

Levitt Letter

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

FEATURES

Israel's 'Peace Partner'

We are told repeatedly that Palestinian Authority President **Mahmoud Abbas** is a genuine moderate committed to achieving a peace settlement with Israel. Abbas and his chief negotiator, **Saeb Erekat**, (l) bolster this theme by uttering soothing statements in English, endorsing peace to the international community. Yet, in Arabic, to their own people, they deny Israel's right to exist and promote vicious hatred against Jews.

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MYLES TO GO—MYLES WEISS

Dad's Open Hand



Dad was a giver. At his funeral, people I hardly knew pulled me aside and quietly thanked me for his generosity: "He really bailed us out," or "He secretly supported us during that hard time," and "Your Dad made a difference when we didn't know how to ask for help." I was only nineteen, and a very hidden part of my Dad's life was unveiled for me. He was a living example of *zedakah*, and he used his business success to bless others. Right in our midst, and I did not even know it! I knew he was a good tipper at restaurants... but I had no idea that giving is a lifestyle.

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FEATURE STORY CONTINUED...

Israel's 'Peace Partner'

By Isi Leibler, www.JPost.com

**Our readers deserve
a reasoned analysis—
without politically
correct spin.**

They also claim to have renounced violence. But the Palestinian Authority (PA) never conceded that terrorism was immoral. They simply concluded that, having failed to achieve their objectives by violence, their goals could be best promoted by suspending terrorism in order to gain Western support.

The true objectives of the PA are reflected in the poisonous hatred against Jews and Israel inculcated into their people through the broad range of institutions they control. Current polls indicate that 84 percent of Palestinians endorse the murder of Israelis.

In addition to denying Jewish sovereignty, the PA from the outset indulged in the most horrendous demonization, describing Jews as the descendants of apes and pigs, comparing them to Nazis while simultaneously praising Hitler, accusing Jews of stealing Palestinian body parts, using human blood during Passover, promoting AIDS, and many other loathsome blood libels. This defamatory torrent impacts directly on Israel's diminished standing in the international community.

Following the release of the terrorists in the Shalit exchange, Abbas, who publicly embraced these mass murderers, stated, **"every prisoner is for us a saint and we must exalt him."** Only recently, while commemorating the 47th anniversary of Fatah [the PA's political party], the Mufti Muhammad Hussein, the PA's highest religious authority, appointed by Abbas, proclaimed that the killing of Jews was a major Islamic goal required before the Islamic Resurrection. The moderator introducing him reiterated, "Our war against the descendants of apes and pigs is a war of religion and faith."

An entire generation is being brainwashed into absorbing a culture of death and slaughter. The Palestinian children's programs promoting hatred and evil are incorporated into textbooks, music videos, and summer camps, all blatantly indoctrinating children with the sanctity of *shahadah* (martyrdom) and the murder of Jews. In the course of one day, a Palestinian child can walk on a street named after a mass murderer, go to a school named after the founder of Hamas, where he will read hate-filled textbooks, work in a computer room named after a suicide bomber, play on a soccer team named after suicide bombers, go to the community center named for the orchestrator of the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, and view anti-Semitic cartoons on TV before going to bed.

If the civilized world is made aware of the culture of death and hatred which permeates Palestinian society, Israel would be in a far stronger position in the ongoing war of ideas.

How can we view the current Palestinian leadership as Israel's peace partners? Their duplicitous statements designed for foreign consumption are not merely an expression of malice but the manifestation of a determined policy to poison people against any possible accommodation with Israel. Was a genuine peace process ever intended? ★

Dad's Open Hand

Growing up in a largely Jewish neighborhood of New York City, one couldn't miss the small white and blue tins on counters, desks, and in seemingly random places. These boxes had a slot in the top, wide enough to fit coins (and paper bills). They were all over our Hebrew School, where my friends and I wreaked havoc three days a week until our Bar Mitzvahs at age thirteen. It seemed that every newsstand, candy store, retail shop, and even some offices had these small tins. The word *Tzedakah* in Hebrew emblazoned the side. As kids we understood that these small containers were “for the poor,” or “for *mitzvahs*” (blessings). They were part and parcel of Jewish life. Everyone dropping in a few coins easily collected impressive sums for distribution.

Tzedakah literally means *righteousness*—but is commonly used to signify charity—from the Hebrew word *tzedik*, meaning *righteousness, fairness, or justice*.

In Judaism, *tzedakah* refers to the religious obligation to do what is right and just, considered important parts of living a spiritual life by rabbis—and my grandmother! I can hear her voice, as she smiled and exhorted me to “do the right thing.” In the midst of my family's inconsistent spirituality, the thread of *tzedakah* wove a direct line from the heart of God.

Unlike philanthropy or charity, which are voluntary, in Judaism *tzedakah* is seen as a religious obligation, to be performed regardless of financial standing, even by poor people. *Tzedakah* is considered one of the three acts that can annul a less-than-favorable heavenly decree. This emphasis on our works as a way to salvation is a painful paradigm in the Jewish world. I mean, how can we ever be sure...?

Tzedakah is part of a larger framework of moral conduct—it is part of *Tikkun Olam* (“repairing the world”)—the duty of every Jew to leave the world in better condition than we found it. [See Katharine's article on p.4.]

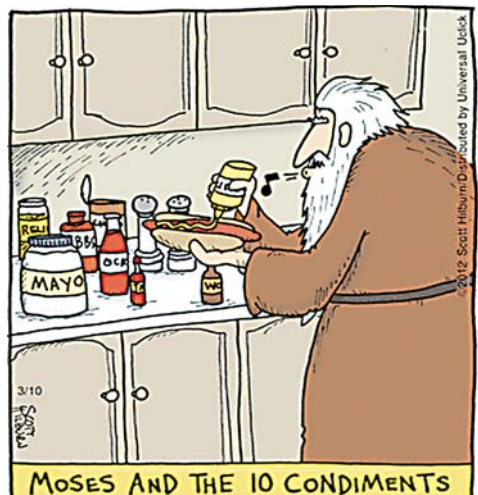


We who know Messiah Yeshua should apply these truths even higher ... because He came to fulfill the law and let His light shine through us. When we live to see *Tikkun Olam* and *Tzedakah* manifested in this world, we do so by the leading of *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit) and the Son of God. *Baruch HaShem* ... Bless His Name!

Acts of *tzedakah* are performed on significant days: at weddings, on major holidays, at Passover and other feasts. The *Sukkot* (Tabernacles) version of hospitality, *ushpizin*, is considered a great blessing when we welcome any and all visitors to partake of God's bounty in our *sukkah*. (For a touching and clever view of this practice, see the 2004 Israeli movie *Ushpizin*).

As Believers, this is the greatest gift we can give to the Jewish people, our family through Abraham: a clear presentation of the reason for the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15). After all, the Apostle Paul tells us (Acts 20:35) that his Rabbi said it really is “more blessed to give than to receive.”

Set out your own “blue and white box” and watch how God blesses you! ★



Our Way Is NOT His Way—Part 2

By Katharine Weiss



In the May issue, we discussed *Tikkun Olam*—literally, repairing the world. When we attempt *Tikkun Olam* apart from the Word of God, we become vulnerable to human reasoning. For example, “Chrislam.” This incredible syncretizing of “Christianity” and Islam leads some well-meaning Christians to promote a palatable, seemingly compassionate Gospel that embraces Islam.

I cannot emphasize it enough: **The god of Islam is NOT the same as the God of the Bible.**

The character of Allah is not the personality of one who designed intimacy and relationship, which is the fervent desire of Jehovah, the God of the Bible. Jehovah is constantly seeking intimacy with us.

In my recent study of the life of Abraham, God again awakened me to His relentless pursuit of relationship with man (and woman). In spite of Abraham and Sarah’s failures, God sought them out with covenantal love and infinite patience.

This Abrahamic study also provided a fresh look at Hagar. God sought out

this Egyptian woman even though she despised her mistress, Sarah. God found her wandering in the desert. She had no idea that Abraham and Sarah’s God would seek her as well.

Hagar, in an unprecedented occurrence, actually names God, in Genesis 16:13. She calls Him “*El Roi*”—the God Who sees. No other biblical character has this honor.

He even named her child “Ishmael.” God knew that the Ishmaelites would exist as surely as the Israelites. He made ample provision for them, with 12 sons (chiefs of tribes) and, eventually, untold wealth. His nature shines through, and His love is available to all, because He sees beyond our sin to the depths of our need.

However, He remains the God of protocol.

In Genesis 16:9, He charges Hagar, “Go home and serve your mistress.”

We cannot water down His Word or mix it with other ways in order to demonstrate love to other people groups. The most loving way *is* His way. We all need to bow the knee and come to Him through His promised Son, Yeshua, of the House of David: the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. ★

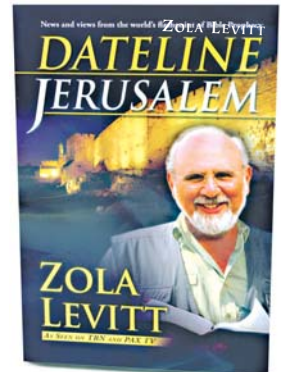


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Zola’s Last Book: *Dateline Jerusalem*

“News and views from the world’s flashpoint of Bible Prophecy.” From insights into media bias, to Israel’s proper role in world affairs, *Dateline Jerusalem* is packed with hard-hitting analysis plus new and startling information. What is the Palestinian agenda? Will Israel survive in today’s hostile climate? Can America win the war on terror? What end-times events are around the corner? After giving his own testimony, Zola devotes chapters to the Jews, Muslims, Palestinians, government, media, education, churches, End Times, and questions and answers.

If you like the *Levitt Letter*, you will adore this book. Unconditionally guaranteed—until the Rapture, that is. **Order on p.18.**



Safe At Home

By Tracie, Tour Manager of Zola Tours



Home has always been where my heart is.

As a seminary graduate and church worker, I looked forward to visiting Israel. I had absolutely no idea just how special it would be! But the moment one steps onto the worship boat on the Sea of Galilee, or gets baptized in the Jordan River, or touches the Western Wall, an inspiration rises up that declares, "I am home."

Please don't allow the dusty scenes displayed in the news to keep you from this amazing, life-changing, deeply intimate experience with your Savior. Judging from my eight visits to Israel in the past three years, I estimate that violence occurs in less than 1% of the nation. It is much more localized than in the U.S. So, if you chose not to visit Israel because of what our secular media portray, it would be like refusing to visit your daughter in Atlanta because of trouble 270 miles away in Tallahassee.

Since Israel became a modern state in 1948, no tour passengers have been harmed. As you may recall, Zola Tours took pilgrims through Israel during the Scud missile attack, keeping our groups—as always—away from dangerous areas. I routinely inform family and friends that the atmosphere in Israel is remarkably peaceful and serene. It's sunny almost every day, and the presence of tour buses everywhere makes you feel like you're part of a community of supporters from abroad.

Speaking of community, another reason Zola Tours are so secure and homogeneous is that we advertise only to our ministry's viewers and readers. While we welcome anyone who loves Israel, not just anyone signs up. Hosting only those from the Zola Community makes our groups feel like family. So much so, that recently, a Zola Tour member generously helped a fellow ZT pilgrim make a return trip to Israel. The bonding between Zola Tours travelers, in my opinion, sets our tours apart from all others.

It would be my joy and privilege for you to join a Zola Tour; then I could hear God say to you, "Welcome Home!" ★



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Spring 2012 pilgrims at Zola's Tree Planting Garden in Israel. Can you spot the four saplings ready for planting?



Hiking the Negev

By Eitan Shishkoff

At 4,700 square miles, the Negev Desert covers a massive portion of Israel and is our largest eco-region. Yet it's a little guy compared with the Mojave Desert in the American Southwest (48,000 sq. miles) or the giant of the earth's desert stretches, the Sahara, which spans 3.6 million sq. miles of northern Africa. Nevertheless, when you're standing in the Negev, it feels pretty vast.



I experienced the Negev just before Passover, hiking a minute portion of the storied Israel National Trail (600 miles from Eilat to Dan) with 100 teens and their 25 counselors. The occasion was our annual Passover camp, which gathers Messianic teenagers from some 20 congregations in the Land. Along with Hanukkah and summer versions, these camps carry the name "Katzir," which means harvest. We are investing time, love, and training to equip these young Israeli Believers to be the workers and future leaders in the final harvest/spiritual revival spoken of by many of Israel's biblical prophets.

That's why we go to the desert. We want to experience the type of environment our ancestors trekked through during their exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. This brings the Scriptures to life, revitalizing the foundational account of our deliverance from slavery to freedom. Moses encountered God through a burning bush in the desert.

Eitan and Connie Shishkoff



The magnificence of the desert brings youth to a similar encounter. Physical, outdoor challenge also creates un-

staged opportunities for young city dwellers to grapple with self-imposed boundaries on what they are able to do. To see these kids extending a hand to those who struggle with the steep trail, inadequate footwear, thirst, or fear, refreshes my hope in the next generation. They help and care for each other.

The narrow trail, with intimidating drop-offs on both sides, brings us to an inspiring 360-degree view of other peaks and dusty undulations. Altogether we trudge a mere 2.4 miles, but it causes cheers and smiles at the top. (Of course, "trudge" applies to your 60-something reporter, not to the young deer who were scarcely challenged by the path.)



On the last day of camp, in a large Bedouin-style tent, the young men and women speak of overcoming their fears and of the special relationship forged with their counselors—Israeli followers of Yeshua, age 18–30. Soon these high schoolers will serve in the Israeli Army. Then, they'll have to resolve the questions "What am I to do with my life?" and "How can I best help my people come to know Yeshua as Israel's Messiah?" They are the future of the Messianic movement. They are the future of Israel. Please pray for them.

For more information about KATZIR write to kazir.israel@gmail.com. ★



A Short History of Israel

By Zola Levitt

The questions keep coming up, “What right does Israel have to exist?” And more especially, “By what right do Jews return to their historical land?”

While the world doesn’t believe the historical and prophetic statements of Scripture, nevertheless, the answers are found in Bible prophecy. God’s purposes and programs *will* be carried out.

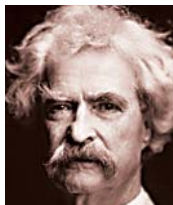
Though the Jews are prophetically scattered around the globe, a small handful have always been in the Land. Jewish immigrants began to trickle back to Palestine, buy land from Turkish landowners, and redevelop the country. In 1881 there were about 25,000 Jews in Israel; by 1922 there were some 83,000.

But in recent years, a myth has cropped up through Arab propaganda: **“Palestine was always an exclusively Arab country.”**

For four centuries, Turkey controlled Palestine. And though after the Arab invasion in the seventh century Arabic became the language of the minority population, Palestine was never exclusively an Arab country. There was never an Arab state or Palestine Arab nation. The Palestinian Arabs never ruled the country or formed any social or political identity.

It’s well known that over the past centuries, the Arabs living in Palestine—being nomads with no ties or loyalty to the land—actually *destroyed* the land. The area was dead and lifeless in every aspect.

Mark Twain visited Palestine in 1867 and wrote: “Desolate country whose soul is rich enough but is given



over wholly to weeds—a silent mournful expanse. There was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere.”

In 1931, a British report read: “We found the land inhabited by Arabs who lived in mud hovels ... large areas were uncultivated ... many Arabs were cattle thieves and harbored other criminals ... there was little public security.”

In the midst of this, God began moving His people, bringing about the promised return to the Land (Deut. 30:1–10). Before the end of World War I, in 1917 the British issued the Balfour Declaration which favored “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people...” And the Arabs even welcomed the Jews. King **Emir Faisal** wrote:

“The Arabs, especially the educated among us, ... wish the Jews a hearty welcome home ... our two movements complete one another.”



In the 1920s, all seemed to be going well. T. E. Lawrence wrote of Palestine: “The sooner the Jews farm the land the better; their colonies are bright spots in the desert.” The Jews were doing wonders. The land was reclaimed and irrigated. Swamps were drained. Millions of trees planted. Two to five crops were harvested off the same acreage each year. But by the 1930s, there was conflict between Arabs and Jews. Why?

The only answer is that until Israel’s Messiah returns, the Jews will be hounded even in their own Land. There is satanic opposition to God’s people. In Revelation 12, John writes that in the End Times, he sees Israel chased into the wilderness “where she has a place prepared by God,” who will protect the Jews of Israel. The Jews have no rest until after the coming Tribulation. Then, many who will survive will accept Christ as their personal Savior and national Messiah. ★



Isaiah 53 and the Suffering of Messiah

By Dr. Todd D. Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian

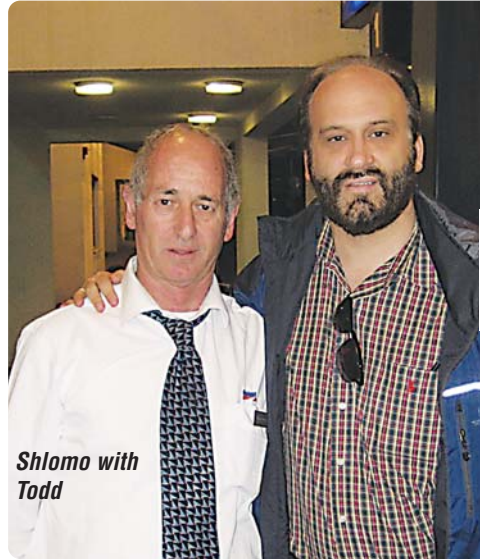
Kenny Gee and I landed in Tel Aviv. Our Gospel outreach began with the airport shuttle driver, Shlomo. His radio was broadcasting news about Hamas firing 137 rockets from Gaza into Israel, a Lord-opened door for us to assure him that God has promised the Jewish people that He will curse and overthrow all who oppose them (Genesis 12:1–3). Shlomo wondered aloud if Israel will ever have peace with evil like Hamas and the Palestinian Authority just across their borders.

His bewilderment suggested that he was looking for an answer to this question from us—two complete strangers! The answer—found in the Gospel—is also the news we bring to the Israelis: the Lord has provided peace between the sinner and God through the atoning death of the Messiah on the cross. Yeshua rose from the grave to conquer our greatest enemy—death—and offers eternal life to all who accept His forgiveness of sins.

Real peace with God only comes when we admit that we have sinned and need His full pardon. We receive it by acknowledging that the Sinless Substitute—Yeshua the Messiah—paid for our sin when He died in our place. I had recently taught a verse-by-verse study of Isaiah in Dallas and my mind was fresh with Isaiah’s many observations about our Messiah. Isaiah 53 prophesies the Messiah’s suffering and death, details that were uniquely fulfilled in the New Testament. I shared

these Scriptures with Shlomo. Hearing the Gospel from Isaiah led him to accept a Hebrew Bible with both the Old and New Testaments—with Messianic reading materials tucked inside for him to read and study for himself.

He shook our hands firmly and thanked us several times. While I left to make arrangements for our rental car, Kenny lingered outside and glimpsed Shlomo poring over the material we had given him. Then, Shlomo got out of his shuttle and came over to thank us again for sharing the peace and hope in Messiah. He was very grateful for the Gospel and the Scriptures that we gave him. ★



Shlomo with Todd

Kenny Gee & Todd Baker



Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Q. My wife and I are born-again evangelicals with a heart for Israel. However, we disagree on a very important point: Romans 11:26. She believes this to mean that the Jewish people do not need to accept Jesus before they die, that the Jewish people have a different covenant with God by which they will be in Heaven.

Can you help me show her that Jesus is the only way? If you agree with her, then please explain it to me.

A. With respect, I suggest that your wife reread the New Testament in light of the following refutation of the Dual Covenant fallacy. If Jews have a way to salvation other than Jesus, then the Apostles and the Scriptures are in error. God forbid! And I have wasted twenty-three Gospel outreaches to evangelize the Jewish people in Israel.

Claiming that the Jews don't need Jesus for salvation is a false theology that Satan created to keep the Church from witnessing to Israel, and to deprive the Jews of salvation! Jesus told the Jews in John 8:24 that if they did

not believe He was the Messiah, they would die in their sins. Not once has this warning been revoked in Scripture, or has another way of salvation been offered to the Jews. On the contrary, the warning is repeatedly affirmed in John 14:6; Acts 2:36-38; 4:12; 5:29-32; 7:51-53; 13:36-52; Romans 1:16; 11:1-4 and other places in Scripture.

Moreover, the New Covenant was first given to Israel for their salvation, promised by God and offered by Jesus (Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 15:24; John 4:22). Jesus affirmed that He is the only way to God and to salvation in John 14:6 —there is no other way! Concerning this very truth, the Apostle Peter said to the Jews then and for all time: "Nor is there salvation in any other, **for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved**" (Acts 4:12). Romans 1:16 lays out the divine order of evangelism for the Church to follow—the **Gospel of salvation is to go to the Jew first**. Surely if Jews could be saved outside of the Gospel, Paul would have said so here and not insisted that we Believers witness to the Jews first. The Dual Covenant Theology falsely claims that Jews can be saved by a means or covenant other than Jesus and the New Covenant.

"All Israel will be saved," in the context of Romans 11:25-26, refers to the Jews of Israel who are alive to see the Lord Jesus return at the Second Coming. It does not mean that every Jew throughout history will be saved. ★

FRANK & ERNEST By BOB THAVES



ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEDICINE

Fighting Malaria with Tobacco

Cigarettes made from the tobacco plant kill millions of people each year, but the very same plant now has enormous lifesaving potential, thanks to a research team at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, led by Prof. Alexander Vainstein. (below)

Genetically altered tobacco from his lab is programmed to produce an effective ingredient for fighting malaria.



Now being commercialized through the university's Yissum Research Development Company, Vainstein's tobacco plant manufactures a natural compound called artemisinin that's recognized as an effective treatment for drug-resistant malaria. Normally, artemisinin is produced in small quantities by the sweet wormwood plant *artemisia annua*. It can also be made synthetically. But artemisinin's prohibitive cost has made it impractical as a remedy for the millions of people who would benefit from it.

The new technology involves splicing the compound-creating enzymatic pathways of the wormwood into the fast-growing tobacco plant so that abundant artemisinin can be made readily available at low cost.

By Karin Kloosterman
www.Israel21c.org



The matured and natural chemical pathways in plants provide a newer and more efficient way to produce drugs than do existing animal models. The advantage of using plants is that they don't have animal viruses.

It is not a simple technology, but the tobacco plant is easy to cultivate and grows rapidly. Nor is it difficult to extract the active compounds from tobacco. Artemisinin isn't itself a pharmaceutical, but would be the active ingredient in a medication prescribed for malaria.

This groundbreaking research from Israel could be a significant stepping stone toward meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality by the end of 2015. In Africa, 20 percent of childhood deaths are due to the effects of malaria and every 30 seconds a child dies from the disease.

In Israel, malaria was eradicated only about 50 years ago, after the northern Hula Swamp—a major breeding ground for mosquitoes—was drained. ★

Wow—another example of God fulfilling His Word to make the descendants of Abraham a blessing to all the families of the Earth (Genesis 12:1–3). —Myles

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



Hippocratic Israel; Hypocritical World



By David M. Weinberg
www.IsraelHayom.com

The UN recently slandered Israel with yet another report containing ugly charges of “ethnic cleansing,” “Judaization,” and other make-believe atrocities committed against the Palestinians. Meanwhile, in the real world, this is what was happening: Israeli doctors continued to treat thousands of Palestinians in Israeli hospitals and perform world-class humanitarian medical work around the world.

It is a sign of the hostile times that Israel gets almost no international credit for its manifold humanitarian medical activities at home or abroad.

Israeli hospitals regularly admit patients from countries across the Middle East, including Arab countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel, and from the Palestinian areas. No less than one-quarter of the patients in the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer are children from Gaza with cancer or congenital heart ailments. Hadassah in Jerusalem plays a similar role for West Bank Palestinians. Save a Child's Heart at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon also treats many Palestinian patients.

These Palestinians receive treatment in Israel despite the fact that the Palestinian authorities take only partial financial responsibility for them and the patients themselves can't afford to pay. The Peres Center for Peace and the hospitals themselves often end up covering or absorbing the costs.

Palestinians can't go for treatment to their Muslim brethren in Egypt or Jordan because the Egyptians and Jordanians don't regularly let Palestinians in. Besides, the treatment in Arab countries is significantly inferior to that of Israel. Israeli hospitals persist in this humanitarian effort with an open-door, but you wouldn't know about it from the

international press or from UN reports.

Recently, the Israeli press carried stories about a 12-year-old boy from Kazakhstan with cerebral palsy undergoing surgery and lengthy rehabilitation, free of charge, at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. And Sheba Medical Center is providing unlimited and very expensive skin and eye surgeries to a Christian pastor who was attacked with acid and severely burned by Islamic militants in Uganda. (See article in *March 2012 Levitt Letter*, p. 31, and updates at www.levitt.com/news.)

Israeli doctors also deliver medical assistance beyond Israel's borders. The outstanding IDF (Israel Defense Forces) medical missions in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake, and in Japan following their earthquake and tsunami, are only the more high-profile efforts that received positive international attention. What is less known is that the work continues, with rehabilitation physicians and physiotherapists working in impossible conditions to treat those who lost limbs in the disasters.

More examples: Israeli burn experts were the first to arrive in Romania to treat babies in critical condition after a horrible fire in a Bucharest hospital, and the first to arrive in the Congo after a massive fuel tanker explosion in 2010.

These activities and others stem from an abiding concern for healing and compassion that is ingrained in Jewish tradition, and from the State of Israel's commitment to being a force for good and brotherhood in the world.

But again, you wouldn't know any of this from the international press or from UN reports. What a shame. ★



FOCUS ON ISLAM



Islam Conquers European Football

By Soeren Kern, GateStoneInstitute.org

The top-ranked football team in Spain, Real Madrid, has removed a Christian cross from its official logo as a way to strengthen its fan base among Muslims in Europe and the Middle East.

Real Madrid says its decision to remove the cross from its logo is simply a cost of doing business in a globalized world. But critics say the move represents yet another erosion of European culture and tradition in the face of encroaching Islam.

The cross controversy comes as Real Madrid begins to build a \$1 billion sports tourist resort in the United Arab Emirates; the complex is scheduled to open in January 2015.

According to Real Madrid, "This is a decisive and strategic step that will enhance the strength of this institution in the Middle East and Asia, a key region in which the passion for this club has been apparent."

As part of the agreement, however, the ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, Sheik Saud Bin Saqr al Qasimi, required Real Madrid to remove the cross from the crown on its logo for all promotional materials related to the resort island. The presi-

dent of Real Madrid, Florentino Pérez, dutifully complied.

The cross was added to Real Madrid's logo in 1920, when King Alfonso XIII granted the club his royal patronage. The word Real is Spanish for royal, and the cross still forms an integral part of the coat of arms of the King of Spain.



Real Madrid is not the first Spanish football club to remove a "religiously incorrect" cross from its logo in an effort to appease Muslim sensibilities. Some observers, in fact, say Real Madrid's move is part of a concerted effort to prevent a rival football team in Barcelona from winning over the Middle East.

FC Barcelona recently signed a five-year, \$200 million shirt sponsorship deal with the Doha-based Qatar Foundation, a so-called charitable trust that has been accused of providing funding to the extremist cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi, an advocate of terrorism, wife beating, and murderous anti-Semitism. The agreement permits the Qatar Foundation to place its logo on FC Barcelona's official team shirt and has enabled FC Barcelona to expand its influence throughout the Middle East.

FC Barcelona's public relations efforts in the Muslim world have not been without controversy. Like Real Madrid, FC Barcelona has a cross in its official logo. But after Saudi Arabia complained that the so-called Cruz de San Jorge (St. George's cross)—a red and white cross that forms an integral part of FC Barcelona's logo—was offensive to Islam because it evokes memories of the medieval Crusades, the horizontal line (and thus the offending cross) was removed from all FC Barcelona shirts sold in the Middle East. ★



The World's Worst Religious Persecutors

By Nina Shea

www.NationalReview.com

In March, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released its 14th annual report, which it is mandated to do under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The report identifies the world's worst persecutors and makes foreign-policy recommendations, which are non-binding, to the administration and Congress. Its decisions are based on the agency's visits to foreign countries, and a wide array of other sources, including the State Department's own excellent annual compilation of worldwide religious-freedom violations. The commission is distinctive because it is an independent federal agency, and it is to make its name-and-shame lists and policy recommendations unburdened by foreign-policy considerations other than the defense of religious freedom.

This year, USCIRF named 16 countries as the most egregious and systematic religious freedom violators in the world and recommended them for official "Country of Concern" (CPC) designation by the U.S. State Department. They are:

Burma, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, (north) Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Christians, Jews, Baha'is, Mandeans, Ahmadiyas, Rohingya Muslims, Yizidis, Alevis, Shiite and Ismaili Muslims in Saudi Arabia, African traditional believers in Sudan, Uighur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, Sufi Muslims, Pakistani Hindus, independent Buddhists in Vietnam, Cao Dai, and many others groups and individuals are persecuted in these 16 countries. They suffer arrest, torture, imprisonment, and even death for religious reasons, as well as other pressures. All these groups are



covered in the USCIRF report.

Christians are far from the only religious group persecuted in these countries. But, Christians are the only group persecuted in each and every one of them. This pattern has been found by sources as diverse as the Vatican, Open Doors, Pew Research Center, *Newsweek*, and *The Economist*, all of which recently reported that an overwhelming majority of the religiously persecuted around the world are Christians. Globally, this persecution is experienced by all Christian faith traditions from Pentecostal and evangelical to Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox.

In many cases the persecution is at the hands of the government, as, for example, in China, Burma, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, but often, in places like Nigeria and Iraq, it is committed by religious extremists and vigilantes in the society who operate within a climate of impunity. In Pakistan and Egypt persecution is sponsored by all three—the authorities, extremist groups, and vigilantes.

Persecution is intensifying now in the Muslim world, as documented throughout the USCIRF report. ★

Nina Shea is a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Read her full article at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1hq> Read the USCIRF 2012 Report at: www.uscifr.gov/reports-and-briefs/annual-report/3706-2012-annualreport



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Abbas Glorifies Terrorists

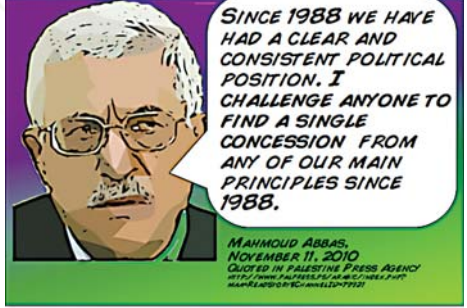
By Itamar Marcus and
Nan Jacques Silberdik
www.PalWatch.org

Earlier this year, two Palestinian terrorists attacked an Israeli soldier in Hebron and stabbed him with a knife. Despite his wounds, the soldier managed to shoot both terrorists, killing one and injuring the other.

Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas sent a condolence telegram to the family, in which he called the killed terrorist "courageous." The soldier's act of shooting the terrorist who tried to kill him was defined by Abbas as an "assassination." The official PA daily referred to the soldier's self-defense as a "loathsome crime," while the attempted stabbing of the Israeli soldier was called "legitimate struggle."

A few days later, Mahmoud Abbas sent his personal representative, Abbas Zaki, to visit the families of both terrorists and to express the leadership's "solidarity." Zaki said that the death was "cold-blooded murder" and "expressed the

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IF ABBAS BRAGS ABOUT HIS INTRANSIGENCE, WHY DOES ANYONE STILL CONSIDER HIM A MODERATE?

pride of the Palestinian leadership in this generation and in this heroism."

Palestinian Media Watch reported last year that Abbas sent a grant of \$2,000 to the family of a terrorist who was killed while attempting to attack Israeli soldiers with pipe bombs. ★

This is the sad truth about America's labeling of Abbas and Co. as Israel's "peace partner." Watch for author Itamar Marcus in our upcoming TV programs. He and his faithful team uncover the reality behind the media spin. See the article on page 1. —Myles



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See a better use of tobacco on p. 10

Arabs' Self-Destructive Hatred and Envy

By Lee Habeeb, www.NationalReview.com

"Arabs don't all look alike or think alike. Some of us want Arab countries to be more like America and Israel, places where the individual can flourish."

Say those words to many Arabs and they are shocked and angered. Soon, words like "imperialist" are thrown about, and the subject always turns to Israel.

Why the anger when I hint that America and Israel might have something to teach the Arab world? It is all tied to a deep-seated fear that just maybe the Arab world will never measure up to America or Israel.

Better, goes the logic, to cling to anger over the plight of the Palestinians and to a deep-seated hatred of Israel. Better to play the role of victim than to do the hard work of lifting up the conditions of your people.

An Arab-American friend of mine, a Jordanian, is well educated and speaks five languages. But mention the word *Israel*, and watch his blood boil. He will go into a diatribe about the injustices perpetrated against the Palestinians by Israel.

Why is all of his passion, anger, and rage directed at this one country, this one people? Why not direct it at Syria, I ask him? President Assad continues to terrorize his own people. Why not at Saddam Hussein when he was in power?

Why not at the ways in which Islam degrades women in the Middle East, trapping them in a life of servitude? Why not a critique of the Koran itself, which regrettably finds little separation between mosque and state, thus relegating the majority of Arabs to life under theocratic regimes?

Two reasons: fear and envy.

To the dismay of Muslims around the world, Jewish people turned an ancient piece of real estate into a thriving oasis of intellectual, political, religious, and commercial activity, where people are free to do as they please. One of the oldest places on earth—a place where Abraham walked—Israel is as thoroughly modern as any place on earth, with a functioning government that respects religious and economic freedom.

The fact is, the God-given talents of the people of Israel are allowed to flourish in ways Arabs should want to emulate.

This smart, dynamic Jordanian friend instead focuses on border disputes and the acts of the Israeli government. He performs Houdini-like intellectual twists to dodge my questions, which cut through to his very clear bigotry.



I ask him why he is obsessed with the 1967 border dispute, and not some other border grudge, as it would not take long to find other countries unhappy with the ways in which territories were allocated as spoils of various 19th- and 20th-century wars.

I tell him that using his logic, Mexican terrorists should be blowing themselves up in Texas—with his unwavering support to compel America to return Texas to its original owner.

I ask Arabs who show such a knee-jerk reaction to Israel a simple question that cuts to the heart of all this nonsense:

Why do you hate Jews?

The way Israel is despised in much of the Arab world is all about anti-Semitism. And most anti-Semitism has its origins in envy. ★



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Hebrew Lesson



The Narrow Gate of Heart ...

By John J. Parsons

יש דרך ישר לפני־איש ואחריתה דרכי־מוֹת

“There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way of death” – Proverbs 16:25

יֵשׁ	דֶּרֶךְ	יֵשֶׁר	לְפָנֵי־	אִישׁ	וְ	אַחֲרֵיהֶּ	רֵי־	תָהּ	דֶּרֶךְ	כִּי־	מָוֶת	
(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(5)	(2)	(3)	(4)
yesh	de-rekh	ya-shar	lif-nei	ish	ve	a-cha-ri-tah	ve	a-cha-ri-tah	but	its	end	is
there is	a way	straight	before	a man	and	its	end	is	the way	of	death	

Knowing something about God is not the same thing as personally *trusting* Him with your life. The difference between the mere *professor* and a genuine man of faith is that the latter wrestles through the pain, the ambiguity, the heartache—yet still holds on to God’s love. “Though He slay me, yet I will hope in Him.” Of course this does not mean that faith is irrational, since love needs no justification. This works the other way around, too. People who refuse to trust God are seeking ways to justify their spiritual mutiny.

Simply knowing *about* God can lead to a sense of “distance,” to theological abstractions, to dogmas and creedal formulas. More dangerously, the split between the head and heart can lead people to seek emotional satisfaction in things other than a personal relationship with the Living God. Many of our more carnal sins center on the loss of hope for love. Because of our despair, we may return to the old comforts of the flesh, instead of pressing through the immediate desire to discover our longing for eternity, that is, for God’s love... I wonder how many sins have been committed because people feel homesick for eternity.

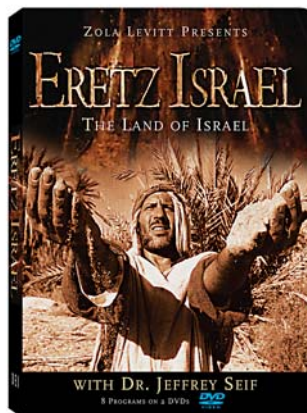
Perhaps the greatest danger is for people to become so numb that they subsist in a state of *indifference*, no longer concerned about questions of eternal importance. God then becomes “for other people,” and the connection between their desire and their deepest need becomes entirely severed. People lose heart and then feel powerless to change. And because they give up hope, they trade their eternal passion for vain trivialities; they become more concerned about television or the outcome of some sporting event than with their eternal souls (Luke 9:25).

There is a way that *seems* right ... even for professing Christians. “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are *many*” (Matt. 7:14). The Christian life is *easy* if it is merely regarded as “interesting” or “insightful,” since then it pleases people and requires nothing in return. It is made even easier when it *flatters* the ego and tickles the ear in the name of spirituality or religion! However, when the *demand* comes, when people understand that there is an eternal obligation to authentically live in light of its truth—when they understand that there is a real cost associated with their faith—then the interest quickly fades ... Taking up the cross is difficult because the flesh does not want to die ... **Here is a test case, a way to examine our hearts: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you”** (Luke 6:27). ★



ERETZ ISRAEL (*The Land of Israel*) Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes viewers through the Land of Israel. By exploring the Bible's accounts of the Holy Land's past, present, and prophetic future, we discover an inextricable relationship between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. Former CBS correspondent David Dolan helps explore the modern-day struggles that accompany the re-establishment of the ancestral Jewish homeland. On-location TV footage, dramas, and wonderful music punctuate the series.



*Please order
DVD from
p.18*

The Land Promised We visit Bethel and explore God's promise to Abraham: that his and his children's destinies are eternally bound in the Sacred Soil—what we appropriately call the "Promised Land."

Promised to the Next Generation On location in Beersheba, we discuss how the God who cares for His people in every generation visited Isaac in Beersheba, and confirmed His unwavering intention to give the Land to Isaac and to his seed after him.

To All Generations Discover how Bethel became a "gate[way] to heaven" (Genesis 28:17), and learn of God's affirmation to Jacob that the promises made to Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through him and his descendants.

Entering the Promised Land Though the Patriarchs were long dead by his time, Moses picked up and ran with their living Land promises. We visit Jericho and follow the story where the ancient Israelites began to contend for the destiny promised by God—their residency in the Land of Israel.

Fighting for the Promised Land The ageless mandate—to lay siege to the patriarchs' promises—was passed on to Joshua. We examine the battle at Hazor that secured the northern territories for Abraham's offspring.

Promised Forever At the Valley of Megiddo—Armageddon—we review God's Land promises to David and Solomon and glance at clues that speak of victories to come.

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Israel Fulfilling Prophecy Wrapping up the series, Jeff and David review the State of Israel, comment on its changing borders, and consider what's ahead in the not-too-distant biblical timetable.

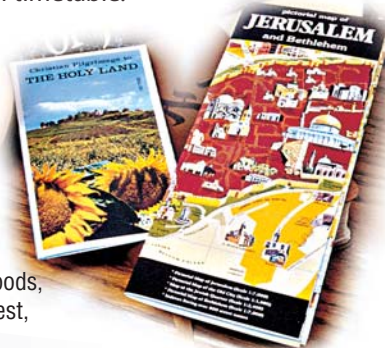
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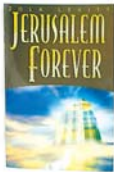
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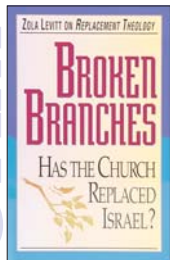
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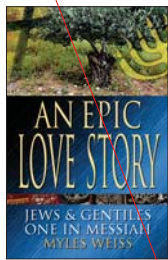
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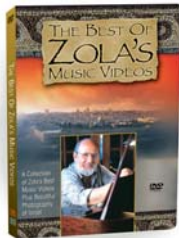
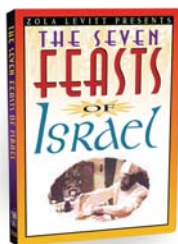


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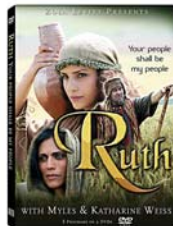
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— Golda Meir



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"Come Home!"

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See page
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Sheep Soup Kitchen



Mark Levitt

Dear Mark,

I enjoy receiving the *Levitt Letter*. I periodically order material from your website and try to include a small donation. I know there is a cost for the *Levitt Letter* and would be more than happy to cover the cost to continue receiving it. If you wish, please email the appropriate cost of the publication. Thanks for your time, M.G.

Dear M.G.—

Your desire to carry your own weight is admirable, especially since you're already a donor. The cost of *Levitt Letters* is more than printing and postage: writing, editing, proofing, and designing. We need both the monthly *Personal Letter* to raise funds and our TV program to replenish our mailing list. You probably agree that www.levitt.com amplifies our out-reaches efficiently, but at a price.

If you ate lunch at a soup kitchen for the poor, you're the type who would experience a burden for your fellow diners. So, if you feel like you're not contributing your share, feel free to increase your donations in size or frequency, because a lot of people don't—or can't—shoulder their own. In the end, you and others upholding our ministry for the sake of your fellow sheep is the only way to ensure we can serve you. —Mark

Zola's Tunes & Holy Days

Hi, Greg
(www.levitt.com's webmaster),

I have tried to listen to your website's samples of Zola's music using Quick-Time, but they don't play. The beautiful music that I heard during the recent airing of *The Holy Days of Our Lord* reminded me of how much I wanted to choose one of Zola's CDs for myself.

two notes from mark

I am very disappointed with your reply that you will convert those older songs "someday." What a poor testimony to Zola, his ministry, and our Lord. Zola's *The Holy Days of Our Lord* has been the most inspirational teaching to my Christian faith, and I'm very saddened at your reply. —K.P.

Dear K.P.—

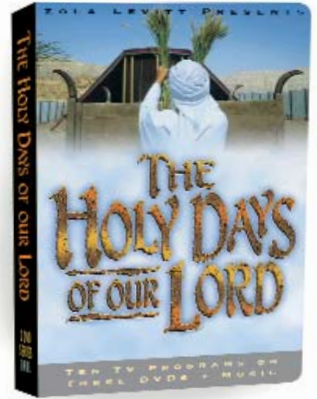
Thanks for sharing your feelings, which Greg has taken to heart.

If only you knew, K.P., how little Greg (our webmaster) is paid and

how often he works through the night. Thanks to his prioritizing our new Roku channel (see www.levitt.com/roku), you can use the Internet to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on your television set.

This ministry runs a lean crew, so please help us bless you by understanding our limited resources—and possibly even making a contribution. God will thank you later, and we'll thank you now.

Incidentally, page 19 offers 8 of Zola's complete albums on CD for only \$49 plus shipping. The special on page 36 is better yet: "Buy 16 and get 6 for free." Twenty-two albums on CD works out to less than \$5 apiece! Yet some of them, featuring a full orchestra and professional singers, cost \$30,000 each to produce. —Mark



**DVD series offered
on p. 18**



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Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From J.A. (AL): I know Zola's heart is full, along with God's, that you and Katharine have taken the reins and are guiding this ministry to greater heights for the glory of God. I love your studies, and I love how you and your wife work together. Our prayers and blessings are with you both and to ZLM to grow and touch many in this world. [We certainly appreciate your view of our marriage, that it demonstrates the Spirit of the Lord. We are working to produce for television our marriage seminar which has helped couples around the world. Please keep us in prayer. God created marriage, and one of the beautiful connections with Israel is His design for relationships passed on through the generations and the Word. Shalom –Myles and Katharine](#)

From B.P. (VA): Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do. I feel any money I send is well spent.

From S.L. (MS): We love and miss Zola dearly, but Jeffrey and now the Weisses are just as special in their own way.

From R.H.T. (TX): Your work is indispensable in these End Times!

From H.C. (TX): I was on Zola's radio program in Dallas, I think in the 70s. May your ministry be safe and protected, and may many Jews come to Christ through this donation. In Jesus' name, amen.

[For all these kind comments, we sincerely thank you. Katharine and I are blessed to be able to share the Good News through this ministry. "Christianity through Jewish Eyes" expresses the heart of this work, and the heart of the Lord for this hour. Keep looking up! –Myles](#)



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Index

Eland antelope keep the Israel/Lebanon border clear of foliage that might conceal terrorists.



From S.L. (PA): Zola feeds me like no other. When he is on, I am glued to the screen. I learned a lot from Jeff, and now Myles. My suggestion: put Zola on as much as possible even though in reruns; the information is timeless and no one can say it like Zola said it!

I do believe I'm in the generation to experience the marriage supper of the Lamb. Zola used a Jewish marriage to teach the End Times. Do you have that teaching on DVD? Even though I am not a Jew, will I live in the New Jerusalem for the 1,000 years? Did Zola teach on that? **Myles and Katharine are becoming comfortable talking to the television camera with its "eye" that never blinks. You are experiencing the process of them becoming stronger messengers. All the same, we'll keep showing you "Classic Zola" just the way folks prefer Coca-Cola's Classic Coke. Zola's lessons relating a Jewish marriage to the End Times are available in *Christian Love Story* booklet and CD, the *Beloved Thief* musical on DVD and CD, and in our *The Miracle of Passover* DVD, study booklet, and CD. Yes, gentile Believers who are grafted in will live in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. Treat yourself to Zola's study booklet or CD entitled *Glory!—The Future of the Believers*. (Please see pages 18 and 19.)** —Mark

Biblical Dress Code

Dear ZLM,

I have a question about 1 Corinthians 11:1–16. I have never heard an explanation of these texts. Was this a cultural or spiritual issue? Please help me understand this text. H.T. (OH)

Dear H.T.—

In the synagogues throughout the Diaspora, women covered their hair in submission to God and their husbands. This practice came out of the synagogue and into the first-century Church. The spiritual principle modern Believers can glean from this practice is proper order and submission in the home and to God. No need to get legalistic and demand that women wear head coverings all the time. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:10 used the head covering to symbolize the universal truth of first God's and then a husband's authority in the home. —Todd

Just ASK

Dear Myles and Katharine,

I have been a ZLM follower for ten years. But, only last year did the Holy Spirit move me to ask for your newsletter. Now I ask myself why it took me so long. I'm also increasing my monthly donation. In the name of Jesus who gave much more for our salvation, —B.H. (IN)

Dear B.H.—

Thanks for the increased donation. It means a lot to us—especially as world tension points to the nearing return of the Lord, and increases the urgent need for our message to get out. I hope others have the same epiphany as you, namely to ASK for our free newsletter and so get in touch with us and what God is doing through this ministry. Many blessings on your house! —Myles

Dry Bones



Prison Ministry

Hi, ZLM,

Just want to let you know how much I and my friends love your *Levitt Letter* and *Zola Levitt Presents* TV show. We in the Faith and Christianity dorm minister to the other dorms and to those in the Assisted Living Unit as well. Your *Letters* are being passed around and enjoyed. God bless and shalom from your fans here at Perry Correctional Institution, —Michael (SC)

Shalom Michael, Joel, Michael, Kurt, Winfred, James, and William as well as the other fans at Perry C. I.—

I purposely wrote all your names to let you know that at ZLM, we thank the Lord for your interest in our news magazine, the *Levitt Letter*. More importantly, please know that God Himself knows your names and is watching over you. His promise is to complete that which He has begun in you (Philippians 1:6). May this year be a season of genuine “correction” from Heaven (we ALL need this) and may you emerge stronger in your faith and in your love for Israel! —Myles



Dear Mark,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My husband Tim and I would like to thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to Zola Ministries through the years. We look forward every month to your *Levitt Letter*. We pray for your staff and ministry often. We praise the Lord for bringing Myles and Katharine to your ministry; both of them have touched our lives through their writings. Unfortunately, we do not have cable or satellite and are thus unable to view your TV programs, so we rely heavily upon your newsletter to keep us up-to-date with your outreaches. —C.B.

Dear C.B.—

Thanks for your kind words and loyal support of ZLM. Your email indicates that you have access to the Internet, so perhaps you can watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on your computer at www.levitt.tv. In fact, you may want to go online to www.levitt.com/roku to learn how to watch Internet programming on your television screen, even without a TV hookup. Blessings, —Mark

ZLM's Prayer Board

Dear ZLM,

Why don't you have a place for prayer requests? Our daughter is having a very serious operation. Please pray for her. E. and G.F. (WA)

Dear E. and G.F.—

We are praying for your daughter's operation. Our office and website have prayer boards for posting prayer requests. Visit www.ZolaBoard.levitt.com, or email staff@levitt.com or snail mail our P.O. Box. And yes, we truly pray for those who request it. Thank you for standing with us.

—Myles and Katharine and Mark



Website Catastrophe!

Dear ZLM,

I have never seen such a poorly designed site before! Please do something about this catastrophe, NOW! We have watched Zola for years and donate when we can. —D. & D.L.

Dear D. & D.L.—

Our webmaster always listens to constructive criticism, so we're publishing your email in order to invite specific suggestions from you and others. Is there something you're having trouble finding? (A search field at the top-right of the home page allows you to search all of www.levitt.com.)



Would you like to recommend another website or two as examples for us to emulate? Are you able to use the drop-down menus at the top by hovering your mouse pointer over the main headings "Zola TV," "Levitt Letter," "Tours," "Store," "Donations," "Information," and "Discussion"?

The four panels allow you go directly to "Zola Levitt Presents," "Levitt Letter," "Tours," and "Podcasts." Farther down, you can opt to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. Our website offers so much to do that it's a challenge not to miss something. What would be your main purpose for visiting www.levitt.com? Other readers, please chime in. —Mark



Watching the Internet on Widescreen TV

Dear ZLM,

Imagine my joy when I checked out the newest programming on Roku and found you there!

The Christian stations are constantly moving your show around and I can never find it. Now, I can watch you whenever I want, and I can also go into your video archives and watch many good shows there whenever I want. I know I can watch on the computer, but I love it that I can now watch through Roku on my TV and on my schedule. Thank you. What a great blessing to Believers and also to those who will check you out and become Believers. —G.S.

"Now, I can watch you whenever I want"

Dear G.S.—

Please tell your friends who can't find *Zola Levitt Presents* on television to visit www.levitt.com/roku for suggestions on delivering our programs from the Internet to their television sets.

Thanks, —Mark

“A Child Is Born”

Dear ZLM,

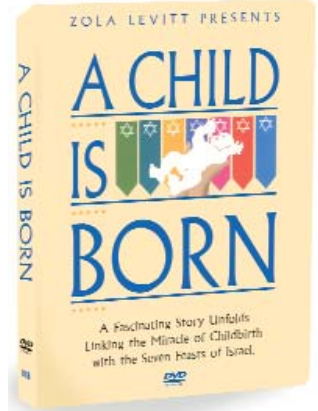
I teach childbirth classes based on *The Christian Childbirth Handbook*, and your work is mentioned in it. I am replacing a lost copy of this DVD, but I would love to have an extra in my library for women to borrow. Is there any chance you could donate a copy? Thank you for considering it. —D.R. (VA)

Dear D.R.—

You must be referring to our DVD *A Child Is Born*. In this half-hour program, Zola teaches about an amazing series of biblical “coincidences.” As embryos and fetuses develop in the womb, they follow the same schedule as the Seven Feasts that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai (Lev. 23). Your students and friends will be surprised by the similarities in these two chains of events, each established by God according to His purpose.

More efficient (and less expensive) than lending DVDs, however, would be watching at www.levitt.tv. Just enter “A Child is Born” into the search box at the top-right of our video archives page. Your students can commend this free teaching to their friends. Offering access to a computer or iPad in your lending library would enable visitors to watch this program (and hundreds of others) on the spot, perhaps in small groups.

Note: This ministry sabotages our own bottom line by giving free access to all the same videos that we try to sell. As more and more people watch our videos online, our sales revenues decrease, and our dependence on contributions increases. Please help us continue feeding His sheep with our increasingly bountiful buffet of anointed TV programs. —Mark



**DVD Special offered
on p. 18**

Matthew 6:19-21

Dear ZLM staff,

There are two things I need to do as a good steward of Jesus Christ. One: help those ministries who are fulfilling the Great Commission, and two: be a blessing to those who are blessing Israel. You are helping me store my treasures in Heaven! Pay no attention to your earthly critics, but continue on your journey as the Holy Spirit guides you.

—Shalom, B.R. (MS)

Dear B.R.—

Your letter reveals a very personal application of the two great commandments: to love Him, and love others as yourself. It is encouraging to read that we are playing a part in your priorities in these prophetic days. Blessings and shalom —Myles and Katharine ★



Anti-Semitic New York Times

By Jerold S. Auerback, AmericanThinker.com

In the run-up to the recent UN consideration of a Palestinian state, *The New York Times* could hardly restrain itself. Fulminating about what was best for Israel, it repeatedly berated the Jewish State and Prime Minister Netanyahu for not acceding to its editor's wishes.

Its editorial page praised the "moderate" Palestinian leadership and called upon Congress to "lean on" Netanyahu. The "intractable" prime minister, after all, had been busy "building settlements." Such temerity: Jews living in their ancient homeland!

Veteran *Times* watchers had every reason to expect this onslaught of the *Times's* abiding Jewish problem—evident ever since founding publisher Adolph Ochs and his Sulzberger successors trembled with apprehension lest their newspaper be branded as the "Jew York Times."

Bending over backward to avoid any Jewish identification, the *Times* found itself on the wrong side of every major Jewish issue. During the vicious Arab riots in Palestine in 1929, the slaughter of Jews provoked *Times* articles as hostile to Zionists as they were indifferent to Jewish victims. Joseph Levy, its correspondent on the scene, was an American Jew who had spent years in Beirut before coming to Jerusalem. He conceded that if his efforts toppled the Zionist administration, so much the better. Sound familiar?

The Nazi slaughter of vast numbers of Jews during the Holocaust was assigned to the inner pages, competing for space with stories of hijacked

truckloads of coffee in New Jersey. Verified descriptions of Auschwitz did not make the front page.

The very idea of a Jewish state, to say nothing of its reality, left *Times* editors acutely uncomfortable in 1948 and thereafter. Ever since the 1967 Six-Day War, the *Times* has been unrelenting in its criticism of Jewish settlements. It enthusiastically endorsed the assertion that truncated 1967 Israeli borders are "vital to defusing Muslim anger at the West"—a dubious claim with dire consequences for Israel.

If today's NYT editors were in charge during 1943.



The familiar *Times* motto—"All the News That's Fit to Print"—requires an update to "All the Criticism of Israel That Fits, We Print."

This puts the *NYT* bias in historical perspective. Many Jews are often liberal in their thinking as they try to participate in *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). When done *apart from Scripture*, it becomes just another humanist voice, playing god instead of calling on the real One. What would a visitation of *Sar Shalom* (the Prince of Peace) produce in the pages of "The Old Gray Lady"? Imagine a born-again *New York Times*, unbiased and accurate ... ah-h-h, I can dream, can't I? —Myles ★



Cataloging Ancient Inscriptions

By Ofer Aderet, www.Haaretz.com

An ambitious international project led by two adventurous Israeli classicists aims to analyze and catalog every ancient inscription that has been made in Israel. Their meticulous work includes crawling through caves and cellars and Indiana Jones-style adventures.

Over the last few years, **Hannah Cotton-Paltiel** and **Jonathan Price** have spent much of their time far from the comfortable confines of the Ivory Tower, crawling through caves with flashlights in their hands, squeezing into crowded old basements and storage spaces, and rummaging through piles of old stones in private collections, churches, and museums around the world. Cotton-Paltiel, who holds the Shalom Horowitz Chair in classics at the Hebrew University, and Price, who chairs the parallel department at Tel Aviv University, are part of the Israeli arm of a unique international project that bears the scientific title *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae*.



Work on the project began in 1999 and is expected to be completed in 2017.

When it is complete, all of the ancient inscriptions discovered within the borders of the State of Israel will be gathered together in a single comprehensive scientific series. The seven-volume work aims to organize a sea of information that until now consisted of partial, truncated, and widely-scattered items; to track down inscriptions that have never been published; and to offer the widest range of contemporary interpretations for those inscriptions that are already known to scholars.



"This is a unique project, without any historical precedent," says Cotton-Paltiel. Adds Price: "The idea has been around for several generations, but it's being realized only now. The final product will provide an invaluable resource for historical research, one which has been lacking until now."

Through Sisyphean and meticulous efforts combined with elements of Indiana Jones-style detective work, the researchers have managed to locate within Israel some 12,000 texts written between the 4th century BC and the 7th century AD. "From Alexander to Mohammed, from the Hellenistic period to the Muslim conquest," as the two scholars put it.

Some of the texts are dozens of lines in length; others have only a single word. They are written in more than 10 languages, of which Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Phoenician, and Aramaic are only a partial list. They run the gamut from letters and receipts inscribed on bits of pottery, through names of deceased individuals written on ossuaries, to historic inscriptions that commemorate important events, people, and places. For the contributors, this is the project's most important innovation. It breaks with earlier practice by documenting, side-by-side, multi-lingual inscriptions that belong to the various peoples that lived in Israel. "Georgians, Armenians, Romans, Greeks, Syrians—everyone who was here was documented," says Cotton-Paltiel, "not just the Jewish people."

In similar projects to date it was the custom to sort inscriptions by language and publish each of them separately. ★

For a detailed report on who is participating, what they are finding, and where, visit <http://wp.me/pieUD-1hi>.



Dictionary of Middle East Terminology Part 3



For the past two months, we've published a glossary of terms and expressions (A–P) as typically used in the mainstream media to help readers unravel the Gordian Knot of language that is today's (and yesterday's and tomorrow's) Middle East news!

THIS MONTH: R – Z

Radical Islamic Movement: A group whose stated official goal is genocide (see "Hamas" and "Hezbollah" –May issue).

Recognition: A truce until the next time.

Refugee: Someone who has refused to take refuge, or who has not been allowed to take refuge.

"Religion of Peace": That civilization with which the Judeo-Christian civilization is locked in a war to the death.

Resistance: Randomly killing civilians, especially children.

Rewriting History: See "History" (May).

Right of Return: Demand to live in Israel by people who hate it and wish to destroy it. By people very, very few of whom have ever actually been there.

Settlement: An illegal community made up of settlers. (See "Settler" below.)

Settler: Someone who builds his house to thwart any chance at making peace between Jews and Palestinians.

By Dr. Yasser Dasmabehi
www.FrontPageMag.com

Sharia: The Islamic system of jurisprudence which codifies and dignifies rape, child marriage, specific classes of murder such as honor killings (see "Honor Killings" –May), etc.

Shia: People who are certain that Sunnis are not real Muslims, and are in fact infidels, and should therefore be slaughtered.

Sunni: People who are certain that Shia are not real Muslims, and are in fact infidels, and should therefore be slaughtered.

War Crime: Retaliation and defense. Any action whose intent is victory.

War on Terror: Pretense that the enemy of the West is made up of small, shadowy groups motivated by childhood poverty (see "al-Qaeda" –April). ("We're deprived on account of we're deprived"—apologies to S. Sondheim.)

Zionism: The ideology of the Jews who aspire to control, dominate, and take over the world.

Zionist: Someone who is worse than a Nazi.

Zionist Entity: That place that does not exist, as on Arab maps, but that must be destroyed (see "Israel" –May).



Dry Bones NEWS WATCH



DryBonesBlog.com

SELECT BRIEFS

50s, with stubble on his face and the dark-suited wardrobe of an undertaker. As chief of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center, he has functioned in a funereal capacity for al-Qaeda.

Christians Face 'Striking Cases of Intolerance'

www.Christian.org.uk

Christians face "the most striking cases of intolerance and discrimination throughout Europe," according to a European think tank.

In its 2011 review, the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDCE) claimed that 85 percent of hate crimes in Europe are against Christians.

OIDCE director Dr Gudrun Kugler said: "We also notice professional restrictions for Christians: a restrictive application of freedom of conscience leads to professions such as magistrates, doctors, nurses and midwives, as well as pharmacists slowly closing for Christians."

At CIA, A Convert to Islam Leads the Terrorist Hunt

By Greg Miller
www.WashingtonPost.com

For every cloud of smoke that follows a CIA drone strike in Pakistan, dozens of smaller plumes can be traced to a gaunt figure standing in a courtyard near the center of the Agency's Langley campus in Virginia.

The man with the nicotine habit is in his late

"Roger" may be the most consequential but least visible national security official in Washington—the principal architect of the CIA's drone campaign and the leader of the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

Colleagues describe Roger as a collection of contradictions. A chain-smoker who spends countless hours on a treadmill. Notoriously surly yet able to win over enough support from subordinates and bosses to hold on to his job. He presides over a campaign that has killed thousands of Islamist militants and angered millions of Muslims, but he is himself a convert to Islam.

He married a Muslim woman he met abroad, prompting his conversion to Islam. Colleagues said he doesn't shy away from mentioning his religion but is not demonstrably observant. There is no prayer rug in his office, officials said, although he is known to clutch a strand of prayer beads.

Read about this at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1hd>



PA Declares Bethlehem Church Illegitimate

By Dexter Van Zile
www.Algemeiner.com



A week after Prime Minister Salam Fayyad told Evangelical Protestants at the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference that his government respected the rights of its Christian minorities, officials from his Palestinian Authority informed Bethlehem pastor Rev. Naim Khoury that his church lacked the authority to function as a religious institution under the PA.

The church can still gather to pray, for now, but the PA's decision will have a real impact on the congregation of First Baptist, which endured numerous bomb attacks during the First Intifada.

"They said that our legitimacy as a church from a governmental point of view is not approved," said Khoury's son, Steven, who serves as an assistant pastor at First Baptist. "They said they will not recognize any legal paper work issued from our church. That includes birth certificates, wedding certificates, and death certificates. Children are not

even considered to be legitimate if they don't have recognized paperwork."

Despite Fayyad's assurances of religious unity, many Christians in Bethlehem feel that anti-Christian animus has gotten worse in the city over the past few years, Khoury said. "People are always telling them, 'Convert to Islam. Convert to Islam. It's the true and right religion.'"

This is the second time the church has been told it is operating without PA sanction, Khoury said. Other churches in Bethlehem are left alone, said Khoury, who suggested that the church's love for both the Jewish and Arab people and its belief that both can live in the land in peace may have played a role in the PA's decision. Prior to the PA, the church, which was founded in 1980, never had a problem with its paperwork, Khoury said.

The Khourys are friends of ours, and while this "official" harassment is distracting, they continue to spread the Good News to their Arab people. Watch for Pastor Naim in our upcoming TV series *Acts: Then and Now – The Story Continues*. —Myles ★



Christian and Jewish Existence a Sin Against Allah

By NightWatch, <http://finance.townhall.com>

We learned from a Pakistani taxi driver in northern Virginia that Allah's call to kill non-believers can come to a true believer at any time, without warning, and must be obeyed by the true believer. Killing Christians and Jews ends their existence, which is itself a sin against Allah, the man said. Muslim deaths hasten their journey to be with Allah.

The man, a devout Muslim and educated engineer, said he would have to kill his passenger if he heard Allah's call. Fortunately for us, the phone was not ringing during that taxi ride, but the driver was deadly serious.

"IF THE ARABS PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS TODAY, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE VIOLENCE. IF THE JEWS PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS TODAY, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE ISRAEL."

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

OMAR DAKHANE BLOC | www.dakhane.wordpress.com



Why Are Jews Buried in Israel?

By Jessica Ravitz, religion.blogs.CNN.com

The four victims of the shooting at a Jewish school in Toulouse, France, were buried two days later—not in their home community but after an overnight flight from Paris, in Jerusalem.

Though two of the young victims were born in Israel, the Consistory of Paris, which represents Jewish communities, said that all the victims were being buried there for reasons of faith, not nationality. Being laid to rest in Israel, the birthplace of Judaism, ensures that their remains will not be tampered with, the group said. It also added that 40% of practicing French Jews are buried in Israel.

French religious Jews aren't alone in wanting this, and the reasons run deep. "It goes all the way back to the Bible, when Jacob passed away," explains Rabbi Shaul Ginsberg, who oversees an Orthodox funeral chapel in New York. Jacob told Joseph that he wanted to join those who had died before him, including his grandfather, Abraham, who received the first Jewish burial (Genesis 47:28–30). Jacob is buried in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

Another incentive to be buried in Israel is rooted in the belief that when the Messiah comes, those buried in Jerusalem will be resurrected first.

The significance of being buried in Israel is one Ginsberg both respects and anticipates for himself. He purchased his plot in Jerusalem years ago, and says 60% of those he serves are flown to Israel for burial. That choice doesn't come cheap. When Ginsberg bought his plot in 2000, it cost him \$4,500. But the plot next to his, he says, recently sold for \$25,000. Granted, one can choose to be buried outside of Jerusalem at better rates. But once the cost for the flight over is factored in, the price is still steep.

David Zinner, the executive director of K'vod v'Nichum, an organization that provides education and resources about traditional Jewish funerals and burials, points to passages in the Talmud where Rabban Gamliel, a first-century authority, argued against expensive burials. Zinner says Gamliel feared high prices deterred people from upholding traditions. To this day, Jews are traditionally not buried in fancy caskets. And there are many who argue that splurging for a burial in Israel makes little sense.

"Money is to help the living, to give to charity," Zinner says, summarizing that school of thought. ★

An example of Jewish history in the Land and our reverence for God's promises regarding it. As revisionist historians vie to shape the world's opinion, the Book tells the true story. We have been there "from time immemorial." —Myles



Coffins containing the Jewish victims in the French shooting arrive at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, including young schoolgirl (right).



Biblical Humor

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.



Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also probably a Honda, because the Apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ABC-Family Airing Day & Time by Zone

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

DirectTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	8 pm Wed 3 pm Fri	9 pm Wed 4 pm Fri	10 pm Wed 5 pm Fri	11 pm Wed 6 pm Fri

DirectTV—Channel 369 **Dish**—Channel 263

Inspirational Network Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	3:30 am Wed 12 pm Sun	4:30 am Wed 1 pm Sun	5:30 am Wed 2 pm Sun	6:30 am Wed 3 pm Sun

DirectTV—Channel 364 **Dish**—Channel 259

TCT pm DirectTV Channel 377—
Consult www.tct.tv
for viewing schedule

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

New Series from Israel Now Airing!



The People Choose God

By Aviel Schneider, *Israel Today*

Eight out of ten Jews in Israel believe in God; 72 percent believe in the power of prayer; and 67 percent believe that the Jews are the Chosen People. These are the results of a survey by the Guttman Center of the Israel Democracy Institute, which questioned Israeli Jews over a three-year period, from 2009 to 2012.

This intriguing survey is the latest evidence of how the issues of God, faith, and religion continue to impact the Israel of today as they did in ancient times. While the separation of religion and state is seen as a democratic value, spiritual issues are a dominant factor in Israeli politics and society. The reason is obvious: Israel's very existence is founded on biblical principles and history. This is why the Bible and, in turn, God Himself, play a prominent role in the Jewish nation and the broader Middle East conflict.

"Once there was a secular majority. No more," wrote Assaf Inbari in *Haaretz*. "The illusion of a 'secular majority' has been with us for many years, sabotaging the prospect of forging a pluralistic Jewish melting pot in Israel. The reason this did not happen is that atheists who believe they constitute a majority are as domineering as the ultra-Orthodox. It will happen only if we understand that it's not atheism—which is shared by ever-declining numbers of Israeli Jews—but pluralism, which is still shared by the majority, that is the basis for a democratic Jewish state."

Though the majority of Israelis believe in God, the survey found that they do not necessarily keep Jewish Law in the Orthodox sense. While 72 percent of Jewish families keep kosher and 68 percent fast on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), 65 percent watch TV on *Shabbat* (the Sabbath) and 52 percent surf the Internet on the holy day of

rest. Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jews, who make up 22 percent of the population, do not turn on electrical devices on the Sabbath, but the rest of the population is much more liberal.

Even though 80 percent of Israelis believe in God, just 51 percent believe in the coming of the Messiah.

Apparently, many people have run out of patience after millennia of waiting; or amid the constant threat of terror and war and a failed peace process, people have simply given up hope that the Messiah will turn up one day to bring peace and save the world. Orthodox Jews believe that there is a "potential" messiah living in every generation, while Messianic Jews await the return of The Messiah and hope that all Israel will acknowledge Him (Yeshua/Jesus).

Even if there are sometimes more and sometimes fewer Jews who believe in the God of Israel, His covenant with His people remains constant and valid. As in biblical times, the people's faithfulness may ebb and flow but God's faithfulness is unwavering and eternal. And He will keep His promises to display His power, and reveal Himself, through tiny Israel. ★



Destroy All the Churches

By Clifford D. May
Scripps Howard News Service

Imagine if Pat Robertson called for the demolition of all the mosques in America. It would be front-page news. It would be on every network and cable news program. There would be a demand for Christians to denounce him, and denounce him they would—in the harshest terms. The President of the United States and other world leaders would weigh in, too. Rightly so.

So why is it that when Abdulaziz ibn Abdullah Al al-Sheikh, the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, declares that it is “necessary to destroy all the churches in the Arabian Peninsula,” the major media do not see this as even worth reporting? And no one, to the best of my knowledge, has noted that he said this to the members of a terrorist group.



Al al-Sheikh is not the Arabian equivalent of some backwoods Florida pastor. He is the highest religious authority in Saudi Arabia, where there is no sepa-

ration of mosque and state, and the state religion is the ultra-orthodox/fundamentalist reading of Islam known as Wahhabism. He also is a member of the country’s leading religious family.

In other words, his pronouncements represent the official position of Saudi Arabia—a country that, we have been told time and again, changed course after 9/11/01 and is now our ally and solidly in the anti-terrorism camp.

This stands out against the most significant news story the mainstream

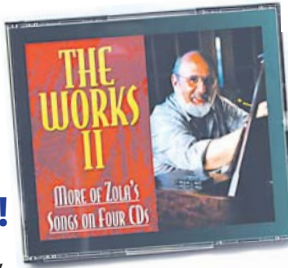
media insist on ignoring: the spreading and intensifying persecution of Christians in Muslim-majority countries. Churches

have been burned and/or bombed in Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The ancient Christian communities of Gaza and the West Bank are shrinking. In Pakistan, Asia Bibi, a Christian woman, is facing the death penalty for allegedly “insulting” Islam. In Iran, Youcef Nadarkhani sits on death row for the “crime” of choosing Christianity over Islam. ★



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