

# LEVITT LETTER

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.” – Romans 10:1

Putting mammon before God is what the following article is all about. And unfortunately, it involves what used to be America’s pre-eminent theological seminary. Our eminent senior theologian, Dr. Tom McCall, who holds the same doctorate from Dallas Seminary as its new president, finds Dr. Bailey’s theology full of elementary Bible mistakes. We print Dr. McCall’s voluminous article below because we feel it represents a manifesto of sorts on an accurate Biblical perception on Israel and prophecy today. — Zola



ZOLA LEVITT

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# Seminary President: Don’t Support Israel

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.



A refreshing affirmation of Biblical truth from a non-Christian Jewish commentator. — Zola

## You Will Be Blessed

By Dennis Prager, *Creators Syndicate*

In 1973, during the Arab embargo on oil exports that followed the Yom Kippur War between Israel and Egypt, many Americans had to deal with embargo-induced hour-long lines at gas stations, gas rationing, and various setbacks to the economy. As a result, some called for our abandonment of Israel for the sake of oil.

Those voices were not heard among evangelical Christians.

In fact, in a television broadcast from his church to his many followers, the Rev. Jerry Falwell said that he would sooner give up his car and ride a bicycle than yield to Arab blackmail. Citing Genesis 12:3, he explained that God “will bless those who bless the Jews and curse whoever curses the Jews.”

I have since heard this over and over from lay Christians calling my radio

The new president of Dallas Seminary, Dr. Mark Bailey, has published an article in the *Veritas* publication (Vol. 2, No. 3, July 2002) of the seminary in which he advises Christians not to get “caught up in the political divide” in the controversy between Israel and the Palestinians. Originally given as a speech to the President’s Council, a select group of influential Dallas business leaders organized to help raise funds for the seminary, Dr. Bailey deduces that neither the Jews nor the Arabs have any “permanent” claim on the Promised Land until Christ returns to establish His future reign in Israel for the Millennium. Therefore, he urges believers to adopt an evenhanded approach in which the Arabs must recognize God’s future promises to Israel, and the Jews must treat the Palestinians in their midst as they would want to be treated. In other words, Dr. Bailey is exhorting us not to take a stand for Israel under the current circumstances. The venerable Chancellor of the Seminary, Dr. John Walvoord, also provides a supplementary arti-

cle in which he concludes that “Dr. Bailey’s analysis is accurate.”

This is not a new view. The liberal National Council of Churches and the amillennialists have been preaching the same “evenhanded” attitude, or even a pro-Palestinian view, for many years, although they came to this conclusion in different ways. What is new (and tragic) is that this attitude is being officially adopted by a school that has a reputation for being Dispensational and for being a long-time friend of Israel.

### God has given the Land to Israel.

One of the amazing things about Dr. Bailey’s article is that he begins by clearly listing the Biblical promises of the Land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Joshua as unconditional and eternal. He asks and answers the following question correctly: “Who has a right to the land? God has promised it to Israel.” Furthermore, this promise of the land to Israel survives through-

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out history, even when God is disciplining Israel through the Babylonian Captivity and the age-long Dispersion. God will ultimately “bring Israel back into the land after discipline,” and, in the future Millennial reign of Christ, Israel will “treat the aliens and strangers as if they were Israelites.” In all of this we heartily concur with Dr. Bailey, but having stated this doctrine clearly, he appears to take much of it away in the rest of his article.

### WHY DR. BAILEY DOES NOT WANT TO SUPPORT ISRAEL

**He believes Israel is mistreating the Palestinians.** Dr. Bailey suggests that God’s promise of the Land to Israel is tempered by His admonition not to mistreat the aliens in their Land, as indicated in the Law: “Do not mis-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt” (Exodus 22:21). While he acknowledges the presence of a threat from militant Palestinian terrorists, he says that Israel is obligated to treat the Palestinians with kindness: “The land may belong to Israel, but the freedom to mistreat other people does not. God says numerous times, ‘Don’t mistreat them.’”

The implication is that Israel has mistreated the Palestinians in their midst. Thus, Dr. Bailey has bought in to the Arab and media propaganda that the Jews are oppressing the Palestinians. Is this true? In the first place, there are many Arabs who are living in Israel proper, such as in the Arab cities of Nazareth and Akko (Acre). They are full Israeli citizens who vote in elections and have Arab representation in the Parliament (Knesset). They live and work freely in Israel and have the highest standard of living of almost any Arab population in the Middle East. Where is the oppression here?

Secondly, the Palestinians living in Gaza, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), through their leaders, have declared animosity to the very existence of Israel. They have done everything they could during the past 35 years (since 1967) to destabilize Israel through wars, terrorism, strikes and general unrest. How does a nation treat kindly a group of people who are fanatically dedicated to destroying their host nation?

Obviously, the passage in Exodus does not refer to aliens who are inveterate enemies of the Hebrew people, but

rather to those aliens who desire to pursue life peaceably in the Land with Israel. Ruth, who came to Israel from Moab with Naomi, is one example of an alien who wanted to work peaceably and find a new life in her adopted country. She was treated very well, as the Law of Moses required.

The Philistines, on the other hand, are an example of aliens in the Land who declared war on Israel and wanted to destroy the Chosen Nation. God did not expect the Jews to treat the warring Philistines kindly. Rather, He raised up judges and kings to fight against the Philistines, their idolatries and their evil practices.

For Dr. Bailey to apply the passage in Exodus to Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian terrorists appears to involve a gross misunderstanding of both the passage and the realities of the Middle East conflict.

**He thinks it is presumptuous for us to give prophetic meaning to the current restoration of Israel.** When it comes to the current modern state of Israel, Dr. Bailey is not at all sure of what it means. He understands the prophecies about the future

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## THE SEVEN FEASTS OF ISRAEL

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### THE SEVEN FEASTS OF ISRAEL Audiocassette & STUDY BOOKLET PLEASE USE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 15



show and from Christian leaders with whom I have shared platforms.

I heard this again in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Focus on the Family, where I spoke to a few thousand supporters of that influential evangelical organization. There are many reasons for the support of conservative Christians for Israel — along with social conservatives, the only group giving such support — but their belief that God blesses those who bless the Jews and curses those who curse the Jews plays a central role.

When I first heard this verse cited by the Rev. Falwell, I certainly found it encouraging to hear a major Christian figure say this to fellow Christians. But perhaps because I had just completed graduate work in the social sciences, my rational faculties simply dismissed the idea as more quaint than believable.

Over time, however, that quote stayed with me. Eight years later, when Rabbi Joseph Telushkin and I wrote a book explaining antisemitism (*Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism*, Simon & Schuster), we noted this verse. But now, after seeing the resurgence of antisemitism in the Arab and Muslim worlds and in Europe, after being asked by the publisher to write a new version of the book, and after hearing Christians repeatedly cite this verse, I feel compelled to finally take a position: Is this verse Biblical poetry or verifiably true?

I am increasingly convinced that it is verifiably true.

I think of Spain, for example. One of the world's mightiest powers and most developed cultures in the 15th century, in 1492 it reached its zenith when it sent Christopher Columbus on a voyage that changed history. But the same year, it also expelled all its Jews and intensified the Spanish Inquisition against the many forced Jewish converts to Catholicism (*conversos*). Spain then descended

into a 500-year status as “the sick man of Europe.”

I think of Germany (and Austria) as the cultural and intellectual center of Europe, if not the world, before World War II. Then Germany (with Austrians' help) murdered nearly every Jew in Europe. Germany lost over seven million people, was divided for a generation, and while it now thrives materially, culturally Germany has become irrelevant. Ask anyone, even an intellectual, to name one living German.

And I think about the world today. Look at who most blesses the Jews and who most curses them, and you decide whether the verse in Genesis has validity.

It is the United States that has, since its inception, most blessed the Jews and that does so almost alone today — in its support of the Jewish state against those who wish to exterminate it. By almost any reckoning,

America has been, and remains, the most blessed of countries.

And it is the Arab world that curses the Jews. It rivals Nazi Germany for the ubiquity and intensity of its Jew-hatred. Look at its state. According to Arab scholars appointed by the United Nations to report on the state of Arab society, that part of the world lags behind the rest of humanity, including in most instances sub-Saharan Africa, in virtually every social, moral and intellectual indicator. And there is no question but that its half-century long preoccupation with destroying Israel has only increased the Arab world's woes.

No one can prove it is God who actively blesses those who bless the Jews and curses those who curse them. But, at the same time, the evidence historically and this very moment suggests that there is indeed a real connection between the state of a society and its treatment of the Jews. ■





restoration of Israel in God's plan, but he is a complete agnostic about the significance of the living nation of Israel today:

...from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back' (Deut. 30:4). Is that what is happening today? I can't say for sure.... I don't know what that means. This may be the prelude to end-times events, but I think we're presumptuous if we try to give it meaning beyond that. It may be, that's all we can say."

By taking this position (or non-position), he apparently feels he is not required to see the hand of God in the current restoration of Israel. This after all, he may think, could merely be the workings of the will of man, doomed to failure. If Israel today is not part of the divine prophetic plan, he is under no obligation to support it or to justify it. He can stand serenely on the sidelines, pontificating as to what Israel is doing right or wrong.

What President Bailey ignores, though, is the prophecy of the process involved in the end-times restoration of Israel, and the miraculous nature of the restoration of Israel we have observed on the world stage going back over 100 years, in spite of enormous Satanic opposition. The passages he quotes on the restoration of Israel all have to do with the final stages of prophecy, when Christ returns to the earth and establishes His kingdom from Jerusalem. But there is a remarkable prophecy in Ezekiel 37 that describes the end-times regathering as a process, perhaps a very lengthy one, in the "Valley of the Dry Bones." The Lord interprets this prophecy as the gradual regathering of the "dry bones" of the Jewish people from the "graveyards" of the nations to which they have been dispersed:

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel"' (Ezek. 37:11-12).

The process involves the collection of the bones into skeletons, then flesh comes upon them and they become cadavers strewn across the Valley. Finally, at the end of the process, the breath of God comes upon the bodies, and they become a living, breathing, Spirit-filled army and nation. This is God's vision of how the restoration will take place.

How can anyone who believes the Word of God deny that we are seeing this work in progress at the present time? The Jewish people have been dispersed for almost 2,000 years, have found themselves persecuted from country to country in the graveyards of the nations, began to trickle back into the Land in the early 1900s, and then

began to stream back when the Balfour Declaration was made at the time Britain won control of the Land from Turkey in World War I. Balfour, by the way, was a Christian Foreign Minister of Britain, who believed fervently in the future of Israel, and worked to encourage the Zionist movement to have a Jewish homeland in "Palestine."

The Satanic response to God's early movement of the "dry bones" back to the Land was to raise up Hitler and his minions to destroy all the Jewish people he could (succeeding with over 6,000,000 in the ghastly concentration camps of the Holocaust), in his "final solution to the Jewish question," and in his mad dash for world control. If all the Jews were destroyed, it would certainly be difficult for them to restore Israel.

In spite of this horrendous Satanic effort of destruction, the surviving Jewish people of Europe and the world found even greater impetus to return to the Land. Within three years of World War II (1948), they had forged the independent nation of Israel, recognized by the United Nations, the United States and many of the leading countries of the world. For the first time in human history, a people who had been dispersed throughout the world, came back (against great odds) to their original homeland with their culture, religion, ethnicity and language intact! Can any believer deny that this is the work of the Almighty?

But there is more. Once Israel was established, its Arab neighbors were determined to dismantle it and throw the Jews into the Mediterranean Sea. The pressure has been unrelenting. Four wars were fought (1948, 1956, 1967 & 1973) to destroy Israel, backed by over 200,000,000 Arabs against some two to four million Israelis. To the wonder of the world, Israel was victorious. Following the unsuccessful wars there have been decades of terrorism, uprisings and unrest among the Palestinians and the Arab nations against Israel. Through it all, Israel has survived and even prospered. How can this not be the hand of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

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We heard back from the reported who we contended with last month.

## “Blood-lust for war”

Dear Mr. Levitt:

Thanks for reading at least some of my articles [“Saudis Struggle with Traditions, Need for Reform”]. Your commentary on my work [*Levitt Letter*, August 2002] lacks a foundation in fact, however.

I was in Saudi Arabia for two weeks preparing these articles. I went to Saudi Arabia for 10 days in 1987. And I lived in Saudi Arabia for two years between 1978-1980. I am familiar with the country. I have talked at great length with people from many walks of life in Saudi Arabia.

From the 1973-74 oil price spike until 2000, literacy in Saudi Arabia rose to 80 percent. One need only look at the sea of new houses and apartments in the major cities of the country to see that the standard of living has improved dramatically for nearly all Saudis, not just the royal family.

Freedoms of speech and petition are not guaranteed in Saudi Arabia. But they are much more in evidence today than they were 25 years ago. Editors get fired, writers sometimes go to jail, but these are not capital offenses in Saudi Arabia. And hundreds of Saudi intellectuals have circulated several quite blunt petitions in the last 10 years, without being punished for it.

Your assertion that the police officer I viewed at the mall was there to enforce the sermon of the mutawwain is plainly false. He would have been a busy police officer if that was his intent.

Overall, I found your insults and vehemence sad. It is always interesting, though, to see a religious commentator display such blood-lust for war.

Jim Landers  
*Dallas Morning News*

Dear Mr. Landers:

No, Jim, we quaint religious folk are plenty stupid and unsophisticated, but we don't lust for war because we know that we're already at war.

What we hope for is to prevail, because we don't want to end up living in bondage like the Saudis. Indeed, the religious people consumed with a blood lust for war are those same Saudis, whose religious leaders preach hatred of Americans and hatred of Jews, death to America and death to Israel, and death to all the infidels.

Frankly, I don't really think a two-week trip represents adequate preparation to make pronouncements on the front page of a newspaper so well known for its Arab partisanship. (Or, maybe it is these days in journalism.) When I was a newspaper reporter, I took more time and reported much more truthfully about what I saw.

As a television commentator, I have taken 75 trips to various Middle Eastern countries over the past 30 years, interviewing ordinary citizens as well as the key players in the Arab-Israeli conflict. During my last visit a few months ago, I learned of Saudi financing of Palestinian terrorism in Israel, something you failed to mention in your article. And what about the Americans held captive? And the “visa express” program? And the young girls burned to death by actions of religious police like those you personally observed?

You insult me because I am “religious,” but you don't address the key points of my criticism of your article (except for your view of the policeman at the shopping mall, and I have quite a bit of familiarity with Moslem “policemen”). Would you please comment on the fact that the Saudi royal family is draining the wealth of their own country and stashing it away in Swiss bank accounts? Or the fact that the standard of living in that enormous oil-rich land is not even half of what it is in Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, notwithstanding the “sea of new houses” you observed? The same sea of new houses is apparent in the West Bank, but I would never learn that from the *Dallas Morning News*.

I'm glad that when editors are fired and writers are jailed, they do not *always* face capital punishment. But I personally interviewed a former Saudi government secretary, rescued by a hair's breadth from being executed for holding a private Christian prayer meeting in his home.

Saudis may enter America without prejudice (or profiling) and not be arrested on the spot because they praise their god, or because they go to a mosque to pray. But give me an opinion, Jim: For which reason do you think I would be arrested the moment I stepped onto Saudi soil — because I am a Jew or because I am a Christian? You did not mention the fact that our own soldiers — sent there to defend the country — routinely have their rights trampled because of Islamic hatred and intolerance.

I don't have a blood lust for anything, but unlike the *Morning News*, I want to see America deal with its real enemies. I abhor this politically-correct policy that elevates those who wish death to us to the status of friends.

Zola Levitt

We received no reply.



# ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD

## Next Month in Jerusalem!

Things are quieting down now in the Holy Land. This is a good time to go. Our Deluxe Israel Tour departs on October 22 and returns on November 1. The Grand Petra tour begins on October 19 and meets with our Deluxe Tour. The Ultra Grand group will enjoy the Grand Petra tour plus a 7-day Greek Isle Cruise & Land excursion that returns on November 9. Our Biblical Greece Tour embraces both land and sea from October 30 through November 9. Please request your color tour folder from Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours, or 1-800-WONDERS anytime.



## Zola in Oklahoma City

Following *Prophecy in the News*, Zola Levitt Presents is now airing on Sunday evenings at 10:00 on KSBI-52 in Oklahoma City. You can see our National TV Airing Schedule at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com). Especially noteworthy are our two major network air times: ABC-FAM - late-late on Sunday nights... 1:00 AM on both coasts, midnight Central Time, and TBN - early on Monday mornings... 8:00 AM Eastern, 7:00 AM Central, 6:00 Mountain, 5:00 Pacific Time.

## A Blessing Unto All Nations

A blind Palestinian 16-year-old from Jenin regained her eyesight thanks to a cornea donation from an Israeli donor. Dr. Moshe Daniel, Deputy Director of The West Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, said that the humanitarian operation was financed almost entirely by the Jewish hospital.

## What About Saddam Hussein?

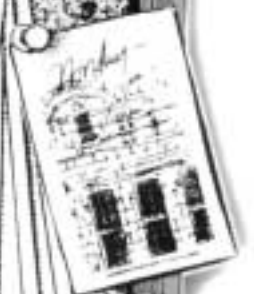
Libyan leader Colonel Gadaffi is to head an international watchdog group on human rights! Libya is to be elected chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights - despite its links with terrorism and torture. Libyan terrorists were responsible for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, which killed 270 people, and Gadaffi's regime has been ostracized for violence against its own people. Since Arafat won the Nobel Peace Prize, why not Gadaffi?

## More Clowns...

A doll caused a security alert at Los Angeles International Airport because its two-inch plastic gun was considered a dangerous weapon. Judy Powell, 55, had packed the toy in her hand luggage. "Security examined the toy as if it was going to shoot them." Mrs. Powell had to put the gift - minus the "rifle" - in her suitcase so it could go in the aircraft's hold. An airport spokesman said, "We have instructions to confiscate anything that looks like a weapon or a replica."

## In Danger of Collapse

Archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar of Hebrew University says that both the problem and its cause are obvious. "Precisely on the other side of the bulge in the southern wall is where the major works of destruction were carried out by the Waqf [the Moslem body that controls the Temple Mount] starting in 1996. Tractors worked there, and tremendous quantities of fill - composed of ancient artifacts - were taken out. The Waqf has placed some scaffolding there but its an inadequate solution because it's simply not strong enough to hold up the massive wall.



Dear Friends:

**A**nti-Semitism is witnessed today through attacks against Jews around the world. I contend that the root of this hatred toward the Chosen People and the nation of Israel is fundamentally a hatred toward God. It's simply expressed in hatred toward what God has made and favored. This attitude includes Moslems, the KKK, the Nazis and even some Jews who have turned their backs on Israel. They all have an underlying problem with God Himself.

Israel is a fairly easy target for criticism these days. Anti-Semitic cameramen, journalists and diplomats help shape world opinion against that nation. Israel's too tough on the Palestinians, we're told. Israel's a bully, they say. And on it goes.

What is it about Jewry that makes people so angry? What gross sin have they committed that demands their expulsion from Israel, as many in the world call for, or at least would passively allow to happen? Are they not our doctors and lawyers and dentists and scientists and philanthropists and so many other contributing members of society? You don't hear of a large Jewish population in our prisons or of Jewish gangsters. Occasionally a bad apple makes the news, but by and large the Jews are peaceful citizens in our world, unlike their Arab oppressors.

And yet they are despised. Why? I think it's simply because they are chosen by God. Because the people who despise and persecute and criticize them have a problem with God. This is true even in Christendom. They can't admit they have a problem with the Creator, so they transfer their hatred to what God has made and what God has chosen. And that includes the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

Our feature article this month by Dr. Tom McCall (for which we've allotted six pages) details how even our revered theological institutions can allow themselves to fail in their support for God's people and God's precious possession. It's more than just an article. It's a fundamental statement about the waning support of Israel cropping up more and more in evangelical circles. I expect this kind of response from certain Catholics and liberal Protestants. But I'm alarmed by the growing number of so called Bible-believing Christians who would rather join the mindless censuring of Israel than stand unashamedly for the Chosen People and their prophetic return to the Land. Read Dr. McCall's article thoughtfully and then pass it on to those who may need a reminder about what's important to God. And next month look for an article by Todd Baker, a former student under Dr. Bailey, who describes his outrage at the turnabout by this so-called Bible teacher.

Every month I receive letters from those who support me, as well as from those who disagree. I print both in this newsletter for you. But I am overwhelmed with encouragement by our readers and viewers who tell me to keep on telling the truth about Israel, about our war on terrorism, and about Bible schools that stray from the promises of God. These are tasks the Lord has given us and with your faithful prayers, we will persevere.

I've just returned from an extended time of teaching in churches across

# A Note From Zola



the West and will shortly be packing my bags again for our fall tours. Let me highlight these for you:

If you've not decided yet about going to Israel, don't wait much longer. This will be a celebration tour commemorating our 75th pilgrimage to the Promised Land. Beginning October 19, our Fall Tour to Israel is a great opportunity to visit when the country is less crowded and more accommodating to visitors, as well as providing an opportunity to have more personal contact with the rest of the group, our skilled guides and me, as we lead you through the best sites of the Holy Land. Five exciting itineraries are available. See page 6 for details.

On the heels of our trip to Israel, I'll be hosting another "Bless Israel-Solidarity Tour" here in Dallas at the Biblical Arts Center on Saturday, November 16. Just \$49 dollars for a day pack-

ed with teaching, touring and worship.

Sign up today for our tour to the Holy Land Experience in Orlando,

Florida. This popular Biblical venue in America offers a comprehensive look at the holy sites of Israel without having to leave our shores. Register today for November 29-December 1, December 6-8, or December 27-29. Call Tony at (214) 696-9760 for more information.

The people who despise and persecute and criticize them have a problem with God.

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# Letters to Zola

on us, and targeting Jews and Christians around the world for terrorism, as seen in America, in Israel, in Europe, in Indonesia, just to name a few places. In fact, black African Christians are being raped, executed, and sold into slavery by oppressive

Dear Zola:

I am a member of the Presbyterian Church and a subscriber to your newsletter. I find it to be a refreshingly clear and accurate source of information on Israel and the Mideast situation. I was as shocked and outraged as B.H. was when he found that his church contributed to Palestinian causes.



Muslim regimes. Wake up! The Muslim world has already declared war against those they call the infidels! — Zola



Would you please send any evidence I may use to convince others not to fund Palestinian causes. One does not get an abundance of accurate information on the subject from the media. — GB

Dear GB:

What shocks me is that churchgoers do not inform themselves more as to where their contributions are going. From time to time we offer investigative reports, articles, and letters which make these problems known, but our primary concern is teaching the Scriptures. I would suggest that you investigate these issues as the Lord leads you. The internet makes it much easier today. — Zola

Dear Zola-

I am a Christian who embraces my Hebraic Roots, but I am outraged at a comment you made in your newsletter. You said, "If we do not immediately watch, profile and yes 'spy on' the Arabs and Moslems among us, we will truly lose this war. This is not discrimination; it is common sense. One of our minorities has a plan to overthrow our government and take over our country." This is a reckless and hateful statement.

The fact of the matter is, if you want to take a look at "what profile" historically demonstrates violence in this country, you and other white males better take a look in the mirror.

I pray that you will print a retraction and check your own hatred at the door. I am an African-American female with Ethiopian Jewish heritage and as a minority in this country have personally felt the mass hatred because of comments like the one you have made. I am not angry with you, but I am outraged and feel you should be held accountable. — BD

Dear BD:

You are angry with me, or you wouldn't have referred to me racially as a "white male" or accused me of hatred. We are not talking about a domestic political issue or violence in America; this is war on a global scale. The Arab-Muslim world has attacked the United States of America, and continues to threaten us with more terrorism. It's time to keep tabs on our enemy; believe me, they're keeping tabs

Dear Zola:

I would just like you to know what an impact Zola left in this area. After the Sunday broadcast I phoned Barnes and Noble to see if I could get the [Joan] Peters book. I reserved it. When I went in today the clerk stated they had been swamped with orders and asked what was the reason. Just thought I would let you know. — LM

**Editor's Note:** There has been a tremendous surge in requests for the book *From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict over Palestine* by Joan Peters due to our interview with her. We highly recommend your reading this important book. Please contact your local bookseller or find it at [www.shopnetdaily.com](http://www.shopnetdaily.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). ISBN: 0-9636242-0-2

Dear Friends in Christ:

I have been aware for several years of Dallas Seminary's turning from a clear dispensational approach to the Scripture. I graduated from DTS in '58 before going to mission field for 40 years.

We see the degeneration of another school that has had a magnificent ministry of preparing the Lord's workers since its beginning, MBI [Moody Bible Institute].

Regarding the one required Bible course for graduation, would not the rest of the Bible be covered by the electives which a student may choose, depending on his major? — CT

Dear CT: "sliding down a slippery slope"

A Bible major ought not to have to learn most of the Bible only from elective courses. These should be core, required courses. Dr. Tom McCall has written extensively on these two schools, as in this issue of the *Levitt Letter*. The degeneration of these once-trusted institutions is reminiscent of Harvard, Yale, Fuller, etc., all of which abandoned a core commitment to teaching the Bible. Dallas and Moody are sliding down a slippery slope as we predicted many times. — Zola



Dear Zola:

Here are some headlines you might not have seen from today's liberal press. — FW

On David vs. Goliath:  
HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION  
Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:  
FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY  
400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:  
HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS  
Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple

Dear Zola and Friends:

I've been noticing an ominous trend among evangelicals toward downplaying their support for the present-day State of Israel, giving the explanation that there are rights and wrongs on both sides of the issue. These pastors always give a short explanation that, of course, their heart has always been with Israel but that we now have to be considerate of both sides.

I recently sent a letter to Mart DeHaan at RBC Ministries regarding the same trend of "we can't support the government of Israel...right and wrong on both sides," etc. I have the feeling that all these people are unwittingly aiding the cause of evil and giving comfort to all those who desire the destruction of Israel.

Thank God you are there to keep us on the right path and love attitude toward the State of Israel and Jews everywhere. — LC

Dear LC:

Many "evangelicals" are coming out in opposition to Israel, as Dr. McCall's cover article describes. The reasons are myriad, I suppose — fundraising, fear of Muslim retaliation, theological drifting, political correctness, a twisted sense of justice — but it all adds up to one thing: cursing the Chosen People (Genesis 12:3). — Zola

Dear Zola:

I am a former Marine, a Christian, and previously somewhat anti-Semitic. I had the opportunity to live, eat, and go the *masjid* [mosque] with Palestinians here in America that have returned to Israel to fight a jihad. They say that, "Hitler did not finish the job." They hate Jews and hate America for its Judeo-Christian background.

I cannot believe that since 9-11, the USA has not gone full swing for Israel on the war against terrorism. I suppose that the same anti-Semitic spirit that infests Europe, and even affected me as an exchange student in Germany, blinds Americans even to this day.

At least I can say with certainty, having read the Koran cover to cover, and practicing as a Muslim with Arabs, that the brand of Islam the ignorant Americans are defending is nothing more than a springboard for more homicidal attacks on innocent people. — JR

## American Muslim: An Oxymoron?

Can a devout Muslim be an American patriot and loyal citizen?

Theologically, no. Because his allegiance is to Allah, the moon god of Arabia.

Scripturally, no. Because his allegiance is to the five pillars of Islam and the Quran.

Geographically, no. Because his allegiance is to Mecca, to which he turns in prayer five times a day.

Socially, no. Because his allegiance to Islam demands that he make no friends of Christians and Jews (Q. 5:51).

Politically, no. Because he must submit to the mullah, who teaches annihilation of Israel and destruction of America, the great Satan.

Domestically, no. Because he is instructed to marry four women and beat and scourge his wife when she disobeys him (Q. 4:34).

Religiously, no. Because no other religion is accepted by his Allah except Islam—intolerance (Q. 2:256).

Intellectually, no. Because he cannot accept the American Constitution since it is established on Biblical principles, and he believes the Bible to be corrupt.

Philosophically, no. Because Islam, Muhammed, and the Quran do not allow freedom of religion and expression. Democracy and Islam cannot co-exist. Every Muslim government is dictatorial or autocratic except Turkey.

Spiritually, no. Because when we declare "one nation under God," the Christian's God is a triune God, while the Muslim's is one entity called "Allah," who is never a heavenly Father, nor is he ever called "Love" in the 99 excellent names.

*Dr. Anis Shorrosh, a former Muslim turned to Christ*

## Moody Bible (?) Institute – Part 2

By Tom McCall, Th.D.



Last month we presented an investigative report from our sources at Moody Bible Institute. In essence, the school with “Bible” as its middle name now requires only *one* actual study of the Bible, the book of Romans. During the entire four-year program, Moody graduates future pastors and Bible teachers who have scarcely glanced over the other 65 books of the Bible! We conclude our report below, showing you just how insignificant Moody’s middle name has become.

On page 65 of the catalog, the Bachelor of Arts degree is outlined. This four-year program contains 130 total semester hours (one course is approximately 3 semester hours). The largest clustering of hours, 47 in number, is not devoted to the Bible. Rather, we discover that this is reserved for General Education courses like English, Philosophy, Psychology, Math, Science, P.E., etc.

Twenty-seven hours are devoted to one’s major. Moody offers eighteen different majors (only one of which is a Bible major). Six hours are set aside for electives. The Christian Ministry Core (subjects dealing with preparation for Christian service) receives 15 hours. The remainder of the hours are allotted to Biblical and Theological Studies, namely 35. That’s only 27% of the entire 130 hours needed. At this point, the “Bible” in Moody’s

name seems to be shrinking.

Upon closer inspection, we discovered that of these 35 hours, only 25 actually fall into the category of Bible-related course work. Now we’re down to 19%. But it gets worse. Only 9 of the 25 hours (three 3-hour courses) are devoted to the study of specific Bible material. These include Romans, an OT elective, and a Bible elective (which could simply be an independent reading course, Bible archaeology, Biblical theology, etc.). If the student opted for three real Bible courses, that still equals only 7% of his study at Moody. In his four years at the “Bible” institute, that’s only 3 courses out of 44.

The other 16 hours of Bible and Theology studies include an OT survey course and a NT survey course, one course on Bible introduction, and three courses on Bible Study Methods. The survey courses are just that — quick, cursory examinations of the Bible, broad brushstrokes of what the Bible is all about. That a student would graduate from Moody “Bible” Institute without being required to do an in-depth study of the books of the Bible is inconceivable.

The bottom line is this: A student graduating from Moody “Bible” Institute could conceivably take just *one* Bible course: Romans.

How did this disastrous decline in education come

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## Hebrew Lesson

By John J. Parsons



עֲרַנִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי כְּחַסְדְּךָ

Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to thy mercy.  
(Psalm 109:26 KJV)

<p>כְּחַסְדְּךָ</p> <p>(4) (3) (2) (1)</p> <p>kha de chss kh'</p> <p>according to your mercy</p>	<p>הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי</p> <p>(4) (3) (2) (1)</p> <p>nee ey shee ho</p> <p>Save me</p>	<p>אֱלֹהֵי</p> <p>(3) (2) (1)</p> <p>hai lo e</p> <p>my God</p>	<p>יְהוָה</p> <p>Adonai</p> <p>LORD</p>	<p>עֲרַנִּי</p> <p>(3) (2) (1)</p> <p>ni rey oz</p> <p>Help me</p>
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Read right to left:  
... (3) ← (2) ← (1)

### HEBRAIC INSIGHT

Sometimes all we can do is cry out to Adonai for help: help for our pain; help for our loneliness; help for our fears; help for our struggles against evil. We have hope in the Salvation – the *Yeshua* – of the LORD. Jesus the Messiah is the *Chesed* – the Mercy – of Adonai given in the flesh. This is a Mercy not unfamiliar with the sorrows and heart-aches and struggles of human life, for this Mercy willingly partook of the bitterest of human suffering and bore it within His own flesh in order to restore us in hope to Adonai. Yes, the Lord Jesus came and suffered and died for us so that we might be reconciled to Adonai in the hope of His Mercy. In the cry of your own inmost heart, ask the LORD God for the precious gift of His salvation through Jesus the Messiah, the merciful Lord!

about? Beginning in the early 1980s, the administration at Moody chose to expand its three-year diploma program to its current four-year B.A. degree. By the mid-1990s, external accreditation from the secular North Central Association of Colleges and Schools was being pursued. The faculty began to experience growth in order to accommodate staffing needs in the various General Education courses now required. Were Bible courses expanded as well? No. In fact, some losses were noted. The Survey course configuration was actually diminished in hours from ten to eight. Also, certain previously required courses were dropped, such as the Gospel of John.

Consider the following statements found on pages 13-15 of the 2001-02 catalog:

*The mission of the Undergraduate Division of the Moody Bible Institute is to provide a Bible-centered education that enables students to know Christ and serve him through His Church in vocational ministry.*

*In keeping with our mission, our intent is to graduate students who have developed a biblical worldview...as demonstrated by a knowledge of the Bible....*

*A study of the Bible constitutes the most significant discipline for any person. This concept is reflected in the Institute's motto: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. As the central integrating factor of the total curriculum of the Institute, the Bible grants us a unique perspective on the...teaching-learner process....*

A noble aspiration. But sadly, with the abbreviation of the Bible at Moody "Bible" Institute, this no longer translates into reality. How can one expect students to be Biblically-literate when they're not even required to study the 66 books of the Bible? Moody's middle name has now become just an initial!

And frankly, Moody Bible Institute is not the only school around graduating students who are genuinely lacking in solid Bible training. Parents, it's time for you to do your homework before investing in your child's education.

■

## Fog of War

By Thomas L. Friedman, *New York Times*

A remarkable news article from Gaza appeared in *The Washington Post*, and it deserved more attention than it got. The article reported that for the past month, the 12 main Palestinian factions had been holding

secret talks to determine the "ground rules for their uprising against Israel, trying to agree on such fundamental issues as why they are fighting, what they need to end the conflict and whether suicide bombings are a legitimate weapon."

I can't say I'm surprised. From the moment this uprising began, I, and others, argued that it was a reckless, pointless, foolish adventure. Why? Because at the time the Palestinians had before them on the table, from the U.S. and Israel, a credible diplomatic alternative to war — a peace offer that would have satisfied the vast majority of their aspirations for statehood.

From the moment this intifada got rolling, Palestinians have never been able to explain why they were adopting armed struggle, killing Israeli civilians with suicide bombs and exposing their own people and institutions to utter devastation — when they had a credible opening diplomatic offer to end the occupation.

Oh, yes, Palestinian spokesmen, and their chorus in the Western diplomatic corps and media, would tell you things like this: The U.S. offer wasn't for 96 percent of the West Bank, it was for only 90 percent (not true), or the U.S. and Israeli proposals did not offer the Palestinians a contiguous state in the West Bank, but just a collection of "bantustans" (not true). But even if the opening U.S. and Israeli offers were as insufficient as the Palestinians claim, they never justified this ruinous war. A Palestinian peace overture to improve those offers would have gotten them so much more and spared them so much pain.

But the Arab and European "friends" of the Palestinians, instead of confronting them on this issue, became their apologists and enablers, telling us why the Palestinians' "desperation" had led them to suicide bombing.

And where was Yasir Arafat's leadership? Resting as usual on his motto: "It doesn't matter where my people want to go, even if it's into a ditch. All that matters is that I get to drive."

But there is a message in this bottle for America, too. It's the first rule of warfare: never launch a war that you can't explain to your people and the world on a bumper sticker. If it requires an explanation from a Middle East expert on CNN, you're on the wrong track. The Palestinians could never explain why they were killing Jews to end an occupation that the U.S. and Israel were offering to end through diplomacy. There is only one bumper-sticker phrase that can explain such behavior: "Death to Israel." And if that is their real strategy, then a war to the death it will be. If it's not, then what have they been up to? ■



Furthermore, all of this perfectly depicts the end-time scenario that Israel would return to the Land in unbelief. It is estimated that only about 5,000 of the 5 million Israelis are believers in the Lord Jesus as their Messiah and Redeemer. Thus, the vast majority of Jews in Israel are in unbelief. But this is to be expected. How else are they going to be intact as a nation after the Rapture of the Church in order to enter into a treaty with the Antichrist as is predicted?

For people to be agnostic about this miraculous historic development is not unlike the attitude of those who did not recognize “the signs of the times” at Jesus’ first coming. They could predict weather patterns but could not see what God was doing before their very eyes, the Lord observed. There is really no excuse for us to claim ignorance about the prophetic significance of the restoration of Israel in our time.

*It is actually more presumptuous for us to think that all of this has come about without the prophetic guidance of the hand of the Lord.*

**He says we can support Israel only when they adopt the policy of “treating others as you would like to be treated.”** Dr.

Bailey implies that Israel must meet certain conditions before he can consider support for the embattled nation. He says that they have a serious problem that they have not addressed properly:



Do you know what is lacking in Israel? Just a minor, little plank in God’s program: treating others as you would like to be treated. By the way, do you want to know how profound that statement is? If this principle were employed and practiced, there would be no theft, no ghetto, no violence, no espionage, no terrorism, no drive-by shootings, and no drug abuse. It would remedy society’s ills.

There it is! There’s Dr. Bailey’s answer to the Middle East crisis! All Israel and the other nations have to do to bring peace is to treat others like they want to be treated. Granted, this is sound advice for individuals from the Lord, and it would be practical among peoples of good will, but the Lord never prescribed such action for nations whose very existence was being threatened by evil men.

Would President Bailey counsel such action for the United States in facing such fanatical dictators as Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo during World War II? Would he advise the U.S. to treat Hitler and the Nazis the way we would like to be treated? If we had done so, without divine intervention we would probably all be wearing swastikas and speaking German by now! It is totally naïve for us to demand that Israel abstain from defending itself against those who

would try to destroy the young nation. It is abundantly clear, though, that when anybody indicates they sincerely want to live in peace with Israel, they are met more than halfway with respect and appreciation by the Israelis.

**He thinks the Jews will have no permanent claim to the land until they accept Jesus as the Messiah.** Now the President of Dallas Seminary decides when and how Israel will have a right to the Land, and he concludes that they cannot claim the Land until they receive Christ:

...until the Jews understand that the Messiah happens to be Jesus, they will have no permanent claim on the land. Only through personal faith in Christ can one be promised a share in the inheritance centered in the Messiah and His future reign and rule in the land of Israel.

It appears that Dr. Bailey, like many others, confuses ownership and possession. A person can own real estate and not possess it, and *vice versa*, or he can do both. Israel has been given an everlasting, irrevocable and unconditional grant of **ownership** to the Land. However, **possession** of the Land is conditioned upon Israel’s obedience, as is indicated in the Mosaic Law. So, when Israel is obedient, they can live in the Land; when disobedient, they are to be removed from the Land.

The question is, when was Israel ever sufficiently obedient to **deserve** the privilege of occupying the Land? At the time of Moses? Hardly. After the debacle at Kadesh-Barnea, the people of Israel were constantly straying from the Lord as they wandered in the wilderness. At the time of Joshua? No. After the Exodus generation died in the wilderness, the next generation entered in to the Land, but quickly demonstrated that they failed in obedience in the sin at Ai, and in their failure to destroy all of the idolatrous inhabitants, as God commanded them to do. At the time of the Judges and Kings? Certainly not. Israel was in a spiritual roller coaster for hundreds of years, with decades of disobedience punctuated by periods of partial obedience to the Lord. God sent prophet after prophet to His Chosen Nation outlining their sins and calling the people to repentance. After **800 years of disobedience**, the Lord’s patience was finally exhausted, and by then, both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were exiled into captivity.

What had kept the people in possession of the Land for 800 years when there was clearly so much disobedience? There was something else in operation, **the grace of God**. Within a few years after Israel began its original possession of the Land, there was no question that they did not deserve to possess it based on their obedience. Why, then did they continue to possess it for so long? It can only be explained by God’s grace. His grace and forbearance allowed Israel to possess the Land for many centuries until even His patience was finally exhausted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Later, when Israel was near the end of its 70-year Captivity, Daniel sought the restoration of Israel back to the Land in order to rebuild the Temple of the Lord. He does not plead the case before the Lord that Israel has been obedient, and therefore deserves the right to possess the Land. Rather, Daniel acknowledges the sinfulness of the nation, and begs the Lord to forgive Israel for all their sins:

“O my God, incline Thine ear and hear! Open Thine eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Thy name; for we are not presenting our supplications before Thee **on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Thy great compassion.** O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy name” (Daniel 9:18-19).

Thus, he pleads for the restoration of Israel, not on the basis of obedience, but on the basis of God’s grace and love for His disobedient covenant people. Therefore, by His grace, the Lord restored the Jewish people back to the Land where they lived in general disobedience, again, for over 500 years until after the first coming of Christ and the Roman destruction of 70 AD. Now, after over 1900 years, we are seeing another restoration of Israel in the Land, once more in general disobedience and unbelief. Is their spiritual condition any different now than it has been in the past periods of possession of the Land? I think not. Their current possession of the Land is once more by God’s grace, although they may not realize it.

It is true that the Millennial blessings of the Second Coming of Christ will not come to Israel until they receive Jesus as their Messiah nationally, but there is much that must occur prophetically while Israel is in the Land before the Second Coming: the Rapture of the Church, the Tribulation, Armageddon and the National Salvation of Israel. Thus, by God’s grace, Israel must have possession of the Land while it is still in unbelief.

*Israel’s unbelief is not a legitimate argument against their possessing the Land under the current circumstances. Rather, this is exactly how God prophesied Israel would possess the Land in preparation for the Tribulation.*

## SHOULD CHRISTIANS SUPPORT ISRAEL’S POSSESSION IN UNBELIEF?

**He says we should not get caught up in supporting Israel.** Apparently, many of you, as well as the seminary alumni, are asking Dr. Bailey about his and the seminary’s stand concerning Israel. He responds, in effect, that he has no stand on behalf of Israel:

I am speaking on this because it is a personal burden and because we have a number of people asking, “What stand should we take?” May I encourage you to be careful about getting caught up in the political divide? As a believer, simply say, “I want God’s perspective. . . .”

As we have observed above, President Bailey implies that Israel is not sufficiently obedient to merit possession of the Land today. But we have shown that Israel never was sufficiently obedient to deserve to possess the Land. Yet God in His grace allowed them to possess it in unbelief and disobedience, in the past, for over 1300 years, and He blessed those Gentiles who supported Israel in its possession of the Land.

Think of Rahab the Canaanite. She did not tell the secret agents from Joshua: “I don’t know whether or not I should support your invasion. You people have been mighty disobedient to your God, with all your grumbling and idolatry out there in the desert, and He punished you for it. Furthermore, you are not going to treat us Canaanites very well. I don’t think you deserve to take this land from us.” Instead, she said, “**I know that the Lord has given you the Land,**” on the strength of the historical events of the Red Sea and the military victories across the Jordan River (Joshua 2:9-10). God blessed Rahab for this by saving her and her family from Jericho’s destruction, placing her in the genealogy of the Messiah Himself, and enrolling her in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 in the New Testament (Hebrews 11:32).

*I ask you, was God pleased with this Gentile woman’s support of Israel’s possession of the Land, even though they had been disobedient? Absolutely.*

Think of King Cyrus the Persian. When the 70-years’ captivity was over, and Persia miraculously and prophetically took over Babylon in an almost bloodless invasion, Cyrus made a decree (initiated by the God of Heaven) that the Jewish people were to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, and that he would provide for them all the wherewithal to accomplish this (Ezra 1:1-4). What if the king had told the Jewish people that they were removed from Jerusalem because they had displeased their God, and he would not change His judgment by helping them to return? But Cyrus did not take that attitude. Rather, he did everything he could to support Israel in its restoration to the Land. Certainly God blessed the Gentile King Cyrus by giving him such an easy victory over Babylon and one of the great empires of antiquity.



There are far more examples in the Bible of Gentiles who mistreated Israel than those who blessed Israel, but those who did bless Israel's possession of the Land were blessed just as God promised He would. Now it is our turn in our remarkable age. Israel is once again a nation among the family of nations. Will we bless and support Israel in its struggle to survive in the Land against overwhelming opposition from its neighbors? Or will we curse and oppose Israel?

*Or, as Dr. Bailey suggests, will we opt to "be careful about getting caught up in the political divide," and sit on the fence on the whole issue of Israel's possession of the Land God has given to His people?*

Would Rahab or King Cyrus sit on the fence today? I doubt it. Nor should we. The Lord has prophesied Israel's return just as we are seeing it come about, and the Lord has allowed it to come to pass in our time, not because Israel has deserved it, but by His sovereign grace. Come to think of it, do we as believers in Christ in the Church deserve all the blessings God has poured out upon us? By no means. We are just as much debtors to grace as Israel is, or more. How can we judge Israel for its disobedience when we are also disobedient servants of the Lord?

*Let us rather be like the Biblical examples and do what we can to support Israel today. Let us be vocal in our Churches, and let us write our representatives to back the survival of Israel against all its foes. Let us urge Israel's surrounding neighbors to bless Israel along with us, and thereby obtain the blessing of the Lord.*

One final thought. Not only are we to marvel over and support the restored Israel in its present condition, we should also support the revived Israeli Church. For the first time in more than 1900 years, there is a believing Israeli Church, Jews who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Messiah and Redeemer, in the Promised Land, a "remnant according to the election of grace" (Romans 11:5). Dr. Bailey sadly does not mention this great fact of the renewed Israeli Church in his article. One of the main things the Apostle Paul, in his day, urged the Churches among the Gentiles to do was to support in a tangible way "the saints in Jerusalem." The Church has not been able to do this for many centuries, but now we can. Have you and your Church supported any Jewish saints in Jerusalem recently? If you don't know of any, and would like to do so, call Zola's office and they will give you information about how you can support some Jewish believers in Israel now. I believe this is another very significant way we can demonstrate our support for what the Lord is doing in Israel in our time.

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Get off the fence and say to Israel with our ancient sister Rahab, "I know that the Lord has given you the Land."*** ■

Finally, prayerfully consider how you can assist in the support and evangelization of the nation of Israel. This month Todd Baker and John Gonzales of our staff are proclaiming the Good News of salvation through Messiah in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv and throughout Israel. Pray for them as they persuade men, women and children with the power of the Holy Spirit. And pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Your messenger,

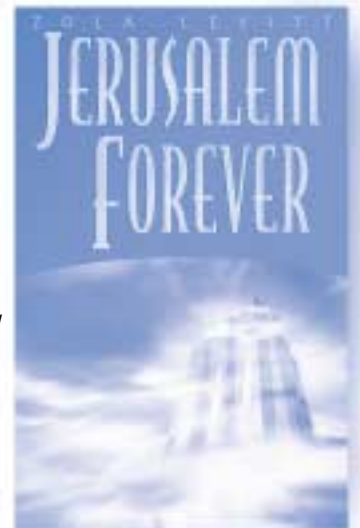
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After 25 centuries...

# 20 Years At Anatot

By Stuart Arden

(Anatot, Israel) – On Tuesday, July 23rd, 2002, our settlement celebrated its 20th anniversary. The festivities were held in our Community Center and light refreshments were available. The opening item was a video with many nostalgic shots and interviews, both of which had been compiled over those 20 years. This presentation brought smiles, chuckles, and cheers from the crowd.

A choir of ten people sang, an operetta with 6 women and 10 children was performed, one young girl showed-off her gymnastic skill, 35 children from the kindergarten sang and then with the lights out held up phosphorescent letters saying "Anatot" as well as doing movements with sparklers, there was also an accordion and contrabass duo.

In the operetta, which was a humorous recitation of the history of the settlement, all of the women except one (our own irrepressible tour guide number 2, Joni Arden), were native-born Israelis. Joni and Batya Shalev, an elementary school counselor and member of an international folk dance group, and flamenco dancer, also danced as a duo to a piece choreographed by Joni. Those of you who watch Zola's program on a regular basis may have seen Joni dancing previously.

The entire presentation was preceded by a rabbi's blessing, a speech by a representative of our regional council (similar to an American county), and a short talk by Avi Shapira, the head of the settlement's executive committee. ■



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