

Eye on the World

July 24–25, 2010

This collection of short news items is from the “Eye on the World” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of July 24-25, 2010.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



An article by Shai Oster titled “China Floods Killed 701 This Year” was posted at wsj.com on July 21, 2010.

It said: “BEIJING—Chinese officials said the Three Gorges Dam was effectively softening the blow from the worst flood in years, even as they reported that more than 700 people have died after weeks of torrential rains—the highest death toll in 12 years.”

Besides the death total, the article also mentioned that 347 people were missing, eight million people were evacuated, and damage has totaled \$21 billion (including the destruction of 645,000 houses).



A Reuters article titled “China’s Oil Spill Spreading, but Still Miniscule Compared to the Gulf” was posted at time.com on July 21, 2010.

It said: “*The Christian Science Monitor* reports that Wednesday was a washout for workers attempting to contain the Far East’s oil spill. The estimated size of the ecocentric catastrophe on the shores of Northeast China had doubled, spanning across 165 miles of water.

“Despite the setback, China’s spill remains relatively small. The current U.S. headache in the Gulf of Mexico stretches across roughly 2,700 square miles of water, requiring a whopping 5,600 vessels to clean up the destruction.”



A Reuters article by Ben Blanchard and Emma Graham-Harrison titled "China Shows Military Strength Ahead of US Drill" was posted at reuters.com on July 20, 2010.

It said: "China has shown off its growing military strength with the naval exercises off its eastern coast, shortly before Washington and Seoul are expected to carry out their own drills which Beijing has criticised."



An article by Jim Gomez titled "NKorea Warns US Exercises Threaten Region" was posted at myway.com on July 22, 2010.

It said: "North Korea warned the United States and South Korea on Thursday to call off military exercises scheduled for this weekend and to back off any new sanctions against the communist country or risk placing the entire region in danger."



An Associate Press article by Matthew Lee titled "NKorea Tensions Spike At Asian Security Forum" was posted at yahoo.com on July 23, 2010.

It said: "North Korea on Friday threatened the United States and South Korea with a 'physical response' to planned weekend naval exercises."



An article by Katherine Faulkner titled "Armed Forces No Longer Have the Cash to Defend Britain From Every Threat, Says Liam Fox" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on July 23, 2010.

It said: "The Armed Forces will not have the resources to defend the UK from all potential future threats under new budget cuts, the Defence Secretary warned.

"In a frank interview, Dr. Liam Fox said the state of the public finances meant Britain could no longer be protected from every conceivable threat.

"The Army has been asked to cut its budget by a reported 25 per cent and in his clearest indication yet of where the axe is likely to fall, Dr. Fox suggested that troops could be pulled out of Germany for the first time since 1945."

It later said: "His comments suggested the cuts could reduce Britain's military capabilities to their lowest level since World War II."



An article titled "Seven EU Banks Fail Stress Tests" was posted at bbc.co.uk on July 23, 2010.

It said: "Seven of the 91 European banks that underwent stress tests have failed the healthchecks, the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS) has said.

"They include five Spanish banks—Diada, Espiga, Bianca Civica, Unnim and Cajasur. The other two were Germany's Hypo Real Estate and Greece's ATEBank."



An article titled "China May Switch to Currency Basket for Forex Rate" was posted at marketwatch.com on July 23, 2010.

It said: "A top Chinese central bank official suggested switching away from the U.S. dollar as a benchmark for the yuan's foreign-exchange rate, switching instead to a basket of currencies, according to remarks published Thursday."



An article by Mohammed Ghorbari titled "Suspected Al Qaeda Militants Kill 5 Yemeni" was posted at msnbc.com on July 22, 2010.

It said: "SANAA—Gunmen killed at least five Yemeni soldiers on Thursday in a suspected al Qaeda ambush of a military convoy in the south, the third assault on state targets in five weeks blamed on the group's resurgent regional arm.

"Al Qaeda in Yemen previously focused on high-impact strikes against Western and Saudi targets, but appears now to be targeting government forces in response to enhanced Yemen-U.S. security coordination and a government crackdown."



An article titled "Venezuela Cuts Ties With Colombia" was posted at aljazeera.net on July 22, 2010.

It said: "Venezuela has broken off diplomatic relations with Colombia after Bogota charged that leftist guerrillas it is fighting are holed up in Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, the Venezuelan president, has said."

It later said: "Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's foreign minister, declared immediately afterwards that Colombia had 72 hours to withdraw its diplomats in Venezuela and close its embassy."



An article by Julian E. Barnes titled "U.S. Forces Step Up Pakistan Presence" was posted at wsj.com on July 20, 2010.

It said: "U.S. Special Operations Forces have begun venturing out with Pakistani forces on aid projects, deepening the American role in the effort to defeat militants in Pakistani territory that has been off limits to U.S. ground troops.

"The expansion of U.S. cooperation is significant given Pakistan's deep aversion to allowing foreign military forces on its territory. The Special Operations teams join the aid missions only when commanders determine there is relatively little security risk, a senior U.S. military official said, in an effort to avoid direct engagement that would call attention to U.S. participation."



An article titled "Times Square Bomb Plot Suspect in New Video Threatening U.S." was posted at foxnews.com on July 14, 2010.

It said: "The man arrested for plotting a car bombing in New York's Times Square appeared in a video on Al Arabiya television Wednesday [July 14] in which he said he planned to attack the United States."

The article later quoted the Pakistani-American Shahzad as saying: "With jihad (holy war), the basis of Islam can be enforced and the word of Allah and his religion will prevail."



An article titled "Man Who Threatened 'South Park' Arrested" was posted at thesmokinggun.com on July 21, 2010.

It said: "The Virginia man who this year threatened the creators of 'South Park' over an episode featuring the Prophet Muhammad dressed in a bear suit was arrested today on federal charges after speaking openly to the FBI about his connection to a terror organization and his plans to travel overseas to fight with the group. Zachary Chesser, 20, was charged with providing material support to Al-Shabaab, a terror group affiliated with al-Qaeda."



An article by Jason Ryan, Pierre Thomas and Xorje Olivares titled "American-Bred Terrorists Causing Alarm for Law Enforcement" was posted at abcnews.com on July 22, 2010.

It said: "Sources say the trend represents an unprecedented spike in home-grown terror and is an emerging threat that has them deeply concerned. What they consider to be most alarming is the fact that many of those charged were radicalized on the Internet, with thousands of Americans reportedly frequenting terror websites that espouse mass murder.

"A recently disclosed FBI Directorate of Intelligence document from July 2009 estimated that there were as many as 15,000 websites and web forums that were supportive of terrorist activities. Yet officials say the number of websites

is constantly changing since many of the sites and forums are not maintained, with current estimates indicating as many as 10,000 active sites.

"The FBI analysis noted that about 80 percent of those sites existed on U.S.-based computer servers. U.S. officials say these types of sites rapidly gained popularity when Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, began to post beheading videos on the Internet in 2003."



An article by Hillel Fendel titled "Half the Public Wants to See Holy Temple Rebuilt" was posted at israelnationalnews.com on July 18, 2010.

It said: "Half the Israeli public wants the Holy Temple (Beit HaMikdash) to be rebuilt. This is the main finding of a poll commissioned by the Knesset Television Channel and carried out by the Panels Institute.

"The poll was taken in advance of this Tuesday's [July 20] national day of mourning, known as Tisha B'Av, on which the two Holy Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed, 2,000 and 2,500 years ago respectively."

It later said: "Given the current political climate, the onset of construction of the Beit HaMikdash, and possibly even a poll on the subject, is not likely to go over quietly in the Islamic world, which currently has day-to-day control over the Temple Mount."



An article titled "Israel to Restrict White Phosphorus Use in Future Wars" was posted at bbc.co.uk on July 21, 2010.

It said: "The Israeli military will restrict its use of artillery shells containing white phosphorus, it has told the UN.

"The controversial weapons cause deadly burns and rights groups say they are banned from use in civilian areas.

"The Israel Defense Forces used weapons containing white phosphorus during a 22-day assault on Gaza which began in December 2008."

It later said: "Burning phosphorus sticks to skin and will continue to burn flesh until the supply of oxygen is cut off."



An editorial by Bret Stephens titled "Why Hasn't Israel Bombed Iran (Yet)?" was posted at wsj.com on July 20, 2010.

It said: "Why hasn't Israel bombed Iran yet? It's a question I often get from people who suppose I have a telepathic hotline to Benjamin Netanyahu's brain. I don't, but for a long time I was confident that an attack would happen in the first six months of this year. Since it didn't, it's worth thinking through why.

“First, though, let me explain my previous thinking. In the spring of 2008, there was intense speculation that then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, fresh from ordering an attack on a covert Syrian reactor, was giving serious thought to an Israeli strike on Iran. President Bush—who Israelis believed would give them the diplomatic cover and logistical support they would need for such a strike, especially if things went amiss—had only a few months left to go. The release of the December 2007 National Intelligence Estimate claiming (erroneously, as we now know) that Iran had halted its nuclear weaponization effort meant it was highly unlikely that the U.S. would attack.

“Finally, Israeli planners understood that the longer they delayed a strike, the harder it would be to achieve meaningful effects. Iran would have more time to harden its facilities, improve its defenses, and disperse its nuclear materials.

“So why didn’t Israel act then? A variety of reasons, the most plausible of which was that Mr. Olmert believed an Israeli strike on Iran was a huge gamble, and that it would be rash to attack before every diplomatic, political or covert means to stop Iran’s nuclear bid had been explored. Then came Barack Obama with his time-limited offer to negotiate with Tehran, followed by Iran’s post-election unrest, which briefly aroused hopes that the regime might be toppled from within.

“By the end of last year, it was clear that both hopes were misplaced. It was clear that the limited sanctions being contemplated by the Obama administration were not of a kind to deter Iran from its nuclear bids. It was clear that those bids were moving steadily closer to fruition. And it was clear that the administration was ill-inclined to take military action of its own.

“All of which persuaded me that, having duly given Mr. Obama’s diplomacy the benefit of the doubt, Israel—under the more hawkish leadership of Mr. Netanyahu—would strike, sooner rather than later. Plainly I was wrong.”

The article proceeded to give four theories for the delay.

- Planners have concluded that any attack would probably not succeed or succeed at a reasonable cost.
- Israel is waiting as it improves its military abilities on both offense and defense.
- One of the theories concerns Israeli politics.
- Israeli leaders remember their history.

It later said: “There is now talk that the Obama administration may be reconsidering its military options toward Iran. Let’s hope so. Israel may ultimately be willing to attack Iran once it reckons that it has run out of other options, as it did prior to the Six Day War. But its tactical margin for error will be slim, particularly since an effective strike will require days not hours. And the political risks it runs will be monumental . . .

"This is an unenviable position, and Israel's friends abroad would do well to spare it easy lectures. Iran is not Israel's problem alone. It should not be Israel's problem alone to solve, to its own frightful peril."



An article by Rich Blake titled "Gold Coin Sellers Angered by New Tax Law" was posted at abcnews.com on July 21, 2010.

It said: "Those already outraged by the president's health care legislation now have a new bone of contention—a scarcely noticed tack-on provision to the law that puts gold coin buyers and sellers under closer government scrutiny."

It later said: "Section 9006 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code to expand the scope of Form 1099. Currently, 1099 forms are used to track and report the miscellaneous income associated with services rendered by independent contractors or self-employed individuals.

"Starting Jan. 1, 2012, Form 1099s will become a means of reporting to the Internal Revenue Service the purchases of all goods and services by small businesses and self-employed people that exceed \$600 during a calendar year. Precious metals such as coins and bullion fall into this category and coin dealers have been among those most rankled by the change.

"This provision, intended to mine what the IRS deems a vast reservoir of uncollected income tax, was included in the health care legislation ostensibly as a way to pay for it."



An article by Mike Riggs titled "New Black Panther Leader Sets Sights on Glenn Beck and the Tea Party" was posted at dailycaller.com on July 8, 2010.

It said: "Just one month after three members of the New Black Panther Party were cleared of any wrongdoing in a 2008 voter intimidation case, the organization's chairman announced that the New Black Panthers aren't done harassing people for no apparent reason."

According to the article, NBPP Chairman Malik Zulu Shabazz was quoted as saying: "[Beck] can bring his Tea Party, and we'll bring our party, and we'll see Glenn Beck."

The article continued: "Shabazz is referring to a rally that Beck will lead on August 28 at the Lincoln Memorial—the same day and place of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous 'I have a dream' speech."

The article quoted Mr. Shabazz as saying: "Glenn Beck should not be allowed to have this rally. Glenn Beck is a sneaky little devil, and he does sneaky things, and tries to portray that he's really not the neo-racist that he really is. And for him to go and to secure the Lincoln Memorial on Dr. King's birthday will meet not only opposition from civil rights leaders, but it's going to meet direct opposition from the New Black Panther Party."

The article also recalled various quotes against white people that have reportedly been attributed to Mr. Shabazz.



An editorial by Thomas Sowell titled "Race Card Fraud" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 20, 2010:

Credit card fraud is a serious problem. But race card fraud is an even bigger problem.

Playing the race card takes many forms. Judge Charles Pickering, a federal judge in Mississippi who defended the civil rights of blacks for years and defied the Ku Klux Klan back when that was dangerous, was depicted as a racist when he was nominated for a federal appellate judgeship.

No one even mistakenly thought he was a racist. The point was simply to discredit him for political reasons—and it worked.

This year's target is the Tea Party. When leading Democrats, led by a smirking Nancy Pelosi, made their triumphant walk on Capitol Hill, celebrating their passage of a bill in defiance of public opinion, Tea Party members on the scene protested.

All this was captured on camera and the scene was played on television. What was not captured on any of the cameras and other recording devices on the scene was anybody using racist language, as has been charged by those playing the race card.

When you realize how many media people were there, and how many ordinary citizens carry around recording devices of one sort or another, it is remarkable—indeed, unbelievable—that racist remarks were made and yet were not captured by anybody.

The latest attack on the Tea Party movement, by Ben Jealous of the NAACP, has once again played the race card. Like the proverbial lawyer who knows his case is weak, he shouts louder.

This is not the first time that an organization with an honorable and historic mission has eventually degenerated into a tawdry racket. But that an organization like the NAACP, after years of fighting against genuine racism, should now be playing the game of race card fraud is especially painful to see.

Some critics of the Tea Party have seized upon banners carried at one of its rallies that compared Obama with Hitler and Stalin. Extreme? Yes. But there was nothing racist about it, since extreme comparisons have been made about politicians of every race, color, creed, nationality, ideology and sexual preference.

Some Obama supporters have long regarded any criticism of him as racism.

But that they should have to resort to such a banner to bolster their case shows how desperate they are for any evidence.

Among people who voted for Barack Obama in 2008, those who are likely to be most disappointed are those who thought that they were voting for a new post-racial era. There was absolutely nothing in Obama's past to lead to any such expectation, and much to suggest the exact opposite. But the man's rhetoric and demeanor during the election campaign enabled this and many other illusions to flourish.

Still, it was an honest mistake of the kind that decent people have often made when dealing with people whose agendas are not constrained by decency, but only by what they think they can get away with.

On race, as on other issues, different people have radically different views of Barack Obama, depending on whether they judge him by what he says or by what he does.

As Obama's own books point out, he has for years cultivated a talent for saying things that people will find congenial.

You want bipartisanship and an end to bickering in Washington? He will say that he wants bipartisanship and an end to bickering in Washington. Then he will shut Republicans out of the decision-making process and respond to their suggestions by reminding them that he won the election. A famous writer—Ring Lardner, I believe—once wrote: " 'Shut up,' he explained."

You want a government that is open instead of secretive? He will say that. He will promise to post proposed legislation on the Internet long enough for everyone to read it and know what is in it before there is a vote. In practice, however, he has rushed massive bills through Congress too fast for anybody—even the members of Congress—to know what was in those bills.

Racial issues are more of the same. You want a government where all citizens are treated alike, regardless of race or ethnicity? Obama will say that. Then he will advocate appointing judges with "empathy" for particular segments of the population, such as racial minorities. "Empathy" is just a pretty word for the ugly reality of bias.

Obama's first nomination of a Supreme Court justice was a classic example of someone with "empathy" for some racial groups, but not others. As a Circuit Court judge, Sonia Sotomayor voted to dismiss a case involving white firefighters who had been denied the promotions for which they qualified, because not enough blacks or Hispanics passed the same test that they did.

A fellow Hispanic judge protested the way the white firefighters' case was dismissed, rather than adjudicated. Moreover, the Supreme Court not only took the case, it ruled in favor of the firefighters.

Obama's injecting himself into a local police matter in Massachusetts, despite admitting that he didn't know the facts, to say that a white policeman was in the wrong in arresting a black professor who was a friend of Obama was more

of the same. So is Obama's Justice Department overlooking blatant voter intimidation by thugs who happen to be black.

There is not now, nor has there ever been, anything post-racial about Barack Obama, except for the people who voted for him in the mistaken belief that he shared their desire to be post-racial. When he leaves office, especially if it is after one term, he will leave this country more racially polarized than before.

Hopefully, he may also leave the voters wiser, though sadder, after they learn from painful experience that you can't judge politicians by their rhetoric, or ignore their past because of your hopes for the future. Voters may even wise up to race card fraud.



An Associated Press article by Raphael G. Satter titled "Oliver Stone: US Should Nationalize Oil Resources" was posted at yahoo.com on July 20, 2010.

It said: "LONDON—The Gulf of Mexico oil spill shows that the United States should follow the example of South American socialists in nationalizing its energy industry, filmmaker Oliver Stone said Tuesday."

Mr. Stone was in the British capital to promote his documentary *South of the Border*, which is about Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

The article later said: "The 75-minute film is meant to draw attention to the social improvements ushered in by Chavez, who has nationalized vast swaths of Venezuela's economy, including important parts of the oil sector and big chunks of the banking, electric and steel industries. Bolivian leader Evo Morales, also interviewed by Stone for the documentary, has similarly expanded the state's control over the country's energy infrastructure."



[Eye on the World comment: From time to time, you may hear comments questioning how much influence the ideas of the Weather Underground Organization (the Weathermen) have had upon various individuals holding positions of power in the present U.S. federal government and their policies. Following is some historical information about the ideas and practices of the organization. Please be cautious about criticizing people in the federal government based upon the history of this organization.]

The following information titled "Weather Underground (organization)" was obtained from wikipedia.org on July 23, 2010:

Weatherman, known colloquially as the Weathermen and later the Weather Underground Organization (abbreviated WUO), was an American radical left organization. It originated in 1969 as a faction of Students for a Democratic

Society (SDS) composed for the most part of the national office leadership of SDS and their supporters. Their goal was to create a clandestine revolutionary party for the violent overthrow of the US government and the establishment of a dictatorship of the proletariat.

With leadership whose revolutionary positions were characterized by Black separatist rhetoric, the group conducted a campaign of bombings through the mid-1970s, including aiding the jailbreak and escape of Timothy Leary. The "Days of Rage", their first public demonstration on October 8, 1969, was a riot in Chicago timed to coincide with the trial of the Chicago Seven. In 1970 the group issued a "Declaration of a State of War" against the United States government, under the name "Weather Underground Organization" (WUO). The bombing attacks mostly targeted government buildings, along with several banks. Most were preceded by evacuation warnings, along with communiqués identifying the particular matter that the attack was intended to protest. For the bombing of the United States Capitol on March 1, 1971, they issued a communiqué saying it was "in protest of the US invasion of Laos." For the bombing of the Pentagon on May 19, 1972, they stated it was "in retaliation for the US bombing raid in Hanoi." For the January 29, 1975 bombing of the United States Department of State Building, they stated it was "in response to escalation in Vietnam."

The Weathermen grew out of the Revolutionary Youth Movement (RYM) faction of SDS. It took its name from the lyric "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," from the Bob Dylan song Subterranean Homesick Blues. You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows was the title of a position paper they distributed at an SDS convention in Chicago on June 18, 1969. This founding document called for a "white fighting force" to be allied with the "Black Liberation Movement" and other radical movements to achieve "the destruction of US imperialism and achieve a classless world: world communism."

The Weathermen largely disintegrated after the United States reached a peace accord in Vietnam in 1973, which saw the general decline of the New Left.

As a historical reference, following is an outline of the Weatherman Manifesto submitted on June 18, 1969, by Karin Asbley, Bill Ayers, Bernadine Dohrn, John Jacobs, Jeff Jones, Gerry Long, Home Machtinger, Jim Mellen, Terry Robbins, Mark Rudd and Steve Tappis.

- International Revolution
- What Is the Black Colony?
- The Struggle for Socialist Self-Determination
- Black Liberation Means Revolution
- Anti-Imperialist Revolution and the United Front

- International Strategy
- The Revolutionary Youth Movement: Class Analysis
- Why a Revolutionary Youth Movement?
- Imperialism is the Issue
- Neighborhood-Based Citywide Youth Movement
- The RYM and the Pigs
- Repression and Revolution
- The Need for a Revolutionary Party



Isaiah 55:6-11—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. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 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.