

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

CHRISTIANS IN DIRE DANGER IN AFGHANISTAN

The following is excerpted from “Taliban in Kabul,” Release International, Aug. 16, 2021: “As the Taliban tighten their grip on Afghanistan, Release International warns attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region as the Taliban’s swift advance emboldens extremists. Afghanistan’s major cities have fallen like dominoes before the Taliban, in the drive by the militants to create an Islamic emirate. One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members. A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as ‘dire.’ Says ‘Micah’: ‘Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school

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A member of Taliban stands guard as people walk at the entrance gate of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 16, 2021. (Reuters photo)

COURT OVERTURNS CALIFORNIA LAW THAT CRIMINALIZES PRONOUN MISUSE



The following is excerpted from “Court Overturns,” *Christian Headlines*, July 22, 2021: “A California law that criminalized ‘misgendering’ and the misuse of pronouns is unconstitutional under the First Amendment, according to a new decision by the state appeals court. At issue is a 2017 multi-faceted California law that placed new restrictions on long-term care facilities and was geared toward protecting LGBT residents. It was dubbed the ‘Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Long-Term Care Facility Residents’ Bill of Rights.’ Last week, a three-judge panel of the California Court of

Appeals unanimously struck down a section of the law that prohibits employers from using the wrong pronouns. Violating the law could subject the employer to criminal penalties, including fines and jail time. ... [the court ruled], ‘the First Amendment does not protect only speech that inoffensively and artfully articulates a person’s point of view. At the very least, willful refusal to refer to transgender persons by their preferred

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and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion.' ... To be exposed as a Christian risks being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families. ... In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85, mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children and babies. ... Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Some observers say Pakistan has provided a safe haven for the Taliban and has supplied them with weapons and finance. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban."

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pronouns conveys general disagreement with the concept that a person's gender identity may be different from the sex the person was assigned at birth.' ... The section in question makes it unlawful to 'willfully and repeatedly fail to use a resident's preferred name or pronouns after being clearly informed of the preferred name or pronouns.' Eugene Volokh, a professor of law at the University of California-Los Angeles, wrote on his blog that the decision is 'significant and worth noting.'"

LATEST NEWS ON COVID'S EFFECTS ON VACCINATED AND CHILDREN

The following is excerpted from "The Latest News," *PJMedia*, Aug. 20, 2021: "Of the 170 million vaccinated, only 6,000 or so have been hospitalized or died from COVID-19, with the vast majority of those over age 65. That's a 0.0035% rate of serious illness or death among the vaccinated. The bottom

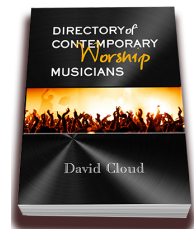


line: Vaccinated people, and especially children, remain safe from COVID-19's worst consequences. The good news with schools commencing across America is that data continues to show that children remain at extremely low risk of becoming very sick or dying from COVID-19; in fact, the threat might be even lower than previously thought ("In Children, Risk of Covid-19 Death or Serious Illness Remains Extremely Low," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 8, 2021). Some 99.995 percent of the nearly half-million children in England who were infected with coronavirus survived ("Risk of illness or death from Covid extremely low in kids," *The Sun*, July 9, 2021). As of mid-July, among the 61 childhood deaths linked to a positive COVID-19 test, only 25 were actually caused by the illness, according to studies by UK researchers reviewing the national health system's medical records."

AMY GRANT TELLS HOMOSEXUALS “IT DOESN’T MATTER HOW WE BEHAVE OR HOW WE’RE WIRED”

Amy Grant, known as “the Queen of Christian Pop,” recently said in an interview of Apple Music’s LGBT-themed Proud Radio, “None of us are a surprise to God. ... I was invited to a table where someone said ‘don’t be afraid, you’re loved.’ ... Gay. Straight. It does not matter. It doesn’t matter how we behave. It doesn’t matter how we’re wired” (“CCM Icon Amy Grant,” *Relevant Magazine*, July 12, 2021). This is a dangerous error that ignores repentance and the new birth. God does love every sinner, but He doesn’t accept sinners on their own terms. The Bible plainly says that homosexuality is a sin against the God who made man “male and female.” Jesus Christ said, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). The members of the early churches came from every type of sinful background, including homosexuality, but they had repented of their sins and been converted by God’s Spirit. Paul was very clear on this matter. “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 Corinthians 6:9-11). Amy Grant well represents the field of Contemporary Christian Music in that she follows her own heart rather than the Word of God, and she has been doing that for a very long time as we document in *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, available as a free eBook at www.wayoflife.org.



BRITISH STREET PREACHER AWARDED \$4.5K OVER WRONGFUL ARREST

The following is excerpted from “CI-backed Christian Street Preacher,” Christian.org.uk, June 25, 2021: “A Christian street preacher has won damages after he was wrongfully arrested and falsely imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. David McConnell had been preaching in Huddersfield town centre in December 2019 when he was arrested for ‘a hate related public order offence.’ Mr McConnell, who was supported in his case by The Christian Institute, was kept in police custody for about six hours before being released without charge. While Mr McConnell was preaching, some passers-by stopped to heckle him, asking him questions about sexuality and abortion--even

though he had not been preaching on either subject. But he was subsequently arrested and taken to Huddersfield police station without being told the offence he had allegedly committed, other than the suggestion it was for ‘a hate related public order offence’ and ‘for preaching on gay rights and abortion.’ During his time in custody, one police sergeant listened to Mr McConnell’s recording of his preaching and concluded that no offence had been committed, so the preacher was released without charge. Mr McConnell took legal action, and last month West Yorkshire Police admitted liability in court papers, agreeing to pay £3,250 in damages--plus his legal costs. ... Mr Calvert continued: ‘We are

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glad the police have admitted they broke the law but more needs to be done to prevent these kinds of cases. The public is very concerned about the chilling of free speech. Instead of taking their cue on LGBT issues solely from LGBT groups, the police should be getting diversity training from a range of providers. This would remind them that, in a pluralistic and tolerant society, there is room for more than one opinion.' He concluded: 'Dissent from the orthodoxies of LGBT groups is not criminal. You can't have the police acting as enforcers for cancel culture, using the power of the state to silence unfashionable voices. That is not their job. Their job is to uphold the law for everyone, including Christians, without fear or favour.'"

THE INSECT WITH TWO BRAINS

"We have all looked in wonder at the amazing transformation of a caterpillar into a moth. However, did you realize that a moth needs an entirely different kind of brain than a caterpillar? We can truly say that here we have an insect with two brains! In the caterpillar stage, the moth lumbers around in a body that is primarily designed for eating. Its brain must be able to command powerful jaws and a comparatively huge digestive system as well as the complexities of caterpillar locomotion. The world of the caterpillar is very different from the world of the moth. During metamorphosis the caterpillar completely dissolves and the moth



Atlas Moth

is rebuilt from the liquid. The brain, for example, requires new nerve cells and new connections between brain cells, while some brain cells change function, migrate to new locations, or even die. The result is a brain that is 10 times the size of the caterpillar's

and ready to control flight. The moth's primary purpose in life is to reproduce. So its new brain is able to generate the odors used by moths to identify and communicate with potential mates. It is also equipped to detect the scents of a potential mate. Only our almighty Creator could completely rebuild a caterpillar into a moth. Only He could rebuild and increase its brain ten-fold in only a week or two. Even more amazing is how He remakes people. Through the forgiveness of sins, Jesus Christ turns us from people who wish to escape Him to new creatures who love Him and find joy in Him. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Miller, Julie Ann. 1983. 'A brain for all seasons,' *Science News*, v. 123, Apr. 23. p. 268."

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.