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## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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### DIVER SWALLOWED BY A WHALE



A commercial lobster diver was swallowed by a whale off the Massachusetts coast on June 11 and expelled with only minor injuries. Michael Packard, 56, was released hours later from a Cape Cod hospital. Packard said, "All of a sudden, I felt this huge shove and the next thing I knew it was completely black. I

could sense I was moving, and I could feel the whale squeezing with the muscles in his mouth. I was completely inside; it was completely black. I thought to myself, 'there's no way I'm getting out of here. I'm done, I'm dead. ... I saw light, and he started throwing his head side to side, and the next thing I knew I was outside (in the water)' ("I was completely inside," *Cape Cod Times*, June 11, 2021). The prophet Jonah was in a whale's belly for three days and three nights, but it wasn't a natural event. God supernaturally prepared the fish and accomplished the event as a sign of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

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### EDINBURGH PAYS \$35,000 TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOR CANCELING EVENT OVER SPEAKER'S BIBLICALLY-BASED VIEWS

The following is excerpted from "City pays," *The Christian Post*, June 13, 2021: "Facing a full hearing of a lawsuit, the Edinburgh city council agreed to apologize and pay over \$35,000 (£25,000) to the Scotland-based Destiny Church for canceling a three-day conference because its keynote speaker, U.S. Pastor Larry Stockstill, had spoken against homosexuality and abortion. Apart from offering to pay the damages, the council has acknowledged that it had 'failed to meet its equalities duties to Destiny Ministries in terms of the Equality Act 2010 and therefore acted unlawfully,' and that it had failed to take account of Destiny's rights as protected by the European Convention on Human Rights, Christian legal firm ADF U.K. said in a statement. The authorities canceled the conference that had been scheduled to be held in Edinburgh's Usher Hall last summer after some groups complained about views held by its guest speaker,



*Pastor Larry Stockstill*

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EDINBURGH PAYS \$35,000 TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY...  
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Louisiana pastor Larry Stockstill, former pastor of the multicampus Bethany World Prayer Center. Stockstill is also the author of the 2007 book *He Teaches My Hands to War*, in which he calls homosexuality 'not normal behavior' and 'not accepted by God.' Along with Stockstill, the head of the U.K.-based Evangelical Alliance, Gavin Calver, was also scheduled to speak. A city council spokesperson had earlier told the *Edinburgh Evening News* that the event was canceled 'due to the keynote speaker's publicly-stated views about same-sex relationships which are, in the council's opinion, offensive and discriminatory.' ... ADF U.K. conducted a nationwide poll in which two in five students said events were frequently canceled on campus due to the views held by speakers and pressure from other student groups. Half of the Scottish students also said they felt lecturers would treat them differently if they expressed their true opinions on some important issues. 'Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are foundations of every free and democratic society, and must be protected for all people,' ADF U.K. Legal Counsel Jeremiah Igunnubole commented."

## TEACHER WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST SCHOOL SYSTEM OVER TRANSGENDER PRONOUN ISSUE

The following is excerpted from "Judge Lifts Suspension," *Christian Headlines*, June 9, 2021: "A teacher in Virginia has won a lawsuit in the Loudoun County Circuit Court against the Loudoun County School System through Alliance Defending Freedom after the district's administration placed him on leave for opposing measures that would promote transgender ideology in local schools. Byron Tanner Cross, a physical education teacher at Leesburg Elementary School, sued the Loudoun County School Board last week for penalizing him for voicing concern about two proposed policies. The Circuit Court agreed with him and halted the School System's actions against Cross. Alliance Defending Freedom's Michael Farris commented, 'We are pleased at the court's decision to halt

Loudoun County Public Schools' retaliation against Tanner Cross while his lawsuit continues. Educators are just like everybody else--they have ideas and



opinions that they should be free to express. Advocating for solutions they believe in should not cost them their jobs."

## RECORD PERCENTAGE OF AMERICAS FAVOR SAME-SEX “MARRIAGE”

The following is excerpted from “Record High,” Gallup.com, June 8, 2021: “U.S. support for legal same-sex marriage continues to trend upward, now at 70%--a new high in Gallup's trend since 1996. This latest figure marks an increase of 10 percentage points since 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all states must recognize same-sex marriages. Today's 70% support for same-sex marriage marks a new milestone in a trend that has pointed upward for a quarter of a century. A small minority of Americans (27%) supported legal recognition of gay and lesbian marriages in 1996, when Gallup first asked the question. But support rose steadily over time, eventually reaching the majority level for the first time in 2011. By the time of the Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision in 2015, support for

gay marriage had reached 60%. ... Republicans, who have consistently been the party group least in favor of same-sex marriage, show majority support in 2021 for the first time (55%). The latest increase in support among all Americans is driven largely by changes in Republicans' views. Democrats have consistently been among the biggest supporters of legal same-sex marriage. The current 83% among Democrats is on par with the level of support Gallup has recorded over the past few years. ... As would be expected at a high-water mark in national support for same-sex marriage, all age groups are the most supportive they have been to date. Still, age differences remain, with 84% of young adults, 72% of middle-aged adults, and 60% of older adults saying they favor same-sex marriage.”

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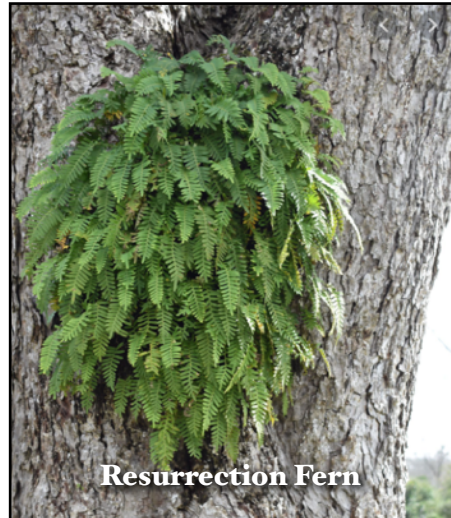
## MAN RENOUNCES QANON AFTER ARREST FOR PARTICIPATING IN JANUARY 6 RIOT AT U.S. CAPITOL

The following is excerpted from “Pre-trial release hearing set,” *Des Moines Register*, June 8, 2021: “A District of Columbia judge said on Tuesday he will review later in June whether U.S. Capitol attack suspect Doug Jensen can be released from jail while he awaits trial. Jensen, of Des Moines, was arrested three days after the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, which left five people dead. After several indictments, he now faces seven charges, including allegations that he brought a folding knife into the Capitol. Jensen was photographed aggressively confronting officers in the building, including at one point chasing one up a staircase at the head of a larger mob. ... After his arrest, prosecutors described Jensen as a ‘true believer’ in the QAnon conspiracy theory, which held that then-President Trump was fighting a secret global cabal of Satanic pedophiles who had infiltrated elite society and the Democratic Party. ... In his new motion, Jensen

forswears his former faith in QAnon. Attorney Christopher Davis writes, ‘For reasons he does not even understand today, he became a *true believer* and was convinced he was doing a noble service by becoming a digital soldier for Q. Maybe it was [a] mid-life crisis, the pandemic, or perhaps the message just seemed to elevate him from his ordinary life to an exalted status with an honorable goal. In any event, he fell victim to this barrage of internet-sourced info and came to the Capitol, at the direction of the President of the United States, to demonstrate that he was a *true patriot*. Six months later, languishing in a D.C. jail cell, locked down most of the time, he feels deceived, recognizing that he bought into a pack of lies. [The QAnon conspiracy was] being fed to him over the internet by a number of very clever people, who were uniquely equipped with slight, if any, moral or social consciousness.’”

# RESURRECTION FERN

The resurrection fern is an air plant that is common in the southeastern part of the United States. Typically it attaches itself to the branches of large trees such as live oaks and draws nutrients from the air and the tree's bark. It gets its name from the fact that God has designed it to survive long periods of drought by appearing nearly dead and then springing to life when the rain comes. In the absence of water, its attractive, bright green leaves wither up and turn brownish. On a visit to the Myakka State Park in central Florida in December 2012, the fern was in its "dead mode." I took a photo of it in that condition on a particular tree branch, then poured several bottles of water on it. When I returned the next morning, it had resurrected! This fascinating, and exceedingly complicated plant (imagine what is happening at the cellular level to allow this plant to live, survive, and reproduce), is a reminder that Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the dead the third day after His sacrifice whereby He was punished in the sinner's place to purchase eternal salvation for those who receive Him as Lord and Saviour. The resurrection fern also illustrates the new birth.



When an individual is born again by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, he is given the gift of eternal life. In this present world, the child of God can grow weak spiritually and temporarily backslide, but the life of God cannot be extinguished, and as soon as the soul is watered with the Word of God it will flourish. This is the reality and evidence of salvation. God's world is filled to the brim with testimonies of His power and

wisdom for those who have eyes to see. When I travel to beautiful places in various parts of the world, which I have the great privilege to do frequently, I can enjoy the things the unbeliever enjoys, such as the scenery and the facilities, but I have so much more enjoyment on so many different levels because of God's Word and God's enlightenment. I can see and marvel at His handiwork and praise Him for His character, because I know Him personally. I see clearly what is happening today, and I also see the future through Bible prophecy. I understand that this present world is nothing compared to that which is to come. I can meditate upon *that* world and my place in it!

## 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).