

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## ANDY STANLEY'S FURTHER DEPARTURE FROM BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



*Andrew Stanley*

The following is excerpted from "The train is leaving the station," *World*, Sept. 18, 2023: "In the coming days, Andy Stanley is set to host the "Unconditional Conference" at a campus of North Point Community Church in the metro Atlanta area, and the website for the conference bills it as a 'two-day premier event' especially designed for parents of LGBTQ+ children and ministry leaders. 'You will be equipped, refreshed, and inspired as you hear from leading communicators on topics that speak to your heart, soul, and mind,' it promises. One statement stands out in the description: 'No matter what theological stance you hold, we invite you to listen, reflect, and learn as we approach this topic from the quieter middle space.' The promise of 'the quieter middle space' might appear attractive ... But the advertising for the Unconditional Conference

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## POLICE DROP CHARGES AGAINST WOMAN SILENTLY PRAYING OUTSIDE AN ABORTION CLINIC

The following is excerpted from *The Christian Post*, Sept. 22, 2023: "British police have decided not to press charges against a pro-life activist for praying silently outside an abortion clinic nearly a year after her pro-life advocacy first subjected her to adverse legal consequences. In a statement published Friday, the law firm ADF UK reported that West Midlands Police in Birmingham, England, won't be pressing charges against pro-life activist Isabel Vaughan-Spruce for engaging in silent prayer outside an abortion clinic and have issued an apology to her for arresting her on two separate occasions for praying. The police also vowed that 'there will be no further investigation into the alleged matter, and there will be no further action taken.' Vaughan-Spruce reacted



Isabel Vaughan-Spruce (center-left) and Father Sean Gough (center-right) (photo: March for Life UK)

to the development by declaring, 'I welcome West Midlands Police's decision to end their investigation and their apology for the time it took to do so, but it's important to highlight the extremely harmful implications of this ordeal not just for myself, but for everyone concerned with fundamental freedoms in the U.K.' She added, 'What happened to me signals to others that they, too, could face arrest, interrogation, investigation,

and potential prosecution if caught exercising their basic freedom of thought. Now that authorities have twice settled on the conclusion that silent prayer is not a crime--a conclusion also reached by the Home Secretary last week--I am thankful to resume my practice of praying silently for women in crisis pregnancies.'"

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indicates clearly that this event is designed as a platform for normalizing the LGBTQ+ revolution while claiming that the conference represents 'the quieter middle space.' In truth, there is no 'middle space' on these issues, and it is no longer plausible to claim that such middle space exists. Scheduled speakers for the event include two men who are married to other men, at least according to current civil law. Biographical background on speakers Justin Lee and Brian Nietzel indicates that both men are in what are now described as 'same-sex marriages.' ... This is not 'the quieter middle space.' Another major speaker is David Gushee, a prominent intellectual who ... traces his own pilgrimage to eager LGBTQ+ advocacy. ... Andy Stanley, one of the most influential pastors in the United States, has been moving in this direction for years, often by suggestion and assertion but clouded by confusion and the deliberate avoidance of clarity."

## LAW PROFESSOR WARNS THAT FEAR AND INTIMIDATION ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

The following is excerpted from "Law Professor Testifies," *The Daily Wire*, Aug. 5, 2020: "Jonathan Turley, Constitutional Law Professor at George Washington University, issued a dire warning at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday: 'If you go through their antifa handbook and look at their literature, it's quite express, they, as stated in the handbook, they reject the premise of what they call a classical liberal view of free speech,' Turley said. ... 'They believe that free speech itself is a tool of oppression. And that has been the message on campuses. What I thought was disturbing about these statements that antifa is a myth is that many of us on campus have been dealing with antifa for years. And antifa is winning,' Turley continued. 'I've been teaching for 30 years. I have never seen the level of fear and intimidation on campuses that we see today. Faculty are afraid to speak out about issues. We can't have a dialogue about the important issues occurring today because there's a fear that you might be accused of being reactionary or racist. We've had law professors who have been physically attacked, have required police protection. That's the environment that we're developing,' Turley continued. 'And for people that think that antifa and groups like it can be allies, they don't know antifa. Those of us who have been teaching on campuses can tell you about these groups. And the alarm that I have is because **I'm watching my profession, the teaching profession, die, with free speech.** ... We're seeing, many of these speakers are being prevented from speaking on campus under various theories. The message is clear to faculty and to students: There's a new orthodoxy that you should not confront and certainly shouldn't disagree with. There are some Democratic politicians that have not only failed to denounce antifa but in that case seemed to give it a shout out,' Turley concluded. '**If you go to campuses today you'll find more advocates for limiting speech than protecting it. They're winning.** ... it's very disturbing because **antifa is not coming after ... Democrats, they're coming after Republicans, conservatives, and those of us in the free speech community. They're coming after us. But don't think we'll be the last ones. That's not how this works.**'"

## UNPRECEDENTED DEVASTATION COMING ON THE EARTH

World news is filled with reports of disaster, both natural and manmade. There are floods, earthquakes, active volcanos, violent revolution, wars, terrorism. According to Bible prophecy, which has always been accurate, these things are but minor harbingers of much greater devastation to come. The world's population will be decimated, economies ruined, disaster management resources utterly overwhelmed. In comparison with what is coming, the world wars of the 20th century were but a "walk in the park." This time of unprecedented trouble will occur in a seven-year period called "the day of the Lord" and "the great tribulation." It is a time when God will judge the world for its rebellion, a time when man will be humbled and God exalted. Some of the highlights are as follows: A fourth part of the earth's population will die in warfare and associated famines at the very beginning of the tribulation (Re. 6:8). A third part of the sea will be turned to blood and a third of the ships destroyed (Re. 8:7-9). A third part of the waters will be made bitter (Re. 8:10-11). Demonic armies will torment and kill men (Re. 9:1-19), one-third of mankind perishing in this one judgment. A malevolent world ruler will exercise control over a global economy, forcing all men to worship him and killing those who refuse (Re. 13:15-18). Men will be scorched by a super-heated sun and gnaw their tongues for pain (Re. 16:8-11). A great earthquake will shake the world so terribly that the mountains will fall and the islands will flee away (Re. 16:18-20). Hail stones weighing 100 pounds will fall upon the earth (Re. 16:21). "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ... For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:3, 4, 9).

## LOTS OF UNSAVED CHURCH MEMBERS

Bible teacher, educator, Bible conference speaker, editor of *The Fundamentals*, and a prominent evangelist, said that he believed that only 10% of those who professed to be believers were really converted (cited from William Ashbrook, *Evangelicalism The New Neutralism*, p. 118). Monroe "Monk" Parker, evangelist, president of Pillsbury Baptist College, and general director of Baptist World Mission, said, "I have concluded that if we could get half the church members saved, we would see a great revival. In fact, I think if we could get half of the preachers in America converted, we would see a mighty revival that would stop the floodtide of evil and turn America back to God. Just belonging to a church did not save me" (Parker, *Through Sunshine and Shadows*, 1967, p. 62).





# THE BRAINY JELLY FISH

The following is from CreationMoments.com, September 18, 2023: "Jellyfish and their cousins are often described as the simplest animals without nervous systems. Because evolutionary scientists have thought jellyfish were such simple creatures, and because many of them show up early in the fossil record, jellyfish were said to be among the earliest animals to evolve. Marine biologists have been surprised to learn that the modern populations of jellyfish and their cousins are actually much more complex than they ever suspected. Creationists point out that because there are so many of these creatures, there was also probably a large population in the past. The more common a creature is, the more likely it is to be found in the deeper rocks of the fossil record. More recently, scientists have learned that the supposedly simple nervous system of the jellyfish is actually not so simple. They have confirmed that at least one type of jellyfish has a nervous system with the same advanced features found only in mammals and humans. Most animals generate electrical impulses using sodium. However, like humans, this jellyfish can generate different kinds of impulses depending on whether sodium or calcium is used. Thus, the jellyfish can send twice as much information through its nervous system as most other animals! We're learning that when humans refer to a creature as simple, it's probably because of human ignorance of the creature, *not* because it's a simple form of life. This should remind those of us who believe in creation that all things witness in support of God's wisdom, not human stories of evolution. Ref: Brownlee, Shannon, 'Jellyfish aren't out to get us,' *Discover*, Aug. 1987, p. 53."

## 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).