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East, was whaling off the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. They spotted a giant sperm whale (think Moby Dick).

“Two longboats were dropped, and the hunt was on. Two harpoons, one from each longboat, were sunk into the whale, which fought hard. The whale dived, and the harpooners started to pull the slack line back into their boats when the whale re-surfaced and started to beat wildly with its tail. One of the longboats managed to get away, but the other was struck by the animal’s nose and tipped over... by the time the second longboat could perform a rescue, one man had drowned, and one was missing and presumed drowned.

“Within a few hours the dead whale was pulled alongside the Star of the East, and the crew was busy cutting it up and retrieving the fat. The job took up the rest of the day, and a good part of the night, and then work resumed about noon the next day. It was on the second day that something strange was discovered; as the stomach was freed and brought to the deck for rendering, it was seen that something bunched up within it was showing spasmodic signs of life. When the stomach was cut open, they discovered the missing sailor -- James Bartley -- curled up and still alive, though just barely, thirty-six hours after he went missing!

“He was laid out on the deck and splashed with seawater; the whale’s gastric juices had bleached Bartley’s face and hands to a deathly white and wrinkled them. For two weeks he was kept in the captain’s cabin; physically, he recovered fine, but men-

tally he was unstable. But by the third week, Bartley had fully recovered and had resumed his duties.” [1]

This story has been endlessly repeated in sermons around the world and reported as true in *The Princeton Theological Journal* (October 1927). Sadly, the story is false. We have the crew list and the “modern Jonah,” James Barley, wasn’t onboard. Many other facts have come to light since then discrediting this story, but it’s one of those yarns that is too good to let die.

Christians need to be especially careful when they share “facts.” Don’t just naively share things on social media, even when they come from other Christian friends and people you trust. Take a moment to verify the story because something that isn’t true is a lie and we know where liars are bound - even well-intentioned ones.

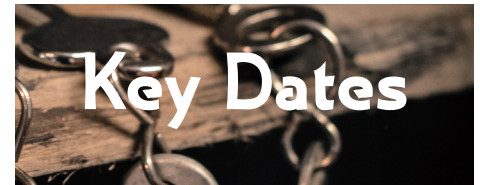


[1] The story of James Barley comes from <http://anomaly-info.com/Stories/1891-february-james-bartley-modern-jonah>

Prayer Requests

Chet and Marla’s son-in-law’s mother, Chrissy, is still struggling with cancer. She thought things were going better, but found out cancer has grown. She would like to have prayers on her behalf.

Terry and Joy are continuing to recover from covid, but it is a long-haul. Please remember them in your prayers.



2021 Kansas Ministry Retreat

Zane Perkins is the featured keynote speaker for this year’s men’s retreat at Silver Maple Bible Camp, Sunday October 17th - Tuesday October 19th.

Zane is the Director of Advancement Relations at SIBI - the Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

This year’s program begins informally Sunday evening at 6 pm at the Pizza Hut in Kingman and then runs Monday and Tuesday at camp. The cost is only \$75. More information is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Calling All Teens

The Eastwood church of Christ in Hutchinson is hosting the monthly Midwest Teens for Christ/Super Sunday **today** from 3-6pm. Matt Carden, their youth minister reports: “We will have lots of games, pizza, and worship for grades 6-12. Everyone is welcome! Topic of the night is Spiritual Warfare”