In a new treaty finalized on May 13, the Vatican has officially recognized “the state of Palestine.” Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said, “Yes, it’s a recognition that the state exists” (“Vatican recognizes state of Palestine,” The Times of Israel, May 13, 2014). In a papal audience on May 16, Pope Francis called Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas “an angel of peace.” Three years ago, the Vatican had “welcomed the decision by the UN General Assembly to recognize a Palestinian state.”

The Roman Catholic Church has long been opposed to Israel. Jews were slaughtered during the Catholic crusades and placed in ghettos in Catholic-controlled cities. The heresy of Replacement Theology, which replaces Israel with the Church, was fathered by Rome and borrowed from her by Protestants. In 1922, Cardinal Gasparri, Vatican Secretary of State, voiced concern that the British Mandate on Palestine might “give Israel a privileged position and might compromise the rights of the Catholic Church regarding the protection of the Holy Places” (“The Holy See and the Postwar... continued on next page..."
VATICAN RECOGNIZES PALESTINIAN STATE ...continued from previous page

Palestine Issue,” International Affairs, Spring 1984). In 1950, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that the Vatican was “intensifying its campaign for the internationalization of Jerusalem” (JTA, Nov. 21, 1950). That campaign did not cease until the 1980s when the Vatican began to support the PLO and its goal of making East Jerusalem its capital. In 1982, Yasser Arafat was received at the Vatican “with all the honor and dignity accorded a head of state.” With the 2015 treaty, the Vatican’s support shifts from the PLO to the Palestinian State. The Vatican is comfortable making treaties with Muslim terrorist organizations that hate Israel, vow her destruction, and persecute professing Christians because she is one of the devil’s chief instruments in human affairs. One day, Mystery Babylon will yoke together with the very Antichrist himself, according to Revelation 17, and Rome doubtless is at the heart of this end-time phenomenon. “And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zec 12:3).

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION NO LONGER BARS MISSIONARIES FROM SPEAKING IN “TONGUES”

Last week, the Southern Baptist Convention dropped its rule barring “tongues speakers” from being missionaries (Christianity Today, May 14, 2015). Also dropped was the rule barring divorced people to serve as long-term missionaries. The allowance for “tongues” speaking is evidence of the ongoing inroad of the charismatic movement into the SBC. The charismatic practice of a “prayer language” has no support in Scripture and is mystical nonsense. Biblical tongues were earthly languages that were imparted supernaturally as a sign to the Jews of God’s new work of building the Church composed of Jews and Gentiles in one body. Paul made this crystal clear. “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that which believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe, but for them which believe” (1 Cor. 14:20-22). (See the report “A Private Prayer Language” using the search engine at www.wayoflife.org.)
Called “the mother of motoring,” Bertha Benz made the first automobile journey in 1888. Hailing from a wealthy family, Bertha had used part of her dowry a few years earlier to help her husband, Karl, create the Benz company, and she had helped keep the family afloat financially while Karl perfected a 2.5-horsepower, three-wheeled automobile. Karl was a great inventor, but a poor marketer. He had spent three years perfecting his Benz Motorwagen, but there were no buyers. At one of Karl’s public displays, a stranger took the Motorwagen for a spin and promptly crashed into a wall, frightening potential customers. Berta decided to set out on a groundbreaking journey as a publicizing venture. Leaving Karl a note explaining that she and the boys were going to visit her mom, she and her two teenage sons crammed into the little automobile and headed out on the 60 mile journey. The adventure began at 5 am, when the boys pushed the car a few blocks from the house so Dad wouldn’t be wakened by the noisy engine. There were no motor roads, no gas stations, no mechanics. She purchased fuel at pharmacies in the form of the petroleum solvent ligroin and topped off the water from streams and wells. She cleared a clogged fuel line with a hair pin and repaired the ignition with her garter. She even invented the first pair of brake pads when the wood shoes failed and she had a shoemaker install leather pads. The boys pushed the underpowered car up hills and removed obstacles. Finally at dusk they reached Grandma’s house, where they stayed for a few days to show off the car. Bertha telegraphed Karl to let him know what was happening, but news of her exploit had already spread like wildfire. The Benzes received an avalanche of orders and their company became the world’s largest automobile company at the time, with annual sales of 600 vehicles. Benz eventually merged with another company to form Daimler-Benz, home to the Mercedes-Benz. Bertha lived until the dawn of the rocket age, dying in 1944 at age 95.

ANOTHER “HONOR KILLING” IN ENGLAND

Last week, there was another “honor killing” by a Muslim man in London. Shighi Rethishkumar murdered his wife and 13-year-old twin daughters before hanging himself. He claimed that the West had corrupted them (“Honour Killings,” Breitbart, May 15, 2015). An honor killing is defined by the Human Rights Watch as “acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family.” These are very common in the Middle East and Turkey. According to the United Nations, 5,000 females are murdered every year (“Murder in the Family,” Fox News, July 26, 2008). The Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organization says, “We’re seeing an increase around the world, due in part to the rise in Islamic fundamentalism.” Honor killings are on the rise in the West. The first documented case in America was in November 1989, when Zein Isa, a Palestinian terrorist living in St. Louis, murdered his 16-year-old daughter, Tina, for having a boyfriend, going to a school dance, and applying to work at Wendy’s restaurant. Her mother held her down while her father plunged a 9-inch knife into her chest 13 times, the mother shouting “Shut up!” in response to the girl’s pleas for help (Ellen Harris, Guarding the Secrets: Palestinian Terrorism and a Father’s Murder of His Too-American Daughter, 1995).
CONCLUSION

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.

PENGUINS WITH SUNGLASSES

The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 8, 2015: “Have you ever gone outside on a bright, sunny day and been almost blinded by the light? Then imagine what it must be like for penguins to go about their lives with the intense glare of polar sunlight reflecting off a snowy or watery landscape. Penguins, of course, can’t slip on a pair of sunglasses, but they don’t need to. These marvelous birds have an external eye fluid that filters out blue and ultraviolet wavelengths from the solar spectrum. This gives them clear vision while protecting their eyes from harm. As you might have guessed, eagles, falcons, hawks and other birds of prey also have this fluid. Inspired by these birds, scientists have been able to develop an orange-colored dye and filter that duplicates the penguin’s retinal fluid. The orange dye has been used to produce orange-tinted sunglasses which provide improved vision in bright sunlight and on foggy days. According to Donald DeYoung’s book Discovery of Design, many welders now use orange-colored masks that are safer and more transparent than the old-style dark masks that made it difficult for them to see. There is also the hope that orange-tinted glasses may someday help patients suffering from visual loss due to cataracts or macular degeneration. When engineers and designers look at nature to design new products and product improvements, they are looking at intelligent designs, not the products of chance and billions of years. The ‘sunglasses’ worn by penguins were designed by their Creator!”