

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## AMERICA: A LOT OF CHANGE AND NO CHANGE

Donald Trump's actions in his first days as U.S. President are breathtaking. He has filled his cabinet with capable and largely conservative people. He is blessing Jacob's seed. He has signed multiple orders to strengthen border security and immigration, including denying federal money to sanctuary cities, hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents, ending "catch-and-release" policies for illegal immigrants, and building a wall on America's southern

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border to protect the nation from scofflaws. He has issued an order to rebuild the U.S. military, which has been devastated by eight years of the Obama administration. He has issued an order to deny federal funds to international organizations that perform or even lobby for the legalization of abortion. He has halted the nation's refugee program for 120 days so that it can be re-evaluated and potentially dangerous refugees can be properly vetted. His short list of nominees to the vacant U.S. Supreme Court seat are constitutionalists. He has issued an order to defeat ISIS. There is much to applaud.

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## JIHADIS IN SUITS AT TRUMP'S NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

The following is excerpted from Clare Lopez, "Jihadis in Suits," CNSNews.com, Jan. 25, 2017: "Not even a full 24 hours after the inauguration of the new Trump administration, 'jihadis in suits' have already made an appearance at an inaugural event. On the morning of Saturday 21 January, President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and their families attended the traditional prayer service at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Billed as an interfaith



*President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Sajid Tarar, Imam Mohamed Magid*

service which began with a Navajo blessing, the event featured Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Mormon, Muslim and Sikh clerics, each of whom was supposed to intone prayers asking protection and wisdom for the new Trump administration. Unfortunately, the two Muslims--Imam Mohamed Magid and Mr. Sajid Tarar--are what might best be described as 'jihadis in suits.' Magid is the outgoing president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the largest Muslim Brotherhood front group in the U.S. Magid also remains the head of the ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Center in Northern Virginia. The ADAMS Center is an openly

*continued on page 3 ...*

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Of course, the courts and opposition politics have only begun to fight the Trump agenda, and the fight will be exceedingly fierce. All of this aside, our biblical worldview does not allow us to see things as secular or even religious conservatives do. We can't join Judge Jeanine or Hannity or Rush, *et al*, in proclaiming this a new day for America. It's not a new day or a good day, and a Trump presidency is probably not going to turn out well. Spiritually and morally, which are the most important principles *by far*, absolutely nothing changed with the November election. Nothing has changed in the public schools and the universities, which continue to indoctrinate the minds and hearts of American citizens with godless humanism, moral relativism, socialism, and globalism. Nothing has changed with the Muslim agenda to establish sharia law, and it doesn't appear that Trump even understands the plan. Nothing has changed with the LGBT agenda which is already firmly embedded throughout society, industry, and government. In fact, Trump refuses to overturn Obama's 2014 executive order protecting federal workers from "anti-LGBTQ discrimination," saying that he "is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community" and

"continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights" ("Trump leaves intact," *Fox News*, Jan. 31, 2017). Nothing has changed in the pop culture, which continues to morally pollute the nation's very heart and soul. It is pop culture moral relativism that has given us a Donald Trump, with his adulteries, narcissism, boastings, pomposity, lyings, and petty vindictiveness. The fearful destruction of the black family, for example, is not only the result of the welfare state; it is the product of a vile pop culture. And above all, nothing has changed in the churches. America was only great when it was good, and it can never be great again unless it is good again by biblical standards which can issue only from God-fearing churches. What we have said all along is that Bible-believing churches need to focus like a laser on "first love for Christ" revival, serious education in God's Word, serious obedience to God's Word, serious prayer, serious building of godly homes, serious discipleship, serious separation from the world, and serious zeal in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. This will do more to help America than flag-waving conservative political zeal. Most of the *best* churches are *shockingly* weak, shallow, biblically ignorant, worldly, and unfruitful.

## MARIJUANA WEDDINGS ON THE RISE

With recreational marijuana use now legal in America in eight states and the District of Columbia, marijuana weddings are increasing in popularity. "With recreational marijuana use becoming less stigmatized, pot-friendly wedding planners, florists and venues are cashing in on the high" ("Weed weddings," *Fox News*, Jan. 26, 2017). The legal cannabis industry in the U.S., which is currently about \$8 billion, is expected to grow to over \$20 billion within five years. Denver is called the new Amsterdam. Israel, too, is nearing the decriminalization of marijuana ("Marijuana on way," *Times of Israel*, Jan. 26, 2017). But the legalization of recreational marijuana is a foolish experiment that will have serious repercussions. I know this all too well, having been a drinker and drug user before I was saved. Stationed in Vietnam in the Army in 1970-71, I became a marijuana user. After I was discharged, I was immersed in the hippy rock & roll drug culture, joining many of my generation on the Beatles' very stupid Magical Mystery Tour. Alcohol is a powerful, transformational drug, but marijuana changed my thinking more than alcohol. It is a psychoactive drug with hallucinogenic properties. It is not an innocent play

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## JIHADIS IN SUITS AT TRUMP'S NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

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shariah-adherent facility, whose website states that it collects *zakat* (annual obligatory tax for Muslims and firms doing shariah-compliant business), one-eighth of which must be donated to jihad, as per Islamic Law (shariah), as stipulated in *Reliance of the Traveler* (see pg. 272, Section h8.17) and the Qur'an itself. (See Q 9:60) Worse yet, Magid was named to President Obama's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 'Countering Violent Extremism' Working Group in 2010 and from that position helped persuade DHS to erase from its 'Countering Violent Extremism' curriculum any suggestion that Muslim terrorism draws its inspiration from the laws and doctrines of Islam. ... The other Muslim at the service to offer a prayer in Arabic was Mr. Sajid Tarar, a Pakistani native and naturalized U.S. citizen, who has made himself popular among Republican ranks and gave the closing prayer at the Republican National Convention in July 2016. He was an adviser to the National Diversity Coalition for Trump and founded a group called American Muslims for Trump. ... The Qur'anic verse Tarar chose for the National Cathedral service is known as *Al-Fatihah* and is both the first and the shortest verse in the Qur'an. *Al-Fatihah* includes an invocation to Allah that is directly critical of both Christians and Jews in a way that subtly evokes Islamic supremacism. .. 'Guide us to the straight path - The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.' As all observant Muslims, Tarar included, know very well, the reference to 'those who have evoked your anger' means those whom Muslims believe heard and know the truth of Islam but refuse to accept or follow it. This line is a very specific reference to the Jews. 'Those who are astray' means Christians, whom Muslims believe also have wantonly taken a pathway away from Allah. Muslims know exactly what these verses mean and they recite them repeatedly every time they participate in Islamic prayer services at a mosque. In this instance, at the National Cathedral prayer service for the Trump inauguration, Tarar was literally throwing an insult--as well as a warning--in the face of every Christian and Jew in the Cathedral, confident in the knowledge that not one of them knew what he was saying."

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thing. It can mess with the depths of a man's soul. Not everyone has bad experiences with the drug, but a lot do. It affects people differently, but depression, intense anxiety, and paranoid fear are common side effects, and acute psychosis is not infrequent. It has often been labeled a "gateway" drug, and it was definitely that for me. The American Medical Association has warned that "cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern. ... Heavy cannabis use in adolescence causes persistent impairments in neuro-cognitive performance and IQ, and use is associated with increased rates of anxiety, mood, and psychotic-thought disorders." The rush to legalize marijuana is driven by the pop culture, the entertainment industry, an educational system devoted to moral relativism, a society that celebrates scofflaws, and the gross lack of wisdom typically reflected in mainstream media reporting. "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall" (Proverbs 10:8).



## HEIMLICH AND HIS MANEUVER

The following is excerpted from “Henry Heimlick,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2017: “Henry Judah Heimlick (1920-2016) was born in Wilmington, Delaware to Jewish parents. The family later moved to New York where he spent most of his childhood. In 1943, at just 23 years of age, Heimlich received his M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. He went on to become a thoracic surgeon and medical researcher. In addition to the Heimlich Maneuver, he also invented the MicroTrach device which enables direct delivery of oxygen to the lungs via a tube that is inserted through the throat. Another invention, the Heimlich valve, allows air and blood to drain from the chest cavity in order to re-expand a collapsed lung. ... Heimlich’s fame remains tied to that well-known rescue technique first described by him in 1974. At the age of 96, just months before he died, Henry Heimlich used for the second and last time in his life the medical procedure, saving the life of 87-year-old Patty Ris who lived in the same senior citizens’ facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2001, Heimlich performed the procedure on a diner at the Bankers’ Club in Cincinnati.”

## THIS SHRIMP PACKS A PUNCH

The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 4, 2017: “If you enjoy keeping tropical fish, the Mantis shrimp is one creature you may not want to keep in your aquarium. While this creature is related to common shrimp, it has a very unusual and specialized feature. In the wild, if the Mantis shrimp finds a tasty snail, it cocks its spring-loaded forearm and shatters the snail's shell. The forearm has moved through the water at 50 miles per hour--so fast that it causes cavitation as well as heat and a flash of light as the bubbles collapse. And, yes, the Mantis shrimp can break the glass walls of an aquarium! To do this, the shrimp must generate over two-hundred thousand watts of power per pound of muscle, something no other muscle can do. The shrimp accomplishes this seemingly impossible task by storing the energy generated by the muscles. The shrimp first locks the arm and then contracts its muscles. The energy stored in this way would damage the arm if it weren't for a very clever spring design. This saddle-shaped spring can accumulate enormous quantities of energy without breaking as it compresses. When the shrimp is ready to strike, it simply releases the spring. The Mantis shrimp's forearm is only an effective working unit when all of its specialized parts are working together. It is difficult to imagine how it could have evolved. (Notes: USAToday.com, Jan. 9, 2016, “Shrimp spring into shattering action.”)”



### 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).