

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY – CAN PERSECUTION HAPPEN IN AMERICA?

Is it possible for Christians to come to a place of persecution right here in the United States?

Perhaps it has not really seemed that alarming to people in the 21st century that prayer has been banned from public schools, or that the Christmas nativity at the city square was seemingly so repulsive.

It might not have even seemed like a huge concern that there was a movement afoot to remove “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance, or “in God we trust” from U.S. currency and coins.

We may have even shrugged our shoulders when we were told that it was unconstitutional to post the ten commandments in public buildings.

We could, of course, continue with many examples of assaults upon the Christian faith. But could these seemingly innocuous examples of a lack of tolerance toward Christians ever turn into red hot religious persecution?

Perhaps we could and should learn from history how persecution arises.

When the Jews were attacked by Hitler, it did not begin as a full out military attack. When he became Chancellor in 1933, he started by merely proclaiming a one-day boycott against Jewish shops. That year he also saw to it that a law was passed against Kosher butchering.

In the public schools Jewish children began to experience restrictions. By 1935, the Nuremburg Laws deprived Jews of German citizenship.

In 1936, Jews were prohibited from participation in parliamentary elections and signs appeared in many German cities reading, “Jews not welcome.”

We know how this story ends, with the deaths of six million Jews.

Perhaps we didn’t know that it began with a leader just changing a law here and another law there. I’m sure there were some lifted eyebrows when the law was passed against Kosher butchering, but I doubt very seriously that the people could have ever believed that it would go to the horrible depths in which it ended.

But it all started with a leader just making a few changes here, and a few changes there.

People of all (Biblical) faiths are clearly under attack in our country and it is time that we started calling attention to what is taking place.

David Barton is the founder and president of Wall Builders, a national pro family organization that presents America’s forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our moral, religious and constitutional heritage.

Recently he wrote an article in which he contends that President Obama is the most Biblically-Hostile U.S. president that we have ever had.

In this article Mr. Barton lists the many attacks that have come out of the White House against people of Biblical faith.

While the following list does not contain all of the attacks that have taken place, I would like to share with you just a few entries of this list. To check for the most recent list you can go to

<http://wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=106938>

America's Most Biblically-Hostile U. S. President

When one observes President Obama's unwillingness to accommodate America's four-century long religious conscience protection through his attempts to require Catholics to go against their own doctrines and beliefs, one is tempted to say that he is anti-Catholic. But that characterization would not be correct.

Although he has recently singled out Catholics, he has equally targeted traditional Protestant beliefs over the past four years also. So since he has attacked Catholics and Protestants, one is tempted to say that he is anti-Christian. But that, too, would be inaccurate.

He has been equally disrespectful in his appalling treatment of religious Jews in general and Israel in particular.

So perhaps the most accurate description of his antipathy toward Catholics, Protestants, religious Jews, and the Jewish nation would be to characterize him as **anti-Biblical**.

And then when his hostility toward Biblical people of faith is contrasted with his preferential treatment of Muslims and Muslim nations, it further strengthens the accuracy of the anti-Biblical descriptor.

In fact, there have been numerous clearly documented times when his pro-Islam positions have been the cause of his anti-Biblical actions.

Listed below in chronological order are (1) numerous records of his attacks on Biblical persons or organizations; (2) examples of the hostility toward Biblical faith that have become evident in the past three years in the Obama-led military; (3) a listing of his open attacks on Biblical values; and finally (4) a listing of numerous incidents of his preferential deference for Islam's activities and positions, including letting his Islamic advisors guide and influence his hostility toward people of Biblical faith.

1. Acts of hostility (small changes) toward people of Biblical faith:

1. June 2013 – The Obama Department of Justice defunds a Young Marines chapter in Louisiana because their oath mentioned God, and another youth program because it permits a voluntary student-led prayer. [\[1\]](#)
2. February 2013 – The Obama Administration announces that the rights of religious conscience for individuals will not be protected under the Affordable Care Act. [\[2\]](#)
3. January 2013 – Pastor Louie Giglio is pressured to remove himself from praying at the inauguration after it is discovered he once preached a sermon supporting the Biblical definition of marriage. [\[3\]](#)
4. February 2012 – The Obama administration forgives student loans in exchange for public service, but announces it will no longer forgive student loans if the public service is related to religion. [\[4\]](#)
5. January 2012 – The Obama administration argues that the First Amendment provides no protection for churches and synagogues in hiring their pastors and rabbis. [\[5\]](#)
6. December 2011 – The Obama administration denigrates other countries' religious beliefs as an obstacle to radical homosexual rights. [\[6\]](#)
7. November 2011 – President Obama opposes inclusion of President Franklin Roosevelt's famous D-Day Prayer in the WWII Memorial. [\[7\]](#)
8. November 2011 – Unlike previous presidents, Obama studiously avoids any religious references in his Thanksgiving speech. [\[8\]](#)
9. August 2011 – The Obama administration releases its new health care rules that override religious conscience protections for medical workers in the areas of abortion and contraception. [\[9\]](#)

10. April 2011 – For the first time in American history, Obama urges passage of a non-discrimination law that does not contain hiring protections for religious groups, forcing religious organizations to hire according to federal mandates without regard to the dictates of their own faith, thus eliminating conscience protection in hiring. [\[10\]](#)
11. February 2011 – Although he filled posts in the State Department, for more than two years Obama did not fill the post of religious freedom ambassador, an official that works against religious persecution across the world; he filled it only after heavy pressure from the public and from Congress. [\[11\]](#)
12. January 2011 – After a federal law was passed to transfer a WWI Memorial in the Mojave Desert to private ownership, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the cross in the memorial could continue to stand, but the Obama administration refused to allow the land to be transferred as required by law, and refused to allow the cross to be re-erected as ordered by the Supreme Court. [\[12\]](#)
13. November 2010 – Obama misquotes the National Motto, saying it is “E pluribus unum” rather than “In God We Trust” as established by federal law. [\[13\]](#)
14. October 19, 2010 – Obama begins deliberately omitting the phrase about “the Creator” when quoting the Declaration of Independence – an omission he has made on no less than seven occasions. [\[14\]](#)
15. May 2009 – Obama declines to host services for the National Prayer Day (a day established by federal law) at the White House. [\[15\]](#)
16. April 2009 – When speaking at Georgetown University, Obama orders that a monogram symbolizing Jesus' name be covered when he is making his speech. [\[16\]](#)
17. April 2009 – In a deliberate act of disrespect, Obama nominated three pro-abortion ambassadors to the Vatican; of course, the pro-life Vatican rejected all three. [\[17\]](#)
18. February 2009 – Obama announces plans to revoke conscience protection for health workers who refuse to participate in medical activities that go against their beliefs, and fully implements the plan in February 2011. [\[18\]](#)
19. April 2008 – Obama speaks disrespectfully of Christians, saying they “cling to guns or religion” and have an “antipathy to people who aren't like them.” [\[19\]](#)

2. Acts of hostility from the Obama-led military toward people of Biblical faith:

1. August 2013 - A Department of Defense military training manual teaches soldiers that people who talk about "individual liberties, states' rights, and how to make the world a better place" are "extremists." It also lists the Founding Fathers -- those "colonists who sought to free themselves from British rule" -- as examples of those involved in "extremist ideologies and movements." [\[20\]](#)
2. August 2013 - A Senior Master Sergeant was removed from his position and reassigned because he told his openly lesbian squadron commander that she should not punish a staff sergeant who expressed his views in favor of traditional marriage. [\[21\]](#)
3. August 2013 - The military does not provide heterosexual couples specific paid leave to travel to a state just for the purpose of being married, but it did extend these benefits to homosexual couples who want to marry, thus giving them preferential treatment not available to heterosexuals. [\[22\]](#)
4. August 2013 - The Air Force, in the midst of having launched a series of attacks against those expressing traditional religious or moral views, invited a drag queen group to perform at a base. [\[23\]](#)
5. July 2013 - When an Air Force sergeant with years of military service questioned a same-sex marriage ceremony performed at the Air Force Academy's chapel, he received a letter of reprimand telling him that if he disagreed, he needed to get out of the military. His current six-year reenlistment was then reduced to only one-year, with the notification that he "be prepared to retire at the end of this year." [\[24\]](#)

6. July 2013 - An Air Force chaplain who posted a website article on the importance of faith and the origin of the phrase "There are no atheists in foxholes" was officially ordered to remove his post because some were offended by the use of that famous World War II phrase. [\[25\]](#)
7. June 2013 - The U. S. Air Force, in consultation with the Pentagon, removed an inspirational painting that for years has been hanging at Mountain Home Air Force Base because its title was "Blessed Are The Peacemakers" -- a phrase from Matthew 5:9 in the Bible. [\[26\]](#)
8. June 2013 - The Obama administration "strongly objects" to a Defense Authorization amendment to protect the constitutionally-guaranteed religious rights of soldiers and chaplains, claiming that it would have an "adverse effect on good order, discipline, morale, and mission accomplishment." [\[27\]](#)
9. May 2013 - The Pentagon announces that "Air Force members are free to express their personal religious beliefs as long as it does not make others uncomfortable. "Proselytizing (inducing someone to convert to one's faith) goes over that line," [\[28\]](#) affirming if a sharing of faith makes someone feel uncomfortable that it could be a court-marital offense [\[29\]](#) -- the military equivalent of a civil felony.
10. May 2013 - An Air Force officer was actually made to remove a personal Bible from his own desk because it "might" appear that he was condoning the particular religion to which he belonged. [\[30\]](#)
11. April 2013 - Officials briefing U.S. Army soldiers placed "Evangelical Christianity" and "Catholicism" in a list that also included Al-Qaeda, Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas as examples of "religious extremism." [\[31\]](#)
12. April 2013 - The U.S. Army directs troops to scratch off and paint over tiny Scripture verse references that for decades had been forged into weapon scopes. [\[32\]](#)
13. April 2013 - The Air Force creates a "religious tolerance" policy but consults only a militant atheist group to do so -- a group whose leader has described military personnel who are religious as 'spiritual rapists' and 'human monsters' [\[33\]](#) and who also says that soldiers who proselytize are guilty of treason and sedition and should be punished to hold back a "tidal wave of fundamentalists." [\[34\]](#)
14. January 2013 - President Obama announced his opposition to a provision in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act protecting the rights of conscience for military chaplains. [\[35\]](#)
15. June 2012 - Bibles for the American military have been printed in every conflict since the American Revolution, but the Obama Administration revokes the long-standing U. S. policy of allowing military service emblems to be placed on those military Bibles. [\[36\]](#)
16. May 2012 - The Obama administration opposed legislation to protect the rights of conscience for military chaplains who do not wish to perform same-sex marriages in violation of their strongly-held religious beliefs. [\[37\]](#)
17. April 2012 - A checklist for Air Force Inns will no longer include ensuring that a Bible is available in rooms for those who want to use them. [\[38\]](#)
18. February 2012 - The U. S. Military Academy at West Point disinvites three star Army general and decorated war hero Lieutenant General William G. ("Jerry") Boykin (retired) from speaking at an event because he is an outspoken Christian. [\[39\]](#)
19. February 2012 - The Air Force removes "God" from the patch of Rapid Capabilities Office (the word on the patch was in Latin: Dei). [\[40\]](#)
20. February 2012 - The Army ordered Catholic chaplains not to read a letter to parishioners that their archbishop asked them to read. [\[41\]](#)
21. November 2011 - The Air Force Academy rescinds support for Operation Christmas Child, a program to send holiday gifts to impoverished children across the world, because the program is run by a Christian charity. [\[42\]](#)

22. November 2011 – Even while restricting and disapprobating Christian religious expressions, the Air Force Academy pays \$80,000 to add a Stonehenge-like worship center for pagans, druids, witches and Wiccans at the Air Force Academy. [\[43\]](#)
23. September 2011 – Air Force Chief of Staff prohibits commanders from notifying airmen of programs and services available to them from chaplains. [\[44\]](#)
24. September 2011 – The Army issues guidelines for Walter Reed Medical Center stipulating that “No religious items (i.e. Bibles, reading materials and/or facts) are allowed to be given away or used during a visit.” [\[45\]](#)
25. August 2011 – The Air Force stops teaching the Just War theory to officers in California because the course is taught by chaplains and is based on a philosophy introduced by St. Augustine in the third century AD – a theory long taught by civilized nations across the world (except now, America). [\[46\]](#)
26. June 2011 – The Department of Veterans Affairs forbids references to God and Jesus during burial ceremonies at Houston National Cemetery. [\[47\]](#)
27. January 2010 – Because of "concerns" raised by the Department of Defense, tiny Bible verse references that had appeared for decades on scopes and gunsights were removed. [\[48\]](#)

3. Acts of hostility toward Biblical values:

1. August 2013 - Non-profit charitable hospitals, especially faith-based ones, will face large fines or lose their tax-exempt status if they don't comply with new strangling paperwork requirements related to giving free treatment to poor clients who do not have Obamacare insurance coverage. [\[49\]](#) Ironically, the first hospital in America was founded as a charitable institution in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin, and its logo was the Good Samaritan, with Luke 10:35 inscribed below him: "Take care of him, and I will repay thee," being designed specifically to offer free medical care to the poor. [\[50\]](#) Benjamin Franklin's hospital would likely be fined unless he placed more resources and funds into paperwork rather than helping the poor under the new faith-hostile policy of the Obama administration.
2. August 2013 - USAID, a federal government agency, shut down a conference in South Korea the night before it was scheduled to take place because some of the presentations were not pro-abortion but instead presented information on abortion complications, including the problems of "preterm births, mental health issues, and maternal mortality" among women giving birth who had previous abortions. [\[51\]](#)
3. June 2013 – The Obama Administration finalizes requirements that under the Obamacare insurance program, employers must make available abortion-causing drugs, regardless of the religious conscience objections of many employers and even despite the directive of several federal courts to protect the religious conscience of employers. [\[52\]](#)
4. April 2013 – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an official foreign policy agency of the U.S. government, begins a program to train homosexual activists in various countries around the world to overturn traditional marriage and anti-sodomy laws, targeting first those countries with strong Catholic influences, including Ecuador, Honduras, and Guatemala. [\[53\]](#)
5. December 2012 – Despite having campaigned to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, President Obama once again suspends the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 which requires the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to move the American Embassy there. [\[54\]](#)
6. July 2012 - The Pentagon, for the first time, allows service members to wear their uniforms while marching in a parade - specifically, a gay pride parade in San Diego. [\[55\]](#)
7. October 2011 – The Obama administration eliminates federal grants to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for their extensive programs that aid victims of human trafficking because the Catholic Church is anti-abortion. [\[56\]](#)

8. September 2011 – The Pentagon directs that military chaplains may perform same-sex marriages at military facilities in violation of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. [\[57\]](#)
9. July 2011 – Obama allows homosexuals to serve openly in the military, reversing a policy originally instituted by George Washington in March 1778. [\[58\]](#)
10. March 2011 – The Obama administration refuses to investigate videos showing Planned Parenthood helping alleged sex traffickers get abortions for victimized underage girls. [\[59\]](#)
11. February 2011 – Obama directs the Justice Department to stop defending the federal Defense of Marriage Act. [\[60\]](#)
12. September 2010 – The Obama administration tells researchers to ignore a judge’s decision striking down federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. [\[61\]](#)
13. August 2010 – The Obama administration Cuts funding for 176 abstinence education programs. [\[62\]](#)
14. July 2010 – The Obama administration uses federal funds in violation of federal law to get Kenya to change its constitution to include abortion. [\[63\]](#)
15. September 16, 2009 – The Obama administration appoints as EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum, who asserts that society should “not tolerate” any “private beliefs,” including religious beliefs, if they may negatively affect homosexual “equality.” [\[64\]](#)
16. July 2009 – The Obama administration illegally extends federal benefits to same-sex partners of Foreign Service and Executive Branch employees, in direction violation of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. [\[65\]](#)
17. May 2009 – The White House budget eliminates all funding for abstinence-only education and replaces it with “comprehensive” sexual education, repeatedly proven to increase teen pregnancies and abortions. [\[66\]](#) He continues the deletion in subsequent budgets. [\[67\]](#)
18. May 2009 – Obama officials assemble a terrorism dictionary calling pro-life advocates violent and charging that they use racism in their “criminal” activities. [\[68\]](#)
19. March 2009 – The Obama administration shut out pro-life groups from attending a White House-sponsored health care summit. [\[69\]](#)
20. March 2009 – Obama orders taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research. [\[70\]](#)
21. March 2009 – Obama gave \$50 million for the UNFPA, the UN population agency that promotes abortion and works closely with Chinese population control officials who use forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations. [\[71\]](#)
22. January 2009 – Obama lifts restrictions on U.S. government funding for groups that provide abortion services or counseling abroad, forcing taxpayers to fund pro-abortion groups that either promote or perform abortions in other nations. [\[72\]](#)
23. January 2009 – President Obama’s nominee for deputy secretary of state asserts that American taxpayers are required to pay for abortions and that limits on abortion funding are unconstitutional. [\[73\]](#)

4. Acts of preferentialism for Islam:

- February 2012 – The Obama administration makes effulgent apologies for Korans being burned by the U. S. military, [\[74\]](#) but when Bibles were burned by the military, numerous reasons were offered why it was the right thing to do. [\[75\]](#)
- October 2011 – Obama’s Muslim advisers block Middle Eastern Christians’ access to the White House. [\[76\]](#)
- August 2010 – Obama speaks with great praise of Islam and condescendingly of Christianity. [\[77\]](#)

- August 2010 – Obama went to great lengths to speak out on multiple occasions on behalf of building an Islamic mosque at Ground Zero, while at the same time he was silent about a Christian church being denied permission to rebuild at that location. [78]
- April 2010 – Christian leader Franklin Graham is disinvited from the Pentagon's National Day of Prayer Event because of complaints from the Muslim community. [79]
- April 2010 – The Obama administration requires rewriting of government documents and a change in administration vocabulary to remove terms that are deemed offensive to Muslims, including jihad, jihadists, terrorists, radical Islamic, etc. [80]
- May 2009 – While Obama does not host any National Day of Prayer event at the White House, he does host White House Iftar dinners in honor of Ramadan. [81]
- 2010 – While every White House traditionally issues hundreds of official proclamations and statements on numerous occasions, this White House avoids traditional Biblical holidays and events but regularly recognizes major Muslim holidays, as evidenced by its 2010 statements on Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Hajj, and Eid-ul-Adha. [82]

Many of these actions are literally unprecedented – this is the first time they have happened in four centuries of American history. The hostility of President Obama toward Biblical faith and values is without equal from any previous American president.

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Why do I call this to your attention? The first step in taking care of a problem is to realize that one exists.

The fact is, our nation is quickly moving from a place in which many want to silence us to the place in which they do not tolerate us.

We were told by the Testimony of Jesus that this would happen, ... it's happening before our eyes.