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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## CHRISTIANS ARRESTED FOR MASKLESS OUTDOOR SERVICE AWARDED PAYOUT FROM LIBERAL COLLEGE TOWN BUT DESPISED BY MASK-LOVING CITIZENRY

The following is excerpted from “Christians arrested,” *Fox News*, July 20, 2023:

“A liberal college town in Idaho is paying \$300,000 to three Christian churchgoers who sued the city after being arrested for not wearing masks at an outside service during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city of Moscow announced this week that it would settle with Gabriel Rensch, as well as Sean and Rachel Bohnet, who brought a case against city leaders in March 2021 that alleged their rights under the First and Fourth Amendments were violated when they were arrested at an outdoor ‘psalm sing’ conducted by leaders from their church in September 2020. Moscow, home to the University of Idaho, is a town of approximately 25,000 people about 80 miles south of Spokane, Washington. ... A magistrate judge later dismissed the city’s case against them, and U.S. District Court Judge Morrison C. England, Jr., wrote in his Feb. 1, 2023 memorandum and order denying the city’s motion to dismiss that the ‘plaintiffs should never have been arrested in the first place, and the constitutionality of what the City thought [its] code said is irrelevant.’ ... Rensch told *Fox News Digital* that he has nevertheless become a pariah in his predominantly liberal community since the arrest and subsequent settlement. Rensch says members of his community have accused him of being ‘an idiot’ who does not ‘love his neighbor’ and have urged him to ‘take your money and run’ since the payout.



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## COUTTS AND THE RISE OF PRIVATE TYRANNY



*Nigel Farage*

The following is excerpted from “Coutts,” *The Post*, Unherd, July 20, 2023: “Last month [Nigel Farage], the former Ukip and Brexit Party leader, had his account unceremoniously terminated by his financial institution, the London-based Coutts. Initially, Coutts claimed that the move was based purely on ‘commercial’ considerations, having to do with Farage’s failure to meet a requisite ‘financial threshold.’ Yet as the firm’s internal deliberations have revealed, the decision to de-bank Farage had

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## COUTTS AND THE RISE OF PRIVATE TYRANNY

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almost entirely to do with his political views and associations. In a meeting last November, Coutts's reputational-risk committee counselled against 'continuing to bank' Farage given his 'publicly stated views that were at odds with our position as an inclusive organisation'. Farage's crimes include his use of 'globalist' as a pejorative; his '*useful idiot* admiration' for Vladimir Putin; his retweeting of Ricky Gervais lampooning gender ideology; and his meeting with vaccine-sceptical tennis champ Novak Djokovic. De-banking, and the freezing of digital assets and transactions, form a relatively new strategy for suppressing dissent in supposedly non-coercive market societies. ... It was first deployed in the wake of the Jan. 6

riot in Washington, when PayPal blocked a Christian crowdfunding site that facilitated fundraising for detained protesters. ... The following year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government invoked Canada's Emergency Act to de-bank truck drivers involved in an anti-vaccine-mandate uprising. ... The de-banking of Farage is thus an especially glaring case of what I call private tyranny: the unjust and often-systematic coercion that suffuses our lives as workers and consumers. ... Precisely because it takes place in a 'private' sphere, this form of tyranny can't be challenged in court or at the ballot box. It's a game of power politics where one side lacks the power to play while the other is set up to win."

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST URGES CHURCHES TO HELP "PREGNANT PEOPLE" GET ABORTIONS

The following is excerpted from "United Church of Christ," *The Christian Post*, July 17, 2023: "The United Church of Christ overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on member congregations of the liberal mainline denomination to help 'pregnant people' get abortions. At the 34th UCC General Synod earlier this month, delegates passed the measure denouncing the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision and calling for the denomination to support abortion access by a vote of 611 in favor, 24 opposed and 13 abstaining. The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Dobbs* that abortion is not a constitutional right, overturning the 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade*. The decision also allowed several states to enact restrictions and bans on the procedure's legality in most circumstances. ... The

[denomination's] resolution also urges the United Church Board Ministerial Assistance to 'provide emergency grants to any UCC Medical beneficiaries and other eligible applicants to cover out-of-pocket costs and travel costs incurred by accessing care not available in their home state.'" The Bible says, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ... But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (2 Peter 2:1, 2, 10).

## CHRIST'S APPEARANCE TO THE CHURCHES

The Christ of John's vision in Revelation 1 is for the purpose of purifying the churches in this present age. This is not the servant Christ of the Gospels. Christ is no longer a babe in a manger or a child in Mary's arms; He is not a carpenter; He is not a man of sorrows crowned with thorns. **Christ doesn't present Himself as a "buddy," a rocker dude, or a rapper. He presents Himself in the most majestic, awesome manner.** His head and hairs white like wool and his eyes as a flame of fire and his feet like unto burning brass and the sharp two-edged sword coming out of His mouth **speak of purifying and chastening and pruning.** The true saints are Christ's beloved bride (Eph. 5:25); they are His brethren (Ro. 8:29); they are joint heirs with Him (Ro. 8:17).

But in this present life, Christ's saints are made subject to vanity and are in the bondage of corruption (Ro. 8:20-21). They have been adopted as sons positionally (Ro. 8:15), but they are waiting for the adoption practically (Ro. 8:23). In this present life, Christ's saints are in "the body of this death" (Ro. 7:24). The Christian life is a time of testing and preparation. It is a time of living by faith rather than sight (2 Co. 5:7). It is a time of being under discipline (Heb. 12:6-11). It is a time of pruning (Joh. 15:1-2). This necessitates the vision of the glorified Christ to the churches that we have in Revelation 1-3. More than ever, in this worldly, lukewarm, apostate age, we need to see Christ high and lifted up!

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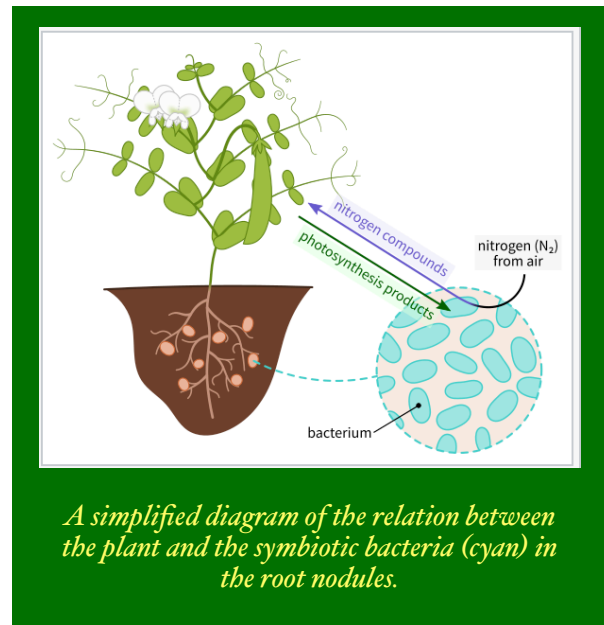
## A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT "THE NEWS"

We want to be informed about what is happening, but we want to see everything through God's eyes. We have no intention to fret or worry, to be addicted to politics or to get wrapped in a political solution, to fill our minds with the latest conspiracy theory, or to get involved with any type of uprising. We intend to obey God's exhortations, such as these: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Ps. 37:1-3). "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mt. 6:33). "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right

hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2). Let the unredeemed do the fretting, as their only hope is this present world. What we are doing in the face of end-time apostasy and rampant wickedness is simple. We are doing what God has told us to do, which is to immerse ourselves in Scripture, meditating in God's Word day and night (Ps. 1:1-3), focusing like a laser on Christ's Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20), preaching the life-changing gospel as far and wide as possible, building good churches and good Christian homes, raising children and youth for the glory of Jesus Christ, training preachers, starting new churches, and lots and lots and lots of prayer, including prayer for those who are in authority that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

# PLANTS AND BACTERIUM COMMUNICATE

The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 13, 2023: "Some people talk to their plants. But what do you say to a bacterium? Evidently the soybean plant knows just what to say to make bacteria its close friend and helper. Symbiosis means a relationship between two different creatures in which they both help each other. Plants need nitrogen for healthy growth. However, while there is more than enough nitrogen in the air, plants normally can't make use of that nitrogen. Legumes, like soybeans, link up with bacteria that are able to take nitrogen from the air and turn it into a form of nitrogen that plants, including the soybean, can use. In return, the plant creates a nice home for the bacteria in nodes in its roots and provides the bacteria with food. The bacteria need a great deal of oxygen and energy to fix nitrogen into the soil. The oxygen is supplied by heme. If that name reminds you of the hemoglobin that carries oxygen in blood, you're on the right track. That's why the heme in the nodules turns them reddish. Who makes the heme, the soybean or the bacteria? When alone, neither creature has any heme. Researchers have learned that the plant performs the first part of the chemistry needed to make heme and the bacterium finishes the job. The plant and the bacterium actually communicate chemically with each other so that production goes smoothly! Communication between such different creatures, allowing them to perform sophisticated chemistry to improve both of their lives, shows how inadequate evolution is to explain life. This arrangement surely glorifies the Creator! REF: Pennisi, E. 'Intimate chemistry of a symbiotic odd couple,' *Science News*, v. 139, Mar. 9, 1991, p. 151."



## 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 no 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).