



**ALLIED JEWISH  
FEDERATION  
OF COLORADO**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Men's Event Kick-Off**

#### **Q: Who is Pastor John Hagee?**

A: Pastor John Hagee is the head of a 19,000-member church in San Antonio, Texas. He is the founder of Christians United for Israel (CUFI). There are approximately 50 million Christian Zionists in the U.S. who care very deeply about Israel and the importance of creating a new template of Jewish-Christian relations. Hagee is widely recognized as the leader of the Pro-Zionist Christians, and meets frequently with Israeli leaders including PM Netanyahu.

#### **Q: What is the Christians United for Israel (CUFI)?**

A: CUFI is a national, grassroots public policy and advocacy lobbying organization which unites all pro-Israel Christians in America under one umbrella. Founded in 2006 with 400 evangelical members, CUFI now boasts 426,000 members who together have contributed \$43 million for humanitarian work in Israel. They continue to designate \$10 million annually in support of Israel and are strategic allies of the Jewish community in the pro-Israel movement.

#### **Q: How does CUFI distribute its money?**

A: CUFI's funding decisions are guided by three Jewish men, including Orthodox Rabbi Arnold Scheinberg, CUFI Executive Director David Brog, and Houston Federation CEO Lee Wunsh. Through the Houston Federation, CUFI designates unrestricted funds annually in the following categories:

1. Humanitarian/Social Services
2. Education

#### **Q: Why is there controversy around Pastor Hagee?**

A: Pastor Hagee has expressed a number of personal opinions on social issues, including positions on gays, women, Catholics, Muslims, Jews, Hitler and the Holocaust. In some cases, he has been misquoted or certain information has been taken out of context. In short, Pastor Hagee is a biblical literalist. His personal opinions are solely based on his interpretations of the New and Old Testament. That being said, his only advocacy work is on behalf of Israel and fighting anti-Semitism.

#### **Q: Does the Federation endorse Pastor John Hagee's social and political platforms?**

A: No. Federation does not endorse all of Hagee's personal opinions or evangelical ideology. In fact, there is much with which we disagree. We recognize that he is a controversial choice for Men's Event and that some of his political and social positions are lighting rods that are unfortunately hurtful to some segment of our community.

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### PASTOR HAGEE RESPONSES TO SOCIAL OPINIONS

#### **Q: Is Pastor Hagee an anti-Semite?**

A: No. Pastor Hagee has worked to combat anti-Semitism actively since 1976. He believes that all Christians owe a debt of gratitude to the Jews for providing the foundation of their Christian religion. He also believes that the Christian community must realize that the Jews have suffered enormous persecution at the hands of Christians and their trust may be somewhere between a little and none at all. He advocates that "we" – referring to all Christians – have to do better now.

#### **Q: Is Pastor Hagee trying to proselytize Jews?**

A: No. Some worry that his efforts are motivated by a desire to convert Jews to Christianity. Like all people of faith, Christians firmly believe that their religion is true. But, Hagee believes in religious freedom and has an enormous respect for the Jewish faith. The first rule adopted by Christians United for Israel (CUFI) was that there would be no proselytizing at their events. CUFI exists only to honor and support the Jewish people, never to convert them.

#### **Q: Pastor Hagee has openly spoken out against GLBTs.**

#### **Why does he speak out against GLBTs?**

A: Pastor Hagee is a biblical literalist. Similar to Orthodox Judaism and Catholicism, he believes that the act of homosexuality is a sin based on biblical text. That said, he does not advocate against gay marriage. His only advocacy efforts are on behalf of Israel and anti-Semitism.

#### **Q: Why did Pastor Hagee say that Hurricane Katrina was God's will in response to the upcoming Gay Pride parade in New Orleans in 2006?**

A: As a believing Christian, Pastor Hagee sees the hand of God in everything that happens here on earth, both the blessings and the curses. He later said that ultimately he, nor any other person, can know the mind of God concerning Hurricane Katrina. He said he should not have suggested otherwise and no matter what the cause of the storm, "his heart goes out to all who suffered in this terrible tragedy."

#### **Q: Does Pastor Hagee believe a woman's place is in the home?**

A: All the women in Pastor Hagee's life work. His mother worked. His wife and daughter's work as well. He believes that the woman is the head of the household and, as such, is in charge of the home. He recognizes that did make a politically incorrect joke about premenstrual syndrome.

#### **Q: Is Pastor Hagee pro-life and against a woman's right to choose?**

A: Yes. Again, similar to Orthodox Judaism and Catholicism, Pastor Hagee believes in the preservation of life, which begins at conception. However, he does not advocate on behalf of this issue as he believes he can advocate more effectively on Israel without being distracted by other advocacy work.

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### **Q: Does Pastor Hagee support stem cell research?**

A: No. Pastor Hagee does not support stem cell research.

### **Q: Is Pastor Hagee Anti-Catholic?**

A: No. Pastor Hagee expressed deep regret for any comments that Catholics have found hurtful, including the darkest chapters in the history of Catholic and Protestant relations with Jewish people. He pledged to provide a more complete and balanced portrayal going forward that will not reinforce mischaracterizations of the Catholic Church. While he stresses that his invocation of terms like 'apostate church' and the 'great whore' were never meant by him to describe the Catholic Church, he acknowledges that anti-Catholics have long employed such language.

### **Q: Is Pastor Hagee anti-Muslim?**

A: No. Pastor Hagee and Christian Zionists are not anti-Muslim. However, they do actively support the State of Israel and the fight against militant Islam. Until 9/11 and ensuing events, Israel largely confronted this threat alone. To this day the frontline of this conflict remains in Israel's backyard. Christian Zionists understand that Israel is militant Islam's first target and while American and Israeli soldiers do not fight on the same battlefield, they defend the same values.

### **Q: Does Pastor Hagee support Israel for Christian purposes, including the second coming of Jesus and the End of Days theory?**

A: No. Some believe that Christian Zionism relates to an effort to expedite the second coming of Jesus. The fact is that the vast majority of Christian Zionists and Evangelicals do not believe there is anything they can do to hasten the second coming of Jesus. Their theology is clear that we humans are utterly powerless to change God's timetable.

### **Q: Does Pastor Hagee believe that G-d's solutions to bring the Jewish people back to Israel were the Holocaust and Hitler?**

A: As a biblical literalist, a central part of Pastor Hagee's faith is a belief in an omnipotent, sovereign G-d. In a sermon in 1999, he grappled with the vexing question of why a loving God would allow the evil of the Holocaust to occur. Pastor Hagee said that he sympathizes with how sensitive the issue of the Holocaust is and should be to the Jewish community and regrets if his Jewish friends felt any pain as a result. He believes that the Holocaust was a tragedy unique in its evil and horror and he pledged to the Jewish community that he would always work with them and others of good will in fulfilling the words, "Never again."

### **Q: Does Pastor Hagee believe that the Anti-Christ is Jewish?**

A: Jesus was a Jew. During the second coming of the Messiah, the New Testament describes the Great Pretender, a person who looks like a Jewish person. According to Pastor Hagee, the Great Pretender will be half Jewish because he will need to look very much like Jesus in an effort to fool would-be believers of his validity.

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**Q: Is Pastor Hagee the person who wanted to burn the Koran recently in Florida?**

A: No. In fact he actively opposed anyone burning the Koran and personally reached out to the leading pastor in Florida to reject this initiative.

## PASTOR HAGEE POLITICAL OPINIONS

**Q: Do Pastor Hagee and CUFI only support a one state solution for the State of Israel?**

A: No. Like many supporters of Israel, some Christian Zionists have certainly grown skeptical of land-for-peace in the face of multiple failed attempts. Yet from its founding several years ago, CUFI's leadership never presumed to tell Jerusalem how to conduct its foreign or domestic affairs. They have never, and will never, oppose Israeli efforts to advance peace. CUFI's involvement in the peace process will continue to be restricted to defending Israel's right to make decisions free of international interference or pressure — including U.S. pressure.