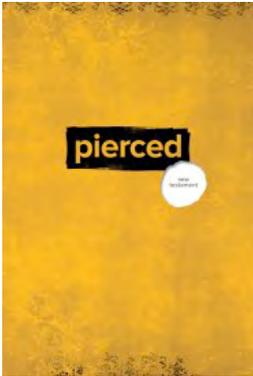

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

BARNA: ONLY 3% OF U.S. TEENS READ BIBLE DAILY



According to a new nationwide study by Barna, only 3% of teens in America read the Bible daily. The study, *2016 Teen State of the Bible*, found that 69% own a Bible, but very few are serious Bible students. Group publishing has a proposed solution called *Pierced*, a New Testament aimed for teens “who don’t read the Bible.” It “reads more like a novel than a textbook.” Stripped away are “centuries of added formatting” such as chapter and verse numbers and footnotes. Added are “the actual notes of ten teens” so “the reader can journey through the story of Jesus with his or her peers.” Veronica Preston, Design Artist of *Pierced*, says, “It allows them to know that they are not alone; wrestling through God’s Word with others ... feeling free to be vulnerable in the process” (“Novel-like New Testament Created for Teens Who Don’t Read the Bible,” *Christian Newswire*, Aug. 26, 2016). What teens really need is new birth salvation and serious discipleship, a

prominent part of which is to learn how to be an effectual Bible student. This is what happened to me in 1973 at age 23 years. I was born again that summer, and suddenly I had something I never had when I was growing up in church, and that was a hunger to know God and His Word. I didn’t want a watered down, novel-like edition of

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO REJECTS SPEECH CENSORSHIP

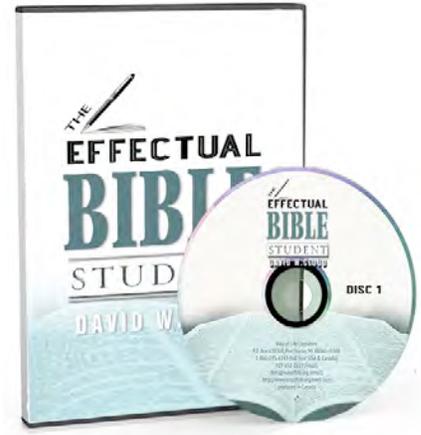
In a letter to the incoming Class of 2020, the University of Chicago’s Dean of Students rejects the growing practice of “trigger warnings” and “safe spaces” which focus on providing an “offense free” environment rather than freedom of inquiry and speech. Following is an excerpt from the letter: “Once here you will discover that one of the University of Chicago’s defining characteristics is our commitment to freedom of inquiry and expression. ... Members of our community are encouraged to speak, write, listen, challenge and learn, without fear of censorship. ... You will find that we expect members of our community to be engaged in rigorous debate, discussion, and even disagreement. At times this may



challenge you and even cause discomfort. Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so-called ‘trigger warnings,’ we do not cancel invited speakers because their topics might prove controversial, and we do not condone the creation of intellectual ‘safe spaces’ where individuals can retreat from ideas and perspectives at odds with their own” (cited from “University of Chicago,” *Newsmax.com*, Aug. 25, 2016). According to *Forbes* magazine, the University of Chicago is #20 among America’s top colleges and #13 among research universities. Nearly 90 Nobel Prize winners are affiliated with the school.

BARNA: ONLY 3% OF U.S. TEENS READ BIBLE DAILY ...continued from previous page

God's Word. I wanted an accurate translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts that were written by holy prophets of old under divine inspiration. The Bible is not a novel or a cool Facebook page. The newest part is 2,000 years old, and God has ordained that some real labor is required to learn it and to benefit from it. Proverbs 2 says the effectual student of God's Word must be like those who seek for silver, which implies serious digging. Paul instructed Timothy to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). We have had the blessing of teaching many young people to be effectual Bible students, but first they must be born again and then surrender to God's will, which requires separation from the evil things of this world (Romans 12:1-2). Without that, they can read the cheap novel-like New Testaments and paraphrases 24/7 and never learn God's Word. (We recommend *The Effectual Bible Student*, a 12-hour video course available on DVD or by free eVideo download from www.wayoflife.org.)



CUBA'S CRACKDOWN ON CHURCHES

The following is excerpted from "Cuba: Church Demolitions Gather Pace," Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Aug. 16, 2016: "The first half of 2016 has seen church demolitions in Cuba gather pace as the government crackdown on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) on the island continues. The authorities have also begun to confiscate 1,400 Assemblies of God (AOG) churches that were earmarked for seizure in 2015. The latest report by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) details 1,606 separate violations between January and July 2016. Cases include the demolition and confiscation of church buildings, the destruction of church property, arbitrary detention and other forms of harassment, in particular, seizure of religious leaders' personal belongings. The government has continued to follow through with the confiscation of 1,400 AOG churches; 100 of those churches are under threat of demolition. AOG leaders and leaders from other denominations expressed concern to CSW that the government's repression of religious groups has worsened significantly over the past year. There has been an unprecedented spate of church demolitions.

Four large churches linked to the unregistered Apostolic Movement were destroyed by the government in central and eastern Cuba. In each of these cases, the pastors and their families were dragged out of their homes in the very early hours of the morning. They were also detained and held in separate police stations for the duration of the demolition. In some of these cases, large numbers of members of the churches were detained, apparently to stop them from protesting. The report also details the arbitrary detention and harassment of many church leaders."



Pastor Bernado de Quesada Salomon church 'pre-demolition'

LEADING SCHOLARS DEBUNK MEDIA NARRATIVES ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The following is excerpted from “Nearly Everything the Media Tell You about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Is Wrong,” CNSNews.com, Aug. 22, 2016: “A major new report, published today in the journal *The New Atlantis*, challenges the leading narratives that the media has pushed regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Co-authored by two of the nation’s leading scholars on mental health and sexuality, the 143-page report discusses over 200 peer-reviewed studies in the biological, psychological, and social sciences, painstakingly documenting what scientific research shows *and does not show* about sexuality and gender. The major takeaway, as the editor of the journal explains, is that ‘some of the most frequently heard claims about sexuality and gender are not supported by scientific evidence.’ Here are four of the report’s most important conclusions: One - ‘The belief that sexual

orientation is an innate, biologically fixed human property—that people are *born that way*—is *not supported by scientific evidence*.’ Two - ‘Likewise, the belief that gender identity is an innate, fixed human property independent of biological sex—so that a person might be *a man trapped in a woman’s body* or *a woman trapped in a man’s body*—is *not supported by scientific evidence*.’ Three - ‘Only a minority of children who express gender-atypical thoughts or behavior will continue to do so into adolescence or adulthood. There is *no evidence* that all such children should be encouraged to become transgender, much less subjected to hormone treatments or surgery.’ Four - ‘Non-heterosexual and transgender people have higher rates of mental health problems (anxiety, depression, suicide), as well as behavioral and social problems (substance abuse, intimate partner violence), than the general population.

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ABDICATING U.S. STEWARDSHIP OF THE INTERNET

The following is excerpted from “An Internet Giveaway to the U.N.,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 28, 2016: “When the Obama administration announced its plan to give up U.S. protection of the internet, it promised the United Nations would never take control. But because of the administration’s naiveté or arrogance, U.N. control is the likely result if the U.S. gives up internet stewardship as planned at midnight on Sept. 30. ... It’s shocking the administration admits it has no plan for how Icann retains its antitrust exemption. The reason Icann can operate the entire World Wide Web root zone is that it has the status of a legal monopolist, stemming from its contract with the Commerce Department that makes Icann an ‘instrumentality’ of government. Antitrust rules don’t apply to governments or organizations operating under government control. ... Without the

U.S. contract, Icann would seek to be overseen by another governmental group so as to keep its antitrust exemption. Authoritarian regimes have already proposed Icann become part of the U.N. to make it easier for them to censor the internet globally. So much for the Obama pledge that the U.S. would never be replaced by a ‘government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution.’ Rick Manning, president of Americans for Limited Government, called it ‘simply stunning’ that the ‘politically blinded Obama administration missed the obvious point that Icann loses its antitrust shield should the government relinquish control.’ ... As the administration spent the past two years preparing to give up the contract with Icann, it also stopped actively overseeing the group. That allowed Icann to abuse its monopoly over internet domains, which earns it hundreds of millions of dollars a year.”

LEADING SCHOLARS DEBUNK MEDIA NARRATIVES ON HOMOSEXUALITY

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Discrimination alone *does not account for the entire disparity.* The report, 'Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences,' is co-authored by Dr. Lawrence Mayer and Dr. Paul McHugh. Mayer is a scholar-in-residence in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University and a professor of statistics and biostatistics at Arizona State University. McHugh, whom the editor of *The New Atlantis* describes as 'arguably the most important American psychiatrist of the last half-century,' is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and was for 25 years the psychiatrist-in-chief at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. It was during his tenure as psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns Hopkins that he put an end to sex reassignment surgery there, after a study launched at Hopkins revealed that it didn't have the benefits for which doctors and patients had long hoped."

FUNNY LITTLE PURPLE, GOOGLY-EYED SQUID

The following is excerpted from "Googly-eyed purple squid sighting delights scientists," *Fox News Science*, Aug. 18, 2016: "The so-called stubby squid (*Rossia pacifica*) is a species of bobtail squid native to the northern Pacific Ocean. These adorable sea creatures can be found in waters from Japan to Southern California, and typically dwell along the ocean floor, at depths of around 984 feet, though they have been spotted as deep as 4,260 feet, according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI). The stubby squid's giant eyes, that 'look painted on,' delighted the scientists aboard the Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus*. In a live stream of the *Nautilus*' undersea explorations, one researcher said the googly-eyed squid looks 'like some little kid dropped their toy.' ... 'They actually have this pretty awesome superpower, they can turn on a little sticky mucus jacket over their body and sort of collect bits of sand or pebbles or whatever they're burrowing into and make a really nice camouflage jacket,' Wishnak said. 'When they go to ambush something and prey on something, they're able to sort of turn off that mucus jacket.'"



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.