

Levitt

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



Letter



The Russian bear takes a swipe at its former cub—prophetic implications may be profound. —Jeff

The Evil Empire Strikes Back

By Michael Freund, www.jpost.com

As the Russian bear plunges its claws into the heart of its much smaller neighbor Georgia, few outside the region seem to appreciate the danger posed by Moscow's latest aggression. While many might have difficulty finding Georgia on the map, that in no way detracts from the significance of the situation. Israel and the West would be making a grave error if they merely shrug and issue a few perfunctory press releases in response to this perilous development.



Russian tanks pour into Georgia

How this crisis plays out will have a direct impact on the ability of Israel and the U.S. to confront an even greater menace that lies just around the corner—Iran and its stubborn drive to build nuclear weapons.

Here's why: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is testing the West's mettle. He senses weakness, and is using the conflict with Georgia, a close ally of Washington, to see to what extent the U.S. and Europe will stand up for their friends and their own interests.

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Terrorist Leader's Son Accepts Christ

By Aaron Klein
www.WorldNetDaily.com



Sheik Youssef

The son of one of the most popular leaders in the Hamas terrorist organization has moved to the U.S. and converted to Christianity.

In an exclusive interview with Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper, Masab Yousuf, son of West Bank Hamas leader Sheik Hassan Youssef, slammed Hamas, praised Israel, and said he hopes his terrorist father will open his eyes to Jesus and to Christianity.

Masab said he previously aided his father with Hamas activities, but he now has affection for Israel and laments Hamas.

"Send regards to Israel, I miss it. I respect Israel and admire it as a country," he says.

"You Jews should be aware: You will never, but never, have peace with Hamas. Islam, as the ideology that guides them, will not allow

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In recent years, Russia has become increasingly assertive on the international stage, frequently seeking to undermine Western policy. From North Korea's nuclear program to Kosovo's drive for independence from Serbia, Moscow has taken stances directly opposed to those of the U.S.

But the invasion of Georgia constitutes a serious escalation, as Russia is no longer confining its mischief to the realm of diplomacy.



The small Caucasus nation has been an outspoken friend of Washington, steadfastly supporting the war on terror and maintaining a sizable troop presence in Iraq. Just four months ago, at a summit in Bucharest, NATO agreed to invite Georgia to join the alliance. By raping Georgia in public, Putin is thumbing his nose at the entire Western alliance.

So far, the success of his little experiment has been clear. Putin pounces on his neighbor with abandon, violating Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and indiscriminately bombs innocent civilians with little more than ineffectual expressions of outrage from Paris, London, and Washington.

Ostensibly, the Kremlin claims it is merely acting to protect the large Russian population that lives in the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. But it is easy to see through the smokescreen of Russian propaganda. For one thing, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili agreed early on to a ceasefire and began withdrawing his country's troops from South Ossetia.

That didn't stop Putin from pressing forward with disproportionate attacks, as Russia sent armored columns deeper into Georgian territory.

Moreover, it is hard to take Russia's claims seriously, if only because of their transparent hypocrisy. When the province of Chechnya sought to break away from Russia, Moscow refused to countenance the idea and instead bombed the region into submission. But when South Ossetia and Abkhazia seek to secede from Georgia, Russia chooses to defend their right to do so, despite the glaring contradiction in Moscow's stance.

Russia is motivated by one principle alone: the pursuit of its own interests — even if that means storming an internationally recognized border and threatening to bring down the democratically elected government in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi.

This cannot be allowed to stand. Russia's move into Georgia will have ramifications far beyond the Caucasus. It will send a shiver down the spines of decision makers in countries such as Poland, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, all of whom might now think twice before deepening their romances with the West.

And if allowed to go unanswered, the attack on Georgia will strengthen Russia's resolve to further undercut key Western interests.

That is where Iran comes into play. The ayatollahs are glued to their television screens, waiting to see how the West responds. After all, in recent years Moscow has stood by Iran's side in the face of mounting Western pressure. Russia has been supplying Iran with materials for its nuclear program. And the Kremlin is planning to ship advanced anti-aircraft systems to the Iranians that are aimed at making it harder for Israel or the U.S. to take out their nuclear installations.

While Moscow has thus far voted in favor of three UN Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on



Roughly 30 years ago, Zola authored a book with Dr. Tom McCall, Zola's theological mentor. Entitled

Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy,

the book's relevance may have seemed to go dormant with the implosion of the USSR—even to those alert to biblical prophecy about Gog and Magog. Now that the Bear has mauled a neighbor, however, our ministry is offering a “buy one/get one free” special on this perennially important text.

Both Book and CD offered on pages 18 and 19.



Tehran, it has only done so after it succeeded in watering them down and delaying their implementation. But a newly emboldened Russia will prove to be even more troublesome when it comes time to confront Iran and stop its drive toward nuclear weapons.

If Putin sees that the West is a paper tiger that allows Georgia to be trampled, then he likely will not hesitate to block additional Western efforts to strip Iran of its nuclear ambitions. An atomic Iran, Putin realizes, would further expose the powerlessness of the West, as well as heighten its sense of vulnerability. Consequently, he may be tempted to defy the West yet again, on an issue even closer to its heart, in an effort to push the envelope.

The ayatollahs know this all too well, and will be encouraged to continue their mad drive for atomic power, confident in the knowledge that they have little to fear.

It is therefore essential that strong and immediate measures be taken to punish Russia for its Georgian adventure and strip it of any illusions it may have about a lack of Western resolve. These might include moving quickly to bring Georgia formally into NATO, suspending Russia's membership in the “Group of 8” leading industrialized nations, and freezing talks recently launched with the European Union on a new EU-Russia agreement.

Whatever course is decided upon, Moscow must be made to pay a heavy economic, political, and diplomatic price for its actions, lest it persist in causing still greater harm.

As the crow flies, the road from Tbilisi to Tehran is more than 690 miles long. But if the West now fails to act, it may soon find that the distance between the two is far less than imagined.



Ask The Professor

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Q: My friend is thinking about marrying an Arab Christian. Is that okay?

A: Some of the Bible's greatest love stories are interracial. Ruth was one of the Hebrew Bible's greatest women—and a non-Israelite. Her story should clue us that Scripture does not promote racial divides. Ruth was the great, great-grandmother of the Jewish Bible's greatest king, David. She was a gentile woman from the despised country of Moab—what is part of the Arab world today. Let's consider her story against the backdrop of your earnest question.

The breakout of a relentless famine in Judah induced Naomi's family to leave their ancestral homeland and reside in Moab—Jordan today (Ruth 1:1). The Moabites not only welcomed the impoverished Jewish family, but also allowed them to intermarry with their own. Two women—Ruth and Orpah—married Naomi's Jewish sons (v. 4). Tragically, however, over a ten-year period, the family's misfortunes seemed to continue: all of the men died—old and young alike—leaving only the mother, Naomi, with her two daughters-in-law.

Naomi came to terms with her misfortune and decided to return to her ancestral homeland and throw herself upon the welfare system (v. 6). Determined to leave, she forcefully dismissed the young women saying: "Go, return each to your mother's house..." (v. 8). The girls refused, saying "surely we will return with you to your people" (v. 10). Tearfully, no doubt, Naomi pressed them, saying in effect: I have nothing for you girls... No sons. No future. Nothing! Go. You are young and beautiful. Providence may indeed shine upon you. As for me, I cannot guarantee you anything, and think it more prudent of you to make your bid for success in life here (vv. 12-14).



But Ruth deeply loved Naomi and was not dissuaded by her remonstrations. "Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go I will go, and wherever you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God [shall be] my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me'" (vv. 16-17). Beautiful, is it not?

In v. 18, Naomi noted that Ruth was not to be dissuaded and said nothing more. Together they walked into an uncertain future (vv. 19-22). Ruth's sterling character surfaced and caught the attention of others in her new world—and of one man in particular. She happily found love and hope, and eventually married into a prominent family, where she birthed a family line that goes through David, to Jesus (4:13-18).

The unyielding resolve and virtue of Ruth, who was the product of what is now an Arab land and race, stand as a paragon of loyalty and faithfulness, do they not? That a non-Jewish woman captured the affection of the Old Testament author remains relevant today.

When one factors that the Hebrew Bible's most famous woman was a Moabite, that the Old Testament lawgiver's wife was a Midianite (see Exodus 2:16-21), and that the Hebrew race's father's first child, Ishmael, was born through an Egyptian (and that Jews and Arabs are thus joined together in a bloodline through him), one is better able to appreciate that the "People of the Book"—i.e., Christians and Jews—have more in common with Abraham's Arab relatives than we may have previously realized.

When it comes to making judgments about mixing races, people can be "ruthless," can't they? Better that we remember Ruth and resist prejudices, and consider that those who join themselves to the God of Israel—through the Messiah, in our case—have a history of marrying and procreating, regardless of their ethnic origin. ★

“Save Rate” of Jews and Gentiles

The Sunday Zola officially joined the church, he responded to the pastor’s invitation at the end of the service.

His Recollection: As I came down the aisle, I realized there were people getting up on both sides of the church and falling in behind me in the center aisle. I didn’t realize who these people were until I got all the way up front, but when I glanced side to side I saw that these several dozen people were the Jewish Believers. Assuming I had a problem, they came forward in solidarity to stand with me and in that manner I discovered that my new church home in Dallas had quite a few “undercover” Messianic Jews in the congregation. As I have traveled, I’ve discovered this to be the case in almost any church.

This has buttressed my theory that just

as many Jews are saved as gentiles, per capita. Since about 2 percent of Americans are Jews, give or take, I would expect two people out of every 100 in the Christian churches to be Jewish if they are believing at the same rate as gentiles. And as a matter of fact, I found that to be true. While small communities with very small Jewish populations may not have any Jews in the pews, that situation averages out in big city churches where more than two people in 100 are Jewish (about 40 people walked forward with me in the audience of about 1,200 in Dallas, for example).

The Messianic congregations in Israel, of course, are 95 percent Jewish and make up for a lot of purely gentile congregations. This would mean that far from turning away from Israel, as Replacement Theologians think, God is bringing them to salvation at the same rate as He is bringing the gentiles, and that doesn’t surprise me in the least. ★



Terrorist Leader’s Son... continued

them to achieve a peace agreement with the Jews. They believe that tradition says that the Prophet Mohammed fought against the Jews and that therefore they must continue to fight them to the death.”

Masab slammed Palestinian society as “an entire society [that] sanctifies death and the suicide terrorists.”

Masab’s father is considered the most popular Hamas figure in the West Bank. He is serving a sentence in Israel for involvement in multiple terror attacks, including an infamous 2002 suicide bombing in the school cafeteria of Jerusalem’s Hebrew University in which nine students and staff members were killed.

In a statement to the Palestinian Maan news agency, Masab’s brother, Suhaib, strongly denied that Masab converted to Christianity. But *Haaretz* stood by its story. The newspaper said it sent a correspondent to the U.S., who met with Masab for a detailed, in-person interview. ★



Psalm 27:1 **The Lord is my light and my salvation, Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**

Shalom From Sandra



All of Psalm 27 is really a word of hope for us. Verse four says, *One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His Temple.*

Our job is to seek the Lord all the days of our lives. That verse helps me stay grounded and not be afraid. And these days, all I hear is that I should be afraid of everything!

One of the best benefits of speaking to different groups of people is that I get to travel, and that is an education in itself. In Northern California a few months ago, I saw mountains and vistas I had forgotten about. The mountains and green valleys reminded me that God's glories and majesty are all His. I sometimes forget what a gorgeous and diverse country we live in and how blessed we are with abundance in our lives. Rather than money, I mean freedom and spiritual wealth.

So much talk these days about recessions, depressions, and regressions makes my head swim. What I'm really hearing, however, is people's fear of what is going on in their lives. Fear is a powerful feeling. But, I take comfort in knowing that God is in control of my life and all that goes on in it—not some of it, but *all* of it. Someone recently sent me this quotation:

“Do the math, count your blessings.”

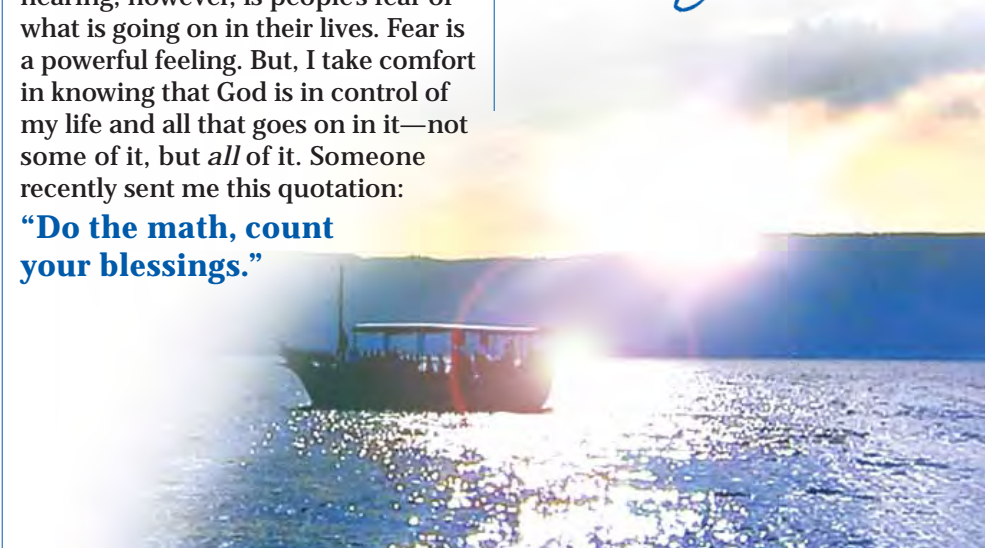
Are you seeing what I see?

Every store, restaurant, or cinema these days is full of people! I don't mean a little full, I mean *packed* with people. Also, the malls are bustling with people who are shopping and, more importantly, buying! I commented on this to a cashier who replied, “Oh yes, lots of people; it's like this everyday.” I keep asking my friends, **“What recession?”**

Whom do you trust? The Bible or the media? Take courage; seek and wait on the Lord.

As for seeing some of God's majestic vistas, Jeff and I would love to show you Israel. Call Abel at 214-696-9760 to book your place next spring or summer on our archaeological tour. Details can be found on page 36.

Blessings—and please, pray for the peace of Jerusalem,



The Demise of Islam?

By Jamie Glazov, Ph.D.
www.FrontPageMagazine.com

There is a secret life of Islam and it may very well lead to the death of Islam. It is Islamic cannibalism and its earliest example is found in the Koran itself in 9:108-110, which relates this story: *Proceeding further from Tabuk on his way to Medina, Mohammed halted at Dhu Awan at Quba, an hour's journey from Medina. There, an opposition Muslim group had built a mosque. Mohammed accused the mosque's builders of being unjust. Without any warning, he sent a band of jihadists to burn and destroy the freshly constructed mosque. His band of raging arsonists stealthily entered the bustling mosque and set fire to it when it was filled with people assembled for the evening prayer. The worshippers dispersed in utter terror.*

Those verses of the Koran can mean only one thing: the call for the devastation of rival mosques.

The consequences are obvious and inevitable: Sunnis are free to destroy Shiite mosques; Shiites are permitted to destroy Sunni mosques; both groups are free to destroy Ahmedi or Kurdish mosques, and so on. This is exactly what is going on in almost all Islamic paradises.

In Iraq, Sunnis are destroying Shiite mosques and murdering Shiites. In Pakistan, Sunnis are killing Shiites and burning their mosques. Shiites

are avenging this by destroying Sunni mosques. In Bangladesh, both Sunnis and Shiites are occupying Ahmedi mosques and setting them on fire. This musical chairs of mosque-burning and killing is proceeding unabated, each group claiming to be the true Muslims. Each group is adamant they are absolutely following the Koran and *Sunna* (Mohammed's deeds and examples), the two principal sources of Islam.

Interestingly, this fratricide is unstoppable, as the Islamic *ummah* (community) is far from monolithic. No one knows the precise divisions among the *ummah*, but Mohammed predicted that Muslims will be divided into seventy-two sects, each one killing the other, and together killing the infidels.

We can conclude that there is a certain ending to Islam and that those who wish for it do not necessarily need to do anything. All that is needed is to let it run its own course. It is bound to self-destruct, if we are to learn the lessons of Islamic history. The un-Islamic world just needs to protect itself with strict security measures, never letting the various groups of Islam unite to kill the infidels. Once the infidels learn the secret life of Islam, it is simply a matter of watching Islam implode. Once the Islamic oil runs dry, or the need for it runs dry when the world secures a reliable source of energy to replace oil, once the infidels stand together, and once the infidels become iron-resolute to contain Muslims in their lands, Islam will die a natural death. ★



Photo taken during a parade of arms in Iran looks like a missile piercing Ayatollah Khomeini's eye.

Leadership is risky business—like riding a tiger. Though impressive-looking while on top of their game, many riders lose their grip on the reins of power, fall off, and get devoured.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



Western leaders continually stand in the bright light of public scrutiny. Even after they leave office, fresh revelations revise their legacies. Compare this to the prevalent viciousness in Islamic societies where unscrupulous, totalitarian despots seize power and maintain their grip on it by domineering over the brotherhood with iron fists. You'll read in this issue about the ways and extent to which warring Islamic factions slaughter each other with brazen disregard, making Western politics look docile and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict sheepish by comparison.

We are witnessing an amazing political process right now during which we get to pick a new chief executive to lead our nation. It is an awesome task and responsibility. Permit me to suggest the following voting principle: the question of *who* rules is really less important than *what* rules.

More important than evaluating a candidate's personal charm, voters should scrutinize the potential leader's value system. The charms of the opposite sex have disarmed many a lover into making foolish decisions. Much as parents encourage children to choose character over charisma when selecting a mate, I advise the same in selecting a president. We need David-like leaders for these Goliath-like times. Therefore I am especially excited about our upcoming series on King David. Election-time jitters, however, seem to have prompted some of our supporters to be sheepish in their giving this summer.

If our internationally-syndicated television programs reflect the biblical values you deem worthy, would you kindly consider voting for them with your dollars? If you have been thinking about making a missionary donation,

this would be an optimal time to help us catch up with expenses so we can speak out on the Savior's behalf.

While the state needs "leaders," the Church needs "feeders." Your contributions enable us to better attend to God's business in these seemingly godless times. I can only ask you to help, thank you for the help, and promise that we'll spend your helpful donations wisely. God, on the other hand, can and will bless you for your love, and translate your loving kindness into blessings for you in return.

My speaking schedule is reasonably full for the fall of 2008, but some openings remain for winter and spring 2009. Please call our office if you'd like to arrange my coming to your church. I love visiting churches both large and small. Speaking of visiting, let me remind you that we take tour groups to visit Israel, and we'd love you to come along. Call 972-696-9760 during the week or 1-800-WONDERS anytime to get the ball rolling. — Yours,



www.DryBonesBlog.com

Organic Farming

By JJ Levine, *The Jerusalem Post*

Eating fruit right off the tree is not possible in most chemical-intensive farms, where the produce must be seriously washed before consumption to rid it of harmful pesticides. But for organic farmers, that ideal is not far from reality.

Today's organic farmer looks to substitutes for the phosphate-based pesticides that have dominated modern farming since World War I. The advantages of alternatives—such as substances derived from plants—include both healthier produce for consumers and a safer working environment for farmers.

Shelef Agricultural Laboratories in Rehovot, Israel was recently granted initial governmental approval to test a new biological pesticide in real-life field applications. The substances are intended for use with vegetables, especially leafy greens such as lettuce, but ultimately may be useful for fruit trees as well, and even for household gardening.

Shelef lab head Oded Yafe says that putting knowledge and information in the hands of farmers can lead to significant savings both for the farmer and for the environment. Yafe says the Negev is fast becoming Israel's breadbasket for organic farming—with most of the produce destined for Europe. According to the Agriculture Ministry, around 15 percent of all Israeli agricultural exports are organic, and 70% of all organic farms in the country are in the Negev, including many in the embattled regions surrounding the Gaza Strip.

If "natural," safer pesticides can be discovered and brought to market fast enough, opposition to pesticide reform will lose much of its argument. So Shelef's step forward in getting approval to run the tests is very timely.



Making gas from old tires: Coral Group uses soft pyrolysis to break down old tires into basic components.

Fuel From Old Tires

By Karin Kloosterman, web.Israel21c.net

With more than 250 million cars on U.S. roads, it's frightening to imagine where all the old tires go.

Most people do not realize that old tires are a health, safety, and environmental hazard. Disease-carrying mosquitoes nest in them, and if they catch fire, they can burn for weeks, releasing toxic fumes into the air, and chemicals into our groundwater.

Coral Group, an Israeli company based in Ukraine, has found a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of old tires by decomposing them in the total absence of oxygen. The pollution-free process, "pyrolysis," consumes no energy and produces attractive byproducts, such as gas for your car.

"We are an energy production company that sits between recycling and creating energy," says Coral executive Roman Berezin, noting this is especially relevant today, when the cost of oil is skyrocketing. Although massive amounts of fuel are not generated in the process, Coral's solution becomes economically viable once oil hits \$23 a barrel. Crude oil is already selling for over \$100 a barrel.



Hands-on Israel

By Will King

www.imagesofisrael.com



Will King

A unique and fun way to connect with Israel is to excavate at one of its many archaeological sites—to reveal the biblical past with your own hands. This year I spent my second season digging at Ramat Rachel, located just between the Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. So, what makes this site unique?

Ramat Rachel contains remains from the 8th century B.C. to the 11th century A.D., an incredibly long period of human occupation. The oldest remains are of an Iron Age (First Temple Period) palace with surrounding gardens. The soil for the gardens was brought in large quantity from the valley below. Ornate proto-ionic capitals, the symbol of Ramat Rachel, have been found at the site, as well as other features to indicate that the palace was large and beautifully decorated.



But archaeologists wonder who

built the palace and for what purpose? Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, is only two miles from the site, so why would there be a need for another palace so close to the existing political and religious core of Judah?

Professor Oded Lipschits of Tel Aviv University has been leading the excavations at Ramat Rachel for the past four years. He has come to the conclusion that the site was used by the various foreign occupying powers of Judah as a way of keeping an eye on what was happening there and acting as an administrative hub for collecting taxes. Lipschits says that the site first came to life after the Assyrian invasion of Judah in 701 B.C. During that invasion, much of Judah was conquered and destroyed, except for Jerusalem.

The Assyrians stayed for some 120 years before the Babylonians came; after the Babylonians, came the Persians, and then the Hellenists. Sometime in the second century B.C., the site was totally destroyed,

after which excavation shows evidence of Jewish settlement. This coincides with the rise of the Maccabees in 165 B.C. In this brief period of Jewish independence from foreign rule, Ramat Rachel and other pagan sites were destroyed throughout Judah and Samaria and then resettled by Jews. Scholars have found no mention of the Ramat Rachel site in the Bible, indicating that the Judean authors and editors of the Texts chose to purposely omit or ignore the site.



Photos by Will King

However, the Romans came and occupied it after one of the failed Jewish revolts. After the Romans, came the Byzantines, followed by the Muslims. The hill was also the site of several fierce battles in the 1948 War of Independence, and was the southern border of Israel until 1967. And yes, plenty of bombs and bullets have also been unearthed in the excavations.

If sinking your hands into the land is your idea of a vacation to Israel, then keep the Zola Levitt Summer Tour in mind for next June.

Past tour groups have dug at Tel Maresha and in the Bell Caves at Beit Guvrin, and sifted remains from the Temple Mount. Come, see your Bible really come to life, and hold a piece of history. Call Abel at 214-696-9760 for details, or email him at travel@levitt.com.



Re: Stockbrokers

By Mark Levitt



Dear Mark,
My husband and I have always taken notice of your astute financial advice, though we've been slow to act. For the past few years, our full-service broker seemed to be doing well by us. This year we learned the hard truth that, as you said, no one cares more about our investments than we do. People also need to be aware of expense ratios and other fees. We recently celebrated our personal "Freedom Day" by moving our assets to Vanguard! Current market situations are not easy waters for investors to navigate, but at least we'll have more choices and control.

Guarding our resources means having more to share. Thought you'd like to hear that your words of wisdom have made a big difference. Thank you! P.H.

Dear P.H.—

"Experience is the best teacher, but if you can take advice, the tuition is less." Congrats on seeing the light, and thanks for the kind affirmation.

Unfortunately, I paid full tuition with no scholarships to learn about the stock brokerage industry's pitfalls. My brokerage firm's systematic treachery and orchestrated perjury were astounding—but probably no worse than tactics used by other firms who fall all over themselves to propagate good-guy images. Only the loss of each of my parents grieved me more than the utter shamelessness with which my brokers mistreated me, my family (including Zola and my wife) and, worst of all, this ministry.

For months and years since 2000, I asked God why—"Why did You allow this pain in my life?" Finally the answer hit me like a ton of bricks: So that I could warn those who listen to this ministry. Now you, the reader, know the inspiration of this semi-monthly

"Wise As a Serpent" series that began in Feb. 2007. To read the whole collection in one place, visit www.levitt.com/essays.

Many who read this newsletter are baby boomers, about to retire. Or maybe they received an inheritance that Wall Street insists should be entrusted to one of its wunderkind financial consultants. I respectfully beseech you to read through the ten prior "Serpent" articles, which begin with the basics of saving and not overbuying on houses and cars.

Rather than condemning stockbrokers as evil individuals, I declared that the industry is rigged with conflicts of interest that are against the small investor. I do not label the Vanguard employees who sell no-load, broadly diversified mutual funds as saints. I simply observe that they have reckoned with the folly of picking individual stocks or timing the purchases of investments.



The "Serpent" articles point to the wisdom of several seasoned experts. Please treat yourself to the pearls that I came upon too late to protect Zola, the rest of my family, and this ministry from Wall Street's sweetly smiling barracudas.

P.S. Please note that this ministry has invested solely with Vanguard since 2001 in a "fund of funds." Our modest cash reserves are tremendously diversified and have seen reasonably steady growth that abides with the parable in Matthew 25:14-30. ★

Random Acts of Cowards

By Patrick Cox,
Contributing Editor



You know, of course, Random House. It is, in fact, the world's largest publisher of English-language books; the most important distributor of the literature of the West. In 1925, it was founded by two American Jews from New York, Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer. Together they managed to borrow and raise, mostly from family members, a few hundred thousand dollars to buy a tiny existing publishing house. Today, it's worth billions.

Older readers may remember Cerf as a popular and humorous guest during the early days of television. My father loved the guy, and I learned to be quiet when Cerf was cracking wise in black and white. He was the public face of Random House. The business end was Donald Klopfer.

Together, they transformed a staid book publisher into America's most important producer of books. In the '30s, they brought the era's leading authors and literary celebrities into their fold. The list included Eugene O'Neill, William Faulkner, and Marcel Proust. It wasn't always easy.

Cerf and Klopfer challenged the U.S. government's ban on the importation of Irish writer James Joyce's *Ulysses* into America. The novel is a sort of retelling of *The Odyssey* with Jewish Irishman Leopold Bloom facing the challenges of mundane Dublin rather than the ancient mythological world. The book is widely considered one of the great novels of the last century, but it does contain a great deal of the profanity common to Dublin's working class of its era. In 1932, Random House won the right to publish the book in America.

Consistently, the company made the fight for free speech a part of its purpose. Klopfer, a prodigious author in

his own right, literally fought when he volunteered and served, at the age of forty, as a soldier in the Second World War. It's hard to imagine a middle-aged lion of the New York literary establishment today volunteering to fight tyranny in Afghanistan or Iraq. Even if you found the books published by Random House in those days offensive, they were at least equal opportunity offenders.

Regardless, the two men slowly gave up control of their creation as they sold equity to finance corporate expansions. Finally, in 1998 and long after both men had died, the venerable publisher was bought entirely by the German media conglomerate Bertelsmann—which now uses the Random House name for its entire book publishing activities.

I saw nothing wrong with the purchase when it happened; despite the fact that Bertelsmann is the same company that once promoted Hitler's work to the world. I certainly don't blame contemporary Germans for Nazi sins. Under Bertelsmann, Random House continued to publish works critical of many things that I hold dear and true. Regardless, I've always supported their right to do so, even when the company's online division made a bestseller out of a fawning portrait of neo-Nazi William Pierce. Under the pseudonym Andrew MacDonald, he wrote *The Turner Diaries*, the racist, anti-Semitic novel that inspired Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.



Some things, however, Random House won't publish. In the first days of August, the company backed out of a contract to publish Sherry Jones's historical novel *The Jewel of Medina*. The book is about Mohammed's relationship with his child bride, Aisha, including the sexual consummation when she was nine. Though the Koran itself acknowledges that consummation, the book was previewed to an academic who, in turn, showed it to Muslims who found it offensive. Offensive, in this case, translates into "likely to provoke acts of terrorism aimed at Random House." The author already had a \$100,000 contract with Random House and has protested repeatedly that she did everything possible to avoid offending Muslims. This includes, by the way, portraying the nine-year-old girl as a willing and appreciative wife. (See [article on page 32.](#))



Now, I don't really want to know about that relationship, and I certainly wouldn't have read the book. I find it extremely disturbing, however, that the biggest publisher in the English-speaking world, in league with an academic community that systematically ridicules Christianity and Judaism, is bowing to Muslim extremists. Remember, the basic historical accuracy of the relationship portrayed in the book was not challenged by Muslim critics. It was the fact that Islam was being interpreted outside of their strict cultural constraints.

All this comes, by the way, on the heels of a Canadian Muslim effort to take virtual control of any publication that writes unflatteringly of Islam. This effort was aided by a Canadian "human rights commission," which spent a half million of the taxpayers' dollars to subject *MACLEAN'S* magazine and writer Mark Steyn to a legal inquisition in which they were painted as "racists" for quoting radical imams' own words. We have moved beyond the cartoon taboo to words themselves.

MACLEAN'S and Steyn won, but the defendants spent enormous amounts of time and money on their defense. You can bet that the viciously anti-Semitic Islamists who brought the "hate speech" charges will use the same tactics against the next high profile voice that questions the wisdom of welcoming Islam into our midst as a co-equal with Christianity and Judaism, as I do. I would gladly live among the Muslims of Kosovo, by the way. Not only do they welcome Jews into their midst, they are far more supportive of Israel than the terrorists who run the Palestinian territories. Unfortunately, they are the exception to what is a generalized hatred of other religions and cultures, especially the Jews, in most of the Muslim world.

Unfortunately, there are powerful forces in our own society who so hate our Judeo-Christian roots that they are by default on the side of our enemies. Over and over, we've heard it implied or even stated forthrightly that Christianity is as dangerous as Islam. Given this vested position, it becomes necessary for people who celebrate purposeful blasphemies against Jewish and Christian beliefs to protect Islam from criticism.

THIS IS MY POINT. Not that long ago, we saw our entire mainstream media busted for their complicity in covering up a particularly despicable adultery. If a fraction of the evidence implicating John Edwards had existed regarding the leader of a high profile Christian or Jewish organization, we know the headlines would have blared out the "news." If it were not for alternative media, Edwards never would have admitted his lies.

This is the world we live in. We cannot expect the power structure to exhibit either wisdom or courage. Many of those at the top will lie and cover up the truth if it doesn't move their agenda forward. That's why it's so important that you support the *Levitt Letter* and other alternative media that counter the influence of giants like Random House and the network news shops. I wish it weren't so, but it is. ★

To Russia, With Love

By Jerry Hodges: TV Syndicator

Jerry Hodges is a key man at Berg Productions, the Messianic company that produces *Zola Levitt Presents* and negotiates airtime contracts with television stations and networks. Jerry's extensive expertise and dedication are described in *The State of the Ministry* (January 2006 *Levitt Letter*, p. 1) posted at www.levitt.com. —Mark

As Americans, we sometimes undervalue the difficulties Christians experience worshipping and evangelizing in other countries. We have had freedom of religion in America for so many generations that we often forget that this liberty isn't enjoyed by all Christians everywhere.

In China and most Arab countries, for example, missionaries are not free to evangelize at all, and Christians are forbidden to worship publicly. It has been only a few years since the people of Russia were granted the freedom to openly spread the Gospel, and already Christianity is spreading rapidly. The thirst for a relationship with Christ is flourishing!

Recently, Zola Levitt Ministries was invited to broadcast our program in Russia over the Russian Broadcasting Network. This is a faith-based network that takes Christian programming from various countries, translates it into Russian, and broadcasts it on a

regular basis to the citizenry. At their invitation, *Zola Levitt Presents* has begun broadcasting inside Russia as a mission effort to help bring our special message to the people in this faith-starved nation. The programs are broadcast free of charge to ZLM—we bear only the cost of translating them into the Russian language—and air each Tuesday and Thursday. Much of the regular programming seen on the Russian Broadcasting Network is typical preaching-from-the-pulpit or music videos for the youth, so our Bible-based teaching, shot on location in Israel, is a unique offering to this audience.

The Russian Broadcasting Network is operated by a dedicated group of Russian Christians and broadcasts throughout Russia. It is underwritten by a number of Christian organizations worldwide, including TBN. In addition to the broadcast stations and cable companies in Russia that carry the signal, it is also streamed over the Internet at www.tbnrussia.org/site/eng/aboutus/. Windows Media Player (free computer software) is required to view the programming, which is available 24 hours per day worldwide.

It is only through the generous support of the donors of Zola Levitt Ministries that we are able to take advantage of offers such as this. We want to thank each of you for your support as we carefully and prayerfully seek to extend the reach of this unique ministry beyond the United States. ★



Christianity Offends Muslims

By Steve Doughty, www.dailymail.co.uk

Christian doctrine is offensive to Muslims, the Archbishop of Canterbury said recently. Dr. Rowan Williams also criticized Christianity's history for its violence, its use of harsh punishments, and its betrayal of its peaceful principles. His comments came in a highly conciliatory letter to Islamic leaders calling for an alliance between the two faiths for "the common good."

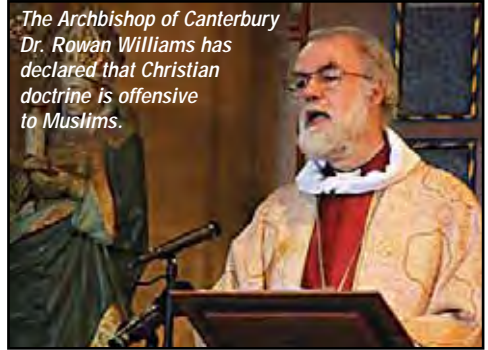
But it risked fresh controversy for the Archbishop in the wake of his pronouncement earlier this year that a place should be found for Islamic *sharia* law in the British legal system.

The Archbishop's letter is a reply to feelers to Christians put out by Islamic leaders from 43 countries last autumn.

In it, Dr. Williams said violence is incompatible with the beliefs of either faith and that, once that principle is accepted, both can work together against poverty and prejudice and to help the environment.

He also said the Christian belief in the Trinity—that God is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost at the same time—"is difficult, sometimes offensive, to Muslims." Trinitarian doctrine conflicts with the Islamic view that there is just one all-powerful God.

Dr. Williams added: "It is all the more important for the sake of open and careful dialogue that we try to clarify what we do and do not mean by it, and so I trust that what follows will be read in this spirit."



He told Muslim leaders that faith has no connection with political power or force, and that Christians have in the past betrayed this idea.

"Christianity has been promoted at the point of the sword and legally supported by extreme sanctions," Dr. Williams said.

Islam, he continued, has been supported in the same way and "there is no religious tradition whose history is exempt from such temptation and such failure."

The Archbishop appeared to rebuke his colleague, Bishop of Rochester Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, who criticized Williams's *sharia* lecture and who maintains that Christianity is central to British law, politics, and society.



ZLM Bulletin



“Bless Israel” Tour

Join Sandra on a tour of Israel that focuses on serving God’s Chosen. You will volunteer in soup kitchens, food and clothing banks, and at other charitable projects in Israel. Since this differs from our customary study tour, we recommend the **Bless Israel**

Tour for Believers who already have toured Israel.

The November 15-25 tour departs from Dallas and costs \$3,650. For more information, please contact

Abel at (214) 696-9760

or travel@levitt.com. Also, see page 36 for an announcement about our traditional Holy Land tours.

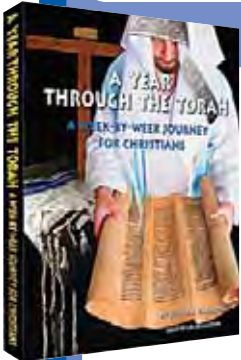


Post-Rapture Emails

“Wish you were here!” Thanks to a new website, Christians can send emails after the Rapture to those left behind. The website www.YouveBeenLeftBehind.com enables subscribers to email up to 62 people exactly six days after they’ve disappeared from planet Earth. Now Christians have an extra shot at evangelism. More info: <http://tinyurl.com/6lt5af>

A Lesson from Lebanon

Lebanon, in the 1940s, was the Paris of the Middle East. It had the best universities, bakeries, and theaters. Like America today, Lebanon had open borders and welcomed foreign college students. It was the only predominantly Christian nation in the Middle East. Not anymore. Visit <http://multimedia.heritage.org/content/wm/Lehrman-092706a.vwx> for historical insights and startling revelations from **Brigitte Gabriel**, a Lebanese Christian who experienced the overthrow of her nation by fundamentalist Muslims. See her website: www.AmericanCongressForTruth.com and order her book: ***Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America.***



A Year Through the Torah...

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“Come Home!”

Zola’s
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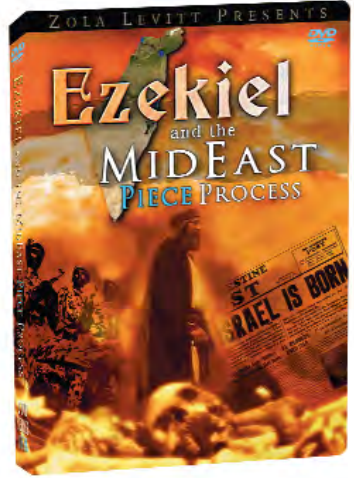
See page
36 for details



Ezekiel and the MidEast 'Piece' Process—

Eight 30-minute TV programs on Two DVDs Available on page 18

In this eight-part television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif and Mrs. Sandra Levitt take viewers into one of the Bible's most mysterious and fascinating books. Ezekiel forcefully predicts Israel's re-emergence as a nation-state at "day's end," and prophesies that neighboring nation-states will marshal military resources to annihilate the fledgling state. Let's consider pieces to Ezekiel's end-time puzzle.



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His name means "God strengthens." Reared as a priest in Jerusalem, Ezekiel finds himself among the exiles who are taken to Babylon. His encounter with God in a heavenly vision launches his prophetic message to a wayward people.

2. Overview – Destructive & Constructive Prophecy

A survey of the entire book of Ezekiel—judgment on Judah and the nations around it, Israel's re-emergence, a climactic war, and a restored Temple—with emphasis on prophecy fulfillment today.

3. Ezekiel's Prophecies of Judah's Demise

This segment examines particular pieces of prophecy, noting Judah's painful downfall and God's everlasting mercy even so through His promise to gather and rebuild Israel—something that is happening today.

4. Ezekiel & Prophecies of Israel's Last-Days Rise

A major piece in God's prophetic, end-times puzzle consists of subsequent predictions of Israel's last-days rise. A once-desolate land has become like Eden.

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Israel will rally against its hostile neighbors; this part highlights Ezekiel's predictions that larger regional forces will mobilize against Israel in a climactic war that they will lose.

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The nations surrounding Israel are bent on its destruction. Thousands of years ago, Ezekiel foretold an end-times war, but also predicted a miraculous Israelite triumph.

8. Ezekiel and the Restored Temple

Ezekiel prophesied a restored Earth and a new Jerusalem Temple from which miraculous healing waters will spring forth. Ultimately, God's ways are known on planet Earth.

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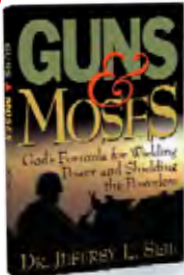
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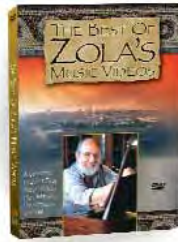


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Cleaving To God By John J. Parsons

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You shall revere the LORD your God. You shall serve him and cleave to him. (Deut. 10:20)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|----------|----------|-----|------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|--------|
| בָּק | תְּ | וּ | בֹ | עַ | תְּ | אֹ | תוֹ | רָא | תִ | הֵי | אֱ | לְ | הֵי | אֱ | יְהוָה |
| (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (3) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | (4) | (3) | (2) | (1) | (2) | (1) | |
| tidbak | | u'vo | | ta'avod | | oto | | tira | | Elohekha | | et-Adonai | | | |
| you shall cleave | and to Him | you shall serve | Him | you shall revere | your God | the LORD | | | | | | | | | |

Devakut – Cleaving to God

The Hebrew word *devakut* means “cleaving” and refers to communion with God. This word derives from the Hebrew word *davak*, meaning to “cling” or “stick” (the Modern Hebrew word for glue is *devek* which likewise comes from the same root). *Davak* is used to describe how a man cleaves to his wife so that they become *basar echad* — “one flesh” (see Gen. 2:24), and is related to the word for bodily joint (*debek*), suggesting how bones stick to skin (Job 19:20). The *devakim* were those who “held fast” or “cleaved” to the LORD throughout their wanderings in the wilderness (Deut. 4:4), and all of us are likewise commanded to revere the LORD and be united with Him (Deut. 6:4-6; 10:20, John 15:1-5, etc.).

In Jewish mysticism, *devakut* is considered as the highest mystical step on the spiritual ladder back to God, similar to the “beatific vision” of some Christian traditions. Jesus, however, emphasized that He is the true *sullam*, or Ladder, to God. Just as Jacob saw the ladder reaching to Heaven with the angels of God ascending and descending upon it, so Jesus told Nathanael that He is *sha'ar hashamayim* — the gateway into Heaven (cf. Gen. 28:12, John 1:51, 14:6).

The Scriptures declare: *yesh ohev davek me'ach* — “there is a friend who sticks (*davek*) closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). His Name is Yeshua, the Holy One of Israel who descended to Earth by clothing Himself in human flesh. Yeshua demonstrated God’s own *devakut* for us by “cleaving” to the cross as full payment for our sin. Because of His loyal love for us, we can now experience “at-one-ment” and true communion with God (see John 17:21-23). Blessed be His Name forever.

The servant isn’t above his master: We can’t out love God. If He commands us to cleave to Him, then we can be assured that He cleaves to us. But note that love must be *answered* to be true love. In Modern Hebrew the word *teshuvah*, often translated “repentance,” also means “an answer.” It is the turning to a *shelah*, a question, and responding to it with complete honesty. God’s love for us is the question, and our *teshuvah* — our turning of the heart toward Him — is the answer.

Wishing you *L'shanah Tovah* and a deeper awareness of God’s *devakut* this coming year.



Check out John Parson’s latest 320 page book with CD, *A Year Through The Torah*, on page 16.

A “must have” for lovers of Israel.

Terrific gift idea too!



Proof of Jeremiah Found

By Hana Levi Julian
www.IsraelNN.com



Archaeologists have unearthed proof of another biblical story at Jerusalem's ancient City of David, this time corroborating the Book of Jeremiah.

A completely intact seal impression, or *bula*, bearing the name Gedaliahu ben Pashur was uncovered. The *bula* (shown above) is actually a stamped engraving made of mortar.

Gedaliahu ben Pashur's *bula* was found just a few meters away from the site where another such seal (belonging to Yuchal ben Shlemiyahu, an elder in the court of King Zedekiah) was found three years ago, at the entrance to the City of David.

According to Professor Eilat Mazar of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, who led the dig, the ancient Hebrew letters "are very clearly preserved." The seal impression was found in clay, she said.

In the Book of Jeremiah (38:1-4), both men were ministers to King Zedekiah, who reigned from 597-586 B.C. The two, along with another pair, demanded the death penalty for the prophet Jeremiah because of his plea for the king to surrender the city to the oncoming hordes of the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar.

"How absolutely fantastic and special this find is can only be realized when you hold in your hand this magnificent one-centimeter piece of clay and know that it survived 2600 years in the debris of the destruction, and came to us complete and in perfect condition," said Mazar.

The seal impression that was found three years ago was uncovered inside a stone structure that Mazar said she believed was the Palace of David. Gedaliahu's seal was unearthed at the foot of the external wall of the same structure, under a tower that appeared to have been built in the days of Nechemia in the fifth century B.C.

Website Comment: Gedaliahu is NOT an Arab name. Arabs sure can't claim this seal to be a fantasy! ★





Letters to ZIM

Not Too Keen

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,
I eagerly look forward to reading your magazine each month. I can't get such accurate, truthful, up-to-date information on what is happening in any other publication. And Jeff's articles are excellent. He is a natural teacher. I wasn't too keen on him at first, but I've certainly become one of his fans.
K.R.

Dear K.R.—

Good hearing from you. Another woman who "wasn't too keen on me at first"—but then became a "fan"—was my wife. Thanks for the encouragement.

—Jeff

Nitpickers

Greetings Jeff,

Your enthusiasm comes across as being, well, a bit odd. In a response to the question of why you sometimes use "Jesus" and not "Yeshua," and why you don't generally prefer "Jehovah" for "God," you say you "prefer going back and forth" between the Hebrew and the English. I realize that turning us into Hebrew linguists is not your purpose. So why not just say, "I can't bring myself to call my creator, the Father of the Universe, by the name He gave Himself"?

A.S.

Dear A.S.—

What I really can't bring myself to do is make a major issue over such a minor point. I do not want to lend credence to those who parade their trivial doctrine around in Hebrew clothes. God is pleased when people call upon Him. Whether one says "Jehovah" instead of "God," or "Yeshua" instead of "Jesus" is irrelevant, except in the minds of nitpickers. —Jeff



No Respect

Dr. Jeff,

If Dr. Kjaer-Hansen (*Levitt Letter*, Aug. '08, p.8) thinks Messianic Jews must avoid studying prophecy, and since the Bible speaks of prophecy and insists that we study it, doesn't that make him ignorant of the Bible? Based on the little bit you put in your article, I can't "deeply agree" with him at all, nor can I give him "sincere respect."

Cordially, B.D.

Dear B.D.—

Sometimes when we overstate a case we weaken it. Calling Kjaer-Hansen "ignorant" and then saying you cannot respect him at all, seems a bit over the top. I said, at one level "I deeply agree" with him. I think his chagrin over the fact that there are a number of "far-out," crazies in "left field" needs to be addressed and counterbalanced by a reasoned and responsible approach to the study of prophecy. That was my point, and I believe I made it clearly. Please re-read the article. —Jeff



Moving To Israel

Dear Jeff,

"Breaking News from the Israeli Supreme Court" (June '08 *Levitt Letter* p. 26) notes that persons with one Jewish parent can immigrate to Israel freely. If one's great-grandparent were Jewish, could they immigrate? Curious, A.J.

Dear A.J.—

The Law of Return says that any Jew has the right to come to Israel, even if they have only one Jewish grandparent from either side of the family. This law was very selectively enforced in the past against Christians. The Israeli Supreme Court even said that Jews who believed in Jesus were no longer Jews. Now for the new part. Here's how I understand the new ruling as it affects the Law of Return: Those who have the necessary Jewish lineage for the Law of Return (at least one Jewish grandparent) but were raised Christian can still make *aliyah*, but they will not be considered or registered as Jewish for the purposes of marriage, burials, etc.

I hope this answers your great-grandparent question.

—Will (Our Man in Jerusalem)

Conversion Does Not Change DNA

Dear Jeff and Sandra,

If you had your way and all Jews were converted to Christianity, there would be no more unique understandings, mindsets, and values that have produced so many brilliant scientists, doctors, and teachers. Yours, B.K.

Thanks for writing, B.K.—

They wouldn't change; they would still be Jews and blessed by God to be blessings. Besides, if all the Jews came to know Israel's Jewish Messiah, and if all non-Jewish followers of Him made room for those Jews, perhaps the Church would be energized and converted as a result of having all that new and creative energy in-house. —Jeff

continued next page

Not Easily Offended

Dear Jeff,

I have been receiving the newsletter for a while now and I find it amazing how some of your readers will drop their support for your ministry over one article. Last year, I read an article from you that I completely disagreed with, however, I have read over 1,000 articles from you and others that I agree with very much. So with those odds of 1 out of 1,000, you will have me as a continuing supporter always.

Yours, C.Y.

Thanks C.Y.—

On the average, only thirty-three out of a hundred seminary graduates remain in the ministry ten years after graduation and ordination. The incessant “I’m mad at you, I’m leaving” impulse plagues ministers all over the world, and many get discouraged and quit. Nobody is perfect here, or anywhere. We’re doing the best we can. Thanks for the support, C.Y. You seem like a mature Believer.

—Jeff

Reaching Out To Jews

Dear ZLM Staff,

My devotion today led me to Matthew 25:40 where Jesus says, “The King will reply, ‘...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” I read the commentary at the bottom of my Bible that noted that this verse relates to how a person treats the Jewish. I live in Phoenix, and in all my life have known only one Jewish person. I would love to reach out to them, but wouldn’t know where to start. I hope I don’t sound ignorant, but thought you could help!

Yours, C.

Dear C.—

You can help Jews by fostering our work at ZLM. Our television programs and newsletters penetrate millions of homes every year, and lots of Jewish homes at that. Your prayers are appreciated, as are any and all donations.

—Jeff

Shalom To ZLM

I loved Zola, loved his sense of humor, his bluntness, and I’m finding the same qualities in Jeff. So often when I’m reading I find myself saying “Amen, brother. Good on you, Jeff.” In a world with too much political correctness (to the point of making one nauseous), it is refreshing to have somebody who doesn’t mince words, yet is not rude about it. Keep up the good work.

Yours, C.W.



WON BY ONE!

Will you please help us build our army of Jewish-loving, Christian Zionists? If everyone on our mailing list would speak to one or more like-minded friends, and encourage them to call us at 1-800-WONDERS to request our *Levitt Letter*, we could double our outreach overnight. Please help. Notify a friend today. Have them contact us today and help us build “an army of one.”

Thanks. — Jeffrey Seif

Foreign Workers Abused in Saudi Arabia

By Hassna'a Mokhtar, *Arab News*

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has issued a report—"Bad Dreams: Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia"—the first comprehensive examination of human rights abuses that foreign workers experience in Saudi Arabia.

The report includes testimonies from migrant workers who entered the Kingdom legally in full compliance with Saudi government regulations. Once in the Kingdom, they found themselves at the mercy of legal sponsors and employers who had the power to impose oppressive working conditions on them.

"It was like a bad dream," said one migrant worker from the Philippines while summing up his experience working in the Kingdom. Another worker from Bangladesh told HRW that he slept many nights on the side of the road and spent many days without food. "It was a painful life. I couldn't explain that life," he said.

Saudi columnist Tariq Al-Maena recently wrote in *Arab News* about a

Bangladeshi named Ahmed, who was working in a French delicatessen when a Saudi businessman offered him a job with a higher salary. Ahmed agreed. However, he was exploited. His employer refused to release him and pay him his due.

Two months ago, *Arab News* visited a rundown and defunct factory in the Gholail district where five Pakistani mechanics live. For five years, these mechanics have not been paid their salaries and are living on temporary permits, as their *iqamas* (residency permits) have expired.

A Saudi relative of a non-Saudi worker whose employer refuses to release him expressed grief over his relative's situation. "This is why so many workers, including Muslims, return to their home countries deeply aggrieved because of what they go through. Is there any way to end employers' abuse of workers' rights?" he said.

The HRW report stated that it is undeniable that many foreigners employed in the Kingdom have returned home with no complaints. But for the men and women who are, and have been, subjected to abysmal and exploitative working conditions, sexual violence, and human rights abuses in the criminal justice system, Saudi Arabia represents a personal nightmare. ★



Toward A New Messianic Jewish Agenda

By Stuart Dauermann, Ph. D., Senior Scholar,
Messianic Jewish Theological Institute
www.mjti.org

We miss much of what the Bible says about Messiah due to our preconceptions. Cultural overlays foreign to Jewish life blind us to what should be obvious. We are only on the way to the kind of Messianic Judaism Scripture extols.

Our greatest blind spot is the communal context of that Messianic Judaism toward which *Tanakh* points us. When the Bible says, "In him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes,'" (2 Cor. 1:20) this includes all of the promises God made to Israel. Ezekiel reminds us that the fulfillment of these promises is linked to seven prophetic objectives. These objectives provide a new Messianic Jewish agenda that calls for the people of Israel to be (1) gathered to the Land of Israel; (2) united as one people; (3) spiritually renewed in repentance and faith; (4) serving Messiah; (5) enabled to live in covenant faithfulness, in keeping with the statutes and ordinances valued for millennia; (6) vindicated in the sight of the nations; and (7) living as His people, with Hashem dwelling in the

midst as our God (Ezek. 37:21-28).

Yeshua is not simply a personal Savior, but Israel's *national* Savior. But too many of us ignore this in our communal life and witness. Instead, we have learned to practice five kinds of evangelism, grounded in other cultural assumptions:

In "I-vangelism," the witness focuses on his or her life story, and how their life has been changed because of Yeshua. This requires us to prove what is most often a subjective reality.

In "You-vangelism," the focus is on the other person, on how "needy" they are (there is a difference between "needy" and "having a need"). This makes the good news of the Gospel dependent on convincing friends and family that they are not doing well.

"He-vangelism" focuses on who Yeshua is, what He taught, and what the Bible says about Him and His prophetic credentials. This requires us to make a convincing case, finding people open to our case-building

"Theo-vangelism" means persuading people of the glories and merits of one's pet theological system. We have all met such persons extolling the glories of Calvin, Luther, Dispensationalism, or some pet teacher.



THE DE-EVOLUTION OF PAKISTAN

“To each his own-evangelism” is the two-covenant approach, suggesting there is no need to “bother Jewish people about Jesus.” The problem is that Yeshua is first and foremost the Messiah of Israel, and only because of that, the Savior of the world. He was Israel’s Messiah first and remains such.

What is missing is “We-vangelism,” proclaiming the *communal* good news that the Holy One, who has been with Israel in all our afflictions, has come to rescue us again in greater measure than ever before, as the prophets said He would. *The Messiah has come and He is coming again. His name is Yeshua, and He is the best possible news for the Jewish people. In Him, all of God’s promises to Israel are being fulfilled.*

This perspective will revolutionize our Messianic Judaism and our outreach.

First, if we embrace these objectives, we will form communities that embody and reflect this outlook in personal, familial, and communal conduct.

Second, rather than feeling obliged to *confront* Jewish friends and family with the claims of Christ, we will instead *come alongside* Jewish friends and

family, warmly pointing them toward engaging with God’s consummating purposes for our people, while naming Messiah Yeshua as the living guarantee that all of this will come to pass.

Finally, this agenda unseats the adversarial posture we have too long assumed toward religious Judaism. Since religious Jews already embrace core aspects of Ezekiel’s prophetic objectives, they deserve our support and applause for doing so. Our testimony to them will be of how God will bring all of this and more to consummation through Yeshua, “a light for revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of God’s people, Israel” (Lk. 2:32). I-vangelism, You-vangelism, He-vangelism, and other approaches to outreach, have merit if not taken to extremes. Yet, every approach should be rooted in We-vangelism, which is truly good news for Israel.

We at Messianic Jewish Theological Institute are dedicated to this new Messianic Jewish agenda and devoted to the well-being of all the House of Israel. Our mission is to teach and live a prophetic vision of Jewish life renewed in Yeshua. ★

Jewish Heritage Calendar – Begins Now!

Caution: buying this year’s will make you want next year’s as well! This is the BEST time to order our new Jewish Heritage Calendar for the year 5769, which begins in September.

You’ll have the dates of biblical feasts and Sabbaths, and the names of the months, the Holy Days, etc. You will also become acquainted with many fascinating artifacts through colorful pictures and descriptions you may wish to save for years to come.

Please order from page 19.



8-yr-olds Holding the Borders of Israel

By Sara Yoheved Rigler, www.aish.com

Sderot is the Israeli city of 20,000 Jews located just 900 meters from the Gaza Strip. A more or less constant bombardment of Kassam rockets from Gaza, sometimes 50 per day, has killed 12 people, some of them children, and injured many hundreds.

Many charity organizations such as ZAKA (best known for collecting body parts after terror attacks) give Sderot residents a short respite from living under fire by bringing them for brief periods to other Israeli cities. There they will not be awakened in the middle of the night by a “Color Red” siren warning them that a Kassam rocket is on its way from Gaza. There the children can play outdoors without fear. There families can venture outside without worrying that the 15-second-warning afforded them by the siren will not be enough time to reach a shelter. On this particular Shabbat, ZAKA is treating fifteen Sderot families to a weekend in Jerusalem.

Walking through the lobby of Jerusalem’s Renaissance Hotel, I notice five young girls from Sderot sitting around a table munching on sunflower seeds (Israel’s ubiquitous snack).

I approach the group, eager to know what it’s like for children to live in a battle zone. The girls tell me their names and ages. Two are eight-years-old, two are nine, and one is ten. We converse.

“What’s it like living in Sderot?” I ask in Hebrew. “What do you do when the ‘Color Red’ goes off?”

“If we’re at home, we run into our safe room. Our apartment has a fortified room. Some of our friends run downstairs to the bomb shelter in the basement of their building.”

“That must be hard in the middle of

the night,” I suggest. All the girls nod their heads sadly.

“But when you’re outside, like on your way to school,” pipes up Daniela, “and the Color Red goes off, there might not be any shelter close enough to run to.”

Aware that some 4,000 Sderot residents—16% of the population—have already left the dangerous city, I ask, “Would you like to move to Jerusalem?”

Four of the girls shake their heads “No.”

Helit answers, “Sderot is my home. I don’t want to leave.”

“I was born in Sderot,” says Miri.

“So was I,” add two other girls.



I look at Roni, who has not responded. She picks her words carefully. “I would like to move to Jerusalem, because it’s the holy city,” Roni admits. “But I will not leave Sderot. Because if I leave and my family leaves and other families leave, Sderot will be empty. And then the Arabs will take over the city and start shooting missiles at other cities. And then the Jews will move away from those cities. And then the Arabs will take over all of Israel.”

A lump has formed in my throat. This eight-year-old girl is holding down the borders of Israel for the rest of us. With perfect clarity, she sees that to abandon Sderot is, piece by piece, to abandon all of Israel. And to hold fast in Sderot, despite the lethal attacks, despite the risk to life and limb, is to hold on to the Jewish homeland. ★

Arab Press Decries Arab Indifference

By Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed, *Asharq Alawsat*

It is the same story all over again.

The displacement of Palestinians does not end in Gaza. They are on the hunt, pursued by the guns of their government, which claims to be their best defender. They flee their own government's pursuit, jails, and torture to Israel.

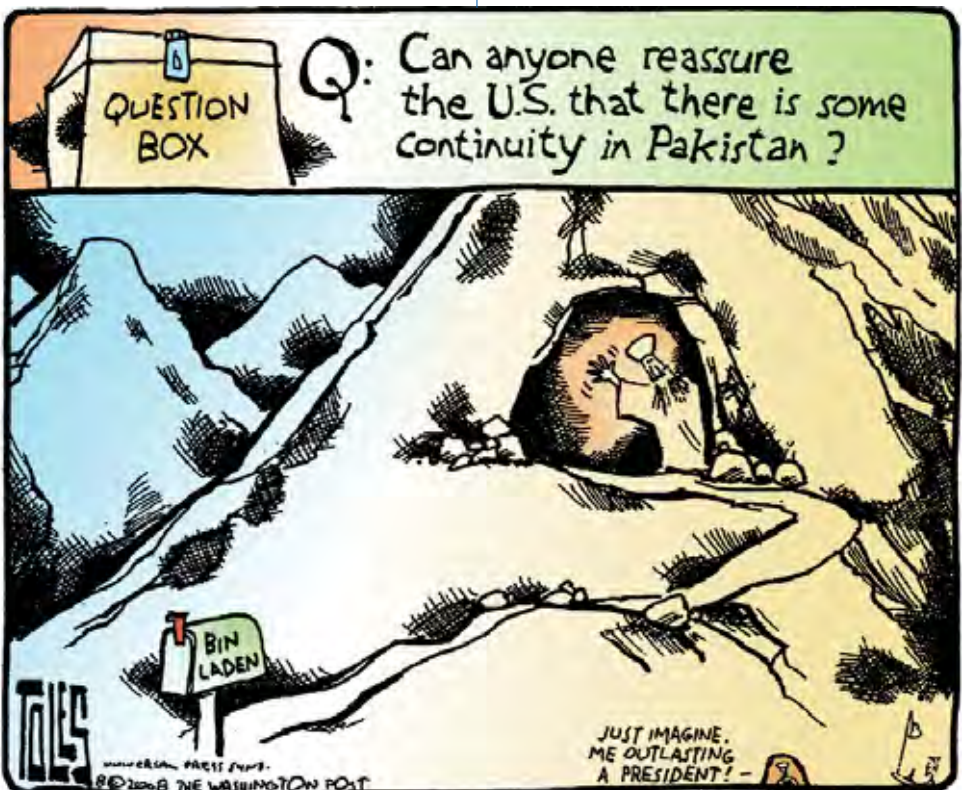
There is another story of Palestinian displacement on Iraq's northern border, where another forgotten tragedy unfolds of the thousands of stranded Palestinians who have been living in tents on the aid of international organizations for the past two years.

They were expelled by the new Iraqi regime and refused entry by the Syrians. Their tents are scattered in various areas, and the most miserable were put up in an arid desert where only UN employees take care of them.

There are other Palestinian refugees who have been refused entry by both Syria and Iraq and who live in a camp on the Iraqi-Syrian border. Syria prevents them from entering its territory while Iraq refuses their return to live in Iraq. These refugees live under harsh conditions, and international organizations report that so far 12 have died for lack of medical care.

Much can be said about this long, recurring tragedy of Palestinian refugees, reflecting the height of Arab displacement of Palestinians. Many Arabs do not mind if the Palestinian refugees continue to live in tents on international aid for another hundred years.

Who among us defends the poor, the forgotten Iraqi, the Lebanese, Somali, Sudanese, and other Arab refugees? Rarely does anyone speak of them, and more rarely does anyone do anything for them. ★



SELECT BRIEFS



The USS New York

It was built with 7.5 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center.
CentralPerkNY.blogspot.com

It is the fifth in a new class of warship — designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 363 sailors and 699 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.

Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on Sept. 9, 2003, "those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence," recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. "It was a spiritual moment for everybody there."

Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the Trade Center steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the "hair on my neck stood up. It had a big meaning to it for all of us," he said. "They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back."

The ship's motto? "Never Forget."

U.N. To Make Christians Criminals

By Bob Unruh, www.WorldNetDaily.com

Dozens of nations dominated by Islam are pressing the United Nations to adopt an "anti-defamation" plan that

would make Christians criminals under international law, according to a U.S. organization that has launched a campaign to defend freedom of religion worldwide.

"Around the world, Christians are being increasingly targeted, and even persecuted, for their religious beliefs. Now, one of the largest organizations in the United Nations is pushing to make a bad situation even worse by promoting anti-Christian bigotry," the American Center for Law & Justice said in announcing its petition drive. The discrimination is "wrapped in the guise of a UN resolution called 'Combating Defamation of Religions.' We must put an immediate end to this most recent, dangerous attack on faith that attempts to criminalize Christianity."

The "anti-defamation" plan has been submitted to the UN repeatedly since about 1999, starting out as a plan to ban "defamation" of Islam and later changed to refer to "religions." It is being pushed by the 57 member nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which has adopted the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, "which states that all rights are subject to *sharia* law, and makes *sharia* law the only source of reference for human rights."

Animals Suffer Too

By Anna Geifman, www.JPost.com

Since the mid-1900s, the Animal Farm—run by the same family on the outskirts of Sderot—has raised goats and sheep for meat. Over the years, local children took horse-riding lessons and played with baby animals. There were always plenty of chickens, geese, and pigeons to chase. The family enjoyed everyone's respect and did very well financially until Kassam rockets began to fall on Sderot and the Negev *kibbutzim*. Several farm animals died in the explosions, and the goats and sheep—some with shrapnel pieces in their fleece—began to have miscarriages.

“One time I was at the farm during a Kassam attack,” recounts Oshrat, a Sderot social worker. “Fifteen seconds of waiting and then an explosion. Not very near, this time. Three or four remaining horses grouped close to the fence after they'd heard the Red Alert. Maybe they felt it was better

to stick it out together.

“They looked like people I have seen



in the shelters: paralyzed with shock. I started to move slowly toward them, and one horse stirred: she recognized me. She began to walk towards me, looking down. When I reached to pat her on the neck, the horse raised her low-bent head and looked me straight in the face. Her eyes were filled with tears—exactly like a human's.

“The two of us stood there, looking each other in the eye and crying. I was sobbing not because I was hysterical; the fear was already gone. I just felt sorry for that poor horse! After a while she no longer seemed dazed either, but tears trickled from her eyes, and I knew that she felt sorry for me.”

Going to Church Boosts Grades

By Robert Roy Britt, www.LiveScience.com

If you want to boost your teenager's grade point average, take the kid to church.

Researchers found that church attendance has as much effect on a teen's GPA as whether the parents earned a college degree. Students in grades 7 to 12 who went to church weekly also had lower dropout rates and felt more a part of their schools.

The study does not suggest that God is smiling on the students, per se. Rather, it identifies several reasons the students do better:

They have regular contact with adults from various generations who serve as role models.

Their parents are more likely to communicate with their friends' parents. They develop friendships with peers who have similar norms and values. They're more likely to participate in extracurricular activities.



Religious-service attendance had the same effect across all major denominations, the researchers found, suggesting that the act of attending church—the structure and the social aspects associated with it—could be more important to educational outcomes than the actual religion.

The results are detailed in the winter 2008 issue of *The Sociological Quarterly*.

briefs continued next page

Lebanese TV Interview

Comment by Dry Bones cartoonist, Yaakov Kirschen, on this cartoon:

Dry Bones THE NEIGHBORS



MEMRI (The Middle East Media Research Institute) is an incredibly important resource. It translates Middle East media, bridging the

language gap between the Middle East and the West.

On the MEMRI website, I came across a recent Lebanon TV interview with a Saudi marriage official, Dr. Ahmad Al-Mu'bi. According to Dr. Al-Mu'bi:

"There is no minimal age for entering marriage. You can have a marriage contract even with a one-year-old girl, not to mention a girl of nine, seven, or eight. This is merely a contract [indicating] consent. The guardian in such a case must be the father, because the father's opinion is obligatory. Thus, the girl becomes a wife..."

But is the girl ready for sex or not? What is the appropriate age for having sex for the first time? This varies according to environment and traditions. In Yemen, girls are married off at nine, ten, eleven, eight, or thirteen, while in other countries, they are married off at 16. Some countries have legislated laws forbidding having sex before the girl is 18.

The Prophet Muhammad is the model we follow. He took 'Aisha to be his wife when she was six, but he had sex with her only when she was nine."

(Please see Cox article on page 12.)

Tissue Model Could Help Cure Chronic Diseases

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

Scientists at universities in Tel Aviv and San Diego have developed a research tool that could eventually lead to a better understanding of and treatments for diabetes, obesity, genetic metabolism disorders, Alzheimer's disease, and metabolic changes that occur in cancers.

Metabolism refers to the set of chemical reactions occurring in living organisms that allow organisms to grow and reproduce, maintain their structures, and respond to their environments.

The new computational model describes metabolism in 10 different human tissues, including the brain, heart, liver, and kidneys. The research exposes the central function in the various control functions that set down the way tissue metabolism is carried out. ★



A Sign Of The Times

(One of Zola's favorites) www.aish.com

A rabbi is walking down the street in New York when he is shocked by a sign hanging in front of a building.

The sign reads, "WE WOULD RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH 1000 HAMAS TERRORISTS THAN WITH ONE SINGLE ISRAELI."

Enraged, the rabbi walks up to the building to go inside and yell at the owners, but he is stopped by a smaller sign saying, "THE CHEVRA KADISHA (Hebrew Burial Society)."



Messianic Speakers Available!

Want a Messianic Jewish message delivered in your church? Arrange it! **Drs. Jeffrey Seif, Tom McCall, and Todd Baker, and Sandra Levitt** can do pulpit supply and address a wide range of subjects such as: The Gospel from a Jewish perspective, Why the Jews matter to Jesus and Christians, How the Old and New Testaments connect, Jews and today's news in prophecy, and more. You already know Jeff and Sandra. Tom McCall grounded Zola's theology, co-authoring eight books with him. Todd Baker founded ZLM's Missions to Israel. Please contact our office at speakers@levitt.com to invite Zola Levitt Ministries to your church.



Jeff

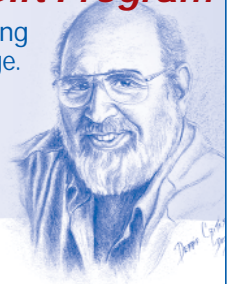
Sandra

Tom

Todd

Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

You can increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses in processing them, plus save your time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, our ministry will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit card.



If you wish to use your **checking account** for donations, please follow directions numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 below:

1. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th
2. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other _____
3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month's gift. The monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks, and you can cancel at any time.
4. Signature _____ (required for processing)
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8. Credit card #: _____ Exp. date ____/____
9. Signature _____ (required for processing)
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Some Thoughts on Russia and Georgia and Iran

From Desmond Butler of the Associated Press:

The Russians now supply about 25 percent of the European Union's crude oil needs and half of its natural gas. And Moscow, with its recent attack on its former Georgian republic, may be trying to blunt the West's counter-offensive in the deadly serious energy competition. A key, U.S.-backed pipeline carries oil out of Caspian and Central Asian fields to a Turkish port on the Mediterranean.

Some U.S. lawmakers worry about divisions within NATO due to Russia's domination of European gas markets and the threat of cold, dark winters if an angry Kremlin closes the valves.

"It is unlikely that aggression against our NATO allies will occur with aircraft and tanks and troops," said Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, the senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in an Associated Press interview. "A nation could achieve the same and worse effects simply by turning off the taps—people freeze, industry stops."

From Robert Baer of *TIME*, (and formerly CIA):

Moscow's long-term objectives in Georgia no doubt are to install a friendly government in Tbilisi (it has tried more than once to do that since Georgian independence), keep Georgia out of NATO, stop the flow of arms into Chechnya, and

take control of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline—the only important export route from the Caspian that does not pass through Russia. For it is oil that will give Russia leverage.

The question now: what is Russia prepared to do to make up for the past 17 years since the collapse of its empire?

One thing we should pretty much count on is that Moscow is casting an eye toward Iran, the most direct route to restoring its influence in the Middle East. An Iranian-Russian alliance, Moscow knows, would be an Israeli-American nightmare, not to mention a major headache for the global economy.

Russia sitting on Eurasian oil exports and Iran on the Strait of Hormuz would put 22 million barrels a day under the control of a very unfriendly alliance.

Will Moscow try to team up with Tehran?

The thing about nightmare scenarios is that they rarely come true. Still, it bears watching. There are half a dozen pending arms deals between Russia and Iran on the table, including the Russian S-300, an air-defense system that would make an aerial attack on Iran very costly. If Russia, emboldened by a victory in Georgia, were to go ahead with the deal now, it would be a sign that imperial Russia is truly back on the move. ★



The Louvre Gets A Hijab (Islamic Veil)

By Angelique Chrisafis
www.Guardian.co.uk

Known as the Veil and described by its architects as a giant glass Muslim headscarf in the heart of Paris, it was seen by the former French president Jacques Chirac as a way to avert a clash of civilizations in the run-up to the Iraq war. Current president Nicolas Sarkozy calls it the symbol of France's friendship with the Arab world.

The Louvre's bold new Islamic art wing recently had its first stone laid by Sarkozy, launching the museum's most daring project since IM Pei created the giant glass pyramid 20 years ago. The world's most visited museum will have Europe's biggest purpose-built exhibition space for an Islamic art collection, which France hopes will reconcile the secular republic with the world of Islamic heritage.

The \$136 m project will open in 2010, creating 32,000 square feet of gallery space in one of the museum's neo-classical

courtyards. Rather than cover the courtyard, a glass "luminous veil" will "float" above the ground, covering two floors. The Italian architect Mario Bellini yesterday described the undulating roof as "a headscarf blown in by the wind."

The Louvre's new Islamic wing is part of the museum's development as a major global art brand. France has cemented a 30-year deal to create a Louvre museum on an island off Abu Dhabi in 2012. Paris

A headscarf blown in by the wind is one architect's description of plans for the Louvre's glass-roofed Islamic wing, which is due to open in 2010



wants to cement its position as a European capital of Arab and Islamic culture.

François Mitterrand's "grand project," the Arab World Institute in Paris, attracts a million visitors a year and is reorganizing after financial difficulties. Its funding is shared between France and the 22 Arab League countries, some of whom have been accused of being late in their payments. ★



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