

The Monthly Update

May 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this month's edition of the Monthly Update we are covering a plethora of news across the denomination that affects its operation and ministry, but the subject of the amendments is still a matter of grave concern to us. As stated in the April letter, "...I firmly believe that this may very well be the most crucial time in the over 200-year history of the Methodist Church, and as manifested now in the United Methodist Church. The overriding surface issue is that of homosexual normalization which will result if the amendments to our constitution pass which would make the American church into a central conference." The way that would work, specifically, is:

At the upcoming annual conferences across our connection there will be amendments that would separate our denomination here in the United States from our overseas church. Between now (the spring of 2009) and these assemblages, there will be a quiet "behind the scenes" campaign designed to get people put into place who will support these amendments. In the overseas conferences, it is anticipated that there will be a massive effort to convince their delegates as well, possibly even offering various types of financial support from our denominational entities for different programs they may have.

If these amendments pass by two-thirds vote or more in the annual conferences and the American church is made into a regional conference, then it will be separated from the overseas church legislatively. This means that the overseas churches will not be able to vote on legislation that would affect our denomination here in the United States. There will then be a massive shift of the voting power of the "decision makers" in favor of those who want to normalize homosexual practice in the United Methodist Church. This would mean that after the next General Conference in 2012, the structure and polity would be put into place that would incorporate these new policies into our church. This in turn would result in the next time that the legislative body met that would have decision-making authority over our church here in the United States, it would pass those petitions that would result in the ordination of homosexual clergy, performance of "marriages" for same-sex couples, and all other actions that would catapult those supporting homosexual practice into positions of leadership, prominence, and control of the American church. The votes would be in place to do this since our overseas delegates would not have any votes in the legislative process for the United Methodist Church in the United States.

Again, please do all in your power to inform others and pray that these amendments will be defeated.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris,
Executive Director

May 2009 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

"In reality there is perhaps no one of our natural Passions so hard to subdue as Pride. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive, and will now and then peek out and show itself."

– Benjamin Franklin

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The Good Stuff.

+ Bishop Ole Edvard Borgen, the first non-American president of the Council of Bishops of The UMC, died March 24 at Akershus University Hospital outside Lillestrøm, Norway. Borgen, 83, who was installed as president of the council in 1985 and served a one-year term, called UMs to a "spiritual and holy life." The funeral service took place April 2 at Skedsmo church outside Lillestrøm. [Note: He brought a high degree of integrity to the Council of Bishops and would take what was an unpopular stand on issues of great importance. Bishop Borgen will be sorely missed.]

– *United Methodist News Service (UMNS); as reported in UMNewscope, April 8, 2009*

+ "... A Candle Under a Bushel...?"

It may be the Mother Country, but in politics Britain is very different from the U.S. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair reveals in a new TV interview that he never let the British public know just how "hugely important" his Christian faith was to him for fear of being counted among the "nutters."

"It's difficult if you talk about religious faith in our political system," Mr. Blair told the BBC. "If you are in the American political system or others, then you can talk about religious faith and people say, 'Yes, that's fair enough' and it is something they respond to quite naturally." But in Britain the political climate is different. "You talk about it in our [British] system and, frankly, people do think you're a nutter. I mean... you may go off and sit in the corner and... commune with the man upstairs and then come back and say 'Right, I've been told the answer and that's it.'"

But Mr. Blair is now done with hiding. Raised an Anglican, he has recently taken to attending Mass with his Roman Catholic wife and is expected to convert to that faith sometime next year. "There is no point in me denying it. I happen to have religious conviction.... To do the prime minister's job properly you need to be able to separate yourself from the magnitude of the consequences of the decisions you are taking the whole time. I think [religious faith] is a strength for people."

Not everyone in Britain welcomed Mr. Blair's revelation. Menzies Campbell, former leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, told the *Sunday Telegraph* that Mr. Blair might not have won the nation's top office three times if voters "had known the extent to which ethical values would overshadow pragmatism" in Mr. Blair's decision-making process.

Here's hoping Mr. Blair's candid expression of faith causes a needed national debate in Britain in which cynics such as Mr. Campbell are finally challenged over what is, frankly, their soft bigotry against religion in public life.

– *John Fund, Opinion Journal*

+ **Victory at Sea.** After spending most of last week in Honduras on a short-term mission trip, I'm glad to be back in the U.S. with the consistent comforts of home--like electricity and running water! In catching up on world events, I was captivated by the courageous rescue of Captain Richard Phillips from Somali pirates. After a long standoff between these young terrorists and members of the USS Bainbridge, a group of Navy SEALs showcased their incredible accuracy by firing simultaneous shots to kill three of the bandits. In the days since that heroism, some conservatives have criticized President Obama for not acting sooner. As you know, I don't agree with the majority of the President's policies, but I believe he deserves credit for doing the right thing off the African coast. While other countries kowtow to international thugs, our nation puts a high value on life and is willing to sacrifice significantly for it. No doubt Americans feel a greater sense of security because of the President's order and the Navy's action.

Despite what some say, Captain Phillips is alive today because his government acted in the interest of preserving life. Our President also sent a strong message that the change in American leadership does not mean a change in U.S. terrorism policy. It emphasized the excellence of our military and reaffirmed a core value of our nation--life is worth defending. We commend President Obama for acting decisively to protect Captain Phillips. I must add, however, that this incident also serves to highlight an unconscionable contrast that exists in our culture and epitomized by this administration. The President moved heaven and earth to protect an American captive while turning a deaf ear to the cries of the unborn. At FRC, we remind the President that every life--whether in the belly of a life raft or the womb of its mother--deserves this same level of protection from their government.

– *Family Research Council, April 14, 2009*

+ Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. After surviving 14 years in communist prisons, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand came to America to proclaim the trials and testimonies of our persecuted brothers and sisters. It was the book that shocked the nation. In *Tortured for Christ*, Wurmbrand tells of his imprisonment for his work with the underground church and introduces the work of The Voice of the Martyrs. Forty years later, The Voice of the Martyrs remains true to its calling to be a voice for persecuted Christians, to serve with them in their time of need and to assist them in their efforts to proclaim the gospel.

We (Voice of the Martyrs) would like to extend this special opportunity for you to request a complimentary copy of *Tortured for Christ* for your Christian friends and family members. Help spread the message of today's persecuted church. The Voice of the Martyrs. For additional information, you may contact us by calling our order line at 800-747-0085.

– *Voice of the Martyrs*

Of Interest.

+ *Mark Tooley Named New President of IRD*

“The IRD will continue and expand its critique of the Religious Left while urging churches to uphold their great doctrines and to offer America a responsible social witness.” – Mark Tooley, IRD President

Washington, DC—Mark Tooley has been appointed the new president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), the leading watchdog of the Religious Left. Tooley has been with the IRD since 1994, directing its program for United Methodists. Retiring IRD President Jim Tonkowich plans to remain with IRD as a scholar, in which position he will continue to offer commentary on how Christians develop a political witness.

Tooley is a lifelong United Methodist from northern Virginia. He has been active in United Methodist renewal for over 20 years. Over the last 14 years at IRD, he has been a frequently published and interviewed commentator on churches and their political role in America. His writings have been in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, and the *American Spectator*, among others. Previous to IRD, he was employed with the Central Intelligence Agency.

IRD advocates that churches uphold theological orthodoxy, espouse a responsible political witness, and plead for persecuted religious believers around the world. The IRD was controversial in the 1980s for challenging Mainline Church groups that touted Marxist “liberation” movements. In the 1990s, IRD critiqued radical feminist theology and urged fidelity to historic Christian teachings about marriage. Most recently, the IRD has warned that the emerging Evangelical Left may lead evangelicals to repeat the same mistakes that culturally sidelined Mainline Protestants over the last 40 years. IRD has particularly focused on apocalyptic forms of environmentalism that have captivated some evangelicals.

The IRD board’s election of Tooley was unanimous. Board members include influential church leaders and thinkers such as Methodist theologian Tom Oden, Catholic ethicist Michael Novak and journalist Fred Barnes.

The chairman of IRD’s board, Mrs. Terry Schlossberg, commented:

The board of directors is pleased with Mark Tooley's acceptance of this appointment. Mark brings to the position a level of intelligence and energy that have been characteristic of the IRD's impact on the church and the world.

IRD President Mark Tooley commented:

More than ever before, the IRD is needed today to continue to challenge America’s churches to be faithful to their great traditions and to shun liberal fads that always spiritually and culturally marginalize once great churches. The IRD will continue and expand its critique of the Religious Left while urging churches to uphold their great doctrines and to offer America a responsible social witness.

The Institute on Religion and Democracy, founded in 1981, is an ecumenical alliance of U.S. Christians working to reform their churches’ social witness, in accord with biblical and historic Christian teachings, thereby contributing to the renewal of democratic society at home and abroad.

[Commentary: We see this as a very positive change. Mark Tooley is a man of great intellect, unmatched eloquence, deep insight, and rock-solid courage. It is hoped that he will be able to move the IRD to even greater heights in the renewal effort in not only the United Methodist Church but also across the mainline-denominational spectrum. – Allen O. Morris]
– Rebekah M. Sharpe, The Institute on Religion and Democracy, UMAAction Program, 1023 15th Street NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20005

+ *Tea Parties: They Aren't Just for Little Girls Anymore!*

With more than 500 local tea parties scheduled for tomorrow's tax day, trouble really is brewing for this administration's economic policy. The nationwide protests, sparked by Washington's decision to tax and spend its way out of the recession,

have attracted tens of thousands in the events leading up to the IRS's big day. Compounded by the waste in the stimulus package, the government explosion in the President's \$3.6 trillion budget, and countless bailouts, taxpayers' patience has run dry. Wednesday, many are hoping to get the government's attention the old fashioned way--by spilling their complaints (and gallons of tea) into U.S. harbors.

The revolt is sure to attract plenty of attention, including, it seems, that of Homeland Security. In a shockingly biased new report, the Department warned law enforcement officials to be on the lookout for "rightwing extremist activity" with particular focus on those who are "dedicated to a single-issue, such as opposition to abortion..." Before long, taxes will be on that list too. Our Founding Fathers repeatedly warned Americans to resist government encroachment. An active citizenry is the best safeguard against tyranny. Conservative activism, including the brand on display tomorrow, may be a threat to current government officials--but not to Homeland Security. *– Family Research Council, April 14, 2009*

+ The people of the UMC [designated] April 25, World Malaria Day, with a renewed call to members and friends to support Nothing But Nets, a grassroots anti-malaria effort which allows anyone, for \$10, to send a life-saving bed net to a family in Africa. Bed nets protect children and their families from the bites of malaria-infected mosquitoes.

"Malaria is a crisis that is threatening many of God's children across the globe," said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, referring to malaria's rank as Africa's leading killer of children under age five. "Insecticide-treated mosquito nets are the most scientifically proven way to stop its spread."

Bickerton, chairperson of The UMC's Global Health Initiative, joins with the people of The UMC in urging everyone to forgo a lunch out and to direct that \$10 savings toward the purchase of a bed net. "We're asking people to 'skip a lunch, send a net, save a life,'" said Bickerton. Dubbed "To Lunch or Not to Lunch?" the campaign highlights how \$10, the cost of lunch, is all that it takes to provide a potentially life-saving bed net to an African family. A \$10 donation at umcnothingbutnets.org covers the cost of the bed net, its distribution, and education on its use.

Inspired by a column by sportswriter Rick Reilly, Nothing But Nets' founding partners include the people of The UMC, the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, and Sports Illustrated. To date, Nothing But Nets has raised \$25 million, enabling the distribution of 2.5 million bed nets.

For more information on malaria, visit umcnothingbutnets.org, or call 888-252-6174.

– UMNS; as reported in UMNewscope, April 8, 2009

+ Rick Warren - another Easter denial

"Even if others do, I will never deny you," declared the Apostle Peter some 2,000 years ago just hours before he did exactly that, three times, when the heat was on. Ten others boasted the same, but when the risk was more than theoretical, all deserted Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Only one was seen at the cross.

A fascinating story...the "old story," as the secularists like to call it. Barack Obama alluded to this in his speech in France. We need a new story...a discovery of "new ways" of thinking. We must throw off the old, and embrace a much more enlightened, intelligent point of view, he said. By doing so, our president argued, we remove inconvenient barriers, cumbersome moral values and achieve self-determination with our new understanding of the world guiding the way. Surely we cannot be bound in this advanced new age by the old moral codes or put plainly, by what Jesus taught -- certainly not if we are to curry favor with the world in which we live.

During Holy Week, Peter's portion of the "old story" was revisited in a very contemporary way. The last instruction Jesus gave as He left earth was that His followers should tell His story of forgiveness and redemption not only in their communities, but to the "ends of the earth." And as His followers told the "old story," they should not leave out all the other things He had carefully taught them. He wanted future generations to go beyond mere intellectual understanding and move to actually living out the principles.

One of those principles was marriage. "For this reason shall a man leave his parents and join with his wife and the two shall become one flesh," Jesus instructed. One man...one woman...for a lifetime; no sex outside of that union. His clear moral teaching applied to homosexuality and never entertained a discussion of same-sex "marriage," because it would have been unthinkable. "I have come to fulfill the law, not to destroy it," Jesus said in regard to Old Testament moral standards.

Fast forwarding to November 2008, California voters of various religious persuasions -- in a ballot measure called Proposition 8 -- held to the Judeo-Christian teaching that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. Pastor Rick Warren -- author of the multi-million selling book *The Purpose Driven Life*; pastor of Saddleback, one of the largest churches in the country; deeply influential -- rightly told his congregation just weeks before the election: "...if you believe what the Bible says about marriage, you need to support Proposition 8. I never support a candidate, but on moral issues I come out very clear."

Until last week...Holy Week.

"Though others may turn away, I will never deny you," promised Peter. But then in the chill of night in a courtyard just outside the place of Jesus' trial, as others around the fire began to probe his relationship to Jesus, he denied even knowing him. No one was threatening his life, but the derision increased, until Peter's denial escalated to a curse to more emphatically deny he had ever known Jesus. Peter was worried about his reputation. He didn't want to be the odd man out in the courtyard over the fire...it wasn't a Roman soldier with a sword who challenged him, it was a servant girl.

"On moral issues I come out very clear," declared Warren when speaking in the safety of his church last October. But when confronted by homosexual friends and by CNN's Larry King, he folded like Peter. He told a national television audience that he had "apologized" to his homosexual friends for making comments in support of Proposition 8. He "never once gave an endorsement" of the marriage amendment, he declared in that much larger, electronic courtyard. "I never once issued a statement." But that was not true. He had given an impassioned plea on camera for support of Proposition 8...a plea worthy of a Christian leader...a plea to follow Jesus' teaching on marriage. Then in one CNN moment, he not only backed away from the hard teaching, but lied in the process. On camera...both times...for all to see.

Seduced by the pressure of fame? Driven by the desire to please his friends? Afraid to be seen as bigoted to a national television audience? Whatever the motivation, the denial is no less significant.

After Peter finished his denial, he went out and wept bitterly. Jesus later forgave him in a personal exchange, and Peter became one of the greatest examples of Christ following of all time...crucified upside down for his faith...fearless to the end. But he repented. If Rick Warren does not, he has lost his moral authority as a Christian leader. Without repentance, he joins the apostate ranks of others who declare Jesus' teaching when it is expedient and deny it when it interferes with choice or reputation.

Another Easter denial -- but we pray Warren will not let his story end there.

– Sandy Rios, "OneNewsNow" American Family News Network; 4/14/2009.

(UM) Bishops Bishop thanks Obama for immigration reform focus

[Note: What is referenced here is illegal immigration, even though this is not stated. Should we as a purportedly Christian denomination stand for illegal actions that work against the welfare of our country?]

PHOENIX, (UMNS)—Bishop Minerva Carcaño is applauding the White House's upcoming conversations for comprehensive federal immigration reform of the roughly 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States. President Barack Obama announced this week that his administration would begin discussions on immigration reform later this year and published reports indicate that the administration would collaborate with a bipartisan, diverse group of experts to help build the framework for legislation. "As United Methodists we believe that immigration is a human rights issue that needs serious attention," she said in an April 13 statement. Carcaño, also the chairwoman of the United Methodist task force on immigration, said the church is firm "in believing that the inherent value of all immigrants means that all of their civil liberties should be respected and maintained regardless of their legal status. We believe, however, that our present immigration policies violate these basic rights." – *UMNS Daily Digest, April 15, 2009*

(UM) General Board of Church and Society

+ *United Methodist support through the General Board of Church and Society for socialized medicine in America*

Did you know that official United Methodist officials, claiming to speak for you, recently visited the office of Senator Ted Kennedy to promise United Methodist support for socialized medicine in America? Board and staff members of United Methodism's Washington, D.C. lobby office, called the Board of Church and Society, recently fanned out to numerous congressional offices on lobby visits. They were claiming to speak for 7.9 million United Methodists in America, as they endorsed a litany of liberal causes that equate the Kingdom of God with an endlessly expanding federal welfare and regulatory state.

When the United Methodists lobbyists claimed their church's support for socialized medicine, they had the document to prove it. According to the United Methodist Social Principles, found in our Book of Discipline: "We believe it is a governmental responsibility to provide all citizens with health care." It also says: "Like police and fire protection, health care is best funded through the government's ability to tax each person equitably and directly fund the provider entities."

Of course, the vast majority of United Methodists are unaware that our church officially favors socialized medicine. And with whom did the language for this position originate? The Board of Church and Society, of course. It's an old game. The Board's staff go to General Conference every 4 years, at our expense, and lobby for dozens of resolutions. Conservative delegates just let all these liberal proposals fly through without debate, because they are too busy fighting to uphold biblical theological and sexuality stances. So then the Board goes back to Washington, D.C. and claims our church has nearly unanimously ratified all of its far-left political positions.

Our official United Methodist statements, thanks to the Board of Church and Society, are well to the left of most liberals in the Democratic Party. President Obama, for example, does not favor the United Methodist version of “single-payer” socialized medicine. Yet these statements, as espoused by our official lobby office in the nation’s capital, are supposed to speak for us.

Is it any wonder that the Board of Church and Society is probably our most controversial and even unpopular church agency?

The Board of Church and Society gets its funding from unsuspecting church goers.

– *UMAction information brief; April 10, 2009*

+ *Social justice agency head applauds repeal of health-care rule*

[Note: This is referring to the lifting of President Bush’s prohibition of using federal money to fund abortions. President Obama’s action had restored that funding so that now they may be performed – and paid for out of taxes you pay.]

WASHINGTON (UMNS)—Jim Winkler, social justice agency top executive, applauded President Barack Obama’s decision to repeal expansion of law that allows health-care providers to follow their conscience in deciding whether to provide services or not. Expansion of the law puts services at risk for health care. Obama’s decision repeals the Bush administration’s expansion of the 30-year-old Provider Refusal Rule. “The United Methodist Church believes health care is a basic human right,” Winkler said. “Anything that could possibly keep persons from receiving health care negates that right.”

– *UMNS Daily Digest, April 13, 2009*

+ *Ethnic church social justice programs funded*

[Note: This reflects how your money given to the church is used. Is this a wise expenditure of your offerings?]

Young people with a passion for justice issues, an interracial youth camp for boys and social justice education for teenage mothers, the mentally ill and children are some of the projects that will receive more than \$185,000 from The United Methodist Church’s social action agency. The Ethnic Local Church Grants program seeks to strengthen congregations through education, advocacy or leadership development for social justice engagement. The grants are awarded twice each year during the United Methodist Board of Church and Society’s spring and fall meetings. The grants awarded this spring are divided among 13 programs in nine annual (regional) conferences in the five U.S. jurisdictions of the denomination.

– *UMNS Daily Digest, April 2009*

+ [Note: The Iraq War. This reflects how your money to the church is used. Is this a wise expenditure of your offerings?]

Directors of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) issued a statement during their March spring meeting urging the earliest possible end to the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel/Palestine. The statement, "A Call for Middle East Peace," notes that the board meeting occurred on the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and praises President Obama for setting a withdrawal date for U.S. combat forces, but urges him to achieve it sooner. The statement also questions his decision to send additional military forces into Afghanistan before a comprehensive review of the situation has been accomplished. A "just and durable resolution" of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical, according to the directors, who say they are praying for U.S. Special Envoy George Mitchell in facilitating a peace settlement.

– *UMNewscope, April 8, 2009*

(UM) General Board of Global Ministries

More than 100 Methodist leaders from Latin America, the Caribbean and the U.S. gathered March 24-27 to strengthen relationships through sending and receiving volunteers when responding to local disasters. "We need to extend our hands to each other," said the Rev. Juan de Dios Peña of El Salvador, regarding the need for Latin American and Caribbean countries to be senders as well as receivers of volunteer missionaries. He acknowledged the economic challenges faced by many churches of the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. Sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries, the event included presentations led by the UM Committee on Relief and UM Volunteers in Mission. "United we can achieve much more," said Bishop Moisés Valderrama Gómez of Mexico, and president of CIEMAL. "We can do what God wants to do through our hands not just as volunteers working in Latin America, but all of us as part of the same church." – *UMNS*

(UM) General Board of Higher Education. Approves plan, cost cuts, scholarship

The UM General Board of Higher Education A revised strategic plan, budget cuts and a new scholarship fund were approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's (GBHEM) directors in the board's spring meeting, held March 19-21. Budget cuts of 10% proposed by the staff and approved by the directors are an indication that "we understand that we are all in this financial belt-tightening together," according to Bishop Marcus Matthews, board

president. In addition to the approved cuts, directors agreed the board's executive committee should consider actual income from World Service Fund payments through May and determine if further cuts are needed at that time.

The Rev. Jerome King Del Pino, GBHEM General Secretary, called the cuts "a prudent response to an uncertain future economically. We still intend to pursue robustly our mission of developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world with the resources we have," Del Pino said.

The board's revised strategic plan sets seven strategic priorities:

- (1) Expand the agency's support of global higher education, leadership development, and theological education;
- (2) Strengthen the viability, quality and identity of UM-related schools, colleges, universities and UM theological schools;
- (3) Strengthen campus ministry and enhance The UMC's commitment to campus ministry;
- (4) Support young people in identifying and forming their vocations as ordained Christian leaders;
- (5) Lead The UMC in clarifying and building consensus around the denomination's ordering of ministry;
- (6) Enhance the effectiveness of theological education and training for ordained and licensed leadership in The UMC;
- (7) Provide an efficient and effective support infrastructure for the delivery of agency programs.

– *UMNewscope, April 8, 2009*

The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR).

Leaders charged with monitoring annual conferences to ensure racial/ethnic empowerment and inclusiveness held their first ever gathering to learn, share and connect with each other. The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) met with conference chairpersons March 12-14. The gathering coincided with the GCORR board meeting. Many of the 45 conference leaders were new to their positions and the meeting was designed to provide in-depth training on the roles, responsibilities and challenges facing them as well as offering chances to network and learn from each other. Erin Hawkins, GCORR general secretary, gave the leaders advice to help them perform more effectively in their respective ministries and covered diagnosing internal and external issues before engaging in intervention, building strategic partnerships and relationships, and creating influence to help them shape and achieve their commission aims.

– *UMNewscope, April 15, 2009*

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"I am in politics because of the conflict between good and evil, and I believe that in the end good will triumph.

– *Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher*

Global Outlook

"Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

~ *President Bush, quoting from Romans 12 during the memorial convocation at Virginia Tech*

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Islam.

+ *Two Iranian Women Arrested and Held in "Notorious" Prison*

On March 5, Marzieh Amirizadeh Esmailabad and Maryam Rustampoor were arrested by Iranian security forces and labeled "anti-government activists," according to Farsi Christian News Network (FCNN). Thirty-year-old Marzieh and 27-year-old Maryam are being held at Evin Prison, which is notorious for treating women badly. – Voice of the Martyrs

+ *MOROCCO -- Five Christians Expelled*

Five female Christians, four Spanish and one German, were recently expelled from Morocco on accusations of "proselytizing" Muslims, according to Compass Direct News. The women were among a group of tourists who were arrested by police while gathered for Bible study in the city of Casablanca on March 28. – Voice of the Martyrs

+ ***Michigan State University.*** The story begins at Michigan State University with a mechanical engineering professor named Indrek Wichman. Wichman sent an e-mail to the Muslim Student's Association. The e-mail was in response to the students' protest of the Danish cartoons that portrayed the Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist. The group had complained the cartoons were 'hate speech': Enter Professor Wichman. In his e-mail, he said the following:

Dear Moslem Association,

As a professor of Mechanical Engineering here at MSU I intend to protest your protest. I am offended not by cartoons, but by more mundane things like beheadings of civilians, cowardly attacks on public buildings, suicide murders, murders of Catholic priests (the latest in Turkey), burnings of Christian churches, the continued persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt, the imposition of Sharia law on non-Muslims, the rapes of Scandinavian girls and women (called 'wh----' in your

culture[the “w” word was spelled out in the letter and, evidently, the news release]), the murder of film directors in Holland, and the rioting and looting in Paris France.

This is what offends me, a soft-spoken person and academic, and many, many of my colleagues.

I counsel you dissatisfied, aggressive, brutal, and uncivilized slave-trading Moslems to be very aware of this as you proceed with your infantile 'protests.'

If you do not like the values of the West - see the 1st Amendment - you are free to leave.

I hope for God's sake that most of you choose that option.

Please return to your ancestral homelands and build them up yourselves instead of troubling Americans.

Cordially,

I. S. Wichman
Professor of Mechanical Engineering

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As you can imagine, the Muslim group at the university didn't like this too well. They're demanding that Wichman be reprimanded and the university impose mandatory diversity training for faculty and mandate a seminar on hate and discrimination for all freshmen. Now the local chapter of CAIR has jumped into the fray. CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, apparently doesn't believe that the good professor had the right to express his opinion.

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For its part, the university is standing its ground in support of Professor Wichman, saying the e-mail was private, and they don't intend to publicly condemn his remarks.

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“Good government generally begins in the family, and if the moral character of a people once degenerate, their political character must soon follow.” – Elias Boudinot