FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ISIS WANTS TO BLOW UP WHITE HOUSE, BIG BEN

The following is excerpted from “ISIS wants to blow up White House, Big Ben, and Eiffel Tower,” National Post, Canada, Mar. 12, 2015: “The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham wants to ‘blow up your White House, Big Ben, and the Eiffel Tower,’ its official spokesman said in an audio message Thursday that claimed the ultra-violent extremist group had expanded its reach into West Africa. Abu Muhammad al-Adnani in 2012. In his first speech in two months, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani accepted a pledge of allegiance from the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram and listed the cities ‘we want,’ from Paris and Rome to Jerusalem and Kabul. The 28-minute Arabic-language audio, translated by the SITE Intelligence Group, appeared to be an attempt to rally ISIS fighters and intimidate international audiences amid setbacks in Iraq. Al-Adnani was also capitalizing on the recent decision of Boko Haram, notorious for its indiscriminate bombings and kidnappings of girls, to align itself with ISIS. He called it ‘a new door opened by Allah’ and directed jihadists to West Africa.”

TENS OF THOUSANDS RALLY FOR CHAPLAIN ACCUSED OF BEING ANTI-GAY

The following is excerpted from Fox News, Mar. 12, 2015: “Thousands of Americans, including former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and famed evangelist Franklin Graham, have come to the defense of a chaplain who could be thrown out of the Navy because of his Christian faith. Lt. Cmdr. Wes Modder has been accused of failing to show ‘tolerance and respect’ in private counseling sessions regarding issues pertaining to faith, marriage and sexuality—specifically homosexuality. Modder, who is endorsed by the Assemblies of God, has also been accused of being unable to ‘function in the diverse and pluralistic environment’ of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek, S.C. The highly decorated, 19-year military veteran previously served in the Marine Corps and has had several high-profile assignments—including being named force chaplain of the Navy SEALs. Just a few months ago, Modder’s commander called him ‘the best of the best’ and a ‘consummate professional leader’ worthy of an early promotion. But all that changed after Modder’s assistant, a married gay officer at the base who was upset about the minister’s views on same-sex...
The following is excerpted from Breitbart.com, Mar. 13, 2015:

"On Thursday, the European Parliament voted to approve its 'Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013 and the European Union's policy on the matter,' which declares both same-sex marriage and abortion to be fundamental human rights. The Parliament, which enjoys freedom from voter accountability, continues its legislative activism, pushing member states toward more liberal positions on virtually every social issue, and slinging loose language such as 'homophobia.' The report says it is 'regrettable' that women and girls' bodies 'still remain an ideological battleground,' and calls for the EU and its member states to recognize the inalienable rights of women, including 'the right to access voluntary family planning and safe and legal abortion.' ... In the area of sexual orientation, the report urges the Commission 'to raise the issue of LGBTI rights in political and human rights dialogues with third countries and multilateral forums' and enjoins its policy-working group, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to 'support organizations defending LGBTI rights by empowering them to challenge homophobic and transphobic laws and discrimination against LGBTI people.' The report applauds the legalization of same-sex marriage in an increasing number of countries (17 to date), and encourages the EU institutions and the member states to frame 'the recognition of same-sex marriage or same-sex civil union as a political, social and human and civil rights issue.'"
COUNTRY MUSIC STAR TRADES HUSBANDS WITH BEST FRIEND

Country music star Shania Twain is in the news these days for saying that she wishes she had never met her former best friend who had an affair with her husband of 15 years (“Shania Twain, ‘I wish I’d never met’ woman who broke up my marriage,” Fox 411, Mar. 13, 2015). Twain's friend, Marie-Anne, married Twain’s husband, and Twain subsequently married Marie-Anne’s husband. The homosexuals aren’t the only ones who make a mockery of holy marriage. The Hollywood-Nashville crowd has been doing that for a long, long time. They mock God’s holy laws in their music and movies, but then they complain when someone lives the very lifestyle that they glorify in their movies and music and in the process sins against them. They protest when someone sins against them, but they care nothing about sins committed against the blessed Creator. Well did Jesus say, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE DEFENDS INVITATION TO LESBIAN PASTOR

The following is excerpted from Christian News, Mar. 12, 2015: “An American Baptist College is defending its invitation to an openly lesbian United Church of Christ minister, asserting that Christians are making an ‘idol’ of the Bible. ‘It’s sad that people use religion and idolatry of the Bible to demoralize same-gender-loving people,’ American Baptist College President Forrest Harris told The Tennessean on Wednesday. The publication then asked that he clarify his use of the phrase ‘idolatry of the Bible.’ ‘When people say [the Bible] is synonymous with God and the truth,’ Harris responded. ‘We can’t be guided and dictated by a first-century world view.’ The college had invited Yvette Flunder, a bishop at the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland, Calif., to speak at its Garnett-Nabrit lecture series next week, which focuses on Christian leadership. The theme is ‘Ministry in Motion: Living Faith, Doing Justice.’ ... But after word of the invitation reached other pastors in Nashville, several denounced college administrators for their actions. Randy G. Vaughn of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church told local television station KMBT that he and other Baptist pastors from across the country will be present to protest Flunder’s appearance next week. ... ‘We don’t feel you have the right to live any way [you want] and be respected in the congregation of our faith. There is nothing holy about lesbianism as there is nothing holy about heterosexual adultery.’”
EVOLUTION IS ELASTIC

Evolution is elastic and is never refuted in the eyes of convinced Darwinists. They have an answer for everything. If it is demonstrated that evolution is not occurring today, Darwinists run to mind-boggling eons past. If it is demonstrated that blind processes cannot create, Darwinists protest that the processes are not really blind. If it is demonstrated that natural selection cannot account for the formation of new organs and creatures, they run to genetic mutations. If it is demonstrated that mutations are not creative mechanisms, Darwinists run to the mysteries of unknown genetic processes. If it is demonstrated that the fossil record does not display constant change, Darwinists run to hopeful monsters and punctuated equilibrium. If it is demonstrated that no naturalistic process can explain the origin of life, Darwinists run to extra-terrestrials and multiverses. Because of this, refuting evolution can be like nailing Jell-O to a wall. Even some evolutionists have complained that Darwinism cannot be “falsified.”

THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA

The crossing of the Red Sea was a mighty miracle that happened 3,500 years ago, and it is an illustration of how God leads His people to situations which look impossible from the human perspective, so that we will live by faith and He can show His power.

Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life,
Where, in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way back,
There is no other way—but through?

Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene
Till the night of your fear is gone;
He will send the wind, He will heap the floods,
When He says to your soul, ‘Go on!’

And your fears shall pass as your foes have passed,
You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
A place that His hand has made.
—Annie Johnson Flint