

# The Improbable Happiness of Israelis

By Avinoam Bar-Yosef / WSJ.com

Global surveys find Israel high on happiness and life-satisfaction rankings—despite threats all around.

The World Happiness Report 2016 Update ranks Israel (Jews and Arabs) 11th of 158 countries evaluated for the United Nations. Israel also shines as No. 5 of the 36 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries on the OECD's Life Satisfaction Index—ahead of the U.S., the UK, and France.

How can this be? Israelis live in a hostile region, engaged in endless conflict with the "Palestinians" and under the threat of nuclear annihilation by Iran. Israel ranks only 24th in GDP per capita, and has only the 17th-highest per capita income in the world.

But Israelis do not rank as stupid on any index. Israel was the 5th-most innovative country in the 2015 Bloomberg Innovation Index, and a 2014 OECD study ranked it 4th in the percentage of adults with a higher education.

[\(continued p.2\)](#)

## Entebbe: "Israel Was Right—And Fortunately the Mission Succeeded"

By Hana Levi Julian  
JewishPress.com

On America's 200th birthday, three C-130 Hercules military transport planes silently flew through the night and landed at a darkened landing strip with enough Israeli commandos and fake official Ugandan vehicles to make it through airport security.

The Israelis ultimately rescued 102 Air France passengers and crew being held hostage by Arab and German terrorists at the old terminal in the Entebbe International Airport, who were under the military protection of then Ugandan president Idi Amin.

Forty years later to the day, Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni stood

[\(continued p.3\)](#)



Idi Amin



## The Improbable Happiness of Israelis *continued from cover*

The explanation for this paradox lies in indicators not considered in standard surveys. For instance, a new study by my organization, the Jewish People Policy Institute, looked at pluralism in Israel and found that 83% of Israel's Jewish citizens consider their nationality "significant" to their identity. Eighty percent mention that Jewish culture is also "significant." (69% rank it "important.") Strong families and long friendships stretching back to army service as young adults, or even to childhood, also foster a sense of well-being. All of these factors bolster the Jewish state's *raison d'être* (reason for being).

May 14, 2016 marked the 68th anniversary of Israel's founding. The enormous challenges never eroded Israelis' energy or hope.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, once stated that Israel would know it was a normal country "when Jewish thieves and Jewish prostitutes conduct their business in Hebrew." In this respect, Israel has exceeded Ben-Gurion's dreams: with one ex-president in jail for rape, and a former prime minister locked up for corruption. Israelis find comfort in the fact that the high and mighty are treated the same under the law as common crooks.

Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who died in 2014, once recalled that after finishing a day's work in the fields with his father, he pointed out in frustration how much plowing was left. His father told him to turn around and take in how much they had done.

In every aspect of Israel's existence there is plenty left to be plowed—plenty of room for improvement. Yet Israelis take comfort in savoring how much has been achieved, how sovereignty over the land of their forefathers was reclaimed. At least 60% of the Israeli population, now eight million, are either Jewish immigrants or their children. Jews from more than 90 countries have united in one society. They cherish the sense of self-determination.

And it isn't just Jews. Go to any beach or shopping mall and you will see Jews and Arabs peacefully coexisting. They all can take pride in their country's accomplishments, as when Israel faced a water crisis a decade ago and launched a desalination project that is now the envy of the world.

In 1964, my close childhood friend, Aryeh Argani, a young Israel Defense Forces pilot, was killed in action. Since then, I have visited his grave every spring on Independence Day. Three years ago, I got a phone call from his squadron telling me that no one was participating in the official memorials for Aryeh. He had been an only child, and the sorrow destroyed his parents. The squadron had learned that he and I were friends and invited me to attend a memorial for Aryeh. In the pilots' club of Squadron 103, I found a corner of the club dedicated to Aryeh's memory. His violin rests there.

These personal connections make Israelis proud and happy. If the global happiness and satisfaction index could measure them, we might get a better grip on the Israeli paradox. ★



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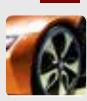
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## Entebbe: "Israel Was Right..." *continued from p. 1 sidebar*

beside Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to mark the 40th anniversary of the miraculous rescue. He said the Jewish state had been right to carry out the long-distance operation.

Netanyahu called the mission "a watershed moment for my people." Operation Thunderbolt is now called Operation Yonatan in memory of his older brother who lost his life leading the mission.

During his talk, Netanyahu referenced the Holocaust, remarking that Jews had been murdered by the millions, stateless. "The State of Israel has changed that. Perhaps it was in Entebbe," he said, "where this transformation was seen by the world. We were powerless no more."

Museveni agreed, saying that for Uganda as well, the operation had marked a turning point. "Your brother Jonathan, some Israeli hostages, and some Ugandan soldiers were killed here," he told Netanyahu at the airport ceremony. "Idi Amin's hobnobbing with terrorists was a crime in itself. Fortunately, the rescue mission succeeded."



Yonatan Netanyahu

"Yoni" Netanyahu was the leader of the commando unit that raced into the terminal to rescue the passengers. He was also the sole Israeli military fatality in the operation. Leading the way, he was hit by terrorist gunfire in the first moments the soldiers were seen.

Benjamin served in the same elite Sayeret Matkal unit at the time, went on many dangerous commando missions, and was wounded twice, but not involved in the Entebbe raid. Instead, Bibi learned that he had lost his brother when the unit returned. ★



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# Chutzpah In Any Language

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



During our five-year tenure with ZLM, Katharine and I have had the privilege of interviewing Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch. With his hearty band of researchers, Marcus faithfully monitors and translates Arabic “news articles” and communiqués into Hebrew and English for the Western world to see.

In my opinion, workers at PalWatch are true heroes on the frontlines of the clash of civilizations—that is, if you can classify as a civilization a terrorist-driven, suicide-bombing, murder-celebrating tribe that indoctrinates its youngest children to hate and kill. Am I being judgmental?

I remember the classic video of former PLO dictator Yasser Arafat crying crocodile tears in front of the European and American media. He acted distraught over a terror attack on Israel—but hours later was seen screaming, “Jihad, jihad, jihad!” before a Muslim audience. I thought, “This is the very definition of ‘*taqiyya*’”—namely, lying or acting deceptively in order to progress Islam, a perfectly permissible practice in Islam.

While the Palestinian call for jihad against Israel continues, **Palestinian leaders in Fatah and Hamas seek Israeli doctors, hospitals, and medical interventions for their own survival.**

[Algemeiner.com](http://Algemeiner.com) gives examples.

## Jews helping Fatah:

- **President Mahmoud Abbas’s younger brother Abu Lawi, as he is called, was recently treated for cancer in the Assuta Medical Center in Tel Aviv.**
- **Abbas’s wife, Amina, underwent surgery there in the summer of 2014. This was just after the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens at the hands of Palestinian terrorists—an event that precipitated Operation Protective Edge, otherwise known as the war in Gaza.**

*(continued next page)*





- Last year, Abbas's brother-in-law received lifesaving heart surgery there.

## Jews helping Hamas:

- In June 2014, Hamas Prime Minister Ismayil Haniyeh's 68-year-old mother-in-law was treated in Jerusalem's Augusta Victoria Hospital.
- In November 2014, Hamas spokesman Moussa Abu Marzouk's 60-year-old sister was treated for cancer in an Israeli hospital.
- In October 2014, Haniyeh's daughter spent a week in an Israeli hospital.
- In November 2013, Haniyeh's year-old granddaughter was treated at Schneider Children's Medical Center in Petah Tikva.

This is a serious conundrum.

Judeo-Christian culture compels us to help those in need. Israeli medical services are famous for their triage—first helping the patient most in dire straits, whether terrorist or native son. The Hebrew mandate *"tikkun olam"* ("repair the world") means to leave it in a better state than you found it—the opposite of jihad.

Combining these two elements—civilized love and decency—causes Jews and Christians to continually reach for the hearts and heal the bodies of those who want to kill us all—to wipe us off the map. Oy!

To be pro-Israel is *not* to be anti-Arab or anti-Muslim. To be pro-Israel is to believe the Bible, the historical land grant, the hope of Messiah, and His desire for all to know the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob). ★

*In order to continue bringing you these informative articles, updates from Israel, and Bible teaching in print and on TV and online, we need your help. We have no large institutions underwriting our work. This ministry has moved forward for over 30 years solely through the generous donations of our community of faith. Please remember us in prayer and in your giving. —Myles*



*Israeli hospitals continue to treat sick "Palestinians" despite repeated terror attacks.*



# His Banner Over You Is Love!

**Katharine Weiss**  
ZLP co-host



As we “counted the omer” to *Shavuot* (the Feast of Weeks), I returned from Israel after attending *Jerusalem Encounter*, a conference hosted by FIRM (Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries). This trip was unique, in part, because it was the first time in many years that I was in the Land without my hubby. While traveling *sans* Myles felt odd, my time in Israel was incredibly valuable.

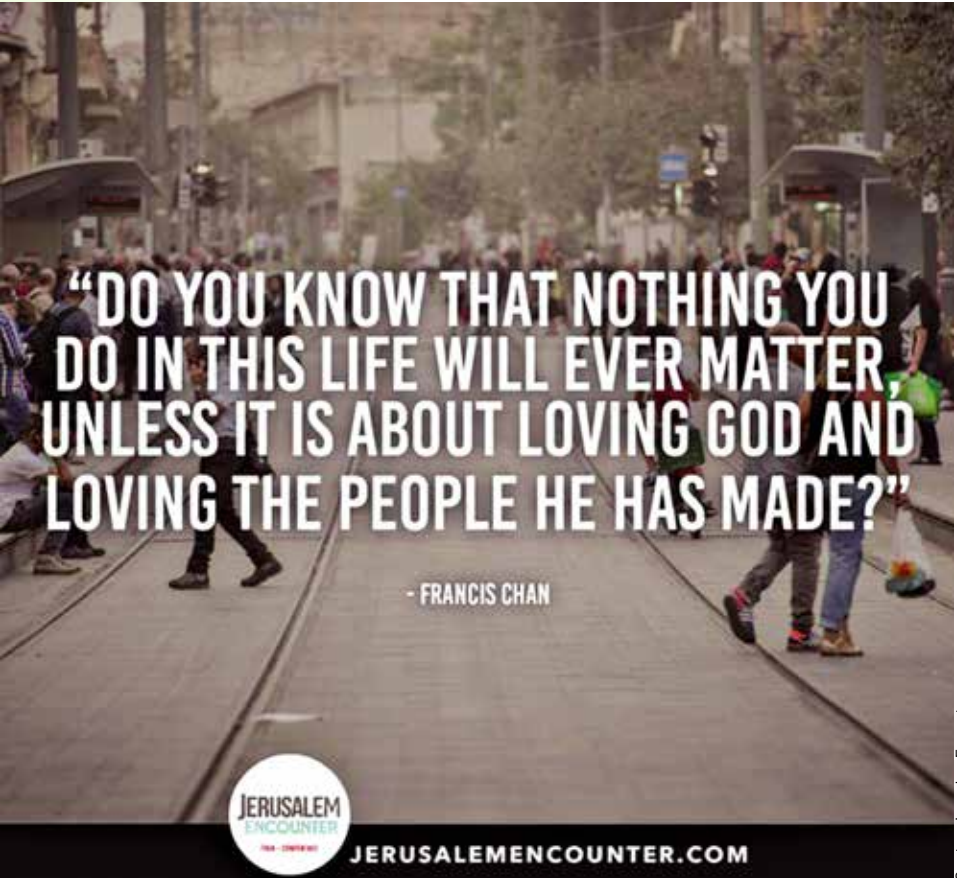
FIRM represents a potential new season for the international Church—a conscious and compelling call for gentiles to take a deeper stand with Bible-based, life-giving ministries in God’s land. I gratefully serve on FIRM’s Board of Directors and fully support its commitment to directly connect Believers around the world with the Gospel work in Israel. We want to help *all* righteous ministries grow and bear more fruit.

I didn’t know if I would be able to attend the conference, and my heart was heavy at the thought of missing this landmark gathering. However, I continued to bring it before God in prayer. Less than 2 weeks before the conference, the Lord provided resources and an open door. Isn’t it amazing how He works in mysterious ways...and keeps us always waiting on Him?

## Psalm 27:14

Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD.

[\(continued next page\)](#)



## Katharine *continued*



Since I was not leading a tour or taping TV programs, I managed to visit with many dear friends. Our joyful encounters provided tangible evidence of why this tiny strip of desert land is ranked the 11th “happiest” country in the world. Incredible, I know! *(See cover story.)*

Though besieged on all sides and under constant existential threat, Israel thrives and overflows with life, providing a unique joy like no other place on Earth. It is beyond the pleasure of a vacation because Israel is not solely a historic, scenic “physical” location. It pulses with life as the One True God blesses His land, bestowing on it a special delight that adversity cannot dampen.

When you or I encounter concern or hardship, we can take a lesson from Israel and rest in the knowledge that He will always be with us. God has proven Himself with Israel. The Land is a testament to His unwavering commitment to His promises.

As I walked through the Holy City, I saw the bounty of the spring harvest and thought of the banquet to come. And I contemplated the many people who want to visit Israel but hold back due to fear or finances.

I urge you to join Zola Tours in an earthly rehearsal for the cosmic banquet with the King (Rev. 19:9).

If you have not joined Myles and me, or if you need a refreshing experience in the land of the Bible, please come with us on our next study tour. Call Zola Tours manager Sandra at 214-696-9760, visit [levitt.com/tours](http://levitt.com/tours), or p. 36 to see options for this life-changing pilgrimage.

Come to His banqueting table. ★



# Back from Babylon

Our Man in Haifa  
Eitan Shishkoff  
and wife Connie



On the way to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, my taxi driver, Shlomo, proudly described his Iraqi Jewish ancestry. Once on the plane, I found myself sitting next to a secular, entrepreneurial Israeli scientist named Yariv. His roots also went back to Iraq. My curiosity was aroused by these back-to-back encounters with fellow Israelis whose families had arrived from Iraq. Both men were engaging and, at the same time, salt-of-the-earth and keenly perceptive.

How long have Jewish people lived in Iraq, and what is our history there? A point of reference for today's readers: **Biblical Babylon was located in modern-day Iraq. It may seem strange that such an Islamic country was home to the Jews for more than 2,500 years.** Yet it was the Babylonian kingdom that conquered Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and took some 10,000 Jews into exile. Babylon became a thriving center of Jewish life and a world center of Judaism. The centuries of fertile, educational environment there provided the setting for the creation of the Babylonian Talmud (ca. 500 A.D.), considered by many to be Rabbinic Judaism's most authoritative literary work.



Although the Jews of Iraq prospered for much of their lengthy history, the rise of Zionism (Jewish return from the nations to dwell permanently in Israel) led to open persecution and violence in the 1940s. The worst incident took the lives of 200 Jews in Baghdad in 1941. This anti-Semitic reaction intensified in 1948, once Israel became a sovereign state. Between August and October of that year, all Zionist activity was outlawed in Iraq, punishable by execution. Jews were forbidden to do business in Iraqi banks or hold import/export licenses, and the government seized some \$80 million in Jewish assets.

Sadly, a familiar pattern emerged. As in Germany, where Jews had proudly helped build commerce and public institutions only to become scapegoats for societal problems, the Muslim majority of Iraq was incited to expel their Jewish neighbors. These dreadful conditions led to

dramatic measures. From 1951–1952 a rescue—code-named Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, after the Biblical heroes who led Jewish exiles from the same region (Babylon) back to Israel almost 25 centuries previously!—airlifted 125,000 Jews from Iraq to Israel.

A large number of those returning in the 20th century, stripped of their earthly wealth, were settled in refugee-like tent cities, called *ma'abarot*. From these humble beginnings, the Iraqi community in Israel (now estimated as high as 450,000) has shown courageous, persistent, and active participation in the restoration of the nation. Shlomo and Yariv's fellow Iraq-rooted Israelis now serve in the highest echelons of public service. ★

*For behold, I will save you from afar,  
and your offspring from the land of their captivity;  
Jacob shall **return**, have rest and be at ease;  
No one shall make him afraid. —Jeremiah 46:27*

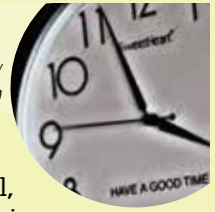




# ISIS—In a Hurry to Die

ClarionProject.org

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Sunghwan Yoon



An ISIS terrorist captured by the Kurdish Peshmerga near Mosul, Iraq demanded to be executed immediately since he had to be in paradise by 4:00 pm.

He reminded his captors that the day of his capture was the Muslim festival of Isra and Mi'raj that celebrates the Night Journey (which modern Muslim tradition says Mohammed made to Jerusalem). The prisoner claimed that he wanted to attend a ceremony commemorating this event in paradise, which he said would start at 4:00 pm.

Lieutenant-Colonel Salim al-Surji, who was assigned to guard the prisoner, spoke to Rudaw media (Kurdish news in English) after the Battle of Telskuf, in which several Peshmerga troops were killed.

"While I was filming the ISIS dead on my phone" Surji recalled, "I saw that one of them was moving his ankle. I put my hand on his chest and found that he was breathing. He was also conscious and talking. His explosive belt had not detonated, and he was hurt in the ankle due to the explosion of one of his comrades. He was unable to walk. He told me, **You are infidels. Kill me.**"

Al-Surji didn't listen to him and bandaged his ankle. "While I was bandaging his wound, I asked him where he came from, and he answered that he was from Samarra (a city in Iraq) and that he came here to fight with 50 other armed men. They were supposed to detonate their suicide belts because today is the anniversary of the Isra and Mi'raj celebration. He told me 'All of us must be in paradise by 4:00 pm. Kill me.'"

This report recounts the distressing and dangerous theology of radical Islam that uses fighters, like this one, who sacrifice themselves at the behest of their "handlers," who themselves are never in the battle.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), on the contrary, adhere to the underreported ethics and methodology of "follow me" in which leaders lead, putting their lives at risk, rather than allowing their troops to die *for* them. ([See p. 1 sidebar.](#))

We need to pray that our Muslim neighbors will be delivered into the light of Yeshua! —Myles ★



# Do You Know What You're Saying?

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



“Look, George, I really sweated blood over that last deal of ours, and I don’t intend to be the scapegoat now that things have backfired. You should have seen the handwriting on the wall six months ago when, by the grace of God, I sold the biggest part of my ownership. Sure, I was a doubting Thomas in the beginning and felt like it was a case of the blind leading the blind. But when the last stumbling block disappeared, I figured we had it made.

“Well, so it wasn’t exactly like manna from heaven, but we did okay for a while. However, George, since you have had the responsibility for running the show lately, those new investors are really out to nail you to the cross. To tell them that you need some additional working capital will be like a voice crying in the wilderness. What they want is action—they really have had the patience of Job until now, so unless you work something out, they’re going to be a real thorn in the flesh for you from now on.

“Frankly, George, I’ve got to wash my hands of the matter. Sure, I’d like to play the Good Samaritan and help you—maybe even turn the other cheek—but you know I’ve got more than I can say grace over, so it’s your cross to bear. When you think about it, I guess the old saying ‘you reap what you sow’ really fits the situation. So you better hit the straight and narrow, George—walk the extra mile with them if necessary, and I’m sure you will get along just fine.”

Are you aware that the above, brief monologue contains **twenty direct Bible quotes?** (See box to the right.) Can language that seems commonplace give insight into our American heritage, overlooked before now?

It’s easy for us to take a measure of pride in our cultural accomplishments, and rightly so. After all, doesn’t the U.S. have the biggest and best of nearly everything?

How did we get where we are? Are we naturally more intelligent, more inventive, and possess more initiative? Not really, because we’re all basically descendants of European and English stock—like so many others. Did we have more natural resources with which to work? Not really. [Russia is ranked higher,

and Saudi Arabia and Iran also rank in the top 5 countries wealthiest in natural resources.]

How, then, did we get where we are? Our everyday language provides the answer. Our language clearly reflects our Christian heritage—a heritage that created a governmental and social environment that has encouraged each individual to make the greatest contribution possible, for the greatest reward possible. This basic philosophy is nowhere more clearly enunciated than in the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

If the Declaration manifested such a revolutionary and encouraging philosophy, we need to peer farther into our heritage for its true beginning.

Freedom from religious persecution and freedom to worship God as they pleased motivated the founders of this great nation—a band of English settlers, the Puritans. These God-fearing men and women, practicing Believers who knew the Bible and incorporated its teachings into their daily language, were the real beginning of the freedom philosophy. What a wonderful inheritance we have in those rich, colorful, descriptive Biblical excerpts that form an integral part of our own everyday language. ★

## Refs. from King James. Next month, #6–15

- 1. Sweated blood** And being in an agony, He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. – Luke 22:44
- 2. Scapegoat** Part of purification rites to cleanse individuals from sin—the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). – Leviticus 16; specifically v. 10
- 3. Handwriting on the Wall** During Babylonian captivity, Daniel was summoned to interpret a message written by the “fingers of a man’s hand.” – Daniel 5:5
- 4. By the Grace of God** General recognition of prevailing Grace, oftentimes defined as “Everything for nothing to those who do not deserve anything.” – John 1:17 and 1 Corinthians 1:3–5
- 5. Doubting Thomas** One of the Disciples, Thomas, stated that unless he could see the nail holes and thrust his hand into the wound, he would not believe in Jesus’ physical resurrection. When Jesus offered Thomas that experience, Thomas said simply, “My Lord and My God.” – John 20:25–31

# Saudi Cleric: No Peace with Jews


**MEMRI**

MIDDLE EAST MEDIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE / MEMRI.org



In an April TV interview, **Saudi cleric Sheikh Awadh Al-Qarni** claimed that while Hitler wanted to get rid of the Jews by means of the gas chambers, Britain and the Western elites wanted to get rid of them by sending them to Palestine. In the interview, which aired on the Saudi Al-Majd TV channel, Al-Qarni further said that despite warnings by George Washington, the Jews had taken economic control of the U.S., “thus subjugating the American people.” Any peace agreement signed with the Jews would, said Al-Qarni, be “null and void,” according to Islamic law.

**Awadh Al-Qarni:** “Peace [with the Jews] must never be a permanent one. As I’ve said in the past, if any Arab ruler signed a peace accord with Israel, this agreement would be worthless according to Islamic law, and the [Arab] peoples would not accept it. The Crusader wars serve as proof that the peoples would not accept this. All those who signed peace agreements with the Crusaders have disappeared, and their agreement disappeared along with them. We have a lot of proof of this. If you carry out a public opinion poll—and I have done several—you will see the results for yourself. Over 90% [do not accept a peace agreement].” ★

# Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q.** My dad told me that we Jews are extra special because we are God's chosen people. He also said that Jesus gave us Jews authority to command angels. I don't see this in the Bible. Do you have any idea where this teaching comes from?

**A.** Nothing in Scripture points to the Jews or the Redeemed having authority to command angels. This teaching is not scriptural but was hatched in a few hyper-Charismatic circles. I have seen this teaching within these circles several times. Angels are under the command of God and no one else.

**Q.** I recently read the attached article that claims that Israel denies Palestinians their civil liberties and silences their own citizens and foreign non-government organizations that point out Israel's human rights violations against Palestinians, both in Israel and in neighboring areas. Your opinion, please?

**A.** Many articles (like the one you referenced) are posted on similar anti-Israel websites and do real hatchet jobs against Israel. Their pseudo-journalists fail to mention that the Israeli government annually provides hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians. It also provides water and electricity to them.

Gaza's resort hotels (*see below*)—complete with Olympic-size swimming pools—hardly rose out of Israeli oppression.

I have personally spoken with many Arab citizens of Israel who report (privately) that they enjoy the same rights and benefits as Israel's Jewish citizens. But propagandist articles like the one you sent clearly exhibit a hostile agenda against the Jewish state and seem hellbent on ignoring the facts. ★



# We Owe the Gospel to Everyone

By August Rosado  
TJF Outreach  
Team Member



This ministry's **To The Jew First** *shelichim* (emissaries) travel to Israel four times each year to meet with Israelis face to face and introduce them to Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah. It helps when Israelis are already familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, because when they know the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others, they are astounded by the detail with which Yeshua fulfilled those prophecies.

To help each interested soul study further, the team generously provides a Complete Bible (containing both Testaments) in Hebrew and pamphlets such as *The Promised Messiah* that gives the OT prophecies and their NT fulfillments in English and Hebrew. The pamphlet can be downloaded and printed from [levitt.com/announcements](http://levitt.com/announcements).

As funds permit, Dr. Todd Baker intends to add a fifth outreach to another nation, carrying Yeshua's Gospel in compliance with The Great Commission (Matt: 28:19–20). This year, the TJF team followed Paul's ministry footsteps to Rome. What a success August Rosado reports below!

Rome—Italy—Italian! The language barrier was no obstacle for the Google Translator, which allowed us to effectively communicate the Gospel. I had ordered 15 *Sacra Bibbie* (Holy Bibles in Italian) from BEAMS (Bible Education And Missionary Service) before our departure. Todd Baker was also promised about 15 Bibles that were supposed to be at the hotel but never arrived.

Missionary Jamie Homan and his family (Homans to the Romans) invited our TJF team to a Sunday morning service and fellowship at Cheisa Biblica Battista (Bible Baptist Church). Demonstrating typical Italian hospitality, they served us lunch after services and even spared us seven more Italian Bibles!

**We shared Yeshua's Gospel and gave Bibles in Italian to grateful citizens in Vatican City—** with taxi drivers, store merchants, and hotel staff. The Holy Spirit led us around the city, opening doors for Todd and me to minister the Word of God and distribute all 22 Bibles. Todd and I recalled the words that Rabbi Shaul (Apostle Paul) wrote to the Romans in 1:15, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

Because faithful partners of ZLM contribute to the **To The Jew First Fund**, the team is able to take the Gospel of salvation to Israel and, on occasion, beyond to epicenters of need. May we keep sharing the Good News in what we believe are these last days and closing hours of the Church Age.

The Rapture of the Church appears to be very close at hand! Paraphrasing Paul in Romans 1:14, we are debtors both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and the unwise. In other words, we owe it to everyone to share the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah, no matter his or her ethnicity or color. Yeshua died for the sins of *all* mankind. Judgment is coming, and we owe it to those who are lost and perishing to share that Good News. Followers of Yeshua are mandated to be a light to the world, and win as many souls to Messiah as possible. ZLM occupies a prominent place on the front lines of that battle. *Shalom v' Yom Tov* (Goodbye, and have a good day). ★



Todd (l) and August flank Veronica, who received a Hebrew Bible

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

## Porn's Latent Price



Pornography wastes time that could be spent getting closer to God (see “Fatherly Porn Advice” in the [Sept. 2015 Levitt Letter](#), p. 14). Now, growing numbers believe it also threatens virility. Excerpted below, *TIME* magazine’s April 11 cover article by editor-at-large Belinda Luscombe explains why many men are turning porn off—and not for moral reasons. —Mark

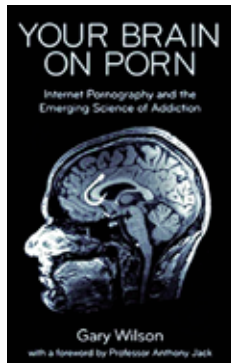
For six years and with various women, a 26-year-old porn aficionado’s body wouldn’t cooperate. It responded only to the sight of pornography—an ailment some call porn-induced erectile dysfunction. Increasing numbers of young men believe porn has sabotaged their sexual responses. Now they are creating online community groups, smartphone apps, and educational videos to kick the habit. Fewer women feel addicted, but they do complain that guys expect them to behave like porn starlets.

Men with stories of sexual dysfunction emphasize that they are not anti-sex. “I just want to enjoy sex again and feel the desire for another person,” explains one online commenter.

An independent web-tracking company clocked 107 million U.S. visitors to adult sites in February 2016. Pornhub, an explicit-video-sharing site, estimates 2.4 million visitors per hour. **In 2015 alone, people around the globe watched 4,392,486,580 hours of its content, which equals 501,425 years!** (Isa. 64:6)

Former biology professor Gary Wilson authored *Your Brain on Porn: Internet Pornography and the Emerging Science of Addiction*.

[YourBrainOnPorn.com](http://YourBrainOnPorn.com) supports the link



between heavy use of pornography in adolescence and sexual dysfunction. Wilson’s posted 2012 TED<sup>x</sup> Talk has more than 6 million views. He asserts, “Porn trains your brain to need everything associated with porn to get aroused.”

A 2014 fMRI study from the Max Planck Institute found that “The more pornography men consumed, the smaller the brain striatum, the reward center of the brain.” And a 2014 University of Cambridge brain-scan study showed that men with compulsive sexual behavior responded to explicit clips in the same way that users of drugs respond to drugs. The Brainbuddy app offers a series of alternatives—an activity or an inspiring video. Refraining from watching porn is only half the battle. The brain has to develop new and different pleasurable associations with the computer.

Providing a counter narrative for teens on the porn they’ll inevitably encounter, despite whatever filters are put in place, is a key goal of the young activists. “All superstimulating things, like Internet porn, junk food, and drugs, can be fun and pleasurable, temporarily... However, they also have the potential to desensitize you to normal, natural things and ultimately rob you of the one thing you thought they would give you, the ability to experience pleasure.”

Dabbling in addictive endeavors ignores the wisdom of the song commended on May’s *Levitt Letter* bulletin board, “Never Give the Devil a Ride.” Please see [wp.me/pieUD-2rG](http://wp.me/pieUD-2rG). (1 Cor. 10:13) ★

*Thanks for this vital article, Mark. As a marriage and family therapist for over 25 years, I can attest that this is potentially Every Man’s Battle, as Stephen Arterburn writes. Many men in my counseling practice have found deliverance and growth by confronting these issues and seeking the appropriate alternative health protocols. May God help us all to walk with Him and in His image. —Gratefully, Myles*



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Travel Advisories Needed?

Years ago, the U.S. State Department warned against going to Israel. Last November, this bulletin board suggested that since Israel is statistically safer than many American metropolitan areas, the State Department could justifiably advise against travel to such cities as Baltimore, New York, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and D.C. *TIME* magazine reported a 70% increase in Chicago homicides during 2016's first quarter (141 in just three months!) and adds that murders "are up in at least 30 cities across the U.S. ... by 9% for the 63 cities surveyed." Over Independence Day weekend in Chicago, 64 people were shot within 15 hours. **Many Holy Land pilgrims are far safer in Jerusalem than at home!**



HOW TO  
MAKE A  
WILL THAT  
WORKS

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Free Item

## Pamphlet of the Month

### *How to Make a Will that Works*

offers general information related to distributing property to family, friends, and charitable interests in light of recent tax law changes. After touching upon the Four Ps of estate planning, the pamphlet answers 38 commonly asked questions. It concludes with pointers on keeping other plans up to date, such as life insurance and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

## Not Really a RED ALERT

From January – June, our ministry has run **\$180,000 in the red**. Thanks to your past generosity, this announcement is merely a **yellow alert**. It is also a commendation regarding your designated gifts, of which we allocate 100% to Bridges for Peace, The Jewish National Fund, The Holocaust Survivor Fund, John Parsons's amazing website [www.Hebrew4Christians.com](http://www.Hebrew4Christians.com), etc. For 2015 and YTD 2016 those contributions have totaled \$194,000. You not only sustain our divinely inspired efforts but also our favorite fellow ministries. Many larger outreaches have more than a year's worth of cash reserves. We don't. Consequently your contributions to us are much likelier to have an immediate impact for the Kingdom. *Thanks*

## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



# Hebrew Lesson



## Miracle of a New Heart

John J. Parsons

וְנָתַתִּי לְכֶם לֵב חָדָשׁ וְרוּחַ חָדָשׁ אֶתֵּן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” – Ezek. 36:26

וְ	נָ	תַ	תִּ	י	לְ	כֶ	ם	לֵ	ב	חָ	דָ	שׁ	וְ	רוּ	חַ	חָ	דָ	שׁ	אֶ	תֵּ	ן	בְּ	קִ	רְ	בְ	כֶ	ם				
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be-kir-be-khem	e-ten	cha-da-shah	ve-ru-ach	cha-dash	lev	la-khem	ve-na-ta-ti																								
within you	I will give	and a new spirit	a new heart	to you	I will give																										

The central commandment of Scripture is to love God and others, yet this is precisely the commandment we find *impossible* to obey. Tragically, when we look within we soon discover we are loveless at heart: “For out of the heart comes evil...” (Mark 7:21; Jer. 17:9). The essence of Torah is to “do good and no evil,” but we are inherently selfish, judgmental of others, calloused, and proud. So how can we do the impossible?

There is a persistent temptation to regard our inability to love as the result of something other than our own inner perversity, or what the Bible calls “spiritual death.” If we are not careful, we will pray that the Lord will show mercy and compassion on that which is to be crucified, buried, and taken away! God does not reform our carnal nature but puts it on the cross to be done away, and then He replaces it with a *radically new nature* based on the Spirit and resurrection life... This great miracle of God is found in union with the Messiah’s life. “Live in Me and I will live in you,” Yeshua says, “as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it finds life in the vine, neither can you, unless you find life in Me; for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5). You cannot do the impossible, but with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27; Phil. 4:13).

Therefore the ability to truly love comes by the *miracle* of God (Ezek. 36:26; 1 John 4:19). As we live in Yeshua, we find life, love, light, truth, and salvation from the hell of a loveless heart. Unite yourself with His death, burial, and resurrection; reckon yourself to be immersed into Him, death-for-death, life-for-life (Rom. 6:8-11; Col. 3:1-4). “Unless a seed of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it abides alone...” (John 12:24). Yeshua is the source of all life, and we find nourishment, strength, and fullness of joy as we connect with Him.

By faith affirm: “I have been crucified with Messiah, and it is no longer ‘I’ who live, but Messiah who lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). There is a new “I” that comes from above, known only in spiritual relationship with the Savior. The miracle of the exchanged life comes as we surrender to the truth of what God has done for us (2 Cor. 5:17). That’s the essence of the gospel, “the power of God for salvation to all who believe” (Rom. 1:16). Therefore we do not attempt to crucify ourselves, or labor to reform our lower nature, but we instead accept that we already have been crucified by the mercy and power of God. We clothe ourselves in the robes of His righteousness as we celebrate God’s redeeming love for our lives. **Only then are we empowered by the Spirit to truly “love the LORD and keep His charge always”** (Deut. 11:1). ★

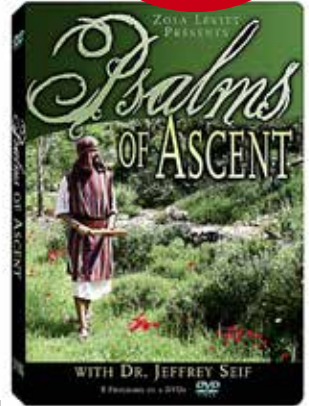




## *Psalms of Ascent*

Eight 30-minute TV programs (2 DVDs)

In this eight-part series, Jeff Seif and Sandra Levitt examine Psalms 120–134, the “Psalms of Ascent.” While these psalms may have been sung by ancient Jews going up to the Temple in Jerusalem, they are surprisingly appropriate and timely for Believers today. Eitan Shishkoff (ZLM’s Man in Haifa) and the music of Marty Goetz ([see p. 20](#)) are also featured.



**Psalms 120 & 121** From the UN headquarters in Jerusalem and nearby Ein Prat, Jeff reminds us that King David had to deal with deceitful enemies and times of distress but realized that his sure source of help was the Lord.

**Psalms 122 & 123** This ministry implores “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122). Jerusalem has had its share of battles, yet it is still central in the hearts of Jews and Christians as we look to the Lord for mercy and ultimate deliverance.

**Psalms 124 & 125** Even though Israel’s opponents have been numerous and fearsome, the Lord has sustained Israel these many centuries. King David likened divine protection to the mountains that surround Jerusalem.

**Psalms 126 & 127** Out of captivity and sorrow, the Lord brings joy through deliverance. The Israelites have returned to the Promised Land. From the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount, Jeff reminds us that our efforts to build are in vain without the Lord’s protection.

**Psalms 128 & 129** At the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, Jeff considers the Psalms’ clear teaching that fear of the Lord and honoring His ways bring blessings to everyone. Israel as a nation has seen much affliction, but the Lord’s support is unwavering.

**Psalms 130 & 131** At the Western Wall, Jeff tells of God’s ears that are open to our cries for help. Always there, He faithfully pours out His forgiveness and redemption. The God of Israel provides contentment to our souls like a mother who comforts her child. Eitan Shishkoff reminds us of our need to pray for an awakening among His People.

**Psalms 132 & 133** David wanted to build a temple in Jerusalem, the city the Lord chose. Zion became His abiding place and remains His to this very day, despite Replacement Theology. In this fractious world, dwelling together in unity is a blessing.

**Psalms 134** Sandra and Jeff conclude this series having seen many “coming up” to

Jerusalem, seeking and praising God. On the Mount of Olives, Jeff invites all Believers to journey together to our ultimate destination.

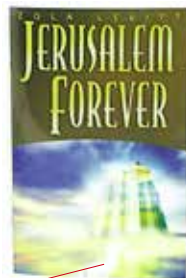
*Southern Steps (Jerusalem)*  
Zola Tours 2014



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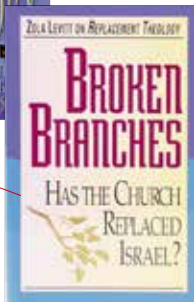
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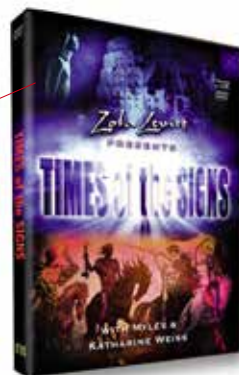
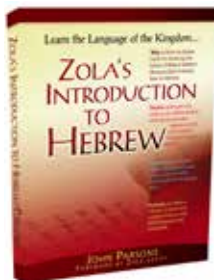
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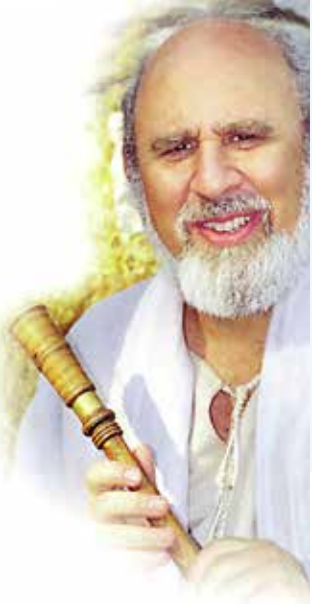


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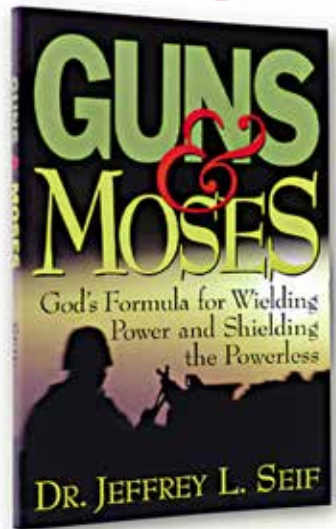
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## **Guns & Moses** book

by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Parents, pastors, police, politicians — *anyone* with power or influence over someone else can benefit from this explanation of God's specific instructions on how He wants us to use that power.

Jeff draws on his experience as a police officer and theologian to walk readers through the Law of Moses, the Biblical foundation of our Judeo-Christian culture. Familiarity with God's intentions for the Israelites in dealing fairly with each other and with people from other cultures around them guides today's Biblically minded people in the Godly use of power to secure justice for all and protection for the weak.



## **I Call You Friend**

Music CD (Marty Goetz)



This 10-song album is a magnificent compilation of Psalms set to music. Peaceful and soothing, it will enhance your worship. Many of this CD's songs by Marty Goetz are used in our *Psalms of Ascent* TV series [offered on page 17](#).

### **Song titles include:**

*Risen Again*  
*Pleasures Forevermore*  
*I Call You Friend*  
*I Am*  
*He Is My Defense*

*The Lord Is So Good*  
*O Holy One*  
*Adonai Adonaynu*  
*Oh Lord, Our Lord*  
*One Thing I Have Asked*



## **New! Messianic Roots** **Lapel Pin/Tie Tac**

An ancient Messianic symbol — believed to be used as a seal by the first Christians, who were Jewish — combines the menorah, Star of David, and the Christian fish. This unique design with a tie tac back is gold plated and approximately 1.1" long.

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# Hezbollah Tunneling Into Israel



IsraelToday.co.il

Lebanese newspaper *Al-Safir* reported in May that the Hezbollah terrorist militia is busy digging tunnels under the Israeli border in preparation for future conflict.

According to the article, the tunnels enable Hezbollah terrorists to attack Israel at a moment's notice, and include sophisticated ventilation and electrical systems and enough supplies to allow militants to remain in the tunnels for weeks at a time.

Fully aware of the threat, Israel's Home Front Command is busy training civil defense units in towns and villages across northern Israel. That effort includes a great many Arab communities, who after the last Lebanon war realized that Hezbollah missiles do not differentiate between Arabs and Jews.

**"There is a big change in the Arab population in Israel in that they are much more willing to cooperate with us,"** revealed Col. Eren Makov, the Northern Regional Commander of the IDF Home Front Command. "We give them training in what to do, and they see it as a contribution."

Israeli officials stress that the next war with Hezbollah isn't likely to happen anytime soon, given that the Lebanese group is very bogged down in the Syrian civil war, in which it has lost thousands of troops.

On the other hand, Hezbollah operates at the whim of the Iranian regime. Should Tehran or the besieged regime of Syrian dictator Bashar Assad view it as beneficial to draw Israel into the conflict, they could order a Hezbollah assault on the Galilee or Golan Heights. ★



## Dry Bones

DIG DIG DIG

THE LEBANESE NEWSPAPER AL-SAFIR REPORTS THAT THE HEZBOLLAH TERRORISTS ARE BUSY DIGGING TUNNELS UNDER THE ISRAELI BORDER IN PREPARATION FOR FUTURE CONFLICT.





# Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the [web store](#) and [video archives](#).

## Paul Preached in Prison Too

Dear ZLM,

I figure it's about time you hear from me so I don't fall off your mailing list. I enjoy receiving your Levitt Letter here in prison. I pass the *Letter* along to many others; some have written you to get their own copies.

In case anyone out there who donates to you so that inmates like me can receive your newsletter wonders if their gift makes a difference, please let them know that there are many other inmates like me who are truly thankful for what they do so that we can get the newsletter. Ya'lls' rewards are building up in Heaven. —R.F. (TX)

*Todah Rabah* (Thank you very much), R.F.—

We appreciate the update on how our *Levitt Letter* blesses prisoners across America. It is worth repeating that when our donors who **can** afford to support us do so, we can continue to bless thousands of inmates with our news-magazine at no charge to them. We believe that reading the newsletter's contents strengthens incarcerated Believers, reaches inmates who are searching for something concrete to believe in, and provokes their Muslim peers to consider the reality of Jesus. Blessings —Myles

## Religions of the World

Can anyone answer this question: Why do so many smart people believe in false religions?

The bibles that major religions follow were written by men. There's nothing special about them. The Jewish Bible differs because it contains "ful-filled prophecy." People don't take that into consideration, let alone all of the other historical confirmations, when they question the Authorship of the Old and New Testaments.

Is this phenomenon ethnic or cultural? Like Jews are Jewish, Italians are Catholic, and Arabs are Muslim? People in Pittsburgh root for the Pirates, Steelers, or Penguins (go Penguins!), but if their life depended on it, I don't think many would stand with their favorite teams.

Please consider this topic for a future television program. —E.C.

Greetings E.C.—

May I refer you to our recent television series *Times of the Signs*? You'll find it chock full of Biblical teaching and interviews with prophecy luminaries. P.S. Congratulations on your Penguins winning the Stanley Cup. —Myles



## Discerning Our Teachers

Dear Brethren,

While many Christians stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and its existential plight, please be aware that tens of thousands of Christians are butchered every year in the name of Islam. Jews and Christians alike come under intense persecution, manipulated and orchestrated by the prince of darkness. Christians, not just Israel, are being persecuted like never before in history. In fact, more Christians have been martyred in the past century than in all of past centuries combined. We deeply love Israel and will continue to pray for its people, but what they are experiencing is magnified in the massive persecution against Christians globally.

On another note I was very dismayed by Zola's criticism of Bible Answer Man. I listen to him daily and have never heard him criticize Israel. In fact, he spoke sympathetically of Israelis in persecution. I am not saying Zola is a liar but that such remarks are misleading. —G.W.

Shalom, G.W.—

I share your concern about the current persecution, exile, and slaughter of Christians throughout the world. We at ZLM have stated in writing, on TV, and by supporting our Arab-Christian friends that we have an obligation to keep the world aware of this grievous reality. *(Please see May 2013 Levitt Letter, pp.1, 31)*

Katharine and I remind our home congregations of, and address in every speech we make, the plight of Christians in the Middle East and in Muslim-dominated parts of the world. I think it is especially incumbent upon me as a Jew to publish the news about Christians' destruction. This ministry *also* supports groups that reach for increased fairness for Arabs within Israel.

I suggest you take another look at Hank (Bible Answer Man) Hanegraaff's track record on Israel. I have personally heard him say on the radio, (paraphrasing) "After the Cross, there is no Jewish ethnic right to the Holy Land." This statement is absurd and dangerous. Because he propounds Replacement Theology, Hanegraaff was a featured speaker at the 2016 (and is scheduled for the 2018) Christ at the Checkpoint conference in Bethlehem, which attempts to cast Israel, rather than Islam, as the problem in the Middle East. This skewing of facts shifts Arab-Christians into the Islamic camp, which does not bode well for them.

*(continued next page)*



This skew is absurd also because Israel is the *only* country in the area where Christians, women, gays, every ethnos, and yes, ARABS have the most freedom. The tiny land of Israel has become the whipping post for darkened minds across the world. Extremely wealthy Arab (and Persian) Muslim countries will not lift a finger to help their Muslim “Palestinian” brothers in order to keep the focus on “wiping Israel off the map.”



Hanegraaff, also president of the Christian Research Institute, recently excoriated author Joel Richardson for believing, as I do, that there is validity in the beauty of the Church *and* God’s eternal promises to Abraham and His natural seed. For more insight on this conflict, search “Hanegraaff” at [wnd.com](http://wnd.com).

As we often write on these pages, God is capable of “both/and”—He can call the nations of the world to salvation *and* fulfill His promises to Yeshua’s natural family. This is vital: The international Church must see this, just as I, as a Jew, must love my Arab cousins and stand with them for God’s best.

God said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an *everlasting covenant* for his descendants after him.” —Genesis 17:19

“...the covenant, which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an *everlasting covenant*...” —Psalm 105:9–10

Blessings —Myles





## June Personal Letter: God is Calling His People to Himself

When I heard Zola Levitt for the first time, he stirred me to Bible prophecy and Israel. I recently found out that I have Jewish blood in my DNA, despite being Mexican. My wife, also from Chihuahua, carries the same Jewish blood, so we are doubly blessed. Please continue to do God's bidding, and I will do it from here. —J.C.

*Buenos Dias, J.C.—*

Hispanic Catholics are experiencing an amazing renaissance and discovering their Jewish heritage. From South and Central America, into the U.S. and Canada, the "anusim" (hidden ones) are finding out that their forebears renounced Judaism in order to flee the Spanish Inquisition, and many came west, hiding their identity. While Obadiah's 20th verse is a controversial passage, many believe that the prophet's words refer to the Spanish (Sephardim) Jews.

<sup>20</sup> The captives from Jerusalem exiled in the north [in Sepharad] will return to their homeland and resettle the villages of the Negev.

<sup>21</sup> The victorious will go up on Mount Zion to judge the hill country of Esau. Then the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Could God be awakening crypto/hidden-Jews for a massive *aliyah* back to Israel? Will they inhabit the Negev and change the demographics of the area vis-à-vis Esau (the Arabs)?

Could this scenario be the end-times fulfillment of Obadiah's prophecy?

Stay tuned!

Shalom, *adios*, y  
vaya con Dios!  
—Myles



# Israeli “Ice Tech” Could End Organ Transplant Shortage



SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Doctors would have a much easier time saving organ transplant candidates if they could find what they need in an organ bank. Unfortunately, there is currently no way to preserve organs long-term. Thanks to research at Hebrew University, there soon may be.

“The ability to freeze organs and to then thaw them without causing damage to the organ itself would be revolutionary,” according to Prof. Ido Braslavsky of the Hebrew University Institute of Biochemistry, Food Science and Nutrition at the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “Perfecting cryopreservation—the process of preserving cells, tissues, and organs in sub-zero temperatures—would enable long-term banking of tissues and organs and efficient matching between donor and patient, eventually saving lives of millions of people around the world.”

The research he and his team are doing on ice-binding proteins—the proteins that allow fish, animals, and even bacteria to survive in the Antarctic—could solve the problem. Currently, when the water molecules in the organs are frozen, they expand, damaging the delicate cells and compromising the organ’s ability to work in the body. That is why doctors today can only store organs in cool temperatures—in a portable refrigerator, essentially—and transport them to patients in need, across town or across the country. Across the world is iffier; after about 12 hours, hearts and livers tend to deteriorate to the point where they are no longer usable. Kidneys last a bit longer—about 30 hours—but still need to be transplanted quickly in order to ensure their functionality.

**Braslavsky**, one of the world’s top researchers in the field of cryopreservation, and his Hebrew University colleagues study the effects of the proteins that were discovered some 50 years ago in Antarctic fish and are now known to exist in cold-resistant fish, plants, insects, and microorganisms. With these proteins, creatures in sub-zero environments are able to avoid the freezing of their own organs.



Braslavsky and his students showed that proteins adhere to ice via “irreversible binding,” creating a buffer between the ice and the cells for the duration of the “cold snap,” thus preventing the ice from expanding and damaging the cells. The research explained how ice-binding proteins stop ice growth, a major mystery that puzzled scientists in the field for decades.

“We investigate the interaction of ice-binding proteins with ice crystals,” said Braslavsky. “We designed a specialized microscope with a stage cooler that allows a millidegree-level control of temperature and also freezing. Using fluorescent illumination, we can see the location of the proteins, which are tagged with fluorescent dyes, and follow ice crystals as they grow and melt in the presence of ice-binding proteins.”

The team hopes to be able to duplicate the process mechanically. The technique could also revolutionize the frozen food business, helping preserve the texture of ice cream and thawed meat. But ice cream aside, the team is focused on its life-saving mission: Figuring out a way to successfully deep-freeze human organs without damaging them. ★





# High-Tech Collar Tracks Pets' Health

**MEDICINE: BY VIVA SARAH PRESS / Israel21c.org**

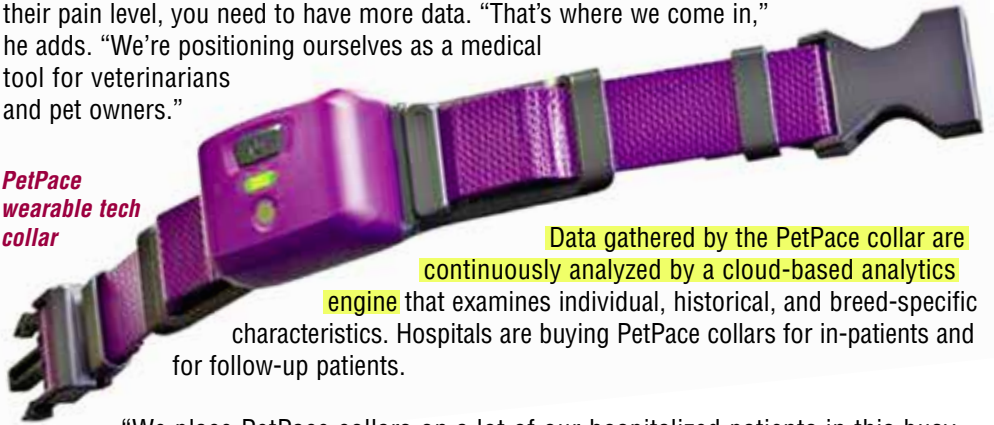
Not only humans benefit from Israel's innovative healthcare solutions. Pets are part of the picture, too. **PetPace** provides a new pet collar for remote, real-time monitoring and analysis of vital signs and activity, giving four-legged friends improved health and quality of life.

Pets don't tell us when they're sick or in pain. Survival instinct demands that they hide their sickness or pain because, in nature, animals that show weakness become prey. The PetPace collar uses non-invasive sensors to monitor data including temperature, pulse, respiration, activity levels, positions, and calories throughout the day. If the collar detects any abnormalities, an alert is sent in real-time to owners and veterinarians.

"Even the most dedicated owners realize that something is not right only when the disease is in an advanced stage. To provide early detection of the diseases is truly revolutionary," says Dr. Asaf Dagan, chief veterinary scientist at PetPace. Indeed, the groundbreaking real-time alert aspect of this collar is making waves in the tech community. PetPace was recently named "Israel's Most Promising Startup" in a competition sponsored by Israeli businesses. The company beat out 150 other startups in all fields. The collar entered the market last year and is currently available in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Dagan says **PetPace's unique low-power, wireless, and non-invasive collar communicates via smartphone and web app and is more than just a fitness-tracking device.** "There are many products that measure movement and activity on dogs. We do a lot more than that," says Dagan. Activity is only one aspect in the well-being of a pet. For a bigger picture and their pain level, you need to have more data. "That's where we come in," he adds. "We're positioning ourselves as a medical tool for veterinarians and pet owners."

**PetPace  
wearable tech  
collar**



**Data gathered by the PetPace collar are continuously analyzed by a cloud-based analytics engine** that examines individual, historical, and breed-specific characteristics. Hospitals are buying PetPace collars for in-patients and for follow-up patients.

"We place PetPace collars on a lot of our hospitalized patients in this busy, regional emergency center, bringing the standard of care to a new level while reducing patients' stress," said Kim Earley, director of administration at an emergency veterinary hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota.

A recent case study showed how the PetPace collar enabled clinical staff to reduce stressful handling of a male indoor cat with an acute obstruction of the urinary tract—one of the most common conditions seen by veterinary emergency services.

"Examining the data provided by the PetPace collar in the context of clinical observations and other tests provided the attending clinician with a valuable tool to monitor in real-time the patient's condition and response to treatment," said Dagan.

PetPace plans to help monitor the health of other animal species in the near future. Dagan adds, "The credibility of Israeli tech is boosting the credibility of the product." ★



# Death and Destruction: Bin Laden's True Legacy



BY SCOTT STEWART (r) Stratfor.com

May 2nd marked the five-year anniversary of the U.S. raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan, that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. While bin Laden's death fulfilled a sense of vengeance and closure for the 9/11 attacks, it had little effect on the wider jihadist movement. A man was dead, but the ideology of jihadism continued to pose a threat.

The jihadist movement has progressed closer to bin Laden's vision for the world in the past five years than it had in the almost decade between 9/11 and his death. **An arc of jihad now spreads from West Africa through the Middle East and into Southeast Asia.** Reflecting on bin Laden's demise reminds us not to lose sight of the forest (the wider jihadist movement) by focusing on the trees (individuals and groups).

Bin Laden aspired to a world ruled by a Muslim caliph who would be guided by the principles of *sharia* (Islamic law). To get there, he envisioned a series of Islamic emirates practicing "true Islam" and maintained that jihadists should attack "the far enemies"—the United States and its "European crusader allies"—in a chain of actions and reactions: attack them and draw the West to retaliate by invading the Muslim world, thus compelling Muslims to join a long defensive jihad that would cause the collapse of Western economies. This would stop Western leaders from overthrowing "true Muslim" leaders and supporting "apostate" governments like those in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan that did not share bin Laden's interpretation of Islam.

In bin Laden's plan, once the United States and its allies were defeated, local uprisings would be able to overthrow the corrupt Muslim governments, clearing the way for the global caliphate to rise.

The spectacular 9/11 attacks struck the chord that earlier attacks had not, prompting the U.S. to invade Afghanistan in 2001, causing a large number of al-Qaeda and other foreign jihadists to flee Afghanistan for other havens in the region. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his followers relocated to a lawless region in northern Iraq.

*(continued next page)*

***The World Trade Center's destruction on 9/11 fulfilled bin Laden's ambition to have the U.S. invade the Muslim world.***

*(Alex Fuchs/AFP/Getty Images)*



## Bin Laden... *continued*



Osama bin Laden

But in 2003, the stricken American behemoth invaded Iraq and toppled Saddam Hussein (who had no connection to 9/11), providing a boon to the jihadist cause. Iraq, as the heart of the historical Muslim world, proved alluring to Muslims wanting to fight a defensive jihad. Iraq was wedged between Iran and Syria (two countries hostile to the United States) who would aid jihadists in their efforts to bleed the U.S. and drive its troops out of the region.

Iraq quickly became a jihadist magnet, drawing foreign fighters and cash. Al-Qaeda's ideology spread, but jihadists did not make appreciable headway—and still struggle to survive.

Then, events in Tunisia in December 2010 sparked the “Arab Spring” uprisings across the region, leading to civil wars and disruptions to local order that provided room for jihadist groups to gain a foothold and grow.

Bin Laden's dream is nowhere near realization, but the jihadists' utopian vision of a just and secure society ruled under sharia remains especially appealing to Muslims who live under a dictatorship, kleptocracy, or in anarchy. However, this utopianism quickly fades once it meets reality. People who have lived under jihadist rule in Afghanistan, Yemen, Mali, Libya, Somalia, and Syria have learned that **oppression and corruption do not disappear in a jihadist society—they merely take on a new form.** Jihadist polities have consequently proved to be unpopular and short-lived, and the jihadist dream of creating lasting emirates is clearly more delusional than practical.

Bin Laden's form of jihadism will eventually be relegated to history's rubbish bin of failed ideologies, next to Marxism and Maoism. But until that happens, jihadists will kill and destroy. The death and destruction left in their wake as the ideology withers will be bin Laden's true legacy. ★

Following this excellent analysis of the jihadist agenda, I hope to get to the “why” of this conquering mentality in next month's *Levitt Letter*. Watch for it. —Myles



# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



*BMW, Intel, and Mobileye announce cooperation for driverless car*

## Driverless Car Team

By Shoshanna Solomon  
TimesOfIsrael.com

The July announcement of BMW Group, Intel, and Israel's Mobileye that they intend to join forces to make self-driving vehicles a reality by 2021 will help boost investment in driverless technologies and confirm Israel's position at the forefront of developments, industry analysts said.

BMW will provide the cars, Intel will provide the technology that allows connectivity between devices, and Jerusalem-based Mobileye will provide its sensing and road experience management technology.

## A Cautionary History

The Middle East Media Research Institute  
MEMRI.org

In a recent article, Bangladesh columnist Syed Badrul Ahsan examined the historical context of Hindu persecution at the hands of



until 1971. After a nine-month war, the Bangla-speaking province seceded and became Bangladesh.

In his article, Ahsan detailed how a range of Islamist elements engendered a hospitable environment—both before and after the creation of Bangladesh—for forces that are systematically eliminating Hindus from Bangladesh.

Ahsan: "A smiling Pakistani walked up to me, shook hands [with me] and then wanted to know if there were many Hindus in Bangladesh; I told him there were no Hindus in my country; his smile turned bigger."



*Protests in India (below) against the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh (Hinduexistence.org)*

Islamist forces.

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, was part of Pakistan



To  
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## Israel, Terror, and *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

By Alex Safian, PhD / CAMERA.org

Following the Palestinian terror attack on June 8th in Tel Aviv, in which four Israelis were murdered and at least six were wounded, this was the headline in *The New York Times*: "Palestinian Gunmen Open Fire in Tel Aviv, Leaving Four Dead"

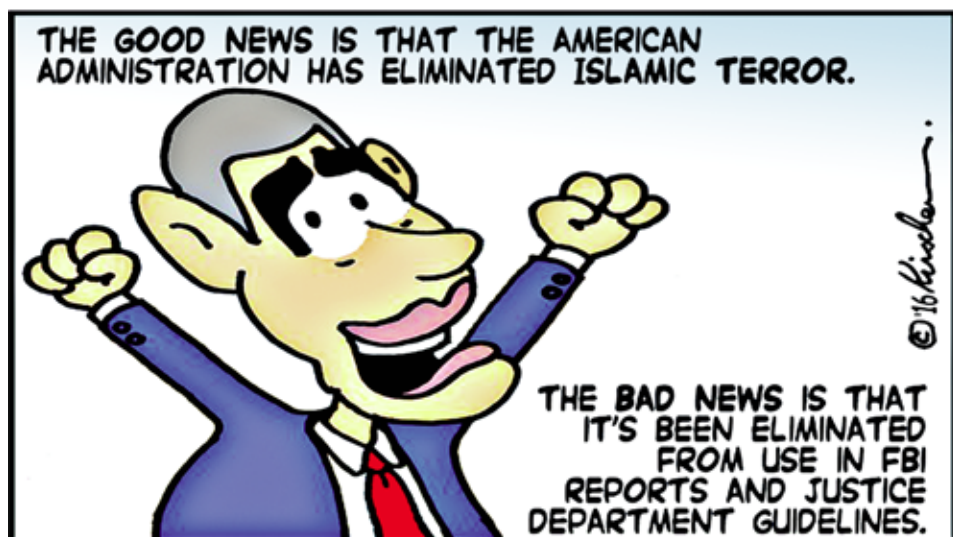
Not Palestinian *Terrorists* but Palestinian *Gunmen*. And the article followed a similar path. While the lead referred to the attack "reigniting fears of terrorism," that was it. The attackers were not referred to as terrorists, and the attack was not referred to as terrorism. Instead the *Times* used phrases like:

- "police identified the **attackers**" (not terrorists)
- "Security officers wounded one of the **gunmen**" (again, not terrorists)
- "The second **gunman** was arrested" (not second terrorist)
- "Tel Aviv has suffered a number of **deadly attacks**" (not deadly terrorist attacks)
- A witness "heard the shots and could see one of the **attackers**" (not one of the terrorists)

And this refusal to use the "terror" word to refer to deadly attacks against Israelis is no aberration at the *Times*. Indeed, in a follow-up article on June 9, "Israel Imposes Travel Restrictions on Palestinians After Tel Aviv Attack," the *Times* also failed to use the word terror (except when quoting Israeli officials), instead using terms like "gunmen" and "assailants."

One wonders: what would a Palestinian have to do for the *Times* to call him a terrorist? If when covering Israel the *Times* can't bring itself to do something as simple as calling a terrorist a terrorist, what does that refusal once again reveal about the paper's mindset and agenda?

Isaiah said the time would come when people would call "evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). He was a true prophet. —Myles ★



# Sunken Treasure Off Caesarea Coast

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY SARAH GRIFFITHS (r) DailyMail.co.uk



A merchant ship that sank off the Mediterranean port of Caesarea 1,600 years ago has yielded treasure, now recovered by Israeli divers who came across it in May. The intriguing objects include thousands of coins and rare bronze statues from the late Roman period, a time of economic and commercial stability and during which Emperor Constantine ended the policy of persecuting Christians. The famous Edict of Milan proclaimed that Christianity was no longer a banned religion. The photos tell the rest of the story.

## (Luna and Dionysus)

Statues recovered from the sea depict Roman gods (moon goddess Luna and god of wine Dionysus, pictured right and far right), suggesting they were no longer needed by worshipers, who may have become Christians.



## (African slave)

These finds are the result of two major factors: a lack of sand on the seabed causing the exposure of ancient artifacts, and an increase in the number of divers at the site. Lamp with image of an African slave shown.



*(continued next page)*



# Archaeology... continued

**(Sol)** Visible after 1,600 years: iron anchors, remains of wooden anchors, items used in the construction and running of the sailing vessel, and other precious artifacts (bronze lamp depicting the image of the sun god Sol shown being plucked from the bed).



© Clara Amit, courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority

**(Bronze Selection—below)** The ship carrying the bronze goods from Caesarea in the late Roman period encountered a storm at the entrance to the harbor, which caused it to crash into the seawall and rocks. “Metal statues are rare archaeological finds because they were always melted down and recycled in antiquity,” explained Jacob Sharvit, director of the Marine Archaeology Unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). (©AFP) ★

This image (*inset*) shows a fragment of a life-size head of a statue.

(©AFP/Getty Images)



# (((Echoes))) of Hate

BY AMANDA HESS / NYTimes.com



Artist: Daniel Pelavin

The Anti-Defamation League recently added a new symbol to Hate on Display, its database of prominent white supremacist imagery. It's called the "echo," and it is used online to single out Jewish names in the news. The symbol originated in 2014 on an anti-Semitic podcast, "The Daily Shoah" (itself a twist on *The Daily Show*), which applied a novelty sound effect to Jewish names that made them echo ominously.

That practice then spread to blogs and Twitter, where the podcast's creators and fans created a visual translation of the echo sound effect by placing three sets of parentheses around a Jewish name, like (((Cohen))) or (((Goldberg))). The parentheses later turned up in a Chrome browser extension that found Jewish names in text and automatically trapped them in the echo. (Google has since banned the extension from the Chrome store.) Enterprising white nationalists are now printing the echo on T-shirts.

**This is how a hate symbol rises in 2016:** A podcast sound effect becomes a Twitter meme and a browser extension before it finally slithers into the physical world.

The "echo" is the first officially recognized symbol to emerge from the "alt-right," a movement of white-and-proud extremists who are as obsessed with cultural memes as they are with white nationalism. A Twitter ad for DiGiorno pizza ("Do you ever find yourself just staring into the oven?") can be reframed into a reference to the Holocaust, just by being re-Tweeted by an alt-right account.

"It shouldn't surprise us that bigots are early adopters of technology," said Jonathan Greenblatt, the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League. "Their noxious views are difficult to circulate openly." But on social media, "they can post something to Twitter or Facebook and achieve exponential reach under a cloak of anonymity."

**The echo symbol is emblematic of a new class of bigotry born and bred online.**

Jewish public figures are fighting back. On Twitter, Jewish writers have reclaimed the echo, adding parentheses around their Twitter handles in a show of defiance. In turn, white nationalists like Lana Lokteff have flipped the symbol to signal their non-Jewish heritage: )))Lana Lokteff(((.

**[In a related story, Matthew Yglesias at Vox.com writes:**

Some of the people who've changed their Twitter names to incorporate the echo are Jewish, making a gesture of pride and reclamation. Others, however, are not Jewish but are simply doing it as a gesture of solidarity. The idea is that the act of singling out Jews for discrimination with a particular marker is thwarted if non-Jews choose to wear it voluntarily—like the inspiring troupe that the people of Denmark followed the lead of King Christian and wore Star of David armbands in solidarity with their country's Jewish population during its occupation by Nazi Germany.]

True bigotry is often excused as nothing more than crude humor or nihilistic trolling. The echo symbol "started as a joke among us," a host of "The Daily Shoah" said on the podcast. He chided the news media for taking it too seriously.

To them, it's humor. To everyone else, it's hate. ✨



# Jewish Humor, etc.

## Special Treatment

Simon tried out the new dry cleaning store in town by bringing in his knotted tallit to be cleaned. When the time came to pick it up, he was stunned to receive a bill for \$150.

"Why so much?!" he gasped.

"\$5 to clean the garment," said the Chinese proprietor, "and \$145 to get out all those knots!"



Tallit

## Fragile— Handle with Care

Mrs. Cohen mailed the old family Bible to her granddaughter who lived across the country.

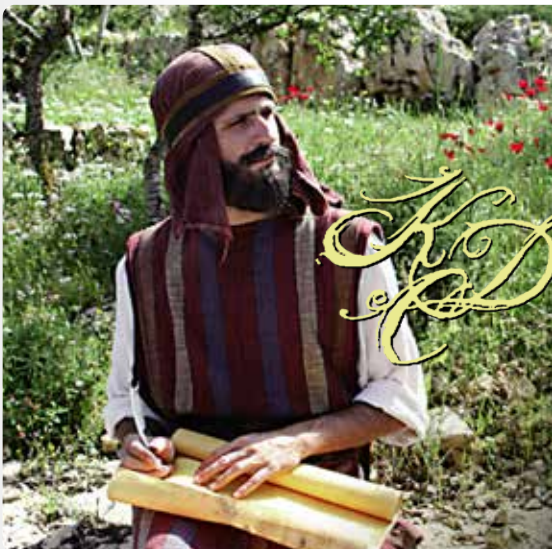
"Is there anything breakable in this package?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered Mrs. Cohen.



*A cheerful heart is  
good medicine —  
Proverbs 17:22*

**I keep  
hitting  
'escape,'  
but I'm  
still  
here.**

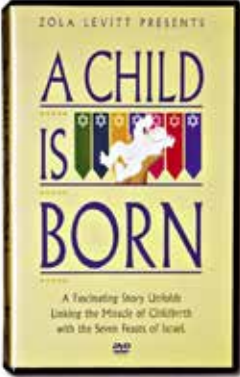


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