**Morocco' s Future:
Secularism or Terrorism****By William J. Murray
Chairman
Religious Freedom Coalition**

In March of this year I was in Morocco with a fact finding delegation representing evangelical groups from the United States. Our mission was to determine if Morocco is a moderating, modernizing Islamic society. As part of that mission we met with officials at all levels of government including Prime Minister Driss Jettou and the presidents of both the Upper House and Lower House of Parliament. There is no doubt that there is an atmosphere of change in Morocco, particularly since the May, 2003 hotel bombings in Casablanca which Moroccan officials refer to as their 9-11. The bombings have accelerated the movement by some Moroccan leaders to promote a more secular society.

The leaders, educators, middle and upper classes of Morocco feel a great kinship to Europe and do not want to be overtaken by the Saudi form of Islam that would relegate them to a 7th century existence. As a result, under the leadership of youthful King Mohammed VI, a new family law code giving women equal rights was passed in October, 2003. The law gave women the right to equal property in marriage and the right to divorce for the first time.

The law also made polygamy virtually impossible. This is the most sweeping change in women' s rights ever in an Islamic nation. There is no other Islamic society where women are treated under the law in equal terms with men. The capital city of Rabat has more the atmosphere of Richmond or Charlotte than Kuwait City or Riyadh. This does not mean that Morocco has suddenly become a Western style democracy, but it is definitely different from the tyrannical religious regimes that repress human rights such as in Saudi Arabia. Despite the real progress that has been made, there are still problems in the area of religious freedom.

Morocco claims to be 99% Muslim and refuses to recognize any Moroccan church, although churches for foreigners are allowed. Bibles in

Arabic may not be imported; however, they are sold in some stores. While Jews are a protected minority because they are, like Christians, People of the Book, their numbers are diminishing. When Morocco won independence from France in 1956, there were 500,000 Christians and 300,000 Jews in the country. There are now only 20,000 Christians, almost all of whom are foreign nationals, and just 5,000 Jews. Officially all the Christians were foreigners who went "back home" and all the Jews left because Israel forced them to. The official line of the government in this regard is almost laughable.

Many in our delegation became irritated with the almost constant insistence of officials that Morocco has always been a tolerant society, which finally caused me to remind one official of the last massacre of Jews in 1912. He responded that an outside power -- presumably France -- had forced them to do it. It is true, however, that the Moroccan Jews were protected from Hitler and from the Vichy government of France during World War II.

In the public schools students are taught about the Crusades and the Inquisition, but not about the Reformation; that is, only negative information is given about Christianity. Islam is in the public school curriculum, although in a different and milder version than that taught by the Islamic death mongers of Saudi Arabia. The exchange about this subject between myself and the Minister of Education, Abdellah Saaf, will be talked about in government circles for some time.

There is no religious freedom in Morocco and the first individuals to point that out are the Moroccan secularists themselves.

Most Moroccans do not celebrate Ramadan, but the government does not allow public breaking of the daily fasts during those holy days. This is odd considering that virtually every restaurant serves ham for breakfast and that Friday, the Muslim Sabbath day, is a regular work day. Everyone is given an extra hour off on Friday to go pray, but few actually go to the mosques. The bars are very busy on Friday afternoons.

The secularists want more change faster, but they are not willing to help Christians or push for

an officially secular government. Why? Currently the King is their best ally. He is a secularist, but ironically, he rules by divine right as an alleged direct descendent of Mohammed. If the government were to declare itself secular, he would no longer have a valid right to rule and would have to hand over the army and police to a popularly elected government. Fear of radical religious parties forming and winning an election stops the secularists from making this final push to democracy while there is a king who is on their side.

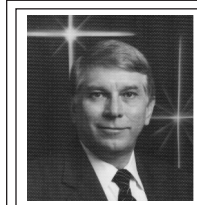
The Saudis have poured huge amounts of money into Morocco to stop the secularization, particularly in poor neighborhoods where they have established illegal prayer houses where Wahabbi hatred is taught. In the minds of the secularists, the King is insurance against this Wahabbi poison taking root among the poor.

Christian leaders admit privately what the secularists admit in the open: there is no religious freedom in Morocco. I was told by one Christian leader that their church cook was ordered by the police to report the name of any Moroccan who came into the church building. They will admit, however, that authorities have been looking the other way since the May, 2003 bombings in Casablanca. The attention of the police has turned to the Saudi financed Wahabbis and away from the Christian minority.

One of the principle reasons for inviting Evangelical Christians to Morocco was an attempt to influence the Free Trade Agreement initiated, but not yet signed, by President Bush. Even if signed, the treaty must be enacted by both the House and Senate.

This election year is being influenced by public discontent with outsourcing of American jobs, so the fact that in Morocco the average income is only \$3,500 a year may doom the treaty.

Obviously Moroccan officials want a positive spin on their country's moderation and secularization to help enact the treaty. House and Senate leaders have a responsibility to look beyond the trade deficit in considering the trade agreement with Morocco. A continued opening and dialog with Morocco will lead to greater secularization and perhaps even democratization of a Muslim nation in Africa. Morocco is an evolving phenomenon in the Islamic world that Americans, particularly America's leaders should be watching closely. †



Report from the Holy Land

By William J. Murray
Chairman
Religious Freedom Coalition

After several days in Morocco on an official fact finding trip I arrived in the Holy Land on a Saturday (Shabbat in Israel). I attended a Messianic Jewish service at Esther House in Tel Aviv. The first person I ran into at the service was one of two brothers our organization has previously tried to help because they are under death sentence by the Palestinian authority. This man has been accused of being a collaborator or maybe just of converting from Islam to Christianity--it's hard to tell. Anyway, he can't return to the West Bank, even to visit his family.

The congregation was celebrating the Jewish Holiday of Purim and the kids put on a play based on the book of Esther to explain the holiday. It was cute, very Jewish and very Christian and at the same time revealing of the power of the Word of God.

The next day I visited the Samaritans of Mt. Gerizens. There are only 672 souls left with just five family names. Those are in perhaps 60 or 70 total households. These families have been forced out of their traditional home of Nablus by the current violence and half have moved to Tel Aviv. The rest, about 30 households, moved to their sacred mountain Mount Gerizins (Mount of Blessings) which they believe is where Abraham offered his son as a sacrifice.

The Samaritans are struggling back from an all time low of just 114 people prior to Israel declaring statehood. They wanted independence from Israel, but after the Oslo Accords came along and it looked as if they would all be stuck under Palestinian Authority rule, they changed their minds and requested Israeli citizenship. They are not Jews, yet have synagogues. They believe only in the Books of Moses, the first five books of the Bible.

During the week I held meetings with several Christian leaders in Israel and the West Bank including Avi Mizrachi who is the pastor of the congregation at Beit Esther in Tel Aviv. While Christian leaders in Israel sometimes feel social pressure because of their faith, Christian leaders in the West Bank face far worse. The situation for

Christians in the West Bank is deteriorating daily. More and more families are fleeing to Holland which is now accepting Christians who are fleeing the Palestinian Authority. (The United States will not give asylum to Christians fleeing Islamic oppression.)

There are some Christian leaders in the West Bank who have sold out their brothers in Christ for the sake of property and power and publicly support terrorist Yassar Arafat. Unfortunately it is these men who care little for the persecuted faithful who are often quoted by the liberal media. I also traveled to the Lebanese border which is now very tense. Terrorists constantly fire rockets into nearby Israeli cities located close to the border. At Metula, one kindergarten had been continually fired on by snipers and a special bullet proof wall had to be built around it. Another kindergarten was leveled by a rocket just 15 minutes before school was to start.

A Christian brother who lives in Kiryat Shmona guided us along the Lebanese border to within just a few feet of the fence. We stood on the Lebanese front, near where a vacationing soldier had recently been shot while taking pictures. There are unfinished buildings on the Lebanese side that make excellent snipers' nests.

In another area I was able to take photos of the headquarters of Hezbollah, which sits next to a

United Nations camp. There are no barriers between the UN camps and the camps of the terrorists. For the last kidnapping of Israeli soldiers the terrorists "borrowed" a UN vehicle to capture them. Since most of the UN soldiers are from Muslim nations, the cooperation between them and the terror groups is not unusual.

After returning from the Lebanese border, I visited a Christian school in the West Bank supported by the Religious Freedom Coalition and I have some really good news. The school looks great. For two years the RFC has been paying for a grounds keeper and for repairs at the school and the results really show. All the windows have been repaired as have broken doors. Fixtures in the rest rooms have been either repaired or replaced. The big change has come in the kitchen which had fallen into great disrepair.

A complete new floor and cabinets have been put into place and a dishwasher is soon to be added. A wall with a service window has been installed to separate the eating area from the actual kitchen. I can say that the kitchen and student dining area have been brought up to standards similar to those in American schools.

The school, which has 150 students, now has a complete computer lab. The exterior grounds are very well kept. As a result of our support over the past two years the school has been able to finish

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placing bars on all windows, which has stopped the break-ins which had been occurring on week-ends.

The school does face a huge challenge with the security wall being built by Israel. The wall will separate the school from the rest of Beit Jala and Bethlehem. We are not sure at this point how close a gate will be to the school or if there will be a gate at all. In established Christian neighborhoods the fence is taking a toll.

A small Christian owned hotel will have the fence run through its parking lot. As a result the hotel and restaurant will have no parking. It would not matter anyway, since most of their guests came from Israel. The hotel complex will now be on the Palestinian Authority side and what is left of the parking lot will be in Israel proper. The hotel restaurant which once employed more than a hundred people now has no employees and the owners have to sleep on the property to keep away thieves.

This is what Yassar Arafat's Intifada has caused, the economic destruction of the Palestinian people and the ruin of individual families. (Anyone wishing to help this family should contact me.)

Travel was difficult while in the West Bank because the area I was in was under a high security alert. Three bombers were captured in just one 24 hour period; one bomber was from a village near where I was staying. There was a huge military presence as I drove from meetings in Jerusalem to the Jewish settlement of Ariel. †



Separation of God And Government

**By William J. Federer
President,
Amerisearch, Inc**

America's founders did not intend for there to be a separation of God and state, as shown by the fact that all 50 states acknowledged God in their state constitutions:

Alabama 1901, Preamble. We the people of the State of Alabama ... invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish the following Constitution ...

Alaska 1956, Preamble. We, the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land ...

Arizona 1911, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Arizona, grateful to Almighty God for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution ...

Arkansas 1874, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Arkansas, grateful to Almighty God for the privilege of choosing our own form of government ...

California 1879, Preamble. We, the People of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom ...

Colorado 1876, Preamble. We, the people of Colorado, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of Universe ...

Connecticut 1818, Preamble. The People of Connecticut, acknowledging with gratitude the good Providence of God in permitting them to enjoy ...

Delaware 1897, Preamble. Through Divine Goodness all men have, by nature, the rights of worshipping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences ...

Florida 1885, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Florida, grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty ... establish this Constitution ...

Georgia 1777, Preamble. We, the people of Georgia, relying upon protection and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution ...

Hawaii 1959, Preamble. We, the people of Hawaii, Grateful for Divine Guidance ... establish this Constitution ...

Idaho 1889, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Idaho, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings ...

Illinois 1870, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Illinois, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors ...

Indiana 1851, Preamble. We, the People of the State of Indiana, grateful to Almighty God for the free exercise of the right to chose our form of government ...

Iowa 1857, Preamble. We, the People of the State of Iowa, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our

dependence on Him for a continuation of these blessings ... establish this Constitution ...

Kansas 1859, Preamble. We, the people of Kansas, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious privileges ... establish this Constitution ...

Kentucky 1891, Preamble. We, the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties ...

Louisiana 1921, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Louisiana, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy ...

Maine 1820, Preamble. We the People of Maine ... acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording us an opportunity ... and imploring His aid and direction ...

Maryland 1776, Preamble. We, the people of the state of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty ...

Massachusetts 1780, Preamble. We...the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Great Legislator of the Universe... in the course of His Providence, an opportunity ... and devoutly imploring His direction ...

Michigan 1908, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom ... establish this Constitution ...

Minnesota, 1857, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings ...

Mississippi 1890, Preamble. We, the people of Mississippi in convention assembled, grateful to Almighty God, and invoking His blessing on our work ...

Missouri 1945, Preamble. We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness ... establish this Constitution ...

Montana 1889, Preamble. We, the people of Montana, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty ... establish this Constitution ...

Nebraska 1875, Preamble. We, the people, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom ... establish this Constitution ...

Nevada 1864, Preamble. We the people of the State of Nevada, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom ... establish this Constitution ...

New Hampshire 1792, Part I. Art. I. Sec. V. Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience ...

New Jersey 1844, Preamble. We, the people of the State of New Jersey, grateful to Almighty God for civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors _

New Mexico 1911, Preamble. We, the People of New Mexico, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty ...

New York 1846, Preamble. We, the people of the State of New York, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings ...

North Carolina 1868, Preamble. We the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for ... our civil, political, and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those ...

North Dakota 1889, Preamble. We, the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain...

Ohio 1852, Preamble. We the people of the state of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and to promote our common ...

Oklahoma 1907, Preamble. Invoking the guidance of Almighty God, in order to secure and perpetuate the blessings of liberty ... establish this ...

Oregon 1857, Bill of Rights, Article I. Section 2. All men shall be secure in the Natural right, to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their consciences ...

Pennsylvania 1776, Preamble. We, the people of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance ...

Rhode Island 1842, Preamble. We the People of the State of Rhode Island ... grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He

hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing ...

South Carolina, 1778, Preamble. We, the people of the State of South Carolina ... grateful to God for our liberties, do ordain and establish this Constitution ...

South Dakota 1889, Preamble. We, the people of South Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties ... establish this Constitution ...

Tennessee 1796, Art. XI.III. That all men have a natural and infeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their conscience ...

Texas 1845, Preamble. We the People of the Republic of Texas, acknowledging, with gratitude, the grace and beneficence of God ...

Utah 1896, Preamble. Grateful to Almighty God for life and liberty, we ... establish this Constitution ...

Vermont 1777, Preamble. Whereas all government ought to ... enable the individuals who compose it to enjoy their natural rights, and other blessings which the Author of Existence has bestowed on man ...

Virginia 1776, Bill of Rights, XVI ... Religion, or the Duty which we owe our Creator ... can be directed only by Reason ... and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian Forbearance, Love and Charity towards each other ...

Washington 1889, Preamble. We the People of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution ...

West Virginia 1872, Preamble. Since through Divine Providence we enjoy the blessings of civil, political and religious liberty, we, the people of West Virginia ... reaffirm our faith in and constant reliance upon God ...

Wisconsin 1848, Preamble. We, the people of Wisconsin, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, domestic tranquility ...

Wyoming 1890, Preamble. We, the people of the State of Wyoming, grateful to God for our civil, political, and religious liberties ... establish this Constitution ...

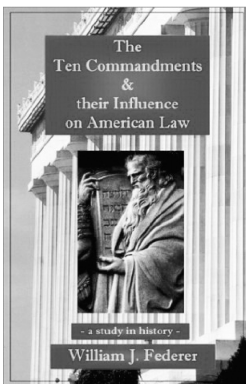
After reviewing acknowledgments of God from all 50 state constitutions, one is faced with the prospect that maybe, just maybe, the ACLU and the out-of-control federal courts are wrong.

William Federer is a best-selling author and president of Amerisearch Inc. The above article is reprinted with permission from The Ten Commandments & Their Influence on American Law which is offered by the Religious Freedom Coalition.

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