

ReflectionNZ

Christians for Israel New Zealand

Newsletter Issue 2
September 2017

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Meet

Our NZ Team

Introducing: Cathy Eksteen



Whenever you ring the office in Auckland you will meet Cathy and be charmed by her personality, knowledge and outstanding communication skills.

Cathy is a highly qualified, multi gifted person. Her past careers include Office Management, Sales, Marketing and Real Estate.

She is blessed with a great sense of humour and relates easily to people of all ages and is a person of the highest integrity.

Cathy lives in Auckland (ex South Africa) with husband Johan. They have two beautiful children, Brian 13 years old and Shayna 11 years old.

Happy Rosh Hashanah

By Bryce Turner, New Zealand National Executive Director

Welcome to ReflectionNZ, the newsletter of Christians for Israel New Zealand. Thank you for taking the time to catch up on some of our news and activities. Please feel free to let others know of our work, and especially of our website where newsletters and past-editions of the paper are always available.

Here in NZ, we are starting to see the weather slowly changing, with more daylight hours, less rain, and no more ice on the car windows in the morning. We look forward to the warmth, the fresh new spring growth on the plants starting to appear, and my back lawn no longer being a swamp! Later this month Israel will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year - a time of refreshing and renewing. Right now many Israelis will be preparing with prayers and introspection. Rosh Hashanah comes at the end of the month of Elul and signifies the start of the 'High Holy Days' (or 'High Holidays'). Ten days later (the Ten Days of Repentance), the High Holy Days conclude with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Across Israel, people will be looking forward to a time of refreshing, a new season.

In just a few weeks New Zealanders will head to the polls, to elect a government for the next three years. The Bible doesn't say a lot about elections, but it does say, 'I urge... that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made... for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' Can I encourage you to pray for those who will lead our country, that the next three years might be a fresh, new season of positive, constructive relationship with Israel!

Thank you all for your continued support of Israel, and the work of Christians for Israel New Zealand. We trust you will enjoy our newsletter and have a happy Rosh Hashanah.

What's Happening in the Office?

From Strength to Strength

By Cathy Eksteen, Office and Administration Manager

Wow! What exciting and interesting few months it has been. Bryce and the Christians for Israel board have been incredibly supportive and encouraging during the recent transition here in the New Zealand office, and we can look forward to continued growth, fresh approaches and positive attitudes. I have to say that I'm super blessed to be a part of this incredible team.

Thanks to everyone for your patience as we improve our office systems to cope with the growing number of new supporters, financial supporters, book orders, increased communication as well as keeping the database up-to-date for the newspaper and newsletter to be produced. It has been quite a complicated, time-consuming task - all good 'problems' to have. To our financial supporters, our humble, grateful thanks for all your ongoing contributions! You should by now have received your 'Giving Acknowledgements' for the last financial year. Please check them carefully. You will also notice that you now have a 'Supporter Number', please use this for all your communication and auto payment/internet donations. Donations for Aliyah have also increased, and I'm a bit behind on getting certificates out, but those will be out to you soon. Feel free to drop me a line or send me an email if you require resources, need anything, suggest anything or simply to say "Hi".

Jewish Kitchen

Poppy Seed and Walnut Kugel



Kugels are a mainstay of festive meals in Jewish homes, particularly on the Sabbath and other Jewish holidays. Some believe that eating kugel on the Sabbath brings special spiritual blessings. There are variations of this dish, such as noodle or potato kugel. The inspiration for this recipe comes from Hungarian cuisine, in which noodles are served with either walnuts or poppy seeds and sugar. Here both are combined in a savory kugel.

Ingredients:

1 lb. noodles or wide egg noodles
 1 cup walnuts
 8 tablespoons butter
 3 tablespoons poppy seeds
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 lb. sour cream
 1 lb. cream cheese
 6 eggs, lightly beaten
 1 tablespoon kosher salt
 ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
 ½ cup golden raisins

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 325° F (165° C). Grease a loaf tin. Boil noodles in salted water until al dente and chewy (a couple minutes less than directed on the package). Drain but do not rinse. Transfer to a large bowl.

Put walnuts in a ziplock bag and break into small crumbs using a rolling pin. Put butter in a non-stick pan over medium heat and melt. Then add walnuts, poppy seeds and sugar. Cook, stirring frequently, until walnuts are golden and the mixture gives off a nice aroma, about 10 minutes. Pour over noodles and mix well.

Mix sour cream and cream cheese into noodles. Add eggs, salt, pepper and raisins, and mix again. Pour into greased pan and bake for 1 hour, or until center is set. Let stand for 15 min before serving. Serve warm.

What's Happening?

Strong Kiwi Support for Israel: Israel Institute of NZ Poll

A new poll on the attitudes of New Zealanders to Israel, commissioned by the Israel Institute of New Zealand and conducted by Curia Research, shows four times as many kiwis support Israel as are opposed to the Jewish State. 55% of almost 1,000 kiwis surveyed expressed their support for Israel, compared to only 13% against.

Co-director of the Israel Institute, Dr David Cumin, says these results defy the media and political portrayal of Israel.

“The support for Israel is most encouraging at a time when Israel is demonised in the media and blamed, by some, for putting obstacles in the way of peace. It’s also important to know that there is support when Jews are once again under threat around the world and need to know that they have a safe haven in their ancestral homeland.”

The poll also included a question about attitudes toward New Zealand’s co-sponsorship of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 in December 2016. The resolution demanded that “Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem” – sparking significant public debate and leading to a temporary suspension of Israel/NZ relations.

The Israeli Ambassador returned to Wellington last month, after Gerry Brownlee replaced Murray McCully as Foreign Minister and wrote to the Israeli Prime Minister indicating that “New Zealand wanted to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and regretted that there had been fallout from the co-sponsorship of the resolution”.

However, according to the survey, only 27% believe the government was right to co-sponsor the resolution. 30% believe that the Government should have abstained and 43% unsure.

Dr Cumin says this result shows how controversial the vote was and highlights the lack of understanding among most New Zealanders about the resolution.

Other results

On the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish majority State:

Men were more likely than women to believe that Israel should exist as a majority Jewish State – but both represented a majority (60% and 51%) vs those who believe that Israel should not exist as a majority Jewish State (13% of men and 12% of women). 18 to 30 year olds and over 60s are most likely to support Israel as a majority Jewish State (58% of both).

National voters (58% for and 10% against) were the most likely to believe in Israel’s right to exist as a majority Jewish State – and NZ First voters (51% for and 20% against) were least likely to accept this. A surprising 56% of Greens voters supported the existence of a majority Jewish State, while only 21% did not.

“Support for Israel cuts across ages, genders, location and party lines”.

In other surprising results related to the UN resolution 2334:

Women were significantly less likely than men to have wanted the Government to co-sponsor the resolution (23% of women vs 32% of men) compared to 28% and 31%, respectively, who thought New Zealand should have abstained.

37% of Wellingtonians believed that the Government should have abstained from the resolution – while just 16% of Wellingtonians thought the Government should have co-sponsored it

34% of Labour voters and 26% of Greens voters thought the Government should have abstained from the resolution, compared to 25% and 45% who thought co-sponsorship was a good idea.

“Clearly, kiwis are strongly conflicted on how New Zealand should have dealt with UN Resolution 2334 and these results have the potential to be a significant factor influencing the way that people will vote in September”.

Dr Cumin said that the Institute will be circulating the poll results to all politicians and will publish their responses prior to the election.

NOTE: The poll was conducted by Curia Market Research in July 2017 and has a 3.2% margin of error.

Events Around

New Zealand

September 2017

Welcome to our 'What's Happening' column, where you will find events happening in your area.

Monthly events can also be found on our website www.c4israel.org.nz on the 'What's Happening' page.

If you have an event that you would like to advertise, email Cathy Coldicutt: newspaper@c4israel.org or go to our website 'What's Happening' page. Be sure to include the name of your event, where it is being held, date and time.

N.B: The publishing of an event is up to the discretion of Christians for Israel NZ.

Did You Know?

5-Star Hotel in Lifeguard Tower



In Tel Aviv a lifeguard tower has been turned into a 5-star hotel. There is no shortage of beachfront hotels in the coastal city, but this seaside luxury suite literally on the beach is in a class all its own.

"The transformation of a lifeguard tower into a luxury hotel for tourists is a perfect example of the innovation that drives Tel Aviv's success - in technology, in tourism and in lifestyle," said Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai.

"This unique project takes advantage of Tel Aviv's world renowned beaches in an exciting and creative way, giving us an additional tool in our daily efforts to promote the city as a top international tourist destination."



Media Release: 4 September 2017

Kiwi Views on Israel may affect election outcome

The Israel Institute of New Zealand has today released a voters' guide for the election, based on recent analysis of MPs' positions on the country's relations with Israel.

New Zealand's backing of UN Resolution 2334 in late December last year triggered an avalanche of letters and emails to MPs from all parties by New Zealanders worried about the implications of this resolution on the safety and security of Israel.

According to Institute Co-Director David Cumin, the Government supported the resolution despite concerns about its consequences from the United States, Russia, and other countries.

"New Zealand backed the position of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela over traditional allies and the resulting damage to NZ-Israel relations was severe".

Dr Cumin says that action may now have an effect on what looks to be a tightening election race.

"A recent survey conducted by Curia Research, on behalf of the Institute, showed strong support for Israel amongst kiwis and demonstrated that many New Zealanders are uncomfortable with the actions which were taken by the Government".

He says the Voters' guide evaluates party positions on resolution 2334.

"We asked Parliamentarians and Parties whether they have specifically condemned Palestinian terrorism or incitement to terror by the Palestinian Authority; whether the Party supports a negotiated, rather than imposed, solution to the conflict; and if there is support for increased ties between New Zealand and Israel".

He says summary data and quotes are presented for political party leaders, members of the New Zealand Israel Parliamentary Friendship group, and notable MPs.

"The voters' guide will be a useful tool as the country goes to the polls. Voters can now see where individual candidates or parties stand on this important issue relating to the sort of values New Zealand projects internationally. Especially at a time of growing international extremism, I think New Zealanders will be keener than ever that we support nations like Israel, that are modern, open, liberal democracies such as our own."

For access to the voters' guide, go to: www.israelinstitute.nz/voters-guide/



- For the office team, especially Cathy Eksteen, who are in the middle of a huge system upgrade to help us process our communications and donor information more efficiently.
- For the Christians for Israel work being developed around the South Pacific by Mr Robert Siakimotu.
- As New Zealand heads to the polls in just a few weeks, may the new Government may be wise and discerning, and prepared to further develop its relationship with Israel in spite of international misinformation.
- For the nation of Israel as they head into the High Holidays. That this may truly be a time of peace and refreshing, and that they will be spared violence and attack especially during this time.
- For those travelling - especially from New Zealand and Australia - to the BethSheba centennial celebrations. May they be safe, and enjoy the special relationship we have with Israel in commemorating these events.

Extra for Experts - Test your Biblical Knowledge

Have a go at our Biblical word search. See how many words you can find.

Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
Yom Kippur	High Holidays
Celebrations	Story
Customs	Songs
Traditions	Selichot
Hebrew	Shofar
Prayer	Lekach
History	Atonement
Ellul	Moses
Repentance	New Year
Charity	Stone Tablets

U W T N G Y R N B K Q L E K S P W D C A
 S Y A D I L O H H G I H J S T S Z E Y T
 S O N G S V S M P F M E N H E I L P T O
 O V L U V H H I K K W O H L L E F R I N
 U L U M D F H C P I I U I C B M Y A R E
 Y N E W Y E A R S T P C J R A Q M Y A M
 J R J R I P S H I Y H P A H T K F E H E
 J D O O W A H D L O A T U O E M E R C N
 C T F T B N A B T B I S L R N B O L J T
 S L H S S R N S M O T S U C O K R S Q E
 G L L Z T I A F N S P V L B T B W E E J
 R A F O H S H S U K V V L H S J V N W S
 R E P E N T A N C E P K E W F F V H C I

Jewish Contribution to the World

Levi Strauss - Father of Blue Jeans



When the gold rush broke out in California in 1848, adventurers came from all over the world. Löb Strauss, a German-Jewish immigrant, travelled west in 1853 to bring his family's dry goods business to the bustling new hub of San Francisco.

Strauss established a dry goods shop called Levi Strauss & Co. (Löb had adopted Levi as his first name) where the gold-diggers could buy clothes, tents and tools.

In 1872, a customer named Jacob Davis, who was a tailor in Nevada, wrote to him with the idea to reinforce his pants with rivets. The two men jointly applied for a patent and soon after produced a pair of robust denim pants with copper rivets at the stress points: the first pair of blue jeans.

For years to come, blue jeans were nothing more than work pants used in the California mines and other rigorous labour. But in the 1920s, tourists started arriving to the new holiday resorts established in California. They brought pairs of blue jeans back home and began a fashion revolution.

Blue jeans became so popular that they had to be rationed. In order to save material during the war years, Levi Strauss & Co. was forbidden to embroider the decorative bow on its jeans. The symbol had to be painted on.

Levi Strauss died on September 26, 1902, in San Francisco at the age of 73. Having never married, Strauss left his business and his fortune to his four nephews – Jacob, Sigmund, Louis, and Abraham Stern – the sons of his beloved sister Fanny and her husband David Stern. Strauss also left bequests to a number of charities, such as the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum and the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. Scholarships that he established at the University of California Berkeley (Levi Strauss Scholarships) remain in effect.



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