



**Dear friends and Partners,
October 7, 2023**

I woke up this morning at 6:30 to the horrible reality of another dark day of killing, terror, and border attacks between Gaza's Hamas and Israel. To those that may not know the geographical layout, Gaza and the border is approximately 65 miles from Bethlehem and is approximately 70 miles from Jerusalem. In the past, the usual rocket attacks mostly concentrated towards specific Israeli cities in the south, but today was different. I received a call from my brother to go check on his wife and their 2-year-old to see if they were ok. I asked him why. He said, "A rocket hit only 20 meters from their apartment building".

You might ask me "Pastor aren't you sometimes in the Arab areas? Why are Gaza rockets hitting into Arab neighborhoods too?"

Well, many do mostly by miscalculations. After all Israel is a very small country, and most everything is intertwined in some way. In fact, sirens were around us for a big part of the day. Schools were evacuated while Shari and I and our five children have already felt over 14 hit somewhere around us or hit in the air causing the grounds and building to shake.

This is a very strategic time for ALL THE PEOPLE GROUPS IN Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and Gaza. There is much at stake NOW! There never is a one-sided solution nor being it ever a one-side problem. For example, the streets, neighborhoods and communities on all three sides are way too small and neighborhoods are very interwoven for attacks to simply affect only isolated areas and or affect ONLY one side. Simply put, what happens on the Israel side affects the Arab Israelis, the Arab Palestinians, and the rest of the land. The same goes for the other side on the Gaza end as well. Only the Lord God, can interfere to heal and change the hearts of people in our land and region.

Questions I have been receiving all day today:

“Pastor, what should our response be?”

As believers who love and stand with Israel? Well first we refuse to be a generation that calls evil good and good evil. You do not have to love one and hate the other, there is enough room in the heart of the father to love why shouldn't we (as believers I mean).

“Will things calm down?”

100 percent Yes! This will calm down, there is much at stake here. Especially with all the peace talks that have happened specifically with Saudi Arabia and the advances that have occurred in the recent months are way too big and important to allow what occurred this morning to stop it! We are living in eschatological days! Although for us that have the Hope of Christ, these are anticipated days. As we see things unfold and happen, a great time to build! There is a group of Muslims I talk to are tired of killing and violence and would much rather have peace and a new path ahead.

“Could this be a strong opportunity that now that the nations will push for a final PEACE deal between Israel and the Palestinian people?”

Especially now that Saudi Arabia and 5 other Arab nations are already in strong discussions about a New Peace Plan with Israel? YES! This Gaza-Israel war could be the one that opens the door for a several years of calmness which could fit into an end time timeline?

Here are two practical ways you can stand with us at this time.

1. **PRAY** –Our response as Christians should be: 1) How can I pray? 2) What are the prayer needs for the hurting Jewish side and the hurting Christians on the Arab side 3) Pray for God's Grace, Salvation and healing for all the innocent children, the by standards, those that want peace those who are protecting and defending their families.

2. **GIVE**– I am so grateful for those of you who give to our ministry thus far!! We are planning family emergency care packets, which include the Gospels, Bible Discipleship materials, and more. Your gifts could not come at a more important time!

Your prayers and giving can make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by this crisis. Your contribution, no matter the size, can go a long way toward standing with us at this time.

Isaiah 62:6

I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,