

Images of the Week...



Feb. 12, 2017. Rowers wearing costumes sail along the Grand Canal for the Carnival Regatta on the opening day of the Venice Carnival in Venice, Italy.



Feb. 13, 2017. Erosion caused when overflow water cascaded down the emergency spillway is seen below the main spillway, top, of the Oroville Dam in Oroville, CA.



Feb. 13, 2017. Surfers take advantage of wind and waves from a winter snow storm in Gloucester, MA.



Feb. 17, 2017. President Trump speaks to the crowd during a ceremony celebrating the rollout of the Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner at the Boeing South Carolina plant in North Charleston, SC.

DAY OF DECISION

My friend, today is your day of decision. Are you saved? God loves you. The Bible tells us that because we're all born with a sinful fallen nature that separates us from God, Jesus Christ (God the Son) was sent into this world to die on the cross and shed His precious blood for your sins. Those who truly receive Christ into their heart by faith will be transformed spiritually and accepted by God into His heavenly kingdom. Those who reject Christ will be separated from God forever and tormented in Hell and the Lake of Fire. What will your decision be?

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Wonderful Words of Life

A Weekly Newsletter Publication of

New Life Ministries of PA

An evangelistic teaching ministry based in Shamokin, Pennsylvania

Please visit us online at <http://panewlife.com>



FEBRUARY 19, 2017

VOL. IV

ISSUE 343



"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17



VIEW FROM ATOP SNOW-COVERED HILL NEAR LOCUST GAP, PA

Inside This Week's Issue:

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Bible Study Lesson: FACEBOOK FEEDING

FRENZY

Key Bible Verse: **Philippians 2:3** — *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*

Other Scriptures: **Proverbs 26:22** — *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”*

Ephesians 4:14 — *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”*

On February 4, 2004, Facebook was initially launched by its now infamous founder Mark Zuckerberg and a group of his fellow students and roommates at Harvard College. Two years later in 2006, the Facebook site was made accessible to the general public on the internet for creating accounts and posting information online. Since that time, over a billion users worldwide have created their own Facebook page. Before going any further, allow me to say that I truly believe Facebook, as with any other technology, can be used for good and godly purposes. That said, however, people need to check and verify information posted online rather than simply believing everything they read. Much of the content out there on today’s so-called “social networking” sites warrants further scrutiny. Why? Because while Facebook, Twitter, and other popular sites do offer a platform for honest dialogue and open communication, they also provide a dangerous window of opportunity for deception and depravity. For example, the following has been proven true: Some Facebook users routinely access the sight simply to post lies about themselves or gossip about others; Some add lewd and inappropriate content to their pages; Some bully and intimidate others; Some create “shadow accounts and profiles” which mask their true identity and are totally misleading; Some even use the sight maliciously, to lure innocent and unsuspecting victims in order to take advantage of them. Case in point...Last year a young woman was offered a cleaning job through Facebook on properties owned and accessed by an online realtor in South Carolina, whom she had “be-friended”, with an excellent and upstanding reputation in his community. There was only one problem, the man in reality was a serial killer and the young woman nearly lost her life in the process. Today’s Facebook feeding frenzy is awash with both good and bad content but with one major problem – there’s no scrutiny of fact from fiction, and nothing to prevent anyone from posting false information about themselves or others online, thereby using the sight as a means to deceive and mislead. Are you a social networking or Facebook user today? If so, how careful, honest, and godly are you with managing the content of your own account and online postings? Do you simply trust every post by other users that you read online without ever fact-checking them? Is your ultimate goal in using Facebook to bring honor and glory to God or yourself?

Sincerely,
Mr. Chris J. Greco

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions that you may have.

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It is my sincere hope and prayer that you will find a new life in Christ and experience the joy of walking with Him each day.



Israel in the News

Trump meets with Netanyahu at the White House: President Donald Trump is asking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “hold back” on settlements for a bit. In a joint press conference with Netanyahu at the White House Wednesday, Trump responded to a question about his position on the expansion of Israeli settlements, asking Netanyahu to “hold back on settlements for a little bit.” He said that a “two state solution looked like it will be the easier of the two,” but said that if Israel and the Palestinians find an alternative that they like better, he’ll support them. Trump also said that he’d like to see the U.S. Embassy in Israel moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but noted that “we’re looking at it with great care.”



National Headlines

National Security Advisor resigns: Michael Flynn, the national security adviser to President Trump, resigned late Monday over revelations about his potentially illegal contacts with the Russian ambassador to the United States, and his misleading statements about the matter to senior Trump administration officials. In his resignation letter, Flynn said he had “inadvertently briefed the Vice President Elect and others with incomplete information regarding my phone calls with the Russian ambassador. I have sincerely apologized to the president and the vice president.” Flynn was referring to his disproven claims to Vice President Pence and others a month ago that he had never discussed U.S. sanctions against Moscow with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Oroville Dam emergency in California: Workers are racing to make repairs to the badly damaged Oroville Dam emergency and main spillways before another major storm hits Northern California. The water elevation behind the troubled dam continued to drop Sunday morning, nearing a goal of 850 feet previously set by the California Department of Water Resources despite a bout of wet weather that has flooded highways and roads throughout the northern part of the state.

Adopted son of Jerry Sandusky arrested on multiple sex offenses: An adopted son of former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky has been arrested on multiple charges of sexual offenses involving children, according to court records. Jeffrey S. Sandusky, 41, was charged Monday with 14 counts, including corruption of minors and criminal solicitation, The Associated Press reported. PA State Police said they were informed in November that Sandusky was sending inappropriate texts to a teenage girl. The girl’s father eventually called police.

Trump administration drafts plan to raise asylum bar, speed deportations: The Department of Homeland Security has prepared new guidance for immigration agents aimed at speeding up deportations by denying asylum claims earlier in the process. The new guidelines, contained in a draft memo dated February 17 but not yet sent to field offices, directs agents to only pass applicants who have a good chance of ultimately getting asylum.



Global Headlines and Prophetic World Events

Russian spy ship spotted 30 miles from U.S. Navy sub base: A Russian spy ship spotted about 70 miles off the coast of Delaware on Tuesday has begun “loitering” 30 miles from a U.S. Navy submarine base in Connecticut. The intelligence-gathering ship, the Viktor Leonov, can intercept intelligence from nearby transmitters with a variety of sensors, and it can also measure Navy sonar emissions. “We are aware of the vessel’s presence,” Lt. Col. Valerie Henderson, a Defense Department spokeswoman, told Business Insider on Tuesday. “It has not entered U.S. territorial waters,” she added. “We respect freedom of navigation exercised by all nations beyond the territorial sea of a coastal state consistent with international law.” U.S. Navy spy ships conduct similar missions near Russia and in international waters around the globe, but usually in waters near U.S. allies.

Iran in new military drills despite U.S. warnings: Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard is to conduct military drills next week, a senior commander announced Saturday, despite warnings from the United States and fresh sanctions over a ballistic missile test. In early February, Iran conducted drills involving short-range missiles at a time of heightened tensions with the United States. The Islamic republic said the exercises were aimed at demonstrating Iran’s “complete preparedness to deal with the threats” and “humiliating sanctions” from Washington. U.S. President Donald Trump slapped fresh sanctions against Tehran’s weapons procurement network following a ballistic missile test on January 29.