



Tropical

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

news

APRIL 2008

Editorial Ramblings

We went to submit Grace's application for a Settlement Visa yesterday (31 March 2008). It's a long trip to Manila and back, but at least it's done now.

It will take 2-3 months to process her application. If all goes well, we will probably return to the UK so that she can, after about three years, apply for British Citizenship. That will be a big help to both of us. We've been offered a place to live at a sensible rent in Stoke-on-Trent, so that is a

reasonable starting point. You wouldn't believe the documentary requirements we had to provide the UK immigration authorities. So much stuff. I also had to sign

a declaration and show sufficient funds to prove that I could support her and not claim welfare benefit! Talk about violation of human rights! When I think of the number of free-loading

immigrants already in the UK, it makes me sick that I'm being treated as an alien - and I still pay my

National Insurance contributions - as I have for more than 40 years. We true Brits are now second class citizens

in our own country. If I was a black foreigner with 10 kids, I'd be welcomed in with open arms and given free housing and all the money I needed and more besides. As a friend of mine said recently, if I had bomb making skills, they'd give me a bigger council house! Obviously, we won't be staying in the UK any longer than is absolutely necessary. We wouldn't be going there at all other than to get Grace a British passport and the only reason for that is that it makes it easier for her to travel. Better to be a foreigner in a foreign country than a foreigner in your own country!

Once again we report on the death of two young men serving their country with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families during this time. Families that are left bereft of someone they loved - a little girl who now has no father to look up to and love. As Claire, the wife of Marine David Marsh said: *David was a loving and dedicated family man. He went through life with a smile on his face, which will continue through our beautiful daughter. The Royal Marines was his passion and love. He will always be our hero.* David was only 23 years old. John Thornton only 22. When is the killing of our courageous young men going to stop? David lived very near to my own son, Paul, in Somerset, who, as you know, has also been serving with 40 Commando in Afghanistan.



Photograph above: Little Lad with Charlyn, the owner of our home in the Philippines who recently visited us from Norway.

Front Cover photograph: Hibiscus flowers in our garden.

Inside back cover: The reality / stupidity of political correctness - not like when I was at sea!

Back cover photograph: Sunset - from the balcony of our home.

Your prayers are needed...

for Gerry and Sylvia:

We are pleased to report that Gerry's eye operation (cataract) was successful. However, he is still in poor health and needs your prayers for his ulcerated leg and the pain he is suffering from arthritis. Please also pray for Sylvia (his wife) who is doing all she can to take good care of him. When I spoke to her recently, she said that Gerry is now aged 72 and has been going downhill (health wise) ever since his motor cycle accident about a year ago. They both need your prayerful support.

for Kate:

We ask you to pray for Kate who has Cancer and is attending a pain clinic to relieve her suffering.

for Bilal:

We ask you to pray for Bilal who is undergoing surgery on his back. Also include his wife, Sawsan, in your prayers, to give her the strength she needs to take care of him after he returns home from hospital. You may remember that we published some of their photographs in the August and December 2007 editions of our newsletter.

and thanks.....

for Paul (Alan's son):

A letter from Julie (11 April 2008):

Just a quick mail whilst Emily has her nap to let you know that Paul is safely back at Camp Bastion and is due back on home soil about this time next week. I'm so sorry that I've not been very prolific on the mailing front. Since I've been back at work life has been even more hectic than before...dog and baby have been holding up well though! I've also changed my e-mail address due to an unfortunate incident with my previous mail account that was hacked into. Not a nice experience. Anyway, I hope Grace and the family are all well. I will get Paul to contact you when he's home.

A letter from Paul (15 April 2008)

Well I am back in Camp Bastion now awaiting for my onward flights home, due back on Saturday. It is good to be back to normality after 6 months at FOB Inkerman ("Incoming" is its nickname). I am still getting used to real food at the moment after living on 24 hour ration packs for the entire tour! Foil packed sausage and beans gets tiring after a while.

Am very much looking forward to getting back home to Jules and Emily (*Ed: Emily was 1 year old on 25th April*) and taking her to Paington zoo as she loves animals (including Seb).

Well you heard about my close friend, Dee, being killed (*Ed. Refer to February 2008 edition, page 17 - Damien Mulvihill*). I was with him when he died and there was nothing we could do. He was a great big friendly bear and is a sorely missed mate. I now have 2 months off, which will be spent relaxing and unwinding and playing Cricket.

It is a real shame about JP not being able to go into the sea for fear of an upset tummy. I love my swimming and would be absolutely gutted if I couldn't go out in it. When I was in Diego I swam across the Lagoon right in the middle of the Indian ocean, for an escape and evasion exercise. It was 4 and a half miles across and it took 4 hours against the current in full kit with 100% humidity and I loved it. However I did get 3rd degree sunburn on my face and back, but it beat living in the jungle for 72 hours which was the original plan. Anyway enough of my waffling, give my love to Grace and JP and good luck with the residency. Will send pictures of the tour when I get home.

A letter from Paul (20 April 2008)

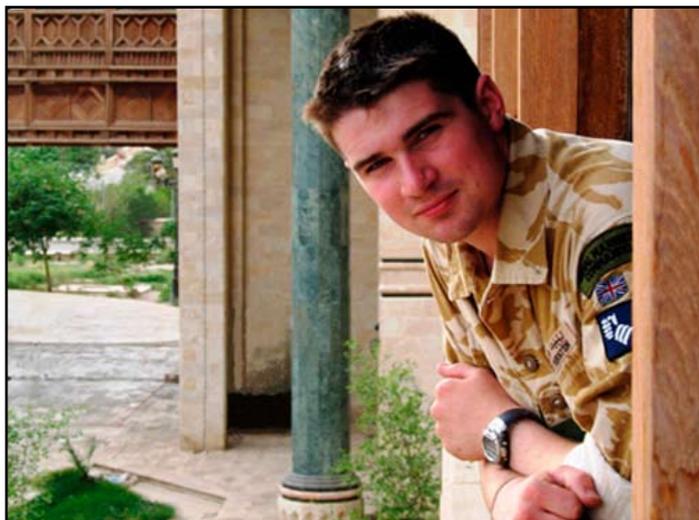
Yes, am home now. Was welcomed home by the First Sea Lord and the band of the Royal Marines. And of course, Jules and Emily who is so big now!! Speak soon. Love Paul.

for Joseph and David

My friend David is looking remarkably well for a dying man, but I think he must be getting near the end of the line as he has moved his housekeeper's children into his little house, and has spent a large sum in modernising the kitchen, so I guess he wants everything to be in place for her when he passes on. She gets the house. I am very well and very happy. Now that the problem of the Land Law is out of the way, I can handle the other problems "nae bother, Jimmy."



Two more Royal Marines killed in action in Afghanistan



Lt. John Thornton



Marine David Marsh

It is with deep sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the deaths of Lieutenant John Thornton and Marine David Marsh, both of 40 Commando Royal Marines, in southern Afghanistan on Sunday 30 March 2008.

Just after 1653 hours local time, the Marines were conducting a patrol in the vicinity of Kajaki, Helmand province, when the vehicle they were travelling in was caught in an explosion.

Medical treatment was provided prior to both being evacuated to the field hospital at Camp Bastion. Despite the best efforts of the medical team, both sadly died as a result of their wounds.

Courtesy of <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/LieutenantJohnThorntonAndMarineDavidMarshKilledInAfghanistan.htm>

Why we are in Afghanistan *(Courtesy of: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/uk-in-afghanistan/>)*

- We never again want to see Afghanistan become the haven for terrorists that proved so destructive in the past, to Afghanistan and to the world.
- We want to see a stable country playing a constructive role in an important region that impacts directly on the UK's national security.
- We have a moral obligation to help Afghanistan rebuild itself as a nation after decades of damaging conflict.

The United Kingdom, alongside 39 other nations, is in Afghanistan at the invitation of the democratically elected Afghan Government to help rebuild and develop a country emerging from a quarter century of conflict. We are there to support Afghanistan's security, reconstruction, good governance and counter-narcotics work. The UK's efforts are co-ordinated by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence.

Reconstruction and development continue in Musa Qaleh

You may remember that we reported on the Battle for Musah Qaleh a few months ago. We are now pleased to report on the reconstruction programme being carried out in this city.

Courtesy of the UK Ministry of Defense web site at URL: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/ReconstructionAndDevelopmentContinueApaceInMusaQaleh.htm>

Three months after UK troops helped Afghan Security Forces to recapture Musa Qaleh the process of returning the town to a bustling centre of commerce is well underway. Report by Hugh Blethyn.

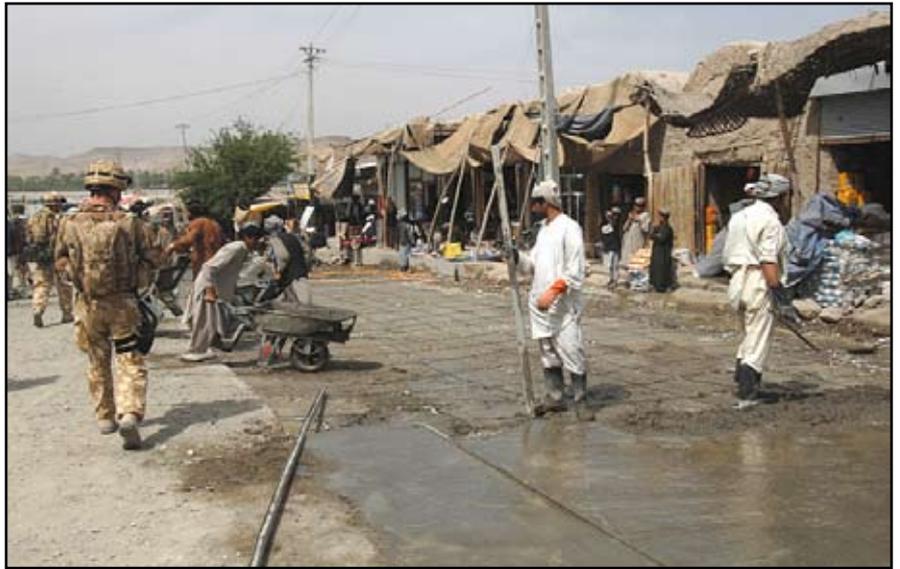
Musa Qaleh is gradually beginning to return to some sense of normality, the reconstruction and development works a testament to the comprehensive joint efforts of the local government headed by Governor Mullah Salam and supported by elements of the UK Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and other elements of the British military.

Supporting Governor Salam, and key to the success of the British Comprehensive Approach, is the location of the PRT's Stabilisation Advisor, Richard Jones in the District Centre in Musa Qaleh. This is the first time that a member of the PRT has been deployed permanently to such a forward location. By being located in the town, Richard is able to assist and advise the Governor and his team on development and local governance initiatives:

“The Comprehensive Approach is really all about ensuring that all the elements of government necessary to rebuild and stabilise an area like Musa Qaleh fall into place,” he explained. “It is really a reflection of the complexity of conflict nowadays that you have to have the involvement of not just the military but also the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development.”

When asked about the achievements made in Musa Qaleh since December, Richard pointed to the opening of the town's school as just one example of a success story:

“The school reopened here in the middle of February and has certainly been one of the most successful stories in terms of reconstruction and development.”



Above: Builders from Musa Qaleh busy rebuilding the Main road in the district centre as soldiers from 5 SCOTS and the Household Cavalry Regiment conduct a reassurance patrol [Picture: Cpl. Rich Denton]

Below: Children of Musa Qaleh finish school for the day. Approximately 800 pupils now attend since Taliban insurgents were pushed out by ANA and British forces in December 2007 [Picture: Cpl Rich Denton]

In contrast to the Taliban's failed efforts to open madrassas in the town, the school project has received the unreserved support of the population and enjoys an attendance of some 850 children between the ages of six to sixteen learning everything from maths to English. Such is the thirst for knowledge that the children and teachers attend the school against the very real threat of intimidation from Taliban elements in outlying areas. The students follow an Afghan National Curriculum supported by the Department of Education in Lashkar Gah who have led the drive to refurbish the school from its shambolic state as living quarters for the Taliban until December last year.



The teachers, some of whom have taught at the school for over 40 years through Afghanistan's turbulent times, welcome the security and stability that Afghan National Security Forces supported by ISAF have brought to the area. One of the school's English teachers, Mahmood Salid said: "We need the current security conditions to continue to allow us to educate the next generation in Musa Qaleh so that we do not see a return to the levels of illiteracy seen under the Taliban."

Relaxing in the school's staff room, the Deputy Head Teacher, Mohammed Nasah, talks of his delight as new classroom furniture and books arrive. To ensure that there is a degree of play time as well as hard work, a British Army team have installed a park at the school with swings and see saws - a common sight for every British child but certainly something that the children of Musa Qaleh are unlikely to have seen.

Also deployed to Musa Qaleh to aid the local population is the Task Force Helmand Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) team. This multinational military organisation aims to assist both civilian and military units to achieve their goals and in Musa Qaleh they are at the heart of the reconstruction and development efforts. Many CIMIC personnel are reservists who bring specialist civilian skills to the mix.

Captain Phillip Adams - on attachment from the Royal Yeomanry to the Household Cavalry Regiment, Blues and Royals - has spent the past six months working on CIMIC projects throughout Helmand province. A partner in a London law firm, Capt. Adams is the link between the military and civilian agencies in Musa Qaleh:

"Since December there has been an extraordinary amount achieved, not only militarily, but also the establishment of governance within Musa Qaleh," said Capt. Adams. "We now have a functioning government which is interacting with the people, dealing with the people issues and problems which any community faces on a day to day basis."

Key to the economic regeneration of the commercial centre of Musa Qaleh is the town's road building programme. Coordinated by the Governor's Civilian Secretariat staff, the programme has already seen large sections of the town's roads resurfaced from the pot-holed dust bowls that plagued the town's traders previously thereby improving road safety for pedestrians and traffic alike.

The promises of reconstruction have been further met by the recent installation of a generator to provide

a reliable power supply to the District Centre, school and commercial hub of the town. Members of 23 Regiment 1 CS Company Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers constructed a 'Hesco Bastion' protective wall for the generator overseen by engineers from USAID prior to its installation and hook-up to the town's power grid.

Speaking about the installation of the generator Capt. Adams said: "It will make a significant impact to those residents and business in the district centre of Musa Qaleh and it will enable them to have power. It will be an enormous change to the lifestyle that they enjoy and the way in which they are able to conduct business and so is a profound improvement on what they have had until now."



Above: A local man works on the new main road in Musa Qaleh [Picture: Cpl. Rich Denton]

Many of the reconstruction projects in Musa Qaleh have created employment for the local population through the PRT supported 'cash-for-work' programme employing up



Above: Locals watch as soldiers of 5 SCOTS and the Household Cavalry Regiment conduct reassurance patrols in Musa Qaleh [Picture: Cpl Rich Denton]

to 150 people on a daily basis:

“One of the most successful projects that we have run is the ‘cash-for-work’ programme and this has taken some 350 members of the local community and employed them doing the sort of jobs that you would expect a local municipal or civil works department to undertake such as canal clearance, drainage clearance, rubbish collection and street sweeping,” Capt. Adams added.

Central to the continued improvement of the quality of life of the population is refurbishment of the local government buildings. The new Civilian Secretariat buildings allow Governor Salam and his executive Shura (gathering) of ten senior local elders, to meet local community leaders. For Capt. Adams this is also a real sign of progress:

“Through the executive Shura, the Government is now able to listen to the problems of their local community – to ask them what sort of projects they would like to see, what sort of issues they have or would like to see resolved.”

So while Musa Qaleh may have come a long way in a short time, with the quality of life for ordinary Afghans already having improved from life under the Taliban, the real challenge for all those deployed on Task Force Helmand now will be to continue the progress both in Musa Qaleh and across Helmand province.

The Iranian chess game

Friday, 11th April 2008 - by Melanie Phillips

Courtesy of: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/604366/the-iranian-chess-game.shtml>

In the *Washington Post* David Ignatius (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/08/AR2008040802901.html>) observes that, in their testimony to the Senate on the war in Iraq, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker portrayed the malign and nefarious influence of Iran as lying at the very core of the ongoing difficulties in Iraq. Ignatius makes two very important points:

Iran’s covert campaign to reshape Iraq has been clear since the U.S. invasion in March 2003. Iranian intelligence officers prepared lists of Iraqis for assassination in the weeks and months after the war began; they sent Iranian-trained mullahs to take over the Shiite mosques of central and southern Iraq that had been smashed by Saddam Hussein; they pumped an estimated \$12 million a week in covert financial support to their allies as the January 2005 election approached; they infiltrated all the major Shiite political parties, and many of the Sunni ones, too.

The Iranians have fixed the political game. They are on all sides at once. They have links to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his Dawa party; they funnel money to the Badr organization of Shiite cleric Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, which

is a key recruiting ground for the Iraqi army; they provide weapons, training and command and control for the most extreme factions of the Mahdi Army. Moqtada al-Sadr, the Mahdi Army’s nominal leader, is actually living in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

The first point is that, although Petraeus implied that Iranian meddling in Iraq was a recent development, it was actually clear from the get-go. Yet although the Americans (and the British) knew full well that Iran was a key factor in stoking the fires of insurrection in Iraq, they chose to remain silent about it and went to enormous lengths to avoid acknowledging it, even to the extent of issuing rules of military engagement against hot pursuit over the Iranian border to catch Iranian terrorists responsible for attacking coalition forces (and who can forget Britain’s humiliation last year over Iran’s kidnap of the 15 British marines when Britain’s terms of engagement forbade any act of defence in case of ‘escalation’ into war with Iran). So why has it taken all this time to say what was plain from the start, that throughout this period Iran has been waging war on us?

The second point is a grim one. For all the apparent success of the surge, the reduction in violence in Iraq and the reported ‘awakening’ by the Sunni Iraqi sheikhs to the iniquity of al Qaeda, the fact is that Iraq is now a puppet state of Iran. As Ignatius observes, Iran has fixed the Iraqi government, the Iraqi army and the Iraqi insurrection. Even Ayatollah Sistani, once no friend to the Iranian Shia, has now buckled under. The purpose is strategic. Iran is the great chess player of the Muslim world and it is steadily moving its pieces into a checkmate position. It is now playing in Iraq a similar role to the one it is playing in Lebanon, where it controls the government and has an army, in the form of Hezbollah, poised to attack Israel (again), and which it is also developing in Gaza where it is aiding Hamas.

But it’s worse even than that. For Iran’s chessmen are now in position not just here and in several other trouble spots around the world but also in the west. While Britain, America and Europe have been (rightly) transfixed by Sunni terror in the form of al Qaeda and the allied cultural onslaught by the Muslim Brotherhood, they have totally overlooked the fact that an Iranian Shia terrorist infrastructure has been built in British, American and European cities. In Britain, for example, dozens of extremist Shia mosques have sprung up in London alone, some of which are serving as the base for unknown numbers of Hezbollah cells in the UK. We don’t know about them because, unlike al Qaeda, they are not announcing their presence through sporadic attacks. They are, instead, waiting.

What are they waiting for?
A signal.

Here is the nightmare scenario. Iran is racing to develop the bomb (the picture, *above right*, shows Ahmadinejad at Natanz) while the west obligingly provides it with the time to do so. Le Monde, for example, has obtained documents showing that, contrary to the



infamous American National Intelligence Estimate, Tehran was indeed pursuing a military nuclear program after 2003 (what a surprise). In response, President Bush may or may not attack Iran before he departs the White House. If he decides not to do this, history will record that he allowed this seismic threat to civilisation to realise its deadly ambition. But if he should decide to do it, the response is unlikely to take the form of rockets fired from Iran since it will very likely be paralysed by the US attack at an early stage. Instead it will unleash its sleeping weapon — its terrorist army around the world. Hezbollah will attack Israel from Lebanon, maybe along with Hamas from Gaza; in Iraq, it will attack US forces who will be sitting ducks; and Europe will be subjected to unquantifiable acts of terror.

When British officials are told about the threat from Shia radicals in their midst, they shrug it off. They believe that, since the British government will not join the Americans in a war against Iran, Britain will not be a target for retaliation. Once again, they could not be more wrong. To Iran, Britain and America are linked as the greater and lesser Satans; Britain indeed is seen as the very fount of historic western imperialism, particularly in the Middle East. So Britain would get hit regardless, even though there's no longer any British spine to snap. And so probably would America.

The terrible thing is that we are have sleepwalked into this and are still in the same trance. Iran declared war upon the west in 1979 when Khomeini came to power. We ignored it. When Hezbollah attacked western interests in the decade

that followed, we ignored it. When Hezbollah pointed thousands of rockets at Israel, we ignored it (and blamed Israel when it finally tried to fight it). And now that we have it in our own cities, we are doing nothing whatever about it. But we are thus ignoring an unconscionable threat, one that is within. We have been recklessly oblivious before, to the growth in our midst of al Qaeda. We are doing it again. Who can forget the placards on London's streets waved by suicidally stupid British liberals during the Lebanon war proclaiming 'We are all Hezbollah now'? That could soon be truer than anyone thought.

As I have said before, all roads lead to Iran. One way or another, the regime has to be taken out. It would be great if this could happen through the Iranians themselves rising up and overthrowing it. But how likely is this?

This is the decision President Bush is having to weigh. He is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't. The consequences of war with Iran, along the lines sketched out above, would be dire and would extend way beyond the region. But the alternative may be war with a nuclear Iran, genocide or the nuclear blackmail and inevitable throttling of the west — or all three. It's a hard decision, made harder because the dilemma is largely self-inflicted through almost thirty years of supine refusal to acknowledge reality. But ultimately, the self-delusion has to end. The only question is whether it will do so in time to avert catastrophe, or will dawn amongst the ashes.

Islamisation of the West

by Dr. Daniel Shayesteh

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.nzcp.com/guest63.htm>



Dr. Daniel Shayesteh is an Iranian immigrant who arrived in Australia with his family in November 1991. Daniel is married to Mary and they have three daughters. He is Director of the inter-denominational organisation “*Exodus from Darkness*” and a National Evangelist for the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia. Daniel lectured also a part time lecturer in International Business at the University of Technology Sydney for eight years.

A brief introduction of my background may help the reader to better understand my comments concerning the plans of Islam for non-Muslim nations. I was born as a Muslim in Iran.

From early childhood, I was encouraged by my parents to get involved in religious practices. At the age of nine, I became a famous Muslim boy in my hometown because of my ability to read and recite the Qur'an in Arabic. From early childhood, we learned that Christians and Jews were unclean, as the Qur'an says, and Islam must take over the world. At the age of 19, I began to see clearly that the king

of Iran and his family were not good Muslims as the royal women were not covered. That same year I joined the radical Muslim students' movement at university against the king of Iran, aiming to establish an Islamic government. The king was pro-West, and not resistant to Israel and its government. Under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini, we overthrew the most powerful government in the Middle-East; the king escaped and we captured and ruled the country according to Islamic Shari'a[1]. I was initially called on, by several influential Muslim leaders, to develop a revolutionary army whose aim was to capture Israel and destroy America and their presence in the world. Those who were involved with

this military preparation were called “Hezbollah”, which is a Qur’anic word meaning “the party of Allah”. It was the revolutionary army in Iran that started a branch of Hezbollah in Lebanon , aiming to fully occupy its government first, in order to capture Israel .

In order to fight America , Israel and other western nations, we needed adequate military force in order to start and continue this war. We, therefore, decided to equip all zealous young Iranian Muslim boys and girls with terrorist techniques for warfare. To achieve this, we started a nationwide campaign.

Very soon, I became a famous man in my hometown and announced my candidacy for Islamic parliament. It was from here that all the Shari’a values came to the surface. Some were so disturbing to us even though we were Muslims. For example: Do we have freedom to criticize the leader or system in a positive way in order to create a positive and productive competition for the advancement and well being of the country? If the religious and holy leaders are involved in injustice, are we able to take them to face justice as ordinary citizens do? The response to such questions was no.

This caused us to change our direction from the leader Ayatollah Khomeini, and start a new party that aimed to hold the general public accountable as law makers. We soon became the ruling party as government of Iran . One of my colleagues became president with 98% of the peoples’ vote. The mullahs (religious leaders) lost with only 2% of votes. This angered the radical mullahs who wanted to govern the country at any cost. They used every means possible (as is Hezbollah and Hamas in Lebanon and Palestine), such as threatening, lying, secret killings etc., to destroy the elected government of the people. As a result, the president escaped to France . Some were able to escape. However, others were killed or placed in political prisons. I was kidnapped and taken away to prison, but my family did not know whether I was dead or alive. Eventually, I was able to escape the death sentence and escape to Turkey . There, I learned Turkish and entered university to occupy my time. There was always a question lingering in my mind as to why my Muslim brothers were unable to appreciate the many years of service I dedicated for Islam and instead aimed to kill me over personal differences.

In my second year in Turkey , through a business deal that went wrong, I came into contact with an Iranian Christian group who showed me much kindness. Their overwhelming love surprised me. I wondered why these so-called ungodly people (infidels) were sacrificially helping Iranian Muslim refugees in Turkey . I discovered that their faith in Christ, unlike the faith of Muhammad (the prophet of Islam)[2] is based on unconditional love. This and all other doctrinal, social, political and moral values within Christianity led me to be a follower of Christ.

After finishing my PhD in Turkey , the door was opened for

my family to take refuge in Australia . From the beginning of our life in Australia , we realized how Muslim leaders and committed Muslims have been trying to undermine the Judeo-Christian democratic values for the establishment of their authoritarian Islamic system. It was shocking to me that these people speak about democracy and peace, not because they love democracy and peace, but to deceive people in order to pave the way for the spread of Islam. In addition, these Muslims never complain to any Islamic leaders and governments in Islamic countries (especially Saudi Arabia) for the restrictions and persecutions they implement towards other religious groups. The penalty for apostasy in Islam is death. In Saudi Arabia , women cannot drive, vote or go out without the permission of their male relatives, but these Saudi Arabian supported imams (religious leaders) in western countries hypocritically speak about equal opportunity, human rights and their plans for the liberation of women in the West in order to make blind supporters for Islam. They speak about Islam as the religion of peace without telling Westerners why Islam is not peaceful towards other religious groups and ethnicities within Islamic countries.

In my trips to various countries, I was shocked to see how Islam has been growing in many non-Islamic countries despite its intolerance towards democracy.

Why is this?

Why are mosques, Islamic schools and colleges springing up in every corner of non-Islamic countries to indoctrinate thousands of young people, when it is illegal for non-Muslims to practice or spread their religions and beliefs in Islamic countries? What is allowing Muslim leaders to teach Qur’an’s hate and killing verses in the mosques in non-Islamic countries? Why would Muslim leaders even dare ask for the establishment of their Islamic judiciary systems in non-Islamic democratic countries (i.e. Australia , Canada Germany, Great Britain and Sweden) despite Islam’s opposition to democracy and egalitarian values? Why do Muslim leaders in the West have freedom to speak against democracy, the social fabric of western societies? What has brought the West to this shocking stage when it is producing its own Muslim terrorists, who carry out their terror operations in the West (their own countries) and abroad in Pakistan , Afghanistan , Kenya , Tanzania , Saudi Arabia , Iraq , Israel , Morocco and Russia ?

Why are some leftist groups and individuals standing alongside radical Islamic leaders in order to fight democratic values in the West? Why are many western leaders, politicians, media and various groups silent towards the threat of Islam against their societies? What is keeping these people quiet in such a significant time when a religious group challenges not just their democratic values but additionally forces them to surrender to their bondage? Why are free people prepared to surrender to those who would place them in bondage?

What do we need to do? Do we care for our societies? Should we wait for Muslim leaders to change their attitudes and do something in favour of democracy? Are we aware that the Qur'an teaches Muslims to stand against democracy? The Qur'an says, "It is not for a believer, man and woman, to have any choice in their affairs, when Allah and his apostle (Muhammad) have decreed a matter... (Q[3].33:36). If Muslims have such instructions from the Qur'an, how do you think it possible for them to act against this? Can a branch cut its own root?

Muslim leaders and the Qur'an will not compromise with the West, but they are delighted if the West chooses to compromise with Islam. The West says, "All cultures and religions are good", and therefore there is no need for the best, and thereby for integration. This obviously opens and has opened the door for those groups who want to assert their authority and drive others out from their territory (read Q.4:89; 33:27). As a result of this, many Muslim leaders in the West have avoided integration and demanded segregated schools and self-governing ghettos ruled by Shari'a. Some Western authorities have already opened the door for such an authoritarian belief since they quietly abandoned the suburbs to the immigrants post World War II. The repercussions of this can be seen in the recent violence within France, where the French government has failed in the basic task of a government in securing the safety of its citizens' life and work.

What has caused the West to allow tolerance for such violence and hatred which undermine the freedom of the majority? Why has the West forgotten its heroes who laid down their lives for freedom decades and centuries ago? What has caused the West to betray its heroes? Why is Islam, which is under obligation to gain power over other nations, evidently more acceptable in the West than any other religious group?

The so-called moderate Muslim leaders in England have proposed for the British Government to accept that the only solution to combat the threat of terrorism in Great Britain is the "Shari'a". I was shocked at the extent to which Muslim leaders practice manipulation in the West. They are even more destructive than the terrorists by trying to legitimize the "Shari'a" for the Islamisation of the West. In Islam, this manner is called Taqiyya, one of the most efficient forms of deception used in Islamic evangelism and jihad, which works to destroy the life values of non-Muslims.

These Muslim leaders are using Britain as a means to an end. How is it possible to get rid of terrorism through "Shari'a"? Is "Shari'a" a real solution to terrorism, or is it the real gate-way to terrorism? Let us closely and briefly see what these Muslims mean by proposing Islam and its way of life as the solution:

Shari'a states: The true religion with Allah is Islam (Q.3:19). No religion other than Islam shall be accepted (Q.3:85)[4]. Christians and Jews and polytheists are the worst among

creatures and they go to hell (Q.98:6). So Shari'a means, as in all Islamic countries, that Islam must be the only dominant religion at the cost of demolishing all other religions and beliefs.

Shari'a states: You (Muslims) are the best folk that have been raised up unto mankind (Q.3:110). Muslims must not befriend non-Muslims (Q.4:89,144; 5:51). Christians and Jews must pay to Muslims in order to stay alive. They have to be humiliated (Q.9:29-30, refer to the whole chapter)[5]. Pagans (or the holders of other beliefs other than Christianity and Judaism) have no choice but to die or to embrace Islam (Q.9:5). Take therefore none of them for friends, till they have fled their homes for the cause of Allah. If they turn back, then seize them, and slay them wherever you find them (Q.4:89). So, Shari'a means that the only solution for non-Muslims to overcome this humiliation is to become Muslim.

Shari'a states: Prepare against the infidels whatever arms and weaponry you can muster so that you may terrorize them (Q.8:59). Both the Qur'an and the Shari'a command Muslims to prepare themselves for terrorizing (torhiboun or ra'b in Arabic) non-Muslims.

Shari'a states; Ladies belong to inferior class (Q.2:228); in inheritance shares, they get half (Q.2:11, 176). Two ladies witness is equal to one man's (Q.2:282). Ladies must abide at home; if they go out they have to cover themselves in order not to be known; any one who stands against must be slaughtered (Q.33:33, 59-61). Husbands own their wives (Q.53:2). Husbands beat their wives (Q.4:34; 38:44). (Muhammad) Do not treat your wives alike, no matter how eager you may be to do so (Q.4:129). Wives should not be saddened for anything you may give/tell them (Q.33:51). Despite all these clear evidences in the Qur'an against women, there are books published and distributed by Muslims in the West, saying that Islam gave rights to women at a time when there was no equality. They state that men and women are equal in the sight of Allah.[6] Despite being contrary to the truth, they can claim this because they have the freedom to lie. Lying to non-Muslims is permissible in Islam (Reliance of the Traveller, P.745)[7].

These verses provide some insight into the intention of Muslim leaders proposing Shari'a to the English Government. They want Britons to accept Islamic law as the sovereign law; otherwise, the ever-present terrorism will continue. According to Islam, unless infidels convert, it is a sin to cease fighting against them. Muslim nations are better than others as they have a command from Allah to rule the entire world and to have dominion over every nation in the world. Islam wishes to destroy all non-Islamic governments from the face of the earth. The existence of all Islamic countries today is the result of Islam's intolerance towards other values and beliefs. The goal of Islam is to triumph over all other beliefs. To any nation or power that gets in the way of that goal, Islam can use every power and means available in order to fight and destroy, either directly

or deceptively, which in both cases is called “Jihad”.

If this is what Shari’a means, how, then, are Muslim leaders able to propose it as the solution for the West? Why do some Westerners want to compromise with Islam, if this is the case?

Muslim leaders know that many in the West are ignorant and they are easily deceived. Lack of knowledge has always been the gateway for Islamists to enter, occupy and slaughter throughout the history of Islam. If you do not understand Islam and the will of its followers, your only choice is to be deceived by Muslim leaders. This is the reason why England and other European countries have lost a great deal to Islam.

Many middle-eastern background men and women, who live in the West, clearly understand the subtle lies of Muslim leaders who claim to be moderates. Unfortunately, many of them keep quiet and do not speak out for religious, cultural, political and social reasons. They know it is these so-called moderate Muslim leaders who pave the way for the law of Islam and radicals. If these so-called moderate leaders did not teach the Qur’an in the West, the jihadist groups would not exist in the West and would not be able to succeed and advance.

Our hope is that people in the West would wake up to the subtle threats of Islam for the safety of their own nations’ future. It is painful and alarming that many people do not believe or take seriously what we, as those who were once radical Muslims, have to say. At times, some western people stand against us or charge us with vilifying Islam and Islamists anytime we speak out. This is because Islam’s approach is so subtle, masking its insincerity.

It may be worth reflecting that no Islamic country has displayed the democratic values which have become synonymous with Western society. Therefore, we should approach the issue of Islam with caution and well-informed knowledge in order to appreciate and effectively uphold our own values within our society.

Notes:

[1] Shari’a refers to the system of Islamic rule for every aspect of the individual’s life and society as a whole

[2] Allah truly loves those who fight in his cause (Q.61:4). The sword on the Saudi Arabian flag is the clear sign of Islam for spreading its faith by sword.

[3] “Q” stands for Qur’an, “33” for chapter 33, and “36” for verse 36. It is important to note, however, that the numbers of the verses vary slightly within different translations of the Qur’an. So, while this passage is taken from verse 36, in other translations it may be either 34, 35 or possibly higher.

[4] Sometimes Muslims in the West use the verse Q.2:256 as proof for the tolerance of Islam towards other beliefs. This verse says; “There is no compulsion in religion”. According to various Islamic Schools this verse is from Muhammad’s first era of ministry when he did not have power. But Allah decreed war against all other religious groups after Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Medina at AD 622 when he gained power by becoming a ruler and statesman.

[5] In addition to all other heavy taxes that Jews and Christians have to pay under the Islamic rule, they also have to pay a yearly tax for their males in order to stay alive. If they do not pay this tax, they must be killed and their wives and daughters must be used or sold as slaves (Al-Mawardi, The Laws of Islamic Governance, 1058, PP. 60, 77-78, 200-201).

[6] “Appreciating Islam”, a book published by The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, P.12.

[7] “Reliance of the Traveller”, A Classic Manual of Islamic Sacred Law, by Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri.

Your Letters

We hope that ALL of you will contribute a few words to this page. All letters published will be done so anonymously. Letters may be edited a little, although nothing will be done to change the meaning or context of anything submitted for publication.

The stamp (left) depicts the Hundred Islands National Park which is in Pangasinan, Grace's home province, and near to where used to we live, in Alaminos.



Hi Alan & Grace

Greetings from England in April with plenty of April showers just like it used to be.....except last week we had 3 inches of snow!

Thanks you for your e mail and the link to your web site. I enjoyed seeing little John walking in the park for the 1st time....it must have been very exciting for you both and was that Grace's sister in the video?

I hope you are all well and enjoying life over there. We have moved house into East Sussex.....that's a long story! In brief we were about to buy a B & B and the lady selling it pulled out at the last moment so we rented for a few months before buying this brand new house. It is in North Chailey near to our new church in Scaynes Hill. Our family are all fine, with Nick, our youngest getting married in 3 weeks today, and Emma, our daughter having presented to us our 1st Grandchild on 19th December....the day we moved house!!!! His name is Judah (better known as Jude), and he is a delight and joy to his parents and grandparents. We are very thankful to God for the little fellow.

Hi Alan, sorry for the long silence.

I have been busy, but not playing golf, although I have managed about 3 games in the last 2 months. I have been having the house redecorated, part of my therapy, studying Thai and visiting friends.

I am delighted to know that Paul is back home. However I will continue to pray for his safety and wellbeing as well as for you and yours. I also pray that you find a suitable job.

Enjoyed the last newsletter very much. God bless,

Hi Folks,

Hope you're all OK. Sorry I have not been in touch until now. Nearly every day something seems to be going wrong or slow.

I have changed my computer. The new one has Windows Vista and it is very strange to get on with after XP (*Ed. I did warn you in a previous edition*). It takes a lot of sussing out to say the least. When I bought that I found my scanner would not work with it. The drivers were too old. So I had to buy another scanner.

Anyway, Keeping my fingers crossed. Things seemed to have evened out at last. But I'm sorry, I have not had time to even look at your Tropical news until now and even now it is only a quick squint!! Sorry old mate!! (*Ed. Not so much of the old! - I'm only 28!*) I know you always do such a good job with it and the time and trouble doing it and the taking of the pictures as well. It is one hell of a lot of work.

I'm feeling a little better now and stronger. But was down the hospital last week. The Doc said. I should not expect to feel any benefits from the op until six months has expired? Does she mean by that time I will be able to run the London Marathon??? Ha Ha. I am now down to 17 1/2 stone from 21 stone. That is in just over 10 weeks.

Right, If I do not go and make myself some food I will pass out. Keep well all of you.

Hope Paul is doing OK out in hell hole.

Bits and Pieces

It seems that the business of human rights in the UK has gone completely crazy. Only yesterday I read in the Sunday Times that the Royal Navy is no longer to detain pirates as it may be against their human rights and they then may want to claim asylum so that they can come to live in the UK! What madness is this? Under their own, Islamic law, they could have their hands or even their heads chopped off! And what rights do their victims have? What about the human rights of the British people amongst whom they may end up coming to live? Don't the British people have the right to live in a pirate/terrorist free country? Maybe the pirates could use their welfare/benefit cheques to finance a pirate operation in the English Channel - stiff competition for P&O European Ferries I'm sure!

There is a side gate fitted to our house that has always annoyed me as it scraped across a drain cover whenever we opened the gate - damaging the gate as well as making it difficult to open. Last week we got permission from the owner of our home to hire someone to raise the gate above the drain level. The guy and his son came along and spent most of the day knocking holes in the concrete wall to remove the hinges, then welding in new fixings and cementing everything in place once more - with the instruction that we shouldn't move anything until the cement had hardened. After a couple of days I went to the gate and my suspicions were immediately aroused when I noticed that the bolt on the gate was located in its former position when closed. On opening the gate - yes, you've guessed correctly, it still scraped on the drain cover - nothing had changed at all! Filipino workmanship at it's normal level. When we instructed him to return and do the job properly he refused - he instead chipped the concrete of the drain cover away so the gate would clear it! Why do something properly when you can make a *real* mess?

11th Anniversary



It hardly seems possible that this month I am celebrating the 11th anniversary of the first bicycle tour I made in the Philippines. I rode a mountain bike with a sidecar attached from the outskirts of Manila to Lucena, along a very rural route. From Lucena, I crossed to Marinduque Island, around which I rode my machine before returning to Manila by Jeepney.

I wrote a small e-book about my adventures entitled *A Cockroach in My Cornflakes*. If you'd like to read it, just send me an e-mail requesting a copy and I'll send it to you.

Here is a very short extract:

The sound of my head hitting the rocks isn't one I wish to hear repeated. I lay on the rocks wondering if my limbs were still intact whilst I waited for my head, and the wheel above me, to stop spinning. Why was I doing this crazy journey? An old (ish!) man riding a mountain bike and sidecar in a temperature of over 40°C, miles from help, on a road of rocks. Maybe it was me that was crazy, not the journey. I lay on the rocks, one foot still attached to a pedal by the strap of the toe-clip, watching the front wheel spin round close by. I lay there trying to feel if I was injured. Nothing seemed to hurt too much, so I carefully released my foot and gently picked myself up. Thankfully I was OK, only losing some skin from one elbow. No big deal. I righted the machine to find the wheel of the sidecar was twisted badly out of shape. As I surveyed the damaged machine, I realised that this time, I needed something like a miracle to happen. I assumed the wheel collapsing was what caused me to be thrown off. Who knows? Who cares? The buckled wheel was a real problem in that remote spot.

A new photographer for our magazine!



For some time now, Little Lad has been taking an interest in photography. He is always very keen to see new pictures being displayed on the screen, and for some time has been using his toys as *pretend* cameras. A few days ago, I let him loose with my Canon EOS5D - see picture on previous page and below, and, on this page, are a few of the photographs that he's taken - without my assistance and no editing! Not bad for a little guy who's not yet 3 years old. I too started young - when I was in junior school, but not as young as 2!



FRALICS 2008

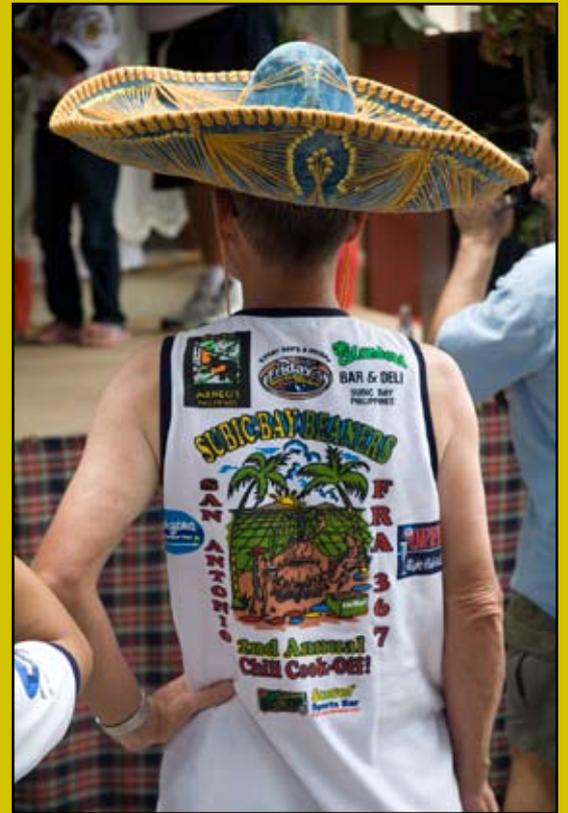
4 - 6 APRIL

Fun for the entire family!

Chili Cook-Off * Beauty Contest * Golf Tournament

PLUS... Horseshoes * Pool * Darts * Volley Ball

EVERYONE WELCOME! Music/Fun/Food





F R A L I
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*The FRA Fralics
Beauty Pageant*



from Nadia, in Qatar

It was Nadia's birthday on 24 April, and she has kindly sent us some photographs of her enjoying life in Qatar.









*Happy Birthday,
Nadia*



This is the start of a new section in our little magazine that will bring to your attention some interesting web-sites that I've found. I hope you find this new feature interesting and informative.

This month I'm concentrating on the debate about **Global Warming**, something we've had rammed down our throats for some time now. In my research, I've found that there are a large number of scientists who are firmly of the opinion, based on scientific research, that our world is NOT being warmed by our own efforts at polluting the atmosphere with CO₂ etc. but is a naturally occurring process.

Whilst I'm certainly not qualified to make a judgement on anything you may read on these pages, I have given you some links where you can read the opposite side of the story to that which is being given so much air-time and media coverage.

PolicyBot
Click here to search a database of more than 17,600 public policy documents.

Can you hear us now?
Global Warming is not a crisis!

HEARTLAND INSTITUTE



Why Does Gore Refuse To Debate His Critics?
CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A CRISIS

Learn about their challenge to debate Al Gore [here](#).

Global Warming

<http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=10488>

The Heartland Institute is a national (USA) nonprofit research and education organization, tax exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and founded in Chicago in 1984. It is not affiliated with any political party, business, or foundation.

Heartland's mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems.

Heartland has been endorsed by some of the country's leading scholars, public policy experts, and elected officials. Dr. Milton Friedman calls Heartland "a highly effective libertarian institute." Cato Institute president Edward Crane says Heartland "has had a tremendous impact, first in the Midwest, and now nationally."

Funding for Heartland's programs comes from approximately 1,600 individuals, foundations, and corporations. In 2006, 25 percent of the organization's income came from corporations and 75 percent from individuals and foundations. Heartland does not accept government funds and does not conduct "contract" research for special-interest groups.

Global warming is a prime example of the alarmism that characterizes much of the environmental movement. Media coverage of the topic is heavily slanted toward alarmism because "bad news sells," making it difficult for climate realists to get a fair hearing. Al Gore's recent movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," has been severely critiqued by many experts, yet it is being shown in high schools across the country as an educational documentary.

Climate science reveals that the world has warmed about 1 degree C during the past century, with half of that warming occurring before human emissions could have been responsible. Even if human activity is responsible for 100 percent of the warming since 1940, it is only about 0.5 degrees C., an amount so small it is within the error range of the instruments used to measure global temperatures.

There is no consensus about the causes, effects, or future rate of global warming. Most climate scientists doubt the reliability of computer models and the accuracy of land-based temperature records. Reports by the IPCC are unreliable due to political editing and rewriting of the reports' conclusions. Some of the key evidence cited in past IPCC reports has

been shown to be fraudulent.

There is also disagreement over what to do about global warming. Economists believe the Kyoto Protocol, the treaty intended to reduce human greenhouse gas emissions, would cost its participants trillions of dollars while having little or not effect on the global climate. Meanwhile, the federal and state governments debate and pass legislation that will be similarly futile.

Many experts call for adaptation--making small changes to infrastructure and lifestyles to accommodate a slightly warmer world--rather than spend hundreds of billions of dollars trying to reduce emissions. Carbon sequestration could also play a role in responding to climate change. All of the supposed catastrophic effects of global warming have been rebutted by scientists, including melting ice, hurricanes, other extreme weather, and extinction of wildlife.

An increasing number of experts believe the recent warming is due to natural cycles driven by variability in solar radiation.

Reliable experts on climate change include Patrick Michaels, S. Fred Singer, and Sallie Baliunas. Non-scientists who have rebutted climate alarmism include novelist Michael Crichton and Sen. James Inhofe.

For more information about global warming, go to Global Warming Facts, a Web site created by The Heartland Institute that focuses just on this issue.



Manhattan Declaration on Climate Change

<http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=22866>

"Global warming" is not a global crisis

We, the scientists and researchers in climate and related fields, economists, policy makers, and business leaders, assembled at Times Square, New York City, participating in the 2008 International Conference on Climate Change,

Resolving that scientific questions should be evaluated solely by the scientific method;

Affirming that global climate has always changed and always will, independent of the actions of humans, and that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is not a pollutant but rather a necessity for all life;



by Christopher Booker of The Sunday Telegraph

Today, I ask a simple, but immensely serious, question: ***"Why has the UK media, in pretty well all its forms, failed to report 'The Manhattan Declaration on Climate Change', signed in New York on March 4, 2008?"*** The meeting at which the 'Declaration' was agreed ['The 2008 International Conference on Climate Change', March 2 - March 4] was attended by over 500 people (scientists, economists, policy makers, etc.), with over 100 speakers delivering keynote addresses, or participating in panel discussions. Sadly, I think we know the answer, and it is one that reflects very badly on our supine UK media [the only exception of note appears to be The Sunday Telegraph, March 9: 'Climate dissent grows hotter as chill deepens']. If ever evidence were needed of the dangerous 'control' of our media by pernicious grand narratives, then this is surely it.

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/03/09/do0902.xml>) and: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=A1YourView&xml=/opinion/2008/04/20/do2002.xml>

Recognising that the causes and extent of recently observed climatic change are the subject of intense debates in the climate science community and that oft-repeated assertions of a supposed 'consensus' among climate experts are false;

Affirming that attempts by governments to legislate costly regulations on industry and individual citizens to encourage CO₂ emission reduction will slow development while having no appreciable impact on the future trajectory of global climate change. Such policies will markedly diminish future prosperity and so reduce the ability of societies to adapt to inevitable climate change, thereby increasing, not decreasing, human suffering;

Noting that warmer weather is generally less harmful to life on Earth than colder:

Hereby declare:

That current plans to restrict anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are a dangerous misallocation of intellectual capital and

resources that should be dedicated to solving humanity's real and serious problems.

That there is no convincing evidence that CO₂ emissions from modern industrial activity has in the past, is now, or will in the future cause catastrophic climate change.

That attempts by governments to inflict taxes and costly regulations on industry and individual citizens with the aim of reducing emissions of CO₂ will pointlessly curtail the prosperity of the West and progress of developing nations without affecting climate.

That adaptation as needed is massively more cost-effective than any attempted mitigation and that a focus on such mitigation will divert the attention and resources of

governments away from addressing the real problems of their peoples.

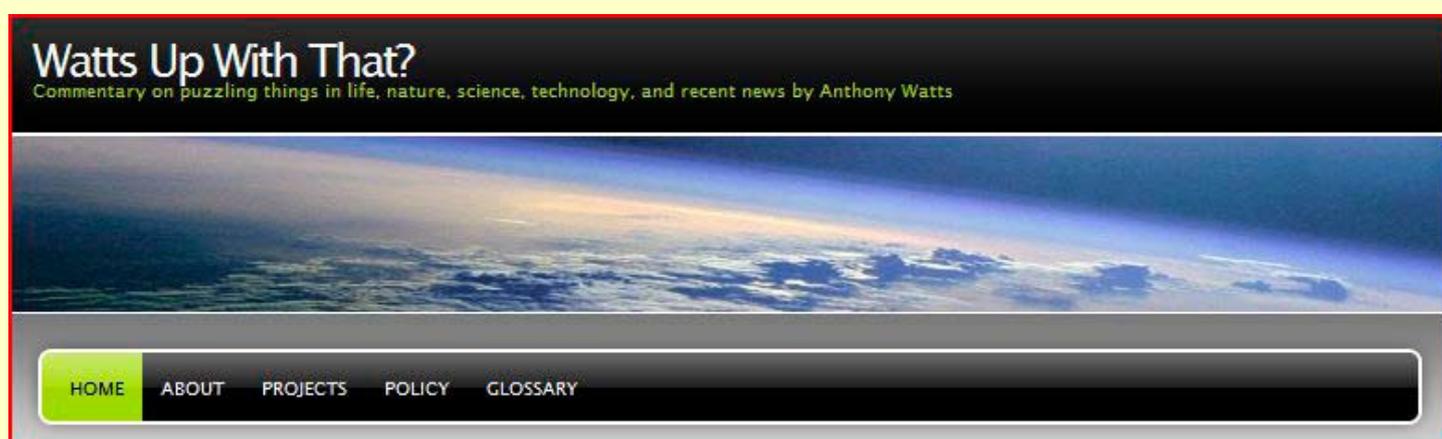
That human-caused climate change is not a global crisis.

Now, therefore, we recommend --

That world leaders reject the views expressed by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as popular, but misguided works such as "An Inconvenient Truth."

That all taxes, regulations, and other interventions intended to reduce emissions of CO₂ be abandoned forthwith.

Agreed at New York, 4 March 2008



<http://wattsupwiththat.wordpress.com>

On this super web site, you will find a variety of articles about climate change and of meteorological interest. It's a fascinating web site that is updated almost daily.

The web site presenter is a former television meteorologist who spent 25 years on the air and who also operates a weather technology and content business, as well as continues daily forecasting on radio, just for fun. He writes:

Weather measurement and weather presentation technology is my speciality. I also provide weather stations and custom weather monitoring solutions via www.weathershop.com (if you like my work, please consider buying a weather gadget there, Storm Predator for example) and www.tempeleert.com, and turn key weather channels with advertising at www.viziframe.com

While I have a skeptical view of certain issues, I consider myself "green" in many ways, and I promote the idea of energy savings and alternate energy generation. Unlike many who just talk about it, I've put a 10KW solar array



on my home, plus a 125 KW solar array on one of our local schools when I was a school trustee. I've retrofitted my home with CFL's and better insulation, as well as installed timer switches on many of our most commonly used lights. I encourage others to do the same.

An Emerging Truth

By Melanie Phillips - Courtesy of: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/601511/an-emerging-truth.shtml>

There is now unequivocal evidence that the temperature of the planet is dropping like a stone. As the DailyTech site (<http://www.dailytech.com/Temperature+Monitors+Report+Widescale+Global+Cooling/article10866.htm>) reports:

All four major global temperature tracking outlets (Hadley, NASAGISS, UAH, RSS) have released updated data. All show that over the past year, global temperatures have dropped precipitously. A compiled list of all the sources can be seen. The total amount of cooling ranges from 0.65°C up to 0.75°C - a value large enough to wipe out most of the warming recorded over the past 100 years.

Here's some other data you may not have seen. The troposphere hasn't warmed for the past five years. And the oceans haven't warmed for five years either, which has got this poor NPR reporter scratching his head, poor chap:

Some 3,000 scientific robots that are plying the ocean have sent home a puzzling message. These diving instruments suggest that the oceans have not warmed up at all over the past four or five years. That could mean global warming has taken a breather. Or it could mean scientists aren't quite understanding what their robots are telling them. This is puzzling in part because here on the surface of the Earth, the years since 2003 have been some of the hottest on record. But Josh Willis at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory says the oceans are what really matter when it comes to global warming.

And here is Ross McKittrick (who exposed the fundamental flaw in the research underpinning the whole of MMGW theory, the hockey-stick curve, whose upward warming trend was achieved by omitting several hundred years of global climate history) revealing that there is an error in ground station measurements such that past warming as measured by near-surface air has been over-estimated by 100% for over 20 years to 2002 (since when there has been cooling). While at Climate Audit, John Goetz says that the temperature record for 2005-2007 has actually been falsified to produce an upward trend. Crumbs!

Now look at this curious development. The British government, as we know, has swallowed the predictions of man-made global warming and is busily trying to persuade us that it is committed to reducing carbon emissions to counter the threat that we're all about to fry. Yet HM Treasury has posted on its web site a paper about solar cycles, which says: *Based on solar maxima of approximately 50 for solar cycles 24 and 25, a global temperature decline of 1.5°C is predicted to 2020, equating to the experience of the Dalton Minimum.* And it also concludes: *A rural US temperature data set shows that recent and current temperatures remain below the average of the first half of the 20th century.*

If the Treasury thinks it is worth putting up on its web site a paper forecasting global cooling, why is the British government adopting policies, including green taxes and intrusive lifestyle prescriptiveness, to deal with precisely the opposite eventuality?

Now, you may not know about this sudden deadly chill

in the MMGW atmosphere because the BBC hasn't told you. To be more precise, it did try to report this — but then appears to have altered its report under pressure from a global warming activist. This story by Roger Harrabin, headlined *'Global temperatures "to decrease,"* ' was captured a few hours after it appeared on the BBC web site on April 4. Later that day, strange things happened to this story. The headline changed from *'Global temperature "to decrease" ' to 'Global warming "dips this year";* so did the content; but then the headline changed back again to *'Global temperature "to decrease" '.* Google searches from that day show the two titles with their different time references, although the article is thought to have retained the original time of release throughout on its web page:

BBC NEWS | Science/Nature | Global temperatures 'to decrease' Global temperatures will drop slightly this year due to the effects of La Nina. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7329799.stm

BBC NEWS | Science/Nature | Global warming 'dips this year' Global temperatures will drop slightly this year due to the effects of La Nina, UN meteorologists say. news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/7329799.stm

Baffled? Here's the explanation. This site proudly reproduced an email exchange between Harrabin and a global warming activist, Jo Abbess, who introduced it with these words:

Remember to challenge any piece of media that seems like it's been subject to spin or scepticism. Here's my go for today. The BBC actually changed an article I requested a correction for, but I'm not really sure if the result is that much better. Judge for yourselves...

As you will see from this remarkable exchange, Abbess demanded that Harrabin change his report because it would play into the hands of global warming sceptics. Harrabin rebuffed her on the grounds that *We can't ignore the fact that sceptics have jumped on the lack of increase since 1998. It is appearing regularly now in general media.*

But when she told him there could be no debate about this because it was an emerging truth he caved in and said *Have a look in 10 minutes and tell me you are happier. We have changed headline and more.*

Appalling, no? But then, the headline mysteriously reverted to the original (although the altered text appears not to have done so). Might that have been because he realised to his horror that the email exchange was now in the public domain? (And how — it's even hit the US in the Glenn Beck show which seemed to show the BBC report had changed yet again from the revised version disclosed in the email exchange.)

It's an emerging truth all right —but not quite the one Jo Abbess had in mind.

Update, April 10: A publicist for BBC News has asked me to post up the following statement:

A minor change was made to the 'Global temperatures "to decrease" ' piece on our web site to better reflect the science. A few people including the report's authors, the World Meteorological Organisation, pointed out to us that the earlier version had been ambiguous.

Alan's Reflections

Alan's Reflections

I don't really like discussing politics and religion in our newsletter, unless I believe it to be of considerable importance to us all, as it is really a family newsletter, but the deaths of more Royal Marines have made me do some thinking (and research) and I feel that I want to support my own son and his colleagues who are at the sharp end of this dreadful conflict, so I crave your indulgence and pass on to you my thoughts at this sad time. Isn't it strange how some things coincide? I'd actually written a draft of this before reading the articles by Dr. Daniel Shayesteh and Melanie Phillips that are published elsewhere in this little magazine. This sort of coincidence has occurred a number of times during my putting together our newsletters over the years.

I believe that many Westerners, and, especially western politicians, fail to understand, that the world is not engaged in a war against terrorism per sé, but is engaged in a war against radical Islamists who want to impose their very strict laws and their own religious beliefs *on the whole world*.

Now, I have nothing whatever against Muslims or against religious freedom (indeed, this newsletter is sent to a number of Muslims whom we consider friends and who would always be welcome in our home), but, as a Christian, when I am in my own country I don't want to be governed by the religious beliefs of other cultures or religions - laws and beliefs that often oppose the law of my own country. The laws of Islamic nations are governed by their religious beliefs and their interpretation of the Holy Koran. I don't want my country to be governed by Islamic law (or Hindu law, or any other law) any more than the people of Islamic countries would want their countries to be run by British law or by Christian people or, say, Hindus.

Whole areas; cities (Bradford, for example) and communities in the UK are now run by Muslims. Can you imagine Christians running areas of Islamic countries?

Imagine if all the expats who work in the middle east tried to change the law in those countries. Rest assured, they'd be on the next 'plane out - if not incarcerated. Indeed, I have seen on many occasions, people who have said something out of turn (even if true, and if what they said had nothing to do with religion or politics) being immediately fired from their job and sent back to their country of origin. There is NO argument or appeal - even if you've been working there for many years. If you say something that is not what a local person wants to hear, you are OUT! Of course, when I am in another country I accept that I have to abide by the law of that country, and I don't expect to change it - unlike many of the foreigners (even if they do have British passports) who live in my country and make every effort to change the law to suit their own religious beliefs and cultures.

I have to say at this point, that I am very much against war and I believe that no one should go to fight a war. But, realistically, until EVERYONE refuses to take sides and join in a war, then we have to stand up for what is right and refuse

to be walked upon by other nations, religions or cultures if we want to protect our own way of life and the freedom that we are used to having. It is time western leaders woke up and *fought* this war instead of trying to *appease* these extremists. We must completely stop extremist Muslims and terrorists entering our countries - instead of pandering to their claims of violation of human rights. Don't the genuine natives of the countries of the western world have human rights too? The right to live in peace and freedom instead of side by side with Islamic terrorists and extremists who want only to cause trouble by blowing up buildings and buses; killing innocent people. In many English cities, young Muslims have attacked Christian ministers and their churches. Can you imagine Christian expat workers (normally the only Christians permitted to enter KSA) attacking Muslim clerics and mosques in Saudi Arabia? In this war, the enemy within is probably more dangerous in many ways than the enemy outside. And yet, western countries (particularly the UK) actually encourage the enemy to come inside - and provide them with welfare.

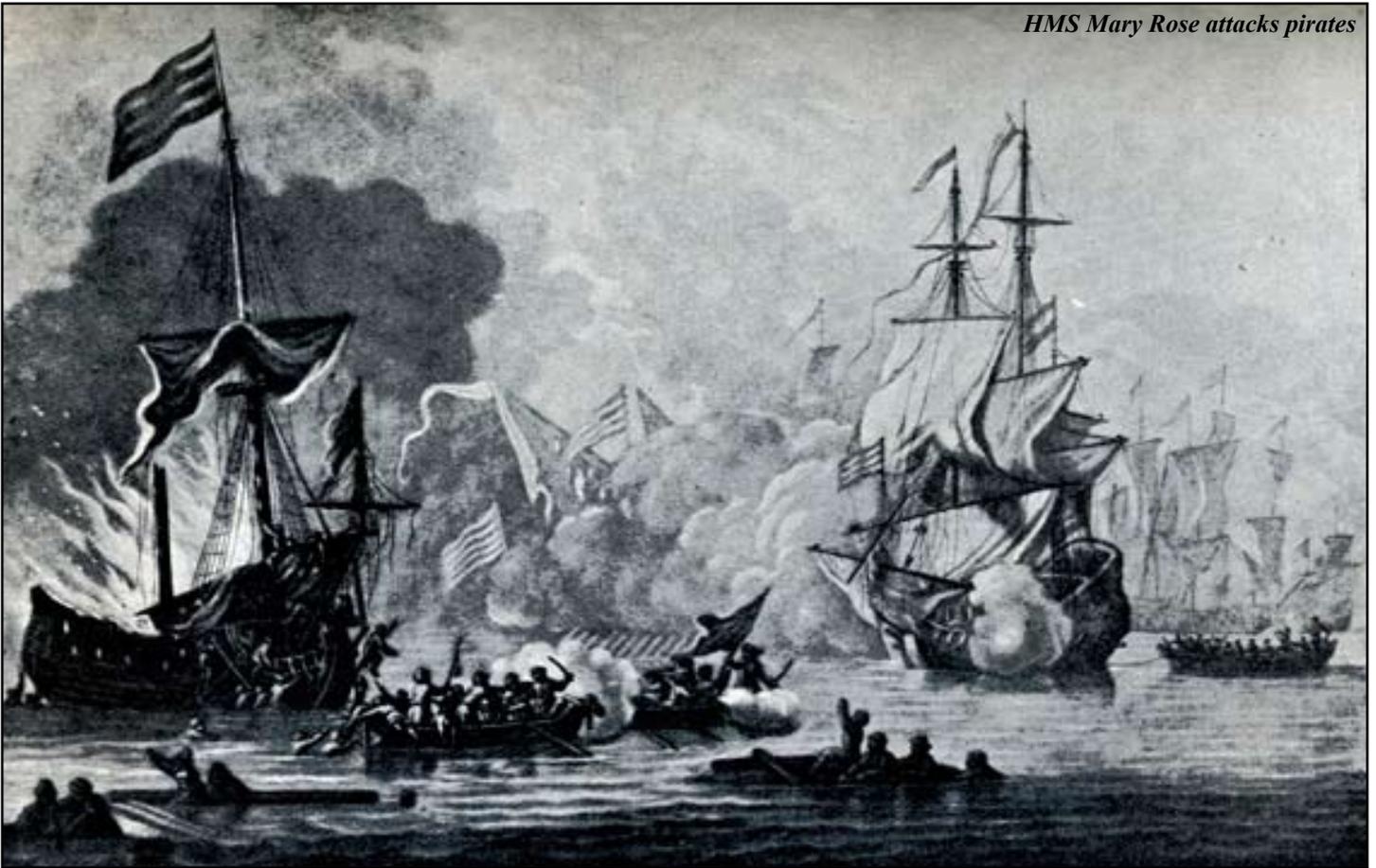
We must wage war on the Islamic extremists, just as we fought the fascists of Hitler in WWII who, if they'd won, would not only have exterminated the Jews, but also the Islamic people too - as they would have exterminated anyone thought not to have been of the Aryan race. The war we are now fighting must be fought, not only overseas but in our own western countries too. In the dark days of WWII, anyone deemed to be an *enemy within* was incarcerated for *the duration* (of the war).

The ideals of freedom and tolerance that we take for granted, and regard so highly; ideals that provide the framework of western society, are the ideals that the radical Islamists most fear - *and want to destroy*. The concept of freedom and tolerance for all doesn't exist in their minds, and these are the ideals that they would totally abolish if they are allowed to win this war. And yet, these are ideals they exploit to the full when they come to the west to spread their extremist views and incite easily brain-washed young people (in particular) to become human bombs and terrorists.

Of course, there is a military conflict going on too (overseas!), and we must do everything we can to support our brave young people in Afghanistan and other theatres of this war. The question that needs answering is: *Is it enough to defeat the enemy and allow us to maintain our freedom?* and, if not, *What do we need to do to make it enough?*

As Melanie Phillips said (<http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=576>) in her article *Talking to Terrorists* (Daily Mail, 31 March 2008), *Afghanistan is the front line for the defence of the world against the global Islamic jihad. If the Taliban returned to power, it would again become a vast haven for al Qaeda. (They would) turn Afghanistan once again into a brutally repressive Islamic state in order to incubate the wider Islamist assault on the rest of the world.*

I believe that a brutally repressive Islamic state is a place where most Muslims would not want to live, and therefore, this is a war that Christians and moderate Muslims (and those with other religious beliefs) cannot afford to lose.



Pirates can claim UK asylum

From **The Sunday Times**

April 13, 2008 by Marie Woolf, Whitehall Editor

THE Royal Navy, once the scourge of brigands on the high seas, has been told by the Foreign Office not to detain pirates because doing so may breach their human rights.

Warships patrolling pirate-infested waters, such as those off Somalia, have been warned that there is also a risk that captured pirates could claim asylum in Britain.

The Foreign Office has advised that pirates sent back to Somalia could have their human rights breached because, under Islamic law, they face beheading for murder or having a hand chopped off for theft.

In 2005 there were almost 40 attacks by pirates and 16 vessels were hijacked and held for ransom. Employing high-tech weaponry, they kill, steal and hold ships' crews to ransom. This year alone pirates killed three people near the Philippines.

Last week French commandos seized a Somali pirate gang that had held a luxury yacht with 22 French citizens on board. The hijackers were paid off by the boat's owner and then a French helicopter carrier dispatched 50 commandos to seize the hijackers and the ransom money on dry land.

Britain is part of a coalition force that patrols piracy stricken areas and the guidance has troubled navy officers who

believe they should have more freedom to intervene.

The guidance was sharply criticised by Julian Brazier MP, the Conservative shipping spokesman, who said: "These people commit horrendous offences. The solution is not to turn a blind eye but to turn them over to the local authorities. The convention on human rights quite rightly doesn't cover the high seas. It's a pathetic indictment of what our legal system has come to."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "There are issues about human rights and what might happen in these circumstances. The main thing is to ensure any incident is resolved peacefully."

The guidance is the latest blow to the robust image of the navy. Last year 15 of its sailors were taken prisoner by the Iranians and publicly humiliated.

In the 19th century, British warships largely eradicated piracy when they policed the oceans. The death penalty for piracy on the high seas remained on the statute books until 1998. Modern piracy ranges from maritime mugging to stealing from merchant ships with the crew held at gunpoint.

Courtesy of: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article3736239.ece> There is also a related link at URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/611346/the-weakest-link.shtml>

NELSON'S COLUMN

If the famous British Naval Officer Lord Nelson (1758-1805) was alive today

NELSON: "Order the signal, Hardy."

HARDY: "Aye, aye sir."

NELSON: "Hold on, that's not what I dictated to Flugs. What's the meaning of this?"

HARDY: "Sorry sir?"

NELSON (reading aloud): "' England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability.' - What gobbledegook is this?"

HARDY: "Admiralty policy, I'm afraid, sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting ' England ' past the censors, lest it be considered racist."

NELSON: "Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco."

HARDY: "Sorry sir. All naval vessels have now been designated smoke-free working environments."

NELSON: "In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men before battle."

HARDY: "The rum ration has been abolished, Admiral. Its part of the Government's policy on binge drinking."

NELSON: "Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it..... full speed ahead."

HARDY: "I think you'll find that there's a 4 knot speed limit in this stretch of water."

NELSON: "Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from the crow's nest please."

HARDY: "That won't be possible, sir."

NELSON: "What?"

HARDY: "Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness, and they said that rope ladders don't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffolding can be erected."

NELSON: "Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy."

HARDY: "He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle Admiral."

NELSON: "Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd."

HARDY: "Health and safety again, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled."

NELSON: "Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card."

HARDY: "Actually, sir, you did. The Royal Navy is under represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency."

NELSON: "Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons."

HARDY: "A couple of problems there too, sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without hard hats. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?"

NELSON: "I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy."

HARDY: "The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral."

NELSON: "What? This is mutiny!"

HARDY: "It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal-aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks."

NELSON: "Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?"

HARDY: "Actually, sir, we're not."

NELSON: "We're not?"

HARDY: "No, sir. The French and the Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation."

NELSON: "But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil."

HARDY: "I wouldn't let the ship's diversity co-ordinator hear you saying that sir. You'll be up on disciplinary report."

NELSON: "You must consider every man an enemy, who speaks ill of your King."

HARDY: "Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest; it's the rules. It could save your life"

NELSON: "Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, s*domy and the lash?"

HARDY: "As I explained, sir, rum is off the menu! And there's a ban on corporal punishment."

NELSON: "What about s*domy?"

HARDY: "I believe that is now legal, sir."

NELSON: "In that case..... kiss me, Hardy."

