

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST BRIAN McLAREN TO SPEAK ON CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIAN JUSTICE SATURDAY, APRIL 5

PORTLAND, OR . . . Author and activist Brian McLaren will speak on “The Prophets and the Gospels: Christian Responsibility for Palestinian Justice” Saturday, April 5 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St.

According to McLaren, “We Christians are complicit in the injustices suffered by our Palestinian neighbors in more ways than we commonly realize. In this session, we will explore how the message of the prophets and of Jesus expose our complicity – and how they inspire a creative, constructive, intelligent, and impassioned response.”

McLaren is a former evangelical pastor and a prolific and popular author on the topic of Christianity’s past, present and future. His dozen-plus books include *A New Kind of Christianity*, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, *Naked Spirituality*, and *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* He takes an innovative approach to Christianity for the postmodern world in which globalization and technology have splintered cultural consensus and shattered traditional sources of authority. He is a proponent of Emergent Christianity, a loosely knit movement of Christians who are moved to deeply rethink their faith instead of simply following longstanding traditions or walking away.

McLaren’s lecture will be presented at the SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US conference hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel – North America. Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians.

McLaren will be joined by Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and Muslim activist Shakeel Syed earlier in the day for a discussion of religious traditions and the Palestinian justice issue.

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb is leader of Fellowship of Reconciliation Peacewalks and director of Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence. She is the author of *She Who Dwells Within: A Feminist Vision of a Renewed Judaism*.

Shakeel Syed is executive director of the Shura Council of Southern California, an association of mosques and Muslim organizations serving Muslims in Southern California and society at large.

Information about speakers and tickets to the conference to be held April 4 and 5 may be purchased at <http://sabeel-pdx.brownpapertickets.com/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Brian McLaren, Lynn Gottlieb, Shakeel Syed and other speakers on Israel-Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting:

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