

Dear Prayer Partners,

I have been through many crises similar to what is going on in Afghanistan. In 1986, the American government knew that the situation in Lebanon was going to deteriorate. So the President of my mission board sent my wife and me a letter stating that the US State Department has ordered all Americans to leave Lebanon. My wife and I received the warning. We decided to stay and ride the tide. But the American government knew in advance what would happen in Lebanon.

I went to Liberia during a time when all the missionaries fled the scene because of the civil war. One day I went to the American embassy to add pages to my passport, and the Ambassador came out of his office and asked me, "What are you doing here? Why are you staying in Liberia?" He told me that the rebels were reaching the city's gates and that I should get out as soon as possible before the airport was occupied by the rebels and closed. He knew in advance.

When I went to Iraq in 2004 and dedicated our church, I could tell that Iraq was moving into chaos. One month after we dedicated our church in Baghdad, the rebels targeted a group of Baptist ministers. One of them was shot to death.

Our government has the ability to predict situations and to find things out beforehand. I am sure that our military leaders and intelligence knew the status of the Afghan military. They are not dumb. However, the collapse of the Afghani cities and the fact that many Americans are in danger at the moment is bad. At the same time, it is too soon to know how the situation will unfold. For example, we know that the Taliban has overrun the country. We know the politicians fled the scene, and a segment of the Afghan army put down their weapons and ran away. However, those living in the Middle East are looking at the situation and also have many questions, the answers to which are too soon to know.

For example, has there been a secret agreement between US Intelligence and the Taliban? Was the way the US military was pulled out, the way the situation unfolded, and the lack of air support to the Afghani military done by design? Will the Taliban befriend Al-Qaeda, or will they show hostility toward them and other terrorist organizations? Will the Taliban form a government that will stabilize the country?

The American military knew that they were leaving the country. We have been hearing about the withdrawal of the American military for some time already. Why did the weapons fall into the hands of the Taliban?

Will the Taliban react toward Americans the way the President of Iran, Khomeini, acted toward America? Will the Taliban develop hostilities toward Iran?

These questions along with many more need time to be answered. If there has been a deal made between the US and Taliban, this will not be the first time the US politicians forsook their allies to work a deal with their opponents. For example, during the first Gulf War, for Syria to stand by America and her allies, George Bush (the father), who was about to conduct the First Gulf War, rewarded Syria by allowing her to occupy Lebanon. Lebanon remained occupied by Syria until George Bush (the son) ordered the Syrians out of Lebanon because of the assassination of the Lebanese prime minister, a close ally of America and Saudi Arabia.

I am surprised that the 10,000 Americans who live in Afghanistan were not evacuated earlier and that those who interpreted for the American military were not evacuated. I know their lives will be in jeopardy.

During the beginning of the Iraqi War, I assisted in the evacuation of two young ladies who interpreted for the American military. I flew them from Baghdad to Aman, Jordan, because their lives were in danger.

At the moment, we are in shock and awe of what is happening in Afghanistan. There isn't much that we as citizens and individuals can do except to pray. However, time will reveal a lot of information that we do not have at the moment.

The development in Afghanistan will not affect our ministry in the Middle East. We will continue serving the Lord as we have been doing all along.

Pray for the Christians in Afghanistan and those who are allies and supporters of the American military.

The Middle East from Afghanistan to Syria is suffering right now. It seems like a time bomb ready to explode. Please pray for wisdom because many are suffering at the moment, and many more are living in fear of what will happen in the future.

Dr. Edgar and Rosann Feghaly