



William J. Murray

## The Chairman's

## Action Report

Religious  
Freedom  
Coalition

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### PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

I first met Ronald Reagan in Dallas, Texas in the summer of 1980 at a major meeting of Evangelical Christians. Just about every major Evangelical leader was there including a much younger Jerry Falwell, Adrian Rogers, Dr. James Kennedy and others too numerous to name. I was fortunate enough to attend a private reception for then Governor Reagan the evening before what was to become a historic rally of evangelicals. The thing I remember most from that day some 24 years ago is his handshake. I was taken by his sheer strength in gripping my hand. He had the hands of a rancher, not of a politician.



William J. Murray and  
President Ronald Reagan  
at a formal event in  
Washington, DC

The next day Ronald Reagan pronounced to the mass gathering of evangelical Christian leaders from across the United States, "You cannot endorse me, but I can endorse you." With those words he won the hearts of evangelical Christians for the next eight years.

After his election I was invited for the first time in my life to the White House. At a Rose Garden event he announced that his Administration would try to pass an Amendment to the Constitution to allow school prayer. The effort was doomed from the start by a Congress controlled by liberal Democrats out of touch with the people of this nation.

Ronald Reagan was the first true pro-life President. He was bashed by the mainstream media for his "anti-women" stance against abortion. Had not Ronald Reagan taken this public stand we might not have a pro-life President today.

It was Ronald Reagan who sat down with then Vice President George H. W. Bush, showed him a video of the destruction of an unborn baby, and convinced him that abortion was wrong.

Had not Ronald Reagan convinced George H. W. Bush to join the pro-life movement, would his son George W. Bush be a pro-life President today? Perhaps not. Before leaving office in 1988 President Ronald Reagan let it be known to the world his depth of concern for the unborn with this official proclamation:

**"Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare the unalienable personhood of every American, from the moment of conception until natural death, and I do proclaim, ordain, and declare that I will take care that the Constitution and laws of the United States are faithfully executed for the protection of America's unborn children. Upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, I invoke the considered judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God. I also proclaim Sunday, January 17, 1988, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. I call upon the citizens of this blessed land to gather on that day in their homes and places of worship to give thanks for the gift of life they enjoy and to reaffirm their commitment to the dignity of every human being and the sanctity of every human life."**

The pro-life movement, which is the core of social conservatism today, would not have proliferated as it has without Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Reagan also brought about the collapse of communism. Many will say he just happened to be President when communism was in its death throes, but this is far from the whole truth. His policies and his leadership hastened the collapse by many years. Communism was bankrupt and Reagan knew it the day he gave his famous "evil empire" speech. Reagan doubled the defense budget, and bought 3,000 combat aircraft, 37,000 strategic missiles and 10,000 tanks. Then he began to finance revolutions against the Soviet occupiers of the world. I know, I was there in Nicaragua and in the Soviet Union.

President Ronald Reagan supported the Contras who were trying to overthrow the communist government of Nicaragua. The Democrats held hearing after hearing in Congress and even tried to jail Colonel Oliver North because the liberals simply did not want to confront the enemy anywhere at anytime. The liberals wanted to hide from the communist threat then, just as they want to hide from the Islamic threat today.

I was the president of Freedom's Friends (Amigos de Libertad) during the Contra war, and we supplied food and medicine to the families of the fighters and trained their chaplains to teach the Word of God to their troops.

I could not have done any of the work I did for the cause of Christ in Nicaragua had it not been for the Presidency of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

As for the Soviet Union, the Reagan military buildup was forcing the impoverished, totalitarian nation into bankruptcy. Unable to keep up with our arms race, Gorbachev turned to the free market place for money. While the country was still communist, I established the first commercial tour company in the Soviet Union to escort evangelicals there and to help them hold events and pass out Bibles as the Evil Empire collapsed. The nation was so broke I actually paid a printing plant owned by the Communist Party in Minsk to print Bibles ... they gladly took the cash!

In every Soviet city I carried with me photos to hand out of President Ronald Reagan and myself. Those photos opened more doors than I can tell you about. None of what I and others did in the Soviet Union in the late 80's and early 90's could have been done had it not been for President Reagan taking on the communists nose to nose.

The famed Solidarity Movement in Poland was fueled by a secret \$50 million fund to help spread freedom behind the Iron Curtain. How far would that first anti-Communist rebellion have gone in Eastern Europe without the direct support of President Ronald Reagan?

The day the Soviet Empire collapsed I was in Moscow. President George H.W. Bush was in office, but I knew in my heart that the fate of the Evil Empire had been sealed by President Ronald Reagan.

President Ronald Wilson Reagan changed the course of the great ship of state we call the United States and in doing so he changed the course of world history. It is up to us to keep the course and not revert to a time when democracy hid from totalitarianism.

#### **RFC AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

In August I will be traveling to Brussels, Belgium to attend the Interparliamentary Conference on Religious Freedom. At the close of the conference I will travel to the Serbian province of Kosovo in the Balkans to report on the persecution of Christians there.

I would not be on this course, nor would I be able to attend to the needs of persecuted Christians in the world had Ronald Reagan not laid the road for me to get there.

In Kosovo our fact finding team will examine some of the 150 churches that have been destroyed by Muslim militias since the province was taken over by NATO forces in 1999. President Bill Clinton bombed Christian Serbia into submission to allow a Muslim takeover of Kosovo. Now 250,000 Christians have been forced from their homes.

**OUR VBS IN BETHLEHEM IS UNDERWAY**

By the time you receive this letter our vacation Bible school (VBS) will be operating in the Bethlehem area. Christian children who face Islamic persecution on almost a daily basis will be able to freely go to an island of peace and hear about Jesus. Our fund raising for this year's VBS fell more than \$6,000 short and just last week I pleaded with our Internet subscribers for help and we raised almost \$2,000. We will be forced to borrow the funds for van rentals and to purchase food for the children's lunches.

Our funding has fallen off this year to the point that I have had to order a reduction in staff hours for June, July and August. On June 1st all hourly employees were told they would be working only four days a week until September unless additional funds could be raised.

We need your help to continue our work in Washington, DC and our ministry to oppressed Christians in Islamic nations. Our work in Washington, DC fighting in Congress for religious freedom and the cause of Christ is vitally important, as is our aid to the few Christians remaining in the Holy Land. This work cannot continue without the help of concerned Christians.

Please help this month.



William J. Murray, Chairman