

Sole Evangelical Church Continues Shining Light in Gaza Strip

After playing both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict this week, U.S. President Barack Obama heads to Jordan on Friday.

Obama arrived in Israel on Wednesday for a three-day tour of the Middle East. He encouraged Israeli and Palestinian leaders to re-engage in peace negotiations—stalled since 2010—and affirmed both an alliance with Israel and support of Palestinian independence.

He avoided the controversial Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip altogether, a place where Gaza Baptist Church boldly shines the light of Christ.

“Many Muslims have seen Muslim fighting Muslim, and they have a lot of questions. It’s a great opportunity,” says a spokesman for Christian Aid Mission, your link to indigenous ministries. “This is a great time for reaching people in the Middle East with the gospel.”

Gaza Baptist Church is the only evangelical church in the Gaza Strip.

“It’s really good to have a Christian presence there where people can go to ... when they want to find out what the Gospel is,” the spokesman says.

Along with weekly services, the church has children’s Sunday school classes and a new youth group. There are also programs to feed the hungry, support the poor and heal the sick. A retired physician currently heads up the church’s volunteer-run medical clinic.