

May 5, 2010

THE PRESIDENCY

THE GREAT SATAN AND THE LITTLE SATAN - President Barack Obama has bought the big lie. I have heard the lie on numerous occasions as I have traveled on fact finding missions in Islamic nations. The lie is simply this: "We hate America only because America supports Israel's persecution of Palestinians. If America will allow a Palestinian state and 'return' Jerusalem to the Palestinians, then our hatred for America will stop." But wait: in virtually every Islamic pulpit in the world America is the "Great Satan" and Israel is the "little Satan." If the "great Satan" turns against the "little Satan," will the "great Satan" suddenly be loved? Of course not. If Israel vanished tomorrow, the Jihad against America would continue.

Islamic hatred for America stems from the core belief in Islam that democracy is an apostate religion that must be destroyed. This is taught in Islamic schools from the capital of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic Academy just outside Washington, DC. The destruction of the "little Satan" is just a step toward the destruction of the "Great Satan." But, Obama has bought the lie. He truly believes that handing over half of Jerusalem to Muslims will somehow make Osama Bin Laden love America, and that the Taliban will put down their guns. It is simple, liberal logic: when facing an enemy, you just punch out your best friend in hopes that will make the bully leave you alone. After Israel, what comes next? Demanding that Spain hand over half its territory to Morocco because it was once controlled by a Muslim caliphate?

OBAMA PROMISES PALESTINIAN STATE IN TWO YEARS - The last time Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was at the White House, President Obama refused to have his picture taken with him and walked out of the meeting to have a hamburger.

In April, however, Palestinian "President" Mahmoud Abbas received the royal treatment from Obama with photographers allowed to follow them around the White House. Egyptian newspapers reporting from Palestinian sources inside the meetings confirmed that President Obama had committed to force the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state within two years. Abbas has no authority over the Gaza strip which is controlled by HAMAS, a terrorist organization. What exactly will Abbas be president of?

DISARM ISRAEL – Not satisfied with forcing Israel to reduce its total land mass to an area smaller than the city of Houston, Texas, President Barack Obama is now supporting a "nuclear free" Middle East that would force Israel to give up its only deterrent to invasion. The Wall Street Journal exposed negotiations between the United States and Egypt to create the "nuclear free zone" that would include Israel. Israel is surrounded by hostile states whose combined armies outnumber that of Israel by 100 to 1. Meanwhile, the United States has sold Muslim nations, including Saudi Arabia, advanced weapons that match the capacities of those of Israel. It is Barack Obama's plan to attempt to force Israel to surrender the only true deterrent the nation has against attack by Islamic nations - its nuclear arsenal.

WHAT KIND OF VOTERS? – In a video commercial for the Democratic Party distributed on the Internet, President Obama said he needed "young people, African Americans, Latinos and women" to help keep Congress in the hands of the Democrats in this November's elections. Conspicuously absent from his comments were men, and those on Social Security.

The "mainstream" media saw no bias in his call to action to certain segments of voters. Can you imagine the outrage if Gov. Sarah Palin put out a video commercial calling for "older white guys driving pickups" to vote for Republicans this November? What a striking double standard.

CONGRESS

MUSLIMS BLOCK CHRISTIAN LEADERS FROM MILITARY - Invitations for Franklin Graham to speak at the Pentagon's National Day of Prayer event, and also for Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council to speak at Andrews Air Force base, have been rescinded for fear some Muslim somewhere would be offended by their presence. Apparently the military is refusing to allow any Christian leader to speak at a base if they have been critical of Islam in any way. Strangely, the military finds no problem with imams who refer to democracy as an "apostate religion" that must be destroyed. Congressman Trent Franks is circulating a letter to other House Members for signatures to send to Secretary of Defense Gates asking him what standards he is using to refuse Christian religious leaders the right to speak on base. Please contact your congressman and ask him to support Congressman Trent Franks' efforts.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA) has stepped forward as the flag bearer in the battle to defend the National Day of Prayer. Federal Judge Barbara Crabb recently declared the observance unconstitutional, declaring it as no different than recognizing "rune magic." Her opinion had nothing to do with the Constitution; it was obviously just secularist and anti-Christian bigotry on her part. Congressman Forbes held a news conference with numerous members of Congress in defense of the National Day of Prayer which was created by an act of Congress. Forbes and other members of Congress are preparing an amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," brief to file on behalf of the National Day of Prayer when the case reaches the Supreme Court. Congressman Forbes founded the Prayer Caucus in the House. More information on the Prayer Caucus is at: <http://forbes.house.gov/PrayerCaucus>

CULTURE AND RELIGION

SILENT SURRENDER TO SHARIA - Woodrow Wilson said, "Never murder a man who is committing suicide." As radical Islam stands to the side and directs, the West is committing suicide. In the UK, Belgium, France, Canada and even the United States, institutions and governments are surrendering to Islam. It is reminiscent of the post World War II era when the media saw Communism as inevitable. Today it is Islamic domination that is accepted as inevitable by the media, the corporate world, and apparently by Barack Obama. The latest example concerns the vulgar cartoon series South Park, which has in the past vulgarized Jesus Christ and the church in general.

When the South Park creators were warned by a radical Muslim group not to satirize Mohammad, they quickly backed off. The Muslim death threat said: "We have to warn Matt and Trey that what they are doing is stupid and they will probably wind up like Theo Van Gogh for airing this show. This is not a threat, but a warning of the reality of what will likely happen to them." Not a threat? Theo Van Gogh was the Dutch TV producer who was murdered for criticizing Mohammad. NOTE: Islamic websites are claiming that the attempted bombing in Times Square on May 2nd was "revenge" for the "mocking" of Mohammed in the South Park cartoon. Will the response be to further curtail the rights of Christians, to appease Muslims?

THE CROSS STAYS - the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that a cross serving as a Memorial to WWI veterans in the Mojave Desert can stand! The cross was first erected by the VFW in 1934, and the ACLU began lawsuits to remove it 1999.

In 2002 Congress passed legislation designating the cross as a national memorial and stating that no federal funds may be used to remove the cross. Congress then passed legislation transferring the land the cross was on to the VFW. Still Federal Courts tried to remove the cross, despite its being on private land. What is amazing is that four Supreme Court Justices felt compelled to vote to remove a memorial to veterans who had died in combat. The ACLU's ultimate goal, of course, is to have all religious symbols chiseled off the graves of the dead at Arlington National Cemetery.

INTERNATIONAL

IRAN, THE U.N. PROTECTOR OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS? - Is this a total joke? The same week that Iran declared that women who have suntans will be arrested for dress code violations and publicly whipped, the United Nations elected this rogue nation to the Commission on the Status of Women. The UN gave a four-year seat on their "human rights body" to a government that stones women to death for adultery and where lashings are used on women judged "immodest." Under Iran's standards a woman with a tan would be lashed. The United States provides most of the funding for the United Nations. Maybe it is time that stopped.

MUSLIMS MURDER MORE CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA - Nathan Sheleph Dabak and Sunday Gyang Bwede, both of whom worked for "The Light Bearer" newspaper, a Church of Christ publication, were murdered in Jos by Muslims this week. The killers also stole their belongings and taunted the two mens' relatives using the victims' cell phones. The same church had two other members murdered by Muslims in the past week. Hundreds of Christians in the Jos area have been murdered this year with little or no action from the Nigerian government.

ADVOCACY AND RELIEF

On Capitol Hill, I am considered an "advocate" rather than a lobbyist. What is the difference between an advocate and a lobbyist? Lobbyists are hired guns who must file reports with the federal government listing those who pay them and the contacts they have with congressmen and Senators. A large lobbying firm on K Street may have hundreds of lobbyists. The same firm may represent hundreds of different clients, and sometimes these clients are polar opposites in terms of goals and interests.

On the other hand, an advocate represents a specific special interest group, normally a non-profit organization. An advocate, like me, is well known as representing a single group or cause and as a result has no need to file with any agency. When a lobbyist walks into a congressman's office the staff has no idea who he represents unless he tells them. On the other hand, when I walk into a congressman's office the staff knows immediately that I represent the Religious Freedom Coalition.

Most of my time, other than when writing, is spent doing advocacy work on Capitol Hill. All of my advocacy work has something to do with the rights of Christians and the Christian heritage of our nation. I have written two books on those issues: *Let Us Pray*, which detailed the history and need for prayer in our public schools, and *The Pledge: One Nation under God*, which covered the Christian heritage of our nation that led to placing "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. I have over the last 30 years written dozens of op-eds for newspapers and appeared on literally thousands of radio and TV shows defending the right of Christians to pray in public places and to have the freedom to express their religious views at school and at work.

In many of my presentations to congressmen and Senators as well as on TV and radio, I point to the loss of religious freedom not only in the Middle East but in Europe as well.

Over and beyond the demands of secularists in Europe, a repression of Christians and Jews began more than a decade ago to appease the increasing Muslim populations in European nations. As an example, in Muslim areas of British cities, female police officers must wear the hijab or some Muslim head covering, even if they are Christians. Unofficial Muslim family courts operate openly in both the UK and France, while Christians are barred from even wearing a cross necklace to work. Then there is the situation in the Middle East where the church is being destroyed and Christians are not only repressed, but tortured and murdered.

The Religious Freedom Coalition is not a relief organization; it is an advocacy organization. Most of the funds received are for advocacy work on Capitol Hill and most funds received are spent on advocacy work on Capitol Hill.

BUT ... For me to be recognized as having expertise in my advocacy on Capitol Hill, I must have firsthand knowledge of the repression of Christians throughout the world. With that knowledge and evidence I can make the point vividly that the same repression can come about in the United States unless we maintain constant vigilance, and act to stop the advancing secularization of our nation which at the same time is increasingly tolerant of Sharia law. In order to meet with Christian leaders in the Middle East and elsewhere it is important for the Religious Freedom Coalition to maintain some relief efforts in those nations.

I can't go "empty handed" to Iraq or Pakistan and expect desperate Christian leaders to take their time to give me tours of burned out churches and take me to visit the homes of murder victims. It is important that the Religious Freedom Coalition keep channels open with a relief effort that is more than just token.

In Jordan we support a major ministry that has affiliates operating in Iraq, Lebanon and Pakistan. The ministry is able to get Christian materials into other Muslim nations which I cannot even mention in writing without endangering the operations.

As part of the Religious Freedom Coalition's relief efforts I am able to bring Christian leaders from the Middle East to Capitol Hill to talk directly to Congressmen and Senators who are always eager to talk to them. At the close of these meetings I give those congressmen and Senators a warning: "If we continue to allow Sharia finance and continue to accept Muslim propagandizing in our prisons and schools, you can expect your great grandchildren to live under these conditions. Please listen to these leaders, we must stop this now."

Over the years I have brought pastors to Capitol Hill from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, China, Vietnam, Peru, Brazil, and some I can't recall. I have also introduced to Congress various Christian and pro-life lawmakers from the UK, Sweden and Poland. Some of those conversations left lasting impressions on lawmakers that helped later with efforts to protect the rights of Christians right here in the United States.

As you can see, the "relief" efforts of the Religious Freedom Coalition are important for two reasons. First and foremost, we help our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ. But that aid also opens a broader window that validates my advocacy work on Capitol Hill on behalf of the persecuted church, and furthers our goal to protect the Christian heritage of our nation.

William J. Murray, Chairman