

# World & Nation

## Reviewing Bush's Call to War

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Thursday, Sept. 20, George W. Bush delivered the State of the Union Address. For five minutes. He then moved on to an outline of the nation's response to the terrorist attacks.

It was only a speech, not an information session. He spoke of a long war against terrorists and their nations, a classified war that will involve little communication with the American people. He related the terrorists to the fascists for whom we created the atomic bomb: Hitler and his allies. He told the military to "be ready" and the civilians to "live their lives" and "be calm."

Below I have listed his key statements in the mode of preparing America's response. Between most of the quoted sections, segments of his speech that served to elaborate on his main

points were left out. At the beginning of his address he embellished the call to "war on terror" with affirmation of the patient work of Americans and the rest of the world to heal the wounds inflicted September 11.

My message, as editor, to Guilford readers of our President's soothing words:

Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

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"Tonight, we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

"Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking, 'Who attacked our country?'"

"The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as Al Qaeda.

They are some of the murderers indicted for bombing American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and responsible for bombing the USS Cole."

"The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics; a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam."

"There are thousands of these terrorists in more than 60 countries."

"They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to camps in places like Afghanistan where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction."

"(The Taliban) is not only repressing its own people, it is threatening people everywhere by sponsoring and sheltering

and supplying terrorists."

"Deliver to United States authorities all of the leaders of Al Qaeda who hide in your land."

"The Taliban must act and act immediately."

"They will hand over the terrorists or they will share in their fate."

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. It is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them."

"Our war on terror begins with Al Qaeda, but it does not end there."

"It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

"By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except the will to power, they follow in the path of fascism, Nazism and totalitarianism."

"Americans are asking, 'How will we fight and win this war?'"

"Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign unlike any other we have ever seen. It may include dramatic strikes visible on TV and covert operations secret even in success."

"And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation in every region now has a decision to make: Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

"Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment."

"The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them."

"In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom and may he watch over the United States of America."

"Thank you."

The full transcript is available at [cnn.com](http://cnn.com). Next week, Elizabeth Laird will present in World and Nation Guilford's reactions to the Address and, in general, Bush's proclaimed agenda in response to the attacks.

## American in Palestine

Ben Hebner

STAFF WRITER

At this point, my faithful readers may be asking, "What do people in the West Bank do with their lives when they aren't getting shot at?"

The answer is: they serve dinner. The hospitality we met with in Palestine was second to none I have experienced anywhere else in the world. The usual arrangement was: we arrived; we sat down and were served cold drinks and spoke at length with our host; we were served pita and hummus with some other munchies for an appetizer; then the main course came out (the variety of food is a list unto itself but it was always superb); the desserts tasted more intense than anything I've tasted from this continent; and finally coffee that would make a tree sloth jumpy.

Of course, the reason that Palestinians have so much time to entertain visiting Americans right now is that their borders are closed and their economy is destroyed: no travel and no jobs.

Nonetheless, the tradition of

Arab hospitality appears to go back far before the present nuisance to the times when turning someone away from your tent in the desert meant killing them. Time was when the law required you to take care of anyone who showed up at your home for three days before you asked them any questions or request payment. It didn't matter if the person had killed your mother; you took care of them for the three days (or more likely caught them as they made a break for it on the night of the second day).

Although this law by letter is now apocryphal, the remnants of it appear at the most unexpected times. We were in someone's home examining the bullet holes in their walls and windows soon after an Israeli attack, when this kid came along with glasses of soda for us visiting Americans. Max and Jane Carter went over to see someone's house that had been all but leveled with tank shells, and the host was genuinely apologetic, "I'm sorry we cannot offer you tea; a shell has come through our kitchen."

The trump card of hospitality was when we went to Galilee

and I fell ill. My journal entry for the Tuesday after we arrived:

"Fever of 102.6. Life sucks. Goin' back to bed."

The next afternoon my temperature kicked up above 103 and a gentleman named Abuna Elias Chacour took me to the doctor. The doctor diagnosed me with tonsillitis and wrote me out a prescription. Then it started. The doctor simply wouldn't accept any money, and Chacour paid for my prescription with folded bills and spoke to the clerk in Arabic so that Jane, standing there bewildered, couldn't tell how much it was. When she got out her purse he said simply, "Please. Don't try."

On the way home, I rolled my head along the headrest to face him and said, "Thank you very much, Abuna."

Now normally when we received such generosity and we said "thank you" we got something to the tune of "sure, no problem, think nothing of it." Chacour did not disavow his gifts. He looked at me with awesomely intense eyes and articulated what was under every cup of tea and biscuit we received while in the region:

"You must pray for us now."