



March 9, 2017

Dear President Donald J. Trump, Vice-President Mike Pence, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,

Over the past two Administrations, our country has been a leader in saving the lives of millions of mothers, children, and families in developing nations because of our commitment to uplifting the world's poorest.

We know our international affairs budget is a mere one percent of the total U.S. budget. Severe cuts to the 150 account, such as the 37 percent figure that has been widely reported in the media, will accomplish very little in the important effort to balance the overall budget. Yet, these pennies to the dollar translate into millions of lives saved.

We write as leaders of faith to showcase a united front of support for the 150 account for global health, humanitarian assistance and development. Because this is a fraction of our budget, we ask that each area remains fully funded.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Scriptures compel us to care for the marginalized—to care for the widow, the orphan, and the refugee. Moses, Ruth, Solomon, and the Prophets call us to take a stand for those who have no voice. Jesus models healing the sick, raising the dead, and cleansing the lepers. He implores us to care for the prisoner, the naked, the hungry, and the thirsty. And James tells us this is the heart of religion (1:27). The single thread of the Bible is to lay down our lives for one another.

If we can protect the lives of mothers and children, we can intervene not just to save lives but also to establish a foundation of health and wellness to uplift communities, societies, and nations out of extreme poverty.

Beyond our calling to care for the world's poorest as a moral or economic commitment, this is also in the best interest of our national security. We know that development is a critical prevention tool that protects nations from becoming fragile and failed states that are ripe breeding grounds for violent extremism and terrorism.

Supporting foreign assistance isn't just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do.

We welcome the opportunity for continued dialogue with you and your Administration.

Sincerely,

Kenny & Christiev Alphin

Artist (Big & Rich)

Nashville, TN

Scott Arbeiter

President, World Relief

Baltimore, MD

Andi Ashworth

Editor, Art House America

Nashville, TN

Walter August, Jr.	Author, Sr. Pastor & Chairman of Bethel's Family Church	Houston, TX
Daphene Baines	Ministry Assistant, Christian Education, Southern Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Steve Bell	Executive Vice President, Willow Creek Association	S. Barrington, IL
Steve Berger	Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel	Leipers Fork, TN
Kenton & Laurie Beshore	Senior Pastors, Mariners Church	Irvine, CA
Lisa Bevere	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International	Colorado Springs, CO
Emily Blackledge	President, African Leadership, Inc.	Brentwood, TN
Jill Boes, RN, BSN	Clinical and Outreach Director, Hope Clinic for Women	Nashville, TN
Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton	President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary	Indianapolis, IN
Leigh Brandenburg	International Missions Team, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Tim Breene	CEO, World Relief	Baltimore, MD
Colleen Buroughs	Founder, Watering Malawi	Birmingham, AL
Christine Caine	Founder, Propel Women	Costa Mesa, CA
Fr. Joe Carnes Ananias	Former Associate Rector, Christ Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Rick Carter	Child Survival Program Dir., Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Mary Beth Chapman	Author	Franklin, TN
Steven Curtis Chapman	Artist	Franklin, TN
Michael Coleman	Founder and Executive Director, Hope Inspired Ministries	Montgomery, AL
Clay Collier	Director of Global Outreach, Bel Air Church	Los Angeles, CA
Shannon Conforti	Director of Family Health, Christian Flights International	Lexington, KY
Jennifer Cooke	Manager, Amy Grant	Nashville, TN
Chaz Corzine	Manager, The MWS Group	Franklin, TN
Ian M. Cron	Author & Episcopal Priest	Franklin, TN
Rev. Beverly CroweTipton	Senior Pastor, Zion United Methodist Church	Anderson, SC
David Dark	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Rev. Brandon Dasinger	Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions, Frazer United Methodist Church	Montgomery, AL

Chris Devaney	Executive Director, Children's Nutrition Program in Haiti	Chattanooga, TN
Dr. Frank Dimmock	Africa Mission Specialist, The Outreach Foundation(PCUSA)	Franklin, TN
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
Jean Duff	President, Partnership for Faith and Development	Washington, DC
Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Gary L. Edmonds	President/CEO, Food for the Hungry	Phoenix, AZ
Cathleen Falsani	Author & Religion Columnist	Laguna Beach, CA
Paul Frank, PhD	Executive Director, SIL LEAD, Inc.	Washington, DC
Bill Frist, MD	Chairman, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Jeanette Fuccella	Executive Director, Hearts with Haiti	Raleigh, NC
Gary Furr, PhD	Pastor, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Eric Geary	Lexington Leadership Foundation	Lexington, KY
Bob Gladney	Executive Pastor, First Baptist Church Jackson	Jackson, MS
Mike Glenn	Senior Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church	Brentwood, TN
Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Natalie Grant	Artist	Brentwood, TN
Jennifer Grant	Author	Wheaton, IL
Andrew Greer	Artist, Songwriter, & Author	Franklin, TN
Garrett Grigsby	Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA
Rev. Dr. David Gushee	Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics Director, Center for Theology & Public Life, Mercer University; President, Society of Christian Ethics	Atlanta, GA
Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist & Mother	Franklin, TN
Scott Hamilton	Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Rev. Alison P. Harrity	Rector, St. Richard's Episcopal Church	Winter Park, FL
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay; Co-Founder, Blood:Water	Franklin, TN
Esther Havens	Humanitarian Photographer	Dallas, TX
Brandon Heath	Recording Artist	Nashville, TN
Marcus D. Holman	Missions Pastor & President of Bethel's Family Church	

	Global Reach	Houston, TX
Lynne Hybels	Advocate for Global Engagement, Willow Creek Community Church	South Barrington, IL
Christopher Ingram	Senior Pastor, Yates Baptist Church	Durham, NC
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
Joyce Kinley	President, Church Women United State of Ohio and Church United of Greater Cincinnati Inc.	Cincinnati, OH
The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr.	Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Houston, TX
Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott	Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church	New Orleans, LA
Chuck Love	Lead Pastor, Beechland Baptist Church	Louisville, KY
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay; Co-Founder Blood:Water	Franklin, TN
Anne Lucas	Director, e3 Mission, Mobilization, & Medical	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. & Barbara Lynch	Pastor and First Lady, New Jerusalem Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
Ray Martin	Emeritus Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	McLean, VA
Sarah Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN
Mike McBrayer	Minister, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health	Plano, TX
Greg McMorrow, MD	Board Member, Christian Flights International	Perryville, KY
Jedd Medafind	President, Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)	McLean, VA
Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado	President and CEO, Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
David Moberg	SVP & Group Publisher, HarperCollins Christian Publishing	Nashville, TN
Steve Moore	Chairman of the Board, The Shalom Foundation	Brentwood, TN
Elisa Morgan	President Emerita, MOPS International	Denver, CO
Ken Morris	Missions Pastor, Church of the City	Franklin, TN
Jeff Moseley	President/Founder, Fair Trade Services	Brentwood, TN
Heidi & Erik Murkoff	Author; Co-Founders, What to Expect Foundation	Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Bryan L. Myers	Professor of International Development, Fuller Theological Seminary	Pasadena, CA
Jena Lee Nardella	Co-Founder, Blood:Water & Author	Palo Alto, CA
Jennifer Nettles	Artist (Sugarland)	Nashville, TN
Lindsey Nobles	COO, If: Gathering	Austin, TX
Christy Nockels	Artist & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Nathan Nockels	Music Producer	Franklin, TN
Paul Osteen, MD	Associate Pastor, Lakewood Church	Houston, TX
J. Jeffrey Palmer	Executive Director, Baptist Global Response	Nashville, TN
Jackie Patillo	President, Gospel Music Association	Nashville, TN
Charlie Peacock	Music Producer & Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University	Nashville, TN
Dr. John M. Perkins	Civil Rights Activist, Author & Preacher; Co-Founder of Christian Community Development Association	Jackson, MS
Miles Phelps	Director, City for the Nations	Lexington, KY
Richard Ramsey	Outreach Pastor, North Metro Church	Marietta, GA
Mark & Vickie Reddy	Directors, The Justice Conference	Chicago, IL
Dr. Gus Reyes	Director, Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists	Austin, TX
Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Raleigh, NC
Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Sacramento, CA
Doug Roe	Senior Pastor, Vineyard Church	Dayton, OH
Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
John Rogers	Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, University Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill, NC
Josh Rouse	Global Outreach Pastor, Northeast Christian Church	Louisville, KY
Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero	President, National Latino Evangelical Church, Pastor, Calvario City Church	Orlando, FL
Rev. Edwin Sanders II	Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church	Nashville, TN
Scott Sauls	Sr. Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Jo Saxton	Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker	Minneapolis, MN
Dan Scott	Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville	Nashville, TN

Michael Shelly	Outreach Pastor, Real Life Church	Clermont, FL
Lott Shudde	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Leslie Smart	Executive Director, Christian Flights International	Lexington, KY
Angie Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Anita Smith	President, Children's AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC
Michael W. Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Shepherd Smith	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC
Durwood Snead	GlobalX: Director, North Point Community Church	Atlanta, GA
Anne Stafford, MD	Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Becca Stevens	St. Augustine's Chapel; Founder, Magdalene/Thistle Farms	Nashville, TN
David Stevens, MD, MA	CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations	Bristol, TN
Andrea Summer, MD	Co-Director, International Adoption Clinic, Medical University of South Carolina	Charleston, SC
Jason Surratt	Pastor of Stewardship and Global Missions, Seacoast Church	Charleston, SC
Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN	Dean & Professor, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Debbie Taylor	Artist & Mother	Nashville, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN
Third Day	Christian Band	Atlanta, GA
David Vanderpool, MD	Founder, LiveBeyond	Thomazeau, Haiti
Dr. Charlie Vittitow	Missions Director, Southeast Christian Church	Louisville, KY
Stephaine H. Walker, MD	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Overseer, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Health Care Ministry	Nashville, TN
David K. Walmer, MD, PhD	Family Health Ministries, Duke Global Health Institute Triangle Global Health Consortium	Durham, NC
Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP	Executive Director, Family Health Ministries	Durham, NC
Barrett Ward	Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE	Brentwood, TN
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner	Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation (PCUSA)	Franklin, TN
Bruce Wilkinson	President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board	New York, NY
Kimberly Williams-Paisley	Actor, Author, & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Jessica Wolstenholm	Author & Co-Founder, Grace for Moms	Brentwood, TN