



# Challenges to Interfaith Tolerance

Dr. Michael Cook  
*Hebrew Union College*

Sunday,  
December 12, 2004  
4:30 pm

Temple Beth Shalom Sanctuary

Sponsored by Columbus Jewish Foundation, Temple Beth Shalom and BeSTY.

Dr. Michael Cook is the Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College's Cincinnati campus, and the only rabbi with a Professorial Chair in New Testament. In 2003, he was one of seven scholars selected by the Catholic Bishops to assess the accuracy of the advance script of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ." It was Gibson's reaction to the Scholars' Report that generated the ensuing international controversy.

He serves on many advisory boards in Jewish-Christian relations, and has received an "Excellence in Teaching Award" sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities.

He has addressed leading scholars of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Episcopalian Presiding Bishop's Advisory Committee on Christian-Jewish Relations, as well as assemblies of Air Force Chaplains at the United States Air Force Academy.

His publications treat evolving Jewish views of Jesus and Paul, studies on the various Gospels and on a wide spectrum of specialized subjects including the trial of Jesus, images of Judaism in Christian Art, the history of anti-Semitism, the role of Passover in modern Christianity, and how Jews may attempt to neutralize missionary encroachment.

He travels widely, addressing congregations as well as academicians, clergy, and seminarians throughout North America. He has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis has five children, and he (along with myself) spends a major portion of each summer working with Jewish youth at the Union for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville, IN.

He is currently writing a major book entitled *Modern Jews Process the New Testament*, has composed a *Manual for Managing the Millennium*, and has produced with his students the acclaimed popular video, *Missionary Impossible*.

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