
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

SPORTS IDOL GIVES SHOUT OUT TO BEER AND “THE MAN UPSTAIRS”

18 The spiritual emptiness of professional sports was illustrated by Peyton Manning’s comments after his second Super Bowl win on February 7. Manning, quarterback for the Denver Broncos and idol of millions of boys, in a post-game interview with CBS’s Tracy Wolfson, said, “I want to go hug my family, I’m going to drink a lot of Budweiser tonight. ... And I’m definitely going to say a little prayer and thank the man upstairs for this great opportunity” (“Peyton Manning Deflects Retirement Question,” New England Sports Network, Feb. 7, 2016). A few minutes later, on the winner’s podium, Manning again pushed beer. “What’s weighing on my mind is how soon I can get a Bud Light in my mouth.” These statements gave Budweiser millions of dollars in

free advertising, and it might not be a coincidence that Manning is part-owner in two Anheuser-Busch distributors (“Why Peyton Manning Gave Budweiser \$3 Million in Free Advertising,” *Everyday Money*, Feb. 7, 2016). It was called “the most valuable endorsement in history.” We wonder how “the Man Upstairs” liked it. Manning has made \$385 million in career earnings, but he is only #32 among the world’s highest paid athletes. The 2016 Super Bowl was the third most-watched program in U.S. television history, with an estimated 115 million viewers. When America was truly great, a vast majority of the people filled their minds with God’s Word on Sundays. Now they fill their minds with things that are as void of eternal value as a pretty balloon.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH FEATURES HOMOSEXUAL ENTERTAINER

Marcus Pointe Baptist Temple in Pensacola, Florida, illustrates the slippery slope of messing with contemporary music and embracing the accompanying heresy that *grace* equates with non-judgmentalism in matters such as music. The pastor, Gordon Godfrey, spoke at Southwide Baptist Fellowship in 2006 and 2009. In fact, Marcus Pointe hosted the Southwide Fellowship meeting in 2009. Evangelist Tim Lee reported in his blog that year that the meeting “was awesome” and that Marcus Pointe is one of his supporting churches. This “awesome”



church has been on the slippery slope of spiritual compromise for years, and the effect is obvious. This January the Marcus Pointe choir backed up entertainer Barry Manilow on his *One Last Time Tour*. The church’s choir accompanied Manilow in a worldly rock & roll show that included

Manilow’s hit song “Copacabana.” The lyrics begin like this: “Her name was Lola, she was a showgirl/ With yellow feathers in her hair and a dress cut down to there/ She would merengue and do the cha-cha/

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A TRUE PAPAL



Since John Paul II, there have been a string of “apologies” about Rome’s past that, upon examination, prove to be empty. The most recent is Pope Francis’ January 25 apology. It was characterized by U.S. News & World Report and many others as a “sweeping apology for Catholic wrongs committed against other Christians,” but it was nothing of the sort. Here is what the Pope said in St. Peter’s Cathedral: “As the bishop of Rome and pastor of the Catholic Church, I would like to invoke mercy and forgiveness for the non-evangelical behavior of Catholics toward Christians of other churches” (“Pope Francis ... makes sweeping apology,” U.S. News & World Report, Jan. 25, 2016). That is the sweeping apology! “Non-evangelical behavior” is a most amazing way to describe the imprisonment, robbery, torture, torment, burning, and crusading slaughter of millions of “Christians of other churches”! This is not an apology. It is arrogance; it is presumption; it is a lie; it is a further affront. John Paul II’s “apologies” were of the same caliber. Consider “Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past,” published in December 1999. It was written by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI, and it was approved by Pope John Paul II. The latter stated that the “apology” contained in this document would lead to a “new springtime of Christianity.” This report stated that “doubtful means were employed in the pursuit of good ends” and spoke of “intolerance and even the use of force in the service of truth.” That’s it. That’s the “apology.” A genuine papal apology would go something like this: “I am the head of a false church that was formed from rebellion against God’s Word 1600 years ago and that is actually more akin to the whore of Revelation 17. I renounce my false and blasphemous claim to represent Christ on earth and to be the head of all churches. I renounce as heresies the priesthood, sacramental salvation, infant baptism, Mariolatry,

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH FEATURES HOMOSEXUAL ENTERTAINER

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And while she tried to be a star/ Tony always tended bar/ Across the crowded floor, they worked from 8 til 4/ They were young and they had each other/ Who could ask for more?” When a concerned brother in Christ communicated to one of the Marcus Pointe choir members that Manilow is a homosexual who “married” his long-time partner in 2015, the choir member did know and “didn’t seem to care.” One day, it will be evident to such people that the true grace of God is not non-judgmental tolerance of sin and error. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

purgatory, saints, relics, monasticism, and every other thing that is contrary to God’s holy Word and the doctrine and practice of the original churches that Christ founded. I accept the holy Scripture as the sole authority for faith and practice according to the teaching of the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and I renounce every Catholic tradition contrary to Scripture. I decry all claims of supremacy. I denounce all of the horrible things that the Roman Catholic Church has done to people throughout its history. I renounce all of the moral filth that has been committed by popes, cardinals, bishops, priests, monks, and nuns under the guise of Christianity. I repent of these things in sackcloth and ashes before the whole world. I renounce baptismal regeneration and cast myself wholly upon the blood of Jesus Christ for my salvation. May God have mercy on my soul for my participation of Rome’s false affairs.”

MEN CAN COMPETE IN OLYMPICS AS WOMEN UNDER NEW “TRANSGENDER RULES”

The following is excerpted from “Biological men can now compete against women,” Natural News, Jan. 27, 2016: “It has just gotten easier for Olympic-caliber male athletes who always found themselves just a couple ticks away from winning a medal, to finally bring home the gold, silver or bronze: Just deny your gender. That’s right. As noted by Breitbart News, all male Olympians have to do is declare that they’re women, and get some medical treatments that will allow them to reduce their testosterone levels to under 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months, before they will be permitted to compete. And



then they’ll be able to take on the real female athletes. ... Prediction: The Olympic world, in public at least, will applaud this ‘progressive’ rule change, but that may only last until a top-tier female athlete, who has given up everything to train for the opportunity of a lifetime, loses out to a bigger, faster, two-thirds male challenger. Then, these ridiculous rule changes won’t seem so fair--or ‘progressive.’”

PASTOR WHO HELPED EX-LESBIAN FLEE COUNTRY WITH DAUGHTER ORDERED TO PRISON

The following is excerpted from ChristianNews.net, Feb. 3, 2016: “A Mennonite pastor who was convicted of providing assistance to an ex-lesbian who fled the country with her daughter has been ordered to report to prison next month after losing his appeal. As previously reported, Kenneth Miller of Stuarts Draft, Virginia, was convicted in August 2012 for helping Lisa Miller (no relation) and her young daughter Isabella travel to Buffalo, New York, where they crossed the border into Canada and then escaped to Nicaragua. The situation began in 2000, when Lisa Miller, then a homosexual, joined in a civil union with lesbian Janet Jenkins in the state of Vermont. Following an artificial insemination procedure, Miller gave birth to baby Isabella in 2002. In 2003, Miller and Jenkins split, and Miller moved to Virginia. She renounced homosexuality and



reportedly turned to Jesus Christ for salvation. When the civil union was officially dissolved, the court gave custody to Miller, while also granting visitation rights to Jenkins. ... family court judge Richard Cohen warned Miller that she must allow Isabella to visit Jenkins and threatened that if she did not do so, he would transfer full custody to Jenkins. In November 2009, Cohen followed through with his threats. However, Miller had fled the country with Isabella before he issued the transfer order ... It was alleged that Pastor Kenneth Miller had a part helping Miller flee the country. ... In 2013, months after Miller had been convicted of aiding in international kidnapping in federal court, Judge William Sessions gave Miller the maximum sentence of 27 months behind bars as requested by prosecutor Christina Nolan, plus one year of supervised federal probation.”

MUSLIM PLANNED TO SHOOT UP CHURCH BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WOULD BE UNARMED

A Muslim man in Detroit, Michigan, who was arrested recently on federal firearms and illegal drug possession charges was planning to shoot up a church because he believed the people would be unarmed. Khalil Abu-Rayyan was arrested last week,

but he has been under investigation by the FBI since May. Court records quote him as saying, "I tried to shoot up a church one day. I don't know the name of it, but it's close to my job. It's one of the biggest ones in Detroit. ... A lot of



people go there. Plus people are not allowed to carry guns in church. (If I) can't go do jihad at the Middle East, I would do my jihad over here" ("Feds: Dearborn Heights man supports ISIS," The Detroit News, Feb. 6, 2016). He said, "... it is my dream to behead someone." Abu-Rayyan has used Twitter to promote ISIS propaganda since 2014, including the posting of videos of ISIS atrocities such as the burning of a Jordanian pilot.

SOME FAVORITE QUOTES

"Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. ... if the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces" (James Garfield, "A Century of Congress," Atlantic, July 1877; Garfield was the 20th U.S. President).

"I have long been of opinion that the evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid minds" (John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States, 1796, Jay Papers).

"Atheism is a ferocious system that leaves nothing above us to excite awe, nor around us, to awaken tenderness" (Robert Hall, *Modern Infidelity Considered with Respect to Its Influence on Society*, 1800).

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.