

WORKSHOPS 1

***With God on Our Side* film screening with Tony Maalouf**

The film, *With God on Our Side*, takes a look at the theology of Christian Zionism, which teaches that because the Jews are God's chosen people, they have a divine right to the land of Israel. Aspects of this belief system lead some Christians in the West to give uncritical support to Israeli government policies, even those that privilege Jews at the expense of Palestinians, leading to great suffering among Muslim and Christian Palestinians alike and threatening Israel's security as a whole. This film demonstrates that there is a biblical alternative for Christians who want to love and support the people of Israel, a theology that doesn't favor one people group over another but instead promotes peace and reconciliation for both Jews and Palestinians.

Fasting with Abraham's Kids with Leonard Rodgers

Leonard Rodgers has devoted his life to serving people in the Middle East and Central Asia. Early in his career abroad, Mr. Rodgers was appointed Vice President for Middle East Operations for World Vision. He later founded Venture International to further his passion for serving people, building a network of business, government, community, and religious leaders. Under Mr. Rodgers' leadership, Venture International has been instrumental in coordinating spiritual support, skill training for youth, micro-business development, and assistance to refugees in numerous Middle East conflicts and natural disasters. Mr. Rodgers now serves as director for *Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding*, sponsoring conferences, facilitating partnerships, and creating friendships in order to bridge the geographic and cultural divide. Dr. Paul Louis Metzger will interview this entrepreneur, pioneer, and Christian statesman on his life's work. Come learn from Mr. Rodgers' example of how to compassionately engage God's love for all his people in the Middle East.

Peace Negotiations: Politics and Religion with David Austin

Journalists have been buzzing with reports of current peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine. But many are quick to remind us that we've been here before. In this workshop, David Austin will examine from an historical and political perspective since the creation of Israel in 1948 the political issues involved in the current negotiations and why the conflicts are left perpetually unresolved. He will discuss how religion has been used to destroy the political process and what role religious communities serve in promoting a solution.

WORKSHOPS 2

Apocalypse Now: Popular Evangelical Responses to the Middle East Crisis with Brad Harper

Since the reestablishment of Israel as a nation in 1948 and its subsequent military victories, many popular evangelical writers and T.V. preachers have interpreted these events in ways that have been overly favorable to this present day Israel and its recent socio-political policies. In an interactive format, Dr. Harper will look at the history and content of some of these popular reactions, with a view towards what may be a more truly Christian response.

***With God on Our Side* Q&A** with Tony Maalouf

This workshop will entertain questions raised by the film *With God on Our Side* (screened during workshops 1). Keynote speaker, Dr. Tony Maalouf, will moderate the discussion. Dr. Maalouf's background as a Lebanese Christian, having taught in Jordan and Beirut, and now at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, has shaped his heart for his own people. But it is God's work that has given this careful biblical scholar the grace and wisdom to share God's love for Arabs with a Christian community that often neglects the subject. Come to this workshop to engage your questions about *With God on Our Side* with a man from whom we have much to learn.

Tourists, Terrorists and Tales of Palestine with Debbie Bayes

This narrative workshop will feature Ms. Bayes sharing about her experience serving alongside Palestinian Christians in Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank. In addition to reflecting on her time in the Middle East, she will discuss the challenges and joys of talking about this work with American Christians. Ms. Bayes will offer practical tips she's garnered from her own experience for effectively educating the church about this complicated part of the world.