



William J. Murray

The Chairman's

Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

May 26, 2004

RFC STAFF MEETS WITH PAT BOONE

On April 20, 2004, members of the executive staff of the Religious Freedom Coalition met with American icon Pat Boone at a congressional breakfast in Washington, DC. The breakfast was sponsored by RFC's longtime friend and ally Jim Martin, president of 60 Plus. Pat Boone is now the full time spokesman for 60 Plus which is the nation's leading conservative organization for seniors. For more than a decade Jim Martin has been working on Capitol Hill to eliminate the "Death tax" which the Democrats call "inheritance tax."



Pat Boone with RFC's
Peggy Birchfield and
William J. Murray

It was my privilege to offer the invocation at the breakfast which was attended by numerous congressmen and Senators including Senator Lugar, who is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

After the breakfast I had the opportunity to talk to Pat Boone about the possibility of participating with us in educational mailings to senior citizens on social conservative issues sometime before the November election.

RFC AND ISRAEL



William J. Murray
presents a Ten
Commandments tie
to Ambassador Ayalon

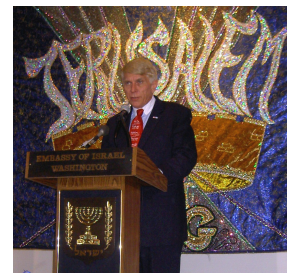
May 14th was the 56th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the State of Israel. To mark the event the Israeli Embassy obtained one of the largest hotel ballrooms in Washington, DC to hold a reception for dignitaries and friends of Israel. Congressmen, Senators, Governors, Ambassadors from all over the world, and the staff of the Religious Freedom Coalition were invited to the reception. Only true friends of Israel were present at the Independence Day celebration.

I had the great privilege at the anniversary reception to give Israeli Ambassador, Daniel Ayalon, one of the Ten Commandment ties specially made for the Religious Freedom Coalition.

The keynote speaker at the Israeli independence anniversary reception was Secretary of State Colin Powell. Although I have met with Secretary Powell several times I had not know that he grew up in a Jewish area of the Bronx and actually spoke some Yiddish, which is sort of a Hebrew-European slang. As much of the crowd gathered at the event were Jewish, he amazed them by using Yiddish and Hebrew words during his speech. Partly he told of his childhood in the Bronx and his relationship with his first employer who was a Russian Jew. Secretary Powell also reiterated the support of the United States and President George W. Bush for the State of Israel and its right to exist.

RFC ISRAEL SOLIDARY EVENT

Just a few days later I spoke at an annual solidarity prayer breakfast held at the Israeli Embassy. These prayer breakfasts were first organized several years ago as a means for evangelical Christians and staff of the Israeli embassy to communicate with each other. The breakfasts have grown as the relationship between Israel and evangelical Christians has grown.



**William J. Murray
speaks at Israeli
Embassy event**

The Religious Freedom Coalition is one of the prime sponsors of this annual event along with Gary Bauer's American Values; Esther Levens' Unity Coalition for Israel; Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network and others. The keynote speaker this year was nationally syndicated Christian radio hostess Janet Parshall. She delivered a stirring defense of Israel's Biblical right to exist and pointed to the double standard of the liberal media.

That media, including the Washington Post and the major broadcast stations, criticizes Israel for defending its borders while ignoring the devastating terrorism Israel faces every day.

The liberal media has called the defensive fence the Israeli government is building to protect its citizens a "crime against humanity" because a few Palestinian farmers were cut off from parts of their farms by the fence.

Although I spoke only briefly at this year's event the participation of the RFC was felt by all. As a sponsor, the Religious Freedom Coalition assisted in paying for the food and beverages for the more than 250 participants.

RFC AND PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS

ONE OF THE PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN MEN UNDER DEATH WARRANTS FROM THE PLO HAS MADE IT TO NORWAY! Over the last two years I have written several times about the two Palestinian brothers who accepted Christ and faced horrible persecution under Yassar Arafat's gang of thugs in the West Bank. One of those men has now received asylum in Norway and his family will be able to join him there soon.

The other brother, Sa'eed, is still in hiding in Israel and we pray that he will soon be able to come to the United States under a religious workers' program. If the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) gives final approval he could move his family to the United States by the end of the summer.

The brothers and their families have supported themselves by selling handmade soap made from olive oil. The Religious Freedom Coalition has been selling the handmade olive oil soap over the Internet on and off for almost two years to help the families raise funds to live on.

The Religious Freedom Coalition has sold hundreds of the bars of soap on the Internet to send funds to these families. The process has not been easy! The soap is made by the families in the West Bank and then taken to an Israeli checkpoint where it is given to a taxi that has permission to operate in both the West Bank and Israel. The taxi can take hours to clear the check point. When the soap finally gets past the checkpoint one of the brothers is waiting for it. They then pack it up and ship it to us using the post office.

The Religious Freedom Coalition does not want to be in the soap business, and we just praise God that one of the persecuted brothers has moved to Norway and that the second brother may be in the United States by the end of this summer. Once the two families are united we can concentrate on other Christians facing persecution under Islamic rule. We can help other families like these with your help!

RFC ON CAPITOL HILL



**William J. Murray and
Senator Norn Coleman**

During the last month I have met with numerous congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill on issues important to social conservatives. One of those issues is religious freedom around the world. I spent some time with Senator Sam Brownback concerning the persecution of Christians by the Islamic government of the Sudan. Currently the RFC is working to arrange a fact finding trip to Morocco for Senators to talk with King Mohammed IV about a free trade agreement with the United States and efforts in that Islamic nation at modernization and secularization. Senator Coleman agreed to travel with me to Morocco as soon as arrangements could be made to speak with the King and the Prime Minister.

RFC IS WORKING FOR CONSERVATIVE VALUES

I am painfully aware that the supporters of the Religious Freedom Coalition receive perhaps dozens of letters each month from conservative organizations and ministries asking for financial aid. Many of those organizations and ministries are worthy of your support. Some, while well intentioned, have no presence in Washington, DC. The Religious Freedom Coalition maintains an office just blocks from the Capitol Building and an operations center in Virginia. The positions of the RFC are considered so important that hundreds of staff members of Senators and congressmen subscribe to our weekly legislative updates. Please help this month!

We need your help to continue our work in Washington, DC and our ministry to oppressed Christians in Islamic nations. Our work in Washington, DC fighting in Congress for religious freedom and the cause of Christ is vitally important, as is our aid to the few Christians remaining in the Holy Land. The need is far greater than the funds we have available.

Please help this month.

William J. Murray, Chairman

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