

August 5, 2009

INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CAMP IN JORDAN – In just a matter of a few days, RFC supporters sent the funds needed to supply water for this summer at the Christian youth camp we support in the south of Jordan. The cost of the water for the camp this year was much higher than last year, and \$5,000 was needed as soon as possible by our ministry partner in Jordan who operates the camp for children of all Christian denominations. Supporters of the Religious Freedom Coalition who were asked to assist in supplying the water responded quickly, and the needed funds were transferred to Jordan. As a result there was no need for the camp to transfer funds from other programs.

Some background: the camp is located in southern Jordan overlooking the Jordan Valley and was founded some thirty years ago. It has been attacked several times. One winter it was burned to the ground; fortunately, since the camp is only used during the summer months, no children were present. The presence of the camp is important because Christian children can interact with each other and hear Bible teaching in a nation that is 95% Muslim. King Abdullah rules over Jordan and although fairly moderate, he is still considered the “defender of Islam.” Islam is taught in all public schools and memorization of passages from the Koran is even done in math classes. Only in expensive private schools or at the summer camp can children freely express their faith to each other and those around them.

There are tens of thousands of Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan. Many of their children were able to attend the camp this year. Most of the children of Iraqi refugees do not attend schools. Although King Abdullah has said that these children may attend public school, their parents would have to register them. Since the overwhelming majority of Iraqi Christian refugees are in Jordan illegally, they are afraid to tell authorities where they live. (The camp name and location is not mentioned in any publication, such as this one, that appears on the Internet.)

MORE CHURCHES BOMBED IN BAGHDAD- On Sunday, July 12th, six churches were bombed in Baghdad. The attacks were coordinated, and four Christians were killed and more than 30 injured. Since then, additional churches have been bombed, bringing the total to eight just in the month of July. I have also received unconfirmed reports of more attacks on churches in other areas of Iraq. The situation for the security of Christians in Iraq is not getting any better, and in fact has worsened since American troops recently departed from the cities.

Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia has written a strong letter to Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki concerning the lack of protection of Christians in Iraq. In his letter Congressman Wolf noted that the House had voted \$20 million to assist “religious minorities” in Iraq. He also pointed out to the Prime Minister that Christian refugees could not return regardless of any funds given by the United States, if they did not feel safe to do so. He asked Maliki to show that his government was “... committed to preserving and protecting Iraq’s ethno-religious minorities.”

Any hope for democracy in Iraq depends upon the return of the Christian population. Democracy in a nation that is 100% Muslim is just not possible.

DESECRATED CHRISTIAN CEMETERIES – Toward the end of July I attended a special round table discussion at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC concerning the continued looting of Christian churches and other sites in Turkish occupied northern Cyprus.



Crosses from cemeteries and other artifacts lie broken in a store room in occupied Cyprus

Because Turkey was a Cold War ally of the West, Europe and America turned a blind eye to the ethnic cleansing of northern Cyprus which began in 1974 with the invasion of the small island republic by Turkey. Since the invasion and occupation of about one-third of the Republic of Cyprus, the Turkish military has allowed more than 40,000 ancient icons and frescoes to be stripped from Christian sites and sold in Europe and the United States. Buyers of the stolen items seem to have no guilt or remorse.

The round table discussion panel was moderated by former US Ambassador to Cyprus, Donald Bandler. Experts from both Cyprus and Europe were present to detail the ethnic cleansing and destruction in Cyprus by the Turkish military. But there is a problem: decades ago the media reported on the problems in the portion of Cyprus that is occupied, but as time has gone by the media has stopped reporting on the desecration of Christian sites. Is this what will happen in Iraq as well? As the Christian population is driven out of Iraq, will the media and our State Department forget about them? Will the ancient treasures of the churches be looted and sold at auctions in Europe and the United States, as is being done now with artifacts from Cyprus? Unfortunately the answer is probably yes, unless American Christians demand that Christian minorities in ancient Christian lands be protected.

RELIGION OF PEACE STRIKES IN JAKARTA - Homicide bombers checked into the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta, Indonesia and then blew themselves up simultaneously, killing at least 8 and injuring more than 50. This was not the first time the Marriott has been bombed in that city. In 2003 the same hotel was bombed, with scores injured and 13 dead. Oddly, hotels such as Marriott and Hilton, which are frequently bombed overseas, have no problem renting conference centers to radical Islamic groups in the United States.

For years, a global Sunni network with reported ties to Al Qaeda has operated in the shadows in the United States. Now, with Obama in the White House, this network, called Hizb ut-Tahrir, hosted a conference in his home town of Chicago. The conference was held on July 19th and was headlined as, "The Fall of Capitalism and the Rise of Islam." The conference was held in a Hilton Hotel.

While Fox News did cover the event, most of what was dangerous about the conference was not discussed by the media. Literature called for the destruction of Israel and the death of Jews. The group called for the end of democracy in America and the installation of Sharia law. Meanwhile the Department of Homeland Security is still looking for "rightwing extremists."

PETITION TO HILLARY CLINTON ON IRAQI CHRISTIANS – Our online petition to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton can still be signed online. The petition urges Clinton to direct our embassies to assist Christians who have fled Islamic terror in Iraq. The petition is located at www.iraqichristianrefugees.org. You may also receive a print version of the petition, as tens of thousands have been mailed and distributed.

PRESIDENCY

OBAMA TO BRING PALESTINIAN MUSLIMS TO U.S. – When I told Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) that Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, had agreed to take in 1,350 Palestinian Muslims who had worked for Saddam Hussein, he was stunned. The Senator had just become a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and I don't know that he was ready for all the bad news from the State Department. There are hundreds of thousands of Christian Iraqis who have been forced from their homes. They are refugees, some living in rural areas of Iraq in shacks, and others in poor conditions in Jordan and Syria.

Iraqi Christians get to stand in the back of the line to immigrate to the United States, but the 1,350 Palestinian Muslims who were specially recruited by and worked with Dictator Saddam Hussein, are being given special treatment and resettled in southern California. The Obama Administration claims it will bring about 17,000 other Iraqi refugees into the U.S. this year; however, that figure is in doubt. Because our government allows Muslim employees of the United Nations to pick the refugees who get to come to the USA, virtually none will be persecuted Christians.

IMAM CALLS OUT TO "PRESIDENT HUSSEIN" - This is not about some off- the - wall comment ... a major imam in an Islamic nation publicly refers to Obama as President Hussein. During a Friday TV sermon in the Sudan, Imam Abd Al-Jalil Al-Karouri insisted that "President Hussein" examine the documents of 9-11, where he says there is proof it was a Jewish conspiracy. No aircraft were used, according to the imam, and the buildings were booby trapped internally. As for the Pentagon, he says nothing occurred there at all. Sadly, most of the Islamic world believes this nonsense. Even in the Muslim communities in the United States, most believe it was either the Jews or the CIA, or both, who destroyed the Twin Towers.

PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE? – Can you just imagine the outrage if a black cop had arrested a white man in his own home as a burglar, and President George W. Bush, without checking the facts of the case, had called the black cop "stupid?" For weeks the mainstream media would have displayed screaming headlines calling Bush a racist. However, that is exactly what Barack Obama did on national TV.

Without knowing any details, Obama publically sided with a black man who had been arrested by a white cop under these circumstances. He said the white cop was "stupid" for making the arrest. Please note that the man in question raised a huge amount of money for Barack Obama's campaign. This pretty much shows the racial bias of Obama, the same bias that is reflected in both of his books. He sees everything through the lens of color and gender. In filling Administration positions the thought line is: "This post has to be filled by a woman, and this other post needs to be filled by a Hispanic, and this post by a homosexual." There is no such thing as searching for the best person for the job in the Obama Administration.

Individuals such as Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor are picked not for qualifications, but because of race and gender. There are far more experienced judges who have better academic records, who could have filled the post ... but Obama wanted a Hispanic woman for the job. Thus, instead of the best qualified person, he nominated the best qualified Hispanic woman. So why didn't he pick the best qualified Hispanic woman he could find to fly Air Force One? I'll bet I know the answer to that one.

We need a government that represents all of us, black and white, rich and poor.

CONGRESS

GOP FIGHTING PLANNED PARENTHOOD? – The Republicans in Congress have been putting on a good show for us social conservatives of late. In July, a powerful Republican leader, Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN) offered an amendment to the appropriations bill that funds the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS). The amendment by Rep. Pence would end the funding of Planned Parenthood of America. He gave a rousing speech on the floor of the House about why it is time to end the funding of a group that makes loads of money performing abortions.

However, the Republicans controlled the House from 1994 to 2006 and during all that time made no effort to defund Planned Parenthood. In fact, when the Republicans controlled both houses of Congress and the White House, they continued to fund Planned Parenthood. In some years the funding for Planned Parenthood went up while the Republicans were in charge.

What is going on here? Have the Republicans suddenly found their true voice, or is all this talk about conservative social values just for show? If social conservatives help them win in 2010, will the Republicans go back to their old habits of giving Planned Parenthood and ACORN money every year?

MORALITY AND TAXES - Ways and Means Chairman Charlie Rangel is leading the charge for a new 5.4-percentage point income tax surcharge. He calls it “the moral thing to do.” However, his morality when it comes to taxes is to say the least, questionable.

Rangel purchased a rental property in 1987 at the Punta Cana Yacht Club in the Dominican Republic. Thing is, Mr. Rangel has apparently not been reporting rental income from the luxury beach-front villa. The villa is rented out most of the year at \$500 a night in the low season and over \$1,000 a night in the high season. Most recently in 2004 and 2005, he reported no more than \$5,000 in rental income for the year and in 2006 and 2007 no income at all from the property.

Chairman Rangel also reported a home in Washington, DC as his primary residence, instead of his home in New York, to escape property taxes. He also rents four apartments for himself in New York at special “controlled” rates that were intended to allow those in poverty to be able to hold on to apartments in that expensive city. He must be considered a “hardship” case to receive these rates. He maintains an office in one of the apartments which is against the “rent control” rules.

When Rangel leaves Congress, we will pay him a six figure retirement figure each year while he lounges in his villa in the Dominican Republic. But don’t worry, he is making sure that you and I pay our fair share of taxes to support him.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" NEW LAWSUIT - Congressman Dan Lungren's (R-CA) resolution to place the National Motto, "In God We Trust" in the new Capitol Visitor Center, passed the House by a wide margin in July. Within days of passage an atheist group filed a lawsuit to stop the National Motto from being displayed in the new facility. We will watch the lawsuit’s progress and report further.

William J. Murray, Chairman