

The Presidio and the Cross of Christ

by Dr. Catherine Millard

On August 12, 1992, Washington's *Seattle Times* published an article entitled: "Historic Presidio seen as Prototype Profit-making Park – San Francisco Army Post viewed as World Conference Center." The article informs readers that,

"The U.S. government wants foreign countries to invest in turning one of this nation's most historic military posts – the Presidio of San Francisco – into a global center for solving the world's problems. The park would become San Francisco's biggest landlord, renting space in the old Post's buildings to foreign countries, non-profit organizations and businesses. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is in the vanguard of those seeking a piece of the Presidio action. He has proposed leasing space for his Gorbachev Foundation – as well as living quarters."

The Presidio was originally founded by Spain in 1776, a few months prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. It boasts a magnificent view of the Golden Gate Bridge, and overlooks wooded hills, the Pacific Ocean, and the beautiful Bay of San Francisco. The Presidio Army Base comprised two hospitals, a medical research center, numerous office buildings, two forts, an airfield, living quarters for 6,000 people, dozens of warehouses, historic old cavalry stables, an Officers' Club, chapels, a lake and a golf course. The Presidio Cemetery is a national landmark, where America's valiant soldiers are interred, their lives being honored each year by the placement of a Christmas wreath in front of each tombstone.

At the announcement of its closure, Major General Patrick H. Brady, Deputy Commanding Officer of the Presidio, stated,

"This is one of the most beautiful spots on God's earth, and it is beautiful because the Army has been here for so many years. We, of course, have a very close feeling for this place and certainly hate to leave it."¹

The Presidio's history is impressive, particularly in the founding of California. During the famed 1846 *Bear Flag Revolt*, Lieutenant John C. Fremont, together with William B. Ide, led a group of courageous Americans in their struggle to rescue California from Mexican control – seizing the Presidio. The event was followed seven days later by Navy ships sailing into San Francisco Bay, claiming the area for the United States. The Stars and Stripes thus replaced the short-lived Bear Flag. Renowned commanders of the Presidio include General John Pershing and General Douglas MacArthur, Director of World War II's Pacific Unit.

The Seattle Times' 1992 article continues to elaborate upon this cataclysmic Army Post closure, informing its readers that,

"Among the ideas favored by officials planning the new park are the establishment of an environmental United Nations, a World Peace Center, an institute for research on international health, a Pacific Rim trade center or a Global Peace Corps Center. Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, and member of the Presidio Council, suggested the Post's historic military role could be broadened to address the environmental and social problems that threaten the world. 'Defense no longer has to be about military aggressiveness,'

said the New York artist and architect, 'Defense can mean protecting the planet.' The Army has until September 1995 to abandon the Presidio, but has indicated it will pull out by September, 1994."



The Presidio Chapel, inaugurated in 1931, designated to Protestant Christian worship services. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

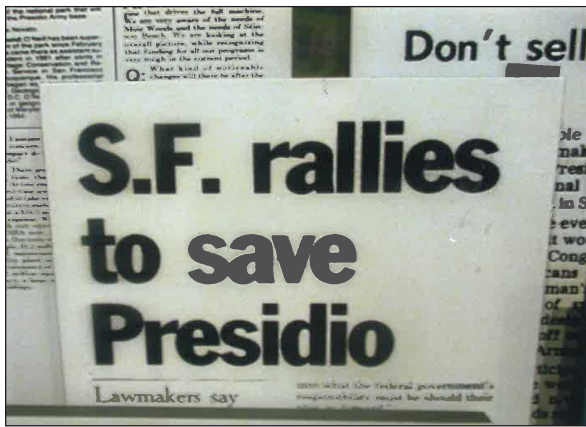
Major General Patrick H. Brady encapsulated the Presidio Army Base closure with these moving words,

"It's not just a location on earth. It's a location in the heart and souls of a lot of soldiers."

Who, in fact, was behind the closing of the Presidio Army Base, invaluable to the security of California – and the nation?

A November 15, 2006 article by Judi McLeod entitled: *Nancy Pelosi: One of Mikhail Gorbachev's most Useful Idiots* relates the following information,

"...Roll Call has stated that in early 2004, John Murtha 'reportedly leaned on U.S. Navy officials to sign a contract to transfer the Hunter's Point Shipyard to the City of San Francisco' and that 'Laurence Pelosi, nephew of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, at the time was an executive of the company which owned the rights to the land'...For Pelosi it's a well trodden trail that goes all the way to former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Presidio's most famous tenant. Among the unpublicized facts about Nancy Pelosi was that she was an investor in a real estate investment entity called PRESIDIO PARTNERS, which set up shortly after the first closure of federal military bases around the U.S. Among the choicest real estate properties were (a) San Francisco's Presidio Fort then the headquarters for the Sixth U.S. Army (b) Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island, the U.S. Navy's parcels in San Francisco Bay (c) The Hunter's Point Naval Base, then biggest U.S. Navy base between Seattle, Washington, Long Beach and San Diego, California. Pelosi's involvement



Newspaper headline in Presidio Exhibit on events surrounding Closure of the valuable Presidio Army Base. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

“Less than a year after Pelosi’s fawning words, Gorbachev and his American pre-funded 3.5 million Gorbachev Foundation moved into a new, white, shingled Bayfront house at the historic Presidio overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. Next, avowed Communist Gorbachev brought his State of the Art Forum to the Presidio. Co-chairs of the Forum include pretend Republican James Baker III. Baker served in the Reagan administration as Treasury Secretary. In 1989, Gorbachev told the Politburo: ‘Gentlemen, comrades, do not be concerned about all you hear about glasnost and perestroika and democracy in the coming years. These are primarily for outward consumption. There will be no significant change within the Soviet Union, other than for cosmetic purposes. **Our aim is to disarm the Americans and let them fall asleep.**’ ”²

The Presidio Chapel

For many years, Presidio Post commanders had urged the construction of either a larger Chapel for all the garrison, or an additional Chapel to complement the Civil War Chapel, built in 1864 on the base, with assistance from the San Francisco Episcopal Diocese. The Army Appropriations Acts of 1930 and 1931 finally provided the funds for an additional Chapel. The new edifice, east of the Presidio’s National Cemetery, was dedicated in 1931. It is a beautiful building designed in Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, with walls of re-inforced concrete, decorated with terra cotta ornamentation. A red tile roof covers the two-story, cruciform structure. The square bell tower received its bronze bell in 1933.

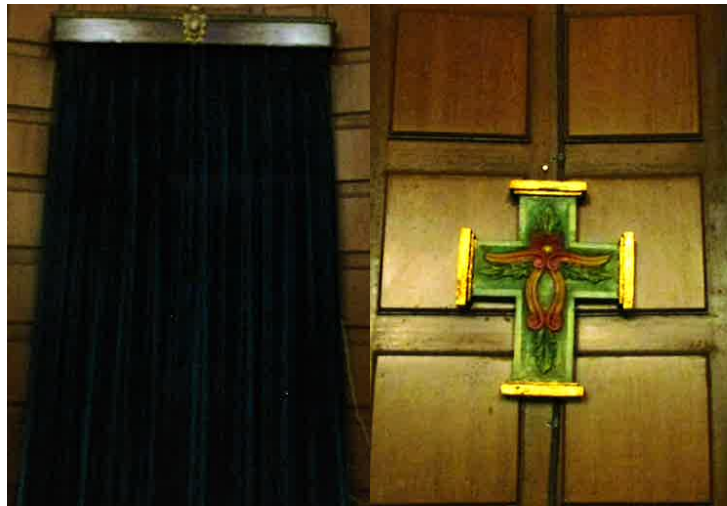
A magnificent stained-glass window, dedicated the same year, memorializes the deceased officers and men of the 30th Infantry Regiment. Artist Willemena Ogterop created the other stained-glass windows which were sponsored, or presented by various groups,

in the disposal of federal military surplus land is matched only by Gorbachev, who, as founder of Green Cross International (GCI) devised a mechanism for converting American military bases to civilian uses, converting the bases over to ‘global centers for sustainability.’ Gorbachev’s mission of converting American military bases to global enters for sustainability came just two years after he resigned as president of the Soviet Union on December 25, 1991.”

The article continues,

“GCI built on the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and supported the implementation of the Summit’s Agenda 21. Pelosi patiently shepherded Agenda 21 through Congress. On March 29, 1993 she introduced a Joint Resolution (H.J. RES 166) to renew the call for the United States to ‘assume a strong leadership role in implementing Agenda 21 and other Summit agreements,’ eventually gathering 67 co-sponsors for her bill, 32 of whom are still in Congress. In a speech entitled ‘From Swords to Plowshares’ delivered in the House of Representatives on June 4, 1992, Pelosi cheered the arrival of Gorbachev to the Presidio as a tenant: ‘The National Park Service is actively seeking ideas for programs and tenants at this spectacular site. Last month, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visited the Presidio and proposed that the Gorbachev Foundation/USA be located at the Presidio when the Army leaves. In his words, ‘It is wonderful and symbolic that a Military Base is being converted for use by the people.’ ‘As the cold war ends,’ Pelosi continued, ‘it is, indeed, fitting that this Army garrison – one of the oldest in the United States – will be transformed to a monument to peace, environmental preservation and recreation as a global park.’

The article informs readers that,



A valance and thick green curtain camouflaging the famed Cross of Christ, on wall behind altar of the Presidio Chapel. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

The famed Presidio Chapel Cross of Christ, now only visible after a thick green curtain is drawn from hiding it to worshipers and visitors. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.



Stained-glass window in outer alcove of the Presidio Chapel, portraying a Star of David in the right lancet. Centrally located is the Cross of Christ – to its left is a Shepherd’s staff. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

including the American Legion, Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish-American War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Twenty-one colors and standards decorate the spectacular, patriotic sanctuary of this Protestant Christian Chapel. Its completion solved the ancient problem of lack of capacity. Protestant services were assigned to the new Chapel, situated on a high hill overlooking the Base, while the Old Post Civil War Chapel at the foot of the hill became a Roman Catholic chapel.³

A Visit to the Chapel

The main object of my recent visit to the Presidio was to view the famed Cross of Christ within the patriotic sanctuary of this renowned Army Chapel. It was a shock to be confronted with a thick green curtain and drawstring on the wall behind the altar, placed there specifically to hide our Saviour's Cross from public view. Upon request, my guide pulled the drawstring, revealing an exquisite, unique Cross, foremost symbol of Christianity. His explanation for the camouflage was that, upon closure of the Presidio Army Base, the Chapel had been given a new identity by the federal government – that of "Interfaith Chapel." My guide elaborated upon its use by Roman Catholics and Jews, selecting an outer alcove stained-glass window portraying a Star of David, to bolster his point.

Subsequent research from original sources, however, revealed that the Old Post Civil War Chapel (circa 1864) was assigned in 1931 at the dedication of this Protestant Chapel, to Roman Catholic services; while Jews customarily worship in the two historic synagogues nearby – *Sherith Israel* (circa 1905) and *Emanu-El* Synagogue (circa 1849), both of which I visited.

Upon exiting this beautiful Presidio Protestant Christian sanctuary, the thick green curtain was drawn over the Cross of Christ, as if to ban Calvary and the Messiah's victory over sin, self, hell and death from His own church. What an insult to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – the Founder of Christianity!

A short distance from the front entranceway, a handsome historic bronze plaque on a stone marker discloses the Chapel's true identity, both visually and in writing. The inscription, dedicated to the United States Chaplains, reads,

Presidio of San Francisco

This Memorial expresses our country's unwavering gratitude and continuing respect to United States Army Chaplains who by their uncommon

commitment to God have lived and died supporting the spiritual welfare of military personnel.

Above the inscription is the Seal of the United States Army Chaplains with its 1775 historic date, a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit; the Cross of Christ; a Star of David above the two Tables of the Ten Commandments, with descriptive wording: "Pro Deo et Patria (For God and country) Chaplains United States Army." After all, the Star of David represents Israel, where our Messiah was born, ministered, died, was buried and rose again, according to the Scriptures, leaving us His Word. It is the symbol of Israel,



Land of the Bible, and is featured in many Protestant Christian churches, including the "Church of the Presidents," circa 1816, in Washington, D.C.

The Bladensburg Peace Cross

In our nation today, the Cross of Christ is relentlessly persecuted. The question frequently asked is, "Why?" A June 20, 2019, *New York Times* article entitled, "Supreme Court Allows 40-Foot Cross built in 1925 to Remain on State Property," discussing the 7-2 ruling by the highest court in the land, quotes Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's summarization of her dissent from the bench as follows,

"The Latin Cross is the foremost symbol of the Christian faith, embodying the 'central theological claim of Christianity: that the Son of God died on the Cross, that he rose from the dead and that his death and resurrection offer the possibility of eternal life.' The Latin cross is not emblematic of any other faith."

Her dissent was joined by that of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

At the dedication of the Peace Cross, a keynote speaker stated that "By the token of this Cross, symbolic of Calvary, let us keep fresh the memory of our boys who died for a righteous cause."⁴

Founded upon Protestant Christianity, the United States of America abounds with Christian symbols of the Cross of Christ and the Ten Commandments. Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., writing for five Supreme Court Justices, made this historic statement,

"A government that roams the land, tearing down monuments with religious symbolism and scrubbing away any reference to the Divine will strike many as aggressively



Close-up photograph of the Seal of the United States Army Chaplains, depicting its 1775 historic date; a dove, symbol of the holy Spirit; the Cross of Christ; a Star of David above the two Tables of the Ten Commandments with descriptive wording: "Pro Deo et Patria" (For God and Country) Chaplains United States Army. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

hostile to religion.”⁵

It is interesting to note that a July 8, 2019 article featured in the *Jerusalem Post* quotes Yair Netanahu, son of Israel’s Prime Minister, in his internet rebuttal to activist Linda Sarsour’s statement that “Jesus was Palestinian of Nazareth...” Yair Netanahu replied, “On the Cross above Jesus’ head was the sign ‘INRI’ – ‘Jesus Nazareus Rex Iudaeorum,’ which means in Latin – Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews! The Bible says that Jesus was born and raised in Judea!”⁶

Let us search the Scriptures to find the source for this relentless persecution of the Cross of Christ. The Bible reveals that, “For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness: but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...but we preach Christ crucified.” I Corinthians 1:18; 23a. We also read, “That He (the Messiah) might reconcile both unto God in one body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” Ephesians 2:16. And again, “And having made peace through the blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” Colossians 1:20. The Letter to the Hebrews elaborates further, “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2. The Letter to the Philippians continues, “And being found in fashion as a man, He (Jesus) humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.” Philippians 2:8. “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross.” Colossians 2:14. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul asks the question, “And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the Cross ceased.” Galatians 5:11. The Messiah himself states, “And he that taketh not his Cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.” Matthew 10:38. “And when He had called the people unto him with his disciples also, He (the Messiah) said unto them, Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow me.” Mark 8:34. And many more Scriptures...

Enemies of the Cross of Christ

However, in America today, there are many enemies of the Cross of Christ, foremost of which is the Marxist/Atheist/Humanist movement to eradicate all traces of Christianity from the nation’s soil, as reflected in “Current Communist (Marxist) Goals.” Among these are, “Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history on the ground that it was only a minor

part of ‘the big picture.’ Give more emphasis to Russian history since the Communists took over.” “Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture – education, social agencies, etc.” “Eliminate all laws or procedures which interfere with the operation of the Communist apparatus.” “Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers’ associations. Put the party line in textbooks.”⁷

Alexander Solzhenitsyn’s exposé is searing: “The world has never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized and tenaciously malevolent as that preached by Marxism. Within the philosophical system of Marx and Lenin, and at the heart of their psychology, hatred of God is the principle driving force, more fundamental than all their political and economic pretensions. Militant atheism is not merely incidental, or marginal, to Communist policy; it is not a side effect, but the central pivot. To achieve its diabolical ends, **Communism needs to control a population devoid of religious and national feeling, and this entails a destruction of faith and nationhood.** Communists proclaim both of these objectives openly, and just as openly put them into practice.”

Marlin Maddoux, as President of *International Christian Media*, paints an accurate picture of this national dilemma in his 1988 publication, *The Selling of Gorbachev*:

“Mikhail Gorbachev’s wife, Raisa, who was shown very prominently during their visit to Washington, is also a doctrinaire Marxist-Leninist who happens to teach Marxism at a university in Moscow. She,

in fact, holds a doctorate from Moscow State University. Her 1967 dissertation was entitled, *Formation of New Features in Everyday Life of Kolkhoz Peasantry*. At no point in the dissertation does Raisa mention that Kolkhozi (collectives) were created between 1929 and 1932 when Stalin systematically starved to death 13.5 million land-owning peasants. Indeed, she freely admits that the object of her project was to improve the skills of communist propagandaists.

Raisa writes: ‘The Kholkhos system has destroyed social injustice, wherein material blessings were placed at the disposal not of the producers of them but rather of a group of large-scale proprietors.’ **Decrying Christianity as the ‘opiate of the masses,’** she points out that, in one village, ‘16.6 percent of Kolkhoz families headed by office workers – or the Kolkhoz intelligentsia – possessed icons. And among families headed by field-crop growers – or service personnel – 66.6 percent had icons.’ Raisa was so outraged by those signs



The Peace Cross, Bladensburg, Maryland. “Justices Allow 40-Foot Cross Built in 1925 to Remain on State Property.” Headline of New York Times, June 20, 2019 article. Photograph: Christian Heritage Ministries © 2018.

of Christian faith that she proposed establishing ‘socialist ceremonies’ as a way of replacing such embarrassing ‘old religious customs and traditions.’ She was simply reflecting the teachings of Lenin who said, ‘The fight against religion must not be limited nor reduced to abstract, ideological preaching. This struggle must be linked up with the concrete practical class movement; **its aim must be to eliminate the the social roots of religion.**’⁸

An unrelenting and tenacious war is being waged against the Cross of Christ, Christian symbols, monuments and memorials – diametrically opposed to malevolent Marxism – in this blessed land called “a nation under God.”

In conclusion, let us heed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.’s written warning, and stand firm for our national heritage,

“A government that roams the land, tearing down monuments with religious symbolism and scrubbing away any reference to the Divine will strike many as aggressively hostile to religion.”⁹

¹ Quoted in an August 12, 1992 *Seattle Times* article

² *Canadian Free Press*

³ Official documentation in the *California State Library*

⁴ Quoted in a June 20, 2019 *New York Times* article

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Quoted in a July 8, 2019 *Jerusalem Post* article

⁷ Quoted from “Current Communist Goals” in *The Naked Communist* by W. Cleon Skousen, who served sixteen years in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

⁸ Maddoux, Marlin. *The Selling of Gorbachev*, Texas: International Christian Media, 1988.

⁹ Quoted in a June 20, 2019 *New York Times* article