
ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

April 6, 2011

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UPDATE: JAPAN'S NUCLEAR CRISIS

Reactor 1

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said that roughly 70 percent of the core of reactor number 1 suffered severe damage. In other words, it came very close to a total meltdown. But things appear now to be stabilizing.

Reactor 2

Tepco announced that there is a crack in the concrete pit of reactor number 2 that is leaking radiation into the ocean from a crippled reactor. Fears over potential leaks from the plant in north-eastern Japan escalated after radioactive iodine was found in nearby seawater that is 4,385 times the legal limit. Radioactive contamination in groundwater underneath reactor number 2 has been measured at 10,000 times the government health standard.

Reactor 3

The New York Times pointed out: "A senior nuclear executive who insisted on anonymity but has broad contacts in Japan said that there was a long vertical crack running down the side of the reactor vessel itself. The crack runs down below the water level in the reactor and has been leaking fluids and gases, he said. 'There is a definite, definite crack in the vessel - it's up and down and it's large,' he said. 'The problem with cracks is they do not get smaller.'"

Reactor 4

Nuclear engineer Arnie Gunderson notes that the spent fuel rods in reactor number 4 have no water, and the rods are exposed.

Pray for wisdom for all in authority. (James 1:5)

"You have made the earth tremble; You have broken it; heal its breaches, for it is shaking . . . that Your beloved may be delivered, save with Your right hand, and hear me." (Psalm 60:2, 5)

BUDGET / FINANCE

RYAN'S BUDGET PLAN TO SLASH DEFICITS BY OVER \$4 TRILLION

FISCAL YEAR 2012 (OCTOBER 1, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2012)

Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee, will propose fundamental reforms to Medicare and Medicaid in the GOP budget expected to be released Tuesday, implying in a Fox News Sunday interview that the deficit savings would exceed \$4 trillion. "We can't keep kicking this can down the road," Ryan said to Fox. "The president has punted. We're not going to follow suit." He also said that

the deficit reduction would exceed what President Obama's fiscal commission proposed last year, which was \$4 trillion. (DC Examiner)

Thank God for leaders willing to take the long view, and their willingness to take a long shot. Praise Him for proposals that would move us a long way toward repairing our fiscal policy.

"The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward." (Exodus 14:15)

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TAKES NEW TWIST

A longstanding effort by some members of Congress to add a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution has taken a new twist this year with Senate Republicans backing a version that would cut spending to a level not seen since the mid-1960s. Senate Republicans say all 47 members of their caucus support the new proposal. Their proposal would not only require a balanced budget - except in times of war - it would limit federal spending to 18 percent of the overall economy and require that proposals to raise taxes be approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate. (The Advertiser)

Thank the Lord that He is sovereign over our country, our Constitution, our fiscal policy, and our monetary policy. Ask that He would work them together for good, and dig us out of this pit in which we find ourselves. Pray that He would silence the mouths of those who say it cannot be done, or should not be done. Intercede that He would show the world what He can do.

"Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well." (Proverbs 5:15)

WALL STREET FIRMS HELD INAUGURAL LGBT SUMMIT

On March 30, six of Wall Street's major banks - Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays, Citi, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley - joined together at 'Out on the Street,' a summit convened to discuss issues vital to the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Deutsche Bank hosted the inaugural summit, which focused on issues of culture change, recruitment, client development and driving business impact during four panel discussions. (HITC)

Intercede that God would stand in the way of issues like these that would complicate and hinder our ability to have a financial industry that honors Him.

"Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." (Romans 1:32)

ARCHAEOLOGY

70 ANCIENT BOOKS UNCOVERED IN JORDAN

One of the largest and best-preserved collections of ancient sealed books has been discovered in a cave in Jordan, and the books are believed to be some of the earliest Christian documents, according to the BBC. The 70 tiny books could date back to the first century. Carbon dating tests found that a piece of leather found with the scrolls was over 2000 years old. Experts say the books, made of lead and copper and bound by rings, may be more significant than the Dead Sea Scrolls, BBC reports.

The director of the Jordan's Department of Antiquities, Ziad al-Saad, says the books might have been made by followers of Jesus in the few decades immediately following his crucifixion. "They will really match, and perhaps be more significant than, the Dead Sea Scrolls," says Mr. Saad. "Maybe it will lead to further interpretation and authenticity checks of the material, but the initial information is very

encouraging, and it seems that we are looking at a very important and significant discovery, maybe the most important discovery in the history of archaeology." (BBC, Fox News)

Is this the first ever portrait of Jesus?

The image is eerily familiar: a bearded young man with flowing curly hair. After lying for nearly 2,000 years hidden in a cave in the Holy Land, the fine detail is difficult to determine. But in a certain light it is not difficult to interpret the marks around the figure's brow as a crown of thorns. ...If genuine, this could be the first-ever portrait of Jesus Christ, possibly even created in the lifetime of those who knew him. (UK Telegraph) [READ MORE](#).

Praise God for more archeological evidence that reveals God's Word in the Middle East! From the revelation of a buckle with Goliath's name on it to mosaics and names written in stone, to evidence of the ancient Jews under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, God is slowly and methodically bringing confirmation about Himself to light.

". . . but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith." (Romans 16:26)