totaling \$1800 for causing “emotional pain.” Now this conviction has been overruled by Taunton Crown Court Circuit Judge David Ticehurst, who upheld Overd’s appeal. He was defended by Christian Concern. In comments following the reversal of his conviction, Overd said: “I give thanks to God for today’s vindication. I have known God’s peace and presence throughout this



difficult time. Today the Court was faced with the farcical situation of a witness telling the judge that he couldn’t even remember what I had said, but simply asserting that it was ‘homophobic’--as though the mere assertion that something is ‘homophobic’ is enough to curtail free speech. In this country, we are now in the ludicrous situation where the slightest accusation of a ‘phobia’, be it ‘homophobia’ or ‘Islamaphobia’, is enough to paralyze rational action by the police and authorities. The highly politicised dogma of ‘phobias’ now too often results in trumped up charges and legal action. There is a chilling effect. Reasonable, law-abiding people now feel that they can’t say certain things and that is dangerous. Totalitarian regimes develop when ordinary people feel that there are certain things that can’t be said” (“Christian preachers wins appeal,” *Christian Concern*, Dec. 11, 2015).

## TEXAS LAW ALLOWS HOSPITAL TO “TERMINATE” PATIENT IN SPITE OF PATIENT’S OR FAMILY’S WISHES

The following is excerpted from “Striking video shows patient begging to stay alive,” LifeNews.com, Dec. 7, 2015: “*Right now*, an American hero is fighting for his right to make that decision from his hospital bed at Houston Methodist Hospital. David Christopher “Chris” Dunn is one of countless Texans who have been victimized by the draconian Texas Advance Directives Act (TADA), enacted by the Texas Legislature in 1999. The law--which benefits the medical lobby and jeopardizes medically vulnerable Texans--protects the financial and discriminatory interests of hospitals and physicians by abrogating the civil liberties of patients. When a hospital or physician determines for any reason that they disagree with a patient’s decision about his or her own medical treatment and invokes TADA, Texas law protects those healthcare providers as they remove life-sustaining treatment from the patient *even* when doing so means overriding the patient’s desire and right to life--and even

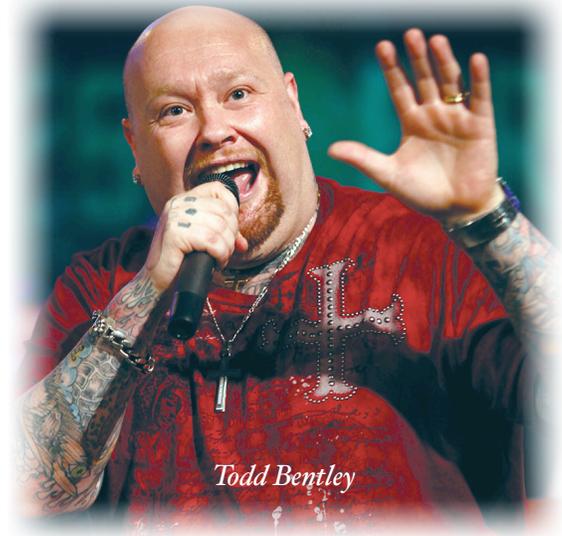
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## TEXAS LAW ALLOWS HOSPITAL TO "TERMINATE" PATIENT IN SPITE OF PATIENT'S OR FAMILY'S WISHES

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when the treatment is benefitting the patient. The law does not require that the hospital inform the patient or family about the reasons or basis for the removal of treatment, which could include financial reasons, discrimination, or subjective quality of life value judgments about the life of the patient. Chris, who has served Texas and the nation as an EMT, in the Harris County Sheriff's office, and Homeland Security employee, received his death sentence when Methodist invoked the TADA statutory process last month. After the hospital announced that care would be forcibly removed from Chris against his will, Chris's family contacted Texas Right to Life, and, with legal aid, an extension of the ten-day waiting period was secured. ... A Harris County judge has granted two consecutive two-week extensions thus far, but Houston Methodist Hospital has countered these interventions with additional court filings to remove Chris's mother from the process. His mother, Evelyn, has been vigilant in protecting Chris since he is intermittently sedated. ... What makes the Texas Advance Directives Act even more despicable is the airtight power of the hospital to kill patients without *any* recourse to appeal the death sentence imposed by the hospital committee. That's right--the final arbiter over the hospital's fatal decision is the hospital!"

## TODD BENTLEY RAISING THE DEAD



Todd Bentley, the discredited healing evangelist of "Lakeland Outpouring" infamy, is back at it. Now he claims to be raising the dead in Pakistan. A "healing" crusade in Karachi was allegedly attended by 500,000 Muslims, 290,000 of whom "accepted Christ as their Saviour." The highlight, though, was the raising from the dead of three people, including a boy who had been dead for "20 minutes." In a YouTube clip, Bentley says, "The Archbishop over the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches of Pakistan was on the platform. And he came like the Pope himself to Pakistan to welcome us into the country" ("Controversial Evangelist," *Christian Post*, Dec. 18, 2015). Bentley was the "evangelist" of a Pentecostal healing "revival" at Ignite Church in Lakeland, Florida, in 2008, where he made all sorts of outrageous claims, such as a man being able to see out of a glass eye. His ministry was unable to document any of the healing miracles. After weeks of hoopla, the meeting shut down when it was learned that Bentley had an "unhealthy relationship" with a female staffer and was engaged in

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## WHEN THE POPE KIDNAPPED A JEWISH BOY

The last official recorded action of the Inquisition in Italy was in 1858, when the Catholic authorities seized a six-year-old boy, Edgardo Mortara, from a Jewish family. Since he had supposedly been secretly baptized by his Catholic nursemaid when he was in danger of death, the little boy was considered a Catholic and a Christian! It being illegal in the Papal States for a Catholic child to be raised by Jews, police and a Catholic inquisitor entered the house one evening in June and seized the boy. He was taken to Rome and adopted by Pope Pius IX. His parents were not allowed to see him for weeks, and afterward they could visit him only under supervision. The boy's distraught father, Momolo Mortara, spent years seeking help "in all quarters," but it was in vain. He was informed that they could only have Edgardo back if the family would convert to Catholicism, which they refused to do. They had seven other children. The outcry against the pope's actions was loud, but he called his detractors "dogs." In a speech in 1871, he said, "Of these dogs, there are too many of them at present in Rome, and we hear them howling in the streets, and they are disturbing us in all places" (Kenneth Stowe, *Popes, Church, and Jews in the Middle Ages*, pp. 57-58). Edgardo became a Catholic priest, traveling widely in an attempt to convert Jews, though largely unsuccessfully.



*Oppenheim- Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*

## TODD BENTLEY RAISING THE DEAD

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"excessive drinking." He subsequently divorced his wife and married the staffer. Bentley's meetings have a sideshow feel with raucous music and the grossly-tattooed "evangelist" crying out, "Come and get some," and "[Miracles are] popping like popcorn." He claims to know what is happening in the audience, calling out things like, "Someone's getting a new spinal cord tonight." He "flings" the Spirit upon people while weirdly yelling, "blah, blah, blah, blah." "Holy laughter," spiritual drunkenness, violent shaking, and "falling under the power" are an integral part of the "revival." Bentley claims to have seen many angels, including "financial angels" who spread prosperity to him and those who attend his meetings. One of his angels is named "Emma," though there are no female angels in Scripture. My friends, God is not dead, but He has given us clear instructions in Scripture about healing. If someone is sick, he is to call the elders of the church and confess any sins, and they are to anoint him with oil and pray over him (James 5:13-16). This assumes, first, that the individual is born again through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. It assumes, second, that he or she is a member of a Bible-believing church. James 5 does not describe a "healing crusade." We believe in divine healing for today through prayer, but we don't believe in Pentecostal showmen. See the reports "I Believe in Miracles" and "Todd Bentley and the Lakeland Deception" at [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

# THE TEARS OF GOD

The Bible was given to reveal God to man, and He is a God like no God that man could devise. He is one God, but He is a Trinity. He is Spirit, but He became a man. He is a lion and a lamb. He is a Judge and a Saviour. He is a tender father and a consuming fire. He is the God of heaven and hell. The most amazing side of God is His tender mercy. God is so merciful that He humbled Himself to become a man, to come into this sin cursed world, to live among sinners, to live as a poor man, to live as a Servant, and to allow Himself to be shamefully treated and crucified in order to atone for the sins of His enemies. God is meek and lowly in heart (Mat. 11:29). He is so

merciful that He humbles Himself to seek sinners and to call them to His feast of salvation. He humbly knocks on the door of the rebel, desiring him to open the door so that He might sup with him (Rev. 3:20). God is so merciful that He weeps over sinners even when He knows they won't repent. "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it" (Luke 19:41). "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37).

## THE ROCKS BEAR WITNESS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 19, 2015: "We have always been told that it takes millions of years for muddy deposits to turn into rock. Those who believe in creation have always disagreed. It seems pretty clear to us that much of the sedimentary rock we see today was deposited during the Great Flood at the time of Noah, which was not millions of years ago. Creationists generally place the Flood at about 4,600 years ago. Until recently, evolutionists dismissed this date as impossible: sedimentary rocks simply could not form that fast. Well, now it seems that they spoke too soon. While digging some trenches in a salt marsh, a team of sedimentologists found stony nodules in the mud. Further research on how the nodules formed revealed that a mud deposit can be transformed into a layer of sedimentary rock in as

little as six months! They found that two bacteria are responsible for this. One species gets its energy from the sulphates in sea water. In the process, it produces hydrogen sulphide. The second species of bacteria can do the same thing. But if there is too much hydrogen sulphide, it can also change iron compounds so that they react with hydrogen sulphide and other salts. The result is stony lumps of iron sulphide and iron carbonate--sedimentary rock that is hardened quickly enough to fossilize any animal before it decays. Science has now confirmed what creationists who believe the Bible have always suspected. There are natural processes that can form sedimentary rock within the limited timeframe allowed by a literal reading of scriptural history." (Source Andy York, "Set in Stone," *New Scientist*, Sept. 19, 1998).

### 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).