

# Levitt Letter

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



The Bible is full of surprises. Here's one that fascinates me. —Jeff Seif

## The Mystery of the Wise Men

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

(Matthew 2:1-12) – King Herod was “troubled” to hear about the birth of an alleged Messiah. The Christ would be a more legitimate King of the Jews than he, so Herod determined to find the child.



Herod became even more concerned when “wise men from the East came to Jerusalem” guided by “His [bright] star in the East.” Herod inquired about the timing of the great light’s appearance. In verse 9 Matthew says that “the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.”

“When they saw the [bright] star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy,” after which they entered the house and “presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Then they returned to the East by another way for fear of Herod, who was obviously up to no good.

Contrary to popular lore, the Bible never said there were three wise men. It does note, however, that the men were from the East—and that they were *Arabs*.

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## Christmas in a WW II German Labor Camp

By Anita Dittman  
www.LighthouseTrailsResearch.com

*The writer, a Jewish Christian Holocaust survivor, was 17 years old when this story took place. Today, she is 81 and lives in Minnesota.*

“Nothing happens without a purpose, does it?” Christian asked. “What do you suppose is our ultimate purpose for being trapped in Nazi Germany? I think it is to glorify God in the end. Do you think that is true?”

“I do, Christian.”

“Anita, do you know what day it is today? It is Christmas Eve. I have a surprise for you and the other Christians in the camp.” Christian’s eyes really sparkled with excitement now. “Mr. Anders has given me permission to take all the Christians to a Christmas Eve service in Ostlinde tonight! Of course a guard will be with us, but he will be exposed to the Gospel too.” *continued page 3*



In 60:1-5, Isaiah encouraged readers to “Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Though “deep darkness” engulfed the people, a promise followed: “the Lord will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you.” Seen by whom? Isaiah said, “the gentiles shall come to your light,” and then added “the wealth of the gentiles shall come to you.” Note the correlation between Isaiah’s gentiles coming to Israel’s Light with wealth in hand and the prophet’s mention of exactly who these gentiles were.

**Isaiah wrote in verse 6 “the multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.”** Worthy of note is Isaiah’s mention that the first of gentiles to come and acknowledge Jesus will be Arabs—another unexpected piece of Arab-related trivia in the biblical narrative.

Like Isaac and his descendants, Midian was a legitimate son of Abraham, though he came not by Sarah, but by Keturah—whom Abraham married after the death of Sarah (Genesis 25:1-6). Moses wrote in verse 6 “Abraham gave gifts” to Midian and his other brothers and “sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the East,” as he had done with Ishmael previously.

Is Matthew’s noting that sons from the East will come bearing gifts indicative of some sort of family reunion to come? If so, I find that delightful. We can leave that question for now. But let’s recognize that *Matthew’s gentiles coming to Jesus first were some of the Jewish people’s estranged Arab relatives.* Located eastward and southward in Arabia, Midian is mentioned first, followed immediately by Ephah (Isaiah 60:6). Who was Ephah?

Ephah was the son of Midian, likewise descended from Abraham by his wife Keturah (Gen. 25:4). There is no doubt in the Hebrew Bible. According to 1

Chron. 1:33: “the sons of Midian were Ephah [et al.], children of Keturah.” Sheba comes next in the Isaiah Text, where it says “all those from Sheba will come” (v. 6). Sheba was a son of Abraham, mentioned in conjunction with Dedan (Gen. 25:3). On the basis of their being mentioned together and as being Cushites (Gen. 10:7), one can conclude that there were migrations to Ethiopia. The fact that Arabian sites are named after them in southern Arabia indicates that their descendants were more firmly entrenched in that area. Arab connections are everywhere, are they not?



The people of Sheba, or “Sabians” as they are also known, were portrayed in the Bible as traders of gold and spices. The famous Queen of Sheba once came to Solomon bearing “spices, very much gold, and precious stones” (1 Kings 10:1-2, 10). Jeremiah noted frankincense that was “coming from Sheba” (6:20). Ezekiel spoke of merchants of Sheba (27:22), saying that they traded in the “choicest spices... and gold.”

*That Arabs were the first to acknowledge Jesus is striking.*

Isaiah predicted that Arabs would come to acknowledge the One known as the “King of the Jews.” What a story! Though the story of these first worshippers is well attested in the Scripture and in the Church, *buried beneath the storytelling and religious traditions is the truth that these fine men were Arabs.*

*This is an excerpt from Making Our Peace with the Warriors of the Sand, a book Jeff is currently working on.*



**“Christian, you don’t mean it! A real Christmas Eve service. We must spread the news. Oh, it is another miracle of God.” To war-weary Christian prisoners who loved Jesus, this was the best news in months, perhaps years.**

Twenty of us trudged over the snow-covered hills and meadows that night to a little country church at the edge of Ostlinde. The snow was falling lightly, and both melted snowflakes and tears dampened my face as Christian took my hand. “This will be the most meaningful Christmas I’ve ever had,” I told him. “It shows God’s very special love for us. It tells me He cares for us and that we’ll be all right in the end.”

**“The birth of Jesus must have been like this,” Christian said quietly. “He was poor and persecuted, and He was misunderstood and rejected, yet He always forgave. We have to forgive too, Anita, even the Nazis.”**

That night we huddled in the little church with a hundred or more of the farmers and townspeople. We sang Christmas carols and praised the Lord until well after midnight. As we read the Christmas story, we were reassured that Jesus knew our every ache because He also had been a man and had experienced human grief. In the dim candlelight we all gathered at the altar on our knees and prayed for Germany and our separated families; the guard stood careful watch in the doorway. Then we trudged home in the moonlight, for the snow had stopped falling. No one spoke a word; we all were savoring every minute of this blessed Christmas Eve.

Our silent communication conveyed a oneness that superseded all verbal expression. Saturated with the restful music and with gratitude to God, I sank into a deep and restful sleep on my straw mattress.

*Please see page 17 to learn about our Holocaust DVDs.* ★

## Brawl at Church of the Holy Sepulchre

By Matti Friedman Associated Press

A clash between Armenian and Greek Orthodox monks broke out in November in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, revered as the site of Jesus’ crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

The brawling began during a procession of Armenian clergymen commemorating the 4th-century discovery of the cross believed to have been used to crucify Jesus.

The Greeks objected to the march without one of their monks present, fearing that otherwise, the procession would subvert their own claim to the Edicule—the ancient structure built on what is believed to be the tomb of Jesus—and give the Armenians a claim to the site.

The Armenians refused and when they tried to march, the Greek Orthodox monks blocked their way, sparking the brawl.



AFP/Gall Tibbon

Six Christian sects divide control of the ancient church. They regularly fight over turf and influence, and Israeli police are occasionally forced to intervene.

Frankly this sort of thing happens all too often. These incidents betray how something is horribly amiss in sectors of the Christian tradition. — Jeff

# I Reject Islam and Love Israel

By "X-Muslim" [www.IsraelNN.com](http://www.IsraelNN.com)

As an Arab Muslim I once asked myself: Why do I hate Israel? Because I am a Muslim and Islam is extremely intolerant. Its intolerance to everything non-Muslim is the problem. But today I have rejected the teachings of Islam for this very reason. I have left Islam.

As an Arab "Palestinian" coming from a Muslim family, I was brought up with hatred of Jews, Christians, and all non-Muslims. Now I'm older, I have matured enough to view the world from a different perspective. I reviewed real history. It didn't take long to realize that I was on the wrong track and I moved quickly to the other side. I have not embraced another religion, but I am seeking a new spiritual path.

**Why does Islamic intolerance forbid other nations their right to exist in their own land?** The whole world should realize that Islam is at war with all nations on the planet. In our Muslim societies it is not "the extremists," but the whole society infected with this hatred. It isn't just Israel they hate, but America and Christians as well. Islam hates all other religions.

"Palestine" never existed and should never exist—and this is coming from me, an Arab classified as a "Palestinian." The creation of a Palestinian state would be the biggest threat to the existence of Israel and would not bring one day of peace to Israel. I know how my people think. Promoting such a state would be the equivalent of supporting the Nazis in their quest to destroy the Jews.

Israel's right to exist shouldn't be open for discussion. I don't blame the Israeli army for any defensive measure it takes. It fought Islamic terrorism long before any other nation faced their atrocities. The Israeli soldiers have been on the front line on behalf of the

whole free world. I am proud to support the Israeli Defense Forces, the most civilized and humane army in the world, no matter how the media try to portray them.

Jerusalem should never be divided and the Temple Mount should be liberated. All other religious groups have free access to their most sacred sites; yet, the Jews still watch their holiest place, Solomon's Temple, under occupation.

Israel's existence and survival is really a responsibility for the civilized world. It's the battle against Islam's imperial quest to conquer the whole world.

**Israel is the front line in the world's war against the tyranny of Islam.**

I held my tongue for too long, but today a great burden has been lifted from my heart. I don't care if I'm considered a traitor by my people for loving Israel. I'm proud to be an Arab who stands with a country that should be emulated by all its neighbors. For the sake of its people and for the sake of the world's stability and freedom, I'm proud to say I love Israel. Even if I don't have Jewish blood in my veins, I know I am Israeli at heart.

Long live Israel! ★

**ARGYLE SWEATER** By Scott Hilburn



# The Father of Lies

By Zola Levitt

In John 8:44, Jesus declares that Satan is the father of lies. Lying is one of his primary methods of operation. If he cannot twist truth to fit his purpose, he will do all he can to cloud it so that it can't be seen. And since Israel has been at the heart of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, Satan has woven some of his biggest lies around that little nation, trying to undermine the Israelis' divine right to their Land.

Israel is in danger. It has always been in danger, surrounded from its birth by nations committed to its destruction, but the current policy of giving up its land only weakens it. By having areas of Palestinian self-rule within a stone's throw of Israeli settlements, those Israelis have lost a great deal of their security.

Derek Prince, a noted Bible teacher, in a taped Bible study related that before the 1948 war, when Israel was not yet a nation, he observed with his own eyes a skirmish between Jews and Arabs on a major street in downtown Jerusalem. Prince had an apartment that overlooked the street, and his 5-year-old daughter told him to come and look. Arabs had trapped and killed 35 Israelis. When he saw the street, it looked as if supermarket meat had been dumped there because the Arabs had shot the Israelis and then cut them into small pieces. Prince was making the point in his study that the Arabs in Israel still have this horrific mentality.

## There are so many reasons why the Land ought not to be given to the PLO:

1. It is anti-biblical.
2. It rewards terrorism and the Intifada.
3. It elevates an ordinary killer (Arafat) to national leadership.
4. It will not lead to peace; the PLO has no intention of making peace.
5. It becomes physically impossible to defend the remaining parts of Israel militarily.
6. Jewish and Christian religious sites

are being handed over to Muslims (such as the Church of the Nativity and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron).

It should be remembered that the struggle in Israel is spiritual as well as physical. It is a contest of religions as well as a conflict between peoples.



## Something In Common

A Texan is visiting Israel and, feeling thirsty, he stops at a house along the road.

“Can you give me a drink?” asks the Texan.

“Of course,” says the Israeli, and he invites the Texan to come in.

“What do you do?” asks the Texan.

“I raise chickens” says the Israeli.

“Really?” says the Texan. “I’m also a farmer. How much land do you have?”

“Well, out front it’s 50 meters, as you can see, and in the back we have close to 100 meters of property. What about your place?”

“Well,” says the Texan, “on my ranch, I have breakfast and get into the car, and I drive and drive and I don’t reach the end of the ranch until dinnertime.”

“Really,” replies the Israeli. “I once had a car like that too.”

This is a joke that Zola would tell on the tour. — Sandra ★

# Shalom!

By Will King

[www.imagesofisrael.com](http://www.imagesofisrael.com)



Shalom! This simple and most basic of Hebrew words has several meanings, including hello, goodbye, and peace—all of which are appropriate for this article and this time.

First I want to say shalom, or hello, from Israel to all of you wherever you may be reading this. Many of you have read my articles here in the *Levitt Letter* or in other publications for several years now, and I always appreciate your kind comments. I want to thank all of you for your faithful support of me, of Israel, and of Zola Levitt Ministries.

**However, the time has come that I also must say shalom, or goodbye, to Israel.**

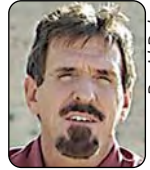
After five years of reporting to you the truth about Israel from here-on-the-ground in Israel, I've accepted a position as a reporter for a small Army publication in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

I've enjoyed my time here in the Holy Land—be it as a student, volunteer, or journalist. However, it has become increasingly difficult to receive a visa to stay here, not just for me but also for many Christians wishing to live, volunteer, or study in the Land.

Christian voices, strong supporters of Israel and the Jewish people, are being silenced more and more by the irrational and seemingly xenophobic policies of the Israel Interior Ministry and the Government Press Office.

But we cannot be completely silenced. Those who remain behind will have

to shout all the louder—not only the truth from Israel, but the truth of Israel's Christian friends and why we choose to support that which God has chosen and set aside. David Dolan, a writer many of you already know and who has been based in Israel for a number of years, will be taking over the “Our Man in Jerusalem” column for the *Levitt Letter*. I believe that our readers will benefit from his depth of insight into the political, religious, security, and other affairs of Israel. I wish him all the best in his new role.



David Dolan

It is for this reason, and after much prayer and consultation with friends and family, that I now have shalom, or peace, about my decision to leave Israel. It is with some sadness and anxiety that I leave the place I love and have been privileged to call home for five years, but also with a sense of anticipation and excitement over the things to come. I take away from Israel a new career skill, and a lifetime of memories as I embark on the next chapter in my life's journey.

I want to thank all of you again for your unwavering support of Israel and encourage you to continue to pray for its safety and redemption. And it is my prayer that God's shalom—the peace of the Lord—be upon each of you and with you always.

“Our Man in Jerusalem,” Will King, signing off. ★

BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro



**Will's Shalom—From A Mother's Perspective**

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28*

# Shalom From Sandra



When my son, Will, was commissioned by the Army after graduating college, I was both proud and concerned. I was proud because he had achieved the dream he'd had since the fifth grade—of serving his country; concerned, because my only child was going into the Army. I did not want any harm to come to him. The General who gave the commissioning speech told us parents that these new officers were “the best of the best, and if we had to go to war, these men and women were the ones we wanted serving and protecting us.” Those words of comfort calmed most of my fears.

Several years later, he traveled to Israel with me. After several trips, he “got tired of the long airplane ride,” heard God’s calling, and moved to Israel. He has lived there five years, reporting for ZLM as “Our Man in Jerusalem.”

Will’s living in Israel has, again, caused me to be both proud and concerned. I am proud that Will has been doing God’s work, publishing a book, finding a career that he loved, learning Hebrew, and making many friends. But concerned because the government has begun cracking down on Christians and Messianic Believers who live in Israel. They do not want them there and are doing all they can to make them leave. We all know that Israel could use some friends. The Believers who live in Israel are there as Israel’s friends: They come with goodwill, financial help, and whatever else they can offer Israel. It is the religious left that is causing most of the problems for the Believers. For the last two years, Will has had to travel out of Israel every three months in order to be allowed to renew his visa. When he

returns and requests re-entry, he never knows if it will be granted.

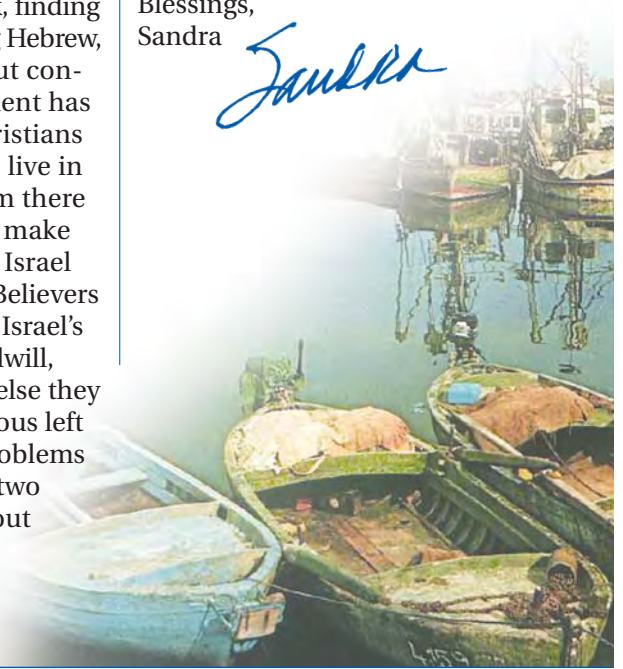
So, in God’s perfect timing, Will is returning to the States to work for the Army in a civilian capacity, using the gifts that God has given him—photography and writing.

This time I am not fearful, but I am still proud that God used Will these past five years for His glory. Just as the General calmed my fears many years ago, I hear God’s words in the Scripture above, and I am comforted.

Israel is still my favorite place to visit. God’s words speak to me at every site. I’d love for you to join Zola Levitt Ministries and visit Israel for the trip of a lifetime. Please see page 36 for our Holy Land tour dates in March.

And as you go, please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Blessings,  
Sandra



**Are you concerned about the present world and your future in it? I am too. My Bible-inspired commentary often encompasses U.S. policies and global politics, but for now I'll focus on matters closer to home—to your home and mine.**

## DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



Mindful of our country's economic challenges, its ailing Social Security system and the needs of its citizens, let me point out that Scripture addresses the security needs of the aging. The Bible offers a mechanism to address those needs.

The commandment to “honor thy father and thy mother” appears first among the commandments governing human affairs (Ex. 20:12). Its importance is noted by the added phrase “that your days may be prolonged upon the earth”—which connects one's well-being to the honoring of one's parents. This commandment is restated elsewhere in the Books of Moses (Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16, 33), to add emphasis.

With a hint of laughter, I often tell my sons that just as I have slaved over them for the first eighteen years of their lives, I expect them to look after their mother and me during our last eighteen years. Frankly, I half mean it.

**“And even to gray hairs I will carry you!”**

In Isaiah 46:4, the Lord says, “And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.” In marked contrast to the security that comes from honoring parents, a worried Jacob in Genesis 42:38 is grieved that his sons will “bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave” by dishonoring him and not supporting him in the waning days of his life. This is tragic—and all too common today.

The Bible sets out obligations concerning care for the elderly. What would it

be like if these responsibilities prevailed in our modern culture? For starters, people would understand honoring father and mother to mean that it is primarily the family's job to attend to the aged, and not the government's. The problem, of course, is that family foundations are deteriorating. God isn't, though.

**There is still hope—available through the Church, particularly.**

The Gospel message is one of reconciliation, and the Church is a reconciling community. Each church must make sure that members who lack family support can find forgiveness, help, and hope and even the ability to recover the kind of community necessary for stability (see e.g., Matt 5:24; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 7:11; 2 Cor. 5:18, 20; Col. 1:21-22).

Personal security is a fruit of *community*—not government. The modern Church still has the motive, the message, and the mechanism to bring people together and thus to help ensure the long-term stability of its members. As a result, it contributes toward a better society—no matter what the government does or doesn't do—because it possesses the ancient instruction that modern individuals would do well to follow, that their “days might be prolonged upon the earth.”

Take a moment to think about your own responsibilities to family and church. See if there aren't areas in which you can develop Godly strategies to make life better for those around you...and for yourself.



# Obama's Road to Damascus

By John Perazzo  
[www.FrontPageMagazine.com](http://www.FrontPageMagazine.com)

History will record that Barack Obama's first act of diplomacy as America's president-elect took place two days after his election victory, when he dispatched his senior foreign-policy adviser, Robert Malley, to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad—to outline for them the forthcoming administration's Mideast policy vis-à-vis those nations. An aide to Malley reports, "The tenor of the messages was that the Obama administration would take into greater account Egyptian and Syrian interests" than has President Bush.

**A Harvard-trained lawyer and Rhodes Scholar, Robert Malley is no newcomer to the Obama team.** In 2007, Obama selected him as a foreign policy adviser to his campaign. At the time, Malley was (and still is today) the Middle East and North Africa Program Director for the International Crisis Group (ICG).

In his capacity with ICG, Malley directs a number of analysts who focus their attention most heavily on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the political and military developments in Iraq, and Islamist movements across the Middle East. Prior to joining ICG, Malley served as President Bill Clinton's Special Assistant for Arab-Israeli Affairs (1998-2001), and as National Security Adviser Sandy Berger's Executive Assistant (1996-1998).

Robert Malley was raised in France. His lineage is noteworthy. His father, Simon Malley (1923-2006), was a key figure in the Egyptian Communist Party.

In a July 2001 op-ed that Malley penned for *The New York Times*, he alleged that Israeli—not Palestinian—inflexibility had caused the previous year's Camp David peace talks (brokered by Bill Clinton) to fall apart.

Malley's identification of Israel as the cause of the Camp David impasse has been widely embraced by Palestinian and Arab activists around the world. It should be noted that Malley's account of the Camp David negotiations is entirely inconsistent with the recollections of the key figures who participated in those talks—specifically, then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, then-U.S. President Bill Clinton, and then-U.S. Ambassador Dennis Ross (Clinton's Middle East envoy).

Malley also has written numerous op-eds urging the U.S. to disengage from Israel to some degree. In Malley's calculus, the electoral victory that swept Hamas into power in January 2006 was a manifestation of legitimate Palestinian "anger at years of humiliation."

Moreover, Malley suggests that if Israel were to return the Golan Heights to Syrian control, Damascus would be inclined to pursue peace with Israel.



This inclination to negotiate with any and all enemies of the U.S. and Israel—an impulse which Malley has outlined clearly and consistently—has had a powerful influence on Barack Obama.

It is notable that six months ago the Obama campaign and Malley hastily severed ties with one another. At the time, Obama campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt minimized the significance saying: "Rob Malley has, like hundreds of other experts, provided informal advice to the campaign in the past. He has no formal role in the campaign and he will not play any role in the future."



# Is This The Point of No Return?

By Patrick Cox  
Contributing editor



Patrick Cox

Non-profit organizations, such as the publisher of this newsletter, are barred from engaging in partisan politics. However, with the election behind us, we can talk about what the Obama administration means to those who are concerned about the safety of Israel. There is, unfortunately, real cause for concern.

We all know of Obama's decades-long and intimate connection to the virulently anti-Israel pastor Jeremiah Wright. His church, in fact, honored the stridently anti-Semitic Louis Farrakhan. Obama now says he didn't know about Wright's extraordinary hatred or lunatic conspiracy theories. I find it difficult to believe, but I hope it's true.

We know that various pro-Palestinian associates of Obama have predicted that his administration will end what they say is America's one-sided support for Israel. These claims are echoed by statements from Jesse Jackson and Farrakhan. Obama told us, during the campaign, that it wouldn't happen. I hope it's true.

Unfortunately, however, I look to wiser and more accomplished minds than Obama's to help me make forecasts. As I've written before, the man I consider our greatest social commentator is Thomas Sowell (pronounced soul.) Like Obama, he is African-American, but he was born into real poverty in a very segregated 1930. After dropping out of high school to make ends meet, he served in the Korean War and went on to get degrees from Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Chicago—before the era of affirmative action. His grasp of history, economics, and political science, I believe, is unparalleled. My favorite playwright and commentator on anti-Semitism, David Mamet, recently referred to Professor

Sowell simply as our "greatest contemporary philosopher."

As an economist, Sowell has been extremely critical of Obama's economic plans. His gravest predictions, though, regard the new president's attitudes about Iran. Famously, Obama said he would meet with President Ahmadinejad without preconditions. Moreover, he has scoffed at those who consider Iran a serious threat.

This is odd given that Iran now has at least four times the missiles in Lebanon that it did when its Hezbollah forces attacked Israel in 2006. Iran also exercises veto power, through Hezbollah, over all Lebanese government decisions. Iran's leaders, of course, continue to promise Israel's destruction.

"Economic disasters," Sowell wrote before the election, "may pale by comparison with the catastrophe of Iran with nuclear weapons. Glib rhetoric about Iran's being 'a small country,' as Obama called it, will be a bitter irony for Americans who will have to live in the shadow of a nuclear threat that cannot be deterred, as that of the Soviet Union could be, by the threat of a nuclear counterattack.

## Dry Bones BEHIND CLOSED DOORS . . .



www.drybonesblog.com

“Suicidal fanatics cannot be deterred. If they are willing to die and we are not, then we are at their mercy—and they have no mercy. Moreover, once they get nuclear weapons, that situation cannot be reversed.”

Sowell goes on to say that, “If Barack Obama thinks that such a catastrophe can be avoided by sitting down and talking with the leaders of Iran, then he is repeating a fallacy that helped bring on World War II.

“In a nuclear age, one country does not have to send troops to occupy another country to conquer it. A country is conquered if another country can dictate who rules it, as the Mongols once did with Russia, and as Osama bin Laden tried to do when he threatened retaliation against places in the United

States that voted for President Bush. But he didn’t have nuclear weapons to back up that threat—yet.”

Sowell also reminds us that France, when Germany dictated who ruled there, turned Jews over to the Nazi death camps. In his words, a nuclear-armed Iran is a “point of no return.” After his election, President-elect Obama said that he opposes a nuclear-armed Iran, but he has also promised to cut the American military and reduce our own nuclear deterrent.

Obama’s confidence is in diplomacy, which Sowell warns us cannot succeed. Sowell believes there is little doubt that Iran will use its power against Jews; and not only in Israel. This is such an unimaginable outcome; all I can do is pray he is wrong. ★

## Torah’s Tale is Kept Alive

By Duke Helfand *Los Angeles Times*

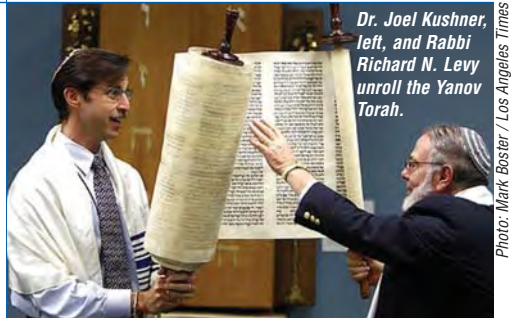
**During World War II, Jewish inmates of the Yanov labor camp in occupied Poland defied their Nazi guards, secretly conducting religious services inside their darkened barracks.**

To observe their ritual, the Jews had cut religious scrolls into sections, bound the parchment pieces around their bodies, and walked them through Yanov’s front gate. They hid the fragments wherever they could—beneath the floorboards of their barracks, inside hollow bedposts, even in a camp cemetery.

After the camp’s liberation in 1945, one survivor collected the scattered pieces. He assembled them into a single ragged scroll, the Yanov Torah.

Three decades later, the Torah—its parchment warped and water-stained, its patchwork sheets held together by fraying threads—found its way to Los Angeles and into the hands of a leader of the city’s Reform Jewish community, Rabbi Erwin Herman, who devoted the final years of his life to telling its remarkable story.

Last November, Herman’s dying wish was fulfilled when a new generation of Jews celebrated the rebirth of the Yanov Torah.



*Dr. Joel Kushner, left, and Rabbi Richard N. Levy unroll the Yanov Torah.*

*Photo: Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times*

Carrying the fragile scroll beneath a *chuppah*, or wedding canopy, Herman’s widow and grandson presented it to the rabbis and rabbinic students at the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion near USC. The students, in turn, will carry the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, to their internships at synagogues throughout California. “The Yanov Torah is a true child of the Holocaust,” Agnes Herman, 86, told a gathering at the seminary campus. “A survivor.”

The handover came as Jews commemorated the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night in 1938 when Germans rampaged against their Jewish neighbors, destroying synagogues, businesses and homes, killing dozens and rounding up thousands for deportation to concentration camps.

To learn the story of the Torah’s journey from Poland to Los Angeles, please visit [www.levitt.com/news](http://www.levitt.com/news).

## Behind the Scenes

By Ken Berg, Producer of *Zola Levitt Presents*

When we first began producing *Zola Levitt Presents* as a weekly television program thirty years ago, it took little more than one inexpensive video camera, one or two seats on an Israeli tour bus, and a few moments of Zola's time between biblical sites. Things were much simpler then. In the late '70s and early '80s, we were comfortable working at a slower pace.

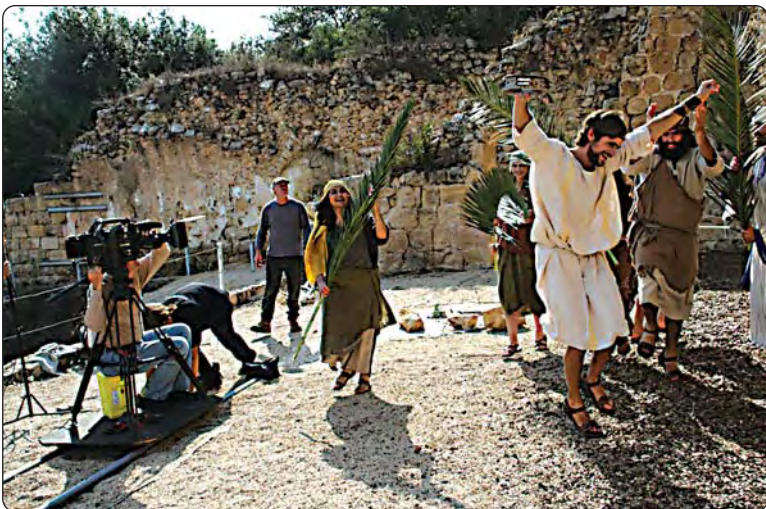
Now one wonders how we ever survived without PCs, the Internet, and cell phones. Gone are the days when a "talking head" was all you needed to effectively teach the Bible on television.

Thankfully, you readers and viewers have been very supportive during these three decades of electronic transformation. We are blessed that a faithful viewing audience has stood with us financially as we have endeavored to keep apace with the times.

Praise the Lord, our new TV series *The Warrior King* is looking like it could be our best one yet. We've just returned from three weeks in Israel, videotaping in high definition a series based on



the life of David. Jeff's insight into this biblical hero issues a challenge to our generation—a call for "David-like Leadership in Goliath-like Times."



1. David rejoices between takes (He's not king yet in this scene)



2. Yonathan Porat – David the King

### A Fresh, New Dynamic

In producing *The Warrior King*, we felt led to ratchet up the quality of our dramatic re-enactments with a trained actor. Historically, we have used anyone on the street who had a beard and looked the part; but this "David" brings a fresh, new dynamic to the program. It was a good decision.

The commitment to better production requires a considerable support team of technicians and crewmembers, costumers, etc., the likes of which we never experienced in the early days. At times during this latest production, we used four cameras, upwards of five support vehicles, and sometimes twenty-five people preparing equipment, sets, and props.

### Doing It Right

We intentionally steer clear of a “Hollywood” mindset, which lavishes itself beyond reason. If anything, we have a “Jerusalem” mindset: a dedication to effectively tell the Message of Israel’s eternal King. But doing it right increases our location costs, as does the dollar’s diminished value.

I share these thoughts in the knowledge that the Lord has always



3. *Yonathan Porat — David the Warrior*



4. *Filming in the Valley of Elah (where David slew Goliath)*



5. *Jeff teaching (below) in the Valley of Elah (or Elah Valley)*

met our needs. We want to produce good programming because He deserves nothing less.

Thanks so much for your prayers and pledges that help us tell His story.



# Are We Reliving the 1930s?

By Manfred Gerstenfeld [www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

Elie Wiesel noted that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent UN speech calling for the destruction of Israel demonstrates that the world has learned nothing from the Holocaust. The 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht in November provided an occasion to grapple with the question of whether, in the current decade, the Jewish people are reliving the 1930s.

To answer that, one has to look at issues such as genocide and hate promotion, appeasement of totalitarians, Western leadership, and so on. The correct answer must then be: "Yes, but only in certain aspects." The existence of the State of Israel is the main difference. In the 1930s the Jews were an incoherent, leaderless group with no tools to defend themselves against enemies. Today there is a Jewish state that is threatened by substantial parts of the Muslim world and others, but is not helpless.

There is no country today like Nazi Germany with systematic, state-promoted anti-Semitism and state-sponsored violence against its Jewish citizens. There is, however, an explicitly genocidal anti-Semitic power—Iran—that proclaims it is out to annihilate the Jewish state and is developing an atom bomb to do so. Extermination policies have mutated with technology.

Ominous similarities between the 1930s and now do exist. First, there is totalitarianism. Leading Holocaust scholar Prof. Yehuda Bauer has said, "Islamic radicalism is the desire for a global utopia... Every universal utopia is murderous,

and every radical universal utopia produces radical murderers." As in the 1930s, Western leadership is weak and little aware of looming dangers. British prime minister Neville Chamberlain was reviled for his appeasement of Nazi Germany.

Today, many in the West favor appeasement of radical Muslims. Europe seeks to placate its resident Muslim extremists through proposals that sharia law be allowed to operate within the framework of national legal systems.

One phenomenon that may be unique to our time is what can best be called "humanitarian racists." Humanitarian racists believe that only whites must be held accountable for their acts, whereas non-whites are mainly victims. By diminishing non-whites' responsibility for their criminal deeds, one is in effect ranking them somewhere between "real" humans and animals, which live by their urges.

Humanitarian racism can often be discerned in the debate on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, where it systematically ignores the criminal character of large parts of Palestinian society, such as its education of children to become "martyrs" through murdering Jews.

In a globalized society, the forces of radical Islam, genocide promotion, and appeasement of totalitarians are increasing—as are those in opposition to them. Their relative strengths will determine whether the similarity of our world to that of the 1930s will grow or decline. ★



# Honoring A Nazi

By Toby Sterling Associated Press

It ought to be a proud milestone in the Dutch seafaring heritage—the construction of a new ship its owner claims will be the world’s largest. But there’s one problem: its name.

Edwin Heerema, founder of the company that has commissioned the \$1.7 billion vessel, wants to name it the *Pieter Schelte* after his late father, Pieter Schelte Heerema, who was renowned as a maritime engineer but was condemned for his service in the murderous Nazi Waffen SS.



Pieter Schelte Heerema

The choice of name has provoked outcry from politicians and Jewish groups, and revived painful questions about Dutch collaboration with the country’s World War II occupiers.

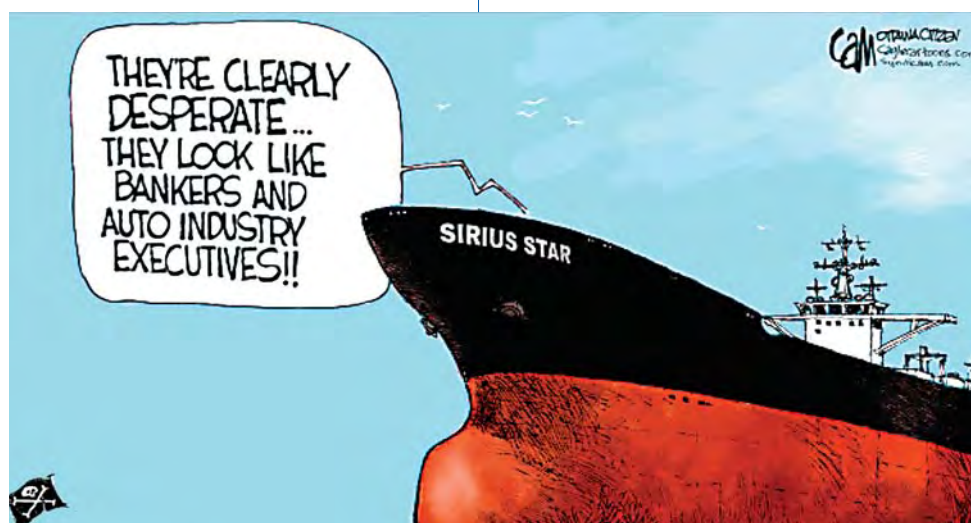
“For people who know his pitch-black history, this ship should not be named for him. Not now, not ever,” said Ronny Naftaniel, director of CIDI, which monitors anti-Semitism in the Netherlands. He said Edwin Heerema’s desire to honor his father was understandable

up to a point, but the choice of name was “tasteless and unethical.”

Edwin Heerema’s company, Swiss-based Allseas Group SA, rejected criticism. “Pieter Schelte Heerema was widely appreciated in the industry during his life and the companies that came from his heritage have an excellent name in the offshore industry,” said spokesman Jeroen Hagelstein.

But it’s an awkward matter for the government. It gave Allseas’s Netherlands subsidiary a \$1 million tax break for its part in designing the ship, and now acknowledges it didn’t notice the name until a Dutch journalist, Ton Biesemaat, raised the issue. Hagelstein said Heerema joined the Nazis out of opposition to communism rather than enthusiasm for national socialism. He said he then switched sides and joined the resistance in 1943 “as he could no longer associate himself with the ideas of the Nazis.”

He noted that Heerema was tried and released shortly after the war, which shows he “cannot have been seriously delinquent.” The respected Netherlands Institute for War Documentation said that’s technically accurate. Heerema was sentenced by a Dutch court to three years in prison but quickly released, the courts having recognized his unspecified but “very important” services to the resistance between August 1943 and March 1944. ★



# ZLM Bulletin Board

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If you donate \$10,000, you will receive the following with our grateful thanks: One each of all our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth)—not just for your library, but also to give away; a \$500 per passenger discount (up to 4) on one of our Israel tours; and a telephone conference with Jeff to discuss this ministry's goals, plans, and visions.



## Contributions From IRAs Extended Through December 31, 2009

Legislation signed in October 2008 extends the charitable contribution provision of the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006. Certain IRA holders (over 70.5 years old) may contribute directly from Individual Retirement Accounts to tax-exempt organizations like this ministry. Each contribution—up to \$100,000 annually during 2008 and 2009—is excluded from taxable income. This is a convenient, tax-efficient way to give. Donors should consult with their financial advisors and determine whether to seize this renewed giving opportunity.

## Somali Piracy: Nothing New



In mid-November, pirates struck hundreds of miles off the coast of East Africa. They captured a Saudi supertanker carrying \$100 million worth of crude oil.

Over the course of 10 centuries, Muslim pirates cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and seizing slaves. It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as many older men and women as possible so the preferred “booty” of only young women and children could be collected. To read more, see “Thomas Jefferson’s Koran” on page 6 of the March 2007 *Levitt Letter*, archived at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

## Pamphlet of the Month

Send for our free pamphlet entitled ***37 Things People 'Know' About Wills That Aren't Really So***. It begins by explaining why too few people make adequate estate plans. It also briefly refutes dozens of the most common misconceptions about wills. Its Technical Advisory Section suggests “Begin with the basics” and touches on “Choosing the form of the bequest” and “Tax considerations.” To receive this pamphlet at no charge, either email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

## “Come Home!”

Zola's Tours to Israel:



See page 36 for details

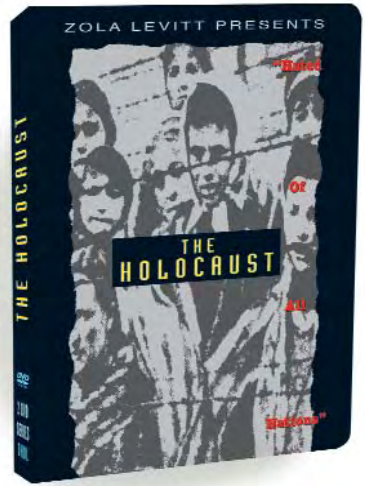




# THE HOLOCAUST

## Six 30-minute TV programs on Two DVDs or VHS

Selected from our updated *Signs of the End* series, these six 30-minute programs cover the most tragic event in history. Zola Levitt and his staff report on the Holocaust through hard-hitting interviews and a filmed visit to Dachau Concentration Camp in Munich, Germany.



**Please order from page 18.**

### THEY SURVIVED

Zola interviews two Holocaust survivors, Dr. Eric Kulka and Efraim Zuroff. Tom McCall interviews the head of research at the Israeli Museum of the Holocaust and the director of the Jerusalem Simon Wiesenthal Center.

### AN EYEWITNESS AT DACHAU

A filmed visit to Dachau Concentration Camp. Includes interviews with Dachau survivor Nikolas Lehner and an American eyewitness who visited the camp just after the war in 1946.

### A SPY AMONG NEO-NAZIS

An interview in Israel with Yaron Svoray, investigative reporter/spy. He gives background regarding the motivations of his mission to go undercover for eight months among neo-Nazis in Germany.

### NAZIS TODAY

Zola continues his interview with Yaron Svoray. Yaron shows photos of neo-Nazis he took during his undercover mission—evidence which the German government has done nothing about.

### TWO RABBIS

Includes interviews with Rabbi Stan Eisenberg in Fort Worth and Rabbi David Rosen in Jerusalem. Two rabbis in different hemispheres share a common concern about anti-Semitism.

### RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, shares her concern for political support by all democracies for the State of Israel. Pam Rosewell Moore, who was Corrie ten Boom's companion and secretary, reveals special insights into Corrie's survival during the Holocaust.

**Books**

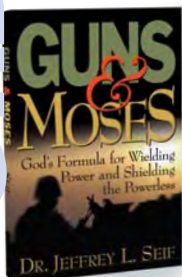
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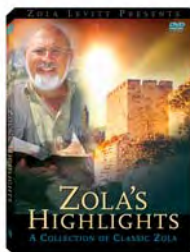
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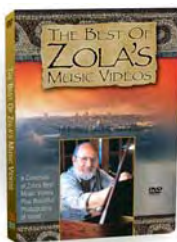
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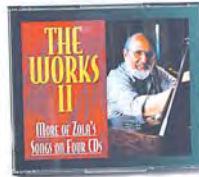
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## The All-Sufficient One By John J. Parsons

אֲנִי-אֵל שַׁדַּי

*I am El Shaddai (Gen. 17:1)*

### The All-Sufficient One

In Genesis 17:1 the LORD described Himself to Abraham using the divine name *El Shaddai* (i.e., “I am El Shaddai. Walk before me and be perfect”). Most English translations render El Shaddai as “God Almighty,” probably because

אֲנִי	אֵל	שַׁדַּי	יְיָ
(2)   (1)	(1)	(1)	(2)   (1)
ani	El	Shaddai	
I am	God	all-sufficient	

the translators of the Septuagint (i.e., the Greek translation of the Old Testament) thought Shaddai came from a root verb (*shadad*) that means “to overpower” or “to destroy.” The Latin Vulgate likewise translated Shaddai as *Omnipotens* (from which we get our English word omnipotent). God is so overpowering that He is considered “Almighty.”

According to some of the Jewish sages, however, *Shaddai* is actually a contraction of the phrase, “I said to the world, *dai* (enough!).” God created the world but “stopped” at a certain point. He left creation “unfinished” because He wanted us to complete the job by means of exercising *chesed* (love) in repair of the world...

Jacob’s blessing given in Genesis 49:25, however, indicates that Shaddai might be related to the word for breasts (*shadaim*), indicating sufficiency and nourishment (i.e., “blessings of the breasts and of the womb”—*birkhot shadaim va'racham*). In this case, the Name might derive from the contraction of *sha* (“who”) and *dai* (“enough”) to indicate God’s sufficiency to nurture the fledgling nation into fruitfulness. Indeed, God first uses this Name when He refers to multiplying Abraham’s offspring (Gen. 17:2).



El Shaddai is used almost exclusively in reference to the three great patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and (according to Exodus 6:2-3) was the primary name by which God was known to the founders of Israel (the Name *YHVH* given to Moses suggests God’s absolute self-sufficiency). The word “Shaddai” (by itself) was used later by the prophets (e.g., Num. 24:4; Isa. 13:6, Ezek. 1:24) as well as in the books of Job, Ruth, and in the Psalms. In modern Judaism, Shaddai is considered an acronym for the phrase *Shomer daltot Yisrael*—“Guardian of the doors of Israel”—abbreviated as the letter *Shin* on most mezuzahs. ★



*“Guardian of the doors of Israel”*

# Big Gas Troika

By Nasser Karimi Associated Press

Russia, Iran, and Qatar made the first serious moves recently toward forming an OPEC-style cartel on natural gas, raising concerns that Moscow could boost its influence over energy markets spanning from Europe to South Asia.

Such an alliance would have little direct impact on the United States, which imports virtually no natural gas from Russia or the other nations. But Washington and Western allies worry that closer strategic ties between Russia and Iran could hinder efforts to isolate Tehran over its nuclear ambitions. In addition, the United States opposes a proposed Iranian gas pipeline to Pakistan and India, key allies.

In Europe—which counts on Russia for nearly half of its natural gas imports—any cartel controlled by Moscow poses a threat to supply and pricing.

Russia, which most recently came into confrontation with the West over its five-day war with Georgia last August, has been accused of using its hold on energy supplies to bully its neighbors, particularly Ukraine.

Moscow cut natural gas exports to the former Soviet republic over a price dispute during the dead of winter in 2006—a cutoff that caused disruptions to European nations farther down the pipeline.



Gholam Hossein Nozari, center, Alexei Miller, right, and Qatar's Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiya.

The 27-nation European Union expressed strong opposition to any natural gas cartel, with an EU spokesman saying: “The European Commission feels that energy supplies have to be sold in a free market.”

Together Russia, Qatar, and Iran account for nearly a third of world natural gas exports—the vast majority supplied by Russia—according to U.S. government statistics. The three hold some 60 percent of world gas reserves, according to Russia’s state-controlled energy company Gazprom.

The United States—the world’s largest consumer of oil and gas—produces most of its natural gas needs at home, importing only from Canada and Mexico. Experts say a natural gas cartel would not have the same influence on prices as OPEC has on oil since natural gas is not subject to the same severe fluctuations.

Liquefied natural gas—a rapidly growing segment of the market—could be traded as a commodity similar to oil at some point in the future, and the move by Russia, Iran, and Qatar appears to anticipate that, said an analyst with Moscow’s Alfa Bank. ★





# Letters to ZLM

## Over There

Dear ZLM,

I'm in the military and I've ordered material that I plan to use for a Bible study with other Marines. I am very grateful to receive the *Levitt Letter*, as I share it with other Marines and they are continually blessed by it. It provides great topics to start conversations with others. It's especially relevant to us here, seeing as how we are stationed in the land that God gave to Israel (currently mislabeled on our map as Iraq)! —J.G.

## Name Calling

Dr. Seif,

I am a lover and student of the Scriptures and represent the true people of Eloah called the ABRAHUW and His true Nation "YAsrael." I greatly appreciate your efforts to acquaint the churches with the fundamentals of Judaism and our Jewish cousins. But your teachings are faulty on the fundamentals of The Scripture, including the acceptance of the pagan name of "Jesus."

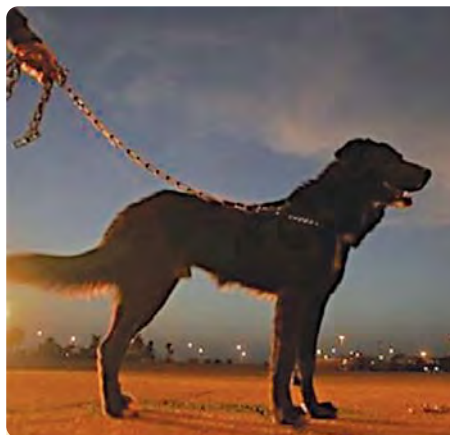
Since our time is valuable and your witness is very influential, would you meet us in a private or public debate in Dallas over whether or not the name of Jesus is scriptural? We are willing to put up \$10,000 against your \$10,000 that Jesus never occurs in any of the 13,000 Scriptures in any language before 1000 AD. We believe your false teachings come from ignorance and not lack of integrity at present. We would like your ministry to help us restore the true Scriptures after you study them yourself.

It is not our desire to offend but to bless you. I am His and your servant,  
R. AH.

Dear R. AH.—

By debating you, I might lend credibility to your argument—and this is something to avoid. It is a fantasy to imagine that debating the pronunciation of Hebrew words has relevance to God or today's world. Let's not waste time. What *is* of utmost importance?—This: the fact that some incline to call upon Him, whether or not the syllables accord with someone's absurd notions. Let's glorify God!

—Jeffrey Seif



(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

### COMPASSION AMONG THE TROOPS

An animal rescue group flew into Baghdad to pick up Ratchet, an Iraqi puppy adopted by a U.S. soldier from Minneapolis. The case has highlighted U.S. military rules barring troops on duty from caring for pets, but the soldier complained that she couldn't take the animal home, and she was reunited with Ratchet last October.

## Planting Seeds

Dear Mark,

I feel “we the people” have been sold down the drain! It’s scary to think how we can be so deceived and most of the Christians in our area have no clue. My husband makes copies of all the info we gather and plenty of ZLM articles. We try to get others to join us in ordering your newsletter but to no avail! We do try to get extras and pass them out to people in our church and our friends and neighbors. We appreciate you and everyone involved in your ministry.

Thank you a million times and Shalom,  
B.J.B.

Dear B.J.B. —

Thanks for the helpful feedback, which inspires this suggestion: Instead of handing off *Levitt Letters*, please experiment with deploying them in opportune places—at the gym near other reading materials, at the car wash, in the laundry mat. Think in terms of serving as an anointed spy on a mission to deliver life-saving information behind enemy lines.

And then maybe you’ll plant some seeds that will save a soul. —Mark



## Wakeup Call

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,

Why do you focus so much on what Muslims are doing? The Jews who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be in hell with the Muslims. Why are you pro-Israel and anti-Muslim when both reject Jesus as Son of God? Yours, S.W.

Dear S. W.—

America is presently at war on two fronts, and both put our young in harm’s way. As if that wasn’t bad enough, Iran is poised to go nuclear, which poses threats to Israel and much of Europe. Need more? How about 9/11, and various other terrorist attacks? Wake up, S. W. —Jeff

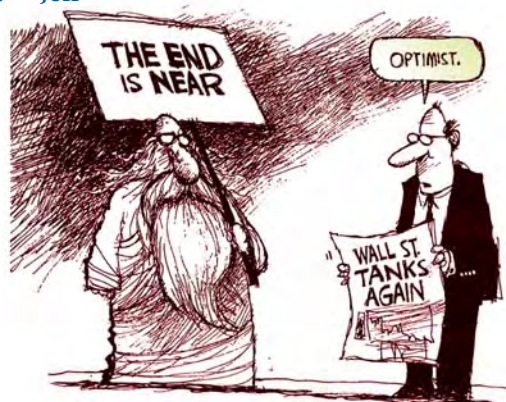
## Dear Friends?

Dear Friends,

You try to make all the Muslims look as if they are like the Taliban or al-Qaeda. Plain and simple, all I see is anti-Muslim propaganda and less of God’s love. Please remove me from your mailing list. Sincerely, G.J.M.

Dear G.J.M.—

You start with “Dear Friends” and then slam the door in your friends’ faces when you say “remove me from your mailing list.” Makes me wonder what you mean by “friends.” That aside, I agree with you we must differentiate between radicals and moderate Muslims. I make that distinction in *Bad Moon Rising* (on DVD), as does the book *Is Fanatic Islam a Global Threat?* Both are offered on page 18 of this *Levitt Letter*. —Jeff



## Disguised Compliment

Dear Dr. Seif,

I want to thank you for the excellent work you are doing. Here's a quote: "No one kicks a dead dog. The more important the dog is, the more satisfaction people get in kicking it." Remember that unjust criticism is often a disguised compliment. God Bless, S. J.

## ZLM Fans

Dear Jeff,

I think you are doing a wonderful job. Zola will forever be missed. That said, I think the ministry is twice blessed by having your voice and style in this new chapter. I think you are so balanced and bring a wonderful balance of love and truth, which I believe reflects the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. Shalom, D.L.M.

Dear ZLM,

We all love your newsletter. It is always a lot more informative than the Sunday paper. I am especially touched by the "Letters to ZLM." I love how you include the good, bad, and ugly. It makes me want to support you more. Yours, S.K.

## Ask and You Shall Receive

Dear Jane (ZLM Office Manager),

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for this wonderful new, NKJV study Bible. I've been in prison for 24 years and been a Christian for 23 of them. I have written various ministries trying to get a study Bible. Zola Levitt Ministries is the only one that responded. Blessings, W.A.

Dear W.A. —

We have more study Bibles where yours came from. Please tell your brethren behind bars, "Ask and ye shall receive." (John 16:24) —Mark





## Casting Stones

Dr. Seif,

You mention in your last letter about Ben Franklin being on the \$100 bill and give him praise. But the stories I have read say he was a womanizer, especially when he traveled to France. He also drank. What say you? Yours, W.B.

Well, W. B.—

We cannot praise him, of course, for womanizing and drinking. But, let me ask you a question: What do you suppose Paul meant when he said that if we want to deal only with righteous men, we'll have to leave this world (Romans 3:10)?

—Jeff

Dear Dr. Seif,

Christians believe that God is God, as are Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Jews believe that God is One. I now have a problem with Messianic Jews. What is their belief? If the Messiah is Jesus, is He also God? Furthermore, could you explain why God's name is translated from the Hebrew as Jehovah? Sincerely, G. G.

Hi G. G.—

As a Messianic Jew, I believe that God so loved the world that He sent His own Son into it, and that the Messiah is thus divine. This is the classical position. There are many, many names in the Hebrew Bible—of people, places, and things—and they are given English equivalents. Yeshua is Jesus; Miriam is Mary, etc. The Hebrew name for God carries the equivalent “JHVH,” commonly referred to in the Hebrew as Jehovah. —Jeff

Dear Jeff and Sandra,

I read the “Zola Classic” in your November 2008 edition wherein someone named J.W. told Zola that he wouldn't support the ministry anymore because Zola said that it wasn't necessary for Believers to keep the Sabbath. I was surprised that Zola would say such a thing! — R. S.

Dear R.S.—

Just think how surprised Zola must have been when he read where the Apostle Paul says it in Colossians 2:16-17! —Jeff

## In Jewish Context

Hello Dr. Seif,

I am a gentile presently attending a Messianic Jewish congregation. I am confused. Have the Shabbat and kosher laws been revoked or annulled? I know you have many duties, but I am hoping you might respond. Sincerely W.D.H.

Dear W.D.H.—

Followers of Jesus are not required to follow the Law of Moses—referred to as the Mosaic Covenant, which was made with the Jewish people at the base of Mount Sinai. There are no binding obligations for Shabbat worship, dietary laws, and the like. If, however, as an extension of your love for the Lord you decide to keep the Jewish Laws, you would join the throng who celebrate Jesus in His Jewish context. Just don't make the mistake of many enthusiasts who insist that others must also do so. Stay tuned for a new series in 2009 that will cover the Messianic Jewish experience. —Jeff ★



## A Crooked Televangelist's Worst Nightmare: The Trinity Foundation

By Mark Levitt



Ole Anthony, Trinity Founder

Founded by Ole Anthony more than two decades ago, the Trinity Foundation has become internationally known as the leading “watchdog” of religious media for its investigative work in exposing televangelist fraud. Its archives are a major resource for national and international media who report on the activities of unscrupulous ministries. For the past three years, Trinity workers have been assisting and testifying for Senator Grassley and his U.S. Senate Finance Committee as it looks into possible tax law infractions by anywhere from six to a hundred ministry groups.

The Foundation regularly provides assistance to print and electronic journalists investigating suspected fraud or other abuses of the public trust by members of the religious media. It has worked with news organizations such as ABC News *Primetime Live*, CBS News *60 Minutes*, and NBC News *Dateline*. For nearly six months, it has been working with *60 Minutes* on an investigation that possibly will air early this year.

The Trinity Foundation maintains a private investigative license with the State of Texas and occasionally provides undercover operatives to news organizations. Until the laws are changed and ministries open their books, the only way to hold them accountable is by digging out the truth through undercover investigations.

Trinity workers take vows of poverty, wear

secondhand clothing, and wait in line for their health care behind illegal aliens and indigents. They also take the homeless and needy into their homes and celebrate the Jewish feast and fast days. But the starting point for their endeavors is in their home Bible study groups, with a combined membership of around 50, that meet several times a week in East Dallas.

Zola Levitt Ministries has never run afoul of Trinity. First, we’re not large enough to warrant its attention. Second, we file 990 tax returns and offer our independently-audited financial statements free to those who ask. Third, we’ve passed muster with the IRS during an eight-prong audit that you can read about on page 28 of the December 2002 *Levitt Letter*, archived under “Newsletter” at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

Many denominational church leaders and other Christian leaders have acknowledged Trinity’s work as “necessary for the Body of Christ,” but failed to publicly endorse it for fear of getting sued by the corrupt televangelists it exposes. Trinity, of course, could charge for its work; but doing so would significantly decrease its credibility and change the nature of its ministry.

More recently, Trinity has had to hire an additional investigator. Costs for database searches and travel have also increased substantially. The bottom line is that Trinity is even more underfinanced than usual and needs substantial financial assistance. If you’d like to support the work of Trinity Foundation, you can write to Ole Anthony at 5622 Columbia Avenue, Dallas, TX 75214, visit [www.trinityfi.org](http://www.trinityfi.org) or call Pete Evans at (214) 827-2625, ext 205. Or ZLM will forward 100% of any contributions designated for the Trinity Foundation.



## Afghan Journalism Student Sentenced To 20 Years

By Amir Shah Associated Press

An Afghan appeals court recently overturned the death sentence for a journalism student accused of blasphemy for asking questions in class about women's rights under Islam. But the judges still sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

The case against Parwez Kambakhsh, 24, whose brother has angered Afghan warlords with his own writings, has come to symbolize Afghanistan's slide toward an ultraconservative view on religious and individual freedoms.

"I don't accept the court's decision," Kambakhsh told the media as he left the courtroom. The case can be appealed to Afghanistan's Supreme Court.

John Dempsey, a U.S. lawyer working for six years to reform the Afghan justice system, said Kambakhsh has yet to get a fair trial.

"Procedurally, he did not have many of his rights respected," said Dempsey, who attended the trial. "He was detained far longer than he should have been legally held. The defense lawyer was

not even allowed to meet the witnesses until a night before the trial." Kambakhsh was studying journalism at Balkh University in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and writing for local newspapers when he was arrested in October 2007.

Besides the accusation that **Kambakhsh** disrupted class with his questions,

prosecutors also said he illegally distributed an article he printed off the Internet that asks why Islam does not modernize to give women equal rights. He also allegedly wrote his own comments on the paper.



Five witnesses from Mazar-e-Sharif—two students and three teachers—appeared before the three-judge panel. The first witness, a student, told the court he had been forced into making a statement accusing Kambakhsh of blasphemy by members of Afghanistan's intelligence service and a professor. He said the professor threatened him with expulsion. Other witnesses testified that Kambakhsh had violated tenets of Islam.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the sentence. ★

## Female Egyptian Encourages Sexual Harassment Against Jewish Women

By Hana Levi Julian, IsraelNationalNews.com

A female Egyptian lawyer has recommended that Arab men begin sexually harassing Jewish women as a means of forcing Jews to leave "Arab countries." Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, is perceived among Western nations as a moderate Arab nation where secular Arabs are a majority.

In an interview on Al Arabiyah television, Nagla Al-Imam said, "In my opinion, they are fair game for all Arabs, and there is nothing wrong... this is a new form of resistance." According to a translation provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Al-Imam specified, however, that her "resistance" plan did not include rape.

"No. Sexual harassment... In my view, the [Israeli women] do not have any right to respond. The resistance fighters would not initiate such a thing, because their moral values are much loftier than that. However, if such a thing did happen to them, the [Israeli women] have no right to make any demands, because this would put us on equal terms—leave the land so we won't rape you. These two things are equal," she said.

Al-Imam added that she did not want "young Arab men to be interrogated," but rather, she wanted "these Zionist girls with Israeli citizenship to be expelled from our Arab countries. This is a form of resistance, and a way of rejecting their presence."

**It is obvious that Ms. Al-Imam considers Jewish women to be less than human. — Editor**

## Oldest Hebrew Writing Unearthed

By Matti Friedman Associated Press

Hirbet Qeiyafa sits near the modern Israeli city of Beit Shemesh in the Judean foothills, an area that was once the frontier between the hill-dwelling Israelites and their enemies, the coastal Philistines. The site overlooks the Elah Valley, said to be the scene of the slingshot showdown between David and the Philistine giant Goliath, and near the ruins of Goliath's hometown in the Philistine metropolis of Gath. In the excavations of Hirbet Qeiyafa, an Israeli archaeologist has discovered what he believes is the oldest known Hebrew inscription on a 3,000-year-old pottery shard.

Carbon-14 analysis of burnt olive pits found in the same layer of the site as the pottery shard helped archaeologists date it to between 1,000 and 975 B.C., the same time as the biblical golden age of King David's rule in Jerusalem.

Archaeology has turned up only scant finds from David's time in the early 10th century B.C., leading some scholars to argue the Bible's account of the period inflates the importance of David and his kingdom. Some even suggest his kingdom may not have existed at all.

But the fortified settlement where the writing was found contains indications that a powerful Israelite kingdom existed near Jerusalem in David's time, says Yossi Garfinkel, the lead archae-

ologist at the site. If his claim is borne out, it would bolster the case for the Bible's accuracy by indicating the Israelites could record events as they happened, transmitting the history that was recorded in the Old Testament several hundred years later.

Modern Zionism has traditionally seen archaeology as a way of strengthening the Jewish claim to Israel and regarded David's kingdom as the glorious ancestor of the new Jewish state. As a result, finding evidence of his rule has importance beyond its interest to scholars.

The script, which Garfinkel suggests might be part of a letter, predates the next significant Hebrew inscription by between 100 and 200 years. History's best-known Hebrew texts, the Dead Sea Scrolls, were penned on parchment beginning 850 years later.

The shard is now kept in a university safe while philologists translate it, a task expected to take months. But several words have already been tentatively identified, including "judge," "slave" and "king." The inscription was shown to other scholars at a peer presentation of the findings.

We shot part of our upcoming series *The Warrior King: David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times* at this very site, just after the story broke. Ours is one of the first TV crews to visit the site. Learn all about it in the weeks ahead by watching *Zola Levitt Presents*.

—Jeff



### NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



## Christians Targeted in Iraq

By Bradley S. Klapper [www.FoxNews.com](http://www.FoxNews.com)

Hundreds of terrified Christian families have fled Mosul to escape extremist attacks that have increased despite months of U.S. and Iraqi military operations to secure the northern Iraqi city, political and religious officials said recently.

Some 3,000 Christians have fled the city in one week alone in a "major displacement," said Duraid Mohammed Kashmoula, the governor of northern Iraq's Ninevah province. He said most have left for churches, monasteries, and the homes of relatives in nearby Christian villages and towns.

"The Christians were subjected to abduction attempts and paid ransom, but now they are subjected to a killing campaign," Kashmoula said, adding he believed al-Qaeda elements were to blame and called for a renewed drive to root them out.

Political and religious leaders interviewed said the change in tactics may reflect a desire on the part of extremists to forcibly evict all Christians from Iraq's third largest city.

Mosul police reported finding the bullet-riddled bodies of seven Christians in separate attacks in October. One weekend, militants blew up three abandoned Christian homes in eastern Mosul, police said.

Father Bolis Jacob of Mosul's Mar

Christian Refugees In Iraq  
Share Pistachios



Thaler al-Sudani/Reuters

Afram Church said he was at a loss to understand the violence. "We respect the Islamic religion and the Muslim clerics," he said. "We don't know under what religion's pretexts these terrorists work."

The killings come as Christian leaders are lobbying parliament to pass a law setting aside a number of seats for minorities, such as Christians, in upcoming provincial elections, fearing they could be further marginalized in the predominantly Muslim country.

Iraq's Christian community has been estimated at 3 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, or about 800,000, and has a significant presence in the northern Ninevah province.

In Mosul, where Christians have lived for some 1,800 years, a number of centuries-old churches still stand.

Joseph Jacob, a professor at Mosul University, said there were nearly 20,000 Christians in the city before the 2003 U.S. invasion. But over half have since left for neighboring towns or other countries, he said. ★

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*Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa, left, with his sons, addresses expatriate Jewish Bahrainis at a meeting in New York on Nov. 11, 2008. (Ron Kampeas)*

## **Bahraini King Eases Return Of Jews**

[www.JTA.org](http://www.JTA.org)

The King of Bahrain has said he would facilitate the return of Jewish expatriates through restored citizenship and land offers. King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa met in New York recently with about 50 Bahraini Jews who had immigrated to the United States, following a similar meeting in London last summer.

The king said that all expatriate Bahrainis, whatever their religion, were welcome to return. “It’s open, it’s your country,” he said in New York.

Hamad had reversed a law that banned dual citizenship and was ready to restore the citizenship of Bahrainis who had lost it in the interim, as well as offer it to their children. “The younger ones can’t remember much, but we want them to know,” he said of Bahraini heritage.

Returning Bahrainis would be eligible for land allocations, the king said. Hamad—in New York to attend an interfaith conference co-sponsored by Saudi Arabia and the United Nations—has instituted reforms in recent years, including extending the vote to women. He recently named a Jewish woman, Houda Nonoo, as his ambassador to Washington.

In an interview, Hamad stated that he did not expect his reforms to replicate

throughout the region. “What we do in Bahrain is for sure for Bahrain, it’s not to be exported,” he said.

Bahrain has recorded a Jewish presence since the Talmudic era. Its current community of several dozen Jews is descended from Iraqi Jewish merchants who settled in the late ninth century.

## **King Solomon’s Copper Mine Discovered**

[www.CBNNews.com](http://www.CBNNews.com)

Archaeologists announced the discovery of copper mines south of the Dead Sea, dating to the 10th century B.C., during the reign of King Solomon. The team, led by University of California researcher Thomas Levy, working with Mohammad Najjar of Jordan’s Friends of Archaeology, said the mines may very well have supplied the Israeli king with copper for his many building projects.

The discovery was made in the region the Bible refers to as Edom, now called Jordan.

Earlier excavations at the site, during the 1970s and 1980s, led archaeologists to believe that the mines dated to the 7th century B.C., but Levy and Najjar dug deeper, discovering materials that prove the mine was active during King Solomon’s reign.

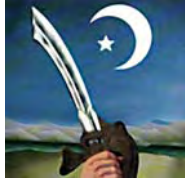
“We can’t believe everything ancient writings tell us,” Levy said. “But this research represents a confluence between the archaeological and scientific data and the Bible.”



## Christian Beheaded For Converting From Islam

[www.CompassDirect.org](http://www.CompassDirect.org)

Among at least 24 aid workers killed in Somalia last fall was one who was beheaded specifically for converting from Islam to Christianity, among other charges, according to an eyewitness.



Muslim extremists from the al Shabab group fighting the transitional government sliced the head off of Mansuur Mohammed, 25, a humanitarian aid worker, before horrified onlookers of Manyafulka village, six miles from Baidoa. The militants had intercepted Mohammed and a driver, who managed to escape, earlier in the morning. Sources close to Mohammed's family said he converted from Islam to Christianity in 2005.

The eyewitness, who requested anonymity for security reasons, said the militants that afternoon gathered the villagers of Manyafulka, telling them that they would prepare a feast for them. The people gathered anticipating the slaughter of a sheep, goat, or camel according to local custom.

**Five masked men emerged carrying guns, wielding Somali swords and dragging the handcuffed Mohammed.** One pulled back Mohammed's head, exposing his face as he scraped his sword against his short hair as if to sharpen it. Another recited the Koran as he proclaimed that Mohammed was a *murtid*, an Arabic term for one who converts from Islam to Christianity.

Mohammed remained calm with an expressionless face, never uttering a word, said the eyewitness. As the chanting of *Allah Akubar* [God is greater] rose to a crescendo, one of the militia-men twisted his head, allowing the other to slit his neck. When the head was finally severed from the torso, the killers cheered as they displayed it to the petrified crowd. The militants allowed one of their accomplices to take a video of the slaughter using a

mobile phone. The video was later circulated secretly and sold in Somalia and in neighboring countries in what many see as a strategy to instill fear among those contemplating conversion from Islam to Christianity.

## Rape Victim Stoned To Death In Somalia

[www.aftenbladet.no/english](http://www.aftenbladet.no/english)

The first reports were that Aisha Ibrahim Kuhulow was 23 years old, but her father now confirms for Amnesty International that she was only 13. The girl's young age, and the fact that she herself contacted the Shabab-militia (who control the town) in order to report the rape, failed to protect her from being sentenced to death by the Islamists for breach of Islamic law of having sex outside of marriage.

This child suffered a terrible death as demanded by the armed opposition forces that control Kismayo, said David Copeman of Amnesty's Somalia department. Thousands of people witnessed the grotesque execution of Aisha at a football stadium in the port town of Kismayo last November.

The 13-year old was led in and forced into a hole in the ground. The hole was then filled so that only her head was showing. About 50 men then started to throw stones at her, according to Amnesty's information. After a while, nurses were called to check whether Aisha was still alive. Her body was brought out of the hole and examined. When it was established that she was still alive, she was again placed in the hole so that the stone-throwers could continue. When some of the spectators tried to storm the stadium to save Aisha, the militia opened fire on the crowd, and a young boy was killed. The Shabab-militia expressed regret for the boy's death and assured that the soldiers who had opened fire would be punished. However, the men whom 13-year old Aisha tried to report for rape have little to fear. None of them has been arrested. ★



## Jakarta Cleric Marries 12-year-old

By Erwida Maulia *The Jakarta Post*

The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) is planning to report to police a rich Muslim cleric in Semarang, Central Java, who married a 12-year-old girl, accusing him of having illegal sex with a minor.

KPAI secretary Hadi Supeno said that cleric Pujiono Cahyo Widiyanto, 43, owner and head of an Islamic boarding school, had married and very likely slept with 12-year-old Lutfiana Ulfa.

“What surprises us is that she was selected through a contest involving Puji’s first wife and followers as a panel of judges. Puji married the girl after she beat her competitors.”

He said Lutfiana’s parents admitted they had married her to Pujiono because of their financial difficulties. “They said they couldn’t afford to send their children to school and hoped the marriage would improve their economic situation.”



Hadi said the commission would immediately report Pujiono, his 26-year-old first wife, and Lutfiana’s parents to the Central Java Police for a criminal investigation. If found guilty, they would face a maximum sentence of 15 years in jail and a fine of \$30,000 for “forcing,” “swindling,” or “trading” a minor to sleep with another person. The law defines a minor as anyone under the age of 18. The 1974 Marriage Law states a person must be at least 16 to marry.

Pujiono reportedly married Lutfiana as his second wife last August and has declared he plans to marry two even younger girls—a seven-year-old and a nine-year old. The “eccentric” cleric refused to name the children out of concern it would spark “wider criticism.”

Hadi said it would require a psychological test to prove whether the cleric could be termed a pedophile.



## “Hit A Jew Day”

By Jim Salter [www.CBSNews.com](http://www.CBSNews.com)

At least four students from a suburban St. Louis middle school face punishment for allegedly hitting Jewish classmates during what they called “Hit a Jew Day.” The incident occurred at Parkway West Middle School in Chesterfield.



District officials said they believe that fewer than 10 children of the district’s 35 Jewish students were struck. District spokesman Paul Tandy said that in most cases the students were hit on the back of their shoulders, but one student was slapped in the face.

It began with an unofficial “Spirit Week” among sixth-graders that started harmlessly enough with a “Hug a Friend Day.” Then there was “High Five Day.” Soon, though, the days moved from friendly to silly. Next there was “Hit a Tall Person Day” and, finally, “Hit a Jew Day.”

District officials believe a handful of children were directly involved. Those who actually struck classmates could face suspension and required counseling, Tandy said. Others who weren’t directly involved but taunted Jewish students or egged on classmates could face lesser penalties.

“There is a mix of sadness and outrage,” Tandy said. “The concern is a lot of kids knew about it and they didn’t take action or say anything.”

Karen Aroesty, St. Louis regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, said this was more than a case of bullying. Officials from the group will meet with district leaders to discuss the matter.





## Nobel Laureate's Faith In Free Market Remains

[www.Haaretz.com](http://www.Haaretz.com)

The economic downturn hasn't prompted Israeli **Nobel Prize Laureate Yisrael Aumann** to touch his investment portfolio. Despite the free market failures that many blame for the current crisis, Aumann remains a true believer in unregulated capitalism.



Alan Greenspan, the former Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, made a surprising admission recently when he acknowledged that unfettered market deregulation may not have been the way to go. Aumann, on the other hand, doesn't appear to be rethinking his ideology. In fact, he finds the \$700 billion U.S. government bailout plan a poor idea, believing markets will ultimately work themselves out on their own.

Aumann received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2005 for his research on Game Theory and Rationality. The award sparked international controversy and protest due to his right wing activism and the use of his economic theories to support his opposition to a peace deal with the Palestinians. ★

### Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

#### ION(PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

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

**DirecTV**—Channel 305      **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

**DirecTV**—Channel 372      **Dish**—Channel 260

#### 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—Channel 377 - Sundays**  
7:30pm ET    [www.tct.tv](http://www.tct.tv)

**CTN on DirecTV—Channel 376 - Tuesdays**  
8pm ET    [www.ctnonline.com](http://www.ctnonline.com)

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## Squeezing Drinking Water From Thin Air

By Karin Kloosterman [www.Israel21c.org](http://www.Israel21c.org)

For Dr. Etan Bar, CEO of EWA (which stands for Extraction of Water from Air), it was a question of priorities. His company, which focuses both on solar energy and clean water extraction from the air, had already developed a new solar energy air conditioner that was sparking interest in the industry, but Bar realized that clean water was a far more pressing need.

He put aside the air conditioner and began working on a new technology that could collect humidity naturally present in the air and turn it into clean water.

It sounds like a far-fetched idea, but it's actually thousands of years old. It was mentioned in the Bible and in ancient Jewish prayers, and archaeologists still find the stones Israelite farmers used thousands of years ago to collect dew for watering their crops.

### THE TECHNOLOGY IS THE KEY

Essentially, EWA, which operates out of Beersheba, Israel, has developed a clean water adsorption technology—which employs a solid desiccant to trap the water—and a special energy-saving condenser that reuses more than 85 percent of the energy input to the system.



Renewable energy sources, such as solar power, biofuel, waste heat, or even the heat from organic matter are compatible with the system. Making use of renewable energy sources enables EWA to supply water at cheaper cost because the need for long distance piping and infrastructure (the water consumer is the water producer) is erased from the equation. Even though clean water for drinking and bathing seems like a basic human right, for most of the world's poor it is a luxury. EWA hopes to change that. EWA's device can be scaled up or down, and will produce anywhere from a few hundred liters of water per day to 1,000 cubic meters of water in a single plant. ★

## M.D. Gets 1,500 Lashes

By Salah Nasrawi [Associated Press](#)

**Demonstrators in Cairo demanded recently that Saudi Arabia release an Egyptian doctor sentenced to 15 years in prison and 1,500 lashes after he was convicted of malpractice—reportedly after treating a Saudi princess.**

**His wife said she feared the punishment would kill him.**

**Raouf Amin el-Arabi, a doctor who has been serving the Saudi royal family for about 20 years, was convicted last year of giving a patient the wrong medication. Egyptian newspapers reported that he was accused of driving a Saudi princess “to addiction.”**

**He initially was sentenced to seven years in prison and 700 lashes, but when he appealed two months ago, the judge not only upheld the conviction, but more than doubled the penalty to 15 years in prison and 1,500 lashes.**

**“1,500 lashes is unprecedented in the history of Islam,” read one banner carried by protesters. “Who is responsible for the humiliation of our doctors abroad?” read another.**

**The case has drawn nationwide criticism in Egypt and local human rights groups have demanded that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who maintains close ties with the Saudi royal family, intervene to free el-Arabi.**

**El-Arabi is in a jail in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah and is believed to have received at least one of his weekly installments of 70 lashes so far.** ★



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

# Keeping Broken Limbs Healthy

By Karin Kloosterman [www.Israel21c.net](http://www.Israel21c.net)

Do muscles have to atrophy while broken bones are healing in a cast? An Israeli company believes it has the ultimate solution to keep muscles strong, even when the patient is immobilized with broken bones. The six-year-old company StimuHeal has invented an electrical stimulation device—the MyoSpare—that sits under the cast, stimulating muscles to stay strong, even when the patient's biggest workout is switching the channels on the remote control.

“The initial thought behind the system was to enable patients with orthopedic injuries to efficiently use the immobilization period to reduce cast-induced atrophy,” says Shlomi Cohen, the CEO of StimuHeal.

“The problem after bone injury is that most patients are not active,” says Cohen. “Even though doctors recommend them to be active, they aren't. Only after the cast is removed do they start physical therapy.”

Therapy with MyoSpare, however, can start immediately after surgical or medical interventions.

Now available in Europe and Israel, MyoSpare takes advantage of the downtime period when the adult or senior body is inactive and healing

from an injury.

StimuHeal identified the technical and clinical limitations of activating the muscles underneath casts using Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES), a well-recognized tool in the American healthcare system.

If electrodes were to be inserted under the cast, prolonged sweating would be a problem. The company also had to develop the perfect stimulation regime so the lactic acid and CO<sub>2</sub> wouldn't build up in the muscles, causing pain and discomfort. StimuHeal solved this by developing a microprocessor that calculates a cycle for the muscles to rest.

Not only will the MyoSpare device cut down on physiotherapy costs, it will radically help people return to their former selves after a serious debilitating injury. Other devices exist on the market to aid in muscle stimulation, but the MyoSpare is the only one developed for use under a cast when the body is healing.

To stay competitive, StimuHeal hopes to be able to sell MyoSpare in the United States for about \$300, once it gets the FDA seal of approval. This should happen sometime this year. ★



*StimuHeal's MyoSpare electrodes sit under your cast, stimulating muscles to stay strong throughout the healing process.*



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