



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA THE INFORMER

A biblical, prophetic look at current events for those who have a heart to pray for our nation.

On Watch in Washington

January 25, 2012

HOW CAN AMERICA BE SAVED?

By Jeff Coors, Executive Chairman of the Board for Intercessors for America

In the back of most Americans' minds today are questions about our nation's future. Can the future of this country be as bright as the past? Have we seen our best days? Does God care about America as a nation? People wonder, "Can America be saved?"

The leadership of IFA has chosen to focus on this question during 2012. God has made it clear that nations are blessed when they follow Him. ("Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12) But nations are judged when they turn their backs on Him. ("The wicked will go down to the grave [sheol]. This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God." Psalm 9:17 NLT) History is filled with the graves of nations who turned their backs on God, but this same downfall doesn't have to happen to America.

When God saves a nation it does not mean universal, eternal salvation for all people within the nation. Salvation comes through grace by faith as a personal response to the Holy Spirit's work in an individual's heart. However, the Old Testament does illustrate how God "saves" large groups of people from two outcomes: from His wrath and from outside threats.

In this context, the word "save" is most commonly the Hebrew word "yasha," which means: to save, be saved, be delivered, to be liberated, to save from moral troubles, or to give victory. It is this concept of being spared from national trouble, and of being secure from growing danger, to which we hope to draw your attention and prayers.

First, God can save groups of people from the wrath they deserve. As we read in Micah 5:15, God says, "I will take vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed me." He does hold nations accountable for their collective actions, just as He holds individuals accountable for their personal decisions and actions. Isaiah describes God's standards of judgment when he writes in 64:5, "You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved (yasha)?"

Jeremiah 5:1 answers this question: "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city." It appears that our God will save a group of people from His wrath based upon the obedience of a few. An incredible measure of mercy!

In the midst of this mercy He still demands a nation's obedience. Isaiah 45:22 emphasizes that only our Lord can save a nation: "Turn to me and be saved (yasha), all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and

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there is no other." Mercy comes, and yet complete obedience by all is desired. God saves nations from His wrath and also from outside threats. The Israelites learned this as they fled Egypt: "Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved (yasha) by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights." (Deuteronomy 33:29) God also provided leaders to be used by His hand to save Israel from outside threats: "Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved (yasha) them out of the hands of these raiders." (Judges 2:16)

As we begin our year, I would encourage you to pray that God would save America. Pray that He would save us from His wrath, which we deserve, drawing us toward obedience as a nation; and that He would save us from our enemies.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12)

Pray that our leaders will follow the ways of the Lord and make their decisions based upon fear and reverence of His Word. Pray that we as a nation will not turn our backs to God's will and desires. Pray that our leaders will deliver us as a nation from destruction by honoring our Creator and Sovereign who has established us and desires to bless us as a nation.

BRITAIN, U.S., AND FRANCE SEND WARSHIPS THRU HORMUZ

Britain, U.S. and France delivered a pointed signal to Iran, sending six warships led by a 100,000 ton aircraft carrier through the highly sensitive waters of the Strait of Hormuz.

This deployment defied explicit Iranian threats to close the waterway. It coincided with an escalation in the West's confrontation with Iran over the country's nuclear ambitions.

European Union foreign ministers made the announcement of an embargo on Iranian oil exports, amounting to the most significant package of sanctions yet agreed on Monday January 23, 2012. They are also likely to impose a partial freeze on assets held by the Iranian Central Bank in the EU.

Diplomats in Brussels said the EU foreign ministers are adopting the measures that were hashed out by the 27 ambassadors.

[In response, two Iranian lawmakers ramped up threats](#) that their country would shut the strategic Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for oil sanctions on Tehran -- a warning that comes one day after the USS Abraham Lincoln passed through the iconic waterway.

Lawmaker Mohammad Ismail Kowsari, deputy head of Iran's influential committee on national security, said the strait "would definitely be closed if the sale of Iranian oil is violated in any way."

Kowsari claimed that in case of the strait's closure, the U.S. and its allies would not be able to reopen the route, and warned America not to attempt any "military adventurism."

The measures include an immediate embargo on new contracts for crude oil and petroleum products while existing ones are allowed to run until July.

"I am confident that the EU will give a resolute answer to Iran's refusal to fulfill its international obligations on the nuclear programme," German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said ahead of the official adoption by the foreign ministers.

Foreign Secretary William Hague urged Iran to "come to its senses" and resume negotiations on its nuclear program after Britain, America and France sent six warships through the highly sensitive waters of the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the EU oil embargo is part of "peaceful and legitimate" measures and not designed to trigger conflict.

[Several countries shared reservations](#) about the move, EU diplomats said. Greece was the trickiest problem since it imports a lot of Iranian oil on very favourable conditions. Given the financial collapse in Greece, it was in a difficult position and sought compensating measures from the rest of the EU. The impact of the embargo on countries such as Greece is to be reviewed in May.

Tehran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation. Tankers carrying 17 million barrels of oil pass through this waterway every day, accounting for 35 per cent of the world's seaborne crude shipments. At its narrowest point, located between Iran and Oman, the Strait is only 21 miles wide.

Last month, Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, commander of the Iranian navy, claimed that closing the Strait would be "easy," adding: "As Iranians say, it will be easier than drinking a glass of water."

But USS Abraham Lincoln, a nuclear-powered carrier capable of embarking 90 aircraft, passed through this channel and entered the Gulf without incident yesterday. HMS Argyll, a Type 23 frigate from the Royal Navy, was one of the escort vessels making up the carrier battle-group. A guided missile cruiser and two destroyers from the US Navy completed the flotilla, along with one warship from the French navy.

All three countries retain a permanent military presence in the Gulf, but a joint passage through the Strait of Hormuz by all of their respective navies is highly unusual. The flotilla will have passed within a few miles of the Iranian coastline.

A western official denied this was a provocative move intended to increase the pressure on Iran. The goal was simply to "illustrate international resolve" to guarantee free movement of shipping through a vital artery of the world economy, he said.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed that "HMS Argyll and a French vessel joined a US carrier group transiting through the Strait of Hormuz to underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law."

The spokesman added that Britain maintains a "constant presence in the region as part of our enduring contribution to Gulf security". Royal Navy warships have been patrolling the region continuously since 1980.

Abraham Lincoln's entry into the Gulf came in defiance of an explicit warning from Iran. Earlier this month, General Ataollah Salehi, commander of the country's armed forces, threatened to respond with "full force" if any US carrier ventured into the region's waters. "We don't have the intention of repeating our warning, and we warn only once," he said.

The Islamic Republic then held a naval exercise in the Strait of Hormuz. More Iranian military maneuvers, code-named Exercise Noble Prophet, are expected in the waterway later this week.

Another carrier, USS Carl Vinson, has been in the Gulf and the surrounding region for several months. Abraham Lincoln's arrival means a return to the two-carrier deployment that America has retained in the area for many years.

Each of these Nimitz class vessels carries a complement of fighter aircraft with more striking power than the entire Iranian air force. Their presence widens the options open to Western governments should Tehran attempt to retaliate for tighter sanctions by harassing international shipping lanes.

Iran could do so by laying launching attacks using warships or land-based anti-shipping missiles. Each of these threats could be countered using carrier-based aircraft.

However, officials believe that the balance of forces against Iran makes any such move against the Strait of Hormuz highly unlikely. Iran has an interest in talking up the possibility because this can raise oil prices and increase its own revenue at a time when its economy is in severe difficulties.

One official added that no government should dismiss these threats, pointing to Iran's actual disruption of shipping in the Gulf in the late 1980s. Another option that would fall short of launching classic military strikes would be for Iran to lay mines in shipping lanes.

All US warships deployed in the Gulf, the Red Sea and the western half of the Indian Ocean are controlled by US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain. The Royal Navy also has a small permanent staff based in the Gulf kingdom.

US diplomats and lobbyists are stepping up pressure to reduce African commercial ties to [Iran](#) as part of a growing global push to squeeze Tehran, an effort that already led several African companies to consider leaving the country.

Among the results so far, Angola's state-owned energy company, Sonangol, is considering pulling out of an Iranian gas deal, and Sasol of [South Africa](#) says it is discussing whether to divest itself of its 50 percent share in a \$900 million Iranian petrochemical project. (Contributors: [Fox News](#); [Wall Street Journal/Fox](#); David Blair, Chief Foreign Correspondent articles - [The Telegraph](#), [The Telegraph](#); [The Guardian](#))

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” (Proverbs 18:10)

Pray that the leaders of France, Great Britain, and the U.S. have wisdom from the Lord on how to address this very serious issue of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Ask the Lord to restrain the hand of the Iranian/Persian who is determined to gain dominance in the Middle East and project their cultic beliefs of the Shia sect upon the surrounding region and foster further unrest.

MARCH AND WALK FOR LIFE REPORTS

Some arrived with fellow parishioners, others with classmates or alongside family members, but the thousands of pro-life activists who rallied Monday on the [National Mall](#) to mark the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade all came to support the same goal: life!

Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner delivered the opening remarks at the 39th annual March for Life in Washington DC on January 23.

“It wasn’t easy for my mother to have 12 children, but I’m sure glad she did,” said Mr. Boehner. “So I’ve never considered ‘pro-life’ to be a label or a position. It’s who I am, and it’s who we are as a people.”

“[Respect for life has never been a political position for me](#): it’s who I am, and it’s who we are as a people,” Congressman Boehner said. “The cause of life endures in large part due to the vigilance of the American people, especially those who, led by Nellie Gray, march and pray in our nation’s capital each year at this

time. It is a great honor to address the March for Life as Speaker of the House and leader of its bipartisan pro-life majority.”

House leaders and members of the bipartisan pro-life majority in the House also spoke.

In stark contrast to these remarks by our U.S. Congressional leaders, Obama said the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade is the [chance to recognize the “fundamental constitutional right” to abortion](#) and to “continue our efforts to ensure that our daughters have the same rights, freedoms, and opportunities as our sons to fulfill their dreams.” Those who recognize that these words do not line up with God’s Word should pray that this unholy declaration be nullified by a nation that cries out to God for His mercy, deliverance, and forgiveness in this ongoing battle for the lives of our unborn youth.

On January 21, 2012, tens of thousands of pro-life activists massed in front of San Francisco's City Hall and then filled the city's main thoroughfare, walking about two miles down Market Street to the Embarcadero.

Banging chanting "We are pro-life," the enthusiastic throngs filled Market Street and stopped all traffic for more than a mile. Organizers estimated more than 40,000 attended the Walk.

"We are here to say life is the choice and women are hurt by abortion," said Dolores Meehan, co-chair of the Walk for Life West Coast, which is held on the Saturday closest to the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling legalizing abortion.

Walk co-chair Eva Muntean urged participants to sign petitions to put a parental notification of a minor's intent to procure an abortion on the California ballot and urged support for a state initiative for a personhood amendment.

At the rally, Dr. Vansen Wong, an ob-gyn, told his story of performing abortions to pay off his medical bills, saying he ended hundreds of lives over the course of seven years working at an evening abortion clinic for his employer. "Abortion is barbaric, abortion is intolerable," said Dr. Wong, who now works with a pro-life medical clinic where pregnant women receive ultrasounds.

"Abortion has no place in any civilized society," Dr. Wong said.

A former Miss West Virginia, Jacquie Stalnaker told of being forced at gunpoint to go to an abortion clinic by her boyfriend and of the toll it took for 24 years. Stalnaker, who is now a regional representative for the *Silent No More* campaign, an organization of women who have had abortions, urged the crowd to get pro-choice friends to visit the group's website to hear the stories of women who have had abortions.

Other speakers included Lori Hoye, an African American activist whose mother became pregnant at 15 and whose sister had an abortion, and the Baptist preacher Rev. Clenard Childress who has spoken at seven of the eight Walks.

"You are the salt of the earth," Childress told the Walk for Life crowd. "This is more than a pro-life movement. This is a Holy Spirit movement because the Spirit addresses evil." (Contributor: [Washington Times](#), [Christian Newswire](#), [March for Life](#), [CNS News](#))

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

"But when He who set me apart, even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles." (Galatians 1:15-16a)

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Pray that the righteous voices in the United States will grow to such a pitch that the unborn will no longer be threatened with death by abortion. Pray that those who advocate abortion will have their hearts softened and their eyes opened to the fact that abortion is indeed murder of the innocent. Pray for the healing of all those hearts of men and women who aborted their children and are now grieved by their decisions. Pray that they will be comforted by the God of mercy and grace.

WORLDWIDE PRAYER FOR N. KOREA JANUARY 27, 2012

The International Prayer Council along with Robert Park, a missionary and human rights activist, and other Korean friends and colleagues are involved in an international prayer and public protest movement to see change in North Korea where millions have died at the hands of the genocidal regime there.

Death camps, as in World War II, are increasing right now in North Korea and hundreds of thousands are now detained for slave labor with very little (if any) food. Executions are taking place, along with experimentation for biological and chemical weapons. Many of the victims are our brothers and sisters in Christ. To follow the Lord can be an outright death sentence in North Korea, and the cost of discipleship can often mean having three generations of your family sentenced to such atrocities. Please see the attached written and video material including the video of the German doctor, Norbert Vollertsen, who served inside North Korea and is now protesting the genocidal treatment of the people by the regime. The material also features Robert Park who was imprisoned and tortured last year. I know both of them, and they are outstanding men with a passion to see North Korea liberated. (For more information on the important meaning and significance of this date, read: <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>).

"[Genocide Watch](#) has ample proof that genocide has been committed and mass killing is still underway in North Korea." - Genocide Watch (December 19, 2011)

Seoul, Dec. 27, 2011 -- January 27th marks the 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, the largest Nazi death camp where an estimated 1.1 million innocent men, women and children were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated this date as an annual international day of commemoration to remember the victims of Nazism and the sacred promise of "Never Again". (For more information on the important meaning and significance of this date, read: <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>).

The Worldwide Coalition to Stop Genocide in North Korea, a nonpartisan coalition consisting of human rights activists and groups from around the world, is calling for an international general strike on this date to protest against genocide and crimes against humanity in North Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea) runs a network of concentration camps where an estimated 1 million innocents have been murdered in silence and 250,000 political prisoners, one-third of them children, are currently being forced to perform slave labor on starvation rations, are subject to systematic rape and torture, biological and chemical weapon experimentation, and summary execution.

North Korea is actively targeting for destruction every group protected under the U.N. Genocide Convention, through its decades-long policy of killing the half-Chinese babies of North Korean women forcibly repatriated by China (constituting genocide on national, ethnical and racial grounds), and its systematic annihilation of its indigenous religious population and their families (genocide on religious grounds). The regime's treatment of political prisoners and its exploitative and discriminatory food policy which is responsible for the deaths of several million North Koreans constitutes crimes against humanity as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

North Korea, as a genocidaire of the first order, is in the category of state perpetrator and is manifestly demonstrating this failure to protect. It is high time for the international community to act in North Korea.

See below the information about prayer and fasting being organized for major cities that will mark the 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, this January 27th. (Contributor: John Robb, Chairman, International Prayer Council - International Facilitator, World Prayer Assembly 2012 www.ipcprayer.org, www.wpa2012.org)

"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."
(Galatians 6:9)

Just as Esther prayed for her people, we can pray for our nation as well as other nations and peoples like the North Koreans. Our borders are not limited to national boundaries because the Kingdom of God is limitless and borderless. Pray that the leaders of North Korea will have a revelation of God's desire to bless them as a people. Join with the millions of South Korean brothers and sisters in Christ who are praying for the walls of separation to come down, and that the blessings of God's boundless grace would fall upon this nation.

Resources for further research and prayer:

"Responsibility to Protect in North Korea": <http://hir.harvard.edu/responsibility-to-protect-in-north-korea>

"North Korea and the Genocide Convention": <http://hir.harvard.edu/north-korea-and-the-genocide-movement>

Documentary Evidence of Genocide in North Korea: <http://www.watch-documentaries.com/children-of-the-secret-state>

Documentary Evidence of Concentration Camps, Gas Chambers, Chemical and Biological Weapon Experimentation on Human Beings in North Korea: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7096673757347175289>

Bible Scriptures for Leaders: http://www.bukisa.com/articles/339482_10-good-bible-scriptures-for-leaders#ixzz1kOuKVOXO

Documentary - Public Execution in North Korea: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAQE7kDwPZY>

Facebook: Stop Genocide in North Korea <http://www.facebook.com/groups/stopnkgenocide/>

Dr. Norbert Vollertson who is a well-known activist from Germany who has witnessed first-hand the genocidal policies of the regime is willing to support the protest and help inform the local media. He is also a very powerful speaker on this issue and if there are any opportunities for him to share, please contact him at: "Norbert" <norbertvollertsen@yahoo.com>, norbertsoshisha@yahoo.com,

Here is the text of his testimony before the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (Please read and share): <http://www.uscirf.gov/countries/1809.html?task=view>

Here is a video of a message he gave to the South Korean press: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2J-gJ1CqN4>

Please see the attached video and share it with others. Let your hearts be broken with the things that break His heart. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv6E2ReEbGI&feature=youtu.be>

"Pray for Korea" song with lyrics: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHj1pefzxkc>

NATIONAL WINNERS LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the original faith based marriage enrichment program in the United States, announces the winner of the Longest Married Couple Project to be Wilbur & Theresa Faiss of Las Vegas, NV. They have been married 78 years as of Feb. 11, 2012.

The state winners as a result of the project will be announced on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012. There were 256 nominations received from 47 states.

"What a privilege and honor it is to recognize Wilbur & Theresa Faiss for their commitment to marriage," said Scott and Karen Seaborn, the United States Ecclesial Team for WWME. "We look forward to personally recognizing them on Feb. 11th in their hometown of Las Vegas," they added. The Seaborns serve with Fr. Tom Griffith, SVD, as the U.S. leadership for the marriage enrichment movement.

The Faiss' were married April 14, 1933. They met at a roller skating rink in Centralia, IL in 1930. Mr. Faiss said it was "love at first sight."

The Nevada couple achieved the honor of being the Longest Married Couple based on the over 250 nominations submitted to Worldwide Marriage Encounter beginning in October of last year.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter created this project to highlight marriage in America and to show young couples that marriage really can go the distance. "What an inspiration Mr. & Mrs. Faiss are to all of us. They made a commitment to each other 78 years ago and they have kept that commitment over these many years. They truly are a sign of hope to us all," the Seaborns said.

The national winners have three children, six grandchildren, five great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

The presentation of gifts and acknowledgments to the Faiss' will be made at 10 am Feb. 11th at the Wilbur & Theresa Faiss Middle School, which is named in honor of them, and is located in Las Vegas.

The state winners will also be presented their certificates and recognitions by Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples, during Valentine's week.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering weekend experiences for over 43 years and is considered the original faith-based marriage enrichment program. The programs are continually updated to keep abreast of changes in society, and WWME now offers evening and half-day programs that are presented at parishes and other church facilities. The weekend program, traditionally presented as an overnight experience at a hotel or retreat center, can also be presented at the parish where the couples return to their homes in the evenings. WWME has a presence in over 90 countries, which makes it the largest pro-marriage movement in the world. In North America, the WWME programs are presented in English, Spanish, French, and Korean languages. (Contributors: [Christian Newswire](#), [Capitol Resource Institute](#), [Worldwide Marriage Encounter](#))

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

Give thanks to the Lord for such wonderful witnesses of God's grace and love to the world. Pray that this testimony will be a blessing and encouragement to all marriages.

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PRAYER FOCUS ON THIS WEEK'S CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

Supporting legislative prayer at the Supreme Court of the United States - Members of the Prayer Caucus signed an [amicus curiae brief](#) submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States by the Family Research Council, asking the Court to reverse a decision by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in [Joyner v. Forsyth County](#), which held that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners' prayer policy was unconstitutional because the prayers too often mentioned "Jesus." The county's prayer policy was based on a model policy used by other city and county councils throughout the country that has been upheld by four other federal courts since 2009. However, the Fourth Circuit held that in order to be constitutional, such prayers must not be "too sectarian." The *amicus curiae* brief asks the Supreme Court to take up the case and overturn the Fourth Circuit's decision, in hopes that the Court will bring the ruling into alignment with decisions of other federal courts and our nation's historic legacy of permitting such prayer.

Working to protect the symbols and traditions of Christmas - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.Res.489](#), introduced by Congressman Doug Lamborn, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected for use by those that celebrate Christmas. Each year during the Christmas season, there are increasing efforts to remove religious symbols and references from the holiday. H.Res.489 emphasizes that the First Amendment does not require bans on religious references to Christmas, and supports the use of these symbols by those who celebrate Christmas.

Urging Vanderbilt University to protect religious student groups - Congressman Randy Forbes, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, led 22 Members of Congress in sending a [letter](#) to Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos of Vanderbilt University, urging him to ensure that the school's nondiscrimination policy is not being interpreted in a manner that discriminates against religious student groups. Several religious student organizations at Vanderbilt University, including the Christian Legal Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, were placed on "provisional status" for requiring their student leaders to share the groups' religious beliefs.

Advocating for the inclusion of prayer in the tenth anniversary commemoration of the September 11th attacks - Congressman Forbes, Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, sent a [letter](#) to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg urging him to include prayer in the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Congressman Mike McIntyre, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, led 31 Members of Congress in sending a [letter](#) to Mayor Bloomberg echoing the call for the inclusion of prayer.

Fighting attempts to remove "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance - Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus led in sending a [letter](#) to NBC, expressing concern over the network's omissions of "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance twice in a video montage aired during coverage of the U.S. Open. In [response](#) to the letter sent by 108 Members of Congress, the network reprimanded the employees responsible for the omissions and implemented safeguards to prevent similar instances in the future.

Opposing efforts to remove a memorial cross honoring military veterans - In January 2011, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a cross displayed at the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California was unconstitutional. Members of the Prayer Caucus signed on to an *amicus curiae* brief submitted to the Ninth Circuit in *Jewish War Veterans of the United States v. City of San Diego*, asking the full court to reconsider the case, and asserting that the cross's presence at the veterans memorial is constitutional.

Urging religious freedom protections for service members - The repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in the military raised concerns that service members whose consciences or religious beliefs conflicted with homosexual behavior would face discrimination and disapproval. Members of the Prayer Caucus sent a [letter](#) to President Obama, urging that specific religious freedom and conscience protections be adopted during implementation of the repeal to formally assure all Americans that our citizens need not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve.

Affirming America’s rich spiritual heritage - Co-chairmen of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, Congressman Forbes and Congressman McIntyre, reintroduced legislation to recognize our nation’s religious history. [H.Res.253](#), America’s Spiritual Heritage Resolution, affirms the rich spiritual and diverse religious history of our nation’s founding and subsequent history, and designates the first week in May as America’s Spiritual Heritage Week.

Working to decrease frivolous lawsuits challenging public expressions of religion - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.R.2023](#), introduced by Congressman Dan Burton, which would ensure that the legal system is not used to extort money from state and local governments through frivolous lawsuits against public expressions of religion. H.R. 2023 would not prevent parties from filing lawsuits alleging Establishment Clause violations, but it would require each side to pay its own attorneys’ fees. The bill would limit the remedies available to the suing party, so the only relief available would be that the state or local government would be required to stop its public expression of religion, if the court deems it unconstitutional. The result would be a decrease in frivolous lawsuits and the assurance that state and local governments are not intimidated into halting constitutional public expressions of religion.

Supporting the addition of the D-day Prayer to the World War Two Memorial - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.R.2070](#), the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, introduced by Congressman Bill Johnson. H.R. 2070 directs the Secretary of the Interior to add President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s D-Day Prayer to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. President Roosevelt delivered the prayer to the nation on June 6, 1944, the day that American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France.

Recognizing the significant impact of the Ten Commandments on America’s development - Members of the Prayer Caucus are supporting [H.Res.211](#), introduced by Congressman Louie Gohmert, which recognizes the significant contribution that the Ten Commandments have made in shaping America’s principles, institutions, and national character. The bill supports designating the first weekend in May as “Ten Commandments Weekend.” (Contributor: [Congressional Prayer Caucus website](#))