

Levitt Letter

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." —ROMANS 10:1



Ever heard of "the peace that passes all understanding"? You probably won't believe this story, but read it anyway. —Jeff Seif

Why Israel Is The World's Happiest Country

By "Spengler"
www.ATimes.com
Asia Times Online



Envy surrounds no country on Earth like the State of Israel, and with good reason: by objective measures, *Israel is the happiest nation on Earth at the 60th anniversary of its founding*. It is one of the wealthiest, freest, and best-educated; and it enjoys a higher life expectancy than Germany or the Netherlands. But most remarkable is that Israelis appear to love life and hate death more than any other nation. If history is made not by rational design but by the demands of the human heart, as I have argued before, the light heart of the Israelis in face of continuous danger is a singularity worthy of a closer look.

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Photo: Will King, ImagesofIsrael.com

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Israel At 60

By Alan M. Dershowitz,
www.CSMonitor.com



Dershowitz

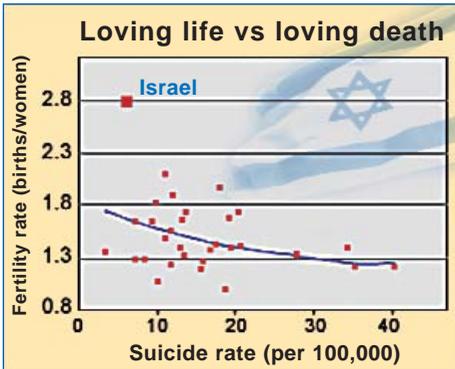
As Israel celebrates 60 years of nationhood this year, and looks ahead to the next 60 years, the world should appreciate what the Jewish state has accomplished.

Built on the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel's birth was followed by a massive attack from all sides by the surrounding Arab nations. Threatening another genocide, they managed to kill 1 percent of Israel's population, but Israel survived—and even thrived.

In the years since, the Jewish nation has turned deserts into gardens, swamps into orchards, sand dunes into cities. Lacking the natural resources of its neighbors, Israel made the best of what it had. It became a high-tech giant, specializing in life-saving medical technology. Indeed, it ranks second only to the United States in NASDAQ listings.

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Can it be a coincidence that this most ancient of nations, and the only nation persuaded that it was summoned into history for God's service, consists of individuals who appear to love life more than any other people? As a simple index of life-preference, I plotted the fertility rate versus the suicide rate of 35 industrial countries (see them at www.levitt.com/news)—that is, people who choose to create new life against those who choose to destroy their own. Israel stands alone, positioned in the upper-left, life-loving portion of the chart. Those who believe in Israel's divine election might see a special grace reflected in its love of life.



Israel is surrounded by neighbors willing to kill themselves in order to destroy it. “As much as you love life, we love death,” Muslim clerics teach; the same formula is found in a Palestinian textbook for second graders. Apart from the fact that the Arabs are among the least free, least educated, and (apart from the oil states) poorest peoples in the world, they also are the unhappiest, even in their wealthiest kingdoms.

The contrast of Israeli happiness and Arab despondency is what makes peace an elusive goal in the region. It cannot be attributed to material conditions of life. Oil-rich Saudi Arabia ranks 171st on an international quality of life index, below Rwanda. Israel is tied with Singapore on this index, although it should be observed that Israel ranks a runaway first on my life-preference index, whereas Singapore comes in dead last.

Israel's love of life is more than an ethnic characteristic. For one thing, Israelis are far more religious than

American Jews. Two-thirds of Israelis believe in God, although only a quarter observe their religion strictly. Even Israelis averse to religion evince a different kind of secularism than we find in the secular West. They speak the language of the Bible and undergo 12 years of Bible studies in state elementary and secondary schools. The faith of Israelis is unique.

If faith makes the Israelis happy, then why are the Arabs, whose observance of Islam seems so much stricter, so miserable?

Islam offers its adherents not love—for Allah does not reveal himself in love after the fashion of God—but rather success. Islam (which translates as “submission”) does not understand faith—trust in a loving God even when His actions appear incomprehensible—in the manner of Jews and Christians. Because the whim of Allah controls every event from the orbit of each electron to the outcome of battles, Muslims know only success or failure at each moment in time.

The military, economic, and cultural failures of Islamic societies are intolerable in Muslim eyes; Jewish success is an abomination, for in the view of Muslims it is the due of the faithful and it is to be coveted and seized from the usurpers at the first opportunity. It is not too much of a stretch to assert that Israel's love of life, its happiness in faith, is precisely the characteristic that makes a regional peace impossible to achieve. The usurpation of the happiness that Muslims believe is due them is sufficient cause to kill one's self in order to take happiness away from the Jewish enemy. If Israel's opponents fail to ruin Israel's happiness, there is at least a spark of hope that they may decide to choose happiness for themselves.

If the Israelis are the happiest country on Earth, it seems likely that they will do what is required to keep their country, despite the odds against them. I do not know whether they will succeed. If Israel fails, however, the rest of the world will lose a unique gauge of the human capacity for happiness as well as faith. I cannot conceive of a sadder event. ★

Note From Zola - May 1998

I must award the grand prize for Israel-bashing.



This month it should certainly go to Peter Jennings of ABC News. The story he broadcast was one that should make almost everyone very happy; Israeli archaeologists unearthed a pavement running alongside the Western Wall of the Temple that was undoubtedly used by Jesus. To find the very footsteps of our Lord, and authenticate the exact paving stones, is simply a wonderful and faith-building exercise, especially for Christians.

But Jennings discolored the story with remarks about Israel. He emphasized that they would use it for a tourist attraction, and implied that their motive for finding it was purely commercial.

He buttressed this distortion by presenting a Catholic priest who voiced similar insults. One has only to think of the terrific tourism exploitations of the Catholic Church for centuries in the Holy Land to give him the lie. The so-called “Stations of the Cross,” an imaginary path that Jesus was supposed to have walked, what they supposed is the Via Dolorosa, is a good example.

CBS, on the other hand, ran a special called “To Life,” celebrating Israel’s 50 years, in a fair and unbiased manner. There is a difference between networks.

Before leaving the subject, I should compliment Tom Brokaw and NBC News which is invariably more fair to Israel than CNN or ABC. None of them, truth to tell, simply give the everyday truth about Israel—a democracy, our best ally in the Middle East, and a true friend to America. The real motives of the archaeologists are the same as always in Israel—good scholarship, competent identification skills, and fairness to all faiths and all nations.

Another important archaeological find is the synagogue dating from 50 B.C.

recently found outside of Jericho. This is sure to raise a rumpus with the Palestinians, who were given the city of Jericho at the beginning of what some still call the peace process (I couldn’t help but remember that in a pitched battle for that city the Israelites won it clearly 3,500 years ago!).

At that time, some Palestinians had the *chutzpah* to try to claim the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found at Qumran, near Jericho to the south. This amazing claim of Jewish scrolls—written in Hebrew and Aramaic—by an antagonistic people was based on some U.N. ruling that antiquities found on land belong to the present holders of the land. (See pg. 17 for descriptions of our Dead Sea Scrolls TV series.) Even we in America, usurpers of land that we have been, do not have the temerity to claim Indian burial grounds as belonging to us immigrants.

Arrowheads and the like are reckoned to their original owners in this country and the world around.

But I expect the Palestinians to claim that synagogue any time now. ★

Israel At 60 *continued*

Faced with barren land, Israel has also developed agricultural technologies that maximize food production, and exported these life-saving and life-enhancing technologies to the rest of the world. This young nation has also produced more art, literature, music, academic articles, and books than most countries triple its size.

Israel’s Arab citizens, numbering 1.2 million, live longer, healthier lives, and have lower infant mortality, better educational opportunities, and more basic liberties than the Arab populations of neighboring states.

Even in its efforts to defend itself from aggression—it was attacked by Arab states in 1948, 1967, and 1973—Israel has exemplified restraint and high ethical standards.

Read more about Israel’s 60 most recent years at www.levitt.com. ★

Farewell Lebanon?

By Patrick Cox,
Contributing Editor



As I write this, Lebanon teeters on the verge of another civil war. By the time you read these words, I suspect that democratic Lebanon will be a footnote in history books about the brief interlude between the end of the old Ottoman Empire and the modern Islamic imperialism. Already, the Christian remnant is beginning again to flee their ancient homeland—one of the world's first Christian nations.

Lebanese Christians are, by the way, descendants of one of the greatest of pre-Christian cultures; the Phoenicians. They were responsible for building the first international trade routes as well as spreading the alphabet, accounting and literacy throughout the world. Their language was similar enough to Hebrew that many linguists believe speakers of each language could communicate with little difficulty.

Under a tolerant Christian majority, post-Ottoman Lebanon was a beauti-

ful and peaceful nation enjoying a prosperity that extended across religious and cultural lines. Among the many celebratory metaphors heaped on that bygone nation was “the Switzerland of the Middle East” due to its sophisticated international banking and financial system. When I was a child, Beirut was known as “the Paris of Western Asia” due to its cultural richness. Neither Paris nor Switzerland, however, could ever boast of a perfect climate or mountains close enough to the coast that you could ski world-class slopes in the morning and swim in the Mediterranean in the afternoon.

Christian Lebanon began to disintegrate when the pro-Western government of the Shah of Iran fell to the Islamic Revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini (with the assistance of Jimmy Carter's administration). Shia Islamists immediately set about expanding their authority, exploiting Lebanon's welcoming multicultural tolerance to implant a malignant Islamic supremacism. Iran's equivalent of Hitler's SS, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, created and funded Hezbollah for a number of openly stated reasons. At the top of the list were the replacement of democracy with *sharia* law in Lebanon and the elimination of Israel.



Hezbollah launched relentless attacks on both Lebanese Christians and Israel. Israel's unsuccessful and expensive efforts to stop attacks from inside Lebanon prompted international condemnation and demoralized Israelis. As Christians fled for their lives, Shia Muslims poured into Lebanon with the financial assistance of Iran.

An estimated 10 million Christians left Lebanon, though that figure may be low. Today, Christians are an embattled minority struggling to triangulate between the two real powers in the country, the Saudi-backed Sunni and the Shia Hezbollah.

The latest fighting started when the elected government announced its opposition to Hezbollah's construction of an alternate and illegal military infrastructure within Lebanon. A hardened Iranian communications network, which Hezbollah defends as a necessary element of plans to defeat Israel, is nearing construction. Hezbollah had turned the Beirut airport into a shipment center for Iranian arms used by forces aimed at Israel in the South.

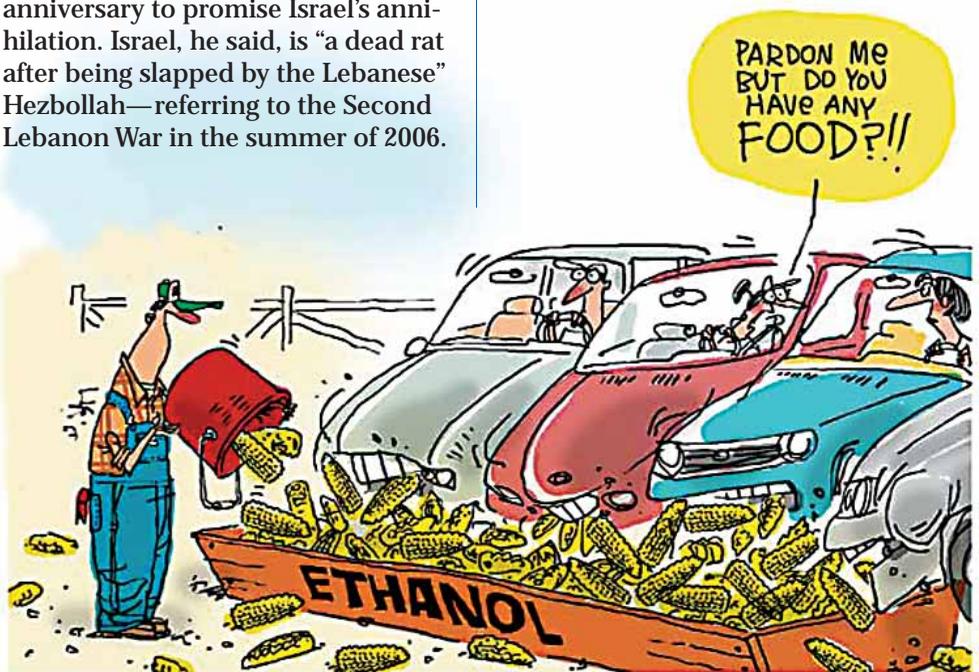
As fighting escalated and Beirut was cut off, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad used Israel's 60th anniversary to promise Israel's annihilation. Israel, he said, is "a dead rat after being slapped by the Lebanese" Hezbollah—referring to the Second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006.

Simultaneously, he crowed of progress in Iran's nuclear program.

Soon the last traces of one of the first Christian nations will be eliminated by a militant and self-confident Islam, just as Christian Bethlehem in the Palestinian West Bank has been forcibly Islamicized. Those who accomplished this destruction are now set on using Lebanon as a staging area for their next conquest, Israel. This isn't a conspiracy theory, by the way, it is a boast by those who promise to move on then to Spain and America.

In the West, many of those who are very good at enjoying the freedoms won by Judeo-Christian culture have shrunk into a sort of pathetic, pacifistic self-loathing. Incapable of defending the fruits of the Enlightenment, they blame the victims of Islamic imperialism rather than the perpetrators.

Most interesting to me is the widespread and unshakable confidence that everything will just work out if we do nothing. This Pollyannaish "faith" in the face of such overwhelming evidence, including the ruin of Lebanon, is astonishingly unperturbed by doubt. If only my faith were as sure. ★



1 Corinthians 13:11
***“When I was a child,
 I spoke as a child, I
 understood as a child, I
 thought as a child; but when
 I became a man, I put
 away childish things.”***

Shalom From Sandra



I remember as a child, waiting and longing for summer when I would be free from school. I could hang out with my friends, go to bed late, swim, catch fireflies, go to baseball games, and enjoy not having a schedule. I was independent for a short time before the next school year began and I loved it. For me, July sparks thoughts of different kinds of independence, not just the July 4th birthday of America. But these independences all have the same underlying theme: Freedom. Summer's independence of families from the rigors of the school year, the Israelites' independence from the Egyptians in the Passover, vacations' independence from the workplace, and political independence of many countries.

I am still excited about Israel's 60th year as a modern state and I still marvel at how far that tiny nation has come and how blessed it is. But, isn't it really Israel's 3,060th anniversary? King David conquered Jerusalem and Israel some 3,000 years ago. I was in Israel in 2000, when the world celebrated the 3,000 years of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. That's correct; Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, not Tel Aviv.

Until recently, Costa Rica and El Salvador were the only countries with embassies in Jerusalem. No other countries recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Eventually, however, they both caved to international pressure and moved their embassies to Tel Aviv. Jerusalem is home to consulates from many countries, but not to their embassies. Every American presidential candidate for the last five elections has promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. I am still waiting for that campaign promise to be kept.

As we slow down during the summer months and take those long-awaited vacations—independences!—to recharge our minds and bodies, let us also remember to slow down and recharge our spiritual souls, and thank God for our independence from the slavery of sin. God sent His Son, Yeshua, to be our permanent Independence from sin and death. We have freedom. We were bought for a price, just as most independence is bought. As Zola used to say, “Salvation is like a gift certificate; someone has paid for it, and it is free to you because they already paid.”

As this *Levitt Letter* reaches you, I will be in Israel with the summer “Discover Israel” tour and loving every minute. Israel is one way that I celebrate my independence from the world: I walk in the footsteps of our Messiah, I read my Bible in the Holy Land, and I celebrate my victory from sin. Join Jeff and me for the trip of a lifetime!

We would love to show you Israel. Please see the Holy Land tour announcement on page 36.

And please, pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

Blessings,



The “Seed” That Blesses All Nations Comes From Israel

By Dr. Todd Baker, Staff Theologian

The spring 2008 Gospel Outreach to Israel began with great difficulty: American Airlines had to lighten the plane’s cargo in Dallas, Texas, and our luggage was among the items chosen to be offloaded.



When Jesus sent out the twelve Disciples in Matthew 10, He commanded them not to acquire money or change of clothing or shoes, etc. for their journey. He deliberately prohibited the twelve from making these provisions so that God’s direct and supernatural provision could be inarguably seen.

Now, Paul Colley and I found ourselves in the same situation—all we had were the clothes on our backs and our small carry-on bags containing some Gospel tracts and Hebrew Bibles. We were in a desperate situation and had no choice but to simply trust the Lord day by day for our needs. This situation lasted four-and-a-half days during which God provided for us spectacularly!

Aboard the plane for Israel our seeming disaster faded when Paul and I began talking with a stewardess named Liat. She was genuinely interested in what we told her about God’s plan and purpose for the Chosen People as prophesied in the Bible, when God called Abraham to be the father of the Jewish people, whose descendants would bless all nations of the Earth (Gen. 12:3).

We told her that this prophecy was ultimately fulfilled by the greatest Jew who ever lived—Jesus of Nazareth, who brought the blessings of salvation to the whole world through the Jewish message of the Gospel (see Galatians 3:6-9, 14-16). In the present day, Jesus—who *still* lives—has brought His Chosen People back to their Land of

Promise to await His return, fulfilling what Moses and the prophets foretold in the *Tanach* (Old Testament). In this, He will redeem the Jewish people and reign over all the Earth.

Liat asked how Jesus could return when He had died. We answered that Jesus did die, but God raised Him from the dead to show the Father’s acceptance of the Son’s sacrificial death for mankind’s sins—an event that was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)! Liat shuddered, saying that it was “kind of creepy.” Paul and I assured her that far from being strange, the event had been foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures (*Tanach*) by King David in Psalm 16:10 when he predicted the resurrection of the Messiah.

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means that mankind’s greatest enemy has been conquered for those who put their trust in Him (see Job 19:25-27). Those who commit themselves to the risen Savior of Israel can face death boldly with unshakable confidence knowing that the Messiah has permanently gained victory over death and offers eternal life with Him. Liat cheerfully accepted a few Messianic Gospel tracts that explained all of this in detail. The tracts provide a list of the major Messianic prophecies given in the *Tanach* and show how Jesus fulfilled them in His life—proving that He is the Messiah of Israel, worthy of belief and trust from every Jew and gentile. ★

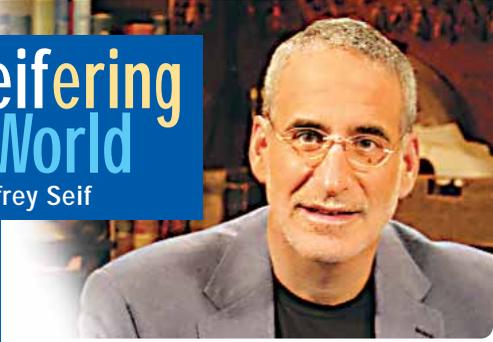
EARLY BURQA



In early 2007, I asked our viewers to help sponsor a TV series entitled *Bad Moon Rising*. You did, and our film crew went to Europe to shoot an exposé on the rise of Islam and its concurrent anti-Semitism.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



We visited the labor and death camps of a previous generation. We explored Islamic advancement on the Continent and its consequences for once-Christian Europe. We looked at Scripture.

Where the descendants of Abraham's son Isaac were banished from the European realm, it seems now that Abraham's sons through Ishmael—Muslims in this case—have entered Europe and are growing steadily. The former Nazi regime's claim that "the Jews are taking over Europe" was surely overstated; the notion that Islam is poised to take over Europe now, however, is not—note the Islamic population explosions in Denmark, Germany, England, and France, and the creeping *sharia* law.

I have reported this before in previous *Levitt Letters*, and in the *Bad Moon Rising* TV series. (If you missed it, you can order it on pg. 18 or see it at www.levitt.tv.) I bring it up again to share with you some of the fruits of your support: An international conference in Switzerland where Christian leaders and supporters from Munich, Tübingen, and Nuremberg in Germany; from Innsbruck in Austria, from various sites in and around Switzerland, and from various other places congregated to consider what God is doing in Europe and what the Church should be about in this hour.

My keynote speech on prophecy addressed threats requiring our vigilance today. A cadre of other speakers addressed related issues. German pastor Jobst Bittner—whom some of you might recall from our *Bad Moon Rising* series—spoke, as did pastors Markus Marosch, Ekkehard Hofig,

Arni Klein, Uwe Dahlke and Johannes Fichtenbauer. Holocaust survivors Rose Price and Peter Loth ministered on forgiveness and reconciliation. My good friend Ted Pearce led music, as did "Be'er Sheva," "Tanzgruppe Jesuha's Call" and the worship group "Immanuel," from Germany.

Before the event began, I attended a leadership breakfast in Widnau. Normally, when I'm invited to speak at a church or event, I ask the sponsor how I might help him particularly. In this case, there were a variety of leaders sitting around the table, and I was not sure which one to ask. I was trying to make conversation with all of them, in part, to identify the boss. Unable to pinpoint anyone, I finally asked.

Dry Bones WORDS NOT FIT TO PRINT?



www.drybonesblog.com

Learning that it cost about \$50,000 (American) to put on this event—renting the stadium, flying in the speakers, advertising, etc.—I asked, “Who is responsible for all of this?” *Everyone pointed to the lady serving the eggs: Susi Schmitter—and her husband Kurt.*

In this case, the stimulus wasn't a national leader with a big bankroll: it was a housewife with a big heart. When I asked Susi why she sponsored this event and how I could best serve her, she responded as follows: “I want Switzerland to experience what I saw on the *Bad Moon Rising* TV series. On the show you say that Christians need to rise up and wake up... well, I want to wake up Switzerland.”

Though gratified to learn that this ministry contributed to the conference's stimulus, it was more encouraging to see what one loving, Christian person can do. In this case, many people came from all over Europe. Why? At one level, they came because a housewife (and her spiritual mentor Peter Loth) really wanted them to.

At Zola Levitt Ministries, we don't just make TV: *we make disciples.* We advance Jesus' Kingdom into millions of homes, heads, and hearts because thousands of housewives want to help us get this story out. To all the Susies and Kurts out there in the world, I say, “Thank you” and hope you enjoy this *Levitt Letter*.

Death Camp Doctor—Most-Wanted Nazi

By David Rising,
Associated Press

Karl Lotter, a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Mauthausen concentration camp, had no trouble remembering the first time he watched SS doctor Aribert Heim kill a man.



Dr. Aribert Heim, ca. 1950

It was 1941, and an 18-year-old Jew had been sent to the clinic with a foot inflammation. Heim asked him about himself and why he was so fit. The young man said he had been a soccer player and swimmer.

Then, instead of treating the prisoner's foot, Heim anesthetized him, cut him open, castrated him, took apart one kidney and removed the second, Lotter said. The victim's head was removed and the flesh boiled off so that Heim could keep it on display.

“He needed the head because of its perfect teeth,” Lotter, a non-Jewish political prisoner, recalled in testimony eight years later. “Of all the camp doctors in Mauthausen, Dr. Heim was the most horrible.”

But Heim managed to avoid prosecution and today he is the most-wanted suspected Nazi war criminal on a list of hundreds that the Simon Wiesenthal Center estimates are still free.

A lack of political will in many countries and the “misplaced-sympathy syndrome”—reluctance to pursue aging suspects—have meant that few people have been brought to trial and convicted. ★



Patience Is A Virtue... And A Weapon

By Will King,
www.imagesofisrael.com



Will King

Israel is celebrating its 60th anniversary with free concerts, fireworks, and visits from foreign dignitaries. On the television, several programs look back at some of the important moments in the past sixty years, including one focused on the peace treaty with Jordan in 1994.

Jordan's King Hussein had lost Jerusalem and all of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) after the Six Day War, but then wisely decided to sit out the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Twenty years later, after Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords, King Hussein signaled that it was time for peace. The program detailed the secret meetings, the people involved, and the cloak-and-dagger atmosphere surrounding the peace dialogue.

After I watched this, it struck me that in those sixty years only two Arab nations had sought a formal peace treaty with Israel. So what are the other Arab nations waiting for?

Most Arab states have said that they will formally recognize Israel and enter into normal relations only after a Palestinian state is established. Of course, all the Arab demands must first be met; allow return of "refugees," divide Jerusalem, abandon settlements, etc. This all-or-nothing approach is known by another name, the Saudi Peace Plan, and it has been endorsed by the Arab League.

For all their talk of supporting Palestinian rights, the majority of Arab nations do nothing in practical terms to help the daily situation of the Palestinians. And by shutting out Israel, they also do nothing politically to move the peace process forward.

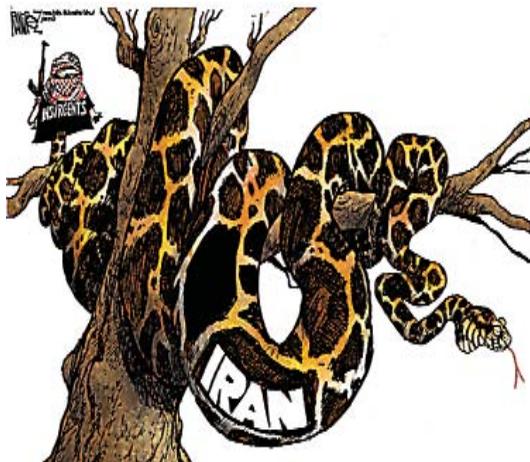
In Gaza, Hamas recently signaled that it would be willing to sign a 10-year

ceasefire after Israel abandons all Palestinian lands, agrees to the "right of return," divides Jerusalem, etc. So what happens after 10 years? Hamas would have had 10 years to rearm, train, and wait for its chance to finish the "liberation of Palestine."

Impatience emanates from the Western world, led by the United States. Outgoing U.S. presidents try to win their Nobel Peace Prizes, and George Bush is no different. The only question is whether the West's hurry-up attitude will play into the Arabs' strategy of patience and positioning, and what consequences a forced agreement by the end of Bush's term could have for Israel.

This push for peace by the West is not lost on the Arabs. The *Al-Quds al-Arabi* paper, based in the United Kingdom, recently published an opinion piece that stated, "The next six months will be the most dangerous, and many are trying to gain time, avoid pitfalls, and use diplomatic skills as a tool in this regard. This might prove to be useless however, in light of an American administration that is adopting the choice of war to secure its interests in the region."

Patience can be a virtue; but it can also be a weapon to wear down one's enemy. Israel, as the region's only Western-style democracy, is more susceptible to internal and international pressure over time. ★



Vladimir Putin and Ezekiel 38

By Joel C. Rosenberg,
JoelRosenberg.blogspot.com

Russian Prime Minister (then President) Vladimir Putin recently visited Libya, the first Russian leader in history to visit the North African country, creating a strategic alliance, signing numerous agreements, and negotiating a \$2.5 billion arms sale to this historic enemy of Israel.



Rosenberg

The trip will enable increased cooperation, given that we are both producers of gas and oil,' Kadhafi said. 'We will work together to defend our interests.' Libya is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2007-2008, and Kadhafi said the world body needed to be reformed in order to face what he called an 'imbalance of forces' internationally. Putin, who spoke in Russian, said: 'We must reflect on the project to reform the United Nations' and referred to 'a friendly country on the Security Council with which we can work together to resolve problems.' The Russian president said 'a large number of agreements' would be signed between the two countries during his 24-hour visit to Libya. Putin arrived in Tripoli at the head of a large delegation for a visit expected to be dominated by talks over energy contracts and arms sales."



Putin with Kadhafi

According to a report by Agence France Presse: "Libyan leader Muammar Kadhafi hailed Russian President Vladimir Putin's official visit as 'historic and strategic' during a state dinner at the Bab Azizia palace. 'This is the first visit by a Russian president to Libya. It is a historic, strategic, and very important visit.

This may be proof that the prophecies found in Ezekiel 38-39 are close to fulfillment. In my view, though, it remains too early to draw such a definitive conclusion. More would have to happen geopolitically for it to be indisputable that we were about to see the "War of Gog and Magog." That said, however, Putin's historic trip to Libya—along with many of Putin's moves over the past eight years, including his historic visit to Iran last fall—have been remarkably, even eerily, consistent with Biblical prophecy. —Jeff



MATSON
ST. LOUIS POST-DESPATCH

Bragging On An Ex-Employee

By Mark Levitt



Tony Derrick

During the seven years that Tony Derrick was our Israel tour manager, he helped lead about two dozen tours. With an average of nearly two buses per tour, Tony has been instrumental in roughly 2,000 Holy Land pilgrimages! During the previous ten years, he served as this ministry's shipping manager and also accompanied some of our tours as the praise and worship leader. He holds a master of divinity degree, and is a capable singer and public speaker. As a matter of fact, he gave the eulogy at Zola's funeral.

The March *Levitt Letter* announced that Abel Martinez, a Sephardic Jewish Believer, became our new travel manager. Tony had recently taken a group organizer position with our Israel tour land agency, Immanuel Tours, with which we have dealt exclusively since 2003. To learn about this Hebrew Christian group tour agency, please see *From Israel, With Love* on page 13.

Our ministry's tour department focuses on assembling groups of individuals who want to travel with pro-Israel Believers on a study tour that emphasizes biblical sites. By contrast, Immanuel Tours seeks to attract pre-formed groups, such as churches, who wish to travel exclusively with fellow members.

Zola founded our tour department in 1983 in order to offer a high-caliber tour without gimmicks. He used to say, "We know the tricks; we don't use them." One cost-saving trick is flying into Jordan rather than Tel Aviv and touting that as an extra country. Instead, we land in Tel Aviv to make smarter use of time. Another tactic takes passengers from gift shop to gift shop to gift shop in order to collect commissions from store owners. We don't allow this. Arab hotels, restaurants, guides, and drivers are cheaper than Jewish ones. But we choose the Jewish ones to give pilgrims a Jewish experience. Many tours sell tickets to their daily excursions, routinely nickel-and-diming their passengers. Our prices may seem higher by comparison, but you don't need to line up each morning to pay for that day's outing.

I make the points above to say that we stay with Immanuel Tours because, like us, they have been around long enough to know the tricks of the trade and to be savvy enough to watch out for the tourists' best interests on the ground in Israel. They are ethical and reliable Believers who are smart to cultivate long-term industry relationships rather than shortchange pilgrims in the short run. If your pastor wants to create his own tour and take a dozen or two members to Israel, he would do well to contact Tony at: 972-490-8573 or tony@idealtravelandtours.com. Tony does not work at this ministry anymore, but he certainly still works for the Lord and blesses Israel. ★



A Modern-Day Exodus!

Dear Reader –

Immanuel Tours is a father-son company based in Israel. It specializes in bringing Christian tour groups to Israel from around the world. Below is a message from David Meyers, who has taken the company's helm after a quarter century. —Mark

From Israel, With Love

By David Meyers

More Christians have visited Israel this year than in any other since 2000. In the wake of the Palestinian Authority's *intifada* in September 2000 and numerous suicide attacks, many regular groups quit coming. Numerous Israeli tour agencies went out of business, and several hotels closed.

Praise the Lord for the few organizations like Zola Levitt Ministries which continued coming to show support for the Jewish State.

Our company's founder and my father, Phillip Meyers, made *aliya* to Israel in 1962. He learned to speak Hebrew on a *kibbutz ulpan* [work/study program with Hebrew lessons]. Shortly before the Six Day War in 1967, he completed a government course in tourism. The Israeli government recruited Jewish Christians such as my father in order to promote Christian tourism. Consequently, he established Immanuel Tours Agencies in 1983, and it remains a family-owned concern dedicated to serving Christian groups worldwide. We offer tailor-made itineraries for each group and foster fellowship with local Believers and congregations. We also offer extension tours to Egypt and Jordan.

My father and I met Zola Levitt in Jerusalem in 2003 and have served Zola Levitt Ministries ever since. We can testify that Zola's tours, even in his absence, rank among the most comprehensive tours available. They visit a vast number of sites. Everything is included in the package price with

no hidden charges. Their exemplary level of service includes high caliber motor coaches, hotels and guides, free Internet access, a private assistance desk at hotels, and a farewell dinner. This tour package is unique and an experience which is second to none.



David Meyers, Immanuel Tours

To complete the picture we must note that Zola's experienced staff and travel manager, who are Christians, have a special love for Israel. They're always accessible to the tourists, and they pay attention to detail. It would be difficult to find a better way to experience the Land and people of Israel.

Why should Christians visit Israel in this day and age? First, of course, is the fact that the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God and Savior of the World, Jesus Christ, was born, lived, died, and rose from the dead here. Second, to support the people of Israel. The Jewish people have been able to return to the Land of Israel in accordance with the promises that God gave to our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob after almost 2,000 years of exile and of being scattered throughout the world. They are renewing their ancient language, Hebrew, and just 60 years ago were able to proclaim the modern State of Israel.

The history of the Jewish people and the Land from biblical times through today is an exciting story. And the return of the Jews to their ancient Land proves that the Word of God is true and is being fulfilled in our time. ★

Ask The Professor

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Dear Dr. Seif,

In your May 2008 *Personal Letter* (also the June *Levitt Letter*) you mention a terrorist attack against Ami Ortiz, the son of a Messianic Jewish minister in Israel and state that “Though initially the bomb was thought to be the work of Arab terrorists, the Israeli press now believe that the terrorist act may well be the work of ultra-religious, anti-Messianic Jewish extremists, enraged at those of us who advance the Gospel amongst our Jewish people.”

Jeff, unless you have bona-fide proof that this bombing was from Jewish elements and not from an Arab terrorist attack, you should not have launched this highly visible attack on Jewish people.

For this to be the main subject of your May letter is simply outrageous. We were very disappointed that you seem to be more terrorized by ultra-religious Jews more than by Arab terrorists. My enthusiasm for contributing to this ministry has been greatly diminished after reading your May 2008 *Personal Letter*.

I believe a clarification and an apology are in order.
M.S.

Dear M.S.—

According to the report in *Israel Today* (May 2008, p. 21) “Officials told David Ortiz that it was most likely the work of ultra-Orthodox Jews.” David, Ami’s dad and a Messianic pastor, was quoted as saying, “[The police] knew right away it wasn’t a Palestinian bomb. Palestinians use [primitive] bombs, this was professional.” In like manner, *The Jerusalem Post* noted the possibility of “radical Jews,” as did CBN and others. Reporting in the immediate aftermath of the savage attack, the “Messianic Jewish Action Committee” in Israel both reported on the Ortiz bombing and further exposed other “threats, personal attacks, and even violent demonstrations against Messianic congregations.”

Messianic Jews in Israel report experiencing targeted oppression by a small segment of right-wing, ultra-religious Jews. Messianic congregations have been forced to vacate facilities where they have secured leases, when their landlords bow to pressures from anti-Messianics. Various forms of personal attacks have been reported, including firings from work and firebombings at home. In the aftermath of one firebombing, a Messianic pastor in Jerusalem secured police protection for his children as they went to and from school. I know of congregations that found dung spread over their parking lots and building entrances, and have had their mail vandalized.

Messianic Speakers Available!

Want a Messianic Jewish message delivered in your church? Arrange it! **Drs. Jeffrey Seif, Tom McCall, and Todd Baker, and Sandra Levitt** can do pulpit supply, and address a wide range of subjects such as: The Gospel from a Jewish perspective, Why the Jews matter to Jesus and Christians, How the Old and New Testaments connect, Jews and today’s news in prophecy, and more. You already know Jeff and Sandra. Tom McCall grounded Zola’s theology, co-authoring eight books with him. Todd Baker founded ZLM’s Missions to Israel. Please contact our office at speakers@levitt.com to invite Zola Levitt Ministries to your church.



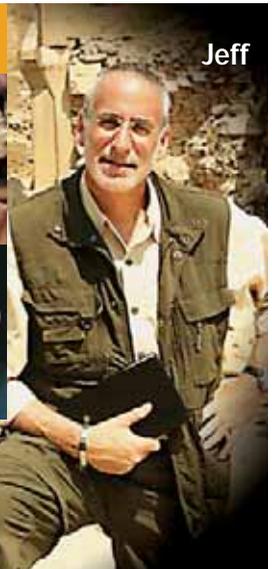
Sandra



Tom



Todd



Jeff

I personally know of individuals who have been beaten up by unruly mobs and booted out of the army because of their beliefs. I recently had dinner with a Messianic Jewish friend who reported how his entry into Israel ended at the Tel Aviv airport when he was turned around and sent back to the States. Why? He was deemed an enemy because of his known ties to “Jews for Jesus.” Anti-Messianic sorts have been using leverage to deny Jewish Believers in Jesus rights and Israeli citizenship, and thus effect our deportations—something that has been going on for some time.

Happily, the situation is beginning to turn around now, evidenced by a recent Supreme Court ruling in our favor in the aftermath of the Ortiz bombing. It seems the Lord is working through this tragedy—as He is known to do. The aforementioned activities do not reflect the beliefs and practices of the average Jewish person on the streets. They reflect a vocal and sometimes-forceful minority in Israel—men who show a willingness

to resort to oppressive acts every now and again.

How are Believers responding to all of this?

Hatred of enemies is not considered a legitimate response option. Brethren in Israel are given to praying for their enemies. Aided both by Messianic lawyers, and ethical non-believing “legal eagles” given to rendering assistance, Messianic Believers are resorting to the courts where we are presently having success at getting redress for our grievances. Happily the tide is turning—and in our favor.

If you’d like to join with me in praying about all this, fine. If you want to slam the door in my face for bringing it to your attention, however, I suppose that there’s nothing much that I can do about that. For the aforementioned reasons, I will not offer an “apology.” I do hope though that this will suffice as a “clarification.” If not, permit me to thank you for your friendship in days past and let’s just leave it at that. ★

Chief Rabbis Persecute Messianic Jewish Kid

By Abe Selig, www.JPost.com Photo by Ariel Jerozolimski

The annual Independence Day International Bible Quiz, steeped in controversy over the participation of a “Messianic Jew,” went ahead as scheduled, with Nahariya’s Tzurit Braunson emerging victorious.

But Braunson’s victory was somewhat overshadowed by the week-long buildup of tension over the contest, which Israel’s Chief Rabbis Shlomo Amar and Yona Metzger had asked Education Minister Yuli Tamir to cancel, due to the inclusion of a Messianic Jew, Bat-El Levi.



Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger

The 11th-grader from Jerusalem, who believes that Jesus is the Messiah, drew the ire of rabbis, who said her involvement in the competition would add legitimacy to the Messianic Jewish movement.

In a letter to Israel’s top rabbis, the director of anti-missionary group Yad Le’ahim, Shlomo Dov Lipschitz, wrote that Levi “has a chance of becoming the world Bible champion,” and that this could “greatly encourage” the spread of Christianity among Jews. He also argued that Levi should not be considered Jewish, based on her and her family’s beliefs.

Tamir’s representative, Lital Apter, said, “It is too bad that on the 60th anniversary we are dealing with these sorts of things. This should be a time of celebration, not of controversy.

“The point of the quiz is to check the participants’ knowledge of the Bible, not to scrutinize their faith. The legal department in the Education Ministry verified that Levi is Jewish according to the criteria of the state. That’s good enough for us,” Apter said. ★

ZLM Bulletin Board

Analog Broadcasting Cutoff

On February 17, 2009, all over-the-air analog television transmission signals on channels 2-13 and 14-69 in the U.S. will come to an end. At least that is the current plan approved by the U.S. Government, via the Congress and the FCC. The only exception is over-the-air TV programming delivered via low power stations, which serve some rural and urban community markets. To learn more, please see page 31 for the article entitled, "Rebate Coupons for Digital Converter Boxes."



5,000 Years of Religion...

...in 90 seconds! How has the geography of religion evolved over the centuries, and where has it sparked wars?

www.mapsofwar.com/images/Religion.swf

offers a fast-paced, Flash presentation of the world's best-known religions' history: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. It also highlights selected periods of inter-religious bloodshed.

2007 Fundraising Expense

To comply with the tax code, we calculated the small percentage of newsletter space and television time that this ministry devotes to fundraising. Taken together, they account for seven tenths of one percent (0.7%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%—almost thirty times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you, the supporter, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for support. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to expand this outreach to new frontiers across the globe. . . thanks!

Replenish Our Missionary Fund

Since March, 2001, this ministry's *To The Jew First Fund* has sent 57 volunteer missionaries to Israel. During 2007, we sent 12 missionaries. This year, we're on track to send seven. Would you kindly designate contributions to the *To The Jew First Fund* to help us catch up on the budget for these trips? Thanks in advance for your assistance.

"Come Home!"

Zola's
Tours to
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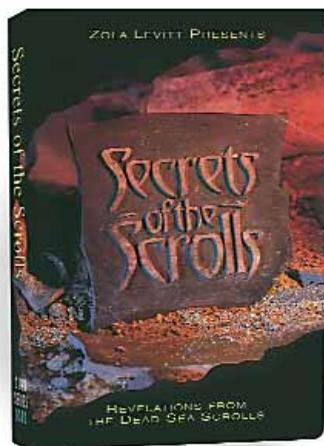


See page
36 for details



SECRETS OF THE SCROLLS DVD

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives an historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the actual fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as "Son of God," "branch of David," "stripes or piercings," "being put to death," and "raising the dead" all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



Seven 30-minute television programs include:

THE SCROLLS: A NEW REVELATION We quickly produced this program after the initial Associated Press news release. Zola quotes from it extensively and emphasizes its significance.

THE SCROLLS: PART 2 Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. Dr. Tabor is a Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and he delivers an incredible lesson.

THE SCROLLS: PART 3 During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Doubleday Press), and *The Dead Sea Scrolls* published by the Biblical Archaeology Society.

THE SCROLLS SPECIAL This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers a powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

THE WILDERNESS GROUP Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle Eastern religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS Dr. Eisenman discusses his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

PROF. MICHAEL WISE An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Prof. Wise, from the University of Chicago, helped translate the fragments when they were first released. The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be, is discussed enthusiastically.

The DVDs and transcript are available on page 18.

MATERIALS LIST, SPECIAL OFFERS & ORDER FORM

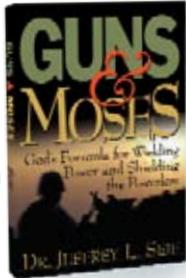
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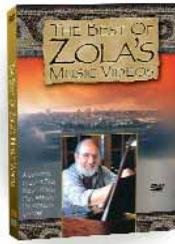


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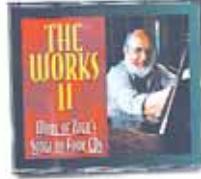
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Isaiah 53:5: "He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

Please order from page 19.



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It's Lonely Being Pro-Israel On Campus

By Ilana Diamond, www.JPost.com

The majority of college students are looking for something to believe in. So when pro-Palestinian on-campus groups wave around posters with pictures of “mutilated” Palestinian children, it's easy for students to fall into the “Israel is the aggressor” trap. This is a widespread problem on numerous college campuses— not only in the United States, but in Canada and European countries as well.

On the University of Texas at Austin campus, where I am a student, it's a daily problem. There are five pro-Palestinian student groups active on campus. And one pro-Israel student-run group: Texans for Israel (TFI).

Well, maybe two. There is also the Union of Progressive Zionism, but I am not yet convinced that their main battle won't be fighting the “occupation.”

The Palestinian sympathizers at UT know how to make their events look credible, and the events are usually well attended. Students attend these lectures and hear how Israel is supposedly brutalizing and killing innocent Palestinian children, and so on. The organizers of these events know these issues are compelling, and that any Joe-shmoe is going to sympathize with their cause.

The average college students attending are likely to hear about the Arab-Israel conflict for the first time, and can end up believing that what they've just learned is the whole story, thus creating a large problem for pro-Israel activists.

It is difficult for TFI to compete with the onslaught of weekly posters put up around campus with pictures of bloodied Palestinian children, body

bags, and misquoted statements from Israeli officials seeming to suggest that Palestinians are asking for it.

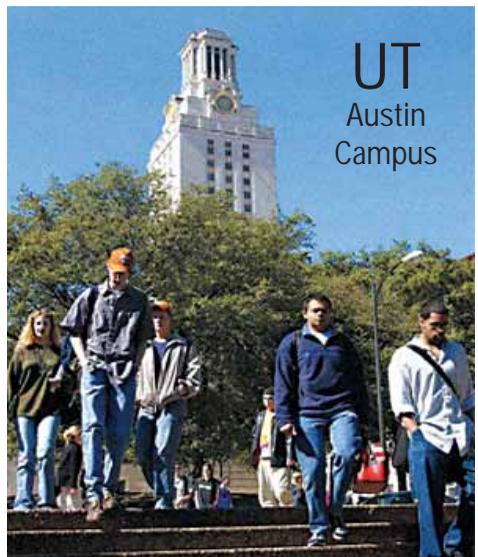
It is extremely hard to fight fire with fire and remain respectable. The images the pro-Palestinian groups put onto posters are deplorable. Texans for Israel tries to avoid the pity ploy, but on today's college campuses it seems that that's what it takes to gain support for a cause. A group has to be loud, crude, over the top, and gut wrenching for its message to be heard. Simply showing the positive side to a cause no longer captures attention.

Pro-Israel activists can talk up the positives of Israel until we are blue in the face, but until people see Israelis as victims, they will just ignore our message.

But is it right for pro-Israel groups to capture attention by exhibiting photos of suicide bombing victims? Or life under continuous rocket attack?

Israel prides itself on being able to quickly pick up the pieces and move on. By stooping to the level of showing bombed-out homes, are pro-Israel groups helping or hurting the country? I am not sure.

Luckily, we have a whole summer to gear up for another 10-month-long war of words and rethink the tactics we are using. ★





Letters to ZLM

Comments From www.levitt.com

From L.M.M.—

Even the Pope in a speech during his recent visit recognized that if it wasn't for the Jews we would not have Christianity, and he thanked a group at the East End Synagogue for this. Why can't or won't people recognize this and Israel? Ignorance appears to be responsible for this way of thinking and that is where we all come in. We are called to spread the Good News that Israel is a Light Unto the Nations. God Bless Israel. God Bless America. And God Bless us to have the zeal we need for this task. Thank you, Zola Levitt Ministries, for all you have taught me and for being A Light Unto the Nations. Shalom.

From B.W.—

Every time someone says that there is no God, try asking him, "If that's the case, please explain the Jew." I thank God everyday for His Word and His People. Israel was called home from the nations in 1948, and will survive all of the indignities that the world has inflicted on her. Our God and Father will prevail, and His Son will rule from Jerusalem in the foreseeable future. Shalom



Remember this when gasoline costs \$5.00 a gallon: we paid for this extravagance. THE CAR COST \$4.8 MIL!

It belongs to Prince Al-Waleed from Saudi Arabia.

The Diamond-Encrusted Mercedes is his 38th car.

How To Approach A Pastor

Dear Jeffrey,

I wait monthly for your *Levitt Letter* to arrive so I can read the section "Letters to ZLM." It seems to me that pastors water down the Gospel and are very selective on their messages so as not to offend. I find that attitude nauseating. If a person is bold and tells the pastor his concerns, the pastor takes offense and thinks his leadership is being challenged. My question is: How does one approach a pastor? I ask this out of concern and frustration.
S.S.

Thanks for writing, S.S.—

Certainly, some ministers are too soft, too politically correct, and less inclined to offend than they should be. Please keep in mind that according to expert George Barna, one in four senior pastors gets fired in North America. The number of terminations would be higher except that many see the “handwriting on the wall” and simply leave in advance. When surveyed, most report that the frustration tends to get to them, with the result that they wish they were doing something else, or were somewhere else doing it. Remembering that “love does not insist on its own way,” Believers should help their pastors. Your chances of influencing your pastor will be greater if you are supporting his vision for the church, rather than imposing your own. And remember this: If you were the pastor and were doing your best to serve God, man, and the church, you’d still have critics at your heels. Even on a good day, it’s a reasonably tough and thankless job, S. S. — no matter who you are or what you do. —Jeff



Lots To See On ZLM’s Website

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for the series *In the Footsteps of the Rabbi From Tarsus*. I am looking forward to meeting the Apostle Paul someday, perhaps soon. Some time ago, I asked about repeating one of Zola’s programs when he showed the articles that have been prepared for the Third Temple. I did not receive a response. If it was shown, I missed it.

Since *Zola Levitt Presents* is no longer at its regular time, I am having a difficult time remembering when you are on. Sorry. I really enjoy your informative program. I definitely learn and really enjoy them.

Because I’m on a retirement income, I can’t support your ministry at this time. I regret that very much. I realize the type of programming you do is very expensive. I do read the *Levitt Letter* from front to back. In the future, I hope to purchase more of Zola’s music. Nothing compares to his music! Thank you for continuing to send the *Levitt Letter*. It is a source of truth we can’t get very many places.

In Christ,
M. D.

Dear M.D.—

You can see my reply to your letter on page 26 of the April ‘08 *Levitt Letter*, archived at www.levitt.com. We are using our website’s expanded capacity to archive more of our older programs at www.levitt.tv. To see when and where we broadcast our TV program, please click on “Schedule” under “TV Show” at www.levitt.com. You can also listen to a free “Daily Zola Music Selection” there. Your *Levitt Letters* will continue to come to you free. Please say a prayer for your fellow readers who enable us to send them to you.

—Mark

How to recognize a Persian cat.



Nuts!

Dear ZLM,

It appears that former President Carter has decided he can make more money selling his integrity than his peanuts. — a reader

Dear Reader—

You may be right. And, at this stage of the game, wouldn't you pay more for his peanuts? — Mark

Resident Jew

Shalom,

I am an associate pastor and have been a long-time advocate of Zola Levitt Ministries. I made a trip with Zola and have done a lot of teaching and preaching using Zola's material, including the *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*.

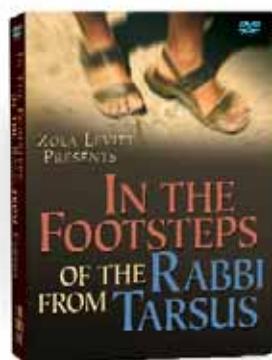
My senior pastor has used some of my material in his teachings. Recently, he related how much more meaning the Scriptures have when you know their Jewish context and stated that every Christian church should have a resident Jew. Because of all of my teaching in this area, I am now known as our honorary "Resident Jew," a title I claim with pride.

Thanks for continuing this vital ministry, S. C.

ZLM's Hit Series!

Dear Jeff,

I was disappointed to hear you say on TV that the *Rabbi From Tarsus* series wasn't well received. It blessed me! I want to go to Israel, but it isn't financially possible for me. Consequently, a series like this is the next best thing.



Watching you walk that uneven road, seeing where Paul was kept imprisoned and so much more was the next best thing to walking there myself. A trip to Israel, Rome, or Greece is something I'll have to wait for. Thank you so much for all your efforts.

Please let Sandra know I'm still lifting her up in prayer. Tonight's program with Zola wrapping up the teaching on the Passover couldn't be easy for her to watch. Maybe I'm projecting, but it prompts me, once again, to pray for her peace and her joy at all times.

Blessings,

C. S.

Thanks C. S.—

The *Rabbi* series was, in fact, well received. What we didn't do a good job of receiving was money to help pay for it. To my mind, this has less to do with program content or diminished enthusiasm for our ministry than with people's present concerns over the economy. I trust folk will catch up with us when they feel more comfortable so doing. It's fine if you can't help financially. Please lift us in prayer though. —Jeff ★

Year 1 In The Israeli Army

By Yeshia Braverman, www.aish.com

After high school I wanted to join the U.S. Army. My parents weren't excited about the idea. Then I had an epiphany. I'm a Jew and by joining the Israeli army, I'd be defending my people in our homeland. No matter what type of Jew one is, we are all part of the great Jewish nation. We are family, brothers in arms, and this is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave.

So I joined the IDF in March 2007. Movies and TV shows portray army life as intense and abusive, so that's what I was expecting. My experience was far from that.

Our commanders and officers told us on the first day that the only way we would succeed was to love and respect one another. With the support of our fellow soldiers we could do a lot; but with the support of our commanders and officers we could do anything.

Training was hell: obstacle courses and weeks spent in the field learning to shoot, where to hide, where the enemy hides, you get the drill.

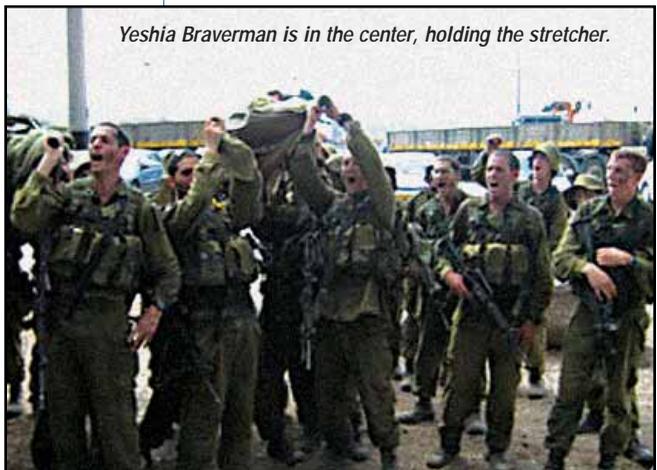
Many, many hikes covering many, many kilometers weren't just simple hikes; they were "rescue exercises" of 20 kilometers over mountainous terrain before we pulled out three or four stretchers and loaded the lucky few on top (somehow it was always the same people), hoisting a couple more over our shoulders and continuing on. All the time, our commanders yelled at us that we were weak and had to continue, no giving up. But back to that support and love.

Everyone worked as a team.

We had races and competitions to push our skills. One race involved 86 sit-ups followed by 75 pushups, after which we had to run two kilometers in under nine minutes. If we didn't pass, we had to run it again until we succeeded.

During one of these runs, I witnessed a beautiful, unselfish act. I noticed a couple of people falling back, exhausted. I thought, What a shame. They're going to have to do it again. Then I saw the lead runners going back for the laggards and running alongside them, cheering them back into the race. They didn't end up passing, but they had shown everyone else what's truly important. We created a loving friendship among all of us, and that's what got us through training.

Six months into training, one of our main officers called the entire company together and astonished us! On behalf of all the officers and commanders, he asked us for forgiveness. He told us



Yeshia Braverman is in the center, holding the stretcher.

that their yelling had always been for our benefit and never anything personal. He wanted to clarify that it came from the heart. He made it clear that we were all in this together—as Jews, as brothers, as part of Klal Yisrael, the Jewish people.

I realized that this is an army like no other. ★

Outlawing The Pig

By Janet Levy, www.frontpagemag.com

The practice of political correctness may soon be tallying another casualty: the pig. Increasingly, as America and the rest of the Western world continue accommodating Muslim religious demands, pork food products are being singled out for removal from dining tables, and pig-related trinkets banished from the desks of office workers.



If this continues, good ol' American food, such as the barbeque—replete with hot dogs and ribs—and the typical American breakfast of eggs, bacon, and sausage might be seen as the equivalent of political poison. Could outright censorship of pig depictions in drawings, pig references in literary works, and pig portrayals in movies be far behind? Could the well-known cartoon figure Porky Pig become a cultural embarrassment of our unenlightened past as we fear to utter the “P” word?

Though the notion may seem more appropriate for a comedy routine, an increasing number of pig-related incidents, accommodations, and Muslim demands in recent years points to an uncertain future for our porcine friend and its place in our economy, culture, and culinary traditions.

At first, it may appear absurdly humorous that banks in England stopped making piggy banks available to customers for fear of offending Muslims, but this is no laughing matter. To read about the various ways *sharia* is corrupting our freedom, see this full article at www.levitt.com/news. ★

Another Blast of Blasphemy

www.foxnews.com

In his upcoming biography of Jesus, *Basic Instinct* director Paul Verhoeven will make the shocking claim that Christ probably was the son of Mary and a Roman soldier who raped her during the Jewish uprising in Galilee.

J.M. Meulenhoff, an Amsterdam publishing house, said it will publish the Dutch filmmaker's biography of Jesus, *Jesus of Nazareth: A Realistic Portrait*, in September.

It will be translated into English in 2009 and Verhoeven hopes it will be a springboard for him to raise interest in making a film along the same lines.

The 69-year-old director of *Showgirls*, *Total Recall*, *RoboCop*, and *Starship Troopers* claims he and co-biographer Rob van Scheers have written the most realistic portrayal of Jesus ever published.

In addition to suggesting that the Virgin Mary may have been a rape victim, the book will also say that Christ was not betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of the 12 original Apostles of Jesus, as the New Testament states. ★

With impudent blasphemy like this making its rounds, credible Christian programming becomes all the more important. Many thanks to those who support our endeavors to share the real Jesus on the airways. — Jeff



Paul Verhoeven

Yad Vashem's New Media

web.Israel21c.net

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, has a dual challenge before it. The museum must both pass on the legacy of the Holocaust, while keeping pace with a younger and more tech-savvy target audience that is also increasingly disconnected from the events of the last century.

To aid in passing the legacy along, Yad Vashem will upload its 130,000-image photo archive to its website. The collection, the largest of its kind in the world, includes photographs taken in the ghettos, during the deportations, images that illustrate slave labor, the camps, liberation, and more.

Users will be able to search the database by topic, name, or location. Photographs in the database are also linked to existing information about content—click on an image, and a Google map will automatically open, showing the location of the places mentioned in the caption. Other links enable expanded searches.

“This will allow the public-at-large direct and simple access to the vast collection of resources collected by Yad Vashem over the past half century,” says Avner Shalev, chairman of Yad Vashem. “We are hoping that it will increase public awareness of the archives' tremendous importance, and encourage people who have similar photographs and documents to confer them on Yad Vashem for safekeeping.”

Dr. Haim Gertner, director of the Yad Vashem Archives added: “We are hoping that the public will join us in our ongoing efforts to decipher the pictures and identify the people in them.”

Also, Yad Vashem launched two YouTube channels, in English and Arabic. The English channel contains testimonies

from Holocaust survivors, including archival footage, lectures on key issues, footage from official visits to Yad Vashem (including those of President George W. Bush in January 2008, and Pope John Paul II in March 2000) as well as human interest stories, such as family reunions.

The Arabic channel has testimonies and archival footage about the Holocaust, with Arabic subtitles.

The YouTube channels seek to make reliable information widely available to online visitors, enable them to experience survivors' testimonies, and view experts addressing difficult questions.



Yad Vashem's YouTube channels, online archive, websites, and new modern museum complex are all part of a decades-long approach using technologies to present artifacts, photographs, texts, and video, and create a personal experience for visitors.

Over the last few years, Yad Vashem has invested significantly in the computerization of its various collections, digitizing data ranging from decades-old documents to new video testimonies of survivors and their families.

Modern media are essential in getting the Holocaust story to the next generation. Special thanks to those who helped ZLM redevelop our website, expand our archive of TV programs at www.levitt.tv, and enhance our podcasts at www.levitt.com/podcasts. —Jeff

*Note: Please see page 18 to order this ministry's television series **The Holocaust**.* ★

Painless Injections

By Karin Kloosterman, www.Israel21c.net

After homework, the second most despised activity in a child's life is probably going for injections at the doctor's office. Though they're important for immunization, to guard against tetanus or anaphylactic shock—or worse, having to administer them to manage chronic diseases, such as diabetes, on a daily basis—few people in the world enjoy getting injections.

Israel's Sindolor is making the pain of injections go away in children, adults, and seniors. Based in Ramat Gan, under D Medical Industries, Sindolor is about to release its EZject drug delivery platform.

Now negotiating with one of the top 10 multinational pharmaceutical companies in the world, Sindolor expects EZject to be available in the United States by next year.

The device, about the size of a traditional needle, delivers a subcutaneous injection using the company's safety syringe. Approved for marketing in the U.S., Sindolor's big trick to eradicating the needle's sting without anesthesia is by cooling the area around the skin before the needle is inserted.

The company has already developed a product called the Auto Injector, a

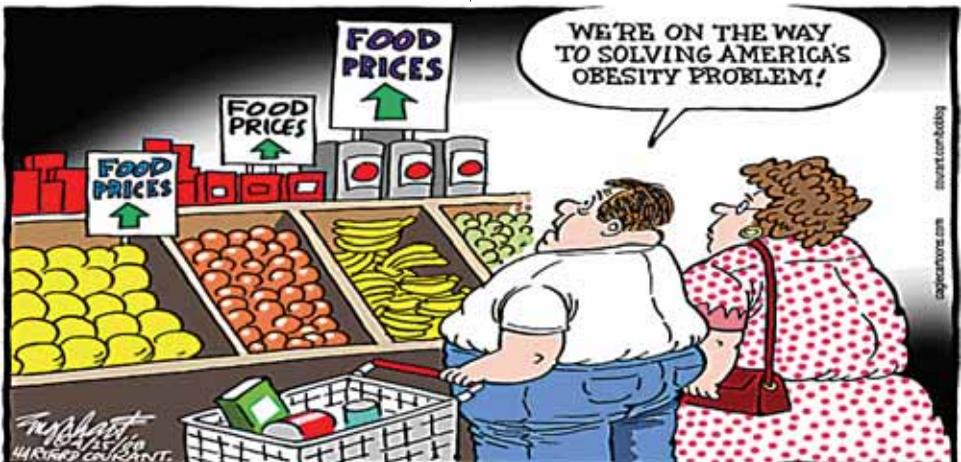


syringe that can be used at home to reduce the pain of routine injections, and to control the dosage of medication.

At the end of the day, it's really the consumer's peace of mind at stake, especially for those who can't live without daily injections, or for those who have a hard time inserting the needle into the skin—the child cannot see the needle.

Israeli media report that the deal could be worth millions—not shabby for Sindolor's grand entry into the field of painless and alternative injection technology, an area in which Israel has become a specialist recently.

Other Israeli innovations include a company that has developed a technology that extends the life of the injection's active ingredient, reducing the number of injections needed; a patch against osteoporosis; and bio-mimicry based on jellyfish stingers, to deliver painless injections. ★

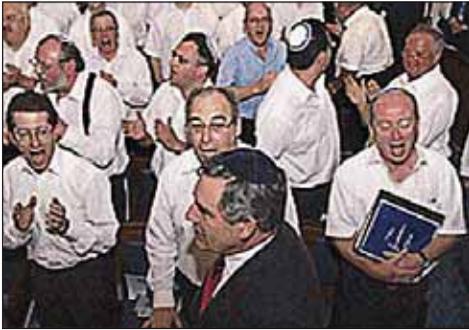


Israel A Great Achievement

By Greer Fay Cashman, www.JPost.com

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called Israel one of the “greatest achievements” of the 20th century. Encouragement from other world leaders came on the country’s 60th anniversary.

Gordon Brown (below)



One of the first was from Queen Elizabeth II of Britain. Jordan’s King Abdullah expressed the hope that the 60th anniversary year in Israel would be crowned by Israel’s and Jordan’s joint obligation to achieve a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people, and Israel and all the Arab States.

However, the message that excited President Peres most was the one from American Jewish astronaut Garrett Reisman, who is a crewmember on the International Space Station (ISS).

The liaison between Reisman and Peres is Rona Ramon, widow of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon. When Rona Ramon met with Peres earlier this year, she asked him for some kind of souvenir that she could take with her to America for the ISS. Peres gave her the Presidential Standard and a copy of Israel’s Declaration of Independence and signed them both.

The two items were duly delivered to Reisman, 40, who took them with him into space. Reisman reciprocated by writing a letter to Peres and the people of Israel that read: “From the crew of the International Space Station, I

would like to congratulate all of you on 60 years of independence. As the first Jewish International Space Station crewmember, the anniversary is especially important to me, and I am very proud to be carrying a copy of the Israeli Declaration of Independence on board our spacecraft. Every time the station flies over the State of Israel, I try to find a window, and it never fails to move me when I see the familiar outline of Israel coming toward us from over the horizon. At such times, my memories of my several but brief visits to Israel come flooding back to me along with thoughts of Rona and her family. It is a beautiful view and I hope to return to Israel after my mission and share it with all of you. Shalom, Garrett Reisman.”

I met with Rick Husband, the commander of the ill-fated *Columbia* shuttle, prior to take-off. He initiated the meeting with me, wanting prayer for Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon. Rick was a very strong Christian and lover of the Jews. Long-time viewers of *Zola Levitt Presents* might recall that Zola and I did a commemorative program on Commander Husband; I also did an interview with CNN. —Jeff ★



Jews in Israel live in the midst of their *mishpacha* — their family. We are an unruly, bickering, sometimes dysfunctional family, but we are one family nonetheless. That family in action shines in this true story:

A rabbi and his family visiting Israel from America took a taxi to the Har Menuchot cemetery to visit the grave of a long-deceased grandparent. When they arrived at the cemetery, they were confounded both by its size and the lack of any official to guide them to the grave. The taxi driver parked, locked his cab, and spent hours helping them search for the grave.



By Sara Yoheved Rigler, www.aish.com

Smile! Submitted by reader R.B.

An ingenious example of speech and politics is said to have occurred at the U.N. and to have made the world community smile.

A representative from Israel began: “Before beginning my talk I want to tell you something about Moses. When he struck the rock and it brought forth water, he thought, ‘What a good opportunity to have a bath!’ He removed his clothes, put them aside on the rock and entered the water. When he got out and wanted to dress, his clothes had vanished. A Palestinian had stolen them.”

The Palestinian representative jumped up furiously and shouted, “What are you talking about? The Palestinians weren’t there then!” The Israeli representative smiled and replied, “And now that we have made that clear, I will begin my speech.” ★

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

IONNetwork (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

DirecTV—Channel 255 **Dish**—Channel 181

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon

DirecTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:00 pm Fri	4:00 pm Fri	5:00 pm Fri	6:00 pm Fri

DirecTV—Channel 369 **Dish**—Channel 263

TCT on DirecTV

TCT is Channel 377 on DirecTV:
Visit www.tct.tv for your area's schedule.

NOTE: If you are unable to view *Zola Levitt Presents*, please contact your local cable company or refer to your satellite directory.

Our entire TV Airing Schedule is posted at
www.levitt.com.



Rebate Coupons for Digital Converter Boxes

By Jerry Hodges, Syndicator for ZLP

On February 17, 2009, broadcasters will discontinue sending over the air (OTA) television signals and will use new channels to send digital signals. The Federal Government will sell the old channels and, as it stands to make many billions of dollars, it is willing to help you buy converter boxes to receive the new digital signals. But you must act now because there are limited funds for this program.

On February 17, when the “analog” stations stop broadcasting, older TV sets will require converter boxes to receive the new “digital” signals. If you use a roof antenna or indoor rabbit ears to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* (ZLP) on local Daystar or ION channels, you will need the converter box unless your TV set has a “digital” receiver.

You can apply for coupons worth \$40 toward the purchase of these converters by calling 1-888-388-2009 or by downloading an application at www.dtv2009.gov. If you have two old-style television sets, you can apply for two coupons by check marking the box that says, “None of the TVs in my house is connected to one or more pay services.” Each household is entitled to up to two coupons.

If you watch only over cable or satellite

television, you won't need the new converter boxes. Consider, though, the times that cable goes out during bad weather or other events. After February 17, you will no longer be able to watch television over the air without a digital tuner; you may appreciate having one for when cable television is down.

In order to stay tuned to *Zola Levitt Presents*, please apply now for your coupons and then purchase the digital converter boxes as soon as the coupons arrive—they are good for only 90 days. A new converter box will allow you to receive a lot more stations than now. Each “analog” station has been given up to five new digital channels. ION network has taken advantage of this opportunity, and you will discover three other channels alongside the regular ION station: A health channel, a children's channel, and the Worship channel. These extra channels can be received only over the air. A new box will let you watch these plus a whole lot more.

There is one reliable source for a \$40 converter box: the DISH Network TR-40. Converter boxes can sell for as much as \$70 in electronics stores, but if you order one from DISH, they will sell it to you for the value stated on your coupons. If you want to pay a little more, DISH has a converter with a built-in digital recorder (TR 50), similar to TIVO. For more information on this converter, you can go to www.slingmedia.com/get/pr-converterboxes.html.



“[Carter] went to the region with soiled hands and came back with bloody hands.”

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Dan Gilleran, labeling former U.S. president Jimmy Carter a “bigot” for meeting with exiled leaders of the terrorist Palestinian group Hamas.



Computer Helps Jailers Understand Dogs

By Beth Marlowe, Associated Press

Israeli jails are using an Israeli-developed computer program to interpret the barks of guard dogs and distinguish warnings of a breakout from everyday woofs, a prisons official said.

Noam Tavor, head of the Israel Prisons Service canine unit, said the program is designed to overcome mistakes in which guards either have not heard dogs sounding an alarm or have failed to speedily identify its significance.

“It collects the dogs’ barks through microphones...and sorts and grades them,” Tavor said. “It relays only the barks that are significant in terms of security—barks that reveal stress or aggression in the dog.”

The prison staff monitor the system through loudspeakers and TV cameras that automatically zoom in on suspected hot spots.

Saudi Arabia To Behead a Turkish Barber

www.TurkishPress.com

A Saudi Arabian court in Hatay ratified the conviction of Turkish barber Sabri Bogday, who was sentenced to beheading in Saudi Arabia on charges of “cursing the name of God.” Bogday has been in jail for 13 months in Saudi Arabia after a quarrel with a neighbor near his barber shop. Bogday was accused of cursing the name of God. Bogday’s wife, Muazzez, said they would once again appeal against the verdict.

“We are devastated after the court verdict today,” she said. “We lost all our hopes. We do not know what to do next.”

Iran Could Have Nukes By '09

By Yaakov Katz And Herb Keinson,
www.JPost.com



With Iran racing forward with its nuclear program, Israel now believes the Islamic Republic will master centrifuge technology and be able to begin enriching uranium on a military scale this year.

The new assessment moves up Israel’s forecasts on Tehran’s nuclear program by almost a full year — from 2009 to the end of 2008. According to the new timeline, Iran could have a nuclear weapon by the middle of next year.

Iran, a senior defense official said, had encountered numerous technical obstacles on its way to enriching uranium but was now on track to



WON BY ONE!

Will you please help us build our army of Jewish-loving, Christian Zionists? If everyone on our mailing list would speak to one or more like-minded friends, and encourage them to call us at 1-800-WONDERS to request our *Levitt Letter*, we could double our outreach overnight. Please help. Notify a friend today. Have them contact us today and help us build “an army of one.”

Thanks. — Jeffrey Seif

master the technology needed to enrich uranium within six months.

Israel is also concerned that Tehran is developing a cruise missile that can evade interception by the Arrow, the IDF's anti-ballistic missile defense system. Iran is suspected of having smuggled Ukrainian X-55 cruise missiles and using them as models for an independent, domestic project. A cruise missile, which flies at low altitudes to dodge radar detection and interception, could be used to carry a nuclear warhead.

Israelis Turn Trash Into Electricity

By David Shamah, www.Israel21c.org

Some of the biggest mountains aren't made out of stone; they're built out of garbage. It's a sad fact of life that the human race generates a lot of byproducts. If they can't be recycled—and about 70 percent of our trash can't—then they get dumped, in what is euphemistically called a “landfill.”

But hold on a second: There may be gold, or at least electricity, in those dumps. So says Jean Claude Ohayon, CEO of Israeli startup TGE Tech, which has developed and patented a system whereby un-recycled refuse can be converted into fuel with a special

patented device that turns garbage into gas—syngas, a well-known element that has some of the properties of gas, oil, and coal.

Syngas, although less potent than those natural resources, can be used to generate electricity to light a municipal electricity grid; and even make some money for local governments, which can sell the power generated by TGE's system to local electric companies.

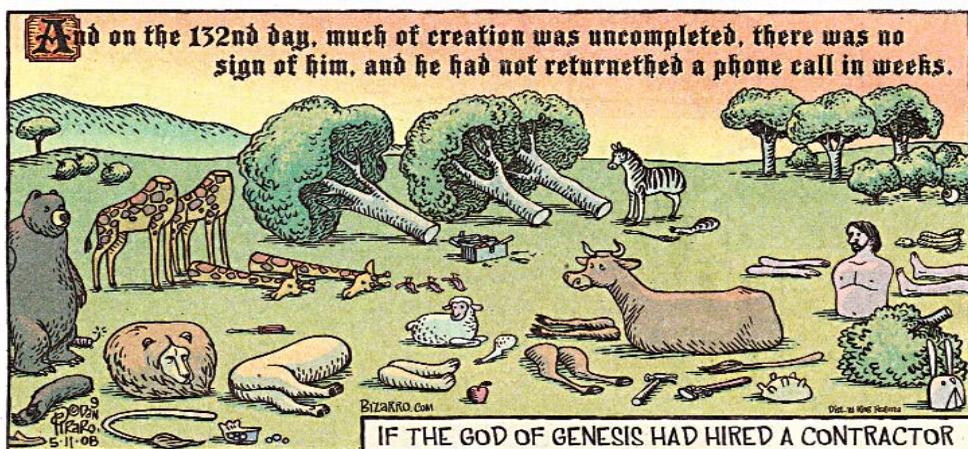
Systems are set to be installed in several South American and European countries. It could be the ultimate Israeli technology trick—turning today's trash into tomorrow's electricity.

Temple Mount Artifacts Destroyed

By Hershel Shanks, www.bib-arch.org

In devastating detail, Nadav Shragai, a veteran archaeological reporter for the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, describes the damage to antiquities deliberately inflicted on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by the Muslim religious trust known as the Waqf with the quiet acquiescence of Israeli authorities. Even the Israel Supreme Court has declined to intervene, despite the clear violation of Israeli law.

Continued next page



According to Shragai, Director of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) Yehoshua Dorfman told a *Knesset* (parliament) committee that “in practice [the IAA] had been denied access to the Temple Mount and did not receive information about what occurred there. We receive all our information about what happens... from the Israeli police... We don’t go there.”

According to a high-ranking Israeli police officer quoted by Shragai, “It is a known fact that antiquities are being damaged on the Temple Mount. The alternative is a riot every other day. Those in authority have to decide what they prefer, and we prefer quiet because, with all due respect to the antiquities, the top priority of the State of Israel on the Temple Mount is quiet, not riots, even if the antiquities pay the price.”

The Supreme Court handles the matter with “kid gloves and does not compel the authorities to enforce the law,” says Shragai.

Bahrain To Name Jewish Envoy

www.jta.org

Bahrain will name a Jewish ambassador to the United States.

Huda Azar Nunu, a Jewish woman who is a lawmaker in Bahrain’s upper house, will be named to the Washington position, according to a report in *A Sharq al-Awsat*, a Saudi-owned pan-Arab daily published in London.

“The sources denied that the appointment of Nunu as a woman and a Jew is a public relations campaign by Bahrain in the West, emphasizing that Huda Nunu has proven her qualifications, whether through her membership in the Consultative Council or through her work in human rights associations, of which she is an active participant in Bahrain,” the newspaper said.

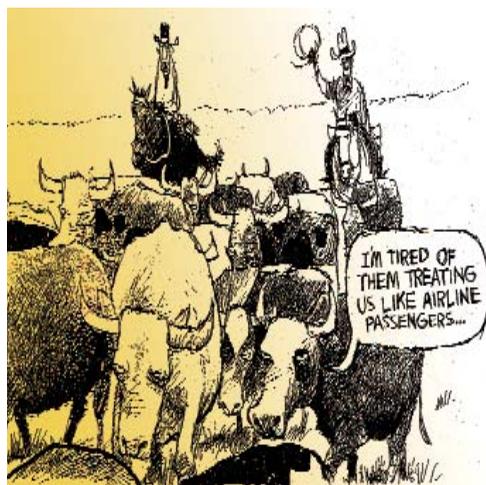
Bahrain, a Persian Gulf state sandwiched between Iran and Saudi Arabia, has a tiny Jewish population dating back to Talmudic times. Nunu is descended from Iraqi Jews who migrated to the port of Manama in the late 19th century. Jews in Bahrain have kept a low profile but generally have been treated well.

The nation is considered among the more progressive in the region, and was among the first to allow women to run for public office.

Origin of Judicial Independence

By David C. Flatto, www.YaleLawJournal.org

Responding to arguments that the roots of judicial review can be found in corporate law of the colonial era, Scott Gerber contends that judicial review is an extension of the notion of an independent judiciary that emerged from Revolutionary Era political theory. Gerber convincingly demonstrates that the American Founders were “steeped in the history of ideas.” But his limited focus on Adams and Montesquieu obscures the deeper theoretical origins of the doctrine of an independent judiciary. Already debated in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the concept traces back much earlier. As the works of early modern political writers indicate, **the etiology [origin] of an independent judiciary lies in antiquity—not in Athens, but rather in Jerusalem.** ★



Saudi Female Teachers Dying

By Donna Abu-Nasr, Associated Press

Roads in Saudi Arabia are among the most dangerous in the world, with a high rate of traffic accidents. But one type of victim stands out: female teachers, who are dying at alarming rates because of long commutes through the desert to reach schools in remote locations.

The Saudi government appoints teachers to work in small villages where local staff cannot fill all vacancies. But unlike their male counterparts, female teachers in this conservative Muslim country have difficulty living alone in the villages—they need permission from a male guardian to live alone and have to find a landlord willing to rent them an apartment—forcing them to drive each day.

In this country of 27.6 million, nearly 6,000 people died in traffic accidents in 2007 according to the Saudi Traffic Department. That is a rate of around 21 deaths per 100,000 people — one

of the highest in the world. By comparison, around 14 per 100,000 people were killed in road accidents in the United States in 2006, according to the most recent statistics from the Transportation Department.

A study released in October by the King Abdulaziz



City for Science and Technology found that female teachers commuting to their jobs have about a 50 percent greater chance of getting into car accidents than average Saudi citizens. Its findings were based on figures from the late 1990s.

“The issue has become a national concern,” said the study.

In November 2005, four women made headlines when they decided to put an end to their hazardous commute: They married their driver and settled in a village near their school. Islam allows a man to take up to four wives at the same time. ★

Christians Explore Judaism

By Kay Campbell, www.al.com/living/HuntsvilleTimes

Huntsville Pastor Bob Somerville, founder of Awareness Ministries, is becoming nationally known for his work to encourage Christians to explore the spiritual legacy and lessons of Judaism from a Christian point of view. He annually hosts Christ Our Passover, a Christian celebration of the ancient Jewish Passover Feast.

Christians traditionally believe Jesus celebrated and reinterpreted the Passover meal in his Last Supper with His Disciples before His crucifixion. The Christian Eucharist communion meal uses elements from the Passover feast to symbolize the sacrifice of Jesus. Christian interest in the Passover and other early Jewish festivals is growing nationally: the women’s seder and the community seder hosted by local Temple B’nai Sholom have both had waiting lists for non-Jews interested in understanding the feast.

Somerville’s efforts have been misunderstood by both Christians and Jews. Christ Our Passover was described as part of the trend of evangelical Christian interest in Jews and Israel in a recent story in the *Forward*, a New York-based Jewish newspaper that used to be published in Yiddish. The headline for that story: “Evangelicals Misappropriating Passover.”

“Some Christians think I’m a Judaizing apostate, and some Jews think I’m attempting to hijack their faith,” he said. Neither is true. What he’s trying to do is to understand his own faith in a deeper way.

“Until the Jews passed us gentiles the spiritual ball, we were nothing. Everything we have spiritually comes from God through the Jews to the Church for the benefit of all mankind.”



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