



TEMPLE OF THE ARTS

August 1, 2006

Dear Mr. Gibson,

I read with great interest your recent expressions of regret regarding anti Semitic comments that you had made. I have felt that often coming to grips with a deep personal issue of this nature can become a powerful and transformative turning point in a person's life. Key to this issue is the sincerity of the individual and it must be demonstrated in word and deed.

I am the Rabbi of the Temple of the Arts, the largest entertainment industry synagogue in the United States which includes leading members of the film, television, music and media sectors. Yom Kippur, the most sacred day of the Jewish year is a time of reflection, fasting, forgiveness and healing. Each year I ask an important guest whose life experience deals concretely with these issues to speak during my sermon. Last year, Senator Hillary Clinton spoke on personal forgiveness.

I recently returned from Poland where I met with Pope Benedict XVI. He made a powerful gesture toward healing by coming to Auschwitz Death Camp to offer prayers. As one of the first visits of his papacy his presence was a potent example of reconciliation.

It is one thing to issue a statement but coming directly into the presence of a community is more effective. To that end I wish to invite you to come and speak in order that you might directly express to the Jewish community your remorse. I feel that Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, would be an appropriate time. Either when the 24-hour fast begins October 1<sup>st</sup> in the evening or at 12:00 noon the next day, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. In our faith we are commanded to forgive when the offending party takes the necessary steps and offers an apology from the heart.

I also would want to meet with you in advance to discuss this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Rabbi David Baron**

Rabbi David Baron

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