

# ISRAEL

*& Christians Today*

AUSTRALIA

December 2017

[www.c4israel.com.au](http://www.c4israel.com.au)  
[info@c4israel.com.au](mailto:info@c4israel.com.au)

CHRISTIANS FOR  
**ISRAEL**  
AUSTRALIA

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

*Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,  
who has sanctified us with Your commandments,  
and has commanded us to kindle the  
lights of Hanukkah.*



8



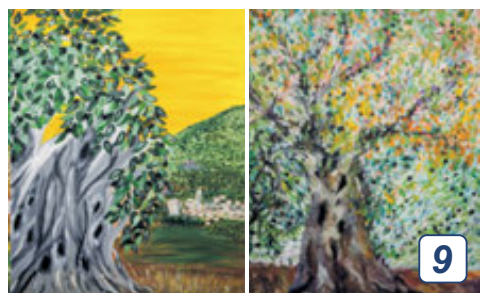
3



5



6



9



11

## Highlights...

Editorial	Pg 2	Hanukkah and Christmas	Pg 8
The Battle for Jerusalem	Pg 3	Women and Their Olive Trees	Pg 9
Rev. Glashouwer Visits Brazil	Pg 5	Return from India - A Dream Fulfilled	Pg 11
New Israel Centre - Nijkerk	Pg 6	"Thank You For Not Forgetting Us"	Pg 11
Christian Media Summit in Israel	Pg 7		



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



## Prayer Points



By Pieter Bénard  
Christians for  
Israel Prayer  
Coordinator

## ISRAEL

- Continue to pray for Israel, especially for Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria – Israel's heartland. Day after day there are provocative articles in the media and hurtful statements about politicians. In addition, at any moment, terror can strike, killing or wounding Jews.
- A lot of Israeli people live below the poverty line. Christians for Israel supports organisations like the Jaffa Institute and Hineni to help the poor people in Israel. Thank God that we can show our love in such a practical way.
- Continue to pray that increasing anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism will be recognised and resisted. Pray that we will stand for the Jewish people all over the world. A rabbi once said: "Where there is no place for others, at some point, there will be no more place for anyone."

## INTERCESSION

- As Christians, we should realise that our lives do not belong to ourselves, but to God the Father. Make your prayer for Israel a priority. Times of intercession are vital because the restoration of Israel is a fulfilment of God's Word.
- Praying for Israel also means aligning our lives with the message of the Bible, that is, to live in such a way that we can intercede for Israel with boldness, walking in the Light (1 John 1:5-7).
- Pray for the safety of school children and school buildings in the south of Israel, close to the border with Gaza.

## CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

- Intercede for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, who are humiliated and oppressed by those who surround them. They live in uncertainty concerning their future. Pray for those who are persecuted (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).
- Siew Fong from Singapore is involved in the development of our educational resources in Asia. She says: "... it is comprehensive, understandable, analytic, informative, and based on thorough Bible study." Please pray for Siew Fong and her work, that the educational resources may be a blessing to many.
- Pray and give thanks for 'Israelity', the youth work of Christians for Israel, in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Netherlands, Philippines, Italy, USA and Switzerland. Pray for the impact on the younger generation amidst everything else that might influence them.

For more Prayer Points, please go to our website [www.c4israel.com.au](http://www.c4israel.com.au)

## Jerusalem in the 'End Times'

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



There is a lot of talk about the end times, or 'last days', that have been prophesied in the Bible. The term 'end days' in the Bible does not mean the end of the earth or the end of the world. It means the end of a phase of world history (the Greek word is 'aeon' meaning 'vital force', 'generation' or 'period of time'). In Matthew 24, the disciples ask Jesus "what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?". Jesus answers by telling them about all the things that will happen before 'the end'. He talks about 'birth pains' (verse 8), wars,

Yet God is calling the church of the end times to put on eye salve (Revelation 3), so that we may truly understand the signs of the coming of Jesus.

There are many prophecies in the Bible concerning Jerusalem. Zechariah 12 verse 2: "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling". Verse 3: "On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all nations". So we see that all the nations will have problems with Jerusalem, they will be sent crazy by Jerusalem.

Which 'day' is the Holy Spirit through Zechariah referring to? The day 'when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her'. That has never been the case in world history. Yes, some individual nations have come against Jerusalem. But never 'all the nations of the earth'. And today that is exactly what we see. Jerusalem is the only

and all nations will stream to it". And in verse 3: "the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes from many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."

So there we have it – on the one hand, a huge conflict, about Jerusalem. And on the other hand a vision of future peace and safety, when Jerusalem will be the centre and source of world peace.

World peace is what the United Nations was set up to do. The only thing is – it will be Jesus who will bring peace, not the United Nations! Not Putin, and not even Trump can bring about peace. Of course, our governments should strive to bring peace (indeed Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers"). But we should not pretend that the nations can create peace. Real peace will only come when the Prince of Peace, the Messiah, comes.

In Genesis 11, we read that the nations tried to build a tower to reach the heavens, "to make a name for themselves". God was angry because He is a jealous God. He will be angry today with the nations that seek to make a name for themselves. His is the only name that will be lifted high on the earth.

## There is something irrational and 'crazy' about the way the nations are so obsessed with this city.

famines, earthquakes and other signs of the 'end'. In all of this, He speaks in the context of the prophecies of the Old Testament which are full of God's promises to send the Messiah to usher in the kingdom.

city in the world that is the subject of endless resolutions in the United Nations. It is the only city in the world where all nations refuse to allow the nation ruling it (Israel) to nominate it as the capital of that



Photo: Swami Narasingha | Flickr

Jesus did not, as some claim, reject or annul the prophecies of the Old Testament. On the contrary, He 'confirmed' all of God's promises (Romans 15:8), including the promises through the prophets of the Old Testament to establish His kingdom on earth.

One of the mistakes that we have made as Christians is that we have been taught that the Jewish people and the land promised to them, no longer matter to God. We have been taught that Jesus has fulfilled all prophecies, that the true kingdom is heavenly and has nothing more to do with the earth, and that there is no further fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. This has caused us to look upon Jerusalem with pride and contempt. We have viewed the restoration of the Jews to the city as a purely political phenomenon, devoid of spiritual meaning.

nation. There is absolutely no rhyme or reason for this. Why should the world care if Israel has its capital in Jerusalem? In which other country does the UN decide where the capital city should be? So far not even Trump dares to move his embassy to Jerusalem because he knows how much political backlash that will cause. There is something irrational and 'crazy' about the way the nations are so obsessed with this city. Indeed, Jerusalem has become an 'immovable rock' to the nations.

Jerusalem will also, however, be the key to world peace in the future. Isaiah 2 – "This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills,

## 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

**Sigd - Ethiopian Jewish holiday**  
occurring 50 days after Yom Kippur  
18 November 2017

**Hanukkah - Festival of Lights**  
13-20 December 2017

**Asara B'Tevet - Fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem**  
28 December 2017

**ISRAEL**  
& Christians Today

News Team | Contact Details

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Andrew Tucker | [atucker@c4israel.org](mailto:atucker@c4israel.org)

MANAGING EDITOR  
Cathy Coldicutt  
Ph: +64 21 277 9198 | [newspaper@c4israel.org](mailto:newspaper@c4israel.org)

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

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER  
Marloes van Westing | [international@c4israel.org](mailto: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.



# The Battle for Jerusalem

By Rev. Willem J. J. Glashouwer, President Christians for Israel International and Honorary President ECI

On 31 October; yes, on the same date that Martin Luther in 1517 hammered his 95 theses on the doors of churches in Wittenberg-Germany and started the great work of the Reformation; the same day the ANZAC soldiers from Australia and New Zealand launched their attack in 1917 on Beersheba that ultimately led to the liberation of Jerusalem from the occupation by the Turkish Ottoman Empire that had occupied Jerusalem and the Holy Land for 400 years. *"The events of 31 October 1917 laid the foundation for the Jewish people being able to return officially and legally to their land and to ultimately establish their own State on 14 May 1948"*, we read in the article of Kelvin Crombie in the October edition 2017 of our newspaper 'Israel & Christians Today'.

On 22 November 2017 we read the following report on various internet-sites: *"Today, Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his Iranian and Turkish counterparts in Sochi to discuss the future of Syria. According to Putin, all sides will need to compromise"*, says Daniel Gilenson from Jerusalem Online.

Again the Turkish Empire takes action and breaks out into the South-East direction, from Turkey into the Middle East. Following the dream of a revived Ottoman Empire? Of a new Caliphate under the leadership of Turkish Istanbul? This time Turkey moves in together with their 'friends' from Russia and Iran (the former Persia).

## >> Damascus

When one reads the Bible, several wars can be observed to be coming to the Middle East. Israel will be attacked by the surrounding Muslim nations. Is their motive 'jihad', holy war? In the Bible, we find some remarkable prophecies. *Isaiah 17:1-2: "...See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer (about 22.5km east of the Dead Sea on the Arnon River) will be deserted and left to flocks, which will lie down, with no one to make them afraid..."* This has never been fulfilled in history, but one day it will be. Damascus will totally be destroyed. By Israeli armies? By Israeli bombs? By an Israeli atomic bomb, used in defence because of a Syrian attack? By other (natural) causes? We can only answer those questions for sure after the event has happened. The prophecy does not say how it will happen, only that it will happen. Damascus has never been totally destroyed in history. But one day it will be.

*Isaiah 19:16-17: "...In that day the Egyptians will be like women. They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the LORD Almighty raises against them. And the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the LORD Almighty is planning against them..."*

This has never been fulfilled in history, but one day it will be. Although we have seen how the Lord fought at the side of His people Israel when they were attacked



The three leaders: Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted his Iranian and Turkish counterparts in the city of Sochi. "We've reached a new phase in Syria," Putin stated.

several times since 1948, and how the Egyptians fled in panic (in the 1956 war), this is still only a foretaste of what is going to happen one day. The end result then will be, that Egypt no longer will serve Allah, but the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with the four letters of the unspeakable Name YHWH. It is hard to imagine that mighty Egypt will tremble because of what the hand of the Lord through tiny Israel will do to them. But the result will be that Egypt will recognise the true God. *Isaiah 19:18-25: "...In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt My people, Assyria My handiwork, and Israel My inheritance.'" Psalm 83:1-8: "O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. See how Your*

Israel. It talks about Persia, Cush and Put joining him, as well as Gomer, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all their troops. These many nations form a 'second ring' around Israel. Using Flavius Josephus to identify these old names, one sees nations like Saudi-Arabia, Libya, Turkey, Iran, and even the former southern Soviet Republics, who today are all Islamic. These events have never happened in history to date. Some people say that even Russia itself is involved in the background. Incidentally, Syria, Egypt and Iraq are not mentioned! Are they no longer a threat after the 'first ring' has been dealt with? But the Lord will fight for His people Israel, and they will need seven months to bury all the corpses.

*Ezekiel 39:14-16: "... People will be continually employed in cleansing the land. They will spread out across the land and, along with others, they will bury any bodies that are lying on the ground. After the seven months, they will carry out a more detailed search. As*

## Israel will be attacked by the surrounding Muslim nations. Is their motive 'jihad', holy war?

*enemies are astir, how Your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against Your people; they plot against those You cherish. 'Come', they say, 'let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.' With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against You - the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot..."*

When one looks at today's map, these old names all refer to a 'first ring' closely around Israel, containing Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, with Iraq (Assyria) in the background. Are we looking at a combined war against Israel, to wipe it off the face of the earth, instigated by these predominantly Muslim countries and peoples? Has this already happened, or is this also referring to some future event?

*Ezekiel 38 and 39* say that nations under the leadership of Gog (from the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal) will suddenly invade the land of

*they go through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will leave a marker beside it until the gravediggers bury it in the Valley of Hamon Gog, near a town called Hamonah. And so they will cleanse the land."*

## >> Erdogan

Is the present Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Gog of *Ezekiel 38 and 39*? A Belgian brother recently sent me a number of surprisingly new ideas. I would like you to put these ideas to the test. He told me that he has always found it difficult to identify Gog and Magog with Russia.

First some verses from *Ezekiel 38:2-3: "...Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him and say: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal..."* And from *Ezekiel 39:1: "...Son of man, prophesy against Gog and say: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal..."*

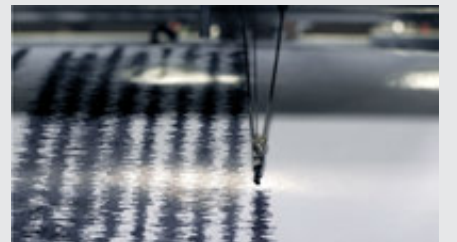
Continued next page...

## Short News

### Israel Withdraws from UNESCO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has congratulated the US for its decision to pull out of UNESCO. He has ordered the Foreign Affairs Ministry to prepare for an Israeli withdrawal from the organisation as well. "It's a brave and moral decision," Netanyahu posted on his Facebook page. "UNESCO has turned into the theater of the absurd and instead of preserving history, it distorts it."

### Earthquake on Iran-Iraq Border

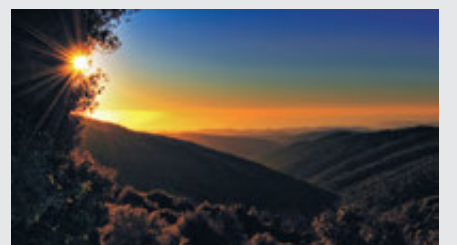


An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale was felt throughout Israel, particularly in the center of the country, on Sunday 12 November. The source was a 7.3 magnitude earthquake that rocked the Iraqi-Iranian border, where over 530 people were killed. People living in the cities of Petah Tikva, Kiryat Ono and Ra'anana felt their windows, lamps and furniture shaking.

### Israel Offers Help

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered humanitarian assistance to the victims of the devastating earthquake in Iran and Iraq, but was immediately rebuffed. Netanyahu offered the aid via the Red Cross. "I've said many times that we have no quarrel with the people of Iran," he added. "Our quarrel is only with the tyrannical regime that holds them hostage and threatens our destruction."

### "Jordan Valley Part of Israel"



Addressing a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's capture of the Jordan Valley during the Six Day War, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that "the Jordan Valley will always be part of Israel. We will continue to settle it and invest in its industry and its tourism." Stating his hope that one day it will become "a place of peace and prosperity for all the people in the region."

### Gaza Eye Doctors Trained in Israel

Palestinian doctors from St. John's Hospital in Jerusalem travel to Gaza every two months to perform eye operations. Since January 2017, approximately 60 corneal transplant surgeries have been performed in Gaza by doctors who were trained in Israel. They bring their medical equipment from Jerusalem to Gaza in order to give patients the best treatment possible.



Continued from previous page

Gog and Magog are identified as a person and a country in the Hebrew Bible, in *Ezekiel 38* of the Old Testament. Gog is the ruler of the land of Magog who will fight the final battle against the people of God. In the New Testament in the *Book of Revelation 20:8*, Gog and Magog are identified as two countries under the rule of Satan. And finally, Gog and Magog are two statues of giants in the London Guildhall dating back to the mythical stories about the origin of Britain. This remark can be overlooked in the context of this article!

The first-century Romano-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus put Magog on a par with the Scythians, nomads from the Central Asian steppes. They established a kingdom north of the Black Sea that lasted from the eighth until the second century BC. But Josephus did not connect the Scythians with apocalyptic themes, seeing them as just the enemies that emerged in that period of time. In his work *‘The Jewish War’*, he told the story of Alexander the Great who was alleged to have built an iron gate between two mountains to keep Gog and Magog away from the civilised world. But here too Josephus linked no eschatological meaning to this story, seeing the gate as just a military structure to keep out the enemy.

### >> Gog and Magog

A Christian brother in Belgium says that Gog is derived from the Hebrew word that means roof, rooftop or top of a building. If it refers to a location, a country, then it must be North of Israel, in a mountainous area with peaks. The Caucasus qualifies very well for such a location. From maps that represent the ancient world known to the Hebrews, we learn that Gog and Magog (*from the land of Gog*) belong to the region regarded as the top of the known world which would

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, comes from Georgia. When he visited his home area on 11 August 2004, he said: *“I am a Georgian too; my family is a Georgian family that migrated from Batumi to Rize!”* When you render Erdogan’s statement into the language of *Ezekiel*, then this is what you get: *“I (Gog, paramount chief of Turkey) am a Georgian too (from the land of Magog); I have a special relationship with the area my family originates from and migrated from Batumi in Georgia (probably Meshech) to Rizen in Turkey (probably Tubal).”*

## But one-day these prophecies will be fulfilled. As well as all the other prophecies of the Bible.

fit the Caucasus, including Georgia. Meshech is located in the southern part of the Caucasus in an area adjacent to North East Turkey, which includes the Black Sea coastline of Georgia. Thubal lies in the Rize Province in today’s North East Turkey, near the Black Sea coast. As a result, we can read both verses from *Ezekiel* as: *“... You, Gog (leader or chief) coming from the land of Magog (coming from Georgia, Caucasus-region)... who is a prince, a paramount chief of Meshech (Southern Georgia) and Tubal (from the North Eastern provinces of Turkey)...”*

Biblical prophecies need to be read with great caution. Such identification of *Ezekiel 38 and 39* makes you careful not to take for granted that in these chapters it is Russia and its allies that could suddenly attack Israel. It is especially possible with the identification of Turkey, that has never given up its dream of a restored Ottoman Empire. Such hopes seem increasingly relevant in the current call for a restored Caliphate for the entire Islamic world with Istanbul as its centre. Leaving speculation, let us return to the general picture of God’s promises

and Covenants with Israel. A Third World War can happen overnight since many countries nowadays possess nuclear weapons. These include Israel, which will most certainly not stand idly by when missiles with ABC-weapons come their way. What will be the reaction of the entire Islamic world? This huge Islamic empire stretches from Indonesia through Asia, encompassing Pakistan, Turkey, the former Soviet republics, the Middle East, some areas of former Yugoslavia, large areas of Africa and also portions of Europe. For example, there are more than two million Muslims in the United Kingdom, four million in Germany and six million in France. Even the United States of America houses more than seven million Muslims.

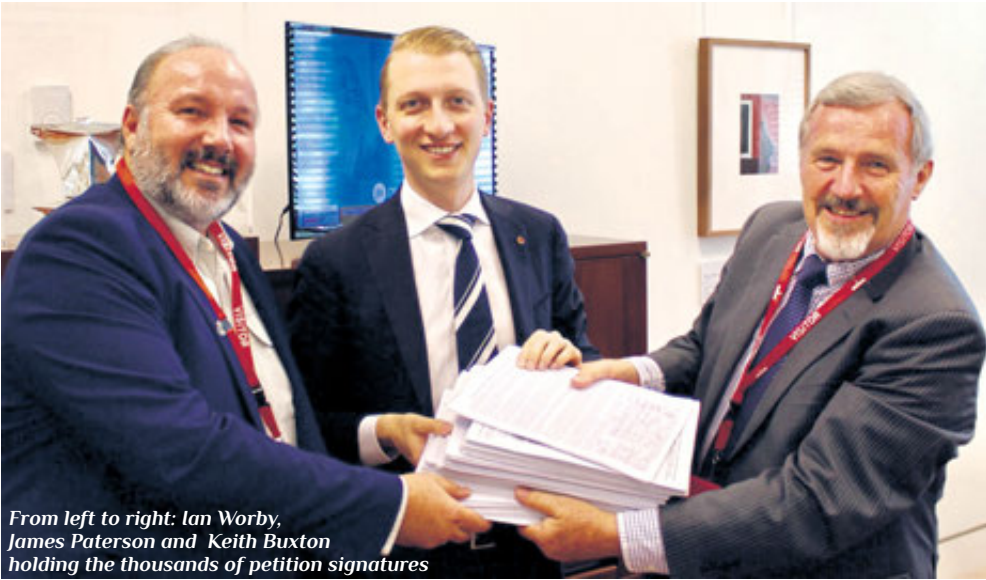
We are not fortune-tellers. We cannot be sure that the events today will lead now directly to the ultimate fulfilment of *Ezekiel 38 and 39*. But one-day these prophecies will be fulfilled. As well as all the other prophecies of the Bible. God’s Word is absolutely trustworthy. Martin Luther was quite right about that. *“We as Christian should be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem. Watching out for all the dangers that threaten Jerusalem. And blow the shofar, so that people that are deep asleep wake-up. Also in the Churches worldwide. Until He makes Jerusalem a Praise in the Earth.”* Isaiah 62.

# Mission Accomplished

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

Well, we have done what we came to Federal Parliament in Canberra to do - we have submitted for presentation in the Senate our petition with over 8,100 signatories requesting the Australian Parliament to take immediate action to move our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel. Jerusalem lies at the heart of the Jewish and Christian faiths and has stood at the centre of the Jewish people’s national and spiritual life for over 3000 years. The petition is now in the hands of Senator James Paterson, who plans to present the petition in the Senate in the last sitting of Parliament this year, and who in his maiden speech in March last year could not have made this priority clearer when he said: *“I am a strong supporter of the State of Israel. I admire greatly what they have built in just a few short years. Today, Israel stands not just as a beacon of liberal democracy in a sea of despotism in its own region but as a shining example to the entire world of how to build a prosperous, tolerant, harmonious and creative country in the toughest of circumstances.”* *“I am proud of the generally bipartisan support that Israel has enjoyed from successive Australian governments. But I think we can do more to demonstrate our*

*solidarity. Like many nations, Australia has chosen to locate our embassy in Israel in Tel Aviv. But Tel Aviv is not Israel’s capital city - Jerusalem is. Every nation deserves the right to choose its own capital city. Since 1950, Israel has asserted it is Jerusalem. Since 1967, it has administered the entire city.”* *“The Israeli government have demonstrated time and time again that they are the best custodians for the religious and historic sites that are of significance to people of many faiths. I do not believe that the international community can continue to refuse to recognise their capital city of choice and the clear reality on the ground. It would be a symbolic but important step for Australia to recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital city formally and to move our embassy there.”* It has been a privilege to work with a core group of pro-Israel Christian leaders during this significant and historic year in initiating and promoting this petition ([www.embassytojerusalem.com](http://www.embassytojerusalem.com)). Please pray that the favour of the Lord will rest strongly upon the advancement of this petition. We remember that the Australian government played a significant role in the events leading to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. On 29 November 1947 the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine into



From left to right: Ian Worby, James Paterson and Keith Buxton holding the thousands of petition signatures

two separate Jewish and Arab states, and when UN General Assembly resolution 181 was brought to a vote Australia was the first country to vote ‘Yes’. After submitting the petition, it was a privilege to join Ian Worby at a special ‘Celebrating Israel’ function in Parliament House marking exactly 70 years since this resolution was passed and the commencement of the 70th-anniversary celebrations of the State of Israel. On 8 November in Washington DC the former US and Israeli ambassadors to the UN were among the witnesses who

testified at a significant hearing on relocating the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Congressman Jim Jordan pointedly and compellingly declared that, *“This is the right time to do this thing... So let’s just get it done.”* Pray with us that Australia, with its 100 years of mateship with Israel still resonating in the hearts of so many of us, will recognise that it’s time to move Australia’s embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and will *‘just get it done’* - and be in the international forefront once again!

# Jerusalem US Embassy Move

Courtesy of Jerusalem Online

Israeli officials in Jerusalem reportedly believe that there is a high probability that US President Donald Trump will announce shortly an official recognition

of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, an announcement that will likely indicate a US embassy transfer is underway. According to speculation in Israel, it is

believed that Trump does not want to wait for a policy plan as he does not want to sign the waiver postponing the embassy transfer, which has been signed

by his predecessors. Trump is also likely facing pressures from his evangelical supporters, who would like for him to keep his campaign promise.



# Rev. Glashouwer Visits Brazil

By Pr. Val Nogueira, Christians for Israel Brazil

The Christians for Israel seminar held in Brazil, was once again blessed by a visit from Rev. Willem Glashouwer and his wife, Marianne.

The tour started in the city Olinda-PE, where 70 pastors from across the State of Pernambuco and various denominations gathered together to hear the message. The hosts, Pr. Gleyson Vitorino de Farias, (*Baptist Church*) and Pr. Eduardo Silva de Moraes, (*Assembly of God*), have committed themselves to support Christians for Israel Brazil and have adopted Rev. Willem Glashouwer's '*Why Israel?*' teachings to their Bible Schools and Theological Seminars (*over 3000 students*).

We had the opportunity to take the message to various groups and churches in the States of Pernambuco, Paraiba and Rio Grande do Norte.

The State of Pernambuco was the first province in South America to welcome the Jewish people and the home of the first Synagogue of the Americas. During the Dutch colonisation of the province of Pernambuco, this part of the world became a haven to the Jewish people in the dark days of both Portuguese and Spanish Inquisitions. However when the Portuguese took over, the Jews had to flee to several other States nearby and also made their way to the South Provinces.

Fortunately, all events were attended by leaders and pastors who are influential voices over a vast flock in the Northeast of Brazil.

We are very encouraged by new partners who came forth to support Israel, inform the church, and inspire others to also love God's firstborn son.



# From Abraham to Israel Today

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Christians for Israel Austria



Under the theme '*From Abraham to Israel today*' a group of 23 participants from Austria, three from Germany and one from Switzerland, toured Israel for nine days, beginning 26 October. Marie-Louise Weissenböck (*Regional Director Europe and Chairwoman in Austria*) and Moshe Gabay (*Keshet Tours Israel*) led the tour.

The main objective of the tour was to deepen our Biblical understanding of the role Israel and the Jewish nation plays in God's plan of redemption. We achieved this by gaining knowledge of the facts on the ground in Israel today and by meeting various people belonging to Israel's diverse society.

Starting off in Jerusalem, we celebrated the beginning of Shabbat together with many joyous people at the Western Wall, followed by a Shabbat meal at Hineni, a humanitarian organisation in Jerusalem which looks after the poor, lonely and traumatised, especially Holocaust survivors and terror victims.

During the four days we spent in and around Jerusalem, we learnt more about the Biblical times as well as the political status and the security of Israel's capital today. To broaden our view, we also visited the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem, and Kfar Etzion, a settlement in the Gush Etzion block on the border of Jerusalem. The settlement was established on purchased land in 1930, but was completely destroyed during a massacre by Arabs in May 1948 and re-established by the children and grandchildren in 1967.

A day tour took us to Jericho, up the Mount of Temptation and down for a swim in the Dead Sea. We visited Samaria including Shilo, Mount Gerizim, Ofra and Beth El. In Ofra, we were invited for coffee into the home of an elderly couple,

who had only moved there from Tel Aviv after reaching the age of 65. Both had made Aliyah with their parents as small children from Germany and Holland respectively. Today they are 87 years old and have never regretted their decision to move to the hills of Samaria, a part of the heartland of the Bible.

One of the highlights during our stay in the Galilee was a visit to the Kibbutz Misgav Am, on the border with Lebanon. Meeting three 19-year old soldiers defending the border made us realise the huge responsibility that is put on such young shoulders.

Further highlights included a meeting with an Arab Christian pastor, Pr. Touma of Nazareth and a leader of the Aramaic Maronite Congregation of Gush Halav, both impressing us with their deep love for Israel.

On our way to Tel Aviv, we visited Haifa, Mount Carmel and had lunch in the home of a Druze family. A moving visit to the Hall of Independence completed our blessed tour.

# A Christian Life in Thailand

By Rev. Kees and Willemijn Brouwer, Christians for Israel Thailand



The population of Thailand is 68 million; the majority being Buddhist, with only 1% being Christian.

It's not difficult for Christians to live their faith in Thailand because there is religious freedom. However, in practice, it is hard to live as a Christian in a Buddhist community. In the villages, they see the Christian religion as something foreign. But in the bigger cities, it is easier to live your life as a Christian.

The Christians in Thailand are very open to the message of Israel. Over the last ten years, many Christians have visited the Holy Land of the Bible and have become friends of Israel. We find the best response in the Independent Churches, like the Charismatic and the Pentecostal churches. They believe Israel will play an essential role in the End Times and the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Christians for Israel in Thailand has translated books written by Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer into Thai, including *Why Israel?* *Why End Times?* *Why Jerusalem?* and *Israel: Covenants and Kingdom*. For

the last four years, we have organised seminars with Willem Glashouwer. The next seminar will be in 2018. The seminars are held in Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

A retired pastor read the book *Why Israel?* seven times and was so blessed that he offered a thousand euros to bring the Jews home to Israel.

We work as missionaries in one of the mainstream churches, the Church of Christ in Thailand, which is a combination of Presbyterian and Baptist churches. We have been living in Thailand for almost 40 years and have worked for

many years as Leadership Trainers. In the last ten years, our ministry has focused on prisoners in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Every Sunday we travel to churches that do not have a pastor to help them out. We have two children, a son in Bangkok and a daughter in the Netherlands and we have two grandchildren.

We have known Rev. Willem Glashouwer for 48 years now. When he was a student, he organised Bible study weekends where I became a believer. Since that time, we have been friends. In the last few years, we invited him to teach the message of Israel in Thailand.



# New Israel Centre - Nijkerk

By Marijke Terlouw, Christians for Israel Netherlands

*The following is a revised version of an article originally published in Reformatisch Dagblad.*

On 26 October 2017, Christians for Israel opened its new Israel Centre in Nijkerk. Pim van der Hoff (Chairman of Christians for Israel Netherlands, and member of the board of Christians for Israel International) officially opened the building, referring to the new centre as “a house of and for God”.

The Israel Centre is the only centre in Europe dedicated to Israel and the Jewish people that is owned and operated by Christians. The opening attracted a lot of media attention. During his opening speech, Pim van der Hoff read *Psalm 127*, and placed special emphasis on the words “*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.*”

The Israel Centre is located in Nijkerk, Netherlands. The Mayor of Nijkerk referred to the fact that the city of Nijkerk was home to a strong Jewish community for centuries, but after World War II, there were only 13 survivors.

The Israel Centre is home to: Christians for Israel Netherlands, Christians for Israel International, and the Israel Products Centre.

Israeli Ambassador to the Netherlands, His Excellency Mr Aviv Shir-On, thanked these organisations for their efforts to support Israel and the Jewish people. “*You are a true friend of Israel because you have always been there for us, in good times and difficult times. You are amongst the most important and valuable friends that the State of Israel and the Jewish people have in all the world. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your founder, Karel van Oordt, started this movement in the late 1970’s by publishing a small newspaper in the Netherlands. And look what it has become today – a global Christian movement, active in over forty nations worldwide.*”

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipy Hotelvy sent a video message to congratulate Christians for Israel. “*I must say I was deeply touched to hear that you have a Jerusalem wall in your new Centre. It demonstrates that Jerusalem is not only in your hearts, you are also defending the safety of the city. Throughout the years you have been true allies, and we thank you for that.*”

The leader of the Dutch political party, Kees van der Staaij, presented an olive tree, a symbol of the relationship between

Christians and the Jewish people.

Referring to *Romans 11*, he reminded the audience that it is the task of the church to comfort and show love to the Jewish people. “*We have been engrafted into Israel’s olive tree, and we need to be thankful and humble about that.*”

President of Christians for Israel International Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer reflected on the return of the Jewish people to the land. “*We live in exciting times. The Jewish people are returning to their land and Jerusalem. The future will be amazing. The nations will send their ambassadors to Jerusalem.*”

Chairman of the United Israel Appeal in the Netherlands, Freddy Hollander, presented Christians for Israel with a menorah. “*Your support cannot be described in words – it is simply amazing.*”

Chief Rabbi of the Netherlands Binyomin Jacobs elaborated on the significance of the menorah. “*The menorah is intended to shed light. There must always be holy oil in the menorah. I am convinced that, at Christians for Israel, the oil is 100% holy, and 1000% kosher.*”

## Short News

### Jews Set ‘All-Time Record’ in Hebron



35,000 celebrated Shabbat Chayei Sarah in Hebron recently, an annual event where Jewish residents open their homes to visitors. Thousands of Jews descended on the 2,000 year-old structure for Sabbath prayers, which included vibrant singing and dancing. The streets of Hebron and Kiryat Arba were filled with tents and caravans.

### Israeli, Palestinian Women ‘Wage Peace’

Thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women marched through the West Bank along the Dead Sea in October, a “*Journey to Peace*” by the organisation Women Wage Peace. The march, held under the banner, “*We’re not stopping without an agreement,*” culminated with a protest outside the Israeli Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem.

### Fiji Affiliates Celebrate Rosh Hashanah



Christians for Israel Fiji were privileged to be invited by a group of Jews, who were in Fiji on business, to celebrate the Jewish New Year - Rosh Hashanah. “*It was a great privilege to establish connections with the Jewish community and to celebrate one of their own feasts right here in our home soil,*” said Lepani Makubuna, National Leader Fiji.

### Discrimination Against Israeli Athletes Cease

Starting in 2018, Israeli athletes participating in the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam judo tournament will be permitted to do so wearing the Israeli flag and Israeli national symbols, which has previously been disallowed. In addition, the Israeli national anthem ‘*Hatikvah*’ was not played at ceremonies when Israelis won medals.

### Shekel World’s 2nd-Strongest Currency



The Israeli shekel is currently the world’s 2nd-strongest currency, with China’s yuan as the world’s strongest currency according to a report by Deutsche Bank. According to the report, the shekel appreciated 6.1% against the currencies of Israel’s main trading partners, such as the US dollar, the British pound, the euro and the yen.



Left to right: Freddy Hollander, chairman of the Dutch based “Collectieve Israël Actie”, Aviv Shir-On, Israeli Ambassador to The Netherlands, Pim van der Hoff, Christians for Israel Chairman and Binyomin Jacobs, Chief Rabbi of the Netherlands | Photo: Henk Visser (RD)



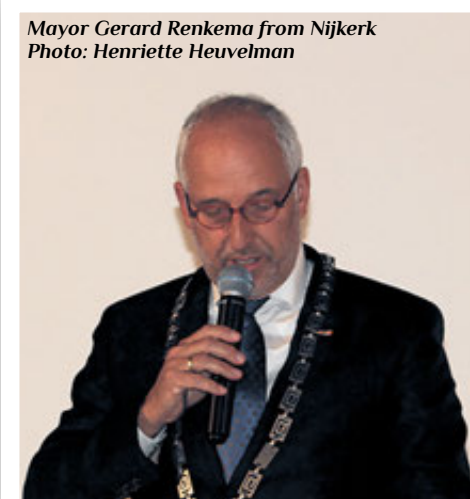
Rev Willem J.J. Glashouwer, President Christians for Israel International | Photo: Henriette Heuvelman



Presenting the gift from the Jewish community for the new Israel Centre | Photo: Henk Visser



Shraga Evers from Aleh presenting a gift to Pim van der Hoff, Christians for Israel Chairman | Photo: Henriette Heuvelman



Mayor Gerard Renkema from Nijkerk | Photo: Henriette Heuvelman





# Report From Our National Leader:

OPINION PIECE December 2017



Ian Worby at the Beersheba Celebrations in Israel.  
Dear faithful readers & friends (Chavorim).  
Welcome to our December/January edition of the Australian Edition of *Israel and Christians Today*.

I write this with a lot of mixed feelings and emotions, with what I perceive to be reflective of many fellow Australian conservatives and Christian Zionists.

## Christian Media Summit in Israel

It started with our recent successful time in Israel, attending the first Christian Media summit in Jerusalem hosted by the Israeli Government. There was a real sense of history being made as my wife Mandy and I were the only representatives for Christian media from the Oceania region (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands)

To hear the Prime Minister of Israel state with such warmth that “Israel has no better friends, than the Christian community around the world”, and then inviting us to move our embassy’s to Jerusalem—the eternal, undivided capital of Israel—“where Christians don’t just survive, but thrive”.

The atmosphere was electric as hundreds of Christian media practitioners and guests from around the world joined in spontaneous ecstatic applause as one might see at a rock concert. (see Mandy’s report on page 7 of the International pages)

## Australia commemorates 100 years of mateship with Israel.

After that event our 120+ Australian pilgrims arrived for our special commemorative “Riders of Destiny” tour of Israel and Jordan. The main theme was of course; our celebration of the Australian Light Horse charge on the ancient Biblical town of Beersheba 100 years ago by 800 brave soldiers, and how against all odds they did what Napoleon and many other armies couldn’t do—take back this strategic site which began the liberation of the Jewish people and its land from 400 years of occupation by the Islamic Turkish Ottoman Empire. (see the articles by Barry Rogers, Kelvin Crombie & Barry Shaw)

During the course of perhaps, the most successful tour we have led to date, our awareness of the Biblical, prophetic and geopolitical involvement of a number of separate but intersecting events that took place on October 31 became very apparent. (As mentioned in a number of past articles and the DVD documentary ‘31 October - Destiny’s Date?’ by Kelvin Crombie)

I was never so proud to wear my Australian akkubra styled hat and sport the Australian and Israeli flags. This was especially true as our 3 bus loads of Pilgrims drove into Beersheba early in the morning to an endless line of Aussie, Kiwi and Israeli flags presenting as decorative bunting down the main highway and on every street light.

We then gathered in solemn assembly at the Commonwealth War Cemetery alongside the graves of fallen soldiers to see and hear our Prime Minister recount the actions of our lads on that fateful and yet victorious day. This was followed by similar words of affirmation and enduring friendship by the Israeli Prime Minister, and also the New



Parade at Beersheba, commemorating 100 years of mateship between Australia, New Zealand and Israel.

Zealand governor general. Afterwards we lined the streets to hail and cheer the 100 Australian Light horse parade being led by both Israeli and Australian marching bands, much to the thrill and excitement of thousands of local Israeli’s Aussies and Kiwis—and many other visiting guests along the road aptly called ‘Independence’.

After a picnic lunch outside the newly restored Turkish railway bridge our group were seated on an elevated grand stand overlooking the final staging area where the dignitaries would sound for the charge of the Australian Light horse, 100 horses—one for each of the 100 years to the day when their forbears rode into history, destined also to fulfil Biblical prophecy.

The Australian band played familiar tunes from the 1st world war era including ‘Waltzing Matilda’ and ‘Its A Long Way To Tipperary’ and many other standards. The tension mounted as speeches were made, and the official delegations arrived, fashionably, late.. The atmosphere was pensive as the sun set low over the dusty field, leading to Tel Beersheba seen away off in the distance, with the wind gently flapping the Australian flags around the grand stands. Then the call by Barry Rodgers of ALH to sound the bugle for the charge... but it wasn’t a full charge as many had expected. Rather, a subdued peaceful walk or trot on this hallowed ground. This was no longer a time to celebrate or promote the thundering hooves of war and clashing swords but a time for reflection and commemoration of peace and the subsequent liberation of Jerusalem, leading up to the rebirth of the Jewish nation.

At the end of our tour, during the farewell dinner, every person was given a Australian and Israeli flag friendship pin and a limited edition

commemorative coin marking the Light-horse involvement in Palestine during the WW1 campaign.

All were inducted to become good will ambassadors for Israel back home in Australia. All were honoured to do this.

We are already inundated with many expressions of interest for our next tour of Israel, Jordan and Greece in September-October 2018! See our advertisement on page 9 and contact our agent Olive Tree Travel on 1300 550 830 if you wish to experience this amazing tour for yourself.

## Mission accomplished?

On our return, I was privileged to travel to the nations Capital with fellow Christian Zionist, Keith Buxton from Bridges for Peace—the principle petitioner to deliver the 8,100 signed petitions to Senator James Paterson. He said he would be delighted to present this to the senate the following week. (see Keith Buxton’s report on page 4 of the International pages)

Following a mainly rewarding 3 days of meeting other senators on both sides of the political divide, we were also very privileged to attend the 70th anniversary celebration of Australia being the first nation to vote in favour of the partition plan, resolution 181 in the newly formed UN general assembly in New York; which was to create a homeland for the Jewish people.

During the official festivities of the event held in Parliament house, and hosted by the Chair of the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, Senator David Fawcett, we heard our Foreign minister Julie Bishop recount our celebrated history and affirm our unwavering support for our very close friend and ally, Israel. Then a letter was read out, bringing greeting from Israeli



From left to right: Senator James Paterson with Keith Buxton (Bridges for Peace) handing over the 8,100 petitions signed by Aussies to move the Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem





Foreign Minister Julie Bishop affirming Australia's enduring and unwavering friendship with Israel at the 70th Anniversary celebration of UN Resolution 181 at Parliament House, Canberra.



Tasmanian Senator Jonathon Duniam and Ian Worby with Israel and Christian's Today Newspaper



Senator David Fawcett with Ian Worby at Parliament House during the 70th celebration of the Partition Plan of Palestine (UN resolution 181)



From Left to Right: C4I Australia Liaison - Jacqui Bakker, His Excellency Israeli Ambassador Mark Sofer and Ian Worby

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu echoing this very important relationship, forged in the battle of Beersheba and based on our shared values, as did the new Israeli Ambassador, his excellency Mark Sofer.

## From celebration to betrayal?

You can only imagine my dismay and shock, that on the very next day I read that Australia had abstained (along with 8 others) from a very horrible UN resolution to disavow Israeli ties to Jerusalem as part of six anti-Israel UN resolutions presented on Thursday the 30th of November in New York. The vote was 151 in favor and six against, with nine abstentions. See article at: [www.bit.ly/UN151](http://www.bit.ly/UN151)

During our time with the senators earlier in the week we were repeatedly told, concerning our petition to move our Embassy to Jerusalem, that Australia won't take action until America does. (note: America, along with Canada and 4 others voted against these outrageous resolutions... so, what happened to Australia's unwavering and enduring support?)

Our response was to, respectfully ask why? Australia didn't wait for America at the Battle of Beersheba or for the liberation of Jerusalem on the 11th of November 1917. Australia was the first nation to vote YES in Resolution 181, on the 29th of November 1947, before Israel declared independence in 1948. So why shouldn't we lead the charge again?

Today as I write, news and online social media is awash with speculation that President Trump will announce that America will recognise Jerusalem as Israel's Capital and then finally move their embassy to

Jerusalem. All of this in the face of rabid threats and opposition from the Palestinian's and their supporters.

(Remember that Palestine is only holding observer status, as it has not yet been officially recognised as an independent state, which according to the Oslo agreement, it is to first negotiate peace with Israel and recognise Israel also as a sovereign state, which the PLO has repeatedly refused to do.)

Please continue to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, according to Ps 122:6 and for our Political leaders according to 1 Timothy 2:2 and also for me and the other Christian and Jewish pro Zionist leaders that we would be like the men of Issachar, "who understood the times, and knew what Israel should do." – 1 Chronicles 12:32

**Australia didn't wait for America at the Battle of Beersheba or for the liberation of Jerusalem... So why shouldn't we lead the charge again?**

## C4I Australia Office hours and contacts over the Christmas and New year break

Tuesday the 19th will be our last day that the office in Brisbane will be open for placing orders for resources, gifts or newspapers. After the festive season and new year we hope to resume normal office hours each Tuesday from January the 16th. **For urgent matters outside of these times you can call Paul**

**or Marg Longfield on 0410 456 806** or email your request to [info@c4israel.com.au](mailto:info@c4israel.com.au)

Alternatively, the ladies at Vision Christian Media (our ministry partner), will relay your enquiry to our volunteer team to respond by the next Tuesday. Its a freecall: **1800 00 777 0**

## The season for Giving aid, prayers for peace and thanks

Thank you to all of you our wonderful, faithful, praying and generous readers and supporters for standing with me and the local team of volunteers here in the office and across the country. When our Jewish friends see the generous support from gentile Christians it often makes them marvel and provokes them to jealousy as we read in Romans 11:11,14.

Can I encourage you to consider making a generous Christmas gift to help either bring a Jewish family home, feed or cloth them during the sever winter months or help establish them in their First Home in the Homeland? [See page 12 on options for how to give.](#)

Together with your help we have been able to print and post this very unique and important Christian newspaper—Israel and Christians Today—as a vital tool, helping inform and educate the Church to what is really going on in Israel from a Biblical perspective.

Through this paper, as well as our various resources, speaking events and tours, we continue to provoke and inspire this generation to action—giving and supporting the many practical humanitarian projects that are a comfort, help and expression of Christian love to the Lord's people. You are a true reflection of what the Lord spoke of in Matthew's Gospel concerning those who gave water, clothing, food and shelter to the least of the Lord's brethren:

**'The King will reply, "truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"'** – Matt 25:40

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



**Ian Worby**  
National Leader  
Regional Director Oceania





Kelvin Crombie

Some thirty or so years ago I began presenting a message about the Anzac involvement in the restoration of Israel. This message basically related to the Sovereignty of God Almighty behind the twin events of 31 October 1917: the capture of Beersheba (and associated charge of the Australian Light Horse) and the decision by the British War Cabinet for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine – which became known as the Balfour Declaration.

It would be difficult to see how these twin events were the result of mere historical coincidences, or of human engineering. The other possibility therefore is that an intelligent outside source must have worked it all out. Who could that possibly be? Well one very good possibility would be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Interestingly one event in the twin set occurred at Beersheba, the one location in the land of Israel associated with the living patriarchs to whom God Almighty promised the land of Israel on a covenant oath. The other event of the twin set relates to the integrity of God, of Him upholding the promise he swore on oath to Abraham. For that oath to be fulfilled the Jewish people would need to be restored as a nation to live in the land of Israel. They, as a nation, had been separated from the land since 135 AD.

This event occurred in the War Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street London. This covenant promise was recognised by many members of the War Cabinet which made that decision on 31 October 1917 - by view of their knowledge of the Scriptures. But from whence came their knowledge of the Scriptures? The short answer – it was a direct fruit of the Reformation.

## The importance of the Reformation

The official beginning point of the Reformation took place on 31 October 1517. On that day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses or protests against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg.

Although there were already protest movements in England (John Wycliffe) and Bohemia (John Huss), yet it was Luther's actions which had the biggest impact in Europe. Although Luther later became very antagonistic towards the Jewish people, yet in Germany two groups held a more positive attitude towards the Jewish people, these being the Lutheran Pietists and the Moravians. Both of these groups interacted with similar streams in Britain.

In Britain the two streams of Protestantism which held a positive attitude towards the Jewish people were within the Puritan and the Evangelical movements. From the early 1600's onwards Christians throughout Britain and Ireland were exposed to teaching concerning God's covenant relationship with the nation of Israel. This exposure came through access to the Scriptures and numerous books, pamphlets and sermons on the subject matter.

When Australia and New Zealand were settled by people from Britain and Ireland, this positive understanding towards the Jewish people also came into these two lands (together with



Kelvin Crombie speaking during his presentation as part of the programme in London at the Royal Albert Hall on November 7.

another teaching, which we generally term 'replacement theology'). Interestingly the first Anglican bishop in New Zealand, Bishop Selwyn, officiated at the consecration of the first Anglican-Protestant bishop for Jerusalem – Michael Solomon Alexander. Alexander was a former rabbi and was part of the large movement within Britain which believed in the full restoration of Israel. Both bishops departed for their new dioceses at about the same time. Bishop Alexander's seat in Jerusalem was located where Christ Church was later built inside the walls of the Old City.

## Partners in the vision

During those thirty or so years I met numerous people who shared the vision of the significance of these twin events of 31 October 1917. One was New Zealander Don Moore, a South Island sheep-farmer. Don's grandfather Edward Moore had served in the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and had fought at Beersheba on 31 October 1917. Don accepted my challenge to represent New Zealand and be a rider, in Mounted Rifles uniform, in the 2017 re-enactment. In all three New Zealanders rode, including Don's cousin Tim.

Don had with him a very special memento – a small pocket New Testament which his grandfather had carried with him when he fought at Beersheba on 31 October 1917. Don had it on him on 30 October 2017, when the 99 riders (94 of whom were Australian) rode up to the base of Tel el Saba and in view of several hundred onlookers including some fifty Israeli school children, saluted the role the NZ Mounted Rifles had played in securing this strategic location in the mid-afternoon of 31 October 1917. Only by securing Tel el Saba could the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse take place as it did with minimum casualties.

The following day, 31 October 2017, the New Zealanders had an official ceremony on Tel el Saba. Almost simultaneously the 99 riders re-enacted the charge of the Light Horse on part of the very same plain that they rode across in 1917. While Tim was at Tel el Saba, Don represented the New Zealanders. Don in fact was one of four selected riders

who received medallions from Israeli PM Netanyahu, Australian PM Turnbull, and New Zealand Governor-General, Dame Patsy Reddy.

The events of 31 October 2017 in Beersheba were a fitting testimony to God Almighty who in 1917 was in the process of confirming the integrity of His word, the covenant oath. Countless Christians had been reminding God Almighty of this covenant oath for several centuries, and on 31 October 1917 the British and Anzac forces at Beersheba were God's instruments, as Cyrus emperor of Persia had once been, in bringing the fulfilment of that covenant oath closer to hand.\*

## Royal Albert Hall - 7 November 2017

The second part of celebrating the twin historical events of 31 October 1917 occurred in numerous locations, one being in the Royal Albert Hall in London on 7 November.

An incredible programme was put together which was thoroughly appreciated by the 3000 or so Jewish and Christian people who attended. This programme involved a 500 people choir from the Netherlands; a wonderful orchestra; a 100 people choir from a Nigerian Church in London; a klasma band; a dancing troupe from Israel; a well-known Israeli singer.

Coupled with this were a number of acting scenes involved professional actors, playing out the roles of prominent 19th century restorationists, Bishop JC Ryle and Charles Spurgeon; of the relationship between Theodore Herzl and the Anglican restorationist, Rev William Hechler; and of the special dynamic between Zionist Chaim Weizmann and foreign secretary Arthur Balfour.

The present Lord Balfour, Roderick, read out the famous proclamation which was agreed upon by the War Cabinet on 31 October 1917, which thereafter bore the name *The Balfour Declaration*.

Dr David Schmidt and I gave a combined presentation relating to the twin events leading up to, and including 31 October 1917. For this scene we were honoured to also have on stage in period uniform Barry Rodgers and Tom Dawson

representing the Australian Light Horse; Don Moore representing the New Zealand Mounted Rifles; Ben Musson representing the British infantry and Paul Hames as 'General Allenby'. The national flags of Australia, New Zealand and Britain were also held by three of these representative soldiers.

Don carried with him this day the small pocket Bible which his grandfather had with him during the capture of Tel el Saba. This was very fitting, for 31 October 1917 was the 400th anniversary of the official beginning of the Protestant Reformation, an event which played a significant role in influencing those British politicians of the unique relationship between the Jewish people and the land of Israel. No doubt practical geo-politics and economics were the main reason, but the role the Bible played cannot be under-estimated.

The significance of the occasion and of the twin events of 31 October 1917 may be summed up in the words at the end of my presentation that evening in London:

*"By about 6 o'clock in the evening Beersheba was in the hands of the Australian, British and New Zealand soldiers, and the victory which Lloyd George and Allenby needed had been obtained. Without the victory at Beersheba on 31 October the Balfour Declaration was just a worthless piece of paper. Beersheba opened the door to the conquest of Palestine, the land of covenant promise.*

*With this perspective in mind, we can indeed see that the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October 1917 was more than just a military victory. The two pivotal events which took place simultaneously in London and Beersheba could not have been engineered by man alone. Behind them surely was the hand of a Sovereign God."*

(Note: The above related perspective is presented in a new documentary '31 October – Destiny's Date'.)

\*The final consummation of that covenant oath I sense will only become apparent at the time of Jesus' return.



## The centenary of the charge of Beersheba created enormous interest in Israel.

I estimate some many millions of shekels were spent on preparation for the event. With grandstands, field preparations, streets adorned with banners and flags of Australia, New Zealand and Israel, not to mention the enormous cost of security with the Prime Ministers of Australia and Israel and countless VIP's present.

While on the subject of flags, we did get some criticism from the ABC Insiders program, surprise, surprise, for carrying the Israeli flag during our ride. However we carried the Israeli flag with pride, out of respect for our host Nation and its great support for our event. In addition, it symbolised something of the special relationship between our two nations and our unique shared history. I must say though other ABC coverage was excellent.

Our journey was publicised as a "ride for peace" and our tour "in the steps of the Light Horse" took us through the length and breadth of Israel. We had a contingent of Kiwis with us and acknowledged their role in the battle for Jaffa at Ayun Kara and Tel El Saba.

We also gave recognition to the Aboriginal Troopers of WW1 at Tzemach. Here we collaborated with JNF to host a ceremony at the Turkish Railway Station where Aboriginal Troopers had been prominent in that engagement. Around 500 attended including the Australian Ambassador and senior DVA representatives, it was a remarkably moving occasion. Ten riders made up of "white and black" Australians stood guard over the ceremony that proceeded with much emotion.

The Perth Hills and Wheatbelt band provided wonderful music, including a special song for the occasion called "The Railway at Semak", written by band leader Peter Hind.

### The chorus line runs;

*'They came from many backgrounds  
Great riders white and black united  
By a brown slouch hat.'*

There were 178 in our group including 100 riders. Kelvin Crombie was our accompanying historian and gave some amazing insights to the campaign and the geopolitics surrounding it.

We worked closely with the Society for the Preservation of WW1 History in Israel. They scouted out the route through the desert for us following the same route as our boys in 1917. They arranged permits and concerts with local inhabitants and school children along the route, it was a great partnership.

After leaving the WW1 staging point at Shellal we travelled about 60 kms over three days, through the desert and wadis camping out along the route the Australians took one hundred years ago.

The service at the Beersheba CWGC cemetery both Prime Ministers gave moving addresses, Netanyahu was particularly powerful and I had the pleasure of meeting him and hearing from him how much he believed our visit had achieved.

The great highlight was the parade



Australian Light Horse association carrying the Israeli flag.

through the city, for a couple of kilometres tens of thousands of Israelis lined the streets waving flags and cheering, I will never forget the sight. The emotional

welcome we received indicated to me Israelis were now understanding the modern history of Israel didn't begin in 1948 but in 1917! There were many tears along that route.

The charge later in the afternoon was delayed because of security concerns and we had to proceed at a walk. However it was in keeping with the "ride for peace" that we walked in this time instead of charging.

Kelvin addressed the crowd with his thought provoking subject 'Beersheba more than just a military victory'. I gave the final address finishing with a quote from the great advocate of peace Dr Martin Luther King:

*"Peace for Israel means security and we must stand with all our might for its right to exist, it's territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, a marvellous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood."*

Rapturous applause followed the statement, truly a remarkable time.

A Jewish woman came up to me later with tears in her eyes and said "you have touched our soul." To me that was enough, more than enough.

**Barry Rodgers** is the Director of the Australian Light Horse Association, a non-profit, whose aim is to preserve the history and tradition of the Australian Light Horse and its predecessors.

Please contact Barry on **0428 662 528** or [barry@emugully.com.au](mailto:barry@emugully.com.au), if you have any questions about this years re-enactment or the Semakh railway station project.

**Peace for Israel  
means security  
and we must  
stand with all our  
might for its right  
to exist**



Aboriginal riders at Tzemach ceremony



Street parade Beersheba October 21, 2017



# Why Jerusalem? Why Israel? Why End-times?

***'I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew...'***

Romans 11:1-2 CJB

So much of the church these days has become aligned with the enemies rather than the friends of Israel, inadvertently perhaps, by supporting the Palestinian Arabs against Israel.

The **BDS** movement (Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions) is advancing in the West, not only in secular society but among people, as Christians, who claim to love and believe the Word of God.

Israel's disenfranchisement as a legitimate entity re-established by God and sanctioned by the then League of Nations and the International legalities of the San Remo Conference back in April 1920 is a reality of enormous proportions. (We recommend the DVD on this subject... **'Whose Land'** — Order form on the back page.)

In the final analysis it is not about media hype, Arab propaganda, human rights lobbyists nor political opinions but for Christians, the ultimate word on Israel should be the scripture itself. The Word of God foreshadows the return of the Jewish people in the Last Days to their ancient Promised Land in readiness for the coming Messiah.

## What can be clearer than the words of Paul in Romans...

*"Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but **concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.** For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy..."*  
— **Romans 11:28-9**

That Israel, to this day, remains a significant and distinct people from the New Covenant church and yet are still the inheritors of God's national promises by Covenant is abundantly clear.

How this can be denied is a mystery, as the gifts and calling of God in this regard are irrevocable. (ie. Not to be repented of)

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* — **Numbers 23:19**

To deny God's Word in relation to Israel's destiny is to challenge God's integrity and to question His Holy Name.

In Ezekiel 36:23 & 24-26 we read these words of the Lord regarding Israel...

***"And I will sanctify My great name... For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."***

## What we learn from this passage is that:

1. Israel is to be restored to her own land in the last Days.

***"Israel, to this day, remains a significant and distinct people from the New Covenant church..."***

2. That this would lead to a spiritual revival in the terms of the New Covenant.

3. That the primary purpose of all of this is to preserve the integrity of God's Holy Name.

There is no doubt, that the BDS movement and all other Anti-Israel/Pro Palestinian movements are inspired by Satan, not just as an attack on Israel, but primarily as an attack against **God's Holy Name and His Prophetic Word.**

**Hence Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel sentiment is in fact Anti-God AND His Word**

THE PRIMARY CALLING OF CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL, INTERNATIONALLY IS TO BRING THIS VITAL, END-TIME MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

To ignore God's Word on this vital subject is to reject His Authority and the veracity of Scripture.

A vital clue to this problem is to confuse Israel and the Church. Clear promises to Israel were not about the Church, in fact the Church is never referred to as Israel, nor as some would have it... Spiritual Israel.

## Here are some vital basic scriptures on the subject...

### Unconditional Promises made by God...

**Genesis 12:1-3** — 'Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you And make your name great;** And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

### God's Everlasting Love for Israel...

**Jeremiah 31:3** — '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. '

### Israel to be regathered by God in these Last days...

**Jeremiah 31:10** — 'Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles (coastlands) afar off, and say, **'He who scattered Israel will gather him,** And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

### Israel to always be a nation in His sight...

**Jeremiah 31:35-37** — 'Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): **"If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."** Thus says the LORD: **"If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD."**

### Israel is His Glory...

**Isa 46:13** — 'I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, **For Israel My glory.'**

### Promises to the Nations and Israel...

**Zechariah 2:11-12** — 'Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. **And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.'**

Marg and I were formerly involved in leading up the ministry of *Christian Friends of Israel* in Australia and we had opportunity during a period of 15 years

to minister to thousands of people in many churches around Australia on the subject of Israel and End-times. Having been a Pastor for almost 30 years, I understand the need to be balanced and sensible in presenting this message to the church.

We would be delighted to come to you and your church, or small group, to minister in these areas and to bring Praise and Worship music and Messianic songs if you wish, on behalf of *Christians for Israel* here in Australia. There is no up-front cost for you or your church, but an offering would always be appreciated.

The message of Israel and End-Times is a vital message for the Last Days in which we now find ourselves.

We enlist the assistance of you the reader and churches who already receive this material to help us fulfill this primary objective. We desire to partner with you and to be a blessing to you.

We would ask Pastors and church leaders to consider appointing a liaison person to relate to this ministry on your behalf. Please contact us about ministry in your church or area as we prepare for a new year to bring this vital message to the church.

## We offer some free resources that we make available on request...

We have stock of 'Why Israel?' 'Why Jerusalem?' and 'Why End Times?' DVDs by Rev. Willem Glashouwer (Limited supply) if you or your church group would like to do further study on this important Biblical topic.

## Attractive Brochures and Bookmarks.

If you would like additional copies of *Israel and Christians Today* to distribute, please contact us. You can request copies with our easy-to-use online form at [www.c4israel.com.au/newspaper](http://www.c4israel.com.au/newspaper) or by using the form on the back page of this paper.

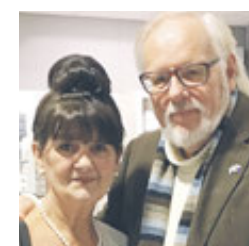
We also ask you to get behind us with your prayers and support as we reach out to the body in 2018.

Understanding God's purposes for Israel is not a side issue but a central theme in God's plan of Redemption.

Remember Jesus' own words...

*'You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.'*  
— John 4:22

**Paul and Marg Longfield** are available to conduct both Sabbath evenings and to teach



on the Festivals and their relevance to the Christian Church today. Find out how easily this can be done with detailed guidelines from this ministry.

For more information, please contact them via [plongfield@c4israel.com.au](mailto:plongfield@c4israel.com.au) or **0410456806**



## On December 11, 1917, Gen. Edmund Allenby's forces officially liberated Jerusalem.

Actually, a Jerusalem delegation, led by the mayor, surrendered the city to a pair of British army cooks on December 8. Thus began a comical farce.

The Turkish army and its German commanders had fled the city ahead of the British advance, leaving the city officials nervously waiting for the liberators. The first uniformed men to arrive were privates Andrews and Church, two cooks who got lost while searching for cooking water. They wandered near the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City and were confronted by a large delegation of city officials. The cooks were so scared they ran back to their unit.

At 8 a.m. the following morning, James Sedgewick and Fred Hurcomb, two British sergeants, were scouting around the Old City walls when they were approached by a group of Arab dignitaries holding a white flag. The two soldiers were overwhelmed by the sudden responsibility of accepting the surrender of Jerusalem and apologized after pictures were taken for posterity, saying they were unable to accept the surrender but promised to send a more senior officer.

Later the same day, two artillery officers, majors Beck and Barry of the 60th Division, were met by a party of officials and asked to accept Jerusalem's surrender. Again, they politely refused, saying they had to bring one of their superiors.

A Lt.-Col. Bayley, commander of the 303rd Brigade of the 60th Division, arrived shortly after their departure. He wrote, "Arriving at the top of the road within sight of the Jewish Hospital in Jerusalem and with my three battery commanders I was amazed to see a white flag waving and a man coming towards me. He said the mayor of Jerusalem was with the white flag. We sat on chairs outside the Jewish Hospital and he informed me that the Turks had left Jerusalem heading towards Jericho."

Bayley sent a message to the 60th Division headquarters informing them that he had just accepted the surrender of Jerusalem and that he was waiting for a general to come and take over the city.

Brig.-Gen. Charles Frederick Watson, the commander of the 180th Brigade of the 60th Division, whom Bayley referred to as "an awful little ass who wanted to be the first to get there," insisted that the mayor again surrender the city to him. Watson was the first British officer to enter the Old City and a photograph exists of him astride his horse inside the Jaffa Gate. Watson got the mayor to sign the white flag, which can be found at the Imperial War Museum in London.

That was not the end of the comical chain of events. Gen. Shea, commander of the London Division, arrived on the scene and demanded that the mayor surrender the town to his unit.

Gen. Edmund Allenby, a man of quick temper, was not happy. As commander-in-chief of the British Army, it would be



General Allenby dismounted his horse to walk into Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate on December 11, 1917. (wikimedia.org)

him, and him alone, that would officially accept the surrender of Jerusalem.

On December 11, 1917, Gen. Allenby rode to the gates of the Old City, dismounted, and led a phalanx of officers through the Jaffa Gate entrance to the David's Citadel where he addressed a large crowd of Jerusalemites.

He deliberately chose to walk into the Old City because, he said, only the Messiah should ride into the Holy City.

Among the officers marching behind him was T.E. Lawrence, known later as Lawrence of Arabia. Despite his exploits on the other side of the Jordan River, he was to write of his Jerusalem experience, "This was to me the most supreme moment of the war."

Gen. Allenby, from the platform of David's Citadel, read out a proclamation:

*"To the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Blessed, and the people dwelling*

*in its vicinity. The defeat inflicted on the Turks by the troops under my command has resulted in the occupation of your city by my forces.*

*"I therefore, here and now, proclaim it to be under Martial Law, under which form of administration it will remain so long as military considerations make it necessary.*

*"However, lest any of you should be alarmed by reason of your experiences at the hands of the enemy who has retired, I hereby inform you that it is my desire that every person should pursue his lawful business without fear of interruption.*

*"Furthermore, since your city is regarded with affection by the adherents of three of the great religions of mankind, and its soil has been consecrated by the prayers and pilgrimages of devout people of those three religions for many centuries, I make it known to you that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site,*

*endowment, pious bequest or customary place of worship, of whatever form of the three religions, will be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faith they are sacred."*

— Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, General. December 1917.

Jews of Palestine in the Jewish Legion, who served in the 38th and 39th Regiments of the British Army, had fought and died fighting alongside their British and ANZAC comrades to drive the Turks out of the land.

The Jews of the Nili espionage network risked their lives, were tortured and hanged, to bring vital intelligence to the British which led to this victory.

The Arabs of Palestine, west of the River Jordan, did not express any national longing throughout the Palestine Campaign, nor did they fight for national rights to the land. Asked why they did not lift a finger to help remove the Turkish yoke from their impoverished necks, Arabs would look up to the heaven and declare it was all up to Allah.

When a mighty British commander by the name of Allenby marched into the Old City to liberate them from the Turks they were awestruck. Allenby, in Arabic, was "Al Nabi," the prophet of god.

To the Arabs of Palestine, Allenby's victory was Allah-inspired.

We know it was inspired by the sacrifice of British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian and Palestinian Jewish fighters.

The liberation of Jerusalem on December 11, 1917, exactly a century ago, was the final act in a triumvirate of significant historic events that year, the other two being the Balfour Declaration and the victory at the Battle of Beersheva. During this auspicious, short period, Christian Zionist politicians, generals, soldiers and Jewish spies in Palestine forced open the door that paved the way for the restoration of the land of Israel for the Jewish people.

That door began to close by 1919 when Jew-hating British administrators, brought up to Jerusalem from Egypt, reneged on their duty to carry out orders. In a treasonable act of defiance and antisemitism, they ignored official British policy.

Gen. Money, the chief administrator, ordered that "The walled city of Jerusalem is placed out of orders to all Jewish soldiers from the 14th to the 22nd April inclusive."

It was no coincidence that this period was the pilgrim festival of Passover.

This outraged Col. John Patterson, the commanding officer of the Jewish Legion, who wrote, "I cannot conceive a greater act of provocation to Jewish soldiers, or a greater insult. Not since the days of Emperor Hadrian had such a humiliating decree been issued."

The Balfour Declaration stipulated that His Majesty's Government would use its "best endeavors to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

Instead, in 1920, they defied British policy, ignored their duty to implement the terms of the Declaration, and duplicitously colluded with anti-Jewish Arab rabble-rousers, including Haj Amin al-Husseini, who was later to meet with Adolph Hitler to plan the Final Solution of the Jewish Problem in the Middle East, to incite violence against Jews. They chose the annual Nebi Musa festival to riot in the Old City while the British stood aside.

With cries of "Death to the Jews!" Jewish women were raped, men were killed and Jewish property destroyed. This British and Arab antisemitic collusion and violence was the first major Palestinian act of terrorism against Jews.

With typical British "even-handedness," Ze'ev Jabotinsky, who had been an officer in the British army, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for illegal possession of firearms, namely three rifles and two pistols, despite the fact that the governor, Col. Ronald Storrs, had been aware that he possessed them. This was the same sentence imposed in absentia on Husseini, who had fled Palestine following the Arab murder and rape of Jews and the destruction of Jewish property.

The rest is history.



**Barry Shaw** is the author of the best-selling book '1917. From Palestine to the Land of Israel.' He is also the senior associate for public diplomacy at the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies.



**“Yosef and Miriam set out on the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the tiny shepherding village of their ancestors...**

**...It would have been quite a surprise for them when a group of shepherds arrived with the fantastical story of angels in the sky and the announcement of ‘Good News for all mankind...”**



**I want to tell you an age old story, a story that’s been told for the past two millennia but this time, I’m going to tell it from a decidedly non-European bent.**

There are a number of key players in this story; the Magi, Herod and the Romans, the Shepherds, and of course, Miriam (Mary) and Yosef (Joseph) and their tiny, baby boy, Yeshua (Jesus).

**Let’s begin with the Magi and in this vein, I begin with the prophet Daniel.**

According to the Scripture, Daniel was promoted to leader of the Wise Men, the Magi. The word Magi, I believe, has long been misinterpreted as being a group of magicians. It is true that the root word for magician is the same as the root word for Magi, but it’s also the root word for the word we use for magistrates, experts in the law and advisors of rulers and monarchies. If you look closer at the role of the Wise Men, or Magi in ancient Babylon and eventually Persia, you’ll see that the common belief that they were simply magicians is entirely inadequate. The Magi were experts in the law, they instructed kings in how to conduct business and national governance and they were also expected to be experts in their spiritual and religious affairs.

Daniel was low in the ranks of the Wise Men when he was taken captive to Babylon, and you can read about his exploits under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar and then under the rule of King Darius and how after various plots and schemes against him, Daniel proved himself faithful and

trustworthy and he became the leader of the Magi. In that position he then promptly promoted his fellow Jews, Shadrach, Meshac and Abednego. (Dan 2:46-49; 5:29-31; 6:25-28) If you read all the book of Daniel, you’ll read how God revealed to Daniel much of history future and mostly about the coming of the Messiah and what would precede His arrival and when...even going so far as to state an exact amount of time from the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the time the Anointed One would be ‘cut off’ or killed. (Dan 9:24-27) This is very exact.

No doubt the members of the Magi watched and counted the weeks from the time the command was made for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and at the right time became aware of a supernatural spectacle in the sky, a ‘star’ the Bible describes it as and this was the motivation for them to send a delegation to Judea, to see the fulfilment of the prophecy of Daniel they’d been patiently waiting for. It’s a long trek from ancient Persia to Judea on camel back, and the Bible doesn’t tell us how many of them made the journey. But considering Herod’s response, their delegation was probably a sizable one with domestic staff and soldiers for security.

It’s important to note that the names and identities of the ‘Three Wise Men’ have come about through church tradition,

not through historical fact. I must also ask this question...why would three rich men from Persia, a nation with no political or religious connection to the Jews, travel to Judea to give gifts to a Jewish baby they would have no further connection with, and then disappear on the backroads and never have any connection or contact with Him again? Unless they were Jewish themselves, it makes zero sense?

**Next, I want to take a look at the Shepherds.**

Bethlehem was always a shepherd community going all the way back to Boaz and Ruth who were farmers. From this couple comes David who was himself a shepherd and from the line of David,

comes both Miriam and Yosef who were Yeshua’s earthly parents.

Bethlehem is about 8.5km from Jerusalem and the Temple. By the time Yeshua arrives the priesthood, primarily made up of Saducees (the liberals of that day), had a great gig going; a money making gig whereby, the animals required for sacrifice were sold to the people for a large profit. For example, the sacrifices for

Passover were specific...a first born year old male lamb without spot or blemish. How could the priests be sure that any lamb presented by a worshipper did in fact meet those criteria? Never mind, don’t bother, we’ll sell you one that we

have certified ourselves from our own temple flocks from nearby Bethlehem. This is why Yeshua was so angry with them when He entered the Temple precincts and drove them out; they’d turned God’s house into a place of profiteering and greed.

The nearby shepherds, working for the priests, bred the first born male lambs that would be sacrificed at Passover. In Bethlehem there are many caves in which the lambs and goats were born and at the time of year Yeshua was born; approx around the end of September, it was still quite warm and it was natural for the shepherds to be caring for the sheep outdoors. Any later in the year, say around December 25, it would be freezing and possibly even snowing, so they most certainly wouldn’t have been outdoors.

It’s also important to note that most country people had animals, mostly sheep and goats and they all had mangers (feeding troughs); but when the angels told the shepherds that their Messiah had just been born and was laying in a manger, they didn’t ask which one, they knew it was the manger they were most familiar with...perhaps in the lambing caves they themselves worked in?

Sure enough, when they went to find out, there He was, their Messiah, laying in the manger and they were the first human beings to set eyes on the Son of God made manifest.

**The next characters in this age old saga is King Herod and the Romans.**

King Herod was titled the king of the Jews but his ancestry was not Jewish but Idumean. His father had been forcibly converted to Judaism but Herod

*continued over...*



was about as Jewish as a strip of bacon! However, because of his appointment by Rome to be the monarch of the Jewish people in the province of Judea under Roman protection, Herod tried repeatedly to ingratiate himself with the Jewish people, touting himself as their Jewish king so they would accept him. They never did, in fact they hated him passionately.

The Romans were a cruel and brutal people, at their peak, they were an enormous military and political power but they were always fighting on several fronts and one of the most volatile provinces they governed was Judea. Not only that, but Judea was beside a region Rome had never had any success at subjugating, and in particular, Persia was untouchable for them. So when the Magi from the east (Persia) arrived in Jerusalem, with an entire political delegation from the royal court; king makers, religious authorities and political elites, accompanied by military guard and security, asking to see the new born 'King of the Jews', it's little wonder that Herod and all Jerusalem were worried. (Matt 2:1-6) Herod got some prophetic updates from the priests, and sent the Magi to Bethlehem and asked them to keep him updated on what they found. If it was only 3 rich guys on camels who arrived in Jerusalem, why was he and all Jerusalem so worried? Herod was paranoid of anyone, so yes, he would have been bothered by their arrival...but all Jerusalem?

### **The final characters in this drama are of course the main characters; Miriam, Yosef and Yeshua.**

Brave young Miriam was in the final days of her pregnancy when word arrived in Nazareth about the Roman edict for the Jewish population to return to their home towns to register in a census, it was most inconvenient, but the Romans never did anything for the convenience of anyone but themselves. So Yosef and Miriam set out on the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the tiny shepherding village of their ancestors.

Upon arrival however, the town was overflowing with other's who like Yosef and Miriam, had returned to register but it meant there was nowhere for them to stay. Unfortunately, Miriam's pregnancy was about to end and she was in full labour and Yosef had to find somewhere for her to birth their baby. What he found was a clean, quiet cave and it was there that Miriam, with the help of Yosef, delivered tiny Yeshua. They bathed Him, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and Miriam would have fed Him and laid Him down to sleep in the manger, the only place available for Him.

No doubt Yosef helped Miriam after her ordeal and helped her get comfortable as she would have been sore and exhausted. It would have been quite a surprise for them when a group of shepherds arrived with the fantastical story of angels in the sky and the announcement of 'Good News for all mankind' and directions to the manger in which their baby boy now lay sleeping. Perhaps not so fantastical because both Miriam and Yosef had had their own encounters and messages with angels.

By the time the Magi arrived in Bethlehem of course, Miriam and Yosef were no longer in a cave and Yeshua was no longer laying in a manger, rather they were in a house when their distinguished guests arrived and Yeshua wasn't described as a babe but rather a child. (Matt 2:11)

The Magi then have their own encounter with angels as they dreamt



Photo from the theatre ruins of the Herodian Fortress - one of 3 ancient fortresses built by Herod the Great. This Fortress overlooks the nearby Shepherds fields in Bethlehem.

and realised that Herod was not a friend at all, and they fled Judea by a route other than Jerusalem so as not to draw attention to the small child putting Him in danger. When Herod found out he'd been thwarted, he commanded all the boys in Bethlehem 2 years old and under be slaughtered.

I can't help but wonder how many of the shepherds who had been protecting the identity of their Messiah lost young children in the slaughter that day? What a price they paid to protect their Messiah. Yosef of course, also had a warning dream to take Yeshua and Miriam to Egypt to protect them from Herod's rage and insanity.

**Did you know that Bethlehem means 'House of Bread'?** Who was Yeshua? He is the Bread of Life; the Bread that came down from heaven. (John 6:35-38)

**Now I want to pull all these threads together in the form of hypothetical questions.**

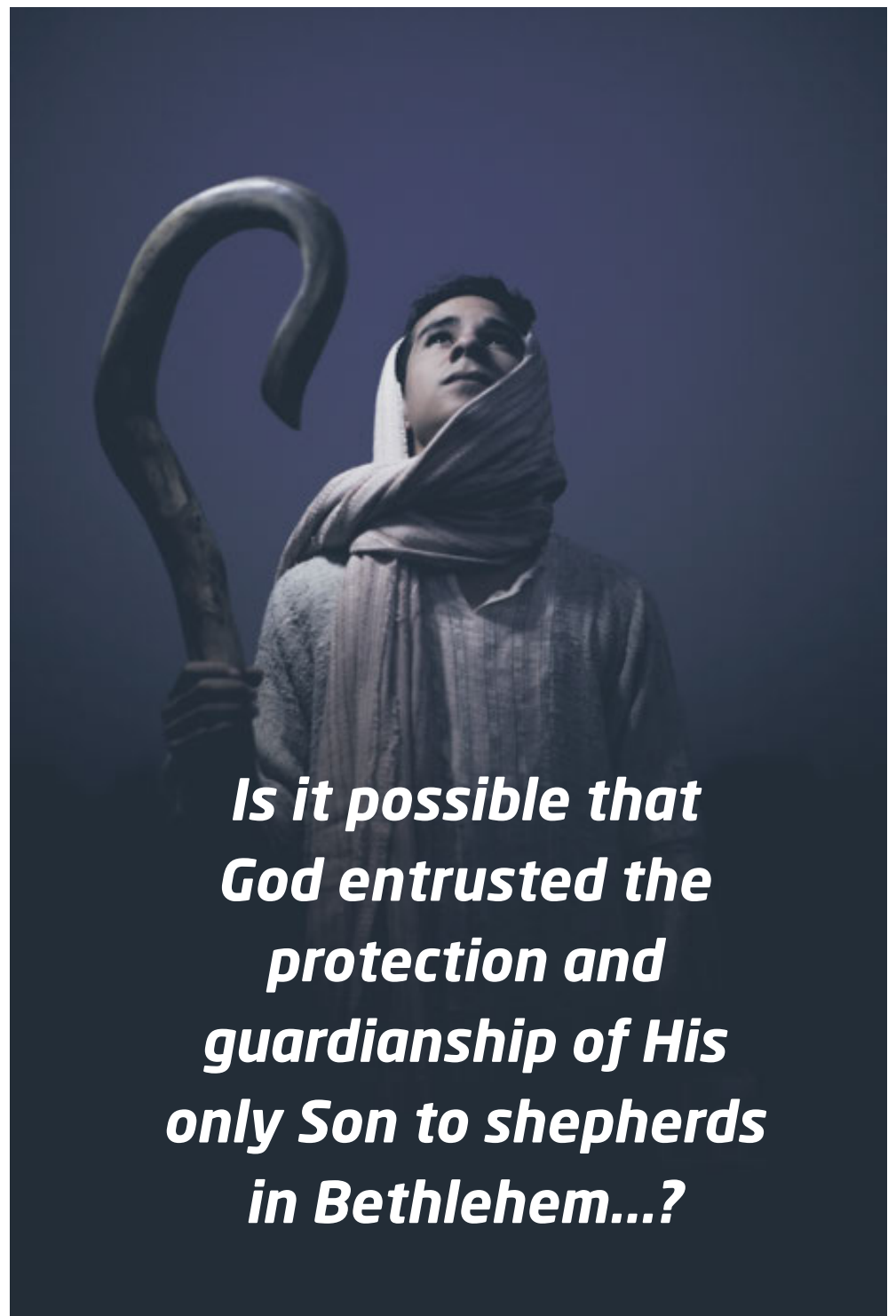
*Is it possible* that the God of heaven, foretold to His prophet Daniel the exact time His Son would be born, ensuring His children, living in Persia would travel to Israel to bless His Son with resources that not only reflected His ministry of being King, Prophet and Priest, but would ensure His survival in Egypt during His first years of life?

*Is it possible* that God entrusted the protection and guardianship of His only Son to shepherds in Bethlehem who witnessed their Messiah while He lay sleeping in a manger?

*Is it possible* God orchestrated *The Lamb* to be born in a cave where First Born Male Lambs were born in preparation for sacrifice at the Passover, when God saved His people from slavery?

I make no claims that history unfolded exactly as I've written above, but after reading, studying and researching, this makes a whole lot more sense than the narrative we've heard for so many years.

Be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11) and study these things for yourself and come to your own conclusions and have a very, very merry Christmas.



***Is it possible that  
God entrusted the  
protection and  
guardianship of His  
only Son to shepherds  
in Bethlehem...?***

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





# 13 Unforgettable days in the Holy Land

20 SEP – 6 / 13 OCT 2018

This special **DELUXE TOUR** will feature 14 days in the land of Israel and Jordan.

PLUS, for the very first time we'll be offering a **7 DAY EXTENSION TO GREECE**, including a cruise stopping at Patmos, Ephesus and more, as we follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul!!!



13 nights  
in Israel and  
Jordan!  
**\$8690\***  
Per Person

This tour will also commemorate **100 YEARS SINCE THE LAST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE CHARGE AT SEMAKH** and the Battle of Tiberias.



For details + to express your interest  
call our expert travel agents today:  
**1300 550 830**

Photo: The Odeon of Herodes Atticus in the Acropolis, Athens



**VISION** CHRISTIAN  
TOURS

[vision.org.au/tours](http://vision.org.au/tours)

CONNECTING  
*Faith to Life*

**Greece Extension:**    4 – 13 October **\$3490pp\***

*\*Based on a minimum of 20 passengers. Twin share. Includes return economy airfares+airport taxes, 4 star plus hotels, buffet breakfast & dinner each day & some lunches, site entry fees, luxury coaches & much more. Conditions apply. Price subject to change.*



**‘Those who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits...’**  
Dan 11:32

While this verse has been a source of encouragement to countless Christians down through the ages, few have considered its original context. This beautiful promise comes immediately after Daniel’s description of an anti-Christ like figure from the ‘kingdom of the north’ who puts an end to sacrifices in the Temple and erects the ‘abomination of desolation’. While I believe these verses ultimately are talking about the End Times, in this article we will see how it specifically applied to the Jewish heroes of Hanukkah and how it might apply to us today.

In AD 175 BC, 400 years after Daniel wrote down his prophecies, Antiochus Euphronius became ruler over the dominant and powerful Seleucid Empire based in Syria to the north of Israel.

At this time, Hellenism was a powerful force in society, seducing many Israelites to the Greek materialistic, pleasure seeking and idol worshipping culture. Jason—a Hellenised and corrupt Levitical priest—entered into a treaty with Antiochus, which enabled Jason to become High Priest in Jerusalem. In exchange Jason helped erected an idol in Jerusalem and built a gymnasium in town—a place that openly promoted homosexual activity. Jason’s actions split Israel—outraging those who remained faithful to the Torah, while many Hellenised Jews rallied to Jason’s side.

Three years down the track, Antiochus—who called himself ‘Epiphaneus’ or the “god man made flesh” suffered a humiliating loss in battle against his arch-rivals in Egypt. Returning from this stinging defeat, he heard of insurrection and trouble brewing in Israel and

launched an enraged attack on the city of Jerusalem.

When the dust had settled 80,000 Jews had been butchered. Antiochus proceeded to defile the Holy of Holies in the Temple—sacrificing a pig on the altar of God and pouring swine broth over the holy parchments. As foretold in Daniel 11:31, Antiochus then put an end to the daily sacrifices in the temple and erected an idol of Zeus in the Temple—bearing his own image on its face. The Jews at the time called it the ‘abomination of desolation’ drawing on the imagery of Daniel 11:31. Truly it became an ‘abomination of desolation’, for as soon as the idol was erected, intense house-to-house persecution broke out across the entire land of Israel. Houses were searched meticulously, and those found keeping God’s laws were mercilessly tortured and killed.

Daniel 11:33 predicted that many of the faithful would fall by the sword and the book of Maccabees tells many such stories. One such story is that of the elderly scribe Eleazer. Eleazer’s captors desired to treat him kindly due to his advanced age and implored him to only pretend to go along with their demands. Eleazer however refused to compromise and went willingly to a torturous death, setting an example that was to be followed by many—young and old, men, women and children in the days to come.

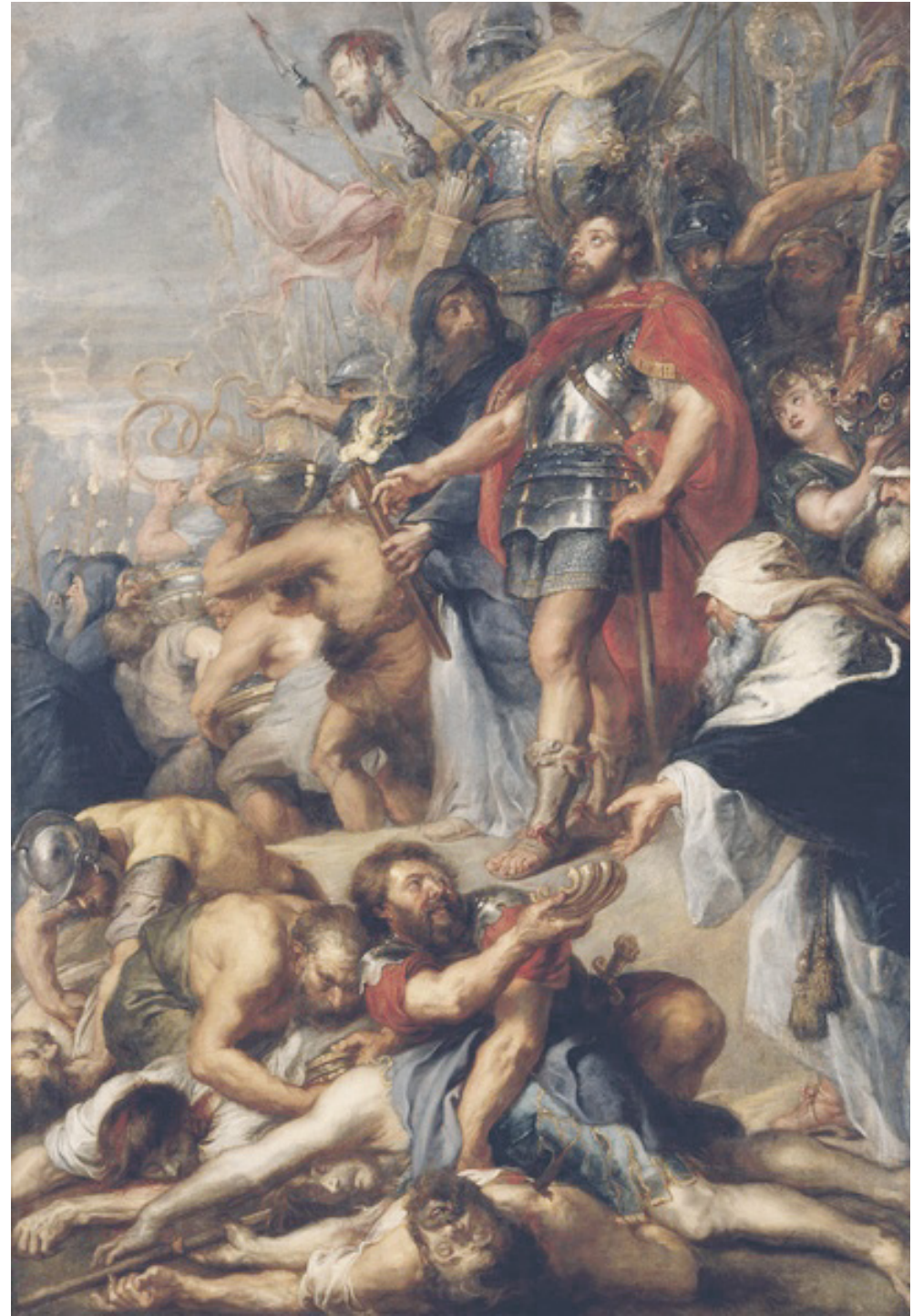
These precious Jewish heroes who paid such a high price for their faith could well be those that the writer of Hebrews refers to when he talks of those who ‘were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection’ (Heb 11:35).

Antiochus’ plan to Hellenise Israel seemed to be slowly but surely working. Much was at stake, for if Antiochus’ diabolical plan had succeeded, then



The warrior Judas Maccabeus, or Judah of Maccabee, drawn by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872). Wikimedia Commons

**Truly this was a great miracle, and one which ultimately prepared the way of the Messiah’s birth in Bethlehem**



‘The Triumph of Judas Maccabeus’ by Peter Paul Rubens between 1634 and 1636. Credit: Wikimedia Commons

there would have been no nation of Israel, no books of the Law, no temple and no one keeping or knowing God’s commandments by the time Jesus was born 150 years later. But in these dark days of suffering, as Daniel had predicted, a small minority who knew their God was raised up to ‘carry out great exploits’.

Under their commander, Judah Maccabee, the rebels gradually gained strength. Although they were hopelessly outnumbered and facing undoubtedly the greatest super-power of their day, Judah was undaunted through firm faith in God. Antiochus sent wave after wave to crush the rebellion—yet time and again Judah emerged victorious. Finally, Antiochus sent 47,000 men to squash Judah’s rag-tag army of around 3000 men once and for all.

Hearing of the impending onslaught, Judah and his men first spent a day in fasting and repentance, where Judah reminded his men of the great victories of Israel in the Bible. The next day the Maccabees launched a surprise attack of their own on the main enemy camp—against all odds delivering another crushing blow to their enemies. After 3 years of battles and stunning military wins, the brave Maccabees finally retook Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple and rededicated it to the God of Israel.

As the Jewish people today commemorate this great victory with the feast of Hanukkah, they say to each other that ‘a great miracle happened here’. Truly this was a great miracle, and one which ultimately prepared the way of the Messiah’s birth in Bethlehem some 150 years later.

## Hanukkah and the End Times

The reign of Antiochus bears many parallels to the End Times and carries powerful lessons for the final end time generation.

**Firstly, the story of Hanukkah is an annual reminder to the Jewish people of the danger of compromising their values and entering into a treaty with a foreign ruler for peace.**

**Secondly, to us as Christians, the story of Hanukkah carries a powerful message of standing firm in the face of persecution.** As it is becoming increasingly unpopular to stand for Biblical values, may we too count the cost, and be faithful to our Lord no matter what lies ahead.

On the other hand, let us also take courage from the Maccabees who stood against such insurmountable odds and were victorious. We too might feel like a tiny minority in our society, but truly those who know their God in these days, ‘shall be strong and carry out great exploits...’

Let us not give up on our nation or our world, but keep praying and sharing the Gospel—believing that a ‘great miracle’ can happen here in our midst as well.



**Enoch Lavender** is a co-leader of Shalom Israel, organising regular teaching seminars on Israel and Bible Prophecy in Melbourne and beyond. Enoch is based at Living Way Christian Network Inc. For more see

[www.shalomisrael.com.au](http://www.shalomisrael.com.au)



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."

\*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or general donation. Please tick your selection on page 12 with your order or from [www.c4israel.com.au/store](http://www.c4israel.com.au/store)

Since Biblical Times

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

**Whose Land?**  
by Hugh Kitson

Do the Jewish people have historic and legal rights? If so, when and where did they originate?

Politicians, clerics and school teachers living in the Gaza strip, the West Bank and the Old City of Jerusalem, teach their young people the Balfour Declaration was illegal and the whole of the land – now known as Israel – in fact belongs to the Palestinians. In the two-part documentary 'Whose Land?' Colonel Richard Kemp CBE, together with a group of historians and international lawyers, examines the conflicting claims of the Palestinians and the Israelis through the eyes of verifiable history and international law.

**NEW!** **\$25**  
DVD

**31 October - Destiny's Date?**  
by Kelvin Crombie

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

**NEW!** **\$25**  
DVD

Looking for Christmas gift ideas?  
Order online or see back page for order form.

[www.c4israel.com.au/store](http://www.c4israel.com.au/store)

**JERUSALEM**  
1967 FIFTY YEARS REUNITED 2017

**HURRY!!!**

**STOCK IS RUNNING OUT FAST.**

Limited Edition | While Stocks Last  
**\$25**

A great coffee table book keep sake!

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

PSALM 137:5,6

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

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

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

This limited edition, commemorative magazine, celebrates Jerusalem's 50th anniversary since her reunification in 1967 and is beautifully illustrated, with in-depth articles, inspiring interviews, facts, time-lines and much more.

**A 'must have' for everyone who has a heart for Israel.**





Wikipedia Attribution: לאומש-ןג ליג סומע: סוליצ

*"This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, according to its clans: The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev: ...Libnah, Ether, Ashan, Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, Keilah, Akzib and Mareshah— nine towns and their villages."* - Joshua 15:43-44

Now a question to experienced tourists in Israel—do you know where Mareshah is located and what happened to it through the ages?

We would like to invite you together with the participants of the First Home in the Homeland program to peer into the depths of the ancient city and to see what happened to it today.

Jews of different background are making Aliyah, some of them feel a spiritual calling to the Land of Israel, and others flee from wars or poverty. Along with Hebrew studies First Home in the Homeland gives them understanding of traditional Jewish life and of their belonging to the Holy Land. Olim get lectures, trips, and seminars to strengthen their religious self-consciousness and a spiritual connection to the Land. It's a special project of Christians for Israel within the First Home in the Homeland program. The idea behind it is to give not only material but also a spiritual aid to the families. During first 5 month olim learn now not only the language but also what it means to be Jewish and what is the meaning of their Aliyah.



Steve and Rachel Karr made Aliyah with their daughter Sapir (3 years old) from London, UK

Would you like to join us for a small trip to an ancient city deep in the caves?

Tel Maresha is an ancient city in the lowlands region of Judea. Maresha was part of the kingdom of Judea. Rehoboam fortified the city:

*"And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah... He built ... And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph."* – 2 Chronicles 11: 5-8

In ~900 BC, Asa King of Judea staged a war near the city. The Bible records a great victory for the Judean forces in 2 Chronicles 14:9-12:

*"And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee. So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled."*

In the Iron Age, (Persian and Hellenistic period) Moresha was occupied and destroyed by the Hasmoneans in the end of the 2nd century BC. The city was reestablished during the Roman period.

The prophet Micah, who prophesied during the end of the 8th century, names Maresha among other fortified cities of Judea in a description of a conquest, probably the Sennacherib destruction of 710 BC in Micah 1:15:

*"Yet will I bring an heir unto thee, O inhabitant of Mareshah: he shall come unto Adullam the glory of Israel."*

Jewish families, participants of the *First Home in the Homeland* from Ukraine, Russia, Kyrgyzstan (Middle Asia) and United Kingdom visited the caves of Moresha-Beit Guvrin and took you with them to this journey!

The site is till today extremely interesting and vivid through its hundreds of man-made caves and cavities. Moresha is a national park, a UNESCO World heritage site and wonderful Biblical evidence.

You are welcome to join us and travel with or to the *First Home in the Homeland*, not only on the pages of the newspaper, but also by visiting olim in 44 kibbutzim and 1 settlement all over Israel!

Thank you for standing with us, for helping us in a practical and spiritual way!

*"The Lord is exalted; He fills Zion with justice and fairness."* – Isaiah 33:5



Orly Wolstien

'First Home in the Homeland' Project manager for the Jewish Agency for Israel

**NOTE:** Your gift of \$350 will provide support for a Jewish olim (new immigrant) for 6 months as they settle in to Jewish life and learn the language. [See page 12 to give.](#)



Viktoria Vorontsova, a single mother, made Aliyah with her son Mihail (5 years old) from Minsk, Belarus



Iliya and Viktoria Komov made Aliyah with their son David (5 years old) from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Photo taken outside the caves of Moresha Beit Guvrin



# First-Ever South Pacific Forum

By Bryce Turner, Christians for Israel New Zealand

3 November 2017 saw a group of New Zealand and South Pacific associates assemble in Auckland, New Zealand, for the very first Christians for Israel South Pacific Training Forum. Christians for Israel representatives from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Rarotonga/Cook Islands and Niue assembled at Willow Park Christian Camp in Eastern Beach, Auckland, for three days of training and strategising. Joined by several other Pacific Island supporters and the New Zealand staff and board members, the time together was very intense, but also a time of amazing learning, support, encouragement and celebration.

With many of the sessions opening with beautiful music, the conference centre often rang with the powerful voices of the Pacific Island nations as various delegates brought their own island flavour to our worship. These same voices shared a considerable passion right throughout the South Pacific, a love for Israel.

Christians for Israel has been slowly planted throughout the South Pacific over the last few years largely through the work of Dr Robert Siakimotu, sent from the C4I New Zealand office in Auckland. C4I Fiji has now been up and running for several years and is growing from strength to strength under Lepani Makubuna, while many of the smaller island nations are now in various formative stages. Poi Okesene (Nuie), Mataafa Suisamoa

(Samoa), Bob Williams (Cook Islands) and Barry Taukolo (Tonga), joined by several other fellow Pacific Islanders, are moving ahead with the development of Christians for Israel affiliates in each nation. Although some of these countries are relatively small islands in the vast Pacific Ocean, they echo a resounding support and affinity with Israel and the Jewish people. About as far away from Jerusalem as one can travel, these nations have their own unique challenges. As the delegates spent time in planning and addressing strategies to continue growing the work, the realities of distance often raised queries. Even the cost of shipping resource materials to these countries is a challenge that must be worked through. Issues of communication and isolation also had to be addressed. Some of these countries have had huge portions of their communications systems destroyed by recent cyclones, making email and even cellular networks intermittent at best until repairs are made.

Christians for Israel International Executive Director Andrew Tucker flew all the way from Holland to lead the training, bringing the experience and resource of the international office to the delegates. Assisted by C4I New Zealand director Bryce Turner, a clear and determined path was worked out for each island nation, focussing on key areas of



From top left: Bryce Turner (NZ), Poi Okesene's brother-in-law, Robert Siakimotu (NZ), Barry Taukolo (Tonga), Schmulik Fried (Keren Hayesod), Bob Williams (Cook Islands), Graham Simpson (NZ), Cathy Eksteen (NZ), Raphael Jordon (Fiji), Poi Okesene (Nuie), Cathy Coldicutt (NZ), Sione Taiala (Tonga), Andrew Tucker (Netherlands) and Lepanu Makubuna (Fiji)

growth and expansion. The South Pacific representatives all bring huge experience and respect to their Christians for Israel roles, many involved in government and church leadership positions in their various islands.

The delegates were also visited by Mr Shmulik Fried of Keren Hayesod, also visiting New Zealand from Jerusalem. His presentation on Aliyah brought home the

very real plight of so many Jewish brothers and sisters struggling to return to Israel. We look forward to great things in the South Pacific in the future, including joining our representative in Vanuatu, Martin Sokomanu. Having such strong support for Israel in these, the farthest reaches of the earth will be very encouraging for our Israeli brothers and sisters.

# Christian Media Summit

By Mandy Worby, Christians for Israel Australia



Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomes the Summit with an opening address  
Photo: Ian Worby

A small delegation of Christians for Israel media specialists attended the inaugural Christian Media Summit in Israel, that was organised by the Israeli Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. The summit can be summed up in two words: *'Historic'* and *'Unprecedented'*. For the first time ever, the Israeli Government, along with the Government Press Office, hosted the Summit exclusively for Christian media groups from 40 different nations. Understanding that the Jewish people have experienced heinous persecution at the hands of *'Christians'* made this Summit historic. The fact the Summit was opened by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and closed by President Rivlin made this event unprecedented.

As delegates, we heard from a wide variety of speakers, mostly Jewish with a handful of Christians and even a Muslim Arab, with lectures from politicians, journalists,

military personnel, and documentary makers.

The purpose of this incredible Summit was two-fold. Firstly, to build closer relationships with Christians in media because it has been recognised by many in Israel, right up to the Prime Minister's office, that Christian communities around the world are Israel's greatest friends.

Secondly, to provide Israel with a mechanism to offer truth about what's really happening on the ground without the ingrained bias against them, as is the case with the majority of secular media. We were honoured to visit various places, including the Security Fence, learning firsthand when, how and why it was built

and what the consequences have been, a side of the story other media don't tell. We also met with leaders of Settlements, and we heard about the frustrations of a Muslim Arab journalist who wasn't able to publish positive stories about Israel because it didn't fit the narrative of media agencies. This Summit was incredibly important to understand Israel's society, her struggles in the region, the existential threat that looms from Iran and what life is honestly like for all Israel's citizens. Christian media around the world have been welcomed with open arms by Israel; we need to make sure we don't waste this fantastic opportunity.

# NZ First Premiere

By Bryce Turner, Christians for Israel New Zealand

In a first for New Zealand, Christians for Israel New Zealand recently partnered with the Zionist Federation of New Zealand to host the premiere of the film *'Whose Land?'* by Hugh Kitson. Held on Sunday 5 November, a brave group of interested people assembled at the Westlake Boys High School auditorium to watch this brand new production. The film was followed by a question and answer time hosted by our own Andrew Tucker who, in his capacity as an international lawyer, is featured in an interview in the film.

Already in New Zealand for the South Pacific Training Forum, it was a great privilege to have Andrew able to address the audience's questions. The delegates of the South Pacific Forum were also able to attend the showing. The film boldly addresses the many and varied key issues surrounding the ownership of Israel. Looking at a variety of historical, legal and even archaeological challenges and evidences, viewers were left in no doubt as to the legitimacy of Israel. While both Christians for Israel and the Zionist Federation had been somewhat

cautious as to whether there may be opposition to the showing, fortunately, no such distractions presented and the evening was a resounding success. Following the conclusion of the South Pacific Forum, Andrew Tucker and Bryce Turner travelled to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, where it was a great privilege to show the film at the *'Beehive'* – the Executive Wing of the New Zealand Parliament Buildings. Our friends at Ebenezer Emergency Fund had worked extremely hard to facilitate the event, made even more difficult due to it being a

very unsettled period following general elections, while political parties were scrambling to form a coalition. Through all that the event was a great success with a full house, including several Members of Parliament. Once again the audience offered many challenging questions, ably answered by Andrew Tucker. Further showings of the film are now planned around New Zealand, further screenings in Australia, England and around the world.



# Hanukkah and Christmas

By Marjorie W. Eberlé-Gotlib, Preeminent Former Leader of Hadderech, Netherlands



*The following article was written by Marjorie Eberlé-Gotlib, who was the preeminent leader of Hadderech, the Dutch movement of Jews who believe in Jesus. She died in 2009.*

When the evening of 12 December, 2017 falls, for the Jewish people all over the world, the Hanukkah Festival will begin. Then the first of eight little candles will be lit, together with the Shamash (servant). Every day one more candle is lit; then on the 25th day of the month, Kislev, 5778 on the Jewish calendar, begins. Before lighting the candles, a berakhah (blessing) is said: *"We thank You God, our God, King of the world, that You did miracles for our forefathers at this time of year in past gone by."* The hanukkiah is a candle holder with eight arms in a row, and a ninth in front of it. Sometimes it consists of eight small cups filled with oil, with an additional ninth one. As soon as the evening falls, the candles are lit, which have to burn for at least half an hour; the first evening one plus the Shamash, the second evening two plus the Shamash, and so on, until on the eighth evening, eight candles are lit plus the Shamash.

After the lighting, a hymn is sung that starts with the words *'Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati'* (solid rock of my help). It is a hymn where we thank the Eternally Faithful, that He has saved our forefathers from the slavery of Egypt, from the exile of Babel, from the

power of Haman under king Ahasverosh. Finally, we give thanks for the liberation of the temple from the hands of the Syrians, who 200 years before Christ, took possession of the Jewish land.

From 167-164 BC, the first liberation war was fought, and the Maccabees succeeded in driving out the forces of the Hellenistic enemy king Antiochus Epiphanes. The Syrians had desecrated the temple by building an altar on which pigs were sacrificed, which, as Flavius Josephus tells in his Jewish History: "was one of the things most contrary to our religion." Antiochus robbed the silver, the gold, the precious vessels and treasures from the temple and forced the Jewish people to deny their God and to accept Hellenism – the pagan religion of the Syrians. Circumcision and other laws of God were forbidden; he who was disobedient and refused to sacrifice to the idol Zeus in the temple was killed.

In 1 Maccabees 1-5 we read this sad history: *"The old priest Mattityahu from the priestly family of the Hasmoneans and his five sons resist against the pagans and slowly but surely, they get thousands of allies. When Mattityahu died, his son Judah succeeded him. With tremendous courage, they fought the enemy and with God's help, they beat the very strong Syrian armies. This liberation war lasted three years. In 164 BC, Jehudah haMaccabi (Judah the Maccabee) victoriously entered Jerusalem, together with his army. The idol and its altar in the temple were destroyed. On 25 Kislev, exactly three years after the Syrian king Antiochus had placed his altar and idol in the temple, the temple was purified and rededicated by the victorious Jews."*

The Talmud (*Jewish teaching*) tells us that in all of the desecrated temple only one little jar of oil, bearing the undamaged seal of the pious Jewish high priest, was found. This oil, enough for one day, was put in the large golden candle holder, which burned for eight days on this small amount. As of that day, every year on the 25th of Kislev, this miracle at the rededication of the temple is celebrated. Jesus celebrated this festival in his time, together with his Jewish people. *"Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade."* John 10:22

Curiously, Christianity hardly knows of this feast, if at all. Yet, the 25th day of the winter month was taken to make it a Christian happening. On 25 December 2017, the birth of Jesus shall again be celebrated around the whole world. It is probable that before the Council of Nicea, held in 325 AD, Christmas was never celebrated. After all, the birth date of Jesus of Nazareth can be found nowhere in the Bible. The pagan celebration of the winter solstice – called Yule – was celebrated after the 21st of December, when the days were at their shortest. The pagan Germanic peoples hoped that the light of the sun would come again and the leaves on the trees would reappear. The pine tree that kept its needles through the whole of the year was revered and decorated. All of these pagan superstitious customs were brought into the church since the fourth century AD to give them a Christian meaning. *"Pagan naturalist senses and Christian whims are inextricably interwoven in Christmas customs. They mask the meaning of Christmas rather than*



*that they bestow knowledge concerning the Word incarnate' (Encyclopedia of Christianity).*

Back to Hanukkah, the festival of lights, that started on the 25th of Kislev, 164 BC – the feast of the rededication, the renewal of the temple. A historical fact about the Jews from the past; one of the feasts that Jesus, too, celebrated. On 25 December – a fictional date – we commemorate that the Word became flesh. The birth of Him, who says about himself: *"I am the light of the world"* (John 8:12). In John 12:46, He says: *"I have come into the world as a light so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."*

The Hanukkah light that started to burn on the 25th of Kislev, 164 BC received its fullness in Him, who in three days' time, the demolished temple of His body did resurrect (John 2:19-21). By His renewing resurrection, we are cleansed for eternity. At His coming again, we will receive a renewed body, too. In the hymn *'Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati'*, we find the name of Yeshua (Jesus): yeshu'ati means *'my help'*. Together with Israel, on Hanukkah, we sing the praise of our help, who has saved us from the powers of death and has dedicated us by a new and living way (Hebrews 10:20).

## Austrian Students Reject BDS

Courtesy of the Jerusalem Post

The Austrian National Union of Students passed a motion recently against BDS, because the boycott movement targeting Israel is antisemitic and its demands recall the Nazis' economic war against Jewish businesses.

It's believed to be the first time an Austrian national student union has passed such a resolution.

The Austrian Jewish students group announced on its Facebook page: "We are very happy to announce that the Austrian Students Union is the first national student union to officially pass a resolution denouncing BDS and also passing a version of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – IHRA definition of antisemitism. The resolution states BDS to be an antisemitic campaign and calls not to give it any space or supporting funds.

*"This has been a big step in the fight against antisemitism, and we are very happy that after our lobbying effort almost all factions have supported the motion.*

*"A special thanks to Greens and Alternative Students (GRAS) and their continuing*

*support in the fight against all antisemitism."*

The GRAS group wrote on its Facebook page that it is *"pleased that the Austrian Students Union representatives voted with a phenomenal majority for our motion."*

The resolution passed nearly unanimously, with no opposing votes and only one abstention.

The Austrian National Union of Students condemned the *"antisemitic BDS campaign and its spreading on college campuses,"* GRAS said.

Marita Gasteiger, a GRAS member of the executive committee of the Austrian National Union of Students (ÖH), tweeted, *"loveliest moment: ÖH positioned itself against antisemitism & BDS."*

The motion states the students union has *"a special historical responsibility"* not to forget what took place, and pledged not to remain silent when antisemitism appears. *"BDS demands to not buy from Zionists reminds us of horrible historical examples."* The resolution noted that human rights organisations – the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Anti-Defamation League –



BDS activists in Berlin, Germany

classify BDS as antisemitic, and that the BDS movement works with the *"national and Islamic forces in Palestine,"* which include the terrorist organisations Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The organisation BDS Austria disrupted a talk by Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked at the University of Vienna in February. Last year, a coalition of student groups at the University of Vienna passed a resolution

rejecting BDS and labeling it antisemitic. Austrian financial services giant Erste Group closed BDS Austria's bank account last year.

The Austrian National Union of Students is based in Vienna and was founded in 1946. According to its website, the union is *"the legal representative of all students to the relevant ministries."*



# Women & their Olive Trees

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Christians for Israel Austria

**Art for Peace - An example of peaceful co-existence in Israel.**

In Afula, a city in northern Israel, 35 women from Afula and the surrounding area meet once a week at the local WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organisation) centre. Among them are Christians, Jews, Muslims and Circassians. Their ages range from 17 to 80 years old. David Moatty, director of the WIZO centre- which is located in a socially deprived district of Afula- and art teacher Sheila Dvora Casdi initiated this project. Their vision was to encourage women to paint together, to produce works of art, to share their culture and to improve mutual understanding by broadening their own horizons. What started off as a painting workshop, developed into a place where friendships emerged between women who did not know each other before. They had no idea that community and trust between Israeli Jews and Arab women could be possible. Today the friendships have reached the families.

Each painting was personally designed around the theme, 'The Olive Tree', which was chosen by the artists themselves. The pictures differ from each other, as they



Left to right: President of WIZO Austria, Dr. Hava Bugajer-Gleitmann, and artist Amal Bisharat Hana (from Nazareth) at the exhibit in Vienna. © Ouriel Morgenstern

reflect the "life experiences and feelings of the individual artists," according to the organisers. For example, Juliana Amara grew up surrounded by olive groves and connects the tree with her childhood. Neta Mozer painted an olive tree with two trunks. These, she says, stands for two cultures, the Jewish and the Arab.

The common theme and the realisation of this joint project created an atmosphere

of tolerance, friendship and sharing in the classes. The works of art became a travelling exhibit that has been shown since 2014 in Britain, France, Germany and Denmark. In Vienna, Austria, the project was exhibited in the UNO City and the Curhaus of the Dome of St. Stephens in 2017.

## WIZO - Their Love of Israel

Interview by Cathy Coldicutt with Rose Toms, President, WIZO Keshet, Australia

**I believe you were in New Zealand recently to celebrate a family milestone. Would you like to share this momentous occasion with us?**

My visit to Hastings in New Zealand recently was to celebrate my 80th birthday, along with my two triplet sisters. We were born on 12 May 1937, the day of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. From that time on we were known as the 'Coronation Triplets'.

**What was the motivation behind starting WIZO and when was the organisation established?**

Wizo started in 1920 by a small group of women who saw the 'appalling' living conditions of women and children in Israel. That was the catalyst for worldwide fundraising that has continued to this day. With so many making Aliyah now, it is even more important that we help! Rebecca Seiff (from the family of Marks and Spencer) became the first WIZO President.

In 1994 I was invited to start WIZO groups with a mandate to include both Jewish and non-Jewish women. These groups were named 'WIZO Keshet' (meaning link or joining), and at the time it was quite controversial until it was approved in Israel. Nowadays, there is an even greater opportunity for more of these groups.

**Why is WIZO purely a women's organisation?**

WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organisation) started out as a women's organisation in 1920 but has now opened up to men as well.

**What was it that enticed you to join or be involved with WIZO?**

WIZO, being a Jewish organisation, gave me the opportunity to show God's love, somewhat like Ruth in the Bible, "Your God is my God and where you go I will go....." Ruth 1: 16-17.

Today we are well accepted and have formed many beautiful friendships as Jews and Gentiles have worked together in our groups for the past 25 years.

### A number of girls living in this area are emotionally, physically and sexually abused

**Why is it important for New Zealand and Australia to raise money for Israel, considering we are on the other side of the world?**

Throughout the Bible, we notice a consistent theme calling for the support and love of Israel and the Jewish Community, since our Christian history has not always embraced this call, we are endeavouring to do all we can to be obedient to this call.

**What projects or work is WIZO currently focussing on?**

Wizo Australia has just completed a huge fundraising campaign to replace the condemned kitchen at Ahuzat Yeladim in Haifa, Israel. Ahuzat Yeladim is an Australian therapeutic and residential school that houses over 120 disadvantaged and troubled youth.

Next year (2018) our main project will be 'Girls at Risk' in Be'er Sheva. This area of Israel is a virtual melting-pot of Jewish immigrants from East Africa, Ex-Soviet countries and Ethiopia, plus large Bedouin and Arab communities.



Rose Toms

A number of girls living here are emotionally, physically and sexually abused. Our aim is to provide a safe-haven that will provide accommodation, counselling, hot meals and medical help for up to 50 young women aged 16-26.

**Does WIZO do any work outside Israel? For example, do you have daycare centres in Russia?**

WIZO has over 800 projects, all of which are within Israel, such as our daycare centres, therapeutic residential schools, care for the elderly, facilities for new immigrants, domestic violence/rape centres, legal advice and counselling bureaus, and 'Girls at Risk' programmes plus much more.

**For more information or to join, go to the WIZO website: [www.wizo.org](http://www.wizo.org)**

## Short News

### 1100 Year Old Fossilised Remnants Found



Fossilised remnants from a 1100-year-old refuse pit discovered near Jerusalem's Old City provide a smorgasbord of culinary delights. According to well-preserved seeds, bones and other refuse, ancient city dwellers feasted on beef, fish and fowl, vegetables, lentils, figs, grapes and black mulberries. The fossilised refuse provides physical evidence of the urban diet of the Early Islamic period in Israel.

### Netanyahu Acts as Tour Guide for Israel

On 7 November, Israel welcomed the 3-millionth tourist to visit the Holy Land in 2017 in a special ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport, setting a new annual record. Tourism Minister Yariv Levin greeted Ioana Isac of Romania, together with her partner Mihai Georgescu. The biggest surprise for the couple, came when they arrived at the Tower of David Museum in the Old City of Jerusalem, where they learned that their guide was Benjamin Netanyahu.

### UK Purchase Israeli Defense System

Britain is buying Israel's Iron Dome short range missile defense system to protect the Falkland Islands. The system, to be called Sky Sabre, is produced by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems using software developed by an Israeli startup. Iron Dome demonstrated its ability to intercept short range missiles fired at Israel from Gaza, shooting down more than 1200 such rockets over the last decade.

### Uber Ride-Sharing Banned in Israel



The worldwide ride-sharing service Uber has been banned to operate in its current format in Israel by court ruling. Under Israeli law, drivers who lack an appropriate license to pick up and charge passengers, also lack appropriate insurance.

### 60% of Local Arabs Proud To Be Israeli

Published by an Israeli newspaper, a recent survey asked Arab citizens their attitude toward Israel. An overwhelming 73% said that they feel a sense of belonging in Israeli society. 60% went so far as to say they are proud citizens of Israel. A strong majority said they accept that the Jews have a historical and religious connection to this land. Just as many said they prefer to live in a Jewish-dominated state, as opposed to a "Palestinian" Arab state.



# Letters of the Aleph-bet: Mem מ ם

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

The letter ‘mem’ is the thirteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is, of course, the m, and it has two forms: one is an open and the other a closed square. The open form is used at the beginning or in the middle of a word, the closed form when it is the last letter of the word (*mem-sofit, closing mem*). The original letter was a horizontal crenellated line that depicted waving water. The word ‘mem’ means water. It is related to the Hebrew *Mayim*. The letter M developed from the original sign, through different stages, not just the ‘mem’.

Water is a symbol of the Torah. According to the Talmud, the open ‘mem’ represents the revealed Torah (*the word ma’amar is used here, which begins with a ‘mem’ and means commandment or word*). The closed ‘mem’ represents the hidden meanings of the Torah, that will be revealed by the Messiah. The numerical value of the ‘mem’ is forty. That is a number with rich symbolic meanings. The Flood lasted forty days. The waters of the Flood were not as much a retaliation, says a Jewish explanation, as they served atonement,

purification and transformation, just like the mikveh (*the ritual bath*). The minimum quantity of water for a kosher mikveh is forty ‘se’ah’ (762 l). For forty years, the people of Israel wandered in the desert. For forty days, the Israelites had to wait until Moses came down with the Torah. Moreover, Moses stayed for forty days, three times on Mt Sinai. The last period ended on 10 Tishri (*Yom Kippur*). Forty represents metamorphosis or transformation. ‘Mem’ also represents the womb. Water is the womb of creation (*Genesis 1:2 - the*

*waters of the earth had not been created yet*). Compare also the mikveh: the proselyte who submerges himself in the mikveh arises from it as a newborn. Finally, the closed ‘mem’ speaks of the coming of the Messiah. It is remarkable that the Hebrew word *lemarbeh* in *Isaiah 9:7*, which can be translated as ‘*he who does increase*’, is written with a closing mem. The Messiah will end the exile and reveal the depths of the Torah.

# New Testament Political Figures Confirmed

Courtesy of Biblical Archeology Review. Abridged by Managing Editor

*What historical evidence outside the New Testament, and not produced by Christians, is there that refers to people mentioned in the New Testament?*

*“To answer that question, a number of extra-Biblical inscriptions and ancient writings mention the names of several political leaders whose names appear in the New Testament. Although the writings that comprise the New Testament are usually regarded as religious writings, nevertheless the new Testament mentions a surprising number of names of political figures, in connection with court trials, dates of important events and even political murders.”*

Regarding archaeology, this article bases its conclusions only on materials that are known to be authentic, not items from the antiquities market, because as a rule, there is a possibility that they might have been forged and are unreliable. The confirmations below avoid speculation and seek to be conservative in the interpretation of evidence in order to ensure trustworthiness.

To begin, the four emperors mentioned in the New Testament are all abundantly verified in the writings of Roman historians, such as Tacitus’s Annals, which mentions all four. For these, no further verification is needed: Caesar Augustus is mentioned in *Luke 2:1* as ruling when Jesus was born; Tiberius, to whom *Luke 3:1* refers, was emperor from before Jesus’ baptism until well after his crucifixion; Claudius, was emperor when the great famine occurred that had been predicted by the Christian prophet Agabus (*Acts 11:27–28*); Nero is not named in the New Testament, but simply called ‘*Caesar*’ in *Acts 25:10; 28:19*.

Turning from these four Roman emperors who have been confirmed, there are other Herodian political figures mentioned in inscriptions and histories.

### >> King Herod I the Great

King Herod I the Great’s archaeological confirmation is found in his name and title written in Greek on coins that he minted, including 393 of his coins discovered at Masada plus smaller quantities at locations such as Meiron, Herodium, Tel Anafa and Caesarea Maritima.

### >> Herod Archelaus

Herod Archelaus, Ethnarch of Judea, Idumea and Samaria, is the only Herod in Palestine who held the title of ethnarch, meaning ‘*ruler of a nation*.’ Caesar Augustus cautiously withheld from him the title of king, and, indeed, Archelaus’s reign so infuriated the populace that he was replaced by Roman governors for direct rule by Rome. Archelaus is confirmed archaeologically by his many coins, notably 176 discovered at Masada. In the inscriptions in Greek on all his coins, he calls himself only ‘*Herod*’ or ‘*Herod the Ethnarch*’, never using his name, Archelaus. Archelaus’s coins have been discovered in various parts of Palestine, including Galilee and Transjordan.

### >> Herod Antipas

As for Herod Antipas, archaeology confirms his rule and title of Tetrarch (*of Galilee and Perea*) on several coins with the inscription ‘*Of Herod the Tetrarch*’ in Greek, without giving his name, Antipas. Also inscribed on some of his coins is the name of a city, ‘*Tiberias*,’ which Antipas founded in Galilee and where he built a mint that produced these coins. Almost all of Antipas’s coins have been found near Tiberias, although one was discovered in Jerusalem.

### >> Philip the Tetrarch

Philip the Tetrarch is the one who built up the city of Caesarea Philippi, ‘*Philip’s Caesarea*,’ ancient Paneas, also called Baniyas. It was in sight of this city that Peter confessed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah (*Matthew 16:16*). Philip the Tetrarch is confirmed by his coins, most of which were discovered in his own kingdom, though a few have been found at Meiron and Tel Anafa and one as far as Cyprus. Philip did not have to avoid portraits on his coins because his subjects were generally not Jewish and had no religious prohibition against graven images.

Salome, Herodias’s daughter who danced before Herod Antipas, was the grandniece and eventually the wife of Philip the Tetrarch. She outlived him and is pictured and named on a coin attributed to her

second husband, Aristobulus, King of Chalcis. Although her name does not appear in the New Testament, we learn it from Josephus’s Antiquities.

### >> King Herod Agrippa I

The coins of King Herod Agrippa I variously show his name, or name and title, in Greek as ‘*Agrippa*’ or ‘*King Agrippa*.’ At Masada, 114 of his coins were excavated, as five others were at Meiron. His prutah coins (*Jewish coins made of copper with low value*), which are distinctive in their decorations and the spelling of his name, have been discovered in and near Jerusalem, as well as in all parts of Palestine, on Cyprus, at Dura-Europos in Syria and even on the acropolis at Athens.

### >> King Herod Agrippa II

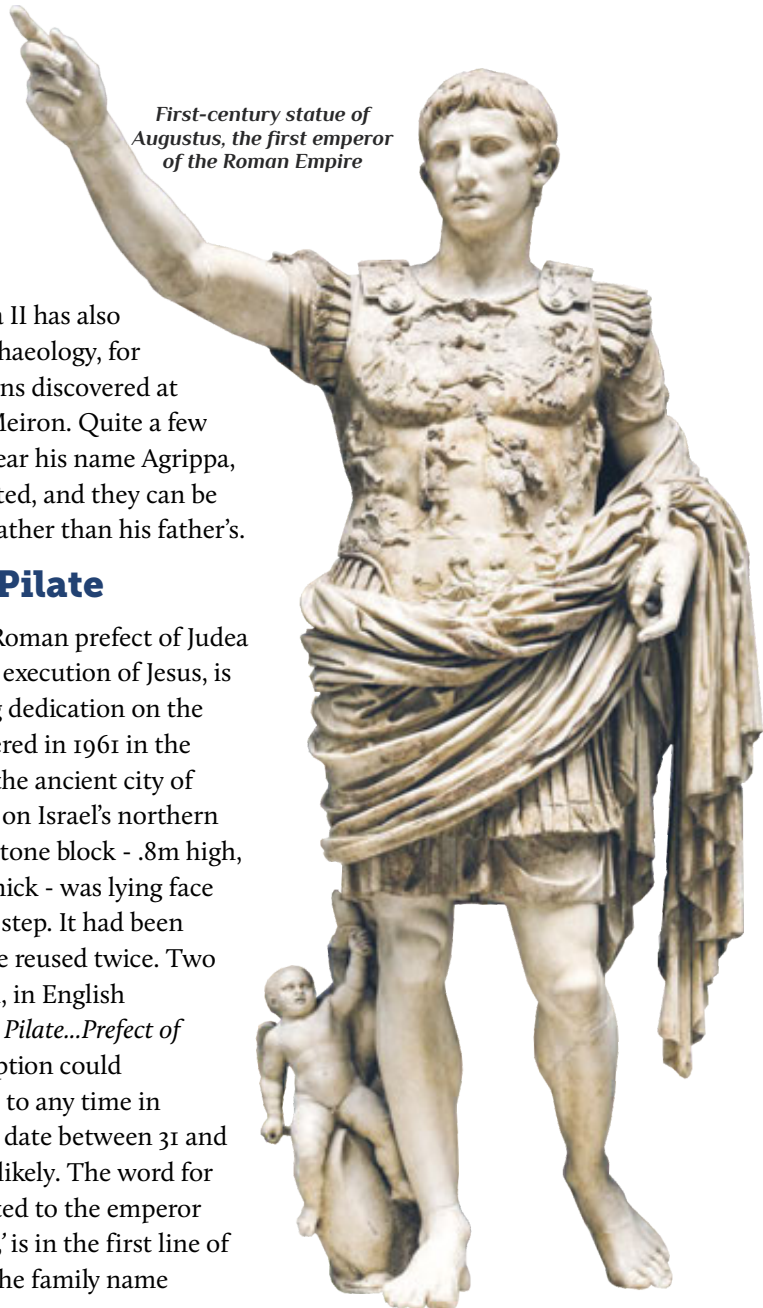
King Herod Agrippa II has also been verified by archaeology, for example, by two coins discovered at Masada and six at Meiron. Quite a few series of his coins bear his name Agrippa, frequently abbreviated, and they can be dated to his reign, rather than his father’s.

### >> Pontius Pilate

Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect of Judea during the trial and execution of Jesus, is named in a building dedication on the ‘*Pilate Stone*’ discovered in 1961 in the theater or arena of the ancient city of Caesarea Maritima, on Israel’s northern seacoast. This limestone block - .8m high, .6m wide and .2m thick - was lying face down and used as a step. It had been trimmed down to be reused twice. Two of its four lines read, in English translation, ‘*Pontius Pilate...Prefect of Judaea*’]. The inscription could potentially be dated to any time in Pilate’s career, but a date between 31 and 36 C.E. seems most likely. The word for the building dedicated to the emperor Tiberius, ‘*Tiberieum*,’ is in the first line of writing. On line 2, the family name

Pontius was common in central and northern Italy during that era, but the name Pilatus was ‘*extremely rare*.’ Because of the rarity of the name Pilatus, which appears in full, and because only one Pontius Pilatus was ever the Roman governor of Judea, this identification should be regarded as completely certain and redundantly assured even beyond that by such ‘*extra*’ data.

As with other Roman governors, the coins Pilate issued do not have his name on them, but rather display only the name of the Roman emperor, in this case Tiberius, observable among the 123 discovered at Masada, one at Caesarea Maritima and one at Herodium.



First-century statue of Augustus, the first emperor of the Roman Empire



# Return from India - A Dream Fulfilled

By Ruben Ridderhof, Christians for Israel Netherlands

The Bible tells us how the kingdom of Israel was divided in the time of King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, and how the ten tribes of Israel were taken into exile by the Assyrians and dispersed. Yet the prophets Hosea and Ezekiel prophesied that the Lord would one day reunite the twelve tribes. Today it seems like these prophesies are being fulfilled. In North-Eastern India resides a unique group of people called the Bnei Menashe, 'Sons of Manasseh.' For centuries they have continued to tell each other about their roots. Zara Eleazer Singson from Churachandpur shares what his grandfather told him: "We are descendants of Israel, and one day we will return to our land." Zara's father longed to emigrate to Israel but passed away in 2013. "Lead a good Jewish life," is what he used to tell him.

## >> An Old Longing

With the help of Shavei Israel, an organisation who aims to help the 'lost tribes' return to Israel, Zara's in-laws returned to the Holy Land in 2014. Before the end of the year, Zara and his family hope to leave for Israel with a group of

one hundred Bnei Menashe. Enthusiastically he shares: "We moved in 2002 from a more remote area to Churachandpur because we wanted to learn more about Judaism and to practice it. But in the past fifteen years, I have never regarded this place as my home. I kept praying for my dream to come true. I carry an old longing of my family in my heart, and now I am preparing to make Aliyah, to return to Israel. With God's help, we will be reunited with our family in Israel soon. There we can serve the Almighty with all of our heart and in peace."

## >> Return to Israel

The return of the Bnei Menashe is not an easy process. The Jewish religious authorities in Israel have recognised the tribe as genuine, and therefore the Bnei Menashe are allowed to come to Israel and receive citizenship under the Law of Return. However, many factors hinder this process. By local standards, the Bnei Menashe are doing quite well in India, but their resources are limited when converted into international currencies. Most of them can't pay for the trip from



Zara Eleazer Singson with his wife and two sons in Churachandpur. Photo: Shavei Israel

Northeast India to Israel. And then there is the integration in Israel. They have to learn the language and find a job. Special integration processes were developed in Israel, but their capacity is limited.

## >> Success

Generally speaking, the Bnei Menashe that already reside in Israel have integrated successfully. The future looks bright for Zara and his family as well. Zara is a bus driver and a carpenter. Once his

sons have learned to speak Hebrew, they will be able to enter into the school system and study. Thus Zara fulfils the old longing of his family, but also the words of the prophet Ezekiel: "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land" Ezekiel 36:24.

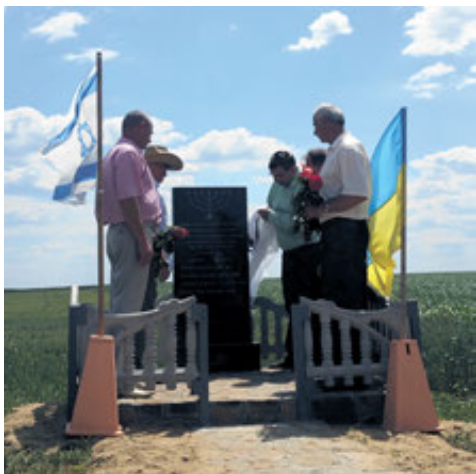
You can donate to help the Bnei Menashe make Aliyah in the coupon on the back page or online: [www.c4israel.com.au](http://www.c4israel.com.au)

# "Thank You For Not Forgetting Us!"

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

A fresh breeze is blowing, carrying first the Ukrainian, then the Israeli national anthem, the Hatikva. The sound travels across a wheat field onto the horizon where horse stables used to be. They served as living quarters for the Jews from the village who were enslaved as forced labourers back then, when first the Germans, then the Romanians occupied this strip of land.

160 of these Jewish victims are lying in a mass grave here, where a memorial is being dedicated, 73 years later, on 19 June 2017. The memorial stone was donated by Christians for Israel. The gathering includes members of Bershad's Jewish community, residents of the nearby village of Oseyevka, representatives of the local authorities and a Dutch-German group of volunteers who were participating in a working trip to Ukraine. Some of the victims in this grave were from the nearby former Jewish shtetl (a small town formed in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust with a large Jewish community) of Bershad.



Dedication of a memorial for 160 Jews who were driven to forced labour in the fields of Oseyevka near Bershad during World War II and died.

Europe's oldest, 200 year old clay synagogue is located in Bershad. It is here that Aleksander Shornitsky shares some of his story with the group – a story that stands for so many other fates.

"I was born in 1934 in Ternovka, a small shtetl in Western Ukraine," says Shornitsky. "The repressions began immediately after Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union 22 June 1941, followed by the systematic shooting to death of the Jewish population. That is, mainly women, children and old people as Jewish men of military age were drafted into the Red Army immediately after the outbreak of the war."

"In Spring of 1942, it was our shtetl's turn," Shornitsky continues. "But our mother had provided for us by digging a secret cellar under our house."

## >> Survival

That is how Shornitsky survived the first wave of shootings, together with two sisters. But then the Nazis began chasing the Jews who were not caught the first time. In the German-occupied part of Ukraine, where Shornitsky's hometown was located, the chance for survival was close to zero. In the southwestern part of Ukraine, in the then-called region of Transnistria, located between the rivers Bug and Dniester, had been turned over to Hitler Germany's Fascist ally Romania based on the Tighina Agreement of August 1941, the operations of the police forces were less systematic. The annihilation of neighbouring Romania's Jews was achieved primarily indirectly when Romanian authorities drove approximately 100,000 Jews out of its territory across the Bug River into Transnistria in late Autumn of 1941 without any supplies. Most of the



Anemone Rüger with one of the Holocaust survivors

deportees died from hunger, cold and disease. Those who made it to one of the shtetls had to squeeze into the already crowded huts together with the resident Jewish population. Still, many Jews tried to escape the death trap of the German-occupied territories to Transnistria, including Shornitsky. "With the help of some kind Ukrainians who knew the area and the location of the guards, we – that is about 100 Jews – were able to escape across the southern Bug River." Eventually, Shornitsky made it to Bershad.

"The chances for survival were still low. A terrible typhus epidemic broke out in the ghetto in winter of 1941, caused by the inhumane hygienic conditions. I remember how the horse cart would come every day to pick up the corpses."

Shornitsky survived, along with 3,000 of Bershad's Jews, who managed in the following decades to stay under the radar of the Soviet regime that suppressed any religious activity, and to observe the high Jewish holidays.

"Neither me nor my surviving friends harbour any hatred against the Germans in

our hearts. We do recognise their contributions to the world's culture, and we appreciate Germany standing up against anti-Semitism today..." says Shornitsky to the Dutch-German group before they left for Oseyevka, along the dirt road, where the wheat is softly swaying in the wind and the Ukrainian babushkas, heads covered with kerchiefs, are standing under the roof of the village well, waiting for the ceremony to begin.

One hundred such mass graves are located around Bershad; 2,000 throughout Ukraine, containing the remains of 1.7 million Ukrainian Jews murdered in World War II.

Some have memorial plaques; many don't. It was not until after the collapse of the Soviet Union that historical data became accessible and was allowed to be made public, including the fate of the Jewish victims. Even today, new information is surfacing; witnesses are sharing what they saw and have subsequently hidden all their life.

Continued next page...



Continued from previous page

Much of this comes out raw, unprocessed, even after 70 years; including the pain the German participants feel in this place, carrying in their luggage the legacy of their fathers and grandfathers who marched through this land as an occupation army.

>> Forgiveness

Lothar Hartmann speaks for the other German group members when he expresses his feelings. After the completion of the official speeches, he kneels down on the piece of land in front of the memorial stone symbolically covered with fresh soil. *“Please, forgive us!”* he cries out to the Jewish and Ukrainian guests present. *“Help us, help our children to build a better future together!”*

*“Thank you for coming all this way,”* says Nadyezhda Todoryenko, an old Ukrainian lady from the village, who has just placed red roses from her garden in front of the memorial. *“Your request for forgiveness was so touching!”* During the war, her family hid two Jewish girls behind the oven.

Over the coming days, 2,000 food parcels are being assembled and distributed to impoverished Jewish survivors. Many Ukrainian Jews have left for Israel since the borders opened. Half of the one million repatriates from the former Soviet Union came from Ukraine. But quite a few have stayed for a variety of reasons –



Frossya Khomyska  
age, lack of proof of their Jewish roots, indecisiveness. Koen Carlier, Aliyah Field Worker Christians for Israel Ukraine, who has been coordinatin g working trips to Ukraine

for many years, estimates there are still about 500 survivors of ghettos and concentration camps living in Ukraine. If you also consider the group of traumatised survivors who were evacuated to the East of the Soviet Union when they were children while their relatives were being murdered, the number exceeds 17,500. Some of them have mastered the bureaucratic hurdles to receive a compensatory pension from the German government. Others were denied compensation, or they were unable to provide sufficient proof of nationality or damage to life and health as many Jewish families changed their names and hid their identity during the war. This group of people has to make do with a pension of €30-50 a month. Even in Ukraine, this is painfully insufficient to cover the most basic needs. This is where Christians for Israel comes in, trying to meet the most urgent needs.

>> Living in Poverty

Frossya Khomyska is 95 and barely has the energy to take care of her little house. Like in most of the primitive clay huts, she has no running water; the windows are built in and cannot be opened. A few buckets in the hallway hold her water supply for the week. Someone has to carry them to her house - another item on her list of monthly expenses from her minuscule pension. When the temperature goes down, the pension has to stretch to cover the firewood as well; the museal oven is her only source of heat in winter. If she needs to buy medication for her blood pressure, the remaining money doesn't cover even the lowest-budget type of bread; or the house cools down to freezing point. Until a few years ago, her 93-year old sister Maria walked seven kilometres to the neighbouring village to pull weeds on the fields, but it is too hard for her now so she stays home too. Their oldest sister, who lived in Kiev in 1941, followed the order to report to the collection point in Babi Yar on 29 and 30 September. She watched



from a distance and witnessed the arriving Jews being shot there – 33,771 in two days. *“We lived like wild animals back then when we had to hide, for three years,”* says Frossya. She is happy to have guests come to her house. Without the food parcels, she wouldn't be able to survive.

Nastya Lissya was born in 1939. *“I was very little back then and didn't understand anything,”* she says. *“When the Nazis came, we hid in bed out of fear. I asked my mother, ‘But why do they want to kill us?’ Luckily they took only the food...”* Nastya has a cow; at least she doesn't have to buy milk. *“We hid behind the vineyards in the garden when they came to kill the Jews,”* says Pavlina Dovbysh, 76, pointing to the location where the shooting took place, right behind her little house. *“Today I grow potatoes in this place. When the clouds come, it rains only there. The heavens are still crying...”* Pavlina survived under the cover of vine leaves and the cellar, along with her sister. Her other seven siblings died from starvation. Now she is all alone; her only son died as well. *“Thank you for not forgetting us!”* she says – words that the Western European visitors will hear again and again in these poor village huts. Hartmann, who came together with his wife, Christa, says: *“All we knew was that this working trip to Ukraine would give us*

*an opportunity to help, to pack and distribute food bags. That's what made us register. What we didn't realise was how much we would be confronted with the guilt of our fathers, with the overwhelming number of mass graves here. Mostly, people relate the Holocaust to Auschwitz... Meeting so many Holocaust survivors here in Ukraine who are still able to tell us their stories and being able to do something for them is what touched us most.”*

We've already packed and distributed more than 15,000 food parcels this year. We still receive new requests from various Jewish communities throughout Ukraine, however we can't help the Holocaust survivors and poor families without your support. One food parcel costs A\$13.50. On behalf of the Jewish Community we thank you for your support!

I want to support Christians for Israel

C4I MINISTRY

☐ My donation for general admin costs (inc print & post) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

☐ Hineni Soup kitchen & Holocaust survivor support \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Emergency Food Parcels - Ukraine (\$15 per parcel) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Bethlehem Summer Camp Project (\$50 per child) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ALIYAH - BRING THE JEWS HOME

☐ One Person \$300  
☐ One Family (5 persons) \$1000  
☐ One Busload (25 persons) \$5000  
☐ Bnei Menashe - Asian Jews (1 person) \$1350  
☐ French Jews (1 person) \$550  
☐ First Home in the Homeland (\$350 pp) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHING RESOURCES & PREMIUM GIFTS

☐ Israel and Christians Today Paper (Free or by donation) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NEW Jerusalem 50 yrs Magazine (While Stocks Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NEW 31 October - Destiny's Date? (DVD) by Kelvin Crombie \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Why Jerusalem? (DVD+Study Guide) by Willem Glashouwer \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NEW The Battle of Beersheba (Booklet) by Kelvin Crombie \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NEW Whose Land? (DVD) by Hugh Kitson \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Gallipoli: Road to Jerusalem (Book and DVD Bundle) SAVE \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Books ☐ Why Israel? ☐ Why End Times? ☐ Why Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Study Guides ☐ Why Israel? ☐ Why End Times? ☐ Why Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Adi Hebrew Watches ☐ 173GFT Ladies ☐ 2092GFT Mens \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY

DONATION

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25 each  
\$25 each  
\$30 each  
\$7 each  
\$25 each  
\$60 set  
\$15 each  
\$10 each  
\$100 each

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 be emailing [info@c4israel.com.au](mailto:info@c4israel.com.au)

My Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL RANGE OF RESOURCES AT: [C4ISRAEL.COM.AU/STORE](http://C4ISRAEL.COM.AU/STORE)



Christians for Israel Australia ABN: 79 941 819 693

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](mailto:info@c4israel.org) | [www.c4israel.org](http://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](mailto:info@c4israel.com.au) | [www.c4israel.com.au](http://www.c4israel.com.au)

Christians for Israel - East Africa

PO Box 34479, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 392 865 461 | [c4iuganda@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@c4israel.org.nz) | [www.c4israel.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:fredvanwesting@c4israel.org) | [www.c4israel.us](http://www.c4israel.us)

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](https://www.facebook.com/c4israel)

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

MY TOTAL DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_