

ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

February 16, 2011

National Security

Give thanks that the Intelligence Community is recognizing and drawing attention to the decline in U.S. manufacturing. Pray that this report would be a wake-up call to U.S. policymakers and politicians, so that they would grasp the urgency of America's decline and make important moves to protect national security. Pray that it is not too late to change harmful trends and place our values on solid foundations. Intercede for the Lord's mercy in sustaining and rescuing the U.S. economy.

*"See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done."
(Hebrews 12:16-17)*

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FEARS U.S. MANUFACTURING CRISIS

The U.S. intelligence community believes U.S. manufacturing has reached such a state of decline that it warrants a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to evaluate security implications. Since intelligence estimates are typically reserved for the most serious threats, the fact that this analysis is a work-in-progress signals that America's industrial status is nearing crisis.

Lawrence Gershwin, the director of the National Intelligence Office's Science and Technology division, would not comment on the study in progress, and a representative confirmed that it is "[a very sensitive matter](#)." According to [Forbes.com](#), an average of 50,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost *each month* since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. Not only is the dependability of America's military industrial base in question, but key products like steel, rebar and antibiotics are in jeopardy.

Forbes reports:

For example, when Defense Secretary Robert Gates decided to surge production of armored trucks for the Iraq counter-insurgency campaign in 2007, it was discovered there was only one steel plant in the nation producing steel of sufficient strength to meet military needs. That plant — the old Lukens Steel Company facility in Coatesville, Pennsylvania — had been bought by European steel giant Arcelor Mittal, and already had weapons makers waiting in line for the output its limited capacity could support. Other items needed for the Iraq-bound trucks also were in short supply, such as oversized tires. The Pentagon had to cobble together an ad hoc network of domestic and foreign suppliers in order to ramp up production of the needed trucks....

...According to a story in the January 20, 2009 New York Times, government subsidies so thoroughly disrupted pricing in the global market for antibiotics that many western producers had to either move facilities to Asia or exit the business entirely. The reason this might matter to

intelligence analysts is that the last U.S. source of key ingredients for antibiotics — a Bristol-Myers Squibb plant in East Syracuse, New York — has now closed, leaving the U.S. dependent on foreign sources in a future conflict.

Weapons manufacturing and commercial transports (airliners) are the last areas of advanced technology where the U.S. still maintains an edge on competition. However, Forbes.com warns that China's mercantilist government is focusing on the airliner market next – yet another step in its “global campaign to become the world's dominant manufacturing nation.”

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.

(IRAN UPDATE)

ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK, ENERGY SECTOR, WOMEN'S RIGHTS & PROTESTS

Pray for continued wisdom for U.S. leaders weighing ongoing threats from Iran and the need to intervene for those who are oppressed under Ahmadinejad's regime. Intercede for the spiritual battle being waged in the heavenly realm – that our leaders in places of influence and authority would be given wisdom and understanding, and would be shielded from spiritual attack, blindness, ignorance and apathy. Pray for freedom for the people of Iran, equal rights for women, and for the underground Church to be radiant with the light and hope of Christ their coming Savior.

“But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.” (Daniel 10:13-14) “Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.” (Daniel 12:10)

Security Threat: In an [interview with Newsmax TV](#), Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he is concerned about the threat of an [electromagnetic pulse](#) attack from nations like North Korea and Iran. He warned that America's enemies see this as an attractive form of attack because it provides an alternative to direct competition with a large military and increases leverage for further conflict. Rumsfeld's new memoir, “Known and Unknown,” describes his unsuccessful efforts to persuade the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to take a harder look at [nuclear threats from Iran](#). (Incidentally, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told a hearing last week that America's [terror threat is the highest it's been since 9/11](#), with radicalized U.S. residents willing to implement attacks with “little or no warning.”)

Protests: Meanwhile, opposition supporters silently filing toward Azadi Square (Freedom Square) were stifled on Monday, confirming the nation's constant state of tiptoe under Ahmadinejad's presidency. [Scattered protests in Tehran](#) were staged in support of the ongoing revolts across the Middle East, and one Basij commander condemned the rally, believing that Western spies were attempting to undermine the regime by stirring up turmoil similar to the unrest in Egypt and Tunisia. On Tuesday, Obama finally spoke out about the pro-democracy rally in Iran, saying the [regime's suppression is hypocritical](#) in light of its support for protests in Egypt. The opposition in Iran is the [largest protest](#) since the anti-government campaign in 2009 after Ahmadinejad's rigged election.

Women's Rights: A new DVD called *Iranium* powerfully reports on Iran's threat to America and the world, and the filmmakers provide bonus footage highlighting the numerous human rights abuses of the Iranian regime towards women. The [website](#) captures an [interview of Manda Zand Ervin](#) describing the injustice endorsed by radical Islam. U.S. citizens of faith and conscience are called upon to write to Congress on behalf of the countless female voices repressed under Sharia law.

Sanctions: The Heritage Foundation reports that Iran's energy sector is its greatest vulnerability, making the following recommendations in hopes of stopping Iran's nuclear weapons programs:

The U.S. should persuade its allies and other countries to develop and strictly enforce unilateral sanctions regimes that target Iran's energy sector, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leadership, and its associates.

The U.S. should encourage China to diversify its energy imports away from Iran. Washington should appeal to Iran's neighbors, particularly Turkey, to assist in containing Iran's nuclear ambitions by strictly enforcing sanctions.

The U.S. should support the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) gas pipeline over the Iran–Pakistan–India (IPI) gas pipeline because IPI would give Iran an economic lifeline and increase its influence in South Asia.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article and talking points.

EDUCATION / CAMPUS OUTREACH

Pray that God will raise up this nation to pray for college campuses Feb. 20 - 24. Intercede for those promoting the movement; for the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire their efforts. Pray that the vigil will unleash a powerful revival that will profoundly impact the future of America's congregations, culture and society.

*“One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised.”
(Joshua 23:10)*

COLLEGIATE DAY OF PRAYER & VIGIL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

A week of prayer (100 hours) for the University of Tennessee will begin February 20th and finish on February 24th, marking the Collegiate Day of Prayer. Nearly 130 students are signed up to pray and leaders believe that the gathering will invite a mighty move of God. Participants are praying that God will stir up campus ministers and students to participate with the hopes of seeing 100 non-stop hours of prayer on campus and a greater hunger for God. They also desire to grow to a weekly – ongoing – commitment of 75 hours of prayer.

The Collegiate Day of Prayer website writes this about the rich history of revival across U.S. campuses:

The American churches viewed these student communities as the coming future of their congregations, culture, and society. They believed that the direction of their churches and that of the whole nation would soon follow the spiritual bent and character of America's college students. As the students go, so goes the nation. It was this kind of farseeing perspective about students that made the American Church quick to answer the call to a national day of prayer for colleges.

But what about now – when so many schools have fallen short and yet the spiritual needs are so great? One observer lamenting America's spiritual decline while rejoicing over the glimmer of hope she sees in blooming prayer movements, commented:

"It [the decline] is due almost entirely to the fact that we no longer observe the Day of Prayer for Colleges as we used to do. There used to be long seasons of prayer in the college chapel and all-day meetings for fasting and prayer in almost all the churches. We asked God to raise up ministers and missionaries among the students and He did it... 'Ye have not because ye ask not.'"

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the Collegiate Day of Prayer and learn how you can get involved!

National Deficit

Pray for honesty – that Members will make a genuine assessment of who we are as a nation, what we’re doing and where we’re going. Pray that we would not be a nation that chases fantasies. Intercede that necessary changes would come as a result of open, forthright debate. Intercede that there will be no partisan brinksmanship and that politicians will be motivated to make a significant dent in the national debt based on the conviction that wasteful spending is a moral issue. Give thanks that politicians are acknowledging the severity of America’s financial state.

“Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense. The wicked desire the stronghold of evildoers, but the root of the righteous endures. Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk, and so the innocent escape trouble.” (Proverbs 12:11-13)

WHITE HOUSE & CONGRESS ZOOM IN ON THE BUDGET

The [White House released its budget for FY 2012](#) on Monday, stating that it made “[tough choices](#) on some things we cannot afford, while keeping the investments we need to grow the economy and create jobs.” Obama is sending Congress a \$3.73 trillion spending plan that promises \$1.1 trillion in deficit savings over the course of the next 10 years through tax increases and spending cuts. [The Washington Post provided a summary](#) of the budget’s highlights, noting the percentage of change (increase/decrease) in each category. [One-third of savings would be achieved through tax increases](#), and the largest hike would come from a proposal to cut the deductions wealthy Americans can claim for charitable contributions, mortgage interest and state and local tax payments.

H.R. 1 – As the U.S. House of Representatives votes this week on a Continuing Resolution that aims to cut \$100 billion from the federal budget for the remainder of FY 2011, liberal entities – such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (PBS and NPR) and Title X “Family Planning” programs – should see a setback in funding. Members from both sides will be able to make a dent in the \$14 trillion national debt by offering any number of amendments in an “Open Amendment Process.” While the bill is being read, they will debate and vote on each proposal.

The Family Research Council reports that Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN) continues to work feverishly to eradicate Planned Parenthood’s federal funding. The Council states:

As part of the continuing resolution (CR) that Republicans have offered, Mike is working on an amendment that goes beyond even his Title X bill and asks that not one cent be made available “for any purpose”--not only to Planned Parenthood Federation, but to its 100-plus affiliates. Meanwhile, his colleague Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fl.) is attacking the issue from another angle: putting the administration on the stand. Now that he chairs the House Energy & Commerce oversight committee, he plans to haul HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius before Congress in a hearing. In light of the Lila Rose tapes, he wants to know why taxpayers are funding an organization that repeatedly covers up child prostitution and sexual abuse.

Pro-life News

Give thanks for the growing awakening and boldness of leaders promoting the sanctity of life. Praise God for politicians like Sen. Loudermilk who defend the unborn in America. Pray for more Americans to have a deeper awareness that when “one part suffers, every part suffers with it” in regard to our protection of children in the womb. Pray for the American conscience to be awakened – that we would acknowledge the suffering of aborted babies, and understand how this is hurting our nation on every level.

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

PERSONHOOD MOVEMENT GAINS MOMENTUM IN FOUR STATES

Keith Mason, cofounder of Personhood USA says the U.S. is “witnessing a historical movement to finally end the destruction of human lives and to protect women and children at all stages of life.” Personhood measures, (defining “human being” as an individual member of the species homo sapiens at every stage of development), passed the Iowa House subcommittee and the House in North Dakota. [Montana, Texas and Oklahoma](#) also introduced a personhood amendment, and Senator Barry Loudermilk (R-GA) [announced yesterday](#) that he is filing a Personhood amendment in the Georgia Senate.

Christian Newswire reports:

Introduced by Representative Wendy Warburton, the Montana legislature heard a moving testimony from Rebecca Kiessling, a woman conceived in rape. Rebecca's testimony includes, "I may not look the same as I did when I was four years old or four days old yet unborn in my mother's womb, but that was still undeniably me and I would have been killed through a brutal abortion."