

Evangelicals Urged to Share Jesus With Jews

The World Evangelical Alliance released a statement recently that called on all evangelicals to “forthrightly” share the love of Jesus Christ with the Jewish people.



[] The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) released a statement recently that called on all evangelicals to “forthrightly” share the love of Jesus Christ with the Jewish people.

Dozens of prominent evangelical leaders signed the statement, dubbed “The Gospel and the Jewish People,” which acknowledged Christianity’s marred history of anti-Semitism, but argued “the most loving and Scriptural expression of our friendship toward Jewish people” is telling them about Jesus and encouraging others to do the same.

“Increasingly, Jewish evangelism is being marginalized and even dismissed as irrelevant, inappropriate, unethical or deceptive by some segments of the church,” said Geoff Tunnicliffe, WEA’s international director.

The statement ran as a full-page ad in *The New York Times*, other secular publications and in Christian print as well, including *Charisma* magazine.

Meanwhile, a survey published in the *Jerusalem Post* on April 10 showed more than 80 percent of American Christians still believe they have a “moral and biblical obligation” to support the state of Israel.

Conducted by the Washington, Joshua Fund, the study indicated pro-Israeli sentiment cut across all denominational lines.

Millions to Pray for Their Nations, Israel on Pentecost Sunday

Millions of Christians around the world are expected to participate in the Global Day of Prayer, which is being hosted from Jerusalem on May 11.



[] Millions of Christians around the world are expected to participate in the Global Day of Prayer (GDOP), which is being hosted from Jerusalem on May 11. Launched in 2001, the event seeks to “saturate the nations of the world with prayer,” organizer Graham Power said. “We believe that as we humble ourselves, seek our Father’s face and turn from our wicked ways, God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land,” he said. “More than ever before the nations of the world are needing God to heal their land. It is as we actively engage in acts of repentance and prayer ... that we prepare the way for God to save the lost and transform our nations.”

The Pentecost Sunday prayer event will take place in concert with TheCall Jerusalem, which is to be held at the Jerusalem Convention Center. “The solemn assembly during this important time in history is for Jewish believers, Arab believers and international believers to gather in Jerusalem to pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to be poured out on Israel, the Middle East and globally,” said Lou Engle, founder of TheCall. Live video stream from the 3,500-seat auditorium will be provided by GOD TV, which now broadcasts around-the-clock each day from Jerusalem on 15 satellites. Affiliated GDOP events will take place in more than 150 nations.

The May 11 events are among several Christian activities being held in Jerusalem to mark the 60th anniversary of Israel's

statehood this month. The GDOP () will be preceded by the International House of Prayer's One Thing conference () May 8-10. GOD TV, Aglow International and the Encounters Network, led by prophetic minister James Goll, are hosting tours to Israel timed to encourage participation in the GDOP. And from May 29 to June 10, a worship, prayer and arts event known as Fulfillment Fest Jerusalem () will be held under a 5,000-person tent in a park on the Mount of Olives. —Renee DeLoria

Mayor Fights Crime With Prayer

An Alabama mayor invited city residents to put on sacks and ashes and gather for a series of prayer rallies to repent. Photo: Mayor Larry Langford and his wife, Melva.



[] An Alabama mayor pulled out an unusual weapon to fight his city's worsening homicide rate: prayer. Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford invited pastors and city residents to put on sacks and ashes and gather for a series of prayer rallies to repent in an Old Testament-style revival.

"Man has made a mess of things," he said. "Let's try returning our city to God and letting him lead." Langford, who has been in office less than a year, came up with the "sackcloth and ashes" idea after reading the book of Jonah. He was touched by the compassion God showed the city of Nineveh when they repented. "If it worked then," he said, "it will work now."

Roughly 1,000 people attended an April 25 rally held at Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium. During the prayer meeting, about 20 ministers dabbed everyone's foreheads with ashes, then clothed them in burlap sacks the mayor had purchased. The

lights were dim, and a CD playing actor James Earl Jones' narration of the Scriptures filled the room. Banners read "Jehovah" and "Holy." Large TV screens on each side of the stage displayed, "A City Not Forsaken."

Olivia Turner, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Alabama, told the Associated Press that her group received complaints about the prayer rallies and has been discussing them as a possible violation of church-state separation. A few days after the event, reports of another murder hit the news, but Langford wasn't disheartened. "People were expecting an instantaneous miracle, but the miracle was all those people coming together to pray. I think we are going to see hearts changed." —Marie A. Sutton in Birmingham, Ala.

J.I. Packer: Anglicanism Plagued by "Poisonous Liberalism"

Prominent theologian J.I. Packer recently left the Anglican Church of Canada, citing the church's reluctance to stop blessing same-sex unions as part of his reason.



[] Prominent theologian James Innell Packer of St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church in Vancouver, B.C. reluctantly left the Anglican Church of Canada last week, reported the *Vancouver Sun*.

Educated at Oxford, Packer apparently agonized over the decision and said part of his reasoning for leaving was his belief that some Anglican bishops in Canada are "arguably heretical" for adhering to "poisonous liberalism."

Packer also specifically pointed out his desire to no longer

serve under Vancouver-area Bishop Michael Ingham, who has done little to stop blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.

“He is a bishop who appears heretical,” said Packer, according to the *Sun*. The “Calvinist Anglican” and famous author of *Knowing God*, which has sold more than a million copies since its 1973 release, said he, along with 10 other British Columbia-based Anglican clergy, would now submit to the authority of an Anglican archbishop in South America.

Millions Expected to Pray Nationwide Thursday

Leaders of a national prayer task force are expecting millions to join them to intercede for the nation today.



[] Leaders of a national prayer task force are expecting millions to join them to intercede for the nation this Thursday.

According to organizers of the National Day of Prayer, an annual event established by an act of Congress in 1952 to occur the first Thursday of each May, tens of thousands of prayer events are scheduled for small and large churches, homes and town squares across the U.S. The theme of this year’s prayer event is: “Prayer! America’s Strength and Shield.”

“America trusts in the abiding power of prayer and asks for the wisdom to discern God’s will in times of joy and of trial,” said President Bush, in a proclamation released last week. “We recognize our dependence on the Almighty, we thank Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us, and we put our country’s future in his hands.”

Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said the nation is in troubled waters and that it's "critical" for Christians to pray.

"The biblical principles upon which America was founded are under attack. We pray God will raise righteous leaders for our country," she said. Christian scholar and apologist Ravi Zacharias is this year's honorary chairman.

To honor the esteemed role he was offered, Zacharias recently wrote *Is There Not a Cause*, a book that links Nehemiah's rebuilding of the ancient walls of Jerusalem with the modern church's mandate to reach the lost. Zacharias is scheduled to speak at two national observances on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

Preceding the National Day of Prayer has been a Bible-reading marathon, in which participants have gathered at the U.S. Capitol since Sunday night. For 90 consecutive hours people will read aloud, without comment, every Scripture of the Bible beginning in Genesis and ending with the final chapter of Revelation on Thursday at 2 p.m..

Buzz

Charisma Online

FeedBack

Vibes

Channel Surfing