

---

## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

---

### PROTESTORS GATHER AROUND CALGARY PRISON TO SUPPORT JAILED PASTOR



*Protesters gathered around the Calgary Remand Centre in Alberta*

The following is excerpted from “Protesters Gather,” *The Daily Wire*, June 22, 2021: “A group of pastors and protesters gathered around the Calgary Remand Centre in Alberta to support Pastor Tim Stephens, who was jailed earlier this month after a police helicopter found where his congregation was meeting outside. Heavy police presence hovered over the gathering, according to video of the event from *Rebel News*, but the demonstration remained peaceful despite many of the participants expressing disgust toward the Alberta government for how they are treating Stephens and other pastors. Among the

*continued on NEXT page*

---

### U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CATHOLIC ADOPTION AGENCY IN HOMOSEXUAL DISCRIMINATION DISPUTE

The following is excerpted from “Supreme court rules in favor,” *Religion News Service*, June 17, 2021: “A city-funded foster and adoption agency that opposes same-sex marriage on religious grounds can be exempted from serving such couples, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday (June 17). In a unanimous ruling, the justices once again showed they were receptive to claims by religious groups--in this case Catholic Social Services, which refuses to work with same-sex couples. The agency had contracted with the city of Philadelphia to screen potential foster parents. Beginning in 2018, the city of Philadelphia ended its contract with CSS, claiming that the organization violated a city ordinance banning discrimination. In *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, the court said Philadelphia was wrong to end a contract with

the Catholic agency. Catholic Social Services and two foster parents--one named Sharonell Fulton--sued the city, claiming the free exercise clause in the First Amendment gives the agency the right to opt out of the nondiscrimination requirement. A lower court and a federal circuit court ruled in the city’s favor, so CSS appealed to the Supreme Court. The opinion, by Chief Justice John Roberts, reversed the circuit court ruling. ‘The refusal of Philadelphia to contract with CSS for the provision of foster care services unless CSS agrees to certify same-sex couples as foster parents violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment,’ the opinion states. ... A study published earlier this year found a 35 percentage-point increase in the rate of Supreme Court rulings that favor religion over the past 70 years.”

## PROTESTORS GATHER AROUND CALGARY PRISON TO SUPPORT JAILED PASTOR continued from FRONT page

participants in the protest was Pastor James Coates of GraceLife Church in Edmonton, who drew international attention earlier this year when he spent more than a month in maximum-security prison for continuing to hold church services in defiance of the Alberta Public Health Act. After he was released, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) raided his church in the early morning and barricaded it behind three layers of fence, forcing the congregation to meet in secret. ... ‘This country, the whole Western Civilization as we know it, is being systematically

altered,’ Coates told the crowd. ‘And all we’re going to do in the mean time is proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...’ Another person who spoke at the event was Pastor Trevor Stephens, who is Tim Stephens’ brother and associate pastor of Victory Baptist Church near Edmonton. ‘What’s happened here is reprehensible,’ Stephens said. ‘Jailing a pastor for being obedient to God for an injunction that really doesn’t apply to him...’ Stephens also warned that the way government is overreaching during the COVID-19 pandemic will not stop with the virus.”

## COVID LOCKDOWNS PRODUCED A COSMETIC SURGERY “ZOOM BOOM”

The following is excerpted from ‘The Cosmetic Surgery ‘Zoom Boom,’ *Refinery29*, June 3, 2021: “For video-chat giant Zoom, lockdown delivered an opportunity--and, within no time, a windfall--which had a curious sort of ripple effect on another industry: plastic surgery. ... Fearing the risk of infection, millions of



people traded IRL [in real life] interactions for screen time--navigating new platforms that forced us to face our reflections, or a slightly skewed version of them, for hours on end. ... We witnessed our faces take shapes we’ve never seen before--our expressions exposing unfamiliar lines, folds, and asymmetries. ... When elective procedures were eventually greenlit last spring, dermatologists and plastic surgeons were met with an overwhelming demand for their services. ... In Grosse Pointe, Michigan, board-certified dermatologist Fatima Fahs, MD, had many people coming in saying that

they’d never spent so much time looking at their own faces--and how traits that never used to bother them have become distractingly apparent. ... And, thus, the ‘Zoom boom’ was born--this unanticipated rise in cosmetic procedures propelled by the ubiquity of video conferencing. ... Recently various

plastic surgery societies have released statistics substantiating the reported boom.” The Bible prophesies, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

## EX-BLACK LIVES MATTER LEADER EXPOSES “UGLY TRUTH”



*Rashad Turner*

The following is excerpted from “Ex-BLM leader,” *The Christian Post*, June 1, 2021: “A Black Lives Matter chapter founder in St. Paul, Minnesota, has shared a video exposing what he calls the political organization’s ‘ugly truth,’ arguing that it

shows ‘little concern for rebuilding black families’ and improving the quality of education for black students. ‘I believed the organization stood for exactly what the name implies,’ Rashad Turner, who founded the St. Paul BLM chapter in 2015, said in the May 26 video posted by TakeCharge Minnesota. ‘Black lives do matter. However, after a year on the inside, I learned they have little concern for rebuilding black families, and they cared even less for improving the quality of education for students in Minneapolis.’ ... Turner is now the president and executive director of the school choice advocacy group, Minnesota Parent Union, which helps parents move their children from failing schools to successful schools. ... Turner said he eventually realized BLM did not care about improving educational opportunities for black children. ‘That was made very clear when they publicly denounced the charter schools alongside the teachers’ union,’ he said. ‘I was an insider in Black Lives Matter, and I learned the ugly truth. The moratorium on charter schools does not support rebuilding the black family, but it does create barriers for a better education for black children.’”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wncYj2xfV6A>

## DEMOCRATS BACK BILL ELIMINATING ALL ABORTION LIMITATIONS

The following is excerpted from “Abortion without limitations,” *Christian Headlines*, June 9, 2021: “A bill that would overturn hundreds of state abortion restrictions and guarantee the right to abortion ‘without limitations’ was introduced Tuesday by a coalition of Congressional Democrats, who said it was needed with *Roe v. Wade* under attack. The bill, known as the Women’s Health Protection Act, would codify *Roe v. Wade* and legal abortion in federal law--goals that President Biden set during his 2020 campaign. It has 48 co-sponsors in the Senate and 176 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. All are Democrats. The 224 co-sponsors represent 80 percent of the Democratic coalition, according to *Newsweek*. The bill says its purpose is to ‘permit health care providers to provide abortion services without limitations or requirements.’ The bill’s legislative findings note that nearly 500 abortion restrictions have passed on the local and state level since 2011. ... The bill explicitly says it ‘supersedes’ all state laws.”

---

## CALIFORNIA COUNTY CUTS COVID DEATH TOLL BY 25%

The following is excerpted from “California County Cuts,” *Fox News*, June 6, 2021: “A California county cut its COVID-19 death toll by around 25% after determining that some deaths were not a ‘direct result’ of the virus. Alameda County revised the total number of deaths caused by the coronavirus to 1,223, down from 1,634. County officials decided to revise the numbers to align with the California Department of Public Health’s guidance on how to classify deaths. The county previously included deaths of anyone infected with the virus, regardless of whether COVID-19 was a direct or contributing cause of death. Neetu Balam, a spokesperson for Alameda County Public Health, said that some of the deaths ‘were clearly not caused by COVID,’ the *Los Angeles Times* reported. ‘Obviously our definition was broader than the state’s,’ Balam said, adding that the department had always planned to conduct an update ‘when cases and deaths stabilized.’”

---



## SEEING EYE SHRIMP

The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 11, 2021: “The strange partnership between the snapping shrimp and the goby is absolutely necessary if both creatures are to survive. The nearly blind shrimp relies on the goby, a small fish, in the same way a blind person relies on his Seeing Eye dog. The goby relies on the safety of the complex tunnel system the shrimp digs. The shrimp is well designed for digging. Once a tunnel is started, the shrimp can dig a burrow large enough for both itself and the goby within a few hours. Each of its five pairs of legs is specialized. The first pair of claws is designed for carrying sediment out of the burrow. The second pair of legs is designed to probe for and clean objects as well as scratching sediment from walls. Pairs three, four and five are walking legs that also work well for scratching material from tunnel walls. On its abdomen, the shrimp has several appendages that allow it to move rapidly to protection. Other appendages can create water currents that shift sand back from the digging site. The snapping shrimp, which is less than two inches long, can dig a system of tunnels covering several square feet within a few days. The burrow will have several entrances, as much as four feet apart. All lead to a chamber at the deepest point of the system. The Creator has given both the goby and the shrimp different gifts that they both need to live. If they did not share their gifts with each other, neither could survive. What gifts has the Creator given you to share? Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Yanagisawa, Y. 1990, ‘Strange seabed fellows,’ *Natural History*, Aug. p. 46.”

---

### 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).

---