

ISRAEL

& Christians Today

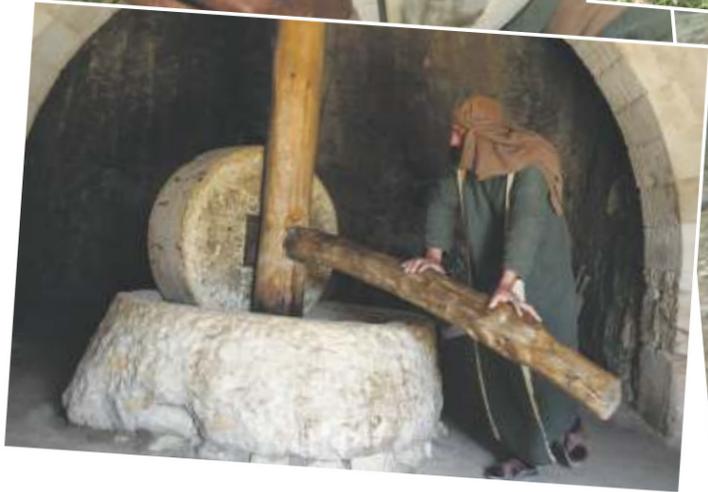
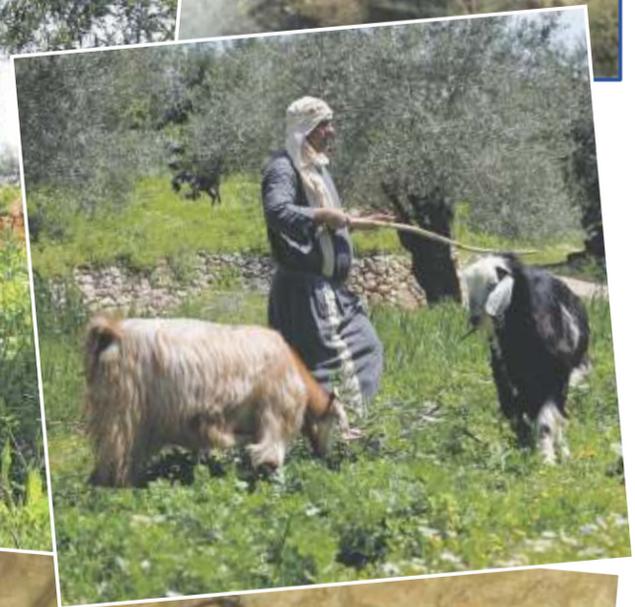
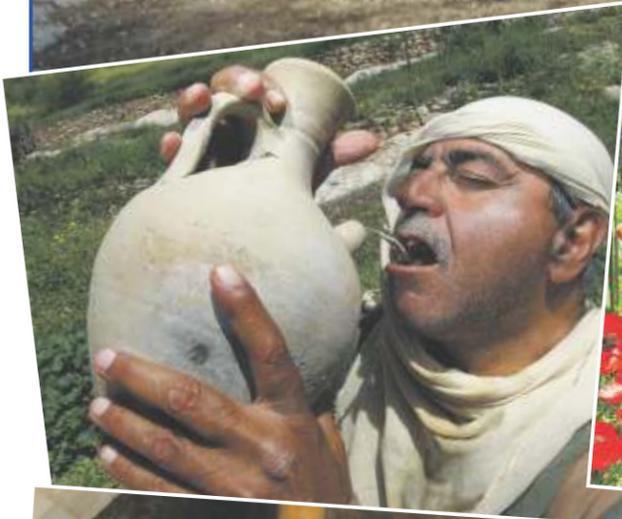
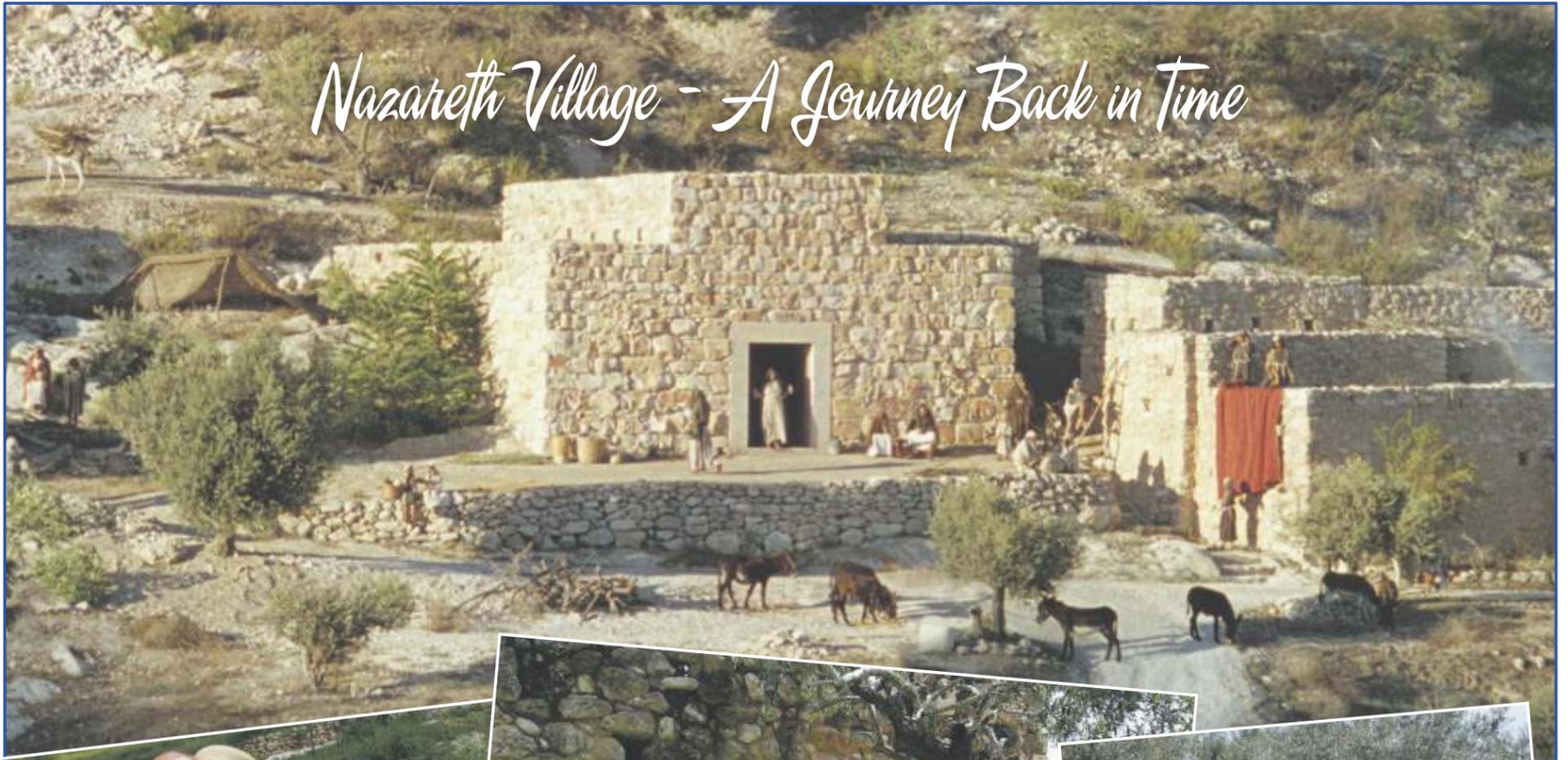
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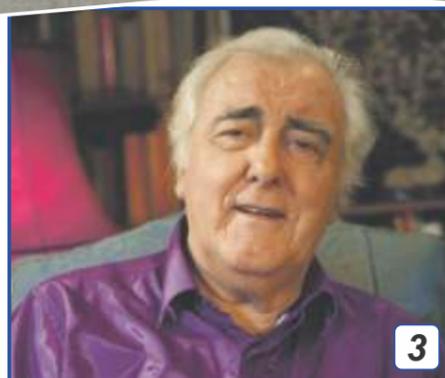
CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
 INTERNATIONAL

Nazareth Village - A Journey Back in Time



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The Problem with BDS

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor & Executive Director, Christians for Israel International



A local TV station in Holland, in partnership with a local "Community for Peace" group, recently sent teams of journalists into all the local supermarkets. Products labeled "Made in Israel" were singled out, a list compiled and presented to the management with the demand to remove them from their selection.

Outside the supermarkets, the public were encouraged to boycott these products. Why? Because, the TV station claimed, there is a "big chance they were made in the settlements in the occupied territories. Making products made in these territories is illegal, and involves breaches of human rights."

The United Church of Christ in the USA recently voted to boycott Israeli

products and to divest from companies that do business with Israel's defense establishment.

Following the recent elections in Israel, Mahmoud Nawajaa from the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), the broad coalition of Palestinian civil society organisations that leads the global BDS movement, said: "The true face of the Israeli establishment has been revealed to the world. By rejecting Palestinian statehood and declaring he will not enter into any meaningful negotiations with Palestinians, Netanyahu has removed any excuse for governments not to impose sanctions on Israel and end their support for its colonial and apartheid regime."

These are just three very different examples of how the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement is gaining more traction. The Israeli government has called the BDS movement the second most serious existential threat to Israel.

Israel is not overreacting. The BDS movement is both dangerous and misleading.

The BDS movement purports to oppose Israel's ongoing "illegal occupation" of the "Occupied Palestinian territories" (West Bank, Golan Heights and Gaza Strip). To ordinary people who have little knowledge of the region - like the

Dutch TV station and the local "community for peace" group - this seems like a good cause. Who cannot support the underdog?

But BDS is about much more than the "occupation" of these territories. It is, fundamentally, about the right of the Jewish people to live as a nation within secure borders. This is because the BDS movement fundamentally rejects Zionism (in the sense of the expression of the right of the Jewish people to self-determination) as "racist" and "apartheid". In so doing, they challenge the legitimacy of right of the Jewish people to live as a nation in Israel itself.

Secondly, the BDS movement requires the withdrawal of Israel from ALL of the "occupied territories", and creation of a Palestinian state within the so-called "1967 borders". As anyone who has been in Israel knows, these borders are totally indefensible against a hostile neighbor.

The problem with the BDS movement is that it is distracting the world from the real problem.

The real problem is not the existence of the Jews, it is the rejection of their existence.

Ever since the Jews started investing in Palestine and building a strong economy over 100 years ago, the Arab Palestinians have suffered from a dysfunctional

leadership that seems more bent on rejecting the Jews than on building a better society for its own people.

It is this spirit of what Professor Irwin Cotler has called "double-rejectionism" that has undermined any attempts to build a strong Arab Palestinian civil society.

Dismantling Israel will not solve the problems of the Arab Palestinians. Nor will removal of the Jews from the territories reclaimed by Israel in 1967.

Instead of removing productive Israeli businesses from the West Bank, it is time for the international community to focus on the most urgent problem - stimulating good Arab Palestinian governance. Without a strong government, a Palestinian state is doomed to implode into chaos. There are plenty of good examples of this in the region. Just look at Syria and Libya.

The ordinary Palestinians deserve a better future. But that will only happen if they themselves build a strong leadership that promotes values of cooperation, mutual reconciliation and productivity - not hatred and destruction. In the first place that means dismantling the UNWRA camps, and making sure that the millions of dollars and euro's of foreign aid received each year by the Palestinian Authority are channeled into productive projects - not the pockets of its corrupt leaders.

Combating Anti-Israel Boycotts - The Underused Strategies

Written by Malcolm Lowe, published by Gatestone Institute

Most boycotters have no commitment to fairness and regard the idea, with derision. Against them, one has to use tactics that fall under the rubric "this is going to hurt you more than us."

Anti-boycott operations have used this approach sporadically with remarkable success. But the approach needs to be conceived more systematically and implemented far more widely. Such strategies can be summarized under at least four headings: lawfare, counter-boycotts, digging up dirt and self-harming. On the other hand, some Israeli ministerial decisions inadvertently facilitate boycotts; this area, too, needs to be considered.

What nobody involved has noticed is that to get Israel's natural gas flowing to Europe may contribute more to combating BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) than everything else together. But that prospect has been deferred to the indefinite future.

Recently, anxiety sprang up in Israel over anti-Israel boycotts. Ministers met, sessions were held at the Knesset, and commentators pontificated. Yet the BDS movement against Israel is a decade old. Moreover, the excitement was provoked mainly by two high-profile incidents, the FIFA and Orange affairs, which were resolved in Israel's favour.

Nothing, in fact, has greatly changed in the overall situation. As before, some petty boycotts have succeeded, major boycotts have failed, and Israel's relations with the

rest of the world continue to expand - for now.

Although boycotters forced an Israeli cosmetics firm to close its shop in London's West End, for instance, the value of mutual trade between Israel and the UK has doubled over the last four years. The retiring British Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, published a farewell letter in the Israeli press, listing the vast expansion of commercial and scientific relations during his five years in "the country he loves."

Sajid Javid, the British Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, recently denounced boycotts of Israel and insisted:

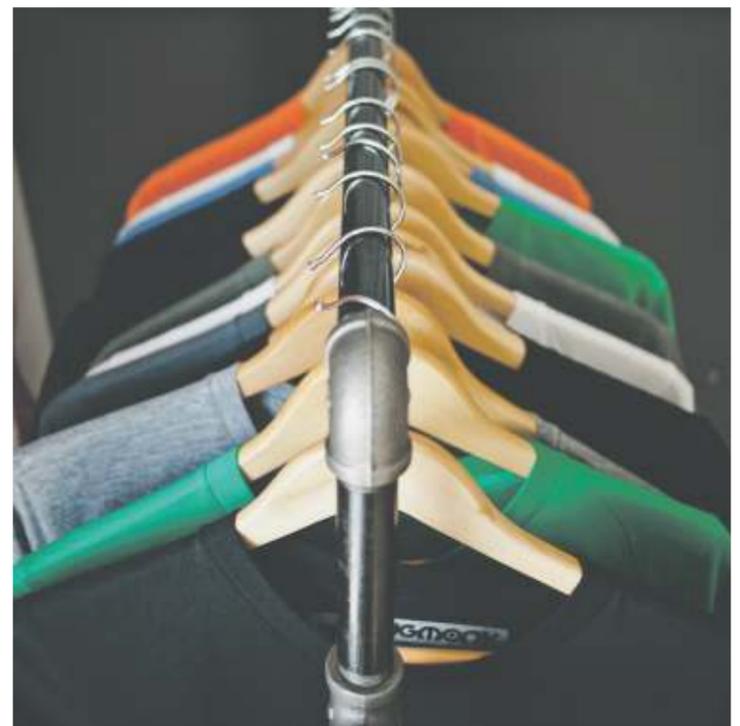
"My department will be working hard to boost Anglo-Israeli trade and investment, and I as Business Secretary will do anything I can to support and promote it."

Stating that he had "long admired" Israel, he added that "the values that make Israel such a success are values that matter a great deal to me. I share Israel's love for freedom and democracy. I admire its tenacious determination when the odds are stacked against it."

Israelis are irritated by European bureaucratic busybodies who seek to label goods as "Made in the West Bank." The impact on Israel's trading figures, however, is minimal, as goods from the West Bank amount to under one percent of what Israel sends to Europe. Moreover, most of these

goods are not whole products, which would require such labels, but components for use in European products, which require no labelling; they are invisible. Meanwhile, other European bureaucrats eagerly helped Israel to become members of CERN and the OECD, potentially far more important developments. The common Israeli perception that "Europe hates us" needs to be qualified: the vast European bureaucracy contains friends as well as enemies.

The political leadership of European Union countries is also mostly against boycotts of Israel. Among others, the UK's David Cameron, France's Francois Hollande and Germany's Angela Merkel have expressly rejected BDS against Israel. Likewise, the then and recently re-elected President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, emphatically declared in his speech to the Knesset: "Let me seize this opportunity to make a clarification: the EU



has no intention to boycott Israel. I am of the conviction that what we need is more cooperation, not division." Unfortunately, this affirmation went unnoticed in Israel because of the hasty and ungrateful reaction of some lawmakers to a speech full of praise for and support of Israel. So far, official Israel has done little in this regard, although Prime Minister Netanyahu's personal intervention was significant in respect of both Orange and FIFA.

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Combating Anti-Israel Boycotts - *The Underused Strategies*

Continued from page 2

Rather, the burden has been carried by a number of hard-working private initiatives, such as BDS in the Pews, CAMERA, Campus Watch, Creative Community for Peace, Divest This, MEMRI, NGO Monitor, Palestinian Media Watch, Presbyterians for Middle East Peace and Shurat HaDin. Nevertheless, even if the BDS movement's successes have been limited and grossly exaggerated, the phenomenon needs to be combated, both because it is inherently unjust and lest it become a more substantial danger. Tim Marshall's recent summary puts it well: "... it is necessary to look at the BDS in two ways. It is a failure insofar as the Israeli economy has doubled in size in the period BDS has been in operation, but it is a success when you see the effect of the campaign on thousands of university students, many who will go on to become opinion formers. It is a decades-long strategy."

While these organizations have done a magnificent job - considering their limited means - in identifying BDS threats, much more could be done in putting to good effect the information that they gather.

Put simply, the usual strategy adopted is to complain loudly that "It's not fair!"

Certainly, it is ridiculously unfair that Israel is singled out for boycotts while the world's monstrous violators of human rights can fill the shelves of shops worldwide (China), sell raw materials worth billions of dollars (the Gulf states) and dominate United Nations institutions (the Organization of Islamic Cooperation). But "It's not fair!" can have an impact only on those whose charters or professional standards require them to be fair, such as the major Western news media, and even these are often slow to admit errors.

Similarly, Palestinian Media Watch has had some success in lobbying European parliaments about the Palestinian Authority's use of donor money to pay salaries to convicted terrorists. It is because that misuse breaks rules that European institutions are obliged to observe.

Counter-Boycotts

A story that recently made headlines in Israel stemmed from the decision, at the urging of pro-Palestinian groups, of three supermarkets in Varberg, Sweden, to withdraw Israeli produce. The Ambassador of Israel to Sweden, Isaac Bachman, mobilized friends of Israel to lobby the leadership of the supermarket chain (655 branches in all) against the boycott on the grounds that "We didn't talk about the righteousness of Israel, rather we spoke in the name of fair trade and avoiding discrimination of any state." What proved decisive, however, was not this "It's not fair!" argument, but the fact that "Thousands of people heeded the call and threatened to boycott the supermarket chain if it continues its boycott against Israel."

Result: "This led the chain's national management to reject the boycott and threaten that if the Varberg stores do not stop the boycott, they will no longer be a part of the chain, effectively putting an end to the boycott."

Let us be precise: we do not disparage the "It's not fair!" argument, nor do we claim that "This will hurt you" on its own is a cure-all. The secret is to use both in tandem. "It's not fair!" is needed to reassure friends of Israel that their cause is just and to motivate their mobilization. "This will hurt you" can then be used to deter whoever promotes boycotts or - as with the Swedish supermarket chain's national management - whoever complacently tolerates them.

The FIFA affair provides another example. Jibril Rajoub, whose terrorist credentials are impeccable, presides over the Palestinian Football Association and the Palestinian Olympic Committee. At the recent FIFA Congress, on May 25, 2015, he sought to have Israel expelled from FIFA on the basis of various petty excuses. In advance of the FIFA Congress, Prime Minister Netanyahu lobbied the president of FIFA, Sepp Blatter, who expressed strong opposition to Rajoub's initiative, which eventually failed.

It happens that Palestinian Media Watch has assembled vast amounts of information on how Palestinian sport, under Rajoub's

leadership, is used to glorify terrorists who murdered many Israelis. This information, too, was reportedly cited by Netanyahu.

Though commendable, this does not go far enough. It would have been even more effective to mount an Israeli counter-initiative to have the Palestinian Football Association suspended from FIFA as long as it uses sport in the service of terrorism. In such cases, where two members try to expel each other from an umbrella organization, the standard reaction is to ask both sides to drop their mutual claims, thus ending the issue. As long as the claim comes from one side only, the issue remains on the agenda. It has, in fact, been left to another Israeli initiative, Shurat HaDin, and not to official Israel, to take up this approach. Shortly after the FIFA Congress, Shurat HaDin wrote to FIFA giving "examples of PFA president Jibril Rajoub calling for terror against civilians while serving simultaneously in Fatah." The organization provided "a slew of examples of Rajoub's calls for violence and discrimination against Israelis" and demanded his expulsion as head of the Palestinian Football Association.

Self-Harming

Over the last decade, the Presbyterian Church of the USA (PCUSA) has seen a massive attempt by its leadership to impose a pro-Palestinian policy against the wishes of half or more of its membership. The conflict plays itself out at the meetings of the General Assembly, held every two years. In advance of the meetings, both sides mobilize funds and advocates on a massive scale. When the matter comes to a vote, victory goes sometimes to the one side, sometimes to the other, but only until next time. In the meantime, other issues are neglected in yet another church that is steadily losing membership. A root problem is alienation between the local churches and the national headquarters in Louisville, of which the battle over Israel is just one example among others. Hence, this battle is both a symptom of internal crisis and accentuates the crisis. On the other hand, there is no evidence that the Palestinians



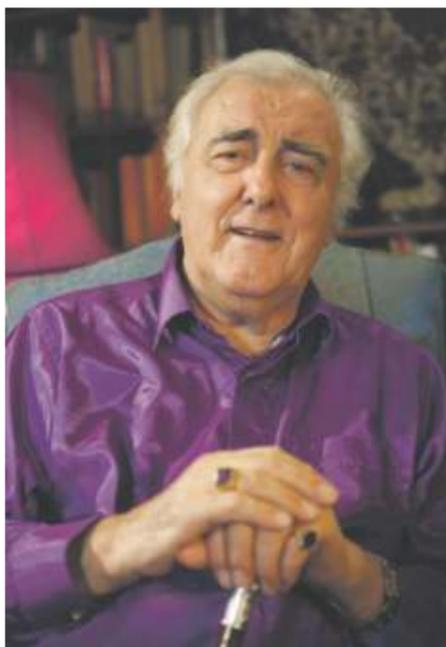
have benefited one whit from all this agitation or that it has affected Israel in any way. The leadership of the church is engaged in an exercise of pure self-harming. The motions at the General Assembly focus on boycotting certain US firms, above all Caterpillar, which allegedly helps Israel to maintain its presence in the West Bank. Among other things, this infuriates the many members of the PCUSA who work for Caterpillar in Peoria (four congregations in the city and five more nearby). But they need not be worried: Caterpillars profits are holding up and their jobs are unaffected by the follies of their church leaders. Even the Palestinian Authority itself uses Caterpillar products, and there is a Palestinian firm that has the local franchise to sell them.

In such cases, this provides a further strategy for dismaying boycotters. You simply tell them, while trying not to gloat excessively, that they are doing nothing to help the Palestinians, that they have no impact whatever on Israel, for better or for worse, but they are just harming themselves and maybe accelerating a decline toward their own extinction.

Another such church is the United Church of Christ (UCC). Its own statistics show that its membership has declined from 2,123,792 in 1955 to 943,521 in 2014. Moreover, the decline has accelerated since the year 2000, precisely when it began its obsession with Palestinians. At its latest General Synod, a motion to divest from companies "profiting from the occupation" passed overwhelmingly and a truly loony resolution, equating Israel with apartheid, also gained a small majority.

Remembering Lance Lambert

By Murray Dixon - Rector of Christ Church, Jerusalem 2000 - 2008



a sound biblical foundation and later believed the Lord was calling him to mission work in China. Preparing himself for that call he entered London University's school of African and Oriental studies where he read Classical Chinese, Mandarin, Oriental Philosophy and Far Eastern History only to discover the door to China was slammed closed by the revolution.

During his compulsory military service in the RAF during the 1950s, he was stationed in Egypt as a secretary to the Chaplaincy. There he experienced a desire to visit the fledgling State of Israel, but that never happened, not until many years later.

It was through his attraction to China that he discovered the energetic, innovative Chinese church planter and Bible teacher Watchman Nee. Lance was deeply influenced by Nee's example, his published teachings and Nee's martyrdom under the Communist Revolution.

In days well before the house church movement Lance established a ministry in Richmond, London, attracting multicultural international students whom he inspired, disciplined and established in the Christian faith. His contagious enthusiasm drew a team together to purchase an old

derelict house, the restoration of which witnessed many miracles, that was in itself a discipleship programme. Today, Halford House continues as a congregational witness in that area.

Lance, who by the late 1970s was an established leader of this Christian ministry, received a startling revelation. His mother informed him that they are Jewish. Lance's father, an Italian, Count Dobski of the House of Savoy, during the Second World War was advised by the Italian King Victor Emmanuel that he should leave Italy and seek shelter. Lance and his sister were brought to London by their mother and settled in a safe place. Their fears were realised in Auschwitz where 57 members of his family were executed. A family friend looked after the family. Lance recalled a man, whom he suspected may have been a rabbi, regularly visiting with clothing and other needs.

Lance applied to make aliyah and in 1980 became an Israeli citizen.

Lance's legacy to us is embodied in his many teachings on video, tapes, CDs, DVDs and books which are available from the website Lance Lambert Christian Testimony.

In Memoriam - Lance Lambert

By Andrew Tucker

Lance was an eloquent speaker and gifted Bible teacher. Full of humour and spiritual insight, he always spoke about our Lord Jesus, pointing to the Kingdom of God, and the coming of Jesus Christ.

He wrote many books, including the international best-seller "The Uniqueness of Israel."

Lance Lambert was one of the greatest prophetic voices of our time. Words of prophecy spoken in the eighties and nineties remain as relevant as ever. He was also one of the pioneers of the international intercessory moment, having been for many years part of the leadership team of Intercessors for Israel (IFI). Lance played an important role in the development of Christians for Israel. He visited the Netherlands many times, and was a close friend of the van Oordt family. He always encouraged us to continue in our calling to teach the church and to bless "all Israel".

We will miss Lance Lambert, but we know he is resting in the Lord, and look forward to seeing him again in resurrection life. Knowing Lance, he would probably remind us: "You must not just listen, but also act. Rejoice in the restoration of Israel, and prepare yourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Statement by PM Netanyahu on Iran

Communicated by the Prime Minister's Media Advisor

On Tuesday, 14 July, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, issued the following statement:

"The world is a much more dangerous place today than it was yesterday.

The leading international powers have bet our collective future on a deal with the foremost sponsor of international terrorism. They've gambled that in ten years' time, Iran's terrorist regime will change while removing any incentive for it to do so. In fact, the deal gives Iran every incentive not to change.

In the coming decade, the deal will reward Iran, the terrorist regime in Tehran, with hundreds of billions of dollars. This cash bonanza will fuel Iran's terrorism worldwide, its aggression in the region and its efforts to destroy Israel, which are ongoing.

Amazingly, this bad deal does not require Iran to cease its aggressive behavior in any way. And just last Friday, that aggression was on display for all to see.

While the negotiators were closing the deal in Vienna, Iran's supposedly moderate President chose to go to a rally in Tehran and at this rally, a frenzied mob burned American and Israeli flags and chanted

'Death to America, Death to Israel!'

Now, this didn't happen four years ago. It happened four days ago.

Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, said on March 21 that the deal does not limit Iran's aggression in any way. He said: 'Negotiations with the United States are on the nuclear issue and on nothing else.'

And three days ago he made that clear again. 'The United States', he said, 'embodies global arrogance, and the battle against it will continue unabated even after the nuclear agreement is concluded.'

Here's what Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Iran's terrorist proxy Hezbollah, said about sanctions relief, which is a key component of the deal. He said: 'A rich and strong Iran will be able to stand by its allies and friends in the region more than at any time in the past.'

Translation: Iran's support for terrorism and subversion will actually increase after the deal.

In addition to filling Iran's terror war chest, this deal repeats the mistakes made with North Korea.

There too we were assured that inspections and verifications would prevent



a rogue regime from developing nuclear weapons. And we all know how that ended.

The bottom line of this very bad deal is exactly what Iran's President Rouhani said today: 'The international community is removing the sanctions and Iran is keeping its nuclear program.'

By not dismantling Iran's nuclear program, in a decade this deal will give an unreformed, unrepentant and far richer

terrorist regime the capacity to produce many nuclear bombs, in fact an entire nuclear arsenal with the means to deliver it. What a stunning historic mistake!

Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran and Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran because Iran continues to seek our destruction. We will always defend ourselves.

Thank you."

Speaker Boehner Statement on Iran Nuclear Agreement *From Boehner's Press Office*

WASHINGTON, DC - House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) issued the following statement after the Obama administration announced a final agreement in nuclear negotiations with Iran:

"At the outset of these talks, the Obama administration said it would secure an agreement that affirmed Iran does not have a right to enrich and permanently dismantles the infrastructure of its nuclear

programs. It said that sanctions would not be lifted until Iran met concrete, verifiable standards. And if these terms were not met, the president promised he would walk away.

"The American people and our allies were counting on President Obama to keep his word. Instead, the president has abandoned his own goals. His 'deal' will hand Iran billions in sanctions relief while giving it time and space to reach a break-

out threshold to produce a nuclear bomb - all without cheating. Instead of making the world less dangerous, this 'deal' will only embolden Iran - the world's largest sponsor of terror - by helping stabilize and legitimize its regime as it spreads even more violence and instability in the region. Instead of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, this deal is likely to fuel a nuclear arms race around the world.

"The House of Representatives will review every detail of this agreement very closely, but I won't support any agreement that jeopardizes the safety of the American people and all who value freedom and security. This isn't about Republicans versus Democrats. It's about right and wrong. And we will fight a bad deal that is wrong for our national security and wrong for our country."

Obama's Iran Deal Worse Than We Could Have Imagined

By Charles Krauthammer, Columnist Washington Post

When you write a column, as did I two weeks ago, headlined "The worst agreement in U.S. diplomatic history," you don't expect to revisit the issue. We had hit bottom. Or so I thought. Then on Tuesday the final terms of the Iranian nuclear deal were published. I was wrong.

Who would have imagined we would be giving up the conventional arms and ballistic missile embargoes on Iran? In nuclear negotiations?

When asked at his Wednesday news conference why there is nothing in the deal about the four American hostages being held by Iran, President Obama explained that this is a separate issue, not part of nuclear talks. Are conventional weapons not a separate issue? After all, conventional, by definition, means non-nuclear. Why are we giving up the embargoes?

Because Iran, joined by Russia - our "reset" partner - sprung the demand at the last minute, calculating that Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry were so desperate for a deal that they would cave. They did. And have convinced themselves that they scored a victory by delaying the lifting by five to eight years. (Ostensibly. The language is murky. The interval could be considerably shorter.)

Obama claimed in his Wednesday news conference that it really doesn't matter because we can always intercept Iranian arms shipments to, say, Hezbollah.

But wait. Obama has insisted throughout that we are pursuing this Iranian diplomacy to avoid the use of force, yet now blithely discards a previous diplomatic achievement - the arms embargo - by

suggesting, no matter, we can just shoot our way to interdiction.

Moreover, the most serious issue is not Iranian exports but Iranian imports - of sophisticated Russian and Chinese weapons. These are untouchable. We are not going to attack Russian and Chinese transports. The net effect of this capitulation will be not only to endanger our Middle East allies now under threat from Iran and its proxies, but to endanger our own naval forces in the Persian Gulf. Imagine how Iran's acquisition of the most advanced anti-ship missiles would threaten our control over the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, waterways we have kept open for international commerce for a half-century.

The other major shock in the final deal is what happened to our insistence on "anytime, anywhere" inspections. Under the final agreement, Iran has the right to deny international inspectors access to any undeclared nuclear site. The denial is then adjudicated by a committee - on which Iran sits. It then goes through several other bodies, on all of which Iran sits. Even if the inspectors' request prevails, the approval process can take 24 days.

And what do you think will be left to be found, left unscrubbed, after 24 days? The whole process is farcical. The action now shifts to Congress. The debate is being hailed as momentous. It is not. It's irrelevant. Congress won't get to vote on the deal until September. But Obama is taking the agreement to the U.N. Security Council for approval within days. Approval there will cancel all previous U.N. resolutions outlawing and sanctioning

Iran's nuclear activities.

Meaning: Whatever Congress ultimately does, it won't matter because the legal underpinning for the entire international sanctions regime against Iran will have been dismantled at the Security Council. Ten years of painstakingly constructed international sanctions will vanish overnight, irretrievably.

Even if Congress rejects the agreement, do you think the Europeans, the Chinese or the Russians will reinstate sanctions? The result: The United States is left isolated while the rest of the world does thriving business with Iran.

Should Congress then give up? No. Congress needs to act in order to rob this deal of, at least, its domestic legitimacy. Rejection will make little difference on the ground. But it will make it easier for a successor president to legitimately reconsider an executive agreement (Obama dare not call it a treaty - it would be instantly rejected by the Senate) that garnered such pathetically little backing in either house of Congress.

It's a future hope, but amid dire circumstances. By then, Iran will be flush with cash, legitimized as a normal international actor in good standing, recognized (as Obama once said) as "a very successful regional power." Stopping Iran from going nuclear at that point will be infinitely more difficult and risky.

Which is Obama's triumph? He has locked in his folly. He has laid down his legacy and we will have to live with the consequences for decades.

Natan Sharansky Calls on Jews to Fight US on Iran Deal

Natan Sharansky, chairman of The Jewish Agency for Israel, is calling on Jews to stand up against Obama on the nuclear deal with Iran. In a Washington Post op-ed, Sharansky writes that "these days, like many Israelis and American Jews, I find myself in a precarious and painful situation."

"Those of us who believe that the nuclear agreement just signed between world powers and Iran is dangerously misguided are now compelled to criticise Israel's best friend and ally, the government of the United States. In standing up for what we think is right."

"Today, an American president has sought to achieve stability by removing sanctions against a brutal dictatorship without demanding that the latter change its behaviour.

"Of course, we are reluctant to criticise our ally and to so vigorously oppose an agreement that purports to promote peace. But we know that we are again at an historic crossroads, and that the United States can either appease a criminal regime - one that supports global terror, relentlessly threatens to eliminate Israel and executes more political prisoners than any other per capita - or stand firm in demanding change in its behaviour."

"A critical question is, who, if anyone, will have the vision and courage" to lead this battle, Sharansky concludes.

The Terrorism Needs to Stop; The Jews are Here to Stay

By Sondra Baras, Director, CFOIC (Christian Friends of Israeli Communities) Heartland Israel

Terrorism has reared its head again in Judea and Samaria and in Jerusalem. We are not yet witnessing a full-scale terrorism war on the scale of what was happening here 10 years ago. Far from it. The atmosphere is peaceful and people travel regularly and comfortably throughout the area. But some of the recent events have forced us all to stop and catch our breath, trying to absorb the tragedies and make sense of it all.

A few months ago, we all grieved over the tragic death of Shalom Yochai Sharki. He was 25 years old and had just recently started dating a young woman. He had actually told his brother how excited he was about her and his family and friends were all hoping that he had found "the right one." But an Arab terrorist put an end to all hope. As he drove his car through the streets of Jerusalem, the terrorist suddenly plowed right into a young couple standing at a bus stop, just near the Hebrew University. Shalom Yochai Sharki was killed on the spot and his girlfriend was seriously wounded. Two weeks ago, a 25 year old man named Danny Gonen was murdered in Samaria, as he and a friend enjoyed a swim and a relaxing Friday afternoon at a natural spring near Dolev. There are many such streams in Judea and Samaria and in recent years, they have become popular spots for young people, who enjoy the hike to these shady and cool spots in the hot summer months. As they drove up from the spring, having enjoyed a good dip in the cool water, an Arab approached the young men, indicating that he wanted to ask them a question. They rolled down their window and he asked them if there was water in the spring. The stuff of peaceful coexistence. At least that is what Danny and his friend thought. When they responded that yes, the water was great, they were shot at point-blank range. Danny was killed, his friend was injured.

Just last week, tragedy struck again. Malachi Rosenfeld was on his way home

to Kochav HaShachar, in a car with friends after a basketball game in a nearby community. Terrorists opened fire and Malachi was seriously injured and later died from his wounds. The others in the car were injured as well but are recovering.

There have been other attacks, against military or police officers and attempted attacks that have been stopped by the army or security personnel. And since the start of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and celebration, there has been a definite escalation in actual and attempted attacks. But these three attacks, these three stories of young men cut down in their prime, hit me where it hurts. Maybe because I can relate to these young men so personally. Maybe because I have sons the same age, who do the same sort of things and maybe if but for the grace of God, it could have been my sons?

But there is a part of me that does not want to deal with these terrible attacks. It is not just the personal tragedy. It is the interruption of our peaceful lives.

We had such a terrible time when the Second Intifada raged. Nearly every day, there was a terrorist attack. You were always phoning your loved ones to make sure they were alright. Every day, there were funerals on television and in nearly every attack, there was someone I knew who was somehow affected - they were injured, they knew someone who had been injured or killed, they had just missed being injured because they had missed the bus. We found ourselves wrapped up in death and mourning, injuries and pain, every single day for years.

I don't want to go back to that time or to that sort of reality. Thank God, the atmosphere has totally changed. Whereas 10 years ago, people were frightened to come and visit us, today our roads are full of tourist buses and ordinary Israelis,

driving around and visiting the sites and people of the Biblical Heartland. New housing is being built in so many communities and we cannot keep up with the demand. At a time when the cities are becoming more crowded and less personal, our communities are like a breath of fresh air - a place where you know your neighbors and where you share a common ideology and very often a common faith.

Over the years, I have been asked repeatedly what the answer is to the ongoing conflict between Arabs and Jews in Israel. There is no doubt in my mind that the entire Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people and that we have the right to settle anywhere in that land. There is no doubt in my mind as well that we must respect the dignity and property rights of our Arab neighbors and for that reason, all Jewish building takes place on land that does not belong to Arabs but is public land or land that was sold by Arabs to Jews.

In addition, after years of experimenting with land withdrawals, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and all sorts of temporary arrangements between Arabs and Jews in the Land of Israel, I am convinced that the Arabs themselves do better under Israeli rule. Especially in light of what we have witnessed in the past 4 years, as civil war and unrest sweep the region and minorities are being massacred, and as Sunni and Shiite Muslims slaughter each other, the safest place for an Arab in the Middle East today is in Israel. And the same is true for the Christians, Druze and other minority groups in the area.

I have to believe there is a rational element somewhere in the Muslim communities that live among us that recognizes this. Perhaps they still cling to their dream of sovereignty, but I have to believe that they understand themselves that their leadership is incapable of creating a just and democratic society. That fanaticism and violence rule all Muslim societies and the more moderate



Sondra talks to the NZ study tour group

Muslim is frightened to express himself honestly for fear of retribution. The problem is finding that rational element.

For years we have said in Israel that the day the Arabs are more protective of their children than they are interested in murdering Israeli children is the day the wars will stop. But the problem is, the decision-makers on the Palestinian side are not interested in peace with Israel nor are they interested in the welfare of their people. And there is not, as of yet, a serious movement in Palestinian society that is willing to stand up against the terrorism and seek real paths towards co-existence. At this point in time, there isn't even a Palestinian voice that is willing to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, let alone to acknowledge that the Jews in Judea and Samaria are here to stay.

There are some 385,000 Jews living in Judea and Samaria today and an additional 300,000 living in the areas of Jerusalem beyond the pre-67 lines. We are not going anywhere. One day, the Arabs will realize that we are here to stay and will begin the process of reconciliation. Until then, we will have no choice but to live by the sword so that we can protect our people and continue to live life to the fullest in our land. This summer we mark 10 years from the expulsion from Gush Katif and one year from the deadly Gaza campaign last summer. Had we not left Gush Katif 10 years ago, last summer's war would never have happened. Or to put it another way - the Arabs surely have not benefited from Arab rule in Gaza.

Why Millions of Young Muslims Have Decided to Follow Jesus

By Daniel Shayestah

The last decades have become amazing gateways for young Muslims to leave Islam and follow the path of Jesus Christ. It was supposed that the revolutionary and radical Islamic countries such as Iran would draw the attention of many young Muslims and make them radical, but the result was not according to their desires. Iran is the number one country among all Islamic countries for losing millions of its adherents to Christianity. Young Muslims from Saudi Arabia, the motherland of Islam, are also coming to Christ.

Why? There are multiple reasons for this conversion. One significant reason is the technological advancement which opened the door for Muslims to have easy access to information globally. They can hear and read about the life philosophies of Jesus Christ and follow Him.

The Islamic Republic of Iran alone has spent millions of dollars to limit the effects of foreign radios, satellite televisions and other media outlets on Iranians, yet the advancement of technology has failed Iran's restrictive plans continually. I have been receiving emails from many Islamic countries, including Iran, that Muslims have been watching my journey from Islam to Christ and my teachings on YouTube and via satellite television. People from all ranks of life, professors, clergies, educated and uneducated ones have been coming to

Jesus through our satellite television teachings.

The second reason is the courage of ex-Muslim Christians who are now the followers of Christ. The voices of many of these followers of Christ who live in western countries are extraordinarily loud in speaking the truth of Christ to Muslims in their motherlands through every possible means. They have been apologists in using reasons to show why Islamic values are unconstructive in every aspect of life and why Muslims need to follow Jesus Christ.

The third reason is the exposure of Islamic values that were hidden for 1400 years from the sight of rank and file Muslims and of non-Muslims. The only source for Muslims to learn about Islam was Muslim clergies and scholars for centuries. Now they can look at Islam from a non-Islamic perspective, compare its values thoroughly with others and evaluate Islam personally.

Islam's goal has never been to teach Muslims openness so that they could have logical reasons behind their belief in Islam. Now the information and communication channels have exposed everything in Islam. Many Muslims have now realized that the teachings of the Quran come into conflict with the best values of life.

The fourth reason is the zero tolerance to freedom of speech, religion and equal

rights in the Islamic law. Islam is called the last and perfect religion. Many young Muslims have instead discovered that Islam is only perfect in chaining them to ignorance, making them blindly obedient and keeping them from improving. That's why those young Muslims who yearn to be free, creative and productive leave Islam behind and find their motives in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Master in freeing people from ignorance.

The fifth reason is the failure of Islamic moral doctrine. Muslims are taught by the Quran that they are the best among all nations but the Jews and Christians are the worst. Many young Muslims now see that in reality the so-called worst people are the best. More than 90% of those medicines that are used in Islamic countries are the inventions of Jews. Muslim scholars teach their young to terrorize moderate Muslims and non-Muslims, but Jews teach their young to be creative in order to serve their people and the nations of the world.

Islamic countries do not have any portion in contemporary inventions and technological advancements. All technological products used in Islamic countries are from the West and other developed non-Islamic countries. Muslim countries do not have anything to sell but oil or agricultural products if they do not have oil reserves. They do not have any

chance of invention, because invention necessitates individual autonomy which enables people to think big, have productive ideas and thereby become creative. The word autonomy is very foreign in the Islamic dictionary and culture. Many young Muslims are now aware that they need to follow the life principles of Jesus Christ if they want to become autonomous and pursue the tenets of an advanced life.

We are so grateful that we, as ex-Muslims, have each had a role in helping Muslims to see the heart and light of Christ and come out of the darkness that is imposed on them. The edge of the truth is the only way to set them



Daniel Shayestah was into a Muslim family in Iran. He became a Muslim leader and was involved in the militant Free Islamic Movement, closely supporting Ayatollah Khomeini. However, after falling out of favour with Khomeini's political group, he escaped to Turkey where he began an amazing journey to faith in Jesus Christ. Daniel's mission is to help others understand and lovingly respond to those who do not know Christ. He's also concerned for the future of Western societies and their loss of confidence in Judeo-Christian values.

'Jacob's Tears' Examines Spiritual Questions

By Hugh Kitson, Director and Producer



'Jacob's Tears' documentary examines spiritual questions surrounding the Holocaust.

'Jacob's Tears' is produced by award winning writer, director and producer Hugh Kitson. The 104 minute documentary, which has been in the making for three years, forms the

second part of Hatikvah Films' 'Blessing, Curse or Coincidence?' series.

'Jacob's Tears' asks and answers hard questions including:

- How could the Holocaust have happened?
- Where was the Church?
- Do Nazi atrocities still affect the lives of their descendants?
- Is healing and forgiveness possible?
- How should the Church respond to rising anti-Semitism today?

The documentary, which aims to shed light into the darkest shadows of human history is presented by the late Bible teacher Lance Lambert.

Hugh Kitson speaking in Auckland New

Zealand recently about 'Jacob's Tears' said we need to be more fully aware of the "times in which we live"! He likened the current situation with Iran as a 're-run' of the British PM Neville Chamberlains "new peace deal" with Hitler. It is even more significant when we recognise the spiritual realities of this happening. He reminded everybody present to "put on the full armour of God that we might withstand the wiles of the Devil!"

The film features interviews with such leaders as ICEJ International Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler and Christians for Israel International Chairman Harald Eckert. Harald as a German Leader was asked how did Germany submit to the Nazi regime and

yet emerge as the strongest Nation in the European Community today.

Harald replied that there has been a "degree of repentance" and that increasingly a move of God within the churches but otherwise the answer is just "the pure high level Grace of God!"

Hatikvah Films' Director of Operations Stephen Briggs said, 'This is one of the most important documentaries Hatikvah Films has ever released.

For more information about Jacob's Tears and Hatikvah Film Trust, please contact Stephen Briggs stephen@hatikvah.co.uk or visit www.hatikvahfilms.co.uk

Bnei Menashe - Christians for Israel International Provides \$150,000

By Michael Freund, Chairman Shavei Israel



With God's help, and the support of Christians for Israel, we were blessed to bring another 240 Bnei Menashe on Aliyah from India to Israel between June 18 and June 25, 2015. This brings to 900 the total number of Bnei Menashe that we

have brought home to Zion in the past 18 months, the most ever!

Thank God, the 240 immigrants are all doing well. They are currently staying at the Shavei Israel Absorption Center based at Kfar Hasidim, near Haifa, where they are studying Hebrew, preparing for their formal return to Judaism, and learning about life in Israel.

As a sign of the Israeli government's support for Shavei Israel's work with the Bnei Menashe, we were able to arrange for both the new Absorption Minister, Zev Elkin, and the new Interior Minister, Silvan Shalom, to come to Ben Gurion Airport and

personally greet the immigrants!

At a recent meeting with Minister Silvan Shalom together with all of the top people from his Ministry, I asked him to submit a new resolution to the Government that would allow us to bring 600 Bnei Menashe a year for the next 5 years. He thumped the table dramatically and asked me: "How many Bnei Menashe are still in India?" So I told him there are 6,500 who are waiting to come. The Minister then replied, half-jokingly: "What? So you want to give up on the other half? Let's bring them all!" I said I would be happy to, but that the Treasury would likely object. The Minister then replied that he would take up the fight against the Treasury and involve the Prime Minister if necessary in order to win the battle. He is moving forward quickly, and we might even get the new resolution

passed within the next month or two! Whether the number ends up being 600 a year or 1,000, it will be a major breakthrough: for the first time, the Government will agree to a 5 or 7 year horizon of Bnei Menashe Aliyah! If all goes smoothly with God's help, we will bring the next group of Bnei Menashe on Aliyah in November or December.

Note: At the time of the May '15 Conference in Jerusalem Christians for Israel International responded to the challenge from Michael Freund and gave \$150,000 USD to make possible the recent immigration. Christians for Israel New Zealand also added \$1,000USD – Publisher.

Rivlin hosts Bedouin Council Heads

Communicated by the President's Spokesperson

President Reuven Rivlin recently hosted, at his residence, the forum of heads of the Bedouin councils, together with Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uri Ariel MK, to discuss possible solutions to the problems of Bedouin communities in the Negev.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Rivlin congratulated Minister Ariel for his concerted efforts on this issue and said,

"We must find a solution. It is important to say that previous governments sought not to leave the issue unanswered, but worked to create the necessary budgetary conditions

- though we are yet to reach our target." The President added, "The Goldberg Report formulated the way for important steps to be taken, which sadly were not brought to be ratified. These issues need to be passed by the widest possible majority and I think the Begin Report is the right place from which to move forward. I express my faith in the Minister, that he will know how to move forward from here, in order to find an acceptable solution to all sides."

Minister Ariel said, "We are not 'doing a favor' for the Bedouin citizens. We are working in order to provide Israeli citizens what they rightfully deserve. Time is

working against us all, and we are making every effort, with the help of regional leaders, in order to reach the necessary understanding."

The Minister invited the President to tour the region, and then asked the attending leaders to raise in their discussion the issues which needed resolving. Issues raised by the regional heads included: Problems relating to recognized and unrecognized towns; shortage of employment opportunities; the allocation of resources during a period when the communities were growing constantly, severe lack of education infrastructure, and



the destruction of homes.

The President and the Minister listened closely to the regional leaders and ensured them of their cooperation and partnership to find the necessary solutions as soon as possible.

Rev. Glashouwer Visits Papua and Maluku, Indonesia



Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer visited the Indonesian cities of Manokwari and Sorong in the Province of West Papua and Ambon City, the capital of the Province of Maluku from April 20th until April 27th, 2015.

Compared to the other provinces in Indonesia, Papua and West Papua are quite different regarding the political situation there. This is why the flag of Israel, the Star of David can be raised. Even before Rev. Glashouwer arrived, there were already posters and a billboard on the main road at the city of Manokwari.

Interdenominational church leaders and government officials welcomed Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer.

For about three days Rev. Glashouwer gave seminars in Manokwari. Many people

came, listened and responded openly and warm-heartedly. They were worshipping God, dancing and waving the flag of Israel.

Those who attended the seminars listened to the comprehensive explanation from Rev. Glashouwer regarding Israel being God's first-born son.



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Christians For Israel Makes Its Voice Heard in Geneva

Sourced from *Christians for Israel International*



More than 1,000 supporters of Israel rallied outside the U.N. office at Geneva

The investigation report of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) on the 2014 Gaza War and the alleged human rights violations by the Israeli army was presented on the 29th of June in Geneva, Switzerland. Together with members and supporters of more than 80 Jewish and Christian NGOs, Christians for Israel affiliates travelled to the Swiss city and expressed their support for the Jewish state and urged the UN to treat Israel fairly.

While Israel tries to do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties, the country is accused of committing war crimes, according to the UN report. However, the terrorist organization Hamas is rarely convicted. The report also calls on the International Court of Justice to take action, which paves the way for criminal proceedings against Israel. Israel presented the results of their own internal investigation a few months ago. The media paid little attention to it.

Christians for Israel affiliates from

Germany, Austria, Italy and the Netherlands showed their solidarity with the Israeli people by going to Geneva on the day the UN investigation report was presented. With over 1,000 participants from around the world they protested in front of the United Nations building against the unilateral UN report, in support of the State of Israel.

On behalf of Christians for Israel Netherlands Arjan Wendt was present in Geneva. "We have demonstrated against the unfair treatment of Israel and the lies contained in the UN report. Right now it is important to continue to stand with Israel!"

Christians for Israel's Chairman Harald Eckert: "About half of the participants were Christians. The Jewish participants that were present were impressed by the strong support of so many Christians. It was a great encouragement for the Jewish community in Europe and for the Government of Israel."



World Jewish Congress CEO Robert Singer speaking at the rally, Place des Nations in Geneva

New Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Met with Heads of Evangelical Churches and Unions

By *Dmitriy Mishkur*

The Ambassador of the State of Israel to Ukraine met with the heads of Evangelical Churches and Unions on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The event was a joint initiative of Dmitriy Mishkur (the speaker, coordinator of Church Relations "Christians for Israel Ukraine" and coordinator of the dialogue and cooperation between Ukrainian Evangelical Christianity and the Israeli

Embassy to Ukraine) and the Israeli ambassador to Ukraine Eliav Belotserkovskiy.

The meeting took place in the building of the Ukrainian Bible Society in Kiev and was attended by 15 representatives.

Heads of churches and denominations stressed that they love and bless Israel, because the Bible teaches this. And we, as evangelical leaders have the responsibility

to teach people in the Church about it and declare our position in society. Regardless how the sentiments towards the Jewish people might change in society, we will continue being friends and partners in the future.

In turn, the ambassador and deputy ambassador thanked Evangelical Christians for prayer and solidarity. And also for their help in saving the Jews who

found themselves in difficult circumstances due to the military conflict in the Ukrainian territory of Donbas.

Both sides agreed that we have great potential for cooperation, and that we need to implement our friendship and partnership in even more joint projects and initiatives.

A Visit to Nazareth Village *By Rev. Hon. Graeme Lee, Christians for Israel, National Leader, New Zealand*

As one of the planners of a New Zealand Tour to Israel, Nazareth Village was included without any real expectations. Having now visited this Village we would recommend this special place as a must see and a wonderful spiritual experience!

The owners and promoters describe their unique place as a "Journey back to the Turning Point in Time." They say Nazareth Village is an historic site in the Holy Land dedicated to rediscovering the Nazareth that Jesus knew.

Great credit must be given to the vision of physician Dr Nakhle Bishara for such a place and the first director D. Michael Hostetler for his tireless leadership. Many others have maintained the momentum.

Our touring group was welcomed by Daniel Stanger, an excellent presenter! Our introduction took place in the display rooms adjoining the Gift Shop. We then stepped outside into the sun and stones and began a truly remarkable journey back in time. We all knew that the Garden Tomb, the Western Wall, the Via Delorosa, The Mount of Olives and others are powerful, meaningful places of Jesus' Ministry which bring you wonderfully close to God. But until recent times there has not been an exposition that

has existed where you could see and feel how Jesus lived in early life and why he used certain parables.

The first thing we encountered in the Village was a Shepherd with his sheep purposefully walking along a trail through olive trees quite oblivious to ourselves. The resident goat must have been selected for its noise capacity. Other people in 'costumes of the day' appeared but soon we were all standing in the home that Jesus would have lived in. The several male actors working in the carpenters shop, the women in the common room, made it more easy to understand the parables that Jesus often employed. A great surprise was to sit in the small local Synagogue and meditate on the sayings of Jesus. There was so much more!

Nazareth Village I understand, is the result of years of research. The recreation of Jesus' hometown is quite outstanding. The Village management say that the Village preserves the last remaining fields worked by Jesus' friends, family and fellow villagers!

Contact can be made at Nazareth Village: P O Box 2066, Nazareth 16100, Israel. www.nazarethvillage.com.



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"Christ-Centred Churches among all African peoples"

A Call for Help from Hineni's Soup Kitchen

By Marloes van Westing, Christians for Israel International

"When you provide people with food and a word of encouragement, you give them a future!"

Jerusalem, Monday morning seven o'clock. Things are heating up in the buzzing Hineni kitchen, a foundation focused on social and spiritual care that works towards improving the community. At noon 250 lunches must be ready. "Freshness is guaranteed since all meals are all prepared in our own kitchen" explains Benjamin Philip, director of Hineni.

On today's menu: soup, mashed potato, green beans, a salad and a meatball. The cook gives his orders to the permanent workers and the day's volunteers, while Benjamin reviews the groceries. "It is a 24-hour, seven-days-per-week business", he says while keeping an eye on the kitchen. Benjamin misses nothing. He tells a new volunteer where to find an apron. "We work according to the highest standards. Our kitchen, a 'humanitarian restaurant', is all about quality - not quantity - and the all-important hygiene."

Checking

At exactly twelve o'clock the dining room doors are opened. A long queue is waiting to enter. People must report to the hostess, who checks the list with names and ensures they are entitled to a meal. "We cooperate closely with the social services, and obtain our information from them," explains Benjamin. If the information is correct, the individual is given a voucher with which they collect a meal at the table.

A Ray of Light

The dining room fills up quickly. It is cold and rainy outside. For many folks the

dining room does not only mean 'a meal', but also a place to warm up and recover somewhat.

"Our warm meals are rays of light that penetrate these people's dark existence. But there are more people daily. It is very unfortunate that we have to send people away, because we do not have enough meals. You do not know how difficult it is to decide, day after day, who may - or may not - be given a meal. We need 400 meals every day, but the financial situation does not allow for it".

Hineni Jerusalem is a not for profit organization with a focus on Jewish unity, social, and spiritual concerns, while inspiring people of all Faiths, Cultures and Nations to a pursuit of bettering society and a desire for a world of justice and peace.

Hineni Jerusalem's contribution to society includes: assistance to survivors of terror, the needy, troubled youth, survivors of the Holocaust, disadvantaged people, and provides humanitarian aid in times of war and need.

As a result they have introduced, in the heart of Jerusalem, a center that offers a soup kitchen, various therapies for support and recovery, educational programs, cultural events, National and Jewish holiday celebrations, commemorations, continually creating additional programs as the need arises.

The founder and director of Hineni is Benjamin Philip. Christians for Israel International and other affiliates have had a close partnership and have financially supported the Hineni ministry.



Sex Slavery and the Islamic State

By Mark Durie, Author and Shillman-Ginsburg Writing Fellow at the Middle East Forum



Jamie Walker, Middle East correspondent for *The Australian*, asked two critical questions in a recent article which discussed the involvement of two Australian citizens, Mohamed Elomar and Khaled Sharrouf, in Islamic State sex slavery.

In 2014 Elomar purchased sex slaves, of whom four, all Yazidis, later escaped to a refugee camp where the ABC News caught up with them and interviewed them. Elomar had also boasted on Twitter that he had "1 of 7 Yehzidi slave girls for sale" at \$2500 each.

Walker's questions were:

"The uncomfortable questions for the Western world, including Australia, are why this debased appeal seems to be gaining traction with Islamic State's target audience, which increasingly includes women, and why it's not challenged more stridently in the public arena."

The Islamic State has given its own answer to the first question. In the fourth edition of its magazine *Dabiq* it

aggressively promoted sex slavery as an Islamic practice, arguing that the practice conforms to the teaching and example of Muhammad and his companions.

Does this argument have any wider appeal than among Islamic State recruits?

The reality is that many Muslim scholars have upheld the practice of enslaving captives of war. For example Islamic revivalist Abul A'la Maududi wrote in his influential and widely disseminated tract *Islam and Human Rights* that for Muslims to enslave their captives was "a more humane and proper way of disposing of them" than Western approaches. Enslavement by Muslims, he argued, is preferable to the provisions of the Geneva Convention because of the value of this policy for fuelling the growth of Islam.

Islamic revivalist movements which look forward to the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate have repeatedly endorsed the practice of slavery in the name of their religious convictions. For example the (now banned) Muhajiroun movement in the UK announced in an article, "How does Islam Classify Lands?" that once a true Islamic State is established, no-one living in other nations (which it calls *Dar al Harb* 'house of war') will have a right to their life or their wealth.

It is a problem that the Qur'an itself endorses having sex with captive women (Sura 4:24). According to a secure tradition (hadith) attributed to one of

Muhammad's companions, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, this verse of the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad at a time when Muslims had been 'refraining' from having sex with their married female captives. Verse 4:24 relieved them of this restraint by giving them permission to have sex with captive women even if the women were already married.

There have been many cases reported across the centuries of Islamic armies using captive women for sex slavery, but is this any different from all wars? It is different in one important respect, that the mainstream of Islamic jurisprudence has justified and supported this practice on the basis of Islam's canonical sources, including Muhammad's own example and teaching. Islamic sex slavery is religiously sanctioned 'guilt-free sex'.

This religious teaching is impacting our world today because the global Islamic community has been deeply affected by a grassroots religious revival, which seeks to purify Islam and restore it to its foundational principles, including its rules for war and the treatment of captives.

This leads us to Walker's second question: why is the Islamic State's 'debased appeal' not 'challenged more stridently in the public arena'?

An obstacle which stands in the ways of such a challenge is that it would require a sober evaluation of the Islamic character of sex slavery. However even suggesting a link between Islam and 'terrorism' has become taboo to those who are afraid of

being judged intolerant. Not only do some impose this taboo upon themselves, but they are quick to stigmatise those who do not partner with them in this ill-considered 'tolerance'.

The taboo attached to making any link between Islamic State atrocities and the religion of Islam was apparent in comments by Greg Bearup on his interview with South Australian politician Cory Bernardi. During the course of the interview Senator Bernardi linked the Islamic State with Muhammad's example, to which the interviewer wrote "Kaboom!", and called the comment a 'hand grenade', 'inflammatory' and 'divisive'.

While it is a hopeful sign that some Muslims, such as Anooche Mushtaq, have been willing to explore the Islamic character of the Islamic State, non-Muslim opinion-makers should show more backbone by engaging with the issue at hand. It is not a sign of tolerance when free people deliberately silence themselves about the ideological drivers of sex trafficking. The same can also be said of acts of terrorism, such as the world has witnessed over the past week in France, Tunisia and Kuwait.

Until societies are able and willing to have a frank and free discussion of the ideological drivers which motivate acts of terror and abuse, they should not expect to be able to develop effective strategies to contain or wind back such atrocities.

A state of denial is a state of defeat.

We're starting with this edition, life stories of some personnel in the Christians for Israel world. We start with Phil South who is the retiring publisher of the UK version of "Israel & Christians Today" after 10 years of service. We trust, this will help readers to know the ministry better and pray more specifically for our leaders - Publisher.

This Is My Life!

By Phil South, Christians for Israel, Leader United Kingdom

The Early Years!

Born in Kent in November 1937 I was my parent's third and final son. The family were members of the local Methodist Church and I was christened there in the spring of 1938.

Starting school in 1942 I was not aware that my father and two older brothers had left home to join the armed forces. My own war began one day in 1944 when my school was hit by a V1 rocket but, fortunately, we were all "out of school" at the time. A few weeks later my eldest brother was shot down and killed in action. Just six weeks later while we were visiting an aunt in North London, we heard that our home had been hit and totally destroyed. We stayed on with our aunt but just three weeks later another V1 landed nearby, blowing out the back of the house and bringing down the ceilings on top of us.

It was a traumatic time for my mother. She nearly lost me three times, had lost her eldest son, her home and all her possessions all in the space of a few months. Also, her husband and other son were still away fighting somewhere in Europe.

Education

To catch up with my education my parents sent me to a Private School. I am forever thankful to them for sending me there. It was a Roman Catholic school but I stayed staunchly faithful to my Protestant roots - always insisting on having meat gravy on my Friday Fish!

Early on it was noticed that I could sing so I had my voice trained privately from the age of eight through to 16, passing London College of Music examinations with honours. I could have pursued this as a career but my love of acting also resulted in me being offered a place with a Theatre Company. My own desire was to become a detective but what I didn't realise was that God had other plans for my life.

The Discovery of a Lifetime!

With my mixed background - christened a Methodist, educated at both Anglican and Roman Catholic schools and attending a Baptist church - I was confused. Then in 1951, while still at school, I was invited to go with the Baptist young people to hear the evangelist Tom Rees at the Royal Albert Hall. I was deeply challenged that night but resisted (with difficulty) the call to respond. I know many people were praying for me but I remained obstinately in my seat and remained resistant to God's call.

In 1953 I changed my affiliation back from the Anglicans to the Baptists. I was still not a committed Christian but enjoyed the company of the young people.

Everything changed on the 19th April 1953. Following an evening service the young people went for a walk and it soon became evident that they were all couples apart from myself and one other young lady - a certain Elizabeth (Betty) Bell. The young people decided that she and I should walk together and that turned out to be the transforming moment for both our lives.

I was prayed for much, not least by Betty's parents and later that summer God answered their prayers. For three years I had held out against all attempts to reach me but in the end I surrendered, acknowledged my sin, recognised what Jesus had done for me on the cross, begged God's forgiveness and prayed earnestly that God would enter my life and change me. I prayed that same prayer every night for three weeks and wondered why the heavens

hadn't opened and why I didn't hear the angels singing! Then I realised, for three weeks I hadn't taken any pills and I had slept soundly each night. I didn't need any more convincing! My life had been changed - it was real - and I knew it!

Betty's parents became my spiritual mentors - giants in the faith - and at my future father-in-law's instigation, in March 1954, I preached my first sermon - preaching on the second coming - and I was only 16 years of age.

A Chequered Career!

In January of 1953 I was unexpectedly offered a job with British European Airways and started there in February. I worked there for 10 years apart from time away to undertake my National Service. I followed in the footsteps of my eldest brother by joining the Royal Air Force. They trained me for a year and then sent me via Libya, Bahrain, Ceylon (*present day Sri Lanka*) and Singapore (and under cover of the Official Secrets Act) to serve the rest of my time in Hong Kong.

On my return Betty and I were engaged and we married on 19th March 1960. The Lord provided us with a flat and I still worked for BEA. However, by 1963 we were sensing that God had something different for us to do so, when, through my brother-in-law, I was offered a job working for an Exhibition Company, I accepted the challenge. A huge step for us but an important one in God's plan for our future life together.

Family Responsibilities!

Later that year God blessed us with our first daughter, Naomi Elizabeth, and in February 1964 we were able to move into our first house in Chislehurst. Our second daughter, Carolyn Joy, was born in May 1965 and Miriam Christina arrived in 1969. Wonderful years of bringing up our family and serving the Lord in numerous ways. I was still preaching regularly and was also elected as a deacon at our Church. Betty and I also took on the responsibility of leading our Young Peoples Fellowship - a big challenge but one we rejoiced in.



Change of Direction!

A few weeks before Miriam arrived on the scene Betty and I had become acutely aware that God had another step for us to take. I laid down my role as a deacon and together we handed on the responsibility of leading the young people. God was obviously preparing us for what He had in mind. The day after Miriam arrived I had a phone call inviting me to consider joining a charity called the "You Need Christ Crusade". They entered exhibitions, produced tracts and car-stickers and needed some administrative help. We knew that this was what God had been preparing us for and so in May of 1969 I left the secular business world and moved full-time into God's service.

A Surprising Move!

In 1974, because of the growth of the YNC ministry, it became necessary to divide the work into two separate organisations. "Contact for Christ" would remain in London and concentrate on literature. I would set up "Into Action for Christ" as a ministry to oversee the "Seminars on Evangelism" and Bible teaching. This was major change for us as we were stepping out in faith with no guarantee of any support or income. God blessed the work and, trusting Him to meet all our needs, we survived on a daily basis. We had three growing daughters and a mortgage but He remained faithful and provided everything for us.

God made it clear to us that the next step for us was to move from Kent to the Midlands so, in October 1974, we were sent out as missionaries from our church in Chislehurst and joined Duke Street Church in Sutton Coldfield as members, remaining so to this day.

New Horizons!

In 1977 Rev Gilbert Kirby was the Principal of the London Bible College and Vice-Chairman of The Movement for World Evangelisation. He came to visit and, over lunch, extended to me an invitation from the Board of MWE to become the General Secretary of MWE and also the Filey Christian Holiday Crusade - an annual gathering of some 7,000 believers of all ages. After much prayer Betty and I were sure that this was the next step for us and so we accepted the new challenge and began in May of 1977.

The "Filey" Years!

These were the most exciting years of our ministry to date and it was a privilege to get to know so many of God's great servants - George Duncan, Stephen Olford, Ron Dunn, David Watson, to name but a few. MWE were also linked to The Highlands Hotel in Jersey and were responsible for arranging the regular holiday ministry there. I loved this extra responsibility and enjoyed participating myself in this programme. In 1985 I was invited by the Hotel Board to become a Director, a post that I still hold.

About this time I started to receive some very interesting invitations. In January 1983 Luis Palau flew me to Los Angeles (my first trip to the USA) to invite me to organise an American Pastors Conference to be held in London to run alongside his London Crusade. At the same time I received an invitation to be on the Midlands Board for the 1984 visit of Dr Billy Graham to Aston Villa as part of his "Mission England" venture. Luis Palau's pastors conference went well while for Dr Graham I organised the special guest's reception each night and also gave the financial appeal to the 40,000 people present at each of the eight meetings. A great privilege to share the platform with Billy Graham, Bev Shea and Cliff Barrows.

Another New Development!

In 1985 I was encouraged to pursue my calling of administration and ministry by launching out independently of MWE. Betty and I spent much time in prayer over this possibility and I eventually wrote a planning document outlining how I saw the future of my ministry and its relationship with MWE. God gave us the name "World Action Ministries" and with it the vision to



serve Him through serving other Christian organisations that God would send to us. With MWE's approval I founded WAM and it was registered as a charity in March 1986 being officially launched on 1st October 1986 at the Highlands Hotel in Jersey. We still serve under WAM's umbrella to this day. Under God's hand WAM prospered and we were soon administering a variety of ministries. Through WAM it has been my privilege to travel much around the world visiting at least 36 States in the USA and shaking hands with 4 American Presidents. I've shared God's Word as far apart as the USA, China, Bulgaria, Mexico, Guatemala, Alaska, Florida, California and Georgia. I have also been highly honoured by my Native American friends by being presented with a Native American Indian name and my own chief's headdress. In 1990 I received the Presidents medal for my work in seeking to bring understanding of each other to God's people from both sides of the Atlantic.

Tough Times!

Through all these challenges my family have remained totally supportive. My eldest daughter Naomi married in 1986 and had three lovely sons, all now in their 20's. Our hearts ached though and still do when in 2008 we learned that Naomi had been diagnosed with cancer. The Lord took her to be with Himself in December of that year. She served God faithfully in her short life of 45 years and at her funeral the congregation rose spontaneously and applauded (surely alongside the angels in heaven) when her coffin was brought into the church. Our daughter Carolyn lives, works and serves the Lord in Newcastle while Miriam is married to Paul and with their son and a daughter live locally to us. Miriam also works for WAM. God is faithful!

The End Times!

"Christians for Israel" approached WAM ten years ago and we began the great adventure of serving this ministry here in the UK. We distribute the European edition of "Israel & Christians Today" newspaper on a subscription basis. I have always been challenged by the prospect of the anticipated soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ to Israel - it having been the subject of my first ever sermon back in 1954. Sadly, today in the UK there is a distinct lack of interest and teaching on the subject. Political attitudes have prevailed over and above that of biblical exposition.

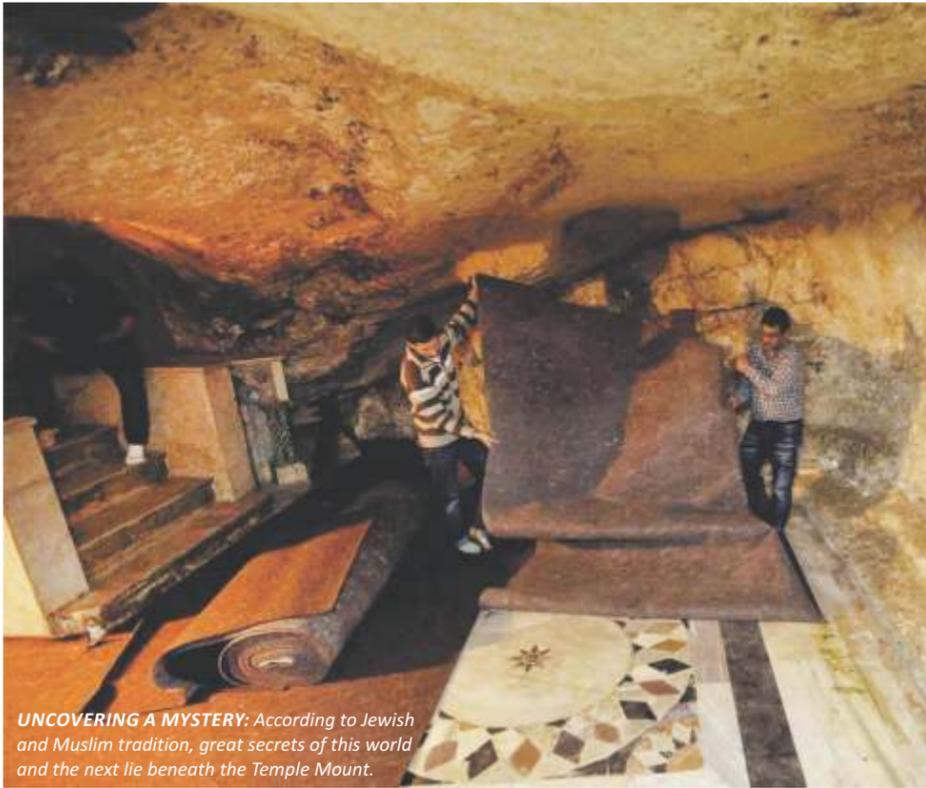
I'm passed the normal retiring age but count it a privilege to still be serving the Lord through WAM and Christians for Israel, still preaching the Word (after more than 61 years) and am rejoicing in the measure of health and motivation that the Lord Jesus still gives.

Betty and I have been walking together now for over 62 years and married for over 55 of them. I recognise daily how little I really know of God's Word or ways. I'm surprised and delighted with every new day and wake asking "Will it be today Lord?" He replies, "Wait patiently for me".

"Even so come Lord Jesus"

What's Happening Under the Dome of the Rock?

By Aviel Schneider. Extract Courtesy of Israel Today



UNCOVERING A MYSTERY: According to Jewish and Muslim tradition, great secrets of this world and the next lie beneath the Temple Mount.

The carpets have been replaced in the cave beneath the Dome of the Rock thanks to a donation from the king of Jordan. During the work, the marble floor which covers the opening to the foundation stone was exposed for the first time. On Facebook and Twitter, Muslims posted pictures of the carpets being replaced.

This alerted Israeli archaeologists to the fact that the Muslims have opened an additional construction site beneath the Temple Mount without consulting the authorities.

“What is going on in the cave is outrageous,” the chairman of the Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel Hasson, told *Israel Today*. “Structural changes are being carried out without any consultation with us.”

While the carpets were being replaced, ancient bedrock stones were torn out. On the other hand, the *Waqf* or Islamic Trust which controls the Temple Mount compound, routinely prevents any activity by Israeli archaeologists.

“We have missed out on a spectacularly large amount of archaeological study of the Temple Mount,” Hasson lamented.

Torah scholars believe the foundation stone to be the site upon which God established the world. This same place has also been identified as Mount Moriah where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac; and the Holy of Holies of the First and Second Temples was believed to have stood above the *Even haShitya*.

The Talmud says the *Bor haRuchot* (Well of Souls) is situated under the rock, which serves as a cover for the abyss containing the raging waters of the Flood. Similarly, Muslim tradition says it covers a bottomless pit with the flowing waters of Paradise, where the dead await the Day of Judgment.

According to Israeli Temple Mount archaeologist Tzachi Dabira, the marble floor in the cave contains a mosaic called *opus sectile* dating back to the Byzantine Period over 1,500 years ago. In contrast to standard mosaics which are constructed with a large number of stone fragments, the *opus sectile* (“cut work”) technique uses larger pieces prepared according to shape and then put together to form an illustration.

This cave as well as the entire Temple Mount are of immense value to biblical research in general and retracing Jewish history in particular - which is why the

Waqf has blocked any Israeli access there.

In 1911, British officer and amateur archaeologist Montague Parker is said to have opened the hole beneath the marble floor. He and his team bribed the Muslim guards and were able to dig for nine nights below the Temple Mount. There were rumors at the time that Parker had found Aaron’s rod, the Ark of the Covenant, the seven-branched Temple menorah, King Solomon’s crown and other Temple implements in the Well of Souls beneath the foundation stone. This was denied by Parker, who said that he never found the well.

Predating Parker’s account is one by Ermete Pierotti, an Italian who served as architect and archaeologist for the city of Jerusalem from 1854 to 1861 during the rule of the Ottoman Turks. He claims that he found the Well of Souls beneath the Temple Mount, but north of the Dome of the Rock.

Since the Oslo Accords of 1993, Israel’s hands have been tied with regard to the Temple Mount. The Waqf, which denies any Jewish connection to the site, has not only blocked Jewish archaeologists from excavating there, it has also discarded priceless Temple artefacts like trash. Destroying this historical evidence enables the Muslims to continue their quest to rewrite history.

This is why the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is considered a powder keg: Jews, Christians and Muslims all prophesy that the final apocalyptic war will break out over this disputed and sacred site.

What Makes Israelis Happy? By Esti Eliraz. Extract Courtesy of Israel Today

The country where the most residents describe themselves as happy is Switzerland, according to the World Happiness Report 2015. The big surprise, however, is Israel which ranked 11th! People are happier in Israel than they are in such bastions of Western stability and prosperity as the United States and Britain.

The list was compiled by a research team from the London School of Economics, the University of British Columbia and Columbia University’s Earth Institute which ranked 156 countries. Northern European countries topped the list of the happiest countries with Denmark taking first place, followed by Norway, Switzerland, Holland and Sweden. Canada,

Finland, Austria, Iceland and Australia rounded out the top 10.

Then came Israel well ahead of the US, which ranked only 17th, and the United Kingdom (22nd), followed by France (25), Germany (26) and Russia (68). Israel far outranked its Arab neighbors: Jordan took 74th place, followed by Lebanon (97), the Palestinian Territories (113), Egypt (130) and Syria (148). The last eight places went to African countries with Togo at the bottom of the list (156).

What makes Israelis happy, despite the constant threat of wars and terror, no open borders, incessant international criticism and a skyrocketing cost of living? Perhaps life is more enjoyable when you do not take it for granted. Since tomorrow is uncertain, Israelis tend to live in the moment.

Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein says the survey points to an optimistic spirit in Israeli society. “Despite the daily

difficulties and existential threats, the people of Israel remain hopeful and happy,” Yuli Edelstein told *Israel Today*. “That is a motivator.”

Left-wing Israelis, on the other hand, were perplexed. The popular reaction in social media was: “How can a nation with [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu at the top be happy?”

But overall, the reaction was one of



A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR: Israelis manage to enjoy life despite the challenges

satisfaction.

“I love Israel,” former Finance Minister Yair Lapid of the dovish Yesh Atid party told us. “We have a wonderful country and we have no other country. Of course, a lot needs to improve. But we can be satisfied that we live in a unique country.”

Israel Today spoke to a number of other Israelis and Palestinians to sample their reaction to the World Happiness Report.

“I love my country, and I have passed this on to my children and grandchildren,” said Dan Margalit, a commentator for the *Israel Hayom* newspaper. “We live in a wonderful land that belongs to us and where we can live safely. I’m addicted to Israel. Even if our food prices are higher than in Europe I would never move there. I have very deep roots in Israel.”

Palestinians had a different take, some predictable, some surprising.

“If you ask me as a Palestinian, I would put Israel in 65th place,” said Marwan who lives in Jerusalem’s Old City. “There are always two sides. From Israel’s perspective,

it may be true that it is a happy country in 11th place. But not from a Palestinian perspective.”

A Palestinian from the village of Dura near Hebron is envious. “We see how cheerful Israelis are. We have gotten to know you,” said Ahmed, a building contractor. “You enjoy life in between wars, while we [Arabs] are slaughtering each other. I wish our leaders would imitate you instead of fighting our own brothers.”

Rabbi Yehuda Glick is an activist pushing for Jewish prayers on the Temple Mount. Despite being critically wounded in a Palestinian assassination attempt last year, he remains an optimist.

“I am not at all surprised that Israelis are a happy people and ranked 11th,” he said. “I meet so many people who love Israel and who are satisfied with what the Land gives us - people who appreciate the simple fact that a few years ago, we did not even have a country. Therefore, nothing should be taken for granted, especially not such a wonderful country like Israel.”



Trump Heiress is Jewish

Extract Courtesy of Israel Today



Ivanka Trump, the daughter of American billionaire Donald Trump, says she is happy to be Jewish. She converted in 2009 before marrying Jared Kushner, who is Orthodox.

“We observe the Sabbath,” Ivanka told Vogue magazine. “From Friday to Saturday we don’t do anything but hang out with one another. We don’t make phone calls.”

Ivanka, who is a mother of two, was raised a Christian. But now she has even taken the Hebrew name Yael.

“We’re pretty observant, more than some, less than others,” she says. “It’s been such a great life-decision for me. I really find that with Judaism, it creates an amazing blueprint for family connectivity.”

World’s Smallest Bible

Extract Courtesy of Israel Today



As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem has placed the world’s smallest Bible on display. The tiny text is a creation of the Nanotechnology Institute at the Technion university in Haifa.

The entire *Tanach* (Old Testament) with its 1.2 million words has

been embedded onto a microchip that must be magnified 10,000 times to be read. It was engraved using gallium ions from an ion beam generator and is no larger than a grain of sugar. A special microscope enables visitors to read the tiny text.

Hall of Fame Football Players Baptised in Jordan River, 'Walked Where Jesus Walked,' in Life Changing Israel Trip Sponsored by New England Patriots Owner

By Christine Thomasos, Christian Post

A goodwill trip to Israel, coined ‘Touchdown in Israel: Mission of Excellence,’ was organised by New England Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft, in coordination with Israel’s Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer and attended by 19 members of the U.S. Pro Football Hall of Fame. The week-long visit kicked off with the technology expo in Jerusalem’s Old City. Members of the delegation received an up close look at Israeli high-tech innovation via ten hand-picked companies, seven of which are funded on the OurCrowd equity crowdfunding platform.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft says lives were changed after he sponsored a trip to Israel where Hall of Fame football players were baptised in the Jordan River.

Kraft, 74, paid for the trip called, ‘Touchdown in Israel: Mission of Excellence’ where 19 Hall of Famers were invited to participate in community events, witness the country’s latest technological advancements and take part in spiritual rituals.

“I don’t think there’s a better place that you can bring people no matter what their faith might be,” Kraft said in a statement. “They come here and their lives are changed.”

About a dozen Hall of Famers were baptised in the same Jordan River where Jesus Christ was baptised by John the Baptist centuries ago. Chris Doleman, the Minnesota Vikings pro football Hall of

Famer, said the experience was the highlight of his trip.

“I think the highlight was being baptised in the Jordan River,” the former Vikings defensive end said last week in a Star Tribune report. “Everybody can’t say that one.”

The weeklong trip that took place from June 16-23 came about after football fan and Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, last March. After his visit, Dermer reached out to Hall of Fame President David Baker with the idea of the trip to tour his country, and inspire fans of football there, according to the Pro Football Hall of Fame website.

Mark Wilf, the Vikings co-owner and president, said the tour impacted him spiritually.



And former Viking Paul Krause, who was also selected to join the group, told the Star Tribune, “The Hall wanted us to write a little essay on why we wanted to be picked to go. I wrote one sentence, ‘I want to walk where Jesus walked.’ It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip. You get goose bumps.”

Israel’s Down-to-Earth President

Extract Courtesy of Israel Today

President Reuven Rivlin’s motorcade made an abrupt, unscheduled stop not far from his official residence in Jerusalem. He emerged from his armored Audi A8 and strolled as casually as any other customer into a minimarket.

“Shalom, I want to buy soccer trading cards for my grandchildren,” the president told the stunned shopkeeper, Nadav Katan, who thought he must be the victim of a hidden camera prank.

Rivlin sought Katan’s recommendation of the best cards and, satisfied with his choice, he bought 15 packs.

“The truth is that the president’s wife comes in often, but to see the president himself was a real surprise,” said Katan. “He walked in like anyone else and paid in cash.”

Earlier that day, Rivlin paid a visit to his granddaughter’s kindergarten. He and his wife, Nechama, were invited to participate in “Grandparents’ Day” at the school, where they played, danced and did crafts alongside the other grandparents.

“One of my grandsons told me after my election, ‘Grandpa is president, but he is first of all a grandfather,’” recalled Rivlin. “How right he was.”



Israelis Eat Healthiest

Extract Courtesy of Israel Today

A study published in Britain’s Lancet Global Health journal found that Israel has the healthiest diet of Western countries and the ninth healthiest in the world. Researchers examined the diets of 187 countries which are home to 4.5 billion adult residents.

The study revealed that the more grains, legumes, milk, fiber, omega-3, fish and fruit in the diet, the healthier the people. Israel ranked high because of the fresh vegetables, olive oil, fruit and grains in its diet along with a moderate consumption of proteins.

Despite widespread poverty, the highest rankings went to African countries due to their simple diets and the lack of processed and junk foods. Likewise, Israel ranked high because the amount of processed foods eaten here is much less diet than in Western countries, including the US and Canada.

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Lena Cried, "One Day We Will Go." The Words of My Grandparents

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Leader, Ukraine



Aliyah fieldworker Koen speaks to Jewish refugees, soon they will make Aliyah



Not an easy time for Jewish refugees

In a virtually abandoned and derelict little town in the eastern part of Ukraine, another shelter, that can house a maximum of 50 Jewish refugees, was opened recently.

It is a plain but well maintained space. After accompanying a large group of Jewish refugees in Zaporozhe (an industrial city with 900,000 inhabitants) to the consulate in Dnepropetrovsk, we had ample time to visit this second shelter. We were

warmly received by the person in charge, and had time to explore the area. At supper that evening, we talked to the refugees.

Suspicion was written on their faces initially, but after introducing ourselves over a cup of tea, the atmosphere became more amicable. 76 year old Hanna, her blind husband and only son had fled from Lugansk in mid-February. This was a harrowing nightmare, especially for the blind man, who has difficulty with orientation.

We had a gripping discussion with Lena. She lived in an old house in Makiyivka, a mining town close to Donetsk, with her husband, daughter, son-in-law and only granddaughter, 5 year old Eva. When the fighting and bombing became heavier, the family decided to flee.

Her daughter, Christine, is expecting her second child in the near future. Lena told us how difficult it was to decide to leave everything behind but, how strangely enough, she frequently thought of her grandparents' often repeated words, 'One day, we will leave for Israel.'

"The initial idea, when we fled from Makiyivka", she said, "was to return once things settle down". Lena repeats that she continually thought about the words her grandparents' often repeated many years ago. Lena sighs as she reiterates that they cannot go back, and are preparing to leave for Israel permanently. She started weeping when we requested her to, audibly, read the Bible verses from *Ezekiel 35:25-27* to her grandchild Eva, who will soon be turning six.

She was deeply touched by the prophets' words, spoken thousands of years ago. The Bible verses are so appropriate, she might as well have been reading from a present day newspaper.

The family has now been in Hadera, Israel, for a few weeks. After fleeing to an unknown destination somewhere in Ukraine, they have come to the place, prepared for them by the Almighty.

Hiring of Buses

Larger buses are often hired, to transport Jewish People to the consulate and airport. We are thankful that this remains possible. We are planning on returning to the east in the near future!



Lena is reading out loud (Ezekiel 35: 25-27)

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