

PROCLAMATION

A CLERGY CALL FOR PRAYER ON BEHALF OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

WHEREAS, on October 7th, 2023, the world became a darker place. During the Sabbath at 6:30 AM Jerusalem time, three thousand rockets from Gaza were fired into Israel within a twenty-minute span, loudspeakers from mosques could be heard in Jerusalem calling all Muslims to wage “holy war” against Jews, (1) nearly two thousand Jihadists simultaneously breached the security barriers of Israel entering the Jewish State by land, by sea, and by air, slaughtering over 1,400 Israelis, abducting over 200; and additionally, with the barbaric raping of women, and the kidnapping of both children and elderly Holocaust survivors, makes this event the biggest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust; and...

WHEREAS, during this surprise attack dubbed as “Israel’s 911,” human depravity of the highest magnitude was seen on Hamas social media sites with traumatic images of the remains of at least forty babies in Kfar Aza, some with their heads decapitated, found with deceased family members who were either shot or burned to death, (2) with a grandmother in Nir Oz murdered by Hamas terrorists and the horrific act livestreamed on Facebook, (3) with dead Jewish corpses in Gaza City paraded around as war trophies, (4-6) with a father weeping for his daughter after his twenty-four year old was kidnapped in Re’im and taken by motorcycle to Gaza, (7) and the horrific list goes on; and...

WHEREAS, ‘Hamas’ which is translated from Arabic as meaning “violence,” has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department, (8) who assumed administrative control over the Gaza Strip after winning the 2006 legislative elections, who has charter stating “Israel will exist until Islam obliterates it,” (9) who has leaders who say they love death as much as the Jews love life, (10) who incentivizes terrorism by paying families of suicide bombers four times the average income, (11) who regularly uses its citizens as human shields to protect military operations, (12) and who has wide support of its citizens,(13) even support for the use of terrorism against Israeli civilians; (14) and...

WHEREAS, Despite the 1967 Arab League Summit in Sudan which concluded “No peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, and no recognition of Israel,” Israel has tried to make peace with its Arab neighbors, giving Egypt in 1978 the entire Sinai Peninsula for peace, a tract of land bigger than the remaining part of Israel, and later unilaterally giving the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians in 2005 for peace, yet despite giving land for peace, violent intifadas sparked by the Palestinians against Israel still occurred in 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021; and...

WHEREAS, Israel, the only Jewish state in the world, has been commonly mislabeled an ‘apartheid’ despite having ten elected Arab members currently serving in the Knesset, (15) despite being surrounded by twenty-two Islamic Arab states stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean that threaten its existence, this in spite of Jewish history in the land going back to before the tenth century B.C; and ...

WHEREAS, Psalm 120 says, “My soul has long dwelt too long with him that hateth peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.” Further, as Israel finds itself in a war for its survival, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters, “Israel is at war; we did not want this war, it was forced upon us in the most brutal and savage way. But though Israel did not start this war, Israel will finish it;” and...

WHEREAS, the Bible gives justification for war by civic governments to protect its sovereignty and defend its citizens found in Romans 13 and Psalms 97 goes further saying to “Hate evil those who love the LORD;” and....

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, while the Church remained largely silent during the Holocaust of six million Jews during World War II, (16) as leading clergymen from one hundred-fifty-five (155) diverse

congregations across the Buckeye Bible Belt, we publicly stand in solidarity with the Nation of Israel and corporately condemn the anti-Semitic atrocities perpetrated by Hamas. We believe each murder and brutal act by Hamas during the massacre of October 7th, 2023 constitutes as an act of genocide. We believe there is no justification for the use of terrorism by Hamas to target Israeli and Palestinian civilians. From Pharaoh, to Hamman, to Hitler to Hamas, Israel has continually been targeted for being GOD's chosen people. We unequivocally agree Israel has the absolute right to exist and to defend itself, which includes taking measures to eliminate its foes. We pray for the safe release of every hostage held captive by the terrorist group Hamas. We corporately pray for GOD to comfort and strengthen His chosen people and to help those impacted by October 7th's "Black Sabbath Massacre" to find healing and hope in the midst of devastation.

As the Bibles recounts, When King David and Israel's army were surrounded in front and to the rear, David's commander, Joab told his partner in command, "Be strong, and let us be courageous for the sake of our people, and for the cities of our GOD; and may the LORD do what seems good to him."

Transmit duly authenticated copies of this proclamation to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.

List of lead clergymen representing one hundred-fifty-five (155) congregations across 22 counties in Ohio calling for prayer and financial aid on behalf of the Nation of Israel:

Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community Church	Pastor Matt Potosky, Albion Church of the Brethren
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont 96 Church	Pastor Layton Broome, Hayesville United Methodist
Pastor Layton Broome, Lakefork United Methodist	Pastor Justin Lawhorn, Crestline New Vision Church
Pastor George Swain, Homerville Grace Brethren	Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Lexington Irresistible Church
Pastor J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries	Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity Church
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran Church	Rabbi Bob Bauer, Crestline Beit El Elyon Congregation
Pastor Paul Lintern, Southside Christian Church	Pastor James Mitchell, Polk New Liberty Baptist
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren	Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Mansfield Calvary Chapel
Pastor Brian Snow, Fredericktown First Baptist	Dr. Ricky Branham, Willard Ripley Chapel
Pastor Larry Whited, Abundant Grace Fellowship	Pastor Joshua Cole, Crestline Praise Family Church
Pastor Mark Meyer, Lexington Gracepoint Church	Pastor Denny Nezrick, Lexington Presbyterian Church
Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Chapel	Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church of GOD
Pastor Dan Barker, Cortland Trinity Baptist	Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesley Evangelical
Dr. DeWayne Smith, Pricetown United Methodist	Dr. DeWayne Smith, Newton Falls United Methodist
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Church	Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges New Liberty Lifesong Church
Pastor LaMont Lindsey, Book of Life Church	Pastor Dave Rentzel, Shelby Life Church
Pastor Jason Price, Mansfield Victory Baptist	Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ Church
Pastor Mike Rose, Hope on the Hill Chapel	Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Connect Church
Pastor Walter Moss, Canton Foursquare Church	Dr. Jeff Mills, Mifflin Little Flock Fellowship
Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD	Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain Church of GOD in Christ
Pastor Larry Carnes, Trinity Grace Fellowship	Pastor Wade Hartzell, Girard Shiloh Full Gospel
Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal Church	Reverend El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer
Rabbi Michael Oyler, Canton Star in the East	Pastor Michael Constantino, Girard New Life Church
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center	Pastor Duane Hennen, Cortland Maranatha Church
Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington New Liberty Baptist	Pastor Troy Thompson, Lorain Church on the North Coast
Pastor David Koehler, Loudonville Temple Baptist	Pastor Jeremy McNeill, Bucyrus First Presbyterian
Pastor David Parsons, Zion's Refuge Baptist	Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield Open Bible Church
Pastor Dan Baer, Green Gospel Assembly	Overseer Dan Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly
Pastor Dan Zediker, Mansfield Mission Point	Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community Church
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community	Pastor Bill Fox, Crestline Faith Community Church
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caeserea Baptist	Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby First Baptist
Rabbi Michael Wolf, Cincinnati Beth Messiah	Pastor Matt Pond, Shelby First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Berry Carter, Massillon City Bible	Pastor Dana Gammill, Cathedral of Life Church

Elder Moe Hill, Grace Evangelical Free Church
 Pastor Patrick Bailey, Danville Church of Brethren
 Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship
 Pastor John Campos, Bowman St. Church of GOD
 Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill
 Pastor Robert O'Brian, Mansfield Apostolic Faith
 Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario Sar Shalom Ctr.
 Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth LifePoint Church
 Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly
 Pastor Faron Cole, Eastern Road Church of GOD
 Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community Church
 Pastor Cory Schnuerer, North Woodbury Alliance
 Pastor Andrew Stensaas, Eaton First Baptist
 Pastor Taylor Howard, Apostolic Holiness Church
 Pastor Randy Raynes, Fellowship Baptist
 Pastor Tim Sheets, Middletown Oasis Church
 Pastor Aaron Boggs, Frederickton Freewill Baptist
 Pastor Ed Colegrove, Edison Enterprise Baptist
 Pastor Nickolas Kelly, North Liberty Church
 Pastor Joe Nichols, ARC Empowerment Center
 Pastor Jimmy Barnes, Mansfield Foursquare
 Pastor Jerry O'Brien, Orville Faith Harvest
 Pastor Miler Montoya, Kingdom Vision Church
 Pastor Matt O'Harra, Bellville First Baptist
 Pastor Dan Rebon, Father's Heart Healing Ctr.
 Pastor Matt Smith, Crestline Love Action Church
 Deacon Derrell Hall, Mansfield Holiness Chapel
 Pastor David Bates, Galion Unity Freewill
 Pastor Juan Rivera, Victory Church Ohio
 Pastor Rusty Wills, Christ Community Church
 Dr. David Forbes Jr., Columbus Christian Ctr.
 Pastor Mark Galambos, River of Life Church
 Pastor Chris Spencer, Crestline Grace Baptist
 Pastor Clyde Kerby, Hope & Healing Ministries
 Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship
 Pastor Jack Williams, Walker Lake Baptist
 Pastor Richard Diamond, Diamond Hills Cathedral
 Pastor Steve Brenneman, Awakening Church
 Pastor John Grimm, Plymouth United Methodist
 Pastor Jim Johnson, Mansfield Grace Temple
 Elder Henry Bradley, New Community Temple
 Pastor Jonathan Moore, Canfield Grace Church
 Pastor Art Nicolli, Girard Open Door Church
 Elder Ray Cochran Jr., Oasis of Love Church
 Pastor Mark Cobb, Mansfield Providence Baptist
 Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, Mansfield New Life Baptist
 Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church Brethren
 Pastor James Spencer, Mansfield Peoples' Baptist
 Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill Baptist
 Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Temple Baptist
 Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario Westside Baptist
 Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Ontario Potter's House
 Pastor Robert Caw, Newark Church Triumphant
 Pastor Joe Silvestri, Wooster Bible Church
 Pastor Tim Houston, Mansfield Church of GOD
 Pastor Emeritus Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
 Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community Church
 Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Ontario Hesus Agape Fellowship
 Pastor Art Kennard, Shelby Maranatha Christian Ctr.
 Pastor Charles Burgess Jr., West Salem Church GOD
 Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center
 Pastor Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist
 Pastor Jeremy Huff, Church of Jesus Christ
 Pastor Chaz Boes, Compassion Church of Toledo
 Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist
 Pastor Sheldon Mencer, Mission 3:16 Church
 Pastor James Hill, Mansfield Paradise Church
 Pastor Rick Sutter, Elm Street Freewill Baptist
 Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Fellowship Christian
 Bishop Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD
 Pastor Lucian Baker, Christ the King Church
 Pastor Jeffrey Lord, Mayflower Congregational Church
 Pastor Jeremy Rands, Monclova Road Baptist
 Pastor Bobby Edwards, Jesus is Alive Holiness Church
 Pastor Danny Akers, Victory Rock Praise & Worship Ctr.
 Pastor William Strader Jr., Bucyrus First Alliance Church
 Pastor Paul Bartholomew, Mohican Brethren Church
 Pastor Matt Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance Church
 Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of GOD
 Bishop Greg Griffith, Willard Church of GOD
 Elder James DeWeese, Mansfield Providence Church
 Pastor Gary Click, Fremont Baptist Temple
 Pastor Aaron Rose, Madison Fusion Church
 Pastor John Grimm, Greenwich United Methodist
 Pastor Paul Staton, Bellville Honey Creek Baptist
 Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community Church
 Pastor David Natale, Church at Warren Healing Ctr.
 Pastor Paul Mathewson, Maranatha Bible Church
 Pastor William Cole, Mansfield Recovery Church

The above listed clergy co-signers have congregations located in 22 counties throughout Ohio. Counties with the most congregations represented: Richland (85), Crawford (13), Ashland (8), Trumbull (8), Wayne (6), Knox (5), Morrow (5), Huron (4), Stark (4), Mahoning (3), Lucas (2), Warren (2), Coshocton (1), Franklin (1), Licking (1), Lorain (1), Marion (1), Medina (1), Portage (1), Preble (1), Sandusky (1), & Summit (1).

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- (9) "Will Hamas ever recognise Israel?" By Martin Asser, BBC News, February 7, 2006, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4686844.stm
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