

**News and Current Events :: Woman Fatally Bitten by Snake in Church****Woman Fatally Bitten by Snake in Church, on: 2006/11/7 23:39**

By Associated Press

November 7, 2006, 10:21 PM CST

LONDON, Ky. -- A southeastern Kentucky woman was bitten by a snake during a church service and later died, a law enforcement officer said. Linda Long, 48, of London died Sunday at University of Kentucky Medical Center, said Brad Mitchell, a detective with the Laurel County Sheriff's Office.

Long died about four hours after the bite was reported, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Officials said Long attended East London Holiness Church. Neighbors of the church told the newspaper the church practices serpent handling.

Lt. Ed Sizemore of the Laurel County Sheriff's Office said friends went with Long to a local hospital Sunday afternoon, and she was taken to UK.

"She said she was bitten by a snake at her church," Sizemore said.

Handling reptiles as part of religious services is illegal in Kentucky. Snake handling is a misdemeanor and punishable by a \$50 to \$100 fine. Police said they had not received reports about snake handling at the church.

Snake handling is based on a passage in the Bible, in the Gospel of Mark, that says a sign of a true believer is the power to "take up serpents" without being harmed.

Church officials could not be reached for comment.

The funeral was scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Arthur's Chapel Church in Rosehill, Va., according to the Rosehill Funeral Home.

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Information from: Lexington Herald-Leader, <http://www.kentucky.com>

Re: Woman Fatally Bitten by Snake in Church - posted by enid, on: 2006/11/8 4:53

Evidently a grave and ridiculous mis-use of scripture.

Why do people have to set themselves up?

Now this kind of nonsense will only disgrace the name of Jesus Christ only further.

We don't need it.

God bless.

Re:, on: 2006/11/8 9:58

This has been going on for years. It utter ignorance of scripture. They skip right over the verse "*And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*" Luke 4:12

Pick up a Copperhead... yer gonna git bit.

Krispy

Re: Woman Fatally Bitten by Snake in Church, on: 2006/11/8 14:06

Quote:

-----Handling reptiles as part of religious services

???

Words fail me :-?

Re: Woman Fatally Bitten by Snake in Church - posted by Kolombian (), on: 2006/11/8 14:24

This is just sad... God being tempted in His own house, when are we christians going to know Him really, when we will understand that it is not about us, but about Him..all is about Him.... I can't say anything else. How much do we need to be cleansed!

Re: handling snakes and footwashing - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/11/8 14:48

Using the Bible to justify practices without understanding the Spirit behind them is nothing new. Some practice ritual prayers, some regular foot-washing ceremonies, some have beaten themselves, some have cut off certain parts of their bodies to avoid temptations, some go to church...

Usually no one bats an eyelash ...

However, from time to time someone gets caught badly, and then everybody else can wave their fingers and say, "Shame, shame..."

...Makes good fodder for the religious gossip page...

Diane