
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION OPERA

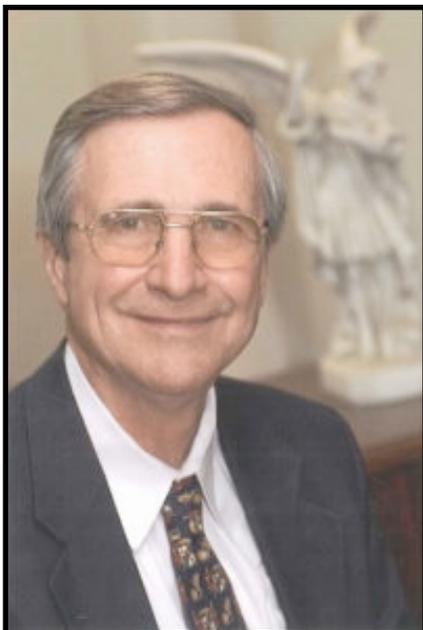
On June 7, 1981, the Israeli Air Force destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor in a daring daylight raid. Five years earlier, France and Italy began providing Iraq with the technology and material to build a 40-megawatt nuclear reactor named Osiraq (after Osiris the Egyptian god of the dead). Failing on the diplomatic front, Israel made plans to destroy the reactor before it could become operational. Prime Minister Menachem Begin authorized the attack. Many within the government and military were opposed to the project, and Begin knew that the fallout would be great, but he said he was determined to destroy the reactor "even if it was the last thing he did as a prime minister" ("35 Years on, IAF Pilots Recall Daring Mission," *The Times of Israel*, Jun. 4, 2017). After the eight attacking F-16s with eight F-15 escorts



US president Ronald Reagan, left, and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, 1981.

launched from Etzion Air Force base in the Negev, they flew over the Gulf of Aqaba and were seen by King Hussein of Jordan who was vacationing on his royal yacht. "He immediately transmitted a warning to his military, requesting that the armies of the surrounding countries be notified, but, for whatever reason, the alert wasn't shared" (Michael Bar-Zohar and Missim Mishal, *No Mission Is impossible: The Death-Defying Missions of the Israeli Special Forces*). The planes crossed the Gulf of Aqaba, skirted the Jordanian border, and attacked Iraq from the south. The first explosives obliterated the reactor's roof. These were followed by timed-fuse bombs that penetrated deep into the facility before exploding. In 80 seconds, the F-16s had totally destroyed the reactor,

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KREEFT SAYS A "NEW REFORMATION" IS IN PROGRESS

Peter Kreeft, a prominent Roman Catholic apologist and ecumenist, says a "new reformation" is underway which is uniting Catholics and non-Catholics. In an interview with *The Christian Post*, he said that "more ecumenical progress has been made in the last 50 years than in the last 500" ("God Is Moving to Unite Catholics and Protestants," *Christian Post*, May 31, 2017). Kreeft's "new reformation" is the Protestant Reformation in reverse. In his new book *Catholics and Protestants: What Can We Learn from Each Other?*, he says that the collapse of morality in society should bring Catholics and Protestants closer to one another.

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and they returned to base without further incident. The youngest flier on the mission was rookie Ilan Ramon. He went on to become Israel's first astronaut and was killed in 2003 in the disintegration of the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia. The international outcry of Israel's destruction of the reactor was great. France was terribly angry, of course, and even U.S. President Ronald Reagan joined the chorus. But a decade later, U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney thanked Major General David Ivry, commander of the Israeli Air Force, for the the fact that America did not have to face a nuclear-armed Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War ("Operation Opera," *Jewish Virtual Library*). Cheney presented Ivry with an aerial photo of the bombed reactor overwritten with the words, "It made our work much easier."

PENTECOSTALS TRACE THEIR HERITAGE TO POPE LEO XIII'S PRAYER

Many Pentecostals and charismatics trace their heritage to the prayer of Pope Leo XIII in 1897 for a "new Pentecost." The pope's prayer was allegedly answered by the birth of Pentecostalism in Topeka, Kansas in 1900 and Azusa Street in 1906 and by the birth of the charismatic movement in the 1960s, which quickly spread through the Roman Catholic Church ("This 120-Year-Old Pentecost Prayer Still Rings Out Today," *Charisma Magazine*, May 30, 2017). To trace one's heritage to the prayer of a pope is evidence of great spiritual blindness. The Roman Catholic Council of Trent put a curse on anyone who says that salvation is by God's mercy alone without works, but 1,500 years before that, God's Word put a curse on any one who says that salvation is NOT by God's grace alone, and we know whose curse will stand. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-8).

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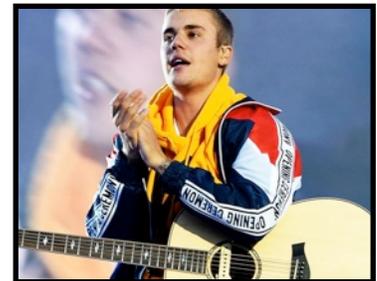
Kreeft converted from Dutch Reformed to Catholicism through the influence of the writings of the "church fathers" while a student at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was particularly drawn to "St. Augustine," in whose writings he found things such as "the Eucharist, the Real Presence, prayers to saints, devotion to Mary, an insistence on visible unity" ("Hauled Aboard the Ark," www.peterkreeft.com). Dr. Kreeft didn't find the truth in the "church fathers," he found doctrines of devils, and for some reason his spirit resonated with these errors. The "church fathers" didn't add one iota of truth to the canon of Scripture, and they have zero authority. The unity that the Kreefts of this age are calling for is not a biblical unity; it is end-time apostasy that is building a one-world "church." It is led by the one who "is transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TO CONSIDER SPECIAL BAPTISM SERVICE FOR “TRANSGENDERS”

At its General Synod in July, the Church of England will consider a proposal for a new baptism service “to celebrate transgender individuals who have transitioned genders” (“Church of England Considers Baptizing People into New Gender,” *ChristianHeadlines.com*, Jun. 2, 2017). This church, so-called, already has transgender priests. One of these, Rachel Mann, said, “Trans people feel powerfully called to be recognized in their ‘chosen’ name. An opportunity to be publicly introduced to God is therefore significant.” We are not sure what “God” Mann is talking about, but it is not the Creator God who made man male and female. Scripture teaches that the Creator forms each individual in the womb according to a preexisting plan, and being male or female is no accident of nature. True churches don’t celebrate moral perversion; they preach the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ whereby sinners are converted from wickedness and given a new mind to love truth and righteousness. The transgender movement of the 21st century is the logical consequence of the feminist unisex movement of the 20th. “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was none of them*” (Psalm 139:16).

JUSTIN BIEBER’S EMPTY PLATITUDES

At a concert to raise money for victims of recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester, rockers delivered empty platitudes to England and the world. Ariana Grande was joined by Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, and others. Bieber, who was baptized and mentored by Hillsong pastor Carl Lentz, said, “God is good in the midst of the darkness. God is good in the midst of the evil. God is in the midst no matter what’s happening in the world, God is in the midst, and He loves you and He’s here for you” (“Justin Bieber Ministers at Manchester Concert,” *CBNNews*, Jun. 4, 2017). This is a universalistic, moral relativistic message from “The Shack” god. The God revealed in Scripture is indeed good and He loves the world (John 3:16), but He is a holy God who receives sinners on His own terms, not on the sinner’s terms, and His terms are repentance and faith in the Calvary atonement of Jesus Christ. It is the good and loving Christ who said, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3), and, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). To repent of one’s sin is to renounce it, but these people have not renounced their wicked lifestyles and lascivious “art.” God is not “here” for those who reject His Word and flaunt their sin, as the rock crowd does. Bieber, for example, in his song “Kiss & Tell,” encourages girls to have secret immoral relationships with guys. “Your lips are calling me, like they wanna do something; I feel the chemistry, Yea you’re into me. ... Just keep it quiet; keep it on the hush/ And what we do keep it just between us. ... Use them lips for kissing, girl, if you wanna ride with me/ ... Don’t tell your mama ...” Ariana Grande and Katy Perry sing the same sort of filthy trash and thus promote global rebellion against the holy God among children as young as five. They love darkness rather than light, yet they want to pretend as if God comforts them in their darkness. They are the devil’s emissaries, and the modern world of global communication is their

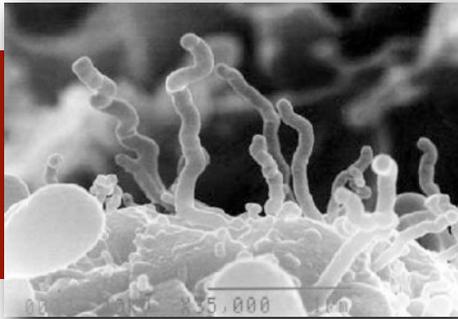


Justin Bieber

NANOBUGS AMAZE SCIENTISTS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, February 16, 2017: "A series of unlikely discoveries has scientists shaking their heads. They have discovered the smallest creatures ever seen three miles below the Earth's surface, happily living where the temperatures go as high as 338 degrees. The creatures were discovered as part of the Deep Subsurface Microbiology Program. This scientific effort is searching for subsurface microbes which might feed on and break down underground pollutants. At 20 to 150 nanometers in length, they seem too small to be alive. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter. The average human hair is 10,000 nanometers across. Atoms average 3-5 nanometers in size. So a creature only four or five

times the size of an atom doesn't seem as though it should be alive. After all, a cell wall is five to seven nanometers thick. DNA alone is five to six nanometers thick. So, with just two cell walls and a little DNA, the smallest of these creatures--called 'nanobes'--seem too small to be living creatures. For this reason scientists decided they can't be alive. But after study, scientists have found that these creatures do indeed have DNA and are made of the elements of life--carbon, nitrogen and oxygen. And they do grow like other living things. Nanobes are another demonstration that nothing is too hard for God, nor is there anywhere He is not. This is a comfort for us since God has spared nothing, including the life of His own Son, to bring about our salvation."



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.