

## **AN UNDECLARED WAR**

*Speaking at the National Cathedral 3 days after the devastating attack by three commandeered United States commercial airliners, President Bush declared that while "Americans do not yet have the distance of history...our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil." As intelligence seemed to indicate that a known terrorist by the name of Osama bin-laden was the perpetrator and his refuge appeared to be Afghanistan in the aegis of an organization called the Taliban; then were addressed, the non-refusal to surrender bin-laden....the war was on! Assumptions and intelligence seemed to suggest relations with Iraq as to terror methods, WMD indicators, and failure to heed UN stipulations from first Gulf War led the United States to involve Congress, request the UN to warn Saddam Hussein as to transgressions and possible attack. When Iraq did not heed the warning, the US attacked in the Spring of 2003.*

*Four years later-still no declared war-the incursions in Afghanistan and Iraq continue with no real end in sight. Hopes of a more democratic Aghanistan and Iraq exist , yet progress is relative, and on-going insurgency poses delays and prospects. Despite evidence of expanding Iraq military and security forces the soon promised Iraqi government, the outlook has no clear argument of immediate success. Arguments abound that the total Iraq picture is distorted by the media appetite for terror and bombings, there is a counter-voice of much progress towards a 'democratic' environment. Hope is in the eye of the beholder.*

*Today we are frequently told that the Western Ideology and Culture are the cause of much of the hatred aimed at America. We are blamed for the Crusade against Islam, the plight of the American Indians, the perpetuation of Negro slavery and the economic embargo against Japan that led to Pearl Harbor. Alas the rewriters of history have told us the real truth.*

*Hindsight has told us we should have Declared War against Afghanistan and Iraq and initiated a workable strategy such as 'Unconditional Surrender' as against Japan/Germany -a win, peace and docile enemy, and no insurgency. A total war strategy was required against Iraq where all critical areas captured and pacified. Nation-building and winning hearts and minds did not work in Korea, Vietnam or the first Gulf War; only possible after total win.*

*Despite the strategic and tactical errors to include many 'occupying errors' of the first military government, the United States must stay the course and even when the decision is made to leave, they must be in position to return quickly. Strategic influence in the Mideast must be continuous and with teeth. Threats by Iran, Syria and others should be treated as serious -and if mounted against Israel could involve the United States.*

*Christians who follow Jesus know that he would be there for them as well as available to our enemies-a turning of the cheek. We see no visible example of a turning of the cheek by the many faces of Islam. A War of Civilizations is possible.*