

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

2,500-YEAR-OLD SHIP SAILS AGAIN

The following is excerpted from “2,500-year-old ship,” *The Times of Israel*, Mar. 17, 2017: “A replica of a 2,500-year-old trading ship found off the coast of Israel was christened in Haifa Friday morning, ahead of its first voyage out of the shelter of the bay later this month. The keel of the ‘Ma’agan Michael II,’ named after the kibbutz where its ancient forerunner was found in 1985, was laid in July 2014 as part of a joint project by the University of Haifa’s Department of Maritime Civilizations and the Israel Antiquities Authority. On Friday morning, the university and IAA poured a libation of wine to Poseidon and cast off for a quick jaunt around the bay. Later this month, however, the ship will make its maiden voyage down the coast to Herzliya, a three-day sail. The archaeologists involved in the project seek to learn how ancient mariners sailed against the winds and currents with the technology existing at the time, a quandary that historians still don’t understand

despite vast evidence that Mediterranean seafaring existed for centuries before the Ma’agan Michael ship sank. ... Archaeologists from the University of Haifa



‘Ma’agan Michael II’

dug out the remains of the ancient vessel over the course of three seasons in 1988 and 1989. The ship, a standard sort of cargo vessel at the time, was around 37-feet long and 13-feet

wide and was believed to hail from Greece. ... Once the Ma’agan Michael’s crew gains enough experience, they will try to sail to Cyprus, but that project is still on the horizon.”

79% OF AMERICANS COMFORTABLE WITH WOMEN PASTORS

According to a new Barna Poll, 79% of Americans are comfortable with women serving as spiritual leaders in churches. Even among “evangelical” Christians, 39% are in favor. The survey is called “What Americans Think about Women in Power.” The results reflect many decades of feminist brainwashing.

MOTHER AND SON BECOMING “FATHER AND DAUGHTER”

The following is excerpted from “Mother and son,” *Fox News*, Mar. 15 2017: “A transgender dad and daughter from Detroit are revealing their incredible journeys as they transition from mom and son. Corey Maison, 15, first told her parents she identified as a girl four years ago, but it was not until last year she learned that her mother also struggled with her gender identity. The pair are now leaning on each other as they transition together. The teen has chronicled their transitions on her Instagram account, and the two sat down for an interview with Australia’s ‘60 Minutes’ to talk about the experience. ‘I wanted to make my parents proud of who I am,

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MOTHER AND SON BECOMING “FATHER AND DAUGHTER”

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but I thought that they would not like me,’ Corey said about coming out as transgender. Eric Maison, who used to go by Erica, said that he was emboldened by his daughter’s decision. He wrestled with different emotions while deciding whether to transition. ‘The first feeling was relief, the second was terror,’ he said. ‘Fear for what my future would hold, fear for how my family and children would, fear for what the rest of my life was going to look like.’ ... Eric said he plans to stay together with his husband, Les, who supports his transition.”

SWEDEN’S FATUOUS FEMINISTS

“So here’s twenty-first-century Western feminism in a nutshell. Earlier this month, after the White House released a photograph of Donald Trump signing a presidential order in the presence of several male appointees, Isabella Lovin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, put out a picture of herself signing a climate-change law in the company of other top female officials. Plainly, the photo was meant as a defiant statement of proud womanhood in the face of the world’s leading threat to female equality and dignity--the new man in the Oval Office. Indeed, the current Swedish government, in which the cabinet consists of twelve men and twelve women, has proclaimed itself to be ‘the world’s first feminist government.’ *Buzzfeed’s* article about this triumphant moment carried the headline: ‘Did The Swedish Government Just Epicly Troll Donald Trump With This All-Woman Photo?’ But what a difference a couple of weeks can make. The other day a four-man, eleven-woman Swedish delegation traveled to Tehran to ink a trade deal with the mullahs. Throughout the visit, the women, led by Trade Minister Ann Linde, wore hijabs, plus long, shapeless coats obviously selected for maximum ‘modesty.’ One photograph, which shows the female members of the Swedish delegation striding past Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, is wonderfully illuminating: in their postures, in their facial

expressions, these women’s defiance in response to big, bad, evil Trump is nowhere in evidence. They’re all wearing dark pants. The woman whose face we can see the best is the very picture of meekness and obeisance. The look on her face might well be that of a humble, pious, provincial nun about to be introduced to the Pope. Her right hand is on her chest, a signal that Rouhani need not worry that she might try to shake his hand. Another picture shows



Swedish Trade Minister Ann Linde in hijab.

Linde herself clearly bowing to an Iranian official. The ‘world’s first feminist government,’ which ‘epically troll[ed]’ Trump, thus effectively communicated to Iran--and the entire Muslim world--a message of submission that could hardly have been improved upon.”

66-YEAR-OLD SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI- MIGRANT LEAFLETS

The following is excerpted from Breitbart, Jan. 18, 2017: “A 66-year-old German man has been given a suspended three-month prison sentence for hate speech after he distributed leaflets in his town calling migrants ‘parasites.’ The pensioner, referred to as Wilfried M. in local media, admitted to the crime and claimed he regretted his actions. According to prosecutors, on July 31, 2016 Wilfried handed out laminated leaflets that said, ‘Refugees go home’ and ‘You are parasites’ in the town of Werther, North Rhine-Westphalia, reports local paper *Westfalen-Blatt*. ... The pensioner said he had put up the leaflets in response to the way new asylum seekers behaved in the small town, which is home to around eleven and a half thousand people. According to Wilfried, the asylum seekers he saw in Werther were ‘disrespectful, demanding, and ungrateful.’ The lawyer for the defendant, Kerstin Koch, attempted to get the proceedings terminated by explaining the man had recently lost his wife to a failed operation and was barely managing to scrape by on the small allowance he was receiving from the government. But both the prosecutor and the judge did not see his situation as valid extenuating circumstances and the judge prioritised the defence of the ‘human dignity’ of migrants who had been insulted. The judge also handed down a €300 fine to the cash-strapped pensioner to be paid in €15-a-month installments. Hate speech laws in Germany and the prosecution of people for anti-mass migration or anti-migrant opinions has skyrocketed over the course of the migrant crisis. In some cases, men and women have been arrested and taken to court for migrant-critical social media posts and others have even had their homes raided by police for hate speech.”

HYPNOSIS DANGER

One of the many occult practices that have invaded the healthcare field is hypnosis. This is “an induced altered state of consciousness in which the subject becomes passive and is responsive to suggestion” (*Harper’s Encyclopedia of Mystical and Paranormal Experience*). The term *hypnosis*, from *hypnos*, the Greek god of sleep, was coined by James Braid, a 19th-century British mesmerist. Courses on hypnosis are taught in many medical schools and an estimated 20,000 medical and psychological specialists use it (“Hypnosis,” *Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs*). Hypnosis is used in pain relief, anesthesiology, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, weight control, birth control, sleep therapy, physical healing, psychological healing, self-improvement, human potential, recovery of memories, regression therapy (healing the present through recovering the past), and other ways. When used in the field of modern health care, the idea is that the practice of hypnotism itself is innocent and useful and can be divorced from its occultic associations, but this is impossible. The *Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs* observes: “Historically, hypnotism is typically associated with the occultist or psychic, the one who exercises power over things or persons, such as the shaman, magician, witch

HYPNOSIS DANGER

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doctor, medium, witch, guru, or yogi.” Anton Mesmer (1734-1815), an astrologer and occultist, proposed a healing technique through hypnosis and the flow of “animal magnetism” from the practitioner to the patient. Mesmerization or hypnosis produced two occultic movements in the 19th century. One was the New Thought or Mind Science movement. Phineas Quimby (1802-66), a student of Mesmer, called his “mind healing” theories the Science of Health and had a powerful influence on Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science. The other movement was spiritism. Another Mesmer student, Andrew Jackson Davis, published a book in 1847 which he said was dictated to him by spirits while he was in a mesmeric trance. *The Encyclopedia of Psychic Science* says, “The conquest by spiritualism soon began and the leading Mesmerists were absorbed into the rank of the spiritualists.” The danger of hypnotism is evident from the fact that it can produce a wide variety of occult phenomena, including past life experiences, multiple personalities, speaking in unknown languages, automatic writing, clairvoyance, telepathy, seizures, spirit possession, astral projection, and psychic diagnosis (*Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs*). The fact that hypnosis is so intimately associated with the occult and communication with spiritual realms forbidden in Scripture is a loud warning to those who have ears to hear (Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12). The wise Christian will stay far away from anything savoring of the occult! The Bible exhorts the believer to be sober (1 Peter 5:8). This means to be in control of one’s mind, to be spiritually and mentally alert. It means to be on guard against danger. It is the very opposite of allowing oneself to be put into a trance.



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.