

Eye on the World

Aug. 7-8, 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 Aug. 7-8, 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 titled "Japan Tanker Was Damaged in a Terror Attack, UAE Says" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 6, 2010.

It said: "A Japanese tanker damaged last week in the Strait of Hormuz near Oman was the target of a terrorist attack, the United Arab Emirates state-run news agency has said.

"It said remains of home-made explosives had been found on the hull of the *M Star*, which was damaged last week while traveling from Qatar to Japan.

"Two days ago, an al-Qaeda-linked group said it was responsible. Officials previously said the ship may have been involved in a collision."



A Reuters article titled "President Ahmadinejad Unscathed After Explosion Near Convoy" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad emerged unhurt after an explosion went off near his convoy on Wednesday. According to some reports, the explosion was caused by a homemade explosive device while others say it was caused by a firecracker."



An article titled "US Charges 14 Citizens for Aiding Somalia's Shebab Militants" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 5, 2010.

It said: "Fourteen people, including several US citizens, were indicted on charges of aiding the Shebab, a Somali-based Islamist group linked to Al-Qaeda, US Attorney General Eric Holder announced Thursday.

"Some of those charged are believed to be in Somalia fighting for the Shebab, which has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in Uganda last month."



An article by Rodrigo Orihuela titled "Argentina Has Colder Winter Than Antarctica, Spurring Record Power Imports" was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 3, 2010.

It said: "Argentina is importing record amounts of energy as the coldest winter in 40 years drives up demand and causes natural-gas shortages, prompting Dow Chemical Co. and steelmaker Siderar SAIC to scale back production."

It later said: "Argentina is bracing for a renewed polar front this month."



An article titled "Moscow Chokes Under a Blanket of Smog as Wildfires Rage Out of Control in Russian Heatwave" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Aug. 6, 2010.

The article said that Moscow continues to be "shrouded in dense smog today as wildfires that have killed 50 people nationwide continue to burn."

It said: "Flights at international airports have been grounded and visibility in the capital is down to a few dozen yards as the fires continue to tear through forests and villages.

"The massive blaze has caused airborne pollutants, including carbon monoxide, to be four times higher than average—the worst seen to date in Moscow.

"Russians wore protective face masks as dozens of forest and peat bog fires around the city continued to burn, fanned by south-easterly winds and the country's most intense heat wave in 130 years.

"More than 500 separate blazes are active today, mainly across Russia's European territory, according to the Emergencies Ministry."



An article titled "Russia Moves Radioactive Material From Nuclear Site" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Russian authorities have been forced to remove radioactive material from a top secret nuclear research facility to protect it from encroaching wildfires, the country's nuclear chief said Wednesday."



An article titled "Ban on Wheat Exports Sends Global Prices Skyrocketing" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 6, 2010.

It said: "Russia's decision to ban wheat exports for the rest of 2010 after a drought that destroyed one-fifth of the country's crop sent prices soaring Thursday to the highest level in two years. Wheat prices have risen more than 80 percent since early June."



An article titled "Iran Stoning Lawyer Requests Asylum in Turkey: UN" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "The lawyer of an Iranian woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery is in Turkey and has requested asylum, the UN refugee agency said Wednesday.

"The lawyer, Mohammad Mostafaie, had been missing since July 24 when Iranian police went to his office to execute an arrest warrant and failed to find him."



An article titled "Kenya Votes in Referendum on New Constitution" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Kenyans are voting in a referendum on a new constitution, the centerpiece of measures designed to reform politics. It limits the powers of the president and sets up a commission to settle land disputes that fuelled violence in the past."



An article titled "IMF Says Romania on Track to Access Aid Funds" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Recession-hit Romania is on track to be granted the latest tranche of a 20-billion-euro aid package after government moves to curb the deficit, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday."



An article by Rowena Mason titled "Forget Stealing Lead off Church Roofs, Copper Thieves Up the Ante With Chainsaws" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 3, 2010.

It said: "Thieves are used to taking a few risks to steal lead off church roofs. However, the soaring prices of copper has seen them amping up the danger level as they steal power lines humming with thousands of volts.

"According to E.ON, the electricity supplier, criminals armed with chainsaws have cut down 14 wooden poles that carry the copper wires in the past week, leaving thousands of customers across the Midlands without power."



An article titled "BlackBerry 'Will Not Let India Monitor Messages' " was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "The maker of BlackBerry insisted on Wednesday it would not allow the Indian government to monitor encrypted emails but said it hoped for a rapid solution to recent concerns over national security.

"BlackBerry's woes in India, one of its biggest markets, come as Saudi Arabia announced a suspension of BlackBerry operations starting Friday because security agencies cannot monitor messages."



An article by Aiden Lewis titled "Europe Breaking Electronic Waste Export Ban" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Old televisions and computers containing hazardous substances are still being exported from Europe despite a ban aimed at stopping the trade, which poisons workers at makeshift recycling plants in Africa and Asia."



An Associated Press article by Arthur Max titled "UN Panel: New Taxes Needed for a Climate Fund" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 5, 2010.

It said: "Carbon taxes, add-ons to international air fares and a levy on cross-border money movements are among ways being considered by a panel of the world's economists to raise a staggering \$100 billion a year to fight climate change."

It later said: "A climate summit held in Copenhagen in December was determined to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poor countries adapt to climate change and reduce emissions of carbon dioxide trapping the sun's heat. But the 120 world leaders who met in the Danish capital offered no ideas on how to raise that sum—\$1 trillion every decade—prompting [U.N. Secretary-General] Ban [Ki-moon] to appoint his high-level advisory group . . .

"The advisory panel, which began working in March, will present its final report to Ban in October, a month before the decisive climate conference convenes in Cancun, Mexico."



An article titled "Assad: Chances of War 'Increasing' " was posted at aljazeera.net on Aug. 2, 2010.

It said: "Bashar al Assad, the Syrian president, has warned that 'the possibility of war is increasing' in the region."

It later said: "Israel and the Lebanese group Hezbollah have traded increasingly hostile rhetoric in recent weeks, raising fears that the two are headed for another round of war."



An article titled "Troops Die in Israel-Lebanon Clash" was posted at aljazeera.net on Aug. 3, 2010.

It said: "At least three Lebanese and one Israeli soldier have been killed during an exchange of rocket and gunfire along the border between the two countries."



An article titled "Israeli Troops 'on Own Side' in Lebanon Clash, UN Says" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "The UN peacekeeping force says Israeli soldiers were operating on their own side of the border when fighting broke out with Lebanese troops on Tuesday. Clashes erupted when Israeli troops tried to cut down a tree that both sides claimed was in their territory."



An article titled "Egypt Blames Palestinian Factions for Rocket Attacks" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Egypt said on Wednesday that 'Palestinian factions' were behind this week's rocket attacks on Israel and Jordan, the MENA news agency reported, apparently implying the rockets were fired from the Sinai peninsula."



An article by Rowan Scarborough titled "Bombers, Missiles Could End Iran Nukes" was posted at washingtontimes.com on Aug. 2, 2010.

It said: "A Pentagon strike against Iran would rely heavily on the B-52 bomber and cruise missiles to try to destroy the regime's ability to make nuclear weapons, analysts say, after the top U.S. military officer [Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] said a war plan is in place."



An article titled "US Military Chief Admits to Iran Attack Plan" was posted at breitbart.com on Aug. 1, 2010.

It said: "The top military officer [Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] says he has a plan to attack Iran if needed to prevent it from getting nuclear weapons, but is 'extremely concerned' about the possible repercussions of such a strike."

The article quoted Adm. Mullens as saying that military action against Iran could have "unintended consequences that are difficult to predict in what is an incredibly unstable part of the world."



A Reuters article titled "Pakistan's Zardari Says War With Taliban Being Lost" was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 3, 2010.

It said: "Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari warned that the international community was losing the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan, according to an interview published on Tuesday."



An article titled "Pakistan's Flooding Sweeps South" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 6, 2010.

It said: "The worst monsoon rains in 80 years are continuing to sweep from the north-west to south and central Pakistan . . .

"Pakistani authorities have evacuated 500,000 people in 11 districts of Sindh and issued warnings to people in low-lying areas of the Indus river.

"Flooding has submerged whole villages in the past week, killing about 1,600 people and affecting another 4.5m.

"There is mounting anger at the absence of President Asif Ali Zardari, who left the country for a state visit to Britain to meet the UK Prime Minister David Cameron."



An article titled "Pakistan President Under Attack Over Europe Trip" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Zardari is now under growing pressure to go back to Pakistan and lead the country's response to devastating floods in northwest and central Pakistan which have killed up to 1,500 people [and] affected over three million."

It later said: "The trip was labelled a 'joy ride' by one flood survivor, and a number of British lawmakers of Pakistani origin have pulled out of a planned lunch with Zardari Thursday."



An editorial by Andrea Tantaros titled "Material Girl Michelle Obama Is a Modern-Day Marie Antoinette on a Glitzy Spanish Vacation" was posted at nydailynews.com on Aug. 5, 2010.

It said: "Sacrifice is something that many Americans are becoming all too familiar with during this economic downturn. It was a key theme in President Obama's inaugural address to the nation, and he's referenced it numerous times when lecturing the country on how to get back on its feet.

"But while most of the country is pinching pennies and downsizing summer sojourns—or forgoing them altogether—the Obamas don't seem to be heeding their own advice. While many of us are struggling, the First Lady is spending the next few days in a five-star hotel on the chic Costa del Sol in southern Spain with 40 of her 'closest friends' . . . Estimated room rate per night? Up to a staggering \$2,500. Method of transportation? Air Force Two.

"To be clear, what the Obamas do with their money is one thing; what they do with ours is another. Transporting and housing the estimated 70 Secret Service agents who will flank the material girl will cost the taxpayers a pretty penny."

It later said: "The Obama modus operandi is becoming clear. From lavish trips to Spain to reportedly flying Bo, the President's Portuguese water dog, on a separate aircraft to vacation with them in Maine, to a date night in New York City that perhaps cost nearly \$100,000, their idea of austerity is really just the lap of luxury, at least for ordinary folks. Incredibly, the Obamas have long portrayed themselves as precisely such commoners."

It later said: "For a couple that has sharply criticized former President George W. Bush so widely, they could stand to follow his example for once and select a more low-key locale, as Bush regularly did in his Texas vacations.

"Instead, Michelle Obama seems more like a modern-day Marie Antoinette—the French queen who spent extravagantly on clothes and jewels without a thought for her subjects' plight."

It later said: "I don't begrudge anyone rest and relaxation when they work hard. We all need downtime—the First Family included. It's the extravagance of Michelle Obama's trip and glitzy destination contrasted with President Obama's demonization of the rich that smacks of hypocrisy and perpetuates a disconnect between the country and its leaders."



An article by Martin Chulov in Baghdad titled "Tariq Aziz: 'Britain and the US Killed Iraq, I Wish I Was Martyred' " was posted at guardian.co.uk on Aug. 5, 2010.

In the article Mr. Aziz acknowledged that he was "a member of the Revolutionary Command Council, a leader of the Ba'ath party, deputy prime minister and foreign minister."

It said: "However, he claims that he was powerless to stymie the will of the leader he served, and that none of the blood on the regime's hands was also on his . . .

"Aziz is serving a 15-year sentence for one conviction for a crime against humanity, but faces many more charges. He claims he is being convicted because of guilt by association, and that he is nothing other than an Arab nationalist loyalist."

Mr. Aziz expressed a negative view about George W. Bush and Tony Blair. The article quoted him as saying: "Bush and Blair lied intentionally. They were both pro-Zionist. They wanted to destroy Iraq for the sake of Israel, not for the sake of the US and Britain."

Concerning the supposed weapons of massed destruction, the article said: "When asked why Saddam kept the US guessing about his weapons programme, he confirmed the dictator's account to his captors that he had been playing to Iran, not to the west."

The article quoted Mr. Aziz as saying: "Partially, it was about Iran [the deterrent factor]. They had waged war on us for eight years so we Iraqis had a right to deter them. Saddam was a proud man. He had to defend the dignity of Iraq. He had to show that he was not wrong or weak.

"Iran was our biggest enemy. We had to defy them whatever the cost. Now Iran is building a weapons programme. Everybody knows it and nobody is doing anything. Why?"

The article later said: "Aziz has a perhaps surprising request of the US commander-in-chief, whom he initially welcomed as a clean break from George W. Bush. Aziz now wants the occupation to continue."

The article quoted Mr. Aziz as saying: "He [Barack Obama] cannot leave us like this. He is leaving Iraq to the wolves. When you make a mistake, you need to correct a mistake, not leave Iraq to its death."



An article titled "France to Dismantle Half of All Illegal Itinerant Camps" was posted at france24.com on July 28, 2010.

It said: "France's Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux announced Wednesday that half the country's illegal 'traveling people' and Roma camps would be dismantled within three months, and that any caught breaking the law would be deported."



An article titled "Sarkozy Looks to Strip Citizenship From Those Who Threaten Police" was posted at france24.com on July 30, 2010.

It said: "President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Friday [July 30] that he would look into stripping French citizenship from anyone of foreign origin who 'threatened the life of a police officer' following a spate of riots around Grenoble earlier this month."



An article by Lizzy Davies titled "French Police Breakup of Immigrant Squat Brings Storm of Protest" was posted at guardian.co.uk on Aug. 2, 2010.

It said: "Footage of French police using apparently excessive force while breaking up an immigrant squat has prompted outrage as activists and intellectuals accuse Nicolas Sarkozy of pursuing policies that target the vulnerable while giving free rein to the police."



An article titled "Virginia AG Rules Officers Can Check Immigration Status" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 2, 2010.

It said: "Virginia's top prosecutor, after issuing a legal opinion that seemed to align his state with Arizona in the battle over local immigration enforcement, told Fox News on Monday that the two states' policies aren't a perfect match.

"Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli issued a legal opinion Friday [July 30] saying state law enforcement officers are allowed to check the immigration status of anyone 'stopped or arrested.' "

It later said: "In an interview with Fox News's Greta Van Susteren, Cuccinelli underscored that in Virginia pursuing immigration offenses is up to the officers—not required, as it is under Arizona's controversial immigration law."



An editorial by Burt Prelutsky titled "Money, Mosques and Monkey Business" was posted at burtprelutsky.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "By this time I'm sure you've all heard Senators Coburn and McCain reporting on all the goofy nonsense that has been financed by Obama's trillion-dollar stimulus bill. But, in case you missed the announcement, some of the items were new windows for a tourist center that's been closed since 2007 and that nobody plans to reopen; a study of grandparent roles in Alaska; international ant research; repairing a sidewalk that leads to a ditch in Boynton, Okla.; \$760,000 to study improvised music; \$200,000 to help Siberian communities lobby Russian policy makers; and \$700,000 to study why monkeys respond negatively to inequity.

"As with all federal boondoggles, you don't know whether to laugh or cry. But that's what happens when politicians get to spend other people's money. For them, it's play money, just a variation on Monopoly. When the dough isn't

coming out of your own pocket, it isn't real. Who, after all, gives a second thought to building hotels on Park Place and Boardwalk?

"The obvious fact about the stimulus bill is that the money didn't go, as the administration claimed it would, towards creating shovel-ready jobs. Obama promised that, if the bill were passed, unemployment wouldn't reach 8 percent. So Pelosi and Reid did what they do best, which is to give their congressional colleagues the choice of taking a bribe or getting a beating, and managed to get the bill passed. Then, as anyone who's not a liberal could have told you, two things happened. One, the unemployment rate hit 10 percent; two, Obama blamed Bush."

In the article, Mr. Prelutsky described the difference between million, billion and trillion.

Then he continued: "Now, before your head explodes, it means that instead of blowing it on all those goofy pork projects, Obama could have sent 20 million American taxpayers checks for \$50,000. Or he could have sent 100 million of us checks for \$10,000. I can assure you that those checks would have stimulated the economy a hell of a lot more than blowing it on angry monkeys and funding Siberian malcontents."



An editorial by Peggy Noonan titled "America Is At Risk of Boiling Over" (with subtitle "And Out-of-Touch Leaders Don't See the Need to Cool Things Off") was posted at wsj.com on Aug. 6, 2010.

It said: "The biggest political change in my lifetime is that Americans no longer assume that their children will have it better than they did. This is a huge break with the past, with assumptions and traditions that shaped us.

"The country I was born into was a country that had existed steadily, for almost two centuries, as a nation in which everyone thought—wherever they were from, whatever their circumstances—that their children would have better lives than they did."

It later said: "They [parents] look around, follow the political stories and debates, and deep down they think their children will live in a more limited country, that jobs won't be made at a great enough pace, that taxes—too many people in the cart, not enough pulling it—will dishearten them, that the effects of 30 years of a low, sad culture will leave the whole country messed up. And then there is the world: nuts with nukes, etc."

It later said: "But do political leaders have any sense of what people are feeling deep down? They don't act as if they do. I started noticing in the 1980s the growing gulf between the country's thought leaders, as they're called—the political and media class, the universities—and those living what for lack of a better word we'll call normal lives on the ground in America. The two groups were agitated by different things, concerned about different things, had different focuses, different world views.

"But I've never seen the gap wider than it is now. I think it is a chasm. In Washington they don't seem to be looking around and thinking, *Hmmm, this nation is in trouble, it needs help.* They're thinking something else. I'm not sure they understand the American Dream itself needs a boost, needs encouragement and protection. They don't seem to know or have a sense of the mood of the country.

"And so they make their moves, manipulate this issue and that, and keep things at a high boil. And this at a time when people are already in about as much hot water as they can take."

[Eye on the World comment: Not seeing the mood is bad enough. Do you realize how perverse it would be if the leaders are willingly creating the mood for their own gain?]

The article concluded: "When the adults of a great nation feel long-term pessimism, it only makes matters worse when those in authority take actions that reveal their detachment from the concerns—even from the essential nature—of their fellow citizens. And it makes those citizens feel powerless.

"Inner pessimism and powerlessness: That is a dangerous combination."



An Associated Press article by Larry Margasak titled "Democrats Declare Swamp of Corruption Drained" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 3, 2010.

It quoted Speaker Nancy Pelosi describing the end of the Republican rule in the House that ended in January 2007 as saying: "Drain the swamp we did, because this was a terrible place."

The article said: "Pelosi's statement might seem odd, but it's an emerging strategy: Separate Democratic-initiated ethics reforms from the cases of Reps. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Maxine Waters, D-Calif."



An article by John McCormick titled "Obama Returns to Illinois for U.S. Senate Campaign Dominated by Scandals" was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 5, 2010.

It said: "President Barack Obama, who left Chicago promising hope and change, appears in his adopted hometown today to raise money for a U.S. Senate candidate amid reminders of the difficulty of getting away from the tarnish of a place renowned for its political corruption.

"Obama's speech at a downtown hotel for Alexi Giannoulias, the Democrat seeking the seat he once held, will be two blocks from the federal courthouse where jurors are weighing the fate of Rod Blagojevich. The former Illinois governor stands accused of trying to sell the Senate post to the highest bidder."



An article by David A. Lieb titled "Mo. Voters Reject Key Provision of Health Care Law" was posted at myway.com on Aug. 4, 2010.

It said: "Missouri voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly rejected a key provision of President Barack Obama's health care law, sending a clear message of discontent to Washington and Democrats less than 100 days before the midterm elections.

"About 71 percent of Missouri voters backed a ballot measure, Proposition C, that would prohibit the government from requiring people to have health insurance or from penalizing them for not having it."



An article by Joe Garofoli, John Wildermuth and Demian Bulwa titled "Prop 8 Judge Strikes Down Same-Sex Marriage Ban" was posted at sfgate.com (*San Francisco Chronicle*) on Aug. 5, 2010.

The article mentioned that Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker struck down Proposition 8 (which was California's ban on same-sex marriage) on Wednesday.

The article quoted Douglas Napier of the Alliance Defense Fund of Scottsdale, Ariz. (an attorney who defended Prop 8), as saying: "Those that want to uphold traditional family values are going to be outraged. The whole nation is watching, and the whole nation should be quaking to think that a single judge sitting in California can reverse the will of 7 million voters."



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.