
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

TRUMP APPLAUDS/PROMOTES HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

The following is excerpted from “Donald Trump Applauds,” *Breitbart*, Feb. 21, 2020: “President Donald Trump applauded the release of an upcoming Bollywood film featuring its first-ever gay male lead, as his administration continues to push for the decriminalization of homosexuality around the world. Trump applauded the news shared by the left-wing British human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, who noted how the film was ‘hoping to win over older people following the decriminalization of homosexuality.’ In a sure sign of his approval, Trump simply wrote: ‘Great!’ ... Homosexuality became fully legalized across India back in 2018 when the country’s Supreme Court ruled that Section 377, a piece of colonial-era legislation banning sexual acts ‘against the order of nature’ was unconstitutional. Trump’s pleasure is likely the result of his administration’s policy of pushing for the decriminalization of homosexuality around the world, with countries including Botswana, Chad, Angola, and Trinidad and Tobago also choosing to



President Donald Trump

legalize the act since he took power in 2017. Last May, Trump even marked Pride celebrations by praising the ‘outstanding contributions’ LGBT people have made to America’s history while calling on people to ‘stand in solidarity with the many LGBT people who live in dozens of countries worldwide that punish, imprison, or even execute individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation.’”

THE PRESIDENT PARDONS ANOTHER BATCH OF CRIMINALS; I GOT A PARDON, TOO



On February 18, President Trump pardoned seven people from federal crimes, making a total of about 30 he has pardoned. The U.S. president has the authority to pardon anyone convicted of federal crimes. According to the U.S. Constitution, “He shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment” (Article II, Section 2). In 2014, Trump pardoned conservative commentator Dinesh D’Souza who was convicted of illegally using straw

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WOMAN SAYS IT'S DUMB TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER MEASLES

The following is excerpted from “Woman Says It’s Dumb,” *The Daily Wire*, Dec. 29, 2019: “Three women were interviewed during a recent *Fox News* segment regarding the potential exposure to measles at five major U.S. airports. One ... woman said: ‘Measles is not a big deal to me at all. When I was a child I had the measles. It’s an insignificant disease, and I think it’s stupid that people are making such a big deal out of it.’ [This woman] isn’t alone. The modern anti-vaccine movement was, in part, sparked by a 1998 *Lancet* paper by former doctor Andrew Wakefield and a dozen colleagues in which it was proposed that the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine might lead to autism in children. According to a 2011 article by T. S. Sathyanarayana Rao and Chittaranjan Andrade, following the publication of the *Lancet* article, it came to light that Wakefield had not only received funding from ‘lawyers who had been engaged by parents in lawsuits against vaccine-producing companies,’ but that the purported study on which his paper was based was significantly flawed. Wakefield was later found to be ‘guilty of deliberate fraud,’ having cherry-picked data and ‘falsified facts,’ reports Rao and Andrade. According to journalist Brian Deer, the *Lancet* retracted the controversial paper in 2010, and Wakefield, as well as colleague John Walker-Smith, were ‘struck off

the medical register’ in the U.K. Moreover, the study has since been debunked multiple times over. Despite this, several high-profile celebrities, like pop-culture guru Jenny McCarthy, have pushed anti-vaccine talking points for years, helping to keep the small but vocal anti-vaccination community alive. Here are the facts. According to the CDC, there have been 1,276 cases of measles in the United States in 2019. This is the highest number of cases in a single year since the disease was ‘declared eradicated’ in 2000. ... [CDC says] ‘three outbreaks in New York State, New York City, and New Jersey, respectively, contributed to most of the cases.’ Cases in those states occurred primarily among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities. ‘Over the last 18 years, measles vaccination alone is estimated to have saved more than 23 million lives,’ reports the World Health Organization (WHO). Even with the proliferation of the vaccine, in 2018, approximately 140,000 people across the world died from measles. Prior to the development of the measles vaccine in 1963, the annual death rate from the disease in the United States was between 400 and 500. The potential complications from measles are numerous, including ear infections that ‘can result in permanent hearing loss,’ pneumonia, and encephalitis.”

ANOTHER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY OVER CHILD ABUSE LIABILITIES



The Roman Catholic Church in America has paid over \$2 billion to settle lawsuits against immoral priests.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has filed for bankruptcy in the face of millions of dollars in liabilities over child sex abuse by priests. The diocese has settled 111 cases, but there are an estimated 200 more. It claims liabilities of between \$50 million and \$100 million, with assets of less than \$10 million. The announcement comes after the disclosure that the diocese paid \$12 million to people abused as children. In 2018, a grand jury

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donors to funnel donations to a Republican Senate candidate. Last year, Trump pardoned Michael Behenna, former U.S. Army Ranger convicted of murdering an Iraqi bomber who had planted an IED that killed two of Behenna's fellow soldiers. He also pardoned Maj. Mathew Golsteyn who had been charged with murdering a Taliban bomb maker. In 1973, I was pardoned of all of my crimes against Almighty God. I was "condemned already" by the Highest Court in the universe (John 3:18), and my punishment would have been eternal judgment in the lake of fire. My pardon was issued by the Judge Himself, based on the fact that His only begotten Son took my due punishment and satisfied His law. Not only was I pardoned, I was adopted into the Judge's family and made a joint heir with His Son.

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concluded that more than 1,000 children were abused by Roman Catholic priests in six Pennsylvania dioceses alone over the last several decades. The report, the product of a two-year investigation, identified 300 abusing priests and lay "brothers" and found evidence of a systematic cover-up by senior church leaders in Pennsylvania and at the Vatican in Rome ("Report Identifies More Than 1,000," Associated Press, Aug. 14, 2018). At a news conference, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said, "The cover-up was sophisticated. And all the while, shockingly, church leadership kept records of the abuse and the cover-up. These documents, from the dioceses' own 'Secret Archives,' formed the backbone of this investigation." The six dioceses represent only half of the Catholic churches in Pennsylvania. Most of the victims were boys. The Roman Catholic Church in America has paid over \$2 billion to settle lawsuits against immoral priests. The Bishop Accountability organization said that more than 4,000 priests have been accused of abusing children ("US Church to Pay 12.6 Million," AFP, Aug. 11, 2008). A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: "... the overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church--about 90%--involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal." So far, at least 22 Catholic dioceses and religious orders in the U.S. have filed for bankruptcy.



SMARTPHONE/SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION

The following is excerpted from “Your smartphone is making you stupid, antisocial and unhealthy,” *The Globe and Mail*, Apr. 10, 2018: “If we have lost control over our relationship with smartphones, it is by design. In fact, the business model of the devices demands it. Because most popular websites and apps don’t charge for access, the internet is financially sustained by eyeballs. That is, the longer and more often you spend staring at Facebook or Google, the more money they can charge advertisers. To ensure that our eyes remain firmly glued to our screens, our smartphones--and the digital worlds they connect us to--internet giants have become little virtuosos of persuasion, cajoling us into checking them again and again--and for longer than we intend. Average users look at their phones about 150 times a day, according to some estimates, and about twice as often as they think they do, according to a 2015 study by British psychologists. Add it all up and North American users spend somewhere between three and five hours a day looking at their smartphones. As the New York University marketing professor Adam Alter points out, that means over the course of an average lifetime, most of us will spend about seven years immersed in our portable computers. These companies have persuaded us to give over so much of our lives by exploiting a handful of human frailties. One of them is called NOVELTY BIAS. It means our brains are suckers for the new. ... it makes us twig helplessly to Facebook notifications and the buzz of incoming e-mail. That’s why social media apps nag you to turn notifications on. They

know that once the icons start flashing onto your lock screen, you won’t be able to ignore them. It’s also why Facebook switched the colour of its notifications from a mild blue to attention-grabbing red. ... Matt Mayberry, who works at a California startup called Dopamine Labs, says it’s common knowledge in the industry that Instagram exploits this craving by strategically withholding ‘likes’ from certain users. If the photo-sharing app decides you need to use the service more often, it’ll show only a fraction of the likes you’ve received on a given post at first, hoping you’ll be disappointed with your haul and check back again in a minute or two. ‘They’re tying in to your greatest insecurities,’ Mr. Mayberry said. ... Some of the mental quirks smartphones exploit are obvious, others counterintuitive. The principle of ‘variable rewards’ falls into the second camp. Discovered by the psychologist B.F. Skinner and his acolytes in a series of experiments on rats and pigeons, it predicts that creatures are likelier to seek out a reward if they aren’t sure how often it will be doled out. Pigeons, for example, were found to peck a button for food more frequently if the food was dispensed inconsistently rather than reliably each time, the Columbia University law professor Tim Wu recounts in his recent book *The Attention Merchants*. So it is with social media apps: Though four out of five Facebook posts may be inane, the ‘bottomless,’ automatically refreshing feed always promises a good quip or bit of telling gossip just below the threshold of the screen, accessible with the rhythmic flick of thumb on glass.”

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.
