

# Light Brings Salt

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## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*  
*"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."*



### Evangelicals sign strange letter to Muslims

The following article is excerpted from some news articles.

In response to an open letter signed by 138 Muslim leaders entitled "A Common Word Between Us and You," which was issued on October 13, 2007, roughly 300 Christian leaders have signed "Loving God and Neighbor Together: A Christian Response."

The Muslim letter said that "Muslims recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah" and "invited Christians to come together with us on the common essentials of our two religions," claiming that "the very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake." There was not a word about the current jihad, and Bin Laden and company were not among the signatories.

The Christian response was organized by professors at the extremely liberal Yale Divinity School. It is prefaced with the words, "In the name of the Infinitely Good God whom we should love with all our Being," which gives the idea that Muslims and Christians worship the same God.

It begins by asking forgiveness for the Crusades and the (alleged) "excesses of the war on terror" by which "many Christians have been guilty of sinning against our Muslim neighbors."

It goes on to say, "It is therefore no exaggeration to say, as you have in A Common Word Between Us and You, that 'the future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians.'" It calls for interfaith dialogue and warns that "our eternal souls" are at stake if Muslims and

Christians don't learn to live in peace. The response was obviously written by someone who does not believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ or the literal return of Christ, but what the letter omits is just as telling.

There is not a word about the violent jihad that is rampaging around the world against Christians which negates the idea that Islam is a peaceful religion, not a word about the lack of religious liberty and the persecution against Christians in every Islamic country, not a word about the Islamic prohibition against converting to Christianity, not a word about Islam's denial of Christ's deity, virgin birth, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection and the fact that Allah is not the God of the Bible.

If this response were signed only by liberals, we probably would have ignored it, but scattered among the names of rank liberals and Roman Catholic and Emerging Church leaders (Tony Jones and Brian McLaren) are those of dozens of "evangelicals," including Rick Warren of Saddleback Church; Leith Anderson (Wooddale Church Eden Prairie MN) and Don Argue (current and past president of the National Association of Evangelicals); several professors from Fuller Theological Seminary (including the president), Biola University, Wheaton College (including the president), and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Lynn Green of Youth With A Mission; Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Community Church; various pastors of Vineyard churches (including the National Director); David Neff, Editor in Chief of Christianity Today; John R.W. Stott; Michael Treneer of the Navigators; Harvey Thiessen of Operation Mobilization; and Godfrey Yogarajah, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia.

## BEWARE OF "GOLDEN COMPASS

The following is excerpted from "The Upside-down World of Pullman's 'Golden Compass,'" Berit Kjos, November 13, 2007: "More than 15 million copies of Philip Pullman's trilogy have been sold. The first movie in the series opens December 7.

Flying witches, evil specters, talking bears and evolving 'Dust' abound in The Dark Materials, Philip Pullman's popular fantasy series for children. In this confusing cosmos of multiple universes, humans are linked to personal daemons (demons), and telepathic seekers find answers to life's mysteries through divination, Eastern meditation, ancient 'wisdom' and ritual magic.

These occult practices are essential to the battle for the 'free' Republic--against the despised old Church. Lyra, the pre-teen heroine, is a headstrong tomboy raised without parents at an Oxford college in a universe parallel to ours. A proficient liar, she's first seen snooping in a forbidden area with her daemon camouflaged as a moth.

From then on, she follows her intuition from one crisis to the next until all remnants of Biblical truth and authority have been destroyed. By the end of the series, God is dead. Free-spirited Lyra (still a 12-year-old) has sexually 'come of age' and fulfilled her prophetic assignments in the war against Christianity.

As readers move from book to book, they meet likeable God-haters, experience magical worlds, and discover the strange forces that drive Pullman's occult cosmos. ... Pullman's crafty tale pulls the readers' minds into an occult context where--through their imagination--they experience life from his atheist/occult perspective."

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### **According to the Scriptures**

*Dave Hunt*

The Bible makes uncompromisingly clear to all mankind its claim to be the infallible, inerrant Word of the only true and living God. It denounces all other gods and scriptures as false, as well as the religions they represent. Of Jesus, God's Word declares, "He that believeth on the

Son hath everlasting life: he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" ([Jn 3:36](#)). Peter told Jewish religious leaders (and was beaten, imprisoned, and killed for testifying to Christ's resurrection): "There is none other name...given among men whereby we must be saved" ([Acts 4:12](#)).

Such unequivocal statements cannot be misunderstood. Jews would not have been persecuted and killed had they presented Yahweh as just one more god to be added to the Roman Pantheon. Christians were considered an even greater threat because in obedience to Christ they preached the gospel everywhere and thereby "turned the world upside down" ([Acts 17:6](#)). Even they would not have been persecuted and killed had they presented Jesus Christ as merely one of many possible saviors. It was their firm proclamation of Christ's claim, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" ([Jn 14:6](#)), that threatened Caesar and aroused such vicious hatred. Today, however, to avoid the objectionable exclusivity of their faith, "Christians" often compromise and many ecumenically deny the biblical gospel.

Christianity is a biblical faith, and the Bible is not an "ecumenical" book. It makes no compromise with any of the world's religions. Those who support ecumenism to any extent, no matter how loudly they defend their orthodoxy, are not Bible-believing Christians.

At worst they are deliberate frauds; at best they are confused into simultaneously professing two contradictory beliefs (syncretism). Which do they really believe? Speaking out of both sides of their mouths is a popular ploy today of both political and "Christian" leaders.

Anyone is free to invent any new religion-but not free to call it Christianity. That faith is founded upon facts: Scripture, history, and prophecy, all of which are a matter of clear record and none of which can be changed. These facts cannot honestly be denied.

What must we say of "Christian" leaders and even entire denominations that do not follow Christ and His Word.