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## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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### CHRISTIAN MP IN FINLAND FACING PRISON FOR TWEETING BIBLE VERSES ON MARRIAGE



*Päivi Räsänen*

The following is excerpted from “Christian MP” *Christian Post*, May 1, 2021: “A Christian member of the Finnish Parliament is facing six years imprisonment for allegedly committing three crimes, including ‘hate speech,’ for sharing her opinion on marriage and human sexuality on social media, on television and in a pamphlet. The country’s chief prosecutor has brought three criminal charges against Finnish Member of Parliament and former Minister of the Interior, Päivi Räsänen, according to the Austria-based Christian legal group ADF International. The politician, who is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and former chair of the Christian Democrats, has been under police investigation since June 2019 for

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### MARKING DOWN STUDENTS FOR SPELLING MISTAKES IS “ELITIST,” SAYS UNIVERSITY

The following is excerpted from “Marking down students,” *London Telegraph*, Apr. 11, 2021: “As part of efforts to ‘decolonise’ the curriculum and ensure ‘equity of opportunity’ between all students regardless of their background, professors and lecturers at Hull University have been advised against insisting on good written English in all circumstances. It is one of a number of universities to have adopted ‘inclusive’ marking policies, which cite fairness and equality between students as a reason why lecturers should be prepared to overlook spelling and grammar mistakes. ... Worcester University also has a policy on how to assess students ‘inclusively’ which asks lecturers to focus marking on ‘how well the student has communicated their understanding’ of the subject rather than on spelling, grammar and punctuation where they are not central to the assessment criteria. The policy says it is ‘fairer’ to concentrate on the quality of students’ ideas and knowledge rather than their spelling and grammar. This was because some students are from ‘diverse

backgrounds’ so may be at a ‘disadvantage from the outset.’ The University of the Arts London tells academics to ‘actively accept spelling, grammar or other language mistakes’ as long as they do not ‘significantly impede communication.’ **CONCLUSION:** Spelling and grammar are designed to improve communication, not hinder it. These schools are not helping their students; they are putting them at a distinct disadvantage. I am glad that I was required to take remedial English grammar in first year Bible college. I had attended mediocre public schools and had not taken education seriously until I was 23 years old. The remedial English grammar course was just what I needed to get up to speed in my communication skills, and I have built on that foundation ever since. Students who aren’t capable of learning proper English should not be in university. I don’t think this stupidity will go very far, because most students who pay for higher education want a real education. But then again, stupid can go pretty far in this present world.

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publicly voicing her opinion on marriage and human sexuality in a 2004 pamphlet, for comments made on a 2018 TV show, and a tweet directed at her church leadership. A medical doctor, mother of five and grandmother of six, Räsänen now faces two years in prison for each alleged crime, the group said. ... A Member of Parliament since 1995, Räsänen said, '[I will] defend my right to confess my

faith so that no one else would be deprived of their right to freedom of religion and speech.' She said she holds on to 'the view that my expressions are legal and they should not be censored.' 'I will not back down from my views. I will not be intimidated into hiding my faith. **The more Christians keep silent on controversial themes, the narrower the space for freedom of speech gets,' she said.**

## EXCELLENT NEW HYMNAL

*Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs* is an excellent new hymnal. It has nearly 1,000 songs covering more than eight centuries of hymnody. The songs are arranged according to the timeline of Scripture, from eternity past to eternity future. It contains more than 7,000 Scripture references and 450 historical sketches about hymns and their writers and other interesting and educational comments. There are a great many rare old hymns, including ones by Benjamin Beddome (36), Dawson Burns (8), Benjamin Cleavland (4), William Cushing (5), Samuel Deacon (9), David Denham (9), John Fawcett (9), Benjamin Francis (5), Thomas Kelly (24), Samuel Medley (17), Lelian Morris (4), John Needham (18), John Newton (19), Johnson Oatman, Jr. (5), Samuel Stennett (9), Joseph Swain (6), to mention a few. There are many hymns by Baptist pastors of old, such as Benjamin Keach (9), John Leland (5), John Rippon (6), and John Ryland (6). There is a larger selection of well-known hymn writers, such as William Cowper (8), Fanny Crosby (44), Isaac Watts (35), and Charles Wesley (25). The hymnal restores all of the lyrics that have been dropped in other hymnals, such as the full seven stanzas of "How Firm a Foundation," the 18 stanzas of "O for a thousand Tongues to Sing," the seven stanzas of "Amazing Grace," the seven of "Grace! Tis a Charming Sound," and the three stanzas that Baptist pastor John Rippon added to "All Hail the

Power of Jesus' Name." The tune name and meter are given for each selection, thus allowing the songs to be sung by different tunes. For example, "Give Me Jesus" and "Face to Face" are both in 8.7.8.7 meter, so the tunes can be interchanged. (The first number is the number of syllables in the first line of the song, and the second number is the number of syllables in the second line, etc.) "Amazing Grace," "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place," and "Lead Me to Calvary" are 8.6.8.6. (called common meter) and can be interchanged. By the use of meter, known tunes can be used for unknown songs. This is facilitated by the hymnal's complete tune and metrical indexes. For example, Benjamin Keach's largely unknown hymns (died 1704) are mostly in the 8.6.8.6. meter so they can be sung to tunes such as "Lead Me to Calvary," even though they also have their own unique tunes. The songs contain notations indicating music dynamics (e.g., *pp* - very soft, *ff* - very loud, and *rall* - gradually slower) and intro marks to assist musicians. The spiritual depth of the selections is great. There is nothing contemporary here, nothing shallow and frivolous like so many of the Stamps-Baxter and Southern Gospel songs and revivalist songs. This hymnal is a much needed treasure trove for serious, biblical congregational singing. It is a source to greatly expand a church's hymn repertoire. The publisher is Melody Publications, [www.melodypublications.com](http://www.melodypublications.com).

## HOW MANY SMELLS CAN YOU SMELL?

The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 31, 2015: “Psalm 45:8: ‘All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.’ Until recently it was commonly thought that humans can smell approximately 10,000 different odors. But that’s no longer thought to be true. So how many different odors can that nose in the middle of your face detect? Scientists at Rockefeller University in New York set out to test the idea of 10,000 different odors. The number dates back to 1927, but it was never scientifically investigated. So they asked 26 people to identify a scent from three samples containing 128 molecules--two that were the same and one that was different. From this, they were able to tell how many different scents the average person would be able to distinguish if they were presented with all the possible mixtures that could be made from the 128 molecules. So what was the official number? One trillion different odors--and even this, they say, is most likely an underestimate! Now, why would our Creator endow us with such an amazing sense of smell? Could He have been showing us how much He loves us? After all, the sense of smell enables us to appreciate the delightful aroma of flowers and food. In fact, we couldn’t enjoy the food we eat if it weren’t for our ability to smell. Our sense of smell is one example of what is called God’s common grace. He has given this gift to everyone, believers and unbelievers alike. But only believers can appreciate this as a gift from God and not an evolutionary accident of nature.”

## CANCELLED SCIENCE: WHAT SOME ATHEISTS DON’T WANT YOU TO HEAR

*Cancelled Science: What Some Atheists Don’t Want You to Hear* is the title to Dr. Eric Hedin’s new book documenting the Darwinian cancel culture. In 2013, Hedin was attacked by biologist Jerry Coyne and the Freedom From Religion Foundation for having the audacity to include some Intelligent Design materials as recommended reading in his honors seminary course entitled *Boundaries of Science*. The material was not creationist, and it was not even required reading, but the very whiff of a possibility of “divine intelligence” entering a university science classroom was enough to set Coyne and company into a censorship frenzy. They nonsensically accused Dr. Hedin of proselytizing and teaching Christianity based on “anonymous complaints found on RateMyProfessor.com, which has no verification for whether a reviewer actually took a professor’s courses or not.” This was in spite of the fact that Hedin’s actual students had no complaint. Typical was the following comment: “I’m an agnostic and I find absolutely nothing wrong with his teachings ... as far as intelligent and thought-provoking discussions go, it is one of the most INNOVATIVE classes I have had during my time at Ball State. ... There is nothing wrong with this class, and I would recommend it to anyone, no matter what their religious beliefs are.” *Free Science* reported, “Violating its own procedures, BSU appointed a special ad hoc committee stacked with hostile faculty to investigate Hedin. Despite receiving a petition signed by more than 7,000 people urging BSU to defend Hedin’s academic freedom, the university ultimately cancelled Hedin’s course” (“Investigated, Silenced, Course Canceled,” *Free Science.today*). Ball State acted against its own Faculty Personnel Handbook, which states, “Academic freedom and freedom of expression include but are not limited to the expression of ideas, philosophies, or religious beliefs, however controversial, in classroom or other academic settings.” Possibly because of widespread outcry against the cancelling of Hedin’s course, he kept his job and earned tenure in 2016. It is ridiculous that evolutionary atheists like Jerry Coyne care one way or the other about creationism and intelligent design. If they are right, nothing has any ultimate meaning. They are nothing going nowhere for no purpose to no end. That is their own professed philosophy, but they don’t live like they really believe it. Stories of a few other scientists who have been censored and blacklisted can be found here - <https://freescience.today/stories/>

## CREATOR OF VEGGIETALES SUPPORTS HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANITY

VeggitTales creator Phil Vischer has tweeted a series of messages supporting homosexual Christianity and the holding of heresies. He says, "I've been listening to stories of people who left the Church or left their faith entirely, and so often it comes down to a point where they just wanted to be loved, but we couldn't love them because they asked the wrong question or doubted the wrong tenet of our faith or reconsidered their own gender or sexual identity and for us, it was a bridge too far. This child of God was no longer 'us.' They are now 'them.' And because they were 'them,' we now denied they were ever truly 'us'" (@philvischer, Apr. 25, 2021). Vischer, like a great many so-called "evangelicals," is a confused individual who is lacking spiritual discernment and following the mores of society more than the Word of God. He doesn't understand repentance or discipline. The gospel of Jesus Christ is God's expression of love for all sinners, but it demands repentance and saving faith. The Lord Jesus Christ, love incarnate, preached, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," and He repeated it for emphasis (Lu. 13:3, 5). The apostle Paul preached, "God ... now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Ac. 17:30). The first churches were composed of members who were formerly idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and homosexuals, but they did not continue in their sins and demand that they be accepted in that condition. They were accepted as members of Christ's church

because they had repented and been born again. The following passage refutes Vischer's theology: "KNOW YE NOT THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Co. 6:9-11). Further, if a church member returns to a wicked lifestyle, he is to be disciplined. "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Co. 5:11). This is to bring the individual to repentance and also to preserve the moral purity of Christ's church. "Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Co. 5:6-7).

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### 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 no 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).

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