

CONCERNS

Christian Concerns Ministry Newsletter

By Marianne Nettles "Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The Lord" - Psalm 33:12 Aug. 2010

GRACE UNDER STRESS

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Stress testing, fatigue testing, performance testing, load testing, destruction testing--they all mean the same thing:

pushing something beyond its designed capability to

measure its capacity to withstand pressure and to discover its breaking point. If it breaks before reaching designed limits, it's back to the drawing board.

God allows his children to undergo stress testing--like a treadmill cardiac stress test. Cardiac tests are not designed to induce a heart attack resulting in a "breaking point," but they are designed to discover weaknesses in "the system." **When God allows us to undergo stress in our life, it is not to kill us, but to help us see our own human weaknesses--and turn to Him.** The apostle Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" that caused him great weakness and it forced him to avail himself of the grace of God (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). In fact, he said he now took pleasure in stress because "When I am weak, then I am strong."

If you are experiencing stress in your life, embrace it as an opportunity to receive the grace of God.

Recommended Reading

[Psalm 118:14-18](#)

Christian doctrine is grace, and Christian conduct is gratitude. J. I. Packer

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS SABOTAGING DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

In his decision declaring section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional, **Judge Tauro characterizes Congress's decision to define marriage for federal purposes as between one man and one woman as an "irrational" desire to "punish" same-sex couples based solely on "animus."** While Judge Tauro's conclusions are unfounded, far-reaching, and should be reversed on appeal, even more shocking is the fact that the Obama administration is intentionally sabotaging DOMA.

Read our [News Release](#) to learn about it.

President Obama has been actively promoting an agenda to undermine the nation's marriage laws. When you weaken the family, as President Obama is doing by his policies, you weaken society. Children fare best when raised with a mom and a dad. Redefining marriage to something it was not intended to be weakens the family and is not in the best interest of children or society. President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder must defend the nation's marriage laws. The Obama administration must defend DOMA, not sabotage the law.

'LOSE CHRISTIANITY OR FACE EXPULSION'

A lawsuit against Augusta State University in Georgia alleges school officials essentially gave a graduate student in counseling the **choice of giving up her Christian beliefs or being expelled from the graduate program.**

[Read the latest now on WND.com.](#)

CEDING ARIZONA TO MEXICO

America is losing the battle along the border with Mexico—apparently without a fight. As proof, a swatch of Arizona 80 miles wide that runs from the Mexican border about three counties deep into the state has been ceded to Mexicans. Read on to learn how America is losing the border battle with Mexico... [More »](#)

AMERICA, 2010: CHRISTIANS HAULED TO JAIL FOR PREACHING JESUS

One of the nation's top legal teams regarding civil and religious rights has stepped into a dispute stemming from the Arab Festival in Dearborn, Mich., where police are accused of enforcing Islamic law. [Amazing video is now online.](#)

[Read the latest now on WND.com.](#)

"A nation under a well regulated government, should permit none to remain uninstructed. It is monarchical and aristocratical government only that requires ignorance for its support."

--Thomas Paine, Rights of Man, part 2, 1792

[Click here](#) to learn **What's Happening with Seniors Benefits:**

President Obama gave a "recess appointment" to Dr. Donald Berwick, a strong advocate of rationing of medical care, to be the new Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. **Berwick would not have been confirmed by the Senate.**

Senator John Barrasso said the appointment was "an insult to the American people." Senator Mitch McConnell said it was outrageous the Obama Administration "won't allow the man charged with implementing the President's plan to cut \$500 Billion out of Medicare to testify about his plans" for seniors.

Senator Tom Coburn and Senator John Barrasso, both physicians, have released a new 31-page report, *Bad Medicine*, on Obamacare. **The latest poll shows 60% of the American people want to repeal Obamacare, 36% want to keep it, and 4% are undecided.**

CLINK ON: **!!!!**

[Elena Kagan's Work to Make Constitutions More Shariah-Compliant](#)

Stepping Over the Bodies

Christians in Iraq

This commentary was delivered by Prison Fellowship president Mark Earley.

In February, spending on the war in Afghanistan surpassed spending on the war in Iraq for the first time since the 2003 invasion—a sign that our time in Iraq is drawing to an end.

The truth is that the American people have already put the war and that troubled country behind them. Unfortunately, **there is one group for whom the troubles in Iraq show no signs of abating—and that's Iraqi Christians.**

On May 2, two buses containing **Christian university students and workers were bombed in northern Iraq. The attack left one person dead and 188 injured.** As one student put it, "We were heading to university, not to a battlefield. We carried no weapons. Nevertheless, we were targeted."

It's by no means the first time. Last Christmas Eve, in the run-up to Iraq's national elections, **a Christian bus driver was pulled from his bus and shot to death in cold blood. The day before, a bomb inside a 1200-year-old church killed two worshippers and injured five more.**

As we have talked about before on BreakPoint, Iraq's Christian population is caught between three competing Muslim groups: Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds. **While these groups agree on very little, elements within each of these groups do agree on the need to terrorize their Christian neighbors.** The latest attack prompted approximately 3,000 Christians to march through the streets of Hamdaniyah, where the attack took place. The Council of Christian Church Leaders of Iraq issued a statement that called on the government to take steps to ensure the safety of Iraqi Christians in Nineveh province.

They also demanded that the students targeted by the bombers be allowed to take their final exams "in a safe place" and not "forfeit the current academic year."

I don't hold out much hope for a satisfactory answer on the ground. **Nothing that has happened in the past seven years suggests that anyone with any authority in Baghdad cares about what is happening to Iraq's Christians.**

It's not just Baghdad. Both the Bush and Obama administrations have dropped the ball as far as Iraqi Christians are concerned. Their goal has been to find a power-sharing arrangement amenable to the Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds, so that the United States can extricate itself from Iraq while saving face. But that leaves Iraqi Christians as the odd man out—especially since their ancestral homeland is in one of Iraq's prime oil producing areas.

Whatever you think of the Iraq war, it's painful to think that the most enduring legacy of our invasion may be driving the final nail in the coffin of an ancient Christian community. Unfortunately, we are rendering people expendable whose ancestors worshipped Jesus Christ back when most of ours worshipped trees and practiced occasional human sacrifice.

I invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iraq. And I invite you to let the White House and your elected representatives know that ignoring the plight of Iraqi Christians is neither moral, acceptable, or good foreign policy.

How Much Government Takeover is Enough for Far Left?

It's apparently not enough that the Obama administration has injected unprecedented government control over everything from banks to health care to General Motors. Now, a key liberal is suggesting Big Brother should grab control of British Petroleum!

Robert Reich, former Labor Secretary under Bill Clinton, said recently on ABC's "This Week" program that the government should grab control of BP through a receivership - an astonishing suggestion that no doubt sends shudders through all allied nations like Great Britain, where BP is headquartered.

Never before has the basic concept of American free enterprise and private ownership been under such unrelenting attack from its own government. Barack Obama and his allies are using every opportunity to justify government intervention in every walk of life. Slowly but surely, and with shockingly little resistance, the Obama administration is remaking America in Obama's own image. Americans need to stand up and say, enough!

-U.S. Citizen's Association Newsletter

LOOK WHAT OBAMA'S AID ON RELIGION IS PUSHING

A religion adviser to President Obama has close ties to the imam who wants to build a 13-story Islamic cultural center near Ground Zero. The two have been documented together discussing America as "the ideal place for a renewal of Islam," WND has learned.

[Read the latest now on WND.com.](#)

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right, There is only an up or down. Up to man's age-old dream — the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order — or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism."

— Ronald Reagan, in his 1964 speech "A Time for Choosing"

THE FORCES OF FREEDOM RETURN TO VALLEY FORGE

Growing numbers of concerned, dedicated Americans are joining the nationwide protests against ever-higher taxes; the outrage of Obamacare; the bailouts and the Federal Reserve; the growing government surveillance society; and the destruction of private property rights through policies including Sustainable Development. The question now among these new activists is "what's the next step?" It's time for action.....

<http://www.newswithviews.com/DeWeese/tom171.htm>

Foreign Troops Training To Confiscate Guns of Americans

Kurt Nimmo via Prison Planet.com

In Operation Vigilant Guard, a Prison Planet.tv exclusive, Infowars.com reporters and filmmakers Rob Dew and Jason Douglass venture to Chicago, Illinois, **to document the militarization of domestic response during disasters and terrorist events in the United States.**

It is not simply the U.S. military — specifically the National Guard federalized under the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act — and Homeland Security along with local police participating in exercises held state-wide in Illinois, **but the Polish and Latvian military as well.**

The National Guard told the media **that foreign soldiers would be “observers,” but as this Prison Planet.tv exclusive video reveals Polish soldiers participated in the activities, including a raid on what appeared to be a meth lab but is described as a weapons of mass destruction facility.**

[Read Full Story](#)

The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered as the palladium of the liberties of a republic." --Joseph Story

PRAY FOR AMERICA