



In this special edition of CrossingCurrents we reflect upon the anniversary of 9-11 and the current state of our nation. Are there lessons learned then that we can apply today? Read "Put on Your Running Shoes" and see what you think.

Recently, Crosswinds' Don Malin was interviewed by Moody Radio regarding his personal recollections of 9-11 and his service in the Middle East. During the interview, Don also provides insight regarding the need to help returning military personnel and their families.

You can hear Don's interview at <https://tinyurl.com/y4e2vb8b> It is well worth the five minute investment of your time.

To learn more about the needs facing some of our returning service men and women and how you can help, read Don's article in our last issue.

Many still view the terrorism of 9-11 as an attack by Islam. Many also still believe the war on terror is a war against Islam. Caught in the middle of this are American Muslims. Concerning this, the Pew Research Center recently released a comprehensive report with very interesting statistical data regarding American Muslims. We include some of these in our **Culture Tracks** section.

For additional information about Islam you may also want to read our article, **Understanding Islam** in our September 2009 issue, Vol. 02-08

If you would like more information about a particular topic, or have an issue we might assist you with, please email us at info@crosswindsfoundation.org.

If you would like to schedule one of speakers for a program at your church, organization, or event, please contact our office at 205-325-8317, or email us at info@crosswindsfoundation.org

Thanks so much for your interest in our work. We would love to hear your comment on this or other topics we address. We are especially grateful to all of you who help make our ministry possible through your prayers and financial support.

Blessings,

Bob Waldrep

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PS. Don't forget, if you prefer paper, CrossingCurrents is also published each month in print format. If you would like to receive the print version just contact us with your mailing information. We'll still send you the E-letter, as well.

Many of our readers have become financial supporters of our efforts and for that we are deeply grateful. You are the ones who enable us to accomplish much through the information and training we offer that we might become those who influence cultural trends, rather than simply reacting to them.

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We love to hear from our readers. Share your thoughts on this and other topics. Even if it's not the same as ours, we appreciate knowing what you think. Email us at:
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Put Your Running Shoes On: Remembering 9-11

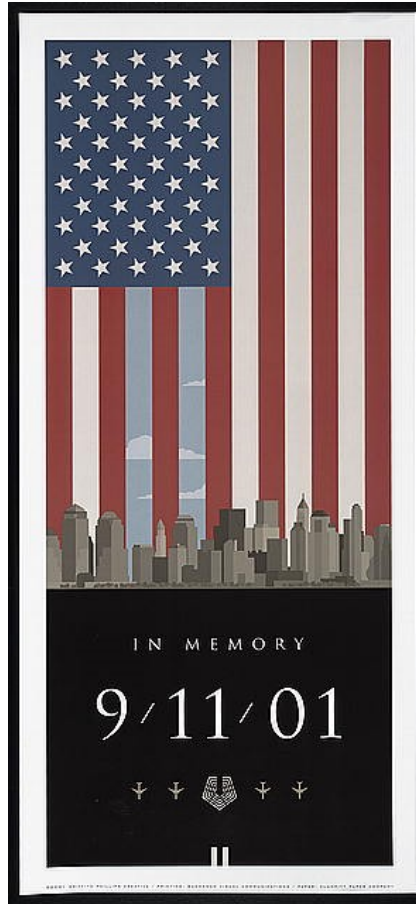
By Bob Waldrep

This weekend you and I will join Americans everywhere in remembering the tenth anniversary of the events of 9-11. Usually, an anniversary is a time for celebration. That will not be the case on this date for this will not be an occasion we celebrate. Rather, it will be a time of remembrance: remembering those who were lost that day - moms and dads, sons and daughters, friends - loved ones who are still greatly missed today.

It is a day we will honor those who gave their lives trying to save others, the first responders; heroes, all. They showed us the very best of what it means to be an American. Something only those who love freedom can ever truly understand; something that those who oppose freedom can never vanquish, no matter how hard they try.

This will be one of those days that all of us will be able to reflect upon and remember exactly where we were when we first learned of this cowardly attack. We still carry the emotions that we experienced as we watched the events unfold on our televisions. We will be able to recall the horror, the emptiness inside us. We will not forget the pain we felt for those who perished, the sorrow that welled up inside us for their families and loved ones. And, we will remember the overwhelming desire each of us had to have our own families near us and to hold them close.

This will not be a day for celebra-



tion but, for remembering. For reflection. For the resolve to continue to move forward. For, it is an event that is ever with us; having been woven into the very fabric of our country.

Even today, our nation is paying the price in the lives of our men and women in the military who are serving in foreign lands to ensure the safety of our own. And, no matter how we may feel about the wars in which we are engaged, this weekend is also a time to remember and honor those serve and those who have lost their lives and loved ones in the ongoing war on terrorism. Having come full circle, these include children of those killed in the attacks of 9-11.

As we mark this tenth anniversary, we will also remember that in the days immediately following the attack we

put aside our sorrow and our pain, our fears and our personal concerns and we did what Americans always do and what we do best - we united in our support of our fellow countrymen in New York and Washington DC. Our people came from all parts of the country to help with the search and rescue effort, to care for those who were hurting, to give whatever assistance was needed.

Evil intended to inflict great harm upon our nation; instead, it revealed our strength, our courage, our determination. It showed the resolve that Americans throughout our history have held to, the resolve that freedom must and will endure - that the flames of liberty will not and cannot be extinguished.

When faced with the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation and said:

"The cost of freedom is always high - but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and this is the path of surrender or submission. Our goal is not victory of might but the vindication of right - not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere and, we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved."

Perhaps this anniversary should be more than a time of remembrance. Maybe it should also be a celebration - a celebration of the freedom we so cherish and have fought so hard and so often to protect and to give to others. Perhaps as we reflect on the events of 9-11 this weekend, we should not only



mourn the lives of those we have lost, but also celebrate the lives and efforts of those who defend this freedom we hold so dear.

Without question, much has changed in our country as a result of those events on September 11, 2001. We now have to terrorist alerts, we have become a little more aware and suspicious of our surroundings, and there are new inconveniences we have to deal with, such as when traveling by air. Those are the downside.

There are also some positives. For example, we sing the national anthem with a lot more vigor, we fly the flag more often at our home and on our vehicles, we pray a little harder for our nation, and when we see our soldiers returning home our hearts swell with pride and we give them the honor they are due. We have been reminded that we are Americans! We do not run away from tragedy, we run to it - together.

The lasting image for me of 9-11 is not the building falling, it is not the terror on the faces of those who were running away from the buildings; what does not escape me is the police officers, firemen, paramedics, and other first responders who were rushing towards the buildings. That, to me, is a picture of our nation, at its best.

For, in the worst of times, in the most dire of situations, Americans do not scatter as our enemies would hope for; no, we come together. We cling to the freedom that we hold so dear. We embrace one another. It cuts across economics, ethnic backgrounds, and the color of one's skin. In that mo-

ment, we become what we truly are - one people - united; bound together by something greater than ourselves.

What better time than the anniversary of 9-11 to set aside partisan politics and personal agendas, to remember the common heritage that binds us, and to join together in attacking the problems facing our nation today. What better way to remember this anniversary and celebrate the lives of those we lost, than to let it stir us to action as it did ten years ago.

“What does not escape me is the police officers, firemen, paramedics, and other first responders who were rushing towards the buildings. That, to me, is a picture of our nation, at its best.”

Many of our people are suffering the effects of the economy - let's lend a helping hand. Many families are without mom or dad, husband or wife, because they are serving our country in another land - let's reach out to them. Some of our soldiers are returning from combat and still experiencing the effects, either physically or emotionally, let's help bring the healing that they need.

Let's not wait for government to do it. Let's take it on ourselves - let's show what Americans are made of, once more. And, if we are a follower of Christ, should we not be at the

forefront of this effort? If it is within our power and resources to be of help, shouldn't we do it?

Jesus never ran from the danger, he always ran to it. He did not run from the cross, he ran toward it and embraced it - for me, and for you.

Let me suggest we start running toward the problems facing our nation today, rather than worrying about them, complaining about them, or trying to avoid them. I know these are tough times for many of us and the problems may seem insurmountable. They seemed even greater on 9-11, ten years ago; but, we got through it. We will get through this, as well.

The challenges created by 9-11 were so great there is no way all the needs could be adequately met; however, Americans took care of the ones that they could. We should do no less today.

Now, if you will pardon me, I need to lace up my running shoes. Gotta run.

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2



Bob Waldrep is President and Founder of Crosswinds Foundation. Bob has written extensively about cultural apologetics. He is coauthor of *The Truth Behind the Secret and Spiritual Buffet*, and a contributing author to *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics* and *The Complete Evangelism Guidebook*.
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Culture Tracks

The following information is from Pew Research Center report released August 2011 and reflects answers given by American Muslims

General Information

- 63% of American Muslims were born abroad (25% immigrated to US since 2000)
- 15 % are 2nd generation American Muslims
- 22% are 3rd generation American Muslims
- 70% of American Muslims are American citizens

Regarding Islam

- 37% believe only one true way to interpret Islam
- 57% believe there is more than one way

Is it more difficult to be Muslim in the U.S. Since Sept 11?

- More, 55%
- Little Change, 37%
- Easier, 2%

Is life better in U.S. than in most Muslim countries

- Better, 66%
- Worse, 8%
- About the same, 23%

How do Foreign-Born Muslims see Americans relating to Muslims

- Friendly, 48%
- Neutral, 32%
- Unfriendly, 16%

How concerned are you about possible rise of Islamic extremism in U.S.?

- Very/Somewhat, 60%
- Not too/Not at all, 35%

How much support for extremism is there among Muslim Americans?

- Great deal/Fair amount, 21%
- Not too much/None at all, 64%

How U.S. Muslim leaders have done in speaking out against extremists

- Done as much as they should, 34%
- Have not done enough, 48%

U.S. effort to combat terrorism is:

- A sincere effort to reduce terrorism, 43%
- Not a sincere effort, 41%

Satisfied with the way things are going in the U.S.

- U.S. Muslims, 56% (among general public- non Muslims - the number is 23%)

Is Suicide bombing/other violence against civilians justified to defend Islam from its enemies...

- Never, 81%
- Often, 1%
- Sometimes, 7%

View of al Qaeda

- Very Unfavorable, 70%
- Somewhat Unfavorable, 11%
- Favorable, 5%

For additional information about this and other cultural trends, email your request to: nfo@crosswindsfoundation.org



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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