

# Eye on the World

## July 31–Aug. 1, 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 31–Aug. 1, 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.”



A Reuters article titled “French PM Declares ‘War’ on Al Qaeda After Hostage Killed” was posted at france24.com on July 27, 2010.

It said: “France is at war with al Qaeda’s North Africa branch and will intensify military support for governments in the region combating the Islamist fighters, Prime Minister Francois Fillon said on Tuesday.

“He was speaking in a radio interview a day after President Nicolas Sarkozy confirmed that a 78-year-old French hostage kidnapped in Niger and held by al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) had been killed following a failed French rescue mission.”



An article by Megan Churchmach titled “Al Qaeda No. 2 Threatens More U.S. Attacks” was posted at abcnews.com on July 27, 2010.

It said: “Al Qaeda’s second in command Ayman Al-Zawahiri has surfaced again, this time threatening more attacks against the U.S. and the West.”

The article quoted ABC News consultant Richard Clarke (former White House national security official) as saying: “U.S. government and counterterrorism officials are not going to increase their alert based on Zawahiri’s statement, because of his track record. But they’re on relatively high alert already because of the increase in homegrown terrorist threats related to al Qaeda.”



An article titled "Peru Government Declares Cold Wave Emergency in 16 Regions" was posted at laht.com (*Latin America Herald Tribune*) on July 26, 2010.

It said: "The Peruvian government declared a state of emergency because of the cold wave gripping a number of districts in the nation's 16 regions, according to an urgent decree published Saturday in the official gazette.

"The decree covers all districts of the country more than 3,000 meters (9,800 feet) above sea level, as well as three regions in the Peruvian jungle that have registered strangely low temperatures in the last few weeks."

The article mentioned that at least 409 people have died of pneumonia and ailments related to the cold weather. It is reported that 200 deaths were attributed to those 5 and younger and that 158 deaths were attributed to those more than 60 years old.



An Associated Press article by Adam Schreck titled "UAE Says BlackBerry Is Potential Security Threat" was posted at yahoo.com on July 26, 2010.

It said: "Emirati officials have declared BlackBerry smartphones a potential threat to national security because users' data is stored overseas, where local laws don't apply and where analysts say it could be harder for authorities to monitor.

"The move renews concerns about efforts by the United Arab Emirates to control the flow of information in the Gulf nation."



An article by Afyare Abdi Elmi titled "Somalia Dominates AU Summit" was posted at aljazeera.net on July 27, 2010.

It said: "African leaders, attending the 15th African Union (AU) summit in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, originally planned to focus on the health of African mothers and infants.

"But al-Shabab's July 11 attacks in Kampala and the challenges that the Somalia conflict pose for the region have now overshadowed that, shifting the summit's focus to regional and world security.

"If rhetoric is anything to go by, spirits are high among African leaders. In speech after speech they have condemned the Kampala attacks and called for immediate action against al-Shabab. Indeed, African willingness to address the conflict in Somalia seems to be gaining momentum.

"But the Somalia issue is not new. The civil war began as early as 1978. Tens of thousands of Somalis have perished and more than half of the country's population has been displaced."



An article by Ashok Sharma titled "India Tests Interceptor Missile" was posted at arabnews.com on July 26, 2010.

It said: "India on Monday successfully tested an interceptor missile capable of destroying an incoming ballistic missile, after canceling a launch earlier this year due to technical glitches, an official said."



An article titled "Burma's Than Shwe Welcomed in Delhi" was posted at bbc.co.uk on July 27, 2010.

It said: "Reclusive Burmese junta leader General Than Shwe has received a red carpet welcome in the Indian capital on a state visit condemned by rights groups.

"He met Indian PM Manmohan Singh in Delhi on a rare five-day trip that aims to deepen the economic and strategic ties between the two nations."



An Associated Press article by Mansur Mirovalev titled "Medvedev Widens Powers of KGB Successor Agency" was posted at myway.com on July 29, 2010.

It said: "Russia has broadened the authority of the Federal Security Service, the KGB's main successor agency, giving it Soviet-style repressive powers in a move critics say could be used to stifle protests and intimidate government opponents.

"Russian President Emity Medvedev signed a law Thursday allowing the agency, known by its initials FSB, to issue warnings or detain people suspected of preparing to commit crimes against Russia's security—which could include participating in anti-government rallies. Perpetrators face fines or up to 15 days' detention."



An article by Joe McDonald titled "China Promises Bigger Private Role In Industry" was posted at arabnews.com on July 26, 2010.

It said: "China's Cabinet promised private investors a bigger role in industries from oil drilling to finance, apparently responding to complaints that state companies were boosted by Beijing's huge stimulus while private enterprise withered in the global crisis."



An article by Guy Dinmore and Eleonora de Sabata in Rome titled "BP Set for Deep-Water Drilling off Libya" was posted at ft.com (*Financial Times*) on July 23, 2010.

It said: "BP will start deep-water drilling off the coast of Libya within weeks in spite of concerns about the UK group's environmental and safety record after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster."

It later said: "At 1,700 metres below sea-level in Libya's Gulf of Sirte, the well will be 200 metres deeper than the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico which triggered the worst US offshore oil spill disaster when the *Deepwater Horizon* rig exploded on April 20, killing 11 people."



An article by Jeffrey Kofman titled "BP Oil Spill: Clean-Up Crews Can't Find Crude in the Gulf" was posted at abcnews.com on July 26, 2010.

It said: "For 86 days, oil spewed into the Gulf of Mexico from BP's damaged well, dumping some 200 million gallons of crude into sensitive ecosystems. BP and the federal government have amassed an army to clean the oil up, but there's one problem—they're having trouble finding it.

"At its peak last month, the oil slick was the size of Kansas, but it has been rapidly shrinking, now down to the size of New Hampshire."

It said later: "The numbers don't lie: two weeks ago, skimmers picked up about 25,000 barrels of oily water. Last Thursday [July 22], they gathered 200 barrels."



An article titled "No Survivors as Pakistan Plane Crash Kills 152" was posted at bbc.co.uk on July 28, 2010.

It said: "An airliner has crashed near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, killing all 152 people on board.

"The plane, a domestic flight from Karachi operated by the private company Airblue, came down in hills just north of the city as it was about to land."



An article by Mark Mazzetti, Jane Perlez, Eric Schmitt and Andrew W. Lehren titled "Pakistan Aids Insurgency in Afghanistan, Reports Assert" was posted at nytimes.com (*The New York Times*) on July 25, 2010.

It said: "Americans fighting the war in Afghanistan have long harbored strong suspicions that Pakistan's military spy service has guided the Afghan insurgency with a hidden hand, even as Pakistan receives more than \$1 billion a year from Washington for its help combating the militants, according to a trove of secret military field reports made public Sunday.

"The documents, made available by an organization called WikiLeaks, suggest that Pakistan, an ostensible ally of the United States, allows representatives of its spy service to meet directly with the Taliban in secret strategy sessions to organize networks of militant groups that fight against American soldiers in Afghanistan, and even hatch plots to assassinate Afghan leaders."



An article by George Friedman titled "WikiLeaks and the Afghan War" was posted at stratfor.com on July 27, 2010.

It said: "Let's step back and consider the conflict dispassionately. The United States forced the Taliban from power. It never defeated the Taliban nor did it make a serious effort to do so, as that would require massive resources the United States doesn't have. Afghanistan is a secondary issue for the United States, especially since al Qaeda has established bases in a number of other countries, particularly Pakistan, making the occupation of Afghanistan irrelevant to fighting al Qaeda.

"For Pakistan, however, Afghanistan is an area of fundamental strategic interest. The region's main ethnic group, the Pashtun, stretch across the Afghan-Pakistani border. Moreover, were a hostile force present in Afghanistan, as one was during the Soviet occupation, Pakistan would face threats in the west as well as the challenge posed by India in the east. For Pakistan, an Afghanistan under Pakistani influence or at least a benign Afghanistan is a matter of overriding strategic importance.

"It is therefore irrational to expect the Pakistanis to halt collaboration with the force that they expect to be a major part of the government of Afghanistan when the United States leaves . . .

"Given that they don't expect the Taliban to be defeated, and given that they are not interested in chaos in Afghanistan, it follows that they will maintain close relations with and support for the Taliban. Given that the United States is powerful and is Pakistan's only lever against India, the Pakistanis will not make this their public policy, however. The United States has thus created a situation in which the only rational policy for Pakistan is two-tiered, consisting of overt opposition to the Taliban and covert support for the Taliban."

It later said: "Since a stable Pakistan is more important to the United States than a victory in Afghanistan—which it wasn't going to get anyway—the United States released pressure [upon Pakistan] and increased aid. If Pakistan collapsed, then India would be the sole regional power, not something the United States wants."



A Reuters article by Dan Williams titled "German Drone Pilots Eye Afghanistan . . . From Israel" was posted at alertnet.org on July 27, 2010.

It said: "Worried by insurgent ambushes on its soldiers in Afghanistan and return fire that sometimes kills civilians or local allies, Germany last year

ordered a small fleet of Israeli Heron spy drones designed to provide real-time images above a battlefield.

"That has brought German jet pilots to coastal Ein Shemer air base for accelerated retraining on the unmanned propeller planes, already daubed with their flag and Iron Cross emblem."

It later said: "Israel is a pioneer of combat drones, having deployed them in Lebanon in the Palestinian territories. Heron's manufacturer, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), says it is also used by Canadian, French and Australian forces in Afghanistan.

"Yet the fact Israeli know-how may now be saving German military lives offers up a unique historical irony lost on none."



An Associated Press article titled "Ex-CIA Chief: Strike on Iran Seems More Likely Now" was posted at yahoo.com on July 25, 2010.

The article said that Michael Hayden, a CIA chief under George W. Bush, said "military action against Iran now seems more likely because, no matter what the U.S. does diplomatically, Tehran keeps pushing ahead with its suspected nuclear program."



An article titled "Ahmadinejad Lashes Out at Russia" was posted at jpost.com (*The Jerusalem Post*) on July 24, 2010.

It said: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused Russian President Dmitry Medvedev of turning against Teheran and joining US efforts to spread lies about its nuclear program on Friday [July 23], in the latest sign that Iran is drifting apart from a one-time key backer."

It said later: "Russia is in a difficult position in the international standoff with Iran, in part because it does not want to jeopardize decades of political and trade ties with the country. Still, Moscow has lately shown increasing frustration with Iran, and last month backed the new sanctions."



A Reuters article by Robin Pomeroy titled "Ahmadinejad Says Expects U.S. to Attack MidEast Soon" was posted at yahoo.com on July 27, 2010.

It said: "Iran expects the United States to launch a military strike on 'at least two countries' in the Middle East in the next three months, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told state-run Press TV.

"In an interview recorded on Monday, Ahmadinejad did not specify whether he thought Iran would be attacked nor did he say what intelligence led him to expect such a move."



An article titled "Syrian and Saudi Leaders Pledge Support for Lebanon" was posted at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) on July 29, 2010.

It said: "Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia have pledged to work together to help stabilise Lebanon."



An article titled "Gaza Is a Prison Camp, Says David Cameron" was posted at [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk) on July 27, 2010.

It said: "David Cameron has described Gaza as a 'prison camp' and appealed to the Israeli Government to allow the free flow of humanitarian goods and people in and out of the Palestinian territory."

Mr. Cameron's comments came during a visit to Turkey.



An article by Sarah Lyall titled "Britain Plans to Decentralize Health Care" was posted at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) on July 24, 2010.

It said: "Even as the new coalition government said it would make enormous cuts in the public sector, it initially promised to leave health care alone. But, in one of its most surprising moves so far, it has done the opposite, proposing what would be the most radical reorganization of the National Health Service, as the system is called, since its inception in 1948."



An article by Patrick Cockburn titled "Toxic Legacy of US Assault on Fallujah 'Worse Than Hiroshima' " was posted at [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) (*The Independent*) on July 24, 2010.

It said: "Dramatic increases in infant mortality, cancer and leukemia in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which was bombarded by US Marines in 2004, exceed those reported by survivors of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, according to a new study."



An article by Karen Mracek and Thomas Beaumont titled "Goldman Reveals Where Bailout Cash Went" was posted at [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) on July 24, 2010.

It posted "an examination of how the government says Goldman Sachs defrauded investors."

The article said: "Goldman Sachs sent \$4.3 billion in federal tax money to 32 entities, including many overseas banks, hedge funds and pensions, according to information made public Friday night [July 23]."



An Associated Press article by Larry Margasak and Laurie Kellman titled "Panel Hits Rangel With 13 Ethics Charges" was posted at yahoo.com on July 29, 2010.

It said: "House investigators accused veteran New York Rep. Charles Rangel of 13 violations of congressional ethics standards on Thursday, throwing a cloud over his four-decade political career and raising worries for fellow Democrats about the fall elections.



An article by Timothy P. Carney titled "K Street Goes to the Defense of Charlie Rangel" was posted at examiner.com on July 28, 2010.

It said: "Two of the three firms providing legal counsel to Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., in his pending ethics cases are lobbying firms. In fact, one firm, Oldaker, Belair & Wittie, conducts much of Rangel's political fundraising, while operating four different lobby shops."



An article titled "Shirley Sherrod Says She'll Sue Andrew Breitbart" was posted at cbsnews.com on July 29, 2010.

It said: "Ousted Agriculture Department employee Shirley Sherrod said Thursday she will sue a conservative blogger [Andrew Breitbart] who posted a video edited in a way that made her appear racist."



An article by Peter Slevin titled "Deportation of Illegal Immigrants Increases Under Obama Administration" was posted at washingtonpost.com on July 25, 2010.

It said: "The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency expects to deport about 400,000 people this fiscal year, nearly 10 percent above the Bush administration's 2008 total and 25 percent more than were deported in 2007. The pace of company audits has roughly quadrupled since President George W. Bush's final year in office."

It later said: "The Obama administration has been moving away from using work-site raids to target employers. Just 765 undocumented workers have been arrested at their jobs this fiscal year, compared with 5,100 in 2008, according to Department of Homeland Security figures. Instead, officers have increased employer audits, studying the employee documentation of 2,875 companies suspected of hiring illegal workers and assessing \$6.4 million in fines."



An editorial by Charles Krauthammer titled "Obama's Next Act" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 16, 2010.

It said: "I have a warning for Republicans. Don't underestimate Barack Obama."

Dr. Krauthammer mentioned three large actions that the president has already achieved—Obamacare; a major financial reform; and the near \$1 trillion stimulus ("the largest spending bill in U.S. history.")

It later said: "But Obama's most far-reaching accomplishment is his structural alteration of the U.S. budget."

It later said: "The net effect of 18 months of Obamaism will be to undo much of Reaganism. Both presidencies were highly ideological, grandly ambitious and often underappreciated by their own side. In the early years, Reagan was bitterly attacked from his right . . . Obama is attacked from his left for insufficient zeal on gay rights, immigration reform, closing Guantanamo—the list is long. The critics don't understand the big picture. Obama's transformational agenda is a play with two acts.

"Act One is over . . . The rest of the first term will be spent consolidating these gains (writing the regulations, for example) and preparing for Act Two.

"That's why there's so much tension between Obama and congressional Democrats. For Obama, 2010 matters little. If Democrats lose control of one or both houses, Obama will probably have an easier time in 2012, just as Bill Clinton used Newt Gingrich and the Republicans as the foil for his 1996 reelection campaign.

"Obama is down, but it's very early in the play. Like Reagan, he came here to do things. And he's done much in his first 500 days. What he has left to do he knows must await his next 500 days—those that come after reelection.

"The real prize is 2012. Obama sees far, farther than even his own partisans. Republicans underestimate him at their peril."



An editorial by Charles Krauthammer titled "Beware the Dems' Lame-Duck Agenda" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 16, 2010.

It said: "Barack Obama's considerable political capital, earned on Election Day 2008, is spent. Well spent, mind you, on the enactment of a highly ideological agenda of ObamaCare, financial reform and near trillion-dollar stimulus that will significantly transform the country . . .

"That's why, as I suggested last week, nothing of major legislative consequence is likely to occur for the next 2½ years. Except, as columnist Irwin Stelzer points out, for one constitutional loophole: a lame-duck Congress called back into session between the elections this November and the swearing in of the 112th Congress next January.

“Leading Democrats are already considering this as a way to achieve even more liberal measures that many of their members dare not even talk about, let alone enact, on the eve of an election in which they face a widespread popular backlash to the already enacted elements of the Obama-Pelosi-Reid agenda.”

The article later mentioned that in a lame-duck session “they could then vote for anything—including measures they today shun as the midterms approach and their seats are threatened—because they would have nothing to lose. They would be unemployed. And playing along with Obama might even brighten the prospects for, say, an ambassadorship to a sunny Caribbean isle.

“As John Fund reports in *The Wall Street Journal*, Sens. Jay Rockefeller, Kent Conrad and Tom Harkin are already looking forward to what they might get passed in a lame-duck session.

“Among the major items being considered are card-check, budget-balancing though major tax hikes and climate-changing legislation involving heavy carbon taxes and regulation.”

It later said: “It’s a target-rich environment. The only thing holding the Democrats back would be shame, a Washington commodity in chronically short supply.”

It later said: “How then to prevent a runaway lame-duck Congress? Bring the issue up now—applying the check-and-balance of the people’s will before it disappears the morning after Election Day.

“Every current member should be publicly asked: In the event you lose in November—a remote and deeply deplorable eventuality, but still not inconceivable—do you pledge to adhere to the will of the electorate and, in any lame-duck session of Congress, refuse to approve anything but the most routine legislation required to keep the government functioning?

“The Democrats could, of course, make the pledge today and break it tomorrow. Call me naive, but I can’t believe anyone would be that dishonorable.”



An article titled “Senator Kerry Says Democrats May Take Up Broad Climate Plan (Transcript)” was posted at [bloomberg.com](http://bloomberg.com) on July 23, 2010.

It said: “Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts said in an interview on Bloomberg Television’s ‘Political Capital with Al Hunt’ airing this weekend [July 24–25] that Democrats still may take up a comprehensive climate-change plan after the November elections.”



An article titled “Democrats Keep Door Open to Dangerous Lame Duck Session” was posted at [rsc.tomprice.house.gov](http://rsc.tomprice.house.gov) on July 29, 2010.

Republican Study Committee chairman Tom Price (R.-Ga.) offered the a resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives concerning a potential lame-duck session. July 29.

The article said, "Instead of taking a clear stand on this issue, House Democrats chose to delay a vote on the Price resolution." The following is its conclusion:

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

"(1) reaffirms the principle expressed in the Declaration of Independence that governments '[derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed';

"(2) recognizes the fundamental importance of trust existing between the American people and their elected officials;

"(3) confirms that adhering to the will of the people is imperative to upholding public trust;

"(4) states that the American people deserve to know where their current elected officials stand on key legislative issues before Election Day;

"(5) states that delaying controversial, unpopular votes until after the election gives false impressions to voters and deliberately hides the true intentions of the majority, while denying voters the ability to make fully informed choices on Election Day; and

"(6) pledges not to assemble on or between the dates of November 2, 2010, and January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emergency requiring immediate action from Congress."



An article by Tom Curry titled "Discouraged, Progressives Look Beyond Obama" was posted at msnbc.com on July 26, 2010.

It said: "Progressives helped elect President Barack Obama, but some of those who gathered in Las Vegas for the annual Netroots Nation convention over the weekend were less than thrilled with his performance so far."

The article included a "list of letdowns for progressives."

- The failure to secure a public option in the health-care-reform law.
- The failure to secure an Obama executive order barring use of funds under the law to pay for abortions.
- The escalation of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.
- The continued operation of the prison at Guantanamo.
- The continued operation of "Obama's Guantanamo"—the detention center at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

- No progress on passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to protect gay employees.
- Increased deportations of illegal immigrants.
- The decision to abandon the push for a comprehensive immigration-reform bill.
- The firing of “green jobs” adviser Van Jones, who gave one of the keynote speeches to Netroots Nation.
- Mr. Obama’s support of Sen. Blanch Lincoln in the Arkansas Senate primary over Netroots favorite Bill Halter earlier this year.

Here are some of the quotes from delegates at the convention about Barack Obama.

- “He’s been conciliatory when he need not be.”
- “I’ve been disappointed; I wanted more courage.”
- “I think sometimes there’s too much emphasis on compromise.”
- “He was a moderate candidate. I knew that.”

The article later said: “Some rank-and-file progressives are taking the long view.”

The article quoted Travis Ballie, a recent American University graduate, as saying: “We’re less concerned about whether or not we keep control [of the House and Senate in November], and more concerned about the long term; not just one election, but the next three decades. And how we can use this election—regardless of whether we win or lose the House—to create progressive infrastructure for the future.”

The article quoted Andrew Grange as saying: “The country will become more progressive over time simply because of the demographics. I’m optimistic that over the next decade this trend toward progressivism is going to increase.”



**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.