FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

OWNERS OF CHRISTIAN BED AND BREAKFAST GIVEN ONEROUS PUNISHMENT FOR REFUSAL TO HOST HOMOSEXUAL CIVIL UNION

The following is excerpted from “Illinois Bed and Breakfast,” ChristianNews.net, Mar. 30, 2016: “The owners of a bed and breakfast in Illinois have been ordered to pay $80,000 after they declined to host a civil union ceremony for two homosexual men on the premises, and have been mandated to facilitate a celebration for the men at their facility within one year. ... In 2011, Todd Wathen contacted TimberCreek via email to inquire if the bed and breakfast would be hosting civil union ceremonies after Illinois approved the unions that year via the ‘Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.’ Jim Walder replied that the facility had no such plans, and advised Wathen that ‘homosexuality is immoral and unnatural,’ and that ‘it’s not too late to change your behavior.’ Three days later, Wathen filed a discrimination complaint with the Illinois Human Rights Commission. The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) also soon became involved and sought emotional damages for Wathen and his partner, Mark. Now, Michael Robinson, an administrative law judge appointed by the Commission, has ordered Walder to pay $30,000 in damages to the men ($15,000 each), as well as $50,000 in attorney’s fees and more than $1,200 in costs. Robinson also mandated that Walder follow the Illinois

U.K. PRISON CHAPLAIN FIRED FOR QUOTING BIBLE

The following is excerpted from “Christian Prison Chaplain,” Christianity Today, Mar. 17, 2016: ‘A prison chaplain who was accused of reading ‘homophobic’ Bible verses to prisoners has lost his claim for unfair dismissal. The Rev. Barry Trayhorn, a Pentecostal minister, said he was discriminated against when he was reprimanded for the Bible verses he read to prisoners at HMP Littlehey where he worked as a gardener and led services in the chapel as a volunteer. He said the passages were about God’s love and he had wanted to explain the concept of forgiveness to the prisoners. In one service he read [read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11] which condemns homosexual behaviour. He was given a final warning by prison authorities who found he had breached equality laws. Trayhorn claimed he had been forced out of his paid job as a gardener as a result. The Christian Legal Centre backed him in his constructive dismissal case. The tribunal found he spoke in an ‘insensitive’ way which failed to have regard for the special nature of the congregation in the prison.

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The following is excerpted from “Hillary Clinton” by Mark Ellis, blog.godreports.com, Mar. 21, 2016: “In late 1994, President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, invited a group of popular self-help authors to Camp David to help them find answers after the Democrat's devastating loss to the Republicans in the 1994 congressional elections. ... One was Jean Houston, co-director of the Foundation for Mind Research, which studies psychic experience and altered and expanded consciousness. ... 'Houston believed that her personal archetypal predecessor was Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. She conducted extensive dialogues with Athena on her computer that she called 'docking with one's angel.' Houston wore an ancient Hellenistic coin of Athena set in a medallion around her neck all the time.' ... On her visit to the White House in early April 1995, Houston proposed that Hillary dig deeper for her connections to Mrs. Roosevelt. ... Hillary sat back in her seat and closed her eyes. ‘You’re walking down a hall,’ Houston said, ‘and there’s Mrs. Roosevelt. Now let’s describe her.’ Hillary proceeded to describe what she saw. Houston instructed Mrs. Clinton to go to Eleanor and speak to her ... Hillary entered into a long discourse directed toward the former first lady. Houston asked the first lady to further open up herself to Mrs. Roosevelt, borrowing a technique ‘practiced by Machiavelli’ ... Bob Woodward says this session with Houston--which some labeled a séance--lasted an hour. ... Another well-known psychic, Marianne Williamson, participated in some of the sessions, according to Eric Barger. ... She spent the night in the White House when the Clintons were there and went up to the rooftop solarium for the séances, he says. In 1994 Esquire magazine reported that Hillary Clinton was a devotee of Williamson, that Williamson was spending nights in the Lincoln bedroom, and the pair were staying up late exploring how to heal America. ... Paul Kengor, author of God and Hillary Clinton, says Hillary was involved in ‘clairaudient channeling,’ which ‘involves relaxing oneself in either a fully conscious or mildly altered state of consciousness and then listening to one’s inner-self.’”
PLASTIC FRUIT CHRISTIANITY AND ITS ADJUSTABLE JESUS

The following is excerpted from Matt Walsh, “If Your Church Makes Christianity ‘Cool’ and Comfortable, You Should Find a New Church,” Dec. 17, 2015: “The preview for [Rich Wilkerson’s] new reality show intersperses clips of Pastor Rich cavorting on the beach with his scantily clad wife with footage of him shouting self-help cliches. [Wilkinson is the pastor of a church in Miami and officiated at the wedding of Kim Kardashian and blasphemous rapper Kayne West who calls himself God.] ... At one point, Rich reveals to the viewing audience his insightful pastoral motto: ‘I don’t think people are interested in a bunch of religion—like, yo, tell me what I can and can’t do—but I think people are interested in a relationship with a higher power.’ In the article, he explains that the Gospel does not demand ‘behavior modification.’ ... These days, churches increasingly cater to Christians who hate Christianity but still want to be ‘spiritual.’ ... They want the appearance of the dish but none of the ingredients whatsoever. What they end up with, then, is a meal similar to the kind my 2-year-old daughter serves after she’s ‘made dinner’ in her Fisher-Price kitchenette: a colorful plate filled with plastic fruit and imagination. I think the phrase ‘personal relationship with Jesus’ (or ‘a higher power,’ as Pastor Rich so fashionably put it) has been especially useful to the practitioners of Plastic Fruit Christianity. ... When many people speak of a Personal Jesus, what they really desire is an Adjustable Jesus. They want to be disciples on their own terms; to calibrate their religion to a more relaxing, luxurious setting; to throw out the difficult, challenging aspects of Belief and put something customized and convenient in its place. When these folks say ‘my personal relationship with Jesus,’ all that really registers is the ‘my.’”

THE CLINTON’S PASTOR IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The following is excerpted from “Hillary Clinton” by Mark Ellis, blog.godreports.com, Mar. 21, 2016: “Another one of Hillary’s major spiritual influences during her time in the White House was Rev. J. Philip Wogaman, the pastor at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington D.C., which the Clintons attended. In 1995 the Daily News quoted Rev. Wogaman saying, ‘The Scriptures, like the Washington Post, contain both truth and error.’ He also said, ‘The government, not the church, is the answer for the poor,’ and, ‘Drug abuse, murder, unethical business practices, family breakup and homelessness were created by unrestrained laissez-faire capitalism.’ In 1986, Rev. Wogaman called for ‘revenue sharing on a world scale.’ He also taught that God is both he and she and talked about one-world government and building a world religion. ‘They put the homosexual couples in the front row of the church,’ Eric Barger notes. ‘That was pretty provocative over 20 years ago.’”

Former First Family visits, speaks at Foundry UMC’s 200th Anniversary Celebration
ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD TAKING THE DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

We have been urging parents and churches to become more serious about discipling and training the youth, and we were encouraged to receive the following testimony from a pastor recently: “I have signed a number of our people up to take your One Year Discipleship Course. Some have jumped in and are doing well. Some need extra encouragement. It really surprises me how intimidating doing a course seems to some. I’m looking at having contests and Tim Hortons’ gift cards to keep the momentum going. My 11-year-old daughter is taking the course and typically spends between 15 and 20 minutes Monday and Tuesday reading the course and looking up the verses and then does the quiz on Wednesday or Thursday. If an 11-year-old can do that, an adult can certainly do it. I appreciate the work you have put into these courses. I like the depth ... Until you came out with this course I tried a few different ones but was never satisfied with certain aspects of them.”

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 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/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, fhms@wayoflife.org.