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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## ALCOHOL INTAKE IN ANY QUANTITY LINKED TO OVER 60 DISEASES

The following is excerpted from “Alcohol Intake,” *Medical Daily*, June 12, 2023: “Heavy drinking is often associated with the development of several serious health conditions such as liver cirrhosis, hypertension, heart attacks and strokes. **A recent study says alcohol intake in any quantity increases the risk of more than 60 diseases. Alcohol consumption is responsible for about three million deaths worldwide every year and contributes to 5.1% of the global burden of diseases and injuries.** In the latest study published in *Nature Medicine*, researchers evaluated the causal relationship between alcohol intake and over 200 diseases in Chinese men. Data from the China Kadoorie Biobank (CKB) were used in the study, which included more than 512,000 adult participants. The health effects of their alcohol consumption over 12 years were analyzed using medical records. Researchers found that participants with self-reported alcohol intake were at an increased risk of developing 61 diseases. ... ‘**Alcohol consumption is adversely related to a much wider range of diseases than has previously been established,** and our findings show these associations are likely to be causal,’ Pek Kei Im, a research fellow at Oxford Population Health and a lead author of the paper, said in a news release.”



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## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION UPHOLDS REMOVAL OF SADDLEBACK CHURCH FOR ORDINATION OF FEMALE PASTORS



Image: [Sonya Singh / Baptist Press](#)  
Rick Warren at the 2023 SBC annual meeting

The following is excerpted from “SBC messengers approve proposed amendment,” *The Christian Post*, June 14, 2023: “Messengers with the Southern Baptist Convention voted overwhelmingly to advance a measure to prevent women from serving as a ‘pastor of any kind,’ bringing the denomination one step closer to solidifying the rule as a constitutional amendment. The proposed amendment to the SBC constitution, spearheaded by Virginia Pastor Mike Law of Arlington Baptist Church, passed Wednesday afternoon following a vote from over 12,000 messengers gathered at the denomination’s annual meeting in New Orleans. The amendment was passed by approximately 80% of the SBC’s messengers by raised ballot.

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## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION UPHOLDS REMOVAL...

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The new measure establishes a condition for churches to affiliate with the SBC: no woman within the church would be permitted to hold the title of pastor. ... The move comes just hours after messengers voted to uphold the removal of Saddleback Church, founded by Rick Warren, from the denomination due to the California megachurch allowing [four women] to serve in the office of teaching pastor. Saddleback's expulsion was upheld by 9,437 votes (88.46%) to 1,212 votes (11.36%), with 19 ballots disallowed. Ahead of the vote, Warren argued that Southern Baptists should agree to disagree on the matter of female pastors, stressing that the church agreed with all but one word in SBC doctrine: men. ... Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, responded to Warren, warning Saddleback was threatening the unity of the SBC. 'It's not just a matter of church polity; it's not just a matter of hermeneutics,' Mohler stressed. 'It's a matter of biblical commitment, a commitment to the Scripture that unequivocally we believe limits the office of pastor to men. Here we face the unusual situation in which Dr. Warren himself has made repeated statements, and the church has taken repeated actions that make very clear it rejects the confessional understanding of the Southern Baptist Convention on this issue.'" [CONCLUDING NOTE: The fact that 20% of SBC messengers voted in favor of female pastors reminds us that the convention is an unscriptural mixed multitude.]

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## LGBT INDIVIDUALS OFTEN SWITCH TO STRAIGHT IDENTITY

The following is excerpted from "LGBT Individuals," *Christian Headlines*, June 12, 2023: "New research in a Duke University academic journal confronts a controversial subject within the LGBT community and comes to an equally controversial conclusion: a significant portion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals switch to a 'straight' identity. The landmark research, published in the Duke University Press journal *Demography*, examined data from the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study, which involved interviews with 22,673 people who were interviewed in two waves: first in 2011–2013 and then in 2017–2019. A total of 8.6 percent of people who identified as gay and lesbian in the first wave changed their identity to heterosexual by the second wave

(in other words, roughly six years later). The switch was even more dramatic within other LGBT categories. Among those who identified as bisexual, 44 percent changed their identity to heterosexual. And among those who identified as 'other' --a category that includes transgender individuals--a total of 69.6 percent changed to heterosexual. ... Only 3.3 percent of those who identified as heterosexual in the first wave changed to a different identity. ... Researcher and demographer Lyman Stone, who was not involved in the study, said the data 'pretty much obliterates the notion of immutable sexual identity.' It also, he said, 'points to the difficulty in measuring and studying sexual identity. It's fairly stable for heterosexuals, but extremely unstable for non-heterosexuals,' Stone said."

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## BRITAIN BANS PUBERTY BLOCKERS ON CHILDREN

The following is excerpted from “Seismic,” *Christian Headlines*, June 12, 2023: “The United Kingdom will no longer ‘routinely’ give puberty blockers to children under a decision by the nation’s National Health Services that will limit such drugs to minors within clinical trials. The decision could have implications around the world, including in the United States. NHS’ goal is to study the long-term impacts of the drugs on children who identify as transgender. ... The NHS said there is ‘not enough evidence to support their safety or clinical effectiveness as a routinely available treatment.’ ... Psychiatrist **David Bell, who previously worked for an NHS clinic, Tavistock, applauded the decision. ‘All the evidence shows that puberty blockers don’t help, and there is clear evidence of physical and psychological harm caused by them, so this change is in line with the evidence we have,’** Bell told *The Telegraph* newspaper. ‘A very large percentage of children being treated for gender dysphoria have other problems such as autism and depression, and many are upset or confused about their sexuality.’ James Esses, co-founder of Thoughtful Therapists, said the decision by the NHS is monumental. ‘The fact that the NHS is holding firm on their intention to prevent the use of puberty blockers outside of the context of clinical trials is seismic,’ Esses told *The Telegraph*. ‘This will hopefully bring an end to vulnerable children being placed down a pathway to irreversible harm.’”

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## IMPORTANT MARKETPLACE FREEDOM OF RELIGION/SPEECH CASE IN ENGLAND



Kristie Higgs outside the Civil Justice Centre in Bristol at an earlier hearing. The 46-year-old was dismissed for gross misconduct in 2019 after criticising plans to teach LGBT+ relationships in primary schools  
CREDIT: Rod Minchin/PA

The following is excerpted from “Christian teaching assistant,” *Premier Christian News*, June 17, 2023: “Christian teaching assistant Kristie Higgs who was sacked after sharing two Facebook posts that raised concerns about how transgenderism and compulsory sex education was to be taught at her son’s Church of England (CofE) primary school, has won her appeal. A previous ruling in October 2020 at Bristol Employment Tribunal had upheld her sacking. However, in this latest judgement, the President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Dame Jennifer Eady, allowed Mrs Higgs’s appeal, saying: ‘The freedom to manifest belief (religious or otherwise) and to express views relating to that belief are essential rights in any democracy, whether or not the belief in question is popular or mainstream and even if its expression may offend.’ **The ruling sets a legal precedent which confirms that the Equality Act 2010 protects employees from discrimination not only for their beliefs, but also for expression or manifestation of their beliefs.** ... The Christian Legal Centre which has been supporting Mrs Higgs, says this precedent is expected to protect Christians who are disciplined or dismissed by their

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## SMART TREES AND CLEVER BUGS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 6, 2023: "How smart is the smartest tree you ever met? Does it sound silly to speak of trees as being smart? Botanists are learning that some trees have elaborate defenses against insect pests. Studies have shown that a cottonwood tree sets up an elaborate zone defense when attacked by aphids. Some branches will manufacture poisons to resist the aphids while others use a different strategy. Branches that offer the aphids poisons can be dozens of times more resistant to aphids than neighboring branches. Should an aphid land on a leaf that is not manufacturing poisons, that leaf is very likely to be shed by the tree. This squeeze play by the tree keeps both strategies viable in resisting aphids. However, sometimes insects are almost as clever as trees. The eastern tent caterpillar eats a fatal dose of cyanide with each mouthful of cherry tree leaves without harm. The poison is combined with two sugar molecules in the leaves. Normally an insect's digestive system would separate those sugars, releasing the cyanide. However, the tent caterpillar's digestive system releases only one sugar, leaving the cyanide bound and harmless. On the other hand the pink sawfly larva concentrates and stores the toxic oils of the eucalyptus leaves it eats. When threatened, the worm-like larva rears up and spits droplets of the poisonous oils at its attackers. There is no level at which the creation fails to show forth intelligence and planning. Every level of creation glorifies God! REF: Brownlee, Shannon, "The silent battle," *Discover*, Sept. 1983, p. 28."

### IMPORTANT MARKETPLACE FREEDOM...

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employers for manifesting their faith by sharing their beliefs in conversations or on social media, as well as by praying and wearing crosses, for example. ... Responding to yesterday's ruling, Mrs Higgs said: 'From the beginning, despite the many attempts by the school to suggest otherwise, this has always been about my Christian beliefs and me being discriminated against for expressing them in my own time. ... Christian parents must have the freedom to bring their children up in line with their Christian beliefs. I want young children to be protected from transgender ideology and Christians must also be able to share their opinions and beliefs without fear of losing their jobs.'"

### 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).