



News Release

Friday 4 April 2003
10.00hrs. For immediate release.

Church Society calls upon the Archbishop of Canterbury to uphold the uniqueness of the Christian gospel in his meeting with Muslim scholars.

At a meeting of the Council of Church Society held yesterday it was resolved unanimously to write to the Archbishop of Canterbury in the terms of the letter attached. The letter was faxed to Dr Williams late yesterday afternoon (Thursday 3 April 2003).

Church Society is the senior evangelical body in the Church of England.

For further information please contact:

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Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church.

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3rd April 2003

The Most Revd R D Williams
Lambeth Palace
London.
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Dear Archbishop Rowan,

We understand from press reports that you are presently to visit the Middle-East to meet with Muslim scholars.

We call upon you to take this opportunity to make a clear statement of the Christian truth that living faith in Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. We would remind you that this is not only the clear teaching of Scripture but also explicitly stated in the 39 Articles of Religion which you have vowed to uphold.

Article XVIII

They also are to be had accursed that presume to say, That every man shall be saved by the Law or Sect which he professeth, so that he be diligent to frame his life according to that Law, and the light of Nature. For holy Scripture doth set out unto us only the Name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved.

Would you please raise the fact of Christian persecution in Muslim countries with those whom you are going to meet. Also that Christians should enjoy in Muslim countries the same freedom of worship which Muslims insist upon elsewhere.

The great duty of the Church of England is to proclaim the reality of future judgement and the certainty of salvation in Jesus Christ. Only when she and her ministers do this will she enjoy the blessing of God.

Yours sincerely,

David Phillips (Revd)
General Secretary on behalf of the Council of Church Society.