

In response to a Letter from President Mahmoud of Iran to President Bush Jr, urging him to adopt Islam (*VS*, May 10, 2006). I wrote the following to the *VS*:

Iranian President Mahmoud is following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Ayatollah Khomeini, who wrote a missionary letter to Gorbachev in 1988/1989. Of course, that was a letter to a Marxist, officially an atheist, and therefore had a different content. But the aim was similar: A challenge from a religion that offers the resources for correction of global injustice and oppression.

With the failure of Communism, Khomeini offered a new basis for justice and in no uncertain terms told Gorbachev that a materialistic worldview does not have the resources to create an equitable and just world. Gorbachev's problem is not the economic system; it "emanates from lack of real belief in God, the same problem that has dragged the West into decadence and deadlock." He also cautioned the Soviet leader "not to get trapped in the prison of the West... while breaking away the iron curtain of Marxist...." The entire letter is much longer and contains much Muslim social theology that backs up these views. [Source: *The Pen*, 27 January, 1989 (a Nigerian Muslim bi-weekly)].