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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

This year is the 500th anniversary of the posting of Martin Luther's 95 Theses which led to the Protestant Reformation. The name "Protestant" originated with a group of German princes who protested against Rome twelve years later in 1529. The term typically refers to denominations that arose from that era--particularly Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican (Episcopal), and Methodist--but it is often used to describe all

non-Catholic denominations. Though the Protestants came out of Rome and rejected many of Rome's errors, they also kept many unscriptural things, such as infant baptism, a priesthood, allegorical interpretation of prophecy, replacement theology, and state churchism. The Reformation was a large and complex social, political, and religious phenomenon involving many nations and occurring over a long period of time and it had a major role in creating the modern world. It was a great changing of the times (Daniel 2:21). The spread of spiritual light through the preaching of the gospel and the publication of the Bible produced such things as advanced concepts of human liberty, economic improvement, scientific advancement, advancement in the arts, and social progress (e.g., increase in literacy, end of slavery, better working conditions, higher wages). We look at these things in the book *The Bible and Western Society*, which describes some of the good fruit of the Reformation. An extensive study of the Protestant Reformation can be found in the 2016 edition of the two-volume *A History of the Churches from a Baptist Perspective*.

## U.S. ARMY'S TRANSGENDER TRAINING ADDRESSES MALE PREGNANCIES

The following is excerpted from Todd Starnes, *Fox News*, Jun. 16, 2017: "The Army has begun mandatory transgender sensitivity training for soldiers. The training covers everything from 'transfemale' soldiers to transgender shower etiquette to dealing with a male soldier who becomes pregnant. ... 'That pregnancy scenario is beyond words,' Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty executive director Ron Crews told me. 'This is an example of how this social policy can be used simply to promote personal agendas at the expense of taxpayers with no regard for being what the military is all about.' The matter of male soldiers with child is tucked away inside the Army's 'Policy on the Military Service of Transgender Soldiers Training Module, Tier 2: Commanders and Leaders.' ... [It was] mandated during the Obama Administration. 'The training module specifically outlines key roles and responsibilities of commanders, transgender soldiers, military medical providers and administrative management organizations,' Lt. Col. Jennifer Johnson told *USA Today*. 'This training is mandatory for all uniformed



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## U.S. ARMY'S TRANSGENDER TRAINING ADDRESSES MALE PREGNANCIES

....continued from front page

members, as well as Department of the Army civilians.' The briefing materials cover all sorts of scenarios--from shower stall etiquette to 'transfemale' soldiers deployed to anti-LGBT countries. ... Female soldiers must also come to terms with taking a shower alongside men who identify as women--even if the transgender soldier did not undergo sex-reassignment surgery. 'Soldiers must accept living and working conditions that are often austere, primitive, and characterized by little or no privacy,' the module states. 'All soldiers will use billeting, bathroom and shower facilities associated with their gender marker.' The Army guidelines mandate facilities will not be designed, modified or constructed to make transgender-only areas. 'Accommodations cannot isolate or stigmatize the TG soldier,' the guidelines state."



## CANADA PASSES RADICAL LAW GENDER THEORY ACCEPTANCE



The following is excerpted from LifeSiteNews, June 15, 2017: "Canada's Senate passed the Justin Trudeau Liberals' transgender rights bill unamended this afternoon by a vote of 67 to 11, with three abstentions. The bill adds 'gender expression' and 'gender identity' to Canada's Human Rights Code and to the Criminal Code's hate crime section. With the Senate clearing the bill with no amendments, it requires only royal assent in the House of Commons to become law. Critics warn that under Bill C-16, Canadians who deny gender theory could be charged with hate crimes, fined, jailed, and compelled to undergo anti-bias training. Foremost among these critics is University of Toronto psychology professor Dr. Jordan Peterson, who along with lawyer D. Jared Brown, told the Senate committee that Bill C-16 is an unprecedented threat to freedom of expression and codifies a spurious ideology of gender identity in law. Peterson was invited to the committee by Manitoba Senator Don Plett, who voted against the bill. ... Prime Minister Trudeau praised the bill's passage as 'great news.' But Campaign Life Coalition, the political arm of Canada's pro-life movement, condemned the passage of Bill C-16. 'This tyrannical bill is nothing but social engineering to the nth degree, all in the name of political correctness,' Campaign Life's Toronto vice president Jeff Gunnarson told LifeSiteNews. Jack Fonseca,

Campaign Life's senior political strategist, said the bill will be used to attack Christian belief. 'Mark my words, this law will not be used as some sort of "shield" to defend vulnerable transsexuals, but rather as a weapon with which to bludgeon people of faith and free-thinking Canadians who refuse to deny truth,' he told LifeSiteNews. ... Lawyer Brown told the Senate Committee the federal Liberals have made it clear they will follow Ontario's lead when implementing Bill C-16. And Ontario Human Rights Code guidelines 'mandate' the use of genderless pronouns on request, he said. 'Mandating use of pronouns requires one to use words that are not their own that imply a belief in or agreement with a certain theory on gender,' he added. 'If you try to disavow that theory, you can be brought before the Human Rights Commission for misgendering or potentially find yourself guilty of a hate crime. To sum up, on the subject of gender, we're going to have government-mandated speech.' Those who refuse to go along could be 'brought before the federal tribunal,' Brown said. If the tribunal assesses a penalty such as a fine or "non-monetary remedy, such as a cease and desist order or an order to compel them to do something," and the person refuses, 'they will find themselves in contempt of court and prison is the likely outcome of that process until they purge the contempt,' he added."

## LESBIAN WORSHIP LEADER AWARDED BY ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The following is excerpted from “Lesbian Worship Leader,” [www.hallels.com](http://www.hallels.com), Jun. 14, 2017: “Worship leader and songwriter Vicky Beeching who came out as a lesbian in 2014 has been awarded by the head of the Anglican Communion for her contributions to worship music. Beeching feels honored that she has been presented with the Thomas Cranmer Award for Worship by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, last week. Together with over 35 people from around the world, Beeching received awards for outstanding service to the church in a ceremony at Lambeth Palace in London on Friday. The awards recognize outstanding service in different fields, including prayer and the religious life, reconciliation, and evangelism and witness.”



*Vicky Beeching & the Archbishop of  
Canterbury*



## LARGE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT EUTHANASIA

The following is excerpted from “73 Percent,” NewsMax, Jun. 12, 2017: “Nearly three out of four Americans support euthanasia, a new Gallup poll revealed. Here is how the poll breaks down on the issue of whether a doctor should be allowed to end a terminally ill patient's life by painless means if the person requests it: A total of 73 percent of adults surveyed are in favor of it. 55 percent of weekly churchgoers support euthanasia, while 87 percent of those who rarely, if ever, go to church back it. 60 percent of conservatives support it, compared 79 percent of moderates and 89 percent of liberals. 67 percent of Republicans or Republican-leaning independents are in favor of it, compared to 81 percent of Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents. ... ‘Support for euthanasia is nearly double what it was when Gallup first polled on the question in 1947, when 37 percent said it should be allowed by law. By 1973, a slim majority of 53 percent supported it. Since 1990, solid majorities of Americans have expressed support for euthanasia, ranging from 64-75 percent.’”

# LIVING TECHNOLOGY

In the late 18th century, William Paley used a watch as an illustration of the design concept. If you are walking through a forest and see a watch lying on the ground, you assume immediately that it had an intelligent designer. Likewise, when we see the complexity of living creatures, we must assume the existence of an intelligent designer. Skeptics tried to silence Paley's argument with the claim that there is not a direct corollary between a watch and a living organism, but science has since uncovered the brilliant living technology that is evident throughout life, even at the cellular level. They have found living machines! Walt Brown, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from MIT, observes: "Most complex phenomena known to science are found in living systems--including those involving electrical, acoustical, mechanical, chemical, and optical phenomena. Detailed studies of various animals also have revealed certain physical equipment and capabilities that the world's best designers, using the most sophisticated technologies, cannot duplicate. Examples of these designs include molecular-size motors in most living organisms; advanced technologies in cells; miniature and reliable sonar systems of dolphins, porpoises, and whales; frequency-modulated 'radar' and discrimination systems of bats; efficient aerodynamic capabilities of hummingbirds; control systems, internal ballistics, and the combustion chambers of bombardier beetles; precise and redundant navigational systems of many birds, fish, and insects; and especially the

self-repair capabilities of almost all forms of life. No component of these complex systems could have evolved without placing the organism at a selective disadvantage until the component's evolution was complete. All evidence points to intelligent design. Many bacteria, such as *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, and some *Streptococci*, propel themselves with miniature motors ... Evolutionary theory teaches that bacteria were one of the first forms of life to evolve, and, therefore, they are simple. While bacteria are small, they are not simple. They can even communicate among themselves using chemicals. Some plants have motors that are one-fifth the size of bacterial motors. Increasing worldwide interest in nano-technology is showing that living things are remarkably designed--beyond anything Darwin could have imagined" (*In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*, p. 19).



## 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).