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DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ARE CONFIDENT OF WINNING THE SENATE

Democrats and Republicans gazed Sunday into starkly different [predictions] ahead of midterm elections a little more than a week away, [doubling down on their chances to retain or retake the upper chamber and backing their respective leaders as men of vision.](#)

Republican candidates are polling slightly ahead of Democrats in top Senate races, raising GOP hopes of gaining six seats and full control of Congress.

But Sen. Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat, insisted that his party's ground game, focus on economic issues and quality of candidates will help it retain a Senate majority. He said the Democrats' on-the-ground efforts are so good that folks should "add 2 to 3 points" to their candidate's side in each race.

"Democrats are going to prove the pundits wrong when we keep the Senate," he told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Republicans say not so fast. Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio insisted that "voter intensity is on our side." As an example, he said early voting in Iowa shows the GOP ahead in turnout.

"That's never happened before," Mr. Portman said. "All the polls show that, you know, this is going to be a good year for Republicans. It's a good environment for us."

Republicans are employing a strategy that links Democratic incumbents and challengers to President Obama, who polls poorly in key red states with seats in flux.

"I don't think the president can help in those states there," Sen. Joe Manchin III, West Virginia Democrat, said on the CBS program "Face the Nation." "These people have voted against the president on issues. I've watched them and worked with them."

Focusing on the Senate itself, Mr. Schumer and Mr. Portman offered support for their respective leaders — Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, respectively — despite some waffling among party colleagues on the campaign trail.

Mr. Portman said Mr. McConnell of Kentucky would be an effective majority leader, while Mr. Schumer backed Mr. Reid of Nevada even though some Democrats have suggested they could do better.

"Harry Reid will run for majority leader, and he will win with any overwhelming, probably close to majority, vote," Mr. Schumer said.

But his Ohio counterpart said the Senate will be a legislative quagmire so long as Mr. Reid is the gatekeeper.

He has refused to bring to the floor scores of bills passed by the Republican-led House, leading to perceptions that Congress is in gridlock, which Mr. Obama and Democrats on Capitol Hill blame on Republicans.

“The only way we get something done is winning the majority,” Mr. Portman said. “Washington needs to get its act together and start passing stuff.”

His support for Mr. McConnell contrasted sharply with endorsements for his Democratic opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, in a pair of the Bluegrass State’s top newspapers. The Lexington Herald-Leader’s editorial board was particularly scathing.

“McConnell does have power. He commands a perpetual-motion money machine; dollars flow in, favors flow out,” they wrote. “The problem is how McConnell uses his power. He has repeatedly hurt the country to advance his political strategy.”

But Mr. McConnell, a Senate veteran since 1985, can find solace in some of the latest polls. Figures from the CBS News/New York Times Upshot/YouGov Battleground Tracker has him up by 6 percentage points. (Contributor: By Tom Howell Jr. for [The Washington Times](#))

Pray that God's appointed leaders will be elected in this coming election.

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

POST-ELECTION PLANS FOR A SECRET RADICAL AGENDA

President Obama has [punted almost every hot-button issue past the key midterm elections on Nov. 4.](#)

Obama has postponed decisions on a raft of contentious issues related to ObamaCare, Gitmo, immigration and his Cabinet.

This is partly to protect Democratic candidates and hold onto the Senate. But it’s more than that. Obama plans a number of radical moves later this year when the administration believes the media, and the public, are paying less attention.

This includes a forced transformation of our neighborhoods, a huge influx of immigrants and billions of dollars in additional taxes.

Will midterm voters really be fooled? Probably not. Republicans are expected to hold both the Senate and the House starting in the next term. But whether anyone can stop the executive actions Obama quietly plans is another matter.

In fact, the president is hoping you don’t even notice.

Immigration

In June, Obama vowed “to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress,” but now he’s taking no executive action on immigration until after the midterms.

The White House reportedly is preparing to provide amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants in late November, including work permits and green cards for up to 34 million.

Immigration and border security have become the most divisive and important issues of this election cycle, thanks to growing threats from Islamic terrorists and Ebola. Most Americans already opposed amnesty.

Nominations

Even though Attorney General Eric Holder stepped down last month, Obama hasn't named a replacement — that's because he has someone more radical in mind: Thomas Perez.

... He's ... compared bankers to Klansmen, whom he says practice a more "subtle" kind of racism that's "every bit as destructive as the cross burned in a neighborhood."

As the Justice Department's civil rights chief, Perez sabotaged a landmark housing discrimination case before the Supreme Court to protect his use of the dubious "disparate impact" theory to shake down bankers for billions in payola for Democrat groups.

When Congress investigated his role, Perez swore he never personally intervened in the case, even though e-mails and voicemail transcripts say otherwise. In fact, the evidence shows Perez went out of his way to derail the high-court case — including flying to meet with the petitioners to get them to drop the case and then insisting they not leave a paper trail.

Radical Latino activist groups have pressured Obama to appoint Perez as the second-ever Latino attorney general. But Perez is certainly not someone who will enforce the nation's laws equally — or enforce them at all in the case of illegal immigration. As he revealed in a National Press Club speech last week, he's all about getting more immigrants in to vote for Democrats to bring about more "shared prosperity."

Obama is expected to ram through his radical nod in the lame-duck session before newly elected Senate members take their seats in January.

War on terror

Even though the Army's investigation into Bowe Bergdahl's desertion of his post in Afghanistan is complete, the results won't be released until Pentagon brass can "review" it. That's bureaucrat-speak for "bury."

There's little doubt election politics factored into the delay. The case has become a political powder keg for President Obama and Democrats. The GOP would justifiably make great hay of the report, especially if it absolves Bergdahl of any wrongdoing.

Since the president traded five imprisoned Taliban leaders for Bergdahl, the US Government Accountability Office has declared the swap illegal, and nearly two dozen House Democrats have joined Republicans in officially condemning the move for making "Americans less safe."

In addition, the Taliban deal appears to have encouraged the Islamic State to put up American hostages as trade bait to free other terrorist detainees, namely "Lady al-Qaeda" Aafia Siddiqui. And now lawyers for dangerous al Qaeda prisoners at Gitmo are arguing for their release, as well, based on the precedent set by Obama's Taliban amnesty.

In fact, a Gitmo parole board just approved for release al Qaeda assassin Muhammad al-Zahrani to Saudi Arabia. His lawyers successfully argued that the terrorist no longer meets the threshold for a high-risk

detainee because Obama, with his release of the Taliban commanders, lowered the bar for what's considered high-risk.

"We have demonstrated that Mr. al-Zahrani represents a lower threat than the [Taliban] detainees that have been released," his defense team wrote the board, "and therefore does not rise to the standard for 'continuing significant threat to the security of the United States.' "

Fellow soldiers and other critics fear the military's delayed Bergdahl investigation is shaping up to be a whitewash. A senior Army official told me court-martialing Bergdahl would "make the president look bad" — and by extension, make Democrats look weak on national security at a time when the war on terror has rekindled. Dragging out his case past the election keeps voters from being reminded of the bad Taliban deal.

Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release new power-plant restrictions that will cost the industry some \$366 billion, but the onerous rules won't be finalized until later this year.

This looks to be just the beginning of more regulations and fines Obama will pursue without congressional approval to pursue his environmental visions.

Oil

Obama also refuses to make a pre-election decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline. A move on the massive oil and gas pipeline, opposed by environmental activists, has been delayed for six years. Now it has been delayed again by the president, who fears angering his environmental allies.

ObamaCare

The administration has announced that health-insurance premium rates on the ObamaCare exchange won't be available until Nov. 15, when the Healthcare.gov website is set to start enrolling people for 2015.

Rates are expected to go up by a whopping 14%, but voters won't know because they won't be revealed until after the election. Last year, enrollment began on Oct. 1. ...

Masking the costs of Obama's unpopular law until after the midterms proves just how bad a deal ObamaCare is for consumers — and just what a liability it is for Democrats like North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan, one of its biggest backers.

Iranian nukes

Obama is expected to hand even more concessions to Iran in pursuit of a nuclear deal — but not until after Election Day. As part of the pact, set for Nov. 24, Obama is reportedly prepared to suspend economic sanctions against Tehran and allow it to triple the number of centrifuges in operation — an outrageous deal no Democrat would want to defend in televised debates.

Housing

After a delay, the administration's final "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" regulation is now expected to be announced in December. Originally scheduled for finalization in October, the new Housing and Urban Development Department rules will force all cities and suburbs to accept subsidized housing in the name of racial diversity, superseding all local zoning ordinances.

The Orwellian-sounding regulation would force some 1,200 municipalities to redraw zoning maps to racially diversify suburban neighborhoods.

While temporarily punting away politically fraught issues may be smart politics, it's cowardly leadership.

Under the scheme, HUD plans to map every US neighborhood by race and publish "geospatial data" pinpointing racial imbalances. Areas deemed overly segregated will be forced to change their zoning laws to allow construction of subsidized and other affordable housing to bring more low-income minorities into "white suburbs." HUD's maps will be used to select affordable housing sites.

It's part of the administration's ambitious agenda to eliminate "racial segregation," ZIP code by ZIP code, block by block, through the systematic dismantling of allegedly "exclusionary" building ordinances. In effect, federal bureaucrats will have the power to rezone your neighborhood.

Of course, Obama and Democrats are loath to inject this decidedly radical issue into the elections, so they'll keep it out of the headlines until after voters go to the polls.

If the president's policies are so popular, why does he have to try to hide them from voters? (Contributor: By Paul Sperry for [New York Post](#))

Prayer focus: As always, IFA supports intercessory prayer for God's will to prevail in the Church and in society. With midterm elections less than a week away, President Obama's conduct may cost his party dearly. White House aides and the president's press spokesman acknowledge that Democrat candidates are avoiding him. Pray for President Obama's salvation, whether agreeing with his policies or not. Meanwhile, IFA's "Get Out The Prayer" initiative is in high gear and encouraging thousands first to pray, then be informed, and finally to vote (see www.GetOutThePrayer.com). If possible, participate in IFA's intercessory phone call with hundreds from around the country on Friday, Oct. 31, from 12:15 to 12:45 PM (ET). Call 712-432-0075. When prompted, enter code 1412452#. You will be blessed, and your prayers will count. Our Scriptures speak of God's conduct standards.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [you need] shall be added to you." (Mat 6:33)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." (Eph 5:8-11)

UNDER PRESSURE, CUOMO SAYS EBOLA QUARANTINES CAN BE SPENT AT HOME

Facing [fierce resistance from the White House and medical](#) experts to a strict new mandatory quarantine policy, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said on Sunday night that medical workers who had contact with Ebola patients in West Africa but did not show symptoms of the disease would be allowed to remain at home and would receive compensation for lost income.

Mr. Cuomo's decision capped a frenzied weekend of behind-the-scenes pleas from administration officials, who urged him and Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey to reconsider the mandatory quarantine they had announced on Friday. Aides to President Obama also asked other governors and mayors to follow a policy based on science, seeking to stem a steady movement toward more stringent measures in recent days at the state level.

The announcement by Mr. Cuomo seemed intended to draw a sharp contrast — both in tone and in fact — to the policy's implementation in New Jersey, where a nurse from Maine who arrived on Friday from Sierra Leone was swiftly quarantined in a tent set up inside a Newark hospital, with a portable toilet but with no shower.

It was the second striking shift in Mr. Cuomo's public posture on the Ebola crisis in 72 hours; after urging calm on Thursday night, then joining Mr. Christie to highlight the risks of lax policy on Friday, Mr. Cuomo on Sunday night appeared to try to dial back his rhetoric and stake out a middle ground.

He said his decision balanced public safety with the need to avoid deterring medical professionals from volunteering in West Africa. "My No. 1 job is to protect the people of New York, and this does that," he said. Those quarantined at home will be visited twice a day by local authorities, he said. Family members will be allowed to stay, and friends may visit with the approval of health officials.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, sitting beside Mr. Cuomo at a news conference in Manhattan, nodded in approval, and praised the governor for developing a set of flexible quarantine guidelines that, the mayor said, would show proper respect to those required to abide by them.

After Mr. Cuomo's announcement, Mr. Christie issued a statement saying that, under protocols announced on Wednesday, New Jersey residents not displaying symptoms would also be allowed to quarantine in their homes.

Until Sunday night, the quarantine orders by Mr. Christie, a Republican, and Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat, had drawn withering criticism from many medical experts, who said they would discourage aid workers from volunteering to help eradicate the disease at its source. By midday Sunday, Kaci Hickox, the nurse who became the first person isolated under the new protocols in New Jersey, emerged as the public face of the opposition, calling the treatment she received "inhumane" and disputing Mr. Christie's assertion a day earlier that she was "obviously ill."

"If he knew anything about Ebola he would know that asymptomatic people are not infectious," Ms. Hickox told CNN.

Even some who acknowledged the states' authority to enact the policy took issue with its implementation in New Jersey.

"We have to think how we treat the people who are doing this noble work," Mr. de Blasio said. At a late afternoon news conference, he said Ms. Hickox's treatment was "inappropriate," adding: "We owe her better than that."

Yet amid heightened public anxiety about the government's handling of the crisis, state authorities have increasingly calculated that the mandatory quarantines will prove prescient. Since the governors' announcement, Illinois and Florida have said they were instituting similar measures.

"I think this is a policy that will become a national policy sooner rather than later," Mr. Christie said in an interview on Fox News Sunday.

The Cuomo and Christie administrations began seriously considering a quarantine on Tuesday, aides said, after federal officials decreed that travelers returning from countries affected by Ebola in West Africa could enter the United States only at five designated airports, including Kennedy and Newark Liberty International.

Mr. Christie had grown increasingly frustrated by mid-October, aides said, over the failure of medical professionals to properly isolate themselves on a voluntary basis after returning from West Africa.

He was startled to learn that Dr. Nancy Snyderman, an NBC News correspondent who had traveled to Liberia and whose cameraman had contracted Ebola, left her home in Princeton, N.J., on Oct. 9 to pick up food at a favorite local restaurant.

When a doctor, Craig Spencer, tested positive in New York City on Thursday, the two governors watched as city officials strained to trace his every movement — on the subway, at a bowling alley, at a meatball shop.

What appeared to be a triumph of meticulous forensic work by city health officials, in retracing Dr. Spencer's every step late last week, looked like a potential nightmare to governors who suddenly contemplated having to repeat such an exercise over and over.

In a series of phone conversations starting on Thursday night, shortly after Dr. Spencer's condition was diagnosed, and continuing Friday morning, Mr. Christie and Mr. Cuomo decided to impose the mandatory quarantines, officials said — essentially declaring that neither state trusted those potentially exposed to the deadly disease to wall themselves off from the rest of society.

Aides to Mr. Cuomo said the notion of a mandatory quarantine had always been considered, and that the plan had been quietly vetted by attorneys and public-health officials.

Neither governor notified the White House.

It did not take long for a test case to arrive at Newark. Ms. Hickox, who had treated Ebola patients in West Africa, landed at around 1 p.m. Friday, and immediately became ensnared in the new order.

In a way, the NBC episode worked to New Jersey's benefit. Because of it, Mr. Christie and his aides had already developed a legal framework for mandatory quarantines, which they applied to Ms. Hickox.

The benefits, supporters said, were clear: soothing public concerns with more aggressive monitoring at the front end and sparing officials from exhaustive retracing after the fact.

For Mr. Cuomo, though, embracing the policy proved somewhat complicated. Earlier this month, he cast decisions on screening procedures as "a federal issue." In a news conference on Thursday announcing that Dr. Spencer had tested positive for Ebola, Mr. Cuomo appeared beside Mr. de Blasio and health officials to urge calm. (The city said Sunday that Dr. Spencer "looks better than he looked yesterday." He remained in serious but stable condition.)

"In a region like this," Mr. Cuomo said, "you go out one, two or three times, you ride the subway, you ride a bus, you could affect hundreds and hundreds of people."

At their announcement, the two governors provided scant detail on how the quarantines would be put in place or enforced.

City officials, who were not consulted on the two governors' decision, learned of it as the public did. A room-to-room scramble began at City Hall: Who, senior aides asked, had been briefed about this? The answer was no one.

At the White House, Obama administration officials said they sought repeatedly to persuade Mr. Christie and Mr. Cuomo to reconsider the quarantines, which they viewed as not just unnecessary but counterproductive. (Mr. Christie insisted on Sunday that he had "gotten absolutely no contact" from the White House; Mr. Cuomo said he had not been pressured.)

The decisions by the states, White House officials and others warned, could hamstring the effort to staff up to 17 Ebola treatment units that American military personnel are building in Liberia. American health officials had already been facing the difficult task of finding volunteers, and have accepted help from foreign nationals, including Cuba, to aid the effort.

“Every time someone tightens that noose, health workers from the United States say, ‘Well, I’m not sure it’s worth that sacrifice,’” said James P. Mitchum, the chief executive of the charity Heart to Heart International, which has begun training workers at an International Medical Corps treatment unit in Liberia.

A senior Obama administration official, who spoke on background to discuss private conversations with state officials, called the governors’ plan “uncoordinated, very hurried, an immediate reaction to the New York City case that doesn’t comport with science.”

But Mr. Cuomo and Mr. Christie were not out on their own for long. Late Friday, Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois, a Democrat, issued a mandatory quarantine order for “high-risk” individuals who have come in contact with patients in West Africa. On Saturday, Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, a Republican, signed a similar one.

On Sunday morning, Mr. Christie predicted on Fox News that federal officials would adopt the same standards “sooner rather than later.”

The Obama administration suggested otherwise. Officials said the quarantine rules could create “a system of perverse incentives,” encouraging health care workers to fly into a different airport, like Atlanta or Washington Dulles, outside states that had adopted the new policies.

On Sunday afternoon, President Obama gathered top advisers for a meeting at the White House to work on a new, nationwide standard for returning health care workers. That policy is likely to advise against a total quarantine of those workers, a senior administration official said.

A group of scientists, public health experts and other opponents of the mandatory quarantine addressed a letter on Sunday to Mr. Cuomo, urging him to end the policy.

Ms. Hickox, the nurse, has retained a civil rights lawyer to challenge the quarantine order and get her out of isolation. In the interview with CNN, Ms. Hickox said officials had not informed her about what they planned to do next or why they were isolating her despite her showing no symptoms.

“We can have a conversation about what further measures would look like, but this is an extreme that is not acceptable,” she said. “I feel that my basic human rights have been violated.” (Contributor: By Matt Flegenheimer, Michael D. Shear and Michael Barbaro for [The New York Times](#) - Reporting was contributed by Lizette Alvarez from Miami; Alan Blinder and Richard Fausett from Atlanta; Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt, Michael S. Schmidt and Michael D. Shear from Washington; Jim Dwyer, J.David Goodman, Kia Gregory, Anemona Hartocollis, Thomas Kaplan, Marc Santora and Vivian Yee from New York; Sheri Fink from Monrovia, Liberia; Jason B. Grant and C.J. Hughes from Newark; and Trip Gabriel and Mitch Smith from Chicago.)

Prayer focus: Typical of much current U.S. policy, polls continue to reflect public confusion. Decisions about Ebola and quarantines in the U.S. have become highly politicized. State governors are in conflict with each other and the White House over how to best protect their constituents from Ebola infection. First, give thanks that nurse Kaci Hickox, now released from quarantine, has shown no symptoms, and that the 5-year-old boy from Guinea, who did have symptoms, has tested negative for the virus. Pray for Dr. Craig Spencer’s recovery. Pray, too, for health workers and officials to have wisdom to prevent any spread from those who return already Ebola-infected. Pray for next week’s

midterm elections and that, in God's mercy, citizens will vote wisely and honestly. Pray that the Church will awaken and lead our nation back to God.

"For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?" (1 Cor 14:8)

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." (Gal 6:7-8)

ISRAEL-US TIES HAVE REACHED 'CRISIS' POINT, LAPID SAYS

Finance Minister Yair Lapid warned ... [that a crisis exists in Israeli-American relations](#), after Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon was snubbed by the Obama administration during his trip to Washington last week.

"There is a crisis with the US and we should treat it as a crisis," Lapid said.

"Relations with the US are necessary and important to the State of Israel and we must do everything in the world to get out of the crisis," he said at a cultural event in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

A US official confirmed to The Jerusalem Post that Ya'alon was categorically snubbed by the administration during his visit to Washington last week. He was denied meetings he requested with both Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry.

The denial was a reaction to comments that Ya'alon made in a private conversation in January in which he called Kerry "obsessive" and "messianic" – comments that were leaked to the media.

"We were shocked by some of the comments that he has made in the past, so it should come as no surprise that he wasn't able to get some of the meetings he requested," a US official told the Post on Friday.

In an interview with The Washington Post during his trip, Ya'alon was quizzed about his comments about Kerry.

"We overcame that," he told paper.

At a later point in the interview he said, "I can tell you that between the Pentagon and the Israel Defense Forces there is an unbreakable bond."

Ya'alon acknowledged that there are disputes among politicians, but he noted that, "With all the disputes, the United States is Israel's strategic ally."

During his visit to Washington, Ya'alon also sought a meeting with National Security Adviser Susan Rice.

While none of those meetings was granted, Ya'alon was received by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel at the Pentagon, with a small honor guard.

He also met with US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power in New York.

US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki downplayed reports that Ya'alon had been snubbed, noting that the defense minister had met with his American counterpart, Hagel. This is "natural standard procedure," she said.

With regard to Ya'alon's past comments about Kerry, Psaki said that the secretary of state acknowledged in January that "he'd been the target of much worse than words. And I think, obviously, he works closely with a range of Israeli officials and he didn't meet with him this time."

On Saturday, Lapid urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to repair the country's relations with its closest ally.

"Israel must do everything...to get out of this crisis and return to good relations," the finance minister added, calling for Israel to show the US respect and responsibility.

Lapid posited that if relations between Washington and Jerusalem were better, Israel could have participated in the donor conference in Cairo on rebuilding Gaza, held earlier this month.

Netanyahu did meet with US officials, including President Barack Obama and Kerry when he was in Washington earlier this month.

But tensions between the two countries have deepened, particularly over the issue of settlement activity. America, however, still stands with Israel at the United Nations and gave strong support during this summer's Gaza war, including funding for Iron Dome batteries.

Former defense minister and prime minister Ehud Barak said in an interview on Channel 1 that "the US is Israel's most important ally. We are a sovereign state and we don't need to accept anyone's dictates, but at the same time, we have to respect the US's sovereignty and we need to show mutual respect.

"There should be no mistake – support for us in the US is not growing and that is a disconcerting phenomenon," he added.

Barak had very warm relations with the US, and had met with Obama during some of his Washington visits.

MK Nitzan Horowitz (Meretz) said the crisis is unprecedentedly bad.

"This isn't a passing problem. It is a deep severance in the most important relations for the State of Israel as a result of Netanyahu's actions, ruining the US's efforts to promote a peace process and his non-stop interference in US politics together with Obama's rivals. These things harm Israeli interests," he stated.

Horowitz added that Lapid is not innocent and that he is also responsible for the crisis as Netanyahu's senior coalition partner.

However, MK Danny Danon (Likud), who was fired from his post as deputy defense minister during Operation Protective Edge, said there is no crisis in US-Israel relations.

Danon recounted visiting the Pentagon during the summer, saying "I was exposed to the depth of important strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The US is Israel's most important ally and there is no argument on that."

"Our years-old alliance is strong and will continue to be for the coming generations.

Disagreements between allies are legitimate," he stated. (Contributor: By Lahav Harkov, Michael Wilner, Tovah Lazaroff for [The Jerusalem Post](#))

Prayer focus: It does not take a Washington insider to interpret the statements and counter-statements in this article from The Jerusalem Post. We have watched, read about, and listened to the

deteriorating bonds between the U.S. and Israel for at least 18 months. In truth, no one can predict what President Obama's position will be if he is forced to choose between ties with Israel and the saber-rattling Iran might do if its nuclear development program succeeds to weapon status. There is no question that the president harbors sympathetic feelings for Islam. Please pray with wisdom and biblical insight. Intercession is a marathon, not a dash. Perspective is vital. Israel must learn some day that its salvation is in God, not in or from the United States. God's promise is that the Jews will believe in and receive Messiah some day.

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Rom 10:1-4)

NORTH DAKOTA ARGUES 'RIGHT-TO-LIFE' MEASURE INTENT

Megan Madden has tried to educate herself about the eight measures facing North Dakota voters on Election Day. But only one — [an amendment that would declare in the state constitution that life begins at conception](#) — still has her confused.

"I read the paper and I've read all the brochures about it that are stuck in my door," the 27-year-old Bismarck convenience store manager said. "I understand what the measure says but I still don't know what it really means."

The single-sentence measure would be the nation's first to amend a state constitution and require the "inalienable right to life" at "any stage of development." Supporters say it's meant to protect the state's current abortion laws from judicial activism. Those opposed believe the intent is to outlaw abortion altogether and say the vague wording could affect birth control, end-of-life care plans and in vitro fertilization.

The Republican-led Legislature passed some of the nation's strictest abortion laws last year, including one that bans abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected. A Bismarck-based federal judge blocked the law from taking affect and the state has appealed.

Along with the spate of anti-abortion legislation, North Dakota lawmakers also passed a resolution that allows voters to decide on Nov. 4 whether the measure's life-begins-at-conception wording belongs in the state constitution.

State Sen. Margaret Sitte, a Republican who is ardently anti-abortion, sponsored the resolution, saying at its introduction that it was meant to be a challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion up until a fetus is considered viable. The Bismarck resident now says the resolution's intent is simply to "protect laws the Legislature has put in place."

The prospect of changing the North Dakota constitution has abortion-rights advocates and others nervous. Oil-rich North Dakota is a highly religious red state, where few mind that buying most anything other than groceries on Sunday mornings is banned by state law.

"We are very Christian and very conservative," said Rep. Kathy Hawken, a Republican from Fargo who supports legal abortion. She called the measure's wording ambiguous and "scary as heck" if it passes.

"I'm extremely hopeful people will realize this isn't the answer for banning abortion. It has other consequences and could cost the state millions of dollars in endless litigation," she said.

Dina Butcher, who chairs North Dakotans Against Measure 1, said many of the state's religious leaders have addressed the measure during Sunday sermons. "But not everyone who sits in those pews are with them on this," said Butcher, a Republican.

Butcher said the measure's vague language is meant to "camouflage" its real intent to bar abortions and also could potentially affect end-of-life care plans and cause problems for infertile couples seeking to use in vitro fertilization.

"That absolutely is not the intent," said Janne Myrdal, who heads ND Choose Life, a group supporting the measure. "The intent is to protect laws that are on the books already. The opposition is blatantly lying and trying to put fear in peoples' minds."

But Dr. Steffen Christensen, who founded North Dakota's only in vitro fertilization clinic in Fargo 20 years ago, said he will close the clinic if the measure passes. His attorneys have told him doctors and workers are at risk of legal action "if there is a loss of an embryo."

"We are covered for malpractice but criminal charges? We're on our own," he said. "Sooner or later, someone would try to make an example of us." (Contributor: By James MacPherson for [Associated Press](#))

Prayer focus: This is complicated politically but not spiritually. In our divided and essentially lawless nation, one state's ballot box will not defeat the forces behind abortion. Those committed to the killing of the unborn do not care if there is a heartbeat or whether the innocent life in the womb can feel pain. This is a demon-driven enterprise whose practitioners worship only money. Pray for church leaders of North Dakota to rise up and lead the nation back to God's Word and His standards. Here, in one sentence, is the issue in a nutshell: "We are very Christian and very conservative," said Rep. Kathy Hawken, a Republican from Fargo who supports legal abortion." Pray accordingly.

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...." (Deut 30:19)

WORLDWIDE SURGE IN 'GREAT' EARTHQUAKES SEEN IN PAST 10 YEARS

The [annual number of "great" earthquakes nearly tripled over the last decade](#), providing a reminder to Americans that unruptured faults like those in the northwest United States might be due for a Big One.

Between 2004 and 2014, 18 earthquakes with magnitudes of 8.0 or more rattled subduction zones around the globe. That's an increase of 265 percent over the average rate of the previous century, which saw 71 great quakes, according to a report to the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America this week in Vancouver, British Columbia.

It's clear that recent "great" earthquakes "triggered" related major quakes, says study author Thorne Lay, distinguished professor of earth and planetary sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"If we look at all earthquake magnitudes, the past 10 years is not unusual in terms of the rate of events; the rate increases are just seen for events with magnitudes larger than 7.5 or so," he said. "This suggests that great events were 'catching up' on the plate boundary motions in several regions with fortuitous similar timing."

And by fortuitous, Lay means that he thinks it's just coincidence that all those big earthquakes happened over the last 10 years.

Related quakes strike along same faults

So Lay isn't suggesting that an earthquake in Japan or Sumatra is going to trigger a big one in the Cascadia subduction zone, the line along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and northernmost California where the oceanic plates dive under the continental plate.

But, he says, a big earthquake at one end of a subduction zone might trigger others further down along the same fault. "This happened in Sumatra, where the great 2004 event activated the adjacent 2005 event, and those two activated a slightly more distant 2007 event," he said.

So what does that mean for the Cascadia subduction zone?

"The offshore fault appears to be fully locked up by friction, with strain building up until the next large earthquake rupture releases it," Lay says.

The Cascadia subduction zone, stretching from British Columbia to Northern California.

But nobody can predict exactly when that might happen, or what it will be like.

"The last 10 years have been interesting for seismologists because we have learned that great subduction zone earthquakes occur in many different ways and there do not seem to be any simple rules to predict the kind of behavior to expect," says Peter Shearer, a professor of geophysics at the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. "Thus we can't reliably assess at this point whether the Cascadia subduction zone will eventually break mostly in a single giant earthquake or a series of large earthquakes."

He said more study of past Cascadia quakes and those elsewhere, along with analysis of the recent crop of great quakes, might lead to better predictions.

Every 500 years ... or so

One of the researchers scoping out Cascadia's history of ancient earthquakes is Benjamin Horton, a professor in the department of marine and coastal science at Rutgers University.

Horton has trenched and cored in the muds along the the coasts of British Columbia and the northwest United States looking for evidence of earthquakes big enough to trigger massive tsunamis. And he's found evidence of 12 major earthquakes over a 6,000-year period, an average recurrence interval of 500 years. But that's just an average, he says, adding that the time between big quakes could be anywhere from 350 to 1,000 years.

"Cascadia is a really interesting story because there are no written records of a large earthquake there," Horton says. "The last time it ruptured was January 26, 1700 A.D., over 300 years ago. The European colonizers hadn't reached the West Coast yet. We know about it because of the tsunami that resulted from it hit Japan, where historical records of samurai talk about an orphan tsunami, which means a tsunami without a parent earthquake."

"It's not like you can say they occur every 500 years so the next one won't be till 2200 and we don't need to worry."

Those records helped scientists figure out that the 1700 earthquake was a whopper.

"It was somewhere between 8.9 and 9.2" and may have ruptured along a 600-mile span of the western U.S. and Canada, Horton says. "It's very analogous to the Sumatra event of 2004."

And that fits right in with magnitudes seen in subduction zone earthquakes.

“The size of earthquakes is related to the surface area of the fault that slips,” Shearer said. “The San Andreas Fault and other transform, or strike-slip, faults are very long but not very wide as they cut vertically through the earth’s brittle upper crust. In contrast, subduction zone faults are both long and wide as they cut at a very shallow angle through the crust. Thus the surface area for the fault slip can be much larger for subduction zone earthquakes than for transform faults and the corresponding magnitudes for subduction zone earthquakes can be much greater. The largest transform fault earthquakes are about magnitude 8.5, whereas subduction zone [earthquakes] can be as large as magnitude 9.5.”

Horton and his team look for signs of a big tsunami in the layers of shoreline mud and at the bottom of the deep sea. “Within the muds we find sand layers deposited by the tsunamis. And in the submarine canyons you also find evidence. Ground shaking causes movement of sediments from the continental shelf out to the deep sea bottom.”

Because of the wide range in recurrence intervals it’s impossible to determine how worried we should be, Horton says. “It’s not like you can say they occur every 500 years so the next one won’t be till 2200 and we don’t need to worry,” he adds. “The average interval is every 500 years, but it can be much smaller.” (Contributor: By Linda Carroll for [NBC News](#) - Linda Carroll is a regular contributor to NBC News. She writes about health and science and her work.)

Prayer focus: The worldwide surge of earthquakes may or may not be portentous of the “end of the end times,” as some have suggested. What we do know is that Jesus spoke of earthquakes, signs in the heavens, smoke and fire, and other phenomena to be associated with the end of the age. He said that when we see such things to “look up” because redemption “draws near.” Pray for the Church to awaken with renewed, dynamic spiritual energy, and to speak out to herald the truth that Jesus Christ is alive and will one day return to earth, just as He promised.

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.” (Mark 13:8)

“And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.” (Luke 21:11)

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring, men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” (Luke 21:25-28)

ATHEISTS TO DISTRIBUTE CARTOON BIBLE SEXUALLY ASSAULTING WOMAN

An atheist group is [planning to distribute a pamphlet in several Florida public high schools that depicts an illustration of a cartoon Bible sexually assaulting a young woman.](#)

According to a report by Brittany Hughes at CNSNews.com, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) plans to hand out a pamphlet entitled “An X-Rated Book: Sex and Obscenity in the Bible,” with a front cover that is illustrated with an animated Bible with arms, legs, salacious facial expression, and salivating mouth,

with its hand aggressively extended up the dress of a screaming woman, who is attempting to run away from it.

On its website, FFRF states that its free speech lawsuit filed last year against the Orange County School District was dismissed by Judge Kendall Sharp of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, since the school district had agreed to allow FFRF to distribute all the literature it had initially prohibited. FFRF says it filed a free speech suit after the school district allowed an evangelical Christian group to distribute Bibles.

“This is a victory. The court has acknowledged that the school district is allowing all the materials that were initially prohibited,” said Dan Barker, FFRF co-president. “We disagree with how the court and the school district chose to handle this clear-cut discrimination, so we’re planning to appeal on some issues, but overall, it’s a win.”

In its motion to dismiss the case, the U.S. District Court did agree, however, with a previous Florida court ruling relating to materials outside groups may distribute in public schools.

“Indeed, Defendant may lawfully prohibit outside groups from distributing materials that are not appropriate for distribution in a school setting with the aim of controlling student conduct in the schools,” said the court. “This includes dissemination of content that is sexually explicit, indecent, lewd, or offensive in [sic] such would ‘undermine the school’s basic educational mission.’”

Breitbart News contacted the Media Relations department of the Orange County Public Schools to determine whether the pamphlet FFRF plans to distribute is, in fact, in keeping with the school’s basic mission.

Information that Shari Bobinski, a media specialist with the school district, emailed to Breitbart News included a copy of a memo that John C. Palmerini, associate general counsel, sent to Orange County High School principals, the school board, the superintendent, and other officials.

The memo, dated April 22, 2013, and referencing “passive distribution of atheist materials,” provided the following list of “approved materials” that FFRF and Central Florida Freethought Community (CFFC), FFRF’s local chapter, may “passively distribute” on May 2, 2013, in schools:

1. The Age of Reason
2. What They Said About Religion
3. Ten Common Myths About Atheists
4. What is Wrong with the Ten Commandments?
5. What is an Atheist?
6. Nontheistic Students in Your School
7. Humanist of the Year Award

The memo also stated, “NO OTHER MATERIALS MAY BE DISTRIBUTED.”

High school principals are instructed in the memo, “You must have a member of your staff ensure that only the materials identified above are on the tables to be passively distributed.”

“This action is being permitted because the District is attempting to avoid a lawsuit from the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the central Florida Freethought Community,” the memo continued. “Those groups have sought to passively distribute materials because World Changers of Florida, Inc. passively distributed Bibles to your students on January 16, 2013.”

“Passive distribution means the approved materials may be placed on one unmanned table for distribution in a location where students normally congregate during non-instructional time,” the memo explained. “The representatives must not speak to students or encourage them to pick up the approved materials. ... The representatives should not enter classrooms or other instructional areas.”

According to the information Bobinski provided regarding FFRF, “At this point, there is no indication or word of a request to participate this school year.”

In addition, the information provided to Breitbart News states that the pamphlet depicting the cartoon Bible sexually assaulting the woman “was not distributed as part of the materials” last year.

Bobinski declined to elaborate, stating, “We can’t speak any further on the issue because we are still in litigation regarding an appeal.”

CNSNews.com reported that district Superintendent Barbara Jenkins said that “An X-Rated Book,” the pamphlet, “may not be distributed.”

“This brochure will cause substantial disruption and is age inappropriate,” she wrote. “There is a picture on the cover of a Bible book given human features sticking its hand up the dress of a woman.”

Jenkins further said the pamphlet also included information about how to join FFRF, and that the school district could “prohibit the distribution of materials which contain solicitations.”

On its website, FFRF states that its folded brochures, or “nontracts,” which refer to alleged statements in the Bible about abortion, will now be permitted to be distributed, even though the school district described them as presenting God as “hateful, arrogant, sexist, and cruel.”

The atheist organization says it will also distribute Robert Price’s *Jesus Is Dead*.

According to FFRF staff attorney Andrew Seidel, “Satanists can distribute their literature, Muslims can distribute the Quran, and atheists can distribute books that criticize religion,” as a result of the case’s dismissal.

Seidel also told CNSNews.com that the pamphlet featuring the sexual assault of a woman by a cartoon Bible is “pretty tame compared to the Bible itself.”

“I think if you look at the content of that brochure and what is actually in the Bible, and some of the things that are in the Bible in terms of sex and compare that to the cover [of the pamphlet], the cover is pretty tame compared to anything that is in the Bible,” he asserted. Seidel added, “I think the bottom line is, you can’t consider any of our materials obscene when compared to the Bible.”

The pamphlet’s text reportedly includes Bible verses that the atheist group considers “obscene,” such as Biblical passages that mention sex, nudity, and circumcision.

Seidel said any offense Christians have at the image on the pamphlet’s cover is a fair trade-off for how atheists feel when Bibles are distributed in school.

"I think we recognize that it might upset some people, but the Bible upsets many, many non-believers, especially when it's being pushed in the public schools," he continued. "So really, all it's doing is placing believers and people who are in the majority in the position that we in the minority have been in for a very long time, and are in every time the government espouses one religion over another."

David Williamson, leader of the CFFC, said, "We intend to give out a lot more literature to educate students about atheism and the importance of keeping religion out of public schools."

"We are even designing new materials specifically for students and families in Orange County," Williamson added.

As reported by Breitbart News, Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor, FFRF co-president, have engaged in many anti-religion campaigns, including one to remove the Star of David symbol from the Ohio statehouse Holocaust memorial in 2013, and an anti-Catholic ad in 2012, published by The New York Times, that accused the Catholic Church of promoting "acute misery, poverty, needless suffering, unwanted pregnancies, overpopulation, social evils and deaths."

Gaylor is the daughter of Anne Nicol Gaylor, author of Abortion Is a Blessing.

Seidel states that the Orange County Public Schools is the first district FFRF has targeted to distribute its materials, but it will not be the last. "We're focusing on Orange County for the moment, but we will probably be expanding to other school districts that allow this," he said. (Contributor: By Dr. Susan Berry for [Breitbart News](#))

Prayer focus: Parents, beware and on guard! This article is almost too lewd and blasphemous to be publicized. Aggressive forces of evil have been unleashed in our country, and both reticence and restraint have been abandoned. There is no shame, nor is the fear of God evident even in so-called upper levels of society. Morally upright parents of children in most public school systems know they must be vigilant to watch what happens inside and outside the classroom. Has God lifted His restraining grace so His Church will seek Him as never before? Who can deny our nation's need for another "great awakening"? Pray for unity, for walls of division to come down, and for anointed intercession. Pray for God's mercy to cover the United States. Our Scripture passage shows the potential for degradation in human hearts without God's salvation through Christ. Christians "see" truth only through God's grace. Pray, knowing He can and will save all who repent and trust in Jesus.

"As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.'" (Rom 3:10-18)

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." (Luke 4:18-19)

CHURCH IN JERUSALEM BESIEGED BY CHRONIC ATTACKS, HARASSMENT

A land dispute between a [church and Arab residents of a Jerusalem neighborhood has devolved into chronic violence](#), theft, and harassment against the church's employees, including two disabled orphans living there, its pastor said Sunday.

According to Karen Dunham, pastor and director of Living Bread International Church – a non-denominational institution with offices in Jerusalem, Gaza and Jericho – the church has been housed in Musrara for seven years, with 20 years remaining on its lease.

Dunham said a campaign of violence and intimidation against the church's 45 employees, visitors and two Jewish orphans with Down's Syndrome living there, was undertaken by roughly a dozen Arab neighbors several months ago after she refused to sell the property.

"When we said we would not sell it, they decided to take it by force," she said.

The men have stolen two of the church's parking spaces, a metal security fence protecting its entrance, eight security cameras, threatened the two disabled orphans, and have assaulted nine of the church's employees and visitors, including herself, she said.

"Over the last three months they have built an illegal house in the parking lot over the parking spaces included in our lease, and over the last two-and-a-half weeks attacked us, stole our security fence and attempted to take our front door," she said.

Dunham said the Arab men have sprayed a gas-like substance into the 200-sq.m. church – which oversees numerous programs dedicated to reconciliation between Muslims and Jews, community outreach and tours for international visitors – on two occasions.

During the first instance, the pastor said, responding officers issued four restraining orders but did not make any arrests.

Moreover, despite identifying the assailants, filing eight police reports and obtaining the restraining orders, Dunham said police have done virtually nothing to protect the church and its employees.

"We even took pictures of them during attacks and our landlord's lawyer was able to identify them using Facebook, but after filing the first two or three police reports I realized nothing was happening," she said. "They [the assailants] continued to sit outside [the church] and harass us."

Dunham said she was punched in her back a couple weeks ago by one of the men while walking on the property's front porch, resulting in a fractured wrist that required a cast, and that the two disabled orphans were told by one suspect that he would "cut their heads off."

After going to an east Jerusalem police station, Dunham said Arab officers ostensibly turned her away.

"They told me, 'You can't come here every day,'" she said.

"Some Jewish officers apologized and told me to make sure they didn't close my file."

The violence came to a head 10 days ago, Dunham said, when several visitors of the church who volunteered to replace the stolen metal fence were physically attacked, had NIS 3,200 worth of welding equipment stolen, and were gassed when they took refuge in the church.

“These guys came at us like wild bears,” she said of the attack. “They jumped the fence, busted through the porch door and gassed us again. They just unleashed hell on these visitors who came here to help me repair what was stolen.”

While Dunham said she has not filed a formal complaint about the illegal housing construction on the church’s two parking spaces, she said she insists that the attacks against the church and its employees and visitors ceases.

“They’re taking over the whole area, buying properties all over from funding from the Palestinian Authority,” she said.

Last Thursday, police, accompanied by IDF soldiers, finally came to oversee the safety of a contractor attempting to rebuild the fence, Dunham said. However, the officers and soldiers left after an Arab man claimed that it was illegal to repair the fence because it is a “historical building,” she added.

“This man had no authority, but they just left,” she said. “It was wild.”

As a result, Dunham said she is attempting to get permission from the Jerusalem Municipality to rebuild the fence, but that the harassment and threats have continued.

“Nine people, including me, have been injured so far, including one man who was hospitalized,” she said of the attacks.

“The last couple of weeks is when most of the violence has happened, and now they are not allowing our staff to walk in the street to get to and from work.”

Dunham added: “The other day they told my secretary that it was time for me to be beaten up again.”

A police spokesman said Sunday that officers will review the complaints filed by Dunham and respond accordingly. (Contributor: [Jerusalem Post](#))

Prayer focus: American Christian churches have not experienced much direct attack or persecution on U.S. soil (at least until now), though our Lord said clearly that His followers would be hated by the world system and even killed. When considering this report, IFA staff recalled 1963, when an African-American church in Birmingham, AL was bombed during a Sunday morning service, killing four young girls and injuring others. Did Christians grieve properly for these girls and their families in that tragedy? We don’t know. While no one has been killed in the current attacks, please pray for Pastor Dunham and her ministry. It has to be very difficult to “bless them that persecute you” and continue to “turn the other cheek” after so much abuse, injury, and harassment. The Scriptures cited challenge all of us to know how we should respond if attacked.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” (Rom 12:14-15)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.” (Mat 5:38-39)

CALIFORNIA ORDERS CHURCHES, OTHERS TO PAY FOR ABORTION

“A [recent mandate from the state of California may put some religious organizations in the paradoxical situation](#) of having their employee health plans not cover some forms of contraception, while providing coverage for elective surgical abortions. The issue arose in August, when the California Department of Managed Health Care director Michelle Rouillard sent a letter to Anthem Blue Cross and several other insurance firms warning providers that California law requires insurers to treat both "maternity services and legal abortion neutrally." According to Rouillard's letter, state law gives women the right to choose either to have a child or obtain an abortion.

The DMHC letter said this means insurance policies must cover abortion services, with the only exception being those who "object to doing so for reasons of conscience or religion." . . .

Apart from the Catholic schools, seven churches in California have received similar notifications from their insurers, that elective surgical abortion coverage would be required as part of their employee health plans, according to Casey Mattox, an attorney with the Alliance Defending Freedom. . . .

"Several other California churches have received similar notices from their insurers, and others will follow," Mattox wrote at The Federalist website.

"While California (like the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS) exempts churches from its contraceptive mandate, there is no exception to this bureaucratic abortion mandate. This leaves California churches in the illogical and impossible position of being free to exclude contraceptives from their health plan for reasons of religious conscience but required to provide their employees with abortion coverage." On Oct. 9, the ADF and the Life Legal Defense Foundation filed a complaint with HHS saying the California abortion-coverage mandate violated the 2004 Weldon Amendment, a measure passed every year since as part of federal appropriations legislation. As explained on the HHS website, the Weldon Amendment prohibits HHS and Labor Department funding — an estimated \$40 billion a year for California — from going to states that don't allow conscience exemptions to abortion coverage requirements." (Contributor: Mark A. Lellner for [Deseret News](#))

Prayer focus: This California situation is very much in process, containing legal technicalities. Several pro-life legal ministries are working to fully define and defuse the complications. Pray for these dedicated attorneys. Intercessors seek truth and a biblical framework for intercession. Jesus Christ, our Lord, said again and again that the pathway would not be easy. The reminder is so none of us will be surprised when “the furnace [of affliction is heated] seven times more than it was usually heated” (paraphrase from Daniel 3:19). Pray for the Church to rise in unity and faith to respond appropriately to these threats. California is under many attacks at this time. Pray that pastors and leaders will respond appropriately to the challenges and not be swayed to disobey God’s commands.

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’” (Dan 3:16-18)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will^{gd} have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

NATIONAL PRAYER ASSEMBLY: SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD FOR AMERICA, OCTOBER 29-30, PENTAGON CITY SHERATON, ARLINGTON, VA.

The National Prayer Committee, Mission America, Intercessors for America, International House of Prayer Kansas City, Jesus Alliance (Renewal of America) and International Prayer Council are cooperating to call together people with a heart to pray for an all-out time of prayer for the nation just before the congressional elections. We sense that the country is at a crucial point in its history with many dangers and threats from without and within that need to be confronted through getting on the Lord's wavelength with others from across America. As one theologian put it, *"History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being!"* We want to see His future come to pass through our united prayers of faith and hope you will be able to participate.

Calling for a Gideon's Army of Prayer Warriors for such a time as this!

Are you sensing a call of God to a time of intense intercession for the United States? At this time of growing crisis in which our nation seems to be have lost its direction morally, spiritually, politically and economically, a number of Christian leaders have heard that call and are inviting you to Washington DC, October 29-30 for a National Prayer Assembly. Scheduled just one week before our national elections, it comes at a crucial time in our nation's life. It is not a time for politicking or posturing, but for passionate prayer for a fresh move of God for the transformation of our nation. Our prayer focus is on repentance, reconciliation, and revival in the spirit of God's great promise for national restoration in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

This gathering is being sponsored by America's National Prayer Committee, International Prayer Council, Mission America Coalition, Intercessors for America, IHOPKC, and Jesus Alliance.

The venue will be the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia near Reagan National Airport and very good nightly rates of \$184 (single or double) have been secured until September 25. A registration fee of \$55 helps us secure the gorgeous meeting room overlooking all of D.C. and provides coffee, tea, and water for the two days of praying together. The hotel is located close to the Metro and allows us easy access to visit significant sites in the City for onsite intercession.

The registration site is: www.nationalprayercommittee.com Additional details can be found there, including information on reserving your rooms at the hotel. The hotel number for registrations is: 1 800 325 3535.

Prayer focus: Please read the above invitation, then pray. If you are able and so led, plan to attend. Much prayer support is needed for an effective conference. Truly, "It is time to seek the Lord." This time leading up to the midterm elections is a fertile time for deep intercessory prayer for our nation.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa 55:6-7)

OPERATION LOVE THE LAND

27 Hours of Prayer for the Nation . . . Bathed in the Word of God

"In the beginning: was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

Announcing a nationwide strategy to read the Word of God (New Testament) nonstop

over the airwaves before, during and after Halloween . . . in every state and in all time zones.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Part One: The Challenge

Next Friday is October 31st - a day normally given over by unsuspecting millions of our citizens to the worship of Satan. And this year, in particular, the level of violence in our land has increased exponentially, so that no child may be safe next Friday night, walking the streets of our towns and cities, looking for candy . . .

It is time for the church to rise up and TAKE COMMAND OF THIS DAY, calling it back to the Lordship of our God! The following is a prayer strategy that will help us to do just that!

Part Two: The Strategy

The LORD is watching over us in LOVE. He has called us to raise up a shield of NONSTOP prayer over our land, before, during, and after Halloween.

How shall we accomplish this mighty work??

Very simply, here are the steps we will follow:

Step One:

Beginning at midnight, Oct. 30th and continuing on for 27 hours through 3:00 a.m. on Friday morning, November 1st, we will open our phone lines to support a nonstop conference call of BLESSING for the nation. [Number given below.]

Step Two:

From the beginning of this call and continuing nonstop through its end, we will read the New Testament, from the Book of Matthew to the Book of Revelation; and then begin again if time permits. Each caller/volunteer is welcome to read one chapter, as the Team Leader gives direction.

Step Three:

Each call will be hosted by a team leader, who will welcome you and be sure we all remain on track.

Step Four:

Also, every hour we will name two states for targeted blessings, going in alphabetical order. Those states will be identified by the team leader.

Step Five:

Finally . . . YOU! This is where you come in! We will need YOUR SUPPORT to make this happen! Chapter by chapter, we will pause and ask, "who is our next reader, please?" You are welcome to identify yourself and to name the state you live in, then proceed with the reading of the Word.

Part Three: Our Victory!

As we join forces together, beginning at midnight next Thursday night, Eastern Time, to read His Word without interruption, our victory over the enemy is assured by:

OUR UNITY!

Because this prayer initiative will be made up of many ministries joined together as ONE VOICE, Abba promises to bring forth His Blessing!

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the LORD commanded the blessing- Life forevermore." (Psalm 133)*

THE AUTHORITY OF HIS WORD!

Abba tells us in His Scriptures that His Word is sharp and active and more powerful than any two-edged sword. Moreover, that Word, *when spoken forth*, will NOT return [to earth] void!

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

OUR ASSURANCE OF HIS COVENANT OF LOVE FOR EACH ONE OF US!

We all have absolute assurance that, no matter how far we may have fallen away from Him, Abba never stops loving us AND when we repent, He immediately turns His face back upon us, in mercy and in absolute forgiveness.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

SUMMARY

Next Friday, as we all join forces together, coast-to-coast, in reading and declaring the Word of God over our nation, we will TAKE BACK THE DAY FOR HIM and raise up a SHIELD OF PROTECTION for our land.

We welcome each one of you to join us on this new adventure, by calling:

Conference Number: 559-726-1300

Access Code: 596015#

Beginning at 12:00 a.m. EDT on Friday, October 31st -- THURSDAY NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT -- and continuing through 3:00 a.m. EDT on Saturday morning, November 1st. (Adjust to your own time zone.)

SPREAD THE WORD!

Please forward this announcement on to your own prayer networks. We invite all who will, to join us on this call. Praise the Lord! Submitted by Capitol Hill Prayer Partners