

ISRAEL

& Christians Today

AUSTRALIA

April 2017

www.c4israel.com.au
info@c4israel.com.au

CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
 AUSTRALIA



2



3



Jerusalem, 7th of March 2017

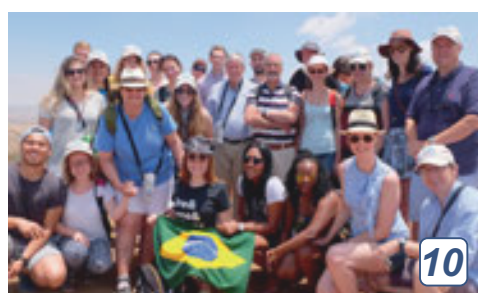
3



5



9



10

Highlights...

We Say Goodbye to Graeme Lee	Pg 2	Jerusalem - Heart of the World	Pg 6
World Support for Jerusalem	Pg 3	First in the Homeland's Jubilee	Pg 9
'Celebrate Jerusalem' Reception	Pg 3	From the Isreality Desk	Pg 10
Christians for Israel NZ, Australia and Africa tours to Israel	Pg 5	ANZAC's & Israeli's - A Deep Bond	Pg 11
		Aliyah	Pg 12



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

"Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles..." (Luke 21:24)

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



The prophet Zechariah speaks about Jerusalem becoming "an immovable rock for all the nations" in the last days. I believe we are witnessing this remarkable phenomenon in our times.

In recent months we have seen an increasing attention on Jerusalem. President Trump has promised to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and we understand that the US government has purchased land in Jerusalem for that purpose. UN Security Council Resolution 2334 last December branded all 'Israeli settlements' – including Israeli's living in Jerusalem – as 'illegal', and the remarkable 'Peace Summit' hosted by French President Hollande in Paris in January again condemned Israeli's living in Jerusalem and demanded the creation of a Palestinian state based on the 1949 Armistice Lines - which run through the heart of Jerusalem, dividing the Old City (including the Temple Mount) from 'West' Jerusalem.

In recent weeks Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has been actively liaising with other national leaders and the question of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem is a central issue in these discussions, and promises to be a major theme in the coming months.

Yet, despite the political controversies surrounding Jerusalem, when one is in Jerusalem, one could be forgiven for wondering what the fuss is all about. The city is thriving. In many parts of the city

one sees both Jews and Arabs on the streets, living side by side as they have done for centuries.

Life is not perfect in Jerusalem. But is separation of Jews and Arabs the answer? The so-called 'two-State solution' (which envisages two states living side by side in peace) is being questioned. Many in and outside Israel are openly debating whether the separation of Israel from the Arab Palestinians is going to bring peace. On the contrary, separation seems to provoke more hatred and enmity rather than peace. When in Jerusalem I met with several Palestinian leaders who spoke openly about their opposition to the two-state solution. They are tired of the corruption and chaos within the Palestinian leadership. They support the existence of Israel as a democracy based on the rule of law, and want to live in peace and harmony with the Jewish people. They are deeply concerned that – far from solving the conflict – the creation of a Palestinian state will only lead to more violence and oppression. One well-known Palestinian leader commented: "the Palestinians do not need identity, but dignity". That was a very profound remark.

There is much debate about what the solution to this conflict should be. We need to pray that both Israeli and Palestinian leaders will be given much wisdom. And we need to pray that the leaders of our own nations, instead of repeating the old mantra's of separation, will seek to support creative and constructive solutions to enable Jews and non-Jews to live in harmony in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the whole of Israel.

We have just returned from ten amazing days in Jerusalem, where from March 7-11, 85 Christians for Israel leaders, representing over 30 nations, attended the 6th Biennial Christians for Israel International Leadership Forum. Every two years, the national and regional leaders of our ministry gather together in



Mishkenot Sha'ananim Centre in Jerusalem

Jerusalem for five days of study, prayer, sharing of experiences, meetings with our friends and partners in Israel, and strategic planning. You will read some reports in this edition of Israel & Christians Today.

During our days in Jerusalem, we had the privilege of meeting with the President of Israel Reuven Rivlin, and receiving messages from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat.

A real highlight of this year's Forum was the 'Celebrate Jerusalem' reception held at the beautiful Mishkenot Sha'ananim centre near the Montefiore Windmill in Jerusalem. There, accompanied by deeply moving music of the Estonian Keshet group, we came together as Christians and Jews to celebrate the miracle of the restoration of Jerusalem in our generation.

We laughed and wept together, as we acknowledged the miracle of Jerusalem, and look forward to the day when Jerusalem will be a house of prayer, not just for the Jewish people but for all nations.

On behalf of Christians for Israel International, I would like to take the opportunity to pay a special tribute to the retiring Publisher of the newspaper, the Hon. Graeme Lee in Auckland. Graeme has had an extraordinary career as a Christian leader in New Zealand.

When Henk Kamsteeg tragically became ill several years ago, we were blessed that Graeme was prepared to take on the leadership of Christians for Israel in New Zealand, and the role of Publisher of Israel & Christians Today.

He has done an amazing job to build the Christians for Israel ministry in New Zealand, to lead the further expansion into the South Pacific region, and to develop the newspaper as a trustworthy and reliable source of information and teaching.

I wish to thank Graeme publicly, pay tribute to his servant leadership, and acknowledge him as a dear friend and mentor to myself and many others. May he and his wife Lauris be blessed in the next phase of their lives.

Last Edition for Publisher, Graeme Lee



Graeme Lee has now ended his time as publisher of I&CT newspaper. Graeme and his wife Lauris will retire from all Christians for Israel activity at the end of April 2017.

He has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the editor-in-chief Andrew Tucker.

Cathy Coldicutt becomes the next publisher and will continue as graphic designer and website manager.

Cathy Eksteen will continue as the NZ Manager for I&CT. Bryce Turner, who starts soon, will become the National Director for New Zealand, whilst

Graham Simpson becomes the National Leader of Christians for Israel New Zealand.

Both Graeme and Lauris send their love and prayers to all the people they have had contact with over the last four years.

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Andrew Tucker
Email: atucker@c4israel.org

PUBLISHER: Graeme Lee | Ph: +64 9 525 7564
Email: graemelee@c4israel.org.nz or
admin@thecentre.net.nz

MANAGER NEW ZEALAND I&CT: Cathy Eksteen
Email: info@c4israel.org.nz | Ph: +64 9 525 7564
DESIGN & WEBSITE: Cathy Coldicutt
Blue Rock Design Ltd
Email: bluerock@clear.net.nz | Ph: +64 9 263 4548

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION: Lauris Lee
Ph: +64 9 525 7564 | Email: graemelee@c4israel.org.nz
GENERAL ENQUIRIES: Christians For Israel
PO Box 12006, Penrose, Auckland 1642.
297a Church St, Onehunga, Auckland 1061, New Zealand

President of Israel: Messiah Will Come in Jerusalem

By Leon Meijer, Chairman Christians for Israel International

“I believe that the Messiah will come in Jerusalem!”

The President of Israel, Rubi Rivlin makes it very clear. Jerusalem is not just any city, for him it is the city that expects the Messiah.

The President made these comments during a meeting with thirty Christians for Israel International leaders at his residence in Jerusalem.

The delegation consisted of the Christian for Israel International Board and regional and national directors from Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania/Pacific, USA and Brazil.

President Rivlin told the delegation that his family immigrated to Jerusalem in 1809 from Vilnius and has resided in the city ever since.

He stressed the importance of an undivided capital of Israel, and reminded us, that since 1967, Israel has ensured that all religions have the freedom to worship.

The Christians for Israel delegation presented the President with a declaration on behalf of hundreds of thousands of Christians, stating their support for Jerusalem as the eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish State of Israel.

The President thanked Christians for Israel for its enduring support in helping Jewish immigrants back to the State of Israel.

Below is the wording from the Jerusalem Declaration:

JERUSALEM DECLARATION

Israel does not exist by the grace of the United Nations, nor by the grace of Europe, not the Arab princes of the Middle East or of power blocks in the Far East. Israel does not exist by the grace of Christianity or the grace of Islam. Israel exists by the grace of God, on the basis of an everlasting Covenant that the Lord made with Israel, to which He swore a solemn oath that He will never break.

Therefore: we solemnly declare, on behalf of thousands of Christians around the world,

that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of the Jewish State of Israel and is the City of God waiting for the rightful King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Messiah of Israel to come and take His place on the throne of His Father David - and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.

One day the words pf the prophet Isaiah will come to pass:

‘In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s Temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.”

The law will go out from Zion, the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.’ Isaiah 2:2-4



Presented to His Excellency Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, by Christians for Israel on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem. 7th of March 2017

- Signed by:
- **Willem J.J. Glashouwer** - International President
 - **Leon E. Meijer** - International Chairman
 - **Roger F.G. van Oordt** - Executive Director Netherlands
 - **Andrew E.L. Tucker** - Executive Director International

‘Celebrate Jerusalem’ Reception

On Wednesday 8 March, Christians for Israel International organised a ‘Celebrate Jerusalem’ event at Mishkenot Sha’ananim in Jerusalem.

This event, attended by eighty Christians for Israel International leaders and about 100 Israeli guests, was a joyous evening in which we celebrated the restoration of the Jewish people to Jerusalem. All those present felt the joy of the Lord, and sensed the precious touch of the Holy Spirit.

- Highlights of this evening were:
- A superb performance of Israeli/Hebrew music by the Estonian music group, Keshet.
 - Stirring messages by heads of several Israeli partners of Christians for Israel – Dr. David Portovicz (Jaffa Institute),

- Greg Masel (Keren Hayesod) and Irene Pollack (The Jerusalem Foundation).
- A powerful speech by Deputy Minister of Diplomacy Michael Oren MK, who emphasised the fact that it was Christian Zionists who, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, made the creation of the State of Israel possible by supporting the return of the Jewish people and the reconstitution of the Jewish homeland in what was then called Palestine.
 - Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer gave the audience a “crash course” in why “replacement theology” is not only wrong, but a sin before God.
 - The Christians for Israel regional directors (Drake Kanaabo - Africa, Marie-Louise Weissenböck - Europe, Ian Worby – Oceania/Pacific, Wilson Ng - Asia, and Val Nogueira – South America) read out the “Jerusalem Declaration”.



- “Thoughts on Peace and Hope” by Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs (Chief Rabbi of the Netherlands) and Dr. Leon Meijer (Chairman, Christians for Israel International).
- Rabbi Eliezer Simcha Weisz (Chief Rabbi of the Emek Hefer Region) closed the evening by sharing how moved he was by this evening of Jewish-Christian fellowship, and giving a blessing.

Christians for Israel Uganda Assist in Bringing the Jews Home

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips.” (Isaiah 49:22)

The team of Christians for Uganda has raised funds to assist in the important Aliyah work. They were received by Shmulik Fried, Director of the Friends of Israel Division of Keren Hayesod in

Jerusalem during their recent tour in Israel. Drake Kaanabo, National Leader of Christians for Israel Uganda, was delighted to be able to hand the funds over personally.



'Wonderful' Visit to Australia

Courtesy of SBS.com.au

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says his inaugural tour to Australia has been "wonderful".

The Israeli PM and his wife Sara wound up their five-day trip to Sydney, meeting with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop just hours before departing.

"This has been a wonderful visit here. You people are amazing," Mr Netanyahu told the foreign minister before holding bilateral talks behind closed doors. Mr Netanyahu joked with Ms Bishop, who's just arrived home from a whirlwind trip to the US and UK, that the pair had "shared more or less the same route". Ms Bishop last week held high-level talks with top Trump administration officials in Washington.

Mr Netanyahu flew into Sydney in February 2017 as the first sitting Israeli prime minister to touch down on Australian soil. He too has just been in the US to meet President Donald Trump,

after the UK meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May. During his time in Sydney, Mr Netanyahu and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull vowed to deepen business and travel links between the two countries. Two-way trade between Israel and Australia is worth about AUD \$1.2 billion each year, with Mr Netanyahu saying he'd like to see that double or triple. The Israeli PM met with several federal ministers, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, along with prominent business leaders.

Mr Netanyahu's visit came amid criticism of Israel's expansion of settlements on Palestinian-owned land in the West Bank. The opposition leader raised Labour's concerns about the settlements during "constructive" formal discussions.

Mr Shorten said he reiterated Labour's support for a two-state solution. "We want to see Israel safe and secure of its borders; we support the rights of the Palestinian people to have their own state."



Julie Bishop met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for official talks just hours before his entourage flew out of Australia

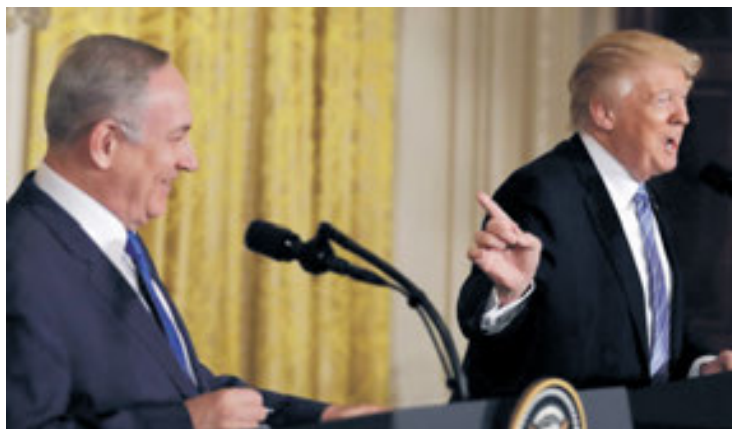
The Netanyahus - constantly surrounded by their enormous security entourage - also visited Bondi Junction's Central Synagogue, the nearby Moriah School where they were greeted like rock stars, plus a quick tourist stop-off in Manly, during their visit. The city's eastern suburb of Rose Bay went into a frenzy as a motorcade, bodyguards, sirens and a squad of police descended on the Kosher cafe to drop off Sara Netanyahu for a morning

coffee with Lucy Turnbull. On the last day of their Australian visit, Mr Netanyahu praised the Turnbulls' hospitality, and spoke of Sydney's 'beautiful beaches'. "I'd stay longer if I could," he said.

Ms Bishop, who visited Israel in September 2016, told him the prime minister had been very happy to play host. "I know they were both very much looking forward to your visit".

A Small Minority Must Not Jeopardise This Great Opportunity

By Isi Leibler. Abridged by Publisher



Benjamin Netanyahu has returned from triumphant visits to the United States, Australia and Singapore.

Now is the time for him to display courage and make serious decisions that will determine his legacy as one of Israel's great leaders. We are living in a crazy world which was stunned by the surprise election of Donald Trump. The new American president has proceeded at breakneck speed to reverse the politically correct approaches of Barack Obama, which included endorsement of groups like the Muslim Brotherhood. Trump is the first American president to confront the bias of the liberal press. His haste to implement some policies, such as his decree limiting immigration, was curbed by the courts.

Official mainstream organisations like the Anti-Defamation League and the Reform movement have effectively adopted the same role as J Street and engaged in unprecedented partisan activities that have undoubtedly created anti-Jewish

hostility among Trump supporters. Yet during the Obama administration, they failed to react to the dangerous instances of antisemitism cloaked as anti-Zionism. They did not ring the alarm bells when Jewish students were being

physically intimidated on campuses for identifying with Israel or when Obama ignored Iran's calls for the destruction of Israel.

Initially, the ADL even defended the candidacy of the anti-Semitic Keith Ellison for chairman of the Democratic National Committee, but it was forced to back down under public pressure. The ADL also refused to condemn the Black Lives Matter movement despite its outrageous condemnation of Israel as an apartheid state. Nor did it object to Linda Sarsour and other radical anti-Israel activists at the forefront of the Women's March on Washington. Fortunately, today the support of the Christian evangelical movement has more than compensated.

But despite the hostility of liberal American Jews and their abandonment of Israel, we are presented with a unique opportunity to achieve crucial national objectives. Israel's success will depend on our leaders' willingness to set aside short-term partisan politics and act in the national interest.

Aside from the extreme Left and extreme Right, there is a greater national consensus among Israelis than has existed since the great schism over the Oslo Accords.

Most agree that we must separate from the Palestinians and recognize that annexation of all of Judea and Samaria would inevitably lead to a binational state and end the Zionist dream. Yet there is also a clear consensus that an independent Palestinian state today would effectively amount to a terrorist state at our doorstep.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull summed up Israel's predicament when he stated that "being blunt and realistic about this - you cannot expect any Israeli government to put itself in a position where its security is at risk, where its citizens are not safe. The first duty of every government is the safety of the people."

Netanyahu must now spell out our main objectives, which include approval of unlimited building in the major settlement blocs within existing boundaries, defining permanent borders and formal US endorsement for the annexation of the Golan Heights.

At the same time, it is also in Israel's interest to promote greater industrialisation and economic infrastructure in the West Bank in order to incentivise coexistence. This would facilitate greater Palestinian autonomy - subject, of course, to maintaining Israel's

fundamental security requirements. This requires Netanyahu to confront not only Naftali Bennett and Bayit Yehudi but also the radicals in his own Likud party. If he fails to stand up to them, we could face a disaster.

Trump is volatile and if Netanyahu permits the radicals in his coalition to unilaterally initiate annexations; this could easily spark a confrontation - which Netanyahu is desperate to avoid, preferring to work with Trump in close tandem.

Netanyahu must stand firm, and if his radical partners seek to embark on unauthorized initiatives, he must be willing to dissolve the government. Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid is today a contender for prime minister. He has been extremely responsible in his statements over the past 12 months. Setting aside personalities, he and Netanyahu have shared a similar vision of what should be done.

Today, we are in a remarkable position. We have been presented with the great opportunity to shape our destiny with a genuinely pro-Israel US administration. But this will depend on Netanyahu and whether he succeeds in resisting the pressures from the radical elements of his own party and coalition.

In achieving this, he would have the nation's support to steer through the diplomatic minefields and capitalise on his personal relationship with Trump and lead the nation toward stability and security.

Blessed to Visit Israel with Family

Blog by Bryce Turner, Christians for Israel Director NZ and Tour Leader in Israel



Being able to explore the Holy Land with my wife and three sons has been a blessing for me. The memories we have made will be forever etched in our minds.

Imagine visiting the ancient Galilee boat, the only ‘living’ example of the type of boat used during the time of Jesus, with three young boys full of questions. The boat itself was only found a few years ago in mud. We then went for a boat-ride on the Sea of Galilee, which was as flat as a mirror as we watched the mist slowly clear over the far shores and the Golan heights. What better way to end a boat ride than with a good feed of fish - even better when you don’t have to fillet them and cook them yourself!

Our next stop was Tabgha, the site where Jesus fed the 5000, or the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, as it’s more commonly known, and also where the restoration of Peter took place; where

Christians for Israel tour group atop Mt Arbel



Jesus was on the shore cooking fish for the disciples in their boat). At the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish, it was interesting to see among the mosaics on the floor a ‘nilometer’, quite literally a device used to measure the height of the Nile River - a reminder of the many different civilizations that controlled or influenced this land throughout history.

Visiting Capernaum - where Jesus lived and also a major town in His time - was quite moving to see the houses and streets and realise that Jesus also walked down the very path you are standing on.

The trip and hike up Mt Arbel, was amazing. Mt Arbel is the site of several ancient Jewish settlements, and also many bloody battles and execution sites. With the sheer cliffs on one side, it was an effective method of slaughter. From the flat top of the mountain, you can see the whole of Galilee from Golan, right down past Tiberius, to where the Jordan River leaves and heads out to the Dead Sea. It is thought that Jesus most likely saw this view after his resurrection when he told the disciples to meet him up in the Galilee.

We then visited Kursi, the site where Jesus dealt to the man with demons, sending

them instead into some nearby pigs (who promptly jumped off a cliff). It was awe inspiring to see the actual locations of so many of the stories we all read in the Bible.



Israel: A Dream Come True

By Frank Rusa Nyakaana



As a lawyer, an aspiring political leader and practising Christian, I have always been fascinated by the story of Jesus Christ and the

Holy Land of Israel. As a person, I have a deep interest in the social and political history of the Jewish people and especially how their ever evolving history influences global affairs. For these two reasons, I have always wanted to have an opportunity to visit the Holy Land and get a first-hand experience.

This amazing opportunity came in March 2017 when I was introduced to Evangelist Drake Kanaabo from Christians for Israel Uganda, and learnt that his office arranges tours to the Holy Land.

I arrived in Israel on 12 March 2017 with 24 other pilgrims from my country. Our group was largely composed of pastors, evangelists and other ministers in the Kingdom of God.

We visited a number of holy sites starting at Mount Camel, where the great prophet Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. We then drove through the city of Jericho, on our way to see Great King Herod’s Fort at Masada. Visiting Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus was very special, as was the town of Nazareth, where Jesus was raised. We took in the view of the Sea of Galilee and the land of Tiberius, where Jesus is said to have performed many miracles. Lastly, we visited Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified.

The experience at the Mount of Olives with its resurrection significance is something that is etched indelibly in my



mind. Our wonderful tour guide gave us rich insights into the biblical context of the places we were visiting, as well as informative aspects of contemporary life. Another highlight was our visit to the office of Keren Hayesod, where we learnt about the work being done for Jews to make Aliyah, many against great odds. We were most inspired by the stories of resilience and survival by the Jewish

people. I am personally convinced of the need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the importance of the success of aliyah in God’s grand plan.

Over the years, I have had many opportunities to travel to different parts of the world, but I have to concede, that the visit to Israel is one of the most inspirational trips I have ever made.

First Time Impression in the Holy Land

By Dr Robert Siakimotu, Christians for Israel Development Officer for the South Pacific



It was wonderful being part of the Forum and meeting most of the International Leadership Team of Christians for Israel.

Rev Willem Glashouwer’s teaching each morning of the Forum and during the training session was very thought

provoking and inspirational. To hear various reports from regional leaders around the world, including USA, Ukraine and Brazil, is encouraging to see the work of Christians for Israel growing.

The challenge of the ‘replacement theology’ teachings and the fact that it is influencing Christian churches around the world, was one of the main issues that was addressed at the Forum. It is clear to

see that there is still a lot of work to be done in order to change the thinking of these churches.

One of the highlights for me was worship and prayer time. Being able to pray with other Christians from around the world, was very touching. Another highlight was visiting some of the projects that Christians for Israel supports, as well as celebrating Shabbat with some of the

Jewish people at the Western Wall.

It was my first time in Israel, and I loved every moment. The places we visited on the tour were a real blessing but also challenging as some of the passages from the Bible certainly become a reality after hearing the biblical and historical commentaries. It was a tremendous opportunity and a life-assuring experience.

Jerusalem, Heart of the World

By Marijke Terlouw, Christians for Israel Netherlands



Group photo of the Christians for Israel 2017 Forum

Leadership Forum 2017 - A time to meet friends, think and share together about how to reach more Christians around the world with our message about Israel.

That was what our Forum last month in Jerusalem was all about. But this year's Forum had an additional purpose, as the city of Jerusalem was reunited as Israel's capital fifty years ago.

From over 35 countries, more than 80 people made their way to the Holy City. All of them are committed to teach in their country's churches about Israel, on behalf of Christians for Israel. This can be a very lonely job, and from time to time also heavy, sometimes even dangerous. Therefore, the Christians for Israel 6th Biennial Forum is a place of encounter, encouragement and education, by and for the leadership of Christians for Israel.

Jerusalem Declaration

This year's Forum was marked by Jerusalem. There is no other city in the

world that makes so much sense as Jerusalem. Much is said about it, both positive and negative. Therefore, in a personal meeting, we handed over to the President of Israel, the Jerusalem Declaration. It says that Israel does not exist by the grace "of the United Nations (...), or Christianity, or Islam. Israel exists by the grace of God, who made an everlasting covenant with Israel.

Therefore, on behalf of thousands of Christians worldwide, we declare that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of the Jewish state of Israel, and it is the city of God which waits for the rightful King of kings and Lord of lords, the Messiah of Israel who will take His seat on the throne of His father David - and His Kingship will know no end."

President Rivlin warmly welcomed us and stated that he has a long history with Jerusalem, as his family settled there in the beginning of the nineteenth century. "We came to return to our homeland (...). Many of the Jews who came returned to Zion, not just to the land of Israel, but to Jerusalem", Rivlin said. He also made it

clear that he believes that this is the place where they expect Messiah will come.

Words of Encouragement

The Forum provided opportunities for many speakers, including historians, rabbis, pastors and journalists. Christians for Israel representatives were able to share news about what is going on in their country and how they commit themselves to share about God's plans and purposes in their nations.

Rev. President Willem J.J. Glashouwer shared a Bible study in which he stated, "God did not choose a people, He created a people. When God told Abraham that he would have a son, Abraham said not only that this was not possible, but that it was not necessary, because he already had a son, Ishmael. In spite of this, God gave him the son that He promised, Isaac."

Leon Meijer, Chairman of Christians for Israel International said, "We are Christians. We know that our words haven't worked over the centuries. Therefore, we must use actions instead of words. Show what your beliefs are. And if you're being asked, tell them why you're a Christian. Do not evangelize - think of all those words that did not work - but remain honest about what you believe."

Dutch Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs spoke about the philosophy of Jerusalem from a



Chief Rabbi Jacobs of the Netherlands

Jewish religious view, "The name which Jacob gave to Jerusalem was House of God, Isaac called it a field, and Abraham called it a mountain. The first Jewish temple is mentioned in the Bible as a mountain, the second as a field and the next temple as a house. Jacob had no home and went from place to place. And yet he is connected to home, by the third temple. Isaiah says: "Let us go to the mountain of God, to the house of the Lord. For the Word of God will go forth from Jerusalem. On that day, this conference will no longer be necessary. Everyone knows that they should be in Jerusalem," Jacobs said.

Celebrate Jerusalem

Part of the Forum included a festive reception, called Celebrate Jerusalem, where we could meet our friends from Israel.

Oren, Deputy Minister of Diplomacy at the office of the Prime Minister, stated, "I speak to all kinds of churches - churches that often understand little about Israel - who visit us in the ministry - thank you that you made it possible for Israel to exist. You came more than a hundred years ago to this country, you took care of developing this country, you made the Balfour Declaration possible, and now you are here in the state of Israel."

Rabbi David Portowicz of the Jaffa Institute is probably the longest lasting friend of Christians for Israel. He said, "Toda Raba - thank you!"

He completed these words with a wonderful explanation of their profound meaning that goes far beyond a quickly said 'thank you'.

The evening ended with the priestly blessing by Chief Rabbi Eliezer Simcha Weisz of the Emek Hefer region.

Training New Christians for Israel Leaders

By Andrew Tucker, Christians for Israel International

Following the successful Christians for Israel International Leadership Forum, thirty new Christians for Israel leaders from nations such as Albania, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Ethiopia, Greece, Kenya, South Pacific, Tanzania, USA, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia stayed on for an extra day of training.

Rev. Willem Glashouwer gave a lecture on the prophetic future of Jerusalem, and then spent half a day teaching on the Biblical relationship between the church and Israel (the Jewish people). Andrew Tucker and Marie-Louise Weissenböck led sessions about the Christians for Israel core mission, vision, values and beliefs. One of the main topics we discussed was the need for training new teachers in the various regions about

God's purposes with Israel, the church and the nations.

All of the participants testified about the lack of knowledge in their countries about God's relationship with the Jewish people, and what this means for the church. All agreed there is a desperate need for in-depth analysis and structured training about these eternal Biblical truths. Aspects of replacement theologies - in their various forms and guises - have become so ingrained in the church over such a long period of time, that it is not straight-forward to address and change these attitudes.

It involves a fundamentally new way of reading the Bible. We decided that we will organise a series of training and teaching

conferences in Israel and in the various geographical regions of the world, to invite key pastors and church leaders to go deeper into God's purposes as revealed in the Tenach and the New Testament.

We are thankful for these talented and committed teachers, and look forward to working with them in the coming months and years as we grow into the Holy Spirit's work of preaching the "signs of the times" concerning God's eternal plans for the



Rev. Willem Glashouwer

establishment of His kingdom and transforming hearts and minds around the world.



News From Our National Leader

April 2017



Ian & Mandy in Jerusalem overlooking the David's Citadel

Dear faithful readers & friends (Chavarim),

Welcome to the Apr/May 2017—Australian Edition of Israel & Christians Today.

My wife Mandy and I just returned from the 6th biannual *Christians for Israel International* forum in Jerusalem. It was so thrilling to catch up with all our friends from around the world and hear the amazing things being done for the Kingdom. We continue to see the movement grow with its message for the Church regarding Gods plans for Israel and the church in the coming end times. We are also seeing how believers in Yeshua can demonstrate God's love for his people—provoking them to jealousy—through acts of kindness and practical assistance, like helping the scattered Jews return home to Israel by making Aliyah and also via the different feeding, clothing, education and resettlement projects being done in partnership with a number of different Jewish agencies.

Thanks to your generous support:

We were able to assist a number of our team attending this years forum which helped to deepen their understanding of the ministry and enjoy some field excursions to see first hand a number of our humanitarian projects the geo political challenges facing the people of Israel on a day to day basis.

Our national Isreality youth coordinator Matthew Thorn was also at the forum and gave an inspiring update on the growth and development of this important initiative to encourage and engage the next generation in understanding the importance of Israel in these uncertain times. He encouraged everyone to support the next tour coming up in July which [you can read about on page 10](#).

Judy Russell was another of our delegates who joined us in Jerusalem for the forum and was also part of a small group who visited the work of *Christians for Israel* in the Ukraine where still, so many displaced Jewish people are in need of support and comfort. [You can read part of Judy's report on page 7](#) and we hope to bring the rest of her story in the June-July edition as well.

Husband and Wife team Paul and Marg Longfield also attended the forum to broaden their understanding of the

ministry and afterwards had time with some of the team in the Netherlands head office to see how the global ministry is coordinated.

If you're in SE QLD don't forget Paul and Marg are hosting an amazing **Passover presentation** with an authentic dinner and music: *Caloundra City Life Baptist Church*, 15th April @ 6pm—\$15 per adult. Call **0467 281 831** for details.

(During our recent annual general meeting in Brisbane, Paul was appointed as the Vice President of *C4I Australia* and Marg now serves as the ministries secretary and Public officer.) [You can read Paul's latest article on page 3 of the Australian Insert](#).

Netanyahu visit to Sydney

I was honoured to be invited to see the historic first ever visit of an Israeli Prime minister to Australia when Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Sydney and addressed the Australian Prime Minister and about 2000 special guests in the Central Synagogue in Bondi Sydney was a very special moment for me and some of our pro Israel friends.

Then to be also invited to be part of a delegation of *Christians for Israel International* to go and meet the President of Israel in Jerusalem and present him with the Jerusalem Declaration, stating our strong support for Israel as Christians, and being so warmly received by him and to hear him say that he and all of Jerusalem is waiting for the Messiah sent chills up my spine.

New DVD Study Resource



One of the exciting announcements made during this years forum in culmination with this year being the **50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem** as the eternal undivided capital of Israel was the much anticipated launch of the final DVD in the *Why Israel? Why Jerusalem? and Why End times?* teaching series by International President Rev Willem Glashouwer.

The *Why Jerusalem?* DVD completes the series; based on the books *Why Israel? Why Jerusalem? and Why End times?* So now you can have all three books and the DVD teaching series of the same titles along with the study guides. You can enjoy a private Bible study or invite friends over for a home

or small Church group study. See details on the back page for ordering your own copy today. **The Why Jerusalem? DVD has six 25 minute sessions you'll be sure to enjoy.**

New leadership Appointments

During the Forum I was officially appointed as the new regional director for *Christians for Israel Oceania*, including Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and Melanesian Islands. It will be my great privilege to serve as a volunteer alongside our wonderful colleagues in the NZ office and with our Pacific Islands liaison coordinator, NZ based, evangelist and teacher preacher Dr Robert Siakimotu who has been encouraging a number of new *C4I* representatives and candidates to become full affiliates in the Pacific islands including Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa.

Robert also joined the new Chairman for *C4I NZ* Graham Simpson and GM Bryce Turner and a bus load of Kiwis with a couple of Aussies on a two week joint study tour with *Rhema Media*, exploring the land of Israel in the footsteps of the patriarchs, Jesus and the Apostles. [You can read their stories on page 5](#).

Office Hours & Contacts

In other news closer to home, we acknowledge our wonderful volunteer team who only come in every Tuesday to clear and answer the mail, update our members details, fill orders and requests and do the banking. We also thank our ministry Partner *Vision Christian Media* for the use of office space and facilities and the girls on the phones who often take our calls when our volunteers are not in. (07 3387 7300) This means that we can operate with very little costs and overheads and shows how working together in partnership can be a really positive testament and Christian witness.

New Website Launched



My son Steven has been doing a lot of work on our website's look and functionality. I am pleased you can now go explore our all new mobile-friendly website www.c4israel.com.au with lots of fresh imagery online webstore and easy secure interface to make donations and access our resources safely and easily. You can now also **subscribe to our new FREE e-Newsletter** for regular

ministry updates, news and articles, prayer points and special offers.

We would appreciate your feedback and constructive comments to help make the service and online experience even better: webadmin@c4israel.com.au

Limited seats left for October Tour

Our own '*Riders of Destiny*' tour to Israel with *Vision Christians Tours*, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the famed 800 lighthouse charge on Beersheba is almost full with 3 air conditioned coach loads of excited Aussie Pilgrims accompanying Mandy and I, and our leadership team on this once in a life time tour—the length and breadth of Israel and Jordan including Petra. There are just a few seats left at the time of writing so please call our Agents at Olive Tree Travel on freecall **1300 550 830** for details, or express your interest for tours next year.



Finally a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who prays for and gives faithful financial support, be it small or large, according to the Lords leading. I was thrilled to be able to help present an award to Elena Kovarsky and Nathan Sharansky (see above) the Chairman of the Jewish agency in Jerusalem last month for 25 years of helping bring Jews home, and to receive his appreciation for the practical assistance you all provide in helping the Jews make Aliyah and to comfort and support them in the many ways we do as *Christians for Israel Australia and International*.

One easy way to help support the ongoing work of the ministry, is to order extra copies of this newspaper to give away at church or to families and friends or at any pro-Israel events. We are happy to supply them to you with out charge, but welcome any donations to help cover printing and postage. This way you help us get the message out, inform our new readers about what is really happening and inspire people to support the Lord's people and show genuine Christian Love.

Every blessing to your family from ours in the strong and mighty name of Yeshua Ha Mashiach (the Lord Jesus Christ) our coming King.



Ian Worby
National Leader
Regional Director Oceania

World War One & the German-Turkish alliance

When War broke out in August 1914 Germany and Ottoman Turkey had already entered into a secret agreement. Britain was now reluctantly forced into conflict against the Turks. The area of greatest strategic and military importance was the Suez Canal. Everything needed to be done to preserve the link to the eastern empire. Indeed already at that stage strategists were looking to the post-War period, and what would be best for Britain and this link. One Jewish parliamentarian, Herbert Samuel proposed in 1914-5 that Britain should take control over 'Palestine' and permit the establishment there of a Jewish national entity.

From March 1915 a two-fold movement began which climaxed on 31 October 1917. The first was military, and began on the shores of Gallipoli. This campaign ended in failure, and resulted in Turkey planning for the capture of the Suez Canal. Britain's goal was to protect the Canal, and the most effective method was by creating a buffer zone up to the Sinai-Palestine border.

The second movement was political, and resulted from a Russian demand in March 1915 that following victory at Gallipoli and once Constantinople fell, then Russia would gain the region connecting the Black Sea and Mediterranean for herself. Britain also realised that if Turkey was defeated, then France would claim Syria, including Palestine. Britain needed thereupon to ensure the security of her link through to India and the East and discussions then began with the French, and the Arab nationalist movement, concerning the future of Turkey in Asia.

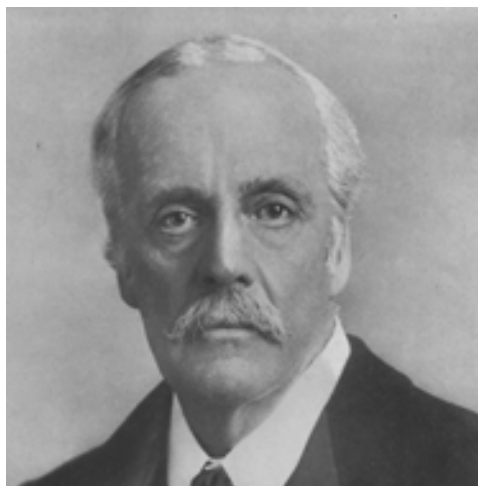
Beersheba and Balfour 31 October 1917

Britain's political and military strategy changed in late 1916 when David Lloyd George became prime minister and Arthur Balfour became the foreign secretary. Their policy included the capture of all of Syria, including Palestine. The future of this strategic land was now of prime importance.

Following two defeats at Gaza in early 1917, the key battle for the conquest of Turkish Palestine was to be at Beersheba—the town associated with Abraham, the man to whom God Almighty bequeathed the land of Israel through a covenant oath. 'Z Day' was scheduled for 31 October. The bulk of the fighting this day was to be undertaken by British infantry, and according to the plan of General Allenby, the actual taking of the town was entrusted to the Desert Mounted Corps.



Three officers of the 2nd Field Ambulance riding horses on the bank of the Suez Canal. Identified left to right: Major William Weston Hearne, who was awarded the DSO in 1917 and was later killed in action on the Western Front on 17 October 1917; unidentified; Colonel Alfred Hobart Sturdee. Source: Australian War Memorial



Arthur Balfour, former foreign secretary & later Prime Minister of the UK

By midday the British infantry had achieved all of the stated goals—while the mounted troops were behind schedule. On that same day, at some time probably around midday, the members of the British War Cabinet began to assemble in Whitehall London. One of the items on the agenda that day was entitled, 'The Zionist Movement'.

In Beersheba progress was slow on the eastern flank, as the domineering *Tel el Saba* (ancient Beersheba) was not captured. But then at about 3pm, the New Zealanders finally subdued this strategic position. Time was running out and General Chauvel commanded the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade to complete the capture of the town by a frontal attack – a charge.

At about this time the men in London, nine of whom had some form of Protestant Christian background (and thereby some Biblical knowledge), began the discussion concerning the Zionist proposal for a national home in Palestine. Interestingly many of the

men fighting that day, British, Anzac and German, would have carried around a small Bible with them, a legacy of the Reformation, which officially began exactly four hundred previous.

In Beersheba the Australian Light Horse successfully completed their famous charge, and by about 6pm, Beersheba was in Allied hands. This victory was achieved by a combined British, New Zealand and Australian effort.

Almost simultaneously the War Cabinet in London voted in favour of endorsing the Zionist proposal, and promised the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. There can be little doubt that pragmatic geo-politics to the side, their decision was influenced by what the Bible stated about the Jewish people, and their God-given rights to dwell in the land of Israel.

Coincidence or destiny?

Did God ordain that these two events would occur on the same day in 1917—the same day as the other events in 1517 and 1898? I really do not know, but what I can say is that all of these four events were connected.

For instance, had there been no Reformation, then it is highly unlikely that the members of the British War Cabinet would have been favourable to a Jewish restoration to the land of Israel. Additionally, had Germany and Turkey not been aligned as they were from 1898 onwards and especially so in the First World War, there would have been no just cause for British and Anzac forces to be at Beersheba—and no possibility for a Balfour Declaration!

How then can we Christians look upon this day?

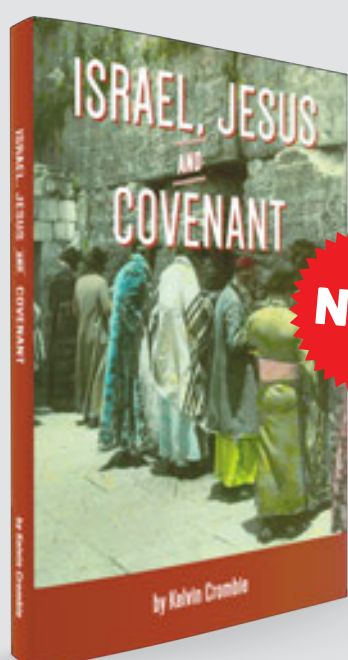
Perhaps it is a time to acknowledge the Sovereignty and grace of God. His sovereignty in that all things work together for His ultimate purposes. God has a plan for the redemption of the world through Jesus, and central to this plan is the fulfilment of His covenant oaths regarding the people and the land of Israel. Additionally, He has His set ways for how this plan will be out-worked, and He has ordained it that certain nations would play certain roles at certain times – in this instance on or about 31 October.

Additionally, the out-working of this plan is all by His grace and not by anyone's works, so that no-one can boast. It is, I would suggest, in this 'spirit' that we should enter when we celebrate or commemorate these events in Wittenberg, Jerusalem, London or Beersheba in October and November 2017.



Note: The subject matter in this article will be part of a documentary and booklet entitled '31 October – Destiny's Date?' to be released during 2017.

© Kelvin Crombie 2017, Heritage Resources Pty Ltd. kelvin@heritageresources.com.au



ISRAEL, JESUS AND COVENANT

Today many individuals, institutions and even nations are endeavouring to delegitimise the right for the nation of Israel to exist in the land of Israel.

Additionally there are many in the world who are attempting to deny the actual existence or true identity or mission of Jesus of Nazareth. The existence and legitimacy of both entities, Israel and Jesus, stand upon the very same foundation and principle – the purposes of God Almighty as confirmed through the swearing of a covenant oath. Oaths are a reflection of the character of the one who swore

them. The character of God Almighty is much dependent, therefore, upon whether He keeps or breaks the oaths which He has sworn.

This book explores the dual roles of the nation of Israel and of Jesus (both the collective seed and the individual seed, both the collective servant of God and the individual servant of God). **Special emphasis is given to the promises of God which were confirmed by the swearing of an oath, and of the relevance of these sworn oaths today.**

The author, Kelvin Crombie came to 'know' Jesus as a result of being in Israel, and he lived there for some twenty-four years. This book, based upon a previous publication *In Covenant with Jesus*, reveals his desire to present an understanding of the relationship between Israel and the Church; Israel and the nations.

DONATION: \$30

Use the form on the backpage of this newspaper to get your copy or donate online at www.c4israel.com.au/store

The first Jews came to Australia literally on the first day of European settlement on the continent – 26 January 1788. Among the 827 convicts on the English First Fleet who began Australia's European settlement was a small number of Jewish convicts, estimated by historians at between eight and 14, transported from England to Botany Bay, near Sydney, for relatively trivial crimes. The first free Jewish settler to arrive in Australia, however, came in 1816. The first Jewish religious society in Australia, a burial society, began in 1817 and the first Jewish religious service took place about the same time.

Jewish Community and Religious Life.



The Great Synagogue, Sydney, constructed in 1878.

Organised Jewish religious life in Australia began in the 1830s in Sydney, with the formation of the first permanent congregation. The first synagogue, *Beth Tephilah*, was established in 1837. *Hobart Synagogue* was the second to be built in 1845 and is the oldest synagogue still in use in Australia—and the southern hemisphere—home to the *Hobart Hebrew Congregation*.

Jewish Refugees and Holocaust Survivors.

The Australian Jewish community was transformed in the 1930s and 1940s by the arrival of approximately 8,000 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany Austria and Czechoslovakia and, slightly later, by approximately 35,000 East European survivors of the Holocaust. (Melbourne's Jewish community is said to have the highest percentage of Holocaust survivors of any Jewish community in the world, [outside of Israel] ed.)

These Central and East European Jews differed markedly in their outlook from the largely Anglo-Jewish community which they found on their arrival. Most spoke Yiddish, Polish, German or Hungarian.

In contrast to many non-Zionist Australian Jews of British background, the newcomers were keenly Zionist in orientation and strongly supported the establishment of Israel in 1948 and since. From the 1940s, too, substantial numbers of Sephardi Jews, especially from Egypt, have settled in Australia (particularly in Adelaide) as have, more recently, thousands of Jews from Southern Africa and the former Soviet Union.

Community Institutions

As a result, the Australian Jewish community grew markedly and developed a flourishing range of communal institutions previously unknown. Australian synagogues grew in number from about a dozen in the 1930s to over 80 today, representing nearly all streams in contemporary Jewish religious life from Adass Yisroel and Chassidic to Progressive Judaism. The most important institution developed by the newcomers, however, has been the network of Jewish day schools, now numbering more than

20, which in some respects is without parallel in the diaspora.

Over 75 percent of Melbourne's Primary Jewish school children and over 50% of the city's secondary school students now attend a Jewish day school. Melbourne's *Mount Scopus Memorial College*, which takes students from pre-schoolers to high school seniors, is one of the largest Jewish day schools in the diaspora, with an enrolment of almost 2,000.

Jewish Populations

The great majority of Australia's Jewish population (approx. 100,000) lives in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia's two largest cities, with only Western Australia of the other states having as many as about 8,000 Jews. (However, there are established Jewish communities in all major cities in Australia.)

It is often said that the ambience of the two communities is different, with the Melbourne community (approx. 50,000) primarily of Polish background, being more conservative, and the Sydney community, with relatively more Hungarian and German Jews, being more liberal. In both Melbourne and Sydney, there are distinctly Jewish areas where many (though certainly not all) Jews live and where most Jewish synagogues and other institutions may be found.

In Melbourne, about 75 percent of the Jewish community lives south of the Yarra River in a belt running from South Yarra and Toorak to Moorabbin and Glen Iris, and centering in Caulfield and St. Kilda.

Another distinctive feature of Melbourne life (much more so than of other Jewish communities) is the amount of Yiddish still spoken by the Jewish community. Many older Jews still prefer to speak Yiddish. There is also a Yiddish school and Yiddish theatre in Melbourne.

The Jewish community of Sydney is more spread out than in Melbourne. The traditional centre of Jewish life in Sydney is in the eastern bay and beach suburbs from Double Bay through Woollahra to Bondi, although

these areas are not as distinctively 'Jewish' as their equivalents in Melbourne. Bondi contains a number of Jewish shops and the principally-Jewish *Hakoah Club*.

Many Jews also live in the northern suburbs to the north of Sydney Harbour, known as the North Shore, which has a strong Southern African Jewish ex-patriate presence.

There are no distinctively Jewish areas in other Australian cities. However, many Jews in Perth live in Yokine, Dianella West and Noranda which, like Sydney's North Shore and Melbourne's Doncaster, is home to large numbers of South African and Zimbabwean Jewish migrants.

Jewish Part in Australian Society

The input of Jewish born members of Australian society is very significant in all areas of life. Scientific, Professionals, Legal, Medical, Artistic, Musical and Military are just some of the distinguished contributors.

Two of the most well known public figures were Sir Isaac Isaacs (right) who was the first Australian born Governor General of Australia and was the first Jewish vice-



The Hobart Synagogue, Tasmania, constructed in 1845.

regal representative in the British Empire.

Sir John Monash (below) who was one of the most distinguished Allied commanders of the Western Front during World War I, after whom Monash University and Monash Freeway are named.



The Mark and Dinah Munzer Community Centre in Caulfield.

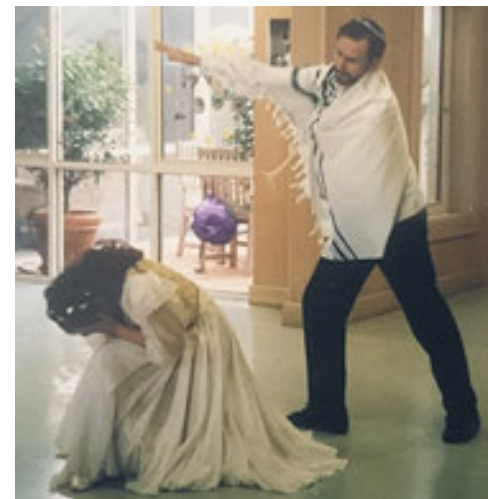
Marg and I became involved with this centre about 17 years ago and often times brought teams of singers, dancers and timbrelists to Sunday afternoon concerts for the aging residents and their families. We were always warmly received by them and we pay particular tribute to Sylvia Drever who has been a most welcoming host and organiser of these special events....a special friend.

Unfortunately, the centre is about to close as in recent times there have not been enough residents to support it. Many of the residents over the years have been holocaust survivors from Europe and in more recent times the child survivors but as the number of WW2 survivors dwindles, so do the numbers requiring such aged care.



Our prayers are with the remaining residents as the centre was closed in February as the property has been sold.

We pay tribute to all who have played a part in the establishment and running of this great home and to so many aging Jewish folk who experienced first hand some of the most terrible atrocities and inhumanities known to man during WW2.



Dancers Valerie Henry & David Haddy

We also thank all of those Christian folk and members of our own family who have worked with us over the years to bring a meaningful presentation in music, singing, timbrel and dance on many Sunday afternoons.

"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice..."

– Jeremiah 31:3-4^{NKJV}

Sourced from jewishaustralia.com & Wikipedia.



Paul Longfield & his wife Marg are available to conduct Sabbath evenings, Seminars, on behalf of *Christians for Israel Australia*, teaching on Passover & the Festivals at your church or fellowship on request.

They also present & lead Messianic Praise & Worship music. (Paul was formerly the Director of *Christian Friends of Israel in Australia*). He now serves as Vice President & Endtime Bible Teacher of *Christians for Israel Australia inc.* For more information, contact them on kokim@iprimus.com.au or **0410456806**



WIZO is by far the largest charity of its kind in Israel with over 800 institutions, such as its 186 day-care centres, schools, battered women's shelters, youth villages, homes for the elderly, domestic violence treatment centres, Homes for immigrant children, single parent centres, Special centres for 'girls at risk' and immigrant absorption centres.

In addition WIZO provides a Hotline for abusive men, women's enrichment programs, after school classes, social groups for elderly, youth clubs, legal advice bureaus, therapeutic services, youth centres, vocational schools and other centres to help the many needy. On a daily basis over 100,000 folk are cared for with love and devotion. Supported by volunteer members in 50 countries. WIZO's formal goals are to:

- Provide for the welfare of infants, children, youth, women and the elderly.
- Advance the status of women in Israel.
- Strengthen the bond between World Jewry and the State of Israel.
- Support the absorption of new immigrants in Israel.

Another tremendous advantage we have is that all our staff and volunteers speak Hebrew and are of-course familiar with the special needs and conditions of Israeli society, making this organisation extremely efficient and certainly maximises each and every dollar that's been donated.

How did WIZO get started?

In 1919 a group of women who travelled to Israel along with their husbands on a fact finding mission to see what the state of Israel (then known as Palestine) was like, were appalled at the conditions of the whole country especially the plight of the women and children. On their return to England with determination and 'Hutzpah' they set about to raise awareness and funds to improve this situation. Mrs Rebecca Sieff (of the family who owns the 'Marks & Spencer' chain of stores) became the first president. She, along with a powerful and courageous group of women behind her travelled around the world to make known the plight of so many women and children living in such dreadful conditions. History records the unbelievable impact this group had in changing the lives of the most vulnerable and needy.



WIZO's AGM on the Sunshine Coast: L to R Margot Gray (incoming Treasurer), Rose Toms (President), Gilla Liberman, Betty Dykes, Evelyn Charles (President of WIZO Brisbane) and Carmel Hoppe (outgoing Treasurer)

What does Australian WIZO Do?

We in Australia are responsible for 12 projects in Israel. Let me share with you our 'Jewel in the Crown' project, AHUZAT YELADIM in Haifa. This is situated in the hill area of Haifa overlooking the Mediterranean ocean. A therapeutic and post-hospitalization residential school for youngsters aged 12-18 years from all over Israel. These children are referred by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education. These children have come from VERY dysfunctional families and this school is their last hope of becoming well-adjusted and useful citizens of Israel. They are given the very best love and care with expertly trained staff and we are proud to say that this school has over a 90% success rate. Many of the children try their very best to succeed to be qualified to go into the I.D.F. (Israel Defence Force) which requires a high degree of social and academic achievement. Sadly this school has now needed to take in children from 7 years of age.

WIZO KESHER is a very special WIZO group in Queensland Australia that incorporates non-Jewish women - How did this come about?

The President Rose Toms explains:

"It was while going through the Holocaust Museum in Israel some 26 years ago that I first encountered the horror and insanity of this terrible event.

How could a person possibly do this to another? Hearing the audio accounts and seeing the graphic displays left a very deep impression that changed the course of my life. The children's memorial—where the names are continually read out and the display of little shoes torn off little feet was a vivid reminder of 1½ million children

that were murdered! What if it was one of my children or grandchildren—I have 6 children, 16 grand-children and 10 great grand-children!

As I went through the Garden for the 'Righteous Gentiles' and read their names, I realised that there were many non-Jewish people who 'helped' almost all at great personal risk and the many who gave their lives.

It was at that place I determined to 'DO' whatever I could to help and support Israel and the Jewish people in whatever way I could.

After returning to Australia, I heard about, and joined WIZO AVIVA!

Two years later I was appointed President of a Group (WIZO KESHER) on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. My appointment was ratified in Israel as this was the first time a non-Jewish woman had been appointed to this position. We are made up of Jewish and non-Jewish women working together for this amazing movement. WIZO KESHER has members, throughout Australia and two groups in New Zealand."

Membership is a vital part of WIZO, as it enables us to have a voice at the UN with voting rights. Today WIZO is in 50 countries of the world and has a membership of over 250,000. It's a member of the United Nations and has consultative status with ECOSOC and UNICEF.

Why Should We Help?

It has been our privileged over 24 years to show love in a practical way, build warm and loving friendships and like Ruth in the Bible; *"I will go with you, your people shall be my people and your God is my God"*.

At a luncheon held to celebrate WIZO Queensland's 80th Birthday in August

this year (2016) I was presented with the 'Rebecca Sieff Award' the highest award given to anyone in WIZO for 'outstanding dedication to WIZO' I felt very humbled – what a privilege to be part of this Jewish organisation and to be so welcomed.

Because 'rockets' are still being fired from Gaza in the south and Lebanon in the north of Israel, each school, day-care centre now has to have 'rocket proof' shelters. This was an urgent need and WIZO KESHER did a very successful 'Crowd Funding Campaign' in 2015 to help secure the safety of all our precious children. In 2016, we also had a special drive for funds after the terrible fires (some actually lit by enemies of Israel) devastated parts of Israel, including the school Ahuzat Yeladim in Haifa which WIZO Australia supports.

Our major fund-raising campaign for this year (2017) is a much needed, 'Centre for Girls at Risk'. This project called 'Makom Balev' (a place in the heart) situated in Be'er Sheva, the largest city in the Negev Desert of Southern Israel. Be'er Sheva is a virtual 'melting-pot' of Jewish immigrants from East Africa, the former USSR, and Ethiopia. In addition, its southern location and neighbouring Bedouin and Arab peoples makes for a complex social and diverse communities. With the blessings and support of the Be'er Sheva municipality and local welfare authorities, crucial funding for therapeutic treatment and programming was approved and a suitable location was found. The building belongs to WIZO, but is in need of major renovations and upgrades in order to pass security regulations and receive permission to open this facility. It is crucial that a 'bomb shelter' also be added.



(Photo: Rose and Maurice Toms)

If you would like to become a member of WIZO KESHER (\$25.00 per calendar year) or help finance the work of WIZO in Israel, including the project in Be'er Sheva kindly make a cheque out to:

WIZO KESHER
P.O. Box 4685
SCMC Nambour QLD 4560
or Bank Direct:
BSB: 484-799 A/C: 602253941

For more info please email:
rosentoms@hotmail.com

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM & BEERSHEBA

ACT NOW!
Limited Seats Remaining

Express your interest today for our
'Rider's of Destiny' 100th Anniversary Tour
Israel - Jordan 25 OCT - 8 NOV 2017:

Call our official travel agents for full details
1300 550 830

VISION CHRISTIAN TOURS

Call our official travel agents for full details
1300 550 830

The charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba (1917), painted by George Lambert (1920), at the Palestine Gallery in the Australian War Memorial.



On 17th March 1917 a young man fronted up to volunteer for the war at the recruitment centre in Mildura, Victoria.

Harold Thomas Bell came from Walpeup, near Ouyen. He gave his age as 21, and said his name was Harold Thomas Wickham. He could ride a horse well and shoot a gun as he had worked on his father's farm. The young man was accepted. In actual fact, he was only 16 years old, and he had run away from home, seeking adventure. He joined the 4th Light Horse regiment. His first major assignment was with the troops marching through the desert for three nights to get to the town of Beersheba, where Abraham had dug a well over 3,000 years ago and made a covenant with Abimelech (Gen 21:22-34).

During the ANZAC charge of the Light Horse in the late afternoon of October 31, 1917, he was struck on the leg and suffered multiple fractures and loss of

blood. He died the following day and is buried in the Be'er Sheva war cemetery.

In memory of Harry Bell and the 100th Anniversary of the dramatic Light Horse Charge that broke the Turkish line, liberated the city of Beersheba, opened the way for Jerusalem to come into British hands, and ultimately for the Jewish people to return to their Biblical homeland and for Israel to become a nation again, a partnership of organisations (Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce, Shekinah Tours, Beersheba 100 committee, Jewish National Fund, Melbourne Racing Club, and The Jericho Cup) is running an art competition for students in Years 9-10.

The aim is to encourage teachers and students to study the Middle Eastern campaign of World War 1, instead of just focusing on Gallipoli and the Western Front. There were 32,000 Australian men and 40,000

horses in the Palestinian campaign and the casualties were 1,394 dead and 4,851 wounded. 136,000 horses went to war and only one returned.

The theme of the competition is: 'Mates - The contribution of the ANZAC horses and riders in WW1.'

There will be a number of prizes offered, with the first prize being a trip for the winning student and an accompanying adult to the Light Horse Commemorations at Be'er Sheva in Israel on October 31, 2017.

Entries open on April 1 and close at 5pm on June 30. Further information & entry forms can be downloaded from the website www.beersheba100.com.au There is also downloadable lesson material for teachers including accompanying powerpoint presentations on this website & www.theanzacall.com.au/schools.html (designed for a Christian audience).

Please spread this word to budding artists.

HARRY BELL* MEMORIAL ART COMPETITION

For Year 9-10 Students, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Beersheba Charge



THEME: MATES – the contribution of Horse and Rider in WW1

FIRST PRIZE: Trip to the Centenary Commemorations in Be'er Sheva, Israel

For more information and entry form visit www.beersheba100.com.au

COMPETITION OPEN APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2017

*Harold Thomas Bell (alias Wickham) was 16 years old when he died on Nov 1 1917 as a result of wounds sustained in the charge at Beersheba

"THE CHARGE" by Ron Marshall

A partnership of Beersheba100.com.au, Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce, Jewish National Fund, Shekinah Tours, Melbourne Racing Club, The Jericho Cup)



It was dawn October 31st, 1917. The Australian Light Horse were ready, behind a ridge 6 kilometres south-east of Beersheba. They started at a trot, rising to a gallop across a gently sloping field. Deep trenches were scattered to catch unsuspecting horse and rider. As I walked the length of that historic arena, my heart filled with admiration and respect for our gallant men.

"The horses were shying aside from the shell bursts. A thin haze of smoke and dust began to rise, but the three lines of horses moved steadily forward. The first half-mile was the worst. After that, much of the fire seemed to be going over our heads. As we learned later, the Turks had ranged all their weapons on us but the sight of us Australians coming from an entirely unexpected direction and bearing down on them was demoralizing, and they had forgotten to bring their sights down as we advanced."

— One hundred years ago Australian Light Horseman Jim Henderson made that comment in his diary.

Last February Prime Minister Netanyahu met at Admiralty House. When he responded to the warm welcome by the Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Netanyahu said;

"I'm honoured to be the first Israeli Prime Minister to officially visit Australia, God it has been a long time coming. It celebrates really, 100 years of friendship of Australia to the Jewish people and their state."

Specifically Prime Minister Netanyahu referenced the Australian Lighthorse and their valiant victory at Beersheba:

"The charge of the Light Horse Brigade is not only etched in your memory; it is etched in our memory. In fact, we are going to celebrate this and I've invited you and your delegation to mark this extraordinary event, the last successful cavalry charge in history that liberated Beersheba. We will celebrate this event in Be'er Sheva, in Israel. We would like you to know that when you come there, you come as a great friend of our people and our civilization."

Israel is preparing to celebrate Beersheba and the Australian Light Horse. Not only did those horse-back heroes ride courageously into Beersheba, their chivalry charged right on into political deliberations of the British War Cabinet. For most of 1917 British leaders had been talking Palestine. They worked through numerous drafts in an attempt to solve the Jew-Arab crisis expeditiously. World War 1 posed critical possibilities. If Britain and their allies were triumphant what rewards might follow?

In 1915 Britain promised Hussein, the Sharif of Mecca, support for an independent Arab kingdom in return for his willingness to mount an Arab revolt against the Ottomans, an ally of Germany in the war. The Sharif of Mecca assumed their promise included Palestine. But in 1916 Britain made a secret deal with France. Under what was called the Sykes-Picot agreement Palestine (a British military designation) was to be placed under international control.

The British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, as early as 1916, openly supported Zionism, a movement led in Britain by Chaim Weizman. The British War Cabinet guided by the Prime Minister created the Jewish Legion, the only armed Jewish force to fight in Palestine for 2000 years.

Several British political leaders, including Balfour, believed in the righteousness of Zionism. They also hoped to gain Zionist support in the United States and in Russia where the anti-semitic Czar and his government had been overthrown because of vigorous Jewish activity. There was passionate debate in the British Parliament not least of all with anti-Zionist Jews who feared repercussions against Jews in Europe, America and the Ottoman Empire. The final approving came with support from France, the United States and Italy



(including the Vatican) In the midst of these tensions came the encouraging news from Beersheba.

The document addressed to Lord Rothschild was dated 2nd November, 1917 and said: "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

It was signed by the British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, although he was the signatory rather than the driving force. In 1917 the Balfour Declaration was just a statement of British policy. It

was formally adopted at a meeting of victorious allied powers at San Remo, Italy in 1920.

In the UK Prime Minister Theresa May is exhorting her countrymen to show pride in the Balfour Declaration. Last March Arab activists called on the UK to apologise for it. They called for compensation suffered

from what they called the 'biggest social injustice of all time.'

'The Balfour Declaration may be the most extraordinary document produced by any government in world history,' according to the *Institute of Historical Review*. Controversial, unique and the key to Jews from around the world returning to their promised land.

Christians are preparing to honour and celebrate the centenary. Referring to the Balfour Declaration, a group called the Balfour 100 say;

"One other event took place on 31st October, 1917, which was key to the intentions in the Declaration. General Allenby won a key battle against the Turks and Germans for the desert town of Beersheva. Without a plan for the future, the victory at Beersheva would have been just another battle in a long and bloody war, footnote in history. The two events, occurring at the same time yet thousands of miles apart, was a sure sign that this was God bringing His plan for the Jewish people's restoration to their land closer to fulfillment." (See balfour100.org)



Ron Ross: former national director of Bridges for Peace, Australia working in Jerusalem for five years. Now he's the Middle East correspondent for Vision Christian Radio and a popular speaker.

www.ronross.org | ronandyvonne@mac.com

— **Australian Speaking Tour** | *May / June 2017* —



HAYOVEL

Serving Israel's Farmers

As a non-profit organization, *HaYovel* supports Israeli farmers in Judea and Samaria by bringing Christian volunteers to work in the vineyards and olive groves. In turn, volunteers connect to the Biblical heartland of Israel, its people and the prophetic restoration occurring in Israel.

We are excited about the next Australian *HaYovel Speaking Tour* being arranged for

May/June this year; Joshua Waller (Director Operations) and his wife Katelyn will be visiting from early May to early June. Joshua wrote and recorded the impactful song 'I Believe'.

The *HaYovel* team would love to connect with you to tell you more about *its* work in Israel and the restoration occurring in the Biblical heartland, or to speak at your church or congregation.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

for presentations or hosted events can be directed to our Australian Advocates Deon & Leoni van Baalen at:

deon@hayovel.com or 0487 090 882



DEREK PRINCE MINISTRIES presents ...



Israel's Soon Coming King

Bible Prophecy Seminar

with Amir Tsarfati (Behold Israel)
& Robyn Green-Beezley

NSW

Saturday 22nd July 2017

Conference Venue

St Anne's Ryde Auditorium

42 Church Street Ryde NSW

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: TBA

See website for future updates and details

VIC

Saturday 29th July 2017

Shalom Israel Seminar


Crossway Baptist Church

2 Vision Drive, Burwood East VIC

For details see www.shalomisrael.com.au


Our Guest Speakers

AMIR TSARFATI



Former IDF officer & renowned expert on Bible Prophecy & Israeli current events

ROBYN GREEN-BEEZLEY



A 30 year career as one of Australia's most respected Gospel singers.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

The Wars of Israel – God's Protection

Understanding the times – Syria, Russia & Iran

Our Great Southland

The Mystery of the Rapture

Tickets: \$40

REGISTER ONLINE:
derekprince.com.au

Please note that DPM will provide refreshments for morning and afternoon tea but no lunch. Bring your own lunch or you can buy from the various food outlets in the vicinity of each venue's local areas.

NOTE: AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE THE FINAL SESSION

Looking for gift ideas?

Order online or see back page for order form.

www.c4israel.com.au/store

facebook.com/c4israelAUS

A GIFT YOUR LOVED ONES WILL TREASURE FOR A LIFETIME!

or order on page 12 of this paper

Mens Watch

SKU: 2092GFT

RRP \$125ea

Ladies Watch

SKU: 173GFT

our gift to you for your gift of: \$100*

"...for such a time as this."

*while stocks last. not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or donation.

Since Biblical Times

Adi | Adi Watches The only Israeli – made timepiece for over 30 years

Why Israel?

\$30

2 DVD SET

Why Jerusalem?

\$20

DVD

Why End Times?

\$20

DVD

Study Guides

\$10 each

Paperback

Trilogy DVD Bundle

SAVE \$10 NEW!

\$60

4 DVD PACK

Trilogy Book Bundle

SAVE \$10

\$30

Paperback

Whilst musing at the Rodgers the other night, over all the work that is involved with organising the Australian Light Horse Tour, a member of our little Shabbat group put up this photo (right) on Barry's TV screen. It was uplifting to be reminded that just as Elisha said to his servant "Don't be afraid – those who are with us outnumber those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16), that we too can claim the same promise as we labour away, knowing it to be true as are God's many other promises in His Word.

We thought it was interesting too that what Elisha's servant ultimately saw was "the mountain... covered in horses and fiery chariots"!!! How fitting when the ALHA Reenactment Tour is all about remembering the charge at Beersheba by our forefathers 100 years ago, racing across those 6 miles of open ground on their faithful walers into enemy fire that helped bring about the modern day state of Israel. The task of all groups organising tours to commemorate this feat is in no way on a par with what our forefathers did, but I can assure our pray-ers, that leaders and travel agents are being stretched to the hilt, so please continue to ask the Lord to uplift and sustain them at all times. Also that each one will be alerted to any gaps/tasks in their flights, itineraries, hotel/bus lists etc and the commemoration of the big day itself.

Barry Rodgers OAM and Kelvin Crombie have asked if I could help coordinate people to pray for the ALHA Tour and in conjunction with Barry's wife Gwentyth, attempt to keep you updated on a regular basis with specific needs as they arise, but hopefully not so you feel inundated.

As I am in contact with the leaders of many other tours happening in Beersheva on October 31st I also feel to include some prayer points for them.

We will all be there God willing and it would be great if we could all feel as one and even be united in prayer throughout the whole day. If passing this Prayer Article onto others please be discreet and mindful of topics that could be a sensitive issue to some.

Regarding October 31st Itself:

Pray for Barry Rodgers as he meets with the Israeli Ambassador and JNF on the 24th of March to further discuss all things pertinent to the success of the ALHA Reenactment Tour.

We are believing to see 100 horses walking through the streets lined



with perhaps 1000's of flag waving Israeli's: this has brought to mind the need to pray that the horses maintain their balance on the bitumen.

Especially pray for those who will be responsible for SECURITY as just as we and many Israeli's are excited about this event we also know there are many Arab groups totally opposed to commemorating this day and the subsequent release of the Balfour Declaration and all that it contained re "the establishment of a Jewish Homeland". Of no less importance is the need for safety as the ALHA Tour goes into Turkey, Egypt and Jordan. This is being promoted as "A Ride for Peace" so let's pray that His Shalom will cover all participants and all onlookers.

There is still no word on whether all the horses will be allowed to parade through the street but **pray for Kelvin Crombie in Israel during the month of April as he discusses this matter** and many other issues with the relevant Israeli people/bodies.

Pray for the Beersheva Municipality Personnel as they attempt to cater for the influx of 1000's of people on October 31st especially when space at the cemetery and at the Park for the Australian Soldier is limited.

Pray for more riders to register for the Tour (another 16 desirable) and that the Aboriginal Riders in particular gain their Passports speedily. Currently there are 84 Riders and 60 Non Riders registered Praise God. 8 Aboriginal Riders are included in this figure although individuals still need to raise some finance despite their overall costs being heavily sponsored. Pray also that the Aboriginal Riders and their

community will remain focused on the main goal of the Tour and that is to honour the role that the Aboriginal Light Horsemen played in WW1 and to take pride in what their forefathers did.

Pray for adequate participants for all the Tours that are planning to participate in the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary and for their safekeeping as they travel throughout the Land. Currently 20 separate groups from Oz have been identified but there may be more and from other nations. Pray such an influx of supporters will be a witness and encouragement to Israeli's as they commemorate this day and participants in turn will be blessed as they visit the Land of the Bible.

Pray everything God wants to accomplish on this Day (October 31st)

will be fulfilled. (I personally sense it is bigger and higher than what I can comprehend at the moment).

Pray for the successful completion and needed finance of Kelvin's latest documentary '31 October—Destiny's Date' that is designed to reveal the Sovereignty of God in history as per his previous production 'Gallipoli—The Road to Jerusalem'. Pray also for opportunities for this to be viewed by many as it contains powerful interviews with international figures and information on all major events that are converging this year. **Hugh Kitson is also in need of finance for his epic film 'Whose Land'** which will be highlighting the ownership of the Land according to International Law. [See Kelvin's new book details on page 2 of this insert.](#)

Pray for the Art Competition from April 1 to June 30. The aim is to encourage teachers and students to study the Middle Eastern campaign of World War 1, instead of just focusing on Gallipoli and the Western Front. The theme of the competition is 'Mates - The contribution of the ANZAC horses and riders in WW1.' (see details on [page 5](#))

Pray for Barry and Gwentyth Rodgers, Kelvin Crombie, Ian and Mandy Worby and all the Tour Leaders and especially their respective travel agents as they negotiate the logistics involved in arranging Itineraries, Air Flights and each individual's needs.

For future updates and more details contact Joy Heylen on [0439 661 996](tel:0439661996)

JUL/AUG 2017
Australian Speaking Tour



God, Israel & Australia The Destiny of Nations

Nearly 100 years after the ANZAC Light Horseman sacrificed their lives to liberate the area of Palestine from the Ottoman Turks, Australia and New Zealand once again have a unique opportunity to reignite and support the vision made possible by their heroic sons who were God's instruments in opening the door and preparing the way for the Jewish people to return to their homeland.



Come Hear Stan Goodenough

Stan Goodenough is a South African Gentile who has lived in Jerusalem for a quarter of a century. A Christian journalist, writer and tour guide, he believes passionately that Australia is being offered a unique opportunity to lead the way in supporting Israel's God-given and legitimate right to extend sovereignty over its restored land.

For more details and if you'd like to host Stan please contact Joy Heylen:

joyhey50@gmail.com or [0439661996](tel:0439661996)

Date & Venue details will be available soon at www.c4israel.com.au and in our next edition of *Israel & Christians Today*.

Jubilee of Jerusalem - Aleh

By Roger van Oordt, Director Christians for Israel Netherlands



In May 2017, Jerusalem will have been the undivided capital of Israel for 50 years. For many churches and nations, this is an offence. For you and I, this is a great joy. The Lord Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trampled by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles, are fulfilled. There is an ‘until’.

You and I get to witness that Jerusalem is once again the undivided capital of Israel.

We rejoice that God’s words have come true. In the conquest of Jerusalem by King David, the lame and blind left the city,

they were not welcome. When the great Son of David, the Messiah, sits on His throne, there will be healing for all the lame and blind. He will take their infirmities and bore their diseases.

It’s very special to see that there is now an organisation in Israel that is completely dedicated to children who are physically and mentally disabled. They are so lovingly cared for by parents, staff and volunteers of Aleh.

What a privilege that we got to help. We couldn’t choose a better project for the Jubilee of Jerusalem than Aleh.

Anniversary Gift Aleh

The commemoration of the reunification of Jerusalem will take place on Jerusalem Day, 24 May 2017.

On that day, the first people will move into the special wing at Aleh in Jerusalem. A special moment, made possible because of your support - through prayer and financially - Aleh was able to be built. Children and young adults with multiple disabilities will have a warm and caring home. Your contribution is still welcome!

7-Day Working Trip - Ukraine

By Judy Russell, Australia

“So then, the days are coming when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives who brought the descendants of Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land” (Jeremiah 23:7-8).

My Israel awareness story began in 2001 when I heard a life-changing message from a speaker representing Ebenezer Operation Exodus. This organisation’s work is to bring God’s chosen people home to Israel ‘from the land of the north’. The speaker spoke about her then recent trip to the former Soviet Union, searching for Jewish people in order to invite them to make aliyah.

I will never forget the physical and spiritual impact that message had upon me. The speaker recounted the experience of using local telephone books, searching for Jewish names, knocking on doors and, very movingly, described the responses. Some were too traumatised by millennia of horrendous persecution, including the Holocaust in which many lost every member of their family, to open their door. They remember the pogroms and the Inquisition whereby they were horribly tortured and forced into becoming Christians. However others threw open the door saying “Come in, we knew you would come. God has told us you would be coming for us.”

An invitation to take part in the 7-Day Working Tour in Ukraine accompanied the invitation to the biennial Christians for Israel Conference in Jerusalem. I knew instantly that the Lord was inviting me to take part. It was an unmistakable call and I booked my airline tickets straight away. “See I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders” (Isaiah 49:22). Among many similar Scriptures this verse speaks to me clearly about my

responsibility as a Gentile. When I had an opportunity to become physically involved in this prophetic timetable of eternal consequences, I accepted.

Part of my planned reading during the long hours in the air was “A Sojourn in Siberia - A Tale of Two Fishermen” by Jeanette Esther Garing. In his foreword, Pete Stucken, of Ebenezer Operation Exodus, wrote: “Our generation is witnessing an amazing, dramatic move of God: the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel, the Land God promised to their forefathers to be their inheritance. This book takes the reader behind the scenes accompanying the writer on ‘fishing’ expeditions which, for many Russian Jews, became the trigger in the exciting but often heart-rending process of leaving all that was familiar behind.” I discovered that the book covered two journeys, the first being the very year the Lord opened my eyes to His continuing, unbreakable covenants and promises concerning His beloved nation of Israel and the part the Gentiles will play. Sixteen years later He was now inviting me directly into the work that I had heard about that day as I sat at the back of the theatre in Parliament House, Sydney.

There will be a time when it becomes too dangerous for Jews to live anywhere other than Israel (Jeremiah 16:16). Jesus said we are to be fishers of men. How often have I read that and yet did not see the instruction to also “fish for His chosen ones”. We are witnessing increasing attacks upon Jewish individuals and communities, just as in the 1930’s. Their Father wants them home and is not going to leave any behind. “I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 39:27-29).

My time in Ukraine is difficult to explain adequately. How can one describe listening to the painful, horrifying accounts of heinous crimes committed



upon millions of Ukrainian Jews, recounted by those who survived the horrors? How can one describe the immensity of the mass graves of Jews still being discovered today, each town and village owning its own Baby Yar from various pogroms, ghettos and the holocaust? How do you paint in mere words the sad, haunted, Jewish eyes filled with pain and anguish as they recall the memories of hatred, contempt, cruelty and near starvation that brought them, as human beings, to despair and to employ desperate methods to survive? How can I explain the brief glimmer of hope in Jewish eyes when told they are loved, respected and valued so very highly by God and by tens of thousands of Christians in many nations?

It was such an honour for me to meet and work briefly with Koen Carlier and his Christians for Israel team in Ukraine. What wonderful work they are doing for the Lord as He beckons to the Gentiles to bring His people home.

Reaching out to the Jewish communities in Ukraine involves travelling many miles on atrocious winter and spring roads through ice, snow and mud as they bring comfort and practical assistance to Jews in need.

Packing 2000 food parcels at a Baptist church and distributing them to Jewish folk, together with love and encouragement to make aliyah to Israel, was such a joyful experience, albeit in the midst of the ongoing tragedy that is Ukraine. The need to have an international passport for the increasingly urgent times for Ukrainian Jews is vital.

Koen gently explained this each time we met individuals or groups, explaining that financial and practical assistance was forthcoming from Christians for Israel and the Jewish Agency. Some were keen, others a little more resistant but all very aware of the rising hostility. With the continuing war in East Ukraine there could be a very significant and rapid escalation of terror for Jewish communities at any time. God wants His people home.

Ukraine has never repented of its shocking past and it’s still very anti-Semitic present. I pray that repentance does occur as currently this nation’s future is under the judgement of Joel 3:2 and Matthew 25:31-33. Let us stand in the gap for our own nations so, at the coming of the Lord, we would be judged as sheep nations because of how we treated His beloved first-born son, Israel.

God of Israel and Christian Theology

By Jeroen Bol, Chairman, Jules Isaac Foundation, Netherlands

Part One. With references to the book with the same title by R. Kendall Soulen.

Sometime in 2007 it became clear to me for the first time how seriously the history of Christendom is laden with anti-Judaism.

Since then, the anti-Jewish theology of the early church, the anti-Jewish legislation since Emperor Constantine and the many massacres among the Jews since the crusades has raised enormous questions in my mind. The most urgent one was how all this could be reconciled with the Gospel of forgiveness and brotherly love that has become so dear to me for many years. It is hopefully clear that they are irreconcilable. The history of the origin of replacement theology is inextricably linked to the anti-Judaism of the early church. And what are we to think of the reformed theology that has also been dear to me for a very long time? It became clear to me, after much study, that this tradition is also marked by replacement theology that goes back to the early church fathers Justin and Irenaeus - replacement theology that eventually got its definitive form under Augustine, the father of the fathers of the church.

These were extremely shocking discoveries as far as I was concerned. What was wrong, for goodness' sake, with that splendid Gospel that had so evidently set my own life back on the rails in a positive way years ago, following a deep personal crisis? Or was there nothing wrong with the Gospel but a lot with what the church had made of that Gospel through the centuries? And why did I discover this sad tradition of Christian anti-Judaism this late, at the age of 56, after years of quite extensive study in theology and church history? Plenty of questions!

Looking for an Alternative

Diligently, and sometimes almost despairingly, I started looking for a theological model that had to fulfil three conditions as far as I was concerned. First of all, it had to be totally devoid of any kind of replacement theology, or it had at least to testify to its intention to want to radically divest itself thereof. Secondly, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of the kingdom of God, had to continue to shine in that model. Thirdly, the crown jewels of classical theology – inasmuch as they are able to pass the test of Scripture – had to remain standing in the new theology that was to be formulated. I am thinking in this respect among other things of the incarnation of Jesus, the trinity and the conviction that the Gospel is for the Jew and the Greek. Such a theological concept proved difficult to find. After a lot of research I finally came across a book by the American systematic theologian, R. Kendall Soulen, *The God of Israel and Christian Theology*.

Soulen graduated with this study from the renowned university of Yale, in the US, at the beginning of the nineties. His analysis of replacement theology appeared in book form in 1996. This book is a real goldmine for anyone who is searching for a theology that has been able to totally divest itself of replacement theology whilst at the same time striving to remain within the framework of classical confession. Is that possible? Yes, it appears so. Thanks be to God! It is my opinion that this book, which has been much praised by both Christian and Jewish authors in the meantime, fulfils the three aforementioned criteria completely.

Theological Arguments Paramount

It is my strong conviction that Soulen's profound theological analysis of replacement theology is the most thorough analysis ever carried out. Since Soulen uses the more academic term *supersessionism* instead of the more familiar *replacement theology*, I will use both terms alternately in my contributions.

>> *Soulen's knowledge of historical theology is impressive. His theological analysis of supersessionism within the historical context of the history of its origin in the early church is intelligent and balanced.*

In his analysis of the history of the origin of Christian anti-Judaism, Soulen always keeps away, as far as possible, from the well-known polemic with reference to the Shoah. Furthermore, Soulen in no way underestimates the relationship between the Shoah and the tradition of the 'teaching of contempt' (of the Jews), but he chooses consciously to construct his reasoning solely upon theological arguments. (The term *teaching of contempt* is coined by the French Jewish historian Jules Isaac, most known by his ground-breaking masterpiece *Jesus and Israel*, published shortly after the Second World War. It stands for the classical replacement theology in which all the curses in the OT are for the Jews as a cursed people and all the blessings are for the Church as the new Israel). The following quotation (page 5) sets the tone for the whole of his book:

"Certainly, one can criticize supersessionism on grounds that are not specifically theological. For instance, one might argue on psychological grounds that supersessionism is problematic because it instils feelings of hatred and contempt toward Jews. Yet even if such claims could be proven false, supersessionism would remain problematic on theological grounds. If Christians today are rethinking their traditional theological posture toward the Jewish people, it must be because of the reasoned conviction that in doing so they are more truthful and more faithful to the God whom they worship and confess. To do so merely out of a desire to avoid offense or in a

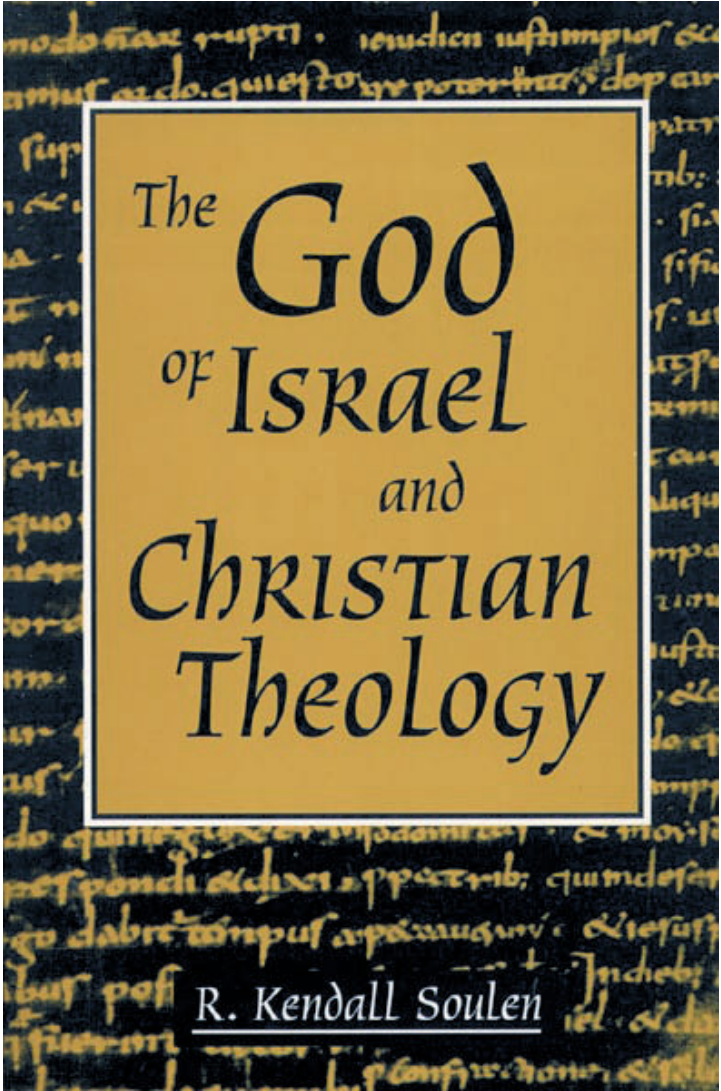
spirit of "theological reparations" would contribute nothing to the genuine reform of Christian living, and would in the long run contribute only to cynicism and disappointment. Only when recognition of supersessionism's theological inadequacy stands at the centre of the church's new posture toward the Jewish people are there real grounds to hope for a renewal of Christian theology and Christian living."

The book consists of two parts. In the first section Soulen discusses the history of the origin of replacement theology in the early church, i.e. the role of the church fathers Justin and Irenaeus, which he discusses in detail.

Soulen rightly regards these two early theologians as the founders of replacement theology. He goes on to describe how supersessionism further developed and what effects it produced in the thinking of four key, representative figures in later Christianity: Kant and Schleiermacher, and Karl Barth and Karl Rahner. Soulen has a plural agenda. He not only explains why supersessionism is theologically untenable and why it has severely complicated the relationship between the church and the synagogue for centuries. He also demonstrates that the early and virtually complete break with Judaism has weakened and damaged the church substantially. In other words: according to Soulen, the church will only gain by divesting itself of the deeply radical, 1,800 year old theological legacy of replacement theology. It is striking that Soulen often appeals to the well-known German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as far as this last point is concerned.

It is impossible to discuss the whole of Soulen's book within the scope of this article – and even more so because the book is written in a very compact form. It contains an exceptional richness of new insights and astute observations for a book of less than 200 pages. I shall therefore limit myself to a few of his principle ideas.

Soulen begins his book by establishing that Christian theology, from its very outset, has had to deal with the amazingly complex difficulty of confessing the God of Israel while that same Israel apparently does not accept the Gospel of Jesus. The early church solved this problem very quickly by teaching that it was now the new, spiritual Israel. It's here that the



birth of supersessionism must be seen: the church has taken over Israel's place. Henceforth the Jewish people served primarily to endorse the correctness of Christian theology. That was the teaching and the practice of the church for over 1800 years, until this evil theological dream shattered into pieces by the alarming reality of the Shoah. Next to this it was the foundation of the state of Israel which raised serious questions for the whole concept of replacement theology.

Soulen then goes on to describe how the poverty of classic supersessionism could no longer be hidden after the Holocaust: Christians could do no else but to recognize the relationship between their supersessionism and this diabolical drama – which indeed, praise God, happened more and more during the decades after the Shoah.

I quote Soulen: *"Revisiting the teaching of supersessionism after nearly two thousand years, many churches have now publicly confessed that fidelity to the gospel requires the rejection of supersessionism and the affirmation of God's own unbroken fidelity to the Jewish people."*

Yet far from bringing the church's relation to the God of Israel to equilibrium, this confession has thrust the church into new and far-reaching perplexities. For the rejection of supersessionism is fraught with profound implications for the whole range of Christian theological reflection, and the full extent of these implications is still far from fully clear. But perplexities such as these come with the promise of blessing, for they arise out of wrestling with the living God."

First Home in the Homeland Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Orly Wolstein, 'First Home in the Homeland', Project Manager Jewish Agency for Israel

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

The words from *Psalm 133* describe the events of 9 March 2017, when First Home in the Homeland celebrated its 25th Jubilee! To celebrate such a wonderful milestone, we invited over 500 special guests to spend the day with us in the kibbutz Tzuba, located in the hills near Jerusalem. The guest list included olim (participants of our programme), our precious friends from Christians for Israel, the Israeli Minister of Aliyah and Integration Mrs. Sofa Landver, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel Mr. Natan Sharansky, Head of the Department of Aliyah, Absorption and Special Operations of the Jewish Agency Mr. Yehuda Sharf and other honoured guests.

Olim, from the south (Arava Desert, Negev) to upper Galilee and Jordan Valley arrived with their families and enjoyed the celebration in the big amusement park with its different attractions. It was the first time for some of the participants from the programme to meet again after ten, or even 20 years, of living in Israel! Their lives in the Holy Land are totally different, but all of them have one thing in common – all of them started their way here from a kibbutz. Even after all these years, their First Home in the Homeland is forever in their hearts.

The Sherbinin family arrived in Israel two years ago, in the Eshkol region near the Gaza Strip from Omsk, Russia. Back then they were a newly married couple. When they arrived at the celebration, they brought one more Israeli – their baby, born five months ago in Ashkelon!

The celebration took place on the eve of Purim, a Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill all the Jews.



Christians for Israel receiving their certificates

One of the traditions of Purim is a carnival, where people dress up as princes and princesses, fairies and elves. In Hebrew, Purim is written מרבין בשמחה, which means ‘multiplying the joy’.

We were honoured to share this celebration with our friends from Christians for Israel who came to Jerusalem for the 2017 International Leadership Forum. There were about 80 people from different corners of the world, who are strongly connected to Israel and its people.

Christians for Israel were not just guests at this celebration, their role in the First in the Homeland programme is immense. Four years ago, First Home in the Homeland was about to be closed because of lack of funding, but Christians for Israel stepped in and took over supporting the programme. All the Jewish families that have been able to have a smooth arrival to the kibbutzim all over Israel were able to do so thanks to the support of our Christian friends all over the world.

During the ceremony in Tzuba, a number of talented olim performed music and

songs. We thanked our friends from Christians for Israel with certificates of honour. Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Elena Kovarsky, Head of the First Home in the Homeland programme, received certificates of the special friendship between Christians for Israel and JAFI.

Koen Carlier and Natalia Krizhanovsky from Christians for Israel Ukraine, arrived to Tzuba early, and they had an important reason for that!

Many olim families recognised them instantly, because this Christians for Israel team started their aliyah! After visiting them in Ukraine and bringing these families to the airport, Koen and Natalia came to see how they were enjoying life in Israel. Not only are there Jews from Ukraine who made aliyah, but also olim from Russia, Belarus, Moldova, France, Italy, and Hungary. Every family who comes to Israel, has a different background, so to help them adjust to their new lives, Christians for Israel and JAFI meet them upon arrival and ensure their future in the Holy Land is successful.

Syrian Missile Intercepted

Sourced from Unity Coalition for Israel

IAF investigation into the interception of the Syrian missile reveals that ‘there were no dilemmas or questions’ when it came to the decision to launch the Arrow; ‘The missile was supposed to hit the Jordan Valley.’

The Syrian SA5 missile with a warhead carrying 200kg of explosives was supposed to hit the Jordan Valley. The crew that activated the defense system reached the decision to intercept in less than a minute.

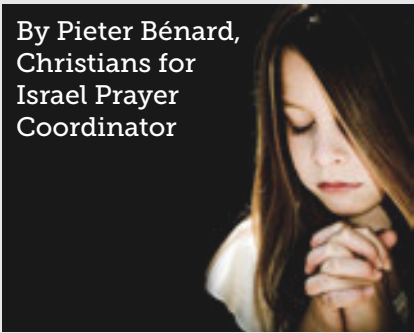
The unusual event occurred on Friday 24 March, after which Israel was forced to admit that Syria had fired an anti-aircraft missile at the jets attacking a Syrian

military outpost in the country. The target of the assault was apparently a concealed weapons delivery bound for Hezbollah.

The Syrian missile launch was carried out from a base approximately 400km from the northern Jordan Valley. According to the findings of the investigation, less than a minute after the Syrian missile was detected and identified as a threat, the aerial defense forces took the initiative to launch the Arrow. “It is a heavy-weight Syrian armament,” said a senior officer in the Air Force, clarifying that the Israeli response was justified.

“We didn’t care if it was a surface-to-surface missile or a surface-to-air missile. There were no dilemmas or doubts, no budgetary considerations. The missile was supposed to hit the Jordan Valley. The Arrow was chosen in accordance with the level of threat and the availability of the defense systems on hand. There was no other option except to intercept. We operate with manual control, since you can never know how a given missile would ‘behave’ in flight. Its engine or other components can decompose along the way, changing its intended course,” said the IAF officer.

Prayer Points



By Pieter Bénard, Christians for Israel Prayer Coordinator

ISRAEL

- Continue to pray for the safety and protection of the Jewish inhabitants in the North of Israel, especially on the border with Lebanon, Syria and on the Golan. The forest fires last November showed that terror can easily spring up again.
- Thank God for the record number of Brazilian Jews who made Aliyah to Israel in 2016, almost 700. In 2015 there were 496, while 280 Jews made Aliyah from Brazil in 2014. Pray that this increase will continue, and pray for their successful integration in Israel.
- As Donald Trump has taken power as democratically elected president in USA, many things will change in relation to other countries and political systems. Will Donald Trump turn out to be like a Cyrus for Israel? (2 Chronicles 36:22-23) In this respect it is important that we pray that God’s request will be done.
- Continue to pray for Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish State of Israel. Terrorist organisations are targeting the Jewish inhabitants. According to them, the City has to be rid of Jews. In their perception there never was a Jewish presence in Jerusalem.
- Thank God for Jerusalem and Israel on the basis of *Psalm 102:21*: “...so the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem.” Give thanks for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel: one city, eternal and indivisible.

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

- Please pray for the leaders of Christians for Israel worldwide. Pray for the many teachings given by Christians for Israel and for the work we do through the media.
- In Ukraine, the war between the Ukrainian army and separatists continues unabated. Pray for safety for the Jewish population and for Aliyah to be continued. Pray also for the Jewish Agency and for the field workers of ‘Ebenezer’ and ‘Christians for Israel’.
- Please pray for several Isreality teams that have recently started in Brazil, Australia, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. Thank God that many young people are reached with the Biblical message about the restoration of Israel.

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

From the Isreality Desk

By Matthew Thorn, Isreality Coordinator, Christians for Israel Australia

Isreality's July 2016 'Experience Israel' tour, was the first trip we've ever hosted for many years, presenting a unique opportunity for thirty young adults (18-35 year olds) to gather in the Biblelands and study, sightsee, volunteer and grow together. This was a special and intense time, in which the group was exposed to a lot, asked a lot and accomplished a lot (but did not sleep a whole lot).

Following the tour, we remained in touch and began to set up teams of like-minded young adults in our respective countries.

Brazil in particular has taken off, with a strong team of young adults, led by 24 year old cardiologist Ana Quêzia Maia. They are supporting the hard work of former lawyer and Anglican pastor, Val Nogueira, who is diligently sharing the message of 'Why Israel?' throughout the whole country.

Isreality has been established in the Netherlands for fifteen years, during which much has been learnt about hosting weekends-away, tours to Israel, publications and outreach. This has resulted in a really neat Dutch community of mature young adults who are deepening their walks with Jesus through learning about God's plan for Israel. Though a little younger, Isreality in Germany is well established and operates under the name "Israel Connect".

As youngsters, many of us do not yet have a great understanding of Israel, nor God's plan for Israel. But, we love the Lord. And, we love his people Israel! We join together in order to ask such questions as, "Who are the Jewish people?", "What is the significance of the Biblelands?" and "What does this mean for my personal walk with Jesus?"

These are important questions which I have been asking God myself, and it's a privilege to walk with others who are similarly deepening their understandings in this area.

For this reason, while I was interning with THINC in the Netherlands last month, I took on the role as Coordinator of Isreality International. Under the wise guidance of Marie-Louise Weissenböck, I will be overseeing the growth of Isreality around the world.

I love Israel. C.S. Lewis once said, "Friends are those who see the same truth: they share it". I love the Church, and love being a part of the Church. There are many others like me, and I meet more of them nearly each week. Jesus said, "I am the way, the Truth and the life". If you're reading this paper, it's most likely that you're at least my parent's age. I have met many of you, and love you too! I give thanks for the wise guidance you are giving to the next generations. Because of

Leaders of Isreality at the Christians for Israel Forum in Jerusalem: Sandra Kämpfer, Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Ana Quêzia Maia, Matthew Thorn, Chiara Canciani



this, I must be clear: our generation is different from yours! Yes, we need to learn from you. Yes, we ought to demonstrate gratitude for the learning and prayer and service that has been done by you and generations before you. However, just listen to me for a moment... The Bible says that fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. The return of the Jews to Eretz Yisrael from the late 1800's and the revival of the Hebrew language is unprecedented in world history. You know this better than I do. Still today, more and more Jews from all over the world are making aliyah. Prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Now, if a young one can see this in person: if your son or daughter can look into the eyes of a recent Olim, hear the Hebrew language being spoken on Jaffa St, rub shoulders with religious Jews at the Kotel, and serve alongside local Israelis who are volunteering out of their love for Zion; then, perhaps it will be easier for us to catch a glimpse of this fearful work of the Lord. Our God keeps his promises. If he will keep his promises to his people Israel, we can be sure that he will keep his promises to us as Christians.

These are pretty big things for a young person to take on for themselves. They are especially difficult if our friends show no interest in the subject. I have been fortunate enough to have visited Israel with close mates of mine: four of us from Melbourne joined a group of Dutch men and women on a tour in 2014. However, now it's no longer necessary for your nephew or niece to find a few friends to join them to experience Israel. With Isreality, they will certainly make new friends in the land! Even more important than visiting the land of Israel, it is

important to have a group of people around us at home who want to learn about Israel too. This is really why Isreality exists.

At the end of last year, a small group of my friends visited the Holocaust museum in Elsternwick, Melbourne, where we met with a survivor from Poland named Gary (formally Gustav). The visit had a profound impact on each of us. Holocaust survivors will not be with us for many more years, so it's important for us to meet with them and hear their stories in person while we still can.

Last year, there were five Aussies on the Experience Israel trip. This year, there are already three of us registered. If you want to join us, or if your son, daughter, or someone in your church's youth group would like to join us: support them! We need your help. And, if the timing of the trip this year won't work for them, at least make sure that they get in touch with me. If I can't meet you in person, I'm always available on Skype and email. At Christians for Israel and Isreality, we are like family. Jump on isreality.org to check out what we've been up to, or give the Isreality International Facebook page a like to follow our Bible studies, prayer points and updates.

So, Isreality is yet very young and very small in Australia. At the Forum, a Danish affiliate advised me that projects like Isreality will take time: "It's like eating an elephant", he said in my ear, "Take it one bite at a time." Reaching Australia's young adults with the message of Why Israel? is a big project. We'll take it one bite at a time, and you're officially invited to help us out.

Volunteering in Israel

Having a gap year? No vacation plans yet? Are you finished school or starting your retirement? Or maybe just too much time on your hands? Go and volunteer for Aleh in Israel!

At Aleh professional caretakers and motivated volunteers take care of children with multiple disabilities. Are you available for at least a month to join the Aleh-team?

Email: simon@aleh-israel.org



EXPERIENCE ISRAEL YOUNG ADULTS TOUR 2017

Join Christians for Israel leaders and young adults from around the world



Thirteen days in Israel that will change your life!
9-21 July 2017

Some of the Highlights

4 days voluntary work in Jerusalem | Meeting with young Israelis
Staying in a house in Givat Yearim (near Jerusalem) (Self catering)
Day tours to Tel Aviv, Galilee, Dead Sea, Negev Desert
Political tour to Gilo, Gush Etzion and an Arab village | One night camping under the stars in the desert
Daily teachings about Israel from Biblical, historical and legal perspectives
Yad Vashem and the Knesset
Lots of time for fellowship and worship

info@isreality.org | Registration: www.isreality.org/tour2017

ISREALITY IS THE CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-35 Y.O.)

Letters of the Aleph-beit: Tet U

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

The ninth letter of the alphabet is tet. The numerical value therefore is nine. The number fifteen is written as tet-vav (9+6), because the combination yud-he (10+5) represents the Name of God.

The tet represents a strong t-sound (as opposed to the tav, the last letter of the alphabet). The original form of the tet is a circle with two crossing lines in it. In Hebrew, the sign developed in the round letter and in Greek, in the letter theta (Θ), although the sound in Greek

is significantly different from the Semitic sound.

The tet is the first letter of the word ‘tov’, ‘good’, with which it is always associated (see Psalm 119:65, 66, 71 and 72). The Talmud says that the tet means, that God does well (tov) to those who observe His commandments.

Likewise is its first appearance in the Bible: “God saw the light, that it was ‘tov’”. In the account of the creation, we hear seven times that God saw that it

was good, of which two times on the third day. On the sixth day, everything was even ‘very good’.

You could say that the form of the letter is turned inwards. This refers to an inner, hidden goodness. In Genesis 24:16, we read, that Rebecca was a very beautiful girl. Literally, it reads: ‘good (tova) of countenance’.

The same is said about Bathsheba, in 2 Samuel 11:2. Tov is one of the eight synonyms for beauty in Hebrew. It

indicates inner beauty that is embodied by Rebecca and Bathsheba.

The round, inward shape also reminds of a pregnant woman. The secret of the tet is the strength of the mother to carry the good that is hidden in her for nine months (tet is nine!)

Through the dedication of man to God, all of reality becomes ‘pregnant’ of God’s infinite goodness and beauty. Thus, it brings harmony and peace to heaven and earth.

ANZAC’s and Israeli’s - A Deep Bond

By Barry Rodgers OAM, ALHA Director



During both World Wars, Australian troops spent a lot of time in the land, now known as Israel. Usually based there during the bloody battles against Vichy France in what is now known as Syria and Lebanon, the troops endeared themselves greatly to the local population.

Whilst travelling on our 2007 “In the Steps of the Light Horse Tour”, for the 90th Anniversary of the Charge, a lady came up to us in great excitement with a little package in her hand, more like a little jewel box, and she lifted up the lid and showed us a rising sun badge that an Australian trooper had given her as a

young child in the 1940’s. It was obvious that she treasured it deeply.

On that same trip as we paraded our horses through the streets of Beersheba a gentleman pushed through the crowd and thrust a letter into the hands of one of our members. (Here is a copy of that letter):

31 October 2007 - Sixty-five years ago, I met your fathers or relatives, here in Israel. They were the Aussies we all loved and cherished, from the very moment we met them. My mother’s home was “a home away from home” for the Australian Soldiers. That was when they taught me some of their songs, among them, Waltzing-Matilda, Beer Barrel Polka, and Bless Them All. When the dear ones had to leave to the Western-Desert, I followed them by listening to the BBC and on maps, from Mersah-Matruch – El-

Alamain, to their Battles of Bardia and the long heroic battle under siege in and around Tobruk.

*I remember very well Lt. General Thomas Blamey, the Commander of the 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions. I continued following them in Greece and the Island of Crete. When the Japanese bombers attacked Darwin and later other towns and they were called to defend your motherland, I again followed their heroic deeds in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville and the Kokoda Trail, New Guinea. I can still see the blind Australian soldier being led by his friend, in knee deep mud returning from the battle, on that notorious trail. For me, they are **eternal heroes. And not less are you - their sons.** I salute you! God Bless you all.*

Negby Oded-major, Petach, Tikva, Israel

I struck up a friendship with this wonderful Israeli and in 2012 when I heard he was seriously ill, I visited him again. He threw his arms around me, kissed me on both cheeks and wept while holding me in his arms. The following week I learned that he had passed away.

I can attest to many other similar stories as I have travelled around Israel as leader of several Australian Light Horse Re-enactment Tours. These trips have served to rekindle many of these old relationships between our two countries.

Based on our previous experiences, Kelvin Crombie and I, as leaders of the upcoming Re-enactment tour of the 100th Anniversary of the Charge, expect a similar warm response from the Israelis.

Martin Lehmann

By Joachim Kudlek, Christians for Israel Germany



After a period of illness, Martin Lehmann (born 1950) passed away peacefully on 23 February 2017, ten days after his 67th birthday. From August 2002 until his retirement in June 2015, Martin Lehmann and his wife Hannelore, were involved in Christians for Israel Germany. They felt the calling of the Lord to work for Israel and the Jewish people. His friendly, generous and helpful nature, his expertise and his wealth of experience, his tremendous willingness to serve and his flexibility as well as his hospitality

marked all his activities. The basis for this was his steadfast faith in the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and a great love for Israel and a deep bond with the Jewish people. After his retirement, Martin continued to help with the newsletters and newspaper of Christians for Israel Germany.

Martin leaves behind his wife Hannelore, five children, six grandchildren as well as four children-in-law. We have lost not only a great friend of the Jewish people and Israel, but an extraordinary colleague and person, who you rarely find. But we have the certainty that we will see each other in eternity.

Emergency Aid Fires: Israel

In late November, Israel was struck by fires that were quickly fanned by strong winds and a severe drought in the country. Many people were in danger and were evacuated.

It was soon clear that this was not just a matter of a natural disaster, but fires deliberately started by Arab terrorists. Miraculously, with almost 200 fires, no one lost their life. However, we knew that people would be in need of immediate relief. Through an appeal on our website and newspaper, people from all over the world donated generously.

Together with Israeli partners, Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency, we were able to offer these funds to the affected families. 700 families lost their homes and all their belongings. They were granted US \$1,000 to help them to buy basic necessities such as clothes and medicine.

People gratefully accepted our help; they had not expected to receive help so fast and so specific. While distributing the funds, the people were told how donations from around the world made it possible. Oshra from Bet Meir, situated on the hills west of Jerusalem was overcome by the generosity. “Please tell all those wonderful people how grateful I am. I

really needed this help. It is a blessing.”

Shai, a native of Haifa, had his home destroyed in the fires. “I could not believe my luck, when I heard that I would receive such an allowance. There will be compensation for the damage from the government but this allowance was the first aid we received.”



Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, visiting one of the victims whose house was destroyed by the recent fires in Israel

Acts of War Blaze Up in Ukraine

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Aliyah Fieldworker

Good and bad news! Let's start with the good news. The additional emergency aid action is now in full swing.

During the past weeks we were able to pack and distribute hundreds of extra food parcels. With another truckload on the way, we will be able to pack another 1000 food parcels. In early February, we took two minibuses with olim in, to the airport for their departure to Israel. Amongst them was an 82-year-old Holocaust survivor. Their flight was scheduled to take off at 3am, but due to dense fog their flight was cancelled. We had to take them back to their villages, until the night before their departure, where they stayed in our shelter in Kiev. They finally flew out to Israel the next morning.

Worrisome Situation

The acts of war in East Ukraine flared up again at the end of January 2017, with a lot of casualties on both sides, including civilians. It is piercing cold now with temperatures far below zero at night. Most of the fighting takes place 5km away in the city of Donetsk. The population of over one million has halved since the conflict broke out.

Most of the fighting took place near the town of Avdeeka and Mariupol, an industrial city with a population of

450,000, was hit by a large number of missiles, resulting in 165 civilian casualties. Rabbi Mendel called me twice from Mariupol, telling me that during morning prayers, the walls of the small synagogue were trembling because of the heavy artillery.

Jews in Mariupol

Approximately 5000 Jews live in Mariupol. Many of the young families have already gone to Israel but the elderly are in doubt! In cooperation with Rabbi Mendel we were able to open a small soup kitchen. We also support the people who need medication but can't afford them.

This winter we have handed out 650 food parcels in East Ukraine already. This week a new truckload of food arrived for the very poorest, but more will be needed in the near future. A number of Jewish families who want to leave for Israel can't get out because of the unsafe situation.

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in the East is following the situation closely. We ask you to pray for the protection of our field workers and co-workers of the Jewish Agency and also for Rabbi Mendel who lives in the East with his wife and three little children!

Please send your donation for this emergency food care programme - See below.

BRING THE JEWS HOME

Thank You from the Jewish Community in Ukraine

From the AKSELROD FAMILY

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at Christians for Israel for the food parcels. More than a year ago, to get away from the fighting, my wife and I left Donetsk and moved to Mariupol. As an elderly couple, having to leave everything behind, we have found it to be very difficult. We miss our loved ones and struggle to make ends meet. I would like to emphasize that your work is very important for us. Many of us don't know how to ask for help. Our Jewish identity teaches us not to get discouraged and always put our trust in the Almighty. I am so happy that His help came through you! I am so happy that my prayers were answered and that God used your hands to support the Jews. Thank you for your friendship and your generous hearts! **Igor Akselrod**

From the SAENKO FAMILY

Our family, like many others, living in the cities of the Donbass region are trapped in a war zone. We fled the horrors of the war to more peaceful towns in Ukraine. Leaving behind our dear friends and relatives, we had to leave our jobs and home, leave everything. My children go to school and I work as a guard in a restaurant, even though I am highly educated and had my own small business in Donetsk. My wife is still looking for work. In spite of the difficulties, we are not discouraged, and thank God, that on our journey we have met sincere and caring people who have provided real help. The food parcels from Christians

for Israel has helped our family to survive. They are a real help! I do not know how to put into words all the feelings that I have. Thank you very much. May your fund grow and become better! I wish you a lot of success in what you do! May God keep all of your workers in good health and help them in their work. Thank you very much! **The Saenko family**

All this would not have been possible without your help. Thank you to the contributors who so generously donate to Christians for Israel, allowing Koen Carlier and his field workers to supply the Jewish community in Ukraine with food parcels and help them make aliyah.

ISRAEL
& Christians Today

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

Christians for Israel - International

Leon Meijer, Chairman
Rev Willem J.J. Glashouwer, President
Andrew Tucker, Executive Director
PO Box 1100, 3860 BC Nijkerk, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 33 422 0405
info@c4israel.org | www.c4israel.org

The English edition of Israel & Christians Today is published by the following English speaking branches:

Christians for Israel - Australia

Ian Worby, National Leader
PO Box 1508, Springwood
Queensland, Australia 4127
Tel: +61 402 277 930
info@c4israel.com.au | www.c4israel.com.au

Christians for Israel - East Africa

PO Box 34479, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 392 865 461 | c4iuganda@yahoo.com

Christians for Israel - New Zealand

Rev Hon Graeme Lee, National Leader
PO Box 12 006, Penrose,
Auckland, New Zealand 1642
Tel: +64 9 525 7564
info@c4israel.org.nz | www.c4israel.org.nz

Christians for Israel - South East Asia

Towner Post Office, PO Box 078
Singapore 913223 | Tel: +65 9179 1757
wilson@c4israel.org
khooken888@yahoo.com.sg

Christians for Israel - UK

PO Box 789, Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B73 5FX, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 121 647 3710 | ukinfo@c4israel.org

Christians for Israel - USA

Fred J van Westing, CEO
PO Box 2589, Manteca, CA 95336, USA
Tel/Fax: +1 209 665 4280
fredvanwesting@c4israel.org | www.c4israel.us

Christians for Israel - Central/West Africa

12 Ibanga Ikpe Close, Uyo, AKS, Nigeria
Tel: +234 813 785 7204 | esamson@c4israel.org

Christians for Israel - Europe

Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Chairwoman
Mühlbergstr. 44/9, A-1140, Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 9795109
info@israelaktuell.at

DISCLAIMER - Articles: The articles printed in Israel & Christians Today express the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editors or that of the Board of Christians for Israel. The printing of articles or advertising in Israel & Christians Today does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement.



www.facebook.com/c4israel

I want to support Christians for Israel

Thank you for this issue of Israel & Christians Today.

C4I MINISTRY

☐ My donation for C4I's ministry costs (print & post) \$_____

SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

☐ Hineni Soup kitchen & Holocaust survivor support \$_____

☐ Emergency Food Parcels - Ukraine (\$15 per parcel) \$_____

ALIYAH - BRING THE JEWS HOME

☐ One Person \$300

☐ One Family (5 persons) \$1000

☐ One Busload (25 persons) \$5000

☐ First Home in the Homeland \$_____

TOTAL \$_____

TEACHING RESOURCES & PREMIUM GIFTS

☐ Israel and Christians Today Paper _____

☐ **NEW** Why Jerusalem? (DVD) by Willem Glashouwer _____

☐ **NEW** Why Jerusalem? (DVD+Study Guide) _____

☐ Why End Times? (DVD) by Willem Glashouwer _____

☐ Why End Times? (DVD+Study Guide) _____

☐ Why Israel? (2 DVDs Study Guide) _____

☐ Guides: ☐ Why Israel? ☐ Why End Times? ☐ Why Jerusalem? _____

☐ Why Israel? (Trilogy Book Bundle) **Save \$10** _____

☐ **NEW** Why Israel? (Trilogy DVD Bundle) **Save \$10** _____

☐ **NEW** Israel, Jesus & Covenant (Book) by Kelvin Crombie _____

☐ Adi Hebrew Watches ☐ 173GFT Ladies ☐ 2092GFT Mens _____

☐ _____

QUANTITY

DONATION

FREE

\$20 each

\$20 each

\$20 each

\$30 set

\$40 set

\$10 each

\$30 set

\$60 set

\$30 each

\$100 each

Complete form & return to: **Christians for Israel Australia** PO Box 1508, Springwood, Qld 4127 or www.c4israel.com.au/donate

MY TOTAL DONATION \$_____

Please post cheque or money order to:
Christians for Israel Australia (don't use staples)

Internet Banking:

BSB: ANZ BANK - 016-464

Account No: 454158806

Ref: Your name & donation purpose.

Please confirm by emailing info@c4israel.com.au

My Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Christians for Israel Australia ABN: 79 941 819 693