

# FOIA Marker

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 7, 2003

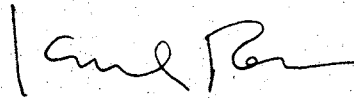
Dear Mr. Haggard,

Thanks for your letter of June 19<sup>th</sup> inviting the President to speak next March 11<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs at the New Life Church.

I will share your kind invitation with both the President and his scheduling office. Decisions about events like this will be made much closer to the event itself, but I will keep on top of it and let you know any progress.

Thanks again for your kind invitation.

Sincerely,



Karl Rove  
Senior Advisor to the President

Mr. Ted Haggard  
National Association of Evangelicals  
718 Capitol Square Place Southwest  
Washington, DC 20024

KR:ddh

JUL 11 2003

11025 State Highway 83 North  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
(719) 594-6602

TMG

New Life Church

To: Mr. Karl Rove

Fax: (202)-456-0191

From: TED HAGGARD

Fax: (719) 548-9000

Date: JUNE 19, 2003

Pages (Including Cover): 4

Re: NAE Convention 2004cc:

Series of horizontal lines for additional information or notes.



Recommend?



June 19, 2003

Karl Rove  
Senior Advisor to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20502-0184

Dear Mr. Rove:

I write to you on behalf of 48 million American Christians represented by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). Recently I sent a letter of invitation to President Bush to speak at NAE's 2004 national convention on March 11 in Colorado Springs. Looking toward the exciting challenges of an election year, I believe that the NAE event poses a true win-win situation.

Last week's issue of *Newsweek* reported your recognition of the key role of evangelicals in the Middle East peace process and the upcoming election. I am eager for our constituents to connect in an even deeper way with the President, his team and his agenda, and believe that the NAE convention is an ideal forum for this connection. The event's attendees and speakers are typically church denominational presidents and significant parachurch ministry leaders—the key decisions makers and influencers in the evangelical community. This is an invaluable audience for President Bush in 2004.

Also, you may be aware that Colorado Springs is something of an evangelical haven. With 363 local churches and hundreds of parachurch ministries—to include several of the world's largest (Focus on the Family, Compassion International, International Bible Society, etc.)—the city has become the pinnacle of evangelical thought, ideas, and energy. With this in mind, we have chosen the 10,000-member New Life Church, the largest church in Colorado, as host venue. New Life's 4000-seat auditorium will allow the President to speak to more informed evangelicals than any other religious facility in the area.

It is also worth noting that Colorado Springs is the largest per-capita military retiree community in the nation. With the Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Schriever Air Force Base, and Fort Carson Army Base all located in the immediate vicinity, the Colorado Springs area is an important hub for the armed forces.

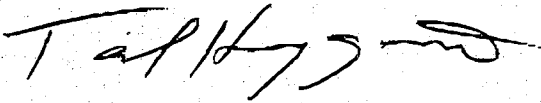
Mr. Rove, as I write this letter my mind is drawn to the 1983 NAE convention where President Reagan delivered his now-famous "Evil Empire" speech. That event proved an historic pivot point, both in the domestic and foreign agendas of the Reagan

administration and in the President's warm and solid connection with American evangelicals. I see the March 2004 NAE convention as an opportunity of equal historic significance for President Bush.

Governor Owens has graciously accepted the invitation to welcome participants to the convention, and he joins me in asking for your support as the President makes the important scheduling decisions inherent in an election year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Haggard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ted Haggard  
President

Enc: original invitation letter

COPY

May 14, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Attn: Scheduling Office  
Washington, D.C. 20502-0184

Dear President Bush:

The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) is holding its annual convention here in beautiful Colorado Springs March 11-12, 2004. We anticipate an exciting time of development and focus as NAE addresses the most important issues facing 21<sup>st</sup> century evangelicals. As NAE's president, I am honored to extend an invitation to you to be our keynote speaker for the 2004 Convention on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

The NAE represents and advocates for the interests of over 50 million evangelical Christians in America. From the White House to Capitol Hill to the mainstream media, NAE is exerting its influence to speak and lobby on behalf of the issues and positions that concern evangelicals. Our membership consists of over 43,000 congregations nationwide from 50 member denominations and individual congregations from an additional 27 denominations, as well as several hundred independent churches, parachurch ministries and educational institutions.

Historically, the NAE's annual convention has been an event of national significance. You'll recall it was at our event in March 1983 that President Ronald Reagan delivered his now famous "Evil Empire" speech. The conference has been host in the past to President George H.W. Bush, President Ronald Reagan and Dr. Billy Graham. It is an opportunity to influence many of today's most influential religious leaders and help forge the future of Christianity in America.

On behalf of the NAE Executive Committee, I appreciate your consideration and I am hopeful that you will be able to be a part of this important event.

Sincerely,

Ted Haggard  
President