

Levitt

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



Letter



Ignorance and deception are arguably the most-used tools in the devil's toolbox. —Jeff

Peace Isn't Arab Goal

By Jeff Jacoby, www.Boston.com

International consensus or no, the two-state solution is a chimera. Peace will not be achieved by granting sovereignty to the Palestinians, because Palestinian sovereignty has never been the Arabs' goal. Time and time again, a two-state solution has been proposed. Time and time again, the Arabs have turned it down.

In 1936, when Palestine was still under British rule, a royal commission headed by Lord Peel was sent to investigate the steadily worsening Arab violence. After a detailed inquiry, the Peel Commission concluded that "an irrepressible conflict has arisen between two national communities within the narrow bounds of one small country." It recommended a two-state solution—a partition of the land into separate Arab and Jewish states. "Partition offers a chance of ultimate peace," the commission reported. "No other plan does." *continued p. 2*



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11th Century Message for Jews

By Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf
www.JewishWorldReview.com

Rabbi Shlomo ben-Yitzchaki, the 11th century scholar known as Rashi, authored the most authoritative Torah (Bible) commentary in all of Jewish history. Rashi's comments about truth and the Jewish relationship to the Land of Israel are, for the Jewish people, deeply instructive.



The Book of Genesis begins with the creation of the heavens and the Earth, and Rashi is puzzled. If the Torah is a book of laws and practices by God for the Jewish nation, shouldn't He have skipped the whole Creation thing and gotten right to the commandments?

continued p. 3

But the Arab leaders, more intent on preventing Jewish sovereignty in Palestine than in achieving a state for themselves, rejected the Peel plan out of hand. The foremost Palestinian leader, Haj Amin al-Husseini, actively supported the Nazi regime in Germany. In return, Husseini wrote in his memoirs that Hitler promised him “a free hand to eradicate every last Jew from Palestine and the Arab world.”

In 1947, the Palestinians were again presented with a two-state proposal. Again they spurned it. Like the Peel Commission, the United Nations concluded that only a division of the land into adjacent states, one Arab and one Jewish, could put an end to the conflict. On Nov. 29, 1947, by a vote of 33-13, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, partitioning Palestine on the basis of population. Had the Arabs accepted the UN decision, the Palestinian state would today be 61 years old. Instead, the Arab League vowed to block Jewish sovereignty by waging “a war of extermination and a momentous massacre.”

Over and over, the pattern has been repeated. Following its stunning victory in the 1967 Six Day War, Israel offered to exchange the land it had won, for permanent peace with its neighbors. From their summit in Khartoum came the Arabs’ notorious response:

“No peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel.”



Ehud Barak & Arafat

At Camp David in 2000, [then-Israeli PM] Ehud Barak offered the Palestinians virtually everything they claimed to be seeking—a sovereign state with its capital in East Jerusalem, 97 percent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, tens of billions of dollars in “compensation” for the plight of Palestinian refugees. Yasser Arafat refused the offer, and launched the bloodiest wave of terrorism in Israel’s history.

To this day, the charters of Hamas and Fatah, the two main Palestinian factions, call for Israel’s liquidation. “The whole world” may want peace and a Palestinian state, but the Palestinians want something very different. Until that changes, there is no two-state solution. ★



Rashi's answer is astounding. He says that the Torah begins with the account of Creation in order to preempt a canard that will one day be leveled against the Jewish people. In his words, "The nations of the world will accuse the Jewish people of stealing the Land of Israel." Therefore, to cut such an accusation off at the knees, the Torah begins with Creation so that the Jewish people will be able to respond, "God created the world, the Earth is His, and He chose to give the Land of Israel to the Jewish people."

Rashi's words are astonishing, absurd, and profoundly insightful. Here's what I make of them.

1) Astonishing. Rashi wrote at a time when Israel had been under Muslim rule for four hundred years, Christian Crusaders were marauding their way across Europe to wrest the Holy Land from the grasp of Islam, and only a tiny Jewish community remained in Jerusalem. It's simply astonishing that he could not only see a day when there would be a Jewish State in Israel, but imagine a world that included a mechanism for nations from around the globe to accuse the Jews of stealing the Land from its "rightful inhabitants."

2) Absurd. The Jewish response that Rashi proposes to the accusation of "stealing" the Land is that the God who created the world, also gave the Land of Israel to the Jews. Did Rashi think that the Jews could just tell the Arabs that God gave Israel to the Jews and the Arabs would apologize for

having questioned the Jewish right to Israel? What in the world was Rashi thinking?

3) Insightful. Rashi was no fool. I believe that he was trying to tell us: When truth is presented with conviction, nothing can stand in its way. When all is said and done, the only weapon the Jewish people may have at their disposal is the power of truth.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has always been about one fundamental issue—the right of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. I suspect that Rashi wanted all Jews to know that while troops, planes, and helicopters are vital, truth is perhaps the most powerful weapon of all. How it works I don't exactly know, but when the entire Jewish people can say from the depths of our collective soul that the Land of Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people because God gave it to us, that will make all the difference in the world. ★



Matzoh Postcards (Pack of 12)

Imagine receiving a greeting on a postcard made of *matzoh* (the Jewish unleavened bread). Unfortunately, *matzoh* is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well, so we have created a 6" x 6" postcard. One side is functional, with areas for postage, an address, and a message. The other quotes Isaiah 53:5: "He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

Please order from page 19.



U.S. Jews React To Cairo Speech



Malcolm Hoenlein

By Ronald Kessler
www.NewsMac.com

President Obama's June speech to Muslims in Cairo drew a range of reaction from Jewish leaders. Even many who backed Obama were dismayed by the speech.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, spoke out. "I have no problem with addressing the Muslim world. The Conference has done it for about 15 years. But what is the message they get? It's not so much what he says, but how they perceive what he says. His reference to Israel and the special relationship being unbreakable was important."

But Hoenlein is disturbed that Obama did not mention the Jewish people's ancient connection with the Land of Israel. "He made no reference to the 3,000 years of Jewish connection to this Land. And that is a propaganda line the Arabs use: the Jews are interlopers, the two Temples never existed, there was never any Jewish history in Israel. The president not making those references is troubling."

Jews have claimed a connection to the Land since 1400 B.C. Even after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D., Jews continued to reside in

Jerusalem for centuries, surviving various invasions. An 1845 Ottoman census of Jerusalem showed Jews outnumbered Muslim Arabs by 2 to 1 and were the dominant ethnic group in the region.

President Obama addressed the Holocaust head-on, saying "Six million Jews were killed—more than the Jewish population of Israel today." But when he compared Hitler's genocide of the Jews to the Palestinian struggle, Hoenlein disagreed, saying, "The Palestinian refugee problem didn't come about because of the creation of the Jewish State. It came about because the Arab states declared war on Israel and warned the Arabs that they would suffer the same fate as the Jews if they didn't get out. And then they kept them as political pawns. The reason the Palestinians don't have a state is because their leaders rejected every offer for peace. Whether it was in 1937 or 1947 or 1967 or later on, Ehud Olmert's offer and Ehud Barak's offer, they rejected everything, even when they were getting virtually everything they had asked for."

That is because, "**The problem is not what Israel does, it's that Israel is.**" They're not ready to accept the existence of the Jewish State." ★



Be Sure You Get Fed Spiritually

Over the last few issues of this letter, I have taken on folks who defend false doctrines and who attend non-biblical churches. This has caused a rash of basically two kinds of letters:

Zola, I want to be taken off your mailing list immediately.

Zola, you tell it like it is. Keep up the good work!

I deeply regret any offense I may have given to any letter writer or viewer. Biblically, any individual in a ministry leadership position is a pastor, and the term “pastor” relates to “pastoral” in the sense of shepherding. The shepherd feeds the sheep; he does not offend the sheep.

I recently received a letter that remonstrated with me about how I treated Catholic, United Methodist, etc., writers. I guess I should have made crystal clear that I was criticizing the denominations and not the people who wrote the letters.

A Methodist may deeply believe in our Lord, may study Scripture, may in every way conform to the biblical image of a Christian, but his denomination, in supporting the Palestinian side on the Israel question, is simply dead wrong. One could not have even a passing acquaintance with Scripture and hold so unbiblical a position toward the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

I’m troubled with denominations that won’t study Scripture or even glance at Israel, God’s timepiece, where prophecy is being fulfilled every day as we live. On the other hand, I am delighted that members of these denominations watch our programs and read our letters, and get some

biblical understanding.

Looking through Scripture for instruction, we have a variety of examples on how to deal with those in error. Certainly the Old Testament prophets did not stop for much tact or diplomacy, but simply gave the truth unvarnished and to the point. Our Lord was most tender with such as the Samaritan woman, who held false doctrines, but He was confrontational with the Pharisees. And He certainly didn’t say to the moneychangers in the Temple, “Now, I respect your good intentions and I don’t mean to offend...”

Looking at the teachings of Paul, he was forceful and clear. In the case of the Galatians, who held on to false doctrines, he said this:

O foolish Galatians! Who hath bewitched you?...Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Galatians 3:1-3)

I honestly did not feel that I was attacking individuals, but I apologize sincerely and deeply for any offense. However tactless I might have sounded, though, the problem still remains. Some churches simply do not teach Scripture. Their members are in the dark about such crucial topics as Israel and prophecy. Therefore, I would suggest that those members go to Bible Study Fellowship or Precepts, both excellent organizations for Scriptural knowledge. Both emphasize the importance of Israel and prophecy. In fact, it would be impossible to truly study the Bible without those emphases. ★

NOTEWORTHY QUOTE

A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have.

—GERALD FORD



Saudi Beachhead In Boston

By Dennis Hale and Charles Jacobs
www.Boston.com

The end of June marked a milestone in the history of interfaith relations in Boston. Local Muslims, public officials, and interfaith leaders celebrated the opening of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center in Roxbury—a religious complex paid for largely by the Saudis and run by what federal authorities describe as the overt arm of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Some milestone! The city has helped the Wahhabi clerical establishment—purveyors of the most intolerant religious teachings on the planet—and the Muslim Brotherhood—genesis of all Sunni terrorist organizations—set up shop in the Cradle of Liberty, flying a false flag of moderation. And to make matters worse, this sad milestone is praised as a great victory for diversity and a boon to local Muslims.

Meanwhile, those who criticize this arrangement are branded as bigots and dragged into court, while the press and public officials ignore the links between the leaders of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center and Islamist hatred and terrorism. These claims are supported by tens of thousands of pages of evidence—much of it delivered to us by the Society as a result of the discovery process triggered by their own lawsuit.

So why worry? What will the following facts portend for the future of interfaith harmony in Boston and of the venerable and moderate Muslim community of Boston?

The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center offers courses from the Islamic American University, whose vice chairman is Jamal Badawi, a trustee of the Center, and headed by **Sheik Yusuf al-**

Qaradawi, a hate-mongering preacher from the Gulf who has been banned from Egypt and the United States. As the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, he praises suicide bombers, debates the correct way to murder homosexuals, and has urged that the Jews be murdered “to the last one.”



ISB records show that the organization has both received money from and donated money to organizations that were later investigated or shut down for terrorist activities. Among the recipients of ISB largesse are the Benevolence International Foundation—an al-Qaeda charity—and the recently convicted Holy Land Foundation—a Hamas charity.

While we were demonstrating against this extremist leadership outside the mosque’s opening, we got a chilling look at the future of diversity in Boston. One of the imams who came over to talk with us denied the existence of slavery in the Sudan and said that preaching death for homosexuals is an “opinion” to which Qaradawi is “entitled.” And an angry Muslim youth from the mosque informed us that it was common knowledge that the Jews had tried to assassinate and “betray” the prophet Mohammed. Consequently, he claimed, Jews could be discriminated against “to some extent.”

No sensible person believes that this is what multiculturalism is supposed to mean—yet these are the people who will now be ministering to the spiritual needs of the local Muslim community and bringing to the Center preachers who share their views. ★

Pressures On Israel's Settlements



The American government has been arm-twisting Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** to halt all construction inside over 150 Israeli communities located in Judea and Samaria—Judaism's biblical heartland. President **Barack Obama** says his goal of helping to establish a viable Palestinian state in the disputed areas during the next few years cannot possibly be achieved if such settlement growth continues.



Netanyahu is trying to appease Israel's most important ally while also keeping his right-wing coalition partners inside his government. He certainly recalls that it was pressure from an earlier president, Bill Clinton, which caused his first government to crumble in 1999.

The White House pressure then was also connected to Jewish settlements, with Clinton insisting Netanyahu evacuate Israeli military forces from most of Hebron, Judaism's second holiest site, where most of the biblical patriarchs and matriarchs were laid to rest. Such a withdrawal had been promised by the previous Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, as part of the 1993 Oslo Accords, which had already virtually collapsed by the time the Hebron redeployment was due to take place. Netanyahu eventually gave in to Clinton's demand, leading to the premature end of his coalition government.

Before he gave in, the Likud party leader had vigorously warned Clinton that the requested Israel Defense Forces (IDF) pullback would lead to

Jewish civilian deaths in the Holy City at the hands of Palestinian terrorists. Sadly, that was exactly what occurred less than two years later when the crumbling peace process totally collapsed amid the flames of the al-Aqsa Palestinian uprising.

Several of Netanyahu's current political partners have indicated they will leave his government if he caves in to Obama's pressure to halt settlement expansion and agrees to establish a Palestinian state on Israel's doorsteps. They believe a massive settlement uprooting would only encourage radical groups like Hamas to step up assaults on Jewish civilians and soldiers, regarding a mass Israeli evacuation as another hopeful sign that the detested Jewish state will soon be wiped off the Middle East map.

Netanyahu surprised some of his nationalistic political allies when he stated in mid-June that he would agree to the establishment of a nearby Palestinian state *if* it is completely demilitarized and does not include any portion of Jerusalem, *and* if Palestinian leaders drop their demand for the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees and their offspring to Israel. Still, the veteran politician surely understands that such conditions will never be acceptable to the Palestinian leadership. In other words, **he verbally bowed to President Obama's demands while not really threatening his coalition's internal stability.**

It seems clear that Netanyahu really believes that a Palestinian state at this juncture in history will not only threaten his government's stability, but far more importantly, the continued existence of Israel. So this time around, don't expect him to move very far in U.S.'s direction. ★

Mark Levitt increased our 2009 television production budget by more than 30% over 2008. We had conserved funds by relying on reruns, and it became essential to create some new television series. His “go get ‘em, tiger” mandate inspired me to roll up my sleeves for an incredible year.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



I have been in and out of Israel like a revolving door. At a time when many are clamping down on ministry activity, we have had to ramp it up. I believe God is leading us to present His truths in penetrating ways during these bleak days. Now we're trusting Him to provide the resources.

Our recent series, *The Dark Prince: When The Devil Has His Day*, has had stellar reviews. Some argued against telling the devil's story. However, we at this ministry believe that *all* Bible stories are “fair game.” The rise and extermination of evil at Days' End, as revealed in God's Word, is a story worth exploring. Are you thankful that we did this prophetic series, agonizing though the storyline is? If you haven't caught it on TV, watch it on the Internet at www.levitt.tv. As you do, please pray that more and more people get saved through it.

For a change of pace, *Jehovah's Treasure*, is an Indiana Jones-type thriller that will take millions into the world of the Bible's archaeology. Viewers will join us on the quest for the Ark of the Covenant and buried Temple treasures in the Holy Land, and will appreciate the many enhancements that made this our most expensive production to date. *Dark Prince* is intense and transformative, whereas *Jehovah's Treasure* is subdued and more informative.



Offered on p. 78

I'm in Israel right now on my fourth working trip this year. We're finishing

an uplifting series on Jesus called *Sar Shalom*—Hebrew for “Prince of Peace.” Slated for release later this year, *Sar Shalom* is shot on location in the placid Galilee, where we move gently in and out of biblical sites and stories around the Sea. We explore the world's most famous Jewish rabbi's most cherished message. Some call it the “Sermon on the Mount.” Others prefer “Torah on the Top.” Either way, we'll cover it from the top to bottom.

This evening, we celebrated producer Ken Berg's fiftieth trip to Israel. Under Ken's direction, our set design supervisor, Frank, built a first-century fishing village at the Sea of Galilee to serve as a backdrop for our actors, dramas, huts, and boats. Under Ken's direction, we're going to take millions of people back to Jesus' day and introduce them to Jesus in the context of His own Jewish culture—our trademark.

When I say “millions of people,” *I'm talking about you, our ministry's viewers and readers.* We work because of you and for you. We work with you to attend to Gospel business, to harvest souls for the Kingdom.

As I imagine you have, we are making financial adjustments in these challenging times. I see the reduction in purchases and contributions as a sign of the times. We're grateful that God inspires numerous supporters to each give a little. While it's true that sentiment alone doesn't pay the bills, we manage to find silver linings in our clouds: with mail volume dropping off, we have more time to reflect on the mail we read, and we always appreciate a good word from our friends.

Sharia Law in Britain

By Denis MacEoin, www.Guardian.co.uk

There are many problems with sharia law. In its full form, it contains numerous provisions that are barbaric and irreconcilable with any advanced society: stoning married adulterers, flogging the unmarried, throwing homosexuals from roofs, amputating limbs for theft, etc.

But sharia is much wider than that. It moves seamlessly from the public to the private realm. Demands that a measure of sharia be introduced to this country have been made, not just by Muslims, but even by an astonishingly naïve Archbishop of Canterbury. Sharia is only marginally about prayers, fasts, alms taxes, and pilgrimage. For the individual it carries obligations and penalties that cut deep into personal life. Here is a simple example.

If a Muslim man in a fit of temper uses the triple divorce formula, even if his wife is not present, the law considers the couple divorced. But if he comes to his senses, he cannot simply resume relations with his wife. In order to remarry, she must wait three months to determine that she is not pregnant. Then, she is obliged to marry another man and have sex with him, and this man must then divorce her (or not, if he decides to keep her). She must wait another three months, after which her first husband may remarry her. This revolting practice, known as *halala*, demeans the woman. **In British law, it would be considered a form of coercion into unwanted sexual relations. Is this what the archbishop wants?**

But sharia has already entered the UK through a back door. Sharia courts are operating under the 1996 Arbitration Act, which allows private disputes to be settled by an independent arbitrator. The idea that Muslim tribunals can take place without introducing contradictions to UK law, mainly

through severe discrimination against Muslim women, is not well thought through.



If couples do not marry according to UK civil law (and I have seen a *fatwa*—legal pronouncement—ruling that couples need not register their marriage with the British authorities), there may be serious consequences in the event of divorce: in the custody of children (which always goes against the woman); with respect to alimony (a man does not have to pay any, except for the children); and with regard to rights to a share in the family home (which a woman does not have). During the marriage, a man may coerce his wife to have sex (wives do not have that right); a husband may confine his wife to their home; if one partner abandons Islam, the marriage is declared null and void. A woman's wish to divorce her husband depends on obtaining her husband's permission and the agreement of a sharia court. Legal adoption is prohibited. The UK-based Shariah Council has issued rulings including one that forbids a woman of any age to marry without a male "guardian" and another that insists that a polygamous marriage must be maintained even in the UK.

If Islamic tribunals are to arbitrate according to such discriminatory rulings, they condemn British Muslim women as second-class citizens with barely any rights. And if they claim to advise only within the framework of British law, what are they doing in the first place? The only solution to this scandalous situation is to ban tribunals entirely and let Muslims, like everybody else in this country, abide by a single code of laws. ★

Reviving The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is rapidly disappearing.
(See *Levitt Letter*, Feb 2007, p.8.)

The water level has dropped 100 feet in the last 80 years. If nothing is done, the Sea will dwindle to a third of its current size, architect Edna Lerman recently said. The government is aware of the problems surrounding development of the Dead Sea. Lerman's firm won the contract from the Interior Ministry to develop two planning documents: the development vision for the Tamar Regional Council, which encompasses the Dead Sea, over the next 20 to 30 years, and policy directives for the Dead Sea region, taking into account the country's neighbors, for the next 50 years.

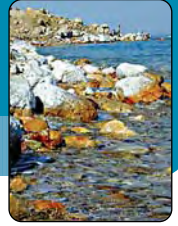
Lerman's documents will deal with two possible scenarios: continued inaction and therefore a continued dwindling of the Sea, and action to stabilize or increase the water levels.

Politically, Lerman said, the area is also in flux. While the 1994 peace treaty with Jordan defined the border between the two states, there has been no agreement with the Palestinian Authority about its rights, if any, in the area. That political uncertainty undermines development in any direction, because investors are leery of putting money into a project which could potentially end up on the wrong side of a border one day.

As the Interior Ministry put it, "Creating the Dead Sea Works was considered a wonderful vision 80 years ago—a real Zionist dream. Likewise, creating the hotels was an Israeli vision. However, in retrospect, each vision was flawed in some way. Our job with this new vision is to balance all of the interests as best we can."

The conflict lines emerged quickly during a recent panel on developing the Dead Sea area. Five interests compete for prominence: industry,

By Ehud Zion Waldoks
www.JPost.com



tourism, agriculture, settlement, and ecology. The panelists, each representing a concern, quickly tried to prove how essential they were both to the area and to the country.

Industry

The Dead Sea Works has been mining the Sea for minerals for 80 years. It uses evaporation pools as part of the process and acknowledges that some of the dropping water level is a result of its actions. On the other hand, it employs 26,000 people and provides \$400 million each year to government coffers.

Tourism

Israel's tourism remains roughly as it was in 1997. If the site's status is cleared up, tourism would go through the roof. Another 18,000 hotel rooms are planned over the next 50 years. However, that will happen only if the water level is stabilized or restored and if an arrangement with the industries in the area can be worked out.

Settlement and Agriculture

The local regions urge the government to act immediately to save the Sea to encourage settlement and to increase allotments for agriculture.

Environmental Issues

Environmental services—like clean water, oxygen, timber, and other resources that functioning ecosystems provide—are hard to quantify in monetary terms.

Prof. Marcelo Sternberg, of Tel Aviv University warned that more damage to the area could cause much more harm. "With nature, one plus one doesn't always equal two; it could equal four or five," he said. But while he painted a bleak picture, he concluded on a note of optimism saying it is not too late to reverse the changes. ★

Islamic Veil: Religious Expression Or Oppression?

By Phyllis Chesler, PajamasMedia.com
(See related story on page p. 31.)

In 2006, in a small claims matter in Michigan, a Muslim woman, Ginnah Muhammed, refused to take off her *niqab* (face mask) while she testified. Judge Paul Paruk dismissed her case. Muhammed sued, arguing for a “religious exception” to courtroom attire.

In June, the Michigan Supreme Court, in a 5-2 vote, ruled that a judge had the power to “require witnesses to remove head or facial covering as (the witness) was testifying.” A judge has the right to see a witness’s “facial expressions” to determine her “truthfulness” while she testifies.

Other cases: In Florida, California, Michigan, and Oklahoma, lawsuits were filed for a Muslim woman’s right to cover her hair or face—whether while being photographed for a driver’s license or for a police mug shot, or while working at McDonald’s or Aber-crombie Kids. In 2007, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) wrote a letter on behalf of a Muslim woman in Georgia who refused to remove her headscarf in order to enter a courtroom to plead “not guilty” to a traffic ticket. In 2004, the Justice Department supported a lawsuit brought on behalf of a sixth grade student in Oklahoma who wanted to wear her *hijab* (headscarf) at public school. That same year, the school board reviewed their policy, amended their dress code, paid the student an undisclosed sum, and allowed her to attend classes wearing a *hijab*.

Religious Muslims are outraged that Christians can wear crucifixes, nuns and priests can wear habits, Jews can wear skullcaps or wigs and head coverings, Sikhs can wear turbans, Hindus



can wear veils and saris—but Muslims cannot wear *burqas* or *niqabs*. Of course, the Islamic female religious attire masks all five senses and makes human interaction almost impossible. *Hijab* (a head covering so that no hair shows) is another matter entirely and is not under discussion here.



Many conservatives and religious people do not want the government telling them how to dress or limiting their private religious practices. Many progressives, including feminists, view the *burqa* (full face and body shroud), *niqab* (face mask plus head and body covering), and *hijab* as either a Muslim woman’s religious right or as her culturally sanctioned expression of modesty. In addition, they may see the ban on the *burqa* as a form of “racial profiling,” or as “Islamophobic.”

I appreciate but respectfully disagree with both views. I believe that we must ban the *burqa* and *niqab* not only for reasons of national security, but also for health-related reasons—and on the grounds of women’s rights and human rights. ★



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

Is Israel Already at War With Iran?

By Simon McGregor-Wood, ABCNews.go.com

Israel may have already started a war against Iran’s nuclear program—not with bunker-busting bombs and cruise missiles, but with computers. Defense analysts believe Israel has been targeting the Islamic Republic’s computer networks, to gather intelligence on the nuclear program and also to launch cyber attacks against it.

“This has become a very important area in Israeli strategy, and it has to be taken into account,” said Alon Ben David, an Israeli defense specialist. “It has become a more and more important element both for intelligence gathering but also for aggressive operations.” Experts believe Israeli intelligence agencies have been hacking into Iranian computer systems in an effort to disrupt or contaminate networks with viruses and malicious software.

“We came to the conclusion, for our purposes, a key Iranian vulnerability is in its online vulnerability,” said an unnamed recently retired member of Israel’s security cabinet. “We have acted accordingly.” One advantage of this secret war is that the attacker is difficult to identify, making retaliation much more difficult. “You don’t see fire and smoke,” Israeli weapons expert Yiftar Shapir from the Israeli Institute for Security Studies said. “Only when your computer stops working do you realize you are under attack. You can easily conceal your attack from the target and it’s very difficult to trace.”

Systems can be interfered with online or in the supply chain, since so much of the equipment and know-how for the Iranian nuclear effort comes from outside sources. International defense experts believe both Israel and the United States have been trying to sabotage equipment before it gets delivered to the Iranians.

There have been several successes, according to Ben David. “The Iranians have experienced a number of malfunctions and unexplained breakdowns, all of which point to foreign interference in the supply chain for the program.” ★

Dry Bones CRITICAL MASS ?



G-8 Gives Iran Until September

By AP and www.JPost.com

The Group of Eight world leaders said at their meeting in July that they deplored the post-election violence in Iran, adding that while they remain committed to seeking a diplomatic solution to Iran’s contentious nuclear program, if no progress is made, leaders will reach new decisions at a G-20 economic summit in Pittsburgh in late September.

In a series of declarations on global security threats, the G-8 also condemned “in the strongest terms” North Korea’s nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches in defiance of UN resolutions.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the statement on Tehran by G-8 leaders “shows the unity of the G-8 against the situation in Iran.” But the leaders stopped short of calling for new sanctions or tougher action. ★

Israelis Wary Of U.S. Policies

By Gil Hoffman, *The Jerusalem Post*

Only 6 percent of Jewish Israelis consider the views of American President Barack Obama's administration pro-Israel, according to a new poll.

The poll, which has a margin of error of 4.5%, was conducted among a representative sample of 500 Israeli Jewish adults following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech earlier this summer in which he expressed his support for a demilitarized Palestinian state.

Another 50% of those sampled consider the policies of Obama's administration more pro-Palestinian than pro-Israeli, and 36% said the policies were neutral. The remaining 8% did not express an opinion.

The numbers were a stark contrast to the last poll on the eve of the meeting last May between Netanyahu and Obama at the White House. One possible explanation for the Obama administration's plummeting approval rating among Israelis is its opposition to building for natural growth in settlement blocs and its refusal to differentiate its policies regarding construction in unauthorized outposts, settlement blocs close to the Green Line, and suburbs of Jerusalem.

The poll found that Israelis, by contrast,

emphatically distinguish between outposts, isolated settlements, and settlement blocs in the West Bank. Regarding outposts, 57% favor removing them, 38% are against. When asked about freezing construction in "far-flung, isolated settlements," 52% were in favor, 42% were against.

But when it comes to "large settlement blocs like Gush Etzion, Ma'ale Adumim, and Ariel," just 27% said they were in favor of stopping building, 69% were against.

Netanyahu's advisors and aides offered different explanations for Israelis' negative opinion of Obama. One said the media had exaggerated its portrayal of a strained relationship between the administrations in Jerusalem and Washington, and that Israelis overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu. Another advisor said polls have consistently shown that Israelis believed the Arabs were at fault for the lack of Middle East peace and they reject perceived attempts by Obama to blame Israel or take an evenhanded approach.

The advisors suggested that the positive atmosphere regarding Netanyahu after his speech also had an impact. They said polls have shown that **an overwhelming majority of Israelis agreed with Netanyahu's vision** and believed he was speaking for a consensus of Israelis in his response to Obama's speech to the Muslim world in Cairo. ★

ASPIRATIONS

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I WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT
AND WALK ON THE MOON
ONE DAY... MAYBE EVEN GO
TO MARS AND VISIT OTHER
PLANETS WHO KNOWSD
MAYBE I'LL BE THE ONE
THAT DISCOVERS LIFE
SOMEWHERE ELSE..



1969

I WANT TO BE A
CONTESTANT ON
AMERICAN IDOL.



2009

Israel-NASA Bio-Fuel Project

By Stephanie Rubenstein, www.JPost.com

In a move away from dependence on fossil fuels, Israeli company Seambiotic and NASA's John Glenn Research Center will jointly research the production of microalgae, which can be used as feed-stock for bio-fuel.

Seambiotic USA, a subsidiary of the Israeli company, entered into a Space Act Agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) earlier this year to combine the agency's expertise in computing models with the Israelis' knowledge of a cost-effective method for microalgae cultivation, according to Noam Menczel, director of investor relations and business development at Seambiotic. "This is a major achievement," he said. "Not many companies are recognized by NASA as a technology leader."

Ashkelon-based Seambiotic, founded in 2003, was the first company to use flue gas from coal-burning power stations as a source for carbon dioxide to cultivate microalgae. The nearby Israel Electric Corporation in Ashkelon serves as the source for carbon dioxide and water, which the company uses to cool its turbine.

Seambiotic uses these waste products as a raw material to cultivate the microalgae, making it the cheapest method to harvest the organism. The research was previously conducted on a pilot level, but is now transitioning to a large, industrial size. "The whole idea is to make the process cheap," Menczel said. "NASA will develop theoretical models and we will adapt them on the field [in Ashkelon] and make it workable."

Other methods for creating bio-fuel use corn and sugar as the main substances, which are agriculture products that compete at food prices. However, algae does not face these same price fluctuations, making it a more cost-efficient choice. As a result of the combined technology from the two groups, Menczel said, a more efficient way for the production of bio-fuel and food additives through microalgae could be found.

NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the governmental agency's 10 field centers, focused on conducting basic-level research. The center works to develop technology and advance scientific research. ★



Israelis Explain Carbs And Heart Disease

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

It has long been known that simple carbohydrates that turn into sugars are not good for your heart or your health—but until now, scientists have not understood exactly what they do to the body.

Now a landmark study by Dr. Michael Shechter of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine and Sheba Medical Center's Heart Institute demonstrates exactly how these foods increase the risk of heart disease.

Shechter and colleagues used brachial reactive testing—which employs an arm cuff to visualize arterial function in real time—to examine the inside of the students' arteries while they ate a variety of foods. They clearly found that foods with a high glycemic index distended brachial arteries for several hours.

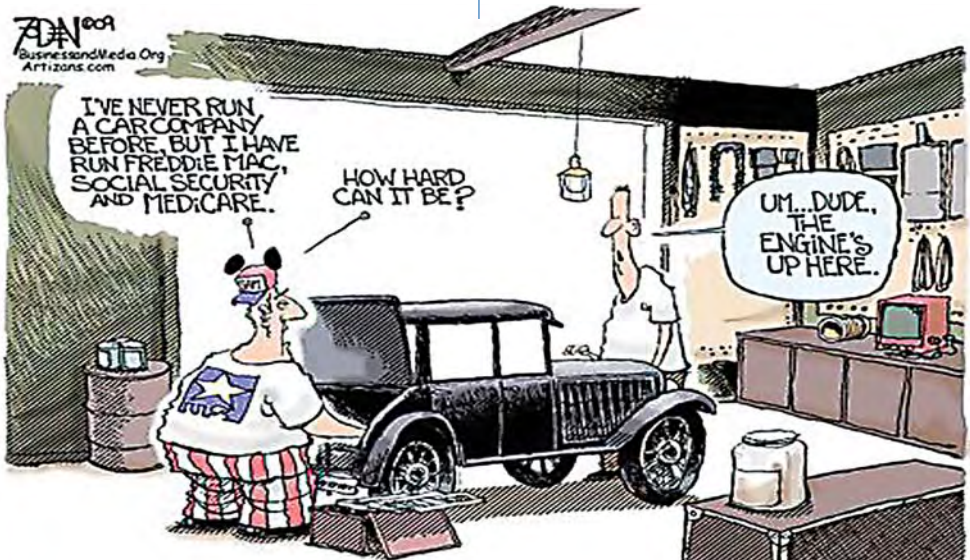
While elasticity of arteries throughout the body is found in young people, a sudden expansion of the artery wall can cause a number of negative health effects, including reduced elasticity—which can lead to heart disease or sudden death.

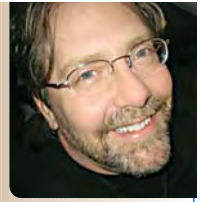
Says Shechter, “doctors know that high glycemic foods rapidly increase blood sugar. Those who binge on these foods have a greater chance of sudden death from heart attack. Our research connects the dots, showing the link between diet and what’s happening in real time in the arteries.”

“We knew high-glycemic foods were bad for the heart. Now we have a mechanism that shows how,” says Shechter. “Foods like cornflakes, white bread, French fries, and sweet drinks all put undue stress on our arteries. We’ve explained for the first time how high-glycemic carbohydrates can affect the progression of heart disease.”

During the consumption of foods high in sugar, there appears to be a temporary and sudden dysfunction in the endothelial walls of the arteries. The health of the tissue layer inside the arteries can be traced back to almost every disorder and disease in the body, says Shechter.

He advises avoiding simple carbohydrates as much as possible in favor of foods like oatmeal, fruits and vegetables, and legumes and nuts, which have a low glycemic index. Their beneficial effect is boosted by exercising daily for at least half an hour. ★





Hashivenu...

By John J. Parsons

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֵבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם

Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old. (Lam. 5:21)

הַ	שִׁ	יְ	בֵ	נֹ	יְ	הוָה	אֱ	לֹ	הֵ	וְ	נִ	שְׁ	וֵ	בָ	חֲ	דֵ	שׁ	יָ	מֵ	יָ	נֹ	כְ	קֵ	דֵ	מַ
(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ke-ke-dem	ya-me-nu	cha-desh	v'na-shu-vah	e-le-kha	Adonai	ha-shi-ve-nu																			
as before	our days	renew	and we will turn	to You	O LORD	Turn us back																			

The Book of Lamentations is traditionally recited during the saddest day of the Jewish calendar—*Tishah B'Av* (the ninth day of the month of Av)—the date that remembers the destruction of the Holy Temple and other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. When the reader reaches the second to last verse of the book, “*Hashivenu*,” he pauses and the congregation recites the verse in unison:

Hashivenu Adonai, elecha vena-shuvah; chadesh yamenu kekedem: “Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old” (Lam. 5:21). Often this verse is repeated and sung to a haunting melody as the scroll is returned to the Ark.

Lamentations is an acrostic poem that begins with the Hebrew letter Aleph in the word “*eichah*.” In fact, the Hebrew name for the book is simply *Eichah*. “How (*eichah*) lonely sits the city that once was full of people!” (Lam. 1:1). The sages note that this word “how (*eichah*)” could also be read as “where are you?” (*ayeka*), God’s first question to Adam after he broke covenant in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:9). The *Midrash* (Bible commentaries) draws a connection between the lamentation of the LORD over Adam’s banishment from Eden and Israel’s banishment from Zion (Hos. 6:7). In both cases the problem centers on the failure to ask where God is.

How many people today live in a state of self-imposed exile from the LORD? God uses our loneliness (“how lonely...”) to search our hearts, asking each of us, *ayeka*—“Where are you?” “Why have you turned away from Me and chosen a state of exile?” Our inner pain is meant to provoke us to seek His face. He awaits our only possible response, “*Hashivenu*,” which is an *imperative* (demand) for the grace to repent: “You return us (i.e., You cause us to return) so that we may be reunited with You and healed.” We do not appeal to our own resources or strength to undergo this return, but rather trust that God’s sovereign grace is sufficient to restore us to His presence. As Yeshua said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up” (John 6:44).

May it please the LORD to cause you to return to Him today.

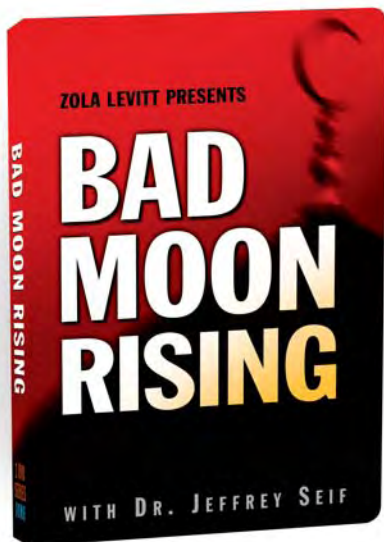


Bad Moon Rising

Eight 30-Minute TV programs on Two DVDs

Please see page 18 to order.

Dr. Jeffrey Seif remembers yesterday's Holocaust and considers anti-Semitism's rise in modern-day Europe. Though dressed this time in Islamic garb and not in Nazi uniforms, anti-Semitism is making fresh headway in the world, its current surge fueled by the radical Islamic fringe as it turns out the lights of once-Christian Europe. Jeff speaks out against this trend with a prophetic voice and calls individuals, particularly Europeans and onlooking North Americans, to resist the encroaching darkness and walk in the light of God's grace and love.



When Darkness Once Prevailed

Dr. Jeffrey Seif speaks from a Jewish synagogue/memorial in Dachau, where he draws troubling parallels between the rise of the Nazis and the rise of radical Islam.

Out of the Darkness

Against the backdrop of Dachau's front gate, emblazoned with the lie "Work Will Make You Free," Jeff teaches about real freedom. A Holocaust survivor shares her remarkable story.

Dark Night of the Soul

Jeff speaks from inside the barracks of Dachau. Sandra Levitt and Will King interview survivors who worked on the bunker where Hitler planned to manufacture his Messerschmitt aircraft.

Bright Lights in a Darkened World

"March of Life" participants express support for the Jewish people and the need to "lift the veil of silence." Jeff speaks from the Dachau crematorium about the Jews who were shoved into ovens.

The Darkness that Nearly Engulfed Us

Jeff teaches from the German site where Hitler nearly succeeded in developing an atomic bomb. Zola interviews Dr. Ergun Caner, a former Muslim who shares his insights on Islam.

Letting the Sun Shine

Jeff teaches from the site of Hitler's atomic reactor, admonishing the viewer to draw a line in the sand. We are warned that the greatest tragedy would be to think that such things can't happen again.

A Star that Breaks Through the Darkness

Sandra and Jeff interview Brigitte Gabriel, formerly of Lebanon, who has appeared on many network TV shows sounding an alarm about the evils of radical Islam.



Brigitte Gabriel

Heavenly Light from Hellish Darkness

Walid Shoebat shares insights regarding Islam from his book *Why We Want To Kill You*. Zola interviews Caecelie Rexin, who concludes—referring to the Holocaust—"Never again."

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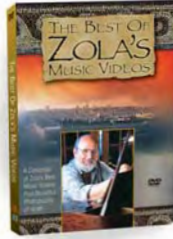


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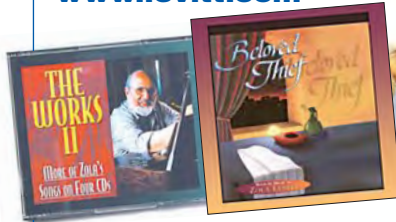
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ZLM Bulletin Board

Advice for Boycotting Israel

Those who scoff at Genesis 12:3 and want to boycott the Holy Land can watch the eight-minute video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=saeky9I5T9c to discover how to do it properly. Learn why so many have failed (hint: Israelis have invented many essential things). The instructions include a "short" list of dos and don'ts, such as don't buy a computer or cell phone. Don't use voice-mail, instant messaging, Google, drip irrigation, hybrid/electric cars, or solar power. Don't serve in the U.S. military, which purchases lots of ammunition from Israel. And be prepared to say no thanks to a whole host of medicines and treatments. As it turns out, completely and thoroughly boycotting Israel would curse your lifestyle and your health.



Jewish Heritage Calendar

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 5770, 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.*



Pamphlet of the Month

"Is Your Will Obsolete?"

Contemplate your answer to this important question. Our featured stewardship pamphlet begins with examples of how wills can become just as obsolete as yesteryear's technology: with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. The pamphlet also discusses four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, and residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Tour Department's Birthday

Our travel department, Zola Tours, was born on August 20, 1983. In the thirty years since Zola began leading more than 80 tours, we've never canceled one. (Note: see the article "A Troubled Tour Operator" on page 21 of the May 2009 *Levitt Letter* by clicking on "Newsletter" at www.levitt.com.)

Even when America's major media publicized the scud missiles, Israel was statistically safer than many of America's largest cities. (See p. 27 of this issue.) It's been a wonderful 26 years, and our hospitable Israeli friends know that our tour groups are among their truest allies.

"Come Home!"

**Zola's
Tours to
Israel:**



**See page
36 for details**



WINN—Working Through Churches To Help The Needy

By Hank Salmans

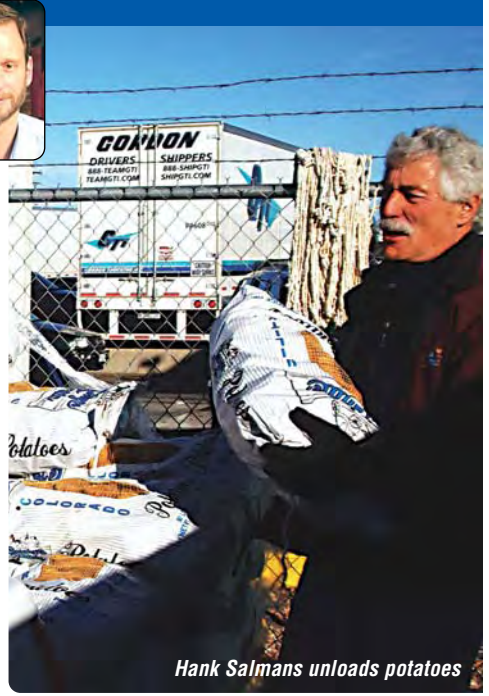
Introductory Comment:

Imagine a community program that enables churches to team up with one another in assisting people in their surrounding neighborhoods. Ten years ago, Hank Salmans founded WINN Ministries, which you can read about in his article below and at www.WINNministries.org.—Mark

WINN Ministries serves God on the most practical level: supplying food, clothes, and household goods for the poor and needy. It's not a food pantry, but instead a literal warehouse of supplies at the disposal of the Church. Working as a silent partner to over 200 churches, mostly in the Denver area, WINN connects people with churches, and churches with each other. (We have supplied items for missionaries in 45 countries, but that's another amazing story!)

Over the years, I've served as a fireman, a police officer, and as a police chief. Some call me a sociologist-turned-pastor. Disturbed by neighborhoods deteriorating and people losing hope, I innovated a biblical approach to lending a hand. **I believe that the responsibility for taking care of the poor belongs to the Body of Messiah. Out of this burden and God's answers to prayer, WINN ("We Involve Neighbors Now") was born.**

The first step is connecting struggling families and individuals with a church home. This ministry believes in helping the *whole person*. Next, their pastor supplies a list of needs that WINN's "Holy Scroungers" round up for him to deliver. Our Resource Coordinator, Doc Winters, works to connect the pastors with additional support services they might need.



Hank Salmans unloads potatoes

Businesses and individuals contribute items and/or money to help WINN function. Now 10 years old and strong as ever, we have an online newsletter, monthly outreaches, regular Bible studies, and training seminars. We passionately encourage churches to research and invest in their immediate neighborhoods.

Would you agree that the biggest malady that America as a society suffers from is *not* being physically hungry but being out of relationship with God and one another?

To truly "love your neighbor," you have to know who he is. WINN offers congregations the tools to help train their members to reach out within their community and build relationships one family at a time. ★

Concluding Comment:

You can make a tax-deductible contribution to WINN, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, by writing to 455-B South Platte River Drive, Denver, Co 80223. If you prefer to contribute via ZLM, we will forward 100% of any gifts you designate for WINN. You can invite Hank to speak at your church or your community by emailing him at hank@winministries.org or calling (303) 239-9123.



Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From H. & L. S. (TX): Absolutely LOVE the *Levitt Letter*, and usually read it cover to cover within a day or two, then pass it on to others.

From C. J. M. (CA): As a Catholic girl who grew up in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, it has come as an amazing delight to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior and to discover Messianic Jews on late night TV!!! May the Lord bless your wonderful ministry.

From B. & P. F. (MA): Jeff, you are a wonderful messenger of our Lord Jesus. I love reading the *Levitt Letter* and pray and hope we will be able to continue donating even in these troubled economic times. It's a prayer answered to see my Hebrew brothers and sisters believing in Yeshua. God bless you all.

From N. M. (AZ): Our local cable does not carry any Christian stations so we listen to ZLM online. Thank you for being there, especially in these difficult times. 1 Cor. 15:57-58

Is Israel Tour Only For The Wealthy?

Dear Dr. Seif,

Is it not possible to have an economy trip to Israel? Every tour I have seen has five-star hotels, the best of foods, Mercedes luxury buses. Why can't there be one where we stay in a kibbutz and eat fruit and veggies, drink water, and drive around in a Honda? Hundreds of us are being left out because we can't afford first class. A seven thousand dollar trip is for Bill Gates, not a regular Joe or me. Thank you for reading my email.

Blessings, J. VW. L. (WA)

Dear J. VW. L.—

Thanks for your email. Our 11-day tour, which departs October 18, is \$3,688. Our summer 2010 tour will be less expensive. In the last three years, Israel tour prices have risen almost 30%, primarily due to the weakened dollar and higher airline costs.

This ministry's tours are neither the cheapest nor the most expensive, but they offer the best value. We don't cut costs by landing in Jordan instead of Tel Aviv or by using Palestinian guides, drivers, hotels, and restaurants instead of Jewish Israeli ones. Our all-inclusive price may seem high at first glance, but not when you consider that it includes all the excursions. For details, please visit www.levitt.com/tourinfo.html. To see our list of Israel tour comparison shoppers' questions, just click on "Tour Help."

Blessings in Yeshua —Mark



Do They or Don't They?

Dear ZLM,

I had read in one of your magazines that Samaritan's Purse does not help Israel. I asked them to remove us from their mailing list and why. They wrote back and disputed the claim. Please clarify.

J. S.

Dear J. S.—

You're referring to the article "Samaritan's Purse Strings" on page 8 of the October 2006 *Levitt Letter*, at www.levitt.com/newsletters/2006-10.pdf. A particular mailer from them led with the headline, "Prayer Alert: Crisis in the Holy Land." It sought financial contributions to be designated for "Lebanon Relief" and "Relief and evangelism worldwide," but not for "Israel Relief."

Your letter prompted me to check back at www.samaritanspurse.org. Clicking on "Where We Work" brings up a map of the world with numerous countries highlighted—Israel is tiny, so you must dig for it. The map lists five events for helping Israel, however, two are actually one instance—back in 2006 during the short war with Hezbollah when Samaritan's Purse helped border-dwelling Israelis and Lebanese—and the other three refer to helping a boy named Israel who lives in Sudan. Clicking on "Ways to Help" gives a dropdown menu with an option to "Donate Online." But when you click on "Select Project," Israel is not to be found among the more than 50 options.

Romans 10:1 says, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." Again, I don't dispute the many good works that Samaritan's Purse undertakes with its \$304 million budget. However, I would humbly suggest that vast organizations like it and World Vision allow donors to allocate contributions specifically for ministry to God's Chosen—*Jewish* Israelis, as opposed to "Middle East Evangelism" generally and people named Israel.

—Mark

Wrong Bible, Wrong Music

Dear Mr. Seif,

In your program you used a corrupted text, filled with doctrinal perversion. Only the KJV contains the inspired doctrine. As for your new musical guest, Paul Wilbur, it has become clear to me that he has embraced the use of rhythm-lead arrangements, with a synthesizer keyboard, drums, bass guitar, and rhythm guitar. This deviates from the musical format set forth by God as exemplified in

continued p. 24



Ephesians 5:19 (KJV), and Colossians 3:16 (KJV). You are in need of better discernment from the Holy Spirit, and so I thought I'd write to help.

Sincerely, T. F.

Dear T. F.—

Your argument against contemporary music is about as credible as your insistence that the only viable translation of the Bible is the old King James Version. I believe that God is moving through all kinds of people and through most styles of music. His Spirit is speaking to all kinds of people who earnestly seek Him, using various translations and songs. Thanks for writing, but we're going to have to “agree to disagree” on these scores. —Jeff

Virgin Mother of Jesus

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. But one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, “Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?”

Even Dyslexics Can Learn Hebrew With Zola!

Good morning Zola Levitt Ministries, from Canada! I give you thanks and give God His due glory for your ministries.

Since I gave my heart to Jesus, I have grown a heart for a people into whose Branch I have been grafted. My desire was to one day visit Israel. I was blessed to do exactly that.

Afterward, I wanted to learn Hebrew, but had one problem: I have dyslexia. I tried courses, but could never learn it. I don't know how I heard about your website (He is just too funny sometimes). But while I was looking through all your links I saw *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*. I finally have found a resource that is EASY to understand—even for someone with dyslexia.

Thank you for this book! I pray that the Lord will bless every person who had anything to do with it. Shalom from the bottom of my heart! —H.

(Order *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* on p. 18)

A First-Class Act

Dear ZLM,

“Christian” networks have some rather substandard “preacher” programming under contract. Y-o-u-r TV program—praise God!—is an entirely refreshing and wonderful experience. Magnificent. No question. I could watch and listen to Jeff for hours on end. He makes your TV show a really first-class act! —Shalom, K. R.

Thanks K. R.—

Believe me, I could listen to you for hours too! —Jeff

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



I Get It!

Sandra

Jeff,

I am writing this to let you know that I love ZLM and your teaching in particular. On a recent program, you expressed your frustration with the lack of love for Israel in the modern Church. I share your same frustration, not only with the Church, but in the world.

You asked where the love for Israel is, and I want to let you know that there is a deep love for Israel and the Jewish people in me. From my earliest walk as a Christian, I have learned the connection of the Old and New Testaments. Jewish roots have given meaning behind my faith in Jesus.

Thank you for your ministry and how I've been blessed and encouraged. I hope that you are equally blessed and encouraged to know that there is one out there whose love for Israel is not lacking, but, rather burning. I'm one who gets it!

In Christ, —B. S.

**“Jewish roots
have given
meaning behind
my faith in
Jesus.”**

Shalom From Japan

Dear ZLM,

I have enjoyed your programs since the mid '80s. The Jewish truth made my two-dimensional understanding about God into a three-dimensional one.

I have a request after reading the interesting article about Oskar Schindler (“Schindler’s List Discovered In Australia,” *Levitt Letter* June '09 p.28). I know about a former Japanese Christian diplomat who saved thousands of Jewish refugees by issuing them Japanese transit visas to flee from the Nazis in Lithuania during World War II. He even saved the entire Mir Yeshiva, which now is the leading *yeshiva* (Jewish school) in the world.

His name is Chiune “Sempo” Sugihara. He was chosen the only Japanese Righteous Among the Nations (1985). As far as the number of Jewish people saved goes (6,000-10,000), he’s second only to Raoul Wallenberg, but he’s somewhat understated despite all that. There is a special page dedicated to him on the PBS website. There is a short movie there in which Sugihara talks about obeying God in saving the helpless Jews. So my request is: Could you look into this man and give God credit by making at least a little article or something about him for the Glory of God?

—Yours, T. M.

Dear T. M.—

I checked your facts and discovered the following website, which adds interesting details to your information. Bless you for bringing him to the attention of our readers.
—Jeff

www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Chiune_Sugihara

The 90-minute PBS video:
www.pbs.org/wgbh/sugihara



Cool, Calm, And Collected

Dear Dr. Seif,

I am blown away by the insulting, rude, and outright obnoxious comments written to you and criticizing you for every little thing! I am impressed by the responses you give with humility, forthrightness, calmness, and correctness. It just does my mind and heart good to know there is someone who still has his head on his shoulders and has the right answer to such absurd questions and statements. May our Lord continue to bless you until the trumpet call! The Lord has laid it on my heart to give to your ministry, so a check is coming in the mail soon!

Your sister in Christ, C. A.

Win some,

Dear C. A.—

Thank you for your kind letter. What's printed isn't always my knee-jerk response. Though I try to be "calm" and "humble," I don't always achieve that immediately. It takes time to get used to how some can be so judgmental. —Jeff

Less Than Perfect Won't Do

lose some

Dear Jeff,

I am discontinuing my support for Zola Levitt Ministries. Over the course of time since you have taken Zola's place, you have disappointed me in some of your opinions and comments. You give me the impression you are not anxiously looking forward to our Lord's return. I cannot support your ministry. Please take me off your mailing list. Still, may you prosper.

B. J. H.

Dear B. J. H.—

To be honest, I have disappointed myself with both my occasional ill-informed decisions and some less-than-adequately articulated comments. Your prayers might have helped me rise to your level of expectation in thinking and speaking, but it seems you're moving on. Let me simply say "thank you" for your support in the past, and wish you the best in the future. When you find that perfect teacher out there, do let me know, as I would like to see who can stand in the shoes that only Jesus can fill. —Jeff



Ups And Downs

Greetings Jeff,

My wife and I get inspiration from your shows and topics. I am a newer Christian—2 years—and I have sought out the truth of Christianity through Jewish eyes.

I have gone into deep territory (apologetics) and sometimes I feel strong like Elijah when standing down the prophets of Baal. Then suddenly I feel real depressed and oppressed, and end up like Elijah at the Kidron brook. Your ministry encourages me to get up.

Bless you. D. T. and C. (Canada)

Thanks D. T. and C.

I am feeling a bit down myself, these days. Your encouragement helped me to get up. Thanks. Nice to help each other. —Jeff ★

New Technology for Joint Replacement

By Baruch Gordon,
www.IsraelNationalNews.com

An innovative technique developed by Prof. Noam Eliaz of Tel Aviv University can vastly improve the ability of people who have undergone complicated joint replacement surgeries to better walk, run, and ultimately avoid rejection of orthopedic and even dental implants.

The technique involves an electrochemical process for coating metal implants, which vastly improves their functionality, longevity, and integration into the body.



Scanning electron microscope image of electrochemically deposited hydroxyapatite crystals. Israel news photo: aftau.org

“The surface chemistry, structure, and morphology of our new coatings resemble biological material,” explains Prof. Eliaz. “We’ve been able to enhance the integration of the coating with the mineralized tissue of the body, allowing more people’s bodies to accept implants.” His new coating resulted in a 33% decrease in the level of materials failure or delamination in these implants.

According to Prof. Eliaz, a good coating is crucial to the stable fixation of the implant in the surrounding bone. Since human bones naturally contain apatite, covering the implant with a synthetic version allows the body to register the implant as similar to a real bone. Examined under a microscope (see picture), it is virtually indistinguishable from the body’s own material. This ensures integration and fixation of the implant, and also prevents poisonous materials from leaking from the metal of the implant into the bloodstream.

The next-generation coating will include nanoparticles to reinforce the coating. It will also have the potential to incorporate biological material or drugs during the process itself. Drug incorporation may reduce the risk of post-surgery infection and even catalyze the growth of the bone. ★

Israel Safer Than New York

By Alison Gendar and Oren Yaniv
www.NYDailyNews.com

A major in the IDF was hospitalized for head wounds in a rock-throwing attack in which the culprits threw a stone that hit her in the head. The officer was not riding in a jeep in Samaria—but in a taxicab in New York’s Upper East Side.

While visiting family in New York, **Gilat Raz**, an IDF career officer, was riding in a cab when the vehicle was hit by a large rock, which hit her in the head and opened a large gash over her left eye. The cab driver quickly drove Raz to an area hospital, where she was treated and released.



Israeli Army Maj. Gilat Raz received stitches after a large rock hurled from FDR overpass hit the taxi she was riding in. *Warga/News*

The culprits were two youths who were amusing themselves by throwing projectiles off the street overpass above, police said. Both are

to be indicted on assault and reckless endangerment charges. “It’s beyond stupid and thoughtless,” a police spokesperson said. “They were aiming for the cars, like target practice, and didn’t care whom they hurt.”

“I’ve been driving in the West Bank; I’ve been in Gaza,” Raz was quoted as saying. “I never imagined that New York would be where I’d get hit by a rock.” Raz added that her daughter and seven-year-old son, who were not in the cab at the time, have been pleading to go back home, “where it’s safe.” ★

Wedding Gown That Made History



Lilly Friedman

Lilly Friedman doesn't remember the last name of the woman who designed and sewed the wedding gown she wore when she walked down the aisle in 1946. But the grandmother of seven does recall that when she first told her fiancé Ludwig that she had always dreamed of being married in a white gown he realized he had his work cut out for him.

For the tall, lanky 21-year-old who had survived hunger, disease, and torture, this was a different kind of challenge. How was he ever going to find such a dress in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Person's camp where they felt grateful for the clothes on their backs?



The Friedmans' wedding day

Fate would intervene in the guise of a former German pilot who walked into the food distribution center where Ludwig worked, eager to make a trade for his worthless parachute. In exchange for two pounds of coffee beans and a couple of packs of cigarettes, Lilly would have her wedding gown.

For two weeks, Miriam the seamstress worked under the curious eyes of her fellow DPs, carefully fashioning the six parachute panels into a simple, long sleeved gown with a rolled collar and a fitted waist that tied in the back with a bow. When the dress was completed, she sewed the leftover material into a matching shirt for the groom.

A white wedding gown may have seemed like a frivolous request in the surreal environment of the concentration camps, but for Lilly the dress symbolized the innocent, normal life she and her family had once led before the world descended into madness. Lilly and her siblings were raised in a Torah-observant home in Czechoslo-

By Helen Zegerman Schwimmer
www.JewishPress.com

vakia where her father was a teacher, respected and well liked by the young *yeshiva* (Jewish school) students he taught.

He and his two sons were marked for extermination immediately upon arriving at Auschwitz. For Lilly and her sisters it was only their first stop on a long journey of persecution.

"My sisters and I lost everything—our parents, our two brothers, our homes." Six months later, Lilly's sister Ilona wore the dress when she married Max. After that came Cousin Rosie. How many brides wore Lilly's dress? "I stopped counting after 17." With the camps experiencing the highest marriage rate in the world, Lilly's gown was in great demand.

When President Truman finally permitted the 100,000 Jews who had been languishing in DP camps since the end of the war to emigrate, the gown accompanied Lilly across the ocean to America. Unable to part with her dress, it lay at the bottom of her bedroom closet for the next 50 years, "not even good enough for a garage sale. I was happy when it found such a good home."



Lilly Friedman and her parachute dress on display in the Bergen-Belsen Museum

Home was the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. When Lilly's niece, a volunteer, told museum officials about her aunt's dress, they immediately recognized its historical significance and displayed the gown in a specially designed showcase, guaranteed to preserve it for 500 years. ★

Hezbollah's Rise From The Ashes

By Yaakov Katz, www.JPost.com

They show up along the Lebanese border in Land Rovers. One time they'll roll down the window, lift a camera with a long lens, and snap a few pictures of an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) outpost on the other side of the border before driving away. Other times, they will get out and stroll along the border, right next to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) positions.

While the men don't wear Hezbollah uniforms, the IDF has no doubt that they belong to the Iranian-backed Shiite guerrilla group. On rare and lucky occasions, IDF cameras catch the face of a known Hezbollah operative. These Hezbollah operatives are not alone. On some tours they take with them groups of foreigners, sometimes members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. This is the reality along Israel's northern border three years after the Second Lebanon War—Hezbollah may not maintain overt military positions like it did before 2006, but it is still there, growing stronger by the day.

According to Israeli estimates, Hezbollah today has somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 rockets of various ranges that could reach from Kiryat Shmona in the North to Dimona in the South and the sensitive nuclear reactor nearby.

Since the war and the extensive damage caused to its infrastructure in Beirut and southern Lebanon, Hezbollah has been engrossed in rehabilitating its military wing. Today, its presence in southern Lebanon is mainly inside villages—Shiite and non-Shiite—not in the nature reserves where it was heavily deployed before the war.

Aircraft carrying weaponry for Hezbollah arrive in Beirut fairly frequently. Some of them originate in Iran and Syria, its main suppliers of weapons; others come directly from Eastern European countries that manufacture the antitank missiles and Katyusha rockets its forces depend on.



The IDF was surprised by Hezbollah's possession of the Chinese-made radar-guided C-802 that hit the *Hanit* missile ship in the beginning of the war, killing four sailors, so the current assessment in military intelligence is that "whatever Iran and Syria have, Hezbollah could have." ★

Gaza Campers Stage Israeli Soldier's Abduction www.JPost.com

Children in Hamas summer camps re-enacted the abduction of IDF soldier Gilad Shalit in the presence of top Hamas officials. Shalit was kidnapped in 2006. An onlooking official, Osama Mazini, a senior Hamas political leader, is in charge of the Shalit negotiations with Israel on behalf of the terrorist group.

More than 120,000 Palestinian children spent the summer in Hamas-run camps. In addition to religious studies, the children underwent semi-military training with toy guns. Referring to Mazini's participation at the re-enactment, one Israeli defense official said, "This is Hamas's way of showing Palestinian children that kidnapping soldiers is the correct way of life."



Palestinian children, re-enact the abduction of Gilad Shalit.

In contrast to the Hamas camps, the UN ran summer games throughout the Gaza Strip for 240,000 children. At these games, the participants, between the ages of six and 15, engaged in sports, arts and crafts, swimming, and other cultural activities.

Senior Hamas official Dr. Younes al-Istal told Al-Arabiya TV that the UNRWA summer camps were part of a plan to corrupt the younger generation and prepare it for normalization with Israel.



Victory For Messianic Jews In Israel

www.CompassDirect.org

For three long years a Jewish Believer in Christ struggled to keep her bakery business (shown above) alive after the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the country's highest religious governing body, annulled her *kashrut* (Jewish dietary law) certificate because of her faith.

Pnina Conforti, 51, finally gave a sigh of relief when the Israeli Supreme Court on June 29 ruled that her belief in Jesus Christ was unrelated to her eligibility for a *kashrut* certificate. While bakeries and restaurants in Israel are not required to obtain such a permit, the loss of one often slows the flow of customers who observe Jewish dietary laws, and eventually can destroy a business.

Conforti said that the last three years were very difficult for her and her family, as she lost nearly 70 percent of her customers. "We barely survived, but now it's all behind us," she said. "Apparently, many people supported us, and were happy with the verdict. Enough is enough."

Conforti, who describes herself as a Messianic Jew, had built her Pnina Pie bakeries in Gan Yavne and Ashdod from scratch. Judges Yoram Denziger, Salim Jubran, and Eliezer Rivlin ruled that the Chief Rabbinate of Israel overstepped its authority. A Jew of Yemenite origin, Conforti said she was raised in a religious family but came to trust in Christ following her encounter with a Christian family during a visit to the United States.

"There I found Christ and embraced Him as my personal Savior," she said. "I do not engage in [evangelistic] activity, but if someone starts a conversation about my faith, I will speak openly about it."

Holocaust Bones Sold To Med Students

By Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu,
www.IsraelNationalNews.com



Medical students at the Iasi University in Romania allegedly purchased bones from mass Holocaust graves and used them for research. The Rabbinical Center of Europe has been investigating the charges. The alleged practice came to light after an American student notified the rabbinical group that local students bought bones and skulls of victims of the Holocaust who were buried in a nearby village. The bones were reportedly sold for \$40 a piece and were used in research in place of those made of plastic.

Thousands of students from all over the world attend the university, which includes a well-known school of medicine and pharmacy.

The Rabbinical Center sent two "students" to the university in order to verify or deny the claim. A caretaker of the mass grave did not deny being involved in the sale of the bones but apparently was suspicious of the would-be buyers and referred them elsewhere.

The price for the bones included the workers' task to "clean them up nicely."

One of two death trains that left Iasi during the Nazi regime stopped in the village of Podu Iloaiei, where nearly 1,200 Jews were buried in a mass grave after dying of starvation.

Many hundreds of thousands of Jews were executed and discarded in mass graves. Only a few have never been unearthed. — Jeff

Taliban Dress As Women, Sneak Past Marines

By Associated Press and McClatchy Newspapers *(See related article on p. 11.)*

U.S. Marines trapped Taliban fighters in a residential compound and persuaded the insurgents to allow women and children to leave. The troops then moved in—only to discover that the militants had slipped out, dressed in *burqas*, the loose enveloping robes they require their women to wear.



Afghan villagers carry their belongings past a U.S. Marine after a mortar attack that was part of an effort to cut off a Taliban supply route in Helmand Province. Villagers were allowed to return to pick up their items.
JOE RAEDLE / GETTY IMAGES

Images from a Predator drone showed a dozen fighters and at least 15 to 20 civilians inside a mud-brick compound in a village about 60 miles north of the Pakistani border. Because of the civilians, the U.S. troops held fire and instead used a military translator and village elder to persuade the militants to free women and children.

Two groups—children and what appeared to be women in *burqas*—left the compound. When the Marines entered, they found no one. The fighters clearly had donned *burqas* and slipped away among the civilians, according to Marines who took part in the mission.

The Americans didn't have female Marines with them to search the robed figures and make sure no men were among them in disguise. Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the new U.S. commander in Afghanistan, has said he would rather see militants escape than for civilians to be harmed in battle, and recently implemented

a new policy aimed at preventing civilian casualties, which have been a source of friction between the U.S. and the Afghan public and its leaders.

Afghan defense officials said they believe the Taliban fighters stayed in the country and did not travel to nearby Pakistan, where they often take refuge, because they believe they can wait out the latest operation, even as U.S. officials have stressed that once they clear an area they will stay until the security situation has stabilized.

Gaza Man Seeks Asylum In Israel *Israel Today*

A Gaza man who until the 2007 Hamas takeover was a member of the Palestinian Authority security forces has infiltrated Israel and is requesting asylum.

The 24-year-old Palestinian said he had recently escaped a Hamas prison, and had breached Israel's Gaza security fence in hopes of being taken into custody by the Israeli army. Now he is petitioning Israel's Supreme Court to prevent the army from returning him to Gaza, and to instead allow him to live inside sovereign Israel or move to Judea and Samaria. Being returned to Gaza, he said, would be like giving him a death sentence.

ARGYLE SWEATER By Scott Hilburn



Air Force Won't Fly Over Christian Festival

www.FOXNews.com

An Idaho community had secured an Air Force flyover for its local festival every year for more than 40 years, organizers say, but this year, the Air Force turned the request down over the festival's religious focus.

The God and Country Family Festival in Nampa, Idaho, applied to the Pentagon for the flyover but was denied in an email, according to board member Patti Syme. Syme said the email from a defense official informed her the Pentagon prohibited support of special interest groups.

"I called him immediately and just said, you know hey we've been doing this for 42 years, what is the problem?" Syme said. "And he said, well we have looked up your website and everything on your website seemed to focus on Christianity, ministry booths. And he said, in fact, ma'am it sounds like it focuses on Christianity. And he said, in fact, 'it would be great to go to, in fact, if I personally could come I would, but we can't endorse such an endeavor,' so they couldn't do the flyover."

A Defense Department official said that the Air Force denied the request because it violates a Pentagon policy against supporting any event "that provides a selective benefit to any individual, group, or organization, including any religious or sectarian organization, ideological movement, political campaign or organization, or commercial enterprise, to include a shopping mall or motion picture promotion."

Capt. Tom Wenz from Air Force public affairs said that past participation was due to the fact that the event was described only as a "patriotic tribute."



UK Judge Warns Muslim Extremists

By Nick Britten and Duncan Gardham
www.Telegraph.co.uk

Martin Rynja, owner of Gibson Square Publishing, had the door to his home doused in diesel and set ablaze in protest of a book his company was about to publish which some Muslims deemed offensive to Islam and the prophet Mohammed.

Ali Beheshti, 41, and Abrar Mirza, 23, both British-born, were picked up at the scene by counter-terrorism officers who had been tipped off about the attack. Their getaway driver, Abbas Taj, 31, was arrested nearby.



Ali Beheshti. Photo: MIET POLICE

Jailing them for four and a half years each, Mrs. Justice Rafferty said the sentences should act as deterrence and said that "in an open society there has to be open access to literary works, regardless of fear."

She told them: "If you choose to live in this country, you live by its rules. There is no such thing as 'a la carte citizenship' and, in your case, there is no such thing as 'a la carte obedience' to the law."

The men targeted Rynja's home days before he was due to release U.S. author Sherry Jones's novel *The Jewel of Medina*, a historical story about the prophet's child bride A'isha. The book was criticized for inaccuracy, sex, and violence by academics, and caused a storm among Muslim clerics in America. After an American academic warned it could provoke a violent backlash from Muslims, the publisher Random House, which published Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, pulled its release [see October 2008 *Levitt Letter*, pp. 12-13]. Gibson Square stepped in and Rynja remained determined to publish it in Britain.

Mrs. Justice Rafferty praised Rynja, saying that "principled man that he is, had done two things—exercised critical judgment on a literary work, and stood up to be counted, knowing that publishing it put him at risk."

A Fly In A Coffee Cup

What happens when a fly falls into a coffee cup?

The **Italian** throws the cup and walks away in a fit of rage.

The **Frenchman** takes out the fly, and drinks the coffee.

The **Chinese** eats the fly and throws away the coffee.

The **Russian** drinks the coffee with the fly, as it was included with no extra charge.

The **Israeli** sells the coffee to the Frenchman, the fly to the Chinese, buys himself a new cup of coffee, and uses the extra money to invent a device that prevents flies from falling into coffee.

The **Palestinian** blames the Israeli for the fly falling in his coffee, protests the act of aggression to the UN, takes a loan from the European Union to buy a new cup of coffee, but uses the money to purchase explosives, and then blows up the coffee house where the Italian, the Frenchman, the Chinese, and the Russian are all trying to explain to the Israeli that he should give away his cup of coffee to the Palestinian. ★



“Pepsi is Zionist Plot”

By Hillel Fendel, www.IsraelNationalNews.com

Extremist Muslims have not dropped their allegations that Pepsi-Cola is essentially the code name for a Zionist plot, and is an acronym for “Pay Every Penny to Save Israel.”

A member of the Hamas terrorist organization’s parliament in Gaza made similar accusations against Pepsi in April of last year: Hamas MP Salem Salamah said, “There are companies established by the colonialists and occupiers—large companies with branches all over the world, like Pepsi, Pepsi-Cola. This is a well-known company. Pepsi is an acronym. **P-E-P-S-I—Pay Every Pence to Save Israel.**” More recently, Egyptian cleric Hazem Abu Ismail made a similar accusation and said a penny is “one-thousandth of a dollar.”



Messianic Speakers Available!

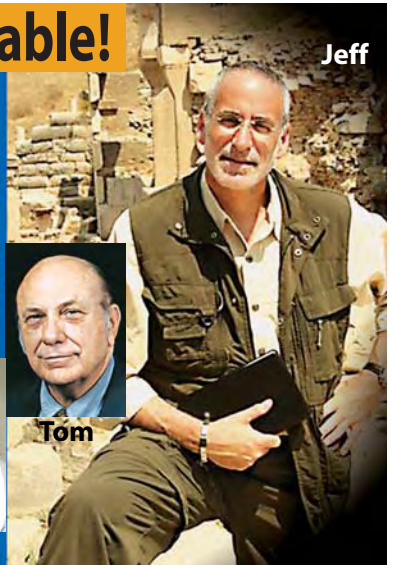
Want a Messianic Jewish message delivered in your church? Arrange it! **Drs. Jeffrey Seif, Tom McCall, and Todd Baker** can do pulpit supply and address a wide range of subjects such as: The Gospel from a Jewish perspective, Why the Jews matter to Jesus and Christians, How the Old and New Testaments connect, Jews and today’s news in prophecy, and more. You already know Jeff. Tom McCall grounded Zola’s theology and co-authored 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.



Todd



Tom



Jeff

Accused Of Laughing In Public

By Khaled Abu Toameh
www.JPost.com



A Palestinian female journalist complained that Hamas policemen recently attempted to arrest her under the pretext that she came to a Gaza beach dressed immodestly and was seen laughing in public.

The journalist said that the policemen who stopped her belonged to the Hamas government's Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice security force. The special force reports directly to the Ministry of Waqf Affairs and is said to be a copy of units that have long been operating in Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. The Hamas government, according to local reporters, has refrained from publicly admitting that the force exists, out of fear of being branded fundamentalist.

The Hamas force consists of dozens of plainclothes police officers who patrol beaches, public gardens, restaurants, hair salons, and coffee shops to make sure that males and females are not mixing together and that the women are dressed modestly.

The journalist said that many Palestinian women have noticed the presence of the police officers at the beaches and other sites. She said that the talk in the Gaza Strip these days is about Hamas's intention to impose the *hijab* (headscarf) on all female school children from first to 12th grade.

She said she was astonished by the fact that the Hamas security forces were providing security to hotels that are frequented by women wearing

miniskirts, while at the same time targeting "common people" who go to the beaches and public parks. Hamas has banned men in the Gaza Strip from swimming topless. "And as in my case, Hamas has banned women from laughing while swimming," she added.

She and her friends were stopped by Hamas policemen while swimming in the sea. She said that the policemen confiscated her passport and laptop after accusing her of laughing loudly and swimming without a *hijab*.

Two of her male friends were detained for questioning for three hours. They said the police officers beat them and abused them verbally before releasing them.

A spokesman said that Hamas does not interfere with the way women want to dress. However, he stressed, "we must preserve our Islamic culture and traditions. If there's a woman who wants to dress as she wishes, she must go to a private swimming pool and not to a public place." ★

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Ancient Quarry (Herod's?) Discovered

By Jen Thomas, Associated Press

Israeli archaeologists have uncovered an ancient quarry where they believe King Herod extracted stones for the construction of the Jewish Temple 2,000 years ago, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority. The archaeologists believe the 1,000-square-foot quarry was part of a much larger network of quarries used by Herod in Jerusalem.

The biggest stones extracted from the quarry would have measured three yards long, two yards across, and two yards high. Archaeologists said the size of the stones indicates they could have been used in the construction of the Temple compound, including the Western Wall, a retaining wall that remains intact and is a Jewish shrine.

The two-week excavation, which was conducted before construction begins on an apartment complex at the site, also uncovered pottery, coins, and what appear to be tools used in the quarry dating to the first century B.C.



"Finding a large quarry related to the largest building project ever undertaken in Jerusalem... that's more than just another discovery," said archaeologist Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University, who was not involved in the excavation. "It's an additional block that slowly reveals the picture of construction in ancient Jerusalem."

Herod was the Roman-appointed king of the Holy Land from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. and was known for his many major building projects, including the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple. The Second Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 by Roman legions following a Jewish revolt.

Because of the amount of ancient remains in Israel, builders are required to carry out a salvage excavation before beginning construction. Such digs regularly turn up important finds. ★

The Gift That Keeps On Giving: Bias Against Israel

www.NYTimes.com

To the Editor of *The New York Times*:

Amnesty International's report on the conflict in Gaza is fundamentally biased against Israel ("Report Accuses Israel and Hamas of War Crimes in Gaza," news article, July 3). Nothing illustrates this more starkly than when the report deals with the issue of Gaza civilians caught up in the conflict.

When assessing Israeli efforts to warn civilians of an impending attack, whether by telephone or by leaflet, all such warnings did was create panic because the civilians had nowhere to flee, according to the report.

On the other hand, when the report looked at Hamas's placing military infrastructure in the heart of civilian areas, it minimized the effect by arguing that Hamas did not force people to stay in their homes so civilians could flee attacks.

In other words, Amnesty adjusted its version of the facts to suit its *a priori* assumptions that Israel was the main party responsible for civilian deaths.

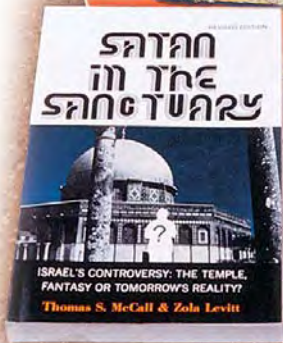
In fact, in a complicated situation, Israel did all it could to avoid civilian casualties. The main violator of human rights was Hamas; its eight-year rocketing of Israeli civilians and its deliberate placing of its military in civilian buildings, homes, schools, hospitals, and mosques were major violations of international law. One would barely know this from the Amnesty "investigation."

Kenneth Jacobson
Deputy National Director
Anti-Defamation League
New York, July 5, 2009
(published July 8)



Amnesty's "investigation" was little more than a gift to those who purvey Islamic propaganda.
—Jeff



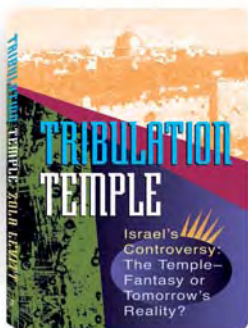


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