

# Hagee Recovering After Open Heart Surgery

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Television evangelist John Hagee will celebrate a few days of his 50th year in ministry from a hospital bed. The founder and senior pastor of the 1,900-member Cornerstone Church in San Antonio on Thursday underwent open heart surgery in a local hospital. It could be four weeks before the southern minister returns to his pulpit.

A staunch Israel supporter, Hagee discovered the need for surgery after a routine checkup that revealed a blocked artery, **according to church spokesman Juda Engelmayer.** The surgery lasted three hours.

**"The doctors report that Pastor Hagee came through the surgery well," Engelmayer told The Voice magazine. "Pastor Hagee is recovering and we are grateful to God. The family wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and asks that we continue to pray for his health and the family's well-being."**

The 68-year-old megachurch leader is well-known in Christian circles around the world for his end-time prophetic messages and political activism. Hagee founded Christians United for Israel, a nonprofit organization that supports Israel through educational and political advocacy, in 2006.

**The sometimes-controversial pastor is also the founder of John Hagee Ministries. According to Engelmayer, 30-year-old associate pastor Matthew Hagee will oversee the church and other ministry operations during his father's absence.**

Hagee found himself in the media spotlight after Sen. John McCain rejected his endorsement for president. McCain shunned Hagee after tapes surfaced in which the Texas preacher implied that God sent Adolf Hitler as an instrument to help Jews reach the Promised Land.

*Jennifer LeClaire is the editor of The Voice magazine and author of "Doubtless: Faith that Overcomes the World." You can also visit her online at [www.jenniferleclaire.org](http://www.jenniferleclaire.org).*



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