

ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

August 3, 2011

A REVERENT PLEA FOR A DEBT AGREEMENT

As the Senate has mired itself in bickering and deadlock this week, there has been at least one voice reflecting the panic rising in the country.

It's been the deep, solemn intonations of the Senate's chaplain, Barry C. Black.

With the prospect of a government default just days away, congressional leaders struggled to work out a bipartisan debt deal.

A longtime Navy chaplain and Seventh-Day Adventist minister, Barry Black opens U.S. Senate sessions with a brief prayer. Over the past few days - as the country slid closer to a national default - those prayers seem to have revealed Chaplain Black as one of the most worried people in the chamber.

Back on July 20, Black was speaking only in hopeful generalities. In the prayer that began that session, he asked the Almighty to "give to our lawmakers the wisdom to know the role they should play, in keeping freedom's holy light bright."

But as the days passed by, it became apparent that the Senate was not showing any more wisdom than it had previously. By last Tuesday, Black's request indicated that his senators might need more divine help.

"Keep them," he prayed, "from the pit of disunity and discord. And empower them to build bridges of cooperation. Give them the courage and humility to do what is right, knowing that you are the only constituent they absolutely must please."

But lawmakers only descended further into that pit of disunity.

So Chaplain Black's prayers began to warn of the consequences if the Senate did not straighten up and act right.

"Lord," he prayed on Wednesday, "as our nation faces the potentially catastrophic, inspire our lawmakers to seek your counsel which will stand forever."

Still nothing. The two sides remained far apart, and the "potentially catastrophic" crept closer.

On Friday, Black dialed it up another notch.

“Lord, help them to comprehend the global repercussions of some poor decisions, and the irreversibility of some tragic consequences,” he prayed. “Quicken their ears to hear. Their eyes to see. Their hearts to believe and their wills to obey you. Before...”

And here, Black slowed down his usual stately cadence even further, in case people weren't getting it.

“...it is. too late.”

Nothing. On Saturday, Black seemed to be more specific with God: “We need you on Capitol Hill,” he said.

And his warnings to the lawmakers became even more dire. He spoke of “when night comes” - a reference to a verse from the Bible's Book of John, where night is a metaphor for death.

“Deliver our lawmakers from the paralysis of analysis, when constructive and prompt action is desperately needed,” he asked. “Faced with potentially disastrous consequences, give the members of this body the wisdom to work while it is day. For the night comes, when no one can work.”

Finally, on Sunday morning, Black gave a prayer that might have fit for the crew of a sinking ship.

“The waters are coming in upon us,” Black said. “We are weary from the struggle, tempted to throw in the towel. But quitting isn't an option.”

After he spoke, the Senate said the Pledge of Allegiance. And then Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) got up to speak, hopefully, of the possibility of a deal to end the crisis.

Deficit Agreement's Savings Could Prove Elusive - To get the lion's share of their proposed \$2.4 trillion in deficit reduction over the coming decade, Obama and congressional leaders are relying on a process that has failed twice in the past. Skepticism abounds even before the ink dries on the pending deal. Former House Republican leader Dick Armey, who devised the method by which Congress' hands largely are tied when it comes to military base closings, recalls how lawmakers “weaseled out” from the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law in the 1980s.

Still, he and some other budget experts say the deal, which includes about \$900 billion in spending cuts over 10 years and the promise of \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion more, is probably all that the White House and a divided Congress could have been expected to produce. (SOURCES: The Washington Post by David Fahrenthold, USA Today)

Offer thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the strong man of faith leading the way in the U.S. Senate with prayer. Ask that the Lord would give wisdom to the U.S. Senate members in making such monumental decisions regarding our national debt and balancing the budget.

“Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.” 1 Chronicles 22:13

JUDGE: PERRY'S CALL FOR HOUSTON DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING IS IN GOOD STANDING!

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit that sought to stop Gov. Rick Perry from sponsoring a national day of

Christian prayer and fasting, ruling Thursday that **the group of atheists and agnostics did not have legal standing to sue.**

U.S. District Judge Gray H. Miller said the Freedom From Religion Foundation argued against Perry's involvement based merely on feelings of exclusion, but did not show sufficient harm to merit the injunction they sought.

"The governor has done nothing more than invite others who are willing to do so to pray," Miller said.

Rich Bolton, who argued for the group, said he was considering an appeal.

"I wonder if we had a Muslim governor what would happen if the whole state was called to a Muslim prayer," said Kay Staley, one of five Texas residents named as plaintiffs in the suit. "I think the governor needs to keep his religion out of his official duties."

Staley said she would be at the prayer rally to protest.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation argued in the lawsuit that Perry's involvement in the day of prayer and fasting would violate the First Amendment's establishment clause. The event, which is called The Response, is scheduled for Aug. 6 at Houston's Reliant Stadium.

Perry, an evangelical Christian, said he didn't yet know what his role in the rally would be.

"I'm going to be there -- I may be ushering for all I know -- I haven't gotten my marching orders," he said. "It's not about me and it's not about the people on the stage either, this is truly about coming together as a state lifting up this nation in prayer, having a day of prayer and fasting. That's all it is."

Perry invited the Obama administration, the nation's governors and Texas lawmakers to attend the event. The Republican governor is moving closer to jumping in the race for the White House.

The event is being sponsored by several evangelical Christian groups, including the American Family Association, which has been criticized by civil rights groups for promoting anti-homosexual and anti-Islamic positions on the roughly 200 radio stations it operates.

The foundation said it does not oppose politicians taking part in religious services, but that Perry crossed a line by initiating the event, using his position as governor to endorse and promote it and by using his official website to link to the organizer's website. The plaintiffs also contend that Perry's use of Texas' official state seal to endorse the event and his plans to issue an official proclamation violate the Constitution.

An appellate court in April dismissed the group's previous lawsuit against the Obama administration over the National Day of Prayer, on which people of all faiths were invited to take part. Like Miller, the three-judge panel in that case ruled that the group could not prove that they had suffered any harm when the president issued a proclamation observing the day.

Maine supports Gov. Perry's August prayer gathering. - Maine Gov. Paul LePage has proclaimed August 6 a "Day of Prayer and Fasting for Our Nation," coinciding with the Houston prayer gathering that TX Gov. Perry has invited individuals from across the country to attend. Gov. Perry issued a similar

proclamation for Texas, and urged governors nationwide to attend the Houston event and issue prayer proclamations in their own states.

Check the Maine [website](#) for more information or learn more about The Response [here](#).

<http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/national/another-state-supports-day-of-prayer-and-fasting-for-nation>

(Contributors: The Associated Press, The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, NewsNet5.com, TheResponse.com, CallToPrayerMaine.com)

Thank you Heavenly Father for standing between those that do not acknowledge Your authority and those who desire to express openly before You, their broken and contrite hearts. We call upon Your Healing hand. We desire Your delivering authority for this nation. We acknowledge Your Sovereignty and Creative power to make our national path straight.

"Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: Oh deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man." Psalm 43:1

RAMADAN BEGINS TODAY; WILL LAST UNTIL AUGUST 30TH

For Islam, Ramadan is the most holy time of year. They show their love to their false god allah through personal sacrifice and self discipline. In the ninth month of the Islamic year, all Moslems are called to fast for the entire month. They refrain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from dawn until sunset. Ramadan commemorates the transmission of the Qur'an by the archangel Gabriel to Muhammad. This month of fasting forms the fourth Pillar of Islam. For Moslems, it is a time to please their false god allah and to bring themselves into closer relationship/bondage with him.

Let us corporately bind any unclean, lying, deception spirits. Let us bind the enemy that is seeking to destroy our households, bind the enemy that is sneaking into our counties and into our state. Let us command the enemy to leave, in Jesus' Name, and ask the Lord to send them back to the pit from where they came! Let us corporately call forth the good plans and strategies the Lord has given to us to fill our land as we call forth and welcome the Holy Spirit, His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

"Thank the Lord because He gives us wisdom, understanding, and discernment to recognize and identify dark spirits and idol-worshiping events that harass and swirl around us. We desire to walk in His authority. Pray for those who are under the influence of the demonic to be set FREE! Pray for hearts to receive TRUTH, in Jesus Name. Pick up the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and we cancel any curses and actions against our Lord' will and against us, Hispeople. Let His enemies be scattered and let His Glory ARISE in California and in Israel. Pray this in Yeshua's mighty name.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse. Because, knowing God, they didn't glorify him as God, neither gave thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and traded the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things." (Romans 1:18-23)

PALESTINIAN GOAL: TWO STATES TO ONE PALESTINIAN STATE

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The Palestinian people are solidly opposed to a third intifada and support negotiations with Israel, but they also have not reconciled themselves to the existence of the Jewish State of Israel, and believe the goal should be to eventually turn it all, including Israel, into a single Palestinian state, according a recent poll. According to the poll of West Bank [Judea and Samaria] and Gaza Palestinians-conducted by Stanley Greenberg of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research with the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion and sponsored by The Israel Project-52% of Palestinians said the real goal should be to start with two states and then move to one Palestinian state.

Greenberg said that while they did not ask specifically in the poll, he leans towards thinking that the one-Palestinian-state goal is more of a general goal in their current situation. He notes it highlights the need for education of the people by Palestinian leaders, but he said that Palestinians are not interested in making such a move to one-state through violence. Similarly, Palestinians were asked about their feelings regarding Obama's support for two states: "Palestine" as the homeland for the Palestinian people and Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. The poll found that 61% reject that concept, with just 34% accepting it. . .

Interestingly, the Palestinians polled said they did believe in negotiations with Israel-despite obvious differences with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on what the parameters for a peace deal should be. The poll even showed a disconnect between the people and the Palestinian leadership, as 52% wanted negotiations instead of continuing to boycott talks.

. . . The Palestinian people have also made the UN recognition matter very low on what they believe should be President Mahmoud Abbas' list of priorities. Just 4% said getting the UN to recognize a Palestinian state should be one of the two highest priorities for Abbas in dealing with national questions facing the Palestinians, well below creating new jobs, expanding healthcare and solving water shortages, strengthening education and more. "So this is clearly not something people are invested in, and I don't expect much of a reaction," said Greenberg. He noted that Palestinians are "more focused on economic issues and building the quality of life in Palestinian areas. Particularly given the belief that violence is not a productive course right now and that peace negotiations are not a productive course, there seems to be greater interest in building Palestinian institutions and quality of life." (Reported by: [Bridges for Peace](#))

PALESTINIAN OBSERVER BREAKS DOWN DURING U.N. DEBATE - A routine Security Council debate on the Middle East and Palestine became Israel's and the Palestinian Authority's dress rehearsal for September's General Assembly conference where the Palestinians will seek UN recognition. Palestinian observer Riyad Mansour called on the UN to recognize a Palestinian state. "It's time to end the occupation," he said, before bursting into tears. Israel's Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor warned that the Palestinian way of bypassing peace talks will lead to frustration and violence.

He later addressed Mansour and asked him: "On behalf of whom will you present a resolution in September? Mr. Abbas or Hamas?" He called on the Palestinians to embrace "a road of solutions, not resolutions; dialogue, not monologue; and direct negotiations, not unilateral declarations." Prosor continued: "There is much uncertainty about the future Palestinian government: its acceptance of the Quartet conditions, the peace process, control of its security forces, and many other questions . . . on these issues Israel and the international community must have clarity. For Israel, this so-called unity has only brought continued impunity for the terrorists that fire rockets into our cities." He noted that "even the most basic condition for statehood does not exist. The Palestinian Authority [PA] does not maintain effective control of all its territory nor does it hold a monopoly on the use of force."

Addressing the Security Council member states, Prosor stressed: "Unilateral actions will not bring peace to our region. The Palestinian initiatives at the United Nations may be superficially attractive to some. Yet, they distract from the true path to peace. There are no shortcuts to statehood. You cannot bypass the only path to peace. The Palestinians will have to get off the bandwagon of unilateralism-and back to the hard work of direct peacemaking."

US Ambassador to the UN Rosemary A. DiCarlo said that Washington was committed to a just solution and stated that core issues could only be resolved through negotiations and not in the UN. She added that an effort to isolate Israel in the General Assembly will not promote a Palestinian state. (Contributors: Excerpts of an article by Yitzhak Benhorin, Ynetnews, July 26, 2011, Bridges for Peace, Capitol Hill Prayer Partners)

Pray that the international community, recognizing the impact of these poll results, will join with Israel in encouraging the Palestinian people to acknowledge that the nation of Israel is here to stay and to think realistically about their future.

Pray that the number of nations that will oppose a Palestinian declaration of statehood in September will continue to grow and that any such unilateral action will be defeated.

"Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance." Psalm 33:8-12

JUDGE BLOCKS KANSAS LAW AIMED AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

A judge has blocked a Kansas law that would stop federal family planning money from going to Planned Parenthood, officials confirmed on Monday, and Kansas plans to appeal the decision. A similar law cutting Medicaid dollars for Planned Parenthood in Indiana was blocked by a federal judge there in June. Indiana has appealed that ruling, saying the issue was an administrative matter that did not belong in the courts.

"It appears that the Court declared a duly-enacted Kansas statute unconstitutional without engaging in the fact-finding one would expect before reaching such a conclusion," Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said in a statement. (Contributors: Reuters, Capitol Hill Prayer Partners)

Pray for a nation that will seek righteous judges, justices, and courts that will honor the Lord and His law. Ask the Lord to remove from positions of authority those in rebellion against His will and the Lord's sovereign will.

"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine". Psalm 33:18-19

CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS FOUNDATION

Religious Freedom Part of U.S. Foreign Policy?

The bill, introduced by Congressman Frank Wolf (R-Virginia), would essentially "amend the 1998 International Religious Freedoms Act, and also [reauthorize] the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which is going to lose its funding this September."

H.R. 2023

Public Expression of Religion Act: H.R. 2023, the Public Expression of Religion Act, which would limit the remedies available to parties that bring lawsuits against expressions of religion...The bill would modify the law so each side pays its own attorney fees, removing the monetary incentive that activist groups have in bringing these types of cases.

Read status [here](#).

H.R. 2070

Please pray for World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2011 which would require the Secretary of the Interior to place a plaque at the World War II Memorial or inscribe on the Memorial President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day prayer, which has been entitled "Let Our Hearts Be Stout."

Read status [here](#).

H.Res.253

Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus introduced legislation affirming America's religious and spiritual heritage, and to designate the first week of May as America's Spiritual Heritage Week".

Read status [here](#).

H.Res. 211

This piece of legislation is aimed at recognizing the important influence the Ten Commandments had on our Founding Documents and Principles.

Read status [here](#).

H.Res.0107

TN: General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position - Urges counties to allow Ten Commandments to be posted in local courthouses. It was signed by the House Speaker on May 19th.

(SOURCE: [Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation](#))

CORRECTION: RICK WARREN AND CHRISLAM

Recently we published an article stating Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Community Church, was one of the founders of "Chrislam," a heretical combination of Christianity and Islam. The article hit a nerve as we received many comments stating the Pastor Warren does not believe this. This caused me great concern that we were stating incorrectly what someone believes. As the President and CEO of Intercessors for America, I do not do all the writing, that would be impossible, but I felt led to get involved in this issue. I did some research on the web and found that the story of Pastor Warren's involvement in Chrislam is viral. It is stated as fact in countless articles and websites. The truth is Saddleback Church and Pastor Rick Warren are not a part of 'Chrislam'. The Koran is not in their worship center, they are not reading for the Koran, they are not interweaving the faith, have not taken down crosses and have not and will not deny the deity of Christ.

From my perspective the misunderstanding started in 2007 when Pastor Warren was one of the signers of "Loving God and Neighbor Together" printed in The New York Times on November 18, 2007. In the lengthy statement it says, "We applaud that 'A Common Word Between Us and You' stresses so insistently the unique devotion to one God, indeed the love of God, as the primary duty of every believer.

God alone rightly commands our ultimate allegiance. When anyone or anything besides God commands our ultimate allegiance—a ruler, a nation, economic progress, or anything else—we end up serving idols and inevitably get mired in deep and deadly conflicts.”

I decided to talk with folks at Saddleback Community Church to get their understanding of why Pastor Warren would sign such a statement. Rev. Linda Black, M. Div., who is on staff at Saddleback helped me understand that Pastor Warren’s view of Christ and His place within the Trinity is very orthodox and in no way does he believe that the God Christians serve is the same as the “one” Muslims serve.

The statement from the New York Times ad needs to be understood from the individual’s perspective. We as evangelical Christian could not disagree, our “unique devotion to one God, indeed the love of God, (is) the primary duty of every believer. God alone rightly commands our ultimate allegiance.” Muslims would believe the same thing, but Pastor Warren does not believe that both groups love and serve the same God. He was trying to create a common ground to begin conversations with Muslims to win them to Christ.

I apologize for incorrectly characterizing Pastor Warren’s beliefs on this issue. I also want to thank our readers for giving us feedback. Please email us at any time with comments at Info@ifapray.org.

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