

ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

February 23, 2011

Islamization of the West

Pray for all leaders of Western governments challenged by the spreading ideology of Islam. Intercede for discernment and the courage and ability to boldly and respectfully resist and refute practices that inhibit or undermine the freedoms and beliefs of others. Intercede for mosques, Islamic community/cultural centers, and Islamic schools in the United States as well as for U.S. Islamic spiritual leaders and teachers – that their hearts would be changed and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be made known to them. Pray for miraculous conversion experiences; for a spiritual awakening. Pray for the American Church to rise up and embrace this evangelistic/outreach opportunity; that our desire and dedication to pray for our Islamic neighbors would far outweigh the prayers taking place inside U.S. mosques and Muslim homes.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. ...If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48)

FRENCH PROTESTERS STAGE PORK & WINE APERITIFS TO STRIKE BACK AT ISLAM

An ordinary French citizen (alias Maxime LePante) used a hidden camera to capture footage of the growing number of Muslims worshipping publically in the streets of Paris. CBN aired the video, revealing that the filmmaker's life is now threatened for his attempt to show the world via YouTube the “Islamization of France.” [The video](#) depicts groups of worshippers kneeling on blockaded city streets while private security guards watch from the sidelines and police are ordered not to intervene. According to the CBN report, public worship, blocked streets and private security are all illegal under France's secularism law which stipulates that people have the right to share any belief they want, or any religion, so long as they practice at home, in a mosque, synagogue, church, or so forth. However, the prayer gatherings continue to take place in the open, even preventing some street inhabitants from leaving or entering their homes.

While some French lawmakers would go so far as to ban the burqa, other French officials ultimately grant Islam a privileged status. Some say that Muslims are simply praying in the street because they need a larger mosque, but LePante says he's seen cars arriving from other parts of Paris, so he believes the gatherings are a weekly display of Muslim power. “They are coming here to show that they can take over some French streets; to show that they can conquer a part of French territory,” he says.

The best-selling novel “La Mosquee Notre-Dame de Paris Annee 2048” by Elena Tchoudinova warns about France's Islamic future, sketching a cultural transition that will eventually transform the famous cathedral into a mosque. The book's publisher, Jean Robin, is concerned about such an outcome. “Islam is seen as the religion of the poor people,” he told reporters, “so you can't say to the poor people, ‘you're wrong,’ otherwise you're a fascist.” He went on to conclude, “We were expecting Islam to adapt to France, but now it's France adapting to Islam.”

French Islamic expert and philosopher Radu Stoenu also commented that Islam is a concern because it is a problem of principles. While some are alarmed by the number of Muslims in France, he argues that it doesn't matter the number, what matters is the political agenda and the potential implementation of Sharia Law. He asks, "Is Islam a political ideology or is it just a creed?"

[The CBN video finishes:](#)

*While many government elites in France are in denial over Islam, the people in the streets increasingly are not. And they're becoming fed up with what they see is the growing Islamization of this country. They've started staging pork and wine aperitifs, or cocktail parties, in the street, their patriotic demonstrations meant to strike back against Islam.It looks as if a public backlash against Islam has begun. The French parliament will debate a new burqa law this month, and this French leader has a warning for the west and for America: "We cannot accept the development of such practice because it's not compatible with a life in our modern society. You see? And this question is not only a French question, we will all have to face this challenge."
" (Jean-Francois Cope, UMP Party)*

National Budget

Pray for continued wisdom and understanding as our nation's leaders debate areas where the government may cut spending and control entitlements. Give thanks for their tenacity and drive as they tackle controversial budget items, and pray for divine insight to lead them in their decisions and agreements. Intercede that the Lord would make clear to them the areas where fiscal sacrifice is needed and warranted. Ask for mercy in the face of a potential government shutdown, that the Lord would sustain and protect those who would be most affected.

"...men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do..." (1 Chronicles 12:32)

BUCKLE UP FOR THE DEBT CEILING DEBATE

"The coming fight over raising the debt ceiling will require the legislative and political delicacy of brain surgery," writes Charlie Cook in his National Review article titled [Hang on Tight](#). He explains that each party will have to compromise if Republicans and Democrats are expected to push nearly half of their members to support a debt-limit increase – a feat he says would be "herculean." Buckle up, says Cook, because the ride isn't going to get any easier – and, frankly, the solution risks severing a major artery:

It's the big-ticket items, programs that are either near and dear to millions of Americans' hearts or central to our national security, that drive the lion's share of the deficit problem. If zeroing out all discretionary domestic spending won't balance the budget; if trimming Medicare, whose recipients typically receive far more in benefits than they pay in, is off the table; if significant reductions in spending on our nation's defense are off limits; if tax increases are verboten; then the debt problem isn't going to be fixed. ([CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.)

Robert J. Samuelson's article [Who Rules America? AARP](#) says this about Obama's proposed 2012 budget:

AARP runs government budgetary policy, not presidents or congressional leaders. Obama says we must "[win the future](#)," but his budget (and, so far, the Republicans', too) would win the past and lose the future. The massive federal debt would continue to grow because, without restraining retiree spending, there's no path to a balanced budget. The aging infrastructure (roads, airports) wouldn't get needed repairs. The already-stressed social safety net for the poor would be further strained. We would cut defense while China's military expands. All this is insane. It's not the agenda of a country interested in its future.

Meanwhile, Ed O'Keefe (Federal Eye) predicts these possibilities in the event of a government shutdown:

*If President Obama and congressional Republicans fail to agree soon on how to fund the final seven months of the fiscal year, some veterans might not receive benefits checks and other Americans would be unable to apply for Social Security. The State Department might not issue new passports, unemployment statistics would not publish as scheduled, museums and national parks would close, and worse — piles of elephant manure might pile up in a [National Zoo](#) parking lot because workers can't ship it away for composting. Budget disagreements between **Bill Clinton** and Republicans prompted these incidents in 1995 and 1996, as federal agencies halted operations and stopped paying workers. ([CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.)*

[Pro-Life News](#)

Give thanks for the victory in the North Dakota House affirming the rights of the unborn. Pray that this victory would be contagious, empowering leaders in other states to take action and to be diligent in promoting life. Intercede for exposure of hidden, harmful agendas within the pro-choice movement, and for God to preserve minority communities and shield them from abortion. Give thanks for the vote to defund Planned Parenthood, and intercede for stamina for Rep. Pence and other leaders working diligently to reverse unnecessary laws and funding. Pray that health workers and Christian outreach groups would truly have insight in providing services, counseling and resources to help the large number of women facing crisis pregnancies and sexual and reproductive health issues.

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ ... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:55-58)

PRO-LIFE VICTORY IN ND AND PRAISE FOR PENCE

Praise for H.R. 217 – Day Gardner, President of the [National Black Pro-Life Union](#), submitted an open letter to Rep. Mike Pence regarding his effort to defund Planned Parenthood. On behalf of the Black community, she thanked him for his efforts to halt the flow of millions of taxpayer dollars funding an organization rooted in racism. Her letter condemned Planned Parenthood's original agenda to limit the growth of the black population (THE NEGRO PROJECT, 1939) and lamented how that [plan still continues to be carried out to this day](#) as centers are placed in minority and inner city areas. She writes, “Taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood must be stopped — and must be stopped NOW. I applaud you, sir and all 239 members of the House — Republicans and Democrats, who stood with you to de-fund Planned Parenthood.” ([CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire letter.)

Personhood Legislation Passes ND House – Confirming that the protection of every human being is within reach, The Defense of Human Life Act, HB 1450, has passed in the North Dakota House with an overwhelming majority of 68-25. Introduced by Representative Dan Ruby, The Defense of Human Life Act recognizes that every human being is a person in the State of North Dakota, and that every person has certain unalienable rights. The text defines: “Human being” as an individual member of the species homo sapiens at every stage of development. The text of the HB 1450 goes on to define the implications and applications of the law, establishing and recognizing the rights of all human beings, no matter their size or development. The Defense of Human Life Act will now await a vote in the Senate, with new hopes for passage in 2011. ([CLICK HERE](#) to read more.)

[Unrest in the Islamic World](#)

Pray for North African nations rocked by instability as vacuums in leadership and revolts unfold. 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 these crises 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.) 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.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

In the wake of Egypt’s revolution, Libya is the latest theater of revolution in the Middle East, started by a core of longtime government critics in Benghazi revolting against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi’s four decades of idiosyncratic one-man rule. This time, however, the level of violence is unprecedented compared to other Mideast uprisings as Qaddafi’s rage appears to be without limits. According to The New York Times, groups of heavily armed militiamen and mercenaries from other African countries cruised the streets in pickup trucks on Monday night, spraying crowds with machine-gun fire. The Times observed: “The revolt in Tripoli appears far more genuinely spontaneous and unorganized than the Benghazi uprising or, for that matter, the revolutions that toppled the leaders of Tunisia or Egypt. The lack of organization now raises questions about the ability of the mostly young rebels in the capital to regroup after the Qaddafi government’s retaliation.” ([CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.)

With fighter jets and heavy weapons being used against protesters in Libya, Human Rights Watch says at least [233 people have been killed so far](#). Witnesses fleeing the city of Benghazi claim that at least 2,000 people were killed – a figure that has not yet been confirmed.

Flashtraffic Blogger Joel Rosenberg [writes](#) that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proclaimed that the Twelfth Imam is managing the ongoing revolution in the Islamic world. Ahmadinejad said a “final move has begun” to destroy America, Israel and the influence of the Western powers in the epicenter. “We will soon see a new Middle East materializing without America and the Zionist regime and there will be no room for world arrogance (the West) in it,” Ahmadinejad told a crowd chanting “Death to America, death to Israel and death to Mubarak” two weeks ago. (See [flashtrafficblog](#).)

The Christian Science Monitor paraphrased Ahmadinejad claims that Iran is “the vanguard of a popular and divine ‘awakening’ now underway ‘in every corner of this planet ... the starting point of the rule of God over the earth.’” He went on, “It’s a long path to fight against evil-doers; everyone must be aware of Satanic deceptions [of the United States, Israel, and the West].... The West will “soon be ‘destroyed’ with divine assistance, as Iran leads humankind to ‘summits of perfection.’” ([CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.)

[U.S. Protests](#)

Pray for the unrest in Wisconsin and states with government union employees echoing Wisconsin’s sentiments. Intercede that Gov. Walker would have the wisdom and strength to respond to the union protest movement. Pray for divine guidance/counsel and for positive measures to be taken that would benefit the state and effectively reduce costs.

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.” (Psalm 1:1)

As Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s plan to balance the state budget by slashing labor costs sparked days of protests by tens of thousands of union workers in the state capitol, the National Journal writes that Walker is now a GOP superstar. In just 11 days, Walker has become [one of the most sought-after politicians in the country](#). After 14 Wisconsin senators went into hiding in Illinois to stall a vote on an anti-union bill, promising not to return until Walker agrees to compromise, the governor refused to be

intimidated. Instead, he [made a rule](#) that state senators missing two or more session days will have to pick up their paychecks in person rather than receive them through direct deposit.

[The Christian Science Monitor reports:](#)

Walker was the first of the Midwest's four new Republican governors to push for weakening collective bargaining. But Ohio and Michigan already have bills targeting unions in the works, too. Wisconsin Democrats have resorted to extreme measures to hold up the vote. Fourteen Democratic state senators decamped from Madison Thursday, making the statehouse one lawmaker short of a quorum. On Friday, Walker asked two state troopers to collect missing Democratic leader Mark Miller from his home in order to force a vote. Rising tensions in Madison could presage the kind of labor unrest that hasn't been seen in the US since the Great Depression, says Professor Bruno.