

## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

### FINNISH COURT CLEARS CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN, BISHOP OF “HATE SPEECH”

The following is excerpted from *The Daily Signal*, Mar. 30, 2022: “A Finnish court has dismissed all charges against a Christian member of Parliament and a bishop charged under Finland’s ‘hate speech’ and ‘ethnic agitation’ law for supporting traditional marriage. The court ordered the government to reimburse the two. **In a unanimous ruling Wednesday, the Helsinki District Court determined that it isn’t its job ‘to interpret biblical concepts’ in dropping the case against Päivi Räsänen**, a member of the Finnish Parliament and former minister of interior, and Bishop Juhana Pohjola. ... Early in the case, the prosecutor’s office said Räsänen’s statements ‘violate the equality



*Bishop Juhana Pohjola and  
Dr. Päivi Räsänen*

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### ELON MUSK BECOMES LARGEST SHAREHOLDER IN TWITTER



*Elon Musk*

The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Apr. 5, 2022: “After a week of saying that he would launch a new social media platform, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has become Twitter’s largest shareholder. As reported by *Fox Business*, a Monday filing from the SEC showed that the Tesla and SpaceX CEO bought 73.5 million shares of Twitter, giving him a 9.2 percent stake in Twitter Inc. and making him the platform’s largest shareholder. Following Monday’s news, Twitter shares jumped by more than 25 percent, with individual stocks priced at \$49.81. Before making the purchase, Musk asked his followers whether he should launch a new social platform over Twitter’s tendency to censor dissenting voices. ‘Given that

Twitter serves as the de facto public town square, failing to adhere to free speech principles fundamentally undermines democracy.’ ... The news comes after Twitter recently locked out the Christian media platforms *The Babylon Bee* and *The Christian Post* for calling Rachel Levine, a transgender Biden official who serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, a man. On Tuesday, *Babylon Bee* CEO Seth Dillon revealed that Musk was considering buying Twitter after Dillon confirmed that the satirical news site had been locked out. ‘Musk reached out to us before he polled his followers about Twitter’s commitment to free speech. He wanted to confirm that we had, in fact, been suspended,’ Dillon tweeted. ‘He even mused on that call that he might need to buy Twitter. Now he’s the largest shareholder and has a seat on the board.’”

## FINNISH COURT CLEARS CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN, BISHOP OF “HATE SPEECH” continued from FRONT page

and dignity of homosexuals, so they transcend the boundaries of freedom of speech and religion.’ The prosecutor quoted a Bible verse included in Räsänen’s tweet. In the closing argument of the trial, the prosecution alleged that the word ‘sin’ could be ‘harmful’ and called for heavy fines in the event of a guilty verdict. Prosecutors charged Pohjola, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, with one count of violating the law in connection with hosting a pamphlet published by Räsänen on his church’s website 17 years ago. But **the court didn’t agree and issued a stinging defeat to the government, ordering the prosecution to pay 60,000 euros (about \$66,940) in legal costs,** according to Alliance Defending Freedom. The

government has seven days to appeal. Räsänen, 62, who is a member of the center-right Christian Democrat Party, has been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1995. From 2011 to 2015, she was the government’s interior minister. In 2004, Räsänen published a pamphlet, titled ‘Male and Female He Created Them,’ about the Bible’s teaching on marriage. In 2019, she spoke on a radio program about her controversial tweet including a photo of Romans 1: 24–27, which says that ‘women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones’ and ‘Men committed shameful acts with other men.’ For that, prosecutors charged Räsänen with three counts of violating Finland’s ethnic agitation law.”

## 26% OF AMERICANS POLLED, BACK VILE EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNGEST OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

According to a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies, 26 percent of registered voters oppose a new Florida law that forbids transsexualism to be taught in kindergarten through grade 3 of public schools. While 61 percent support the law, a margin of two to one, it is still frightful that more than a quarter of Americans polled support the idea that it is acceptable for schools to indoctrinate the smallest children with godless, depraved transsexualism. The law, signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, is simple and straightforward: “Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.” The only problem with the bill is that it doesn’t go far enough. It should forbid all sex education and cover



kindergarten to 12th grade. The federalized public school system has long been a humanist/leftist/godless propaganda machine, a breeding ground for the filthy pop culture, that is destroying the nation from within. Nothing “conservatives” do to “save the nation” and “make America great again” will have any fundamental longterm effect without its dismantling or a wholesale abandoning.

## PRONOUN PASSPORTS COMING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The following is excerpted from "Pronoun Passports," *Lighthouse Trails*, Feb. 28, 2022: "Insanity over pronouns has hit the Midwest. Children and teachers are being pressured to declare their pronouns, and parents are livid. In the Olentangy school district near Columbus, a middle school language teacher required all the students to stand up and declare his or her pronouns. A high school teacher in that same district told the class to let her know if she should change a student's pronouns when contacting parents. In the Dublin (OH) City Schools, a class of elementary students was asked to name their individual pronouns. At Hilliard Davidson High School (a Columbus suburb), teachers are called to the principal's office and forced to apologize to a student if an unwanted pronoun is used. At that same school, an assistant principal now signs his correspondence with 'he/him' following his name. How long before children are called to the principal's office for being unwilling to state their pronouns? Or will all of our children go along with this? They will unless their parents spell it out for them."

## EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN HOME SCHOOLING IN AMERICA

The following is excerpted from "Public Schools Are Cesspools of Debauchery; Get Your Kids Out Now, Before It is Too Late," PJMedia, Apr. 1, 2022: "If there's one thing we've learned during the pandemic it's that many parents had no idea what was going on in their kids' schools. Oh, parents knew there was crazy stuff going on in *other* schools, but by and large, there was a sense of NIMBY --it's not happening in *my* backyard. Sadly, we've become increasingly aware of the abuses and indoctrination children across the country are suffering at the hands of unhinged teachers--teachers pushing their left-wing political agendas, encouraging children to be sexual deviants, and treating parents like they are not qualified to raise their own children without the state intervening in their families. ... Many parents are completely fed up with the nonsense being shoved down their kids' throats in public schools. Not only that, many realized during the lockdowns that they enjoyed having their kids home and overseeing their education and began to seriously consider homeschooling as a viable option. The results are simply stunning. The homeschool population, as estimated by Dr. Brian Ray at the National Homeschool Education Research Institute, has grown from 2.6 million school-aged children in 2019 to a whopping 3.7 million in 2021. Homeschooling had been growing steadily from 2016 to 2020, but the explosive growth in the educational option is staggering. ... Dr. Ray told PJ Media, 'Rather than education being controlled by an institution that is often non-accommodating to a student's needs and dreams or hostile toward a family's values, homeschooling opens up many more possibilities, freedoms, dependabilities, and joys. **Parents are learning that homeschooling is associated with academic success, strong social development, children with a joy to learn, and family life that is not controlled by the vicissitudes and dubious values of a state-run institution.**' ... one of the best ways to stop the madness is to pull your kids out of public schools and homeschool them."

# FLYING SPIDERS



*Baby flying spider (Courtesy of Texas Hill Country)*

The following is from creationmoments.com, February 24, 2022: "Spider silk begins as a liquid protein made by silk glands on the spider's abdomen. Spiders make many kinds of silk for different uses. As the liquid silk is forced through the spider's spinnerets, it begins to dry. The spinnerets pull and stretch the silk, creating just the right kind of silk for the spider's use. Though the result seems thin and weak to us, ounce for ounce, spider silk is stronger than steel. Web-building spiders make two types of silk for their traps. The basic structure of the web is made of strong, nonsticky silk. Then the spider adds a sticky, elastic silk to trap its prey. Some webs are irregular, others are flat and sheet-like, while still others are shaped like funnels. All of us have admired the beautiful orb web. However, spiders also have many other ways in which they use their

silk. The ogre-faced spider makes a net that it throws around its intended victim. The European water spider builds its web underwater. It stores its air supply in the web. The lasso spider twirls a single strand of silk over its head. A tiny drop of sticky silk at the end of the lasso captures its prey when the lasso is thrown. Probably the most creative use of silk is by the young of some species. When they hatch, they produce long loops of silk that catch the wind and send them floating off to new places. The spider's skill in producing and using silk had to come from Someone wiser and more clever than the spider. Clearly the spider has been well-equipped and instructed by its Creator. Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF: Pinkston, William S., Jr., 1980. *BIOLOGY for Christian Schools*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press. p. 413."



*A spider ready to launch as the winds increase. (Flickr/Andy Morton)*

## 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).