



NEWS & NOTES

■ The Obama administration's directive that reinterpreted the definition of "sex" to also include "gender" in statutes like Title IX would have forced public schools to allow restrooms and locker rooms to be used according to gender identity. That directive was barred by Texas Federal Judge Reed O'Connor on Oct. 18. The Justice Department had requested that O'Connor's injunction be limited to the 13 states where attorney generals sued to stop government-imposed transgender bathrooms. The judge responded that not only does he have the authority to issue a nationwide injunction, but "a geographically-limited injunction would be ineffective" because "both Title IX and Title VII rely on the consistent, uniform application of national standards." The Department of Education has appealed the decision to the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. **FACT, 10/28**

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They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

— Psalm 126:5

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■ The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal next year from the Gloucester, Va., County School Board in the case of Gloucester County School Board v. GG, a student privacy case. Caitlin Grimm (who wants to be called Gavin) self-identifies as male and wants to use boys' restrooms at school. This is the first time that the Court will be addressing the question of whether the word "sex" in Title IX can be interpreted to mean "gender identity." **FACT, 11/4**

■ National Security Advisor Susan Rice announced a new rule that mandates any organization contracting with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure that all people can benefit from their programs regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity if it wants to keep federal funding. This could affect faith-based aid organizations not just nationally but internationally. Disaster relief organizations could even be asked to open their women's showers, locker rooms, and sleeping facilities to biological males who self-identify as women or else be stripped of federal funding for discriminating against gender identity. **FACT, 11/4**

■ A federal district court ruled against a motion by Alliance Defending Freedom to enjoin the Iowa Civil Rights

Commission from interpreting their public accommodations law to include churches in certain instances. If officially interpreted that way, churches would be subject to new rules regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. The Court denied the injunction because there was no official interpretation making churches public accommodations, but it did say "state and federal courts have held that churches and programs they host are not places of public accommodation." The ADF lauded the ruling and said it would not take the lawsuit further. **FACT, 11/4**

■ Beginning this month, Airbnb is asking all its participants to agree to their community commitment, which does not allow anyone to discriminate based on the added category of sexual orientation and gender identity. If someone disagrees with the new policy, they can't host or book using Airbnb. **FACT, 11/4**

■ A Canadian appeals court has ruled in favor of a Christian law school in a lawsuit about the school's views toward homosexuality. Trinity Western University located in British Columbia, Canada has a "community covenant" which states that students are not to have sexual relations outside of heterosexual marriage. The Appeals court of British Columbia ruled that

Trinity has the prerogative to enforce their "community covenant." "This case demonstrates that a well-intentioned majority acting in the name of tolerance and liberalism can, if unchecked, impose its views on the minority in a manner that is, in itself, intolerant and illiberal," they said. **Christian Headlines, 11/2**

■ Washington, D.C.'s City Council voted Tuesday 11-2 in favor of the Death with Dignity Act that legalizes assisted suicide. The bill must pass the council one more time and be signed by the mayor to become law. Congress would have the power to overturn it. **FACT, 11/4**

■ According to a new government report, the number of homeschoolers in the United States has doubled since 1999. The estimated number of home-schooled children represents 3.4 percent of the U.S. student population between the ages of 5 and 17. One of the most important reasons that parents gave for homeschooling their children was environmental issues such as safety, drugs, and peer pressure. **FACT, 11/4**

■ A 13-year longitudinal study of 8,005 American women 15 to 28 years old compared four groups: those who gave birth, those who had voluntary abortions, those who had experienced an involuntary loss of preg-

nancy, and those who had never been pregnant. The data were analyzed to see which of these women were depressed, anxious, suicidal, or addicted to drugs. Those who had abortions were at a 45 percent increased risk of mental health disorders, while those who gave birth had a 0.66 lower rate of mental health problems than any of the other three groups. **FACT, 10/28**

■ The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a California law that requires religiously affiliated pregnancy resource centers to inform women about the availability of abortion options. Those who don't comply could be fined \$500 for the first failure and \$1,000 for subsequent violations. **FACT, 10/21**

■ American women are having almost as many abortions through medication as by surgery, according to data reviewed by Reuters. However, an Australian study found that women receiving chemical abortions were admitted to hospitals at a rate of 5.7 percent following the abortion, as compared with 0.4 percent for patients undergoing surgical abortion. **The Weekly, 11/4**

■ A federal judge on Oct. 20 sided with Planned Parenthood in a lawsuit aiming to block a Mississippi law that barred medical providers that perform abortions from participating in the state's Medicaid program. The decision is the latest in a string of rulings striking down similar laws elsewhere in the country against Planned Parenthood. **Reuters, 10/25**

My life-long experience as a business man, and as a Christian worker among young men, has taught me that the only power in this world that can effectually keep one from sin, in all the varied and often attractive forms..is that which comes from an intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as a present Saviour." **— GEORGE WILLIAMS**

Charles Finney's 1835 Revival Lectures inspired George Williams to found the YMCA – Young Men's Christian Association – in 1844. In Switzerland, Henri Dunant founded the Geneva chapter of the YMCA in 1852, before he founded of the International Red Cross, for which he became the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Chicago White Stocking baseball star Billy Sunday began attending YMCA meetings in 1886 before beginning his career as a revival preacher. James Naismith, a medical doctor and Presbyterian minister, invented the game of BASKETBALL at the YMCA training school in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891. His colleague, William Morgan, as the physical education director at the YMCA in Holyoke, Massachusetts, invented VOLLEYBALL in 1895. During World War II, the YMCA printed and distributed prayer books to U.S. soldiers and sailors. The Young Men's Christian Association has grown to a membership of millions in 124 countries. YMCA founder Williams died this day, Nov. 6, 1905.

■ The share of Americans who favor legalizing the use of marijuana continues to increase. Today, 57% of U.S. adults say the use of marijuana should be made legal, while 37% say it should be illegal. A decade ago, opinion on legalizing marijuana was nearly the reverse – just 32% favored legalization, while 60% were opposed. The shift in public opinion on the legalization of marijuana has occurred during a time when many U.S. states are relaxing their restrictions on the drug or legalizing it altogether. In June, Ohio became the 25th state to legalize marijuana in some form. This November, Americans in nine states will vote on measures to establish or expand legal marijuana use.

Pew, 10/12

■ A revealing study has discovered that a majority of millennials agree more with Karl Marx when it comes to issues of work ethics than they do with the Bible. The study included 2,300 participants, found that 64 percent of millennials agree with a statement from Marx that says, “From each according to his abilities, to each ac-

ording to his need,” while only 53 percent agree with a statement from the Bible that says, “if any would not work, neither should he eat.” Eighty percent of Baby Boomers and 91 percent of elderly Americans believe Communism is a problem today, but only 55 percent of millennials believe this is the case. Christian Headlines, 10/31

■ A \$1.4 million Kickstarter campaign to produce and release a new kind of Bible has finally been brought to fruition after a two-year wait. The project, called Bibliotheca, was launched by Adam Lewis Greene whose vision was to format the Bible to read more like a novel by removing the normal chapter headings and breaks with single-page columns in four volumes. Finally, after a two-year wait, the new Bibliotheca Bible is finished and has been shipped out.

Christian Headlines, 11/2

■ Actor and director Mel Gibson has revealed that he is working on a sequel to “The Passion of the Christ” which he says will be called “The Resurrection.” Gibson said this film will take at least three years to make be-

cause “it’s a big subject.”

Christian Headlines, 11/4

■ An Iraqi church in the city of Qaraqosh held its first service in two years just days after being liberated from ISIS’ control. Tens of thousands of Iraq’s Christians were forced to flee the Nineveh Plain when ISIS took over. Many others were forced to pay the jizyah tax, and some were even kidnapped, tortured, and killed. A returning minister said, “What counts is that we have prayed here and have put up the Cross. After being away for exactly 811 days, after being attacked by the forces of darkness and evil, we have come back to worship in freedom.” As Iraqi forces continue the initiative to retake the city of Mosul from Islamic State militants, more Iraqis are returning home and beginning to rebuild their communities and lives.

Christian Headlines, 11/3;
World Watch Monitor, 11/2

■ This Sunday, November 6, marks the 20th International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). Christians around the world face persecution for sharing their faith, handing out Bibles, and meeting together to worship. “According to statistics, persecution is the daily reality of at least 100 million Christians around the world,” says Godfrey Yogarajah, executive director of the World Evangelical Alliance and the Religious Liberty Commission.

Christian Headlines, 11/3

GOD AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

Muslim Refugees Meet Jesus

by Eric Metaxas

There’s a side of the Muslim refugee story you probably have not heard in the mainstream media.

We’ve seen the video clips of Muslim refugees—many of them from war-torn Syria—flooding into an unprepared and overwhelmed Europe. We’ve heard accounts of some of these refugees committing ugly crimes and others demanding that the post-Christian societies that welcome them conform to the harsh demands of Islamic law. We’ve even read the stories about Islamist terror groups such as ISIS infiltrating the refugee populations in order to wreak further havoc on the West.

But chances are you don’t know, as Paul Harvey might have said, the rest of the story. It’s a story of God building His kingdom in the midst of chaos, doubt, and uncertainty. It’s a story of Muslims meeting Jesus. Take, for example, the story of Javad.

A Muslim from Iran, Javad didn’t know any Christians and didn’t own a Bible, though he had heard some Christian satellite radio. Then in 2008 he migrated to Athens, and a roommate asked him to come to an Iranian church. Javad had never heard of such a thing and, curious, he went. There, in a small, unremarkable rented room, he heard the gospel and gladly received Christ.

Now Javad is sharing the Jesus he met with other Muslim refugees in Greece. Every day he goes to a refugee center, park, or coffee shop to share the good news with Iranian and Afghan refugees. He says that he knows of two or three Muslims each day since he arrived who have trusted in Christ. Working at a refugee center that provides practical aid, Javad says more than 2,000 Muslims at the center have turned to Jesus in the last eight years.

Because many refugees remain on the move, an informal network of new churches for Muslim converts has begun spreading in Britain, The Netherlands, Germany, and elsewhere. One church in Berlin has counted 1,200 Muslims converted in just three years,

most of them Afghans and Iranians. At a Persian church in Hamburg, meanwhile, more than 600 Pakistanis and Afghans lined up to be baptized during one service. According to a report in The Daily Beast, thousands—maybe tens of thousands—of Muslims have become followers of Jesus across Northern Europe.

One young woman from Iran told the German magazine Stern, “I’ve been looking all my life for peace and happiness, but in Islam, I have not found them.” Another convert said the love of Christ made all the difference. “In Islam, we always lived in fear,” he said. “Fear God, fear of sin, fear of punishment. But Christ is a God of love.”

Of course, while all this is good news for Muslims, it’s not news to you, if you’ve been following BreakPoint. We’ve highlighted the ground-breaking research of David Garrison, author of the eye-opening book “A Wind in the House of Islam.” After conducting 1,000 interviews with Muslims who met and decided to follow Jesus, David says that the pace of Muslim conversion is accelerating. Of the 82 people movements of Muslims becoming Christians since Islam was founded, 84 percent have occurred within the last two decades. Millions who used to follow Islam are now following Jesus.

“In the last couple of decades,” Garrison told my colleague John Stonestreet, “we began learning of more and more places in the Muslim world where Muslims are saying, ‘We realize we didn’t have salvation in Islam. [B]ut we have found assurance of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ.’”

So while the wars and upheavals in the Middle East and Asia have sparked a crisis of, might I say, biblical proportions, God continues His quiet work of saving sinners and transforming lives. As Joseph in the Old Testament said, what man meant for evil, God meant for good, for the saving of many people! That, my friends, is the rest of the story!

Breatpoint Commentary, 11/4/2016

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

★★NEW MOVIES

	Quality	Moral	Age
<i>Trolls</i>	PG	+4	+2 All
<i>Denial</i>	PG-13	+3	-1 T/A
<i>Hacksaw Ridge</i>	PG-13	+4	-2 OT/A
<i>Inferno</i>	PG-13	+3	-2 T/A
<i>Dr Strange</i>	PG-13	+3	-4 T/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;pluggedin.com