



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

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INTERNATIONAL RFC, ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

For the last four years, as thousands of Israelis and Palestinians died in the Intifada declared by Yassar Arafat, the European solution to end this violence was one of appeasing terrorism. European leaders, led by French President Jacques Chirac, told the Israelis to give the extremist Muslim terrorists what they wanted and surely the homicide bombings would stop. However, what Arafat wanted was for every Jew in Israel to be dead, something the Europeans just did not really understand.

President George W. Bush, on the other hand, told the Europeans that terror must stop if the Palestinians were to get anything at all. Yassar Arafat is now dead and the new president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, at least seems to want to make a deal with Israel. A cease fire has been declared by Israel and the PA, although terrorist groups such as Hamas are making some unrealistic demands to stop their attacks on Israel. To show that progress can be made, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon invited Mr. Abbas to his ranch for dinner. President George W. Bush, much to the dismay of the European leaders, was right. Holding tough against terror, not appeasing terrorists, has begun a process to reduce the violence in the Holy Land.

Real peace in the Holy Land can only come through Jesus Christ. Palestinian Christians have no desire to kill Jews and I know of no Jews who see Palestinian Christians as a threat. As the peace of Christ spreads throughout the land, the Jews of Israel will begin to see the difference Christ makes in the lives of others.

The cease fire and other agreements between Sharon and Abbas have opened the way in Palestinian areas of the West Bank for the Religious Freedom Coalition to expand its work for the cause of Christ.

Currently the RFC funds Christian schools in the West Bank, including kindergartens, a K through 12 boarding school and even a Vacation Bible School. Every single month the RFC sends funds to the Christians in the West Bank.

The Religious Freedom Coalition also supports evangelists in the West Bank, one of whom operates out of Jerusalem and another out of the Jewish settlement of Ariel deep inside Samaria. Ariel is surrounded by Muslim Arab villages and many have been won to Christ. The evangelistic outreach in Ariel has the support of the Jewish mayor of that city who understands that being surrounded by Christian Arabs is far better than being surrounded by Muslim Arabs. The cease fire and the removal of many Israeli military checkpoints will allow further evangelism in many more areas of the West Bank. Now is the time to increase our activities and to increase our funding in this area of the world.

There is an opening, much like the opening we had in Russia in the early 1990's, and it must be taken advantage of before the window closes.

APRIL MISSIONS TOUR

In April I will personally travel to the West Bank to inspect schools and other mission areas where the Religious Freedom Coalition has spent money. I do this every year . While there I will also meet with several of the Christian men who are still under death warrant from the PA and who are in hiding in Israel and whose families face persecution in the West Bank.

I will also try to speak with Prime Minister Abbas and plead with him to have the death warrants removed from these good men whose only crime was to convert from Islam to Christianity and then tell others about Jesus. Many of the families of these men live in real poverty in their absence. Please pray with me that I will be able to visit with Abbas and that he will hear my pleas for these condemned men.



Security bars purchased by the Religious Freedom Coalition after break-ins at Hope School in 2003.

The Religious Freedom Coalition has tried to fund the families as best we can by various means including the "Peace Soap" project of which I am sure you are aware. For more than two years now we have been selling handmade olive oil soap made by the families of these men in Samaria at our Internet store. Just from the sale of the handmade soap alone we sent more than \$10,000 to these persecuted families in the West Bank last year! Over the past five years we have delivered literally tens of thousands of dollars to persecuted families, Christian schools and ministries in Palestinian Authority controlled areas of the Holy Land.

Every year the Religious Freedom Coalition sends a minimum of \$6,000 to Hope School in Beit Jala near Bethlehem. Some years I hand deliver much more for special projects such as for renovations and security. I start off each day praying that I could do more to help!

The need is so great that no amount of money would be too much to take on our April mission trip, not even a million dollars.

Americans have big hearts!

When the tsunami hit in Asia in December devastating Muslim Indonesia, every American was touched. American Christians and Jews donated more than \$4 billion to help that devastated Muslim nation. American Jews gave money even though the Indonesian government refused to accept expert help from Israel. I personally gave funds to the Southern Baptist relief fund. However, Muslim nations such as wealthy Saudi Arabia gave virtually nothing because their money goes to spread hatred and violence against Christian and Jews.

Neither the Muslim “donor” nations such as the Saudis, nor the United Nations will help the Christian families in the West Bank. All the tax dollars the U. S. gives the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations for the West Bank is spent only on Muslim families. What is done for Christians in the Palestinian Authority controlled areas must be done by Christian ministries such as ours.

I don't expect to raise millions, I am being realistic and I am praying to be able to have just \$100,000 above expenses to give to various families, ministries and schools while our team is there in April of this year.

There are special needs I can mention that perhaps you can help with.

One of our Palestinian Christian evangelists desperately needs a new laptop computer. He has been unable to communicate with us by e-mail for weeks and the shop where he took his old computer for repair advised him it was beyond repair.

Bible lessons must be printed in Arabic for distribution. It is far cheaper to print them there rather than to import them! Printing still costs a great deal.

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Funds are also needed for basic transportation needs. One of our Palestinian evangelists always has to travel by bus or on foot. A really cheap used car that actually works would still cost thousands of dollars just as one would here in the United States.

The need is real; there are tens of thousands of Christian Palestinian families in the West Bank who need help. The United Nations passes them by to hand out our tax dollars through Islamic institutions that many times are extremists who use the funds to attack Israel.

The Religious Freedom Coalition supports the right of Israel to exist without terrorist attacks. Each year I attend events at the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC and I have met their ambassador numerous times. As a supporter of Israel I can tell you that one of the best ways to help Israel is to support Christian ministries to the Palestinians. Every Israeli official I deal with understands this and supports me on it!

Your help is needed and so is the help of your church. Please consider sharing this letter with your Sunday School class and ask if a small collection can be made for our continuing missions in the West Bank.

Your support is the most important! Please don't set this letter aside, please give something today to our efforts to make lives of persecuted Christians better and to win the lost to Christ.

I ask that you send something, if even only a single dollar bill, to encourage the workers who toil for real peace in the Holy Land through Jesus Christ.

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William J. Murray, Chairman