
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

AMERICA'S MORAL INSANITY CONTINUES APACE

Last week, 23 Republicans joined all of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives to defeat an amendment that would have ended Barack Obama's policy of funding "gender-reassignment" surgery for soldiers. The amendment was offered by Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R, Mo.), who said during debate on the bill, "Military members undergoing transition surgery are non-deployable for up to 267 days. Similarly, regular hormone treatments renders individuals non-deployable into the future. It makes no sense to create soldiers who are unable to fight and win our nation's wars and unfair to non-transitioning individuals who must leave their families and deploy in their place" ("House rejects attempt to ban transgender surgery for troops," AP, Jul. 13, 2017). Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, a Marine veteran, said, "Figure out whether you're man or a woman before you join. U.S. taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill." This is a moral issue as well as a military readiness issue, and



the fact that the Republicans can't pass something as common-sense and widely supported as this is evidence that the nation is under God's curse for its wickedness. (According to a Rasmussen poll, only 23% of Americans believe that opening the military to transgenders is right.) "As for my people, children *are* their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause *thee* to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE



The following is excerpted from Dr. Peter Saunders, Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) Chief Executive, CMFblog.org.uk: "So how should Christians respond to the phenomenon of transgender? **First, we need to see it through the lens of creation.** The Bible is unashamedly binary. Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created man in his own image--male and female. This is perfectly consistent with what we see in nature--male and female are different--genetically, hormonally and physically. Researchers have identified 6,500 genes that are expressed differently in men and women. **Next, we must appreciate that we live in a fallen world** where our collective rejection of God (Genesis 3) has affected the human race at

continued on next page ...

HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE

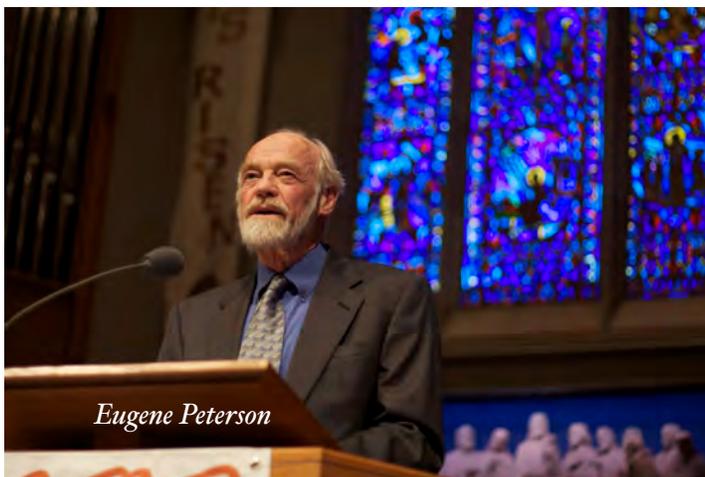
....continued from front page

all levels--physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual--so we should expect to find conditions like intersex and transgender. People affected by these conditions are often deeply hurting and we need to treat them with the love and respect we should show to any human being made in God's image. We are all tainted by the consequences of the fall and we are all sinners in need of God's forgiveness. **Third, we must not capitulate to transgender ideology.** Loving people does not mean affirming their false beliefs, using their chosen names, admitting them to their chosen facilities, allowing them to compete as the opposite sex in sports events and offering them hormones and

gender reassignment surgery. That is not love--it's actually a form of abuse. You might get called a transphobic bigot or worse. But the Bible, science and common sense are on your side. God created us male and female. It's really that simple. **Fourth, we must grasp the gospel opportunity transgender presents.** Jesus welcomed everyone but in so doing he did not endorse all their beliefs and behaviour. Rather he called them to repentance and faith--to a life of obedience enabled by the Spirit, to be transformed by the renewal of their minds (Romans 12:1-2). And he called them to find their identity not in their chosen gender, or anything else, but in him."

EUGENE PETERSON COMES OUT IN SUPPORT OF HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANS

In an interview with Religion News Service on July 12, Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, said that he does not believe that homosexuality is sinful. He said, "I know a lot of people who are gay and lesbian and they seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do. I think that kind of debate about lesbians and gays might be over. People who disapprove of it, they'll probably just go to another church. So we're in a transition and I think it's a transition for the best, for the good." Peterson told the RNS that the church he pastored hired a homosexual minister of music and that in churches where he served as associate pastor,



"There were several women who were lesbians." In the interview, Peterson also said that if asked to do so he would preside over a same sex marriage, but he later retracted that, leaving the rest of his comments to stand. In light of Peterson's statements, it is not surprising that in *The Message* every passage condemning homosexuality is tampered with. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 in the KJV speaks of "effeminate" and "abusers themselves with mankind." In *The Message* this becomes the vapid and almost meaningless "those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex." In 1 Timothy 1:10,

continued on next page ...

EUGENE PETERSON COMES OUT IN SUPPORT OF HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANS

....continued from PREVIOUS page

“them that defile themselves with mankind” is changed to “the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever.” *The Message* is extremely popular and influential among “evangelicals.” It is one of the versions most frequently used by Rick Warren and has been recommended by Jack Hayford, J.I. Packer, Michael Card, Joni Earckson Tada, Bill Hybels, Bill Gaither, Chuck Swindoll, John Maxwell, Max Lucado, Michael W. Smith, to name a few. It is called a “translational-paraphrase” and is said to “unfold like a gripping novel.” In fact, it IS a novel! (For more on this see the report “Eugene Peterson and The Message” at the Way of Life web site.)

BEWARE OF BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING

The following is excerpted from “Getting Wasted with the Holy Spirit at Bethel Redding,” <http://www.spiritoferror.org>: “When I recently attended the Firestarters adult Sunday School class at Bethel Church in Redding, California, I was shocked by the teacher’s announcement at the start of the class. ‘There are only three rules in this class. Rule 1: Get drunk. Rule 2: Stay drunk. Rule 3: Get other people drunk.’ Those are not exactly words you expect to hear at a church. Yet the encouragement to ‘get drunk’ was a theme that ran through the entire two-hour class. ‘Let’s get drunk. Let’s enjoy ourselves,’ the teacher said. He also told the students, who were standing at the time, to hold out their hands in the air in front of their bodies to form the outline of imaginary, huge bottles of ‘heavenly wine,’ then pretend to chug from them. Many of the students responded gleefully to the teacher’s directions. They acted as if they were actually drunk--laughing uncontrollably, staggering, and some even falling down. One middle-aged woman, at a table near mine, lay back in her chair, as if passed out, for much of the class. At a point later during the class--between

the testimony sharing time and instruction on learning to prophesy--the teacher sensed it was time for another drink. He told the students, who were now seated, ‘Pick up a pitcher off the table and drink it down’--to which many laughed again, and dutifully responded by forming more ‘air pitchers’ with their hands and pretending to drink from them. Participants in the class would describe their actions as ‘drinking from the Holy Spirit’--as would other participants in the New Apostolic Reformation.”



SCIENTISTS BREED GOATS TO PRODUCE SPIDER SILK



The following is excerpted from “Scientists Breed Goats,” PhysOrg.com, May 31, 2010: “Researchers from the University of Wyoming have developed a way to incorporate spiders’ silk-spinning genes into goats, allowing the researchers to harvest the silk protein from the goats’ milk for a variety of applications. For instance, due to its strength and elasticity,

spider silk fiber could have several medical uses, such as for making artificial ligaments and tendons, for eye sutures, and for jaw repair. The silk could also have applications in bulletproof vests and improved car airbags. Normally, getting enough spider silk for these applications requires large numbers of spiders. However, spiders tend to be territorial, so when the researchers tried to set up spider farms, the spiders killed each other. To solve this problem, Randy Lewis, a professor of molecular biology at the University of Wyoming, and other researchers decided to put the spiders’ dragline silk gene into goats in such a way that the goats would only make the protein in their milk. ... In the future, the scientists plan to incorporate the silk genes into alfalfa plants, which they say could produce even larger quantities of silk.”

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.