

ISRAEL

& Christians Today

INTERNATIONAL

June 2018

www.c4israel.org
info@c4israel.org

CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
 INTERNATIONAL



Highlights...

Our Response as Christians to Gaza and Iran	Pg 2	Christians for Israel in the Cook Islands	Pg 6
Hamas' 'March of Return' In Gaza	Pg 3	Israel 70 Years Global Celebrations	Pg 7
ECI Welcomes US Embassy	Pg 4	The Roots of Pentecost	Pg 8
10th Anniversary for C4I Austria	Pg 5	Aliyah from France	Pg 11
		Bnei Menashe Long for Zion	Pg 12



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

Prayer Points



By Pieter Bénard
Christians for
Israel Prayer
Coordinator

ISRAEL

- *Proverbs 29:2* describes the current situation in Gaza perfectly: “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.” Israel would like to help build up Gaza, but the Palestinian Authority doesn’t want Israel’s help, to the detriment of its own population. Pray for change, for the population of Gaza, and for peace with Israel.
- Many in the media play a dangerous role in the stigmatisation of Israel and Judaism; people receive one-sided information and do not hear anything positive about Israel. Pray for Israel using *Isaiah 54:17a*, “...and you shall condemn every tongue that rises in judgement against you.”
- Israel has electric fences on the borders, and patrol boats at sea night and day to protect the coastline. Thousands of soldiers and materials are ready everywhere at all times, with satellites that observe everything across the border. Pray that the Lord God will guard His people.
- In *Ezekiel 36* we read dozens of times: “Thus says the Lord God” and “I will”. This makes it clear to us that every fulfilment of prophecy that we see today is an act of God. Give thanks that He allows us to be a part of this in physical aid and in prayer.
- Give thanks that the American embassy moved to Jerusalem and that other countries have indicated that they will do the same. Pray that other countries will make the same decision.

INTERCESSION

- *Acts 1:4-12*. Give thanks that the Lord is bringing His people home so that when the Saviour comes, and His feet stand on the Mount of Olives, they will meet Him. We have the privilege to help the Jewish people in the diaspora return to Zion and to look for the coming of the Messiah together with them.

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

- Pray that in each of the 40 countries where Christians for Israel has an affiliate or representative, the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of the people who hear about the position of Israel in the world. The UN is a battleground but so are people’s hearts. Someone once said that receiving an understanding of Israel is like being born again - a second time. Pray that those who know Jesus will also grow to love His people.
- Pray that the mission of Christians for Israel, “to make Christians aware of the significance of the Jewish people in God’s dealings with the world”, will be understood and supported, not only by Christians but also by non-Christians. Pray that they will become curious about what we do and the source of our inspiration and strength – the Bible.

For more Prayer Points: www.c4israel.org

Our Response as Christians to Gaza and Iran

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

The last two months have seen several extremely important geopolitical developments concerning Israel which are having major impact in the Middle East and globally.

>> Iran

Early May Israeli PM Netanyahu revealed to the world that Israel had stolen files from a secret Iranian depot in Tehran ‘proving’ that Iran is lying in relation to its nuclear weapon programme. Iran responded by firing missiles from bases in Syria towards Israel – fortunately, none landed on Israeli soil.

The situation in Iran following the new (‘unprecedented’) sanctions recently announced by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo needs to be followed closely. Iran’s relationship with Russia in Syria will be critical to watch, in light of the prophecies concerning Gog and Magog (*Ezekiel 38-39*).

Israel cannot be held responsible for the fact that the economic and social conditions are so bad in Gaza

>> Gaza Border

But what are we to make of the shocking photos and videos at the Gaza border as thousands of Palestinian Arabs protested against the Israeli ‘occupation’ demanding the right to ‘return’? Men, women and children stormed towards the fence. Israeli soldiers opened fire. In total 62 Palestinians were killed, including a small baby. The world has reacted in outrage. We all feel emotionally torn by these images. We want to support Israel and the Jewish people, but we also cannot condone the killing of innocent children, and we feel deep concern and alarm about the plight of the people in Gaza.

>> Our Response

How should we respond as Christians to the situation in Gaza? Perhaps the most important thing we can do is to pray for all concerned. But in order to pray effectively, we need to understand what is going on.

First, we should recognise that the situation in Gaza is a humanitarian crisis of enormous proportions. Approximately 1.8 million Palestinian Arabs are living in what has effectively become a prison, under the control of a terrorist regime whose sole purpose in life is to kill Jews and destroy the State of Israel. There is massive unemployment, lack of educational institutions, denial of basic freedoms such as the right to free speech and freedom of worship, and limited food and water. A humanitarian solution desperately needs to be found. But it is too easy to blame Israel. The Palestinian Arabs are not the victims, but have contributed to their situation, and are in a position to shape their own future.

Israel definitely has a responsibility to make sure that humanitarian aid reaches the people of Gaza.

But Israel cannot be held responsible for the fact that the economic and social conditions are so bad in Gaza. Egypt also has control over the border with Gaza. And it can be argued that the Arab nations in the region which attacked Israel on 15 May 1948 (*Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon*), should be held accountable for the plight of the Palestinian Arabs in Gaza and elsewhere, because it was their aggression (*made worse by the Six Day War in June 1967, which was also triggered by Arab aggression against Israel*) that caused the Palestinian refugee crisis.



A Palestinian demonstrator carries the national flag during clashes with Israeli forces along the border of the Gaza strip

kingdom of peace and righteousness as foretold by the prophets, when the nations shall turn their spears into pruning hooks and train for war no more (see *Isaiah 2*).

>> Be a Realist

Second, we should be realists. The reports that are coming out show clearly that the ‘March of Return’ was anything but a peaceful demonstration. Hamas official Salah al-Bardawil said that 50 of the 62 Gazans killed on 14 May were Hamas members. Our correspondent Yochanan Visser explains this in more detail on page 3.

>> Respect the State of Israel

Third, we should respect that Israel is a state. Under international law, every state is entitled to protect its borders. This does not entitle the State of Israel to use indiscriminate or disproportional force. But we should be careful not to accuse Israel of war crimes too quickly. The question whether Israel complied with international law in managing the March of Return is complex. It is not possible to make a judgment on these issues based on reports in the Western media. Given the role of Hamas, there can be no doubt that Israel was entitled to use force to confront the ‘demonstration’. This would justify taking out terrorists. But whether non-combatants should have been killed requires a detailed investigation of the facts in each specific case. Israel will no doubt conduct an internal investigation into what happened on the Gaza border, as it has done after every conflict with Hamas over the last decade.

Finally, we should pray for all those living in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, both Jews and Arabs. We should pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, and the coming of the Prince of Peace, who will bring His

Christians for Israel Mission Statement

Our mission is to bring **Biblical understanding** in the Church and among the nations concerning God’s purposes for Israel and to promote **comfort of Israel** through prayer and action.

Jewish Festivals

Rosh Chodesh Tamuz - Beginning of new Hebrew month of Tamuz 13 June 2018

Tzom Tammuz - Fast commemorating breaching of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple 1 July 2018

Rosh Chodesh Av - Beginning of new Hebrew month of Av 13 July 2018

Shabbat Chazon - Shabbat before Tish’a B’Av (Shabbat of Prophecy/Shabbat of Vision) 21 July 2018

Tish’a B’Av - The Ninth of Av, fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples 22 July 2018

Tu B’Av - Jewish holiday of love, similar to Valentines Day 27 July 2018

Shabbat Nachamu - Shabbat after Tish’a B’Av (Shabbat of Consolation) 28 July 2018

ISRAEL

& Christians Today

News Team | Contact Details

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

MANAGING EDITOR
Cathy Coldicutt
Ph: +64 21 277 9198 | newspaper@c4israel.org

INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL TEAM
Andrew Tucker, Cathy Coldicutt, Ian Worby, Bryce Turner, Marloes van Westing, Rita Quartel, Marijke Terlouw and Marie-Louise Weissenböck

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Marloes van Westing | international@c4israel.org

Scripture references: THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Hamas’ ‘March of Return’ In Gaza

By Yochanan Visser

For more than seven weeks Hamas in Gaza has again been trying to mobilise public opinion in the world against Israel by organising a ‘Great March of Return’ which has been billed as a ‘peaceful protest’ along the Israeli border by Hamas and a significant part of the media.

The goal of this ‘Great March of Return’ was to ‘liberate Palestine’ Hamas leaders announced at the outset of the violence. More than 116 Palestinian Arabs died in the weekly protests which were, in fact, nothing more than violent attempts to infiltrate Israel in order to carry out terror attacks against Israelis.

>> How do we know?

Hamas members and residents of Gaza have informed us about the true goals of the ‘demonstrations’. The same informants said Hamas even forced children and women to participate in the violence which reached a peak on Monday, 14 May when 62 Palestinian Arabs, among them 53 members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, died in violent confrontations with the IDF.

At the beginning of April, a bus company owner in Gaza told the Israeli authorities that Hamas arrested and jailed bus drivers who refused to ferry Palestinian Arabs to the border protests.

Later, Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar, during an interview with Al-Jazeera, reacted miffed when his interviewer suggested the protest was ‘peaceful’ and emphasised the armed struggle against Israel was still ‘developing’.

At about the same time, a captured Hamas terrorist explained on video how Hamas forces women and children to enter the frontline during the attempts to infiltrate Israel.

The man explained that Hamas organised the violence to prevent a revolt against

the organisation in Gaza where the situation is deteriorating by the day not because of the so-called siege but because of Hamas’ mismanagement of public affairs and an internal struggle between the PA and the terrorist organisation. Hamas tells women and children to go forward in the frontline of the violent protests because “the (Israeli) army doesn’t shoot women and children,” the man said. “People (in Gaza) wear out and are fed up, and I am one of those people,” the man told the Israeli authorities.

Another Palestinian Arab resident of Gaza told the Washington Post (WaPo) the real reason for the protests along the Israeli border is to infiltrate Israel and “to do whatever is possible, to kill, throw stones”. “Young men carried large knives and said they wanted to kill Jews on the other side of the fence,” WaPo reported.

Then, Hamas leader Salah Bardawil reacted in a televised interview to a question about the violence along the Israeli border on 14 May, when 62 Palestinian Arabs died during attempts to breach the security fence and to infiltrate Israel.

“Of the 62 people ‘martyred’ 50 were Hamas,” Bardawil said after Islamic Jihad had announced three of its members had also died during the same confrontation with the IDF.

IDF spokesman Jonathan Conricus posted the clip with the interview on his Facebook page and wrote “Take his word for it. This was no peaceful protest.”

Bardawil’s claim was later supported by the usual publication of ‘martyr announcements’ by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Another under-reported fact was the torching of the Keren Shalom border crossing by Hamas operatives.

The terminal which is the main gateway for the delivery of humanitarian goods, commercial supplies, gas and fuel to Gaza



was set on fire three times during the violent protests and caused a temporary shut-down of the crossing. IDF engineers were the ones who succeeded to restore the supply of fuel and gas to Gaza after the U.N. declared an emergency situation in the poverty-stricken enclave in southern Israel. Israel recently decided to change its approach toward the violent protests along the border with Gaza and warned Hamas leaders they would be subject to a renewed assassination policy if the violence didn’t stop.

The Israeli army also adjusted its strategy in order to quell the violence and the attempts to torch fields and Israeli communities in the vicinity of Gaza by using kites with explosive devices or Molotov cocktails. The IDF and IAF repeatedly attacked Hamas terror infrastructure deep into the Gaza Strip and also destroyed newly constructed terror tunnels.

IDF volunteers, meanwhile, neutralised the kite terror threat by using small drones which downed the kites before they could reach Israel. It didn’t deter Hamas from carrying out

new attempts to infiltrate Israel and to stage new terror attacks. On Tuesday 22 May, Hamas terrorists crossed into Israel and set a deserted IDF outpost for snipers on fire. The Israeli army responded by shelling a Hamas position in the vicinity of the border and by attacking naval vessels which were preparing for a terror attack in Israel via the sea.

To alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, Egypt has now finally decided to open the Rafah border crossing in northern Sinai at least during the month-long Ramadan fast. The closure of the Rafah crossing was a collective punishment for Hamas’ assistance to Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula. In 2017 the crossing was open for just 29 days.

Thousands of Palestinian Arabs are now preparing to leave the Gaza Strip in order to build up a better life in different parts of the world according to the Wall Street Journal.

Yochanan Visser is an independent Middle East reporter and analyst.

Trump’s Iran Nuclear Decision: Hopeful

By Colin Rubenstein, courtesy of AIJAC (Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council)

US President Donald Trump had been threatening since before his election to withdraw the US from the nuclear deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and reimpose nuclear sanctions on Iran. On May 8, he announced that the US was indeed doing so.

Now the hope must be that Trump’s announcement signals the beginning of a new era of negotiations and sustained diplomatic efforts to put into place better arrangements to thwart Iran’s dangerous nuclear ambitions and regional aggression. In announcing his decision, Trump rightly pointed out that: “The deal lifted crippling economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for very weak limits on the regime’s nuclear activity, and no limits at all on its other malign behaviour, including its sinister activities in Syria, Yemen, and other countries.” There is no doubt that the JCPOA is deeply flawed in four ways.

Firstly, despite declarations from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran was upholding its end of the bargain, the inspection regime has been wholly inadequate. Inspectors weren’t given unrestricted access and have been kept away from Iranian military sites - where military weaponisation would likely take place. Second, the deal failed to address Iran’s ongoing ballistic missile research and testing. These missiles, once perfected, are the delivery system - a key component of any nuclear weapons programme. Third, in removing the crippling sanctions previously on Iran, the JCPOA helped fuel the regime’s increasing support for terrorism, efforts to destabilise its neighbours and involvement in bloody proxy wars. Following the lifting of sanctions in 2015, more than \$US100 billion flowed into Iranian coffers. However, instead of using this freed-up wealth to support its

citizens, the Iranian regime - egged on by the fanatical Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps which increasingly controls much of Iran’s economy and politics - has expanded its supplies of funding and weaponry to support terrorist activities and rogue groups in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Gaza and across the Middle East. Finally and most importantly, the JCPOA merely delayed but does not in any way, shape or form dismantle Iran’s nuclear programme. The highly flawed deal has allowed Iran to continue working on advanced centrifuges which will allow it to enrich uranium very quickly once the JCPOA’s ‘sunset clauses’ begin expiring after 2025. The result: a nuclear weapons breakout can then happen whenever Teheran wishes, with little chance nuclear inspectors or international intelligence would detect this before it was too late - as even the JCPOA’s architect, Barack Obama, conceded in 2016.

Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed Iran’s duplicitous behaviour in his recent media presentation of captured Iranian nuclear archives. Israel’s intelligence cache revealed that Iran had lied to nuclear inspectors about its weapons development and had hidden its nuclear files - a direct breach of the conditions of the JCPOA. So while Iran may be adhering to the terms of the JCPOA in terms of limiting the number of centrifuges it is running and the amount of uranium it is enriching, this is because it does not need to violate these terms of the deal to achieve its aims. The nuclear archive makes it clear that Iran had retained plans for bomb designs, records of work it has done fashioning nuclear cores for bombs, as well as plans to miniaturise its bombs and place them in warheads on its missiles.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

All it needs now is enough enriched uranium for its arsenal - and the terms of the JCPOA effectively allow Iran to get this quickly, using highly advanced centrifuges, after 2025.

In his remarks at the White House, Trump expressed quite clearly that US withdrawal from the JCPOA should by no means be construed as an invitation for military confrontation or escalation with Iran.

All interested parties, including the Australian government, now have the chance to support the diplomatic hard work needed to put in place new and more comprehensive arrangements with stricter, more easily verifiable compliance conditions.

As a starting point, the JCPOA sunset clauses that allow the regime to continue nuclear development must be axed. IAEA inspectors must also be given unlimited access to Iran's declared and suspected nuclear sites, including especially those run by the military. A new deal must prohibit Iran's continued development of long- and short-range ballistic missiles.

Finally, the ongoing concerns about Iran's behaviour in the region must be



Photo: Getty Images

addressed. Iran's proxies include proscribed terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas, barbaric Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the brutal Houthi rebels in Yemen. And the regime is becoming increasingly brazen in its aggression against neighbours - firing 20 missiles into Israel from Syria on Wednesday 23 May.

Trump's decision clearly opens a difficult, unpredictable and complex road ahead if the world is to forge new arrangements

that will genuinely end the Iranian nuclear threat, and constrain Iran's other destabilising behaviours. Yet this road appears preferable to the road the world was on under the JCPOA - which was not only a direct path to a nuclear Iran in a few years time, but one which was actually fuelling Iranian terrorism, efforts to overthrow neighbour governments, and bloody proxy wars in both Syria and Yemen.

ECI Welcomes US Embasssy

Courtesy of ECI (European Coalition for Israel)

The European Coalition for Israel welcomed the timely US embassy move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem which took place on Monday 14 May 2018 and coincided with the 70th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the modern State of Israel, according to the Gregorian calendar.

In a diplomatic ceremony, attended by American and Israeli dignitaries in Jerusalem, the former US Consulate to Israel will be transformed into an official US Embassy whilst the new facilities are being constructed in the coming years.

In an official ceremony at the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, diplomats from 33 countries attended the historic event to mark the move. However, missing from the official reception were all but four of the EU member states. From Eastern Europe, those attending were Hungary, Romania and Czech, who previously prevented a joint EU statement to condemn the embassy move. The only Western European EU member state to join the reception was Austria. Other European countries who attended the reception were Albania, Georgia, Macedonia and Serbia.

In a statement recently, ECI Founding Director Tomas Sandell applauded the courageous stand of the four EU member states and the four non-EU member states who expressed their support for Israel by attending the reception. He called on more European governments to follow their example.

"It is regrettable that the European Union, led by Germany, Britain and France, are boycotting this historic event. By moving its embassy to Jerusalem, the United States is simply accepting a 3000-year old reality, that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people. Jerusalem is today unique in the



whole Middle East in that it allows for all its inhabitants the freedom to pray and worship in peace. Only in Jerusalem can Jews,

that a growing number of nations are considering a similar embassy move shows that Israel is not isolated. Later in

Only in Jerusalem can Jews, Christians and Muslims pray side by side at their holy sites...

Christians and Muslims pray side by side at their holy sites whereas the rest of the region continues to suppress its minorities. These rights were implemented only after Israel had liberated East Jerusalem in 1967 and made the whole of Jerusalem its capital. This is a policy which should be fully supported by the European Union and not undermined by boycotts and threats."

Sandell pointed out that the US declaration on 6 December 2017 to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital of Israel leaves many of the most contested issues open to final status negotiations. The fact that the diplomatic reception was attended by a total of 33 countries and

the week the Guatemalan embassy cut the ribbons to its new embassy in Jerusalem, followed shortly after by the Embassy of Paraguay.

Whilst the official European Union policy is not to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, on Saturday 12 May 2018, its citizens chose the Israeli song 'Toy' as the winner of the Eurovision Song Contest. When the performer Netta Barzilai thanked the audience for their support she shouted, *"I love my country (Israel), next time in Jerusalem!"* The Israeli victory means that the Eurovision Song Contest will be hosted in Jerusalem in 2019.

Short News

33 Million Flies Scattered Around Gaza



Every week Israeli planes scatter 33 million male flies on the farmlands surrounding Gaza. Why? To prevent the female flies from laying their eggs in the crops. The sterilised male flies mate with the females of the harmful Mediterranean fruit fly, a very destructive pest for the vulnerable agriculture around the Mediterranean. The project is carried out by BioBee; an Israeli company specialised in biological pest management. According to estimates, this organic way of using flies prevents that farmers have to use 33,000 litres of chemical pesticides.

Dead Sea Scroll Deciphered

Researchers at the University of Haifa managed to decipher the content of one of the last remaining Dead Sea scrolls. They discovered a unique calendar that was used during the period of the Second Temple. The scroll was written in code and consisted of sixty small fragments, of which some were smaller than a square centimetre.

Arabic Becoming a Popular Language

More and more Israelis want to learn Arabic, according to teachers of schools and institutes in Israel. Arabic linguist Anwar Ben-Badis is happy with this news. He has taught Arabic for many years. Among his students were President Reuven Rivlin and Benny Begin. *"It is important to learn the language of the 'so-called enemy'."* When you communicate with each other, the distance becomes smaller, and there is more room for contact.

Beautiful Route 40 South of Israel



Route 40 is a beautiful route through the south of Israel. This main highway connects Beer-Sheva, Mitzpe Ramon and Eilat. It is a wonderful scenic drive by car or bus. Along the route there are many interesting places to visit, like wine and cheese farms, restaurants, and luxurious and budget-conscious places to stay overnight.

10th Anniversary for C4I Austria

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Chairwoman Christians for Israel Austria

On 7 April Christians for Israel Austria celebrated its 10th anniversary with a conference in Vienna. The theme was 'Ten Years Christians for Israel Austria and 70 Years State of Israel.'

250 friends from all over Austria came to participate in the conference. Among them were pastors from various denominations and the archdeacon of the Roman Catholic Church.

The main speaker was Christians for Israel International President Rev. Willem Glashouwer who spoke about 'the covenants with Israel and the coming of the Kingdom.' Other speakers included Andrew Tucker (Christians for Israel International) and Naim Khoury (Holy Land Ministry Bethlehem). The beautiful violin player, Serguei Popov, played a Biblical ode to Israel.

>> Faithful

Marie-Louise Weissenböck (chairwoman) explained during the opening that the real reason for celebration is God's faithfulness and that this would be the underlying theme of the day. God is faithful, even if we are faithless (2 Timothy 2:13). The most evident sign of God's faithfulness is the people of Israel. The people of Israel have turned against God many times, but God never took back what he promised to Israel. Paul clearly says in Romans 3:3: "What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all!"

The anniversary conference was held on the last day of Pesach. Since the day that God led His people out of Egypt, Israel was aware that God is faithful to His



word. She then invited the audience to celebrate this day together with the theme 'We thank God for His faithfulness.'

>> Grateful

Austrian Shalom cards were distributed, and filled in, and will be given to people in Israel as a token of friendship by Christians

in Austria. A film was made especially for the occasion about the work of the last ten years in Austria. You can watch this movie on the website www.israelaktuell.at. Marie-Louise concluded: "We are grateful that we are allowed to do this work and that the Lord has given us His love for the people of Israel and our Jewish Messiah, Jesus!"

New Initiative in East USA

By Douglas Zorn, Christians for Israel USA

On 22 April 2018, Christians for Israel kicked off a new initiative on the East Coast of America with Pastor Willem Glashouwer as the featured speaker.

Although our focus was on Florida, our first stop was New York. Pastor Willem spoke at a Long Island church with a powerful message that inspired the congregation. The message was so powerful, that a gentleman, whose wife had been praying for 15 years for his salvation, came to the Lord at the end of the service. When asked "Why today?", the gentleman replied: "Pastor Willem's message made so much sense. I have never heard it said like that before, it was amazing". His wife was so overcome with joy that she couldn't stop thanking us.

Our first meeting was a TV interview in Florida with Pastor Willem on CTN's "Contending For The Faith" programme, which reaches 40 million homes in America. Paul Lodato, the host, was blown away with the interview and is looking forward to having Willem back. The programme will air in June or July, then uploaded onto the Christians for Israel website. CTN has also agreed to advertise for future Christians for Israel events. Willem will pre-record a 30-second commercial especially for this purpose.

On Friday night, after a very warm welcome, Willem spoke at the Word of Life Church in Fort Myers, Florida. His message was inspirational and touched

the hearts of everyone. Pastor Willem has been invited back in February 2019 to speak at an event supporting Israel and the Jewish people.

Finally, Pastor Willem spoke at River of Life Church in Estero. Many of the congregation enthusiastically committed to joining us on the Israel Tour in March 2019. Pastor Todd Weston, Senior Pastor at River of Life, supports the Biblical views of Israel and joined us on the Christians for Israel tour in 2017. He plans on going again in 2019.

It was a wonderful tour with many blessings but now the real work begins. Our new initiative starts with speaking engagements at churches in Florida and

the east coast. We are pleased to have Pastor Nicholas Weston join the C4I USA staff as our speaker. He is a fresh new voice with a heart for Israel and the Church, and we are excited to have him.

Willem will be joining us for a significant Florida-based event planned for November this year, with local churches also being invited.

Meanwhile, we will be introducing Christians for Israel's 'Why Israel?' book series into hosting churches to provide a deeper understanding of Israel's relationship with God and its role in the end times.

We also plan is to expand our readership of *Israel & Christians Today* newspaper.

C4I Appoints New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Christians for Israel International is pleased to announce the following change in leadership.

As of 1 July 2018, Rev. Cornelis Kant will succeed Andrew Tucker as Executive Director. Andrew Tucker will take on a new part-time role for Christians for Israel International as International Advisor.



Rev. Cornelis (Kees) Kant is 60 years old, married to Joke and father of four adult

children. After working in the banking world, Cornelis trained as a theologian, and for the last 24 years he has been pastor of a church, most recently in Katwijk. Cornelis has been a member of the Board of Christians for Israel Netherlands for three years, speaks occasionally in the Netherlands on behalf of Christians for Israel, and regularly leads tours to Israel. He is author of the book "From Eisenach to Bethlehem".

Cornelis Kant: 'Over the ages Israel has had little place in Christian theology and faith. Since World War II and the re-establishment of the State of Israel there has been a growing interest among Christians and churches worldwide in the Biblical importance of Israel.'

I see it as a personal calling of God to educate and equip Christians in a good Biblical understanding of Israel's everlasting place in God's plans for the world.'

Andrew Tucker has been Executive Director of Christians for Israel International since 2004.



Trained as an international lawyer in Australia and the UK, from 1987 to 2004 Andrew worked as legal advisor and consultant. Andrew has decided to focus his energies on the position of Israel and the Jewish people in international law and diplomacy.

Andrew is Legal Counsel to the European Coalition for Israel, and founder and Co-Director of The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation, a network of international lawyers established in 2017 to carry out research, publish information, and advise on issues

concerning Israel and international law. As Christians for Israel International Advisor, Andrew will assist in the international development of the Christians for Israel ministry, speak and write about issues relating to Israel, the Church and the nations, and continue as Editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Israel & Christians Today*.

Andrew Tucker: "I am extremely thankful for my time as Executive Director of Christians for Israel International. After years of pioneering, it is time for a new leadership to consolidate and build on these foundations. Cornelis Kant is the right man for the job. I am looking forward to using my experience as an international lawyer to support Israel and the Jewish people. The position of Israel under international law is complex and often misunderstood. While not everything in Israel is perfect, I believe that a strong Israel, which respects the human rights of all in the land, provides the best guarantee for the interests of the Arab Palestinians, Israel's neighbours and in fact all nations."

Christians for Israel in the Cook Islands

By Edward Ronia, Chairman of Awakening the Nations (ATM)

Christians for Israel International President Rev Willem Glashouwer travelled to the South Pacific at the beginning of March 2018 for three weeks of speaking and ministry. Hosted by Christians for Israel New Zealand, Rev Glashouwer flew into Auckland, New Zealand, for only a few hours. Rev Glashouwer and New Zealand director Bryce Turner, loaded with several hundred kilograms of resources, then flew to Fiji, where they were met by the wonderful Christians for Israel Fiji team. Leader Lepani Makubuna and Board Chairman Raphael Jordan, together with their wives, families and other team members, had organised a busy schedule of meetings and seminars which were an outstanding success. Returning to New Zealand for just one night, Rev Glashouwer, Bryce Turner and NZ chairman Graham Simpson, then flew to the Cook Islands where Christians for Israel Cook Islands chairman Bob Williams, along with representative 'Pastor George', had organised a similar programme.

Pastor Edward Ronia, Chairman of Awakening the Nations (ATN) writes:

In January 2018, the Israeli Ambassador for the Pacific Nations, H.E. Shalev-Schlosser Tibor visited a number of countries in the Pacific including the Solomon Islands. While there, Awakening the Nations (ATN) invited him to a seminar especially organised so that he could address church leaders on the topic, 'Against All Odds Israel Continues to Thrive'. A function was held after the seminar at which the ambassador met the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, H.E. Rick Hou.

Ian Worby, Christians for Israel Regional Director Oceania, was also invited and spoke about Christians for Israel. This led to a separate meeting about the need to establish Christians for Israel in the Solomon Islands, and now Christians for Israel and the ATN are in the process of establishing the new chapter.

As a part of the development of the new Solomon Islands chapter, Christians for Israel sponsored the chairman of ATN, Pastor Edward Ronia, to travel to the Cook Islands to meet Rev Glashouwer.

For Edward, it was a great honour to meet and hear Rev Glashouwer. When Edward met him, he was sitting with other Christians for Israel leaders distributing the *Israel & Christians Today* newspaper and the 'Why Israel?' book series. Edward commented: "Seeing the President sitting with other leaders and distributing newspapers, he was so humble. Even more humbling, was his attitude in the way he related to the people around him."

That morning, after Willem's public address at the Punanga Nui Market, he commented that that was his first time talking about Israel in an open-air space, as he is used to addressing people in big conference hall settings. Edward was honoured to be asked by Rev Willem Glashouwer to join him and Cook Islands Pastor Ngamatariki Pouao later that afternoon, to share more about Christians for Israel. It was indeed a most fruitful two hours discussion, where many questions were raised and answered while the breeze and the sound of the breaking waves of the beautiful Pacific Ocean on the shores below was music to their ears.



Edward Ronia and Rev. Willem Glashouwer at Punanga Nui Market, Rarotonga

The next morning, Willem spoke at the New Hope Church; a Pentecostal church looked after by Pastor John Tangi and the amazing Pastor George. In Willem's address, he presented Israel as God's firstborn son created for His purpose and Jesus as God's only 'begotten' Son. It was interesting to receive feedback from pastors, about how they have never heard such truths from the Word of God about Israel before.

His second engagement for the day was at the Vakaviti Church of the Assemblies of God. This was the climax of his visit to the Cook Islands; the official launch of Christians for Israel Cook Islands. The praise and worship at the service was lively, led by the Vakaviti and Cornerstone Churches music teams. Bob Williams, Chairman of Christians for Israel Cook Islands, and Pastor George dedicated a prayer for the launch. Willem shared how

God keeps expanding Christians for Israel throughout the world. This is demonstrated by the willingness of different nations to translate the book 'Why Israel?' into their own language, so far over 40 different languages.

The message of Christians for Israel - to reveal the truth of God's purpose for the nation of Israel - is indeed new for the church, especially against the cultural error in the church's teaching that the church has replaced Israel. Edward is convinced that this is a divine mandate on the ATN to strongly support Christians for Israel, to advance the message of revealed truths about Israel from the Word of God among the nations of the Pacific. Following Ps. Edward's successful visit to the Cook Islands, we look forward to the official launching of Christians for Israel Solomon Islands soon.

Ukraine: The Last Survivors

By Anemone Rüger, Christians for Israel Project Coordinator - Holocaust Survivors in Israel and Ukraine



"After the Holocaust, from one family, a boy survived, from another family, a girl. They were my grandparents."

This was how Orly Wolstein from the

Israeli integration programme, 'First Home in the Homeland' began her story during a speaking tour with Christians for Israel in South Germany.

Orly was born in the Ukrainian town of Herson, where she saw the collapse of the Soviet Union, studied in Kiev, Konstanz and Frankfurt and eventually decided to go to Israel with her daughter. "I only took one backpack, just in case I had to run after my daughter. When we were ready to leave, a white VW van arrived and took us to the airport. At the time, I knew nothing about Christians for Israel."

>> 500,000km

The rest of the story on the bus is provided by Christians for Israel staff member Natalya Kryzhanovsky from Kiev. "One day, our pastor came up to me and said, 'Natalya, here is the key for a Volkswagen van, for your ministry with the Jewish people. The Lord says He needs this donkey. Years

before, the Lord had told my husband and I, that He wanted to use us to bring His people home. By now, the 'donkey' has travelled half a million kilometres, 'Ukrainian kilometres!' Natalya added, referring to the run-down state of the roads.

Thousands of Jewish people have sat on its seats, they've used the free ride to request their documents at the Israeli embassy and have eventually ended 2,000 years of Diaspora to go home to Israel.

>> Grandchildren of the War

"In Kiev, I ran for my life." This was all my own (Anemone Rüger's) grandfather could manage whenever Kiev was mentioned, before memories overwhelmed him – memories of withdrawal battles in November 1943, when he was fleeing from the Red Army with his 208th German Infantry Division. What he experienced during those years on the Eastern Front was something he would forever keep to himself. Perhaps he also cried because he realised that now, in the generation of his own grandchildren, a window of grace has been opened up for Germans to go to Ukraine; to kneel down at the mass graves, to ask survivors for forgiveness,



Anniversary of the German attack on the Soviet Union: Lothar Hartmann, a participant in the Christians for Israel working trip, hugs Rita Shveybysh, who at age five, was marched to the Pechora death camp in winter of 1941 and was the only survivor from her family.

have a chat with them, bring food parcels and help them on their way to Israel. The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you. (Isaiah 60: 14) 250,000 Jewish people in Ukraine are still wondering what to do. More than 17,000 survivors are still waiting for us, the

descendants of their German oppressors, to bring healing in a way only we can. Or they are waiting for us to come back because we have become part of their family; they want to celebrate Hanukkah with us, Pesach, and 9 May, the day of victory over the Nazi regime.

Christians for Israel offers one-week working trips to Ukraine where groups pack food parcels and visit Jewish communities. You can also help Jewish people in Ukraine return home to Israel. We ask you to pray for them; pray that their longing to return home may be fulfilled. The cost of helping one person to make Aliyah to Israel is US \$170; a food parcel costs US \$11. You can donate on the coupon on the back page or donate online at www.c4israel.org

ISRAEL 70 YEARS 1948 - 2018

Italy



Christians for Israel Italy organised a conference in Turin, Italy to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel, in partnership with Pentecostal Church MCE. Speakers included Edda Fogorollo, Andrew Tucker and Sarah Kaminski. Turin is where Italy was unified, and it remains a vital centre in Italian political, economic and spiritual life.

The Hague



Two huge cakes were served in The Hague, the political heart of the Netherlands. Speakers included Roger van Oordt (director Christians for Israel Netherlands), Chief Rabbi Jacobs, Kees van der Staaij and Gert Jan Segers (leaders of two Christian political parties) and Israeli ambassador Aviv Shir-On.

Fiji



On Friday 11 May, Christians for Israel Fiji celebrated Israel's milestone event with a march in Suva called 'March of the Nations'.

As Christians, they celebrated their roots and inheritance that is connected with the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. The main street was full of people wearing custom-made T-Shirts, holding Fijian and Israeli flags. The successful event was followed by an official programme of praise and worship.



Australia

Queensland Zionist celebrated at a Jewish school in Burbank Brisbane.

The NSW Zionist Council celebrated Israel's 70th anniversary in Sydney with NSW premier, government leaders and Israeli Ambassador to Australia Mark Sofer.



Photos: Zahn Trotter



On Sunday 13 May, a public celebration with the Jewish Community was held on Auckland's waterfront, marking the 70th Anniversary of Israel's establishment. The event included cultural performances and addresses, including a message from Mrs Kasa Bainesay Harbor, (First Secretary and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel, Wellington NZ). The afternoon was a very unique chance to stand with the Jewish community and celebrate the miraculous Nation of Israel.

Brazil



The Israeli Embassy in Brazil celebrated the 70th anniversary of Israel on Wednesday 18 April. The event was attended by 800 guests, including politicians, ambassadors, Jewish and evangelical communities. Performances included the Army Battalion of Brazil, a concert by singer Monique Kessous, who sung songs in Hebrew and Portuguese, dancers who came directly from Israel and beautiful paintings on display by Israeli artists.

Austria



Christians for Israel Austria celebrated Israel's birthday with their own 10 year anniversary on 7 April in Vienna. The conference was named "Jubilee Conference - 10 years Christians for Israel Austria and 70 years Israel". More on this story on page 4.



Netherlands

The Congratulate Israel Concert took place in Apeldoorn on 10 May 2018, organized by Christians for Israel, Family7 (a Dutch Christian Broadcaster) and The Holland Choir. During the evening Mr. Chaim Guggenheim (Feuerstein Institute in Israel) received a cheque of € 106.000 for the Feuerstein Institute as a result of fundraising by Family7 and a donation from Christians for Israel.

New Zealand



The Roots of Pentecost

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

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1).

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit did not happen at a random time or place. The Spirit came from heaven with a sound like the blowing of the wind, filling ‘the house where they were sitting’. Obviously, this house was located in Jerusalem. God-fearing Jews from all nations had come as pilgrims to Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks (Hebrew: *Shavuot*), in accordance with the commandments in the Torah (Leviticus 23:15).

Pentecost (Greek: *fifty*) is the closing day of the period of seven weeks (the Hebrew *Shavuot* means weeks) which are counted starting on Passover. In a sense, Shavuot is the completion of Passover (Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The first fruits of the wheat harvest, which started after Passover, are brought to the Temple, as an offering of thanksgiving for the harvest. Joy characterises the feast, joy ‘before the Lord your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for his Name’.

>> Covenant Renewal

In Jewish tradition, at least since the second century BC, Shavuot also became the Feast of the Revelation of the Torah. When we count the time from the exodus of Egypt till the revelation on Mount Sinai in the book of *Exodus*, we find exactly seven weeks, arriving at the date of Shavuot. The celebration of the revelation (or, as it is usually said in Hebrew, the giving) of the Torah, has become the focus of Shavuot in Judaism. So Shavuot is also a celebration of the renewal of the covenant.

A remarkable tradition is the custom of staying awake during the night and studying the Torah together, just as the Israelites at Mount Sinai had to prepare themselves for the receiving of the covenant.

Still, today, everywhere in Jerusalem, lectures and study sessions are organised and widely attended. At dawn, everybody goes up to the Western Wall, singing with ecstatic joy, to say the morning prayers together. It is not entirely clear how old this tradition is, though it is an ancient

tradition. Could it be that the disciples of Jesus, too, had all been together, during that night, learning together the teachings of Jesus?

>> Which House?

This leads to the question: where were they together? Apparently, they were sitting in ‘a house’ (Acts 2:2). Which house was that? Which house could contain hundred and twenty people (Acts 1:15)? What place would have the facilities to baptise three thousand people (Acts 2:41)? Could it be the Temple? There was space for such a crowd. There were enough mikvehs (ritual baths) available. And only there would the signs of the outpouring of the Spirit be noticed by the bystanders (2:6).

In Hebrew, the temple is often referred to as the ‘House of the sanctuary’. God calls the temple ‘My house’. The Temple Mount is called in Hebrew ‘Mount of the House’. And finally, it is said of the early believers that ‘they continued to meet together in the temple court’ (Acts 2:46). The first believers were and remained pious, Torah observant, orthodox Jews!

>> Law and Spirit

Even in Christian tradition, the connection has been made between the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Torah. None other than Augustine (354-430 AD, North Africa) demonstrates that it was on the Feast of Weeks that Moses received the Law ‘that was written by the finger of God’ (Exodus 31:18). Augustine explains that the finger of God is none other than the Holy Spirit. After all, according to *Luke* (11:20), Jesus says that He drives out demons by the finger of God, but according to *Matthew* (12:28), He says that He does so by the Spirit of God. So the finger of God refers to the Spirit of God. Moreover, Paul writes: “We know that the Law is spiritual” (Romans 7:14). It is the Spirit of God by which God moves the Israelites to follow His decrees and be careful to keep His laws (Ezekiel 36:27).

Jewish tradition, expounding *Exodus* 20:15, links the Law of God to fire. The Torah is hewn out of fire and given out of fire:

New olim celebrate first Shavuot in Israel



“The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning” (Psalm 29:7). The intense study of Torah sets man on fire, as it is told of Rabbi Ben Azzai (2nd Century). When he was expounding Scripture, fire was blazing around him. He said: “I compare the words of the Torah with the Prophets, and the words of the Prophets with the writings and the words of the Torah are as delighted as they were on the day they were given on Mount Sinai. Essentially, they were given in fire, as it is written (Deuteronomy 4:11): ‘The mountain blazed with fire.’”

>> The Birth of the Church

Is Pentecost the birthday of the Church? First of all, we should note that Peter, in his speech to the people, addresses the crowd as ‘fellow Jews and all who are staying (verse 5) in Jerusalem’. Moreover, I recall that the first believers were orthodox Jews, ‘zealous for the Law’ (Acts 21:20). From the Scriptures of Israel Peter is explaining to his fellow Jews, gathered on this Feast of Israel, what has happened to him and his friends. It is no less than the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel. And it is the affirmation of the risen Christ. Peter’s Pentecost sermon is, in fact, an Easter sermon. It is the risen Christ who has now poured out the Spirit He has received from the Father. “Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this:

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (verse 36). All Israel is present in those who are addressed by Peter.

The typical response of the hearers is a question: “What shall we do?” echoing Israel’s response to the covenant: “We shall do and hear” (Exodus 24:7). Peter’s answer is: “Repent and be baptised...” Repentance in Hebrew is Teshuvah, turning around, returning to the covenant of God in the Torah. Pentecost is the feast of the renewal of the covenant, the renewed covenant with Israel.

The renewal of the covenant, however, confirmed in the death and resurrection of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, bears fruit for all the nations: “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3). It will last until Acts 10 for this to take effect. There, to the astonishment of Peter and the other Jewish believers, the gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Roman officer Cornelius and his household. Cornelius was a God-fearing Gentile. He came close to Israel, without becoming Jewish. Even the gentile nations may share in the promise of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3). Now, the nations are joining Israel in praise of God (Acts 10:46; Romans 15:9). The kingdom of God is coming.

Letters of the Aleph-bet: Ayin י

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

The letter *ayin* is the sixteenth letter of the Hebrew aleph-beit. It has the numerical value of seventy. The letter itself originally represents a guttural sound that we don’t have in English. In modern Hebrew pronunciation, though, it sounds the same as the *aleph*, the first letter of the aleph-beit (which is, to our ears, hardly a sound at all). Only Jews with an oriental background still differentiate between *aleph* and *ayin*. In Hebrew, *ayin* is a word, too. It has two meanings: eye and source/spring. The original form of the letter was a

pictograph of an eye. This sign evolved into a small circle. As such, it became the letter *o* in the Greek and Latin alphabets. In the Semitic languages, it developed into a different form, becoming the *ayin* as we know it today. The *ayin*, first of all, represents God’s eyes: the land of Israel is “a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end” (Deuteronomy 11:12). The *ayin* thus tells of God’s providence. In *Psalm* 33:18 we read: “But the eye of the Lord is on those

who fear him” and in *Psalm* 34:15: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous”. According to a Jewish mystical explanation of these words, the singular eye in *Psalm* 33 refers to God’s severity, which inspires awe. But in *Psalm* 34, this is balanced by His love and mercy. This is reflected by the plural form: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous”. Seventy represents fullness. It is an expression of totality. From the book of *Genesis*, we learn that there are seventy nations and languages on earth. For their sake, in biblical times, seventy

bulls were sacrificed during the feast of Tabernacles. Seventy stands for a full lifespan (*Psalm* 90:10). Seventy souls descended to Egypt (*Genesis* 46:27). In the desert, Moses appointed seventy elders as judges over the people of Israel. Later, the Sanhedrin would contain seventy members. Seventy years lasted the exile in Babylon. According to Jewish tradition, we find in the Bible seventy names of God. And finally, the Torah has seventy ‘faces’, referring to the richness of meanings of every word.

2nd Thesis: Faith on Israel

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

In this article, we continue our discussion of the 'Twelve Theses of Faith on Israel' published by Christians for Israel.

Thesis 2: We believe that the Church and the nations should bless Israel.

Elaboration: It is our calling to bless Israel, for we owe our salvation to the Firstborn Son of this nation. Through Jesus the Jew we, as believers from the nations, are included with Israel to be 'children of Abraham', the father of all who believe.

Clarification: The Church and the nations bless Israel by recognising God's Covenants with Israel, by recognising that Israel was entrusted with the very words of God (Rom. 3:2) and by affirming the bond between the people and the land.

The Church, moreover, will continue to stress that Jesus was, is and will remain a Jew, and that salvation comes from the Jews (John 4:22). From the foregoing follows, that the Church and the nations will stand in solidarity with Israel and will seek Israel's prosperity (Psalm 122: 9).

>> Comment by Kees de Vreugd

Theologian, Christians for Israel International

In the second thesis, the direction is opposite to that of the first thesis. Now the nations are called to bless Israel, in return for the blessing they have received through Israel.

In the elaboration, we are told that we are 'children of Abraham', the father of all who believe. We are 'children of Abraham' together with Israel on account of the promise given to Abraham, as Paul writes in Galatians 3. We are one in faith, but it is a unity in diversity. The diversity of Israel and the nations are not annulled but rather enforced in the calling for both to be a mutual blessing.

How can we bless Israel? The Hebrew word 'blessing' has a lot of connotations. In Genesis 12:3 it is opposed to cursing. It is telling, however, that in Hebrew, it has two different words for cursing. It reads, literally: "Whoever mocks you, I will curse". To be cursed is to live outside the community, cut off from life and fellowship with the living God. Even speaking with disdain for Israel is calling for God's curse. So blessing is the opposite. We bless Israel by affirming the bond between God and Israel, by recognising that God has chosen these people to make His Name dwell among mankind. We bless Israel by enabling her to live as Israel, that is: faithful to God's Word, in our own lands and in the land God has given her as an eternal heritage. We bless Israel by recognising that Jesus is a Jew, and remains a Jew, also in His coming in glory. Salvation comes from the Jews!

>> Comment by Val Noguera

Christians for Israel Brazil and South America

We often come across people from all

denomination backgrounds asking two things:

1. Why should we bless Israel and not be a blessing to all nations? This verse is usually used as an apology to the question. Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism" Acts 10:34.
- 2) Grace gives salvation, why should we feel obliged to Israel since Jesus came to save the entire world? John 3:16.

If those questions had come from non-Christians, we would find them to be reasonable because Israel would be just another country in our vast world.

However, our fellow brothers and sisters in the Christendom world are confused about where to stand, because, if one is confused about who Israel is, one is confused about the Bible.

As we approach the Word of God with a humble attitude, the revelation of God's Firstborn Son yields to a change of heart towards Israel altogether, which is ultimately what the Church longs for, do the will of our Lord Jesus and be a blessing to Israel. Not because we ought to but because of our gratitude and love for God.

We as Christians have the Word of God as the compass and manual to life. Doing the will of God is not an option, it's a lifestyle. We read so clearly that it is on us to remove the stones and help the Jewish people to return home (Isaiah 62:10) and to comfort Israel (Isaiah 40:1), God's chosen people to carry out the greatest mission of all, to be a blessing to all other nations.

Short News

First Olympic Velodrome in Israel



Photo: Flash90

In the very near future, cycling will be at the highest level ever in Israel. In Tel Aviv, the first velodrome (a cycle stadium) is under construction. The new stadium meets the Olympic standards. It will be the most modern velodrome in the Middle East. Israel hopes to offer a perfect location for international cycling tournaments.

Proud to Live in Israel

91% of Jewish Israelis are proud that they live in Israel. However, 60% of Arabic Israelis do not feel proud to live in Israel. This huge difference was the outcome of an investigation from the Tel Aviv University and the Israel Democracy Institute. Noteworthy was the fact that within both groups, three-quarters wanted to remain in Israel, even if they had the opportunity to leave for another country.



Twelve Theses of Faith on Israel

1. We believe that Israel was created and chosen by God to bless the nations.
2. We believe that the Church and the nations should bless Israel.
3. We believe that the Church has not replaced Israel. By faith in Jesus Christ we also have become 'children of Abraham', the father of all who believe.
4. We believe that all the Covenants since Abraham have been made with Israel.
5. We believe that the Lord will be faithful to all the Covenants He made with Israel, as well as to all the promises He gave to the Church.
6. We believe that there is the mystery of the hardening in part of Israel for our sake, but that there is also the blindness of the Church for Israel, and a veil over the nations with regard to Israel.
7. We believe that the Church should repent for all deeds of anti-Semitism committed in her name, and should show her true repentance in acts of love and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people.
8. We believe that the restoration of the Jewish people to the Promised Land of Israel is the beginning of ultimate redemption. We believe that the nations carry a responsibility to help the Jews return.
9. We believe that the City of Jerusalem is the place where the Lord again will make His Holy Name dwell.
10. We believe that one day, Messiah will come to establish His worldwide Kingdom, Then the bodily resurrection of the righteous dead will take place and they will reign with Christ in His Kingdom on earth. We therefore pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
11. We believe that the Son of man will sit in judgment over the nations when the Kingdom comes and will ask them how they have treated Israel and the Jewish people.
12. We believe that ultimately and finally the renewal of all things will take place. Creation will be delivered from its bondage to decay and be brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. And God will be all and in all.

PRE-ORDER NOW

Israel 70 Years

One-Time Edition | Collector's Item
Magazine 112 pages, full colour

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. After ages of diaspora, the Jewish state was reborn in 1948. A true miracle. In the 70 years of its existence, Israel had to fight eight wars to defend itself. It not only survived but thrived.

It's among the most educated and innovative countries in the world and has one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Jews from all over the world are returning home, a fulfilment of Biblical prophecies.



This limited commemorative edition magazine celebrates the 70th Anniversary of the State of Israel. It is beautifully illustrated, with in-depth articles, inspiring interviews, photos, facts, time-lines and much more.

A 'must have' for everyone who loves to know more about Israel.

Pre-order your copy today. First shipment due June 2018
Price excludes shipping

Order your copy today!
Order online www.c4israel.org or complete coupon on back page

New Publications in Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Israel

70 Questions About Israel A Starter's Kit on Understanding Israel

by Chan Siew Fong

This easy-to-read book is written for Christian believers who want to understand the Biblical significance of Israel and why the Church should stand with Israel. The book is especially suitable for those with little prior knowledge of the issues surrounding Israel.

Replete with explanations, illustrations and maps, readers will gain a basic understanding of Israel from the Biblical, historical, political and legal perspectives, and thus be better equipped to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and stand with the nation of Israel with conviction. Do you have many questions on Israel but don't know where to start and how to fit the many pieces of information together?

Author Siew Fong: "I was there before. I pored through tons of materials and spent a lot of time figuring out the complexities surrounding Israel. I sat under many teachers and attended conferences locally and in Israel. To shorten your search time, I wrote this book for you."

In order to cater to a broad spectrum of readers, the author adopts a question and answer format. You may wish to look at the list of questions and go for burning questions, then back to other questions. Alternatively, you can work through the questions and answers sequentially.

The questions and answers are gathered around the following themes:

- **Introductory issues**
- **Israel in the Bible**
- **Israel and the Church**
- **The Miracle of Modern Israel**
- **Israel Today**

Pre-order your copy today online www.c4israel.org or complete the coupon on back page. Price excludes shipping. First shipment due July 2018



Chan Siew Fong has years of experience in education and training tertiary teachers. She is Editor of the Asian edition of *Israel & Christians Today*, and *Christians for Israel* Regional speaker (Asia).

Towards the Establishment of the State of Israel A Short Historical Excursion

by Prof. Edda Fogorollo

The prejudice in Europe and the West towards Israel as a state, the Jews as a people, or Judaism as a religion traces its roots back to the dawn of human history and is hard to extinguish. It is based on the denunciation of contents of biblical revelation, on the attribution of objective responsibility in the condemnation of deeds of individuals or communities that adhere to the Jewish faith and on the mystification of history to create a demonising image to the extent of blaming the Jews for all the evils that have befallen mankind. What fuels this prejudice is not only the ignorance of facts and the disingenuous intentions of those who uncritically repeat and spread fables, but a real hatred that once led to the forced exodus from the land of those who subsequently witnessed the Catholic Inquisition, pogroms in different parts of the world, the Nazi Holocaust and the explicit threat to destroy the State of Israel with nuclear weapons by Iran and the Ayatollahs.

This book is an important contribution to exposing the reality of the Jewish people and their faith as well as of the State of Israel. The author is not only a serious scholar and an accredited academic but also a witness who promotes with passion and courage the truth inspired by her faith in Jesus Christ. Edda loves and strongly defends Judaism, the Jews and Israel which she sees as the basis and source of Christianity, and as natural allies in the safeguarding of our Judeo-Christian civilisation from the threats posed by Western relativist secularism and Islamic radicalism.

Pre-order your copy today, online www.c4israel.org or complete the coupon on back page. Price excludes shipping. First shipment due July 2018



Prof. Edda Fogorollo is a graduate of the Universities of Padua, Rome, Paris and Yad Vashem Jerusalem. She is a teacher of Modern and Contemporary History and President of *Christians for Israel Italy*.

COMING SOON

Israel on Trial How International Law is being used to delegitimise the State of Israel

by Dr Matthijs de Blois & Andrew Tucker

In 2018, the State of Israel turned 70, but it has never been fully accepted as a member of the international community. Notwithstanding peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, the conflict between Israel and some of its neighbours in the region is looming. And peace between Israel and the Palestinians seems as far away as ever. Why?

Since the 1970's, the idea has developed that international law requires resolution of the Arab/Israeli conflict by creating a State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, and borders based on the '1967 lines' - the so-called 'two-state solution'. Israeli 'settlements' are regarded by many as illegal and an impediment to this solution.

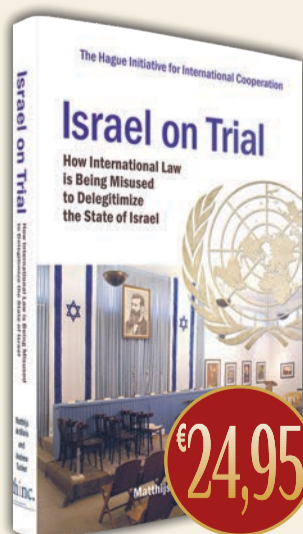
This book reviews international law regarding self-determination, statehood, territorial sovereignty, human rights and the right to self-defence. It argues that the two-state solution as defined by the UN is not required by international law.

The authors examine how international law has been used and misused over the last century with regard to the Arab/Israeli conflict. They argue that the historical context of the creation of the state of Israel, especially the Mandate for Palestine, is too often ignored.

The Arab states, the Palestinian leadership and the European Union have all played a role in enabling the UN to become a platform for 'lawfare' against Israel: policies and resolutions that use the language of international law but, in fact, undermine the existence of the Jewish State and have disputable basis in international law.

The authors argue that it is time to revisit the prevailing legal paradigm to resolve the conflict. This book aims to provide a legal framework for the exploration of alternative policy solutions that balance the rights of the Jewish state of Israel to territorial integrity, security and political independence with the rights of Palestinian Arabs to political autonomy and economic and social advancement.

Order your copy today:
Email p.hoogendoorn@thinc.info



Dr Matthijs de Blois is Emeritus Assistant Professor at Utrecht University's Institute of Legal Theory of the Law Faculty, where his academic focus was the philosophical and historical aspects of the law, specifically the relationship between law and religion. He is currently Senior Fellow at the Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.).

Andrew Tucker is an international lawyer who has studied and worked in Australia, the UK and Netherlands. He is currently Director of The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.), Legal Counsel to the European Coalition for Israel, and International Advisor at Christians for Israel International.

Aliyah From France

By Rachel Poot, Christians for Israel Volunteer

We are in Yakir, a small village in the northwest of Israel, on one of the hilltops in the Biblical region of Samaria.

As the yellow gate at the entrance of the village slowly opens we drive into a thriving community. I notice that the people who live here do their best to care for the land. Purple and fuchsia coloured bushes grow along the road here, and the lawns are green.

Recently a few families who left France to build a life in Israel have come to live in this small community numbering less than 2,000 inhabitants. Yakir is a small but close community.

People do everything they can to help the newcomers feel at home. Recent immigrants find that they need to adapt to a completely new country.

This is more difficult in a large city than in a small village.

Everyone in the village is a volunteer in the make-yourself-at-home process for the olim, the new immigrants. They help the newcomers unpack their things, clean the house and build closets and cupboards. Besides this, each family receives two mentor families who support them in the village. They help with grocery shopping (*which is difficult when you don't speak the language*) and invite them over, for example on the Sabbath, so that the olim feel like part of the community.

The way the residents welcome the immigrants feels like a warm blanket. And that certainly can't hurt in the first twelve months of their new life.



A French girl distributes flags during a welcome ceremony in Israel (Photo: Flash90)

>> A Running Start

Life is often difficult for new immigrants to Israel. Learning the language and finding a job is a real challenge. That's why Christians for Israel supports projects like First Home in the Homeland, which helps new immigrants get a running start in their new homeland and provides a good integration programme.

Changing Lives in Bethlehem

By Elvira & Pastor Naim Khoury, First Baptist Church Bethlehem

Was your life changed by Vacation Bible School? It changes lives here in Bethlehem too! And what a difference those changes mean for our children.

Every summer we host a community-wide Vacation Bible School. Roughly half of the 200-plus Arab children who join us every year do not attend church. Children's families incur no expense

when their child joins our programme. During the day, children learn stories from the Bible, sing, pray and work on beautiful crafts. We also practice memorising Bible verses. We hope that this year's programme will bring glory to His name. Let us keep His light shining all around as we do His will and win souls for eternity! Thank you for

supporting the Vacation Bible School and for your prayers as we serve the Lord!

Christians for Israel supports the ministry of First Baptist Church to the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho. You can donate towards a Palestinian child attending the Vacation Bible School by completing the coupon on the back page.



Scarifying Shambolic Psalm 2, Part 2

© Johannes Gerloff, Theologian, Journalist, Lecturer and Author

The world is in turmoil. Hundreds of thousands of people are killed every year. Millions are on the run as refugees. Millennia-old cultures disappear. Political and social orders that seemed irrefutable are being shaken.

The modern Jewish state is a peaceful island in the middle of a bloody jungle. Even hostile neighbours openly admire Israel as an example of stability and economic success. In global comparison, the country is a model of tolerance and coexistence of different ethnic groups, cultures, religions and political convictions.

So why have almost all reputable politicians from the Americas to China, Finland to South Africa, have nothing better to do than to solve 'the Middle East conflict'? I certainly don't want to distract from those problems that actually exist in and in connection with Israel. The Jewish state does face challenges indeed. Not all is well in the land of Israel. But the ailments of Israel are hair loss, bad skin or, at worst a cold, compared to the pestilence and epidemics that slay millions in our immediate environment and around the world.

'Just why,' the author of Psalm 2 asks, 'do the nations rage? Why do the states murmur in vain?' (verse 1). In very few words, he draws the picture of a chaotic, uncontrollably roaring, unmanageable mass of human beings. The global community of nations, through which the people of this planet sought to achieve peace, security and order, is in turmoil.

'The kings of the earth set themselves. The bureaucrats take counsel together' (verse 2a). The ruling politicians should actually be in control and have the reins in hand. But they swim with the stream of the majority opinion and agree to secret deliberations. Instead of opposing the Zeitgeist and demanding reason, they write resolutions that ultimately lead to war because they bow to the dynamics of the raging mob. All of this is seen by Jewish interpreters of Scripture in these few Hebrew words.

Martin Luther describes the troubled nations in his interpretation as 'unreasonable beasts' and notes that the word used here, which he translates as 'Gentiles,' 'is often used in opposition to Israel or the Jews'.

The Psalmist makes two observations in the first two verses that cannot be detected by ordinary human perception. They require a prophetic understanding, a perspective that is impossible for the average human eye.

First, the aspirations of the Gentile nations and their leaders are literally 'empty,' that is, 'meaningless,' 'unreasonable,' 'futile.' When it refers to the actions of personalities in authority who vigorously represent or even demand something, the little Hebrew word 'rek', which stands at this point, means criminally 'reckless.'

Second, the rebellion of the Gentiles is directed 'against the Lord and against His Messiah' (verse 2b).

Biblical word studies show that 'the Son,'

'the Servant,' and 'the Messiah' of God are first the people of Israel. So, God explains to the Egyptian pharaoh: 'Israel is my firstborn son!', and demands, 'Let my son go that he may serve me!' Then He goes on to threaten: 'If you refuse, however, I will kill your firstborn son!' (Exodus 4:22).

Likewise, the prophet Isaiah depicts the people of Israel as the servant of the Lord and King David knows that God 'rebuked kings for the sake of Israel,' declaring, 'Do not touch my Messiahs', i.e., 'my anointed ones' (1 Chronicles 16:21).

Of all exegetes, Martin Luther feels at this point a connection with Zechariah 2:12: 'He who touches you, touches the ball of my eye.' However, ultimately caught up in the thinking of substitution theology, he overlooks the original meaning of Zechariah 2 regarding the Jewish people, which is also possible here in Psalm 2:2. Luther applies what is being said without further consideration to Christ and the Christian Church exclusively.

It does not have to be a contradiction, however, if the New Testament applies the words of the prophet, 'I have called my son out of Egypt' (Hosea 11:1) to Jesus (Matthew 2:15). In no way, it is irreconcilable with Israel's special status as chosen people of God if the New Testament sees in Jesus the servant of God from the prophetic book of Isaiah, who bears the weakness and sickness of his nation. Naturally, the New Testament recognises in Jesus the Messiah, the Son of

God and King of Israel. From a biblical perspective, only the unity of the people of Israel with her King gives the complete picture of 'the Son of God', 'the Servant of the Lord' or 'God's Anointed One'. The people of Israel are not complete without their King. And Jesus Christ will necessarily turn into an empty theological phrase if He is detached from his Jewish people and background.

The masses of the Gentile nations may tear each other apart and cause endless suffering to themselves. In their target direction, so the prophetic psalmist recognises, they agree 'against the Lord and against his Messiah'.

'Let us burst their bonds. Let us cast away their cords.' Verse 3 summarises the outcry for the emancipation of the Gentile world. The Hebrew words draw the violent tearing of straps binding a yoke to a draft animal (Rashi). The orthodox German Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and the German reformer Martin Luther are in agreement that these 'bonds and cords' are exactly those divine orders without which a nation will perish. The word of God wants to serve the nations of this world for salvation. But instead of seeking to heal on the only path leading to that goal, laments Rabbi Hirsch, those who are in dear need of salvation fight the saving principle. They 'look for the disease exactly where the cure is, and look for healing in what only multiplies their infirmity.'

Bnei Menashe Long for Zion

Hanoch Lungdim and Family



I am a father of five beautiful children. I have never stopped dreaming of making Aliyah, settling in the land of my ancestors and seeing my kids grow up to be observant and ideal Jews. Many of my peers have already made Aliyah, but I don't despair that I am still in Manipur, India. I believe there is a reason for everything and it is part of God's plan. For many years, I have been reciting the Jewish daily prayer: "Sound the Great Shofar for our freedom.. Blessed are You HaShem, who gathers in the dispersed His people Israel." I now look forward to saying the prayer in Israel.

Tzvi Singson and Family



We are proud to belong to Menashe, the Lost Tribe of Israel, and practice Judaism daily. God promised our nation that one day He would bring us all back to Israel. We feel privileged that He is fulfilling His promise through us and bringing us home. My uncle, who I loved like a father, made Aliyah in 2006. I haven't seen him for 12 years. I have missed him greatly all these years, I am very excited to reunite with him in Israel. I always told my three children not to get married until God brings us back to Israel. I have longed to go to Zion, and now God has heard our prayers.

>> Home At Last Hanoch Lungdim and Tzvi Singson and their families are amongst a group of Bnei Menashe making Aliyah in June 2018. We have 230 people confirmed in the group, all of whom are from the northeastern Indian state of Manipur. The group includes 35 married couples, 98 children under the age of 17, and 19 elderly people.

With your help, we continue to support the return of the Bnei Menashe together with Michael Freund from Shavei Israel. They prepare the Bnei Menashe in India for their Aliyah and help them integrate into Israel. Recently a new group arrived in the Promised Land. Michael Freund recently shared this moving testimony about their arrival: "As I walked through Ben-Gurion Airport with the new arrivals, they burst into song, singing hymns of praise to God for His kindness in bringing them home."



The verse 'And the sons shall return to their borders' (Jeremiah 31:17) echoed loudly throughout the airport terminal, with many Israeli travellers and tourists clapping and singing along with us. It was a remarkable demonstration of faith and a tangible sign that the Lord is fulfilling His promises to His people Israel (Exodus 6:7). When the immigrants emerged into the arrivals hall, they were greeted by family members and loved ones, many of whom had not seen each other in years."

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

Bryce Turner, National Executive Director
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 - 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

DISCLAIMER - 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.

© CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Please contact the Managing Editor should you wish to syndicate or republish any articles or materials appearing in Israel & Christians Today.

www.facebook.com/c4israel

YES! I Want to Support Christians for Israel



CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL MINISTRY

- ☐ My donation for ministry costs, print & post

SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

- ☐ Hineni - Soup Kitchen
☐ Holocaust Survivors - "I'm not Alone" Café Europa
☐ CFOIC - Christian Friends of Israeli Communities
☐ Emergency Food Parcels Ukraine - \$12 per parcel
☐ First Baptist Church Bethlehem and Holy Land Ministry

ALIYAH - BRING THE JEWS HOME

- ☐ One person (Ukraine) - US \$170
☐ One family (5 people) (Ukraine) - US \$850
☐ One busload (25 people) (Ukraine) - US \$5250
☐ First Home in the Homeland
☐ Bnei Menashe (India) - One person - US \$1100

TOTAL \$ _____

DONATION

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION:

Go to our website: www.c4israel.org/projects

INTERNET BANKING:

Account Holder: Christians for Israel International
Bank Account No: NL12 ABNA 06275.15.460
Bank: ABN-AMRO Bank, Nijkerk, The Netherlands
BIC/Swift code: A B N A N L 2 A
Ref: Your name & donation purpose

Please confirm by emailing projects@c4israel.org

MY DETAILS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

BOOKS | TEACHING RESOURCES

- ☐ **PRE-ORDER:** Israel Magazine - 70th Anniversary
☐ **PRE-ORDER:** 70 Questions About Israel
☐ **PRE-ORDER:** Towards the Establishment of the State of Israel
☐ Jerusalem Magazine - 50th Anniversary Book
☐ Why Israel? Book by Willem Glashouwer

To order these and other resources, go to www.c4israel.org/webshop

