



William J. Murray

## The Chairman's Action Report

Religious  
Freedom  
Coalition

January 12, 2005

### FIRST RFC EVENT OF THE YEAR

The year was not yet four days old when our first meeting with one of the newest conservative Senators occurred in Washington, DC. At right is a photo taken by someone less than one hour after the swearing-in ceremony for nine new Senators to the 109th Congress by Vice President Dick Cheney. In the photo I am shaking the hand of Senator John Thune (R-SD), the man who defeated Minority Leader Tom Daschle. The photo is not very remarkable, but the timing of the photo is. The Religious Freedom Coalition has developed a powerful enough reputation on Capitol Hill that our staff was invited to receptions held for key new Senators on January 4th. Our staff watched the actual swearing in of John Thune and others on a giant screen set up in the Hart Senate Office building conference room and minutes later he appeared in person to greet and talk with us.



Senator John Thune and  
William J. Murray

When I shook the new Senator's hand the first words out of my mouth were, "Senator, we at the Religious Freedom Coalition look forward to working with your office on behalf of social conservatives for the next six years." I wanted the Senator to know that my presence wasn't just to congratulate him, but to make him aware of the ongoing presence of social conservatives on Capitol Hill.

Immediately after the reception in the Hart Senate Office Building, RFC executive director Peggy Birchfield and I went to a private reception for our old friend Dr. Tom Coburn. Dr. Coburn, a staunch pro-lifer, was elected to the Senate from Oklahoma. Dr. Coburn's new Chief of Staff is Mike Schwartz, who has served with me for many years as the co-chairman of the Family Forum meetings held twice a month by Coalitions For America. (At the Coburn reception, pulled pork barbecue was served. It is my understanding that French canapés were served at the Democrat Senate receptions.)

### NEXT RFC EVENT IN FLORIDA

On Monday January 24th a fund raising dinner will be held for the Jewish settlement of Ariel which is located in Samaria. Samaria is part of what is now referred to as the West Bank. Christians, Jews and Samaritans have lived peacefully together in this area since the time of Christ.

Before his death, dictator Yassar Arafat led Muslim thugs in an attempt to “purify” the area of non-Muslims. In their view all of Samaria and in fact all of Israel is Muslim territory. Ariel was founded by a handful of Jewish settlers in 1978 on some dry uninhabited hill tops. The leader of the group of founders, Ron Nachman, was born in the West Bank and so was his father. His family has lived in the West Bank for decades, since before the existence of Israel and long before it was called the West Bank.

Ariel has a current population of about 30,000 and it is projected that the surrounding Palestinian property will limit its growth to about 60,000 total. Adjoining the town of Ariel is the Ariel Industrial Park which provides jobs for thousands of Palestinians. The industrial park produces several billion dollars worth of revenue each year making everything from bread to heavy equipment. Ariel is also the home of the College of Judea and Samaria which has an enrollment of 8,500 students in varied fields including business and engineering.

**Ariel also has a thriving Christian community, weekly church services and a full time evangelist!**

Many times in my weekly e-mail updates and in the pages of the Chairman’s Report I have mentioned David Ortiz and his ministry in the West Bank. David travels to Palestinian villages in his van outfitted with a video player, and shows them Christian videos. He also distributes Bibles and Christian literature both in the Ariel industrial park and in neighboring Palestinian villages with the blessing of Ariel mayor Ron Nachman.



**William Murray with Leah and David Ortiz**

During my trips to the West Bank I have stayed in the apartment of David and Leah Ortiz. David and I have gone to Palestinian villages together to comfort believers and win others to Christ. We have traveled together throughout the West Bank and even up to the border with Lebanon where Hezbollah rockets rain down on civilians. At left is a photo of David and Leah and me in their apartment in Ariel, Samaria.

If the European Union gets its way, the 30,000 residents of Ariel will be forced to move out, their homes will be demolished, and the industrial park that employs thousands of Palestinians will have to be abandoned. It is the official opinion of the European Union that no Jews may live in Page Samaria; however of course, Palestinians may live in Israel. In fact the European Union holds the

position that any Palestinian who wants to may move into Israel. This is the new European concept of fairness.

But, our ministry work in Ariel and the rest of the West bank is not the only reason the Religious Freedom Coalition is supporting the fund raising dinner in Florida on January 24th. While Jews in Israel, included men such as Ron Nachman, understand that evangelical Christians support Israel, most American Jews still think evangelical Christian are anti-Semitic.

There is a true lack of understanding in the Jewish community in the United States about the nature of evangelical Christianity and the degree of support for Israel in the evangelical church.

As part of our sponsorship of the fund raising dinner for Ariel, the Religious Freedom Coalition receives a full page ad in the dinner program. Hundreds of influential Jews who are donating from a few hundred to several thousand dollars to attend, will read our full page ad in the dinner program. Most of those attending the dinner probably voted for Senator John Kerry, as did most Jews in the last election. Most have no concept of what social conservatives like ourselves believe or what our position is on Israel.

Below is a copy of the full page that will appear in the fund raising dinner program. When you read the ad you will see that I am very carefully presenting support for Israel, but at the same time I am clearly stating that the Religious Freedom Coalition is a conservative Christian organization. I even state that we support Ariel as a center for Christian evangelism among Palestinians.

Two men in particular will be impacted by our full page ad. Mayor Ron Nachman is flying in from Israel for the dinner, as is former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who currently serves in the government as Minister of Finance. Having the Religious Freedom Coalition name put before them in this setting will be advantageous when it comes to getting their help for Palestinian Christians fleeing persecution.

Currently we support several Christian families in the West Bank because the men in those families have been placed under a death warrant by the Palestinian Authority. They have been labeled as "Israeli collaborators" simply because they converted from Islam to Christianity. We need work

permits for these men and we need the help of the Israeli government to get their families out of the West Bank, and to help them immigrate to other nations. We have already been successful in moving some families to the Netherlands.

In 2003 and 2004 the Religious Freedom Coalition produced three video documentaries about the West Bank. *Holy Land Terror* focused on the repression of Christians in the West bank and *Holy Land Settlements* focused on the settlement of Ariel. *Holy Land Teenagers* was narrated by my daughter, Katie, and contains interviews with Christian and Jewish teens, some of which were also conducted at Ariel.

Please pray with me that the highest American officials will understand the importance of Ariel to Israel and to the Gospel of Christ in the West Bank and that they will not side with Europe to dismantle it.

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William J. Murray, Chairman

*Religious Freedom Coalition, PO Box 77511, Washington, DC 20013*

***FULL PAGE AD IS ON NEXT PAGE!***

# WE SUPPORT ARIEL



William J. Murray has expressed his support of Israel's right to exist to President George W. Bush

The [Religious Freedom Coalition](#) is a social conservative Christian organization with offices just blocks from the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. For more than twenty years its chairman, William J. Murray, has been a strong supporter of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish nation.

The [Religious Freedom Coalition](#) has produced numerous White papers and video documentaries highlighting the terror against Israel and against Palestinian Christians by organizations such as Fatah and Hamas.

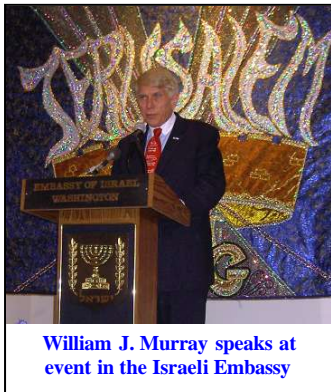
In support of Jews who have returned to Samara and settled in Ariel, the Religious Freedom Coalition produced [Holy Land Settlements](#), a video documentary featuring Mayor Ron Nachman. A second video documentary, [Holy Land Teenagers](#), featured interviews with teenagers from Ariel.

Both video documentaries clearly illustrate the one sided nature of terror in the Holy Land. Thousands of these documentaries have been distributed and have been shown to evangelical Christian church congregations in the United States and Europe.

Currently the [Religious Freedom Coalition](#) supports evangelical Christian schools in the West Bank. Unlike the Palestinian Authority run schools which teach hatred of Israel, the RFC supported schools teach biblical kindness and tolerance. The Religious Freedom Coalition also supports Christian evangelists who distribute Bibles and other Christian materials to Palestinians in the villages surrounding Ariel.



The Religious Freedom Coalition produces documentaries on Islamic terror in the Holy Land.



William J. Murray speaks at event in the Israeli Embassy

Religious Freedom Coalition Chairman William J. Murray is well known at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. He has been a featured speaker during various Christian-Israeli solidarity events.

Under Murray's leadership, the [Religious Freedom Coalition](#) has become a strong voice against the rising tide of anti-Semitism in the EU, and particularly in France. The Religious Freedom Coalition participates in numerous international events, including the annual Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom, to promote true religious freedom in all nations, including those in the Middle East.



William J. Murray and CIA Director, Porter Goss, discuss Israel's security at a private event in Virginia

The [Religious Freedom Coalition](#) also works to preserve the Judeo-Christian heritage of the United States with other social conservative organizations, such as Rabbi Daniel Lapin's **Toward Tradition**.

William J. Murray is also the chairman of [GING-PAC](#), a social conservative political action committee which supports candidates who champion Judeo-Christian values in our society, such as Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) and Majority Deputy Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA).

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