

February 10, 2010

WATER FOR CHRISTIAN CAMP

CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP IN A MUSLIM NATION – Last year the Religious Freedom Coalition raised funds to supply water to a summer camp for Christian children and youth in a Middle Eastern nation. The camp location and the campaign to raise funds were never mentioned in the Chairman's Report because it is posted on the Internet. Even in "moderate" Muslim nations, it is exceedingly dangerous to post photos or locations of Christian activities. Westerners visiting Middle Eastern Christians do not understand the danger of the situation and frequently take photographs that should never be shown publically. One well intentioned individual I know took photos of a church meeting in northern Iraq and placed them on the Internet. Several families had to move as a result.

Why do Christians fear public knowledge of their existence in Middle Eastern nations? Here is one example: The summer camp for kids we support has been burned down three times. Under Islamic law Christians and Jews have "dhimmi" status in "Muslim lands" because they are "people of the book." Christians are allowed to keep their faith and church property when they are conquered, but only on the condition that no new church can be built and no repairs can be done. In Jordan, repairs are allowed by the "moderate" government, but building a new church invites the wrath of the imams and can lead to destruction. Only in what are called "moderate" Islamic nations such as Morocco and Jordan can churches hold services openly. Even in those nations there is no new construction and laws forbid church groups from renting meeting spaces, such as in hotels, to hold services. This of course severely limits the options for congregations.

It is extremely difficult to raise funds for our projects in the Middle East. If newsletters mentioning projects in Jordan, Syria or Iraq are posted on the Internet, the groups mentioned and their facilities can face serious problems. This is why most Christian organizations give aid to both Christians and Muslims. Groups can raise funds without fear of attack, by showing food distribution and medical facilities that serve Muslims. The Religious Freedom Coalition cannot do that because we take no government aid and we assist only Christians.

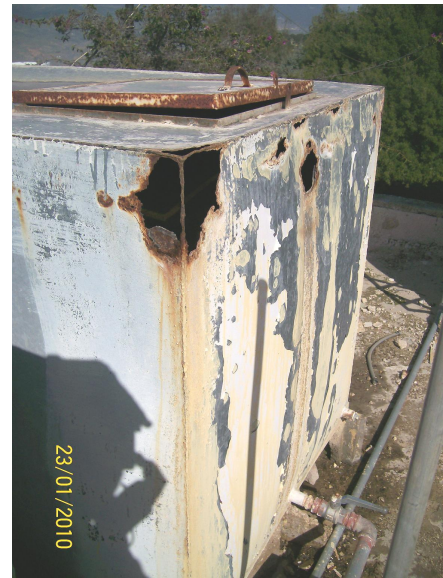
BACK TO THE CAMP: Drilling a well at the camp would cost well over \$100,000. We could probably raise the money, but permits and large equipment would have to be moved in. The camp is on the edge of the desert and a very deep well with a powerful pump would have to be installed. This would also require drilling permits. You can pretty much see where this is going ... drilling a deep well would bring attention to the camp and more radical imams would demand that it be closed.

Repairs and new construction at the camp must be conducted slowly without bringing unwanted attention. For the time being the water must be trucked in each summer and placed in large metal holding tanks which have become rusty over the years and must be replaced this year or next. The tanks to be replaced hold thousands of gallons of water.

The goal of the Religious Freedom Coalition for this summer is to supply the trucked in water and to repair and update the drinking water distribution system. The entire distribution system including the tanks and pumps needs to be replaced.

A lot more needs to be done at the summer camp which gives thousands of Christian kids the opportunity to meet each other every year and share their values and beliefs. The vast majority of Christian children in Islamic nations attend public schools and are forced to learn the Koran. The time when the camp is open each summer is the only place they can freely express themselves as Christians. Different age groups attend the camp on different weeks. There are general camp weeks, and then the camp is made available to specific churches for their use. The summer camp is a great asset to Christians in the Middle East.

Countries with a per capita water production below 1,000 cubic meters per year are considered water-poor and some Middle East countries have less than 900. The influx of Iraqi Christian refugees has increased the severity of the water shortage in Jordan and other areas as well. Water is in short supply and costly in most Middle Eastern nations. A cubic meter of water costs \$2.00 from most municipal systems and it costs much more to have potable water delivered. Each day the camp must provide enough water for up to 150 kids, not just to drink, but to use in cooking and showers.



The main water tank has actually rusted through. The pipes coming from the bottom run to water fountains and showers. This photo was taken on January 23, 2010.

Later this year I will travel to Middle East locations to visit the various ministry operations we support, including the Christian summer camp. It is my prayer that enough funds will have been raised to supply the water for the summer and begin the process of upgrading the water system by the time of my visit to the camp.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL

PAY THE BARBARY PIRATES? - "From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli ... " That is the opening of the Marine Corps Hymn, and the part about "Tripoli" of course refers to the war President Thomas Jefferson waged against the Muslim pirates of North Africa, sometimes called the Ottoman Corsairs. He chose to fight rather than to pay tribute. Before Jefferson's intervention the Muslims had been collecting tribute from the Europeans for centuries. Now the Europeans, and apparently Barack Obama, have decided to pay tribute again - this time to the Muslim Taliban. Western nations plan a fund of \$500 million to pay Taliban fighters to put down their guns. This shows a total lack of understanding of Islam in the West.

SWEDEN DEPORTS IRAQI CHRISTIANS - The Swedish government appears to have no problem allowing the construction of mosques financed by Saudi Arabia, but has kicked Iraqi Christians out of the country illegally. An Assyrian news agency reports that: "25 Assyrian persons and families were forcibly returned to Iraq. Upon their arrival at Baghdad airport, no arrangements were made to safely transport them to their final destinations. With the threat of kidnapping very high, nearly all stayed at the airport, only to be helped by Assyrians working at the airport, who realized the returnees were Assyrian. Of the 25 who were returned, 24 fled the country again, and one was given refugee status by UNHCR in Ankara, which has acknowledged that it is not safe for Assyrians and other Christians in Iraq." In Sweden, an investigation by a radio station of these reports about the deportations has created political problems for the leftist government.

(Internet version varies from mail distributed version)

DUTCH RULE AGAINST FAIR TRIAL - A Dutch court has ruled that the defense cannot call witnesses to defend Geert Wilders during his "defamation against Islam" trial. Of the eighteen witnesses he called in his defense only three will be permitted by the court, and the public will not be allowed to hear their testimony. On the other hand, the pro-Muslim prosecution witnesses will be allowed press coverage. The Nazi trial of the conspirators who attempted to kill Adolph Hitler was conducted in a more fair and open manner.

The Dutch government allows Islamic imams to preach anti-Semitic hatred every Friday. Dutch Muslim publications slur Christians and Jews and call for the death of anyone who converts from Islam. All that appears to be permitted under "free speech" in the Netherlands, but criticizing Islam gets you put in jail. The trial of Geert Wilders is really about the surrender of the Netherlands and the rest of Europe to Islam. The Dutch government fears their Muslim immigrants. Their cowardice causes them to persecute those who cherish free speech. Anyone doing business with Dutch firms such as Shell Oil (part of Royal Dutch Shell) is participating in the persecution of Geert Wilders.

"MODERATE INDONESIA" CLOSES CHURCHES - Our American department stores are full of clothes made in the "moderate" Islamic nation of Indonesia (although I, for one, don't buy them). In January authorities there ordered the Christian Baptist Church in Banten Province to cease services. In West Java, officials closed the Huria Christian Protestant Batak Church (HKBP). This is the same "moderate" Islamic nation where three teenage Christian girls were beheaded in 2005, and where Christian villages were burned down last year. The bombings of Western hotels and restaurants in Bali in 2002 and 2005 killed hundreds of people.

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

OBAMA SAYS ATHEISTS EXPRESS GOD'S GRACE - In President Obama's liberal mindset all religions are the same. Liberals view religion as a "tradition" or a "personal preference," and do not believe any religion is more objectively true than any other. Obama actually said at the National Prayer Breakfast in February that God's grace is expressed "by Americans of every faith, and no faith, uniting around a common purpose, a higher purpose." What is he talking about? Atheists don't express God's grace. Buddhism and Hinduism don't have the concept of redemption at all. Obama has no idea what he is talking about.

Although President Obama has claimed to be a Christian, he didn't mention Christ or Christianity once at the National Prayer Breakfast this year. He did manage to show some disrespect for evangelical pastors and at the same time promote the homosexual agenda by criticizing "homophobia." There were other firsts for President Obama. Breaking the long held tradition that the National Prayer Breakfast should not be too political, he pushed his political agenda including "health reform" and amnesty for illegals.

Obama was followed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who said, "... religion, cloaked in naked power lust, is used to justify horrific violence, attacks on homes, markets, schools, volleyball games, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples." While she went on to talk about jihadist attacks she never mentioned Islam, giving the impression that all religions behave in such a manner. A lot of pastors from all over the world come to the National Prayer Breakfast each year, and I know many of them are deeply grieved by what they heard at the event this year. I have been to several of the prayer breakfasts, and this is the first time an overtly political agenda was promoted.

OBAMA AID INSULTS POPE AGAIN - Harry Knox is the radical homosexual who is a member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Obama stood by Knox when he said that Pope Benedict XVI is "hurting people in the name of Jesus." This week in a news conference Knox reaffirmed his viral anti-Catholic attitude to the point that Majority Leader John Boehner, a Catholic, is calling for his resignation. Knox, who claims to have once been a Methodist minister, promotes the homosexual agenda and was a key leader in the Human Rights Campaign, an organization that wants to silence all criticism of homosexuality.

RADICAL EXTREMIST APPOINTED TO HEAD LEGAL COUNSEL - President Obama has nominated a radical, baby-hating feminist to head the Office of Legal Counsel. The nominee, Dawn Johnsen, has filed legal briefs in which she compared pregnancy to slavery. She also called pregnant women "losers" and "fetal containers." Johnsen has compared those who oppose abortion to members of the Ku Klux Klan. Johnsen is such a radical baby hater that she opposed a Democratic congressman's plan to reduce the demand for abortion. As head of the Office of Legal Counsel, she will not represent all Americans, but a minority of baby hating feminists. Representatives of numerous organizations including the Religious Freedom Coalition have written to Senators asking that her nomination be rejected.

SPEAKER PELOSI'S DIET - Maker's Mark whiskey, Courvoisier cognac, Johnny Walker Red scotch, Grey Goose vodka, E&J brandy, Bailey's Irish Crème, Bacardi Light rum, Jim Beam whiskey, Beefeater gin, Dewars scotch, Bombay Sapphire gin, Jack Daniels whiskey, Corona beer, and all at taxpayer expense. A watchdog group, Judicial Watch, obtained actual receipts through the Freedom of Information Act for the food and "beverages" loaded onto Nancy Pelosi's private Air Force jet. In just two years Nancy Pelosi has racked up over two million dollars in travel expenses on her Air Force supplied aircraft, including over \$100,000 in extravagant food and drink. President Obama, who seems to spend more time on Air Force One than in the White House, makes Pelosi's travel expenditures look small in comparison.

There was a great Cold War movie called *The Projectionist*, the story of Joseph Stalin's private projectionist. He ran movies for the murderous dictator that Soviet citizens were barred from seeing. The movie reminds me most of Al Gore and the private jet he uses to go to global warming conferences, but it applies to most liberal leaders and Nancy Pelosi is a case in point!

TEN COMMANDMENTS RESOLUTION – In January, I and Ron Wexler, founder of the Ten Commandments Commission, met with several congressmen. It is our goal to once again move forward with a Ten Commandments resolution. Although we have introduced a resolution several times, it has yet to be passed. This year we have more congressmen as sponsors than in the past. Please pray for the success of the Ten Commandments resolution which will be introduced in a few weeks.

Regardless of my work in the Middle East with Iraqi Christian refugees, I continue to visit Capitol Hill weekly when Congress is in session to work with others to protect the Christian heritage of our nation.

William J. Murray, Chairman