Pottery fragment recounts biblical event

Jeremiah 34:6, 7 says that at the time Israel was defending itself against the invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, two other Israelite cities—Lachish and Azekah—were also trying to hold out. Archaeologists have found a piece of pottery dating back more than 2,500 years that appears to confirm Jeremiah’s account. The writing on the fragment is that of an official stationed outside Lachish, who reports to his commander that “we can see the signals from Lachish, but we no longer see Azekah.” The pottery fragment is one of more than 100 that have been found in Arad in southern Israel. A special camera was created to photograph inscriptions on the pottery that are invisible to the naked human eye.—

The Blaze

The widow’s mite replayed

It was close to standing room only at the First United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, the last Sunday in April. When it came time for the offering to be
taken, members and visitors dropped their donations into the offering plate, and the most notable donation was no doubt the smallest: 18 cents! A note placed in the envelope read, “Please don’t be mad. I don’t have much. I’m homeless. God bless.” The note looked like it had been scrawled quickly, and whoever wrote it chose to remain anonymous. “We weren’t mad,” said Patrick Hamrick, the church’s pastor of finance and administration. “We were very touched by this. For this person, it could have been everything in his or her pocket.”—WIBW.com

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A Time to Forgive

It’s more than just the most powerful, moving story you’ll read this year; it is a journey to forgiveness. The book is titled, *A Time to Forgive*, and it chronicles Darold and Barbara Bigger's journey to forgiveness in the wake of their daughter's murder.

The concept of forgiveness is ages-old, but it's gained more attention in recent years thanks to a growing number of studies showing it can positively affect people's physical and emotional health.

[Click Here](#) to read the powerful first chapter online!
[Click Here](#) to order *A Time to Forgive*.
[Click Here](#) to order the Forgive Now DVD Workshop.

1-800-765-6955

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Religious persecution in China

The Texas-based China Aid Association (CAA) reports that religious persecution in China increased dramatically in 2014 over 2013, most of it against Christians. During 2013 there were 143 cases of persecution, while 572 cases were reported in 2014—
an increase of exactly 300 percent. In 2013, 7,424 religious people were affected by this persecution, compared to 17,884 in 2014. In 2013, 54 church leaders were detained, compared to 449 in 2014. And 12 people were sentenced for activity related to their faith in 2013, compared to 1,274 in 2014. CAA said that “the increase in government-sanctioned persecution against religious practitioners and human rights lawyers and advocates reflects the overall political transformation that is occurring within the Communist Party in China, namely, an orchestrated effort to consolidate power and suppress dissent.” —Christian Headlines

Projected Growth of world religions from 2010 to 2050

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>2010-2050 Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folk religions</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other religions</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pew Research Center

Lose Weight, Feel Great

"America's collective waistline just expanded again," as reported in Business Insider.

The national obesity rate rose to nearly 28% last year, up from about 27% in 2013 and again from the roughly 26% recorded in 2008, according to a new survey released Wednesday by the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

It's the highest rate that Gallup and Healthways have measured since they started tracking obesity.
Muslim prisoner files human rights complaint

When Andrew Monnette, a Muslim prisoner at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre in Kamloops, British Columbia, asked prison officials to provide him with a prayer mat, they told him to use a towel. They also refused his requests for a Koran and food that is in harmony with Islamic dietary laws. He said that when he told prison officials he was a Muslim, he was told to prove it, and one person said he was lying because he is white. Monnette has filed a complaint with the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal.—*Vancouver Sun*

Creation film controversy

In 2009, the Australian Creation Ministries International (CMI), which promotes the literal interpretation of the Bible’s book of Genesis, released a film titled *Darwin: The Voyage That Shook the World*. Recently, CMI received an AU$90,000 (US$71,218)
tax rebate on the film. The rebate was granted by Screen Australia (SA), a
government agency that provides financial support for the production of domestic
films. However, the tax break has also created a lot of controversy because it
represents government support of a religious organization. SA says that it is legally
required to give rebates to all feature films produced in Australia, regardless of the
content. The film’s release coincided with the 150th anniversary of Darwin’s 1859

As Quoted

“They were praising their God. It was breath taking.”

—Karina de Vega, a pastor in Indonesia who counseled death row inmates,
commenting on the Christian songs that eight inmates sang as they were lining up
for execution by firing squad.—ChristianHeadlines.com