
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

POLYGAMY SANCTIONED BY TOP RABBIS IN ISRAEL



The following is excerpted from “In Defiance of Israeli Law, Polygamy Sanctioned,” *The Times of Israel*, Dec. 27, 2016: “Each year, a number of Israeli rabbis affiliated with the rabbinate give permission for dozens of Orthodox Jewish men to take a second wife, despite the fact that polygamy is illegal under state law, an expose by Channel 10 television revealed on Monday. An organization [The Complete Jewish Home] catering primarily to the Jewish Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities actively encourages and facilitates polygamy, claiming the practice will help reduce the number of single women within their communities and at the same time give Jews an edge in the demographic race against Arabs in Israel. ... Although Jewish law forbids a woman to marry more than one husband, a practice known as polyandry, it does permit a man to marry more than one wife. There are several

...continued on page 3

OBAMA: WOMEN AT LEAST AS STRONG AS MEN

Speaking at a military event, President Barack Obama said, “Joe Biden and I know that women are at least as strong as men.” The remarks were made at the Armed Forces Full Honor Review Farewell Ceremony on January 3 (“Obama to Armed Forces,” *Breitbart*, Jan. 4, 2017). This nonsense is refuted by many physiological facts. An obvious one is that women are smaller than men. “The average 18-year-old man is 70.2 inches tall and weighs 144.8 pounds, whereas the average woman of the same age is 64.4 inches tall and weighs 126.6 pounds” (“Physiological Differences Between the Sexes,” *PhysicallyTrained.com*, U.S. Army physical training regulations). Men and women can rarely compete head-to-head in athletics at the elite level. “As a group, women do not run, jump or swim as fast as men. Women are also more prone to certain types of athletic injuries than men. ... The mean difference has been about 10 percent between men and women for all events. The mean gap is 10.7 percent for running, 8.9 percent for swimming and 17.5 percent for jumping” (“How Do Men and Women Differ Athletically?” *Livestrong.com*). Women have significantly less crushing strength in their hands than men. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee found that on average, adult males between the ages of 20 and 24 generate 121 pounds of “crushing” grip strength in their right hands, and women in that same age group had 70.4 pounds of grip strength in their right hands (*Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*). Women have about 50% less upper body strength than men and about 30% less lower body strength (“Men vs. Women,” *LifeScience.com*). Including women in every facet of the military is not good military sense; it is social engineering.



ROME RECOGNIZES LUTHER AS “WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL”

The Roman Catholic Church has issued a document recognizing Martin Luther as “a witness to the gospel.” The statement was made ahead of Rome’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25) which has the theme this year of “Reconciliation: The love of Christ compels us.” Last October, Pope Francis joined with the Lutheran Church of Sweden in the launch of the 500th anniversary of the posting of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses. This is all ecumenical mumbo jumbo. Luther was excommunicated by Rome, and that excommunication has not been lifted, and Luther’s gospel of salvation by God’s grace alone through faith in Christ alone without works was cursed by the Council of Trent, and that curse has never been renounced. Luther didn’t abandon Rome fully enough and biblically enough, maintaining gross heresies such as infant baptism and state churchism, and the Lutheran churches in Europe have long been *totally* apostate. A religious survey in 1992 found that 80 percent of Denmark’s Lutherans

do not believe in the resurrection (*Christian News*, Oct. 4, 1993). The Church of Sweden allows atheists to be ministers and is pro-abortion and pro-homosexual. In a 1984 interview, Krister Stendahl, who was being ordained as the Bishop of Stockholm and the archbishop of the Church of Sweden, stated that “to hold to a belief in just one God is idolatry” and that “one can pray to God as energy.” When asked directly if he believes in God, Stendahl replied: “I think I’ve risen above matters of faith and doubt. ... I really don’t know what it means to ask whether ‘there is’ a god” (“Krister Stendahl maintains heretical views on eve of consecration as Bishop of Stockholm,” *Christian News*, November 19, 1984, p. 1). The journalist then asked Stendahl what lies beyond death: “Oh, I’d imagine that it would be great if we could find a really fine heavenly paradise to wander around in. But I know how childish such human dreams are. I don’t live for dreams” (Krister Stendahl, *Ibid.*).

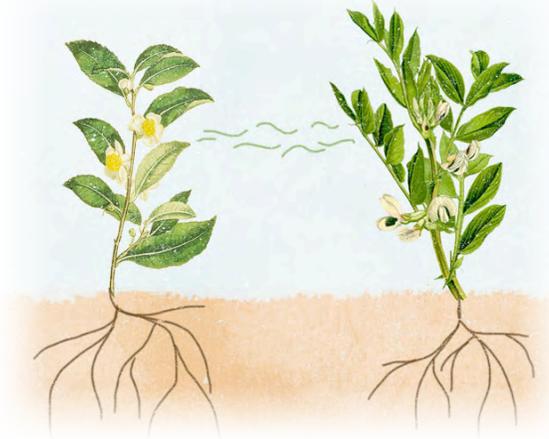
CHINESE CHRISTIAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR HOLDING BIBLE STUDY

The following is excerpted from “Chinese Christian Woman,” *The Christian Post*, Jan. 2, 2017: “A Chinese woman from the western Xinjiang region has been sentenced to three years in prison for holding a Bible study, reportedly because she was convicted of ‘gathering a crowd to disturb public order.’ China Aid, which reports on human rights and persecution abuses in the world’s most populous nation, said on Sunday that Ma Huichao was taken by police along with four other Christians when they were accused by Communist Party authorities of meeting for the Bible study without government approval. Her lawyer was apparently not allowed to plead innocent on her behalf, and Ma’s three-year prison sentence began on Friday. China has been cracking down on non-government sanctioned underground churches and

Christian gatherings, and has arrested hundreds of pastors and Christian worshipers in the past few years on similar charges of ‘disturbing public order.’ The Revised Draft of Regulations on Religious Affairs, which went into effect in October 2016, further established prohibitions on ‘organizing citizens to attend religious training, conferences and activities abroad,’ ‘preaching, organizing religious activities, and establishing religious institutions or religious sites at schools,’ and ‘providing religious services through the internet.’ ... ‘The government wants to control everything, even the smallest aspects. One characteristic of this draft is the empowerment of local government bodies all the way down to the communities,’ one pastor, identified as Zhou, told China Aid in September.”

CAN PLANTS TALK?

The following is excerpted from “In Switzerland, Plants Have Dignity,” swissbiofarmer.com, Oct. 25, 2014: “When a lima bean plant gets attacked by predatory insects, it starts producing a sweet nectar. This sweet nectar attracts ants that attack all insects, but do not eat the plant. At the same time, the plant excretes a fragrance that warns other lima beans of the impending danger. They can identify the fragrance and immediately start producing the nectar as well to attract the ants preemptively. Additionally, the lima bean sends out SOS fragrances to attract beneficial insects. What is interesting is that the lima bean not only knows *that* it is being attacked, but also *by whom*. If it is attacked by spider mites, it sends out a fragrance to attract attack mites that get rid of the spider mites. If however a caterpillar is gnawing on the lima bean plant, it sends out a fragrance cocktail to attract parasitic wasps that get rid of the caterpillars. The lima bean plant is able to recognise who is attacking her by the saliva of the predator, allowing her to always call for the right ‘bodyguard’ to protect her. Scientists have now managed to identify a ‘vocabulary’ of over 2,000 fragrances produced by plants to communicate with their surrounding plants and animals. And we are just at the very beginning. (This is an excerpt of *Jenseits der Blattränder - Eine Annäherung an Pflanzen* by Florianne Koechlin).”



POLYGAMY SANCTIONED BY TOP RABBIS IN ISRAEL

...continued from front page

instances of polygamy in the Bible, including two of the three patriarchs (Abraham and Jacob) and many of the kings. Jewish law gives guidelines as to the circumstances under which polygamy is permitted. Yet already by the fourth or fifth century of the common era, the practice was discouraged or banned, and none of the rabbis named in the Talmud had polygamous relationships. Furthermore, a ruling by 10th century Rabbi Gershom ben Yehuda banned the practice completely for Ashkenazi Jews. That ruling was subsequently also accepted by most Sephardic communities. ... Polygamy has been illegal in Israel since 1977, when a law made the practice punishable by up to five years in prison and a monetary fine. Jews who arrived from North Africa in the 1950s and 60s, especially from Yemen, practiced polygamy, but stringent enforcement quickly ended the practice. The authorities do largely turn a blind eye to polygamy within the Bedouin sector, even though it often leads to domestic violence, sexual assault, and inescapable poverty. According to a 2013 Knesset report on polygamy in the Bedouin communities, approximately 30 percent of Negev Bedouins are involved in a polygamous relationship.”

NEW ANTIBIOTIC INSIDE YOUR NOSE

The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 7, 2016: "According to researchers from the University of Tübingen and the German Center for Infection Research, there's a bacterium in your nose that may have already saved your life numerous times in the past and will likely save your life many times more in the future. That bacterium -- *Staphylococcus lugdunensis*--is well known for inhabiting your nose. But now it has come to light that the bacterium produces a previously unknown antibiotic named Lugdunin. The antibiotic is said to be 'able to combat multi-resistant pathogens, where many classic antibiotics have become ineffective.' According to the research team, infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* ranks as one of the leading causes of death worldwide. However, the researchers



found that the deadly strain of Staph is rarely found when *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* is present in the nose. According to Professor Andreas Peschel, 'Normally, antibiotics are formed only by soil bacteria and fungi. The notion that human microflora may also be a source of antimicrobial agents is a new discovery.' The discovery is good news in itself. Even better, it may open up new ways to develop strategies for infection protection and to find new antibiotics within the human body. Who could have thought that microscopic bacteria produced in our noses could protect us from deadly microbes that swarm all over our skin? There's no question in my mind that our Creator thought of it because He cares so much about us!" Source: "Human nose holds novel antibiotic," *Science Daily*, Jul. 29, 2016.

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.