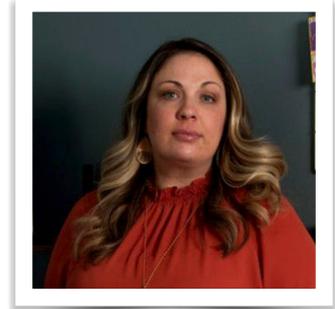

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

SUPREME COURT ISSUES MAJOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RULING

23, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Supreme Court Rules in Favor," *Fox News*, June 30, 2023: "The U.S. Supreme Court held that a Colorado graphic designer who wants to make wedding websites does not have to create them for same-sex marriages, **in a landmark decision that pit the interests of LGBTQ non-discrimination against First Amendment freedom.** In a 6-3 decision issued Friday, the high court ruled in favor of artist Lorie Smith, who sued the state over its anti-discrimination law that prohibited businesses providing sales or other accommodations to the public from denying service based on a customer's sexual orientation. Justice Neil Gorsuch authored the majority opinion, which said that, 'In this case, Colorado seeks to force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance.' 'But, as this Court has long held, the opportunity to think for ourselves and to express those thoughts freely is among our most cherished liberties and part of what keeps our Republic strong,' Gorsuch continued. 'But tolerance, not coercion, is our Nation's answer. The First Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands. Because Colorado seeks to deny that promise, the judgment is reversed,' he concluded. ... Smith told *Fox News Digital* in a March 2022 interview, 'I think it's important for people to understand that I love and welcome the opportunity to work with all people. My case has never been about choosing which client to work with, but about choosing the message that I'm being asked to promote.' ... 'I've had my home address put on social media, I have received many threats--death threats, threats of bodily harm,' she said in December. 'The security system on my home, my child's school has been on alert. I've lost business, my clients have been harassed and my website ... people attempt to hack into it, almost regularly by the hour.' **Despite this, Smith said she did not regret going to court. 'The right to speak freely is guaranteed to all of us, and that's been hard at times,' she said. 'While it has come at a cost, it's a right worth protecting.'**"



Lorie Smith

SUPREME COURT ISSUES VERDICT SUPPORTING POSTAL WORKER'S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The following is excerpted from "Landmark win," *Christian Headlines*, June 29, 2023: "The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a major win to a former USPS postal carrier who says he was forced out of his job because his religious request to not participate in Sunday deliveries was denied. The justices, in a 9-0 decision, vacated a lower court ruling against the worker and clarified what is allowed under the Constitution in the often-contentious area of religious



Gerald Groff, a former postal worker whose case was argued before the Supreme Court, in Holtwood, Pa., in March. Carolyn Kaster / AP file

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KNIFE VIOLENCE IN GERMANY AND FRANCE

The following is excerpted from “German Officials Estimate 60 Knife Attacks Per Day in 2022,” *The European Conservative*, June 21, 2023: “If one takes into account figures recorded and published by the state criminal police offices in Germany’s 16 federal states, the total number of knife attacks across the entire country exceeded 21,000 in 2022, which amounts to a staggering 60 attacks every single day, the German online magazine *Tichy’s Einblick* reports. ... The news comes months after Ibrahim A., a 34-year-old Palestinian, carried out a deadly knife rampage on a regional train to Hamburg that resulted in the untimely deaths of two young people and saw five others injured. In 2022, knife attacks on trains and at train stations in Germany more than doubled. In France, which in terms of its multicultural trajectory is slightly ahead of Germany, knife attacks are even more widespread, with a 2020 study by the National Observatory of Delinquency and Criminal Responses (ONDRP) revealing that **more than 120 people are victims of knife crimes each day.**”

SUPREME COURT ISSUES VERDICT SUPPORTING POSTAL WORKER’S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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requests and employer-employee relations. The case will now go back to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals with new instructions from the high court that are more favorable to religious employees. Gerald Groff, an evangelical Christian ... was told he must work Sundays. He resigned and sued USPS. Groff’s attorneys claimed USPS was in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious discrimination by employers. The law says religion includes ‘all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that he is unable to reasonably accommodate an employee’s or prospective employee’s religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer’s business.’ The case partially hinged on the definition of ‘undue hardship,’ the Supreme Court said in its opinion. Undue hardship is ‘shown when a burden is substantial in the overall context of an employer’s business,’ Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the court. ... First Liberty said, ‘The Court held that federal law requires workplaces to accommodate their religious employees unless doing so would cause significant difficulty or expense on the business. Previously, employers could avoid granting religious accommodations to employees of faith simply by pointing to trifling, minimal, or *de minimis* effects. This decision means that more employers will be legally required to respect their religious employees by granting them accommodations. Employees of faith often seek religious accommodations to honor their holy days, to take prayer breaks during the day, to dress according to their religious beliefs, or to otherwise not be forced to violate their religious beliefs on the job.’”

TRANSGENDERISM AND SUICIDE

The following is excerpted from “Mental Health You Say?” *PowerLine Blog*, June 27, 2023: “The Biden Administration and the rest of the cheerleaders for transgenderism like to claim that, especially for teens, transgender ‘medicine’ is ‘affirming health care,’ especially mental health. If we don’t allow teens access to puberty blockers and other aggressive interventions, we risk a wave of suicides among young people suffering gender dysphoria in larger and larger numbers. Well, this story in . . . *THE NEW YORK TIMES!!!* is going to cause heads to explode: ‘Landmark Study Shows Higher Suicide Risk for Transgender People. Transgender people in Denmark have a significantly higher risk of suicide than other groups, according to an exhaustive analysis of

health and legal records from nearly seven million people over the last four decades. The study is the first in the world to analyze national suicide data for this group. Transgender people in the country had 7.7 times the rate of suicide attempts and 3.5 times the rate of suicide deaths compared with the rest of the population, according to the records analyzed in the study, though suicide rates in all groups decreased over time. And transgender people in Denmark died--by suicide or other causes--at younger ages than others.’ ... The study this *Times* article is based on was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* today. It will be hard for the transgenderists to waive off this mainstream publication.”

WAVES OF ISLAMIC ANTISEMITISM VIOLENCE IN FRANCE

The following is excerpted from “Netanyahu Condemns Waves of Antisemitism,” *Israel Today*, July 2, 2023: “Rioters in areas with large Muslim populations have torched cars and looted shops, clashing with police and causing hundreds of injuries. Vandals spray-painted ‘Police scum’ on a monument in Nanterre commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish members of the French resistance to the Nazis. Antisemitic chants have been heard during riots and Jewish businesses were ransacked in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, dubbed ‘little Jerusalem’ due to its large Jewish population. There are fears of a repeat of antisemitic violence in the region in 2014, when antisemites targeted Jewish-owned shops and synagogues during the seven-week war between Israel and Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. Jews have been targeted repeatedly in France, including the January 2015 killings by Islamic terrorists at the Hyper Cacher supermarket in Paris. In 2012, Islamic terrorist Mohamed Merah perpetrated a massacre at the Ozar Torah Jewish school (now called Ohr Torah) in Toulouse. Six years earlier, 23-year-old Ilan Halimi was captured, tortured and held for ransom by a French gang named The Barbarians, led by a self-professed Islamic radical. Outwardly identifiable Jews have routinely been attacked in cities across the country.”



BACTERIAL PHYSICISTS AND CHEMISTS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 16, 2023: “Some types of bacteria are able to go into a state of suspended animation when living conditions become too harsh. Not only do they change their form and appearance, they are amazingly able to change their DNA structure to avoid damage from harmful types of light! Like other living things, bacteria need the right temperatures, the right amount of moisture, and other conditions that support life. When conditions change, bacteria are too tiny to move to better conditions. However, they can *sporulate*. When living conditions become too harsh, some bacteria encase themselves into a tough coating of protein and enter a state of suspended animation. As spores, bacteria can rest in bone dry soil for up to 60 years waiting for rain. Ultraviolet radiation poses another danger to bacteria. This light damages a bacterium’s DNA at a point where two thymine molecules sit next to each other. The light strikes the molecules and twists them. The result can be fatal to bacteria. So when a bacterium begins to go into spore form, it produces a protein that slightly and harmlessly changes the shape of these two thymine molecules so that they are not affected by ultraviolet light. The entire process by which bacteria go into spore form reflects a sophisticated knowledge of both biochemistry and physics. Even in the lowly bacteria, our Creator has made it clear that He and He alone deserves the credit for the creation in which we live! REF: Weiss, R, ‘New light on bacterial DNA protection,’ *Science News*, v. 139, Jan. 12, 1991.

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THAT HE & HE ALONE DESERVES THE CREDIT
FOR THE CREATION IN WHICH WE LIVE!**

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.