

## Letter to President Bush From Evangelical Leaders

July 29, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write as evangelical Christian leaders in the United States to thank you for your efforts (including the major address on July 16) to reinvigorate the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to achieve a lasting peace in the region. We affirm your clear call for a two-state solution. We urge that your administration not grow weary in the time it has left in office to utilize the vast influence of America to demonstrate creative, consistent and determined U.S. leadership to create a new future for Israelis and Palestinians. We pray to that end, Mr. President.

We also write to correct a serious misperception among some people including some U.S. policymakers that all American evangelicals are opposed to a two-state solution and creation of a new Palestinian state that includes the vast majority of the West Bank. Nothing could be further from the truth. We, who sign this letter, represent large numbers of evangelicals throughout the U.S. who support justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. We hope this support will embolden you and your administration to proceed confidently and forthrightly in negotiations with both sides in the region.

As evangelical Christians, we embrace the biblical promise to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3). And precisely as evangelical Christians committed to the full teaching of the Scriptures, we know that blessing and loving people (including Jews and the present State of Israel) does not mean withholding criticism when it is warranted. Genuine love and genuine blessing means acting in ways that promote the genuine and long-term well being of our neighbors. Perhaps the best way we can bless Israel is to encourage her to remember, as she deals with her neighbor Palestinians, the profound teaching on justice that the Hebrew prophets proclaimed so forcefully as an inestimably precious gift to the whole world.

Historical honesty compels us to recognize that both Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate rights stretching back for millennia to the lands of Israel/Palestine. Both Israelis and Palestinians have committed violence and injustice against each other. The only way to bring the tragic cycle of violence to an end is for Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a just, lasting agreement that guarantees both sides viable, independent, secure states. To achieve that goal, both sides must give up some of their competing, incompatible claims. Israelis and Palestinians must both accept each other's right to exist. And to achieve that goal, the U.S. must provide robust leadership within the Quartet to reconstitute the Middle East roadmap, whose full

implementation would guarantee the security of the State of Israel and the viability of a Palestinian State. We affirm the new role of former Prime Minister Tony Blair and pray that the conference you plan for this fall will be a success.

Mr. President, we renew our prayers and support for your leadership to help bring peace to Jerusalem, and justice and peace for all the people in the Holy Land.

Finally, we would request to meet with you to personally convey our support and discuss other ways in which we may help your administration on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Sider, President  
Evangelicals for Social Action

Don Argue, President  
Northwest University

Raymond J. Bakke, Chancellor  
Bakke Graduate University

Gary M. Benedict, President  
The Christian & Missionary Alliance

George K. Brushaber, President  
Bethel University

Gary M. Burge, Professor  
Wheaton College & Graduate School

Tony Campolo, President/Founder  
Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education

Christopher J. Doyle, CEO  
American Leprosy Mission

Leighton Ford, President  
Leighton Ford Ministries

Daniel Grothe, Pastoral Staff  
New Life Church (Colorado Springs)

Vernon Grounds, Chancellor  
Denver Seminary

Stephen Hayner, former President  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor  
Northland Church  
Member, Executive Committee of the NAE

Jo Anne Lyon, Founder/CEO  
World Hope International

Gordon MacDonald, Chair of the Board  
World Relief

Albert G. Miller, Professor  
Oberlin College

Richard Mouw, President  
Fuller Theological Seminary

David Neff, Editor  
Christianity Today

Glenn R. Palmberg, President  
Evangelical Covenant Church

Earl Palmer, Senior Pastor  
University Presbyterian Church Seattle

Victor D. Pentz, Pastor  
Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

John Perkins, President  
John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation & Development

Bob Roberts, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Northwood Church, Dallas

Leonard Rogers, Executive Director  
Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding

Andrew Ryskamp, Executive Director  
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

Chris Seiple, President

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Robert A. Seiple, Former Ambassador-at-Large,  
International Religious Freedom  
U.S. State Department

Luci N. Shaw, Author, Lecturer  
Regent College, Vancouver

Jim Skillen, Executive Director  
Center for Public Justice

Glen Harold Stassen, Professor  
Fuller Theological Seminary

Richard Stearns, President  
World Vision

Clyde D. Taylor, Former Chair of the Board  
World Relief

Harold Vogelaar, Director  
Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice

Berten Waggoner, National Director  
Vineyard USA

## **An Evangelical Statement on Israel/Palestine**

**November 28, 2007**

As evangelical Christians committed to the full authority of the Scriptures, we feel compelled to make a statement together at this historic moment in the life of the Holy Land

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is near a momentous turning point. The strife has continued—sometimes simmering, sometimes exploding in terrible conflict—for decades.

In the context of our ongoing support for the security of Israel, we believe that unless the situation between Israel and Palestine improves quickly, the consequences will be devastating. Palestinians—especially the youth who have no economic opportunity—are increasingly sympathetic to radical solutions and terrorism. As a result, the threat to Israel's security is now greater.

Likewise, the threat to America's national security is greater. Because so many of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims see America through the prism of Israel-Palestine, the longer the current situation continues, the more likely it is that anti-American attitudes, policies, and terrorist activities

will increase dramatically among Muslims worldwide.

As evangelical Christians, we believe our faith compels us to speak a word together at this crucial moment.

The Bible clearly teaches that God longs for justice and peace for all people. We believe that the principles about justice taught so powerfully by the Hebrew prophets apply to all nations including the United States, Israel, and the Palestinians. Therefore we are compelled to work for a fair, negotiated solution for both Israelis and Palestinians. We resolve to work diligently for a secure, enduring peace and a flourishing economy for the democratic State of Israel. We also resolve to work for a viable permanent, democratic Palestinian State with a flourishing economy that offers economic opportunity to all its people. We believe that the way forward is for the Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a fair, two-state solution.

We are encouraged that the Israeli and Palestinian governments have officially endorsed a two-state solution and that polls demonstrate that solid majorities in both Israel and Palestine embrace this path.

We call on all evangelicals, all Christians, and everyone of good will to join us to work and pray faithfully in the coming months for a just, lasting two-state solution in the Holy Land. We call on all involved governments to work diligently toward this goal. And we covenant to pray for the leaders of all the nations engaged in this effort, hoping for them the blessing of our Lord who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

As we work and pray, we are strengthened by the truth that Christ will return some day to complete his victory over sin and injustice, and we are empowered by the knowledge that until He comes again, He summons us to support the things that promote peace and justice for everyone in the Holy Land.

## **List of Endorsers Follows**

### **Endorsers of "An Evangelical Statement on Israel/Palestine" November 28, 2007**

Thomas Armiger, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church  
Gayle D. Beebe, President, Westmont College  
David Black, President, Eastern University  
Marilyn Borst, Director of Global Ministry, Peachtree Presbyterian Church  
Ed Boschman, Executive Director, U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches  
David C. Brown, Chair, Evangelical Child & Family Agency  
George K. Brushaber, President, Bethel University  
Gary M. Burge, Professor of New Testament, Wheaton College  
Tony Campolo, President/Founder, Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education  
R. Judson Carlberg, President, Gordon College  
Joseph Castleberry, President, Northwest University  
Paul A. Cedar, Chairman, Mission America Coalition  
Thomas A. Curry, Senior Minister, Round Lake Community Church  
Craig C. Darling, U.S. Director, India Rural Evangelical Fellowship  
Murray Dempster, President, Vanguard University  
G. Blair Dowden, President, Huntington University  
Robert P. Dugan, Jr., Retired, National Association of Evangelicals  
Merrill Ewert, President, Fresno Pacific University

Leighton Ford, President, Leighton Ford Ministries  
Arthur Evans Gay, Minister-at-Large, Evangelical Initiatives International  
Jules Glanzer, President Elect, Tabor College  
Vernon Grounds, Chancellor, Denver Seminary  
Ronald Habegger, President, Fellowship of Evangelical Churches  
Jack Haberer, Editor, *The Presbyterian Outlook*  
Mike Hagan, President, Sioux Falls Seminary  
Stephen A. Hayner, Professor, Columbia Theological Seminary  
Dennis Hollinger, President, Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Jim Holm, President, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary  
John Hubers, Former Director of Reformed Church Mission Program, Middle East and South Asia  
Reformed Church in America  
John A. Huffman, Jr., Pastor, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach  
Board Chair, Christianity Today International  
Ken Hunn, Executive Director, The Brethren Church  
Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor, Northland Church  
John K. Jenkins, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Glenarden  
Bruce W. Jones, National Association of Evangelicals  
J. Ellsworth Kalas, President, Asbury Theological Seminary  
John F. Kim, Interim President, Northern Seminary  
Peter Kuzmic, President, Evangelical Theological Seminary (Osijek, Croatia)  
Duane Litfin, President, Wheaton College  
Jo Anne Lyon, CEO, World Hope International  
V. James Mannoia, President, Greenville College  
Molly T. Marshall, President, Central Baptist Theological Seminary  
Kevin T. McBride, Senior Pastor, Raymond Baptist Church  
Larry J. McKinney, President, Simpson University  
Gregory A. Monaco, Associate Field Director, Youth for Christ/USA  
Royce L. Money, President, Abilene Christian University  
Richard Mouw, President, Fuller Theological Seminary  
Shirley A. Mullen, President, Houghton College  
Mike O'Neal, President, Oklahoma Christian University  
David Neff, Editor-in-Chief, *Christianity Today*  
Glenn R. Palmberg, President, Evangelical Covenant Church  
Earl F. Palmer, Minister, University Presbyterian Church  
Linda Pampeyan, Consultant, Leadership Renewal Center  
Ted W. Pampeyan, Director, Leadership Renewal Center  
David L. Parkyn, President, North Park University  
Roger Parrot, President, Belhaven College  
Jerry Pence, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church  
Rita Rihani, Professor of Arabic, North Park University  
Bob Roberts, Pastor, Northwood Church  
Bill Robinson, President, Whitworth University  
Haddon W. Robinson, President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Leonard Rodgers, Executive Director, Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding  
Andrew Ryskamp, Director, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
Michael G. Scales, President, Nyack College/ATS  
Chris Seiple, President, Institute for Global Engagement  
Robert Seiple, Former Ambassador-at-Large, for International Religious Freedom  
Ronald J. Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action  
James Skillen, President, Center for Public Justice  
Wallace Smith, President, Palmer Theological Seminary  
Glen H. Stassen, Lewis Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics, Fuller Theological Seminary  
Gary W. Streit, President, Malone College  
Joseph Tkach, President, Worldwide Church of God  
Paul Vicalvi, Chaplains Commission Executive Director, National Association of Evangelicals  
Harold Vogelaar, Professor Emeritus, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago  
Berten Waggoner, National Director, Vineyard USA  
Don Wagner, Professor, North Park University  
John Wagner, Pastor, Andover Congregational Church

Jon R. Wallace, President, Azusa Pacific University  
Bob Wenz, Renewing Total Worship Ministries  
Luder G. Whitlock, Executive Director, The Trinity Forum  
John P. Williams, Jr., Regional Director, Evangelical Friends International - North America  
Craig Williford, President, Denver Seminary  
Earl L. Wilson, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church  
Larry E. Yonker, Vice-President, The Elevation Group