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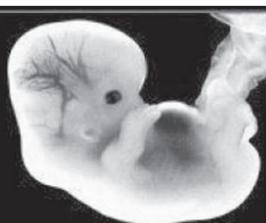
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 **eagle eggs**
 Destroying one
 is punishable by
 a \$250,000 fine
 or 2 years
 in prison.

 **unborn baby**
 Not only is it
 legal to kill her
 but Obamacare is
 forcing taxpayers
 to pay for her
 execution.

Confusing isn't it...
 This information provided by:
First Congregational Church of Fruitport
 3212 E. Pontaluna Road
 Church & Sunday School at 10:30 AM

Reduce Your Cancer Risk

The choices we make every day affect our chances of getting cancer. Three factors that we control have a lot to do with our risk of developing this terrible disease.

How Much We Move
 Be physically active every day in any way for 30 minutes or more

How Much We Weigh
 Aim to be a healthy weight throughout life

What We Eat
 Choose mostly plant foods, limit red meat and avoid processed meat

Preventing Cancer
 For the greatest protection, combine all three.

These guidelines form AICR's simple, evidence-based message. Follow any one and you'll lower your risk. Follow all three, and you'll afford yourself the greatest protection possible. (And always remember - do not use tobacco in any form.)

AICR experts estimate that overall, about **1/3 of cancers in the 1.5 million cancers that occur every year in the US could be prevented by following these guidelines.** For several specific types of cancer, following them could prevent even more cases.

Learn more at www.aicr.org and take control of your cancer risk.

Furnished by
 American Institute for Cancer Research

~ **CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE** ~

Who says so???

By Mariann Cooper

A quote was given a few years ago that America is no longer a Christian nation. This has been proven through the laws and beliefs of many Americans. Billy Graham, the great Evangelist known worldwide, recognized this and has set a goal to Evangelize America before his 95th birthday, November 7, 2013. He calls it "My Hope". Many other Evangelists share this need for revival in America and have implemented programs with this goal.

As a starter, America has "extracted" 55 million fetuses (babies) since the passing of Roe vs. Wade 40 years ago. In the beginning, these pregnancies were "just an egg" that was fertilized. Later, professionals claimed the fetus didn't feel anything when abortion took place. More recently, it was proven through technical advances, that they are in great pain when their bodies were invaded and the brains "sucked out". And... it was completely legal!

According to the Bible given to us long ago we are told, "Suffer the little children not..." and "do no harm to the children". But, you say, "they aren't children yet". The Word says that the Father "knew you before you were conceived" and "He knows the number of hairs on your head." He loved us from the very beginning of our lives - at conception! Sadly, many babies will never be able to enjoy childhood, or the opportunity to go to school, college, or possibly be a great leader in our country. How horrible that so many innocents have been extinguished so easily. We have not lost that many American soldiers in all the wars we've been engaged in.

No matter how you read the Word, you cannot justify gay/homosexual relationships. You say, "they are born that way." Some of us have different attributes and we have to deal with them in a way that's pleasing to the Father. He loves all of us and is not willing to lose even one. He only asks that we come to Him in prayer and ask for His help, and "their eyes will be opened". To act on these desires is a sin just like the sins of stealing, adultery, etc. Sin is sin, no matter what it is or who does it.

Studies indicate that homosexuality is more a personality identity developed in the process of growing up. A 1974 Masters & Johnson Study found that therapy had a success rate of more than 70% after a six-year follow-up of those who wanted to change. This information came from a book by Chuck Colson titled "Answers to Your Kids' Questions?" Other similar statistics can also be found in this book.

When the curtain was torn in the temple upon Jesus' death, it no longer required someone to represent us, but we could communicate with God directly. He died for us so we wouldn't have to die for our sins, no matter how great or small. The choice is ours. There is a heaven and there is a hell. One offers eternity without pain, sorrow, hurting and fear - only love and joy abound in the Father's presence. Hell offers eternal discomfort, thirst, pain and fire. You may believe that when you die, you die, end of story. But what do you have that offers this belief any credence? The Bible has been proven faultless again and again. You have a choice as long as you're living and breathing. God loves you and wants you to come to Him.

When you accept Jesus into your heart, you become a new person. The things of this world are not as important anymore. You will have new meaning in your life. The things of the Bible become more important and your eyes are opened to the ills of this world. You become concerned about the salvation of family and friends, so they don't end up in hell. What goes into your pocket, material possessions, popularity and status are no longer a priority.

Make this the time to study the Bible. A favorite, understandable Bible for me is the New Living Testament (NLT) Application Study Bible. It's in today's language and has been confirmed by many different religious leaders in its translation of the original scripture.

Every Thursday evening from 7 to 8:00 p.m. we read from this book and have discussion. If you have a hunger for "something more," feel free to join us at First Congregational Church of Fruitport, 3212 Pontaluna Road (across from the elementary school). No Bible is necessary, we have a Bible you can use.

Remember, "where two or more are gathered in His name, He is in the midst of them." To God be the glory!

New book explores the beauty of Christianity

By Pam Mettler

If people are tired of church as they know it, a new book by Tyler Blanski called When Donkeys Talk, is designed to help them rediscover the mystery and wonder of Christianity.

The book represents Blanski's holy pilgrimage to rediscover the saints, stars and beauty of Christendom for those living in the twenty-first century. It is ripe with life applications of biblical text, quotes from well-known scientists, authors and theologians, plus it is an invitation for individuals to become enchanted again with Christ and His modern world.

Such respected thinkers as C.S. Lewis, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Sayers, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Hildegard of Bingen, Bonaventure, Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking are all featured in the book.

The Bible story of Balaam and his donkey, from the book of Numbers (vs 22-24), is interwoven throughout to provide an historical backdrop for the reader's journey. It is also used to show how the donkey sees an angel of the Lord appear and it speaks to Balaam, helping him open his eyes to the words of the Lord.

The author states: "Though the tale is ironic and funny, it is deadly serious. God, it would seem, can use anyone - from a heathen to an ass - to accomplish His will. Sadly, like Balaam, we often go blundering on our way, blind to the warnings of God until He has to use "asses" to stop us." (pg 15)

The author's hope in writing the book is to encourage a "holy renaissance," where more and more people will think and act more like Christians toward their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blanski feels there is "hope in the horror" of the modern world. He feels we are "participants in God's unfolding story of creation and redemption." (pg 169)

If this is the case, people can begin to make preparations for the holy renaissance. By exploring with readers the old time days of Christendom, Blanski invites us to enter into a new way of thinking in order to see the world through the eyes of Jesus.

"I want the law of God, His holy covenants, to be more real for me than the law of gravity," Blanski writes.

How can the law of God be understood by most lay people who live in today's world and don't have a seminary background?

How does one transform his or her life in order to bring about a holy renaissance? People can begin by making God more than an afterthought. The book explores the author's longing for a Christianity that is both ancient and enchanted. Life and learning are discussed from the Middle Ages to the modern times, with plenty of scriptural and scientific examples.

Perhaps the best aspect of the book is a quotation at the beginning chapter, from G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy*, which states:

"How much happier you would be,
 how much more of you there would be,
 if the hammer of a higher God
 could smash your small cosmos."

When Donkeys Talk is available in trade paper, as an ebook and in an audio edition. Visit www.zondervan.com for further information. •

Lenten theme on the cross at Word of Hope Church

During the season of Lent this year, Word of Hope Church will take an in depth look at "The Cross of Christ." Beginning with the first Sunday in Lent on February 17 and following on up to Easter, Pastor John Koe-dyker will be preaching on various aspects of the cross of Christ and why the cross is important for salvation. Some of the topics to be covered will be: the necessity of the cross, the meaning of the cross, the suffering of the cross, and the triumph of the cross.

The cross is indeed the symbol of the Christian faith. Some might think that a gruesome object to make the center of one's faith, but God has his reasons. This Lenten series will look closely at the cross and hopefully those who attend will not only be drawn closer to the cross but to One, Jesus Christ, who gave his life there as an atonement for our sins. The public is invited to attend any or every Sunday.

Word of Hope Church is a place where people study God's word, prayerfully seek God's direction, and desire to reach out to all people so that all may come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It is located at 284 N. Third Avenue in Fruitport. •