

Waking Up to Iran

✘ In recent weeks, the world seems to have finally awakened to the true nature of Iran's Islamic regime. First, Iran's leaders appear to have stolen a presidential election on behalf of their preferred candidate, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Then they brutally cracked down on those who protested the theft.

Rather than admit that the protests are an expression of Iranian dissent, these leaders have made the absurd claim that foreign agitators, primarily British, are responsible.

Finally, a young woman named Neda Agha-Soltan was shot and killed while observing the protests last week. As beautiful Neda died—her terrible final moments captured on video—the world's illusions about Iran seemed to die with her.

It is good that the world finally recognizes the true nature of Iran's regime. But it is simply inexplicable—and inexcusable—that it took so long for the world to wake up. While Neda's death is indeed tragic, she is hardly the Islamic Republic's first victim.

The hands of Iran mullah's drip with blood. The fact that much of this blood is Jewish and American should not make it any less meaningful, or any less shocking.

As we all know, Iran funds, trains and arms the two terrorist groups most committed to Israel's destruction, Hezbollah and Hamas. Iranian support enabled Hezbollah to attack Israel in July 2006 and force over 350,000 Israelis to flee their homes as Iranian-supplied missiles rained down on Israel's northern cities (and killed over 40 Israelis).

The Iranians have since rearmed Hezbollah with missiles that can reach almost all of Israel's major population centers. Iran has also been Hamas' main external source of support and has enabled and encouraged Hamas attacks on Israel. Iran is

now making every effort to supply Hamas with long range missiles that can reach Tel Aviv.

Of course, Iran has hardly limited its violence to citizens of the Jewish state.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah is widely believed to have been responsible for the 1983 bombing of our marine barracks in Beirut, which killed 299 American soldiers. On May 30, 2003, Judge Royce Lamberth of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, found Iran legally responsible for providing Hezbollah with financial and logistical support that helped them carry out this attack.

Likewise, Iran's Hezbollah proxies have been linked to the 1996 attacks on the Khobar Towers barracks in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 U.S. soldiers. More recently, our government has linked Iran to the Iraqi insurgents who have killed U.S. troops in Iraq.

In July 1994, the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was bombed, killing 85 people and injuring hundreds. Most of the victims were Argentinean Jews. On October 25, 2006, Argentine prosecutors formally accused the government of Iran of directing the bombing, and Hezbollah of carrying it out. It is for these reasons and many others that the U.S. State Department has repeatedly labeled Iran the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Those who have suffered most under Iran's regime, of course, are the Iranian people themselves. During the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980's, thousands of Iranian boys and teenagers lost their lives after they were forced to run into Iraqi minefields and machine gun fire in repeated "human waves" until a path was cleared for tanks to advance.

Thousands of Iranians have been arrested, beaten and even executed for their political views. Members of Iran's Jewish community have been falsely accused of spying for Israel,

Iran's Bahai community faces terrible persecution, and Iranian teenagers have been hung for being homosexuals.

Despite this long record of terror and bloodshed, much of the world and even our own administration continue to view Iran as a legitimate regime, one that can be reasoned with. For some reason, it took an Iranian clamp down on its own people to penetrate the world's complacency about Iran in a way that this prior record could not. Better late than never.

But this reality raises a concern. Will the world's recognition of the Islamic regime's true nature be as short lived as it has been belated? When the shock of Neda's death fades, will the world remember her and the thousands of other victims of this regime whose violent deaths were never caught on tape?

When Ahmadinejad claims that he wants nuclear power for peaceful purposes, will the world remember his lies about this election and about the protests that followed? We hope the world will remember. But we must do everything in our power to remind all who will listen of these facts lest they forget.

**Michael Jackson Salvation
Reports 'Not True,' Pastors
Say**

✘ Pentecostal pastors Andraé and Sandra Crouch say recent reports that they led pop singer Michael Jackson to Christ three weeks before his sudden death Thursday are false.

In a posting on her Facebook page, Sandra Crouch, who with her brother, Andraé, leads Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles, said reports that she and her brother met with Jackson and led him in the sinner's prayer are "incorrect and absolutely not true."

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Rally Targets Emerging Generation of Pro-Lifers

✘ A new generation of pro-life activists is rallying Tuesday in Southern California to “build a culture of life” during President Obama’s pro-choice administration.

Hosted by Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust, an organization that mobilizes pro-life youth activism, the [Southern California Rally for Life](#) begins at 7 p.m. at New Beginnings Community Church in Norco, Calif., and is part of Survivors’ weeklong training camp for young pro-lifers.

Did Obama Edit History?

✘ Even four weeks later, President Barak Obama’s Cairo speech is still reverberating in Washington, D.C. To his credit, the president used the speech to shatter an ugly myth when he confronted Holocaust denial.

But unfortunately, President Obama’s speech actually reinforced other dangerous myths about Israel’s history and the true obstacles to peace in the Middle East.

Last Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stepped up to set the record straight. And last week, two Democratic

senators—Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada and Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey—added their voices to the chorus of correction. Taking on a popular president from your own party is never easy. It is therefore of great significance that these two Democrats felt the need to clarify that when it comes to the specifics of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the president does not speak for the party.

The Brown Sisters: Displaying God's Love

✘ The Brown Sisters have been singing together for more than 20 years. Well-known in their home city of Chicago, they've shared the stage with the likes of Aretha Franklin, Bobby McFerrin and Mavis Staples. For the last 12 years they've traveled throughout Europe singing at concerts and festivals, and have continued to perform as backup singers in the United States. The sisters decided that now was the right time for them to release their own CD, *The Brown Sisters Live in Chicago*.

What prompted this quintet to finally step out on their own with an album? Eldest sister Vanessa Brown Dukes says it was a simple desire to sing God's praises and to offer songs with positive messages that will uplift and deliver people during these tough times. That sense of hope rings throughout the album, on which four of the five sisters collaborated with other writers for songs that declare God as an "Awesome God" and the "King of Glory."

The Charismatic Movement: Dead or Alive?

We can quibble over when the previous wave of the Holy Spirit ended. But what's important is that we follow God's presence into a new season.

Some readers were offended when I declared in an [online column](#) a few weeks ago that the charismatic movement is dead. One woman even accused me of heresy, since—in her words—I believe “the age of the Holy Spirit has ended.” (I didn't say that.) Others on the opposite side of the spectrum asked why I waited so long to state the obvious. All this discussion prompted me to address the issue further.

I am not a coroner. But I do believe the historic period we call the American charismatic movement ended a while ago. By making that pronouncement I was NOT saying that (1) the Holy Spirit isn't moving today; (2) the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit aren't available to us any more; or (3) people who are associated with this movement are all washed up.

Jason Crabb

✖ By Jason Crabb | Spring Hill Music

Jason Crabb, vocalist for The Crabb Family and performer at the Grand Ole Opry and Brooklyn Tabernacle, releases his self-titled solo debut today.

Produced by Tommy Sims and Norro Wilson, the project features appearances by Vince Gill, Sonya Isaacs and members of the Gaither Vocal Band. The release pays tribute to Crabb's Southern roots, but Sims' involvement helped bring about a more "soulful sound" on the song "Somebody Like Me," Crabb said.

Reveal Your Glory

✖ By Vicki Yohe | Sanachie

When Vicki Yohe's mother passed away only two weeks after being diagnosed with cancer in 2007, Yohe knew it wasn't the right time to get back into the studio and release another CD. Her mother's death and other personal experiences have drawn Yohe closer to God. After a four-year recording hiatus, the singer releases *Reveal Your Glory* this week.

Thrilla

✖ By Mr. Del | Holy South Records

A member of the multiplatinum hard-core rap group Three 6 Mafia, Mr. Del rededicated his life to Christ in 2000 and since then has used his musical talent to spread the gospel.

He says his newest album, *Thrilla*—an acronym for The Real Anointing—shows a “deeper, transparent side of me” and “allows the listener to submerge into the heart of an artist who has overcome weakness and insurmountable obstacles and is now refined and strong through Christ.”