
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

NEW STUDY FINDS THAT STAYING IN MARRIAGE USUALLY BRINGS HAPPINESS

The following is excerpted from “Staying in an unhappy marriage could be the best thing you do,” *The Telegraph*, Feb. 8, 2017: “Researchers found the majority of couples who are unhappy when their first child is born feel fulfilled a decade later. Research commissioned by the Marriage Foundation found that 68 per cent of the couples who stay together following the birth of their first child report being happy 10 years on. Moreover 27 per cent said they were ‘extremely happy,’ giving their relationships a score of seven out of seven. Harry Benson, from the Marriage Foundation, said: ‘Contrary to popular belief, staying in an unhappy marriage could be the best thing you ever do. Most marriages have their unhappy moments, but apart from the fortunately extremely rare cases where the relationship involves abuse, most couples can work through the difficulties to be happy later on.’ Relationship experts confirm the findings of previous studies that suggested that couples who regularly had a night out with their partner were less likely to suffer from a relationship breakdown. Sir Paul Coleridge, a former High Court Judge and the founder of Marriage Foundation said: ‘With family breakdown--especially in the first ten years--at peak levels, this is really important, myth-busting research. ... Talk to anyone who has a satisfying relationship 20 years on and they will tell you that it has had to be forged by sensitive, hard work by both sides over time. Keeping your relationship working and going forward is by far and away the best and most important ingredient in your child’s development.’”



YOU CAN READ 200 BOOKS A YEAR



I am constantly urging God’s people in Bible-believing churches to read more. It has been said that the man who doesn’t read is no better off than the man who can’t read. To study the Bible as you should and to be as properly educated as you should be in your Christian life and ministry you need to do a lot of reading. Paul was a reader to the end of his life. From prison during his final incarceration, he said to Timothy, “Bring ... the books, but especially the parchments” (2 Timothy 4:13). A recent article by Charles Chu, “The Simple Truth Behind Reading 200 Books a Year” on betterhumans.coach.me, gives the following advice: “Somebody once asked Warren Buffett about his secret to success. Buffett pointed to a stack of books and said, ‘Read 500 pages like this every day. That’s how knowledge works. It builds up, like compound interest. All of you can do it, but I guarantee not many of you will...’ ... [I]n these last two years I’ve read over 400 books cover to cover. That decision to start reading was one of the most important decisions in my life. ... Reading 200 books a year isn’t

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hard at all. ... The average American reads 200-400 words per minute. Typical non-fiction books have 50,000 words. ... 200 books [requires] 417 hours. ... a single American spends 608 hours on social media and 1642 hours on TV. That's 2250 hours a year on TRASH. If those hours were spent reading instead, you could be reading over 1,000 books a year! ... If you want to read, make sure (1) you remove all distractions from your environment and (2) you make books as easy to access as possible. ... If your goal is to read more, you can't be picky about where you read or what mediums you use. I read paper books. I read on my phone. I listen to audiobooks. And I do these things everywhere--on park benches, in buses, in the toilet. Wherever I can. Make your reading opportunistic. If you have a chance, take it. If you don't have a chance, find one."

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST ROCKING OUT IN SINGAPORE



As we reported in May 2014, Crosslight Church of Singapore is one of the new rock & roll independent Baptist church plants that are proliferating across the world led by a batch of young, very cool preachers. Crosslight was founded by Chantha Chhim, a Cambodian missionary recommended by David Gibbs III, Eric Capaci, Bradley Edmonson, Josh Cox, Jeremy Kobernat, and others. See <http://chanthachhim.com/recommendations/> In 2014, Chhim was recommended by Jack Trieber and Don Sisk, but since then their names have inexplicably disappeared. Chhim is a graduate of Trieber's Golden State Baptist College in California. The last we looked, Crosslight had a full-blown contemporary worship band, complete with a long-haired guitar player and a female praise singer in tights. From conversations with people who know the Chhims and their church, they still rock, but they are more careful about what they put online.

They play songs by groups beloved by Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California, such as Casting Crowns, but Crosslight isn't just dabbling with the stuff like Lancaster. For this we commend them. If you want to use CCM, don't mess around; embrace it and don't try to tame it. Plug in the guitars; pull out the stops; raise those hands; close your eyes, and sway! (By the way, the only reference to lifting up holy hands in the New Testament epistles instructs men to do it, not women, 1 Timothy 2:8.) Paul Chappell and other "old-guard" independent Baptist leaders have given a green light for this by their unrepentant use of CCM and their shallow justification of this practice. Chhim's vision is to use Singapore as a base for ministry across Asia. He is "passionate about revival in Asia" and plans to "partner with like-minded leaders for global Gospel impact." I, for one, am sad that he is spreading his contemporary philosophy.

EARLY PRO-LIFE FEMINISTS



The following is excerpted from Marjorie Dannenfelser, “Pro-Life Feminists Are Old-School,” *National Review*, Jan. 20, 2017: “Susan B. Anthony campaigned, above all, for women’s right to equal economic and political opportunity. But the newspaper she owned and ran with Elizabeth Cady Stanton refused to carry ads for abortifacients, and published numerous articles from feminist leaders denouncing abortion as evil. Anthony said in her famous, oft-repeated temperance speech, that ‘the newspaper reports every day of every year of scandals and outrages, of wife murders and paramour shooting, of abortions and infanticides, are perpetual reminders of men’s incapacity to cope successfully with this monster evil of society.’ ... Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was the very first woman to become a medical doctor in the United States ... The National Women’s History Museum honors Dr. Blackwell as our first woman physician, while editing out of her history one of her major passions: opposing the cruelty of abortion. She wrote in her diary: ‘The gross perversion and destruction of motherhood by the abortionist filled with me indignation’ This sentiment motivated her lifelong efforts, as it did those of other early feminist physicians, including Dr. Charlotte Lozier. Sarah F. Norton, who, with Susan B. Anthony, successfully persuaded Cornell University to admit women in 1870, wrote that ‘perhaps there will come a time when an unmarried mother will not be despised because of her motherhood ... and when the right of the unborn to be born will not be denied or interfered with.’”

HYPNOTIZING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

The following is excerpted from “Hypnosis Takes on New Focus,” newyork.cbslocal.com, Jan. 18, 2017: “Hypnosis has taken on a new focus. More and more parents are now putting their kids under a hypnotic trance, but some say the practice may be going too far. Eric Ferrer-Alfaro, 10, has HDHD. His mother doesn’t want to medicate him, and nothing else has worked. She’s turned to hypnosis. ‘We’ve tried meditation, relaxation, things like that,’ Silvana Ferrer said. She said he has trouble focusing in school, and she’s optimistic this will help. ‘I’m hoping for the teachers not to call me anymore, or at least call me less,’ Ferrer said. Hypnotherapist Lisa Machenberg said she’s hypnotized close to a thousand children, including her own. ‘I started hypnotizing the children at seven months to sleep quickly, calmly, soundly, and deeply all through the night,’ she said. She later hypnotized them to improve their performance in sports and at school. She said she is essentially teaching Eric to hypnotize himself, which will help when facing a challenging task. ‘Whenever you want to focus you breathe in on the word focus, exhale on the word powerful,’ he said. As Machenberg explained, the hypnosis allows him to complete homework assignments. ‘When he wants to sit and do his homework, when he needs to listen to the teacher, when he needs to curb his impulses--all he needs to do is breathe in that power word and it resets the neutrons,’ she said.”

THE YOUNG LIZARD'S CANTEEN

The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 25, 2017: "When you go into the desert, it's always a good idea to take a canteen of water with you. Our Creator applied that same simple wisdom when he designed the Yarrow's spiny lizard. Like many desert dwellers, Yarrow's spiny lizards are well designed to conserve water in the dry desert climate. For example, they don't even have a urinary bladder. Their bodies are designed to remove water from their waste before it is released. The water is recycled within the body, since water is a precious resource in the desert. Unlike many reptiles, Yarrow's spiny lizard bears live young. The two-inch-long newborn lizards can dry out quickly in the desert. To increase their ability to survive, the Creator gave the newborns a built-in canteen of water. At birth, a full canteen makes up 10% of the lizard's weight. After the first month of life, the canteen shrivels and is no longer used. This, too, is a wise design, since the growing lizard has learned the ways of the desert and now has a greater need for speed than it has for a bulky water reservoir. None of us can fully appreciate

God's limitless imagination and creativity that we see in the living world around us. However, we can appreciate the fact that He is willing and able to provide practical and workable solutions to every problem that we face. His solutions--beginning with our greatest need, the forgiveness of sins--are found in the Bible. The trust to apply His solutions to our lives is found in faith, worked by His Holy Spirit."



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.