Michael G. Maness Christian Life

New Bethel Christian Life Report - August 2014

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Quote of the Day



Christians Under Attack

By Michael G. Maness

FOX news gave a lot to Christians "under attack." What can we do? Pray. Yes ... then what? As a true believer in religious freedom, even the holiness of freedom of conscience as the route to truly sincere devotion, has democracy allowed this to happen in Iraq? I think not.

Last Friday, Aug. 15, at 6 p.m., <u>Greta Van Susteren</u> aired a special "Christians Under Attack" (Dish ch. 205). Wondering like the rest of the world – *when* would the "peaceful" Arab Muslims weigh in? Saudi Arabia just gave \$500 million to help refugees in Iraq. About time, but they cannot *buy* their way out of responsibility. The USA spent \$2 Trillion on Iraq, a conservative figure I hear, and lost thousands of young soldiers. Throughout the last century, the "peaceful" super-rich Muslims have done too little, and many economists believe **if the richest Muslim states truly were against the terrorists, there would be fewer of them.**

UK publication The Daily Mail headlined, "Crucified by the Caliphate monsters: Iraq descends into apocalypse as Islamic State fanatics seize towns and tell terrified Yazidi 'Become Muslims by noon today... or we kill all of you." The Yazidi are Kurds whose religion is linked to ancient Zoroastrianism in Islamic Sufism and Shia, minorities within larger Islam, and who live in the Nineveh Provence of northern

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Iraq. Shall we, the USA, defend Muslims now? Will Arabia pay us, the USA, for our troops?

What moral dilemma are we in when - perhaps - Hussein would have never let ISIA cross his border, though he killed Kurds with gas and he himself choked on international outrage.

We have an obligation to help the helpless. And protect ourselves from the long-term effects of radical Islam that has migrated to our shores, like when a whacked-out U.S. Army psychiatrist goes on a shooting rampage *and* we continue to pay his Army salary and legal defense. The world has turned upside down.

Last Wednesday, Aug. 13, John Short was arrested in North Korea's capital city Pyongyang according to The New York Times for "religious materials with him that had been translated into Korean." Kenneth Bae is in his second year of his **15-year prison term** in North Korea, *despite* the U.S.'s call for his release. And an 85-year-old Korean war veteran was arrested last November, 2013, but released about a month later.

The 33-year-old Saeed Abedini from Idaho has served over a year of his **eight-year prison term** in Iran for practicing his Christian faith. Iran *permitted* him to send a letter to family members who were *permitted* to visit him at the Tehran hospital in April of this year. Also in April, he sent a Happy Easter Greetings to all.

The "End" is nearer ... and if the USA gets weaker, the dollar continues to plunge, and the Arabs get richer and richer ... what will happen if the USA ceases to be greatest force for democracy in the world?

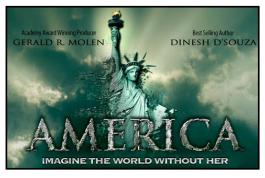
What would the world be like without America? God have mercy. We, Christians, have a say.

See: www.NYTimes.com/2014/07/02/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-500-million-iraq-relief-effort.html, www.DailyMail.co.uk/news/article-2720876/Crucified-Caliphate-monsters-Iraq-descends-apocalypse-Islamic-State-fanatics-seize-towns-tell-terrified-Yazidi-Become-Muslims-noon-today-kill-you.html, www.FoxNews.com/world/2014/04/20/american-pastor-saeed-abedini-imprisoned-in-iran-pens-easter-message.

America - Imagine the World Without Her

By Michael G. Maness

Or, perhaps the "End" is not here, when a mainstream movie *now playing* can be made like D'Souza's 'America,' based upon his best-selling book by the same name (Regnery Publishing, 2014; 304p.). Amazon.com gave the inside-flap of the book: "Conceived in liberty ... or in oppression? Is America a source of pride, as Americans have long held, or shame, as Progressives allege? Beneath an innocent exterior, are our lives complicit in a national project of theft, expropriation, oppression, and murder, or is America still the hope of the world? ... D'Souza says these questions are no mere academic exercise." With the Progressive ideology taught in our schools, preached by Hollywood, and



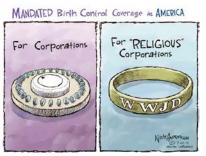
shaping the Obama administration, "If America is a force for inequality and injustice ... its power deserves to be diminished...." D'Souza, "an Indian immigrant to this country ... offers a passionate and sharply reasoned defense of America, knocking down every important accusation made by Progressives against our country." Oh, I *need* to see this movie!

See: www.DineshdSouza.com and www.Amazon.com/America-Imagine-World-without-Her/dp/162157203X.

Hobby Lobby Won – June 30, 2014!

By Michael G. Maness

On June 30, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of David and Barbara Green and their family business, Hobby Lobby. See their dedicated web site which is packed with information at: www.HobbyLobbyCase.com. Quoting from that site: "The Court upheld a June 2013 ruling by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals protecting Hobby Lobby and the Green family from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate. That mandate requires Hobby Lobby ... to provide ... against their religious convictions, four potentially life-terminating drugs and devices in the company's health insurance plan. The Greens argued that the mandate substantially burdened their religious



beliefs in ... the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. 'This is a landmark decision for religious freedom. The Supreme Court recognized that Americans do not lose their religious freedom when they run a family business,' said Lori Windham, Senior Counsel for The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and counsel for Hobby Lobby. 'This ruling will protect people of all faiths.... You can't argue there are no alternative means when your agency is busy creating alternative means for other people.'" Good points.

Please, see www.SupremeCourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/13-354 olp1.pdf for the full 5-4 Supreme Court decision.

IBM Develops Computer Chip that Functions like Human Brain

Adapted by M. G. Maness from DailyMail article by Daniel Bates, Aug. 18, 2014

TrueNorth, hailed as the world's first neurosynaptic computer chip, can figure things out on its own. Horst Simon, deputy director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, told the New York Times: "It is a remarkable achievement in terms of scalability and low power consumption." Modern processors have some 1.4 billion transistors and consume up to 140 watts. IBM's TrueNorth's incredibly efficient chip contains 5.4 billion transistors and uses just 70 milliwatts of power, and it has one million 'neurons' and 256 million programmable synapses,



the most IBM has ever put in a chip, the same power as a super computer in a chip the size of a postage stamp. Yet, do *not* hold your breath, for the human brain has 100 billion neurons and up to 150 trillion synapses. Yes, you are "fearfully and wonderfully made," Psalm 139:14.

Article: www.DailyMail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2720004/IBM-develops-computer-chip-one-million-neurons-functions-like-human-brain.html.

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