
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

OBAMA'S TRANSGENDER EDICT

The following is excerpted from "Transgender edict: You will be made to comply," OneNewsNow.com, Aug. 18, 2016: "The Obama administration has announced it is imposing its transgender bathroom policy on thousands of federal buildings across the country. NBC News reports the notice has been issued today in the Federal Register. According to the notice, 'federal agencies occupying space under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the GSA [General Services Administration] must allow individuals to use restroom facilities and related areas consistent with their gender identity.' The rule applies to federal courthouses and offices of government agencies such as the Social Service Administration and the Department of Veteran Affairs. It doesn't apply to the U.S. Capitol or to national parks because they aren't under GSA control. The federal notice also states: '...

[T]he self-identification of gender identity by any individual is sufficient to establish which restroom or other single-sex facilities should be used.' The NBC report also notes that the administration's edict states that the requirement to provide equal access cannot be met by requiring transgender employees and visitors to use single-user washrooms."



ALBUQUERQUE SCHOOL TEACHERS INSTRUCTED NOT TO CALL STUDENTS BOYS AND GIRLS

The following is excerpted from "Teachers at school directed to stop addressing students as 'boys and girls,'" KOB-TV, Albuquerque, New Mexico, KOB4.com, Aug. 19, 2016: "Teachers at Carlos Rey Elementary School are in a tough situation after their assistant principal told them to stop calling their students 'boys and girls.' It seems the school administrators decided to take the new transgender bathroom policy for Albuquerque Public Schools a step further. This appears to be the first example of something that started as a bathroom issue now expanding into daily life in the classroom. A letter sent to teachers at Carlos Rey this month titled 'Gender Identity Procedural Directive' states teachers can no longer refer to their students as boys and girls starting this month, telling them to eliminate gender in their

classrooms. ... Adrien Lawyer with the Transgender Resource Center believes the assistant principal was actually trying to do the right thing. 'What the principal was trying to say is let's think about how we address students and all of the gendered language that we use all day every day and whether or not we really have to do that,' he said. Lawyer said that kind of policy would have taken a lot of the daily suffering out of his childhood, growing up as a girl who knew in his heart he was a boy. ... The district said this was a complete mistake on the assistant principal's part and that she was immediately addressing the overreach. APS said nowhere in their transgender policy does it say to not call students boys and girls. Sources at the school, however, tell KOB they were told to continue with that policy."

HOMESCHOOLING IS SMARTEST WAY TO TEACH KIDS

The following is excerpted from “Homeschooling is the smartest way to teach kids in the 21st century,” *Business Insider*, Aug. 20, 2016: “Alison Davis doesn’t see homeschooling as some strange alternative to traditional school. If anything, says the mom from Williamstown, New Jersey, when it comes to raising her two children, she’s doing the sensible thing. ‘You’re not going to be put in a work environment where everybody came from the same school and everybody is the same age,’ she tells *Business Insider*. ‘In my opinion, the traditional school atmosphere is not the real world at all.’



‘Homeschooling,’ she says, ‘that’s the real world.’ Davis’ satisfaction with keeping her kids out of local public and private schools is one shared by a growing pool of parents around the U.S. Recent data collected by the Department of Education reveals homeschooling has grown by 61.8% over the

last 10 years to the point where two million kids--4% of the total youth population--now learn from the comfort of their own home. Contrary to the belief that homeschooling produces anti-social outcasts, the truth is that some of the most high-achieving, well-adjusted students are poring over math problems at

continued on next page...

BLACK FAMILY OF “GENIUSES” CREDIT HOMESCHOOLING

The following is excerpted from “This Black ‘Family of Geniuses,’” *Atlanta Black Star*, Aug. 17, 2016: “A multi-talented family has taken Boca Raton, Florida, by storm with their incredible academic achievements. The family of 11 includes two teenage daughters who have graduated college with master’s degrees and a mother who is an

architect and attorney. In a July 30 profile, the Bush family reveals their secret to success—homeschooling. The children have been homeschooled and have been immersed in the arts and sciences since they were very young. Gabrielle Bush tells NBC’s ‘TODAY’ that she wants everyone to have accessible healthcare. At just 19, the young woman is working in her chosen field after earning two degrees. However, her sister may have topped her. Grace Bush, 18, graduated college and high school at 16 and earned a master’s degree at 18. She hopes to be a Supreme Court Justice.”



HOMESCHOOLING IS SMARTEST WAY TO TEACH KIDS ...continued from previous page

their kitchen table, not a desk in a classroom. **According to leading pedagogical research, at-home instruction may just be the most relevant, responsible, and effective way to educate children in the 21st century.** ... Davis says her son Luke struggled early on with reading. Even into the second grade, he didn't enjoy it and found it overwhelming. In any other school, teachers may not have been able to spend the necessary time helping Luke become a stronger reader because they had 20 other kids to worry about. That's not the case in the Davis household. 'I could take that extra time with him,' Davis says. Plus, reading time became more than just a push toward literacy; it was Mommy-Luke bonding time--something no school could compete with. 'Now he devours books in like a week's time or less,' she says. The long-term effects of personalization are equally massive. According to a 2009 study of standardized testing, homeschoolers scored in the 86th percentile. The results held true even when controlling for parents'

income level, amount of education, teaching credentials, and level of state regulation. Research also suggests that homeschooled kids get into college more often and do better once they're enrolled. ... The biggest stereotype surrounding homeschooling is that constant one-on-one teaching deprives kids of the socialization they need to thrive. Not so. Homeschooled kids are just as likely to play soccer and do group projects as any other students. Davis' family is heavily involved in their local church, so Luke and his older sister Amanda both have friends in the choir. They both play an instrument, so they have friends in a homeschooler orchestra. ... It's not just that homeschooled kids enjoy the upside of normal school, though; they also get to enjoy the absence of its many drawbacks--namely peer pressure and cliques. On several occasions, Alison says, other kids have expressed jealousy that Luke and Amanda get to learn at home, away from the social hierarchies of normal school."

FOLLOWING MARY'S INSTRUCTIONS, CATHOLICS SMASH ROCKS FOR GOOD LUCK

The following is excerpted from "Thousands of Catholics smash rocks," ChristianToday.com, Aug. 17, 2016: "Every year, in the third week of August, Bolivian Catholics meet on the outskirts of La Paz, a cultural centre in the west of the country. There, they collect river rocks and try to break them. The rite is performed to call for blessings as part of the festival of the Virgin of Urkupiña. Legend has it that Virgin Mary appeared to a shepherd girl to instruct her to take rocks from this dried river that miraculously turned into silver when she reached home, pulling her family out of poverty. Pilgrims strike rocks to try to similarly improve their fortunes. When a rock is easily split, they believe their wish will be soon fulfilled. If they have more difficulty striking and splitting the rock, it will take more time. 'You can ask for a house, a car, all your wishes are fulfilled,' said believer Ricardo Tarqui. 'I broke the rock with a second blow and in a third attempt. I have been able to buy a house and also a car.' Lots of other activities take place as part of the festival, including a huge parade and a central Mass."



FINCHES SING TO UNBORN CHICKS

The following is excerpted from “Birds sing special song to babies through the shell,” news.sky.com, Aug. 20, 2016: “One species sings a special song to their eggs to warn their offspring if the weather outside is getting too hot. On hearing the song, baby zebra finches hatch sooner and gain less weight--meaning they’re smaller and better able to keep themselves cool. Ducks and chickens also ‘speak’ to their eggs, meaning that when they hatch they already recognise their parents by their voices. ... Scientists spotted the behaviour among captive zebra finches in Australia--while they often call to one another, they noticed that sometimes the birds sang a specific song when alone with their eggs. This occurred when the weather was warmer, and it was found that it caused the birds to hatch sooner.”



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.

MONK WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE WORLD'S OLDEST MAN ATTRIBUTES LONGEVITY TO YOGA



Hindu monk Swami Sivananda claims to be 120 years old and attributes his longevity to a yogic lifestyle. His passport says he was

born on Aug. 8, 1896, which was based on a temple record. An Agence France Presse report notes that “it would be extremely difficult to independently verify his age” (“Oldest Indian man ever,” *The Himalayan Times*, Aug. 19, 2016). Regardless of his age, he is far from the oldest man who ever lived. According to the Bible, the most accurate record of human history, Methuselah died at age 969 (Genesis 5:25-27). In Christ's kingdom, man's normal lifespan will increase dramatically as in the days before the Flood (Zechariah 8:4-5). Man's lifespan in the kingdom is likened to “the days of a tree” (Isa. 65:22). Isaiah says, “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed” (Isa. 65:20). This means that if a man dies at age 100, it will be like a toddler dying in this present age. Some will die prematurely because of unrepentant sin.