

ISRAEL

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AUSTRALIA

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CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
AUSTRALIA

A TIME TO REFRESH



*'Residents of Jerusalem seek relief from the heat by refreshing
at the fountain of Teddy Park, just outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate.
But the Lord also refreshes His people in other ways.'*

Photo credit: Flash90

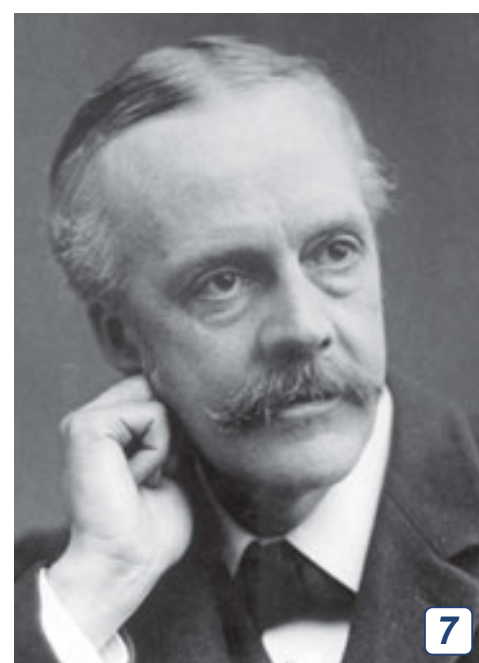
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Israel & Christians Today is the premier publication of Christians for Israel

Prayer Points



By Pieter Bénard
Christians for
Israel Prayer
Coordinator

ISRAEL

- Since the beginning of this year, Iran has positioned, through Hezbollah, a so- called 'Free the Golan Brigade' on the Syrian side of Golan Heights. There, Iran distributes banners with the words: "Israel will be destroyed." Pray for complete rest based on *Isaiah 29:5*.
- Recently Brigadier General Tzvika Haimov declared that Israel continues to be extremely vulnerable, despite the completion of the highly advanced missile defence shield. From Lebanon projectiles, with a reach of up to 300km, can cover the whole country. Pray that Israel will dwell safely.
- Thank God for the words of the prophet Isaiah: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (*Isaiah 56:7b*) Jerusalem is important to those who believe in God. The Jewish people steward the city and see to it that it is open for everyone. Christianity and Islam can rely on this.

INTERCESSION

- Praying for Israel also means magnifying God in His creation. "For by Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth; He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together." (*Colossians 1:16-17*)
- "Be patient then brothers, until the Lord's coming." (*James 5:7-8*) Let us take this exhortation and encouragement to heart, and realise that we may be expecting Him who will make all things new, especially in the vulnerable times in which we live.
- We live in unique times, now that two developments are taking place that have never happened before. The Gospel going out all over the world (*Matthew 24:14*), and the restoration of Israel (*Matthew 24:32-34*). Pray that the eyes of Christians will be opened to this.

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

- Aliyah brings Jews from over a hundred different countries and cultures together in Israel. Thank God that He is bringing His people home. Pray that they will understand and accept each other, so that the Lord can bless them in the Land. (*Psalms 133*)
- Pray for the field workers of Christians for Israel in Ukraine. They often have to do their work in exhausting and dangerous circumstances. Pray for the groups of volunteers that distribute food parcels in the Jewish communities.
- Please pray for the international work of Christians for Israel, for the provision of information through newspapers and websites, books, and DVDs. Pray that people will be touched by this information, so that their love for Israel and the Bible will grow.

For more Prayer Points, please go to our website www.c4israel.com.au

Israel Has (the) Future

By Rev. Willem J. J. Glashouwer, President Christians for Israel

"But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham My friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are My servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I myself will help you," declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. *Isaiah 41: 8-14*

Sometimes one can become terror-stricken when reading the endless stream of publications and newspapers, filled with wave after wave of sometimes almost pure hatred against Israel and the Jewish people. Or to look at social media about what happens in the world at home and abroad – with all the negative news and comments about Israel and the Jewish people, you can become panic-stricken. There seems to be no end to it; Half-truths and complete lies, fake-news and real news, an endless stream of information in which you can almost drown with fear. We see this in the Western world and coming from the Islamic world as well, as part of their 'jihad' against Israel and the Jewish people. In 'jihad' people are not just permitted to lie, but one must lie. Never speak the truth. And if your enemy believes you, you are smarter than him. You just gained a small victory over him. And when finally sometimes the real truth comes out,



Rev. Willem J. J. Glashouwer, President Christians for Israel

people have long forgotten what this was all about, and the first negative impression about Israel and the Jewish people lingers on for a long time.

What is Israel to do? Is there, in the end, any future for this tiny Jewish nation in the tiny little country on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea? With Jerusalem, that is considered to be the third holy city of Islam after Mecca and Medina?

Until one starts to read the Bible, with all the mighty promises for little Israel, for worm Jacob, promises given to them by Almighty God, the Everlasting One, the Creator of heaven and earth. Nobody knows what the future will hold. Only He Who holds the future knows what the future will hold; the Creator of Israel who, by a biological miracle, a special act of creation, created this nation. Abraham was too old, and Sarah was too old to have any children, *Genesis 17: 17*. And yet, Isaac was born, as a miracle of God. A nation whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made, says God, *Isaiah 43:7*. My firstborn son, says God, *Exodus 4:22-23*. Israel His firstborn son, and Jesus His only-begotten Son, *Luke 1:30-35*, *Matthew 1:18-24*, *John 1:14*.

And suddenly you realise: God is on their side. He gave everlasting promises to

them; He made everlasting Covenants with them, and everything He promised to Israel, He will fulfil for Israel. Just as all the promises He gave to the Church, He will fulfil for the Church. It never gets out of His hand. Israel has the guarantee of the Creator of heaven and earth for its existence. As long as heaven and earth are in existence, there will be Israel. Says God.

This is what the Lord says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar - the Lord Almighty is His name: "Only if these decrees vanish from My sight," declares the Lord, "will Israel ever cease being a nation before Me."

This is what the Lord says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the Lord. *Jeremiah 31: 35-37*

He will never reject His firstborn son. Not even for what they have done, He says. And one day the hostile nations will be ultimately and definitively defeated. Just read *Isaiah 63: 1-6* and *Revelation 19: 11-16* and *Psalms 2*.

A Moment of Refreshment

(COVER PHOTO) - Residents of Jerusalem seek relief from the heat by refreshing at the fountain of Teddy Park, just outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate. But the Lord also refreshes His people in other ways.

In *Acts 3:19-21*, we read how Peter and John heal the lame man at the Beautiful Gate after Pentecost. The people are astonished at this, so Peter addresses them saying, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets."

Since then, the people of Israel have suffered, awaiting the coming of the Messiah. Together with Israel, we eagerly await our salvation. As we are nearing that moment, events like the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and the recapture of Jerusalem fifty years ago are moments of refreshment. They are reminders of God's promises of salvation, and they nourish the hope of the ultimate coming of the Lord Jesus. Then all things will be restored.

We also seek to give refreshment to Israel, that our support, our prayers, our visits and our conversations may be refreshing. That we do not come to judge, but come with His mercy and faithfulness, as Isaiah states: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, your God reigns!"

Jewish Festivals

Tish'a B'Av - The Ninth of Av
1 August 2017

Rosh Hashana - Jewish New Year
21-22 September 2017

Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement
30 September 2017

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In the Old City



1. There They Sit

In the middle of a busy street in the Old City, near the Damascus Gate, women sell their spices and vegetables amidst the hustle and bustle of people. It's a small market, very simple. However, the ladies are ingenious and know exactly how to sell their goods and to whom. It is for the reason that they are right in everyone's way, so you almost trip over them. The naive visitor might think that they have chosen an awkward and unfortunate place to sit, but the ladies know better. They make sure everyone runs into them.



2. The Gates

The security gates to the entrance of the Western Wall can be annoying at times but are also a place where you can have unexpected and surprising chats. Just like that, out of nowhere. The guards do their work, check your bag and ask, "Where are you from?" "From the Netherlands". The guards are not familiar with the Netherlands and ask cautiously, "Is that near Denmark?" They need a little help: "They also call it Holland." "Oh, Holland, Amsterdam", they almost sound relieved. "Thank you for visiting us!"



4. Jerusalem Bagels

"Well, let me tell you, this is a real Jerusalem bagel." The vendor stands at the Jaffa Gate daily. In his simple stall, there's a large stack of bagels. But not like the bagel we now know from America. This bagel is enormous compared to the American ones! "These are only sold in Jerusalem", he continues. "You need to try it. You get Za'atar with it too". Suddenly you're eating this giant bagel with your hands. With Za'atar of course, because that makes the difference. I try again: "But they sell these bagels in other places in Israel too, right?" And with a big smile he responds, "I don't know, I don't think so. Not this one for sure. This one is made in Jerusalem, and I just sold it right here in Jerusalem to you. Didn't I tell you, this is a real Jerusalem bagel?"



3. He Hears, Sees Nothing

He doesn't even try to make small talk. He gives his full attention to the leather crafting. He has truly mastered the craft. It's clear from the items in his workshop which also functions as a store. Even when someone stops to look at his work, he keeps going steadily.



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2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, following the Six Day War of June 1967, after 19 years of division. 'Jerusalem 50 years reunited' marks this unique milestone in the history of Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel. Historically and politically, spiritually and culturally, Jerusalem represents the heart and soul of the Jewish people.

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Leaders Called to Defuse Tension

By Tomas Sandell, Courtesy of European Coalition For Israel

ECI calls upon religious leaders to help defuse tension on Temple Mount by condemning further incitement to violence.

The European Coalition for Israel has called upon religious leaders worldwide to help defuse the current tension on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by condemning incitement to violence and supporting the Israeli authorities in their efforts to ensure free and safe access to the holy site. In a statement, ECI Founding Director Tomas Sandell said that “It is simply wrong to blame the Israeli government for wanting to protect those entering the Temple Mount after the recent killings. Metal detectors are today a part of standard security procedures at holy sites in the world, from the Vatican to Mecca. These measures are put in place simply to protect people and are not meant to deny anyone access”. The call echoes a recent United Nations action plan which encourages religious leaders to condemn incitement to violence and recognises the strategic role that the religious leaders can play in times of conflict.

The Israeli government decided to install metal detectors at the entrance to the Temple Mount after two Israeli policemen were killed on the Temple Mount by Palestinian gunmen on 14 July. The decision to step up security measures on the Temple Mount has caused outrage among the Palestinian leadership which considers the decision an infringement of agreements to not change the current status quo on the Temple Mount. Over the weekend (15-16 July) Israeli police and Palestinian protesters clashed in the

streets of Jerusalem, resulting in the loss of three Palestinian lives. On Friday night (21 July) a Palestinian terrorist entered an Israeli home in the West Bank, butchering three of the family members in cold blood. The Israeli government has blamed Palestinian incitement to violence for inspiring these latest horrific incidents. The recent wave of violence has led to growing protest actions among Israeli Arabs and Palestinians as well as among Muslim groups in Europe. In various statements from Christian institutions around the world, from the Vatican to the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, Christian leaders have pleaded for calm. In a recent statement from WCC, Secretary-General Olav Fykse Tveit called upon the Israeli government to immediately remove the metal detectors, thereby putting the blame for the latest wave of violence on Israeli security measures and not on the Palestinian incitement to violence. The Geneva based organisation, which is said to represent millions of Protestant Christians, has a long history of anti-Israel bias. Recently WCC published on its website a statement from its member churches in the Palestinian territories in which the Balfour Declaration of 1917 was described as “unlawful” and “marking 100 years of oppression”. Therefore rejecting any rights for the Jewish people to live in their own state in their ancestral homeland, rights that were clearly established under international law in San Remo already in 1920. The Palestinian churches further urged WCC to step up efforts to boycott Israel, which it calls ‘a colonial apartheid state’. Having been very outspoken in this



Israeli police guard at the Lion's Gate, outside the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City

way about the Israeli-Arab conflict in the past, WCC has issued no statements to date on the recent UNESCO resolutions which deny any Jewish or Christian history in the Holy Land by declaring heritage sites, such as the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, as exclusively Muslim holy sites. Some observers believe that the campaign to pass the recent UNESCO resolutions has contributed to the increase of tension in Jerusalem. WCC was recently part of a new UN action plan in New York to enable religious leaders to contribute to the prevention of incitement to violence. The UN action plan was developed in response to an alarming rise in recent years in hate speech and incitement to violence against individuals or communities, based on

their identity. Incitement to violence, in public discourse and the media, is both a common warning sign and a precursor to violent crimes and terrorism. The UN action plan is the first document to focus on the role of religious leaders and those with such influence in condemning incitement to violence that could lead to such atrocious crimes as we have recently seen, and is the first attempt to develop context-specific regional strategies with this objective. ECI Founding Director Tomas Sandell urged WCC and other religious leaders who signed the UN action plan to immediately comply with the new initiative by condemning any further incitement to violence and thus really help to defuse tension on the Temple Mount.

Israel and NZ End Diplomatic Rift

Courtesy of Times of Israel



Ambassador Itzhak Gerberg

Israeli ambassador has returned to Wellington months after recall over anti-settlement Security Council vote.

Israel has restored its diplomatic relations with New Zealand, returning its Israeli ambassador to Wellington, months after

the two countries had a falling-out over a UN Security Council resolution condemning West Bank settlements. The announcement by the Foreign Ministry came the day after New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressing regret over the damage to ties that were caused by New Zealand's co-sponsoring of UN Resolution 2334. The contentious resolution, also co-sponsored by Senegal, Malaysia and Venezuela and approved on 23 December 2016, declared that Israel's policy of building settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank has “no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution

and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.” English wrote [in the letter] that Israel's ambassador was welcome to return to Wellington, the capital of New Zealand. Netanyahu responded to the letter by instructing Foreign Ministry Director-General Yuval Rotem to notify New Zealand authorities that Ambassador Itzhak Gerberg could return to his post. English's letter followed a phone call to Netanyahu days earlier that was the culmination of several months of discreet diplomatic contacts led by Rotem and the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director-General for Asia and the Pacific Mark Sofer. Israel in December withdrew its ambassador and postponed travel rights of New Zealand's ambassador to Israel, based in Turkey. Netanyahu was angry at New Zealand's involvement in the UN resolution, which

passed with 14 yes votes and the abstention of the United States. The Israeli prime minister called then-foreign minister Murray McCully and reportedly threatened to interpret New Zealand's sponsorship as a “declaration of war.” In February Israel permanently downgraded its diplomatic ties with New Zealand and Senegal as a punishment for the resolution. Jerusalem has no diplomatic ties with the resolution's other two co-sponsors, Malaysia and Venezuela. In June, Israel announced the resumption of full diplomatic relations with Senegal after Netanyahu met with Senegal's President Macky Sall at the ECOWAS summit of West African leaders in Liberia. Israel recalled its ambassador to Dakar, Paul Hirschson, following the passage of the resolution, and cancelled its foreign aid programmes in Senegal as part of a rash of retaliatory steps against countries that sponsored the measure.

Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Christians for Israel Regional Director of Europe

The Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast launched on International Jerusalem Day, 7 June 2017. It was initiated by Chairman of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, Robert Ilatov.

Christians for Israel International was represented by Leon Meijer, Chairman of the Board, and Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Regional Director of Europe. Edda Fogarollo and Chiara Canciani represented Christians for Israel Italy.

The day before the Breakfast, Reuvin Rivlin, President of Israel hosted the Founders and visited the Knesset. 550 participants from 57 countries attended the Prayer Breakfast, which was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem. The event was organised by a team around Albert Veksler.

All present were touched by the unique unity of the Spirit, which was clearly present. Scriptures were read by MPs from various countries, short prayers



From left to right: Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Leon Meijer, Edda Fogarollo, Chiara Canciani

spoken by selected attendees and speeches made by different personalities, including Josh Reinstein (KCAC - Knesset Christian Allies Caucus), MK Michael Oren (Deputy of the Prime Minister's Office), Yariv Levin (Minister of Tourism), Naim Khoury and others.

In the afternoon, there was a possibility for organisations and movements to

present their visions and work. Leon Meijer gave a short introduction to the work of Christians for Israel International, and showed the corporate DVD. It was received with enthusiasm.

The event closed with a dinner, whereby Edda Fogarollo presented Robert Ilatov with a mouth blown glass Shofar from Venice, a gift from Christians for Israel Italy.

First-Ever Israel March: Fiji

By Lepani Makubuna, Christians for Israel Fiji

The key focus of Christians for Israel Fiji are monthly prayer meetings. They already see God opening doors through the power of united prayer.

Recently the team joined the first-ever Israel solidarity march. Lepani Makubuna of Christians for Israel Fiji was excited about this significant event: "The march was part of ICEJ's (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) first Oceania conference held on 24-27 May 2017 in Suva, Fiji. I was privileged as the National Leader for Christians for Israel Fiji to be invited and partake of this conference. Other members of our team were also privileged to attend the evening teaching

and worship sessions. We all participated in the public prayer meeting that took place outside our government building followed by a solidarity march where the marchers showcased their love for Israel by wearing 'I Stand with Israel' T-shirts and waved Israeli flags as they marched and sang throughout the parade.

The march finished with prayer and worship at a central park in Suva."

Lepani is eager to build the work in Fiji: "While Christians for Israel and ICEJ have common grounds but slightly different



mandates, it is our desire to see us work together on a united front with one voice for the sake of Israel given our mandate to comfort Israel and the Jewish people. Where there is unity, the Lord commands His blessings!"

Food Parcels for 'Lost' Jews

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Aliyah Fieldworker

Since January we have started to visit a group of 'hidden or lost Jews' located in remote villages two hours from Kiev! Most of these old Jewish women burned their documents during WWII to save their lives. It was by chance, through a young girl working for a Jewish family in Kiev, that we heard about these 'lost Jews' and started delivering food parcels. Some of them were hesitant to let us into their small homes, and often said they weren't Jewish because they were afraid. After telling them who we were, they slowly started to trust us and share their stories. One old lady told us: "The Polish and Nazis came into my garden, they hated the Jews, and they still do." Her grandparents were Jews and were shot by the Nazis. "They didn't consider us as people. During the war, everyone was poor and afraid. The frontline of fighting

was right here, they shot Jews right where I am standing in my garden." She told us with tears in her eyes that when it rains, it only falls where Jews were killed. The Nazis took her mother and shot her at the back of their house, and took her father, who never returned. She hid in the basement with her brothers and sisters. She is the youngest of nine children; only three survived the war, the others died of starvation.

When she was nine years old, she started working. By the time she was thirteen years old, she was milking cows for a whole farm. She did that for 37 years. Her only son has also passed away, and she finishes by telling us, "I wish I were dead!"



We continue to visit these poor old 'lost Jews', always with one or two food parcels. We seldom distribute food parcels during summer, but due to the ongoing war in East of Ukraine, thousands of refugees and elderly people depend on them.

Please pray that the Lord will help us to comfort these old Jewish women and enable us to reach others in remote areas!

Short News

Plans Underway for Construction of Third Temple in Jerusalem



Rabbi Richman, director of the International Department of The Temple Institute, says he is committed to rebuilding Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

Israeli Brigade Commander Col. Motta Gur captured the Temple Mount in 1967. After the capture, he announced: "The Temple Mount is in our hands!"

Retaking the temple was important to the Jewish world because the site was where King Solomon built the first Jewish temple. When that temple was destroyed, a second temple was built, only to later fall in 70 AD to the Romans. Recapturing the site meant the Jews could have their long-awaited third temple.

"It would be hard not to see what's happened in the past 50 years as a tremendous – not just fulfillment of prophecy – but a tremendous jump-start, a tremendous fast forward," Richman said. "It's more than prophetic. It's like a kiss from Heaven. It's like a divine kiss. It's like an intimate brush with the reality of God's compassion and love. He keeps His promises."

"Today there's a lobby in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) of how many members are speaking about Jewish rights to pray on the Temple Mount," Richman said. "There are members that talk about rebuilding the Holy Temple. Do you realise that 20 years ago these people wouldn't have been given a moment on prime time television to say these things. They would have been laughed out."

'Trial Run' Approved for Visits by Lawmakers to Temple Mount

After almost a two-year ban on visits by Israeli lawmakers to the Temple Mount in an effort to quell violence, Netanyahu has approved a week-long trial run allowing members of Knesset (MKs) to ascend the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. This reverses an October 2015 decision made during a wave of stabbing attacks against Israelis and was intended to prevent Arab riots in response to Jewish visits to the Mount.

Prayers at Burundi 55th Independence Day



Drake Kaanabo (pictured above right), Christians for Israel Uganda, was invited by the Burundian Ambassador H.E Jean Bisco Barege (pictured above left) to lead a prayer and give a blessing at the 55th Burundi Independence Day in Uganda.

Diplomats and Ambassadors from over 40 nations were present.

On 1 July 1962, after many wars, Belgium granted Burundi independence. The Belgian colony Ruanda-Urundi split to form Rwanda and present-day Burundi.

Rome Embraces “Shalom Jerusalem”

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

Christians for Israel's Italian affiliate - 'Cristiani per Israele' - organised an impressive conference in Rome on Saturday 24 June in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem in June 1967. The meeting was hosted by Comunidade Evangelica Internacional Zona Sul church in Rome, led by Rev. Fernando de Franca.

Cristiani per Israele leaders Edda Fogorollo and Chiara Canciani, together with Berhanu Workineh and their team, did a fantastic job to organise this conference - the first of its kind in Rome. Attended by about 300 participants from all over Italy, this conference was the fruit of years of hard work raising interest in God's prophetic word regarding Israel and the Jewish people. This is very significant, given Rome's historical connection with the Jewish people - that has not always been a positive one. It was the Romans who destroyed the Temple in AD70, and in AD135 put down the Bar Kokhba uprising, resulting in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Jerusalem and the dispersion of thousands of Jews into the Roman diaspora. Emperor Hadrian wiped the name of Judea and Israel off the map, replacing them with the designation 'Syria Palaestina' - thus laying the groundwork for the current misuse of the name 'Palestine' today, to erase all Jewish connection with East Jerusalem and the Jewish towns of the 'West Bank'. The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Romans to remind the Gentile Christians in Rome not to look proudly on the Jewish people, but to remember that the Gentile believers have been grafted as 'wild branches' into the olive tree in which the Jewish people belong to the 'natural branches' (*Romans 11*). In this light, the Rome conference can be seen as a prophetic act to restore the gospel of the 'Kingdom of Heaven' to the churches in Rome.

This word has been fulfilled: “Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.” (*Psalms 126:5-6*)

Israeli Vice-Ambassador Dan Haezrachy opened the meeting, expressing the thanks of the Israeli government for Christian support and friendship in a time in which the existence of the State of Israel is under increasing attack.

Rev. Fernando da Franca spoke passionately of the need to preach and depend upon God's word. “God's word is 100% reliable. He will fulfil all He has promised.”

Senator Lucio Malan encouraged the participants to express their concerns about Italian government policies regarding Israel. For example, the Italian government recently approved massive investments by energy concern ENI in Iran - that maintains its intent to destroy Israel. Senator Malan condemned the tendencies of Israel's enemies to deny historical realities. “We must defend the historical validity of both the Old and New Testaments. The presence of the Jewish people in the land is, in fact, one of the greatest proofs of the truth of God's word”. On a more positive note, in May 2017, Italy was one of only ten nations to vote against a UNESCO resolution condemning Israel's unification of Jerusalem. Malan: “This was a result of many people expressing their objections to Italy's earlier votes in support of similar resolutions, as well as fervent prayers.”

Rev. Willem Glashouwer (President, Christians for Israel International) reflected on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. He emphasised that 400 years of rationalism in Europe have resulted in a lack of faith in the truth of God's word. Combined with the theological blockades in the hearts and minds of Christians, this has led to an inability to



From left to right: Chiara Canciani, Israeli Vice-Ambassador Dan Haezrachy, Edda Fogarollo

understand the current affairs in the Middle East. “The church again needs a deep reformation. We need to change the roots of our replacement and fulfilment theologies that have crept in over the centuries. It is time to stand on the authority of God's eternal covenants with Israel. God is a faithful God, who does what He says. He is restoring Israel, in order to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth when Jesus returns.”

Prof. Edda Fogorollo (Chair, Cristiani per Israele) gave an impassioned and detailed presentation on the troubled historical and spiritual relationship between Rome and Israel. Edda began with the Maccabees with its lowest point being the destruction of the Temple in 70AD and the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Jews in 135AD, the renaming of Judea as 'Syria-Palestine', and the destruction of Jewish connection with the land.

Andrew Tucker (Executive Director, Christians for Israel International) spoke about the prophecies of *Zachariah 12*, who describes Jerusalem in the end times as “the cup that sends the surrounding peoples reeling”. This is exactly what we

are witnessing today - it is Israel's neighbours who are time and again sponsoring United Nations and UNESCO resolutions rejecting the reunification of Jerusalem, and demanding its re-division and the establishment of “East Jerusalem” as the capital of the claimed “State of Palestine”. Similarly, Jerusalem is an “immovable rock” - no matter what the nations try, they cannot defeat or divide the city. There is no doubt that the nations will “gather against Jerusalem”, in all likelihood on the basis of United Nations resolutions. But the Lord Himself will intervene to protect His people and destroy Israel's enemies.

Prof. Magdi Cristiano Allam, former Muslim, journalist and politician gave his personal testimony of how he came to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. “Europe is being threatened by radical Islam. It is time for the Church to awake, and to defend our civilisation based on Judeo-Christian values.”

The conference finished with a beautiful concert of Israeli music by Birgitta Johanna Lundvall from Jerusalem.

Dream Comes True for French Girl

By Rachel Poot, Christians for Israel International



Photo Credit: David Salem, The Jewish Agency for Israel

Sitting across from me in a bustling Parisian brasserie, young French Yael shares with me her dream of making Aliyah.

Only 22-years-old, she has decided to make Aliyah this year, along with her father and brother. But what is it exactly that convinced her to emigrate, being a young Parisian lady? “Israel is a dream”, she tells me, “I can go out on the streets

whenever I want, and I don't have to worry what I look like or how I behave. In France I do. I don't wear my Star of David because I'm afraid I will be harassed verbally or physically.”

Yael is constantly aware of how to act so she doesn't draw attention to her Jewishness. The opposite is true for Israel.

“I remember last year, when my family and I flew to Israel,” she continues, “When I saw the skyline of Tel Aviv from a distance, with all its lights, I was so moved. Israel is like a dream. Every time I return to France, it depresses me. It's in Israel where we can be free, celebrate our feasts and be Jewish altogether.”

French Jews Making Aliyah

Many French Jewish people feel the same connection with Israel as Yael does, but

not all are following through with their Aliyah. Aliyah from France in 2016 decreased considerably. According to the Jewish Agency's annual report, only 6000 people made Aliyah, compared to 7876 persons in 2015. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the head of Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky, attributes this to a slightly greater sense of security than the year before. Moreover, housing prices in Israel are very high, and French diplomas are often not officially recognised in Israel.

This does not mean French Jews do not want to make Aliyah. Sharansky points out there are at least 9000 active files for those who are seriously considering emigrating. For a lot of them, it remains a dream of their “coeurs”, in their hearts, to return to the land of Israel. Therefore, let us pray the French Jews have courage in their decision-making to make Aliyah, to find freedom in Israel.

Rachel Poot studied French and finished her master's degree in Cultural History on anti-Semitism in France in the 19th century.

On behalf of Christians for Israel, she resides in Paris to assist the Aliyah work in France.

Aliyah in France

For many Jews in France, the decision to go to Israel is very difficult. The Jewish Agency For Israel (JAFI) pays for their airline tickets, however, they have to pay for their luggage. On top of that, their belongings have to be shipped to Israel by container. But how can you afford that if you have limited or no savings? And how do you sell any of these belongings for a fair price if people know that you are about to move?

In cooperation with Ebenezer Operation Exodus, Christians for Israel assists the French Jews. We visit the people, listen to their needs and help them to move. The cost to help one person is €400 or US\$430.

Please support the Aliyah work in France. Any amount is welcome! To donate, fill out coupon on page 12.



News From Our National Leader

August 2017



Ian & Mandy in Jerusalem overlooking the David's Citadel

Dear faithful readers & friends (Chavorim).

Thank you for your wonderful support as we celebrate Jerusalem's 50th anniversary of its reunification since the 1967 six day war, when Israel regained control of East Jerusalem, including the Holy sites and temple mount. Many of you responded positively and generously to our expanded edition, sending general donations to help cover our printing and postage costs, as well as supporting the various humanitarian projects in demonstrating our care and love for the Lord's brethren.

Don't forget to place your order for the very **special limited edition glossy colour magazine – 'Jerusalem, 50 years Reunified.'** It's only \$25 inc postage, but only a few hundred have been printed. So don't miss out on getting your copy or a copy for your family and friends as a great collectors item. [See pg 4 for details.](#)

Comforting Gods people

When you support our *Aliyah Welfare Projects* you are helping fulfil prophetic Scriptures like Isaiah 49:22 and Jeremiah 30:2-3. Together, God is using us to bring His sons and daughters home to their promised land from the North (Russia and Ukraine), the South (Ethiopia and Somalia), the East (China and India) and the West (France, USA).

Your financial gifts also help Jewish Olim to settle and establish themselves in the holy land with food, clothing, shelter and equip them to learn the language. Through our food parcels, soup kitchens and school camp programs (which you can read about in this edition). You'll be given further opportunity to give prayerful and practical support as the Lord gives direction and provision to partner with us or to simply pray for them. We are reminded in Amos 9:15 and Matthew 25:31-46 that as we comfort God's people, and hopefully provoke them to jealousy, we will see their eyes, ears and hearts opened regarding their Messiah.

The Battle for Jerusalem

The past few weeks we have been dismayed and concerned at the level of violent unrest in and around Jerusalem and the Temple mount. We have a number of articles and opinion pieces to help you pray with understanding for peace to return to the nations capital.

We also understand that this is as much a spiritual battle as it is a geopolitical and ideological war.

Despite these things, we need to be encouraged and confident that none of this has taken the Lord by surprise and He is still on the throne and in control of Israel and our collective future (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 & Hebrews 3:13).

CALL TO ACTION: Please Sign the Petition

Many positive projects and events are being undertaken by the Lord's people during these troubled, and perhaps uncertain and perilous times. So much so we have yet again required 4 extra pages to cover all that has been happening.

I am pleased to have been involved in some very strategic meetings with a number of Christian leaders, who've come together with a common purpose to see a **National Petition delivered to our senate to consider moving our Australian Embassy to Jerusalem** in recognition of our forefathers sacrifice in liberating Israel from 400 years of Ottoman Turkish (islamic) occupation at Beersheba on October 31, 1917 and shortly after that, Jerusalem.

What better way to commemorate 100 years of "mate-ship" between Australia and Israel than again leading a new charge against the current 'politically-correct' impasse in the spirit of the ANZAC, and moving our Embassy as a tangible sign of recognition of Israel's legitimacy as the only sovereign homeland and democratic state of the Jewish people, and Jerusalem as her eternal undivided capital! Please read the articles and cut out and/or copy and sign the petition with as many of your family, friends, church members and colleagues as you can. Truly we can demonstrate as a people, that the pen can be often mightier than the sword (even if we are unsuccessful in persuading our Government to move at this time, history and our Jewish friends will see that the heart of 'the people of the book' from the lands down-under, from the ends of the earth, came to stand in support, and we were NOT silent for Jerusalem and the Lord's sake).

Speaking events and conferences are making a difference

Popular Israel based Journalist and tour guide, Stan Goodenough, has already had some tremendous and positive response from his current national speaking tour. Many people have signed the petition, including our indigenous brethren across the country. This tour will finish this month with events in New Zealand, and then, NSW Parliament house Sydney, on the 14th, ACT Canberra on the 17th, QLD Shailer Park on 19th, and Nambour on the 27th. (see last months

edition or c4israel.com.au/events for more details.)

We also have received back good reports of other speaking events including Amir Tsfarti at the 'Shalom Israel' meeting in Melbourne with over 800 in attendance. Many hundreds of copies of the newspaper were given away and I understand DVDs of the event are available from Enoch at: dvds.shalomisrael.com.au

Mandy and I and some of our team attended the 'Israel, Jesus & Covenant' conference hosted by Fraser Harding and Good News for Israel, with special guest speakers Christine Sakakibar, an Australian born "Jerusalemite" with a great sense of humour. She challenged us to be more intentional in serving the remaining 200,000 Holocaust survivors, with practical help and encouraging them to tell their story before they are all gone. (approx 4-5 die every day in Israel, many impoverished and alone). **Send your donations to Hineni soup kitchen and holocaust support, pg 12.**

Well known Aussie author, historian and documentary maker, Kelvin Crombie, shared the hebraic meaning and origins of the practise of 'cutting a covenant' and the idea that if God could break His everlasting unconditional covenant with Abraham and David, then what is to stop Him from keeping His covenant of salvation for us all? Fortunately the Scripture shows in no uncertain terms that as long as the stars, sun and moon shine in the heavens and the seas roar, we have His Word that He will keep His promises—even if we are unfaithful and don't keep ours. He then gave us a preview of his new documentary '31 October – Destiny's Date?' To get his books and DVDs **see details on pg 4.**

Hugh Kitson, well known Australian documentary maker gave us the background behind his latest 2 part documentary, 'Whose Land?' which tackles the delegitimisation of Israel through media propaganda and geopolitical mis and disinformation, known as 'Lawfare'. The documentary is presented as a secular initiative with ex British Cornel Richard Kemp and a number of distinguished international lawyers and experts including Andrew Tucker from the ECI in Brussels. (Andrew recently spoke in Melbourne and launched his new legal paper and Thinc tank – **see pg 10**)

Hugh will be hosting the global screen premier in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in partnership with the Jewish Zionist Federation of Australia.

Part one of the documentary will be shown in Melbourne, (before this edition is printed). It will also be shown in Sydney on Wednesday 16th August 2017, at 6.30pm at **The Ritz Cinemas**. Tickets are

\$11 (Full) and \$9 (Concession). To book online: www.trybooking.com/301289

To watch the trailer please go to: vimeo.com/223118672/cce9cff6d3

Then on Monday 14 August at **New Farm Cinemas**, 6:30pm for 6:45pm. Hugh Kitson will then do a Q&A afterwards.

Cinema Info Line:
(07) 3358 4444
info@newfarmcinemas.com.au

Dr Kameel Majdali is also doing a national speaking tour with *Vision Christian Radio* see **details at the bottom of pg 8 of this insert.**

Mandy and I have been invited to attend the inaugural *Christian Media Summit* in Jerusalem (ahead of our October 25 Israel tour.) It's being hosted by the President and Prime Minster of Israel and attended by Christian media groups from around the world. Please pray for us as it will be a great honour to represent Australia—also it's a very busy time for us and we need to be sharp and healthy for the big celebration in Beersheba with our 3 bus loads of exited Aussie pilgrims. We will explore the Holy land of Israel and Jordan in the footsteps of Jesus and the Prophets. We invite you to come with us next year on tour with special visit to the last Light Horse charge site in Semach, Galilee: **See pg 5 for details.**

Positions vacant for volunteer office help

With all the increased activity and growth of the ministry, including our online webstore (www.c4israel.com.au/store), and Facebook page we are often short staffed. Presently we only operate every Tuesday at the *Vision Christian Media* office in Underwood QLD. If you live in the Brisbane Logan region of SEQLD, and are available to assist with opening mail, filling orders and some basic office duties and computer data entry (we will train you) contact us at info@c4israel.com.au or write to us. We would love to have you come and join our little team, that is making a big difference for Israel.

Help get the message out with this newspaper

Finally please continue to think about who you can send copies of the newspaper too. This will help us get the message out to as many Christians as possible. We are happy to send extra copies for you or your small groups or churches. You can sign up or order more papers on **pg 12** or online: www.c4israel.com.au/newspaper

Blessings In the strong and mighty Name of Yeshua Ha Meshiach (Jesus Christ) our coming King.



Ian Worby
National Leader
Regional Director Oceania

Mary Winchester, a six year old English girl was kidnapped by the Mizo tribe after a raid that killed her father. She was recovered in January 1872 by a British military expedition starting the British rule over North East India until Indian Independence, 1947. This serendipity allowed Christian Missionaries, Lorrain and Savidge, to arrive in Mizoram (1894) – the first of many.

A few years prior, Darphawka, a man in the southern part of the Lushai Hills, had a dream. In it he saw two white men, from across the great ocean, enter Mizoram. They would bring light and the fear and sacrificing to demons would cease. His listeners were exhorted to embrace their message. Consequently, Darphawka's descendants were among the first converts to Christianity.

Within five decades, the Mizos had evangelized each other; bring Christianity to an estimated 87-100%. They then became the highest per capita missionary sending group in the world.

Mizo-Israel Identity

Early missionaries had noticed the similarities between Mizo and Hebrew customs but had conspired to keep it from the people¹, even delaying the translation of the Old Testament until most had converted to Christianity.

However, God was still on the case. A revivalist, Saichunga of Hilman village,

claimed that the Mizos 'are the Lost Tribes of Israel' and in 1951 this was confirmed through a heavenly vision to a prophet named Chala.

Believing they were Israel, a delegation went to Kolkata to ascertain, from members of the local Jewish community and later, R. Elihayu Avichail (Amishav), how to get to Israel. R. Avichail, Dr Michael Freund and others have visited Mizoram and subsequently two synagogues were built. In the 1980's 3,000 had declared they were Israel with rabbis converting 2,200 to Judaism.

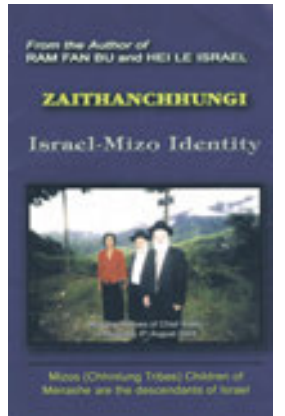
In 2000 R. Jonathan Cahn of N.J. arrived and set up a messianic congregation, Beit Israel. By 2005, Head Sephardic Rabbi, R. Shlomo Amar, in Jerusalem gave the accent for their return as long as they had converted to Judaism. He had based his decision on Zaithanchhungi's research, author of *Mizo-Israel Identity*². Her personal testimony was that she, at first, did not believe the Mizo's to be Israelites. In the 1980's, through her travel and work she met R. Avichail in Jerusalem and then found herself interviewing elderly Mizos [aged 85-104] in villages across Mizoram. R. Avichail taught her how to conduct unbiased research and the answers from the elders in village after village repeated the same theme, they were sons of Manasia. These elders' memories of their parents and grandparents predated the missionaries. This, along-side many



parallel cultural rites and customs, lent weighty evidence that they were indeed ancient Israelites.

Of the over 1,000,000 Mizos & Kukis, 7,000 now have converted to Judaism. There are 3,000 are still waiting to go to Israel. Dr Michael Freund is the driving force with his organization Shavei Israel and he has the financial support of many Christian groups who help fund the conversion process and travel to Israel.

Margot Crossing has lived in Mizoram over the last ten years and has a Mizo daughter-in-law. She frequently stays in the home of Zaithanchhungi the author and researcher. Her daughter-in-law is part of the Beit Israel Congregation.



2 Mizo-Israel Identity; Zaithanchhungi; St. Joseph's Press, Aizawl, Mizoram. 1990

1 The author has a copy of testimony from the son of the cook who witnessed a conversation between the missionary David and his wife.



Your gifts of love will help bring Bnei Menashe home!



Please donate to help the Jews from Asia (Bnei Menashe) return to Israel!

'Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east' Isaiah 43:5a

In recent years, the Israeli-based organization Shavei Israel has brought some 1,700 Bnei Menashe back home to Zion. Another 7,200 still remain in India, waiting for the day when they too will be able to return to Israel and the Jewish people.

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✓ Help Bnei Menashe (Asian Jews) Make Aliyah:

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BRING THE JEWS HOME

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Looking back at the 6 day war of 1967, many remember the emotional pictures of Israeli's at the Western Wall. On top of the wall, dramatic scenes were also taking place on the Temple Mount itself – scenes which would lay the foundation for the modern day movement to rebuild the Temple.

Looking Back at '67

On June 6th 1967, the words of Paratroop Brigade Commander Motti Gur resounded across the nation of Israel: **'The Temple Mount is in our hands'.**

Rugged and war-weary Israeli soldiers streamed to the Western Wall towards which the Jewish people had prayed ever since the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. Even secular Israeli soldiers who had never prayed a prayer were seen openly weeping and asking their fellow soldiers how to pray.



*A group of soldiers surrounds then-IDF chief rabbi Shlomo Goren as he blows a shofar at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on June 7, 1967.

Meanwhile, on the Temple Mount, the Israeli flag was hoisted over the famed Dome of the Rock. Motti Gur held a brigade roll call for his paratroopers on the Temple Mount Plaza itself. Addressing his men that dramatic day, Motti spoke of the heroes of Israel's past including the Maccabees who liberated Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple in 164BC. Like the Maccabees, Motti's men had overcome overwhelming odds to return to Israel's holiest sites. Was Motti's brigade destined to be part of a new generation of heroic Maccabees – returning the Jewish people to the Temple Mount?

IDF chief chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Goren did not exactly attempt to restrain the troops' religious excitement. Having sounded the shofar at the Western Wall, Goren excitedly ascended the Temple Mount and entered into the Dome of the Rock itself where he recited psalms.

Upon exiting, Rabbi Goren approached IDF commander Uzi Narkiss. "In preparation for the imminent Messianic era", he suggested, "the IDF should utilize its explosives on hand to demolish the mosques on the Temple Mount".

A Stunning Disappointment

Rabbi Goren was in for a stunning disappointment - IDF commander *Narkiss not only ignored Goren's



*A group of paratroopers surrounds then-IDF chief rabbi Shlomo Goren at the Western Wall on June 7, 1967.



Zion Karasanti, Yitzhak Yifat and Haim Oshri, IDF paratroopers at Jerusalem's Western Wall shortly after its capture on June 7, 1967. This iconic photograph taken by David Rubinger and uploaded from Israel's Knesset official website is a sign of hope and peace in Israel

request – but according to reports even threatened Goren with prison if he kept on with this idea.

Meanwhile, Israel Defence Minister Moshe Dayan spotted the Israeli flag adorning the Dome of the Rock and immediately ordered its removal. The Israeli government had long been concerned that capturing Jerusalem might spark an international backlash. The deeply secular Moshe Dayan therefore acted quickly to return control of all religious sites in Jerusalem to their respective religious leaders – including the Temple Mount back to the Islamic authorities.

It all happened so quickly – and the opportunity to rebuild the Temple was gone as suddenly as it had appeared.

The Birthing of the Temple Movement

Although Rabbi Goren's dreams were dashed, the seeds of Israel's Temple Mount Movement were sown deeply into the lives of two young men that very day.

Gershon Salomon was one such soldier. Not long before the 6 Day War, Gershon had been wounded in battle against the Syrians. As Israel conquered the Temple Mount in 67, Gershon – still on crutches – joined his fellow Israeli soldiers on the sacred grounds.

As Gerson and his fellow soldiers toured the Temple Mount, they encountered a neatly dressed Jordanian

guide. Addressing them in English, the guide explained where the Temple, the menorah and the altar originally stood. When asked by the group of soldiers why he was showing them all this, the Jordanian guide reportedly answered *"we have a tradition from our fathers [and] they from their fathers that one day the Jews would wage a war and conquer this mountain and rebuild the Holy Temple"*. Addressing the incredulous Israelis, the guide went even further saying, *"I assume that you're starting tomorrow"*.

The whole experience appeared so miraculous that he and other soldiers assumed the guide must have been an Angel! Facing towards the Holy of Holies, Gershon solemnly pledged that day to work ceaselessly for the re-building of the Temple.

Gershon has since established the 'Temple Mount Faithful' organisation.

He has been known for his tireless advocacy for the rebuilding of the Temple – admonishing the Israeli nation with words from Haggai *"Is it time for you, yourselves, to dwell in your well-timbered houses, while this house lies in ruins?"* (Hag. 1:2)

Another young man whose life was changed that day was Yisrael Ariel. Yisrael also witnessed the episode with the Jordanian tour guide and was that night given the duty of watching over the Dome of the Rock.

At the time Yisrael wondered to himself, "We have arrived at the threshold of the Holy Temple: we are standing at the Western Wall - where is the Messiah?"

Yisrael Ariel later became a rabbi and through his studies came to answer his own question. He became convinced that the reason Messiah did not arrive in '67 was simply that Israel had not taken the steps to prepare for the Messiah's arrival – one of those steps being preparing to build the Temple.

It was this conviction that led Rabbi Yisrael to form what is today the most prominent movement to rebuild the Temple – the Temple Institute. Now 50 years later, the Temple Institute is busy preparing vessels and training priests for service in the Temple.

Today, Rabbi Yisrael Ariel's Temple Institute, and Gershon Salomon's Temple Mount Faithful are both part of the nascent Israeli Sanhedrin working together for the rebuilding of the Temple. Their shared experience on the Temple Mount and their shared disappointments led to the birth of the Modern Temple Movement.

Getting Closer



*Soldiers look out over the Old City of Jerusalem on June 5, 1967.

Although Rabbi Goren's dream of rebuilding the temple was ultimately dashed in 1967, the seeds sown in those brief moments on the Temple Mount are today bringing Israel closer than ever to the rebuilding of her temple.

Orthodox Jews pray daily for the Third Temple saying 'May it be thy will Lord God, God of our fathers, that the temple be rebuilt speedily in our days'. It would seem that we may be part of the generation that sees this prayer fulfilled as we edge ever closer on the prophetic clock to the Lord's Return.

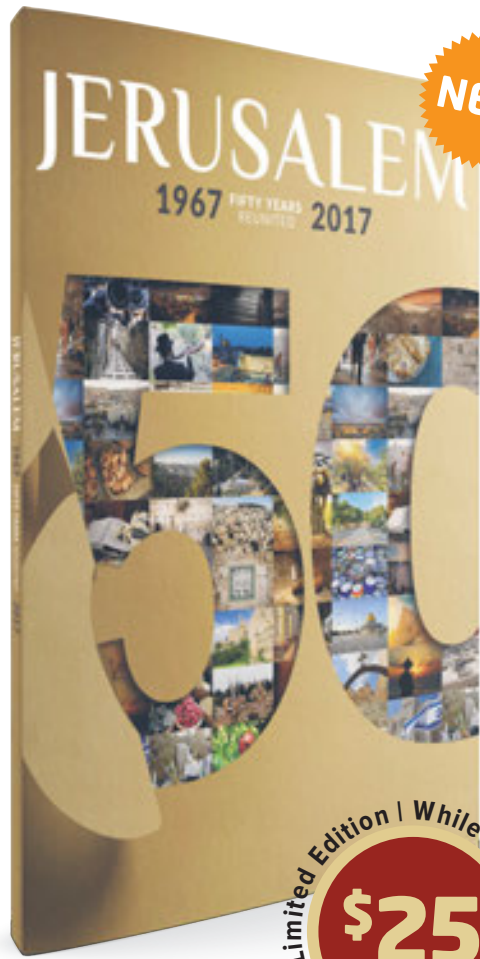
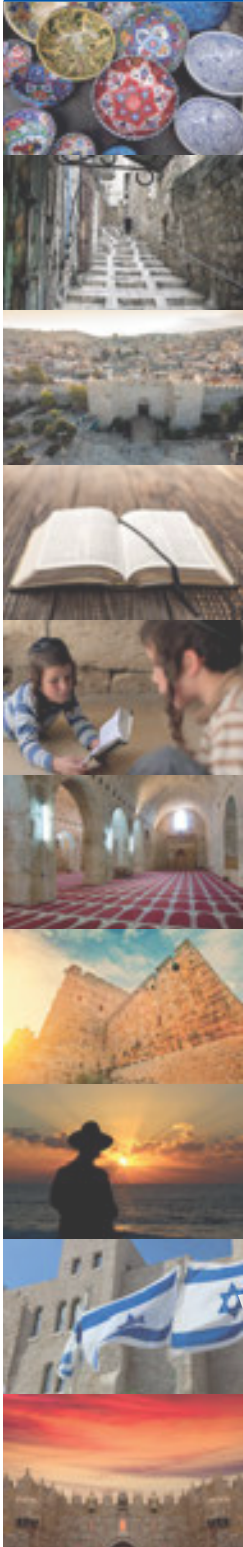
*Photos sourced from: jewishvirtuallibrary.org

Ps. Enoch Lavender



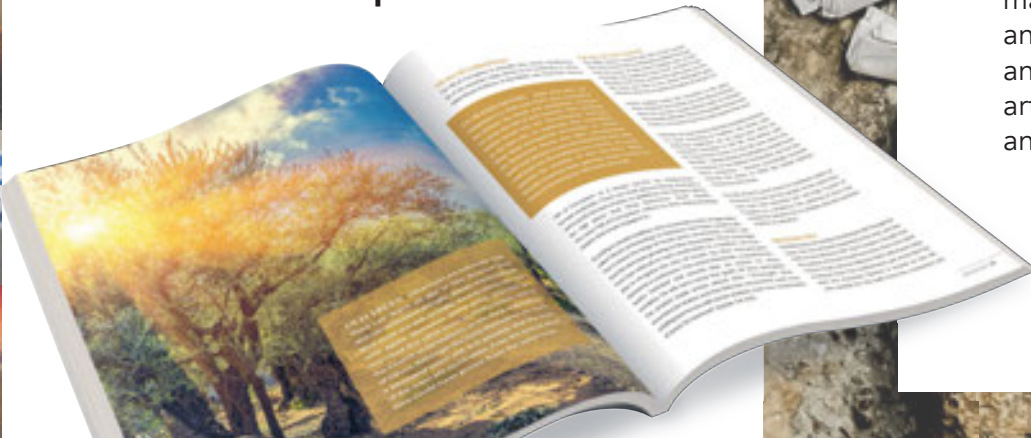
Enoch has a B.A. is based at Eastern Chinese Christian Church in Mt. Waverley, Melbourne. Enoch is also involved in the leadership of Shalom Israel, organising regular teaching seminars

on Israel and Bible Prophecy in Melbourne and beyond. See www.pastorenoch.com.au



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*“If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of
my mouth if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.”*

PSALM 137:5,6

Don't miss your opportunity to own your copy of this special, limited edition keep sake — Jerusalem, 50 Years Reunited.

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, following the Six Day War of June 1967, after 19 years of division.

This special magazine marks this unique milestone in the history of the eternal capital of Israel. Historically and politically, spiritually and culturally, the Holy City represents the heart and soul of the Jewish people.

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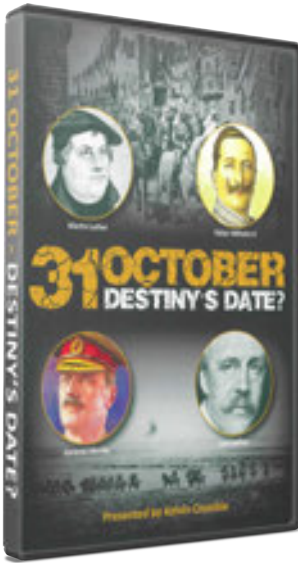
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31 October - Destiny's Date? by Kelvin Crombie

This new documentary from respected historian and author, Kelvin Crombie, looks at four major events in world history from 1517 to 1917 - all of which occurred on the 31st October. These events all share significance with each other—seemingly converging with Biblical prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel. It almost seems as if they were destined to occur on the same day. **Was all that happened coincidence or divine providence?**

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Discover what really took place at Gallipoli in 1917. Find out how a small number of men, the Australian Light Horse and New Zealand Mounted Rifles, together with British mounted and infantry soldiers were able to capture Jerusalem from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) in World War I. Includes archival material and culminates on 25 April 1920, when the League of Nations legally laid the foundations for Israel and for some of those Arab nations to come into existence.

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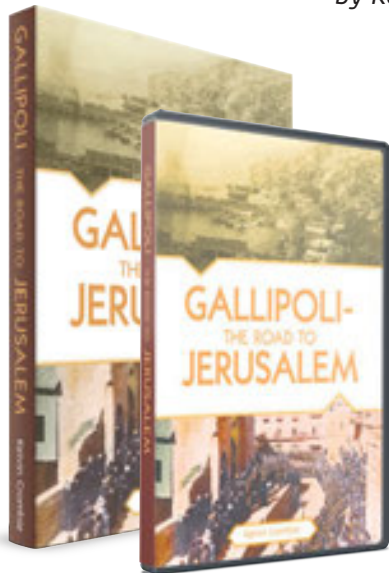




Fig tree as mentioned in Luke 13: 6-9

When visiting other countries you enjoy learning the culture, food, history, flora and fauna that make those countries unique. You enjoy the experiences, share them with your friends when you get home and then go on with life. That's what holidays are all about. If the nation you're visiting is Israel it not like that at all.

On our last tour to Israel, one of our group made the comment that every leaf and rock in Israel is a lesson, each contains a sermon and is life changing.

That is a perfect description of Israel.

A site we love visiting is Neot Kedumim; it's a fantastic Biblical Landscape Reserve, commonly referred to as the *Biblical Garden*. When imagining a garden, you think of manicured

lawns, hedgerows, pretty flower beds, tapered trees, meandering walkways and maybe a fountain or two. That's not Neot Kedumim.

Neot Kedumim is 620 acres designed to look like natural landscape, but is a "unique recreation of the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail that allows visitors to see life as it was lived 3000 years ago."*

The goal of Neot Kedumim is to grow all the various plants mentioned in the Bible, plants such as the Almond, Sycamore, Cedar, Cypress, Olive, Oak and Terebinth trees, Date Palms, and even hyssop and caper shrubs can be found in there.

When you take a tour through Neot Kedumim, the knowledgeable guides explain not only what the plants are and where they're mentioned in the Bible, but what the spiritual lessons are regarding them. Do a little Bible study and see how often God uses agriculture and even animal husbandry to teach His people the most important lessons about Him and His relationship with them.

The Hebrews were shepherds and God called Himself the Good Shepherd. (Psalm 23) God taught them not to unequally yoke together different breeds of animals (Deut 22:10) and we understood why in the New Covenant when He said not to be unequally



Tour Pilgrims learning to draw water from an ancient well like Rebekah for Eliezer (Gen 24:17-19) at Neot Kedumim

yoked to unbelievers. (2 Cor 6:14)

Jesus used agriculture in many of the Parables; the Mustard Seed, the Pearl of Great Price, the Wheat and the Tares, and the Sower in Matthew 13, the Lost Sheep in Matthew 18, the Wine in Old Wine Skins in Matthew 9, the Barren Fig Tree in Luke 13, the Workers in the Vineyard in Matthew 20, the Budding Fig Tree in Matthew 24, the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25 among others.

The point is, the land of Israel is very important in God's communication with His people and when you travel the land, it becomes evident immediately that when God speaks about this particular land mass it isn't a metaphor or allegory for something else and it isn't a spiritual state of being. It's absolutely true that every leaf, blade of grass, tree, hill and creature crawling over them are there

to teach us about God, His relationship with His people and their relationship with the world. It reveals much about His nature and character and about how we should respond to Him.

There are many wonderful places on earth to visit, but there is no other place on earth that can change your life like the nation of Israel.

[*www.neot-kedumim.org.il](http://www.neot-kedumim.org.il)



Mandy Worby is an experienced Israel Tour Leader and is also the popular radio host of *Night Vision* featured on Australia's national *Vision Christian Radio* network Monday to Friday 7-12pm. www.vision.org.au

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CONNECTING
Faith to Life

Over the last twelve months a series of meetings has been held at which Australian pro-Israel Christians have focused on the important ways in which we can express pro-actively our support of Israel, especially in these days when there is virulent international condemnation of a nation that is so tiny, yet huge in the heart and purposes of God.

As the United Nations continues to demonstrate its at times bizarre irrelevance and hostility in matters relating to Israel, 2017 is shaping to be a critical, historic and indeed prophetic year for Australia - and Aussies - to be seen as strong and dependable in standing shoulder to shoulder with Israel.

This year is significant for its many anniversaries for the Jewish world: 120 years since the first Zionist Congress; 100 years since the Charge of the Light Horse Brigade in Be'er-sheva; 100 years since the Balfour Declaration; 70 years since the UN partition vote; and 50 years since the miraculous Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem.



Keith speaking at Kings Church, Gold Coast.

Those of us who are Christian supporters of Israel now have a unique opportunity to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to stand with Israel and the Jewish people, building on the first ever visit - yes, in 2017 - by a sitting Israeli Prime Minister to Australia, when Benjamin Netanyahu came to Sydney in February.

A smaller core group of leaders has met twice this year, and not surprisingly our focus has been on Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of Israel. Sadly, Australia's official position on the status of Jerusalem has been in keeping with that of the rest of the world, which is overwhelmingly anti-Israel and continues to withhold recognition of



The committee meeting with Christian pro-Israel leaders finalising the petition held at the Christians for Israel Australian office, July 2017

Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It is time to end the double standard where Israel is the only country that does not get to choose its own capital.

The prophecies of Zechariah were written around 2500 years ago, predicting a future day when the world's focus would be on Jerusalem, when "all nations of the earth are gathered against it" (Zechariah 12:3) - as we consistently see whenever the United Nations meets. The warning to the nations in verse 9 is equally clear. As we consider the geo-political and spiritual aspects of current ongoing Middle East hostilities, I have no doubt that the time-frame of this prophecy is upon us.

As I write, the battle is being joined over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and the right of Jews even to pray at their holiest site. The recent UNESCO resolutions denying the Jewish heritage of Jerusalem and Hebron, the burial ground of Israel's "fathers and mothers", have found a deeply troubling echo in former Foreign Minister Bob Carr's obsessive and incomprehensible slamming of Israel for, amongst other things, "Judaising" the "great Arab city" of Jerusalem.

I encourage you to pray Psalm 55:9 over this situation and any others that would speak and murmur against Israel from our cities, especially Canberra: "Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city." And praise God for the motion from the Victorian Liberal State Council with a sheer absolute majority to strongly

support the relocation of our Australian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

I want now to focus on the recently raised petition to the Australian Senate requesting our Parliament to do just that - to relocate our embassy to Jerusalem, thereby demonstrating our 100 years of

mateship with Israel. This is a bold and exciting initiative that we strongly believe is of the Lord. We are receiving growing endorsement for this endeavour from Jewish organisations in Australia and are delighted with their positive and affirming response.

The relocation of embassies to their capital city Jerusalem is a paramount matter for the government of Israel - an issue all of Israel, and Jews everywhere, long to see addressed.

Should the Australian government initiate such a move for its own embassy rather than in response to an Israeli request, it would reinforce immeasurably the existing strong friendship between the two nations and be an unmistakable demonstration of Australia's standing before God as a "sheep nation" (Matthew 25:31-46).

You are urged to read carefully both the petition covering letter and the petition itself, and if you agree with it add your name, address and signature. You can then play your part in helping others to sign by downloading multiple copies of the blank petition and seeking many, many other signatures so that we have a real impact upon our parliament and our nation. And don't forget to write individually to your local Senator and

local Member of the Federal House of Representatives in support of the petition.

Please also send the covering letter and the petition on to your own contacts and networks, encouraging everyone to do just what you have done. Those of us who will be in Beer-sheva on the very significant date of 31 October 2017 will also seek signatures from the thousands of Australians who will be gathering there for the commemorative events associated with the 100th anniversary of the Light Horse charge. The latest date for the petitions to be received is 11 November, which being Armistice Day will surely resonate well with many folk.

The petition responses will be carefully reviewed and collated before being taken to Canberra for presentation in Parliament around the beginning of December. How very timely that would be if on 1 December President Donald Trump chose not to sign the waiver delaying for another six months the relocation of the US embassy to Jerusalem. Something to pray into, for sure!

As Christian supporters of Israel, may we never forget what God has said in 1 Samuel 2:30 - "Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed." May we all be among those whom God will indeed honour and bless as we stand with and bless Israel, and in so doing honour our God who declared in Genesis 12:3 that He will bless those who bless Abraham and his offspring through Isaac, the Jewish people.



Keith Buxton
National Director,
Bridges for Peace
Australia

www.bridgesforpeace.com



The first committee meeting with Christians Leaders from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, Gold Coast and Cairns January 2017

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Cut out and/or photo copy the Petition (opposite)
2. Get as many of you friends, family and Church members to sign.
3. Send signed copies to the following address:
**Principal Petitioner,
PO Box 1785, Buderim,
Queensland 4556.**
4. Pray that the petition finds favour with the Senate.



Dear friends

Most of you will be aware of initiatives that are taking place in a number of nations around the world to move their respective embassies to Jerusalem.

A petition here in Australia has been carefully drawn up that acknowledges Australia's enduring warm and close relationship with Israel, and now requests our Federal Parliament to build on that by taking immediate steps to relocate the Australian embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Relocating our embassy to Jerusalem will be an unmistakable expression of our belief that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal and undivided capital, and a truly united Jerusalem will further enhance Israel's reputation in the region as a protector of the rights of minorities.

We are grateful for the very major contribution made by Judy Russell in drafting the petition. We are now asking you to send the attached petition sheets to all those in your network of family, friends, church and where appropriate the wider community. Please note the following:

- It is important that no one signs on the back of the sheets, which you and your friends are encouraged to duplicate, keeping a blank master sheet to photocopy as necessary. **The full petition text needs to appear at the top of every page on which there are signatures** - no signatures on pages just by themselves.
- Signatures must be in original handwriting. If unable to sign, the petitioner may ask another person to sign on his or her behalf.



TO THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The petition of the undersigned Australian citizens demonstrates that the visit of the Prime Minister of Israel to Australia in this very significant year of 2017, moves the signatories to request that the Australian Parliament take immediate action to move the Australian Embassy, in Israel, from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Your petitioners ask that the Senate:

- Takes note of the fact that, as Mr Netanyahu declared in his remarkable visionary speech at the United Nations, Israel is widening the circle of its diplomatic missions and strengthening new ones. Mr Netanyahu sees a new era ahead for his country - an era Australia could not only move into along with Israel, but could indeed help bring about by cementing this friendship in a significant way.
- Understands that while Mr Netanyahu will perhaps not be making an issue about our embassy's location anytime soon, this is an extremely important matter for the Government of Israel - an issue all of Israel, and Jews everywhere, quietly yearn to see addressed. Understands further that were the initiative for such a move to come from the Australian government, rather than in response to an Israeli complaint or request, the friendship it would reinforce between Australia and Israel would be incomparable, the fruits of it rich.
- Takes counsel that, as demonstrated in the outrageous UNESCO resolutions concerning Jerusalem's Temple Mount and the indigenous ancestral burial site of Israel's founding fathers in Hebron, the effort is fierce and unrelenting to de-legitimise Israel by disputing the Jews' ancient roots in, and millennia-long ties to, their land. Notes that Australia, as a nation founded on Judeo-Christian values and whose cornerstone is the Bible that upholds Israel's claims to this land, especially to Jerusalem and to the Temple Mount, should desire to unequivocally stand alongside Israel against this, and many other attacks, because of our common origins.
- Notes that current initiatives continue to deepen ties between the two countries and, during the tenure of the previous Prime Minister, Australia was exemplary as virtually the only country that refused to try and strong-arm Israel into a "two state solution."
- Recognises that Israel is the only country which does not have the senior diplomatic representative of the Australian government in its designated capital! This is surely an act of unjustifiable discrimination that Australia could move to amend. Agrees that whilst all other countries with diplomatic representation in Israel maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv, it does not make it right that they do. Even though, after passing UN Resolution 478 ruling null and void Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its capital, the United Nations Security Council called on its member states who had embassies in Jerusalem to withdraw them, there is no law forbidding Australia from moving its embassy to that city.
- Holds to the fact that Australia has always had a warm and close relationship with Israel and there is so much more that has gone into this mateship than just the diplomatic aspects, not least the enormous amount of Australian blood shed to help liberate Israel's historical homeland in World War I, and to keep the Nazis from reaching this land and killing its Jewish population in World War II. 2017 will also mark the 50th anniversary of the return of the Jews to the cradle of their nationhood and to their holiest site - the Temple Mount.

These interrelated anniversaries offer a real opportunity for Australia to stand with its mate, Israel, whose legitimate and historical national claims international organisations - in their so often anti-Semitic attitude towards Israel - are seeking to sever and deny. We humbly pray that these matters are attended to as a matter of urgency.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

No signatures on the back of this petition or photocopied signatures will be accepted. Every signature must be written on the page bearing the petition, and shall not be pasted upon or otherwise transferred to it.

Please send completed sheet(s) to **Principal Petitioner, PO Box 1785, Buderim, Queensland 4556.**

- There is no lower age limit in the relevant standing orders applying to those wishing to sign the petition.
- Completed petition sheets should be collated and sent by 11 November 2017 at the very latest to the Principal Petitioner, PO Box 1785, Buderim, Queensland 4556. The petition with all signatures will be forwarded to a supportive Australian senator for presentation in our Federal Parliament.

Our aim - with your help - is to be in a position to submit this petition to the Senate with as many signatures as possible with a view to its presentation in Parliament at an appropriate time before the end of this historic and momentous year.

You and your colleagues are also encouraged to write individually to your local Senator and local Member of the Federal House of Representatives in support of the petition, and urged to uphold this entire initiative in prayer. Truly we believe the Lord is in this. May we know afresh His favour as we bless Israel in this way!

Blessings

Keith Buxton Principal Petitioner
- on behalf of Australian pro-Israel Christian leaders

15 July 2017



Elcho Island Elders signing petition July 2017



Stan Goodenough encouraging Elcho Islanders to sign the petition, July 2017

DO NOT FORGET THE THINGS YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN

“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons” - Deuteronomy 4:9



C4I volunteers packing food parcels into large trucks. Thanks to those who have given financially - your support is making a huge difference in the lives of many Ukrainian Jews.

The above Scripture is inscribed on a memorial erected over a mass grave of fifty Jewish people in Bershad, a small Jewish shtetl (Jewish town) in West Ukraine and compels me to continue to tell the story of my time in Ukraine to anyone who is concerned about the outworking of God's prophetic timetable.



The food parcels leaving in one of the large trucks, on their way to be distributed to Jews in need.

As mentioned in the two prior sections of my story, printed in previous *Israel and Christians Today* issues, the state of the roads in Ukraine really adds a very serious aspect to the work of Christians for Israel because of the high cost and time required for mechanical repairs to the C4I vehicles. At one time whilst we being bumped and jostled as we travelled very slowly over appalling terrain, I light-heartedly commented that in Australia we pay big money to ride on roller coasters in amusement parks, rides that felt similar to that which we were experiencing. We enjoyed each others' fellowship very much during the journeys from village to village and, whilst the work was sobering and at times heart-breaking, the joy of the Lord constantly overcame and embraced us. I know that He was present with us in

the vehicles and accompanied our visits to His beloved people as we distributed comfort in His Name.

A vital part of the *Christians for Israel's* work is the *Shelter*, a safe-home set

up to receive Jewish people on their way to make Aliyah. The *Shelter* is run efficiently and lovingly by Natalya, a Ukrainian Christian woman, her husband and their team. The *Shelter* contains 30 beds and many bathrooms to temporarily house individuals and families as they await flights to Israel. Refugees from the East are also temporarily accommodated in this home. A feeling of safety and support is so necessary to embrace those leaving their homes, perhaps their family and most of their friends, to undertake this enormous change, leaving all they know and going home to Israel, in obedience to God's call. This call is to both Jew and Gentile, one to go and one to assist the going.

“Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up my hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders” – Isaiah 49:22).

“Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the

glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. “Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.” – Isaiah 60:1-4

God is building His Church and restoring Israel at the same time. Both are inextricably joined by our Sovereign and Almighty God, the Father with a great plan. Christians in the main have understood and obeyed the call of Jesus in what is called The

Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, but there is a great disconnect regarding the prophetic Scriptures concerning both Israel and the Church.

We are well aware of that wonderful Scripture where Jesus said: I will make you fishers of men as He beckoned to those who would be His disciples, walking and working with Him for the souls of men. In Jeremiah 16:14-16 we also have a call to be fishermen.

“Therefore, behold the days are coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said “As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt, but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them” For I will bring them back to their own land which I gave

to their fathers”. Behold I am sending for many fishers, says the Lord, and they shall catch them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks”.

It is becoming increasingly dangerous for Jews to remain in any land other than Israel. *Christians for Israel International* understands the times and has responded to God's call to bring His Jewish children home, as He readies Israel for the return of Messiah.

Since returning home I have found that many people are deeply interested in my experiences. The opportunities to speak about the trip allows me to speak about the prophecies that have and are being fulfilled in Israel today, and to give a Biblical perspective on the intensifying crisis in the Middle East. My trip to Ukraine and Israel has opened God's Word up to me in a marvellous new way, a way that leaves in no doubt that He is Sovereign and that His prophetic Word, spoken by the prophets, is shining brightly in a dark place and pointing to that great day when Jesus comes in glory, bringing His justice with Him.

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” – II Peter 1:16-19

Judy Russell is a great granddaughter of Trooper Donald McBean, a Light Horseman who served with the 1st Australian Light Horse in “Palestine” in 1917.

To contact Judy call 0410 403 616 or judy russell.private@gmail.com

Please donate to help Jewish families in the Ukraine to prepare for their return to Israel!

“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the Lord.’ Zechariah 2:6

With the current situation in the Ukraine, the Jewish people are now listening more than ever to the call to return to Israel. Now it is time for the Jews to choose for Israel, the land given to them by the G'd of Israel.

Christians for Israel has set up a special fund to help Jewish people to prepare themselves to make aliyah (emigrate to Israel).

Your donation will:

✓ Help Jews Make Aliyah:

- One Person \$300
- Family (5 Persons) \$1000
- One Busload (25 persons) \$5000

✓ Provide Emergency Food Parcels: \$15ea

**BRING
THE JEWS
HOME**

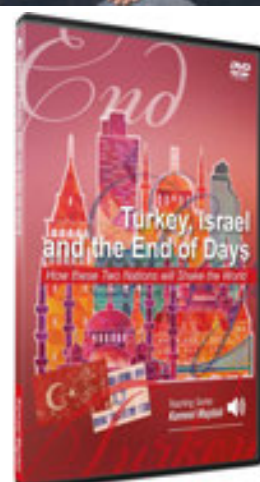
Donate securely at c4israel.com.au/israeli-projects or use the form on the back of this Newspaper



DR KAMEEL MAJDALI is embarking on another national speaking tour during **AUGUST / SEPTEMBER**.

He will help you understand our times from a Biblical perspective, so you'll know how to respond.

He will be in 30+ localities and these events are not limited to capital cities. Go to **VISION.ORG.AU/EVENTS** for dates and times in your local area.



Turkey, Israel and the End Days

Kameel Majdali

\$15
12351DVD

Intrigued by Kameel's Article? (Page 9)

For centuries a great scourge came out of central Asia and crashed against Europe like waves of a stormy sea. Eventually, a mighty empire called “Otterman”, conquered Constantinople in 1453 AD and indirectly spawned the great age of European exploration of the new World.

Turkey has a military link with Israel, the Jewish State. This arrangement has kept the balance of power in the region for a decade. Learn why? In this DVD you will learn more about End Time Bible prophecy. (Approx length - 1 hour)

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'Israel is in need of a country like Turkey in the region. We have to admit that we also need Israel.'

This statement was made by no one less than Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan back in January 2016. Erdogan's stance led to a thaw in relations with Israel that became frozen due to the May 2010 Mavi Marmara incident.

You may recall that Mavi Marmara, a ship, tried to break the Israeli trade blockade of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. Israel intercepted the ship and in the melee that ensued 10 Turks were killed. Israeli-Turkish relations plummeted, diplomatic relations were all but broken off, and the 1996 military alliance was terminated. Of interest, flights between the two countries continued and Israelis were still allowed to visit Turkey without a visa.

This new rapprochement between Israel and Turkey, which has led to full normalisation, leads us to ask the question: *Why is Turkey so important ... to Israel and the world?*

Background on Turkey

Asia Minor served as the base for several empires, including the Hittites, Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman. In addition, it has been home to all kinds of heathen religious traditions. Being centrally located meant that the people of Asia Minor came from a variety of places, including Europe, the Middle East, and eventually Central Asia.

So when did the country become 'Turkey?' When the Turks arrived and this was only a 1,000 years ago. They came from Central Asia and in the best tradition of horse-riding, fierce-some, implacable warriors (think of Mongols, Tartars, etc.) who come through like a hurricane and seek to conquer territory. Even until now, people groups in Central Asia speak Turkic derived languages and have Turkic blood flowing in their veins.

En route westward from Central Asia to

Asia Minor, the Turks converted to Islam. While they adopted the Sunni way, the Turkish version of Islam is unique. It can be argued that once they arrived and imposed their rule on their new home, they covered the cultural religious milieu with Islam but the previous religious rites continued on unofficially.

Turks are natural leaders and being in the strategic Anatolian Peninsula gave them opportunity to spread their imperial wings. While the Arabs led the Muslim world for the first 400 years of its history, the Turks assumed the leadership of Islam for the next 1,000 years. The Ottoman Turkish sultan doubled as the caliph of Islam.

Turkey had good relations with the Jews, absorbing 150,000 of them after they were expelled from Spain in 1492. Turkey recognised the State of Israel in

1949. Bilateral trade is over \$3 billion. The aforementioned military alliance with Israel 1996-2011, between two strong nations, may have done more to keep the peace than peace treaties because it kept potential regional war parties at bay.

WATCH TURKEY: Before we 'watch' Turkey, let's see why it is important.

1. Its location: It is a land bridge from Central Asia to SE Europe, the Middle East to Europe, and the repository of a rich ancient civilisation. As the European migrant crisis proved, Turkey is a convenient stepping-stone to Europe.

2. It's part of the Bible lands: This may come as a surprise. Paul had 3 missionary journeys throughout Asia Minor. Some epistles were addressed to churches in Turkey, including Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians. The seven churches of Revelation were all located in what is now western Turkey. Regions of New Testament Turkey include Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia, Cilicia, Pamphylia, and Phrygia.

3. It's a secular, westernised, strategically located Muslim-majority country: Turkey was



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 20th Century thanks to its great war-hero and visionary leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Ataturk believed that his nation would remain backward and regressive unless it had a completely fresh start. This meant strict secularism: all religious garb, legal infrastructure, and interference in governance was removed. The alphabet was changed from Arabic to Latin script. Ataturk even dismantled the 400 year Ottoman-dominated 'caliphate' in 1924. The new Turkish Republic of October 1923 would be completely secular, European-orientated, and eventually democratised. For years Turkey was held up as a role model for other Muslim countries to follow.

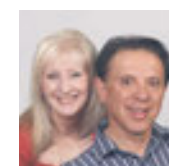
4. Ally of the West: Turkey has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) for decades and a strategic military partner of the West's. It had an alliance with Israel until 2011. Its relationship with Europe, though at times testy, still holds. For years Turkey has been a candidate to join the European Union and though the success of its application is in doubt, Europe knows that it needs to work with Turkey.

Here is what we should watch: As long as Turkey remains secular, democratic, and western-leaning, it will help to keep some stability in the the Middle East. However, there is concern that these three components may be under threat. The Turkish constitutional referendum of April 16, 2017, which was approved by 51% of voters, removes the office of prime minister, diminished the power of parliament, and greatly empowers the president. If autocracy overtakes

democracy, fundamentalism replaces secularism, and the East takes over the West, it will change the balance of power in the Middle East and will also affect the rest of the world.

While we should avoid wild and alarmist speculation, consider this: In the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39, known as 'Gog and Magog,' some of the place names could be part of Turkey. This prophecy speaks of a massive end-time invasion of Israel, led by a power in the North in coalition with a secondary ring of nations to the West, South, and East (but not including any of Israel's immediate neighbours).

Contrary to popular opinion, one scholar actually nominates 'Turkey' as 'Gog,' instead of Russia. Would a post-secular Turkey seek to resurrect the Ottoman Empire? Could Turkey also double up as the 'king of the north' in the Book of Daniel, also known as antichrist? Could the current thaw between Israel & Turkey 'freeze up' again, prophetically? Its time to watch and pray (Matthew 26:41).



Kameel Majdali is the director for the Teach All Nations (TAN) ministry in Melbourne, Australia. He came to faith as a teenager after reading a Gideon's

Bible on his family book shelf. Once he finished his undergraduate studies, he went to the Middle East to do a Master's degree. He preached his first sermon on Mount Zion. His radio show 'Faith and the Future' can be heard Mon - Fri evening on Vision Christian Radio across Australia www.vision.org.au He & his wife Leanne now travel worldwide in full-time ministry. www.tan.org.au

Your Early Warning Service (YEWS)

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TURKEY IN TRANSITION:

Will The Ottoman Empire Return?

Seven Australian Indian organisations have condemned the resolution which has been proposed for the NSW Labor conference later this month, urging unconditional recognition of Palestine.

Issuing a statement after meeting with state and federal Jewish representative bodies, the Indian leaders said;

"the push from some quarters in Australia for recognition of a Palestinian state other than in the context of a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel may for the most part be well-intended but is fundamentally misconceived. This development threatens to introduce the hatreds and bitterness of foreign conflicts into Australia and damage the peaceful and tolerant fabric of Australian society."



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (left) with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a joint press briefing in New Delhi; November 2016.

The Indian and Sikh leaders said;

"pressuring only one side to make unilateral concessions, without reciprocal initiatives from the other party, will serve only to discourage both peoples against making the hard compromises that will be essential for a just and durable outcome."

The statement also refers to "what has thus far been an irreconcilable philosophical and political division between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas", and concludes that "there is no Palestinian entity which meets the legal and diplomatic criteria of a state."

Welcoming the deepening friendship between India and Israel following last week's visit to Israel by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the statement goes on to say:



PM Modi's decision to meet Moshe along with his grandparents Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg and Yehudit Rosenberg was an emotional moment for the family. (Source: Twitter/PIB)

"Recognition of a state of Palestine other than as an outcome of a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel would do nothing to resolve the core issues of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, in particular Jerusalem, refugees, borders, settlements, security and water. The complex arrangements required to address these core issues will require co-operation between the parties via detailed agreements, not grandiloquent, symbolic statements of recognition by outside parties."

"Recognition of a State of Palestine at the present time, and in the absence of any peace agreement with Israel, would therefore not only undermine the international rule of law, but would also lay the foundations for

opening a new phase of the Palestinians' conflict with Israel, rather than for resolving the conflict. This would be

contrary to the interests of both Israelis and Palestinians. In view of this, we support a call to initiate and foster peace initiatives based on mutual acceptance and respect for both Palestine and Israel, else humankind would not have learned anything from history."

The statement was signed by the Council of Indian Australians, Friends of India, the Hindu Council of Australia, the Australian Sikh Association, OFBJP

Australia, the United Indian Association and Dr Yadu Singh after a meeting with Executive Council of Australian Jewry executive director Peter Wertheim,

...we support a call to initiate and foster peace initiatives based on mutual acceptance and respect for both Palestine and Israel



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during a meeting with the Indian community in Tel Aviv. (AFP)

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies chief executive Vic Alhadeff and Community Relations and Policy Manager Lynda Ben-Menashe.

For the full text of the statement:
<http://bit.ly/india-palestine>

An Evening with Andrew Tucker – report by Paul and Marg Longfield

On the 14th. July, Marg and I had the privilege of hosting a meeting at the Baptist Church in Frankston, Victoria, where Andrew Tucker was the speaker.

After a moving time of Praise and Worship, when people joined in wholeheartedly to worship the Lord and to hear encouraging prophetic words, we were blessed to spend time listening to Andrew's presentation.

His clear and concise message regarding Israel's place with God in the Promised Land according to scripture and his ability, as an International lawyer, to present the case for her legitimacy in the whole of the land were well received.

We were blessed to welcome members of Andrew's family to this meeting also.

Our prayer is that more Christians should become aware of these vital truths regarding God's End-time promises to and for Israel and that they are still valid and being fulfilled in our time for all to see.

Marg and I have been asked to arrange and conduct meetings wherever and whenever we can in Australia to promote the message of Israel and End-times to be both informative and to encourage the body in these vital Prophetic days.

Our primary thrust with Christians for Israel is to teach the church about these basic truths.

We are happy to make presentation and/or to minister the Word and present the flavour of Israel in music in congregations and small groups.

Please contact us through the office of *Christians for Israel Australia* or by my personal mobile on **0410 456 806** and we will include your group or church in our itinerary at no charge to you.

May the Lord God of Israel Bless you greatly as you ponder these matters.

Paul and Marg Longfield

Bible Teacher and Worship Leader for *Christians for Israel Australia*.

'Adonai said to Moshe, "Speak to Aharon and his sons, and tell them that this is how you are to bless the people of Isra'el: you are to say to them, 'Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yishmerekha. [May Adonai bless you and keep you.] Ya'er Adonai panav eleikha vichunekka. [May Adonai make his face shine on you and show you his favor.] Yissa Adonai panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom. [May Adonai lift up his face toward



Andrew Tucker with Paul Longfield addressing the Baptist church in Frankston, Victoria, July 14

you and give you peace.]" "In this way they are to put my name on the people of Isra'el, so that I will bless them." – Numbers 6:23 CJB

To order your copy of Andrew Tuckers paper **'Are the Israeli Settlements in the West Bank Illegal Under International Law?'** today please call **07 3387 7300** during office hours.

COST: \$15 inc p+h



Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew: רֹשׁ הַשָּׁנָה, literally meaning the “beginning (also head) [of] the year”) is the Jewish New Year. The Biblical name for this holiday is **Yom Teruah** (תְּרוּעַת יוֹם), literally “day [of] shouting/blasting”, sometimes translated as the **Feast of Trumpets**.

It is the first of the **Jewish High Holy Days** (יָמֵי הַאֲדָרָה יְמֵי יָמִים *Yamim Nora'im*, lit. “Days [of] Awe”) specified by Leviticus 23:23–32, which usually occur in the early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. (Rosh Hashana commences on the eve of the 19th. into the 20th. of September, 2017)

Rosh Hashanah is a two-day celebration, which begins on the first day of Tishrei.

Tishrei is the first month of the Jewish civil year, but the seventh month of the sacred year.

According to Judaism, the fact that Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the year is explained by it being the traditional anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman according to the Hebrew Bible, and their first actions toward the believed realization of humanity’s role in God’s world. According to one secular opinion its origin is in the beginning of the economic year in the ancient Near East, marking the start of the agricultural cycle.

Rosh Hashanah customs include sounding the shofar (a hollowed-out ram’s horn), as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to “raise a noise” on *Yom Teruah*; and among its rabbinical customs, is the eating of symbolic foods such as apples dipped in honey to evoke a “sweet new year”.

The Biblical Roots for this Holiday

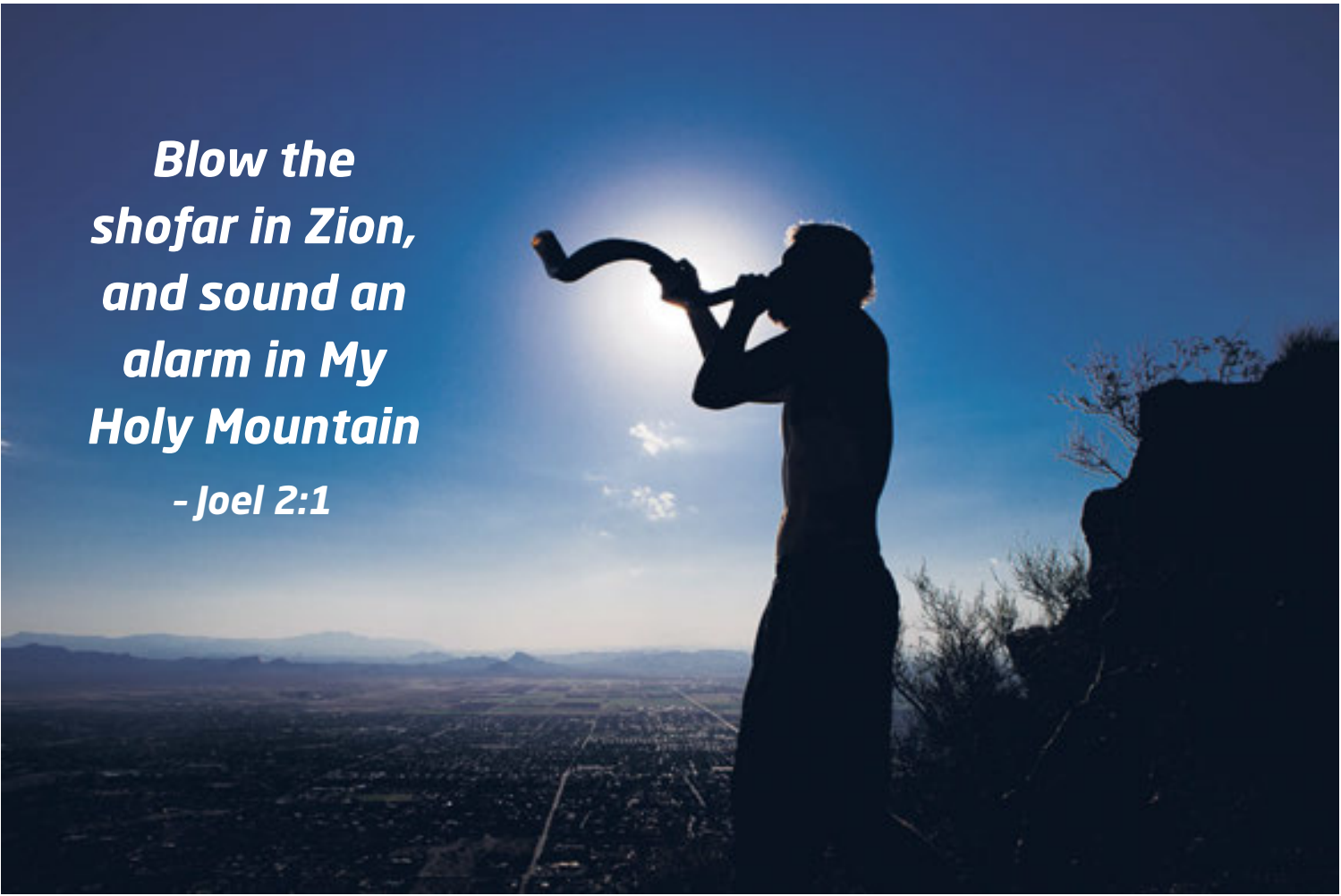
Adonai said to Moshe,

Leviticus 23:24 *“Tell the people of Isra’el, ‘In the seventh month, the first of the month is to be for you a day of complete rest for remembering, a holy convocation announced with blasts on the shofar. 25 Do not do any kind of ordinary work, and bring an offering made by fire to Adonai.’ ”* 26 Adonai said to Moshe, 27 *“The tenth day of this seventh month is Yom-Kippur; you are to have a holy convocation, you are to deny yourselves, and you are to bring an offering made by fire to Adonai. 28 You are not to do any kind of work on that day, because it is Yom-Kippur, to make atonement for you before Adonai your God. 29 Anyone who does not deny himself on that day is to be cut off from his people;*

30 and anyone who does any kind of work on that day, I will destroy from among his people. (This was a serious matter with God)

Jewish Customs associated with 10 Days of Awe...

The *Yamim Nora'im* (The Ten Days of Awe) are preceded by the month of Elul, during which Jews are supposed to begin a self-examination and repentance, a process that culminates in the ten days of the *Yamim Nora'im* known as beginning with Rosh Hashanah and ending with the holiday of Yom Kippur.



Blow the shofar in Zion, and sound an alarm in My Holy Mountain
- Joel 2:1

The *shofar* is traditionally blown each morning for the entire month of Elul, the month preceding Rosh Hashanah. The sound of the *shofar* is intended to awaken the listeners from their “slumbers” and alert them to the coming judgment. The *shofar* is not blown on Shabbat.

The *shofar* itself recalls the Binding of Isaac, an event that occurred on Rosh Hashanah in which a ram took Isaac’s place as an offering to G–d.

On Rosh Hashanah, we blow the shofar to remind us to rededicate ourselves to Torah study—and to remind Him of our original commitment and sincerity.

In the period leading up to the *Yamim Nora'im* (Hebrew, “days of awe”), penitential prayers, called *selichot*, are recited.

Rosh Hashanah is also the day of “Yom Hadin”, known as Judgment day. On Yom Hadin, 3 books are opened, the book of life, for the righteous among the nations, the book of death, for the most evil who receive the seal of death, and the third book for the ones living in doubts with non-evil sins. The final judgment is not done from Yom Hadin before the start of Yom Kippur, it is sometimes possible to receive the seal of life by asking for forgiveness.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur in Judaism is the holiest day of the year—the day on which we are closest to G–d and to the quintessence of our own souls. It is the Day of Atonement—“For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before G–d” (Leviticus 16:30). (Commences on the eve of the 29th. into the 30th. of September)

For nearly twenty-six hours—from several minutes before sunset on 9 Tishrei to after nightfall on 10 Tishrei—we “afflict our souls”: we abstain from food and drink, do not wash or anoint our bodies, do not wear leather footwear, and abstain from marital relations.

In the time of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the High Priest (Cohen Gadol), was to place his hands on the head of the ‘scape’goat, transferring the sins of Israel for the year past onto this animal, which would then be led out into the Desert to bear away the sins of God’s people, outside the camp.

Then he would take the blood and enter the Holy Place and then only once a year enter the most Holy place where the ark of the Covenant was kept to place the blood on the Mercy Seat.

Celebrations among Christians and Messianic Jews

Many Christians and Messianic believers connect hearing “the sound of the trumpet” or shofar, according to the First Epistle to the Thessalonians and the Book of Revelation, with the events that occur at the Resurrection of the dead (*“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.”* 1Thess 4:16 & Revelation 1:10). It is a time to ready ourselves for His coming.

YHWH SPECIFICALLY CALLS ISRAEL TO REPENTANCE AND BLESSING

2 Chronicles 7:13. *If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people; 14 then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears will pay attention to the prayer made in this place.*

FOR ALL MANKIND, JEW OR GENTILE....REPENTANCE IS THE KEY

Acts 3:19-23 *“Therefore, repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be erased; 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord’s presence; and he may send the Messiah appointed in advance for you, that is, Yeshua. 21 He has to remain in heaven until the time comes for restoring everything, as God said long ago, when he spoke through the holy prophets. 22 For Moshe himself said,*

‘Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You are to listen to everything he tells you. 23 Everyone who fails to listen to that prophet will be removed from the people and destroyed.’

As Gentiles, the message of this season could well be that of...

Remembering the goodness of God and His deeds among His people and the significance of God’s word as the paramount influence in our lives and....

Repentance as the only way we can come near to a Holy God and continue in His Presence.



When we take the bread and the cup at the Lord’s Table or Communion, we do so in Remembrance of Him and in Repentance as we are enjoined to ‘examine’ or ourselves that we be in right standing with God and so that we not be judged to be in sin. (1Cor. 11:23-32)

Sourced in part from Wikipedia, Chabad.org and Stern’s Complete Jewish Bible



Paul and Marg Longfield are available to conduct both Sabbath evenings and to teach on the Festivals and their relevance

to the Christian Church today. Find out how easily this can be done with detailed guidelines from this ministry. For more information, contact them on kokim@iprimus.com.au or **0410456806**

Disturbances at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and other places broke out over the issue of metal detectors.

“Disturbance” is hardly the right word to describe what has been going on. It is at its heart, a generational battle, a millennial conflict between Islam against Judaism that has continued since the day when Mohammad perpetrated the mass beheadings of 800 Banu Qurayza Jews in 627AD who refused to convert to Islam and were defeated in battle.

The recent upheaval was sparked by the terror attack on the holy Temple Mount which led to the introduction of metal detectors to prevent malevolent people from importing deadly weapons onto the holy site. Three Arabs under the influence of the *Northern Islamic Movement* pretended to be worshipers at the Temple Mount mosques, collected their weapons, and opened fire on Israeli security personnel, killing two Druze officers.



Master Sgt. Kamil Shnaan, left, and Master Sgt. Haiel Sitawe, right, the police officers killed in the terror attack next to the Temple Mount complex in Jerusalem on July 14, 2017. (Israel Police)

The imposition of metal detectors may be inconvenient but they are hardly a reason for mass riots and individual acts of butchery. These harmful acts were prefaced by deliberate inflammatory incitement from prominent Islamic Wakfs and imams and influential Palestinian and Turkish leaders who promoted false anti-Semitic claims about a supposed change in the status quo of the Temple Mount.

We saw the generational battle played out in our time with the murder of the Druze policemen. The terrorists thought they were killing Jews in a cause they considered legitimate. They were wrong on both counts and their murderous actions lit a spark between Druze and Arabs in Israel.

Then came the bloody murder of a Jewish family preparing to greet the holy Sabbath by a 19-year-old Palestinian with a butcher’s knife who broke into their home and slaughtered them. A Hamas sympathizer, he was inspired by messages of Jew-hating propaganda.

Metal detectors are used without protest outside major mosques in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and India. They are standard fare for Jews going to pray at Jerusalem’s Western Wall and at large synagogues. No violent protests occur against these security measures. They are, however, unacceptable for Jew-hating Arabs when used to protect Muslim worshipers wishing to pray in the two mosques built on the ruins of the Jewish Temple, a place that has become accepted as belonging exclusively to Islam. How’s that for a change in the status quo of this ancient holy site? The UNESCO vote asserted that this shrine, built by Jewish hands, holy to Jews and Christians, is solely Muslim heritage. Unbelievably, several Christian nations supported this lie and, with their vote, approved this falsehood.

Those driving the narrative of a Palestinian state demand that this must be achieved without the need for them

The UNESCO vote asserted that this shrine, built by Jewish hands, holy to Jews and Christians, is solely Muslim heritage.



Muslims pray in front of metal detectors placed outside the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem’s Old City, July 16, 2017. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

to acknowledge the existence of the Jewish State. Again, the basic principle of establishing a Palestinian state without this essential condition, which is touted as irrelevant, is an integral stage of the generational battle initiated by Arab and non-Arab Muslims.

Anyone with plain common sense can understand that people using violence and murder perpetrated for the removal of metal detectors are using them as a pretext to continue the smuggling of weapons into their mosques for storage and transfer into the hands of terrorists in a holy cause.

By the same token, anyone with common sense can interpret the imposition of a Palestinian state without being prepared

to accept the rights of a Jewish State to live in peace in the region is a harbinger of an eventual Middle East without Israel.

Should this happen, it will precipitate the end of the Judeo-Christian world as we know it. Like it or not Israel, the Jewish State, is the last bastion for the free and enlightened world in a generational struggle.

The removal of metal detectors at the Temple Mount is a metaphor for the dismantling of our collective self-defense and an expression of our vulnerability to violent and noisy threats.



Barry Shaw is the Senior Associate for Public Diplomacy at the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies. He is the author of ‘Fighting Hamas, BDS and Anti-Semitism.’

Efforts by South Australian politicians to recognise Palestine as an independent state will do more harm than good - by Sharyn Mittelman

South Australia’s Legislative Council is set to vote on a motion that calls on the Federal Government to recognise a Palestinian state, after the resolution succeeded in passing the House of Assembly last month with the support of the Labor Government.

The vote comes as motions calling for the Australian Labor Party (ALP) to recognise “Palestine” are likely to be considered at forthcoming Labor Party conferences in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, while a similar motion recently passed in the Tasmanian ALP conference.

The push from within the ALP has come despite reported opposition from Labor leader Bill Shorten, his deputy, Tanya Plibersek, and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong.

These resolutions also come amid new turmoil between Israelis and Palestinians. On July 14 terrorists used Jerusalem’s Temple Mount-Noble Sanctuary - holy to both Muslims and Jews - to stage an attack which killed two Israeli Druze Policemen guarding an entrance to it in Jerusalem’s Old City.

Israel responded with the temporary closing of the compound to carry out security checks and by installing metal detectors at the entrance of the site.

Metal detectors are now standard practice for security at most places of mass gathering including holy sites, the



Western Wall and even the Taj Mahal.

However, Palestinians staged violent protests against the metal detectors, which led to the deaths of three Palestinians in clashes with Israeli police.

The protests were encouraged by the Palestinian leadership - both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas, who falsely claimed that the Noble Sanctuary was under attack by Israel.

Palestinian incitement may also have inspired a Palestinian terrorist to break into the home of an Israeli family who were eating dinner on July 23, and stab and kill a father and his two adult children.

Israel has since relented and removed the metal detectors, replacing them with high resolution security cameras.

what would a resolution recognising “Palestine” actually achieve?

The escalation in violence is reflective of significant issues that engulf the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which cannot be resolved but can be made worse, by uninformed symbolic gestures such as state political party or parliamentary motions calling for the recognition of Palestine.

Such resolutions are counter-productive, because they generally blame only Israel for the conflict, while ignoring Palestinian incitement and violence.

Proponents of unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state also conveniently ignore the substantial offers of a Palestinian state made by Israeli Prime Ministers Ehud Barak (2000-2001) and Ehud Olmert (2008) on nearly all of the West Bank with compensating land swaps, all of the Gaza Strip and Arab neighbourhoods of east Jerusalem.

These offers received no serious counter offer from the Palestinian leadership.

Therefore, the first question that should be asked is what would a resolution recognising “Palestine” actually achieve? In essence, it would be purely a symbolic act expressing solidarity with the Palestinians while criticising Israel - without bringing peace any closer.

It would also ignore vital issues of international law.

Firstly, which “Palestine” are they recognising? Under international law, a state requires a defined territory, a government and control of the affairs of state.

But today the Palestinian territories remain divided between the Palestinian Authority (PA) governing parts of the West Bank, and the Islamist group Hamas running the Gaza Strip...

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Sharyn Mittelman is a senior policy analyst at the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council

100 Years Ago: Road to Zion

By Pete Stucken, Chairman Ebenezer Operation Exodus

The scene is a cold January day in Manchester, north of England. The year is 1906. In the heart of the city, a private suite in the well-known Queen’s Hotel provides the venue for two men to meet for the first time and confer. One was a distinguished politician, a 30-year veteran of British Parliament; the other a young researcher in the School of Chemistry at Manchester University.

The politician, 58-year-old Arthur James Balfour, the Scottish-born 1st Earl of Balfour, had barely a month earlier stepped down from his position as British Prime Minister, only to watch his Conservative party suffer defeat in the January elections.

The young Russian-born chemist who now sat opposite him had completed his education in biochemistry in Switzerland and Germany. At age 31, he had just moved to England in the previous year, and become involved in the Zionist movement. His name was Chaim Weizmann.

Eight years after this meeting, Britain and Europe would stand on the brink of the First World War; a war during which this young chemist would develop a brilliant new technique of producing solvent acetone, a substance vital to the production of munitions and a boost to the British war effort.

Three years into that War, with Lord Balfour serving as British Foreign Secretary under Prime Minister David Lloyd George, the British Government’s foreign policy would be in part shaped by the conversation about to take place at the Queen’s Hotel. What had been politely arranged by Lord Balfour’s secretary as a fifteen-minute briefing on Zionism for Lord Balfour took a different turn.

Balfour sat opposite Weizmann with his long legs stretched in front of him, an imperturbable expression on his face as he listened to the passionate young Russian. Weizmann was emphatic that there could



Israel 1967: An Israeli stamp of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration



Israel 1967: An Israeli stamp of Lord Arthur James Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration

be no national home for the Jewish people anywhere on the face of the earth other than in the biblical land of Israel.

Balfour’s brow furrowed. British Government policy at that time was beginning to favour the concept of a Jewish homeland, but the plan was to offer the Jewish people territory in Africa - Uganda to be precise - a new homeland, a land fertile and rich in resources.

Weizmann would not entertain this idea: “If Moses had come to witness this [the Uganda proposal], he surely would have broken the tablets yet again.” This jolted Balfour as he began sizing up the implications of what he was hearing. “Are there many Jews who think like you?” he queried.

Weizmann wondered whether Balfour was listening only out of politeness. How could he convince this elder statesman that for the Jews there could only ever be one homeland?

Weizmann leant forward in his chair and addressed the British statesman: “Mr Balfour, supposing I were to offer you Paris instead of London, would you take it?” Balfour was intrigued. He straightened himself and looked intently at Weizmann. “But Dr Weizmann, we have London.”

“That is true,” Weizmann responded softly, measuring his words to maximise their impact: “But we had Jerusalem when London was a marsh!”

The room fell silent. The words sank in and began to do work in Balfour’s heart. Later he would comment to his niece: “It was from that talk with Weizmann that I saw that the Jewish form of patriotism was unique. Their love for their country refused to be satisfied by the Uganda scheme. It was Weizmann’s absolute refusal even to look at it which impressed me.”

We are approaching a significant anniversary. It will be almost 100 years since the British Cabinet under the leadership of Prime Minister David Lloyd-George, a God-fearing man who knew the Scriptures, with Lord Balfour serving as Foreign Secretary, resolved to position Britain in support of the Jewish people being gathered once again in a homeland in the ancient territory of Israel. Cabinet met on 31 October 1917; the Balfour Declaration would be issued two days later.

On the very same day that the British Cabinet made this resolution, British and Allied forces under General Edmund Allenby broke through Turkish defences at Beersheba and opened the road to Jerusalem.

In a beautiful testimony of the faithfulness of Almighty God and the sure fulfilment of His Word, Israel was re-established as a nation on 14 May 1948, and Chaim Weizmann became her first President. He served in this role until his death in 1952.

Image credits: Shutterstock

Short News

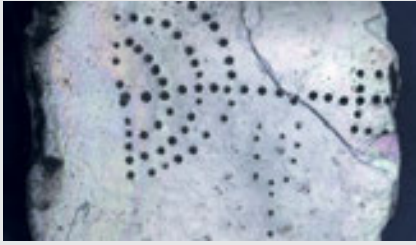
Modern Technology Exposes First Temple Era Inscription

A First Temple era inscription, hidden for almost 3,000 years, has been exposed through advanced imaging technology by Israeli researchers at Tel Aviv University. The inscription was found on the back of a pottery shard that has been on display at the Israel Museum for over half a century.

The ostrakon, an ink-inscribed pottery shard, was first found in poor condition in 1965 at the fortress of Arad in southern Israel. It dates back to 600 BCE, the eve of the kingdom of Judah’s destruction by Nebuchadnezzars of Babylon.

The inscription on its front side opens with a blessing and discusses money transfers. While its front side has been thoroughly studied, its back was considered blank. Using multi-spectral imaging, three new lines of text were revealed. The researchers were able to decipher 50 characters, comprising 17 words, on the back of the ostrakon. The content of the reverse side implies it is a continuation of the text on the front side.

Ancient Menorah Tablet Shows ‘Clear Jewish Presence’ in Caesarea



The Land of Israel continually reveals hidden treasures, testifying to its rich history and the Jewish People’s deep and long-lasting ties to its land. This time, archaeologists discovered an extraordinary 1,500-year-old mother-of-pearl tablet etched with a menorah in the ancient town of Caesarea. The tablet dating back to the late Roman-Byzantine period of the 4th or 5th centuries CE, points to a clear Jewish presence at Caesarea.

Archaeologists speculate the pearl menorah tablet was likely part of a structure used to hold a Torah scroll. The slab was uncovered near the temple devoted to Augustus Caesar, constructed by King Herod in the 1st century BCE.

Experience Israel 2017

By Matthew Thorn, Christians for Israel International Coordinator of Isreality

Twelve youngsters for twelve days in the land! Cooking together, touring together, studying Bible together, cleaning together and escaping the snores of one another together... what a way to Experience Israel!

For most of the group, it was the first time in Israel. Highlights included hiking Masada, joining local youths at the Western Wall for the calling in of Shabbat, worshipping in Christ Church and receiving expert teaching on the legal, political and social complexities of the modern state from Calev Myers, Johannes Gerloff and Benjamin Philip among others.

Sara (31) from Vienna most appreciated time to talk with soldiers on the border of the Gaza Strip, and at the end of the trip concluded that she was impressed by how

open-minded, friendly and considerate Israelis were. Visiting ALEH Negev (a permanent community for the severely disabled) was a special experience for Sara, who not only wants to return to the land, but looks forward to being “an ambassador for Israel” in Austria.

Aron (17) from the Netherlands was very moved during his time at Yad Vashem, and enjoyed sleeping overnight at the foot of Masada in a Bedouin campsite. Describing his time in Israel as a “spiritual experience,” he got into the groove by jumping on my shoulders as we danced with young Jewish guys at the Western Wall for a boisterous calling in of Shabbat.

Nick (21) from Melbourne thought it was positive to experience and learn about the Jewish traditions, especially their observance of Shabbat and the Jews’ deep



connection to the land. Politically engaged in back home, Nick was intrigued to learn doing our tour of the Knesset that Israel has only a single electorate. His highlight was meeting IDF soldiers in person.

Making the most of having a smaller group than last year, the second annual Experience Israel became like a family, as we were introduced to the land of Israel and together grew in understanding of God’s plan.

The New Jerusalem

By Tobias Krämer, Christians for Israel Germany

The New Testament rests on two points of reference: the First and the Second Coming of Jesus. The texts begin with the First Coming of Jesus (the ministry, death/resurrection of Jesus) and point to his Second Coming (the return of Jesus). Two other subjects are usually associated with the Second Coming: the resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment. The history of humankind is heading toward this triad. It is amazing that the New Testament writers demonstrated restraint in describing what happens after these end events. Most of them are silent, except for the visionary John, who offers a fascinating perspective in *Revelation 21-22*. In spite of all the difficulties in interpreting this passage, there are a few fundamental principles within.

The final two chapters of *Revelation* are the conclusion of a wide-scoped prehistory which begins in *chapter 17*. Holtz titled this section “The Culmination of History” (*NTD II*), and Ritt speaks of the “Evolvement of the Final Judgment” (*NEB 21*). The earth will systematically be delivered from all powers opposed to God:

- 17:1-19:10 The fall of “Babylon the Whore,” which is Rome—the capital of the Roman Empire, known for murdering Christians. It represents the anti-Christian world power during the end times. It falls in grand style—the first step in the deliverance process.
- 19:11-21 Judgment of “the Beast,” “the False Prophet,” and humanity at enmity with God. The Beast and the Prophet, which are the right and left hands of the Devil, end up in the “lake of fire” and vanish forever. Humanity, which is operating against God, meets its death and ceases to exist - the second step in the deliverance process.
- 20:1-10 The Devil, being the head of everything evil, is the only one left. He will be locked away for 1,000 years, during which Christ will rule with the martyrs. After that, he will attempt a large-scale comeback but fail miserably. He, also, ends up in the lake of fire. With that, the trinity that opposed God (the Devil, the Beast, and the False Prophet) is forever overcome—the earth is free!
- 20:11 Now God arrives on the scene, symbolised by a “great white throne.” The earth flees from his presence. It cannot exist before God because it is drenched in the blood of the martyrs. Death and mortality characterise it. In this condition, it is unable to be God’s new world of salvation. It has to be renewed.
- 20:12-15 The dead rise. They are placed before the throne and judged. Only those whose name is found in the “book of life” are allowed to live forever. The others end up in the lake of fire, where death and hell also wind up, and where the Devil, the Beast, and the False Prophet are already dwelling. Now the way has been cleared for the new thing God desires to accomplish (*cf. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28*).

At this point, you might expect that the events would continue in heaven—that Jesus would take his own into heaven and live with them there in the heavenly realm forever, united with God. But that is not what happens. The visionary’s gaze



remains fixed on this world. He sees a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem (21:1-5). He retains this perspective until the very end. According to John, eternity does not take place in heaven, but rather on earth! On the new earth, certainly, but on the earth nonetheless.

Chapter 21 marks the beginning of the new thing: “I am making everything new!” (21:5). It is even more surprising that this new thing is an apparent continuation of the old. Heaven, earth, and Jerusalem are known entities and, although they are “new,” they remain what they always had been - namely heaven, earth, and Jerusalem. But what exactly is new about this heaven, earth, and Jerusalem? The passage provides answers:

- That which is new regarding heaven and earth is that there will be no more crying, nor death, nor mourning, nor pain. This all belongs to the past (22:1-4). The new world is not a different world, but rather the redeemed world (*cf. 21:24-22:2*). The world becomes whole and replaces the broken world—that is the message (*cf. Romans 8:20-22*).
- That which is new regarding Jerusalem is somewhat different. The city will be clothed and filled with the glory of God (21:11). This glory is largely revealed in the vision that follows: symmetric structure, walls of jasper, gold, pearls, and precious gems - all of these symbolise God’s glory radiating in Jerusalem (21:11-21). The New Jerusalem is not a different Jerusalem. It is Jerusalem filled with God’s glory.

It is curious that this New Jerusalem came down out of heaven (21:2,10). This raises the following questions: “Why was there a second Jerusalem in heaven?” and “Why did God send this Jerusalem to earth rather than taking his own into heaven?” These questions, however, do not do justice to the passage. That is to say; the heavenly Jerusalem is none other than the earthly one. *Revelation 21:10* states this plainly: “And he [the angel] ... showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.” There is only one Jerusalem, and this Jerusalem is coming down to earth out of heaven.

That raises another question: “How did Jerusalem come to be in heaven?” This question is not answered in our passage. It is clear, however, that in 20:9, Jerusalem is still on the earth, but in 21:2+10, it comes down out of heaven - this differs from what comparable early Jewish texts assert. What happened between those two passages?

In 20:11, the earth “flees” from God’s presence, and in 21:1, it returns. Now it is the “new earth” and is reinstated, ready to serve. But what about Jerusalem? The situation is different for Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not just any other city. This city is God’s city, the “Holy City” (21:2, 10). It is not to be renewed, but rather glorified and this can only happen in heaven. It can, therefore, be concluded that Jerusalem is carried away into heaven, glorified there, and then sent back to the earth as the “New Jerusalem”- the “bride beautifully dressed” (21:2, 9-14). This completes the visions of the visionary.

In my opinion, the statement being made by these visions is that the earth is to be renewed, redeemed, and transformed, but Jerusalem is to be filled with the glory of heaven. After that, the two rejoin and form the place where God and man live together for eternity. These processes are necessary since only the glorified Jerusalem and the redeemed earth are suitable for eternity.

This brings us to the final scene, in which the relationship between the New Jerusalem and the nations is described. In 21:3, Jerusalem is already the “dwelling place of God among the people.” God will dwell among the people. They are his people, and he is their God. This vision is developed further toward the end (21:24-22:5).

1. God dwells in the city. “The throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city” (22:3), and no longer in heaven where it once was (4:2, 20:11, 21:3). God moves his seat of government downward, to the New Jerusalem.
2. The nations of the earth walk in the light of the city and bring their honour and glory into the city. The city is without

question the centre of attention, the “hub of the world.”

3. A river flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ultimately serving the nations. The salvation of God reaches the nations and sustains them.

Thus, a lively exchange takes place between Jerusalem and the nations. Salvation reaches out to the nations, and the nations bring in the honour. But who lives in the city? The “servants” of God do. They serve God, see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads (22:3-4).

In Revelation, these “servants” (*douloi*) are a special group. They primarily include prophets, bearers of revelation, and martyrs, but especially Israel (7:3-4). These servants of God are privileged - they are allowed to serve inside the city, while all the others are a part of the nations living on the outside. But the promise that concludes the visions is crucial: “They will reign for ever and ever” (22:5). From this time on, the servants of God control the fate of the world! And that settles the struggle for the rule of the world once and for all.

The magnificent scope of John’s visions can hardly be clearly understood. That was not my aspiration. But it is clear that the visionary has afforded us a glance into eternity, and that he sees this eternity here on earth - with Jerusalem as the centre and God himself dwelling in the city. *Isaiah 2:1-5* says, in essence, the same thing! Thus, the horizon remains the same, before and after Jesus. The history of the world heads toward a kingdom of peace, which the Messiah will one day set up (*cf. Isaiah 11*).

In the end, an intact world will stand, where God and his Messiah will reign together with the servants—forever. This process is embattled and subject to resistance. It is comparable to the pains of childbirth (*Matthew 24:8, Romans 8:22*).

Ultimately, however, the Messiah will prevail, and God will be “all in all” (*1 Corinthians 15:28*). Then the purpose of history will have been fulfilled.

What is Rosh Hashanah?

By Kees de Vreugd, Theologian, Christians for Israel International, and Editor of Israel and the Church

When summer turns to autumn, the Jewish people celebrate the autumn festivals: Rosh Hashanah (New Year), the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Rosh Hashanah is the first day of the seventh month of the Biblical calendar, the month Tishri. The first month, according to the Bible, is Nissan, in which Pesach falls (*Ex. 12:2*). The first day of the seventh month is mentioned in *Leviticus 23:24* and *Numbers 29:1*. There, it is called a day of ‘blasting the trumpet’. The name Rosh Hashanah, or New Year, appears in *Ezekiel 40:1*. Tradition has connected this to the day of the trumpet. As this is the day from which Sabbatical years and Jubilees are counted, it is also considered the beginning of the calendar year, whereas the ‘first month’ refers to the festival cycle.

On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the sanctity of the day is marked by eating bread dipped in honey (instead of salt, as on the Sabbath). Furthermore, apple is dipped in honey and eaten as a symbol of the wish for a ‘sweet year’.

The day is characterised by the blasting of the shofar, the trumpet or horn, in the synagogue. During Rosh Hashanah, at least a hundred tones are blown on the shofar, in various rhythms and lengths. The shofar proclaims God’s kingship (in the liturgy of Rosh Hashanah, *Psalms 47* has a prominent place) and calls on people to repent. In the prayers, God is addressed



Jewish men blowing the shofar of Rosh Hashanah (ram's horn). The Jewish High Holidays in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Photo Credit: Shutterstock

as “our Father, our King”. Also, Jewish tradition explains, the sound of the shofar reminds God of the binding of Isaac, thus pleading for His mercy for the people of Israel. The story of the binding of Isaac (*Genesis 22*) is read in the synagogue.

Repentance is a central theme for the ten days from Rosh Hashanah until Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). These ten days are known as the ‘Days of Awe’. Rosh Hashanah is understood to be the day of judgment. God is described as sitting on His throne of judgment, determining life and death for each and every one. Those who are perfectly just are inscribed in the

book of life, those who are incorrigibly wicked are in the book of death. Those who are mediocre are written in the book of mediocrity, but the judgment on them is suspended until Yom Kippur. When they repent, they will be inscribed in the book of life on Yom Kippur.

The ‘tashlich’ ceremony on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah, preferably near streaming water, symbolises that one casts away the sins they have committed. Traditional Jews wish each other a “good year and the conclusion of a good seal”, that on Yom Kippur they may be sealed in the book of life for the next year.

Short News

Millions of Christian Evangelists ‘Ready to Take Action’ for Israel



The strategic importance of Christian Zionism was featured at the 2017 Herzliya Conference, one of Israel’s most prominent annual policy summits. Organisers describe the conference, as a platform that “facilitates and encourages an informed debate on the most pressing issues on the national and international agendas.” Leading Israeli officials routinely address the Herzliya gathering, but one session stood out from the rest due to how it opened: with prayer. “Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time of engagement together between Israel and the Jewish people and Christian friends. We ask that this be productive and effective,” said David Parsons, vice president and senior spokesman for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), an organisation that represents millions of Christians, churches, and denominations to the nation and people of Israel. Evangelical Christianity is “the fastest-growing faith movement in the world,” boasting as many as “700 million believers” and adding 50,000 new adherents daily, with each new “believer” representing another potential advocate for Israel, Parsons said.

The Anti-Israel Agenda

Inside the Political War on the Jewish State. Edited by Alex Ryvchin

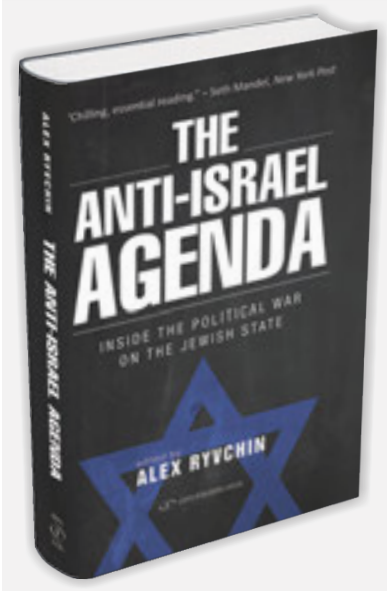
Book Review by Matthew Thorn, Christians for Israel

Setting the bar high, Ryvchin succeeds in articulating and then deconstructing the contemporary anti-Israel agenda with the help of an impressive panel of experts including Alan Dershowitz, Colonel Richard Kemp, Alan Johnson and Andrew Tucker. From their diverse vantage points, the authors lucidly shape a 3D model of this multifaceted beast, before exposing the chinks in its armour.

Ryvchin begins by running the reader through the logical yet miraculous story of Jewish national restoration, before boldly asserting that according to international law, Israel is more legitimate than any other state. The Anti-Israel Agenda’s overall contention is that having failed to defeat Israel through conventional warfare, the Palestinian leadership has internationalised and politicised the conflict through infiltrating the world’s corridors of power. While the book is mostly confined to the plight of the Jewish nation and its short-term future, in his introduction Ryvchin hints at - but does not extrapolate - a broader significance of the conflict: that “acceptance of the Jews will not be complete until the national home of the Jewish people is treated as equal among the nations.” Implications of Jewish national security for other nations is largely left unexplored and is treated as beyond the scope of this book. In turn, The Anti-Israel Agenda tackles ten strategic angles from which attacks on Israel have been most crippling.

These angles can be divided into three components: (1) events; (2) organisations; and (3) tactics. An understanding of key historical moments, the bodies most active behind them, and strategies utilised will prove helpful to all readers in discerning the rules for this new form of warfare. For instance, Professor Gerald M. Sternberg’s explanation of the “Halo effect” uncovers a typical coalescence between components: (1) The UN World Conference against Racism held in Durban, South Africa in 2001 chaired by Mary Robinson was (2) attended by over 1500 prominent Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s) which (3) produced a comprehensive battle plan (now known as the “Durban Strategy”) for the ensuing NGO-led political delegitimisation of Israel. By achieving consensus on the carefully crafted rhetoric of human rights and international law, the Durban Strategy spawned the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement which has fervently worked towards political and economic isolation of Israel ever since. As with many case examples provided throughout the book, the Durban Conference crumbled once it gained enough momentum to invite external scrutiny, with Mary Robinson confirming reports of overt Jew-hatred by admitting to the BBC that “there was horrible anti-Semitism present.” However, by the time international media had begun to publish such criticisms, the demonisation of Israel had already been

effectively communicated and widely received. From the UN to American campuses, Trade Unions to the Church, Governments to Social Media: each expert explains the process through which their area is demonstrably vulnerable to infiltration by radical groups. The underlying ideological, political and theological motivations of such groups are shown to be deeply intertwined and far-reaching. Stylistically, the book varies greatly between chapters, as the reader is made to rapidly shift their attention from the highly political explanations of journalists to anecdotal dialogue of Jewish community leaders; from the dogmatic arguments of acclaimed international lawyers to scholarly exegeses of a theologian; and from the broad, sweeping commentary of NGO leaders to a precise report and blunt advice of a military colonel. Yet, a common narrative of the Anti-Israel Agenda slowly develops: it is a model of well-established ideological groups, who without an obvious next crusade or freedom fight, have globalised their agenda into a narrative of “Palestinian national liberation” in which Israel is viewed as a colossal imperialist power and the Palestinians as oppressed and displaced victims. This simplification has been enthusiastically received by the hard-left and is revealed to have seeped into a policy of the United Nations, state governments, labour unions and student



bodies. While most of these bodies eventually realise the mistakes they have made and retracted statements, positions and policies; The Anti-Israel Agenda demonstrates that the damage has already been done. In this game, Hamas’ objectives are no longer military success or a fact-based and coherent narrative, but short-term strategies which increasingly delegitimise the state of Israel. It is not a positive agenda, but a negative one spurred on by the solipsism of journalistic activism, emotive social media posts and unscrupulous policies. Sharp and to the point, The Anti-Israel Agenda examines ten angles from which today’s Israel is most vulnerable. The rules have changed. Ryvchin’s panel offers an authoritative and cohesive case for the modern state of Israel, one that will appeal to open-minded people who can be persuaded by fact-based logic and empirical arguments. If you would like to purchase this book, go to www.anti-israelagenda.com.

Summer Camps in Bethlehem

By Pastor Steven Khoury, President Holy Land Missions



Life for Christians in Bethlehem is often not easy. There is a high rate of unemployment and poverty. Rev. Naim Khoury and his church have been active for a long time. Naim preaches about God's faithfulness towards Israel and the Jewish people, but his love for Israel is not accepted in Bethlehem. Naim and his church face opposition, intimidation and even violence, yet he continues with his important work. We recently received a letter from him that we'd like to share.

Dear brothers and sisters, Greetings to you from Bethlehem! We hope and pray this finds you well, as you seek diligently to do the Lord's will for your life and His Kingdom of Heaven! We want to tell you about our different 'summer programmes' and what we have been working on. Let us keep His light shining!

Vacation Bible School for Children

We're expecting about 200 children this

summer, with activities such as learning Bible stories, singing and praying, reciting Bible verses and crafts. We rent vans so we can pick-up and drop-off the children and take them swimming. We also invite their parents to join us so we can talk to them too. Each child is provided with refreshments and snacks.

Family Camps

During the summer months, we take families from our church on a two-day refreshing trip with their children. As you can imagine a lot has to be arranged; we hire buses to take the families to the northern part of the country, arrange for their accommodation and also their meals.

For the parents, we provide a special programme, and for the children there are lots of activities and games. The majority of the time is devoted to preaching, choir singing and prayer time, followed by time for discussion and fellowship. A special youth programme is arranged too.

We pray that our funds will be sufficient to enable us to continue organising these

summer activities. These programmes are for people who live under a lot of stress and pressure due to the unrest in the area. Many of them face financial difficulties, and anxiously look forward to having a break. A few days away for these families helps to release the tension, refreshes and reenergises them, enabling them to face new challenges as we as we head into the new season after summer.

Please pray that our needs will be met. We appreciate your kindness and whatever the Lord leads you to give towards these special summer activities.

Thank you for your support as we serve the Lord! For, without your help, it would not be possible to keep doing what we are doing for His glory! All is for Jesus and He is worthy of all service of sacrifice!

In His Service,

Elvira & Pastor Naim Khoury

Please assist these Summer Camps for families in Bethlehem. You can fill out the response coupon on page 12.

A Shortage of Meals Every Day

By Marijke Terlouw, Christians for Israel Netherlands



An older lady with her grandson. Her daughter doesn't make enough money to pay for a good meal

It's nice and warm inside, and the air is filled with the aroma of freshly made food. "Try it yourself," Benjamin

says enthusiastically. "This is the menu for today." Benjamin helps himself to a plate of food as well.

"Poverty in Israel has permeated society," shares Benjamin Philip, director of the Hineni Centre in Jerusalem. "There's an older lady who comes here with her grandson. Her daughter works during the day, so she looks after the boy. No matter how hard her daughter works, she doesn't make enough money to pay for a good meal. She might make just enough to pay the rent. Because grandma can look after her son, the daughter can work, and hopefully, will prevent the little boy from ending up in poverty in the future.

I can go on forever telling these kinds of stories. All the people you see here, all have their own story. None of them chooses to live in poverty, but it does happen. You can't just stand by and watch. If I can help people with a meal, I will."

But by giving them just a meal, people still remain poor.

"Maybe, but you can't abandon them to their fate. The first thing you have to do is

give them food. Plus, with Hineni, I hope to give a little more."

What do you mean?

"It's not just about the meals. We make sure that visitors feel welcome, we talk to them, and we listen. We make sure the dining room looks welcoming, and we provide meals that could be served in a restaurant."

Why?

"We're talking about people. You have to treat people with respect. It should never be that, just because they have no money, we allow the dining room to be a mess or the food to be crummy. You should treat them the same way you would want to be treated yourself."

You say that with conviction.

"Yes, it's a command. Just look in the Bible. I believe in the Bible, and I let it lead me."



Benjamin Philip, Director of Hineni Jerusalem

A Privilege to Help

By Pim van der Hoff, Christians for Israel International



Hunger in Israel? Isn't that the land of 'milk and honey'?

True, but Israel is also a modern state with huge differences between rich and poor. The government tries to solve this but is behind the times.

That's why it's so important to support the work of the Hineni Center, that wants to give so many poor, elderly and children a hot meal every day. What a privilege to be able to help!

Letters of the Aleph-beit: Kaph כ

By Kees de Vreugd, Theologian, Christians for Israel International, and Editor of Israel and the Church

The original sign of the kaph probably represented an open hand. The Hebrew word kaph still means the palm of the hand. From there on the sign developed as we know it today, and that still somewhat resembles a bent hand. Out of the Phoenician writing (a mirrored k), the Greek letter kappa, and the Latin (our) k, originated.

The kaph has two pronunciations: at the beginning of a word as a k, and in other positions in the word usually as ch (as in Scottish 'loch'). This is the way it is pronounced in Tenakh, the abbreviation

designating the Hebrew Bible, although it is the first letter of the word Ketuvim (Writings). The other two main parts are Torah and Nevi'im (Prophets).

In *Psalm 139:5* we read (literally): "You have laid your hand palm upon me." That is the way in which God creates man.

The 'kippah', the skullcap pious Jewish men wear, is an expression of this awareness of the presence of God's palm upon your head. God also says that He has engraved Zion on the palms of His hands (*Isaiah 49:16*).

The word kaph is associated with the Hebrew verb kaphaph, which means 'to bend'. The kaph is bent, and thus represents surrender: to bend before a higher authority. The kaph symbolises the surrender to the King of kings.

The numerical value of kaph is twenty. In *Numbers 7:86*, that produces a sort of wordplay, where the Hebrew literally reads: "Ten, ten the kaph".

The kaph here is the golden dish (or spoon, as you could also translate) for the incense that weighs ten shekels – or twenty after all?

The Hebrew word Keter (crown) begins with the kaph. According to the Talmud, the kaph represents the crown with which God in the coming world will crown him, who keeps the commandments.

In the Mishna, *Tractate Avot (4:13)*, it says: "There are three crowns - the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood and the crown of monarchy (cf. *Exodus 19:6*) - but the crown of a good name outweighs them all (cf. *Ecccl. 7:1*). Israel is crowned with the Torah. That is the reason for her existence.

Horrific Events 75 Years Ago in Ukraine

By Sue Surkes, Courtesy of Times of Israel

On April 22, 1942, Ukrainian police and Nazi death camp prisoners turned up at the ghetto gates to take the children away.

Uman, Ukraine - As veterans across Europe turned out for annual ceremonies to commemorate the end of World War II, some 70 Christians and Jews gathered in a forest clearing in central Ukraine, to unveil a memorial to 1,000 Jewish children murdered by the Nazis in April 1942.

The event, on the outskirts of the city of Uman, was an ode to reconciliation. A German pastor from Heidelberg, Johannes Zink, asked forgiveness on behalf of "fathers and grandfathers who may have been involved" in Nazi atrocities. A Jerusalem rabbi, Chaim Eisen, spoke about the importance of building bridges.

Local and district authority representatives lauded the twinning between Uman and the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, and promised that local pupils would look after Jewish graves. Ukrainian schoolchildren lit memorial candles and recited poetry.

Yet just three days before, in a country with a history of anti-Semitism, Ukrainian nationalists daubed Nazi swastikas and the words "tolerance is weakness" on headstones in a Jewish cemetery in Cherkasy, some 185km to the northeast. That event was reportedly the first of its kind to happen in years. But it was a reminder of the ease with which frustration over a failing economy. Ukraine's war with Russian-backed separatists in the east has caused a steep rise in prices, sparking waves of nationalism that are quickly turned against Jews.

Were it not for the presence of older memorials to political prisoners and other non-Jewish victims of World War II, one would not guess that the mounds that seem to continue forever in the forest where the commemoration took place were actually mass graves, part of one of Uman's main Nazi killing grounds from 1941 onwards.

The memorial to the children was funded by Christians for Israel, a Dutch-based organisation that supports Jewish

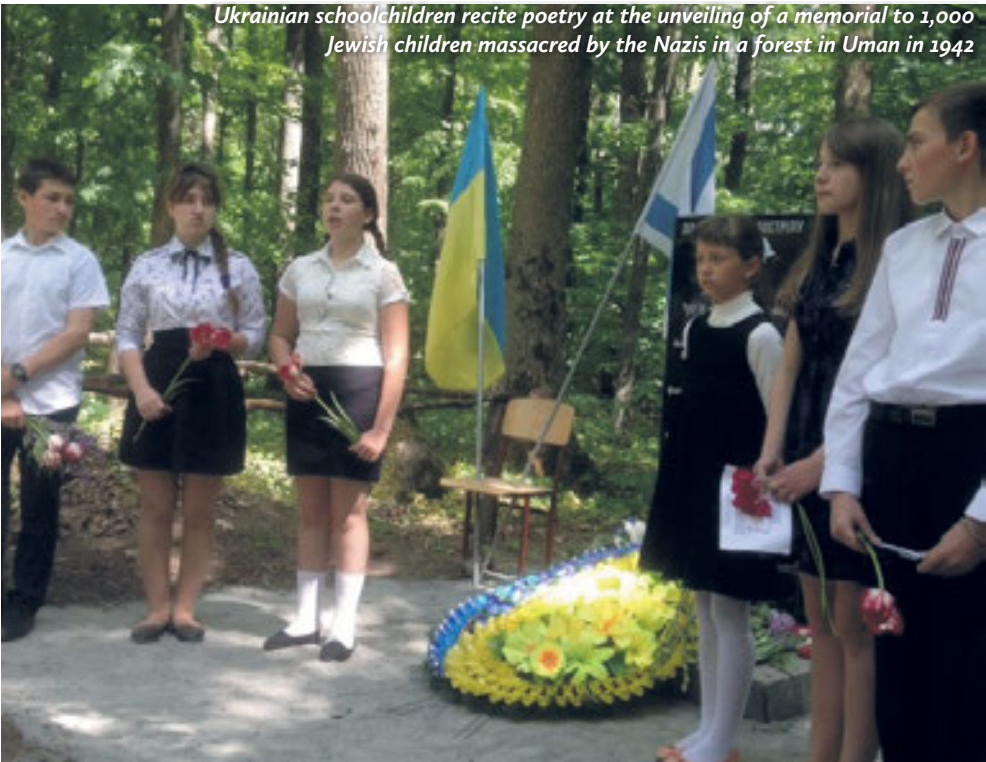
immigration to Israel. Ukrainian authorities do not provide memorials specifically for Jewish victims of the Nazis, so all such monuments are the result of private initiatives.

Today, Uman has a small ageing, Jewish community and a new influx of Jewish pilgrims attracted to the tomb of the 18th-century Hasidic Rabbi Nahman of Breslov. In 1941, when the Germans invaded, it was home to some 15,000 Jews. By the end of 1942, more than 10,000 of them had been murdered.

The memorial, next to which children's toys had been poignantly placed commemorates one of the most gruesome events of that time. In April 1942, the city's Nazi commandant summoned local ghetto leader Haim Schwarz to tell him that the Jews had until April 22 to hand over 1,000 children, aged three to 10. "The Germans said the children were to be sent to an orphanage," said Karl Epstein Uman's Jewish community leader and one of around 2,700 Holocaust survivors still living, in 42 communities, across Ukraine. "Schwarz said it was impossible. The Nazis said they would round up the children themselves if the Jews were unable to do it."

So Schwartz returned to the ghetto and met with Jewish leaders, deliberating with them for two days. Their eventual decision was to "sacrifice the children in order to protect the rest of the community." On the appointed day, April 22, Ukrainian police and Nazi death camp prisoners turned up at the ghetto gates to take the children away. Those who could not be ripped from their mothers or fathers were taken together with their parents. All of them were driven not to an orphanage, but to this forest where pits had already been dug. They were then shot dead in a massive killing spree, after which their corpses were covered with dirt.

The assembled guests and dignitaries stood in shock at the ceremony as school principal Ludmilla Dozenko described how in August 1941, in a separate incident, the Nazis ordered a group of Jews in the nearby village of Talnoy to gather their belongings prior to being "taken to work", but then took them to a patch of forest nearby to be gunned down and covered in soil. Some of the Jews had come with



children, including one woman who had brought her two-year-old girl. "Two boys, aged six and seven, managed to climb out of the pile of bodies at night," Dozenko said. "But the pile was still moving."

"The wife of a local policeman happened to walk by. She was too afraid to take the boys, she just urged them to run away from the area but she managed to pull out the two-year-old girl and get her to a safe house with a Ukrainian family."

Then Dozenko pointed to an elderly woman sitting with other survivors on a row of stools. "That two-year-old, Nina Levenberg, survived, and is with us today."

In September 1941, 1,000 Jews, including doctors, lawyers and teachers, were herded into a vast basement in Uman before the doors were locked and a car exhaust was shoved through a hole in the wall. Just one person survived, a small boy, Yevgeny Emass, who had managed to breathe oxygen by pressing his nose against a crack in the wall and escaped without being noticed when the Germans opened the doors. Now elderly, he too was at the dedication ceremony.

Oxana Suprunets, leader of the Uman district council, said four city schools had been charged with taking care of the many unmarked mass graves in the forest. "We are all one people. We don't separate between Jews and Ukrainians or people of

any other nationalities," said Galina Kutscher, another official.

Despite isolated events, such as the vandalism attack in Cherkasy, historian Dr Boris Zabarko, chairman of the Ukrainian Association of Holocaust survivors, told the Times of Israel, "There is no anti-Semitism from the government today.

Now, Ukraine has a new enemy in Russian President Vladimir Putin (widely seen as responsible for the ongoing war in eastern Ukraine), so they're paying less attention to the Jews."

Not all schools teach about the Holocaust, and those that do are only obliged by the school curriculum to allocate 55 minutes to the subject, Zabarko added.

Two Holocaust research centres, in Dnipropetrovsk and Kiev, were doing their best to inform and train teachers who were interested in learning, he said.

Zabarko, 81, who survived the war, now lives in Kiev and has published six books on the Ukrainian Holocaust, in several languages.

Why did he remain in Ukraine after what he went through? "I interviewed around 1,000 survivors, witnesses to what had happened and I'm still publishing books," he said. "If I hadn't done that, who else would have done it?"

"Israel Saved My Life"

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Aliyah Fieldworker



We have known 67-year-old Michael for many years. His only son has attended many activities over the years organised by the Jewish Agency, including summer camps! Michael knew that he would go to Israel one day, however, as often happens, that 'journey' was often postponed.

Michael was then struck with severe diabetes. It was so bad that the doctors said that they had to amputate both his legs! Michael was shocked. He realised that it meant he would slowly die. The amputation cost a lot of money, and there was no rehabilitation! He asked the Jewish Agency for advice. They were shocked to hear of Michael's situation. After many calls between Jerusalem and Vinnitsa (Ukraine), they suggested that Michael and his wife make Aliyah as soon as possible. Upon arrival in Israel, he would be taken to hospital for a thorough investigation.

It was like the fast forward button was hit. Within a day, an interview at the Israeli Embassy in Kiev took place, visas were obtained, and they left for Israel. Fortunately, the Israeli Embassy has an emergency procedure in place for situations like this, but is mostly used for Jewish war refugees from the east of Ukraine. But there was one more

problem: the doctors in Ukraine had not issued an official statement. Michael needed it for his flight to Israel, but he decided to leave at his own risk.

Finally, after many weeks, we received a call from his wife. She thanked everyone for their help. After a thorough medical, the Israeli doctors decided not to amputate his legs, just a small part of his right foot. Michael is doing well, and is currently in rehabilitation, waiting for a prosthesis.

Because they are new immigrants in Israel, everything was paid for by insurance. Michael feels like he's been reborn! "Israel saved my life," he responded happily. Their son is also soon leaving for Israel, then the whole family will be together.

Help with Transportation

Only a few Jews from Ukraine leave so quickly. It is a process that often takes a long time. Nevertheless, more and more people want to get their documents ready so that when it is needed, they can quickly leave Ukraine. They often have to travel huge distances to reach the Embassy or Consulate.

Christians for Israel assists with transportation by using our own vans or by hiring small and large buses to bring groups to the embassy or airport. The average cost for the full process is \$300, per person.

Please assist our Aliyah work. You can fill out the response coupon below.

BRING THE JEWS HOME

News from

FIRST HOME IN THE HOMELAND

By Orly Wolstein, First Home in the Homeland Project Manager



Summer is a time for many Jewish families that are still in diaspora to think about going back home. Families with children usually plan their Aliyah at the end of August to coincide with the start of the school year in September. Summer is a season of dreaming, planning and packing for the Jewish community.

The Jewish Agency, with the support of Ofek Israeli, organised three Aliyah fairs and seminars in different places around the world in June.

>> Kiev (Ukraine)

The Aliyah fair in Ukraine was huge, with 40 organisations from Israel attending, and over 2500 visitors. Volunteers from Christians for Israel Ukraine and Elena Kovarsky, the director of the First Home in the Homeland, worked together to present options to Jewish families on how to properly start a new life in Israel; real issues such as learning Hebrew and helping children to adapt to the new environment. Israel hopes shortly to welcome thousands of Ukrainian Jews to their new home. Thanks to the practical support from Christians for Israel Ukraine, this dream of Aliyah will

come true for many olim. When they arrive in Israel, we are there to take them to one of our 44 kibbutzim of the "First Home in the Homeland" all over Israel!

Samara (Central Russia), Syktyvkar (North of Russia)

In Samara, some participants that had already applied for the programme managed to have an additional interview with Elena Kovarsky. She was able to give them an answer during the meeting and gave them their new address as of 1 September.

In Syktyvkar, the Jewish community is quite small; historically it was a place of deportation during Soviet repressions. However, sixty participants attended the seminar and learned more about Jewish traditions and the meaning of Aliyah.

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