

# **Hope for the Middle East: A Documentary about Peace in a Region Torn by Violence**

WHAT: Fundraising letter for our Documentary Trip  
WHERE: Israel/Palestine.  
WHO: Peder Wiegner, Adam Beach, Megan Tahquette  
WHEN: May 23 – July 25  
FUNDING GOAL: \$10,000

**Would you like to sponsor a creative documentary film?** For two months this summer Megan Tahquette, Peder Wiegner, and Adam Beach will be traveling throughout the Israel and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While there, we will interview average Israelis and Palestinians as well as Christian, Muslim, Secular, and Judaic political leaders and political activists in order to gather the material necessary to produce a documentary that addresses the political conflict while focusing on the daily concerns of Palestinians and Israelis alongside the hope expressed by those striving for peace and reconciliation in both societies. Megan attends Fort Lewis College in Colorado. She is studying Film and is a part of the distinguished Honors program. Peder is a Political Science major and Adam is a Middle East Studies major, both attending Eastern University. Adam has traveled to Israel and the Palestinian territories before and has had the calling to continue working there. Peder has briefly visited the Middle East before, but has had a genuine interest in working for peace in the Middle East. Megan has never visited the Middle East but has a passion for film and a genuine interest in issues of peace and reconciliation.

Our journey will begin in Bethlehem where we will be staying with local Palestinian families, a Christian Palestinian Bible school and a refugee camp called Dheisheh. The trip will take us throughout Israel and the Palestinian territories. We plan on interviewing a broad range of people—religious and political leaders as well as common people, all subject to the ongoing violence in the region—in the spirit of learning and Christ-like concern in order to produce a documentary that is both sophisticated and one that represents the average person's experience. We will conduct our research with humility, seeking to learn from all parties concerned, in order to return with a documentary that conveys the shared humanity of the Arab Muslims, Arab Christians, and secular and religious Jews through the artistic medium of film and photography. Once we return and finish organizing and editing our research into a documentary film, we plan to distribute the film to local churches, schools, and average people. We also plan on entering the documentary in the Durango Film Festival in Colorado. Ultimately, we hope to gain deeper understanding of socio-political and religious issues in the Middle East and develop a genuine love and concern for the people we meet while traveling.

As we are sure you are aware, the Middle East has been a very important part of the world for the United States in the last few decades. The Middle East is an epicenter of

world politics and three major world religions. It is a region torn by religious rivalry, political oppression, sectarian strife, and interstate violence. Yet alongside the daily violence, there is hope for peace. There are families who simply want to live a peaceful life; there are actively engaged religious and secular activists risking their lives on a daily basis in order to humanize their enemies and work toward understanding and reconciliation. We are not going to the Middle East to bring back a message of death and violence—we are sure you see enough of that on the daily news—we are going to gain understanding and to return with a message of hope.

Thank you, Adam Beach, Meg Tahquette, Peder Wiegner

If you would like to contribute financially, please send your *tax-deductible donation* to BuildaBridge and in the Memo write “Middle East Initiative.”

[Important note – this address has been corrected on 11 JUN 07]

**BuildaBridge**  
**205 West Tulpehocken Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19144**

Memo: “Middle East Initiative”

For updates, read the blog at:  
<http://www.yallahyallahyallah.blogspot.com/>