
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

U.S. EPISCOPAL DIOCESE VOTES TO STOP USING MASCULINE PRONOUNS FOR GOD

The Episcopal Church Diocese of Washington, D.C. has rejected the God of the Bible for a mythical goddess of feminist thinking. On January 27, the delegates to the diocese's annual convention approved a statement "to utilize expansive language for God ... and, when possible, to avoid the use of gendered pronouns for God." Gendered pronouns are things such as "He" and "Father" and "King." The drafters of the daffy resolution said, "By expanding our language for God, we will expand our image of God and the nature of God" ("U.S. Episcopal diocese," *LifeSiteNews*, Feb. 1, 2018). "The Rev." Linda Calkins of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Laytonsville, Maryland, said, "Many of us are waiting and need to hear God in our language, in our words and in our pronouns." In reality, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. has rejected the God of the Bible for a mythical goddess. In Scripture, God is always referred to in masculine terms. He is King of kings, not Queen of queens. He is the Father and the Son, not the Mother and the Daughter. In the incarnation, God became a man, not a woman. "For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, THE MAN Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 2:5). (For more about this see "Fifty Years of Anglican Liberalism" at the Way of Life web site.)



Delegates at the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's 123rd Diocesan Convention, Jan. 27, 2018.

EARLY FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE EMPLOYEES FORM COALITION TO FIGHT WHAT THEY BUILT



"A group of Silicon Valley technologists who were early employees at Facebook and Google, alarmed over the ill effects of social networks and smartphones, are banding together to challenge the companies they helped build. The cohort is creating a union of concerned experts called the Center for Humane Technology. Along with the nonprofit media watchdog group Common Sense Media, it also plans an anti-tech addiction lobbying effort and an ad

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campaign at 55,000 public schools in the United States. The campaign, titled *The Truth About Tech*, will be funded with \$7 million from Common Sense and capital raised by the Center for Humane Technology. Common Sense also has \$50 million in donated media and airtime from partners including Comcast and DirecTV. It will be aimed at educating students, parents and teachers about the dangers of technology, including the depression that can come from heavy use of social media. ‘We were on the inside,’ said Tristan Harris, a former in-house ethicist at Google who is heading the new group. ‘We know what the companies measure. We know how they talk, and we know how the engineering works.’ The effect of technology, especially on younger minds, has become hotly debated in recent months. ... Pediatric and mental health experts called on Facebook last week to abandon a messaging service the company

had introduced for children as young as 6. Parenting groups have also sounded the alarm about YouTube Kids, a product aimed at children that sometimes features disturbing content. ... The new Center for Humane Technology includes an unprecedented alliance of former employees of some of today’s biggest tech companies. Apart from Mr. Harris, the center includes Sandy Parakilas, a former Facebook operations manager; Lynn Fox, a former Apple and Google communications executive; Dave Morin, a former Facebook executive; Justin Rosenstein, who created Facebook’s Like button ... Apple’s chief executive, Timothy D. Cook, told *The Guardian* last month that he would not let his nephew on social media.” (For practical instruction on protecting young people from evil influences, see *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*, available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

TWENTY-NINE AND EUTHANIZED: DARK NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The following is excerpted from “29 and Euthanized,” *National Review*, Andrew Walker, Jan. 31, 2018: “Recent news from the Netherlands illustrates how its euthanasia regime is among the world’s most permissive. It shows no signs of slowing down. Aurelia Browsers, a 29-year-old mentally ill woman, was granted her wish and euthanized last weekend, demonstrating the slippery slope confronting those countries in which euthanasia and assisted-suicide laws are becoming ever laxer. Evidence suggests that Dutch physicians do not consistently follow the protocols intended to regulate the practice. News of Browsers’ death follows grisly reports that an elderly woman with dementia was involuntarily euthanized in the Netherlands. In neighboring Belgium, laws exist that allow for children to be euthanized. Cases in the

Netherlands show the most troubling reality of euthanasia laws: their widening use based on subjective criteria; Euthanasia is advertised as ‘dignified death’ for those suffering from a terminal illness. But the euthanizing of a young woman on grounds that she suffered from a mental illness shows the false advertising of the ‘death with dignity’ movement. ... Where the practice is prohibited, advocates are quick to highlight stories of bone-jarringly sad situations of patients with perhaps a neurological cancer slowly crippling their cognitive and physical abilities. ... Euthanasia advocates are less forthcoming in admitting how euthanasia laws end up loosening over time and how once-strict controls with respect to the conditions and ages of patients eligible for euthanasia inevitably broaden.”

100% TRUST

The Bible says that saving faith is to trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour “with all thine heart” (Acts 8:37). It is to be “sure” (John 6:69). It is a 100% faith. This was demonstrated in a dramatic way on August 17, 1859, at the world famous Niagara Falls. A three-inch thick rope was stretched 1,100 feet across the Niagara Gorge on the border of America and Canada, and tightrope walker Charles Blondin prepared to make the dangerous crossing, 160 feet above the swirling waters. He had done it several times before: blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow, somersaulting and backflipping, standing on stilts, at night, using locomotive headlights to illumine the rope. Once he carried a metal stove on his back, set it up over the middle of the river, cooked an omelet, then lowered it down to passengers on the deck of the Maid of the Mist. But this time, Harry Colcord

was going to cling to the Blondin’s back. Before starting the venture, Blondin said, “Look up, Harry. ... you are no longer Colcord, you are Blondin. Until I clear this place be a part of me, mind, body, and soul. If I sway, sway with me. Do not attempt to do any balancing yourself” (“The Daredevil of Niagara Falls,” *Smithsonian.com*, Oct. 18, 2011). Colcord was confident in Blondin’s skill. He had solid evidence that the man could do what he promised. So he yielded himself 100% to Blondin and got a free ride across the river without contributing one iota of effort to the task. That’s saving faith. It is rejecting all self-reliance and relying 100% on Christ and His atoning work to make me right with God. “I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD” (Psalm 116:13).

THE BLIND GIRL WHO LOVED GOD’S WORD



remembrance.’ Though blind from her birth, she learned, at an early age, to knit stockings and sleeves, and to assist her father in his business of rope-making; and always discovered the utmost aversion to idleness or sloth. After the death of her parents, she lived with her brother, and by daily attendance at church, and hearing divine service read in the vulgar tongue, during the reign of King Edward VI, became deeply impressed with religious principles. This rendered her desirous of possessing the word of God; so that at length, having by her labour

“Among those who glorified God by suffering martyrdom in the reign of Queen Mary, JOAN WASTE, a poor woman, deserves to be ‘had in everlasting

earned and saved as much money as would purchase a New Testament, she procured one; and as she could not read it herself, got others to read it to her, especially an old man seventy years of age, a prisoner for debt in the Common Hall at Derby, and the clerk of the parish, who read a chapter to her almost every day. She would also sometimes give a penny or two (as she could spare) to those who would not read to her without pay. By these means she became well acquainted with the New Testament, and could repeat many chapters without book, and daily increasing in sacred knowledge, she uniformly displayed its influence on her life, too the rage against those who denied a, occasioned her condemnation, and she was burned alive at Derby, August 1st, 1566, being then about twenty-two years of age” (James Townley, *Illustrations of Biblical Literature Exhibiting the History and Fate of the Sacred Writings*, 1842, Vol. II, p. 286, citing John Foxe’s *Martyrology*).



MUSIC: A GIFT OF GOD

The following is excerpted from Jonathan O'Brien, *Creation Ministries*, Feb. 6, 2018: "Scientists recently discovered that our brains are made for music--that a deep musical appreciation is a foundational aspect of being human (*Music on the Brain*, Australian Broadcasting Network's *Catalyst*). Why do we have this special relationship with music, yet apes and other large-brained 'higher' animals don't make, or even desire, music as we do? Like speaking and writing in grammatical language, music is a peculiar and distinctive trait of human beings only. Where did this mysterious habit and liking of ours come from? ... Interestingly, music appreciation appears to be embedded or wired into nearly all regions of the brain. The scientists found that music seems to be tied in closely with love and relationships--that there is a clear, powerful physiological effect of music on social bonding. They concluded that music is so important to our brain's physical makeup that it is an indispensable part of what makes us human. ... Harmony and melody both involve unchanging scientific and mathematical laws, thus written into the very fabric of the universe--but it is only human beings that are capable of caring that this is so. ... Darwinism, being a materialist philosophy and not a science, is



powerless to explain the meaning of music. Music is capable of overwhelming us with emotion because it is linked with our spiritual side, and is good evidence for the existence of the soul. ... Many people, of all backgrounds and beliefs, have spoken of music's 'soul.' ... Vishal Mangalwadi noted, 'Denying the reality of a spiritual core as the essence of every human being makes it hard to make sense of music, because music, like morality, is a matter of the soul.' ... The human body is as if made for music. As bipedal, upright creatures, our hands are freed for skilful and creative work—a desire for which is driven by our minds and hearts. We play difficult instruments such as the violin, guitar and piano, compose complex music, and sing, because our brains and our personalities strive for expression in this spiritual format of music. Our hands are miracles of design, perfectly engineered for the finest movements and most sensitive of touches, and are marvels of 'ingenuity, flexibility and mobility' ... Our ear is also an expertly-designed precision instrument for receiving and transmitting musical sounds. ... We also have vocal cords that are capable of the best musical tones imaginable. ... It's plain for all who care to see it that music is physically and spiritually part of God's wonderful design for the creation."

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.