



A Year Without Our "Moses" and Yeshua Still Leads On!

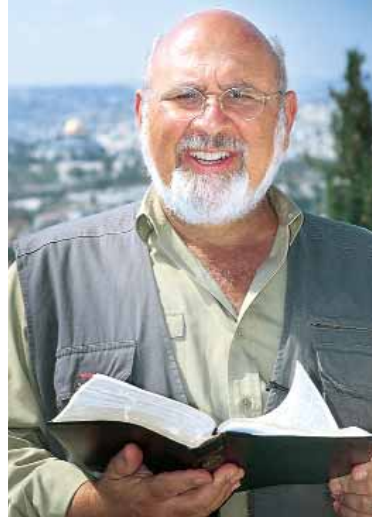
By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Zionist, pioneer, theologian, newspaperman, teacher, missionary, musician, author, composer, and more: *Zola Levitt* towered as a giant in contemporary Christian ministry. With twenty-eight years of TV and radio experience, Zola's ministry program remains one of the longest running in broadcast history, secular or religious. After being diagnosed with his grave illness in February 2006, Zola confronted his prognosis with confidence, informed all of us about his situation, and continued at his post until the Lord promoted him. Zola's actions gave us not only an example of how to live, but of how to die as well—as a faithful soldier of the Cross.

That the ministry continues as strongly as it does in his absence is both a tribute to the momentum developed under his able leadership and a testimony to the fruits of God's faithfulness working through the team that carries on Zola's vision.

While we do not worship a man, we can benefit by pausing, remembering, and celebrating lives lived well. And so it is, in the month marking a year since his passing, I ask you to join Zola's family, all of us at Zola Levitt Ministries, and all of ZLM's friends in remembering Zola Levitt—a modern-day hero of the faith. ★

ZOLA LEVITT: 1938-2006



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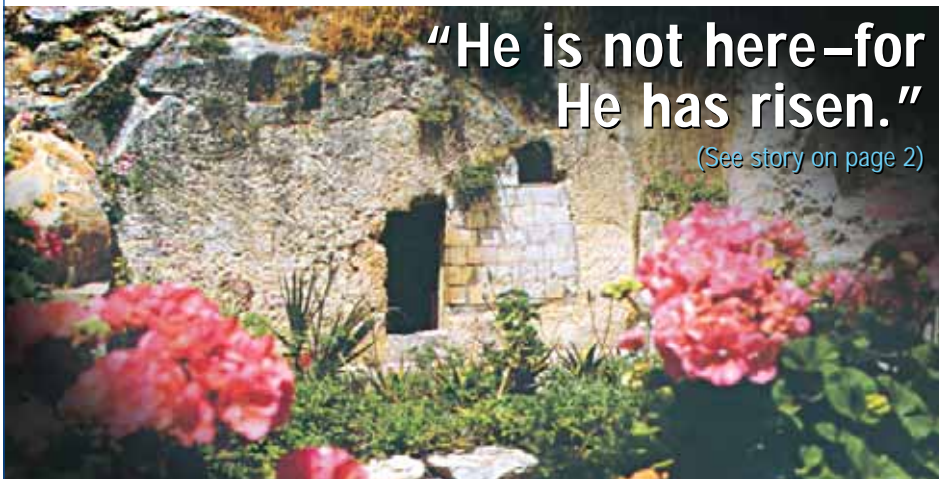
We Must Confront Radical Islam

By Gary Bauer, *End of Day Report*



Gary Bauer

In an interview on BBC's *Newsnight*, the principal of an Islamic school in Acton, England, admitted to using textbooks that describe Jews as "apes" and "repugnant," and Christians as "pigs." The King Fahd Academy's principal, Dr. Sumaya Alyusuf, defended the use of the books as part of its curriculum for schoolchildren as young as five. Asserting that the racist sections are being "misinterpreted," Dr. Alyusuf alleged that, "We don't teach hatred towards Judaism or Christianity — on the contrary." Such textbooks are common in the Middle East and in the Palestinian territories, but their discovery in England is deeply disconcerting. Europe has seen this kind of dehumanization before, and it led to the gas chambers in Hitler's Germany.



"He is not here—for He has risen."

(See story on page 2)

The Celebration of First Fruits—“Easter”

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

The Christian Church's most sacred holiday celebrates the resurrection of our Lord, which occurred on the Jewish feast day of First Fruits. It is commonly called “Easter,” a name derived from a pagan goddess, though exactly which goddess is a point of discussion. St. Bede said that the name derived from an Anglo-Saxon/Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, called “Eastre.” Other historians see even earlier traditions. “Ishtar” was an Assyrian and Babylonian fertility goddess, serving these enemies of Israel as their goddess of war, love, marriage, and child-birth. Given the broad and appealing set of job descriptions, “Ishtar” became the most popular divinity in the Assyrian and Babylonian pantheon; the Ishtar/Eastre deity was later embellished and employed by others. The very name is observed in the Hebrew Bible where it is associated with the Canaanite name “Ashtor” (Ju. 2:13; 10:6; 1 Sam. 7:3-4; 12:10; 1 Ki. 11:5, 33; 2 Ki. 23:13). Interestingly, her adoration was the object of prophetic angst and was flatly condemned in biblical times. That was then; this is now.

Ancient and primitive farmers, excited by the warm earth's coming back to life after the cold winter seasons, would find fertility and harvest festivals both economically meaningful and religiously inspirational. That they petitioned their gods for success in life, over their myriad obstacles, prompted them to connect their harvest success to their religion. God's wanting to show Himself as Israel's provider, however, put the pagan religion at odds with the God of Israel (Gen. 50:21; Lev. 25:6; Ps. 68:10; 78:20), with the result that the worship of Ashtoreth (and her male counterpart Ba'al) was eschewed outright. (See 1 Ki. 18:16-46.) That the pagan fertility goddess was nevertheless resurrected, re-invented, and re-employed as the centerpiece of the Christian Church's most sacred holiday makes for an interesting story, does it not? The Church's action, to my way of thinking, testifies to its having lost sight of its Jewish moorings, not to mention its biblical ones.

Personally, *I am glad that our culture takes a moment to remember the resurrection of Jesus*, just as I am happy that we remember His birth.

“I do not intend to take away Christmas & Easter.”

Wanting to pick my battles prayerfully, carefully, and strategically, I do not intend to take away Christmas and Easter; however, *I do want to remind anyone who will listen that the Church's message is rooted in Jewish soil*, not in pagan harvest festivals.

“I believe with perfect faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead.” Is this a “Christian” confession? Yes, it is because Christians believe this—and rightly we should. But, first and foremost, *this is a Jewish creed*.

One of the “Thirteen Articles of the Jewish Faith,” the aforementioned confession was penned by the medieval Jewish sage Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (also known as Rambam and/or Maimonides). It serves as one of the principal tenets of Orthodox Judaism. (See *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Vol. 14, pp. 96-103.) Unlike the churchmen who borrow from pagan culture, traditional/Orthodox Judaism selected its creed concerning the resurrection doctrine from a more legitimate source—the Old Testament. Though found in the New Testament, it didn't originate there.

Those following our newly-developed television series, *Daniel and the Last Days Battle for Planet Earth*, will get a fuller treatment of Daniel 12:2, where the prophet went on record saying, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Couple that with what the prophet Isaiah—the object of our previous made-for-television teaching series—said, “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing ye, that dwell in the dust” (Isa. 26:19). Both quotations offer conclusive evidence in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) for the “Christian” (New Testament) doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. ★

The Church's message, the dead will rise, is rooted in Jewish soil.



Carter vs. Israel

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor

I won't duplicate here the criticisms by former associates of Jimmy Carter who point out the flawed recollections, revisionist interpretations, and even plagiarisms in his new book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. However, I will include a single quote.



Patrick Cox

On page 213, Carter writes, "It is imperative that the general Arab community and all significant Palestinian groups make it clear that they will end the suicide bombings and other acts of terrorism when international laws and the ultimate goals of the Roadmap for Peace are accepted by Israel."

Not "now," he writes, but "when."

Tacitly accepting Palestinian terrorism until Israel bends to their will is not just morally reprehensible, it ignores this fact: Israelis have repeatedly accepted international laws and embraced the Roadmap, even unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza. The Palestinian government, meanwhile, makes it clear that no concessions could ever change their dedication to the total destruction of the Jewish State.

Under withering and deserved criticism, Carter "sort of" apologized for the above passage, but his words had already spread, in print and on the Internet, across the Muslim world. Unfortunately, Carter's influence on the Middle East is far greater and far more malevolent than his recent literary incitement.

To understand his role in history, we need to revisit his presidency. Back then, there was a single promising pro-Western Muslim nation in the Middle East—Iran. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi's was by no means a modern, Western democracy, but he had implemented significant reforms in the face of attacks by both Islamic fundamentalists and Soviet forces who wanted to squelch the burgeoning democracy.

President Carter, however, turned his critical attention not to the brutal tyrannies that still stain the region, but to the Shah. The Shah was thus transformed from an enlightened reformer to an authoritarian failure, held up in comparison not to his own medieval region, but to modern, Western democracies. Deprived of the support of those he wanted his country to emulate, the Shah fell in 1979 to coordinated Soviet/Islamic machinations, which put the Ayahtollah Khomeini and his fanatic supporters in control of the country.

For Khomeini and the Shia, it was a defining moment replete with both astonishment and euphoria. The pro-Western, pro-Israel, pro-women's rights government that few had hoped ever to bring down had been taken out not by force or revolution, but by the "great satan" itself—America. It is difficult to overestimate the profound impact this irony had on Islamic radicalism.

Since the early days of Islam, the Shia have been a scorned minority limited by the Sunni majority to servile and third-class status. Seen as heretics by most Muslims, they were never allowed control of even their own holy sites in Iraq. The assistance of America in their ascendancy was interpreted as either an act of Allah or a suicidal act of betrayal by America, or both.

For this reason Shia radicals were emboldened in 1979 to take over the American embassy in Tehran and hold 52 hostages for over a year. The Shia theocracy marveled that the response by the world's greatest military power was a half-hearted and disastrously unsuccessful rescue mission. The Shia exulted and faith in their own spiritual ascendancy increased yet again, though they did release the hostages just as Ronald Reagan took office.

Iran thus became an expansionist terror-sponsoring nation that has poured men, arms, and money into Lebanon in hopes of taking over that once-Christian nation. Today, the Lebanese Shia are the largest power bloc in the country and likely will be a majority in a matter of decades. The biggest irony is that the large Shia region, southern Iraq, has been liberated from Sunni rule by America and its allies, giving the Shia, for the first time in modern history, relatively free access to their shrines. Their long game is to destabilize Iraq, see it fall into three separate nations, and control the vast oil riches of the Shia South.

From their perspective, Allah has used America and the West to give them what they were never able to get themselves. President Ahmadinejad's ebullient confidence in the coming of the twelfth "hidden" imam is based on this chain of events, begun when President Carter turned on the Shah. Destroying Israel, the Shia believe, will signal their final victory in the ancient, sectarian Islamic struggle.

Most astonishingly, Jimmy Carter continues to treat Israel as the enemy, appealing to American Christians to side with the Palestinians and their Iranian Hezbollah allies. In a later article, I'll discuss the tens of millions of dollars that Carter has taken from radical Muslim sources, like Sheik Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan who claims America brought down the World Trade Center and that a Zionist conspiracy was behind the Nazi Holocaust—all the while claiming that Jews exert too much influence in America.

"I will curse him who curses you."
—God
Gen. 12:3





Letters to ZIM

you have picked a Spirit-filled teacher in Jeff. He has a lot of fortitude and I look forward to seeing all of the *Daniel* study and other projects you have planned. Thank you for keeping this ministry going in Zola's vision.

Love you guys, — B.C.

Donations Gladly Forwarded

Dear Sandra,

Zola Levitt Presents was wonderful last Sunday. I almost missed it because it takes so long to clear out the church and lock up. I am excited about the *Daniel* series. Loved the interview with General Kahalani and was touched by the statement when Jeff mentioned that Zola Levitt Ministries forwards 100% of donations earmarked for Bridges for Peace. Our children's church recently voted to send their yearly offering to Bridges for Peace and wondered how to send it. Since we didn't know the address, I was blessed to find that statement in the *Levitt Letter* so quickly. It just reiterates how wonderful Zola's ministry is in its sign of solidarity and encouragement to other Christian ministries to support Israel. I love you forever!

M.E.

Thanks for the lovely words. — Sandra

What a Great Tour to Israel!

Dear Staff,

What love we have for you! We were blessed to be on your tour this past fall. I had been to Israel several times and my wife had been there several years ago. But, I can't express how much we learned and how your tour has changed our lives. Going to Israel is a life-changing experience and going with you was wonderful! Every place we went, and we went everywhere, was like coming home to family. Thank you, thank you for providing the best and most complete tour experience we ever had.

Rev. R. & D.C.

Pastor Jeff is on a Roll!

Pastor Jeff, Sandra, and all,

All the shows are great, but Pastor Jeff really seems to be finding his footing and is on a roll. I love his play on words. It must have been hard to fill Zola's shoes, but



Photo Courtesy of David W. Gilmore Jr., U.S. Air Force

The God of Love vs. Allah, the God of Hate

Judge for yourself which religion yields the better product.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Gebhardt, of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group at Balad, Iraq, cradles a young girl as they both sleep in the hospital. The girl's entire family was murdered by insurgents; the killers shot her in the head as well. The toddler received treatment at the U.S. military hospital in Balad, but cries and moans often. According to nurses at the facility, Gebhardt is the only one who can calm the child down, so he has spent the last several nights holding her while they both sleep in a chair.

Comments From Our Website Visitors

Press on with the great work! I have been richly blessed by your ministry. My prayer is that when we all get Raptured out of here, there will be a lot of *Levitt Letters* lying around for people to find!

Regards from Iraq,

J.G.

I appreciate the work you are putting into your TV programs and the newsletter—keep up the great work. May our Lord continue to bless your ministry and all those involved.

A.B.

I think your *Levitt Letter* is better than the Christian edition of *The Jerusalem Post*. I will donate my money to you instead of re-subscribing to it. Pass this on to the editors please. God bless you, my brothers & sisters in Christ.

Maranatha,

L.W.

High praise, indeed. We appreciate your kind words and loyalty.
— Editor

Proof The Jews Should Be in Israel

Dear Staff,

I went to Google maps and looked up Israel. I was totally surprised at what I found.

I knew that Israel was blooming because of the Jews, but it was incredible to compare the greenery of Israel (on the right) to the Gaza strip (on the left). What proof that the Jews should be there.

Talk to you later,

B.B.

To the Jew First

Dear Dr. Seif and Sandra Levitt,

Thank you for pointing out to us gentile Christians that we have been very negligent in witnessing to the Jews. For some reason, we have reversed the order of the Great Commission, spreading the Gospel to the “ends of the Earth” first and forgetting about Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.

The fact that Israel is once again a nation, that Jews are gathering there from the four corners of the world, and that Israel is under attack should spur all Christians to support Israel and the Jewish people financially, spiritually, and politically despite the fact that many Jews still reject Yeshua as the Messiah.

This is a golden opportunity to reach out to Israel and the Jews to demonstrate our love for them. God has promised to bless those who bless Israel, but because Christians have neglected to bless Israel in the past, we have missed out on a lot of God's blessings.

You need to keep stressing this point!

F.O., MD

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



You're Losing Zola's Vision

Dear ZLM,

You're moving away from Zola's biblical simplicity and trying to be "entertaining" with snatchings of many things in each program. Zola was a simple man with a very simple message. He wasn't a Bible teacher, per se, but rather a "holy man" (he'd laugh at that, I know!) who showed us how the Bible illustrated the history of man and God's Earth. It was fascinating. I'd hate to see that lost to us in favor of slick, erudite teaching programs.

E.C.

Thanks for caring enough to write, E.C.—

True, your reflections were negative. Still, I sense a positive heart in it all. I grant that my personality is not quite the same as Zola's; I am hoping, however, that you and others will appreciate that, despite differences, we are still pursuing the same goals: reaching Jewish people, teaching Scripture from a Jewish perspective, teaching prophecy and more. It's my hope that what we have in common will offset our differences in style.

— Jeffrey Seif

Jeff and Zola Are True Brothers

Dear Jeff,

I consider you and Zola true brothers as I am also a Messianic Jew from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. How proud I am of your ministry! In all my travels I have not experienced a biblical teacher who has portrayed the Jewishness of Scripture as you do. I can't compare you to Zola because I see you both as playing two separate and different instruments in the very same orchestra and in total harmony with each other.

Unlimited blessings to ZLM,
J.DT.

Dear Sandra, Jeff, and Team,

It has been said that behind every great man is a great woman. Well, in this case that proved to be so. Sandra, your personality is dear. And Jeffrey Seif is God-sent to the program: can he speak! His intelligence and confidence come through clearly.

Prison life is difficult for me. Thank you for being a source of comfort and encouragement, and thank you for the continual audiovisual manna. May God bless you all richly and may the ministry continue to grow upward!

J.E.B.

God Doesn't Make Mistakes—Gives Us Different Gifts

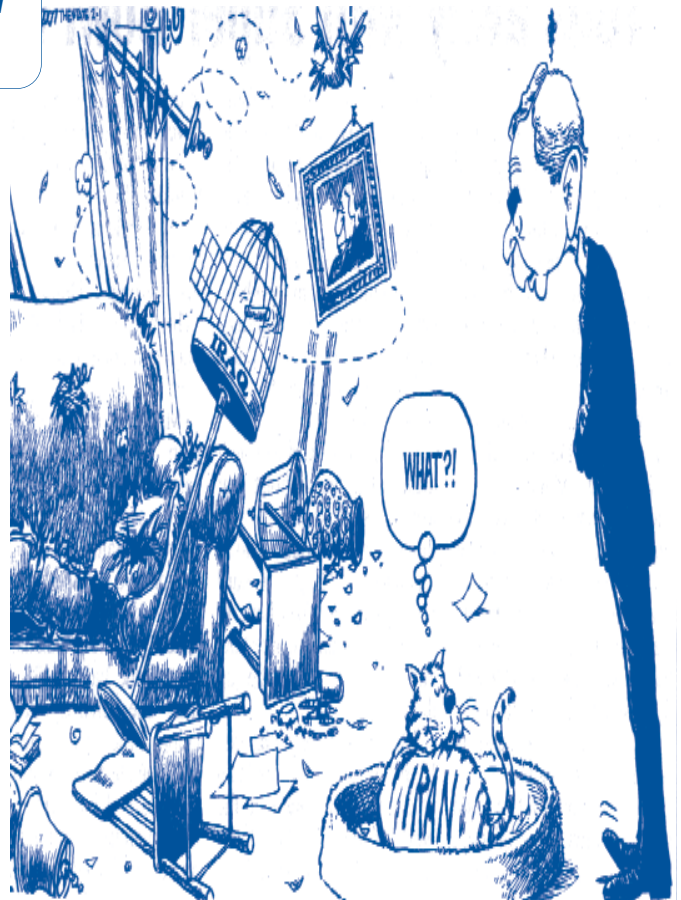
Dear Mark,

I began collecting Zola's tapes/CDs in 1991 and completed the Bible course under Jeffery Seif.

Zola's music is magic, drawing me to his supernatural Jewish Messiah. Love is missing, Mark. I see it in your words, but your face is painfully missing on the set. I'm sure that Zola would love for his son to follow in his footsteps. Your talents may be different from your father's, but you are a Levite, and God does not make mistakes. He makes wonderful magical supernatural love through you, Mark. Where are you?

P.M.

Please see the TV Air Schedule on Page 18 for Networks that carry ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS.



Dear P.M. —

Thanks for sharing your heartfelt compliments and concerns. Fortunately, I remain where God put me 18 years ago, serving as a Levite and using my gifts, which *are* different from Zola's. I played the oboe in high school, but not very well. You say that my face is painfully missing from TV, but I believe, to borrow a cliché, that I have a face for radio. Some people are charismatic communicators; others are good administrators. (My idea of a good time is a business seminar.)

On the other hand, Jeff has been preparing for decades, for just what he didn't know; but God has groomed him to accept Zola's baton. In the October 2006 *Personal Letter*, I characterized myself as a wingman and Jeff as a Top Gun. You can read that letter at www.levitt.com by clicking on *Levitt Letter* and scrolling down. Month by month, Jeff and Sandra each become more confident in front of the camera and better coordinated as a team. Their love for the Lord and for their work rivals anyone's I've ever seen.

Thanks for thinking about me. Know, however, that I do not feel sidelined.

— Mark

Come With Me Into Cyberspace!

Dear Zola's Staff,

Shalom! I've noticed that many people on MySpace.com have little corners for Zola. MySpace would be great exposure for Zola Levitt Ministries. All you have to do is build a profile and the ministry will be more exposed to churches and the youth... especially the Jewish youth.

Many people create profiles in honor of their heroes. I'd love to have Jeffrey and Sandra on YouTube videos to give them even more exposure. We can include the videos of the interviews with people like Walid Shoebat, etc. I copy and paste many articles to let the people know the truth that the media are not telling them.

Sincerely,
A.S.

Dear A.S.—

You have embarked on a high-tech method for amplifying this ministry's outreach, and, of course, you have our blessing on taking such initiative. Jeff, Sandra, and I thank you, and so will all those who see the teaching you share!

— Mark

Duplicate Mailings

Dear Zola's Staff,

Please check your mailing list. Somehow I am receiving two *Levitt Letters*. I don't want to waste your precious resources with such a mistake. (I still want to receive one of them, though!)

I absolutely love your TV programs, newsletters, and resources! My prayer is that the truth will be spread through your ministry in ever-greater ways, in massive measures, and in international intensity that blows away our mere human minds!

Baruch haba b'shem ADONAI, Yeshua HaMashiach!
D.R.W.

Dear D.R.W. —

Your kind note serves as a reminder for us to ask our readers to PLEASE help us reduce duplicate mailings. (For those of you who receive an extra *Letter Letter*, please share it with a friend or leave it where it is likely to be read.) — Mark

Cartoons in the Archives

Dear ZLM Staff;

I praise God for your ministry and the fantastic work that you do.

My prayers and finances (when possible) are with you. Keep up the good work. God bless you all.

T.

P.S. I love your cartoons. If they weren't so true, they would be funny. Have you ever thought about putting a cartoon collection on CD?

Dear T. —

We need a kind word now and then about our cartoons. They become dated fast. You inspire the suggestion to our readers to sift through just the cartoons in the *Levitt Letters* archived at www.levitt.com. Try browsing quickly through some oldies and see if you don't get caught up in some worthwhile reading!

— Mark



...and The Truth Will Set You Free. Jn. 8:32

By David Barton, www.wallbuilders.com



Barton

Because of biblical influences and Christian civil leadership in colonial America, Americans early adopted a Free-Market approach to religion, establishing that approach in law and policy. Significantly, Christian leaders advocated this approach not because they were indifferent to Christianity or because they believed all religions were equal; they held an opposite position on both points. However, based on biblical teachings, Christians believed that individuals must make their own voluntary choices about their own faith, and live with the consequences, even if that choice meant (from a Christian's viewpoint) the difference between Heaven and Hell.

God established this approach as His *modus operandi* from the very beginning. After creating Adam and Eve and placing them in the Garden of Eden, He allowed them a choice—a choice that meant the difference between continued fellowship with Him or separation from Him.

There was neither force nor coercion applied to their decision; it was completely their voluntary choice. They chose poorly and lived with the consequences of their choice. God could have prevented them from choosing wrongly, but He allowed them the choice. Moses followed the same pattern (Deuteronomy 30:19), as did Joshua (Joshua 24:15), and Elijah (I Kings 18). And not only did Elijah offer the people their choice, he also permitted the followers of Baal the opportunity to pursue their religion and even encouraged them to take additional time in expressing their religion (vv. 25-29). When they finished, Elijah would present his case for the God of Israel; the people would then make their choice. Elijah—though outnumbered 450 to one (v. 22) — nevertheless believed that when eternal truth was presented and the comparison made, the people would choose correctly.

The New Testament is filled with examples following the same pattern, first by Jesus, then by the Apostles Peter and Paul, then by ministers Philip and Timothy.

Christians, both then and now, believed that when truth was presented to people, it would eventually triumph. Sometimes it was accepted (I Thessalonians 2:13); sometimes it was rejected (II Thessalonians 2:10-12); but the individual lived with the consequences either way. Throughout the Scriptures, the key was to present the unvarnished truth; God and the Holy Spirit (not man) would do the work of validating the truth.

Following this biblical model, America's founders believed that the truth of Christianity would prevail on its own merits—that Christianity need fear no other religion. As **Thomas Jefferson** explained:



Jefferson

Truth can stand by itself.... [I]f there be but one right [religion], and [Christianity] that one, we should wish to see the nine hundred and ninety-nine wandering sects gathered into the fold of truth. But against such a majority we cannot effect this by force. Reason and persuasion are the only practicable instruments. To make way for these, free inquiry must be indulged; and how can we wish others to indulge it while we refuse it ourselves.

Founder **Noah Webster** (a devout Christian and an early judge and legislator responsible for specific language in the U. S. Constitution) similarly reminded Americans:



Webster

Let us reject the spirit of making pro-se-lytes to particular creeds by any other means than persuasion.

Ezra Stiles, Christian theologian and president of Yale, specifically rejoiced in the Free-Market approach to religion produced by American Christianity:

Religious liberty is peculiarly friendly to fair and generous disquisition. Here, Deism will have its full chance; nor need Libertines more to complain of being overcome by any weapons but the gentle, the powerful ones of argument and truth. Revelation [the Bible] will be found to stand the test to the ten thousandth examination.



Stiles

Because of this Free-Market approach, American Christians openly received numerous religious groups to America, including Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and many others. Christians should never be fearful of any other religion. A Christian's confidence in his own religion, and his conviction that God will cause the truth to prevail when presented, should cause him not to exclude religious competition but rather to embrace it through America's historic (and biblical) Free-Market approach to religion. ★

"America's Founders believed Christianity would prevail."

Wise As A Serpent Buying A Car

By Mark Levitt



Mark Levitt

This is the second in a series of articles designed to foster good stewardship. (The first concerned purchasing a house and appeared on page 13 of the February *Levitt Letter*, which you can see at www.levitt.com.) Locating this second article online will allow you to click on the useful links below. I devote this installment to Proverbs 4:7: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get understanding."

Even some of the brightest motorists believe that buying a new car is a rite of passage. They often overweigh gas mileage in their purchasing decisions and ignore depreciation. Maybe they succumb to the myth, on a subconscious level, that their car expresses who they are and their degree of good taste. With all the seductive marketing, who can blame them?

Let me tell you about my favorite gurus on the economics of owning cars: Dave Ramsey and a dynamic duo, nicknamed "Click and Clack."

Dave Ramsey suggests that a household's cars should not be worth more than half of their annual income. He refers to auto leases as "fleeces," asserting that leasing cars is the most expensive way to drive. Why get rid of a car right after suffering the worst years of its depreciation? Dave is a big believer in buying used cars instead of new. For his reasons why, visit www.daveramsey.com/etc/cms/why_buy_a_used_car_5153.html. Would you believe that driving \$12,000 used cars instead of \$26,000 new cars can make or break one's ability to retire? For an eye-opening presentation on this very point, please visit www.daveramsey.com/etc/lms/drive_free/player.cfm.

Tom and Ray Magliozzi, nicknamed "Click and Clack," are two MIT grads who revel in the nuts and bolts (forgive me) of automotive maintenance. Their main website is www.cartalk.com. At www.shamelesscommerce.com, you can order their booklet *How to Buy a Great Used Car*. "Click and Clack" persuaded me that years four through ten are often the best years to own a car. They taught me the virtues of babying my cars by driving them gently, following the manufacturer's preventive maintenance schedule, and parking them out of the elements. To keep them looking newer for longer, I wax them several times per year (the local car wash charges about \$50 for this), tint the windows, and use a windshield visor on sunny days.

The bottom line is to buy gently used, low mileage cars that have documented maintenance histories and good

reliability ratings. You can research cars at www.cars.com or www.consumerreports.org/cro/cars/index.htm. I prefer to buy from individuals and recommend hiring a mobile inspector, such as www.autopi.com (they charge a hundred dollars or so) to thoroughly inspect the car. To double-check a car's history, you can enter its vehicle identification number (VIN) into Google and maybe even contact prior owners for firsthand information.

When working with dealerships, consumers should negotiate separately the purchase price, the interest rate (shop around!), and the trade-in allowance. The monthly payment should be the outcome, not the focus, of the negotiations. I personally prefer to cut out the dealer by buying from and selling to individuals. And I don't believe in paying for service policies or warranties. If you're on foot and need a ride right away, then renting a car from Avis or whomever for a few days can give you the precious extra time you need to shop thoroughly and bargain a bit. Oh, and instead of taking a major road trip in the family car, you might rent a car with unlimited mileage. You'll not only keep your car "younger," but if you have a breakdown on the road, the rental agency can bring you another car.

Zola bought his first house in 1974, the year he turned 36. He used his life savings to begin this ministry's television broadcasting in 1978. Driving used cars is the reason he gave for having the financial wherewithal to both buy the house and pay this ministry's initial expenses.

My hope for many *Levitt Letter* readers is that this article's small dose of wisdom and understanding will enable them to save more money than they have contributed to this ministry's outreach—and allow them to contribute more to other ministries. ★



The Easter season invokes different memories for different people.

My first seasonal memory is when I was a youngster of about twelve, and two girls of comparable age interrupted my peaceful stroll down Second Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, by yelling at me from their second-story window, "Hey you dirty Jew. You killed Christ!"

Curious, the things we remember. *"Hey you dirty Jew. You killed Christ!"*

Given my experience with discrimination, I think of myself as being sensitive to it, and do not want to foist preconceived, prejudicial notions upon others, whether they are Christians of different denominations, non-believing Jews, Whites, Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, or Muslims. I prefer to step back from prejudging people and let them rise or fall on the basis of their own merits, or lack thereof—or at least that's how I like to think of myself.

Criticizing Islam as I do on a nationally syndicated television program and through an internationally distributed newsletter (that calls attention to Muslim aggression by using edgy cartoons and biting articles), some might conclude that I am as guilty as those two girls who introduced me firsthand to religious bias some forty years ago.

In the case of those young girls, I imagine that Easter-season images of the Jewish crowd calling for Jesus' death troubled their impressionable minds and inflamed their passions, as He obediently and willingly gave His life for humankind at Calvary. To them, I became the object, however misplaced, of their pent-up frustrations. I was the sounding board against which they screamed about what was wrong in the world.

It made no difference to them that I lived two thousand years after the New Testament and in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, *not* Jerusalem, Israel. Fueled by a skewed knowledge of the New Testament's storyline, and satisfied that they knew a thing or two, they acted on the basis of my being a symbol of those "bad people," linking me to the ones who crucified the Lord.

Forty years later I ask, "Am I now the prejudiced one, judging all Muslims by the actions of a few?" And not only that, "Do I now fan the flames of anti-Islamic angst myself?"

Not content to simply tell our stories to you (via this newsletter, with books, and television), I am laboring to ramp up our ministry's efforts and outreaches. For example, at the recent National Religious Broadcasters Convention, I met with a number of television executives in the interest of broadcasting *Zola Levitt Presents* all over Europe, throughout Muslim lands, and elsewhere

around the globe. Not satisfied to reach America alone, I personally want to greatly expand our sphere of influence in ways unprecedented in our twenty-eight years of broadcasting.

Those girls spoke through a little window. I am speaking through a much bigger one—and to the world. Am I spreading prejudice as they were?

Hmmm. Let's see....

I believe that Muslim extremists must take the blame for causing anti-Islamic feelings in Western culture. People like me drawing attention to their misdeeds, politically incorrect as it may be, hardly seem the source of the problem. And the problem centers around misguided Muslims who are bent on destroying America and Israel. It is fed by terrorist attacks escalating around the globe, and it is nurtured by reliable reports of inactive terror cells in our midst, ready to spring into action. A fanatical Shiite nation-state on the verge of triggering a nuclear holocaust of global proportions adds to the flames, as does a dawning realization that the activity may well be connected to the dreaded battle of Armageddon. *The problem is the fact that there really is a problem!*

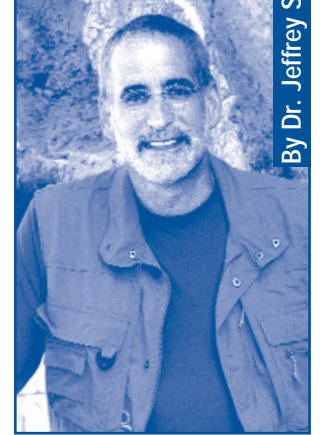
Is this my fault? No. I am a reporter—and a biblical reporter at that. The issue isn't whether I am a "hothead," but that the world is "heating up." Happily, God is reaping a harvest among Muslims, even amidst it all. Record numbers are coming to faith. In fact, very recently, a former Egyptian student of mine sent me word that he received his Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. I am anxious to read his dissertation, which deals with Arabic and Hebrew languages. *This man is not my enemy; he is my brother; and a dear member of the family,* I might add—as are you.

Thanks for helping me fan Gospel flames. Thanks for perpetuating Zola's legacy and ministry. My public speaking schedule is filling up as people are talking to their pastors and inviting me to come speak in their churches. I am loving it. I'm really not interested in being a distant television personality; I really enjoy getting out, ministering to groups in person, and making new friends one-on-one in the process.

Thanks for everything.
Yours,



DeSeifering Our World



By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Arabs Riot in Jerusalem

By Will King, www.imagesofisrael.com



Not since September 2000, the beginning of the second (or al-Aqsa) intifada, have Jerusalem's Arab residents taken to the streets with such anger. In fact, many Arab leaders are calling these latest riots the third intifada, and encourage continued clashes with Israel. So, what was the cause of this latest Arab uprising?

In January, Israeli authorities determined that a hill next to the Temple Mount was unstable and would need to be removed. The hill, located between the women's section of the Western Wall prayer area and the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, supports a wooden bridge that was built only a couple of years ago and leads to the Mugrabi Gate, the only entrance to the Temple Mount for non-Muslims. It was through this gate that Ariel Sharon entered the Temple Mount complex in 2000, which gave the Palestinians an excuse to begin the second intifada.

Because the hill's instability could lead to the collapse of the bridge and possibly part of the Western Wall, Israeli authorities announced plans to remove the hill altogether. As is customary, archaeologists will carry out a salvage dig as the hill is removed, to protect archaeological treasures and advise engineers where to place support columns for a new bridge.

Arab leaders are claiming that the project directly threatens the al-Aqsa Mosque, and allege that Israelis are trying to tunnel under the complex itself. While Israeli leaders and archaeologists repeatedly deny this, some Arab leaders are calling for protests in the streets, some of which inevitably lead to violence.

Such was the case on February 9 when a group of Muslim men gathered outside the Damascus Gate to conduct their Friday prayers. In the five minutes following their prayers a policeman had been injured by a thrown rock, flash-bang grenades had been used to disperse the crowd, and several Arabs had been arrested. The violence continued inside the Old City along the narrow streets of the Muslim Quarter, focusing on the street that leads to an entrance to the Temple Mount. Several times the police dispersed the rioters with flash-bangs and tear gas and then retreated toward the Temple Mount along the Via Dolorosa. Each time, the Arab rioters returned wearing masks to conceal their identity, and threw rocks across the street at police. Rioters piled trash in the streets and set it on fire.

Besides Arab teens throwing rocks, children combed the streets to collect the round rubber bullets spent by Israeli police, to give to the older boys armed with sling-

shots. Many of the older residents exited the scene peacefully, and one mother even grabbed her masked son who was throwing rocks and took him with her. Since the rocks weren't injuring the police or causing serious damage to the surrounding homes, the police allowed the boys to vent their anger in the hope that they would eventually disperse by themselves. However, the situation changed when some of the older Arab boys brought out glass bottles filled with gasoline. With shouts of "Allah akbar" (Allah is great), the boys lit the gasoline-filled bottles and charged closer to the Israeli lines to throw them.



This forced the police to respond and again disperse the rioters with flash-bang grenades. Undercover police who had mixed with the rioters took down some of the leaders as the police countered the charge. While several arrests were made, many rioters simply disappeared into their homes, only to pick up the disturbance the next day.

Also on Feb 9, at a rally in Nazareth, Sheikh Ra'ad Salah, head of the Islamic Movement in the north, said, "You are playing with fire, and whoever plays with fire will get burned in the end. Your construction will damage al-Aqsa, and whoever damages al-Aqsa—we'll destroy his house." The following day the Higher Arab Monitoring Committee called for the United Nations and the European Union to stop the Israeli dig in the area, saying that Israel "has no political or legal right to take any action in occupied east Jerusalem."

As the situation unfolds, pray that the truth behind the dig will be made known and that Arab leaders will call for the violence to end. ★



Israeli police respond to disperse rioters.

Spring is the time of year when it feels like all hope is renewed and life is clean and fresh. I have been enjoying the spring-like weather in Texas, basking in the sunshine and smelling the fresh air, even enjoying the rain as it washes away the winter. It is indeed a promise of newer things to come in life. Ps. 40:3, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

One of the highlights of spring, for me, is Passover. As Zola would say, "It is the crown jewel of the Seven Feasts (Lev. 23)." Before they left Egypt, the Israelites prepared to go to the Promised Land. They "cleaned house," purging everything.

They put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts so that the Lord would "pass over" their homes. "Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs... Do not leave any [lamb] until morning. If some is left until morning, you must burn it." (Ex: 12:7, 10). Talk about fast food. This meal was meant to be eaten quickly. "This is how you are to eat it; with your cloak tucked into your belt, and your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover." (Ex 12:11). In fact, the matzo (bread) took only 18 seconds to cook (the number 18 in Hebrew means *haste*) as compared to yeast bread which takes much longer. Leaven in the Bible is sometimes equated with sin. "Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1Cor. 5: 7, 8). The connections are amazing!

Zola would teach that spring cleaning was invented because of Passover. Jews all over the world get ready by cleaning, or purging, their homes of sin, getting everything ready for Passover. I too feel the need to "clean" my home of the leaven. I clean out closets and drawers, sometimes finding things I had forgotten. I also think it is a time to "clean" my spiritual house to get ready for the King. How clean is your house?

Passover is rich in shadows of Messiah. If you have not read Zola's *Miracle of Passover* booklet, be sure to order

Shalom From Sandra



it from page 31. It is good teaching anytime of the year. I would also encourage you to hold Passover in your home. It is a tradition that makes our Christianity come alive, and you can personalize it by creating your own traditions. Our Communion service comes from Passover: The middle piece (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) of unleavened bread (matzo) is hidden away—"buried"—until the third cup of wine, called the cup of Redemption, is brought forth: That is our Holy Communion. "While they were eating, Yeshua took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the covenant.'" (Mt 26:26-28). The bread and the wine, picture our salvation and redemption forever.

I cannot let this April *Levitt Letter* go to press without thanking you all for your continued prayers and letters. This month marks a year without Zola, and I have survived with God's help. Reminiscing with Jeff about Zola, we said almost in unison, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Php 1:21). That was the way Zola looked at his life, and for that I will be eternally blessed. I know he is home with the Lord, and I could want no more.

Jeff and I would love to show you Israel. Anytime, any season. Our next tour is the "Discovery Tour" from June 5-15. We will also be taking groups again in the fall. Call Tony Derrick at (214) 696-9760 for all the details. Spring clean and purge the reasons why you are not going to Israel. Come home!

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
Blessings,



Old Churches Don't Die... They Turn Into Bars, Eateries

By William Underhill, *Newsweek*

Across much of England, churchgoing is in long-term decline. More than 1,600 churches—about 10 percent of the country's total—have been formally declared redundant by the Church of England. And the English have recognized the new reality: if church buildings are to survive, new uses must be found. While a handful serve as mosques or Sikh temples, many more have found roles as cafés, concert halls, warehouses, or chic apartments. The pious may fret, but pragmatism will often prevail.

The same trend is at work across Europe, where church attendance is dropping precipitously, even in the Roman Catholic countries. Official policy on how to treat redundant churches varies. In France and Germany, the law protects architecturally significant churches and cathedrals. But a growing number of dwindling congregations are forcing church authorities to choose whether to pay for the costly upkeep of an unused structure, demolish it, or find an alternate purpose.

For a generation that has rarely set foot in church, preserving the buildings matters more than saving faith. For would-be clowns, there's a circus school in the former St. Paul's Church in Bristol, England. Madonna has performed in the Paradiso, a church turned club in Amsterdam. Diners in Rome are happy to eat at the Sacro E Profano (Sacred and Profane), a restaurant housed in a medieval church, and restoration

A pizza oven in place of the altar

in Dublin saw the once-derelict St. Mary's Church reborn as a high-end restaurant. "We do get some feedback from the customers, but it's mostly positive," says the manager of an Italian restaurant occupying a 19th-century Anglican church in western England. Few even question the building's most striking feature: an outside pizza oven standing on the site once occupied by the altar.

Still, there are those who find the practice offensive. "There are those in Berlin who say that it's better to demolish them than allow their use for profane purposes," says a British historian who has championed the cause of Europe's disused churches. Last year, students in the Czech Republic took to the streets to protest the government's sale of an imposing 12th-century church, in the center of Prague, to a private company that has used the building for private strip shows and techno parties.

12th century church for private strip shows and techno parties

Of course, the drift to secularism is far from universal. Some of the 90 churches in central Dublin owe their survival to the massive influx of staunchly Catholic Polish migrants in recent years. And Russia has seen the construction of 11,000 new churches and chapels since the collapse of communism. "The farther you head east into the Orthodox world, the more you will find church buildings being repaired and new ones going up," says the World Council of Churches. In Poland, the only risk to old Catholic churches comes from swelling congregations abandoning the historic buildings in favor of bigger new ones that can accommodate them.



Islamized Europe or Europeanized Islam?

By David Machlis and Tovah Lazaroff, www.jpost.com

Islam could soon be the dominant force in a Europe, which, in the name of political correctness, has abdicated the battle for cultural and religious control, said Prof. Bernard Lewis, world-renowned Middle Eastern and Islamic scholar.

Muslims “seem to be about to take over Europe,” Lewis said at a special briefing with the editorial staff of *The Jerusalem Post*. Asked what this meant for the continent’s Jews, he responded, “The outlook for the Jewish communities of Europe is dim.” Soon, he warned, the only pertinent question regarding Europe’s future would be, “Will it be an Islamized Europe or Europeanized Islam?” The growing sway of Islam in Europe was of particular concern given the rising support within the Islamic world for extremist and terrorist movements, said Lewis.

Instead of fighting the threat, he elaborated, Europeans had given up. “Europeans are losing their own loyalties and their own self-confidence. They have no respect for their own culture,” said Lewis, who was born in London to middle-class Jewish parents, but has long lived in the United States.

The threat of extremist Islam goes far beyond Europe, Lewis stressed, turning to the potential impact of Iran going nuclear under its current regime.

The Cold War philosophy of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), which prevented the former Soviet Union and the United States from using the nuclear weapons they had targeted at each other, would not apply to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s Iran, said Lewis. “For him [Ahmadinejad], MAD is not a deterrent, it is an inducement. We know already that they [Iran’s ruling ayatollahs] do not give a damn about killing their own people in great numbers. We have seen it again and again. If they kill large numbers of their own people, they are doing them a favor. They are giving them a quick, free pass to heaven. I find all that very alarming.”

Lewis acknowledged that Ahmadinejad had made the notion of Iran having the right to acquire a nuclear capability an issue of national pride, and that this should be borne in mind in trying to

thwart Teheran’s nuclear drive. “One should try to make it clear at all stages that the objection is not Iran having [a nuclear weapon], but to the regime that governs Iran having it.”

This idea already has support among those Iranians who, on the one hand, believe that their country has a right to possess such a capability but, on the other, fear it being acquired by a government that they do not support.

Israel and the West should work to strengthen moderate forces within the Iranian population, he urged, via an aggressive propaganda campaign including the use of television and radio programs.

“All the evidence is that the regime is extremely unpopular with its own people,” he said. “I am told that the Israeli daily [radio] program in Persian is widely listened to all over Iran with rapt attention.” Israel and the West should also be looking to reach out to moderate forces within the Arab world, which are equally alarmed by the spread of extremism in their midst, said Lewis. “The Arab governments understand that Israel is not their biggest problem.”

Here too, he said, Israeli media had a positive effect in the region, particularly in Jordan, where Israeli programs were broadcast and were widely watched. Jordanians “get the message of how a free society works. As one fellow put it, it is amazing to watch these great and famous people banging the table and screaming at each other. Even more striking is the fact that Arabs can denounce the Israeli government on Israeli television. That has an impact.” Lewis also highlighted the Washington-based Syrian Reform Party, whose leader, Farid Ghadry, openly admires Israel. ★



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God TV now airs *Zola Levitt Presents* worldwide, except in the U.S., on Fridays at noon GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) as follows (see www.god.tv):

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Eurobird – Frequency 11,680 V

Hotbird 6 – 10,971 H

EutelSat W2 – 11,293 H

Europe including Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy

Hotbird 6 – 10,971 H

Astra 1H Frequency 12,148 H

Eutelsat W2 Frequency 16,293 H

Sirius 5 Frequency 11,881 H

Eurobird Frequency 11,680 V

Pan Am Sat 7 68.5* East Frequency 12,722 V

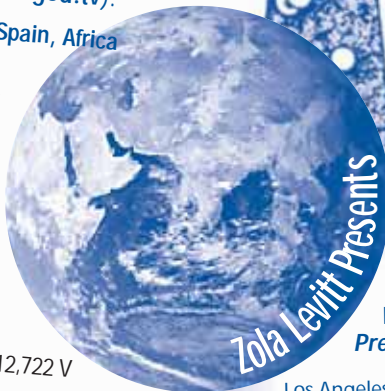
Middle East including Israel, 2:00 PM

Cable

Hotbird 6 – 10,971 H

Australia and Indonesia 9:00 PM and 10:00 PM

Optus B3 152* East Frequency 12658 V Transponder 7



Pictures of Islam

"A picture is worth a thousand words." Now you can learn about Islam through pictures by visiting www.faithfreedom.org/gallery.htm our website of the month. The index alone will clue you that the photos are graphic and offensive. Cases in point: "The cult of domination," "Beating," "Hanging," "Stoning," "Lynching," "Self Beating," and the list goes on. Despite the First Amendment, we connoisseurs of American media don't typically see the utter brutality that often accompanies chants of "Allah akbar!"

TV Watchmen on the Wall!!

Do you regularly watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on one of the broadcasts below?

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Thu 9:30 am

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If you can monitor our TV program every week on one of these stations, please write to Brenda at Berg Productions, 6221 Riverside Drive, Suite #109, Irving, TX 75039.

Our Ministry's Church Speakers

Let us bring to your church the prophetic relevance of today's news, the seven feasts of Israel, and all that Zola has taught us to teach others. Dr. Tom McCall co-authored eight books with Zola. Dr. Jeff Seif co-created with Zola our correspondence course, *The Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. Dr. Todd Baker founded our ministry's department of missions to Israel, which is sponsored by our To The Jew First Fund. In addition, Zola's widow, Sandra Levitt, after traveling at Zola's side for eight years, teaches all the same lessons he did and is a remarkable public speaker. Please contact Scott in our office at sphillips@levitt.com or (214) 696-8844 for information on having any of our speakers visit your church.



Israel... the Truth.
www.levitt.com/speakers.html

Help Wanted: Jewish Composer

Do you know of a Jewish Believer who is a musician with perfect pitch? One of European ancestry, who grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and graduated with a music degree from Indiana University in Bloomington? At this ministry, we have labored under the assumption that Zola was one of a kind. Even if he was, finding someone with a similar background and comparable talents might enable us to create more marvelous Messianic music like his. In the meantime, we will have to make do with his legacy of only 22 albums. If you don't have them all, you're missing out. Please see page 31 and consider ordering at least the two 8-album collections that are entitled *The Works* and *The Works II*. Their cost per album is about half of an individual album's price.

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Holocaust Education Required in Public Schools

Associated Press, www.indystar.com

Legislation requiring Indiana's public schools to teach students about the horrors of the Holocaust has overwhelmingly passed the Indiana House.

The House voted 91-0 in favor of the bill, which was inspired by Eva Mozes Kor, a 72-year-old Indiana woman who survived a concentration camp and operates a Terre Haute museum dedicated to teaching about the Nazis' World War II killings of some 6 million Jews in Europe.

Under the bill, which is now in the Senate for consideration, Holocaust lessons would be required by law as part of U.S. history courses starting in the 2007-08 school year.

The legislation would also require schools to teach the importance of respecting the dignity and value of others.

Rep. Clyde Kersey said it's needed both because people persist in denying that the Holocaust occurred and because many Indiana classes never get around to teaching about it, even though the state's educational standards already direct history teachers to do so.

He said it's important for students to learn about the Nazis' mass exterminations in the Holocaust of about 6 million Jews, as well as large numbers of Gypsies, homosexuals, mental patients, political prisoners and other "undesirables."

"I'm a firm believer in the idea that if you don't learn the lessons of history, you are bound to repeat them," said Kersey, D-Terre Haute.

Kersey recounted Kor's story to his colleagues. She and her family were taken from their home in Romania to Auschwitz, a concentration camp in Poland, in 1943.

Kor and an identical twin sister, Miriam Mozes Zeiger, who died in 1993, never saw their parents again. At Auschwitz, they were subjected to the infamous Dr. Josef

Mengele's genetic experiments. They survived the ordeal and were liberated by Soviet troops in January 1945.

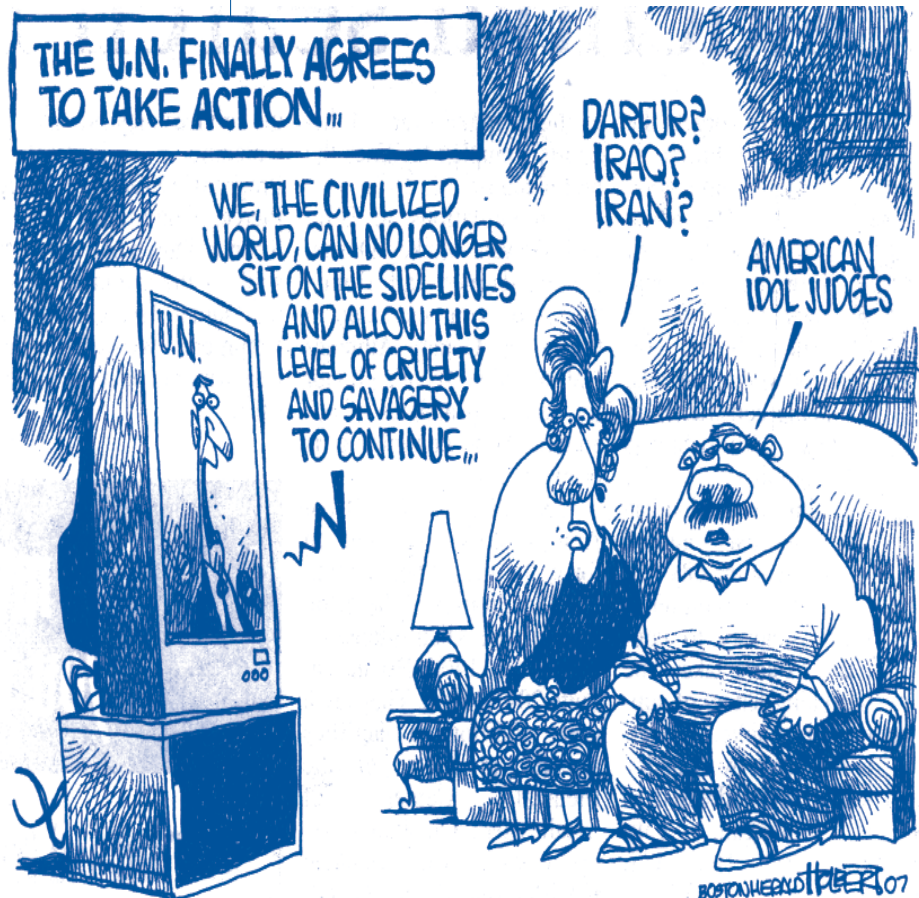
House Minority Leader Brian C. Bosma, R-Indianapolis, a co-sponsor of the bill, urged support. He noted that his father served in the Army during World War II and witnessed the shocking conditions found at Dachau, a concentration camp in Germany.

He said the eyewitnesses to those horrors are growing increasingly rare. For the first time, he noted, there are no World War II combat veterans in the Indiana legislature.

Five states—California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York—have laws requiring teaching about the Holocaust, while 24 states, including Indiana, included the Holocaust in education standards as of 2004, according to the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research.

With some in the world denying that the Holocaust occurred—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad recently described the Holocaust as "a myth"—Bosma said it is appropriate for Indiana to require its students to learn the truth.

"They must know, so it never happens again," he said.



Woman to Woman

May 15-21, 2007



God has always used women. He used Esther to save her people from annihilation. He used Jael to fell a great enemy. He used Deborah to judge the nation and to lead it in time of war. He used Rahab to save Israel's spies. He used Lydia and other women to help support the ministry of the early Church. He chose women to be the bearers of life.

On May 15-21, 2007, women from many nations will gather in Jerusalem to learn how they can be used of God in this day to remove the barriers between Christian and Jewish women. Christian women will meet with their Jewish counterparts, learn their concerns, and feel their hearts' cry. This "Woman to Woman" conference will combine opportunities to hear from Israeli women of influence with visits to centers assisting the poor, elderly, and children. A banquet will feature "Corrie Remembers," a one-woman dramatization of Corrie Ten Boom, whose family saved Jews during the Holocaust.

The four-day Bridges for Peace (BFP) conference is combined with a two-day seminar sponsored by the Christian Allies Caucus (CAC) Women's Council of

Israel's Parliament. Laura Bush is their invited keynote speaker. The CAC event focuses on the importance of Jewish and Christian women standing together united for God and against evil actions and influences that threaten to destroy our treasured Judeo-Christian ethics.

Just as God has always used women, He is calling to women today to speak up, stand up, and let their lives make a difference in this world for Him.

"The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host" (Psalm 68:11).

Join women from around the world in Jerusalem for this extraordinary event.

Contact your BFP National Office for details and tour options.

Bridges for Peace, PMB 33145, 5103 S. Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74145-7627. 800-566-1998.

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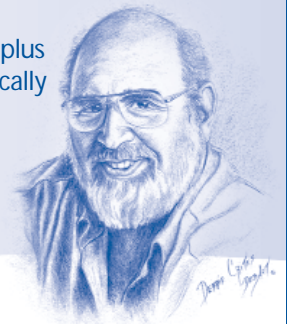
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Zola's Monthly Gift Program

Arabs Reach Out to Israel, U.S. Jews

By Barbara Slavin, USA Today

Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia, are making some of their most public overtures ever to Israel and American Jews in an effort to undercut Iran's growing influence, contain violence in Iraq and Lebanon, and push for a Palestinian solution.

The high-profile gestures coincide with Saudi Arabia's lead role in brokering a deal for a coalition Palestinian government.

In January, Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's departing ambassador to the United States, attended a Washington reception sponsored by American Jewish organizations. The event honored a State Department diplomat appointed to combat anti-Semitism.



Turki al-Faisal

The appearance of a Saudi diplomat is "unprecedented," said William Daroff, Washington office director for the United Jewish Communities, which organized the reception.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates have stepped up contacts with Israel and pro-Israel Jewish groups in the USA. The outreach has the Bush administration's blessing: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said six Gulf states and Egypt, Jordan, and Israel are a new alignment of moderates to oppose extremists backed by Iran and Syria. She has said an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal would weaken militants such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

Contacts have intensified as part of a strategy meant to undercut extremists and build momentum for a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, said an aide to Saudi Prince Turki.

A Middle East expert at the Council on Foreign Relations said, "What really concerns pro-U.S. Arab states is that Iran is setting the political agenda in the region."



The Proper Role of Government

"The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg."

— Thomas Jefferson

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

iNetwork (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

The newest addition to our TV Airing Schedule, posted at www.levitt.com, is Channel 377 (TCT) on DirecTV:

Wednesday 2:30 PM Eastern
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NOTE: If you are unable to view ZLP at the day and time stated, please contact your local cable company or refer to your satellite directory.



Thy Kingdom Come— The Future of Believers TV Series

Twelve 30-minute TV programs on three VHS tapes. Please order from page 31.

This twelve-program series searches Bible prophecy to reveal the glorious future events awaiting all Believers in Messiah. Closed Captioned.



*Note:
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present.*

Overview. From a scenic park near Jerusalem, Zola gives us an overview of the series, revealing our future according to Bible prophecy.

The Rapture. A graveyard on Mount Zion is the setting for Zola's teaching on the "catching up" of Believers, the first End Times event on the prophetic calendar. From the studio, Zola and Dr. Tom McCall talk about the amazing surprise and the timing of the Rapture of the Church.

The Judgment Seat of the Righteous. Among the ruins of ancient Caesarea, Zola teaches on how Believers are to be rewarded for the works we have done. We interview a Christian living in Israel who is not working for temporal gain, but is looking toward Heavenly rewards.

The Wedding. At the beautiful rose garden next to the Knesset in Jerusalem, Zola teaches about the Believers' wedding to the Messiah, and its Jewish context. We interview two Messianic Believers as they show us their wedding ceremony and discuss its significance.

The Second Coming. There is no better place for Zola to teach about the return of the Lord than the place from where He left: the Mount of Olives. Later, Zola and Dr. McCall exalt in the significance of the Messiah's return.

The Throne of Judgment. From the Valley of Decision in Jerusalem, Zola teaches on the judgment of those who will live and die during the Great Tribulation. Today, the Christian Friends of Israel ministry blesses the brothers of the Messiah by helping Jewish immigrants as they return to the Promised Land.

The Kingdom Begins. Viewing the Temple Mount, Zola teaches about the beginning of the Messiah's thousand-year reign on Earth. Zola and Dr. McCall talk about day-to-day life in the Messianic Kingdom.

The Kingdom in Progress. From the Mount of Olives, Zola explains how different it will be to live in the Millennial Kingdom. Today, Israeli-American citizen Reuben Prager of Jerusalem is looking to the future as he makes preparations for the next Temple.

*Zola's Music on
CD or Audio-
cassette tape.*

The Gog & Magog Invasion. Zola reveals how at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, Satan is released one last time to do battle against the Lord. Avi Lipkin looks at the possibility of military invasion from a modern-day perspective.

The Great White Throne of Judgment. We see the wicked doomed to eternal separation from God as Zola teaches on this last and final judgment. Dr. Tom McCall offers a revealing exposition of infamous wicked people of generations past.

Eternity. Near David's Tower, Zola speaks of the new Heaven, the new Earth, and the New Jerusalem. Zola and Dr. McCall discuss the delightful conditions for Believers at our ultimate destination.

The Music. Combining new songs with significant melodies from the past, Zola presents the beautiful scenes of Israel that we have seen in the music videos featured in the programs of this series.

The Music is also available on separate CD or cassette. *Please order from the Music section on page 31.*



Saudis Lash 20 Partying Foreigners

Associated Press

A Saudi Arabian judge sentenced 20 foreigners to receive lashes and spend several months in prison after convicting them of attending a party where alcohol was served and men and women danced.



Religious Police

The defendants were among 433 foreigners, including some 240 women, arrested by the kingdom's religious police for attending the party in Jeddah. The state-guided newspaper, *Okaz*, did not identify the foreigners, give their nationalities, or say when the party took place.

Judge Saud al-Boushi sentenced the 20 to prison terms of three to four months and ordered them to receive an unspecified number of lashes. They have the right to appeal, the newspaper said.

The prosecutor general charged the 20 with **“drinking, arranging for impudent party, mixed dancing, and shooting a video for the party.”** The paper said the rest of those arrested were awaiting trial. Saudi Arabia follows a strict interpretation of Islam under which it bans alcohol and meetings between unrelated men and women.

The religious police, a force resented by many Saudis for interfering in personal lives, enjoys wide powers. Its officers roam malls, markets, universities, and other public places looking for such infractions as unrelated men and women mingling, men skipping Islam's five daily prayers, and women with strands of hair showing from under their veils.

First Muslim To Join Israeli Cabinet

The News-International

The Israeli government appointed an Arab Muslim to the cabinet for the first time in the history of the Jewish state, despite opposition from ultranationalists and some Arab lawmakers.

Ghaleb Majadleh, 53, from the centre-left Labor party, becomes minister without portfolio in the coalition

government of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Notes &

Majadleh, a long-time union leader, hailed his appointment as an historic step forward for relations between Jews and the minority Arab community in Israel. “The appointment of the first Arab minister is a sign to the Arab citizens of Israel to push the Arabs toward social and political equality,” he said.

All cabinet members except for the ultranationalist Minister of Strategic Affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, voted in favor of his appointment, according to a senior government source.

In 2001, Salah Tarif, a member of the Druze minority, was made minister without portfolio, but he resigned shortly afterwards after being indicted on corruption charges. He was convicted in December 2003.

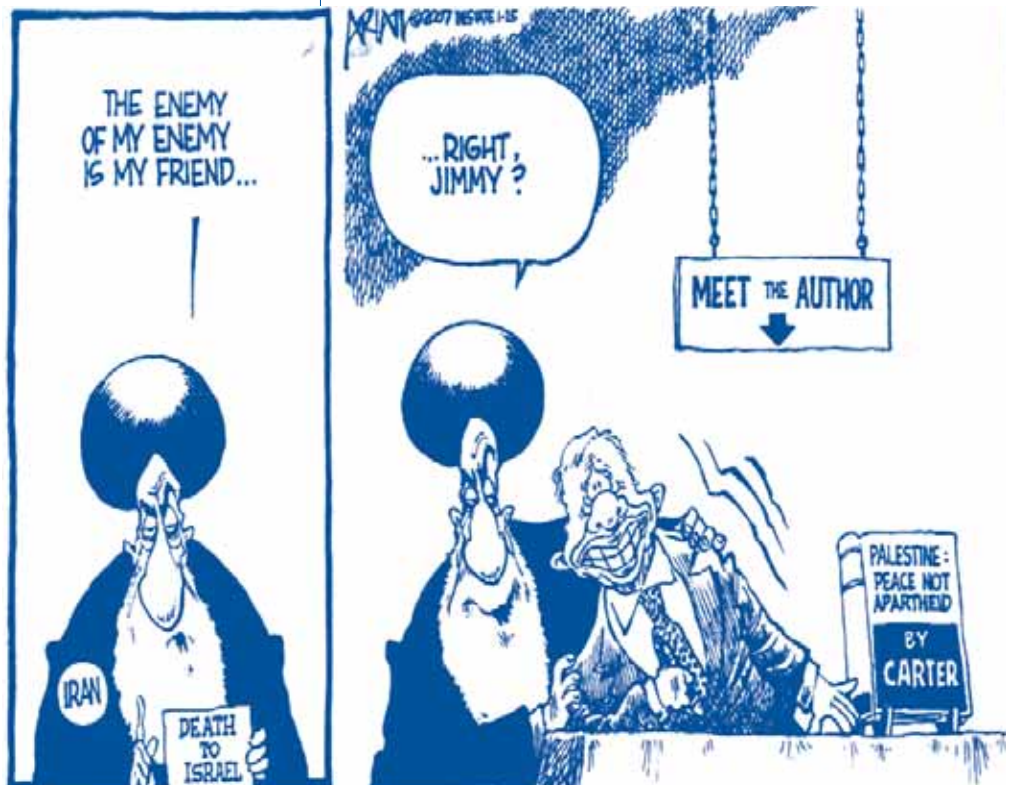
Majadleh and sources close to Olmert said the two had agreed that Majadleh would be assigned a portfolio within weeks, possibly at the helm of a newly created ministry of science, culture, and sport. Government ministers praised Majadleh's appointment, seen as a step by Labor to counter Lieberman's ultranationalist stance against Israel's 1.3 million Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of Israel's population.



Majadleh

“The time has come for an Arab minister in our cabinet. I hail the decision,” said Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Briefs

Immigration Minister Zeev Boim said Majadleh's appointment was "a day of celebra-

tion for the state of Israel and especially for the Arab minority."

Several Arab lawmakers, however, denounced the appointment of Majadleh, who replaces former culture minister Ophir Pines-Paz. Pines-Paz resigned in October 2006 to protest Lieberman's joining the government.

Berlin: Hundreds Call for Solidarity with Israel

The Jerusalem Post



Several hundred demonstrators marched to Berlin's Holocaust Memorial to call for solidarity with Israel against threats from Iran's hard-line president.

Some 700 people took part in driving rain, according to a police estimate, some carrying Israeli flags and placards demanding that the international community "defend Israel."

A group of Jewish and other organizations organized the event to protest against Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has described the Holocaust as a "myth" and called for Israel to be wiped off the map.

Iranian Threat Not Like Soviets'

By Yaakov Lappin, www.ynetnews.com

Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts, said that Islamic jihadism was "the nightmare of this century."

"The war in Lebanon [last summer] demonstrated that Israel is facing a jihadist threat that runs through Tehran, to Damascus, to Gaza. Hezbollah are not fighting for the coming into being of a Palestinian state, but for the going out of being of the Israeli state," he said.

Romney emphasized that Iran could not be compared to the former Soviet threat, because the Islamic Republic was following a suicidal path. "For all of the Soviets' deep flaws, **they were never suicidal**. Soviet commitment to national survival was never in question. That assumption cannot be made about an irrational regime (Iran) that celebrates martyrdom," he said.

The former governor called for the utilization of the widespread opposition held by the Iranian people to their own regime, in order to facilitate regime change. "Iran must be stopped. Iran can be stopped."

Arab Nominated as Righteous Gentile

www.jtnews.net

A Tunisian farmer is the first Arab nominated for Yad Vashem's Righteous Gentile designation.

The efforts of Khaled Abd al-Wahab, a Tunisian farmer who died in 1997, were discovered by historian Robert Satloff.

Some 60 Muslims are among the more than 20,000 Righteous Gentiles already named by the Holocaust museum and memorial in Jerusalem, but no Arabs.

Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, attributed this partly to historians' lack of research in the area and also to some Arab rescuers' desire not to be found, as the Holocaust — which made plain the Jews' need for their own state — has become a touchy subject in the Arab world.

"I had the impression that at some point it became unacceptable to be a rescuer of Jews," said Satloff. "Too many people reacted negatively to the fact that their parents rescued Jews."

Survivor Anny Boukris told Satloff how Wahab hid her and 24 relatives on his farm. Boukris, who was 11 at the time, wrote that Wahab risked his life when he stopped a German officer from raping her mother.

Satloff traveled to the farm and interviewed witnesses who verified Boukris's testimony. ★



Amusing Ourselves to Death

www.welcome-to-pottersville.blogspot.com

Have we learned anything from the spectacle of Anna Nicole Smith?



Smith

When we were kids, we were taught not to laugh at people who were obviously mentally or emotionally disturbed. With Ms. Smith, who was deeply and unmistakably disturbed, we put her on television and laughed and laughed. Would she say something stupid, or spill out of her dress, or pass out in public from booze or drugs? How hysterically funny!

Then her son died. Then she died, leaving an orphaned infant daughter. Instead of turning away chastened, shamed, we homed in like happy vultures. Whatever entertainment value Ms. Smith had when she was alive increased exponentially when she was kind enough to die for us. She became around-the-clock news.

The story, as they say, had legs.

There were other stories out there, but not nearly as much fun. The *Times* reported, for example, about al-Qaeda getting its act together in Pakistan and setting up training camps in an area where, apparently, we don't dare trespass.

According to the article, "American officials said there was mounting evidence that Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, had been steadily building an operations hub in the mountainous Pakistani tribal area of North Waziristan."

The article went on to say, ominously, "The United States has also identified several new al-Qaeda compounds in North Waziristan, including one that officials said might be training operatives for strikes against targets beyond Afghanistan."

I imagine that there are a fair number of television viewers and newspaper readers who have trouble distinguishing the relative importance of celebrity stories, like the death of Anna Nicole Smith, from other matters in the news, like the reconstitution of forces responsible for the devastating Sept. 11 attacks.

If air time is any guide, there's no contest. It's been obvious for the longest time that the line between news and entertainment has vanished.

News is entertainment. And a death like Anna Nicole Smith's offers more entertainment than the war in Iraq or the plodding machinations of bin Laden and Zawahri.

Paris Hilton and Britney Spears were on the cover of *Newsweek* with the headline "The Girls Gone Wild Effect." When you turned to the story, there was a full-page picture of the former best friends, with a glassy-eyed Britney looking for all the world like a younger version of Anna Nicole Smith.



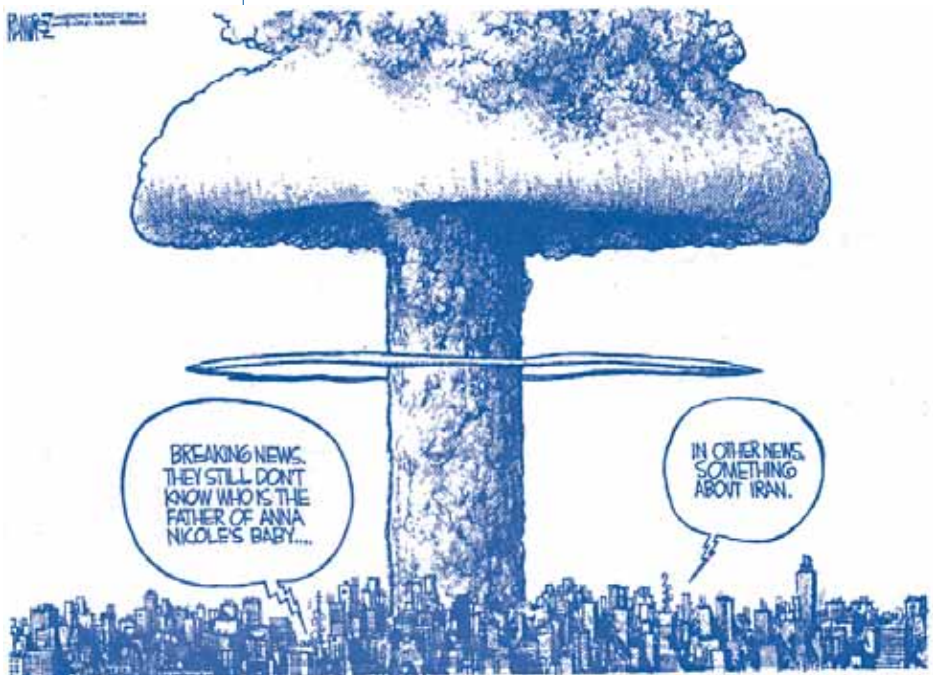
Hilton



Spears

The nation may be at war, and al-Qaeda may be gearing up for a rematch, but that's no fun — not when Britney is shaving off her hair and Jennifer Aniston is reported to have a new nose. It was Neil Postman who warned in 1985 that we were **amusing ourselves to death**. I'm not sure anyone knew how literally to take him.

More than 20 years later, the masses have nearly succeeded in drawing the curtains on anything that's not entertaining. No one can figure out what do about Iraq or al-Qaeda. A great American cultural center like New Orleans was all but washed away, and no one knows how to put it back together. The ice caps are melting and Al Gore is traveling the land like the town crier, raising the alarm about global warming. But none of that has really gotten the public's attention. None of it is amusing enough. As a nation of spectators, we seem content to sit with a pizza and a brew in front of the high-def flat-screen TV and obsess over Anna Nicole et al. with no thought to the possibility that the calamitous events unfolding in the world may someday reach our doorsteps. ★



"To The Jew First" Report

By Pastor Tom Terry

I want everyone to know the importance of continuing the "To The Jew First" ministry. While many ministries broadcast what needs to be done, Zola Levitt Ministries takes it a step farther, right into the streets of Israel, to bring the Gospel of the Jewish Messiah to the Jew.

On our tour, four dedicated Christians with hearts for Israel were sent to Israel by ZLM. We were two pastors, a pastor's wife, and a teacher. We met with Sandra Levitt in Tel Aviv expecting a charge of "Go here, then there." But to our delight and with God's obvious leading, Sandra told us, "Go as the Lord directs you, wherever there are people to hear the Gospel." ZLM gave us Bible tracts in Hebrew/English and even Hebrew Bibles, and provided a van and capable driver: Sergey was a great help in locating people and a joy to be with.

We walked through streets, shops, and workplaces praying for the Israelis, calling out "Ben David" (Son of David) as we reached out a hand to them. We conversed about Yeshua at bus stops and city parks in Tiberias. Some people received us and others rejected us; yet I fondly remember one man who took a tract about Jesus as the Messiah, left and came back after reading it, and kissed the pastor's wife on the cheek, crying, "Toda, Toda, Toda Raba." (Thank you, thank you, thank you very much!)

Our trip to Safad in the mountains above Galilee, where few Christians ever go to witness Christ, was a great success as many heard about the Savior that day.

On the streets of Jerusalem one afternoon we were stopped by a young Jewish woman and her grandmother.

"You cannot pass out literature about Jesus in Jerusalem," she said. "It is illegal. Give me your papers." She was persistent and loud, even angry. Yet we listened to her rave and told her that we were there because Christians love Israel. As she quieted down, we had a great conversation about what the Bible says about the Jewish Messiah. She told us that we were "very dangerous people."

"Why are we dangerous?" I asked.

"Because many are close to believing your way," she said. As she and her grandmother walked away, big smiles crept onto our faces. We are getting close to their hearts.

To partners of Zola Levitt Ministries: please continue helping the "To The Jew First" ministry. Perhaps you are not personally a soul winner, but by funding this worthwhile ministry, you can be a part of bringing the Gospel to Israel and winning lost souls for Christ. And by all means, plan a trip there with Sandra and Jeff, as neither you nor your Bible will ever be the same. ★



Paper
"preachers"
and "prophets"
in Hebrew—
used to
witness
in Israel



Chaplain Fired for Praying in Jesus' Name



Klingenschmitt

By Pastor Chuck Baldwin, www.newswithviews.com

Chaplain Lt. Gordon James Klingenschmitt has been court-martialed and dismissed from the U.S. Navy. His crime? Praying in Jesus' name in uniform outside a chapel. You read it right. After 15 1/2 years of exemplary service, Lt. Klingenschmitt is being drummed out of the Navy.

Understand that Klingenschmitt has a meritorious military record. He graduated from the Air Force Academy and spent 11 years as an Air Force missile officer. He was promoted to the rank of Major and was offered a job at the Pentagon at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. However, Klingenschmitt wanted to be a chaplain. As such, he willingly took a demotion in order to serve in the U.S. Navy as a chaplain at the rank of Lieutenant.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt served in the Persian Gulf. While there, he and his men won 6 awards, including Best in the Navy, for outstanding community service. But now this fine Christian man is being discharged. He is losing his career (not to mention a million-dollar pension) for the "crime" of praying in Jesus' name.

"Losing a \$1,000,000 pension"

Now, compare what the Navy has done to Lt. Klingenschmitt to the report that the Pentagon recently promoted a Wahhabi-trained Muslim chaplain who catered to al-Qaeda detainees at Guantanamo and fought to establish the first mosque in Marine Corps history. [see story in March '07 *Levitt Letter*]

This kind of idiocy happens when presidents and their subordinates become consumed with political correctness. Logic, common sense, character, and appreciation for truth are thrown out the window. And good men such as Lt. Klingenschmitt must bear the brunt of it all.

Readers should know that since Chaplain Klingenschmitt's dismissal, public outcry convinced the Pentagon to reverse its policy of punishing chaplains who pray in Jesus' name. Unfortunately, the decision is not being grandfathered back to Klingenschmitt's case, and he is still being drummed out of the Navy.

This is a good man, a fine Christian patriot who is being unjustly punished. He is not bitter. However, seeking to be reinstated, he has hired The Rutherford Institute to represent him in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Navy. I urge my fellow Americans to pray that God will vindicate the good chaplain and that he will be restored to his former position and rank. You might want to let your congress member know of this injustice, as well.



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Solomon's Temple Location Found?

www.WorldNetDaily.com



Prof. Joseph Patrich

Using maps created in 1866 by a British explorer and passages from the Jewish Mishnah, an Israeli archaeologist and professor at Hebrew University says he has pinpointed the location of the sacred Jewish Temple, twice built and twice destroyed in ancient times.

While popular consensus places the Temple, built by King Solomon in the 10th century B.C. and rebuilt by Jews who returned from Babylon in the 5th century B.C., on the site of the present Muslim Dome of the Rock, Prof. Joseph Patrich says archaeological remains show its exact location—and the consensus is wrong.

According to Patrich, the Temple, its corresponding courtyards, chambers, and gates were oriented in a more southeasterly direction, sitting diagonally on what is the modern Temple Mount. The difference in orientation and the placement farther eastward varies from the east-facing orientation of other scholars who believe the Temple was closer to today's Western Wall.

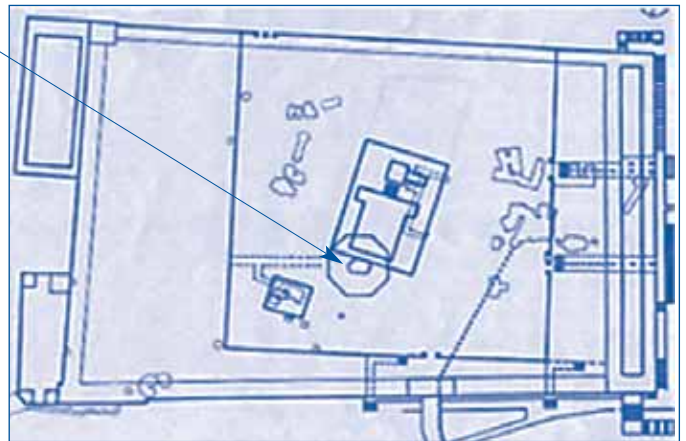
"Leaves the rock in the Dome of the Rock outside of the Temple itself."

Patrich's siting of the Temple is derived from information collected by British engineer Sir Charles Wilson in 1866 on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Wilson mapped a series of ancient cisterns below the present Temple Mount platform. One of those, Patrich says, preserves a vestige of the Temple that stood until it was destroyed by Rome in A.D. 70.

"Until now no one has ever thought that the location of the cistern on the Temple Mount and its unique shape were derived from the shape and location of the altar and sanctuary," Patrich said.

According to the archaeologist, this cistern is the only one found on the Temple Mount that corresponds to descriptions in the Jewish Mishnah—the rabbinic oral tradition compiled in the 3rd century A.D.—of daily purification and sacrificial duties carried out by the priests on the altar in the Temple courtyard.

Patrich's siting leaves the rock in the Dome of the Rock outside of the confines of the Temple itself. Patrich said his research on the Temple's location is strictly academic, and political connotations should not be attributed to it. ★



"Prof. Joseph Patrich says archaeological remains show its exact location—and the consensus is wrong."

Israel Allows Minaret over Temple Mount

By Aaron Klein, www.WorldNetDaily.com

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has given permission for Jordan to build a large minaret adjacent to a mosque on the Temple Mount to call Muslims to prayer at the holy site. The minaret will stand at a site on the Mount where Jewish groups had petitioned to build a synagogue.

There are four minarets on the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism. The new minaret will be the largest one yet. It will be the first built on the Temple Mount in over 600 years and is slated to tower over the walls of Jerusalem's old city. The Temple Mount's first minaret was constructed on the southwest corner in 1278; the second was built in 1297 by order of a Mameluke king; the third by a governor of Jerusalem in 1329; and the last in 1367.

Aryeh Eldad, a Knesset member from Israel's National Union party, last year drew up plans with Jewish groups to build a synagogue near the Marwani Mosque. The synagogue was to be built in accordance with rulings from several prominent rabbis, who said Jews may ascend the Mount at certain areas.

A top leader of the Waqf—the Islamic custodians of the Mount—said Olmert's granting of permission to build the minaret in the synagogue's place "confirms 100-percent the Haram al-Sharif (Temple Mount) belongs to Muslims.

"This proves Jewish conspiracies for a synagogue will never succeed and solidifies our presence here. It will make Muslims worldwide more secure that the Jews will never take over the Haram al-Sharif," the Waqf official said.

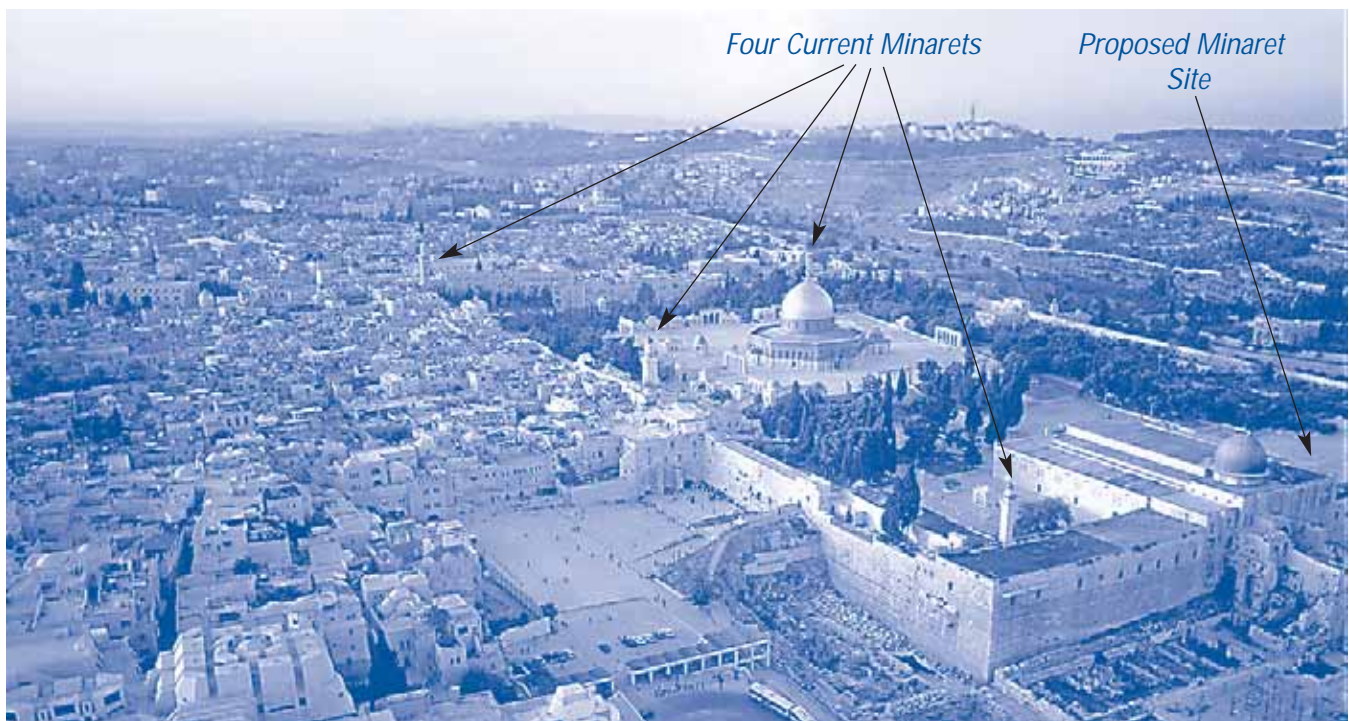
A senior Olmert adviser confirmed the Israeli prime minister told Abdullah he will allow the minaret's construction.

Prominent Israeli archaeologist Gabi Barkai of Tel Aviv University blasted the new minaret plans. "I am against any change in the status quo on the Temple Mount. If the status quo is being changed, then it should not just be the addition of Muslim structures at the site," Barkai said.

Rabbi Chaim Rechman, director of the international department at Israel's Temple Institute, said Olmert's decision to allow the minaret "is repugnant to anyone who knows what it is to be a Jew. The decision and Israel's general attitude toward the Temple Mount is the manifestation of spiritual bankruptcy in the country's leadership. Olmert is turning his back on our Jewish heritage while the rest of the world looks at us with amazement at how we can be so insensitive to our own spiritual legacy."

This article continues with a complete history of the activities on the Temple Mount. To see the full article, visit www.levitt.com/news.

Perhaps the Muslims are building this larger minaret so they can watch out for the real Messiah—Jesus—just in case the Mahdi doesn't show up! — Editor ★



A Threat Greater Than Nukes

By Ezra HaLevi, www.israelnationalnews.com

Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Israel (Robert) J. Aumann, of the Center for the Study of Rationality at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, addressed the Herzliya Conference, speaking after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Prof. Aumann, began by addressing the Iranian threat, but shifted his focus midway to what he said poses an even more serious threat to the Jewish nation: post-Zionism.

“Post-Zionism will finish us off.”

“Motivating ourselves is the most important thing, and the thing we are losing the most. Without motivation, we will not endure. What are we doing here? Why are we here? What are we aspiring to here? We are here because we are Jewish, we are Zionist, because of our ancient bond to this land; we aspire to realize our 2,000-year-old hope of becoming a free nation in our land, the Land of Zion and Jerusalem. Without this profound understanding, we will not endure. We will simply no longer be here; post-Zionism will finish us off.”

The Nobel Prize laureate, who was an outspoken opponent of the Disengagement, then addressed the prime minister: “About half a year ago in Petra, Jordan, the prime minister said that we are tired. He was right. He expresses the sentiments of the nation. We are like a mountain-climber who gets caught in a snowstorm; the night falls, he is cold and tired, and he wants to sleep. If he falls asleep, he will freeze to death. We are in terminal danger because we are tired. I will allow myself to say a few unpopular, unfashionable words:

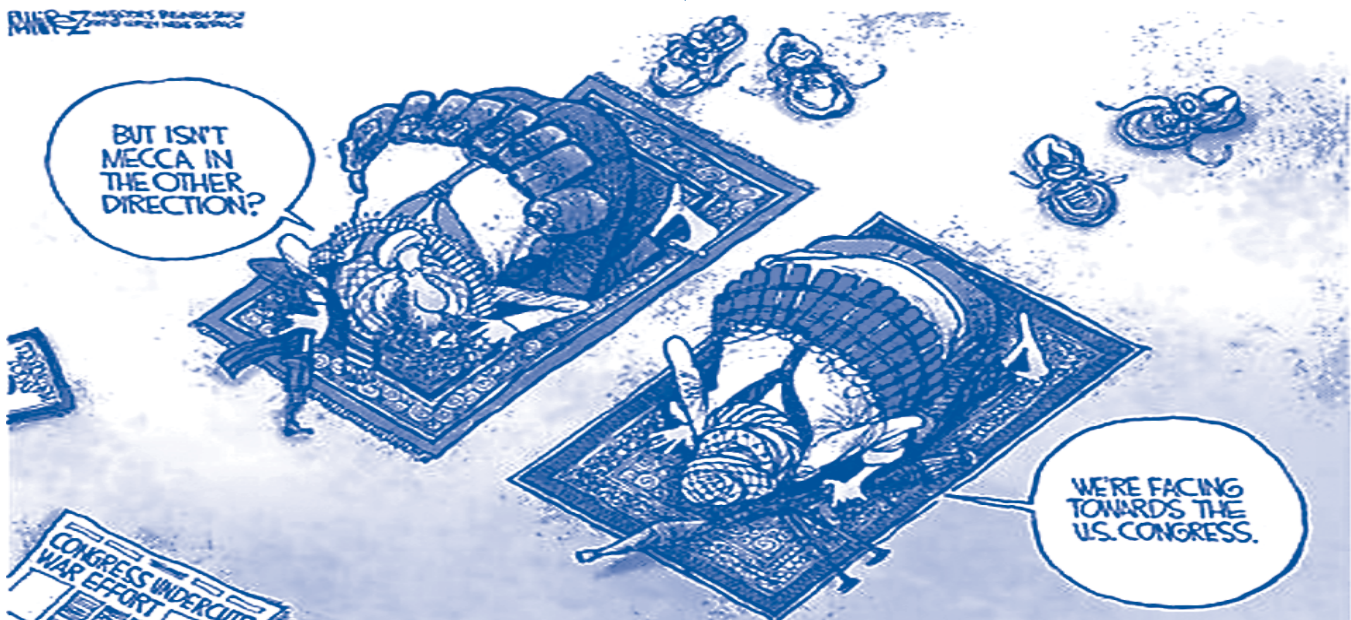
Our panicked longing for peace is working against us. It brings us farther away from peace and endangers our very existence. I think it was Churchill who said, ‘If you want peace, prepare for war.’ The preparation includes material preparation, a fantastic army, effective tools of war, but above all, we are talking about spiritual preparation, about spiritual readiness to go to war.

“Roadmaps, capitulation, gestures, disengagements, convergences, deportations, and so forth do not bring peace. On the contrary, they bring war, just as we saw last summer. These send a clear signal to our ‘cousins’ [the Arabs] that we are tired, that we no longer have spiritual strength, that we have no time, that we are calling for a time-out. This only whets their appetites and encourages them to pressure us more, to demand more, and not to give up on anything. This stems from theoretical considerations and straight thinking. But it’s not just theory: it has been proven and re-proven in the field over thousands of years. Capitulations bring about war; determination and readiness bring about peace.

Capitulations bring about war; determination and readiness bring about peace.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we must tell our ‘cousins’ that we are staying here. We are not moving. We have time; we have patience; we have stamina. Understand this and internalize it. And we must not simply say it to our cousins, but feel it within ourselves. This and only this will bring peace. We really can live in peace and unity and cooperation with our cousins. But only after they understand and internalize that the Zionist state will be here forever.” ★

THE ZIONIST STATE'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Democracy Israeli-style

By Reda Mansour, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

My grandfather, who lived to be more than 100 years old, used to say, "I've seen them all, and there are none like the Jews."

Our small Druze town had remained virtually the same for hundreds of years under Ottoman and later British rule. When Israel was established in 1948, rapid development ensued and for the first time our homes had electricity and running water, and every child received a quality, free education.

Even among all that modernity and relative luxury, my grandfather's greatest praise for Israel came as a result of how the young state treated its less fortunate citizens. For the first time in his life, my grandfather, a retired factory worker, received a pension and had access to quality health care. He said that a society could be judged by the way it treats the elderly, sick, and unemployed and that Israel had proved itself both strong and compassionate. Certainly, he would say, such a nation would prevail.

That is the untold story of Israel, a nation that measures its strength not by its wealth or military prowess, but by the vibrancy of its civil society and the diversity of its democratic system. In a country where the symphonic orchestra, the theater, and the university were all built before the state's political institutions, there are now more than 40,000 independent civic associations. They strengthen our system of education, protect our environment, and work to bring peace and justice to our region.

Israel is an immigrant society with a diverse population: 1.3 million of its citizens are Arabs belonging to various religious and ethnic groups. Indeed, some still suffer from poverty and lack equal investment in their communities from the government, but Arab-Israelis still have a standard of living higher than any of their brethren living in non-oil sheikdoms. They are full citizens who can vote and be elected to public office. They have the right to worship, assemble, and speak freely without fear of intimidation or oppression. Since the establishment of our young nation, the freest Arabs in the Middle East reside in the Jewish state of Israel.

With all the challenges it faces, Israel remains the only democracy in the Middle East. This does not make Israel's political system perfect; rather, the endless pursuit of greater equality sets Israel apart from its neighbors.

In my hometown, I have seen the fulfillment of the "Israeli Dream:" young professionals of all faiths who have established successful careers in law, medicine,

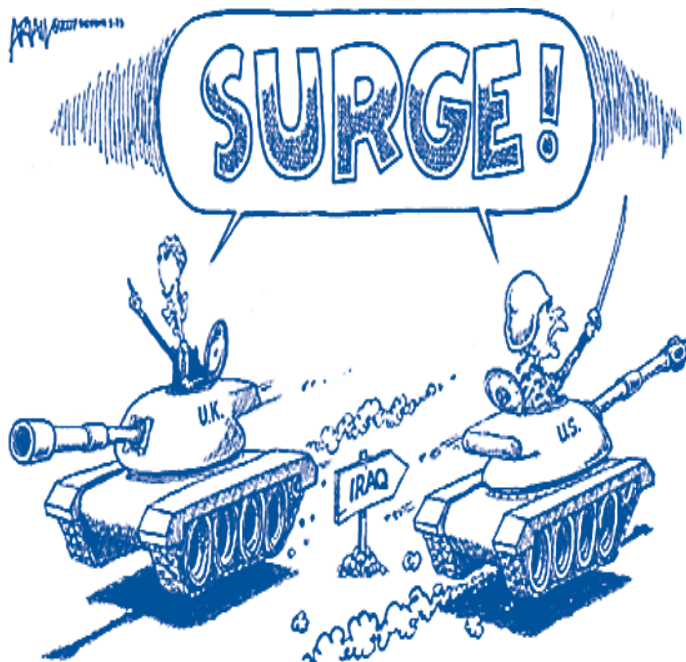
business, and diplomacy. We all come from middle-class families that used the public school system and government universities to create a better future for our children. None of us would have had that opportunity were it not for the free and open society in which we live.

Today, our freedom is threatened by the vile ideology of hate spewed by Hamas, Hezbollah, and other similar organizations. With the support of their backers in Teheran and Damascus, these extremists rain rockets down upon Israeli villages and send suicide bombers into our buses and markets. Their supporters espouse a false narrative of eternal victimhood, attempting to justify every act of brutality and blaming Israel for every hardship. This empty rhetoric does not change the fact that the shrapnel of their weapons knows neither age nor ethnicity. And the resulting violence affects every Israeli regardless of race or religion.

The defense against this onslaught requires military action, but the solution to the complex issues that have brought us to this point is found in the strong bond that has developed between Arabs and Jews in Israel. If we peacefully coexist in Haifa and Asifiya, why not in Gaza, Beirut, or the rest of the region?

Recently, I attended a ceremony at Georgia's State Capitol commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Like Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin, he gave his life in defense of the dream of coexistence.

Because of what my grandfather saw, my children and I are able to live this dream as citizens of Israel. Today, we look to our borders wondering when our neighbors will embrace the dream of peace rather than the nightmare of war.



Arabs, Jews Proud to Be Israelis

By Frida Ghitis, www.miamiherald.com

Here's something about Israel that will surprise you. After last summer's war between Israel and Hezbollah militias in Lebanon, researchers asked Israeli citizens—Arabs and Jews—if they would rather be citizens of another country. As one might expect after a war, patriotism was the order of the day. A huge proportion, almost 88.5 percent of Israeli Jews, said yes, Israel is the one country whose citizenship they preferred. But listen to this: Among Arab citizens of Israel, an astounding 73 percent agreed with the statement that they would rather be citizens of Israel than of any other country in the world.

How do you explain that many of Israel's Arab citizens actually like the country where they live? As a



matter of fact, I would wager that millions of people don't even realize that Israel has Arab citizens—more than a million of them—with full rights under Israeli law. Israel was founded as a Jewish state, although one committed to respecting the rights of all its citizens.

Israeli Arabs participate in just about every aspect of the country's life. There are Arab political parties and Arab members of parliament. And don't think the Arabs in parliament behave as docile lackeys of the government. They are at least as critical of government policies as any party in the opposition. Israel's Arab citizens participate in their country's democracy more freely and actively than the citizens of just about any Arab country.

KKK Growing in Strength

www.YnetNews.com



The Ku Klux Klan has experienced “a surprising and troubling resurgence” in the United States during the past year, an Anti-Defamation League report revealed.

According to the report, the white supremacy group has successfully exploited issues such as immigration, gay marriage, and urban crime to draw in new members and accelerate activity.

The ADL monitors the activities of hate groups and reports developments to policy makers and law enforcement agencies. ADL Civil Rights Director Deborah M. Lauter pointed to immigration as the key issue stirring up racist sentiments in the United States.

“If any one single issue or trend can be credited with re-energizing the Klan, it is the debate over immigration in America,” said Lauter.

A surge in clan activity was identified especially in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Nebraska, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The increase in activity was characterized by growing membership, new groups, cooperation with neo-Nazi groups, and new publicity tactics using the Internet.

Lauter also noted the changing nature of Klan members.

“Today's young Klansmen are more likely to look virtually indistinguishable from racist skinheads or neo-Nazis, and are as likely to gather at white power music concerts or socialize at so-called ‘unity rallies’ with other white supremacists, as to participate in ritualistic cross burnings in the rural wilderness,” she said.

Israel Helps Sri Lanka With Emergencies

www.israeltoday.co.il



Israel has recently launched a long-range plan to train the health authorities in Sri Lanka in the areas of trauma and emergency medicine. The project is being led by MASHAV, the Center for International Development and Cooperation in the Foreign Ministry, and in conjunction with the JOINT (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), and is considered a flagship project.

The purpose of the project is training health workers in Sri Lanka to treat trauma victims and to assist building protocols and emergency procedures for hospitals on the island. In the first stage, a delegation of 20 officials from the Sri Lankan health establishment, including doctors, paramedics, and nurses, attend several training workshops in Israeli hospitals and Magen David Adom [Red Shield of David, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross].

During the second stage, Israel will launch a donation of six ambulances (a donation from the JOINT) to Sri Lanka. In addition, Israeli experts will conduct workshops for local health professionals in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan prime minister and the health minister thanked the Israelis for their assistance to the local health systems. The prime minister also thanked the assistance of Israeli and Jewish relief organizations in rebuilding homes damaged by the tsunami two years ago.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Jews in Yemen Flee Homes After Threats

By Yoav Stern, www.haaretz.com

Some 45 Jews of Sa'ada county in Yemen left their homes after being threatened by radical Muslims, the Saudi daily newspaper reported. According to the report, the extremists told the Jews to leave their homes within ten days, after which time they would be exposed to abductions and looting. The Jews moved into a hotel in the town of Sa'ada, north of the Yemenite capital, Sanaa, and submitted a formal complaint to Yemenite President Abdullah Salah.

The threat message—attributed to disciples of Shiite-inclined religious leader Hossein Bader a-Din al-Khouthy—said that the Jews are acting in a manner that “primarily serves global Zionism, which is acting persistently to disseminate decay amongst the people and to cut them off from their principles, values, their morals, and religion.”

The Jewish community received letters saying, “Whoever remains at his home will be killed or his children will be taken away.” The Jews under threat contacted local authorities and demanded fair treatment as ordinary Yemenite citizens. They told the authorities, among other things, that Islam imposes taxes on Jews in return for protection and security.

Following the incident, the community was forced to evacuate the homes in which they lived for generations, and leave their hometown under the protection of tolerant local sheikhs.

“We have been taken out of our homes; our money is lost; we cannot provide for our children. We came to the country’s capital (Sanaa) to plea before the president and the government to treat us fairly, because we are Yemenites,” community members said. The Jewish community in Yemen consists of several hundred members, who are not interested in leaving it. The Jews maintain a community life, including a cheder for children’s Torah instruction, and regularly pray.



The Piranha Club by Bud Grace

Germany Seeks to Bar Holocaust Denial in EU

By Dan Bilefsky,
International Herald Tribune



Brigitte Zypries

Germany wants to use its European Union presidency to push through legislation that would make denying the Holocaust punishable by stiff jail sentences in all 27 EU member states.

The country’s justice minister, Brigitte Zypries, said that Germany’s commitment to combating racism and xenophobia—and keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive—was both an enduring historical obligation and a present-day political necessity.

“We have always said that it can’t be the case that it should still be acceptable in Europe to say the Holocaust never existed and that six million Jews were never killed,” she said. Under the German proposal, she said, those who deny the Nazi slaughter of Jews during World War II **could face up to three years in prison.**

Zypries said the proposal, which will be debated by the bloc’s justice ministers in the next six months, would also seek to criminalize racist declarations that are an incitement to violence against a specific person or group. The aim, she said, was to harmonize national legal systems in their approach to combating racism and xenophobia.

Unifying hate crime rules in countries with vastly different legal cultures could prove difficult, analysts said. European leaders have been unanimous in condemning those who deny the Holocaust, and have sharply criticized the Iranian government for sponsoring a recent conference that cast doubt on it.

But the question of whether to criminalize such acts has divided Europe between countries like Germany that view a common EU law as a moral imperative and other countries—like Britain, Italy, and Denmark—that have resisted common rules as infringing on free speech and civil liberties. ★

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