
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

LOSING FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN BRITAIN



The following is excerpted from “British Police Arrest Man for Syrian Migrants Facebook Post,” Breitbart, Feb. 16, 2016: “British Police have promised not to tolerate any speech that could cause offence on social media regarding Syrian migrants, after arresting a man for Facebook comments made about recent arrivals on his small Scottish Island. The tiny Isle of Bute in the

Firth of Clyde, which had a total population of just 6,498 in 2011, is expected to take in around 1,000 Syrian migrants, with 12 families already arriving since December last year. However, commenting on the comparatively huge and sudden influx of Muslim immigrants online just became a very risky business for local residents. Police have confirmed they have arrested a 41-year-old local man under the Communications Act, after receiving a report of a supposedly ‘offensive’ comment made on Facebook regarding the migrants. A police spokesman was unequivocal, that any harsh criticism of the Muslim influx would not be ‘tolerated.’ Inspector Ewan Wilson from Dunoon police office told the Guardian following the arrest: ‘I hope that the arrest of this individual sends a clear message that Police Scotland will not tolerate any form of activity which could incite hatred and provoke offensive comments on social media.’ Some have taken the sudden arrest and draconian threat from the local Police as a sign that the European approach to policing discussion and critique of mass migration of social media may be coming to the UK.”

IRANIAN GIRLS AS YOUNG AS 10 FORCED TO MARRY

The following is excerpted from “Rising number of Iranian girls,” Times of Israel, Feb. 5, 2016: “A growing number of young girls are being forced to marry in Iran, UN rights experts warned Thursday, decrying laws permitting sexual intercourse with girls as young as nine. ... A growing number of ‘girls at the age of 10 years or younger ... are subjected to forced marriages to much older men,’ the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) said. Compounding the problem were laws allowing sex with girls as young as nine, and a lack of criminalization for sexual abuse of even younger children, it said. ... The committee also raised a range of other disturbing issues, including the fact that boys in the country are considered criminally responsible at the age of 15, and girls at nine. This means children down to those ages can be subjected to ‘sentences involving torture or cruel, degrading treatment or punishment,’ it said.”

THE ESSENCE OF ROCK & ROLL ACCORDING TO THE ROCK & ROLLERS

Many prominent rockers have described the essence of rock & roll as sex and rebellion. Rock's "god" is the god of this world, and it is spiritual insanity to use this music in the worship of the God whose characteristics are the exact opposite of rock's. When David Byrne of Talking Heads inducted the androgynous David Bowie into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1996, he described rock & roll as follows: "When David Bowie came along, well, rock and roll needed a shot in the arm and when I first saw him it was a shock, and yet it was very familiar. ... And like all rock and roll, it was tasteless, it was glamorous, it was PERVERSE, it was fun, it was CRASS, it was SEXY, it was CONFUSING. ... IT WAS ABOUT SEX AND DRUGS, it was about combining literature with rock and roll, with art, with anything you could name. It was about SEX as an idea, and SEX as a reality, and SEX as a liberating force. It was about REBELLION, it was about REBELLION as a cliché, it was REBELLION as an idea. It was about REBELLION as a billboard, as an advertisement. ... It was about SEXUAL politics, SEXUAL theater" (rockhall.com). (For more quotes such as this see *What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music*, available from Way of Life in print and free eBook editions.)



A \$7 SMARTPHONE

An Indian company has announced a new smartphone priced at \$7. Ringing Bells' *Freedom 251* phone has 8GB storage and rear and front facing cameras. The smartphone age has brought every good and evil thing to people's fingertips, including the fingertips of children. In Israel, 83% of children aged 8-15 are in possession of a smartphone; 93% use their mobile devices for at least four hours every day; half say they are online within 15 minutes after waking, connecting with friends via social networks like

Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, and Snapchat. A typical teen exchanges 3,400 texts per month (116 texts per day). The smartphone and the Internet are simply tools, yet the moral and spiritual danger is great. In our new youth discipleship course, we show how that the home, the church, and young people can work together to protect God's people from the pitfalls of the smartphone age. *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church* is available in print and a free eBook edition from www.wayoflife.org.

AMERICA'S FAÇADE OF CHRISTIANITY

The following is excerpted from Joel McDurmon, "Christian in Name Only," *The American Vision*, Sept. 20, 2012. Please note that we do not agree with McDurmon's covenant theology.

"The façade of Christianity: simply put ... it will never do to have the name of Christ written on the surface of things if the substance does not honor His Law. It will never do to have the Ten Commandments posted in the court house if those laws are not in the law books. It will not do to have 'In God We Trust' on currency that is not honest money, but instead is left to elite bankers to devalue continually at whim. It will not do to have prayer in schools that are founded on compulsion and coercive taxation, an unbiblical socialistic model. It will not do to put the name 'God' in a national



Pledge that does not honor biblical social and political theory. It will not do to have 'our Lord' written on the very Constitution when that document empowers government to confiscate private property, take eminent domain, if it decides it is profitable for the State to do so. It will not do in a thousand instances for us to place the name of Christ upon a system of unbiblical laws and morals. Not only will it not do, it is blasphemy, and it will be our undoing. ... We are prone, sometimes, to worship not God Himself but instead the phrase 'God bless America.' But only God is sacred, the phrase is not, nor is the country per se. We only receive God's blessing when He gives us grace and we humble ourselves before Him. There is no other reason."

FARMERS FORCED TO PAY \$13,000 FINE FOR REFUSING TO HOST HOMOSEXUAL WEDDING

The following is from *Charisma News*, Jan. 15, 2016: "A New York court Thursday affirmed a Division of Human Rights ruling against an upstate couple for declining to coordinate a same-sex wedding ceremony in their own backyard. ... Robert and Cynthia Gifford live in a barn they built on their farm and have occasionally hosted weddings on the first floor and the surrounding backyard area. Cynthia serves as a wedding coordinator for those events and does everything but officiate the ceremony. After the agency ruled that the Giffords were guilty of 'sexual orientation discrimination,' it fined them \$10,000, plus \$3,000 in damages and ordered them to implement re-education training classes designed to contradict the couple's religious beliefs about

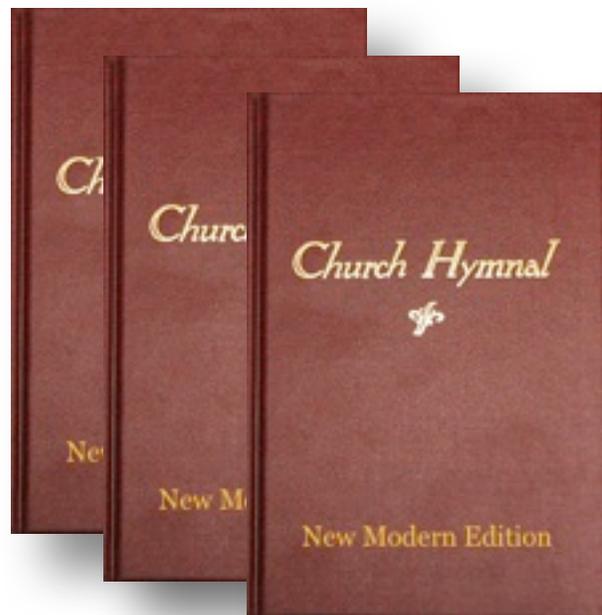
marriage. The New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, upheld that order and the fines, finding that the government can punish the Giffords for declining to coordinate a ceremony that conflicts with their conscience. ... On Sept. 25, 2012, Melisa McCarthy called Cynthia Gifford, inquiring about the use of the farm for her upcoming same-sex ceremony. Because of her Christian faith's teachings on marriage, Cynthia politely told McCarthy that she and her husband don't host and coordinate same-sex ceremonies but left open an invitation to visit the farm to consider it as a potential reception site. Instead, McCarthy and her partner filed a complaint with the Division of Human Rights."

A WARNING ABOUT REIKI

Reiki is a popular “alternative therapy” practice that is also called “healing touch.” According to the American Hospital Association for 2007, 15% of hospitals were using Reiki. A report in *The Washington Post* for May 16, 2014, was entitled “Reiki Goes Mainstream.” The practice has been praised by Oprah and Dr. Oz. The word “reiki” is Japanese for “spiritually guided life force energy.” It is an occultic practice that allegedly channels “universal healing energy” for purposes such as relaxation and physical healing. The following warning is from “My Mother Is Doing Reiki,” *Lighthouse Trails*, Feb. 9, 2016: “My mom is into the New Age movement and has had Reiki done on her for years; recently she started practicing Reiki. She does it on friends and family members (I am the only Christian in the family). I live with back pain, and she has wanted to do it on me. I have always said no, but after researching Reiki I finally decided to tell her that my beliefs conflict with Reiki and that the ‘energy’ is actually demonic (that was a difficult conversation). ... she regularly meditates and talks to ‘her angel,’ whom she credits with anything good happening. She is getting deeper into this. My mother says she prays to ‘Jesus’ before doing Reiki. ... She does not believe in the Bible or most of it anyway, nor Jesus’ deity, but rather He came to point the way to God. ... Obviously this is a false Jesus. ... one of her angels is ‘like a best friend’ and has a name.”

NEW HYMNAL ANNOUNCED

Leaders of the American Evangelical Laodicean Church last week announced the publication of a new hymnal. “This collection of hymns really captures the essence of our tradition,” said Presiding Bishop Luke W. Armm. “People in today’s society get uncomfortable with too much talk about commitment and dedication,” he continued. Here is a listing of some of the selections found in this hymnal: “I Surrender Some,” “My Hope is Built on Nothing Much,” “O For a Couple of Tongues to Sing,” “Onward Christian Reservists,” “Take My Life and Let Me Be,” “Where He Leads Me, I will Consider Following,” “Be Thou My Hobby.”



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.