

LEVITT LETTER

“BRETHREN, MY HEART’S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL IS THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.” – ROMANS 10:1

“The Christian God is a God of forgiveness.”

Believe Jesus Enough to Follow Him

Excerpts from www.beliefnet.com

Despite my attempts to avoid news of the Amish schoolhouse killings, the Amish practice of forgiveness eventually captivated me as it unfolded in four public acts over the course of a week. First, some elders visited Marie Roberts, the wife of the murderer, to offer forgiveness. Then, the families of the slain girls invited the widow to their own children’s funerals. Next, they requested that all relief monies intended for Amish families be shared with Roberts and her children. And, finally, in an astonishing act of reconciliation, more than 30 members of the Amish community attended the funeral of the killer.

As my husband and I talked about the spiritual power of these actions, I commented in an offhanded way, “It is an amazing witness to the peace tradition.” He looked at me and said passionately, “Witness? I don’t think so. This went well past witnessing. They weren’t witnessing to anything. They were actively making peace.”

He was right. Their actions not only witness that the Christian God is a God of forgiveness, but they actively created the conditions in which forgiveness could happen. In the most straightforward way, they embarked on imitating Christ: “Father,

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Christians Flock to the Feast –

Bolstering Israel’s Spirits and Economy www.icej.org

Billed by Israeli media and government officials as the largest tourist event of 2006, thousands of pilgrims from 80 nations congregated on the shores of the Dead Sea in early October before beginning the steep 4,000-foot upward climb for a week-long Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

It was, according to Tourism Minister Isaac Herzog, the first sign of a “major recovery” in the fortunes of the nation’s beleaguered tourist industry in the wake of the month-long summer border war with Hezbollah in Lebanon.



Organizers from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, the Israel-based ministry that for the past 27 years has hosted the annual

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forgive them; they know not what they do.” In acting as Christ, they did not speculate on forgiveness. They forgave. And forgiveness is, as Christianity teaches, the prerequisite to peace. We forgive because God forgave us; in forgiving, we participate in God’s dream of reconciliation and shalom.

The family of one of the girls gave this statement to the press: “We don’t know or understand why this happened, but we do believe God allowed this to happen. The rest of us, our lives will go on. We will try to work together to support and help the families directly involved, knowing that the innocent children likely need help in dealing with this tragedy of their friends, neighbors, and school-mates.” The girl’s great-uncle added, “There is sadness for everybody involved, including the man responsible for this tragedy.”

Newspaper headline: “Amish Families Hurt, but Find Way to Forgive.” It is a spirit not often seen in the news. A spirit in complete keeping with Jesus: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Matthew 5:43-44). And a

spirit that is now being sustained by Jesus: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ...Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” (Matt. 5:4,7)

The Amish community is known for its self-reliance. They do not have property insurance, so a community-wide barn-raising is held to replace one downed by fire. They do not hold health or life insurance, relying rather on the community. The news reports told of neighbors, friends, and relatives bringing food and comfort to the homes of the families. That’s what they do: Come together. In a time of great grief, there is the strength of family and community.



It is a community that lives by the words of Paul to his churches: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2) “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it...” (1 Corinthians 12:26) The Amish community is demonstrating to the world the truth of those verses. ✨

Christians Flock to the Feast *continued*

festival of music, preaching, and dance, say that this year’s Feast is expected to pump as much as \$15 million into the local economy and account for a staggering 16,000 hotel nights in the capital alone.

“Since 1980, God has used this ministry to revive the ancient Biblical tradition of the nations coming up to Jerusalem to keep this feast of joy,” said ICEJ Executive Director (and frequent guest of Zola) Rev. Malcolm Hedding, in his opening remarks to the colorful mix of nationalities gathered in the desert of Ein Gedi as the rising harvest moon marked the end of the first day of the Jewish celebration of Sukkot.

But more than that, at a time when Israel is faced with the growing existential threat of a nuclear Iran, the overwhelming support of Christians worldwide is making an indelible mark on the emotional and physical landscape of the country.

“This has been a very difficult year for us,” conceded Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressing Jerusalem’s packed International Convention Center in a televised video link. “God bless you for the kind of friendship which was significant for the people of Israel at such a terrible time.

“We had the courage to face the adversaries of the State of Israel largely because we have friends like you.”

Traveling from their home countries for more than a

simple tour of the Holy Land, pilgrims like Patricia Goodspeed of Colorado openly declare that they are here to express their commitment to Israel and “bring lovingkindness to the people.” In that same spirit, many of those attending this year’s celebration donated generously to local Christian relief efforts spearheaded by the ICEJ during the recent conflict with Lebanon.

But with the largest delegations coming from Scandinavia and South America, Israel’s traditional US-based evangelical support is somewhat dwarfed by the multi-national flavor of the feast—a celebration that the Bible says will one day be observed by “all the peoples of the earth.” (Zech. 14:16)

Speaking to ICEJ News after addressing the crowded Jerusalem auditorium, Herzog—a rising star in Israel’s center-left Labor party and tipped as a future premier—was visibly moved by the ethnic and geographic diversity of Israel’s many Christian friends, especially at a time when the nation is reeling from a 40% fall in regular tourist stays.

“I was taken aback and overwhelmed by what I saw,” Herzog admitted.



Isaac Herzog

“When I first met with the leaders of the Christian Embassy they spoke of 3,500 [pilgrims] coming. Then a few days later, 4,000. Now there are over 5,000 here. It speaks for itself: A major recovery,” he added.

“And from over 80 nations? Absolutely incredible!”

Tolerating Intolerance

By
Patrick Cox,
Contributing
Editor



For most of my professional life I have been engaged in secular political debates, analyzing this or that law or policy, and arguing their finer points. For writers and analysts working in this arena, the tools of the trade can be summarized, using the terminology of classical philosophy, as “Reason.”

Reason, which encompasses science, logic, and other rational analytical tools, contrasts with “faith.” Though the elevation of Reason—over superstitious and theocratic theories such as the “divine right of kings”—occurred over many centuries, it reached a pinnacle during the “Enlightenment” of the late 18th century. It was during this period, more than two centuries ago, that America’s founders launched their experiment in self-government based on individual liberty and the rule of law.

It was not painless. Americans fought a bloody revolution to free themselves from Britain’s monarchy and, almost a hundred years later, paid an even higher price in the war that finally ended the institution of slavery in America.

Somehow, along the way a school of thought came into being that portrayed enlightenment and faith as incompatible. “Elites” in both America and Europe generally hold, in fact, that traditional JudeoChristian beliefs are irreconcilable with rational government. In America, we see this attitude clearly among those who have sought to turn the principle of church/state separation into a virtual ban on public Christian expressions.

The inherent irony, of course, is that the Enlightenment was an essentially JudeoChristian phenomenon. Anti-religious scholars have done their best to play up the French atheist philosophers, but these philosophers’ contributions to modern democratic thought are dwarfed by thinkers from Britain, and in particular Scotland, who saw no contradiction between faith in God and reason-based governance. They also, not incidentally, had profound respect for Jewish thought, identifying specifically with the narrative of the escape from Egyptian bondage.

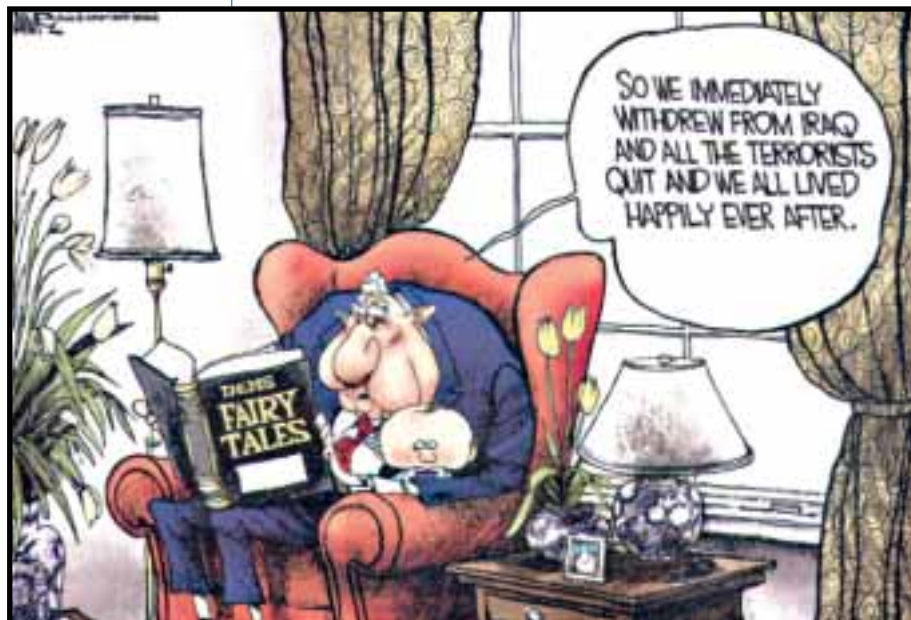
One has only to read the Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution to see the consensus belief that “natural rights,” upon which enlightened government is based, flow from God. Furthermore, the silliness of modern hostility toward JudeoChristian thought is illuminated by the failure of any secular or atheist culture to produce, to any significant degree, a liberal democracy on its own. The glaring counter-examples of the officially-atheist Chinese and Soviet tyrannies should have ended the argument long ago.

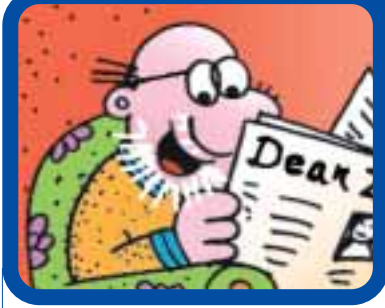
By the way, I’m not saying that in some alternate universe a non-JudeoChristian culture couldn’t have birthed a similar Enlightenment; I am saying that in this universe JudeoChristian culture is responsible for modern civilization and its attendant tolerance, democracy, and individual liberty. Even Japan and India, now democratic allies, have been guided into their enlightenment by the West.

Claiming that anyone who argues for the spiritual roots of modern democracy has an arrogant and culturally-imperialist view, those who deny democracy’s religious roots must also explain the West’s exceptional culture while minimizing traditional religious culture. Their weapon of choice is the promotion of multiculturalism. Wrapped in a veneer of openness and tolerance, the multiculturalist denies the accomplishments of the JudeoChristian West by painting all religions as equal in importance, validity, and accomplishment.

Given this dogma, it is not surprising that secular forces are failing utterly to resist the extortions and intimidations of an Islamic extremism that, in every place it has achieved ascendancy, denies the most basic human rights that the West is built on. To resist would be to admit that some religious expressions are superior to others.

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Letters to ZLM

Dear M. K.,

I agree. You share our concerns. Last time I checked, Samaritan's Purse published revenue of over \$250,000,000 (yes, that's million!) in one year. One would think they could do better than basically ignore Jews, on the one hand, and simply

support a café outreach to Muslims, on the other. What do they do with all the rest? Seemingly, there is not a dime for displaced Jews who were the victims of incessant, unprovoked attacks! Tragic!

— Jeffrey Seif

Dear ZLM,

Why are PA hate sermons that often call all non-Muslims the great Satan never news on the BBC or CNN? Could you please consider analyzing the differences between the whitewashed version of PA propoganda and their true persona when not speaking in English?

M. *"Why doesn't the press expose the truth?"*

Dear M.,

The term "PA," for "Palestinian Authority," is simply the updated term for "Palestinian Liberation Organization." As you mentioned, that organization says one thing in English, but then turns around and reverts to inflamed, anti-Jewish rhetoric when speaking in Arabic. Why doesn't the press expose the truth? That's the million-dollar question. The following sites contain good samplings of their rhetoric, in their own words:
www.memri.org www.memritv.org www.pmw.org.il

Also, on page 20 of the November 2006 *Levitt Letter* "Hacking Peace to Pieces" and "Muslim Wisdom From the Arab Press" address this tendency to doublespeak.
— Jeffrey Seif

Headstart Program!

Dear Jeff,

When I met my Savior years ago and learned the truth about Easter and Christmas, I threw out the eggs; I threw out the tree. The problem is, now all we have that is not objectionable is Thanksgiving and birthdays.

What about an in-depth teaching about the three major Jewish Holidays, covering in detail how they were observed in Jesus' time, what the ceremonies alluded to, and how the Jewish family celebrates them today? After all, we will all be celebrating them when the Master returns, and I'd like to get a head start. I suspect I'm not the only one!

Thank you,
A. S.

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Sad Commentary

Dear Mark,

Re: Your article in the October *Levitt Letter* regarding Samaritan's Purse. I love the ministry of Franklin Graham, however, I am still upset about the way they are raising funds for those hurt in Israel. I am especially upset over the statement in their reply to my inquiry: "We support a local café outreach where Christian students can interact and share their faith with each other and with many Muslim students." Great to know they have a café outreach; however, if that is the extent of their work in Israel, especially after a terrible war on the people of Israel, it's a sad commentary on the evangelical church today and more importantly, the work of Franklin Graham.

M. K.



Dear A. S.,

You might want to acquire Zola's *Seven Feasts of Israel* booklet. By using an Internet search engine, you'll also find a variety of other books with the same sort of title. Also, Rabbi Alfred Kolatch's *The Jewish Book of Why* might prove helpful to you.

Jeffrey Seif

Racist Propaganda?

To the Staff,

I do not want to receive your racist propaganda anymore. I am a black man that attends a multi-racial Messianic Synagogue. Your depiction of Kofi Annan is too much for me!! Big Lips!! Wide Nose!! It reminds me of the way black people used to be portrayed in the media fifty years ago. Don't send me your [expletive] anymore!! You are just as racist as the suicide bombers you are always talking about!! I WILL REPEAT IT AGAIN, DO NOT SEND ANYTHING LEVITT RELATED TO MY ADDRESS EVER AGAIN!!!

S. T.

Dear S. T.,

You are referring to the cartoon on page 9 of our October issue, in which UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan freely hands out UN resolutions to dignified recipients who are weeping for show. Their sentiments ("Stop the suffering," "Can't they stop the bombing?" "Oh, the human tragedy," etc.) lampoon the politically-correct disdain for Israel's right to defend itself. The UN resolutions, with which the recipients are drying their tears, resemble facial tissue, and Annan is dispensing them from a Kleenex box that is labeled, "United Nations Resolutions."

The liberty that the cartoonist takes with Annan's facial features is unrelated to racism. At issue is the UN's record of cranking out dozens of resolutions against Israel and none in its favor. Regarding what political cartoonists do with schnozes, it is shrewd of you to write for empathy to a large-nosed Jew like me. —Mark

Can &
Forkin
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The Thousand-Year Kingdom

Dear ZLM,

I would like to mention one minor thing the ministry is teaching that I respectfully disagree with. Zola and Sandra have said repeatedly that we will live in Israel after Jesus returns to earth in the second coming. We will certainly rule with Christ and Jerusalem will be the capital of the world. But I find no biblical evidence that we will not be living all over the world.

—R.J.M.

Dear R.J.M.,

Israel, of course, isn't big enough to house everyone. The point, as per my understanding, is that Israel will, in effect, be a headquarters of a sort, one that Zechariah says will receive offerings the world over at the Feast of Tabernacles (chapter 14), and one from where the Law will be dispensed in Isaiah chapter 2. In a national sense, Israel will be "our home," much as Washington, DC is the federal home of all Americans. Despite our not all living there, many old and young visit there and are confronted with the vision of the nation's founders.

—Jeffrey Seif

Dear ZLM – Jeff, Sandra, and Mark,

I think Jeff is God's choice.! His knowledge is very impressive. Sandra, you are a beautiful lady—inside and out. You should have been on the air years ago! As for TBN— they are off my list! My offerings will go to ZLM instead. — S. B.

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Anti-Israel UN Agency

Dear Dr. Seif,

The question to the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) and all the nations that fund it: By what right does an agency of the United Nations host a rally for HAMAS?

“Tens of thousands of Hamas supporters held a rally in Gaza to denounce the state of Israel and declare that they would never recognize its right to exist. ‘We ask God to punish the so-called Israel and those who recognize Israel,’ cheered the crowd that thronged the UNRWA refugee camp in Jabalya, many of whom were wearing green Hamas baseball caps and held aloft Hamas banners.” —N. G.

Dear N. G.,

This is the real face of the UNRWA.

—Jeffrey Seif

Dr. Jeff did great!

Dear ZL Ministries,

I watched Zola’s program last night and was really impressed with Dr. Seif. I like how he teaches in the same manner as Zola by explaining little things. Also, I absolutely love how he speaks in Hebrew, then in English. What an added bonus!

Please keep up the great work!
Ms. Y.

Zola’s Music—Some of the Most Beautiful Ever!

Dear Staff,

Through many years, I have enjoyed your ministry. It is such a blessing to me to see how you have dealt with Zola’s illness and his passing. I have been very cautious about following after any person, other than Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness.

I have finally finished all the articles in the latest *Levitt Letter*. So much good stuff!!! As always, I think, “I really should write them and let them know how much I appreciate them.” This time, thanks to my having your e-mail address, I will stop and do just that.

Now a word about Zola’s music—I absolutely love it. It is some of the most beautiful ever produced!! The orchestration and the singers! Just wonderful.

May the LORD continue to use you and may you always be faithful.

J. B.

Dear J. B.,

Thanks. Hope to meet you some day when I am out your way preaching.

—Jeffrey Seif

Help Me with my Computer!

Dear Mark,

I can’t figure out how to view *Zola Levitt Presents* on the Internet. I know my computer does this because I watch other broadcasts this way. What am I not doing or doing wrong?

By the way, I love the way Jeff & Sandra sit together now at a table. They make a great team. Jeff’s teachings are terrific. He’s a great “Top Gun.” Of course, I love the entire show. It’s good to have someone who’s not afraid to speak the truth, even when it hurts.

S. A.

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Please see the TV Air Schedule on Page 18 for Networks that carry ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS.



Dear S.A.,

I see that one of our staff has helped you correct this. Our website designer, Greg Hartwig, appreciates suggestions and questions. Perhaps others are experiencing challenges using our chat room, discussion board, Internet TV, and so forth. It would be a service if you and anyone having similar problems would email such issues to

webmaster@levitt.com. Please help us by being as specific as possible when describing your problems. Thanks in advance for taking the time. We appreciate your comments and helping you make things work.

—Mark

Up Front and On the Air

Dear Jeff and Sandra,

You have a wonderful program. I am so happy that we didn't lose *Zola Levitt Presents* when Zola went to be with the Lord.

I really appreciate the information on Israel. Thanks so much for being "up front" for us. The lies about that nation are getting worse. God help us all.

God bless your program and keep it on the air,
—C. W.

Keep Up the Good Work

Dear Staff,

I just wanted to let you know that even though Zola has gone home to be with our Lord, this ministry is still standing strong and blessing my life. Thank you for continuing regardless of the storms you have encountered. God's hand is truly on you all and this ministry. May He continue to bless you all and keep you safe in the palm of His loving hands.

K. S.

Dear Jeff, we love you and the great job you are doing.

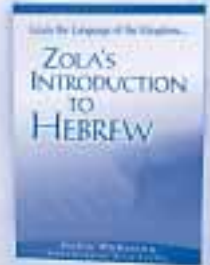
Could you please address the conspiracy theory about 9/11 regarding the message that told 4,000 Jewish people to stay home that day, and the theory that Israel and America were the real terrorists? I'd like to have an intelligent and rational response for people who keep bringing it up to me. I would very much like to put this issue to rest...please, can you enlighten us?

Shalom,
C.

Dear C.,

I have encountered this theory, too. Amazingly, when polled, a number of Muslims believe that Jews were behind the bombing of the World Trade Center! This notion plays into conspiracy theories that Jews are behind the world's dastardly deeds. The US has conducted a thorough investigation and placed responsibility with radical Muslims. (Bin Laden, himself, claims credit for 9/11.) I am more inclined to go with our Justice Department than with the Muslim rumor mill.

—Jeffrey Seif



Students of Hebrew Write:

Dear friends at ZLM,

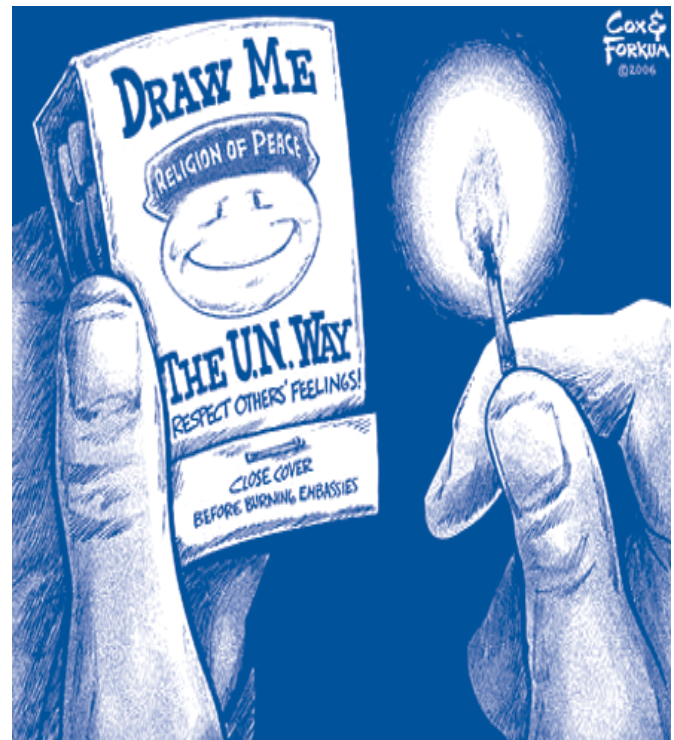
I have been using *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* to teach the largest class our "Believer's Institute" has ever had. The students range in age from 9 to 70. This is the most user-friendly Hebrew textbook I have ever found!

This book is an awesome blessing to the Body of Christ! Thank you for publishing it. We look forward to a sequel for the next level of learning.

Baruch HaShem! —J. C.

See page 31 to order *Zola's Introduction To Hebrew* and be sure to see John Parsons's Hebrew lesson free in each *Levitt Letter*.

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He's to Die For!

By Mark Steyn, *Chicago Sun-Times*



Mark Steyn

Remember the two kidnapped Fox journalists who last summer gained their release by announcing they'd converted to Islam? The moment the men were released, most of the West wrote off the scene as a stunt, a cunning ruse. Indeed, a few websites seemed to see the Islamic conversion routine as a useful get-out-of-jail-free card.

Don't bet on it.

In my new book, I devote a few pages to a thriller I read as a boy—an old potboiler by Sherlock Holmes's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle. In 1895 Sir Arthur had taken his sick wife to Egypt for her health, and, not wishing to waste the local color, produced a slim novel called *The Tragedy of the Korosko*, about a party of Anglo-American-French tourists taken hostage by the Mahdists, the jihadi of the day. Much of the story finds the characters in the same predicament as the Fox journalists: The kidnapers offer them a choice between Islam or death. Conan Doyle's Britons, Americans, and Europeans were men and women of the modern world even then:

"None of them, except perhaps Miss Adams and Mrs. Belmont, had any deep religious convictions. All of them were children of this world, and some of them disagreed with everything which that symbol upon the earth represented."

"That symbol" is the cross. Yet in the end, even with no religious convictions, they cannot bring themselves to submit to Islam, for they understand it to be not just a denial of Christ, but in some sense, a denial of themselves, too. So they stall and delay the imam with a lot of technical questions until eventually he wises up and they're condemned to death.

One hundred ten years later, for the Fox journalists and those who followed their release, what's the big deal? Wear robes, change your name to Khaled, go on camera, and drop Allah's name hither and yon. If that's your ticket out, seize it. Everyone'll know it's just a sham.

But that's not how the al-Jazeera audience sees it. If you're a Muslim, the video is anything but meaningless. Not even the dumbest jihadist

believes these infidels are suddenly true believers. Rather, it confirms the central truth Osama and the mullahs have been peddling—that the West is weak, that there's nothing—no core, no bedrock—nothing it's not willing to trade. In his book *The Conservative Soul*, attempting to reconcile his sexual and political temperaments, *Time* magazine's gay Tory Andrew Sullivan enthuses, "By letting go, we become. By giving up, we gain. And we learn how to live—now, which is the only time that matters." That's almost a literal restatement of Faust's bargain with the devil:

"When to the moment I shall say

'Linger awhile! So fair thou art!'

Then mayst thou fetter me straightway

Then to the abyss will I depart!"

In other words, if Faust becomes so enthralled by "the moment" that he wants to live in it forever, the devil will have him for all eternity. In the Muslim world, they watch the video of the Fox journalists and see men so in love with the present, the now, that they will do or say anything to live in the moment. And they draw their own conclusions—that these men change their colors faster than a mood ring. It doesn't matter how "understandable" the journalists' actions are to us, what the target audience understands is quite different: that there is nothing we're willing to die for. And, to the Islamist mind, a society with nothing to die for is already dead.



Dad's Jensen Interceptor

By Mark Levitt

The year was 1987, and Zola just had to have it. But what did a Bible teacher need with a veritable racecar—an English touring car with a Chrysler drive train? He already owned three used cars at the time: two convertibles—a '65 and a '79—and a creampuff of a '79 Pontiac Bonneville.



Mark Levitt

Part of the answer lay in his inability to pass up a bargain. He bought most of his clothes at a second-hand clothing store called Rethreads. As a matter of fact, in 1983, one of this ministry's donors made out a \$300 check to him personally and said, "Here... go buy yourself a decent suit." Instead Zola relayed the check to me and said, "You take it. If I ever paid \$300 for a suit, my hand would fall off!"

As a devoted driver of older cars, Zola was well acquainted with his mechanic, Buddy Beene. Buddy's friend, Johnny Cates, was the epitome of a shade tree mechanic. Johnny bought cars to fix up in his front yard and resell. Tall, lean, strong, and straight-talking—plain folk, good people, plenty smart. And now he was looking for a buyer for his '73 Jensen Interceptor. The car's paint and interior were a bit rough, but the vehicle had mileage in the low 40s and a sound engine.

It had a Chrysler 440 magnum engine with two hulking carburetors and, instead of a muffler, straight exhaust pipes that let the car roar. Starting the car caused enough of a ruckus that bystanders often spun around to see what all the commotion was about. On good days, that burnt orange beast got eight miles to the gallon, and it guzzled regular. But its economy was in its purchase price—a few thousand dollars—and its subsequent resale value.

Why was Johnny selling it? "Well, I've had it and driven it, and now I'm ready to go on to something else." Zola felt the same way after awhile. There's more to life, obviously, than "power to burn," and he offered it to me. Unfortunately, the Jensen Interceptor was ill-suited to my toddlers' car seats, so we sold it—for a little more than it had cost us.

A year or two before selling it, however, Zola was involved in a

collision. A lady on an overpass, without reason, suddenly stopped in front of him. Zola was attentive and the Jensen's brakes were extremely effective, so he stopped on a dime behind her. Regrettably, the car behind him knocked his car into the vehicle in front of him. Unshaken, Zola wrote down the license plate number of the lady in front as she attempted to leave without being identified. The lady behind him, though, had two broken wrists and her mid-sized Buick was totaled.

The Jensen looked fine except for minor crimps in the front and rear bumpers. Oddly enough, its frame incorporated a solid, four-inch-thick steel bar all the way around. (Probably a good idea on a car whose designers saw fit to install a 160 mph speedometer.) This bar had been bent a bit, and only a Rolls Royce body shop had strong enough equipment to straighten it out. The insurance company paid Zola just over what the Jensen had cost him, and he left the car as is since it remained perfectly operable.

Experiencing that car gave me one more perspective on the emptiness of material possessions. It quickly became an item to maintain rather than the optimal utilitarian object that a car should be. High maintenance possessions, in the end, demand more time and money than most of us want to pay. Contrast that to our Messiah. What we have in Him goes beyond luxury, speed, and flashiness; plus, He does all the maintenance.

The man who bought it from our family looked very much like Johnny Cates, except that he was younger and stronger. A country boy, so to speak, who was going to give that mighty machine a happy home.



What do you want in a *Levitt Letter* particularly, and what do you want from Zola Levitt Ministries generally? I have been wrestling with these questions, and here is what I have come up with.

From letters, conversations and history, I understand that you want (1) biblical commentary from a Messianic Jewish perspective, along with (2) Jewish- and Israel-related insights on Bible prophecy. You appreciate (3) a stream of on-location, biblical teaching from the Holy Land. You greatly enjoy this ministry's (4) gutsy, risky, and edgy straight talk on politically-incorrect issues. I hear comments about how people love (5) the engaging cartoons in the *Levitt Letter* (while others say they find them inappropriate). Some have commented that they like the (6) interesting interviews on the television. In addition, it is my understanding that (7) you want us to "keep it real," (8) that you want us to be non-manipulative in raising awareness of current issues and (9) non-manipulative in the raising of money. (10) You want us to talk boldly about Islam, and (11) you want us to challenge the Church to return to the Bible.

“Keep it real.”

There is a wide variety of story-types in this month's *Levitt Letter*. In addition to the feisty and broader selection of sage commentaries, insights on Islamic incursions, gutsy cartoons, and biblical insights, I have labored to focus more narrowly on one story that I wanted to bring between Thanksgiving and Christmas/Chanukah.

In darkened and storm-tossed seasons, it is all too easy to fixate upon what seems to be temporarily going wrong in life, is it not? Focusing on the positive and remembering our friends provides a much-needed anecdote to the season-induced despair, much as it helps us maintain needed equilibrium. Being "thankful" is the preferred disposition explicitly attested in Psalm 100:4 where we are to "enter His gates with thanksgiving... Be thankful to Him and [to] bless His name." We are commanded in Philippians 4:6 to, "with thanksgiving, make our requests known to God."

A number of Christian friends are fearlessly standing up and resolutely showing their support for Israel in accordance with the mandate to both "Bless Israel" (in Gen. 12:1-3) and "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (in Psalm. 122:6). I am indeed thankful for the trend, as I know you will be to read about it.

Amidst the turbulence of Israel's recently trying times, "Women's Aglow" president Jane Hansen paid a visit to the Holy Land to show her support. Pat Robertson, likewise, paid a solidarity visit to Israel while Katyusha rockets "were bursting in air" and, in the process, "gave proof through the night that our friends were still there."

Solidly behind Israel, as well, airwaves evangelist Pastor John Hagee, who formed "Christians United for Israel," recently joined with fellow well-known pastors Rev. Jerry Falwell and Rev. Rod Parsley (and an amazing host of 3,500 other delegates) in Washington, D.C. to forcefully lobby on Israel's behalf.

Pastor Jack Hayford, President of the International Four-square Church, Chancellor of the Kings Seminary, and great friend of Messianic Jews worldwide, showed firm support for Israel (as is one of his trademarks) by hosting a conference on Israel and the Jews this fall at one of his denomination's flagship seminaries in Los Angeles. Israel supporter Dr. Paige Patterson, President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (the largest Protestant theological seminary in the world) hosted a conference on Israel and prophecy at his Fort Worth, TX, school, also this fall. Dr. Freda Lindsay hosted a "Christian Friends of Israel" conference, with Ray and Sharon Sanders, at Christ for the Nations Institute, Dallas, where I was asked to be the kick-off speaker.

Close to the Lebanese border sits the little known town of Shavei Zion, where kindly-disposed German Christians run a guesthouse far away from the limelight. Called *Tzedakah* (meaning 'righteousness') this guest house was established to assist Holocaust survivors. Wonderful! They kept to their post, even during the recent war. Pastor Glen Plummer, co-chairman of the Fellowship of Israel and Black Americans, went out of his way to make a solidarity visit to the Holy Land and stand behind Israel.

Our very own Sandra Levitt was on the scene as war broke, along with her son, Will King, "Our Man in Jerusalem." Many of you followed their reports from the "front" in the *Levitt Letter* and on Sandra's blog on our website, www.levitt.com. Zola Levitt tour groups and many others over time have traveled to Israel to show support.

I could continue a long list of names. Thanks to all.

“Our friends are still there.”

In addition to the well-known public figures noted above, a publicly-unknown army of saintly Believers facilitates all of the activities and ministries mentioned above—and more. As with the armies of George Washington and General Patton, we remember the leaders, but forget too easily that unknown followers sacrificed for the causes they championed.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

A Note from Jeff



By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Here Come the Waterworks

By Will King, www.imagesofisrael.com



Will King

The past several months in Israel have been a time of fascinating discoveries, many of them having to do with water in the desert. One such discovery resulted from a month-long dig this summer on the grounds of Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in Jerusalem when archaeologists discovered several large pools that had been designed to hold water. The dig also unearthed several cross canals that connected the pools. However, neither a source of the water nor a main reservoir was discovered.

Archaeologists conclude that the pools were part of a large water system, independent from both Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The water most likely served the military garrison and the palace located at the site, which dates to the Iron Age II period, the time of the divided monarchy in Israel. The palace probably housed one of the kings of Judah; perhaps was even the isolated house of King Uzziah after he was stricken with leprosy (II Chronicles 26:21). It is located along the main road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and Hebron, and has a view of the Temple Mount.

A similar discovery occurred at Zippori in northern Israel. Zippori, the capital of the Galilee during the

Roman period, was a Jewish city heavily influenced and built in the Roman style. In 2003 archaeologists discovered there a large water reservoir, an addition to a previously-found larger reservoir. Recently, they discovered two large canals that connected to two main aqueducts leading to the water reservoirs through a system of several smaller canals. The canals served to move and distribute the water over a large portion of the city. The large and sophisticated waterworks gave researchers more information about the structure and dimensions of the city during the period.

The Zippori excavation this season also revealed a 27-meter segment of one of the main roads, called the Decumanos, and a previously unknown crossroad, indicating that the city was much larger than researchers had thought. After King Herod the Great died, the people of Zippori led a failed revolt against the Romans, and as a consequence their city was destroyed. Zippori was eventually rebuilt, again in Roman style, but Tiberias took over the role of capital of the Galilee.

These fascinating discoveries **“dig for a day”** give archaeologists and us a valuable look at the lives and culture in the biblical times in the Land of Israel. Zippori is an occasional stop on the Zola tours, and those who come on the summer Discovery Tour stay in the hotel at Ramat Rachel and can freely wander the grounds, seeing the discoveries firsthand. Our summer tour participants also have the opportunity to “dig for a day” and find with their own hands treasures that are thousands of years old. I hope you’ll join us, next year in Jerusalem.

A Note from Jeff *continued*

Which brings me to you!

I appreciate your standing behind us. I am getting to know more of you at church meetings, and I am making friends on our Israel trips. Your letters are giving me a sense of who you are, what you want, what you’d like to see and hear in the future, and how I/we can better serve you. Thanks for the feedback, all of it.

Hope you enjoy this issue of the *Levitt Letter*. We have “burned the midnight oil” to get a good one out for you.

Shalom,

The reservoirs are believed to date back three millennia to King David's time.



"The only thing that is constant is change." I can certainly say Amen to that statement. These six-plus months since Zola went to be with the Lord have been a period of many changes. There were times when I did not know if I really liked some of the changes, and yet they just kept happening.

I miss Zola's humor; I miss our sitting around talking about what's happening in the world and how close we are to the Rapture. He would be having a truly good time with all the changes in the world. I keep thinking it can't get any worse, then something happens in the news and I am amazed. I will say that I have seen the Lord work out many things concerning the ministry and my life. The Lord has been my "Rock, my fortress, and my deliverer." Psalm 18:2

I remember in high school one of the "required reading" books was *Exodus* by Leon Uris. Written in 1958, ten years after the State of Israel was founded, it is the fictional story of a ship named the Exodus and of refugees wanting to go home to Israel from World War II. It is still one of my favorite books. Even as fiction, it really captures the spirit of the Jews and their dedication in going home and the sacrifices required of them. I read it every couple of years just to see if the story changes.



What does change is my heart each time I read it. I become more and more adamant about the Jews having their own, recognized-by-all (!) state. God gave Abraham's people a great deal of land, but so much has been taken away from them in the name of political correctness and peace that now they live on as little as 9,000 square miles. It makes me want to stand up for Israel and be more vocal. If you have not read *Exodus*, or if it has been a while since you did, I recommend it highly. I wonder if *Exodus* is read in any high school today? How things have changed.

I am in a new Bible study this year. I told you there were many changes in my life. This Bible study has a new location, new people, and all sorts of "new." I love the discipline of a structured Bible study and feel that God has led me to this group. A recent question concerned persecution and opposition and what the Bible has to say about them. It got me thinking and reading and here is what I found: II Timothy 3:12-13 says, "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Yeshua will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

That pretty much sums up what is happening in the world today. Psalm 119:86 informs us that "All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for men perse-

Shalom From Sandra



cute me without cause." Persecution is not a new phenomenon for the Jews. What has changed is that Evil is increasingly bold in coming after Believers. We must stand up and be counted both as friends of Israel and as Believers.

Zola would tell you this: There is going to come a time when, if you have not made a decision, one will be made for you.

I encourage you to see Israel. It will change your life in many good ways, including your standing strong with Israel. My hope for all of us is to stay strong to the end.

By the time you read this *Levitt Letter*, I will be in Israel. Be sure and check out levitt.com/israelblog for news. [blog is an abbreviated form of "web log," a diary.]

When standing and breathing in Israel, you will feel like you're in the center of the universe. Our **Spring Tour** is already filling up, so please reserve your spot now. Jeff and I will lead the tours personally. Choose between the 10-Day **Deluxe Israel Tour** (March 18-28) and the 14-Day **Grand Israel/Petra Tour** (March 18-April 1).

For your tour folder, please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sandra'.



Plan ahead to be with us in Orlando, Florida!!

Harvey Zion and Sandra will conduct our *Holy Land Experience* tour in Orlando, December 22-24. Harvey is a Messianic Jew who has been helping with our Orlando tours, and has been to the real Israel. Our group will carefully study a model of Jerusalem from the time of Jesus among the many fascinating replicas at *The Holy Land Experience*.

This makes a great visual as you learn about the 4000-year history of the City of God—the only eternal city! Ask Tony for details at (214) 696-9760 during the workweek or anytime at 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377).

Operating with Higher Ethics: Jews Bless Arabs

By Stewart Ain, www.JewishWorldReview.com
 (The full text stating these positions can be viewed at www.levitt.com/news.)



Stewart Ain

A broad swath of American Jewish groups is expressing shock and outrage that millions of dollars raised by Jewish federations in North America for the post-war recovery effort in Israel are being used in part to help Israeli Arabs.

A spokesman for the United Jewish Communities (UJC) said the money raised did not go to municipalities, but rather to provide services for those in need—Jews and Arabs alike.

Howard Rieger, the UJC's president and CEO, said, "About one-third to one-half of those killed by Hezbollah rockets were Israeli Arabs, as well as Druze who serve in the Israel Defense Forces and died in the IDF. We were getting kids out of harm's way in the north, and we think it is a fair and valid use of the funds" to help Israeli Jewish and Arab youngsters.

Rieger said his organization was asked at the very beginning if it wanted to treat Israeli Jews and Arabs

differently and that "our answer was no." Steven Mostofsky, president of the National Council of Young Israel, said he was "really surprised" to learn that Israeli Arabs were benefiting from the Israel Emergency Campaign, which was launched shortly after the outbreak of the Israel-Hezbollah War in July of this year.

"It's not that I want to seem harsh or that this is an anti-Arab statement, but money raised from Jews because of a war against Jews should only be used for Jews," he said.

For my part, I am pleased to learn that monies were distributed to assist Arabs too, believing that this is both the Jewish way and the Christian way—to love those who may even use and abuse you spitefully. Given lingering feeling associated with the war, I, however, am not surprised that some expressed strong consternation. My position, however, is two-thumbs-up! —JSeif

Spiritually, it makes sense to love and help one's enemies. This newsletter's cover story regarding the Amish community's responses to the schoolhouse killings offers a powerful testimony indeed. Administratively, however, I would agree with Jeff only to the extent that the UJC made its donors aware of where their funds were going. It is routine, incidentally, for Israeli hospitals and military personnel to lend a hand to Palestinians. —Mark

Tolerating Intolerance continued from pg. 3

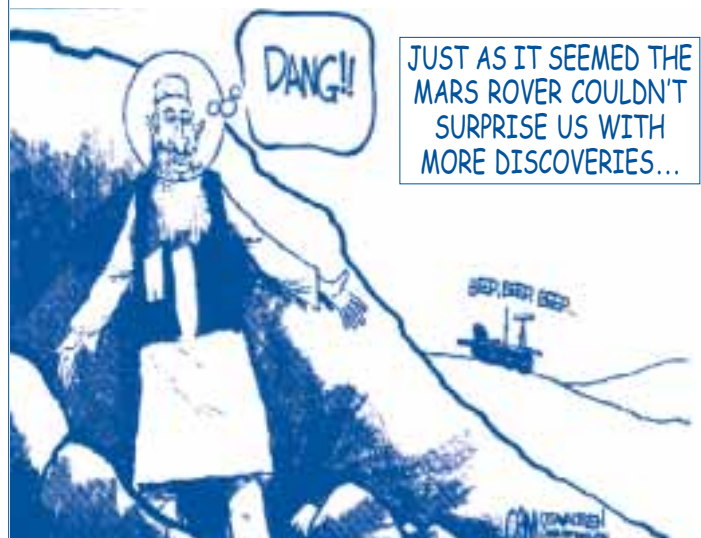
In the secularists' contorted efforts not to offend those who believe it is proper to behead those who reject Islam, they are also abandoning the teachings of Socrates, Aristotle, Cicero, Spinoza, Locke, and Jefferson along with the Bible. To avoid admitting that JudeoChristian traditions have produced the apex of modern civilization and held off the onset of barbarism throughout centuries, they are counseling appeasement with those who riot and murder over cartoon characters; who pronounce death on filmmakers and authors who do not show respect for their bigotries; and who brook no whiff of disrespect for their religion even while portraying Christianity and Judaism as religions of "pigs and dogs."

The brilliant classical scholar and writer Victor David Hanson refers to those in the West who refuse to defend our own heritage and values as "traitors to the Enlightenment." The upside, Hanson believes, is that things are so much worse in old Europe that the United States may witness the results of this warped multiculturalism and wake up before it's too late.

Though largely unreported, not a night goes by in old Europe without a major Muslim riot and at least a dozen policemen injured. The intifada is not coming to the West; it has already arrived. If we cannot admit,

publicly and proudly, that JudeoChristian culture is superior to its challengers, we will soon suffer the same fate as Europe. If Europeans don't admit that Muslims suffer in the Middle East because of their own culture and not Israel's, their own suffering may soon reach Islamic proportions.

Despite what happens in Europe, we need to wake up and smell the coffee—Turkish coffee, that is. As Patrick says, Islam isn't coming to the West. Islam is here; and we're too intoxicated by our affluence and indulgence to either realize it or respond appropriately. God help us! —JSeif



The Rapture Takes Manhattan

By Michelle Goldberg, *New York Magazine*

Millions of American Evangelicals believe that, any day now, the world will be engulfed in a series of horrific wars and natural disasters during which time a charismatic antiChrist will arise to try to establish worldwide hegemony. This will lead to the biggest war of all, to be fought in Israel, after which Jesus will return. But not to worry: before things get really bad, “true” Christians will be gathered up to Heaven, leaving piles of clothes crumpled where they stood.

The aftermath of this mysterious and untidy abandonment of clothing is the starting point for *Left Behind*, the massively popular series of end-time-themed thrillers that have sold over 60 million copies. Just in time for the Christmas season, the series is now also a computer game, called *Left Behind: Eternal Forces*. Strangely, although very little of the action in the books takes place in New York, the game is set here, offering a lovingly detailed rendering of Manhattan as battleground in a holy war. “I’m hopeful, from a popularity point of view, it becomes as popular as Christian rock,” says Troy Lyndon, CEO and co-founder of Left Behind Games. Players of the video game control a religious militia battling U.N.-style “Global Community Peacekeepers.” To triumph in *Eternal Forces*, players need to make converts, so in addition to snipers, tanks, and infantrymen, the Tribulation Force includes Evangelists and worship leaders. (The Global Community, meanwhile, has “rock stars” and “cult leaders” to pull souls into darkness.)

The novels’ antiChrist is one Nicolae Carpathia, who’s the secretary-general of the United Nations when the Rapture comes (and, incidentally, is the bioengineered son of two gay men). Soon enough, he becomes Global Community Supreme Potentate, masking his diabolical intentions with promises of peace and disarmament. The heroes of the series—including a born-again rabbi—battle Carpathia’s attempts to impose an abortion-promoting one-world government. Much hinges on the conversion of the Jews, who must repent their “specific national sin” of “rejecting the Messiahship of Jesus,” or spend eternity in hell.

As it happens, before they were Evangelical entrepreneurs, the people behind the game were New York Jews. Lyndon, 41, whose secular-gaming résumé includes helping design *Madden Football*, was born to a Jewish mother on the Upper West Side. While she raised him as a Catholic, he identifies as a Jew—albeit one who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jeffrey Frichner, 48, the company’s president and co-founder, is from Rego Park and went to Hebrew school at Forest

Hills Jewish Center; he found Jesus while serving in the Marines in the eighties. Senior vice-president David Klein, 49, one of the original employees at gaming powerhouse Electronic Arts, was born in Israel and raised in Brooklyn. He’s now a Christian, though he says, “I haven’t converted. I’ve completed.”

There are hundreds of ordinary New Yorkers in the game, and you can click on any of them to read a short bio detailing their life and faith. In the course of play, they all have to take sides. As the game’s website says, “their choice is to either join the antiChrist—which is an im-

posturous one-world government seeking peace for all of mankind, or they may join the Tribulation Force—which seeks to expose the truth and defend themselves against the forces of the antiChrist.” Gamers also can choose to join the forces of darkness.

The game itself is set in the streets of Soho, Chinatown, and midtown. There’s a Payless, a Lucille Roberts, even a digitized version of the somewhat well-known Israeli restaurant Hoomos Asli on Kenmare Street. The CBS building in midtown is recognizable and in ruins.

Until a few months ago, Mark Carver, the executive director of Rick Warren’s Purpose Driven Church, sat on Left Behind Games’ advisory board, and Lyndon intends to market *Eternal Forces* using the same megachurch-based networks that have made Warren a publishing phenomenon. His plans include sending a million demo discs to churches throughout the country.

If *Eternal Forces* does well, Lyndon plans to develop another game set in an end-time Israel where Jerusalem’s ancient temple is rebuilt. “Imagine how exciting it will be, in this day and age, to be able to bring to life, in 3-D, the new temple!” exclaims Lyndon. ❄



LEFT BEHIND: ETERNAL FORCES—New Evangelical video game meticulously re-creates the city so you can destroy it in a battle against the forces of darkness.

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Holy Land Experience in Florida

The next best thing to a Holy Land tour is our Holy Land Experience tour in Orlando, to be hosted by Harvey Zion and Sandra this December 22 - 24. Harvey is a Messianic Jew who has been helping with our Orlando tours, and has been to the real Israel. Our group will carefully study a model of Jerusalem from the time of Jesus among the many fascinating replicas at The Holy Land Experience. This makes a great visual as you learn about the 4000-year history of the City of God—the only eternal city! Ask Tony for details at (214) 696-9760 during the workweek or anytime at 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377).



The Amish Got the Headlines, but...

The Israel Defense Forces consistently treats Gaza Palestinians as though they were penitent prodigal sons. Despite ongoing terror attacks from Gaza aimed at Israeli civilians, the IDF transferred 15 containers and 40 trucks carrying the supplies below, in a single day, through the Karni and Nahal Oz crossings:

- 520 tons of various grains
- 280 tons of milk and meat products
 - 360 tons of fruit
- 400,000 liters of diesel
- 100,000 liters of gasoline
- 125,000 tons of cooking gas

It is important to note that the water and electricity supply from Israel to the Gaza Strip remains uninterrupted.



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Wisdom and Folly

By John J. Parsons

יִרְאַת יְהוָה רֵאשִׁית דָּעַת חֲכָמָה וּמוֹסָר אֵילִים בּוֹז:

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|---------|
| בּוֹז | אֵילִים | וּמוֹסָר | חֲכָמָה | דָּעַת | רֵאשִׁית | יְהוָה | יִרְאַת |
| (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (2) (1) | (2) (1) | (2) (1) | (1) | (2) (1) |
| ba-zu | e-vi-lim | u'mu-sar | chokh-mah | da'at | rei-shit | Adonai | yir-at |
| despise | fools | and discipline | wisdom | knowledge | beginning of | The fear of the LORD | |

Hebraic Insight:

In Western culture, there is an optimistic tendency to assume that the more knowledge someone has, the better. Such an assumption is based on the ideal of technology, which seeks to control the environment for the supposed good of mankind. The wise man, according to the Greeks, is the worldly man of knowledge and power.

In Hebrew thinking, such a humanistic viewpoint is insufficient, since the fear of the LORD — *yirat Adonai* — is the starting point for knowledge. *Yirat Adonai* is the reverential awe at the glory of God's Presence, the first principle for all sound reasoning about the universe (and all that is in it). Without this underlying principle, even the most sophisticated human reasoning will be based on nothing more than the "*yada yada*" (from *yada*, the Hebrew verb "to know") of a fool.

There are different types of fools described in the Bible, each of which exhibits a lack of moral character and discipline (*musar*). Here are some of the most common terms:

First, there is "the simple one" (*peti*), described as someone who is immature, easily seduced, and unaware that sinful actions have consequences (Psalm 19:7, Prov 1:22, 14:15).

Next, there is "the dullard" (*kesil*), described as someone who is obstinately opinionated and *slow* to realize that sinful actions have consequences. Third, there is "the fool proper" (*evil*), described as someone who insolently mocks at sin and *doesn't care* that sin has consequences (Prov 14:9, 1:22).

Then there's "the boor" (*naval*), a shameless and profane

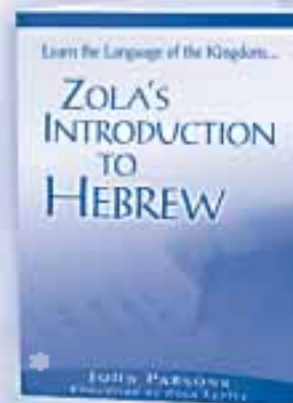
person who is a practical atheist (Psalm 14:1).

Finally (and worst of all), there is "the scorner" (*leitz*), a person who cynically and bitterly mocks (*yalitz*) everything in the world (Prov 21:24, 22:10). The end of the scorner is destruction (Prov 9:7, Isa 29:20).

The Western ideal of the knowledge is ultimately *foolish*, since it repudiates the very idea of the "fear of the LORD," and scorns the idea that moral discipline is important to understanding reality (just check your public school system for details). If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, then the lack of such results in vanity, ignorance, depravity, and stupidity.

As followers of Jesus in a society darkened by such vain imaginations, we are called to "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph 5:15-16). May God help us walk so wisely today.

To help us walk more wisely we need full instruction from God's word. That is why John Parsons, our Hebrew Lesson creator, has authored *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*. "There's no better book for learning Hebrew."



Sir(!) Elie Wiesel—From “Night” to Knight

By Jonny Paul, *The Jerusalem Post*

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, author, academic and human rights campaigner, is now an honorary knight in Britain due to his services to Holocaust education in the UK.



Elie Wiesel

Professor Wiesel is the vice chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, as well as chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

On learning of the award, Elie Wiesel said, “I am grateful for the honor and hope it will help us serve the noble and urgent cause of remembrance.”

After surviving Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, Prof. Wiesel dedicated his life to ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust is never forgotten. In 1986 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Prof. Wiesel has given the world an insight into the horrors of the Nazi regime. His first book, *La Nuit* (Night), written in 1958, details his own experience in the death camps. It has become arguably the most powerful piece of Holocaust literature ever published and is used as an educational tool in schools across the UK.

After the war, he settled in France and studied at the Sorbonne. He wrote for French and Israeli newspapers. In 1956 he moved to the US and was naturalized in 1963. He taught at City College of New York and later became Professor of Humanities at Boston University.

The Yad Vashem UK Foundation’s mission is to ensure that the tragedy of the Holocaust is never forgotten,

honor the memory of those who perished, and to impart the legacy of the Holocaust to shape a more humane future. ✦

Choose Good for God’s Sake

By Rabbi David Aaron, www.JewishWorldReview.com

The author examines what drives our repentance, God’s forgiveness, and the role evil plays. What follows is a brief introduction; the full text is available at www.levitt.com/news.

Goodness that isn’t chosen is not complete goodness. If we didn’t choose goodness—if we were just naturally good, or if goodness was the only option available—how could that be the highest expression of goodness? Only after you struggle with evil and chose goodness will you accomplish true and complete goodness.

But don’t worry. Try your best, and if you make a mistake, you can be forgiven. Remember, God knew the stakes were high, and God is with you in your pain and struggle.

If God is absolutely good, why did He create a world with evil? Ultimate goodness, which is the goodness achieved through choice, requires the possibility for evil. Once one understands this, one can better appreciate how central a role evil plays in this world. This world thus offers the opportunity to beat evil and choose good.

Confronted with evil as we are—through real-life challenges and/or newscasts of one sort or another—it is helpful to consider that, for the Believer, evil activity presents opportunities for righteous responses. Let’s pray for wisdom to respond to evil in a manner that would give God glory. — JSeif ✦

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The Islam Conundrum

By Amil Imani, www.OmegaLetter.com

The author is an Iranian-born American citizen and pro-democracy activist residing in the U.S. He has been writing and speaking out for the struggling people of his native Iran. Here he presents empirical evidence showing the different ways that Judeo-Christianity's emphasis on personal liberty and Islam's contempt for free inquiry affect their resulting cultures. To see the entire article, visit www.levitt.com/news.

The dictionary defines religion as, "The expression of man's belief and reverence for a superhuman power." By this definition Islam qualifies as religion.

It is generally assumed that religion addresses issues of importance to daily life as well as matters that transcend it. Religion is thought to exercise a civilizing influence by ordering the social life, promoting spirituality, as well as advancing an array of human virtues.

A cursory glance is enough to show the condition of Mohammed's flock. In spite of huge material wealth, Muslims in the oil-rich countries are imprisoned in the paralyzing mentality of submission and all the terrible ancillaries that go with it.

There is no reason to believe that Muslims have inferior intelligence. Their inferior existence is strictly a function of the primitive doctrine of Islam: a doctrine of nihilism, ignorance, and violence that denigrates this life and fixes the starry eye of the faithful on the next life.

Islam may have been an improvement to the life of the savages that roamed the Arabian deserts some 1,400 years ago. The 21st-century world is not willing to surrender to the clearly failed and failing Islamic experiment. ✦

Who's In Charge?

By Rabbi Avi Shafran, JewishWorldReview.com

At a recent large rally near the United Nations, it was encouraging to see the breadth of support for Israel and outrage at Iran's current leadership. Not only were Jews of very different stripes present — from the bare-headed to the black-hatted — but there was quite a representation of

non-Jews as well: white and black, American, European, and even Middle-Eastern.

The event's organizers deserve credit for all the work they put into it, and the vast majority of the tens of thousands of Jews who participated surely left with only good feelings. And yet, something — or, perhaps better said, Something — was missing: a clear expression of the Jewish people's faith in the Almighty.

Whether intentional or not, the omission seemed to symbolize an attitude that is sadly prevalent today.

See the complete text of Rabbi Shafran's observation at www.levitt.com/news ✦

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

| iNetwork (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day | 9:30 am Thurs | 8:30 am Thurs | 8:30 am Thurs | 9:30 am Thurs |
| DirecTV—Channel 255 | | Dish—Channel 181 | | |
| ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone | | | | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day | 10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon | 11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon | 12:00 am Mon | 1:00 am Mon |
| DirecTV—Channel 311 | | Dish—Channel 180 | | |
| INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone | | | | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day | 3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm | 4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm | 5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm | 6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm |
| Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone | | | | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day | 3:00 pm Fri | 4:00 pm Fri | 5:00 pm Fri | 6:00 pm Fri |
| DirecTV—Channel 369 | | Dish—Channel 263 | | |

TCT on DirecTV

The newest addition to our TV Airing Schedule, posted at www.levitt.com, is Channel 377 (TCT) on DirecTV:

- Tuesday 8:00 PM Central
- Thursday 8:00 AM Central
- Friday 7:00 PM Central



NEW! The Gospel According to Isaiah

Eight 30-Minute TV Programs on Two DVDs

The Gospel of Isaiah, written 700 years before Christ, reveals the Jewish nature of our Messiah and the fulfillment of His coming as the Lamb of God. See why New Testament authors have quoted Isaiah more than any other Old Testament source and why this Old Testament narrative is often called the 5th Gospel.

V910 Jesus' Birth. Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes us through the drama of Jesus' miraculous birth as described by Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would come as a "root out of dry ground" and that "His name shall be called Immanuel, meaning *God with us*."

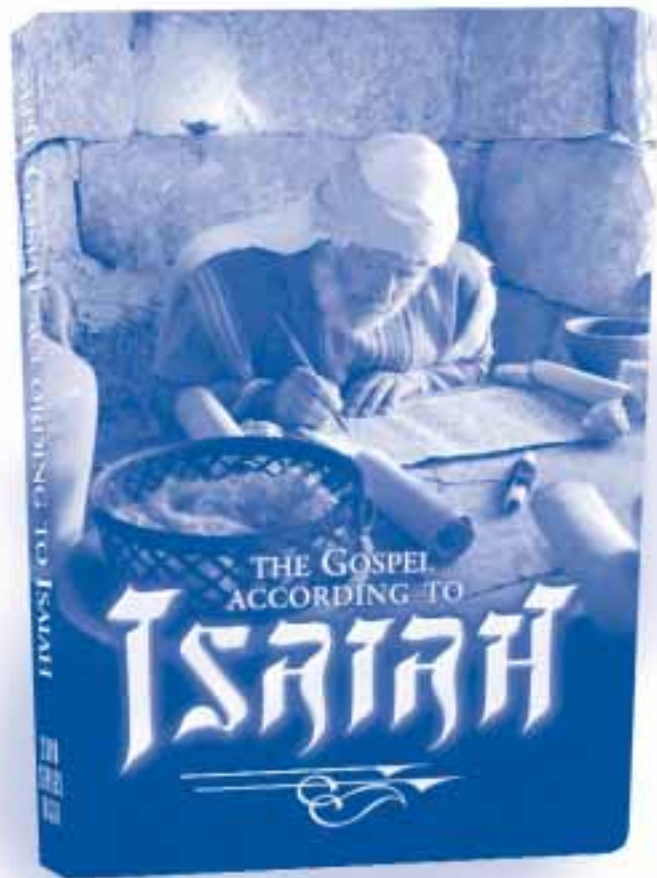
V911 Jesus' Rejection. "He was despised and rejected by men." Jeff explains that the theme of rejecting God's anointed is not new to Isaiah. On location at an ancient Jewish synagogue, we learn that the Messiah who was rejected shall one day be vindicated and that every knee shall bow to Him. Also, from our *Prophesied Messiah* television series, Zola teaches Jesus' prophetic fulfillment of Isaiah 53.

V912 Jesus' Condemnation. Speaking from the Church of the Gallicantu, Jeff explores the story of Jesus' arrest and condemnation by the Pharisees and Pilate. Believed to be the location of Caiaphas' house, the Gallicantu is where Peter denied the Lord three times before the rooster crowed.

V913 Jesus' Death. How can a Jewish Messiah be "numbered with the transgressors?" Set within the backdrop of the Garden of Gethsemane, Jeff reports on Jesus' suffering and travail as foreseen by Isaiah to fulfill a final blood atonement for the entire world. This program offers a dramatic exploration into Jesus' sacrifice for sins and a special moment with Zola, playing "For His Name's Sake."



V914 Jesus' Resurrection. The concept of resurrection from the dead did not originate in the New Testament. Jeff explains that Isaiah prophesied that Christ the Messiah would



conquer death and the grave. Witness a celebration of Jesus' miraculous fulfillment of prophecy at the Garden Tomb. In addition, Zola and Dr. Michael Wise discuss Messianic prophecy from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

V915 Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples, "You are the light of the world." From the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount, Jeff teaches the prophetic nature of the Holy Spirit as fulfilled by Jesus and spread unto all Believers like a fire from on high. Zola plays special music from our TV series *Tell It On the Mountains*.

V916 Rebounding from Devastation. From the ancient ruins of a first-century estate, Jeff explores the prophetic position of Jesus as the Deliverer. At this location, we learn that God sent the Messiah to set the captives free and heal the brokenhearted. We also discover the Hebrew meaning behind the Lord's Prayer, and enjoy an enlightening interview with Zola and Ra'anan Gissin, the former Chief Advisor to Ariel Sharon.

V917 Summary. Atop the Mount of Olives, Jeff reviews the entirety of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Jewish Messiah's birth, rejection, death, and resurrection. Nevertheless, Jesus' active role in prophecy will not be completely fulfilled until He returns to Jerusalem one day to rule and reign for a thousand years.

Please order from page 31.

Fear of Islam Growing in UK

By Jonny Paul, *The Jerusalem Post*

A majority of people in the UK fear Islam as a religion, not only its extremist elements, and a growing number feel that the country faces “a Muslim problem,” a new survey has revealed.



A YouGov survey for London's *The Daily Telegraph* shows that 53 percent feel threatened by Islam and see it as a threat to the West.

This summer's plot to blow up trans-Atlantic passenger airplanes and the 7/7 terrorist attacks on London are said to be major factors behind the increase in people's fear of Islam, up 21% from a similar poll in 2001.

The poll also shows that figures have nearly doubled of those agreeing that “a large proportion of British Muslims feel no sense of loyalty to this country and are prepared to condone, or even carry out, acts of terrorism.”

London Cop Refuses to Guard Israeli Embassy

By George Conger, *The Jerusalem Post*

London's top cop has launched an investigation into press reports of a Muslim policeman being excused from guarding the Israeli embassy on moral grounds.

Police Constable Alexander Omar Basha, a member of the Metropolitan Police's Diplomatic Protection Group, was reassigned after he refused to guard Israel's embassy in Kensington, West London. PC Basha told his superiors he objected to the Israeli bombing campaign against Hezbollah in south Lebanon that caused the deaths of over 1,000 Muslims, and had participated in anti-war protests.

The Israeli embassy issued a statement expressing “its full confidence in the ability of the Metropolitan Police Force to provide the embassy with maximum security, as well as its ability to deal with this sort of grave problem.”

In a statement to the BBC, however, the Association of Muslim Police stated PC Basha had requested reassignment because he had concerns over Lebanese family members and his guarding the Israeli embassy during this summer's 34-day war in south

Lebanon. “This is an issue around the welfare of a particular officer” and was not religiously motivated, the AMP said.

Former Flying Squad commander John O'Connor called Basha's reassignment “the beginning of the end for British policing.”

“The Metropolitan Police are setting a precedent they will come to bitterly regret. Top brass granted his wish, as they were probably frightened of being accused of racism. But what they've done is an insult to the Jewish community,” he said.

Dubbed the “PC PC” [politically-correct police constable] by his critics, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair also backed a proposal calling for consultation with a panel of Muslim leaders before mounting counter-terrorist operations. The Muslim leaders, who must undergo security checks, will advise the police on the potential political consequences of terrorist interdiction raids upon London's Muslim immigrant communities.

Muslim Leader Gets Interfaith Award

Associated Press

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations gave an interfaith award to a prominent southern California Muslim leader despite strong objections from Jewish organizations who criticized him for comments made about Israel.

Dr. Maher Hathout received the John Allen Buggs Award in early Oct for his contributions to relations between



Briefs

religions. Hathout, 70, a retired cardiologist, is chairman of the Islamic Center of

Southern California. The commission called him “an inspired and tireless voice for greater interfaith understanding and alliances.”

The decision drew bitter criticism from some Jewish leaders, who pointed to comments the Egyptian-born Hathout made at a rally in Washington, D.C., in 2000.

Speaking at a Jerusalem Day rally, Hathout said: “We did not come here to condemn the condemned atrocities committed by the apartheid brutal state of Israel because butchers do what butchers do and because what is expected from a racist apartheid is what is happening now.”

Hathout said earlier this year that his remarks had been “harsh.” He said they sprang from anger over the way Israeli authorities were treating Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the intifada, or Palestinian uprising.

Organizations including the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the American Jewish Congress condemned the honor, and one previous recipient returned his John Allen Buggs Award in protest.

A Legacy Worth Pursuing

By Stan Goodenough, www.jnewsfire.com

“I believe there could be no greater legacy for America than to help bring into being a Palestinian state for people who have suffered too long, have been humiliated too long.”

— United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Washington, October 2006.

“I believe there could be no greater legacy for America than to help secure, in their God-given land, a nation of people that has suffered at the hands of men everywhere, and been targeted for extinction for more than two thousand years.”

— *Jerusalem Newswire* co-editor Stan Goodenough, Jerusalem, a day later.

See Goodenough’s argument for a different American legacy at www.levitt.com/news.

American Boy + Mosque = Traitor

By Jack Kinsella, www.omegaletter.com

We need to come to terms with whom and what we are at war against.

We are at war against an enemy that lives around the corner, down the street or up the block. That enemy could be our neighbor, a friend, or even a relative. Lest one accuse me of fear-mongering or of being anti-Islamic, “Azzam the American” is a native-born Californian named Adam Pearlman.

The Koran is the source and inspiration for Islam, just as the Bible is the source and inspiration for Christianity.

The Bible turns observant Christians into choirboys. The Koran turns observant Muslims into depraved murderers. “But,” you protest, “not all Muslims are depraved murderers.”

True enough. And not all observant Christians are choirboys, either. That isn’t the issue at hand. What IS the issue is that choirboys are as much a product of Bible teaching as Azzam the American is a product of Koranic teaching.

The full article describes how an American boy was seduced by this religion that flies in the face of American values. See it at www.levitt.com/news.



Pope's comments are still smoking in Muslim world.



Intimidating the West

By Daniel Pipes, www.JewishWorldReview.com

The violence by Muslims responding to comments by the pope fit a pattern that has been building and accelerating since 1989. Six times since then, Westerners did or said something that triggered death threats and violence in the Muslim world. Looking at them in the aggregate offers useful insights.

1989 — Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, prompted Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini to issue a death edict against him.

1997 — The U.S. Supreme Court refused to remove a 1930s frieze showing Mohammed as lawgiver that decorates the main court chamber.

2002 — The American evangelical leader Jerry Falwell called Mohammed a "terrorist."

2005 — *Newsweek* reported, incorrectly, that American interrogators at Guantánamo Bay flushed a Koran down a toilet."

February 2006 — A Danish newspaper published cartoons of Mohammed.

September 2006 — Pope Benedict XVI quoted a Byzantine text.

These six rounds show a near-doubling in frequency: 8 years between the first and second rounds, then 5, then 3, 1, and 1/2.

Examined in retrospect, they coalesce and form a single, prolonged campaign of intimidation, with more sure to come. The basic message — "You Westerners no longer have the privilege to say what you will about Islam, the Prophet, and the Koran. Islamic law rules you, too." — will return again and again until Westerners either do submit or Muslims realize their effort has failed.

See the full text and all the details at www.levitt.com/news

Knesset Builds Formal Link to Christians

Christian Post and www.Ynetnews.com

Evangelical pastors, parliament members, and leaders from across the globe gathered at the Knesset in Jerusalem to proclaim their support for Israel during a meeting of the Israeli government's Christian Allies Caucus, which was also attended by Knesset members from across the political spectrum.

The representatives reported that millions of evangelical Christians around the world are supporting and constantly praying for Israel.

"We love your God, Israel,"

"We see Israelis as our spiritual mothers and fathers. It's an honor for us to be here," said Pastor Norman Miller of Australia. "We love your God, Israel," Miller told the meeting, to a round of warm applause.

"The line between the political and the biblical is disappearing," Josh Reinstein, director of the Christian Allies Caucus, told delegates at the meeting.

He noted that modern events were shaping up to fit well with Torah prophecies. "If you can read the newspaper, then you can read the Torah, because things are coming into place like people have predicted many years before us.

"This isn't just a time to shake hands... this is really a social cooperation, and that also means political support for the State of Israel."

"Evangelical Christians around the world are the greatest friends Israel has. And for us to turn our noses at them because of past transgressions is a ridiculous idea... the relationship between Jews and Christians in the 21st century is going to be the most important issue of our time."

The Knesset Christian Allies Caucus of the Israeli Parliament, established in 2004, serves as a multi-partisan caucus made up of 12 MKs from the entire political spectrum. This body works to open formal and direct lines of communication between Israeli Members of Knesset and Christian leaders worldwide.

Leaders from both faiths met to discuss ways in which Christians and Jews can face together the ominous challenge of radical Islam and extremism.



Star of Bethlehem Casts a Giant Shadow Over Israel

Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher,
Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX

Christians' spiritual roots are firmly planted in Israel. Our faith ancestors launched from that special distant land the faith that we preach and share and cling to. That is one of the reasons why it is always disturbing for me to see tanks rolling through Jerusalem and so-called smart bombs targeting Bethlehem and Nazareth and Tel Aviv. In my view, when our spiritual cousins are attacked we are all attacked—Jews and Christians alike.

I remember as a young person seeing for the first time the movie, "Cast a Giant Shadow," starring Kirk Douglas, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Yul Brynner, and Senta Berger. This movie captivated me then and every time I have watched it since. It is basically the story of Israel's fight for independence and the American leaders who helped make that fateful day of May 14, 1948 a reality. The key figure in the movie and one of the main participants in actual fact was Col. David Marcus, an American Jew and former member of the General Staff at the Pentagon who returned to Israel to make an important impact in helping to shape the Israeli Army we know today. He did, indeed, "cast a giant shadow."

In remembering Col. Marcus and the other thousands who gave their lives for the birth of the only democracy in the Middle East, we must ask the following question: What are we doing to help *now*? Should we simply digest the evening news and the stories of persecution and conflict without moving a muscle? Or, should we act? To pastors with no answer I say: It is time for Christian leaders from across America to stand up, to speak up, and to live up to the calling God has placed on our lives. One of the most important tasks God has given us, in my opinion, is to stand with Israel.

As we search our hearts we must ultimately make up our own minds. I have made up mine. I stand with Israel, and I want you to stand with me!

Before I discuss how you can get involved, I want to tell you about an historic gathering in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. This past summer I was proud to join my friend Dr. John Hagee and over 3,400 Christians from across the country in our nation's capital to show support for Israel. I was there to represent the Christian and Jewish communities of Dallas, Texas. Shortly after this gathering and our private meetings with members of the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and Bush Administration, the U.S. Congress passed, on July 20, 2006, a resolution in support of Israel in the wake of which Secretary of State Rice changed an earlier position by

making strong statements in support of Israel and its citizens' right to defend themselves.

This is just one distinct example of how speaking up can make a concrete difference.

At dinner one evening I was speaking with Dr. Josef Ginat, the vice-president of Netanya University in Israel and former officer in the Israeli Defense Forces. He told me how the day before, as he was preparing to leave Israel, he was knocked down by an explosion that demolished a three-story building just a few feet away from him. He went on to explain how his son survived a similar experience in Haifa the same day. He said, "You know, Dr. Swisher, Jews believe in miracles too." Continuing our discussion, I looked at him and said, "Next year in Jerusalem." At my comment he threw up his arms as if to ask, "How do you know that?" Then he lit up like a Christmas tree and embraced me with a hug.

In late September I was proud to give a big hug to the Jewish people by hosting the first ever "A Night to Honor Israel" in Dallas. Thousands of people from across the state of Texas and our nation participated in this special event. It was an honor to have my friend Dr. Jeffrey Seif on the platform with us that evening. Which leads me to my answer for the question I asked earlier. What can you do? You can, should, and indeed must get involved with ministries that promote standing with Israel. Supporting Dr. Seif with and through Zola Levitt Ministries is one example. Another would be working, as I am, with "A Night to Honor Israel." You can write your legislators in Washington and encourage them to support Israel, yet a third example. Let's all do something.

Remember that you—we all!—have the ability to stand up and to speak up for our allies on the other side of the globe. Each one of us can support ministries and leaders who are reaching out to encourage and support the people that make up the State of Israel, and we will cast a giant shadow in the process.

Lovers Lane United Methodist Church is the fourth largest United Methodist Church in America. I commend Dr. Swisher for his courageous stand, and long for the day when other ministers would be so inclined. —JSeif



A Taxing, Taxi Solution—Innocuous or Insidious?

By Daniel Pipes, www.CNSNews.com



Daniel Pipes

A minor issue at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport has potentially major implications for Islam in the United States.

Starting about a decade ago, some Muslim taxi drivers serving the airport declared they would not transport passengers who were visibly carrying alcohol—in transparent duty-free shopping bags. This stance stemmed from the Koran's ban on alcohol.

The issue emerged publicly in 2000. On one occasion, 16 drivers in a row refused a passenger with bottles of alcohol. This left the passenger—who had done nothing legally wrong—feeling like a criminal. For their part, the 16 cabbies lost income.

When drivers at Minneapolis-St. Paul refuse a fare for any reason, they go to the back of the line, sitting idle for hours, waiting to be called again.

To avoid this predicament, Muslim taxi drivers asked the Metropolitan Airports Commission for permission to refuse passengers carrying (or suspected of carrying) liquor without being banished to the end of the line. MAC rejected this appeal, worried that drivers might offer religion as an excuse to refuse short-distance passengers.

The number of Muslim drivers has now increased, to the point that they reportedly make up three-quarters of MSP's 900 cab-drivers. An airport spokesman said that this issue has "become a significant customer service issue. Travelers often feel surprised and insulted."

With this in mind, MAC proposed a pragmatic solution: drivers unwilling to carry alcohol could get a special color light on their car roofs, signaling their views on alcohol to taxi starters and customers alike. From the airport's point of view, this scheme offers a sensible and efficient mechanism to resolve a minor irritant, leaving no passenger

insulted and no driver losing business.

"Airport authorities are not in the business of interpreting sacred texts or dictating anyone's religious choices, our goal is simply to ensure travelers at the airport are well-served," the spokesman said.

But on a societal level, the proposed solution has massive and worrisome implications. Namely, the two-light plan intrudes the Sha'ria, or Islamic law, with state sanction, into a mundane commercial transaction in Minnesota. A government authority thus sanctions a signal as to who does or does not follow Islamic law.

Why stop with alcohol? Muslim taxi drivers in several countries already balk at allowing seeing-eye dogs in their cars. Future demands could include not transporting women with exposed arms or hair, homosexuals, and unmarried couples. For that matter, they could ban men wearing kippas, as well as Hindus, atheists, bartenders, croupiers, astrologers, bankers, and quarterbacks.

MAC has consulted on the taxi issue with the Minnesota chapter of the Muslim American Society, an organization devoted to turning the United States into a country run by Islamic law.

It is precisely the innocuous nature of the two-light taxi solution that makes it so insidious. ■

[After this commentary was issued, Minneapolis-St. Paul airport officials dropped the "two-light" plan, citing an overwhelmingly negative public response. — Editor]



The Islamization of Morocco

By Olivier Guitta, *The Weekly Standard*



A little more than three years ago, Morocco experienced Islamic terrorism firsthand when Casablanca was hit with four simultaneous attacks that left 45 people dead and hundreds injured. The attacks were perpetrated by Moroccan citizens who were members of the al Qaeda-affiliated Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (known by its French acronym, GICM).

Needless to say, the kingdom was stunned that its sons had turned violently against it. Now, the dismantling of another extensive Islamist cell in Morocco confirms that extremism is spreading inside what has long been viewed as one of the most moderate countries in the Arab world.

The alleged targets of this cell were political and military leaders, along with locations in Marrakesh, Morocco's premier tourist destination, the air force base of Salé, and the U.S. embassy in Rabat.

But the most troubling aspect of this cell by far is its membership. While the suicide bombers of 2003 came from the slums around Casablanca, the newly arrested suspects are from all walks of life. They include five members of the military, three policemen, a Domestic Security officer, two imams, and four society women. Two of these women, the wives of Royal Air Morocco pilots, had volunteered for suicide missions in Iraq and Israel.

The cell leader, who went to prison for the 2003 terror attacks, had persuaded the women to finance local jihadi attacks because Morocco is the "ally of the Americans and the Zionists." Coincidentally, these four women had befriended Fatiha Hassani, the widow of the top Moroccan al-Qaeda operative who was killed by Saudi forces in April 2005. The indictment accuses the cell members of "planning terrorist acts to overthrow the regime and install an Islamic caliphate."

The potential infiltration of the army by jihadists has clearly alarmed the authorities. As of August 31, they have eliminated compulsory military service in order to avoid giving free military training to potential terrorists. In addition, military officers and troops alike have been forbidden to perform Friday prayers in uniform.

Beyond the army, there are other clear signs of the rapid Islamization of Moroccan society. Nowhere is this more apparent than in women's dress. In just a few years, Moroccan women have gone from the miniskirt to the hijab [which looks like a black trash

"It is only a matter of time..."

Hijab a Sign of Non-Integration

Alistair Keely, news.scotsman.com

A Muslim teaching assistant was suspended after she refused to take off her full-face veil (hijab) while in the classroom.

Aishah Azmi, 24, was told she could wear the veil in corridors and the staff room at Headfield Church of England Junior School in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, but must remove it when she was teaching.

It is understood Ms. Azmi worked as a bilingual support worker at the school where face-to-face communication was deemed essential.

The news came as Jack Straw (leader of England's House of Commons) revealed that he had asked women meeting him in his home constituency to consider removing their full-face veils, which he felt got in the way of effective communication. ■

bag with a letter drop slit for the eyes]. Interviewed a few months ago, a Moroccan high school teacher said that she no longer recognizes her country. Twenty years ago her high school had only one veiled teacher. Today everyone is veiled, teachers and students alike. She resigned more than a year ago under subtle pressure from Islamists, who wanted her to wear the hijab. She concluded: **"It is only a matter of time until Islamists are leading Morocco."**

Both in Morocco's big cities and in its villages, street vendors sell Islamist propaganda calling for jihad and the subjugation of women, spewing anti-Semitism and hatred of the West on audio and video tapes, CDs and DVDs. One of the bestselling CDs is a rant by a salafi (Sunni sect) preacher named Abdellah Nihari, who teaches that "women are creatures of Satan" even when they are veiled. For him, women's liberation is to blame for every evil in society. ★

FAMOUS COUPLET:

How odd of God
To choose the Jews

— *WILLIAM NORMAN EWER, BRITISH JOURNALIST
AND COMMUNIST SPY FOR THE SOVIET UNION*

FAMOUS RESPONSE:

But not so odd
As those who choose
A Jewish God
But spurn the Jews

— *CECIL BROWNE*

Christians Stand with Israel

By Stan Goodenough, *Jerusalem Newswire*



Goodenough

Hundreds of Christian lovers of Israel gathered with Jewish friends inside the gates of the Old City of Jerusalem on an October Sunday morning to obey the biblical commandment and pray for peace to come to the war-weary capital of Israel.

Led by American evangelicals and attended by a number of Israeli parliamentarians and a small crowd of Israel-based Christian leaders, the occasion in the ancient Tower of David was the central event in the fourth annual global Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem.

This massive participation guaranteed that, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, a multitude of Believers in more than 169 nations would be petitioning Heaven on behalf of what the Bible calls the city of the great King.

“We find ourselves united in faith,” said one participant. “We may not fully agree on all points of theology, but we agree that we call on the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ... and that we will stand united in faith to see God’s purposes for this city come to pass.”

He appealed to those present not to stop at praying, but to follow up their prayers with actions.

“We must work to create a global Christian commitment to the security and well-being of Israel, not just for the Jewish people, but for the Christian heart, for the Christian soul, for the survival of our civilization. We have to win this together.”

Reverend Naim Khoury, a Palestinian Arab pastor from the First Baptist Church in Bethlehem, whose life has been threatened for his bold stand with Israel, thanked the Lord for teaching him to love the Jews and pleaded with God to keep Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

Reverend Petra Heldt—who was badly wounded in a 1997 “suicide” bombing in the Jerusalem marketplace — prayed, “By Your grace, we will stand with Israel at this time. Like Ruth we will say, ‘your people will be my people and your God will be our God.’”

“We call on You, mighty Lion of Judah, arise over Israel. Roar over the city of Jerusalem and roar over the people of Israel. Arise to protect Your city.”

Don't Underestimate Power of the Media

www.people-press.org

A new Pew poll conducted this past summer finds little change in public sympathy for Israel in its dispute with the Palestinians. A 44%-plurality of U.S. adults say they sympathize more with Israel, while 9% sympathize with the Palestinians, figures that have remained largely unchanged in polls taken since late 2001. One in five (20%) say they sympathize with neither side, while a similar number (22%) say they don't know with whom to sympathize.

The poll, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, interviewed a nationwide sample of 2,003 adults by telephone.

A plurality of those polled say **their views on this question have been shaped more by what they have seen in the media than by any other source** (35%). Religious beliefs (21%) and education (19%) are also important. But among people who sympathize with Israel, religious beliefs nearly match the media in importance (32% for religious beliefs, 35% for the media). ★

Zola Levitt Ministries with our *Zola Levitt Presents* TV program and this published *Levitt Letter* is part of the media and we take that responsibility seriously.

— Editor



Muslim Charities and Jihad

www.kairosjournal.org

With each passing month, the world discovers another Islamic “charity” funneling funds to terrorists. For instance, this August brought word of collusion between Saudi Arabia’s International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) and Indonesia’s Jemaah Islamiah, responsible for the Bali bombing in 2002. And now come reports that Crescent Relief London (supposedly channeling funds to Pakistani earthquake victims) likely supported the efforts of those intending to bring down ten trans-Atlantic airliners.

Mosques around the world raise funds for Muslim charities, promoting this as fulfillment of the *zakat* (charitable donation) requirements for every Muslim. They often present such payments as a way for Muslims to fulfill their individual requirements for jihad. And while some mosques focus on the greater jihad—the individual struggle to be more devout—many do not. Where mosques are dominated by radical groups, clerics preach the lesser jihad: waging war for the cause of Islam. They direct *zakat* contributions to foreign military campaigns in such troubled regions as Kashmir, the Middle East, Chechnya, and the Sudan—and Muslim charities with international branches serve as conduits.

Some non-Muslim governments addressed this problem before 9/11: In 1998, Kenya deregistered Help Africa

People and Mercy Relief International, among others. After the World Trade Center attack, the U.S. government froze the assets of several Muslim “charities,” including the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, based in Texas and accused of supporting Hamas.

“It doesn’t go to humanitarian aid.”

Some Muslim leaders acknowledge the problem. Muhammad Hisham

Kabbani, a leader of the Naqshbandi Sufi Order and chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, warned as early as 1999 that many of America’s Muslim charities directed funds to foreign extremist groups. He declared that “many, many millions of dollars have been collected and sent. They send it under humanitarian aid, but it doesn’t go to humanitarian aid... some of it will go to homeless people and poor people, but the majority, 90 per cent of it, will go into the black markets in these countries and [to] buying weapon arsenals.”

The International Islamic Relief Organization claims to provide “assistance to victims of natural disasters and wars,” but, unfortunately, it also helps to promote war, as do a number of other Muslim charities. The Christian version of charity is different, for it takes its direction from Jesus, who willingly suffered and died at the hands of His enemies that grace might abound to sinners.



Christian Zionism: Israel's Best Weapon?

By Daniel Pipes, *New York Post*

Middle Easterners were widely puzzled in early 1994 when some leading American politicians forwarded more assertive, tougher positions vis-à-vis the Palestinians than did the government of Israel. They were, for example, more reluctant than Jerusalem to let U.S. funds go to the PLO and they displayed more eagerness to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

One Arabic newspaper captured the general bafflement when it observed that Likud, Israel's more nationalist party, had "lost in Israel, but it still rules supreme in Washington."

The same pattern is again visible these days, as Christian leaders more vocally oppose the "road map" for Palestinian-Israeli diplomacy than nearly all their Jewish counterparts. But this bold Christian solidarity with Israel should not be surprising, as it manifests a Christian form of Zionism that is nearly two centuries old.

Christian support for the creation of a Jewish state originated in England, becoming a significant movement in the Victorian period. In 1840, the British foreign secretary, Lord Palmerston, "strongly" recommended that the Ottoman government then ruling Palestine "hold out every just encouragement to the Jews of Europe to return to Palestine." Lord Shaftesbury in 1853 coined the phrase "A land without a people for a people without a land."

George Eliot put these ideas in novel form with *Daniel Deronda* in 1876. In 1891, Sir George Adam Smith wrote in his authoritative *Historical Geography of the Holy Land* that the Ottomans had to be pushed out of Palestine and replaced by the Jews, "who have given to Palestine everything it has ever had of value to the world."

That same year, 1891, saw perhaps the greatest early Christian support in the United States for a Jewish state—the "Blackstone Memorial," a petition that carried the signatures of 413 prominent Americans, including the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the speaker of the House, the greatest industrialists of the age (Rockefeller, Morgan, McCormick), famous clergymen, writers, and journalists.

Addressed to the president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, and the secretary of state, James G. Blaine, the memorial had the effect of "firmly planting in many minds" the "notion of American sponsorship of a Jewish return to Palestine."

The Balfour Declaration of November 1917, whereby the British government announced that it favored "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," was perhaps the single most important act premised in Christian Zionism. Harry S. Truman's recognition of Israel, against the nearly total opposition of his administration, was probably second. His biographer, Michael T. Benson, finds that Truman's pro-Israel outlook "was based primarily on humanitarian, moral, and sentimental grounds, many of which were an outgrowth of the president's religious upbringing and his familiarity with the Bible." (Truman's recently discovered diary, with its petulant remarks about Jews, makes his Zionist stance the more noteworthy.)

The media have recently focused on Christian Zionism as though it were something new. The real story is how Christian Zionists are increasingly the bedrock of Israel's support in the United States, more solidly pro-Israel and more robustly Zionist than many in the Jewish community.

One anti-Israel writer, Grace Halsell, recognizes this fact and deems Christian Zionists a "more dangerous" influence in Washington than are the Jewish Zionists. Put positively: other than the Israel Defense Forces, America's Christian Zionists may be the Jewish state's ultimate strategic asset. ★





Update on Kidnapped Israeli Soldier Gilad Shalit

The United Jerusalem Foundation, www.debka.com



Gilad Shalit

“Dear parents,” said the note in Hebrew. “I am in good condition and am treated okay. I am asking for an early response to the fair and just demands of the resistance organizations so that I can come home quickly.”

The note written in Gilad’s hand was handed to his parents by Ofer Dekel, Israeli Coordinator of Operations for the Recovery of Abducted Soldiers.

Military sources add that although the note meets one of Israel’s main demands for a sign of life, it is only the first step in the lengthy negotiating process still ahead. Weeks or even months may elapse before Gilad Shalit is free. Reports of the imminent release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are unfounded at this time.

Makeup Online—Israeli Creativity at Work

www.israeltoday.com

Ruth Gal’s busy life as a businesswoman and mother resulted in her co-founding a new and groundbreaking business: EZface Inc., which offers an online virtual makeup tester. The inspiration came when she was ordering makeup online late one night and trying to determine which colors were good for her. “I could only make the right decision by seeing the color on my face,” she recalls.

So, Gal decided to create a company that would provide that service. With EZface, users upload a picture of themselves to the website, where they can try out makeup or hair color, virtually.

Gal, a CPA, partnered with Rami Orpaz, the CEO of a company she had once audited. The two talked to expert technicians from the Israel Defense Forces’s photo-processing field to develop their product idea. They patented an algorithm permitting a realistic mix of color matches between makeup and skin tone. Then they established a parent company in Manhattan, while their branch in Bnei Brak outside Tel Aviv serves as the corporation’s headquarters.

Several major cosmetics firms, including L’Oreal Paris,

Maybelline USA, and Garnier (US and France), are all using the EZface technology. Users wishing to try the virtual makeup-matching can visit websites of partnering cosmetics firms or the EZface site itself. Use is free and might even be easier than visiting a store.

“Instead of having to try on makeup, apply and re-apply, you can walk into a virtual department store or pharmacy and use a virtual kiosk to decide what to buy,” says Gal.

EZface, already popular in the US and Canada, is hoping to gain ground in China, England, France, Germany, and Spain.



Artist’s rendering of proposed mosque

Movin’ in, Takin’ over

By Philip Johnston, *The Daily Telegraph* (U.K.)

You don’t have to be some kind of Islamophobe to raise questions about the proposed new mosque in London. The London Markaz, to be built in West Ham, right next to the 2012 Olympic stadium, will be the largest place of worship in Europe, dwarfing every cathedral. The three-story Islamic centre, with schools and other facilities, will hold up to 70,000 worshippers.

When television viewers around the world see aerial views of the stadium during the opening ceremony, the most prominent religious building in the shot will not be one of the city’s iconic churches that have shaped the nation’s history, such as St Paul’s Cathedral or Westminster Abbey, but the mega-mosque.

Its backers are the Tablighi Jamaat, a group that the FBI calls a recruiting ground for al-Qaeda, and the French secret services calls “an antechamber for fundamentalism.” Not surprisingly, the £100 million funding will come from Saudi Arabia, home of the most repressive form of Islam. The local London community is agitating for some input before construction begins, but it looks like locals have already lost.

It is suggested that the Markaz complex will become the “Muslim quarter” for the Olympics, acting as a hub

for Islamic competitors and spectators, something that is surely contrary to the spirit of the Games, which are meant to bring people together, not keep them apart. Meanwhile, a mere mile from the proposed mosque site, another construction project has begun. The Kingsway International Christian Centre, the biggest evangelical church in Europe with 12,000 worshippers on a Sunday, is being torn down to make way for the Olympic stadium.

Convert from Islam to Christianity killed www.WorldNetDaily.com

Somali Christian sources report Ali Mustaf Maka'il, a 22-year-old college student and cloth merchant who converted from Islam to Christianity 11 months ago, was shot and killed in the Manabolyo quarter of Mogadishu.

According to a report from the Barnabas Fund, quoting a Christian source inside Somalia, the gunman was loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts, (UIC) the Islamist organization that took power in Mogadishu last June and now controls much of southern Somalia, promising to implement Sha'ria, or Islamic, law in all areas they control.



The report states the gunman shot Ali in the back September 7 after he refused to join a crowd chanting Koran verses in honor of the lunar eclipse. Solar and lunar eclipses are significant in Islam and are accompanied by special congregational prayers.

The group reports that in July there were unconfirmed reports three Christians had been shot and killed by Islamists as they returned home from a prayer meeting.

In October 2005, an evangelist and house church leader, Osman Sheik Ahmed, was shot dead by Islamist radicals, Barnabas said.

According to Sha'ria law, apostates—those who leave Islam for another religion—must be killed. Union of Islamic Court leaders even have threatened to kill as apostates Muslims who are lax in their prayers, claiming this is commanded by Sha'ria. Several Muslims have been flogged publicly for drug-related offences since the union took control. Also, children of Christian Somali refugees in Kenya have been kidnapped by Muslim relatives and taken to Islamic institutions in Somalia for “rehabilitation.”

The Barnabas Fund report states more than 99.5 percent of Somalis are Muslims and regard Christianity as a foreign religion of their historic enemies in Ethiopia and of their former colonial masters, the Italians and the British.

The group says the inherent hostility toward the West and Christians has risen since the U.S.-led military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq and the recent Israeli campaign against Hezbollah.

Says Palestinian TV: Western Wall Not Jewish

www.IsraelNationalNews.com



Palestinian Authority television has broadcast programs teaching viewers that Jews' first connection to the Western Wall was in the 16th century, and that the site actually is called the Al Buraq wall. The programs state it was named after the horse of the Muslim prophet Mohammed.

“The Jewish connection to this site is a recent connection, not ancient, like the roots of the Islamic connection. Who would have believed that the Israelis would arrive 1,400 years [after the beginning of Islam], conquer Jerusalem and would make this wall into their special place of worship,” said *Al Quds Encyclopedia* founder Dr. Hassan Khader.

Other Muslim teachings include lessons that the biblical description of the binding of Isaac (*Akedah*) actually is the binding of Ishmael.

Israel's Fallen Soldiers *Israel Today*

Although the war in Lebanon was short-lived, and most likely unfinished,

Israel paid a very high price losing many sons. 19-year-old Yaniv Brown was one year out of high school when he found himself on the frontlines and was killed in action. His commanders said he was a hero and that in spite of the heavy gunfire, he tried to help his fellow soldiers in time of need. 119 Israeli soldiers were killed in action during the conflict.



Yaniv Brown Courtesy Israel Today

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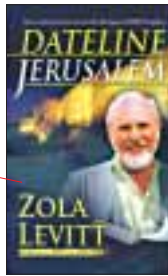
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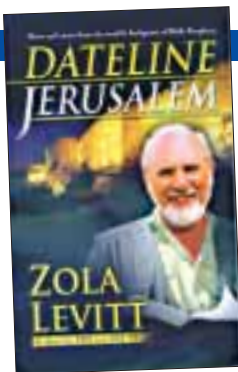
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