

Levitt

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." —ROMANS 10:1



Letter



At a time when many celebrate Jesus' birth, this article indicates that many others no longer care. —Jeff

A Christmas Question: Where Have All the Christians Gone?

By Bruce Feiler, www.FOXnews.com

Christianity is plummeting in America, while the number of non-believers is skyrocketing. A shocking new study of Americans' religious beliefs shows the beginnings of a major realignment in Americans' relationship with God. The American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) reveals that Protestants now represent half of all Americans, down almost 20 percent in the last twenty years. In the coming months, America will become a minority Protestant nation for the first time since the Pilgrims.

continued p. 2



INSIDE ITEMS ▼

- *Christless Christmas*.....4-5
- *Israel's Contributions*.....6,35
- *Saudis Ask For Aid*.....7
- *DeSeifering Our World*.....8
- *European Anti-Semitism*.....9
- *The Spanish Expulsion, 1492*.....10
- *Classic Zola*.....11
- *Our Man In Jerusalem*.....12
- *Israel's New Friend*.....13
- *Israeli Nobel Prize Winner*.....14
- *Christian Zionists*.....15
- *Hebrew Lesson*.....16
- *Bulletin Board*.....20
- *Wise As A Serpent*.....21
- *Letters To ZLM*.....22-24
- *Jews Have Enemies*.....25,26,28
- *Apple Of God's Eye*.....27,29
- *Select Briefs*.....30-31
- *Demonizing Israel*.....32
- *Jewish Humor/TV Schedule*.....33
- *Victory Over Iran*.....34-35

No Cure For This Arab-Muslim Sickness

By Salim Mansur
www.TorontoSun.com



Any thinking Muslim with a shred of self-respect must have cringed in disgust on watching the buffoonery of Libya's Muammar Kadhafi and Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the UN recently. These two leaders taking center-stage at the General Assembly displayed the sickness that has turned the Arab-Muslim world into a cultural wasteland and political prison.

Adonis is a cult figure of Greek mythology and the pseudonym of the Arab world's most revered living poet, Ali Ahmad Sa'id (born in 1930), a native of Syria and residing in France for the past three decades. In a television interview on a Lebanese Arab News broadcast done in November 2006, Adonis expounded on the emptiness of the Arab world.

continued p. 3

The number of people who claim no religious affiliation, meanwhile, has doubled since 1990 to fifteen percent, its highest point in history. Non-believers now represent the third-highest group of Americans, after Catholics and Baptists.

Other Headlines:

- 1) The number of Christians has declined 12% since 1990, and is now 76%, the lowest percentage in American history.
- 2) The growth of non-believers has come largely from men. Twenty percent of men express no religious affiliation; 12% of women.
- 3) Young people are fleeing faith. Nearly a quarter of Americans in their 20s profess no organized religion.
- 4) But these non-believers are not particularly atheist. That number hasn't budged and stands at less than 1 percent. (Agnostics are similarly less than 1 percent.) Instead, these individuals have a **belief in God but no interest in organized religion**, or they believe in a personal God but not in a formal faith tradition.

The implications for American society are profound. Americans' relationship

with God, which drove many of the country's great transformations from the Pilgrims to the Founding Fathers, the Civil War to the civil rights movement, is still intact. Eighty-two percent of Americans believe in God or a higher power.

But at the same time, the study offers yet another wake-up call for religious institutions. First, catering to older Believers is a recipe for failure; younger Americans are tuning out. Second, Americans are interested in God, but they don't think existing institutions are helping them draw closer to God.

Finally, Americans' interest in religion has not always been stable. It dipped following the Revolution and again following the Civil War. In both cases it rebounded because religious institutions adapted and found new ways of relating to everyday Americans.

Today, the rise of disaffection is so powerful that different denominations need to band together to find a shared language of God that can move beyond the fading divisions of the past and begin moving toward a partnership of different-but-equal traditions.

Or risk becoming Europe, where religion is fast becoming an afterthought. ★



www.100editors.com/cartoon

He said (translation provided by MEMRI—Middle East Media Research Institute):

“If I look at the Arabs, with all their resources and great capacities, and I compare what they have achieved over the past century with what others have achieved in that period, I would have to say that we Arabs are in a phase of extinction.”

When asked to explain, Adonis replied: **“We have become extinct. We have the quantity. We have the masses of people, but a people becomes extinct when it no longer has a creative capacity, and the capacity to change its world.”**

History is a cemetery for people and cultures driven to extinction for the lack of freedom under the arbitrary rule of tyrants. Kadhafi and Ahmadinejad are the poster images of despots in the greater Middle East, and the nature of their rule explains how their people have been crippled by the Islamist ideology at war with freedom, democracy, and Israel.

This is a sickness for which there is no immediate cure. And certainly no cure can be provided through concessions to Arab-Muslim demands by Israel, when such concessions will only fuel the deep-seated anti-Semitism that pervades the region.

Mezri Haddad, a Tunisian writer in echo-

ing Adonis on Arabs, has observed there is little distinction to be made between moderate and extremist Islamists in Iran, for instance, since both are responsible in reducing “the Qur’an to a case of nauseating anti-Semitism.”

In regard to the Iranian regime, Haddad writes, **“One cannot reform a theocracy; one must throw it back into the wastebasket of history from which it never should have cropped up in the first place.”**

Adonis and Haddad are not alone in understanding the sickness of the Arab-Muslim world and what this means for their people. Iranians in vast numbers have shown their deep contempt in recent weeks for their rulers and their wish to be free of them. They know how depraved are these rulers, being neither Islamic nor republican in a tyranny diabolically called an Islamic Republic.

But there are many outside the Arab-Muslim world—and not merely Muslims—who entertain the illusion that the sickness there results in part from wrongs done to Arabs and Muslims by the West. Hence, if the West and, in particular, the United States atone for these wrongs, the Arab-Muslim world might be then sufficiently cured of its sickness. Such illusions embolden the wicked and condemn those living inside tyranny to wither away in their wasteland without complaining. ★



Fighting Against A Christless Christmas

By Paul Shlichta

www.AmericanThinker.com

In the fourth century A.D., the Catholic Church made a big mistake. Acceding to the popular tradition that Jesus Christ had been born on December 25 and wishing to keep Christians from participating in the infamous orgies of the year-end pagan festival of Saturnalia, the Church established December 25 as the feast of the birth of Christ. Thus, for seventeen centuries, Christmas and Saturnalia have competed for the attention of the public. By now, I think we must admit that Saturnalia has won and that Christmas has been thoroughly de-Christianized.

During its long and varied history, Christmas has seldom been entirely free of Saturnalian contamination. As its celebration rose to prominence in the Middle Ages, the nativity scene was flanked with older pagan symbols, such as decorated trees and Yule logs, and religious adoration was admixed with feasting and revelry. After the Reformation, many Protestant sects viewed Christmas with suspicion as “popish” and/or pagan; its celebration was actually banned during the Puritan regime in England.

The 19th century ushered in a trend toward popularizing Christmas by transforming it into a secular holiday of sentimentality and benevolence. This was done at the expense of elbowing Christ off the stage. (It is noteworthy that in the most famous expression of Victorian Christmas spirit, Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, the words “Jesus” and “Christ” do not occur even once.) By way of substitution, a new central figure was created—a motley amalgamation of Saint Nicholas, the god Odin,

the pagan Yule goat, and the British Father Christmas. His image was defined by cartoonist Thomas Nast and his personality and activities by Clement Moore’s “’Twas The Night Before Christmas.”

Throughout the twentieth century, Santa Claus grew in importance as Christ faded into the shadows. This was largely because “Santa” equated to “gifts” which equated to “sales receipts.” But the moguls of commercialization were tolerant. If you were eccentric enough to attribute some sort of religious significance to Christmas, then you were permitted to do so, just so you did it quietly. You couldn’t make a major movie about the birth of Christ but you could sneak in an angel or two, as in *It’s a Wonderful Life*, which became the entertainment world’s epitome of Christmas. During this period, the infant Jesus was still allowed an occasional walk-on role, mainly in artistic Christmas cards and French carols whose cultural value outweighed their offensive religiosity.

But by the beginning of this millennium, even this crumb was denied to Christians. In a series of aggressive confrontations, every trace of Christ in Christmas has been attacked. Public nativity scenes and even Christmas trees have been challenged in the courts as violations of the First Amendment. Holiday children’s movies have ceased to be religiously neutral and either deify a gigantic god-



like Santa, as in *The Polar Express*, or else attack Christianity, as in the cynically atheistic *Hogfather* and the clumsily anti-Catholic *The Golden Compass*.

Even the name “Christmas” has been erased, in the interest of inclusiveness and diversity, and been replaced by “the Holidays”—a bit of PC censorship that stores such as Sears, Kmart, Target, and Gap persist in even after threats of boycotts. The change is now complete. In the thick advertising sections of a Sunday newspaper, the word “Holiday” was invariably used; “Christmas” did not appear once.

The reasoning behind this censorship is positively frightening. When challenged about the change from “Christmas trees” to “holiday trees,” Sears responded:

“The reason for our use of holiday tree is due to the [sic] Sears Holding is a very diverse company, we do not want to offend any of our associates, but also our valued customers. We decided to call them holiday trees because even if Christians are the only religion that uses a Christmas tree we still do not want complaints from other customers of different religions complaining about our use of Christmas.”

So the name “Christmas” is now offensive, the forbidden “C word.” Jesus Christ is now He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

By now, we should have learned that we must fight for our rights or lose them. The question really is: do we believe and cherish our beliefs strongly enough to fight for them? ★



Faithful Iranian Women Charged With Spreading Christianity

By Robert Williams, www.ChristianPost.com

An Iranian judge charged two jailed female converts with “crimes” of apostasy and propagation of the Christian faith, a human rights group reported.

Washington D.C.-based International Christian Concern said it has learned from Elam ministries in Iran that **Maryam Rustampoor** and **Marzieh Amirizadeh** were unexpectedly taken to appear before the court recently and were formally charged by the judge.



Maryam Rustampoor, 27 (left) and Marzieh Amirizadeh, 30, (right)

The two converts

were arrested on March 5 for leaving Islam and embracing Christianity. They were placed in solitary confinement in the infamous Evin prison, deprived of medical attention, and often blindfolded during interrogations for several hours over the course of five months without being charged.

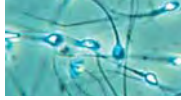
Iranian officials accused them of “anti-state activities” following their conversion from Islam to Christianity. After five months, they were tried on August 9 by the revolutionary court and ordered to recant their faith in Christ, which they said they will never do. The women remained in prison until they appeared again in court when they were finally charged.

It has been requested that Christians worldwide “continue to pray for the release of the two converts and also for the improvement of their health.”



Human Skin Cells Become Heart Cells

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com



Haifa scientists have adapted an innovative Japanese gene-implantation technique and succeeded in “turning back the clock” for human skin cells, reprogramming them into artificial embryonic stem cells and then switching them into heart cells in the lab. Although implementing this clinically to repair damaged human hearts is at least a decade or two away, the Israeli accomplishment can already be utilized for in-depth study of genetic diseases and the development of personalized drugs for inherited disorders, such as those involving irregular heartbeat.

Prof. Lior Gepstein, a senior cardiologist at Rambam Medical Center and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology's Rappaport Medical Faculty, heads a team of 12 that has just published its findings in the latest issue of the prestigious journal *Circulation*.

The team's work is based on that of Prof. Shinya Yamanaka, a 47-year-old Japanese physician and stem cell researcher at Kyoto University working with mice. By translating this research into human cells, Gepstein's team could reduce scientists' dependence on embryos for stem-cell research. The Technion/Rambam team took adult skin cell fibroblasts from healthy individuals. In about three months, with funding from Israeli grants, the team “pushed” the adult cells “backward in time” so they became stem cells with the characteristics of pluripotent embryonic stem cells, and then pushed them forward into heart cells.

Gepstein said that the rejuvenation of human cells and their transformation into “induced Pluripotent Stem Cells”

(iPSCs) could be carried out in almost any human cell. If the reprogramming process is halted in the middle, the iPSCs turn back into ordinary somatic cells as if they were Cinderella's carriage turning back into a pumpkin, he explained. But the “trigger” genes could be removed from the cell without stopping the reprogramming process.



Prof. Lior Gepstein is head of a Haifa team that has found a way to apply Japanese stem cell research on mice to human cells.

One of the hazards in the use of iPSCs and ordinary embryonic stem cells is that they could begin to divide wildly, making them cancerous, “so it will be years before they are used clinically,” said Gepstein. “If the genes remain in the cell, there is more danger of a tumor and less if they are removed.”

A possible benefit is that unlike ordinary embryonic stem cells from a donor, which would be rejected if implanted into humans to repair tissue, if a person's own somatic cells containing mutations were taken and turned into iPSCs, they would not be rejected.



Saudis Ask For Aid If Petrodollars Decline

By Michael Casey, Associated Press

There are plenty of needy countries at the UN climate talks in Bangkok that make the case they need financial assistance to adapt to the impacts of global warming. Then there are the Saudis.

Saudi Arabia has led a quiet campaign during these and other negotiations—demanding behind closed doors that oil-producing nations get special financial assistance if a new climate pact calls for substantial reductions in the use of fossil fuels.

That campaign comes despite an International Energy Agency (IEA) report that OPEC revenues would still increase \$23 trillion between 2008 and 2030—a four-fold increase compared to the period from 1985 to 2007—if countries agree to significantly slash emissions and thereby cut their use of oil.

The head of the Saudi delegation, Mohammad S. Al Sabban, said, “We are among the economically vulnerable countries. This is very serious for us. We are in the process of diversifying our economy but this will take a long time. We don’t have too many resources.”

The following two stories posted at www.levitt.com/news might provoke less sympathy for OPEC’s oil sheiks.

- 1) Sheik flies Lamborghini (right) 6,500 miles to Britain for oil change
- 2) The Sultan’s 5,000 personal vehicles



The Nobel Prize Committee in Norway recently awarded the Peace Prize to President Obama. They embrace his vision of a world without nuclear weapons, his premium on diplomacy over military force, and his confidence in the United Nations as the principal agent to resolve geopolitical conflicts. The committee called our president the “world’s leading spokesman” for the aforementioned aspirations.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



Europeans saw more than their share of carnage in the twentieth century. Consequently, it’s no surprise that they are ready to wrap their arms around someone who restrains the dogs of war. Europe was devastated when fifty-five million human beings were slaughtered during WWII. Its citizens remember that Stalin purged another twenty million, that fifteen million fell in WWI, and that nine million more died in Russia’s civil war alone. Europeans appreciate those who avert conflicts. **Ninety-nine million human beings met untimely deaths in Europe, in just the last one hundred years! Who can begrudge Europeans for placing such a premium on peacemaking?**

Divided into nation-states with small, inept armies, Europe isn’t prepared to stave off invasions from belligerents, and so places its hope in statecraft. Islamic expansionists are having a heyday in Europe, where boundless gains from the population invasion and social retooling continue unchecked. Europeans have neither the inclination nor the strength to resist the demise of their civilization. So, they go like sheep to the slaughter, praising anyone who diverts their minds from their predicament. Docile Europeans are particularly prone to trust transnational bodies like the “European Union” and the “United Nations,” which provide false senses of security.

Providence? Coincidence? Who knows?

But at the very time when the world awarded a Nobel Prize for Peace to

President Obama, Zola Levitt Ministries released its series around the world entitled *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace). As you know, this ministry is all about promoting the only *real* security: Jesus the Messiah, the Prince of Peace.



Our politically incorrect position doesn’t hold much currency in today’s political climate. But it probably still resonates with you. So, please help us promote the Prince of Peace at the time when the world pauses to remember His birth.

Please watch *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace) at www.levitt.tv if you haven’t seen it on TV. Thanks for showing your support for its production and distribution with your prayers and contributions. This economy reduced our income this year; it has impacted other nonprofits similarly. We’re pressing on the best we can. If you could make a year-end contribution, it would bring needed relief during these troubled times.

We are still taking pilgrims to the Holy Land next March, June, and October (see page 36 for dates). Our eleven-day Spring Tour will depart March 14 and return on the 24th. The Petra extension will stay until March 28. Our Summer Discovery Tour will be June 6–16. We’re offering four options for our Fall Tour next October. Please call Tracie at 214-696-9760 to request your free brochure.

Your messenger,

Israel Flag “Provocative” In Germany

By Benjamin Weinthal, www.JPost.com

A district court in the West German city of Bochum fined a student \$450 for displaying an Israeli flag at a recent demonstration organized by Muslim groups against the IDF’s Operation Cast Lead in January.

According to *Der Westen*, a regional paper in Bochum, the public prosecutor termed the Israeli flag as “provocative” within a special situation. The 30-year-old student, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she fears for her safety due to “massive problems with Nazis,” asked “What is provocative about an Israeli flag?” The Bochum prosecutor was not available for comment.



According to *Der Westen*, the judge deemed the protest of the five activists expressing solidarity with Israel to be a “dangerous situation.” A spokesman for the district court said that there was a “violation of the right to assembly” because the pro-Israel demonstrators failed to register their protest 48 hours before the event. He added that the court’s decision was issued “independent of a political motivation.”

Yet the student, who is appealing the fine, said a special regulation permits “spontaneous” demonstrations without pre-registration.



British Trade Unions To Boycott Israeli Goods

By Jonny Paul, www.JPost.com

Britain’s 6.5-million member labor federation, the Trade Union Congress (TUC), has adopted a policy calling for a consumer-led boycott and sanctions campaign against Israel at their annual conference in Liverpool.

The TUC policy calls on the British Government to condemn the “Israeli military aggression and the continuing blockade of Gaza” and end arms sales to Israel, which it said reached a value of \$30 million in 2008. It also calls for a ban on goods originating from the settlements and an end to the European Union’s preferential trading terms with Israel. “The TUC calls on the British Government to seek EU agreement to impose a ban on the importing of goods produced in [allegedly] illegal settlements and supports moves to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides preferential trade facilities to Israel,” read the policy statement.

It came as the TUC’s General Council (GC) introduced a “compromise” after the conference passed a motion calling for a complete boycott of Israeli goods and for the TUC to “carry out a review” of its relationship with the *Histadrut* [Israeli trade union] for not condemning Operation Cast Lead, introduced by the Fire Brigade Union (FBU).

The Board of Deputies of British Jews and Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) issued a joint statement condemning the move. The Board of Deputies and JLC said, “Our communal leaders will respond robustly to this policy, which risks driving a wedge between British Jews and the trade union movement.”

Israel’s ambassador to the UK, Ron Proser, said, “The TUC’s leaders should hang their heads in shame at this reckless call. They have betrayed their own constituency by allowing the TUC to be hijacked as a political tool for extremists. This one-sided approach subjects Israel to a despicable double standard not experienced by any other nation, including dictatorships such as Libya, which recently celebrated the return of a convicted mass murderer.”



The Spanish Expulsion, 1492



Spanish crest of era

“In the same month in which their Majesties [Ferdinand and Isabella] issued the edict that all Jews should be driven out of the kingdom and its territories, in the same month they gave me the order to undertake with sufficient men my expedition of discovery to the Indies.”

So begins Christopher Columbus's diary. The expulsion that Columbus refers to was so cataclysmic an event that ever since, the date 1492 has been almost as important in Jewish history as in American history. On July 30 of that year, the entire Jewish community, some 200,000 people, were expelled from Spain.

Tens of thousands of refugees died while trying to reach safety. In some instances, Spanish ship captains charged Jewish passengers exorbitant sums, then dumped them overboard in the middle of the ocean. In the last days before the expulsion, rumors spread throughout Spain that the fleeing refugees had swallowed gold and diamonds, and many Jews were knifed to death by brigands hoping to find treasures in their stomachs.

The Jews' expulsion had been the project of the Spanish Inquisition, headed by Father **Tomas de Torquemada**. Torquemada believed that as long as the Jews remained in Spain, they would influence the tens of thousands of recent Jewish converts to Christianity to continue practicing Judaism. Ferdinand and Isabella rejected Torquemada's demand that the Jews be expelled until January 1492, when the Spanish Army defeated Muslim forces in Granada, thereby restoring the whole of Spain to Christian rule. With their most important project, the country's unification,



By Joseph Telushkin
JewishVirtualLibrary.org

accomplished, the king and queen concluded that the Jews were expendable. They issued the expulsion decree, the order to take effect in precisely four months. The short time span was a great boon to the rest of Spain, as the Jews were forced to liquidate their homes and businesses at absurdly low prices. Throughout those frantic months, Dominican priests actively encouraged Jews to convert to Christianity and thereby gain salvation both in this world and the next.

The most fortunate of the expelled Jews succeeded in escaping to Turkey. Among the most unfortunate refugees were those who fled to neighboring Portugal. In 1496, King Manuel of Portugal concluded an agreement to marry Isabella, the daughter of Spain's monarchs. As a condition of the marriage, the Spanish royal family insisted that Portugal expel its Jews. King Manuel agreed, although he was reluctant to lose his affluent and accomplished Jewish community.

In the end, only eight Portuguese Jews were actually expelled; tens of thousands of others were forcibly converted to Christianity on pain of death. The chief rabbi, Simon Maimi, was one of those who refused to convert. He was kept buried in earth up to his neck for seven days until he died. All of these events took place because of the relentless will of one man, Tomas de Torquemada.

The Spanish Jews who ended up in Turkey, North Africa, Italy, and elsewhere throughout Europe and the world, were known as Sephardim — *Sefarad* being the Hebrew name for Spain. Of the dozens of expulsions directed against Jews throughout their history, the one from Spain remains the most infamous. ★

Zola On “Making Peace” and Special Gifts

Do I still think making peace with the Palestinians is impossible? Not really. We were able to make peace with the Germans after World War II and peace with Russia more recently. But in both cases, that was after the dictatorships came apart and the enemy became democratic. One cannot make peace with a dictator; one can only have a cold war with a dictator.

All the rhetoric of all the politicians in the world trying to appease the Saudi Arabians and get good oil prices is not going to produce anything close to real peace in Israel. What will produce peace over there is an Arab acceptance of the oldest culture in the Middle East—the Jewish culture—as a neighbor and contributor to the welfare of the entire region, and that won't happen until Arab nations become democracies and accept Israel as a neighbor. Short of that, the peace process is hopeless. As a matter of fact, as I'm sure those knowledgeable of prophecy can see, it is a war process.

I must ask you if you would do something really special this year. I know

that year-end gifts in general will help to amortize our upcoming series *This Is Israel!* [in '99; *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace) in '09], but the problem is we have bills due now, and it is difficult for us to wait until then. Each year I tend to say this in December, mainly because we have typically just finished producing an expensive fall series of programs. A gift now—before the end of the year—would be most appreciated. And if you could possibly accelerate your giving at year's end, that would be helpful, too.

As my son Mark, a talented business manager, pointed out, we are running a deficit, and that is not really healthy for any financial operation. Boats don't sink when they take on water, but they do need pumps to bail it back out, and helpful people. As Mark points out, our deficits simply mean we're doing just what we're supposed to do as a non-profit organization. But they also can mean curtailing new productions ahead or keeping them in Dallas rather than in Jerusalem in the coming year. I would appreciate it if you would take that into consideration when you ask Him what He would have you do for this ministry. Thanks. ★



Goldstone and Rockets



Israeli government officials responded with intense anger to the UN Goldstone Commission report on last winter's fight between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Islamic militiamen in the Gaza Strip.

The report—named after Jewish South African Judge Richard Goldstone, who conducted the UN probe, and released in September—claimed that both Israel and the Palestinians committed war crimes during the three week conflict. However, Israeli officials pointed out that far more condemnation was heaped upon Israel than upon the militant Hamas movement that provoked the confrontation.

Israeli leaders were particularly irked that the report focused on Palestinian civilian casualties while barely mentioning the fact that thousands of Hamas rockets had been deliberately fired at Israeli civilian centers during this decade.

Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** strongly denounced the Goldstone Report's conclusions when he addressed the UN General Assembly in late September.



“Rather than condemning the terrorists and their Iranian patrons, some here in the United Nations have condemned their victims. This is exactly what the recent UN report on Gaza did, falsely equating terrorists with those they targeted.”

Netanyahu noted that “for eight long years, Hamas fired rockets from Gaza on nearby Israeli cities and citizens—thousands of rockets and mortars hurtled down from the sky on schools, homes, shopping centers, bus stops. Year after year, as these rockets were deliberately fired on our civilians, **not a single UN resolution**—not one!—was passed condemning those criminal attacks.

“In 2005, hoping to advance peace, Israel unilaterally withdrew from every inch of Gaza.

It was very painful...we didn't get peace. Instead we got an Iranian-backed terror base fifty miles from Tel Aviv.”

The prime minister also pointed out that the rocket attacks “increased tenfold” after the unilateral withdrawal, eventually forcing the army to conduct a major operation to halt the blitz. He said the IDF did everything possible to try to minimize non-combatant casualties, noting that “hundreds of thousands” of people were killed when allied forces “leveled German cities” during World War II.

I listened to the prime minister's blunt speech live on Israel's Channel 2 network while visiting the city of Ashkelon, which was hard hit both before and during the Gaza conflict. Courtesy of American friends who have a second home there, I spent the Jewish New Year holiday in the targeted seaside city.

Having lived along Israel's northern border with Lebanon in the early 1980s, I am quite familiar with the sound of exploding rockets. So I was pretty sure I knew what the loud booms were when I heard them that weekend.

A check on the Internet quickly confirmed that several Palestinian rockets had indeed been fired at Israeli civilian targets yet again, causing no damage but still sending people to bomb shelters in the nearby town of Sderot. I immediately thought about Judge Goldstone, wondering how he would feel living with the constant threat of rockets suddenly crashing down upon his family home. ★



Israel's Got A New Friend In Spain

By Barak Ravid, www.Haaretz.co.il

In October, Spanish Prime Minister **Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero** visited Israel and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



After a number of years during which the Spanish prime minister hardly dealt with foreign relations at all, his visit to Israel—the second within a year—signals a sea change in Zapatero's priorities and also an upgrade in relations between Israel and Spain.

During the Ehud Olmert government and especially during and after the Second Lebanon War, relations between Israel and Spain became tense. Critical remarks by Zapatero about Israel, his appearance at a rally wearing a *kaffiyeh* (Palestinian checkered scarf), Spanish Minister Of Foreign Affairs **Miguel Moratinos's** (right) peace proposal that was not coordinated with Israel, and meetings held with Hezbollah in Lebanon were just some of the problems.

Spain's policy, from which Israel drew no joy, was only the beginning. There were also negative public opinion trends and the problematic branding of Israel as a danger to world peace. Against the backdrop of the Second Lebanon War, Operation Cast Lead, and the continued building in the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the Spanish media only added fuel to the flames.

One of the main reasons for the change in the tenor of the relations has been the change in Moratinos's conduct over the past year and a half. The Spanish foreign minister has evinced restraint and has avoided promoting independent diplomatic initiatives

behind Israel's back as much as possible, instead working in coordination with Jerusalem.

In diplomacy, too, everything is personal. Moratinos's relations with former prime minister Ehud Olmert were terrible. After Moratinos came out with his peace initiative, Olmert lashed out at him, saying "he doesn't understand anything about the Middle East."

Subsequently, Olmert refused to meet Moratinos for more than a year and only after a long period agreed to a reconciliation with him.

With Netanyahu, things are quite different. Moratinos knows Netanyahu well from when he was the EU envoy in Israel and despite their differences of opinion on many issues, friendship and even trust prevail between the two men.



In contrast to Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, who refused to disassociate his government from a newspaper article alleging Israeli organ harvesting—perceived as anti-Semitic here [see story on p.28]—Moratinos recently published (in Sweden, no less) a statement denouncing anti-Semitism and the act of giving Holocaust deniers opportunities to speak out.

The visit testifies to a real intention to improve relations with Israel and to evince greater involvement on the part of Spain in the Middle East in advance of Spain's taking up the presidency of the EU in January. ★

Israeli Nobel Prize Winner

By Yaakov Lappin
www.JPost.com



Israeli scientist **Ada Yonath** (above), 2009 Nobel Prize winner for groundbreaking chemistry research, said that she was working in her laboratory at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel when she received the news, and that she continued working after taking the call, until she was forced to stop by colleagues and friends.

She attempted to explain the significance of her discovery to the general public, telling the press, "Every living cell... whether human or bacteria, has to function. To eat, build itself, split into two—these are minimum functions of life. The instructions for cell function are contained in the DNA. The DNA gets instructions on which sections of it should be expressed, and these instructions are transferred to factories in the cell."

Yonath said her research into ribosomes' vital role in building cell proteins based on DNA codes could benefit future antibiotic treatments which "attack the process of protein building in germs." She also vowed to "give every piece of information (from my research)" to medical and pharmaceutical companies. "It's not so important who did what as it is to know what was done," she remarked.

Addressing younger Israeli scientists, Yonath said curiosity was the key to scientific progress. "If one has curiosity, then one stands the chance of attaining a high level of scientific inquiry." Israeli scientific achievement has gone up several notches since "the days when I finished my doctorate," Yonath added.

Yonath acknowledged her humble beginnings in a Jerusalem working class neighborhood. "My neighbor-

hood didn't really encourage women, though it didn't prevent women from progressing either," she said. "My kindergarten teacher encouraged me to learn, as did my school headmaster, who gave me a grant to study."

Yonath, as well as American scientists Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz, was awarded the prize. Regarding her research, Yonath said that she and her colleagues had "tried to examine a very important biological process, and we were largely successful." She added that because the research had spanned 30 years, her Nobel Prize was a veritable lifetime achievement award.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Yonath, saying, "I feel deeply proud. The Nobel Prize is humanity's real Olympics." He added, "Contributions such as Yonath's to science and academia have characterized the Jewish nation and the State of Israel for many years."

Each Nobel prize comes with a 10 million kronor (\$1.45 million) purse, a diploma, a gold medal, and an invitation to the prize ceremony in Stockholm on December 10. (The Peace Prize is handed out in Oslo.)



Paul Wilbur Leads Christians In Israel

By Adrienne S. Gaines, CharismaMag.com

Note: This is the same Paul Wilbur described in the August 2009 *Levitt Letter*, p. 25. You can see his guest appearances in our *The Warrior King* television series, online at www.levitt.tv/media/series/DWK. —Mark

Some 5,000 Christians from 100 nations marched through the streets of Jerusalem recently to show their solidarity with the nation of Israel.

March participants waved Zionist banners and flags, while others wore T-shirts that read “Jerusalem United” as part of a campaign responding to political pressure on Israel to stop construction in the largely Arab eastern part of the city.

The Jerusalem March, part of the 30th annual Feast of Tabernacles held in Israel, was hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) to mark *Sukkot*, the Jewish festival celebrating the ingathering of the harvest and remembering the 40 years God provided for the Jewish people as they wandered in the wilderness.

For many Christians, the event also points to a prophecy in Zechariah 14 that says people from every nation will join hands with the children of Israel to celebrate *Sukkot*.

“Jerusalem is not a settlement,” said the Rev. Malcolm Hedding, executive director of the ICEJ. “It’s the holy city and capital of Israel. Thirty years ago we opened in defense of Jerusalem as the undivided capital. We have never moved away from that mandate and will continue to stand with a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.”

The Feast began with a live concert recording at Ein Gedi, along the shores of the Dead Sea, led by Messianic worship leader Paul Wilbur. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed participants at the opening gala by video. Netanyahu thanked the ICEJ and visiting Christians for their solidarity with the Jewish nation.

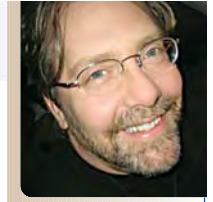
“In the worst of times, you’ve always stood up for Israel,” Netanyahu said. “And you’ve communicated something very clear to us. You said to the people of Israel: ‘You are not alone. We are with you.’ Well, we say to you today: ‘The people of Israel are with you. We’re together.’” ★



Paul Wilbur

30th Annual Feast of Tabernacles





The Discipline of Suffering

By John J. Parsons

טוב-לי כי-עניתי למען אלמד חקֵיך

It is good for me that I was afflicted, so that I may learn Your statutes. (Psalm 119:71)

ח	קֵי	ך	אֶל	מַד	לְ	מַעַן	כִּי-	עֲנִיתִי	תִי	טוֹב-	לִי		
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)
chu·kay·kha	el·mad	le·ma'an	khi·u·nei·ti	tov·li									
your decrees	I might learn	so that	that I was afflicted	good for me									

God uses suffering in our lives to teach us the truth. After all, who among us would have genuinely turned to Him without its effect? The Lord repeatedly uses affliction to call us back to Him. It's His tool for prompting us to do *teshuvah*—repentance. Indeed, can there be any worse punishment in this life than to be untouched by need, suffering and testing? Can anything be more tragic than to be forgotten or overlooked by God? No, affliction is a blessing in disguise. As A.W Tozer once wrote, "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply."

Of course affliction is just the starting point, the prerequisite for all that follows. It's the "price for admission" into God's school. And the very first lesson to be mastered is that **1) there is a God** and **2) you are not Him**. Should you forget the lesson, you will be revisited with affliction to help you begin again. In this way suffering is like a "guardian angel" or a personal tutor who keeps you focused on the truth. You simply cannot move forward in God's school apart from complete surrender.

When we genuinely accept that God defines the truth for our lives, we realize that affliction is sovereignly given to us so that we can learn to abide in Him without constraint. As Soren Kierkegaard once wrote, "God's education consists in leading one to being able to do freely what at first one had to be compelled to do." The idea of "law" is transformed to that of grace.

Life is a "school" for the soul. God is the Teacher, we are "disciples" (i.e., learners), and affliction is our divinely appointed tutor. Many of us are slow to learn, but God is patient with those whom He disciplines. The goal is to never lose sight of what's most important, which is God Himself. If you find yourself in a place of resistance, then you are confronted with the decision of whether or not you will trust the Teacher. The key lies in surrendering to God's will by submitting to His rule over all things. Yielding to God's will is the path of serenity and inner peace.

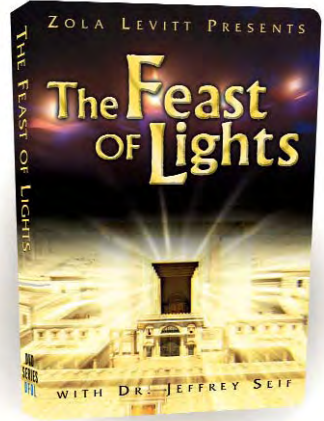
May the Lord keep you in perfect peace as you set your mind on Him (Isa. 26:3).



The Feast of Lights—

Three 30-Minute Programs on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have amassed and threatened the Jews with extinction. However, in every generation, God provided a leader who would shine the Light of God's faithfulness. Hanukkah—the Jewish Feast of Lights—harks back to a time before Christ when a cruel, anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's Deliverer arose, lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. From generation to generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



1. The Story of Hanukkah

Dr. Jeffrey Seif sets up the story of Hanukkah wherein the abominable Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many throughout history have sought to destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." Also, we learn about harvesting the olive oil and its importance to the golden Menorah, which resided in the Holy Place.

2. The Light of the World

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world." Speaking from the Messianic synagogue Baruch HaShem, Jeff explains the significance of light to the celebration of Hanukkah as well as its prophetic image of Jesus Christ. Jeff interviews Rabbi Martin J. Waldman about the increase of Messianic Jews in the world today, and we see a timely interview with Zola and Messianic Believer Simcha Davidov.

3. The Feast of Dedication

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled first by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, as well as the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and don't miss a heartfelt interview in which Zola and Jean Rosenberg look at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today.

Please order from page 18.

Messianic Prophecy Scroll

Beautiful, useful, and revealing. A lovely and very spiritual art object for mantelpiece or coffee table display, this wood and parchment scroll is hand-copied and handmade. The prophecies of Messiah are written in Hebrew and English. A marvelous witnessing tool and gift idea for any occasion. *Please see page 19 to order.*



Books

Qty Books Price Total

ZOLA'S CLASSIC 12-BOOKLET STUDY LIBRARY

___	The Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever	\$3	___

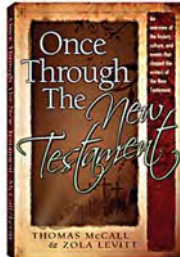
MIX OR MATCH: 50 CLASSIC STUDY BOOKS ABOVE \$49



___	An Israeli Love Story	\$8	___
___	Battles With Seminaries	\$10	___
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Zola on Replacement Theology	\$5	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel	\$10	___
___	Dateline Jerusalem	\$12	___
___	First Christians Transcript	\$10	___
___	Footsteps Of The Rabbi From Tarsus	\$12	___
___	Genesis One	\$5	___
___	Guns & Moses	\$8	___

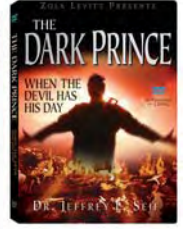
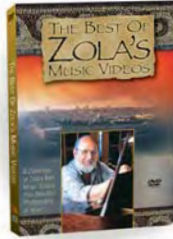


Our Latest Books Are Here!



___	The House That God Built	\$8	___
___	The Iranian Menace...	\$8	___
___	Is Fanatic Islam A Global Threat?	\$13	___
___	Jerusalem: The Truth, David Bar-Illan	\$4	___
___	Jesus — The Jew's Jew	\$7	___
___	Meshumed!	\$8	___
___	Mountains Of Israel	\$10	___
___	Once Through The New Testament	\$8	___
___	Our Hands Are Stained w/Blood	\$13	___
___	Passover Haggadah	\$5	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	___
___	Raptured	\$10	___
___	Return to Galilee	\$8	___
___	Satan in The Sanctuary	\$8	___
___	Secrets of the Scrolls Special Trans.	\$5	___
___	Signs of The End: The Millennium	\$5	___
___	The Stones Cry Out	\$10	___
___	The Trouble with Christians & Jews	\$10	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$4	___
___	Woman By Divine Design	\$10	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$29	___

Zola & Jeff on Video-DVD & VHS



Qty Total	Videos	Price
___	A Child Is Born (1 prog)	(1-VHS) \$19
___		(1-DVD) \$19
___	A Pilgrim's Journey (9 prog)	(3-VHS) \$49
___		(3-DVD) \$49
___	Age Of Terror (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	Bad Moon Rising (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	Beloved Thief – Musical (60 min)	(1-VHS) \$19
___		(1-DVD) \$19
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos	(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Bible: The Whole Story (7 prog)	(2-DVD) \$39
___	The Covenants of God (8 prog)	(2-VHS) \$49
___		(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Crusaders (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Dark Prince...(10 prog)	(3-DVD) \$59
___	Daniel & Last Days' Battle... (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	Evidence of God (8 prog)	(2-VHS) \$49
___		(2-DVD) \$49
___	Ezekiel & Mid-East...(8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	Feast of Lights (3 prog)	(1-DVD) \$19
___	In The Footsteps Of The Rabbi From Tarsus	(3-DVD) \$69
___	Gospel According to Isaiah (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Holocaust (6 prog)	(2-VHS) \$39
___		(2-DVD) \$39
___	Holy Days of Our Lord (11 prog)	(3-DVD) \$69
___	In Loving Memory (90 min)	(1-DVD) \$19
___	Israel, The Church & The Future (7 hr)	(3-VHS) \$69
___		(4-DVD) \$69
___	Israel My Love (6 prog)	(2-DVD) \$39
___	Jehovah's Treasure Special	(1-DVD) \$19
___	Mine Eyes Have Seen	(1-DVD) \$19
___	The Miracle of Passover (2 prog)	(1-VHS) \$19
___		(1-DVD) \$19
___	Revelation (6 prog)	(2-DVD) \$39
___	Secrets of the Scrolls (7 prog)	(2-VHS) \$49
___		(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 prog)	(2-VHS) \$49
___		(2-DVD) \$49
___	She Shall Be Called Woman (8 prog)	(2-DVD) \$49
___	Sons of Israel (9 prog)	(3-VHS) \$59
___		(3-DVD) \$59
___	The Stones Cry Out (12 prog)	(3-DVD) \$69
___	The Temple (6 prog)	(2-VHS) \$39
___		(2-DVD) \$39
___	This Is Israel! (12 prog)	(3-VHS) \$69
___	Thy Kingdom Come (12 prog)	(3-VHS) \$69
___		(3-DVD) \$69
___	Upon This Rock Special- (60 min)	(1-VHS) \$19
___		(1-DVD) \$19
___	The Warrior King	(2-DVD) \$49
___	The Witnessing Series (60 min)	(1-VHS) \$29
___		(1-DVD) \$29
___	Whose Land Is It?	(1-DVD) \$19
___		(1-VHS) \$19
___	Zola's Highlights (4 prog)	(1-DVD) \$29

FEATURE ITEMS SEE P. 17 & 36

ORDER FORM

Studies, Etc.

**FEATURE
Item
SEE P. 17
& 36**

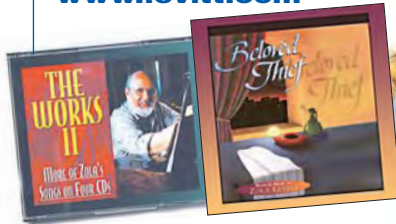
- ___ 2-Flag Collar Pin \$2
- ___ "Grafted In" Decal \$2
- ___ Pray for Peace Bumper Sticker \$2
- ___ Half-shekel Key Chain \$8
- ___ Jerusalem Journeystone \$8
- ___ Jewish Heritage Calendar 09-10 \$5
- ___ Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12) \$8
- ___ Messianic Prophecy Scroll \$29
- ___ Pictorial Map of Jerusalem \$8
- ___ Pilgrims' Map of The Holy Land \$6
- ___ Flag of Israel (3' x 5') \$10
- ___ Things to Come Bookmark 2 for \$1
- ___ Zola's Notebook (The Bible: The Whole Story) \$20
- ___ **Catalog of Ministry Materials** no charge
- ___ **Institute of Jewish-Christian Info.** no charge
- ___ **TV Program Airing Schedule** no charge
- ___ **28 Ways You Can Help Israel** no charge
- ___ **Guide To Your Christian Will** Free with purchase or donation

Cassette Tapes / CDs by Zola



- | Qty | Titles: Circle—CD or TP (tape) | Price | Total |
|-----|--|-----------------|-------|
| ___ | A Christian Love Story | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | A Survey of the New Test. | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | Beginning of The End*(2 TP) | \$10 or CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy | CD \$7 | |
| ___ | Discovering Our Jewish Roots (9 CDs) | \$39 | |
| ___ | Encounters with UFOs | CD \$7 | |
| ___ | Glory! The Future of Believers | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | How Can a Gentile Be Saved? | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | Jesus the Jew's Jew | CD \$7 | |
| ___ | The Miracle of Passover | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | The Seven Feasts of Israel | CD \$7 | |
| ___ | Spirit of Pentecost | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | The Tribulation Temple | CD \$7/TP \$4 | |
| ___ | Zola Teaches New Testament (6CD) | \$29 | |

Music CDs & Tapes
Hear samples of all at www.levitt.com



- | Qty | Titles | Price | Total |
|-----|--|-------------------|-------|
| ___ | A Pilgrim's Journey | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Beloved Thief* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Beyond Words* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Champions of Faith | CD \$12 | |
| ___ | The Covenants of God | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Faith in the Fire** | CD \$12 | |
| ___ | In The Wilderness** | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Israel My Love* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Israel: By Divine Right** | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Jerusalem 3000** | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Living Waters | CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Love Stories of the Bible | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Messiah* | CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Mine Eyes Have Seen** (Zola's After-Christmas Musical) | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Tell It On The Mountains** | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Next Year in Jerusalem* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Return to Galilee* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | The First Christians** | CD \$12 | |
| ___ | The Works (Zola's first 8 albums marked with*) | 4 CD Set \$49 | |
| ___ | The Works II (Zola's next 8 albums marked with**) | 4 CD Set \$49 | |
| ___ | Thy Kingdom Come | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Unto The Gentiles** | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |
| ___ | Zola's Songs by Lamb* | Tape \$10/CD \$12 | |

Tear out and send entire 2-page Order Form.—Thanks.

Please Fill Out Area Below and Send the Entire Page.

Shipping & Handling Chart Canada and Mexico, please **DOUBLE** shipping; all other countries, please **TRIPLE** shipping. Please send US funds.
(Please allow about 4 wks. for delivery.)

- up to \$15.99, add \$5
- \$16 to \$30.99, add \$6
- \$31 to \$60.99, add \$7
- \$61 to \$100, add \$8
- over \$100, add \$9

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

Name _____ (please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____
(See number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. / _____ Card ID# required _____

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS Cardholder's Signature _____

Subtotal _____

Shipping (See left chart) _____

UPS shipping (\$2 extra) _____

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

8 1/4% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation _____

Total _____

Please Tear Out and Send Entire Center Section.

ZLM Bulletin Board

Posing Gnomes

German artist Ottmar Hoerl recently posed 1,250 garden gnomes with their arms outstretched in the stiff-armed Hitler salute. His display was a protest of Germany's lingering fascist tendencies. The exhibit, in southeastern Germany, was called "Dance With The Devil." Displaying Nazi symbols is illegal in Germany, but a court allowed Hoerl's gnomes as satire.

Hoerl says: "The Fascist idea, the striving to manipulate people or dictate to people... is latently dangerous and remains present in our society."



iPhone & iPod Friendly

www.levitt.com is iPhone-friendly and iPod Touch-friendly. You can play the videos and listen to Zola's music on your iPhone. We have posted our latest television programs in a widescreen format, so they completely fill the iPhone screen while playing (rotated) and will fill the screen on your widescreen TV, via Apple TV or a cable from your iPod.



Auschwitz Museum on Facebook

The Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland has launched a page on Facebook, a social-networking site. Other organizations that deal with the legacy of the Holocaust, such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, already have ventured onto Facebook. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has over 6,000 Facebook fans. Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum also has a Facebook page.



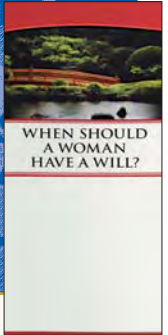
Pamphlet of the Month:

"When Should a Woman Have a Will?"

This pamphlet's 11 enumerated answers include: when she is single or married, when she has children—minors or adults, or when she owns property. It suggests reviewing estate plans when her marital status changes, when she wants to name her own personal representative, or when she has charitable wishes.

Reason #8 explains, "A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs—even for modest estates."

To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



"Come Home!"

Zola's
Tours to
Israel:



See page
36 for details





Navigating The New www.Cars.com

wise
as a serpent

Today we discuss a captivating way to become a savvy car shopper. To get some background, check out “Buying a Car,” at <http://www.levitt.com/essays/wise-2007-04.html>, from the April 2007 *Levitt Letter*.

Once you’ve read my prior article and visited Dave Ramsey’s website (I’ve included specific links below*), you may agree that it makes better sense to purchase a \$12,000 used car than a \$26,000 new one. You might even want a copy of *How to Buy a Great Used Car* (\$4.75) at www.ShamelessCommerce.com.

With your selected brands showing, you can “Narrow Your Search” again and “Select More than One” of particular models of cars. You might choose Camry, Accord, and Altima. Whichever combination of brands you choose, the result is a list of cars that you can sort by Vehicle, Mileage, and Price —just by clicking their column headings. My two favorite sort options list the cheapest cars first, then the lowest mileage cars first. However, it’s also informative to sort by Vehicle and see how, for instance, the Accords compare to each other.

The purple “Research” tab at the very top leads to abundant details about particular cars. Plus, it enables side-by-side comparison of up to four vehicles. The purple “Shopping Advice” tab takes you to several Buying Advice items and some Car Talk links.

The CARFAX history reports (listed after the seller’s contact info) are only a start. Maintenance records to authenticate odometer readings can help, but there’s no substitute for an independent, professional vehicle inspection. Beware of titles that have been transferred out of state and back, perhaps to hide a “salvage” designation. Ideally you can buy a one-owner car that has a thoroughly documented maintenance history. Purchasing a used car can be risky, but it can prove worthwhile to avoid the dramatic depreciation that is certain with a brand new car.



Now let’s begin a search at www.Cars.com. Beneath the orange “Search Used” button, click on “Advanced Search.” Enter your ZIP Code and click on the circle next to “Used Cars.” Then click on “Let Me Choose Body Styles,” and select “Sedan.” Skip past the “Make” and “Model” fields and enter the price range of “\$10,000 to \$13,000” and Mileage range of “10,000 to 40,000.” For now, please disregard the Year Range, Exterior Color, and Drivetrain fields.

P.S. A bonus: Click on “Advanced Search” and select “All” miles next to your ZIP code. Choose “Used Cars” and “Search All Body Styles.” For the Price Range, enter “\$100,000 –No Max.” The nationwide list of six-figure cars being sold with relatively little mileage is evidence that extravagance doesn’t buy happiness. —Mark Levitt



Please click the orange “Search” button at the bottom-left, and you may see hundreds of choices. The column at left lets you “Narrow Your Search.” Let’s skip past Certification, Price, Mileage, and Year. Beneath “Make,” you can click on “Select More Than One” and checkmark whatever brands you prefer, such as Toyota, Honda, Nissan, etc.

*www.daveramsey.com/etc/cms/why_buy_a_used_car_5153.html and www.daveramsey.com/etc/lms/drive_free/player.cfm in particular. ★



Letters to ZLM

Real Al-Aksa Mosque

Dear ZLM,

I am a Christian Arab. I love the Jewish people and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Father Zakaria Botros on al-karma's Arabic Christian network is a great scholar of the Koran and has brought millions to Christ. He faces Muslims and shares with them straight out of Koran and shows them what they are really about. He has found that the al-Aksa mosque Mohammed was talking about isn't in Jerusalem, but a couple of miles away (a night's journey) from Saudi Arabia—*aksa* also means the farthest away. Father Botros is trying to inform authorities of his finding, but I don't know how far he's gotten with that.

May God bless you and keep you. —C.

Hi, C.—

I appreciate your heart.

By the way, I am responding from Jerusalem, where I'll soon be heading to an Arab-Christian-Zionist church, if you can imagine that. Please keep me informed on how Father Botros's story plays out. Thanks for the info. —Jeff

We Love Your Ministry

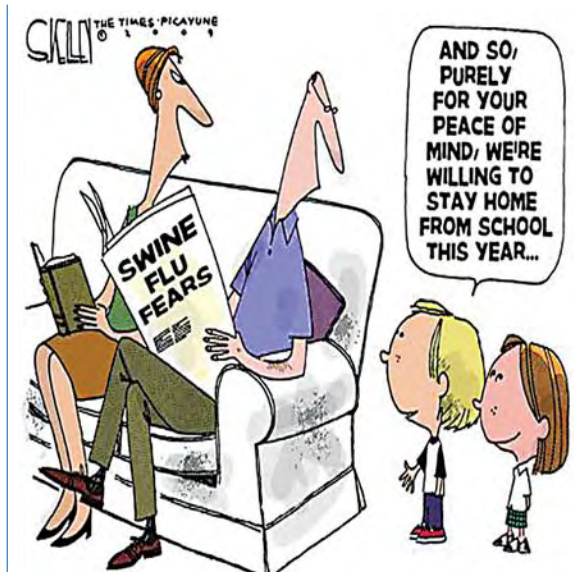
Greetings Jeffrey,

After reading the last *Levitt Letter* (with all the stiff neck writers— wow, talk about a hard crowd to please!), we felt it imperative to write again. We commend you and your staff, Jeff! *Zola Levitt Presents* is informative, historical, biblical, inspirational, and spiritually discerning. The scenery is awesome, and Paul Wilbur's music is Holy Spirit-filled! I just don't get what all the stone throwing is about. You provide a valuable service for God by educating, encouraging, and building up young babes in Christ, like us. Keep up with the great programming and know that you are loved and appreciated! My wife really misses Sandra.

Blessings in the name of Jesus-Yeshua. D., T., & C.W. (Canada)

Dear D., T., & C.W.—

When he first invited me to walk behind his father, Mark Levitt said he wanted me to “toughen up” some. Three-and-a-half years into it, I can see why: critics are abundant, and are often more vocal and forceful than friends. I appreciate the encouragement from friends like you. —Jeff



For Such a Time As This

Dear Dr. Seif,

Many years ago you opened my eyes to a new understanding of Scripture, especially the Old Testament. For the first time I started to understand the vital importance of Jesus being a Jew and how that fact changed my way of thinking about why I call myself a Christian. A fire has burned within me over these last twenty years, but in my heart is a feeling of grief because of how the gentile churches ignore their Jewish roots. They seem to forget that we are the ones grafted in, and think it is the other way around.

Thank you for enriching my understanding of who we really are in Christ and giving me a better understanding of how important my Jewish roots are and how important Israel is in our world today.

I recently discovered that you are with ZLM. Please use the enclosed gift for whatever you feel is best. May God richly bless you and your teaching the past, present, and future. You are one of His chosen for such a time as this.

Blessings, N.H. (Ohio)

Thanks, N.H.—

Good to hear from you again. Thanks for the love gift. Believe me when I tell you that it comes at a good time. —Jeff



Superb TV Programming

Shalom Dr. Jeff,

Just when I think you can't top the previous series, along comes another one with excellent cinematography and acting telling marvelous stories right out of the Holy Scriptures. And how Paul Wilbur's music blesses me!

Thirty years of TV programs and the *Levitt Letter!* This "wild, grafted-in branch" is deeply touched and has learned much through Zola Levitt Ministries. Todah and shalom, C-D.L. (Alabama)

Hi, C-D.L.—

Just wait until you see what we'll be filming in a few days, Lord willing. Just outside of Jerusalem, priests are training to offer up sacrifices in a rebuilt Temple. A mock altar has been constructed, and is used for training purposes. Can't wait to get this new program to you and the world. —Jeff

©2009 THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION



“Ancient” Palestine?

The *Levitt Letter* regularly questions Palestinians’ existence in antiquity, which I find strange as the Bible itself refers to it and its people, the Philistines. (Ex. 15:14; Is. 14:29, 31; Jl. 3:4)

The Koran speaks highly of God’s people who were chosen to carry the message and favored by having numerous prophets and chance after chance to turn unto God. When the Jews rejected or killed any of their prophets, they were shown far greater lenience than other past nations—until God’s favor was removed from them. They were cursed for rejecting the Messiah, the Final Messenger of God to be sent to the Jews. The Temple was to be destroyed, never to be rebuilt again—but inherited by the Muslims, as it is still Holy Land. God’s favor has been passed on to the Muslims, but they will be humbled and humiliated as the Jews were when they became distant from their faith. And look where we Muslims are today. While we’re 1/5 the world’s population, we’re completely at the mercy of the rest of the non-Muslim world.

So, Palestinians who cry for their historical ancestral territories are fools, as the only valid Muslim cry for Jerusalem is based on Islam and its texts—chiefly the Sunnah—while the Koran refers to it, specifically the hallowed grounds where the Temple stood, as the *Masjid* (mosque) al Aksa. —B.C. (Michigan)

Hi, B.C.—

Thanks for writing. You are correct in noting that Scripture refers to Philistines over and over. They were a seafaring people of Greek extract who engaged Egypt in a great struggle. Eventually, they secured a foothold in the eastern Mediterranean area about 2,000 years before the birth of Mohammed. These seafarers should not be confused with the sand-faring Islamic hordes who swept up from Arabia, overran Israel, and alleged it was theirs. Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran, and claiming that it is, is another example of fabrication. I do not embrace your faulty assumptions; but I appreciate that you wrote to share them so I can set the record straight. See p.26. —Jeff

From Behind Bars—Heb. 13:3; Mt. 25:36

Dear ZLM,

A fellow inmate, after hearing I’m part Israeli, passed me a copy of the *Levitt Letter*. It feels as if God sent your inspiring newsletter to tell me He hasn’t forgotten me. It has renewed my faith and confidence that God has a plan for me. Thank you for your message and strength. May God bless you. N.D. (W.V.)

Dear Jeff and those at ZLM,

I am grateful for your ministry. About six weeks ago, I transferred to another prison. Not wanting to miss your monthly newsletter and having no stamp, I used one of your postage-paid envelopes, although I still feel bad about it. Someone there at ZLM read my letter, handwrote my address on a newsletter, put a stamp on it, and mailed it to this address. While that may not seem like a big thing, you cannot know how much it meant to me. Thank you for making a prisoner feel like he matters. May God continue to bless your ministry—and every member of it—in all that you do. — C.S. (Georgia)

Dear N.D. and C.S.—

We Believers all began as lonely people who reached up to God and were impressed by an undeserved response. The courtesy shown to you is one shown to us all. Thanks for writing. We love you. —Jeff ★



“God has a plan”

Jimmy Carter: Too Many Jews

By Aaron Klein
www.WorldNetDaily.com

Former President Jimmy Carter once complained there were “too many Jews” on the government’s Holocaust Memorial Council, Monroe Freedman, the council’s former executive director, said.

Freedman, who served on the council during Carter’s term as president, also revealed that a noted Holocaust scholar who was a Presbyterian Christian was rejected from the council’s board by Carter’s office because the scholar’s name “sounded too Jewish.”

Freedman, now a professor of law at Hofstra University, was picked by the council’s chairman, author Elie Weisel, to serve as executive director in 1980. The council, created by the Carter White House, went on to establish the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Freedman says he was tasked with creating a board for the council and with making recommendations to the White House on how best to memorialize the Holocaust. He sent a memo to Carter’s office containing recommendations for council board members.

He said his memo was returned with a note on the upper right-hand corner that stated, “Too many Jews.” The note, Freedman said, was written in Carter’s handwriting and was initialed by Carter.

Supposedly too many Jews were at the Nuremberg trials as well—at least according to the leading prosecutor, Thomas Dodd. “Jews should stay away from this trial—for their own sake,” Dodd explained. You can see Dodd’s story at levitt.com/news.



Netanyahu: Israel Won't Hold Back When Attacked

By Amy Teibel, Associated Press

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Lebanon recently that Israel “will not hold back” when attacked and holds the Lebanese government responsible for any assault on his country. Netanyahu delivered the warning after two rockets fired from Lebanon struck northern Israel. Israel responded immediately with artillery fire, and the exchange ratcheted up persisting tensions between the two countries.

“We view this very gravely,” Netanyahu told his Cabinet. “We will not hold back when Israeli territory comes under fire, and will not reconcile ourselves to missile fire or any other form of terror directed at Israeli citizens.” It was not immediately known who fired the rockets. But radical Palestinian factions in Lebanon have been blamed in four firings at Israel this year.

The Israel-Lebanon border has been tense since Israel mounted a month-long war against Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas in the summer of 2006, which ended in a United Nations-brokered truce. Netanyahu put the onus of maintaining the ceasefire squarely on the shoulders of the Lebanese government. “We see it responsible for all these violations and hostilities directed at our territory that originate from Lebanese soil,” he said.



Palestinians' Dirty Little Secret

By Moshe Dann, www.PajamasMedia.com

After modern Israel was established in 1948, the subsequent aggression by five well-armed Arab countries placed Jews and their new state in mortal danger. Fighting back, Israel eventually negotiated an armistice in 1949 that allowed it respite from open war, albeit not terrorism, and without peace.

Arabs who left homes and property in Israel, and many from other countries who joined Arab armies and did not want to return, remained in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, most as “refugees” under the care of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

This heterogeneous population was called “Arab refugees,” not “Palestinians,” because at the time there was no such group or people. It took a crafty Egyptian, Yasser Arafat, to create the PLO to promote the destruction of Israel and the return of Arab refugees. Arab countries saw them as convenient pawns in their war against Israel, to “liberate Palestine.” Except for Jordan, no Arab host country permitted the newcomers to obtain citizenship.

The designation “Palestinian” did not become widely accepted until after the war in 1967, in which self-defending Israel captured areas originally set aside for a Jewish state by the League of Nations, and then occupied by Arab countries: Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem; the Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, rich in Jewish history and archaeology; and the Sinai Peninsula.

As the PLO launched mega-terrorist attacks around the world, “Palestinian” became an accepted term. The UN increasingly gave “Palestinians” recognition, support, and legitimacy.

And the fraud worked! It worked

because the world’s media accepted the Palestinians’ self-definition and their cause. Even the Israeli media adopted this myth. Every time someone writes or speaks of “Palestinians” it reinforces this myth.

Most major newspapers use only the term “West Bank”—a Jordanian reference from 1950 to distinguish the area from the “East Bank”—rather than its authentic names, Judea and Samaria, apparently to deny its Jewish history.

As Palestinian nationalism spread among Israeli Arabs, the term became an identity magnet for Arabs, even those living in other countries. Today, “Palestinian” can be anyone who for whatever reason identifies as such, including all descendants.

This amalgam of national identity is possible because “Palestinian” is not a separate and unique linguistic, cultural, ethnic, religious, or racial group. Nor does this motley group, currently led by the Fatah and Hamas terrorist organizations, aspire to a country with clearly defined borders. Their goal is not statehood, but exterminating the Jews, thereby “liberating Palestine.”



Armed Hamas militants

Arabs of Palestine are entitled to civil and human rights in the countries in which they have resided for generations. The need for a second Arab Palestinian state in addition to Jordan, which was carved out of Palestine and whose population is two-thirds “Palestinian,” and the ability of such a state to resolve all the Mideast’s problems are extremely doubtful.

That the State of Israel should commit suicide to accomplish this goal is unthinkable. ★

Jewish Father, Christian Son Unite Over Israel

By Bob Smietana, www.Tennessean.com

Tom Boehm believes in Jesus. His father, Frank, does not.

For a number of years, that one difference threatened to tear the two apart. But love between a father and a son, it turns out, can conquer even theological differences that have long divided Christians and Jews. Recently, the Boehms went to Woodmont Bible Church in Nashville, not to worship or pray but to talk about something they have in common—a deep concern for the nation of Israel.

Since April, the Boehm Boys, as they call themselves, have been visiting local churches to help Christians get a better understanding of Israel. They have found that, by sharing their stories, they can show how people of different faiths can learn to live together. Getting past their theological differences wasn't easy. In fact, the Boehms sometimes still have difficulty talking about it.

Tom Boehm, 41, says he came to believe in Jesus while in his mid-20s, living in Chicago. He had just finished a master's degree when a friend started talking to him about Jesus. "Like most Jews, I cringed at the name of Jesus," he said. "All I had ever heard was that I was going to hell because I didn't believe in the Christian religion.



Christians looked like people who either wanted to kill me or convert me, and I wasn't interested in either." The friend persuaded him to read the New Testament accounts of Jesus, along with the Old Testament. Eventually he became convinced that Jesus—Yeshua—was the Messiah.

Breaking that news to his father shook the elder Boehm, who always hoped his son would become a rabbi. It didn't help that the son's zeal for his new faith made him less than sensitive to his father's feelings. "I suffered New Believers' Syndrome—which can tend to leave a lot of shrapnel in the wake," he said. "Thankfully, God is bigger than my ability to mess things up." It took several years and a lot of forgiveness for the relationship between father and son to thaw. Tom Boehm had to mature in his new faith and learn to respect his father's feelings.

As the father and son worked through their differences, they realized they shared a common interest in Israel and its role in the world. Both feel many of their Christian neighbors have a superficial affection for Israel, but have not taken the time to find out more about that nation's history. They set about to change that. When a friend invited the Boehms to speak at a gathering of church leaders, they jumped at the opportunity. "There has to be a dialogue about Israel that starts with faith in God and an accurate understanding of history," Tom Boehm said. "And that history starts today and goes all the way back to Abraham." ★



Organ Harvesting Scandal Is “Medically Impossible”



By Andrea Meyerhoff M.D.
www.TheLocal.se

The saga of the *Aftonbladet* article—an allegation in a Swedish tabloid that Israeli soldiers steal the organs of Palestinian teenagers—caught me right between the eyes. I’m an American doctor. I’m Jewish; I have Swedish roots. In the supermarket I pick the longest line so I can catch up on the tabloids while I wait.

I read the English translation of this article (“Our sons are plundered of their organs” *Aftonbladet* 8/26/09, original in Swedish 8/17/09). It’s a hoot. Rambling and disjointed, it’s rife with irrelevant statistics and unproven statements.

The *Aftonbladet* piece raises some medical issues I’d like to address. Among the organs successfully transplanted are heart and lungs—harvested from the chest—and kidneys, liver, pancreas, and intestine—harvested from the abdomen. Two critical issues that determine the “health” of the harvested organ and therefore whether the transplant will be successful are its blood supply and its freedom from infection.

The author describes for us what happened in 1992 to one West Bank Palestinian teenager whose organs, he believes, were stolen. According to his account, Israeli soldiers shot the young guy in the chest, then in each leg, then once “in the stomach.” (I take this last to mean the abdomen, since it isn’t possible to see the individual organ called the stomach from the outside of the body.)

A gunshot wound to the chest or abdomen is a serious injury because it can damage internal organs, either by interruption of the blood supply, which causes



hemorrhage, or because it causes infection via perforation of the intestine and/or the introduction of a foreign body. A guy shot in both legs can’t go far. Why, if the goal is to steal organs worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, would soldiers shoot an individual in both the chest and abdomen and risk damage to the valuable organs in these body cavities? Such organs are not usable for transplant.

The quality of the argument does not merit too much more ink. The writer of the *Aftonbladet* article made his most important contribution to our understanding of his work when he acknowledged that he’d not verified any of the claims he made. Most recently, the family of the young Palestinian whose organs were supposedly swiped said they’d never talked with the journalist and had no reason to think any of his allegations of organ theft were true.

The Swedish foreign ministry looks only disingenuous with its flat-footed protestations of respect for freedom of the press. That’s not what this is about. A modern European nation gave up a chance to make a simple statement to both reject anti-Semitism and reaffirm principles of good journalism.



(Below) Andrea Meyerhoff, M.D. is a faculty member at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Swedish article is shown at right.



Israel and The Arab World in UN Statistics

By Leo Rennert, www.AmericanThinker.com

The United Nations released its 2009 human development report, which provides an annual scorecard on living standards in more than 180 nations. They are ranked according to such factors as public health (life expectancy), education (adult literacy), and subsistence income (per capita GDP).

This year, Israel is listed in the top column (very high human development) with an **overall ranking of 27**—just behind South Korea and a notch ahead of Andorra.

Considering the security strains on Israel's budget, the constant need to fight terrorism on multiple fronts, and absorption of diverse populations of Jews from all parts of the world, Israel's position among the world's top 30 countries when it comes to living standards is nothing short of remarkable. Britain and Germany, for example, are only a few points ahead of Israel, ranked respectively 21 and 22.

What is even more remarkable is that Israel, when it comes to living standards, tops all Arab states, including all the oil-rich ones, and whose right to exist is under no threat.

Trailing Israel are Kuwait (31), Qatar (33),

United Arab Emirates (35), Libya (55), Oman (56), Saudi Arabia (59), Lebanon (83), Algeria (104), and Syria (107).

Iran, with all of its oil wealth, also trails Israel by a wide margin, in position 88.

And what about the "Occupied Palestinian Territories," as the UN report terms them? Despite the depredations of Hamas and the weak-kneed leadership of Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority, they still benefit greatly from educational and public health facilities originally provided by Israel and, of course, by being the world's most pampered welfare clients.

They ranked 110—ahead of Indonesia, Honduras, and Bolivia.

Even more significantly, living standards in Gaza and the West Bank are superior to Egypt's (123) and Morocco's (130).

To round out the picture, Norway holds the No. 1 spot, followed by Australia, Iceland, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Switzerland, and Japan.

The United States logs in at 13, behind Finland and just ahead of Austria, Spain, and Denmark.

Niger (182) is dead-last.

Statistics to ponder and plumb for some important reality checks. ★





Jewish Dallas Cowboy

By Barry Horn, JewishWorldReview.com

It is a good bet that in the 50 years Dallas Cowboys history has overlapped the 5,770 years of Jewish history, no player ever before uttered the word *Elohim* inside the team's training facility.

Elohim is the third Hebrew word in the Bible. It is repeated often throughout the Torah as well as Jewish prayer services. It means "God."

Igor Olshansky, a 6'-6", 315-pound run-stopping defensive end whom the Cowboys last spring imported as a free agent, doesn't claim to be an observant Jew. But he is a proud Jew—the identical Stars of David tattooed along his massive clavicles bear witness—and he's the NFL's first Soviet-born player. In a sports world with relatively few Jewish athletes, and fewer who talk openly about their religion, he has become a role model of sorts to Jewish children. That's what happened back in San Francisco, where he grew up, and in San Diego, where he played the last five seasons for the Chargers. Perhaps it will happen in Dallas someday as well.

"I am who I am," Olshansky said. "I am a Jew, a spiritual person who has my own personal relationship with God. I try to be a good person. . . and although I never chose to be a role model, I don't mind it."

Deleting "Christmas" From Social Studies

By April Castro, Associated Press



A proposal for a new social studies curriculum for Texas public schools removes the word "Christmas" in a sixth-grade lesson, replacing it with Diwali, a Hindu festival. That's riling up conservatives, who call it another battle in the "war" against the Christian holiday.

Jonathan Saenz, a lobbyist for the conservative Free Market Foundation, calls it "outrageous that the war on Christmas continues in our state and in our nation." He contends removing "Christmas" from the curriculum is an "effort to mislead students about current society."

The draft proposal being considered by the State Board of Education removes the word Christmas in a section on culture. The section now instructs students to explain the significance of religious holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Ramadan, Yom Kippur, and Rosh Hashanah.

Israeli-Made UAVs In Afghanistan

www.JPost.com

Australian Defense Minister John Faulkner announced this fall that the Royal Australian Air Force would begin deploying the Israel Aerospace Industries-made Heron unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) during missions in Afghanistan.



The announcement follows an agreement between Australia and Canada, whose armed forces work closely together in Afghanistan. According to

the deal, the RAAF will lease the UAVs from the Canadians for an estimated \$81 million.

The Heron UAV operates at an altitude of 30,000 feet and can remain in the air for up to 40 hours.

In August 2008, the IAI won a tender to begin supplying the Canadian military with the Heron. The Australian Defense Minister added that the Heron would provide its forces in Afghanistan with vital aerial support.

American Indian Chief Supports Israel

By Zalman Nelson
IsraelNationalNews.com

American Indians support the State of Israel and its God-given right to the Land of Israel. Virginia Native American leader Chief **Annie Richardson** made the statement to National



Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau at a recent meeting between the two.

“We believe that God has given you this land and we want you to fight for it,” Richardson told Landau. She presented him with a traditional Native American headdress and a bow and arrow, as “a token of the affection of the Native American nations for Israel.”

Richardson asserted that her organization, which represents dozens of Native American nations in North America, is fully behind Israel. The minister thanked the Native American chief and presented her with a collection of ancient Judean coins.

Richardson is the founder of Restoring Nations International, organizer of the United Indians of Virginia, and the first woman elected chief of a tribe in Virginia since the 1700s. She is a fourth-generation chief in her family.

It should come as no surprise that American Indians feel a unique camaraderie with God’s Chosen, the Holy Land’s authentic natives. —Editor

Joseph’s Role In Egypt Under Pharaoh

www.JPost.com

Archaeologists have discovered ancient Egyptian coins bearing the name and image of the biblical Joseph, Cairo’s *Al Ahrām* newspaper recently reported. The coins were discovered among a multitude of unsorted artifacts stored at the Museum of Egypt.

Their find gives archaeologists scientific evidence countering the claim held by some historians that coins were not used for trade in ancient Egypt, and that this was done through barter instead. The period in which Joseph was regarded to have lived in Egypt matches the minting of the coins in the cache, researchers reported.

“A thorough examination revealed that the coins bore the year in which they were minted and their value, or effigies of the pharaohs [who ruled] at the time of their minting. Some of the coins are from the time when Joseph lived in Egypt, and bear his name and portrait,” said the report.

The discovery of the cache prompted the research team head, Dr. Sa’id Muhammad Thabet, to seek Koranic verses that speak of coins used in ancient Egypt. “Studies by Dr. Thabet’s team have revealed that what most archaeologists took for a kind of charm, and others took for an ornament or adornment, is actually a coin. Several [facts led them to this conclusion]: first, [the fact that] many such coins have been found at various [archaeological sites], and also [the fact that] they are round or oval in shape, and have two faces: one with an inscription, called the inscribed face, and one with an image, called the engraved face—just like the coins we use today,” the report added. ★



Moves To Demonize Israel Seen Growing

By Stewart Ain, *The Jewish Week* (NY)

The recent decision of Israeli cabinet minister Moshe Yaalon not to fly to Britain for fear of being tried for an alleged seven-year-old war crime is seen as just the latest in a series of attempts to demonize Israel in the eyes of the world.

And with the September release of UN chief prosecutor Richard Goldstone's report that alleged Israel took "actions amounting to war crimes, possibly crimes against humanity" during its 22-day military offensive in the Gaza Strip last winter, it is feared that thousands of Israeli soldiers could now face similar charges. [see related story, p. 12.] Two such cases were brought in the United States against senior Israeli officials, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review a different case that could put an end to such cases here.

At issue before the High Court is an appeals court ruling that allows Somalis to sue Mohamed Ali Samantar of Fairfax, Va., for overseeing killings, torture, and rape while he served as defense minister and prime minister of Somalia in the 1980s and early '90s. The court will consider whether the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act grants him immunity from the lawsuit; the appellate court ruled that the law applies only to foreign states and their agencies, not individuals.

Yaalon termed the efforts to charge him in Britain a "campaign to delegitimize Israel." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu added, **"This distorted report, written by this distorted committee, undermines Israel's right to defend itself. This report encourages terrorism and threatens peace. Israel will not take risks for peace if it can't defend itself."** Netanyahu angrily noted the report's portrayal of Israeli leaders as war criminals. "The truth is exactly the opposite.

Israel's leaders and its army are those who defended the citizens of Israel from war criminals," he said, before vowing to defend the country's wartime leaders. "We will not allow those who sent our sons to war to arrive at the international court in the Hague," he said.

Gerald Steinberg, a professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University, said Palestinians are behind this campaign and have alleged that Israel is guilty of violations of international law and human rights abuses and should be completely isolated as an apartheid state. **"That means that every Israeli response to an attack by Hamas or Hezbollah is a violation of international law and that Israel is not allowed to defend itself,"** Steinberg said. **"The whole purpose of [the Palestinians' lawsuits] is to present Israelis as war criminals. Nobody expects that Israelis will actually be brought to trial, but what they want is to have that label."** Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has already said he would urge European countries to stop funding Palestinian NGOs that have been pressing these lawsuits. An argument against these international lawsuits reasons that a law used against Israel can be used against everybody else, such as Tibetan sympathizers suing China. ★

Dry Bones ANGELS



Not So Warm & Fuzzy in NY!

John and Mary Smith purchased an old home in northern New York State from Sadie and Alfred Horowitz. Winter was fast approaching, and the Smiths were concerned about the house's lack of insulation. "If they could live here all those years, so can we!" John said to Mary confidently.



One November night the temperature plunged to below zero, and the Smiths woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. John called the Horowitzs to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a brief conversation, he hung up.

"For the past 30 years," he muttered, "they've gone to Florida for the winter." ★



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ION (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

DirectTV East-Channel 305 **DirectTV West**-Channel 347 **Dish East**-Ch.216 **Dish West**-Ch.217

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10 pm Sun or 1 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12 am Mon	1 am Mon

DirectTV-Channel 311 **Dish**-Channel 180

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3 pm Fri 2 pm Wed	4 pm Fri 3 pm Wed	5 pm Fri 4 pm Wed	6 pm Fri 5 pm Wed

DirectTV-Channel 369 **Dish**-Channel 263

TCT pm DirectTV Channel 377 – Saturdays
3:30pm ET www.tct.tv

CTN on DirectTV Channel 376 – Tuesdays
8pm ET www.ctnonline.com

Our entire TV Airing Schedule is posted at
www.levitt.com.

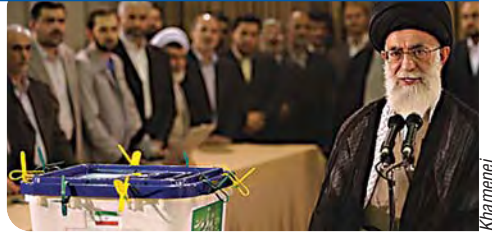


The Inevitable Victory Over Iran

By Ryan Mauro, www.FrontPageMag.com

Iran has admitted to a second uranium enrichment site that can house 3,000 centrifuges, enough for a nuclear weapon but not enough for nuclear power. This comes three months after Ahmadinejad held a meeting in Qom where he told high-level officials that a “new revolution” has begun, since which Iran has been acting more aggressively. Though the crisis with Iran is getting more frightening and has the potential to cause incalculable damage, there is a reason for optimism: Over the long-term, the regime cannot survive.

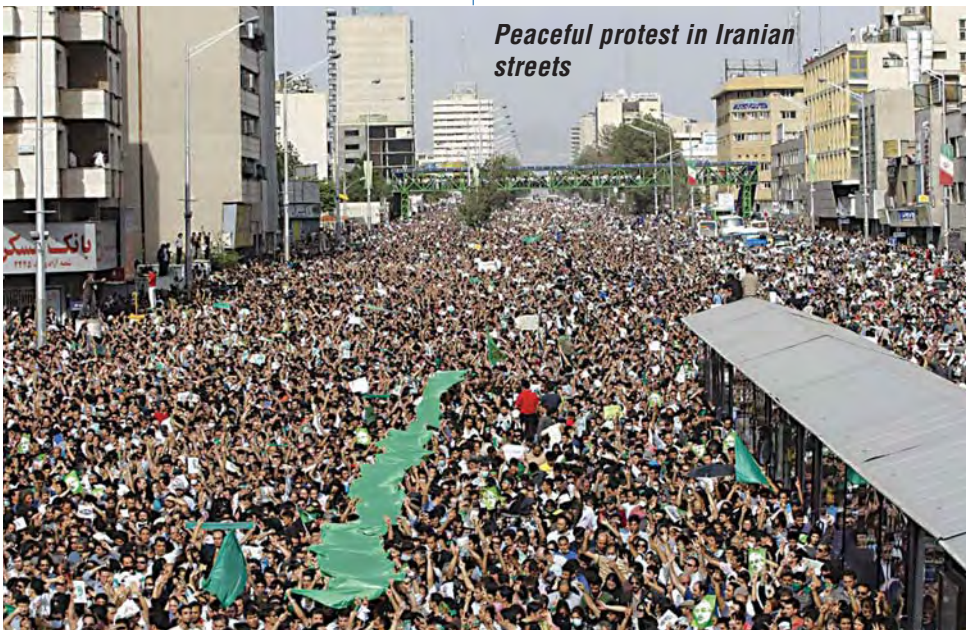
The unpopularity of Ayatollah Khamenei’s and President Ahmadinejad’s theocratic rule with the large majority of the population (between 60 and 70 percent of the population is under the age of 30) became evident after the fraudulent presidential elections of June when millions of Iranians protested in the streets. Demonstrations demanding democracy and civil rights continue to be a daily occurrence. Three months later, when millions of Iranians marched against the regime,



security forces were **unable to disperse the crowd.**

The popular resistance to the government has even caused the brutal security forces to flee during clashes. Numerous videos and photos from inside Iran show crowds attacking members of the Basiji militia and then burning their motorcycles. People have also attacked Revolutionary Guards personnel and spray-painted their bases.

This internal conflict has also caused a split in the regime’s own ranks. Seventeen ayatollahs, including Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani of Iraq, the most powerful voice in Shiite Islam, and Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, a senior cleric in Iran, rejected Ayatollah Khamenei’s declaration of when Ramadan officially ended. This may seem to be a minor dispute on the surface, but this is an unprecedented rejection of the legitimacy of the Supreme Leader.



The security forces are also showing fractures. Unverifiable reports of resignations of Revolutionary Guards personnel continue to surface. 30 to 40 soldiers in the regular army were arrested for their involvement in the demonstrations. Demonstrators frequently report that the local police act friendly with them, and sometimes even help them fight back the Basiji attackers.



The regime is also extremely weak due to a steeply declining economy that is bound to get much worse if additional sanctions are imposed and companies and individuals continue to divest from Iran. About 90 percent of the regime's revenue comes from oil sales, resulting in a financial crisis due to the drop in the price of oil. The regime is also facing a problem of increasing domestic consumption of oil. Iran imports 40 percent of its gasoline, leaving open a major vulnerability to sanctions.

If companies providing Iran with gasoline and refined petroleum products are denied government assistance and are hit with sanctions, the regime's final pillars may collapse. Of course, this doesn't mean that the regime can't cause a catastrophe before it collapses, and the regime can delay its end through brutal security measures. Iran's economic and political vulnerabilities need to be exploited by the West as the regime's nuclear program advances. Should the regime succeed in reaching the ability to quickly produce nuclear weapons, it won't be because the West lacked any leverage, but because the West lacked imagination and will power. ★

Brain Recognizes Speech

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com

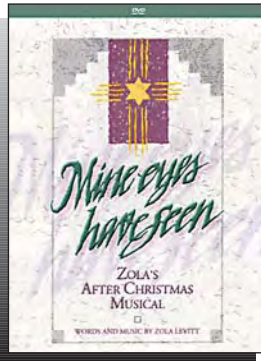


Computers without human programming are said to be dumb machines, so when you want them to recognize voices, they have to be trained. Now Hebrew University researchers have shed light on the brain mechanism responsible for processing speech—and their work could contribute to improvement of voice-recognition technologies. Dr. Robert Gütig and Prof. Haim Sompolinsky of HU's Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences have succeeded in devising a model that describes and identifies a basic cellular mechanism that enables networks of neurons to decode speech in changing conditions. The research may lead to the upgrading of computer algorithms for faster and more precise speech recognition, as well as to the development of innovative treatments for human auditory problems.

The human brain is able to process speech and other complex auditory stimuli—even when the signals reach our ears in a slowed, accelerated, or distorted manner. **However, the neuronal mechanisms that let the brain perceive a word correctly—for example, one that is pronounced in different ways by different speakers—were a mystery to scientists until now.**

In the cellular process, sensory neurons in the brain can automatically adjust their perceptual clocks and thus correct large temporal variations in the rate at which sounds arrive from the environment. According to their discovery, recently published in the *PLoS Biology* journal and patented by Yissum (HU's technology transfer company), the biophysical mechanism in the brain enables single nerve cells to perform word identification almost perfectly.

The understanding of the process of speech decoding could lead to the upgrading of speech-recognition technology in communications and computing, for instance in telephone voice dialing or in voice- and sound-monitoring devices. ★



Mine Eyes Have Seen –

Zola's After Christmas Musical on DVD or CD

In this "after-Christmas musical," Zola narrates the moving story of

Simeon, the aged-but-faithful servant who waited to see the Messiah face to face. This longsuffering servant finally did see Him when the infant Jesus was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem; hence, Zola's after-Christmas musical.

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon... and it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." (Luke 2:25-26) This beautifully staged, half-hour presentation will have you singing along with Simeon and Anna about the arrival of the King of Kings, the Holy One of Israel. Offered on pages 18 & 19.

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit #1851

Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



MARCH 14 ISRAEL TOUR



Film crew shooting our new TV series *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace)

Photo courtesy Ken Berg

Our Spring Tour departs March 14, 2010, with two return dates — either March 24 for the 11-day Israel Tour, or March 28 if you wish to include Petra.

Our Summer Discovery Tour will travel June 6–16.

We offer four options for our Fall 2010 Tours, including Petra and/or Athens, departing October 12 and 17.



For your brochure, please call Tracie at (214) 696-9760 during office hours (CT) or email her at travel@levitt.com.

—Jeff