

# ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

January 19, 2011

## Economy

### CHINESE PRESIDENT HU VISITS WASHINGTON

**Pray for the talks today as the outcome is critical for the future of our nation and the global economy. Pray for sensitivity for both heads of state, and for the ability to address delicate issues and confront areas of disagreement. Intercede that talks with President Hu would bring about transparency, exposing issues that need to be brought to light. Intercede for mercy and grace for America as leaders discuss our enormous debt to China.**

*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:7)*

In the past two years, according to [FT.com](http://FT.com), China topped the World Bank in lending money to other developing countries, a signal that securing natural resources is high priority on Beijing's agenda. China's overseas loans reinforce the nation's effort to decrease reliance on western export markets. Meanwhile, President Hu Jintao arrived in town yesterday to "[enhance strategic mutual trust](#)" and "[set the tone](#)" for another decade of Washington-Beijing dialogue. The US visit will probably be Hu's last before he's expected to step down in 2012. It is hoped that this week's discussions will help establish stability after one of the most challenging years in US-China relations.

A press conference held today will be the only moment of spontaneity, and potential transparency, during Hu's busy itinerary leading up to his departure from Washington on Thursday. Considered "stiff and media-averse," Hu has agreed to take questions from reporters in an attempt to present a more personal image to the American public. Four questions will be asked at the conference, two from Chinese reporters and two from the US.

#### [The China Post reports:](#)

Tough queries could come on trade and exchange rates, China's growing military, Taiwan, North Korea and Iran. One sticky issue is China's imprisonment of dissident writer Liu Xiaobo, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year. If asked about Liu, Hu can be expected to reiterate China's portrayal of him as a dangerous anti-government radical who engaged in subversion by co-authoring a bold call for political reform.

Other touchy subjects include the party's brutal suppression of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and support for despots in North Korea, Myanmar and Zimbabwe and the sometimes-brutal government in Sudan.

## **Health Care**

### **THE HOUSE VOTES ON HEALTH CARE REPEAL TODAY**

**As the House votes to today on the health care repeal bill, intercede that lawmakers would have the insight to replace faulty provisions with affordable, wise and godly solutions. As the vote is expected to pass in the House and come to a halt in the Senate, pray that God would go before the vote to prepare the hearts of Senators [opposed to the bill](#) to reconsider. Intercede for businesses struggling under the weight of implementing new procedures. Pray for Congress to be in tune with the needs of individuals and corporations across the nation, and for President Obama and all US leaders to be sensitive to how their decisions will impact citizens on a practical level long after their leadership in office is complete.**

*"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." (Prov. 12:15)*

[The Family Research Council](#) writes: "...the House of Representatives plans to vote very soon on Majority Leader Eric Cantor's H.R. 2, "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act." The final health care bill passed into law last March contains provisions to fund abortion and to ration health care. Additionally, the law creates a huge unfunded mandate on both businesses and states, guaranteeing closed businesses, lost jobs and pushes states closer to fiscal disaster that will inevitably lead to more bailouts from the federal government -- all to pay for the monstrosity that is Obamacare. Passage of H.R. 2 is the first step in protecting taxpayers from being forced to fund abortions and being under the thumb of a federal bureaucracy for their health care needs.

## **Israel**

### **RUSSIAN PRESIDENT MEDVEDEV MAKES HISTORIC MIDDLE EAST TOUR**

**Pray for continued security and economic blessing for Israel and her leaders. Intercede for wisdom, discretion and a godly perspective for US leaders in their diplomacy towards Israel, especially as nations are aligning with Palestine and those in support of Israel may find themselves isolated in the days ahead. Give thanks for Canada and Greece who are currently strong allies of Israel. Intercede that the hearts of Israelis would find their hope and trust in God, and recognize Him as their true "alliance" and everlasting Redeemer.**

*"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19)*

Yesterday Russian President Dmitry Medvedev began a historic Middle East tour, sending a message to the world that "[Palestinians are ready for statehood and independence.](#)" Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas held a joint press conference in Jericho with Medvedev, and the two planned to sign agreements in agriculture, sports and communications. As one of the first nations to recognize the Palestinian state in 1988, Medvedev reaffirmed Russia's position and has granted Palestinians full diplomatic representation in Moscow.

Medvedev drew applause from Palestinians when he mentioned that his visit to Palestine was the first of a Russian president "not united with a visit to another country" - an unmistakable reference to Israel which

would normally be on his itinerary, [according to Haaretz](#). (His trip “to Israel” was [cancelled](#), though President Shimon Peres will meet with Medvedev in Davos, Switzerland later this month.) Israeli officials wonder if recognition of Palestine will create a “domino effect of other states” following Russia’s example, including China.

A push for the World to recognize Palestinian statehood has been growing stronger by the minute, and now Israelis expect the ‘recognition resolution’ to pass after the September opening of the U.N. General Assembly. Columnist [Aluf Benn](#) predicts that Israel may become isolated – “territories will be transformed from a bargaining chip into a burden.”

Meanwhile, President Medvedev is nurturing ties with Iran, hoping to [boost the alliance](#) through energy, fuel, transportation and other commercial areas.

To read more and to consider how current events may tie into Bible prophecy in Ezekiel 36-39, (the “war of Gog and Magog), visit <http://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/j>

## **Persecution**

### **INCIDENTS OF CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION INCREASING**

**Pray for church unity and genuine religious freedom in North Korea, Eritrea, Egypt and around the world. Commit to the Lord all believers in these nations. Intercede especially for those suffering in prison, and for their families and loved ones who suffer in their absence. Pray for the Lord's strength, His comforting presence, and for release. Intercede that God's name would be glorified and many would come to Christ through the witness of those who are persecuted.**

*“Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.” (John 15:20)*

According to Voice of the Martyrs, Christian persecution has increased around the globe. In Indonesia, government officials blocked worshippers from conducting Christmas services at one church. In North Korea, [recent incidents](#) show that border guards may have new instructions to shoot defectors, and the harsh security measures are bound to impact Christians in this restrictive country. After the brutal December 31 attack on Saints Church in Alexandria, Egypt, killing 21 people, solidarity between Muslims and Copts is unprecedented. The nation views the tragedy as an attack on Egypt as a whole, and the Muslim community is showing its support for their Christian neighbors. Meanwhile, more than 3,000 Eritreans are prisoners for their faith in Christ. Many are detained in underground dungeons, military barracks and shipping containers.

To read more, visit:

<http://www.ifapray.org/entry.php?id=2603>

<http://www.ifapray.org/entry.php?id=2627>

<http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/1105815967.html>

## **Entertainment & Morality**

### **“IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO”**

**Praise God for this statement from Morality in Media President Robert Peters! Intercede that the nation’s political leaders as well as leaders in entertainment would truly pause to consider the behavior that is being promoted in popular culture through media and entertainment. Pray for entertainment industry workers to acknowledge their responsibility and influence, and for**

**measures to be implemented that would glorify God and instill and reinforce a respect for life in our nation's youth.**

*"The unfaithful have an appetite for violence." (Proverbs 13:2)*

In response to the nation's highly publicized shooting of the victims in Tucson, AZ, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Morality in Media [President Robert Peters commented:](#)

"There may be loopholes in our nation's gun control laws that need plugging, but in acknowledging that a mass murderer has again misused a gun to kill citizens, we should also remember that the killer grew up in a 'popular culture' that glamorizes gun violence and that also loves to portray religion in a negative light, when it portrays religion at all, which isn't often.

Along with pointing a finger of blame at misuse of guns, therefore, the liberal news media should also point a finger of blame at TV shows, films, rap lyrics and video games that glamorize deadly gun violence and that are popular among young males.... as my mother used to say, 'It takes two to tango.' I would add this to what my mother said, 'If incendiary political speech can have an adverse effect on vulnerable individuals, so can incendiary and grossly irresponsible entertainment.'" ([Christian Newswire](#))