

ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

February 2, 2011

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNET "KILL SWITCH" GETS FRESH LOOK

Pray for lawmakers to fully consider the implications of the cyberemergency bill, and to guard against those measures that could accidentally or intentionally defraud citizens and groups of their rights. Intercede for those who offer constructive criticism to be given a platform to speak; that they would not shrink back but confidently seek to preserve the freedoms we so often take for granted. Pray for the Lord's protection over the Internet; that He would expose and bring to a halt any genuine threat, giving discernment to monitoring teams that assess the dangers. Pray for wisdom in [countering radical messages](#) that appear on the Internet, and for people who are being recruited by terrorists online.

"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved." (Hebrews 10:39)

A controversial [piece of legislation](#) to cripple or possibly shut down access to the Internet and other telecommunications systems is moving to the front burner this year. The so-called "[Internet Kill Switch](#)" bill, first introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), would authorize the President to block the Internet for 30 days during a cyber emergency. The bill is unclear as to what defines a "significant threat" or national emergency, conceding that the federal government's designation of critical communications infrastructure "shall not be subject to judicial review." Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union are fearful that the bill might be used to censor the Internet and erode our rights.

First becoming public in June 2010, the Lieberman-Collins cybersecurity proposal emerged from a six-month standstill in the U.S. Senate to be modified on December 15. Last week, the bill reappeared for discussion on the [same day](#) that Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak sought to curb mass protests by causing an Internet blackout. U.S. critics of the bill have been quick to point out the uncanny timing of these two events, and others have said that Egypt's coinciding shut-down [shows how easily an Internet blackout can be accomplished](#), (leaving some to wonder if we should draw lessons from this).

[Newsofthenorth.net](#) writer Joe Costanza comments:

Although the "kill-switch" bill has a long way to go before passage, the federal government already has lots of pieces in place to grow into an even bigger brother. In October 2009, Department of Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano opened the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC). It was described as a "24-hour, DHS-led coordinated watch and warning center that will improve national efforts to address threats and incidents affecting the nation's critical information technology and cyber infrastructure."

...Napolitano warns Americans: "if you see something say something." One question then becomes, if the President throws the "kill switch," how will we say it?

EGYPT / MIDEAST CRISIS

DOMINO EFFECT: What will Mubarak's overthrow mean for the region?

Pray for a group of pro-democracy, pro-free market reformers to come to power in Egypt. Pray that the Lord would protect the nation from being seized by Jihadists and those with anti-Western and anti-Israel sentiments. (Pray the same for Jordan and all the Middle Eastern nations rocked by instability right now.) Pray for peace, prosperity, progress and opportunity. Intercede for mercy for Israel as changing leadership among neighboring nations may drastically influence its status in the region. Pray for the people caught in between (see [six categories](#)) during this crisis not to be deceived by radicals or extremists but to have discernment and foresight to choose their leadership wisely. (Pray that the Obama Administration would also have discretion in its endorsements and reactions to the turnover in power.) Ask the Lord to grant wisdom to Egyptian President Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah. Intercede for Christians in the region to have courage and boldly proclaim the Word of God, offering peace, hope and a Godly perspective to those around them.

*"...evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived**. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." (2 Timothy 3:13-14)*

The list of tumultuous [events in the Middle East](#) continues: an uprising in Tunisia (ousting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali); the Jordanian prime minister sacked by King Abdullah; unprecedented protests in Egypt leaving at least 100 dead and countless wounded; as well as echoing unrest in Yemen, Algeria and northern Sudan. According to [The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good](#), the crises in Egypt and Tunisia reveal a real turning point in the Mideast: "Most Egyptians and Tunisians took to the streets to put an end to poverty, corruption and oppression.... Islamists can come to power in the new Arab democracies, but the emerging anti-dictatorial culture in the Arab world will check their authoritarian tendencies."

With the recent overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak's regime in Egypt, what might have been cause for hope is now also ample cause for concern. Anti-government protests have snowballed into rioting, vandalism, looting, and more than 8,000 prisoners escaping from jail. In some cases, prison guards have supported the protests, releasing members of the Muslim Brotherhood and causing observers to question whether the upheaval could usher in a radical Islamist regime. Promising protesters that he will step down from his nearly 30-year autocratic rule later this year, Mubarak's assurances are failing to appease the crowds who demand his immediate resignation.

Meanwhile, as one of the leaders in the Opposition Movement, Mohamed ElBaradei is urging Mubarak to hand over leadership to a transitional government. Analysts are asking: Who exactly is ElBaradei and is he a good replacement for Mubarak? The answer to the last question is definitely **no**. As former United Nations atomic agency chief, ElBaradei is both an apologist for Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. His leadership betrays anti-Israel sentiment. ([He said in 2009](#) that "Israel is the number one threat to the Middle East.")

[Popular Christian blogger Joel Rosenberg](#) writes:

Unfortunately, there is not a genuine, sincere and widely recognized and popular leader of the Reform movement in Egypt right now, someone who passionately believes in advancing free markets, free elections and the protection of human rights and the rule of law. There is no one

visible in Egypt at the moment who can convincingly take Hosni Mubarak's place, build on the country's pro-Western recent heritage, maintain peaceful ties with Israel and robustly oppose the mullahs in Iran and their bloodthirsty quest for an Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Bomb. Mohammed ElBaradei is definitely not the guy. He is a false prophet in bed with Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. We must keep looking for a true Reformer. In the meantime, we must do everything in our power to prevent the Radicals from seizing Cairo, and the rest of the Sunni world with it.

Jordan Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice also reports:

Lost among the news is the fact that 15 to 20% of the Egyptian population is Christian. Based on my conversations with our contacts in the region, they are in the streets as well, demanding greater freedom to practice their faith. They are fully aware that in a free election, a government controlled by the terrorist-supporting Muslim Brotherhood could take power. And that is exactly why the Christians in Egypt are engaged.

As you intercede for Egypt's 80 million people, keep in mind the **six categories** of people involved in this political struggle. (To read an in-depth discussion on Joel Rosenberg's blog, [CLICK HERE.](#))

PRAY FOR...

- Radicals** (Extremist Muslims, Jihadists – i.e. members of the Muslim Brotherhood)
- Reformers** (Moderate Muslims who are pro-democracy, working to protect human rights and civil rights - i.e. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who was assassinated by Radicals)
- Revivalists** (Former Muslims who now believe that Jesus is the only answer – tend to be apolitical, focused on evangelism/discipleship, church planting, pastor training and spiritual growth. Their hope is to revive biblical Christianity.)
- Resisters** (Secular leaders against change of any kind, more concerned about building their own empire than building an Islamic empire – i.e. Mubarak is a classic example)
- Reticent** (Arab leaders who don't claim any strong convictions, easily swayed in both directions)
- Rank-and-File** (Every-day, hard-working Muslims who generally mind their own business but watch the battle between the radicals and the reformers, trying to decide which movement to join.)

GOVERNMENT

WHERE THERE'S A BILL THERE'S A WAY

Pray for ongoing efforts to push forward the repeal to the health care law in the Senate today. Intercede that God would guide the hearing and grant us mercy by softening the hearts of those who are opposed to the repeal. Intercede also for the Restore Military Readiness Act of 2011, amending the Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal. Ask that God would grant His followers compassion, so that His name would be "proclaimed in all the earth" through the decisions made in the House and Senate this week.

"It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.' Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden." (Romans 9:16-18)

OBAMACARE (UPDATE) – Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) will chair a hearing on the constitutionality of the national health-care law today. This comes just one day after what Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) called the "second [dagger](#) in the heart of Obamacare" – a Florida federal judge's ruling that struck down the overhaul declaring the entire insurance mandate to be unconstitutional. The full Senate Judiciary committee will attend the hearing, which is the first to examine the health care law's

constitutionality. As Senate Republicans plan to force a vote on the repeal measure as early as today, they have invited Georgetown University law professor Randy Barnett and attorney Michael Carvin to the hearing. To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

DADT (UPDATE) – The repeal law of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the U.S. military, requires a two-month delay before the law is implemented. In the meantime President Obama, Admiral Mullen, and Secretary Gates must verify that permitting homosexuals to serve will not have a negative impact for the military. Under the [Freedom Foundation](#), Faith-based and policy organizations representing an estimated 40 million constituents have issued a letter to the House Armed Services Committee asking the members to consider the flaws in a comprehensive review and to push for a vote on Rep. Hunter's bill H.R. 337, the Restore Military Readiness Act of 2011, which would amend the repeal.

PRO-LIFE ISSUES

PLANNED PARENTHOOD HELPS LOCAL PIMP

Give thanks for the exposure of “deeds done in darkness.” Pray that the folly of Planned Parenthood would become evident to all, and that the rights of women and young girls would be protected. Intercede for the conversion of hearts and minds within the abortion industry, and for God's redeeming love, mercy and provision to be made known to women who've given in to our culture's doctrines of convenience. Pray for the Church to continue to rise up to counter ungodly teaching/influence, helping young women to understand their true value and worth.

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy ... brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash.... Have nothing to do with such people.” (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

The [Family Research Council](#) is exposing a chilling undercover video revealing Planned Parenthood's entanglement with child prostitution. The Council reports:

According to Amy Woodruff, a clinic manager in New Jersey, the organization that rakes in more than \$363 million taxpayer dollars a year is more than willing to help a local pimp hide a ring of child prostitutes. Just two weeks ago, Woodruff was caught on tape advising him how he could make his underage girls look "as legit as possible." The actor admits up front that he's involved in "sex work" with 14- and 15-year-old children, some of whom, he confesses, were brought in "outta the country." Without missing a beat, Woodruff says, "I'm assuming most of them are coming here illegally, right?" and says her clinic won't ask for social security numbers. Knowing that he's bringing the girls to the U.S. for what many would consider sex trafficking, she tells him how to prep his girls to lie about their age. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

SPORTS OUTREACH

Intercede as sports ministry workers lead outreach at the Super Bowl this week; that their testimonies and actions would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. Pray for God's grace to penetrate the hearts of even the most unreceptive listeners, and for the Lord to use Michael Vick's testimony in a might way to change lives.

“For the grace of God... teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:11-14)

Super Bowl Sunday is just days away and organizations like Athletes in Action and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes are ready to roll with exciting outreach opportunities! The 2011 *Power to Win Ministry Kit DVD*, which has led more than 65,000 to Christ at outreach events, is featuring the testimonies of Dallas Cowboys quarterback Jon Kitna and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick. As more than 111,000 people prepare to descend on the Dallas Cowboys stadium and businesses and advertisers flock to Arlington, TX, ministries are hosting the annual Super Bowl Breakfast on Saturday, an event that has the potential to win many to the Gospel.

To read more, check out:

www.superbowlbreakfast.com

www.powertowin.org

<http://www.ifapray.org/blog/?p=1021>