### Panel says: Confront China about weapons flowing to Sudan

February 20, 2009

A federal religious freedom watchdog panel is urging President Obama to step up efforts to maintain the fragile peace between northern and southern Sudan.

## Baptist, Orthodox leaders hold groundbreaking talks in Europe

February 20, 2009

European Baptist and Orthodox scholars convened Feb. 8-11 in talks aimed to promote understanding between two Christian groups often at odds over issues like proselytizing and the separation of church and state.

## Assyrians appeal for autonomous region in Iraq

February 20, 2009

A Middle Eastern ethnic umbrella organization has written U.S. President

Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden asking them to push for an autonomous region for Assyrians in Iraq.

# Australian Baptists begin response to devastating Victoria bush fires

February 20, 2009

Australian Baptists were responding Feb. 10 to what has already become the deadliest outbreak of wildfires in the nation's history.

# Canadian courts to test the boundaries between polygamous & same-sex unions

February 20, 2009

A landmark court case will test whether Canada's decision to legalize samesex marriage also justifies the practice of polygamy.

# Deadly Zimbabwe cholera outbreak crime against humanity, group says

February 20, 2009

The cholera outbreak that has killed thousands in Zimbabwe should be considered a crime against humanity and laid at the feet of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, an international doctors' group said in a new report.

## Religious abuse continues in Iraq, commission says

February 20, 2009

Iraq should be designated as a "country of particular concern" because its government tolerates the abuse of religious communities, according to the U.S. Commission on Interna-tional Religious Freedom.

# Gaza Baptist church caught in crossfire between Israeli troops, Hamas militants

February 20, 2009

Fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas militants has damaged a Baptist church in Gaza.

#### Baptist groups send aid to Gaza victims

February 20, 2009

Baptist World Aid, the relief-and-development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, gave an initial grant of \$10,000 for medical treatment of people who have fled the fighting in Gaza.

#### Baptist groups send aid to Gaza

#### victims

February 20, 2009

A three-member medical team from Hungarian Baptist Aid is in Egypt, helping both Palestinians and Israelis affected by the current Gaza crisis.

#### Gaza Baptist Church damaged in air strike

February 20, 2009

An Israeli air strike at Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip seriously damaged Gaza Baptist Church on New Year's Day. The Israeli offensive was launched Dec. 27 after a week in which more than 200 rockets struck southern Israel from the Gaza Strip.

### Russian Baptists mourn death of Orthodox leader

February 20, 2009

A Russian Baptist leader praised Patriarch Alexey II of the Russian Orthodox Church, who died Dec. 5, as a creator of "peace and consensus" during the post-communist and post-Soviet years in Russia.