



NEWS & NOTES

■ On Wednesday the Justice Department sent a letter to North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory warning that the state's recently enacted House Bill 2 is a violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which outlaws discrimination on basis of sex, race, color, national origin, and religion. The Justice Department has given the governor until Monday, May 9 to respond. A similar letter was sent to the University of North Carolina claiming that the new law violates Title IX. The law enacts a state-wide policy banning individuals from using multiple occupancy public bathrooms that do not correspond to their biological sex listed on their birth certificate. The Obama administration is claiming that HB 2 discriminates based on sex because "gender identity" is included under the category of sex. Although the Fourth Circuit Court recently acknowl-

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Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also... — Proverbs 31:28

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edged that "the word 'sex' was understood at the time ... were determined ... [by] reproductive organs," they determined that the Obama administration's interpretation of the word "sex" in Title X to include "gender identity" was permissible. North Carolina has further clarified application to transgendered individuals, stating, "This law simply says people must use the bathroom of the sex listed on their birth certificate. Anyone who has undergone a sex change can change their sex on their birth certificate."

The Weekly, 5/6

■ The U.S. Department of Education, in response to the Human Rights Campaign, released a list of colleges that have asked for an exemption under Title IX in response to the push to include "transgenderism" within the meaning of sex. There are 133 colleges listed on DOE's website.

FACT, 5/6

■ Fifty-one Chicago families represented by Alliance Defending Freedom have filed a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education, claiming that the DOE's reinterpretation of "sex" to include "gender identity" in Title IX funding is unconstitutional and violates student privacy and safety.

FACT, 5/6

■ The Food and Drug Administration is spending \$36 million for the "This Free Life" advertising campaign

that celebrates the homosexual and "transgender" lifestyle while encouraging the LGBT community to stop smoking.

FACT, 5/6

■ In defiance to Pope Francis, the College of the Holy Cross, a Catholic school in Massachusetts, will implement a new housing policy this fall that will allow students of different sexes to room together based on their gender identity.

FACT, 5/6

■ Missouri State University is being sued for dismissing counseling student Andrew Cash because he expressed reservations in counseling same-sex couples due to his strongly held religious beliefs. After the school discovered Cash had interned with a Christian counseling institute that preferred to refer homosexual clients to outside counseling services, the school stripped Cash of all internship credit and eventually expelled him from the graduate program. While just-signed-into-law HB 1840 protects those already in practice, legislation to protect students in Tennessee's public colleges could not get enough support in the state House Education Subcommittee to pass in either the 107th or 108th General Assemblies.

FACT, 4/29

■ The Colorado Supreme Court has refused to review the case of wedding cake baker Jack Phillips, who, due to his religious beliefs, re-

fused to make a cake for a gay couple's "wedding." A lower court had ruled that Phillips couldn't refuse service based on his religious beliefs, and that ruling still stands. Phillips is still under orders from the Colorado Court of Appeals to create cakes for same-sex celebrations, re-educate his staff, and file quarterly "compliance" reports for two years.

FACT, 4/29

■ On Tuesday, around 8,600 Tennesseans joined Franklin Graham in a prayer rally for our state and nation at the Tennessee Capitol. Graham boldly led the group in prayer, confessing the national sins of abortion, legalization of same-sex "marriage," materialism, and racism. He then led a prayer for those seeking salvation, and urged all to vote in this year's elections and to run for local office if the opportunity arises. "The only hope for the United States of America is almighty God," said Graham.

FACT, 5/6

■ Long a celebration of evangelical influence in Washington and beyond, speakers at this year's National Day of Prayer observance decried what they saw as America's moral decline, in particular the acceptance of same-sex marriage. Since 1952, following an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer has been observed annually.

RNS, 5/6

■ Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slattery has appealed the recent federal ruling from Judge Kevin Sharp that demanded a recount of the votes for Amendment 1, saying that this is a matter of state law to be determined by a Tennessee court. The recount is now on hold while the case heads to the 6th Circuit.

FACT, 4/29

■ Gov. Sam Brownback of Kansas signed a bill that prioritizes distribution of the reproductive health grants that the state gets under Title X to full-service public health clinics and hospitals over Planned Parenthood. Tennessee passed a similar bill several years ago. He also vowed that the abortion giant would receive no funding through Medicaid. Ten states that have decided to deny state funding to Planned Par-

enthood in the wake of evidence from Center for Medical Progress' undercover videos may be forced to fund Planned Parenthood anyway through pressures from the Obama administration's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

FACT, 5/6, 4/29

■ Those are the terms of a new law requiring what doctors here are calling "fetal anesthesia" for the small percentage of abortions that occur at this point in a pregnancy. The law, passed by the Republican-controlled State Legislature and signed in late March by Gov. Gary R. Herbert, a Republican, has opened a new front in the heated debate over fetal pain. Mary Taylor, the president of Pro-Life Utah, who testified in support of the law, said she appreciated its focus on the condition of the

In this day, whether it be far or near, the Kingdoms of this world shall become indeed the Kingdom of God and He will reign forever and ever, Lord of Lords and King of Kings." — PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN (1945)

President Franklin Roosevelt promised the king of Saudi Arabia that as long as he was President, America would not recognize a Jewish State. Within a week of making the promise he was dead and Harry S. Truman, born May 8, 1884, became President. Upon assuming the Presidency, Truman addressed Congress, saying, "As I have assumed my heavy duties, I humbly pray Almighty God, in the words of King Solomon: 'Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?' I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people." He immediately proceeded with plans to recognize the State of Israel.

President Truman addressed the Attorney General's Conference in 1950, "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days."

fetus and on surgical abortions that she called “barbaric and horrific.”

NY Times, 5/4

■ A member of the U.S. Marine Corps who was court-martialed for refusing to take down a Bible verse from her desk has argued her case in a federal appeals court. In May of 2013, while stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling had displayed a Bible verse on her desk which read: “No weapons formed against me shall prosper,” a paraphrase of Isaiah 54:17.

Christian Headlines, 5/4

■ On April 28 the Army reversed its decision to dismiss a decorated Green Beret soldier who physically confronted an Afghan police commander for raping a young boy. Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland’s case drew support from organizations such as the VFW and the ACLJ, which spearheaded a letter-writing campaign and a petition. Martland expressed gratitude for efforts in clearing his record and allowing him to stay in the Army.

World News Service, 5/2

■ Grace Christian Life, a student group registered at North Carolina State Univer-

sity, has filed a lawsuit against the school, alleging that the school discriminated against them by requiring them to obtain a permit and restricting their free speech rights. Alliance Defending Freedom says that the Christian group was singled out by the university which did not target other groups.

Christian Headlines, 4/28

■ A Baylor University study found that about nine out of 10 Americans have relied on healing prayer at some point in their lives, with most of them praying for other people’s health and well-being more than their own. “Outside of belief in God, healing prayer might be the most ubiquitous religious practice that there is,” professor and lead author Jeff Levin said. “This might be one of the most prevalent forms of primary care medicine, and I don’t say that lightly.” More than half of people also said they have participated in prayer groups to help themselves or others heal from medical problems. But Levin said he was most surprised that more than a quarter of Americans have practiced “laying on hands,” in which a person lays their hands on another to relay spiritual blessings.

CNN, 4/25

■ Only one-third of American Protestant pastors believe that Christians will be raptured as the end times begin, according to a new study from LifeWay Research. Though 36 percent of senior pastors believe in pre-tribulation rapture, 25 percent argue that the rapture is not a literal concept. Others say that the rapture will occur after tribulation (18%), during the tribulation (4%), has already happened (1%), or none of these possibilities (8%). Christian Headlines, 4/27

■ China and India are protesting a U.S. report that condemns violations of religious freedom worldwide. China has filed a formal diplomatic protest after the U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom’s report found that China’s violations were “severe” against Buddhists, Muslims and Christians in particular. In April, Chinese president Xi Jinping asked leaders in the country to work to reassert the Communist Party of China as the controlling religion in the country. In a recent case of Ding Cuimei and her pastor husband, who were buried as they tried to stop their Chinese church from being bulldozed. Ding’s husband managed to survive. Ding suffocated to death. In India, a Catholic bishop was recently kidnapped, blindfolded, and beaten by men who claimed to be working with the police before eventually being released. RT, 5/6

God made man first to reveal his need for woman.

A CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Is There a Europe without Christianity?

by John Stonestreet

Is Europe a continent? This is not a trick question.

Geographers and historians aren’t quite sure. Not for reasons having to do with “political correctness” or other ideological controversies, but because of geography.

With the other six continents—Asia, Africa, Australia, Antarctica, North America, and South America—it’s fairly simple to tell where they begin and end. But the same can’t be said of Europe. As Wikipedia tells us, “the borders of Europe . . . are arbitrary.”

Yet as Wikipedia also tells us, the definition of a continent, especially Europe, also includes “cultural and political” elements.

And as a recent article in the Atlantic Monthly told readers, in Europe’s case, “culture” until recently meant Christianity.

In the article, provocatively entitled “How Islam Created Europe,” Robert D. Kaplan tells readers that in Greek and Roman times, “Europe” referred to the “world surrounding the Mediterranean.” In fact, the mythological character *Europa*, from whom we get the word “Europe,” was a Phoenician woman from now Israel and Lebanon.

In this understanding, “Europe” included places like North Africa, but not what’s now Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia.

What changed this definition was the spread of Islam across North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean, what is known as the Levant. Islamic civilization, especially when its forces were turned back by Charles Martel at the battle of Tours in 732, gave people all across Christian Europe something to define themselves against.

As the expression “Christian Europe” suggests, over time Europeans came to see themselves as part of a larger entity that was, like the Islamic world, defined in religious terms. Kaplan quotes the 1957 book, “Europe: The Emergence of an Idea,” which tells readers that “European unity began with the concept . . . of a Christendom in ‘inevitable opposition’ to Islam.”

The most famous example of this “inevitable opposition” is, of course, the Crusades. While the Crusades are endlessly debated, one thing about them isn’t: The European forces saw themselves primarily as a force of Christians, which was their shared identity and basis for unity.

Christianity was the source of the “cultural and political” elements that make Europe a continent and not simply a glorified peninsula at the end of the Eurasian landmass.

And that prompts the obvious question: What do you call Europe without Christianity? Kaplan’s answer, in keeping with his 2012 book, “The Revenge of Geography,” is that “classical geography is organically reasserting itself . . . [reuniting] the Mediterranean Basin, including North Africa and the Levant, with Europe.”

That reunification is being hastened, of course, by waves of hundreds of thousands of Syrian and African migrants, who by the way, “have no desire to be Christian.” This phenomenon threatens “to undermine the fragile social peace” as well as undermine the modern European project.

If so, it’s a self-inflicted wound. European elites have long worked overtime to downplay their Christian heritage, and have “used idealistic rhetoric to deny the forces of religion and ethnicity.” The most famous example of this was the preamble to the EU’s constitution, which omitted any mention of Christianity as a source of Europe’s “values.”

This is, historically-speaking, nonsense. It’s also self-destructive since, because, as Kaplan tells us, Christianity is one of the forces “that provided European states with their own internal cohesion.”

Without Christianity, Europe is hobbled in its attempts to resist the “reassertion of classical geography.” In other words, if Europe is eventually “Islamicized,” as many predict, it will only be because it was first “de-Christianized.”

Breatpoint Commentary, 4/29/2016

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

★★NEW MOVIES

	Quality	Moral	Age
<i>Ratchet and Clank</i>	PG	+4	+3 All
<i>Captain America: Civil War</i>	PG-13	+4	-2 OT/A
<i>Keanu</i>	R	+3	-3 OT/A

A- Adult, T-Teen, OT- Older Teen

Film “Quality” is an estimate (+1 to +4) of appeal for the intended audience or age group. “Moral” rating ranges from extremely objectionable (-4) to very good (+4). movieguide.org