

February 12, 2009

INTERNATIONAL

ACTION TO ASSIST IRAQI CHRISTIANS - This week former Governor David Beasley of South Carolina visited Washington to talk with congressional leaders about the plight of Iraqi Christians. Accompanying Governor Beasley was a representative of the Religious Freedom Coalition's ministry partner in Amman, Jordan. These two men, along with myself and other Religious Freedom Coalition representatives, made the case that the United States must have an official policy toward the religious minorities in Iraq, something that was not done under Secretary of State Rice during the Bush Administration.

The lack of an official policy toward religious minorities in Iraq is the single biggest factor in allowing the continuing persecution of Iraqi Christians. Under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, there was no policy at all, and she stated more that once that "everyone" was suffering from a criminal element in Iraq. In other words the crimes against Christians, including the bombings of churches, was done by criminal gangs and not by Muslims trying to force Christians out of Iraq.

Governor Beasley and I met with Senator DeMint of South Carolina and Senator Brownback of Kansas as well as several congressmen. Our group spent some time with Congressman Wolf of Virginia who has spearheaded the fight for religious freedom in Iraq for many years. He believes that it may actually be easier to work with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton than it was with Rice.

In addition to one-on-one meetings, Governor Beasley spoke at several meetings to leaders of social conservative organizations who may be able to assist Iraqi Christian refugees. **This is the hard part to explain:** Our main ministry partner in Amman, Jordan was present and spoke at all the meetings. He had flown here from Jordan to help explain the situation of the Iraqi refugees with a first hand point of view. I cannot mention this leader's name in print and I cannot show any of the photos of our group together in Washington, DC. Our ministry partner's organization cannot have an Internet site or talk publicly about his work in Jordan on behalf of the Iraqi refugees. If we displayed his photos he could be killed. If we showed photos of the warehouse or trucks, they could be attacked or burned by extremist Muslims. As you can imagine, this makes it very hard get other organizations involved or to raise funds. People want to see where their money is going, and we just can't do that in this situation without endangering lives.

The Religious Freedom Coalition gave our ministry partner four large boxes of medical supplies to take back to Jordan for use at medical clinics run by another Christian ministry. These packs contained a total of \$48,000 worth of antibiotics, other types of drugs and surgical supplies. The drugs are surplus donated by large pharmaceutical companies for general non-profit work. Because the Religious Freedom Coalition has been qualified as an aid agency in several nations including Jordan, we are able to ship these supplies there. Sorting and administrative fees cost us only about \$500 for every \$24,000 of supplies. In addition to the fees for the supplies, the Religious Freedom Coalition paid the excess baggage charges for the medical supplies. We could ship more medical supplies, but there are customs problems if we begin taking larger amounts of supplies into Jordan and Lebanon, because these nations prefer for us to buy the materials in their countries, at a much higher cost to us.

THE PRESIDENCY

THE ABORTION PRESIDENT - The NBC television network rejected a pro-life Super Bowl commercial that praises President Barack Obama's mother for not aborting the first African-American president. The video has risen in popularity on YouTube, with over a million viewings. The well done commercial emphasized that the baby she carried was at high social risk, with a broken home, a father who would abandon him and a single mother. The commercial begins with an ultrasound image of a baby moving in his mother's womb. The ad was financed by Fidelis, a Catholic group and can be seen on the Internet at:
[Http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2CaBR3z85c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2CaBR3z85c)

MORE ABORTION PRESIDENT - Fifty-eight percent of Americans disagreed with President Obama's order to give funding to overseas organizations that provide abortions, according to a new survey. Only thirty-five percent supported him on it. Obama signed the order on Jan. 23, reversing the "Mexico City policy" -- a policy first implemented by Ronald Reagan. This policy does not allow government funding to overseas family-planning organizations that perform abortions or offer abortion counseling.

EVEN MORE ABORTION PRESIDENT - President Obama's pro-abortion agenda is being made very clear by him. Read the "reproductive choice" section of the new White House Internet site. It states that the new President. "... has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority in his Administration."

THE "PROTECT INNOCENT LIFE" PRESIDENT - Confused? So am I. At the annual National Prayer Breakfast, President Obama stunned pro-life religious leaders by saying, "There is no god who condones taking the life of an innocent human being. This much we know." How can he hold this view and also sign an Executive Order giving funds to pro-abortion groups? The logic is simple: Barack Obama does not believe that an unborn baby is a human being. He follows the pro-abortion line that until a baby breathes in air, it has no mother or father; it is just a lump of cells.

HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE, MR. PRESIDENT? - You will note that in the above quoted statement at the National Prayer Breakfast the President said that there is "... no god who condones taking the life of an innocent ..." Exactly how many gods does President Obama think there are? The answer to that question lies at the root of what he believes, which is liberation theology and not Christianity. He explained this himself in an interview with the Chicago Sun Times in 2004 when he made this statement: *"I am a Christian. I'm rooted in the Christian tradition. I believe that there are many paths to the same place, and that is a belief that there is a higher power, a belief that we are connected as a people. That there are values that transcend race or culture, that move us forward, and there's an obligation for all of us individually as well as collectively to take responsibility to make those values lived."* The statement is of course contrary to the preaching of Jesus Christ. In just a few sentences Barack Obama declared himself a Christian and then denied the teachings of Christ.

THE FAITH BASED PRESIDENT - is this a joke? President Obama is going to expand the Faith Based outreach started by President Bush - with a few changes - because he is for "separation of church and state." His new Faith Based effort will give funds to religious groups only if they promise to hire people from outside their faith. This means that any Jewish groups accepting the funds will be required to hire Muslims who call for the destruction of Israel. Baptist groups will be forced to hire Mormons, and the Mormons will be forced to hire people who refer to them as a cult. Wow ... let's all hold hands and sing Kumbaya. The reality is that he plans on using the Faith Based Initiative founded by George W. Bush to push his Liberation Theology on the churches of this nation.

THE CONGRESS

STIMULUS EXCLUDES RELIGIOUS GROUPS- There is plenty of "green spending" in the Stimulus bill, including funds for schools and colleges to renovate older buildings or to build new energy efficient buildings. There is a big catch: if the funds are accepted, the buildings cannot be used for any religious purpose. During the 2008 campaign Barack Obama and the Democrats courted religious voters, but now that they are in power they are showing their true secularist colors.

Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina offered an amendment to the Stimulus Bill that would have removed the language placed there by San Francisco radical Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Every Democrat plus Republic Senator Snowe of Maine voted against the Amendment to allow religious freedom, and the DeMint amendment was defeated by a vote of 54-43.

About the defeat of his amendment Senator DeMint said, *"This is a direct attack on students of faith, and I'm outraged Democrats are using an economic stimulus bill to promote discrimination. Democrats should be ashamed of themselves for siding with the ACLU over millions of students of faith. These students simply want equal access to public facilities, which is their constitutional right. This hostility toward religion must end. Those who voted for this discrimination are standing in the schoolhouse door to deny people of faith from entering any campus building renovated by this bill"*

BIRTH CONTROL AS STIMULUS - Apparently the Democrat controlled Congress under radical San Francisco leftist Nancy Pelosi believes that having fewer babies will stimulate the economy. Not only are millions of dollars given to pro-abortion groups such as Planned Parenthood, the rules of the funding undermine families. Under the bill, clinics must give birth control pills and devices to underage girls without consulting their parents. The bill also gives funds to the CDC to fight sexually transmitted diseases, since STD's will increase when birth control pills are handed out like candy at schools. The Democrats call these programs "economic stimulus."

CHRISTIAN GROUPS DON'T GET IT - Most social conservative groups are being led around by the nose by the GOP, and used valuable time fuming over the pork in the Stimulus bill and ignoring the anti-family rules that are in it. Instead of working to pass Senator DeMint's amendment to allow Christians to use buildings that are funded under the Stimulus, most Christian groups just ran around shouting the GOP line about spending. There was no chance of stopping the Stimulus Bill from passing and GOP leaders knew that, but used social conservative groups to advance their political agenda. Social conservative and pro-life groups wasted valuable time and resources trying to stop passage of the Stimulus. Had this effort been used to change anti-family, pro-gay and pro-abortion portions of the Stimulus, changes could have been made. Instead we are now facing a huge spending bill that is damaging to the traditional family and to religious freedom.

OUR CULTURE

FORCE DOCTORS TO DO ABORTIONS? - Yes, say Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union. The two groups are suing the Department of Health and Human Services over regulations to reinforce federal laws that protect doctors from being forced to participate in abortions and other procedures that are against their religious beliefs or conscience. Dr. David Stevens, executive director of the Christian Medical Association said, "We consider the right of conscience to be the biggest issue we face."

The lawsuits have been filed in liberal courts and the new liberal Justice Department under Barack Obama will make no effort to fight against them.

HALF A MILLION BABIES SUSPENDED IN A FROZEN HELL - News of a single mother giving birth to eight babies at once in California stunned the nation, but it should also make us aware of an American practice that is very wrong. In Germany and Italy, no more than three embryos may be produced in fertility clinics and all three must be implanted in the mother. In the United States, sometimes dozens are produced, yet few are implanted. There are 500,000 babies frozen in the United States, and no one knows what to do with them. These are the "extra" embryos our fertility doctors have produced. This practice of placing human beings in a state of suspended animation for sometimes decades before they are either destroyed or used in experiments, must stop!

LIVE BABY TOSSED IN BIO HAZARD BAG - The abortionist was running late to work, and the woman seeking an abortion gave birth to a live baby girl. An employee cut the umbilical cord and tossed the live baby in a trash bag and tied the top. "The baby was just treated as a piece of garbage," said Tom Brejcha, president of The Thomas More Society, the law firm that is also representing the mother who sought the abortion. "People all over the country are just aghast," he said. Florida authorities are looking into possible criminal charges against the doctor, who was trained in Haiti.

Very frequently, abortionists have obtained their medical training in third world countries and cannot obtain work in legitimate areas of medicine in the United States. Others have a history of alcoholism, drug abuse and various other issues. Some abortionists are just profiteers, sometimes making thousands of dollars from the murder of a baby that takes just a few minutes. Because they are abortionists in the business of killing, and not in the business of saving lives, many state agencies look the other way and continue to allow them to do business.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL

"THIRST NO MORE" KICKED OUT OF SUDAN - A group providing new water wells has been thrown out of Sudan's Darfur region after officials found Arabic-language Bibles in their office. Officials said they had decided to expel the Texas-based group "for its violation to the Voluntary Work Act. A government spokesman said Thirst No More was supposed to be in the war-torn region just to supply drinking water and "failed to provide justification" for its ownership of about 3,400 Bibles. Apparently the Sudanese dictatorship has the same view of separation of church and state as President Barack Obama.

THE WEST BANK - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Messiah Yeshua. **Philippians 4:6-8.*** That was the Scripture verse that was sent to me this week by Leah Ortiz, as we approach the first anniversary of the bombing of the Ortiz apartment in Ariel, Samaria. The sixteen year old son of David and Leah Ortiz was critically injured in that bombing, which occurred last March. Ami spent many months in the hospital and endured dozens of operations. The bombing was a result of David and Leah's work for the Lord among Jews and Palestinians on the West Bank. It is unknown whether it was an extremist Jewish or Muslim group that planted the bomb. The only sure thing to know is that the apartment was bombed because the family worked openly for the cause of Christ.

William J. Murray, Chairman