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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## ISRAEL'S MILITARY WAS FORCED INTO ACCEPTING WOMEN IN COMBAT POSITIONS BY ITS SUPREME COURT



The following is excerpted from “The Political Correctness of Women in Combat,” *Israel Today*, Nov. 21, 2016: “[T]he IDF is starting a new experimental program to fully integrate women into the Armored Corps. Women can already serve in the Armored Corps, but not (yet) as tank crew members. The program aims to determine how mixed tank crews function under normal training conditions. If successful, women would be able to join any combat role in the IDF except for elite special forces. ... Many in Israel are questioning why we are now repeating the failed experiment of 2015, when the ability of women to serve in the Armored and Artillery corps was thoroughly examined. At the

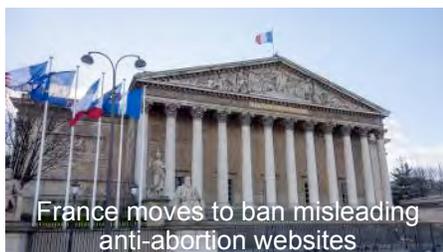
time, the army’s psychological and medical experts concluded that ‘the attempt to train women for frontline combat roles (which is beyond their physical ability) for the sake of *equality* may result in many injuries just to find the one woman who can cope with the required physical demands.’ The army also argued that a woman’s special privacy needs couldn’t be accommodated by crews operating for days at a time in their tanks. IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE IDF WAS FORCED INTO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BY THE SUPREME COURT BACK IN 1995, following the appeal of Alice Miller, who sued the military for her right to enlist into the prestigious Aviation Course. In a historic decision, the court deemed the ban on female recruits to the Aviation Course to be unconstitutional. Backed by the likes of the feminist

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## FRANCE DEBATES BILL TO CRIMINALIZE ONLINE PRO-LIFE ADVOCACY

The following is excerpted from CNSNews.com, Dec. 1, 2016: “French lawmakers on Thursday will debate and vote on a Socialist government-backed draft law that could criminalize online pro-life advocacy. The legislation would extend the ambit of already-illegal ‘interference’ in abortion to cover digital media. Any website carrying material that is deemed to be ‘deliberately misleading, intimidating and/or exerting psychological or moral pressure’ aimed at persuading a mother not to abort her child could face criminal charges, with punishments of



two years in prison and a fine of 30,000 euros (\$31,800). ... France legalized abortion on demand until the end of the 12th week of pregnancy – or what is known officially as ‘voluntary interruption of pregnancy’ (*L'interruption volontaire de grossesse* or IVG)--in 1975. In 1993 another law was passed, creating the offense of hindering or interfering in an abortion--aimed at preventing pro-life activists from physically blocking access to, or occupying or otherwise targeting

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**ISRAEL'S MILITARY...**

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Women's Lobby and the ultra-liberal Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the case effectively TRANSFORMED THE ISSUE OF WOMEN IN COMBAT FROM A PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION TO AN IDEOLOGICAL CRUSADE. The IDF's present efforts to find ways for women to serve in all military units have elicited harsh criticism from retired colonels and generals who think that such ideology can only be detrimental to the army as it takes precedent over real military demands. ... Whether it is a good idea or not, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF WOMEN IN COMBAT HAS TURNED COMPLETELY POLITICAL, WHICH MEANS THAT THE FUTURE FIGHTING CAPABILITY OF THE IDF WILL NOW BE DICTATED BY POLITICAL CORRECTNESS" (emphasis added).

**FRANCE DEBATES BILL...**

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abortion facilities. ... The law was later broadened to cover 'moral and psychological pressure' aimed at dissuading abortion, and the legislation now under consideration seeks to widen that further into the digital realm. In the new law's crosshairs are websites like IVG.net, which offers counselling, practical support, and resources that include information about medical and psychological risks entailed in having an abortion. ... In other recent abortion-related developments in France, judicial authorities recently ruled that a video featuring children with Down syndrome could not be broadcast on public television on the grounds that the children's smiles may 'disturb' women who have had abortions. Earlier this year, a mandatory one-week waiting period before abortion was abolished."

## FORMATIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The following is by J.M. Pendleton, *Church Manual Designed for the Use of Baptist Churches*, 1867: "It is clear from these Scriptures (Eph. 2:21, 22; 4:12, 13; 2 Peter 1:5-7; 3:18) that Christians should ever be in a state of progressive spiritual improvement. They must not retrograde, nor remain stationary, but be constantly advancing in the divine life. The 'perfecting of the saints' is an object of vast importance. ... **Formative church discipline** contemplates the vigorous growth of the 'babe in Christ' till it is developed into 'a perfect man.' Bringing the baptized disciples into local church organizations has this purpose in view. They are to be taught 'to observe all things whatsoever Christ has commanded.' By such observance alone can a church edify itself in love, building up its members on their most holy faith. By

such observance is promoted the symmetry of Christian character, and in it are included all the activities of the Christian life. **Formative discipline**, in its sanctifying influences, ought to reach every church-member. The old, with their gray hairs, should exhibit its beneficial power in the ripeness of the fruits of the Spirit. The middle-aged, in the perfection of physical strength, should also show that it makes them 'strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.' And the young, in the morning of life, should yield to its plastic touches, that they may become useful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. All have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ and 'should live, not to themselves, but to him who died and rose again'" (Pendleton, *Church Manual Designed for the Use of Baptist Churches*, 1867).

## MENNONITES PERSECUTED FOR HELPING EX-LESBIAN WHO FLED COUNTRY WITH DAUGHTER

The following is excerpted from “American Missionary to Nicaragua,” ChristianNews.net, Dec. 1, 2016: “An American missionary to Nicaragua entered a guilty plea on Wednesday to a charge of conspiracy in international parental kidnapping for helping an ex-lesbian flee the U.S. with her child seven years ago. .... Miller, also known as Timo, lives in Crossville, Tennessee, but conducts missions work in Managua, Nicaragua. He now faces 12 to 18 months in prison for purchasing plane tickets for Lisa Miller (no relation) and her daughter to fly from Canada to Nicaragua, and then helping them find refuge in the country. The woman had fled the United States after being threatened by a federal judge that he would transfer custody of the child to the woman’s ex-partner if she did not allow the girl to have further visitation. As previously reported, according to the criminal complaint filed in 2011, Timothy Miller allegedly used his mother-in-law’s credit card to pay for Lisa Miller’s plane tickets to fly out of Canada--funds that he reimbursed. He then picked up Miller and her daughter in Managua and helped them to find refuge in the country. ... The situation began in 2000, when Lisa Miller joined in a civil union with lesbian Janet Jenkins in the state of Vermont, one of the few states that allowed homosexual arrangements at the time. Following an artificial insemination procedure from a male sperm donor, Miller gave birth to a girl, named Isabella, in 2002. ... In 2003, Miller and Jenkins split over continued tension in their relationship, part of which involved the miscarriage of Miller’s second pregnancy, and Miller moved to Virginia. She renounced her involvement in homosexuality and reportedly turned to Jesus Christ to be born again. ... When the civil union between Miller and Jenkins was officially dissolved, the court gave custody to Miller, while also granting visitation rights to Jenkins. ... Later, Miller testified to the court that the visits were causing great trauma to

Isabella. She claimed that at six years old, the girl was forced to take baths together with Jenkins, and that the girl was openly touching herself inappropriately. She also stated that Isabella was withdrawn and talked about suicide at times. ... Miller then filed for exclusive custody of Isabella, and the court agreed. ... However, Jenkins fought the ruling all the way up to the Virginia Supreme Court, which in 2008, ruled in favor of granting Miller’s former lesbian partner visitation rights. Miller refused. The following year, 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 and ordered Miller to hand the child over to Jenkins. However, Miller had fled the country with Isabella before he issued the transfer order, and for some time, none knew the whereabouts of the two. It was later discovered that they had fled to Nicaragua via the help of a number of Mennonite Christians and their contacts. ... Mennonite pastor Ken Miller is currently serving 27 months behind bars for his alleged part in the escape after being convicted in 2012. Businessman Phillip Zodhiates, who is not Mennonite, was found guilty by a jury in October and is scheduled to be sentenced in January.”



*Mennonite pastor Ken Miller and family.*



## AN 80-MILE-PER HOUR FISH

The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 24, 2016: “Many fish are surprisingly fast when they’re hunting for lunch. Which species do you think is the fastest-swimming fish in the ocean? Some people say it’s the sailfish. Sailfish have been clocked at a speed of 68 miles per hour while leaping. Others say black marlins hold the record. According to BBC Video, marlins are capable of swimming at speeds up to an incredible 80 miles per hour! But today’s broadcast is about another fish that’s been clocked doing 80. I’m talking about the swordfish. Recently, scientists have discovered the secret behind the swordfish’s incredible speed. For a long time, scientists have known that the swordfish’s bill--or ‘sword’--is porous and rough. This reduces drag in

the water. But now a scientist has discovered that swordfish have a gland--located where their ‘sword’ attaches to their skull--and this gland secretes water-resistant oil which coats the swordfish’s skin. According to Dr. John Videler, a biologist and professor at Groningen University in the Netherlands, the oil reduces drag in the water by 20 percent (‘Secret to Swordfish’s Speedy Swimming Found,’ *Live Science*, July 7, 2016)! Until now, it was thought that the gland played a part in the fish’s olfactory system. But these new findings make it more clear than ever that swordfish were designed and built for speed. Our Creator gave them powerful, streamlined bodies and everything else they need ... just as He has given us everything we need!”

### 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](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).