

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

In an article posted on IRN News Web site, the headlines read, “2010 Was by Far the Deadliest Year for U.S. Troops in Afghanistan—One American Killed Every 18 Hours.” The working causes the reader to become alarmed at how costly this war is in terms of the price we pay of American lives.

Not to minimize the cost of the war in human lives, the story mentioned above needs to be put in perspective to stress how corrupt man is without God’s intervention in his life.

While I do not have the figures for 2010, I do have the figures for 2008 for the number of murders in the city of Chicago. It was 509. In Afghanistan there were 469 deaths. So, in comparison, it is slightly safer to fight the war in Afghanistan than to live in Chicago. In Chicago there is one murder every 17 hours.

For the United States, the figures show that in 2008 there were 16,442 murders, or just over 35 times as many violent deaths than as in Afghanistan in the deadliest year of the war. In the United States there was one murder taking place every half-hour.

And just another tidbit of information—Washington, D.C., is number one for almost every category of crime per capita in the U.S., including murder. You would think it would be the safest place with all the lawmakers living there making the laws governing its citizens. But it is just the opposite.

The truth is, we will not be free from acts of violence while we live on this earth because people, apart from God’s intervention, are violent. God says, “There is no one righteous, not even one ... no one who seeks God ... Their feet are swift to shed blood ... there is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:10,11,15, 18). It is the heart of man that must be changed and this is what God wants to do. God says, “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God” (Jeremiah 31:33). Only then can the violence lurking in the heart of man be stilled. If you have not do so, why not let God touch your heart and give you peace within?