

Eye on the World

Feb. 4, 2017

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Feb. 4, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



“Eye on the World” comment: Due to a conflict during the normal time of production (generally later in the week), this compilation of news was prepared earlier in the week—and thus does not have as many articles with late-breaking news.



An article by Lucas Tomlinson and Jennifer Griffin titled “Iran Tests Ballistic Missile in Defiance of UN Resolution, US Officials Say” was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 30, 2017. Following is the article.

Iran conducted its first ballistic missile test under Donald Trump’s presidency, in yet another apparent violation of a United Nations resolution, U.S. officials told Fox News on Monday.

The launch occurred Sunday at a well-known test site outside Semnan, about 140 miles east of Tehran, Fox News was first to learn.

The Khorramshahr medium-range ballistic missile flew 600 miles before exploding, in a failed test of a reentry vehicle, officials said. Iran defense minister Brigadier Gen. Hossein Dehqan said in September that Iran would start production of the missile.

U.N. resolution 2231—put in place days after the Iran nuclear deal was signed—calls on the Islamic Republic not to conduct such tests. However, this

is at least Iran's second such test since July. The resolution bars Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests for eight years and went into effect July 20, 2015.

Iran is "called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology," according to the text of the resolution.

The landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, however, does not include provisions preventing Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests, and Iran claims the tests are legitimate because they are not designed to carry a nuclear warhead.

President Trump on Sunday spoke with King Salman of Saudi Arabia, a conversation in which the two "agreed on the importance of rigorously enforcing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran and of addressing Iran's destabilizing regional activities," the White House said in a statement.

A ballistic missile launch could potentially fall under "destabilizing regional activities."

The launch also came a day before Jordan's King Abdullah arrived in Washington for meetings with Vice President Pence and Defense Secretary Mattis.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would address the Iran issue with Trump when the two leaders meet on Feb. 15.

"I will meet President Trump in Washington soon, and among the issues I will address, is the need to renew the sanctions against Iran," Netanyahu wrote on Facebook on Monday. "Sanctions against the ballistic missiles, and other sanctions against the terror, and re addressing the failed agreement on its nuclear capabilities.

"I know that this bothers not only Israel, and not only the US but other countries in the region. Iran's aggression should not be ignored."

The U.S. intelligence community was able to identify Sunday's launch due to its robust satellite network. The overhead system can detect the heat signature of missile launches and explosions from bombs being dropped around the world.

Last March, Iran sparked international condemnation when it test-fired two ballistic missiles, one emblazoned with the phrase "Israel must be wiped out" in Hebrew.

U.S. Army Gen. Joseph Votel told lawmakers last March the United States should continue to "expose" Iran for the role that the rogue nation plays in the region, including its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, responsible for dropping barrel bombs on his own people.

Dehqan said in September that Iran would beef up its defense capabilities by "manufacturing three fundamental products in the area of missile [development] by the end of the year."

"Iran's missile tests are an unacceptable act of aggression-something we have seen occur time and again for the last 18 months," Ambassador Mark D. Wallace, CEO of the non-profit United Against Nuclear Iran, responded.



An article by Guy Benson titled "Analysis: Trump WH Demonstrates How Not to Roll Out a New Policy" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 30, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

The White House has significantly altered President Trump's executive order to temporarily pause the influx of non-citizen entrants from seven majority-Muslim countries into the United States.

It was revealed over the weekend that Team Trump failed to adequately consult with relevant lawyers and agencies prior to implementing the new policy, and that a small handful of political aides overrode the Department of Homeland Security's initial legal judgement that green card holders (legal permanent residents) should be exempt from the moratorium.

The ensuing firestorm forced the new DHS Secretary—who reportedly first reviewed the order's finalized content as Trump signed it into effect on television—to retract the LPR overreach.

Hours later on Sunday, the administration announced that once new vetting procedures are crafted over the next 90 days, the temporary measure will be lifted altogether:

This is damage control in the tumultuous wake of a hasty and inept roll-out of a sloppy, flawed policy.

As I described on Twitter last evening (having already established my support for a thoughtful regime of enhanced vetting for potentially dangerous people seeking the privilege of entering our sovereign nation) it didn't have to be this way. A modicum of due diligence, advanced planning, tactical mitigation efforts, and coalition building could have made this a much smaller story.

Alas, that's the alternate scenario. In reality, key administration figures were never looped in, and potential allies in Congress were blindsided, a growing number of whom were left with little choice but to publicly question and condemn elements of the plan Trump dropped on their heads. The ham-fisted implementation of the order also handed the administration's opponents sympathetic, innocent 'victims' of the policy; a PR coup for the opposition, and an optics mess for the White House. Toss in this healthy dash of Baghdad-Bobism from an unnamed senior administration official and the embarrassment was complete.

As for the substance of the order, one good resource is David French's even-handed analysis at National Review, which provides useful facts and context in criticizing certain portions of Trump's policy and defending others.

Former federal prosecutor Andy McCarthy also takes a scalpel to the argument that Trump's order is unconstitutional and illegal; he argues, pretty per-

suasively, that the president wields both the constitutional and statutory power to do what Trump has done—even as McCarthy declines to weigh in on the overall efficacy or wisdom of the move.

Others' assessments have been far more critical, including a blistering piece by Benjamin Wittes of the Brookings and Hoover Institutions. Wittes writes that as some who's been outspokenly supportive of various muscular national security policies criticized by the Left, he rejects Trump's executive order as a toxic blend of malevolence and incompetence.

Libertarian-leaning legal scholar Jonathan Adler concurs with that overall sentiment.

Piling on, former CIA director Michael Hayden added that in his estimation, the order "inarguably has made us less safe." Wittes describes the policy as "both wildly over-inclusive and wildly under-inclusive." Over-inclusive because it affects many innocent parties, including—at first—legal permanent residents of the United States, who have already undergone serious vetting.

(As an aside, President Trump should remember the names of the advisers who pushed this foolish mistake over the objections of national security professionals, from which his administration was quickly forced to retreat. He received very poor counsel on that front and he should bear that in mind moving forward).

The order is simultaneously under-Inclusive because it doesn't cover places like Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, nations from which terrorists have come to the United States to conduct attacks. Some have weakly alleged that this disconnect arises from Trump's business interests, but others have noted (including our own Matt Vespa over the weekend) that the list of countries originated in visa waiver legislation signed into law by President Obama. Facts matter.

The omission of certain countries also underscores the inaccuracy of the "Muslim ban" shorthand upon which too many in the press are relying.

There are hundreds of millions of Muslims living in majority-Muslim nations who are entirely unaffected by this order, including the populations of the aforementioned countries, as well as the most populous Muslim country on the planet.

Conversely, Trump's policy does impact many non-Muslims living in the targeted countries. It's fair to note that candidate Trump's campaign-era proposals lend credence to suspicions about the intended scope of this new move, and statements from certain Trump allies have further muddied the waters. Nevertheless, the actual document put into effect over the weekend empirically is not a "Muslim ban."

Anti-Trump leftists have landed on that erroneous term as part of their rallying cry, but the media further sacrifices its credibility by repeating it.



An article by Susan Stamper Brown titled "Leftists' Heads Explode in Response to Keeping America Safe" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 30, 2017. Following is the article.

Given the daily liberal head explosions occurring because of President Trump's immigration policies, one might think Trump demolished the Statue of Liberty, or worse, reintroduced school prayer, when all he did is take executive action on January 27 to protect Americans.

The White House owes no apology for wanting to keep America safe. At most, the administration could consider special circumstances where the threat to the country is negligible, a step they have already committed to doing. The executive order temporarily bans immigration for those coming from jihadi-infested countries like Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Iraq until better security screening is in place.

The order also puts an indefinite ban on those coming from Syria because ISIS is extremely active there. We didn't hear a peep from leftists when former President Obama did something similar regarding immigration from Iraq in 2011. No one should be surprised, though, given Democrats' standards have nothing to do with safety and security and everything to do with politics and appeasement.

Leftists might be thanking Trump for his actions if they weren't so drunk with hatred for anyone or anything that even hints of American values. If they lock their doors at night to keep bad people out, they are hypocrites to suggest it is not okay for Trump to protect Americans.

Fact is, the same ISIS who vowed to import terrorists disguised as refugees doesn't care about which side of the political aisle a person sits. America experienced an unprecedented number of domestic terrorist attacks committed by Muslim immigrants or children of immigrants during Obama's tenure.

We are a nation governed by the rule of law, but you'd never know it from leaders standing in defiance over Trump's stance on immigration and sanctuary cities. Sanctuary cities are illegal and in a civil society, those who break the law are punished. Leaders who break federal immigration laws already on the books should be removed from office, fined, and criminally charged. They should be held personally liable for lives lost and havoc wreaked by illegals living within their jurisdictions.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott leads the way, promising to pursue legislation to remove sheriffs and mayors breaking immigration laws. Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez also denounced Miami-Dade's previous stance as a sanctuary county on January 27.

In my home, my father's word was law. When Dad said "no" he meant no. Throwing temper tantrums didn't help. In fact, it made things worse. It's obvious to me that America has suffered from a significant shortage of alpha male leadership in families, based on the number of people losing their minds over a true leader occupying the White House.

Leftists can chuck bricks, throw rocks, and start fires all they want, but Trump will still be president when they wake the next morning.

Their actions hurt their cause because it helps normal people see Democrats don't really care about anyone but themselves. They claim they are pro-immigrant, but on Inauguration Day in D.C., anti-Trump anarchists set fire to a limousine owned by a Muslim immigrant. The rocks they pelt sent his employee to the hospital. That makes them about as pro-immigrant as they are pro-Christian.

As you might expect, a couple of Hillary's "Deplorables" came to the poor guy's rescue, raising more than \$20,000 to assist him after leftists destroyed his livelihood.

But, be of good cheer, there's a new sheriff in town who likes law and order. Sorry, snowflakes, all those "free spaces" to destroy other people's stuff are no longer available. That's why 230 Inauguration Day anarchists were charged with felony rioting and face fines of up to \$25,000 and 10 years in prison which should be time enough to keep them off the streets while Trump cleans up America.

All the fit-throwing reminds me this is going to be a long eight years, but then I smile because I know liberals are thinking the same thing.



An article by Matt Vespa titled "Friendly Reminder: Obama Selected the List of Muslim Countries in Trump's Executive Order" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 29, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

As the Left and some Republicans lose their minds over President Donald J. Trump's executive order on immigration, let's not forget that the list of concerned countries that the Trump administration outlined in the order is based on the one signed into law by the former Obama administration. So, it looks like the Obama White House set the groundwork.

Here are excerpts from Mic News.

- According to the draft copy of Trump's executive order, the countries whose citizens are barred entirely from entering the United States is based on a bill that Obama signed into law in December 2015.
- Obama signed the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act as part of an omnibus spending bill. The legislation restricted access to the Visa Waiver Program, which allows citizens from 38 countries who are visiting the United States for less than 90 days to enter without a visa.
- Though outside groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and NIAC Action—the sister organization of the National Iranian American Council—opposed the act, the bipartisan bill passed through Congress with little pushback.
- At the initial signing of the restrictions, foreigners who would normally be deemed eligible for a visa waiver were denied if they had visited Iran, Syria, Sudan or Iraq in the past five years or held dual citizenship from one of those countries.

■ In February 2016, the Obama administration added Libya, Somali and Yemen to the list of countries one could not have visited—but allowed dual citizens of those countries who had not traveled there access to the Visa Waiver Program. Dual citizens of Syria, Sudan, Iraq and Iran are still ineligible, however.

■ So, in a nutshell, Obama restricted visa waivers for those seven Muslim-majority countries—Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen—and now, Trump is looking to bar immigration and visitors from the same list of countries.

Yet, I don't remember the Left freaking out over this. I certainly don't remember them going indiscriminately insane when the Obama White House stopped processing Iraqi visas for six months in 2011 when—surprise! —Al-Qaeda operatives feigned refugee status to get relocated to Bowling Green, Kentucky. And yes, some of the visa applicants who were screwed over worked as intelligence assets and interpreters for the U.S. military, according to ABC News. But remember, there was a Democrat in the Oval Office, so it was okay at the time.



An article by Mike Ciandella titled "57 Times More Coverage of Trump's Temporary Ban Than Obama Ending Cuban Refugee Program" was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 30, 2017. Following is the article.

On January 30, the first weekday morning after President Donald Trump's controversial executive order which temporarily banned immigration from several Middle East countries, the networks devoted 64 minutes, 8 seconds of coverage to this topic.

However, on January 12, then-President Obama ordered the ending of America's longstanding "wet foot, dry foot" policy, which had allowed Cuban refugees entrance to the United States. But the broadcast networks were largely silent.

Between them, ABC, CBS and NBC only spent 68 seconds during their news coverage the following morning—nearly 57 times the coverage from Trump's policy change than Obama's.

Both actions severely limited immigration from certain regions, but CBS This Morning and NBC's Today hyped the Castro regime "praising" Obama's policy decision. In contrast, the coverage of Trump's executive order has been overwhelmingly negative, with NBC's Today even going so far as to suggest a link between Trump's immigration ban and a mass shooting at a mosque in Quebec, despite a complete lack of evidence.

During the Today segment, Canadian reporter Genevieve Beauchemin of CTV News suggestively juxtaposed the two events: "Investigators say the motive of the attack remains unknown. It comes just days after President Trump's controversial immigration ban sparked international outrage."

But this wasn't the only instance of the networks ignoring one of President Obama's bans on refugees. It wasn't until 2013 that ABC News reported that

“State Department stopped processing Iraq refugees for six months in 2011,” after the discovery that two al-Qaeda operatives had used the program to enter the U.S. and move to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The story was featured prominently on the November 20, 2013 editions of ABC’s World News Tonight (3 minutes, 25 seconds), Good Morning America (two segments totaling 3 minutes, 34 seconds), and a 10 minute, 19 second feature report on Nightline. Most of ABC’s coverage was about the deficiencies in the refugee vetting that permitted the terrorists to infiltrate the U.S., with only a couple of sentences spent on the six-month moratorium.

But CBS and NBC never followed up on the story, and ABC dropped its coverage after that single day of attention.



An article by John Fund titled “California Shouldn’t Secede From the Union; It Should Divide in Two” was posted at nationalreview.com on Jan. 29, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Liberals used to hate secession, the notion that states could leave the Union as they did before the Civil War because they didn’t agree with the policies of the federal government.

But with Donald Trump’s election, many California liberals suddenly have warm words for a budding ballot initiative that has just begun collecting signatures in order to place secession, or “Calexit,” on the ballot.

At the height of the tea-party movement, Texas governor Rick Perry merely hinted at the thought that Texas might react to President Obama’s executive overreach by reclaiming its one-time status as an independent republic. He was denounced as something akin to a traitor; critics lamented that he wanted to return Texas to the era of sharecroppers or Jim Crow.

Now Dan Schnur, who teaches political communications at the University of Southern California, says “California is the new Texas,” with its elected officials promoting a “virtual secession.” The secessionists plan to take to the legislature, the courts, and the streets to resist Trump’s agenda.

As a Californian, I view the “Calexit” movement with amusement, since there is zero chance that Congress would ever provide enough votes to allow California to leave peacefully, and the alternative exit ramp would involve a modern-day civil war.

During my recent trips back to California, I have often debated with liberals over the idea. I point out that before they sign up for secession, there is a more serious, more tolerant way of giving Californians more choices: Let the sprawling, diverse state divide up into two or more states to ease tensions between farmers and coastal types, defuse the war of ideology between Left and Right, and allow more policy experimentation.

My favorite design was for three states: one centered on Los Angeles, one centered on San Francisco, and everyone else in a third state. More recently, in 2009, then GOP assemblyman Bill Maze proposed creating two states: a Coastal California state and an Inland California state.

- The coastal state would emphasize environmental values, the “next big thing” economy of Silicon Valley, and the multicultural diversity of L.A.
- The inland state would have vast water resources, abundant agricultural lands, and its own cutting-edge facilities in sectors ranging from aerospace to data processing.

Of course, it’s unlikely that California will ever be divided. It’s even more unlikely that it would cut its ties to the rest of the nation and become a separate country. But the debate on both ideas is healthy. To what extent should we let arbitrary political boundaries established many decades ago curb our imagination and prevent us from creative solutions to our problems?



Looking back to 2015, here is an article by Fraser McAlpine titled “50 Sir Winston Churchill Quotes to Live By” that was posted at bbcamerica.com on April 5, 2015.

In his 90 years as a soldier, journalist, prolific author, politician and statesman during the first half of the 20th century, Winston Churchill had many opportunities to influence world events, and while opinions on his various successes and failures can be steeply divided, his was a hard-won wisdom, which he expressed with great pith and wit.

Being a natural statesman, and a great writer to boot, he was very good at putting that wisdom to use, and there are so many quotable examples from his various speeches and public comments that it’s easy to compile a list of his most inspirational thoughts, the ones that would apply to a multitude of situations, to be issued on Winston Churchill Day (which is April 9).

In fact, the tricky bit is choosing which ones to leave out.

- “It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations.”
- “There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true.”
- “To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.”
- “To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to change often.”
- “The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”
- “The price of greatness is responsibility.”

- "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened."
- "Never hold discussions with the monkey when the organ grinder is in the room."
- "One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half."
- "Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."
- "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."
- "Broadly speaking short words are best and the old words when short, are best of all."
- "Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it has been said, it is the quality which guarantees all others."
- "Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."
- "History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."
- "Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference."
- "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."
- "If you're going through hell, keep going."
- "Everyone has his day, and some days last longer than others."
- "You have enemies? Good. It means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."
- "Politics is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen."
- "Writing a book is an adventure. To begin with it is a toy then an amusement. Then it becomes a mistress, and then it becomes a master, and then it becomes a tyrant and, in the last stage, just as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster and fling him to the public."
- "Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace, and those who could make a good peace would never have won the war."
- "If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without blood shed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may

come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

- "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that any one who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events."
- "We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape us."
- "We shall not fail or falter. We shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job."
- "What is adequacy? Adequacy is no standard at all."
- "There is always much to be said for not attempting more than you can do and for making a certainty of what you try. But this principle, like others in life and war, has its exceptions."
- "There is only one duty, only one safe course, and that is to try to be right and not to fear to do or say what you believe to be right."
- "In the course of my life I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet."
- "Every man should ask himself each day whether he is not too readily accepting negative solutions."
- "It is wonderful what great strides can be made when there is a resolute purpose behind them."
- "The first duty of the university is to teach wisdom, not a trade; character, not technicalities. We want a lot of engineers in the modern world, but we do not want a world of engineers."
- "In finance, everything that is agreeable is unsound and everything that is sound is disagreeable."
- "All I can say is that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me."
- "This is the lesson: never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."
- "The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes."
- "All the greatest things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honour; duty; mercy; hope."

- “The whole history of the world is summed up in the fact that when nations are strong they are not always just, and when they wish to be just, they are often no longer strong.”
- “I like pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.”
- “If we open a quarrel between the past and the present we shall find that we have lost the future.”
- “It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.”
- “It’s not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what’s required.”
- “The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat, but they are no less difficult.”
- “When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber.”
- “Out of intense complexities, intense simplicities emerge.”
- “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, it’s also what it takes to sit down and listen.”
- “Continuous effort—not strength or intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential.”

And finally . . .

- “If you have an important point to make, don’t try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack.”



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you 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.”