

Levitt

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



Letter



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu answered direct questions posed by YouTube viewers worldwide. See the interview at: <http://wp.me/pieUD-SQ>

Netanyahu Puts Arab-Israeli Conflict In Proper Perspective

By Ryan Jones, www.IsraelToday.co.il

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took part in a global interview on YouTube recently, with questions for the Israeli leader coming in from around the world, including countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran. (see p. 2)

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Netanyahu and cabinet (Sebastian Scheiner/AP)

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AND HIS CABINET. A UN-appointed expert panel investigated the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas in the winter of 2008-2009 and alleged that Israel deliberately targeted civilians. Richard Goldstone, the head of the panel, now says in a Washington Post newspaper article that his conclusions should have been different. Netanyahu has called for the Goldstone Report to be formally nullified. (See article on p. 3)

The top questions—which were voted on by YouTube viewers—were asked by a popular Israeli television journalist. The short interview was posted to YouTube as part of the “World Views” series.

In one of the questions, Netanyahu was asked if he thought the decision to build a few hundred more Jewish housing units in Judea and Samaria in response to the March 11 massacre of a Jewish family in the area would harm chances for peace with the Palestinians.

The Palestinians claim all of Judea and Samaria as theirs, and insist they will not conclude a peace deal with Israel until Jews stop building there.

Netanyahu’s answer highlighted how the world is playing right into Islam’s hands by misrepresenting the conflict and ignoring its historic context.

The Israeli leader insisted that the international community must stop looking at Jewish houses as being any different from Arab houses in Judea and Samaria since the territory is “disputed land—we have a historical connection to it.”

For decades, the world has parroted the Arab line that Judea and Samaria are “occupied territories” to which the Jews have no real connection.

Netanyahu disagreed.

“My name is Benjamin; the first Benjamin, the son of Jacob, walked these hills 4,000 years ago, so we have some connection with this land,” Netanyahu explained. “Any one in his right mind knows that this is part of the ancestral Jewish homeland; it’s in the Bible.”

Many Israelis have for years been frustrated by their government’s compliance with the Arab narrative regarding the land and its history.



By going along with the “occupation” theme, previous Israeli leaders have all but accepted the notion that Jews do not belong there. And if they do not belong in Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem, then they certainly don’t belong in Tel Aviv.

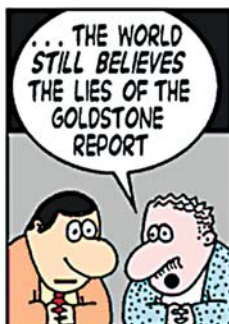
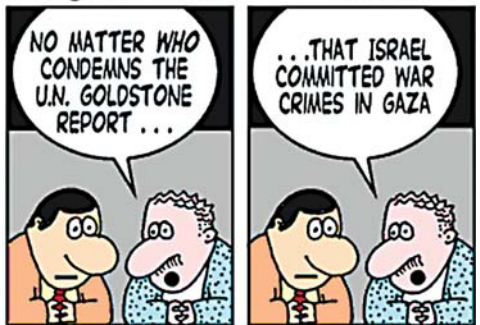
Netanyahu also sought to remind the world that the exaggerated and artificially-perpetuated Palestinian refugee issue has a Jewish parallel that is typically ignored.

“Everyone knows we can’t kick out 350,000 or 400,000 Jews from their homes [in Judea and Samaria],” said Netanyahu, noting that “many of them, by the way, were kicked out [of their homes in Arab countries] by hostile Arab armies before the founding of Israel.”

The difference between the Palestinian and Jewish refugee issues is that Israel fully absorbed and integrated the Jewish refugees that fled here. The Arabs have worked hard to maintain the Palestinians’ “refugee” status and condition as a political weapon against Israel. ★

Dry Bones

COLD COMFORT



UN's Anti-Israel Bigotry Exposed

By Joshua Mitnick, www.CSMonitor.com

Israel has reacted with a sense of vindication since South African Judge Richard Goldstone retracted accusations of Israeli war crimes during its war with Hamas in Gaza two years ago.

Mr. Goldstone, who headed a panel of the United Nations Human Rights Council that made the accusations in more than 500 pages' worth of reports in 2009, wrote in a *Washington Post* opinion piece published in April that Israeli inquiries into the reports' allegations have made it clear that its army didn't intentionally target Gaza civilians. He shifted criticism to the militant Islamist group Hamas for "heinous" acts of shooting rockets at Israeli cities and for refusing to investigate itself.

The Goldstone report was widely seen in Israel as unjust and aimed at isolating the Jewish state as a pariah while negating its right to defend itself from rocket attacks. And although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the United Nations to consign the report to the "dustbin of history," it isn't likely to be forgotten any time soon.

Palestinians, who had encouraged the UN to refer the report to its judicial arm, accused Goldstone of caving in to pro-Israel pressure over the report. Israeli commentators, meanwhile, called the South African justice's article a "PR coup" and an "earthquake."

"The most serious accusation was that Israel deliberately killed Palestinian civilians," said Dore Gold, a former Israeli United Nations Ambassador who debated Goldstone in 2009. "It was like a blood libel for the Israel Defense Forces, and contributed directly to the global effort to delegitimize the Jewish state. This is an important turning point."

While Israeli officials rushed to claim victory, analysts expressed doubt it would spur any greater sympathy for Israel by the international community in a future conflict.

"It's more of a moral triumph than something that changes the relations between Israel and the UN or between Israel and the international community," said Shmuel Rosner, an Israeli columnist for *The Jerusalem Post*. "The United Nations is a body with an instinctive tendency to investigate Israel and to blame Israel, and I don't think that that tendency will be different because of [Goldstone's] change of heart." ★

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS.



ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN MILITANT GROUPS FOR EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL.



When God Closes One Door He Opens Another

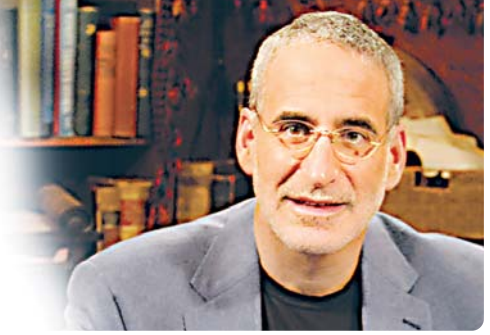
Dear Friends,

When I reflect on my life and ministry, I count as one of the highest honors the invitation to walk behind one of Messianic Jewish experience's greatest communicators: the late Zola Levitt.

Prior to that, I was an eccentric Bible college and seminary professor. ZLM's invitation afforded me the opportunity to sow my Jewish understanding of God's Word beyond academic walls through internationally syndicated television. Wow!

I still feel profoundly blessed, even though I recently tendered my resignation to make room for the next stage in the ministry's development. We would all appreciate your prayers for the ministry's CEO, Mark Levitt, as he seeks the mind of the Lord for the ministry's future.

Speaking of change, I am pleased to see my very good friend Sandra Levitt



making a re-appearance in print (see page 5) and on TV. We always were buddies, and throughout my tenure, she was my biggest fan and ally—even after she stepped away a couple of years ago. You'll enjoy seeing her, hearing her heart—and in some way Zola's through her.

The information Zola Levitt Ministries imparts is important. I know you'll be blessed by whomever the ministry recruits to help you stay informed on what's happening in the Middle East, and how modern, breaking news remains related to biblical prophecy.

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

Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif



Shalom From Sandra

The “before” picture on this page is part of an exhibit at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. Called “In Search of Biblical Lands—From Israel to Jordan in 19th-Century Photography” (on view until September 12, 2011), it comprises early photographs of the Holy Land from the mid to late 1800s. The picture (*right*) entitled “Tourists camped outside Jerusalem” and dated 1868 is by Felix Bonfils and shows the contrast of Israel then and now (*below*). How much Israel has grown with new architecture, more people, agriculture, and industry! From dusty and backward to forward and modern. God has truly blessed Israel!



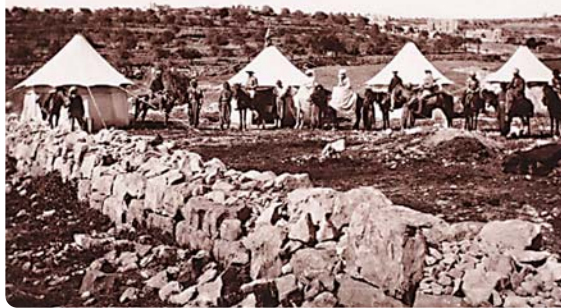
Being a tourist in Israel today is certainly different from the 1860s. Then, most pilgrims camped out in tents. Today, luxury hotels are everywhere. The old joke in our family was that camping out meant no room service. Today, Israeli accommodations offer the comforts of concierge and room service, Wi-Fi, cable TV—in short, everything we could want or need. Today as yesterday, we walk around to view the sights, but we ride in wonderful air-conditioned buses, not on horses and donkeys, to get from one location to another.

I first pictured Israel in my imagination as I read the Bible. I knew what I *thought* Israel would look like: Being from Texas, I pictured Israel big, Texas BIG. It is not. The whole length of Israel is 290 miles and 85 miles at its widest point. To put it in U.S. perspective, it is about the distance from San Francisco to Santa Barbara, from Dallas to San Antonio, or the size of New Jersey. But, those miles contain thousands of years of history. Bethlehem is a ten-minute ride from Jerusalem. The Dead Sea is

less than an hour, and the Galilee is about two hours from Jerusalem. Travel in Israel is measured in hours, not miles or kilometers.

And the food... How different was dining then compared to now? Israel boasts many world-class restaurants. Our pilgrims will tell you of the sumptuous breakfasts each morning. In yesteryear, getting to Israel took weeks or months of sailing, caravanning, and camping. Today, a pilgrim can be in Israel within twenty-four hours by

*Tourists camped outside Jerusalem
1868 (by Felix Bonfils)*



airplane from almost anywhere in the world. What kind of guides did the tourists have then? Knowledge has certainly increased. Our modern-day guides seem to know so much! I have to wonder what earlier tourists felt as they camped out on the ground; but I'm a little envious when I realize that they looked up at the stars in clear skies without the interfering glare of city lights. Were their expectations met or exceeded when they saw the Temple Mount, the Sea of Galilee, the Garden Tomb? So many questions... ★

Modern touring in Jerusalem



Zola Tours bus at The King David Hotel

Springtime and Senior Citizens

By Eitan Shishkoff



While I am enjoying coffee with a friend at a sidewalk cafe on a glorious spring morning, this old guy comes riding up on a three-wheeled bike. He is riding on the sidewalk, right next to our table, just as happy as you please. He knows my friend, so he stops to exchange pleasantries. "I've had three heart attacks, so this bike keeps me fit." With that, he is off again.

The Krayot, our collection of towns hugging the Haifa Bay, features flat streets, making bicycle travel a breeze. One of these towns, Kiryat Yam, has Israel's second highest percentage of citizens over 65. So ubiquitous are they that I cannot step outside my house without seeing them cruising the neighborhood streets. At 63, I guess I'll be joining them soon.

I also commonly see personal caregivers, often internationals from the Philippines or Romania, assisting Israel's elderly to take a walk or sit on a park bench. Israel, with 11% of the population over 65 and one of the world's highest life expectancies (81), has an enlightened public policy of licensed non-medical home care. As part of the country's universal health care: "There are five levels of long-term institutional care...two supervised and...the next three layers...for more severely disabled patients (which) are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health."* The aged portion of our nation is expected to grow dramatically, nearly doubling by 2030.

Israel has a unique variety of origins among senior Israelis. Nearly all were born outside of Israel and

made *aliya* from over 100 countries. Hebrew is not their mother tongue. This makes it challenging but also fun to catch snatches of conversation in heavily accented

Hebrew or another language altogether. Among them are survivors of the Holocaust (32% of Israel's 65+) and veterans of the many wars fought to achieve and defend statehood. Although articles periodically describe the unmet needs of our aged, Israeli families tend to be highly connected to their parents, giving them quality attention into life's concluding stage.

This last attribute touches my own life. Part of the price for moving from the U.S. to Israel in 1992 was leaving my parents behind. They are now 94 and need a great deal of assistance. Visiting them recently, I got to serve them in the basic physical necessities. It gave me a tender opportunity to bless the mom and dad who lovingly raised me. In the Ten Commandments, "**Honor your father and your mother**" is the first commandment dealing with human relationships. Not only in Israel, but throughout the modern "me-first" world, we would do well to follow **Leviticus 19:32: "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly, and revere your God."** ★

* "Challenges of Caring for the Israeli Elderly Population," A. Mark Clarfield, M.D., *Geriatric Times*, Nov/Dec 2001



Honoring God's Promises

In 2002, a reader contacted the Christian Research Institute, founded by Hank Hanegraaff, to learn what they have to say about Zola Levitt Ministries. Below are excerpts from CRI's response.

"We commend Zola Levitt Ministries in their service to the Lord. They uphold the important teaching of the inerrancy of Scripture, as well as the important truth that Christ alone provides salvation for humanity. As a Christian ministry, they are primarily concerned with reaching the Jewish community, and Zola Levitt has also been helpful in portraying the significance of Jewish traditions for Christians.

"While we commend them with regard to these tremendous aspects of their ministry, and accept Zola Levitt as a brother in Christ, we do not agree with their position that those who hold to 'covenant theology' (i.e., those who do not make the distinction between the Church and Israel) espouse a theological system that serves anti-Semitism and makes Scripture irrelevant.

"While Zola Levitt Ministries' beliefs are within the pale of Christian orthodoxy, we would purport that it is possible for orthodox Christians holding to 'covenant theology' to have a great love for the Jewish people, even though they do not place emphasis on their present ethnic status or the physical land of Israel as being significant in God's present dealings with humanity. We do not believe that one must give any ethnic group prominence in God's plan in order to show true Christian compassion and concern for them, and therefore would not agree that 'covenant theology' apparently serves anti-Semitism.



"Zola Levitt appears to criticize [several seminaries] for endorsing 'Progressive Dispensationalism,' rather than traditional dispensational theology. He insinuates people are in danger of compromising scriptural inerrancy when traditional dispensationalism is not affirmed.



"At CRI, we consider both 'dispensational theology' (including progressive dispensational theology) and 'covenant theology' to be within the pale of Christian orthodoxy...."

ZOLA'S COMMENT

The few footnotes on the letter from CRI indicate that the writer spent no more than a few minutes on our website www.levitt.com gathering information for this seemingly all-encompassing portrait of our 30-year-old ministry.

The CRI writer states that he believes it is "possible" for Christians of the "covenant" variety to have a "great love" for the Jewish people. This may well be possible, but how little we see it in practice! Once you begin to devalue the significance of the Chosen People, how can you have a "great love" for them? Once you disregard their "present ethnic status" (whatever that means), you cannot appreciate their past and future status, because the Jewish people and nation have always been the apple of God's eye... and they always have been Jewish!

God loved them and chose them and called them out and promised to them eternal blessings as a distinct people. In essence, one devalues the eternal promises of God by devaluing the objects of those promises. Not everyone holding to covenant theology may be anti-Semitic, but such beliefs provide an easy environment to foster this attitude, as most mainline Protestant denominations and the Catholics demonstrate by their pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel posturing. ★

Pastoral Footprints

Our ministry is advertising on page 28 for the “Rocky Balboa” of Messianic Bible teachers. In fact, ZLM’s board of directors wants us to recruit several teachers with charisma and knowledge to enrich and balance our teaching message to you.

Pastor Myles may prove to be just such a heavyweight when it comes to delivering Bible lessons with a punch. For decades, he has emphasized the Book of Ruth (the subject of our TV series in production) while leading marriage seminars. He and ZLM’s TV producer Ken Berg worked together on a major project with Rosemary Schindler, Oskar Schindler’s niece by marriage. Please see the “Myles” announcement on page 20. —Mark

Meet Pastor Myles Weiss

Greetings from the San Francisco Bay area—or as the Bible calls it, “the end of the Earth!” (Acts 1:8). God is alive and well here, despite rumors to the contrary. My wife, Katharine, and I reach for His reviving Spirit in the belief that He intends to awaken the Body of Believers here to His end-times purposes.

Katharine and I have been blessed to participate in Gospel campaigns in India, Russia, and Africa. We lived in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, where I taught Bible and counseling to rising ministers. In addition to being an ordained pastor, I am a licensed psychotherapist. Our boys were young then; 10 and 7. They are now college age.

One of the most important pieces of the contemporary Kingdom puzzle is the role of Israel and its relationship to Believers worldwide. God redirected our ministry to place Israel at the center.

Confronted by a young man who impressed me with the need to pass on my Jewish heritage to my children,



we began observing *Shabbat* (Sabbath) and celebrating the feasts in our home. We called these meetings *Beth Shalom*, “the house of peace.”

Amazing things happened in those early days. A 96-year-old Jewish “landsman” gave his life to Yeshua in my kitchen. He wept for joy as the Sabbath traditions melded with the living presence of Yeshua and lit up his soul. An 80-year-old Jewish woman declared, “I’ll always remember this as the house where I met Jesus.” An entire Israeli family came more than once to hear the Good News in our home.

Along the way, we connected with some fine Israeli ministries. Each year, we introduced church leaders to their roots in Israel. At first, we just let them connect with Israel and be cleansed of Replacement Theology and anti-Semitism. One pastor of a 3,000-member church in California exclaimed, “Myles, why wasn’t this taught to me 35 years ago in seminary?”

Over time, God used our outreach to connect these leaders with the Body of Messiah. As the Scripture states, “Do good unto all men, *especially* those of the household of faith.” (Gal 6:10)

God surprised us when He knit our lives with Arab Believers who *sincerely* love the Jewish people and understand their primacy in His plan. We counsel families and offer Bible-based counseling via radio, TV, and every venue that God provides, declaring the Good News of Yeshua to the Jew first and also to the non-Jew. (Rom. 1:16). ★

History Of Flag Day

www.USFlag.org

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as "Flag Birthday." In numerous magazine and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as "Flag Birthday," or "Flag Day."

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

School by school and teacher by teacher sporadically observed the Flag's history on June 14 until in 1894, the American Flag Day Association was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day—the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777—was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.

Two-Flag Collar Pin

This unique full-color pin, with America's and Israel's flags, proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace! Shown actual size.
Please see page 19 to order.



Raising Fish In The Desert

“There are plenty of fish in the sea,” the old saying goes—but that’s not as true as it once was. In fact, says Dotan Bar-Noy, CEO of Israel’s GFA (Grow Fish Anywhere) Advanced Systems, there are fewer fish in the sea with each passing year. “Overfishing is a much bigger problem than people realize, and in a few years, many species of saltwater fish are simply going to disappear if something isn’t done.”

Bar-Noy and 30 or so others—mostly engineers, marine biologists, and other technical folk—have found a solution to the diminishing numbers of fish in the sea. Based on the work of Israeli scientist Dr. Yossi Tal and Hebrew University professor Jaap van Rijn—inventor of the system—GFA has developed an on-land environment where fish can be raised, without having to exchange water or treat it chemically.

“We call this a zero-discharge system,” Bar-Noy says. “We use biological filters and specially developed bacteria to treat the water the fish are growing in, without wasting anything. The system can be set up to raise saltwater fish anywhere in the world—even in the desert, thousands of miles from the ocean,” he asserts.

Fish farms are nothing new. Still, they have problems of their own—mostly due to the need to circulate the water in the pools and tanks where the fish are raised. The fish waste, with its nitrogen and other elements concentrated in a relatively small area, renders the water that it’s dumped into uninhabitable for fish. As the tanks are generally located near the shore, in relatively shallow water, the wastewater tends to linger there. Nearby jurisdictions are liable to find a considerable number of fish floating belly-up in their bays

By David Shamah
www.Israel21c.org



and harbors, having been poisoned by the high concentration of nitrogen and nutrients in the wastewater dumped from the tanks.

This problem is so serious that in some areas fish farms are banned, despite their being perhaps the only technologically feasible solution available to combat overfishing, says Bar-Noy. Alternative purification systems are based on electrical treatment systems which are expensive to install and run, and fish produced with those systems will cost far more than fish from the sea.

Because the GFA system uses cheap and easy-to-produce bacteria to cleanse fish tanks, the costs for raising the fish are fully competitive with those for raising fish from the sea, or other farms. “Fish from the sea are subject to the natural weather cycles of cold and heat, while farmed fish can be raised at a constant, ideal temperature. GFA fish have an even greater advantage, since the water they grow in is always fresh, making the fish taste better than fish from other sources.”

“As populations grow, more countries look to fish as sources of protein,” says Bar-Noy. “With our system, fish can be grown anywhere—even in the desert—with minimal environmental impact. This is about more than just growing fish,” he adds. “This could help feed millions.” ★



GFA's New York purification plant opened in 2009 and is already supplying 100 tons of sea fish a year to the U.S. market.

Islam—A Culture Of Violence

By Amil Imani, FamilySecurityMatters.org

There is a division of the house. One side reassures us that the mass murderers and suicide bombers who detonate their explosives in crowded marketplaces are individual anomalies, and Islam is not responsible for what they do.

The other side is fed up with the horrific acts that are clearly committed under the banner of Islam. In all fairness, there needs to be a distinction. Numerous criminal acts are also committed by non-Muslims. The critical difference is that non-Muslim criminals do not hoist a religious banner to justify their misdeeds, while the Muslims proudly claim that they commit their heinous acts in obedience to the dictates of their religious faith.

Would someone please explain what motivated Maj. **Nidal Hasan** to turn his deadly weapons against Ft. Hood and a nation that gave him everything he had? If Islam had nothing to do with what Hasan did, why did he keep screaming “Allah-o-Akbar” as he sprayed over a hundred bullets, killing thirteen and injuring some thirty-two innocent men and women?

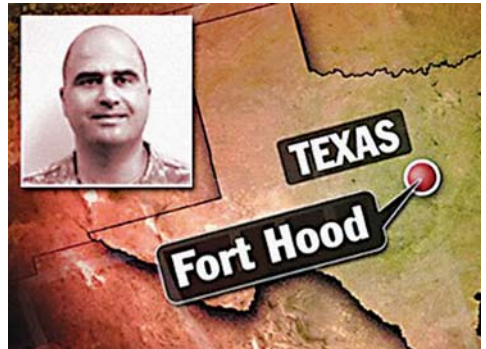
Here is the truth, as bitter as it may be. Islam is the culprit. Islam is anything but a religion of peace. Violence is at the very core of Islam. Violence is institutionalized in Islam’s holy book, the Koran, in many suras like Koran: 47:4 “Thus are you commanded by Allah to continue carrying out jihad against the unbelieving infidels until they submit to Islam.”

And the Koran is considered by Muslims as the word-for-word literal edicts of the Muslims’ god, Allah.

Right from the start, violence served as

the engine of Islam under the command and supervision of Mohammed himself. The prophet’s son-in-law cousin, Ali, was titled the Commander of the Faithful for his unsurpassed feats of butchery. Ali beheaded some seven hundred captives, most of them Jews, in only one day. On the Sunni side, Mohammed’s co-revered is Umar, another unabashed killer of untold numbers.

Islam, by the nature of its doctrine, appeals to man’s base nature. It promotes intolerance, hatred, and discrimination. (Koran:61:2) It is like a deadly contagious disease that, once it invades the mind of its victim, is capable of transforming him to a helpless pawn who has no choice but to execute what he is directed to do.



Maj. Hasan did not riddle people with bullets under the pressure of momentary insanity. The insanity was introduced in him from the moment of birth and from the very early years when he prostrated himself five times daily toward Mecca in expression of total submission to the dogma of hate called Islam.

Humanity is facing a troubling dilemma. On one hand, enlightened people desire to forge a world of diverse people into one universal society ruled by peace and justice for everyone. On the other hand, Islamists are hell-bent on imposing their stone-age system on everyone. Tellingly, Muslims are at one another’s throat regarding which Islamic sect’s dogma should rule. ★

Amil Imani is an Iranian-born American citizen and a pro-democracy activist residing in the U.S. and speaking out for the struggling people of his native land, Iran.

Palestinians Still Blaming Everyone Else

By Khaled Abu Toameh, Hudson-NY.org

Although Hamas has been in full control of the Gaza Strip since 2007—and its security forces and militias have been employing an iron fist against any individual or group that defies the Islamist movement's authority—lately, Hamas has been trying to avoid responsibility for rocket and mortar attacks on Israel by claiming that other groups in the Gaza Strip were responsible.

If Hamas is now saying that it does not have control over other groups that are firing the rockets and mortars at Israel, then its leaders should resign and pave the way for a new regime. On a number of occasions, Hamas's armed wing, Izaddin al-Kassam, did take credit for firing some of the rockets and mortars. However, Hamas spokesmen continue to maintain that smaller and more radical groups like the Islamic Jihad were behind most of the recent attacks.

Hamas's line of defense—"It's not us, it's someone else"—is not unfamiliar to those who have been closely watching the situation in the Palestinian territories over the past two decades. For many years, Yasser Arafat used the same argument to explain why the territories under his control were being used as launching pads for

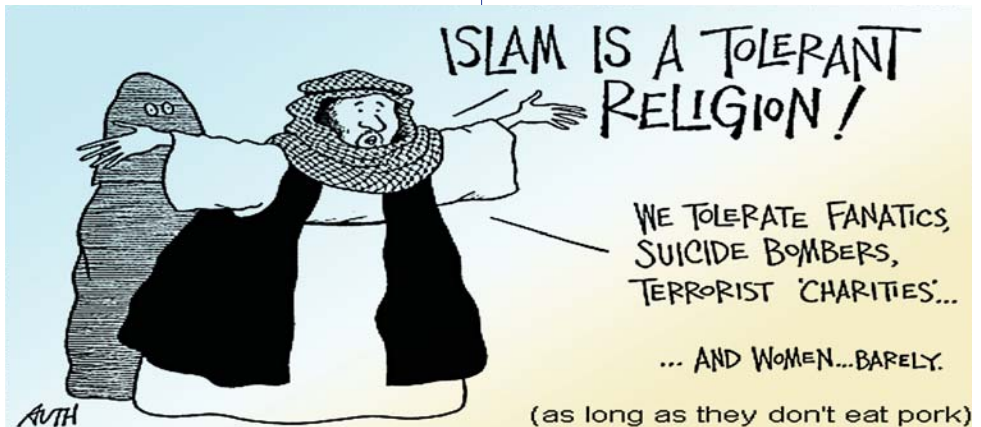
anyone who wanted to attack Israel.

At first, Arafat tried to evade responsibility by blaming other Palestinians for the terror attacks on Israel. Then, when the Israel Defense Forces took the initiative to halt terror assaults emanating from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arafat put the blame on Israel for "escalating tensions" and foiling his efforts to stop the attacks.

Arafat's successor, Mahmoud Abbas, appears to have endorsed the same policy of putting the blame on others. Abbas did too little, if anything, to stop the rocket and mortar attacks on Israel after he came to power in January 2005, although he had more than 35,000 armed policemen—trained and paid for by the U.S. and Europe—at his disposal in the Gaza Strip.

He too defended his failure to tackle the problem by first saying it was not his men who were firing the rockets and mortars and, second, blaming Israel whenever the IDF took action to stop the attacks.

In keeping with this policy, Abbas was quick recently to issue a statement condemning Israeli "aggression" after a rocket that was fired from the Gaza Strip hit a school bus, critically injuring an Israeli teenager. Instead of directly and clearly condemning the attack on the bus, Abbas urged Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip "not to give Israel an excuse" to step up its military strikes.



Casting Pearls Before Prisoners



Mark Levitt

Jesus found Himself between two prisoners. So do I. —Mark

What's In It For Me?

Dear ZLM,

Jesus did not say, "Sell all you have and give it to a ministry, or to Zola, and follow me." Jesus said to give it to the poor! You certainly are not poor. And the only thing you give free is a newsletter that hustles other materials you sell. Hypocrite! You're in it for the money! I'm poor, in prison, and look at what little I have. Why don't you send me a nice donation for a change.

—C.J. (Delano, CA)

P.S. Say Hi to Tracie for me!

The Prisoner's Mite

Dear Zola Ministries,

Shalom Aleichem [Peace be upon you]! I love you guys! I'm grateful for all that you do, and I thank our God for you always.

Re: March *Levitt Letter*, p. 20: (<http://www.levitt.com/newsletters/2011-03.pdf>), "Too Little Fundraising." "...households and prisoners who will never respond with a dime." Ouch!! That hurt! It may be true, but it still hurt.

I am one prisoner who owes you for years of monthly newsletters for which, as long as I'm incarcerated, I will never be able to pay. Every month, when I receive the newsletter, I feel guilty, wishing I could send something. It's not that I would "never" respond; it's that I have nothing to respond with. Lord knows, I surely would!

I could share with you my money problems, but why burden you? I will say that \$5 to me is the difference between eating and going hungry. (Three days of the week, they feed us only two measly meals a day. \$5 is 12 Ramen soups for me.) I don't care how often you go hungry,



a note
from mark

you never get used to it. However, you and what you do are important to me, so I'm going to tighten my belt and trust the Lord to provide (as He always does!).

Here's what I am going to do—I'm going to send you my \$5. I'm very sorry it isn't \$50 or \$500, but it truly is what I have. May the Lord bless us both with it. Sending the check will cost me 50¢—another soup—and may take two weeks. I pray the Lord continues to abundantly bless Zola Levitt Ministries. Amen. B'Yeshua, —K. (Trion, GA)

Dear K.—

Your letter made me cry. How magnificently humbling, the thought of you sacrificing 13 Ramen soups despite realizing the "two pence" nature of your gift. Reminds me of the article "A Widow's Two Mites" on page 5 of our September 2007 *Levitt Letter*: That once-rich lady had little to give yet hungered to do so. (<http://www.levitt.com/newsletters/2007-09.pdf>).

God will multiply your gift by inspiring others who are more fortunate than you. This ministry, however, never asks anyone (particularly prisoners) to give up their grocery money. In this case, I am making a contribution to your prisoner account that will improve your diet. Blessings to you, my sanctified brother. —Mark

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she out of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. Mark 12:41-44

Dear C.J.—

Tracie is praying for you. —Mark



Saudi Dissidents Gather Weekly

By Neela Banerjee, www.LATimes.com

The men trickled into the gravel-filled courtyard in twos and threes. The 60 or so lawyers, doctors, academics, and clerics are the leading opposition voices in Saudi Arabia. Many have been imprisoned, some several times, often for seemingly mild acts of protest such as letters, petitions, and calls to foreign journalists.

Recent petitions to King Abdullah asking for fundamental reforms have drawn thousands of signatures, much to the former prisoners' pride and delight. But the activists also understand that the kind of popular rage churning Egypt or Bahrain doesn't exist in Saudi Arabia.

For years, the group has met Monday nights in this courtyard on Riyadh's eastern outskirts to discuss Saudi politics. Badr Mouzan, 39, a former police captain, has been in prison twice, the last time for three years, because of an alleged affiliation with a London-based critic of the Saudi regime. He said he wouldn't attend any demonstrations. But he had hopes for them.

Whatever change human rights activists and others would like to see in the kingdom—and even the harshest critics do not want to overthrow the monarchy—they are nearly unanimous in their assessment that popular dissatisfaction would not lead to big protests here.

Even without demonstrations, the ideas many at the gathering put forth in petitions and letters, such as calling for a constitutional monarchy or respecting the rights of detainees, are often punishable in the absolute monarchy of Saudi Arabia. The owner of the compound, Abdullah Hamid, a former professor of comparative literature, has been imprisoned six times, once



for voicing support of a demonstration by families of detainees, according to the United Nations.

"There is a whole spectrum of people here: Islamists, nationalists, even liberals," Hamid said. They are united, he said, by a request to Abdullah for a constitutional monarchy, an independent judiciary, and an end to corruption.

The men said they realize they are being watched when they gather, and that there are probably informers in their midst. "Once they arrest you, then you find out what's permissible or not," Mouzan said. Mouzan was freed six months ago.

Mohammed Bejadi, 31, landed in prison for contacting foreign journalists about a planned sit-in to demand the release of detainees. He sees how effective the Saudi authorities are. His Facebook page and that of many others is repeatedly blocked. Bejadi said he was held without charge in a filthy solitary confinement cell and denied visitors. Still, he said, he would take a risk. "Freedom starts in prison," he said. ★

Possibly The Biggest Find Since The Dead Sea Scrolls

By Fiona Macrae, DailyMail.co.uk

For scholars of faith and history, it is a treasure trove too precious for price.

This ancient collection of 70 tiny books, their lead pages bound with wire, could unlock some of the secrets of the earliest days of Christianity. Academics are divided as to their authenticity but say that if verified, they could prove as pivotal as the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. (See p. 17)

On pages not much bigger than a credit card are images, symbols, and words that appear to refer to the Messiah and possibly even to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Adding to the intrigue, many of the books are sealed, prompting academics to speculate they are actually the lost collection of codices mentioned in the Bible's Book of Revelation.

The books were discovered five years ago in a cave in a remote part of Jordan to which Christian refugees are known to have fled after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Important documents from the same period have previously been found there.

Initial metallurgical tests indicate that some of the books could date from the first century AD. This estimate is based on the form of corrosion which has taken place, which experts believe would be impossible to achieve artificially.

If the dating is verified, the books would be among the earliest Christian documents, predating the writings of the Apostle Paul. The prospect that they could contain contemporary accounts of the final years of Jesus' life has excited scholars—although their enthusiasm is tempered by the

fact that experts have previously been fooled by sophisticated fakes.

David Elkington, a British scholar of ancient religious history and archaeology, and one of the few to have examined the books, says they could be “the major discovery of Christian history.”

After their discovery by a Jordanian Bedouin, the hoard was subsequently acquired by an Israeli Bedouin, who is said to have illegally smuggled them across the border into Israel, though he claims they have been in his family for 100 years.



However, the Jordanian Government is now working at the highest levels to repatriate and safeguard the collection. Philip Davies, emeritus professor of biblical studies at Sheffield University, said there was powerful evidence that the books have a Christian origin in plates cast into a picture map of the holy city of Jerusalem.

Dr. Margaret Barker, a former president of the Society for Old Testament Study, said: “The Book of Revelation tells of a sealed book that was opened only by the Messiah. Other texts from the period tell of sealed books of wisdom and of a secret tradition passed on by Jesus to his closest disciples. That is the context for this discovery.”

Professor Davies said: “The possibility of a Hebrew-Christian origin is certainly suggested by the imagery and, if so, these codices are likely to bring dramatic new light to our understanding of a very significant but so far little understood period of history.” ★



Reciprocity of the Heart

By John J. Parsons

רֹדֵף צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד יִמְצָא חַיִּים צְדָקָה וְכָבוֹד

“Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.” (Prov. 21:21)

רֹדֵף	צְדָקָה	וְחֶסֶד	יִמְצָא	חַיִּים	צְדָקָה	וְכָבוֹד
(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
ro-def	tze-da-kah	va-cha-sed	yim-tza	chai-yim	tze-da-kah	and honor
whoever pursues	righteousness	and love	will find	life	righteousness	

If you were ask to God for just *one* thing, what would it be? Our deepest yearnings are like prayers. Whatever the heart genuinely seeks, it will find. The person who pursues righteousness will find it, just as evil comes to the person who searches for it (Prov. 11:27). Therefore the voice of wisdom cries out, “I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently find Me” (Prov. 8:17), and the prophet shouts, “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near” (Isa. 55:6). God is near to us in Yeshua, who said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” As you believe, so you will receive (Matt. 21:22).

This is the “like for like” principle of faith. Forgive us *as* we forgive; judge us *as* we judge; love us *as* we love; make us righteous *as* we take hold of righteousness, give us courage *as* we believe, and so on. As Isaiah said to fearful King Ahaz: “If you will not be firm in faith, you will not be firm at all” (Isa. 7:9). Your “amen” echoes the “amen” of Heaven: “Let it be done for you according to your faith” (Matt. 9:29).

The subject of our verse is a participle that comes from the verb *radaf*, which means to follow after, or to pursue, as in a chase or a hunt. This same verb is used when David exclaimed, “surely goodness and love will *pursue me* all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6). David understood that *as* he pursued God, so God’s love would pursue him! *As* we seek, so we are sought by God! *As* we draw near to God, He will draw near to us (James 4:8).

Notice the repeated use of the word “*tzedakah*” in this verse. When we pursue God’s righteousness, we will find it, and we will be declared “*tzaddik*” (righteous) and given life and honor. “In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death” (Prov. 12:28). Therefore Yeshua calls us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt 6:33).

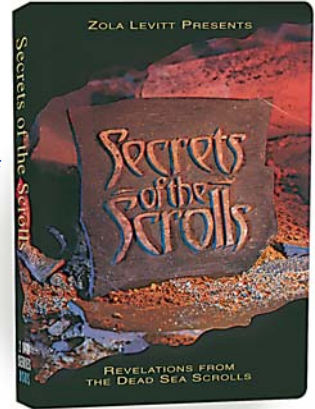
The prophet expresses hope: “Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth” (Hos. 6:3). Salvation is “of the LORD.” May God help us pursue Him *b’khol levavkha*—with all our heart—because the LORD has promised, “**You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart**” (Jer. 29:13).



Secrets of the Scrolls

Seven 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives an historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable new revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the actual fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as "son of God," "branch of David," "stripes or piercings," "being put to death," and "raising the dead" all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



Please
order from
page 18.

The Scrolls — A New Revelation

We quickly produced this program after the initial Associated Press news release. Zola quotes from it extensively and emphasizes its significance.

The Scrolls: Part 2

Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20th century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

The Scrolls: Part 3

During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert Eisenman and James Robinson.

The Scrolls Special

This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

(See related story on page 15)

The Wilderness Group

Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

In Search of Answers

Dr. Eisenman discusses his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

Prof. Michael Wise

An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Prof. Wise, from the University of Chicago, helped translate the fragments when they were first released. The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be, is discussed enthusiastically.

Books

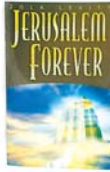
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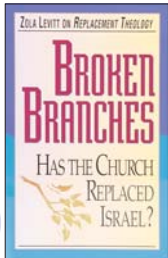
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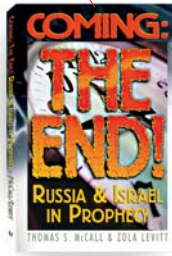
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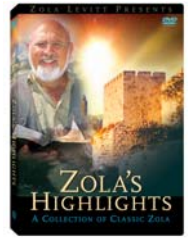
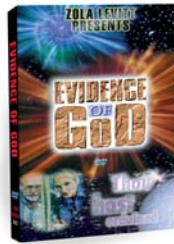


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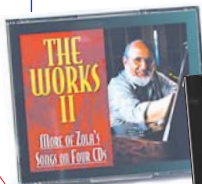
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ZLM Bulletin Board

Introducing Myles & Katharine Weiss

See Myles's article on page 8. He is graciously taking over from Jeff to complete production on our newest TV series on the Book of Ruth. Speak of the Lord working in mysterious ways: Myles and Katharine have majored in teaching Ruth applications for decades. Their story is a modern day version of Ruth's! Katharine, a gentile, pointed Myles to his Messiah in 1984. You can read their testimony at <http://tinyurl.com/43zszhz> in the article "Meeting My Matchmaker."

Myles is a native of NYC, where he attended Hebrew school until his Bar Mitzvah. Katharine, a native California Catholic, was born again during her college years. They have been Believers in Yeshua for nearly 30 years and married for 25. Myles received his dual Bible College degrees in Ministerial Arts and Biblical Counseling.



Pray for
the peace of
Jerusalem

Replenish Our Missionary Fund

Since March 2001, this ministry's **To The Jew First (TJF) Fund** has sent 83 volunteer missionaries to Israel. During 2007, we sent 12 missionaries, 8 in 2008, 14 in 2009, and 4 in 2010. This year we will send 6.

Understandably, the TJF Fund is depleted. Would you kindly designate contributions for the **To The Jew First Fund** to help us catch up on the budget for these trips?

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

See the fruits of this fund on p. 21.

Pamphlet of the Month

If you own a home or other property that you no longer wish to live in or manage, a charitable gift of such property can efficiently meet multiple goals. The 20-page pamphlet **Giving Real Estate** addresses topics including 1) property that has grown or decreased in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution.

Its *Technical Advisory Section* touches upon 1) real estate held long-term, 2) depreciated real estate, 3) limits on the income tax charitable deduction, and 4) special gift opportunities with personal residences and farms.

To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Find Zola Levitt Presents



Now it's easier than ever to locate our television program's broadcast times in your area. On our homepage at www.levitt.com, click on the **TV Show** tab at the top. Then, scroll down beneath the **Episode Airing Schedule** box to the **Station Search** box. Enter your city and state (or just your ZIP Code) in the **Station Search** box and click the **GO** button. Your local station and time will magically appear!

You might try searching both ways; e.g., "Dallas, Texas" and "75231." Beneath this search feature, you'll find our complete airing schedule. You are welcome to a free hardcopy by mail as well. A list of our national television networks appears bimonthly in the *Levitt Letter*, but there's much, much more to how far and wide we broadcast.

"Come Home!"

Zola's
Tours to
Israel:



See page
36 for details



“With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

—Romans 10:10

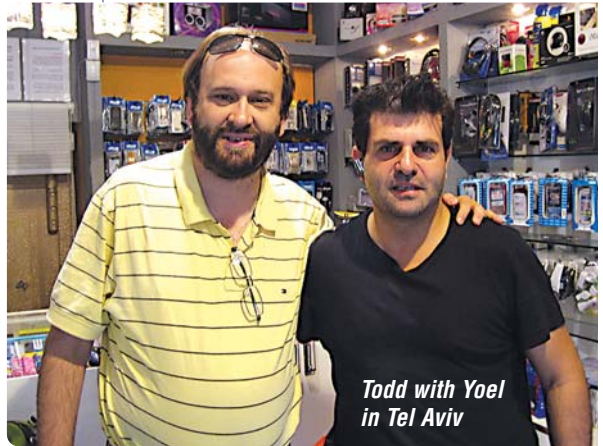
By Todd Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian

In Tel Aviv, the Lord led Kenny and me to Yoel—a thirty-eight-year-old Jew with a heart for the Palestinian people. When he was serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in Gaza, he regularly took food to poor Palestinian families, knowing they could kill him at any time. Here was an act of compassion that the Israel-bashing international media would never report! Kenny and I told Yoel his actions followed the teaching of the greatest Jew who ever lived—Yeshua the Messiah who said, **“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you”** (Matthew 5:44).

From this compliment, Yoel learned that we were Bible Believers in Jesus the Messiah. Yoel said that he had attended *yeshiva* (religious school) as a fifteen-year-old Orthodox Jew studying to be a rabbi. When the head rabbi caught him reading the New Testament in Hebrew, the rabbi screamed, “You are Jewish and Jesus is a Christian!” Yoel’s own research had persuaded him that Yeshua was Jewish; that He came to fulfill prophecies about the Messiah given in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) by Moses and the prophets. Kenny and I showed Yoel a list of the Messianic prophecies that Yeshua fulfilled, and explained how this evidence proves Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. Yoel said that the six-hour movie *Jesus of Nazareth* convinced him Jesus could be the Messiah.

Kenny and I know that the Lord used us to complete Yoel’s understanding of Yeshua being more than just a great rabbi. Discussing the prophecies of

Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2—that the Messiah would be divine, and hence God—Yoel suddenly exclaimed without prompting, **“I believe Yeshua is the Messiah!”** Just like when Simon Peter boldly confessed to Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16–17). And like Peter, Yoel had just received this revelation from the Holy Spirit through God’s Word.



Todd with Yoel
in Tel Aviv

Hoping he wasn’t saying it to please us, we asked Yoel if he really meant what he had just said. “Yes, I believe He is,” he responded. With his confession, Yoel was saved (Romans 10:10)!

Yoel accepted our invitation to express his faith through prayer. We thanked God for Yoel’s faith and asked Yeshua to fill Yoel with the Holy Spirit. Then we welcomed Yoel as a Jewish brother in the faith the Chosen People first gave to the world. We put him in touch with a local Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv where he can fellowship with other Believers and get grounded in the Word. Kenny and I feel honored that the Lord used us to confirm Yoel’s faith and hear his verbal confession unto salvation in accordance with Romans 10:10.

After ten years of sowing the Gospel seed among the Jewish people, we’re seeing the harvest of saved souls. Jesus Christ first planted the seed in Israel two thousand years ago (Matt. 13:37). Praise God, it continues to bear fruit there today. ★



Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

The following letters and comments that either support the mission or express gratitude to supporters for making a difference in their spiritual lives are the reason ZLM exists.

From D.W. (UK): I am deeply grateful to God for your program. It has helped me to love and understand Jewish people more. Please use my donation to help your outreach in the Holy Land. Pray that the God of Jacob will bless me and my family, that we may serve Him and please Him.

From G.B. (IA): This donation is long overdue and isn't much compared to the blessing your ministry has been to me. I love your program and I look forward to the *Levitt Letter* every month. Bless you and all you do.

From R.H. (TX): I love the education on my Jewish roots. It has made knowing my Savior more meaningful and understandable. Praying for the peace of Jerusalem is now a priority in my prayer life.

From M.D. (SD): I first saw Zola years ago. I teach prophecy and appreciate your material with the Jewish point of view. I pray that the Church wakes up to the truth about Israel, and stands with these dear people in this hour of trial. I believe that Christianity is actually biblical Judaism. Stand firmly in the gap, dear hearts.

From W.S. (PA): You are included in my morning prayer according to Ephesians 3:16–19, and in the evening according to Colossians 1:9–11.

From M.E. (MO): Thank you for helping me find my way back to God.

From M.B. (MI): I like watching your shows on your website. I feel like I can be with Zola even though he's gone to be with the Lord. —It was five years on April 19th. Thank you for remembering. —Webmaster



Good Stewardship

Dear Mark,

I have really come to appreciate and look forward to your *Note From Mark*. It adds a new dimension to the newsletter, making it even more informative.

I can see where your financial wisdom and insight comes from. I always loved Zola's comments about his Casio watch and rented office space. Your stewardship of funds is one of the reasons I support ZLM.

God speed and love in Christ, —B.M.

A Prisoner's Heartfelt Contribution

Dear ZLM,

I don't have much, in fact I have very little. God has put a deep love in my heart for the Jewish People. I'm very grateful to be able to show my love in this small way. Thank you! With the Love of Christ, —J.H. *Your love is obvious.* —Mark

Bringing Light To A Very Dark Place

Dear ZLM,

I have been receiving the *Levitt Letter* for almost two years now. I try to write every few months to keep my name current on your mailing list. I want to convey my sincere thanks to all of your readers who give more money so we (prisoners) can receive your newsletter.

One of the things prison lacks is information. Your newsletter helps the brothers here keep up with what's really happening in the world regarding Israel. It helps keep spirits up. Prison is a very dark and depressing place.

In His Love, —G.H.

Quality TV Series

Dear ZLM staff,

Thank you for sharing your gifts of biblical teaching and encouragement. Every series seems to be our favorite. We are currently gaining much from *Eretz Israel*, the Bible lessons, David Dolan's history, Zola's clips, and excellent interviews. We especially appreciate Zola's music, as well as mixing in current artists and music. The work of Ken Berg is outstanding, as good as any producer anywhere. The actors in the scenes seem very authentic, and as always, we are thrilled to see scenery of Israel, the land where Yeshua walked. (*See page 18*)

May the name of our wonderful Lord ever be praised! —T. & S.K.



Your Slanted Viewpoint

You present Israel in all its goodness and Islam in all its badness. Life is not so black and white. What is needed is for Israel to repent and return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As is true for all of us.

Israel is not innocent in its abuses. And to present it as such is not to love and care for it. Those who love us most point out our failures and confront us with our wrongs. Hence the most perfect ministry of John the Immerser. He did no greater miracle than to turn people from their sin.

While I pray for and love Israel, it is a nation that is secular, just like all of the other nations. And its citizens need to repent just as the Muslims do and as Americans must as well as every other nation.

Do what you do best: teach the wonderful love of Yeshua and His power to redeem us. Your video programs are excellent. I would love to leave your newsletter around but cannot for it is not filled with the love of Yeshua. And this saddens me.

Praying for the Shalom of Jerusalem and for the soon coming, —B.D.

Dear B.D.—

Guilty as charged! We offer no apologies for our unabashed support of Israel. We consider our coverage an attempt to balance the news coming from the mainstream media who seem to have a bias *against* Israel—and often Jews in general. We do try to present good news when we find it among Muslims, but as you say, most of the coverage is pretty negative simply because there isn't a lot of good news coming out of Islam.

We're watching events unfold in the Middle East and trying to keep our readers abreast of the news, either in these *Levitt Letters* or online at the LLX (*Levitt Letter X-tra News*). The Lord instructed us to pray for our enemies (Matt. 5:44), and so we urge you to pray for the salvation of all Muslims and anyone else who doesn't know the grace of Jesus.

I commend you for praying for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
—Editor



Truth In Media

Dear Zola Levitt,

For two years I have learned much and have been blessed much by the *Levitt Letter*. I subscribe to *The Wall Street Journal* and noticed an article by Alan M. Dershowitz that highlights anti-Semitism in Norway. *The Wall Street Journal* supports Israel's right to exist and does not buy into the Palestinian propaganda that the world supports. *The Journal* tends to follow the facts rather than subscribe to what the world considers is "politically correct."

I think your readers would be blessed if the article appeared in the *Levitt Letter*. God bless you. I am educating my spirit-filled parents on the benefits of the Jewish roots of Christianity thanks to your DVDs and the *Levitt Letter*.

With God's love and mine, —M.

Dear M.—

We think alike. See page 31. And thanks for the suggestion. —Editor

What About...?

Dear ZLM,

Does anyone on your staff know about the 70 metal books discovered in a Jordanian cave? They allege they are from the early Christian era. This might be a good article for the *Levitt Letter*. —D.P.

Dear D.P.—

We agree. See page 15. —Editor

Inquiring Minds Want To Know

Dear ZLM,

We're all familiar with The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947. What I'm uninformed about is the source of the (current) Bible. Who, what, where, when, and how did we obtain the sources (the actual texts, writings) of Scriptures in our current Bible? Old and New Testaments.

Thanks, —J.A.M.

Dear J.A.M.—

Your question regarding the Canon of the Bible is a good one. The Old and New Testaments we have today are based on ancient reliable *copies* of the original manuscripts. The Old Testament is historically backed up by the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, and the family of manuscripts that make up the Masoretic Text. The New Testament is backed up by about 24,000 manuscripts dating from the second century to the tenth century A.D. Even with all these variants, these copies read accurately with each other more than 98 percent of the time. The two percent difference is very minor, and in no way contradicts or denies any major doctrine of the Judeo-Christian faith. For further study on this important and broad subject, please see two excellent books: *A General Introduction to the Bible* by Norman Geisler and William Nix, and *The Journey from Texts to Translations* by Paul D. Wegner.

—Todd Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian



The Amazing Power of a Visit to Israel

By Dr. Perry V. Goldberg

Dr. Goldberg has been my family dentist for years. I never imagined that his receptionist Dona, a devoted Believer, would eventually marry him, persuade him to join her on a Zola Tour, and see him accept Jesus. Praise the Lord!
—Mark

For my wife and me, the March 2011 Zola Tour to Israel and Petra was a life-changing event. As a non-practicing Jew, I had few expectations for this trip apart from the “you just won’t believe it” daily reminders from my wife, Dona, who was visiting Israel for the second time. However, from the moment I stepped off the plane, the Lord began to open my eyes and knit my heart and soul to the Nation of Israel in ways I could never imagine.

For the first time in my life, missing pieces fell into place as the Lord, Yeshua, began to reveal Himself to me in a very personal way. Each location we visited brought me one step closer to experiencing a fulfillment I hadn’t known before. This pilgrimage was clearly orchestrated by the Lord to help me understand my Jewish roots and heritage.

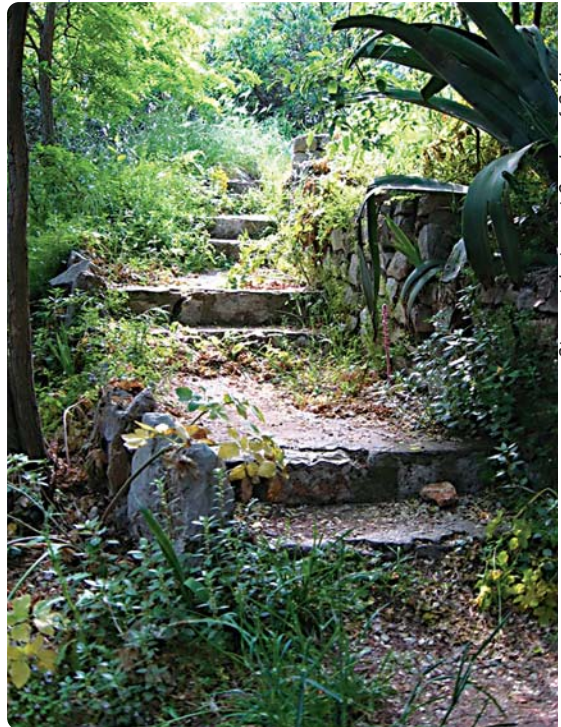
God used Dr. Jeffrey Seif, our group leader, to unlock many spiritual answers to questions I didn’t even know how to ask. Jeff’s knowledge coupled with the expertise and insight of our awesome tour guide, Ilan Barkay, enabled each of us to make a spiritual and personal connection as the Bible came alive before our eyes. With tour director Tracie’s seamless coordination, each passing day brought our group closer together and bonded our hearts

to the land and people of Israel.

The intimacy and connection I felt as God made his presence known to me when I prayed against the Western Wall and in the Garden of Gethsemane was something I had never encountered. Our two weeks were packed with one memorable experience after another, ranging from the breathtaking spectacle that is Masada and the day trip to Petra, boating on the Sea of Galilee, floating in the Dead Sea, standing on the Golan Heights (and now understanding its military significance), to the beauty and serenity overlooking the Jezreel Valley and the numbing reality that is the Holocaust Museum at Yad Vashem.

This trip was truly a life-impacting experience for me. I’ve learned not only more about who I am and where I am going spiritually, but the trip also brought me new understanding of how I came to be. My Jewish heritage and purpose has been revealed and I will never be the same.

Thank you, Zola Tours!



Stone stairs at Garden of Gethsemane

The Six-Day War —June 1967

By Mitchell Bard, www.aish.com

King Hussein of Jordan signed a defense pact with Egypt on May 30, 1967. Egypt's President Nasser then announced:

The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel...standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan, and the whole Arab nation.

President Abdur Rahman Aref of Iraq joined in the war of words: "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified... Our goal is clear—to wipe Israel off the map." On June 4, approximately 465,000 troops—more than 2,800 tanks, and 800 aircraft—ringed Israel.

Israel had no choice but preemptive action. To do this successfully, Israel needed the element of surprise. Had it waited for an Arab invasion, Israel would have been at a potentially catastrophic disadvantage. On June 5, the order was given to attack Egypt.

The United States tried to prevent the war through negotiations, but it was not able to persuade Nasser or the other Arab states to cease their belligerent statements and actions. Still, right before the war, U.S. President Johnson warned, "Israel will not be alone unless it decides to go alone."

On June 5, Israel was indeed alone, but its military commanders had conceived a brilliant war strategy. The entire Israeli Air Force, with the exception of just 12 fighters assigned to defend Israeli airspace, took off at 7:14 a.m. with the intent of bombing Egyptian airfields while the Egyptian pilots were eating breakfast. In less than two hours, roughly 300 Egyptian aircraft were destroyed.

A few hours later, Israeli fighters were sent to attack the Jordanian and Syrian air forces. By the end of the first day, nearly the entire Egyptian and Jordanian air forces, and half the Syrian air force, had been destroyed on the ground.

The battle moved to the ground, and some of history's greatest tank battles were fought between Egyptian and Israeli armor in the blast-furnace conditions of the Sinai desert.



June 23, 1967 LIFE magazine cover

While most IDF (Israel Defense Forces) units were fighting the Egyptians and Jordanians, a small, heroic group of soldiers was left to defend the northern border against the Syrians. When the Jordanians and Egyptians were subdued, reinforcements could be sent to the Golan Heights where Syrian gunners commanding the strategic high ground made it exceedingly difficult and costly for Israeli forces to penetrate.

Israel sent a message to King Hussein saying Israel would not attack Jordan unless he initiated hostilities. When Jordanian radar picked up a cluster of planes flying from Egypt to Israel, the Egyptians convinced Hussein the planes were theirs, and he ordered the shelling of West Jerusalem.

It turned out the planes were Israel's, returning from destroying the Egyptian air force on the ground.

It took only three days for Israeli forces to defeat the Jordanian legion. On the morning of June 7, Israeli paratroopers stormed the Old City and secured it before Defense Minister Moshe Dayan arrived to formally mark the Jews' return to their historic capital and their holiest site.

At the Western Wall, the IDF's chaplain blew a *shofar* to celebrate the reunification of Jerusalem. ★

Visit www.levitt.com/news to read about the events of the Six-Day War and its aftermath.

Immune system getting old? Process may be reversible



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com

Researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa have discovered a way to reverse the aging process by removing old B lymphocytes (a kind of white blood cell in vertebrate immune systems) from old mice and forcing the production of young, potent cells to replace them. The findings were reported in the January 2011 issue of the scientific journal *Blood*.

“As with every aging process in the body, it is generally thought that immune system aging, including that of the B cell population, is a progressive process that cannot be stopped or reversed,” says lead researcher Prof. Doron Melamed of the Technion’s Rappaport Faculty of Medicine.

“But we have succeeded in showing that it is possible to turn back the aging process.”

The immune system gets weaker with age—a fact reflected by a significant increase in illness among the elderly, and a dramatic decrease in their ability to respond to vaccination. The B lymphocytes are major cellular components in the function of the immune system, and responsible for antibody production.

According to Melamed, many studies have

shown the B cell population undergoes dramatic reductions with age as a result of a decline in the body’s ability to produce new B cells, and a selection process that leads to an accumulation of old B cells with a limited response capability.

Using old mice, the Technion researchers showed that active removal of the B cells changes the body’s cellular homeostasis and generates conditions of chronic deficiency in these cells. To overcome this, the body reactivates the bone marrow, forcing it to produce B cells again at a rate not different than that which exists in young mice. The researchers found that the newly generated B cells replaced the old cells that were removed and led to up to 400% improvement in the ability of the treated mice to respond to vaccinations.

“This paper shows—for the first time—that physiological aging is a regulated process that can be reversed,” Melamed concludes. “It also presents a novel approach for rejuvenating the immune system and for enhancing the efficacy of vaccination among the elderly population.”



Seeking Temporary TV Host

This ministry is hoping to recruit the “Rocky Balboa” of Messianic Bible teachers—a yet-to-be famous congregation leader who has the knowledge of a theologian and the communication skills of a journalist. A Believer who is comfortable in front of a TV camera while making the meat of the Word understandable to laymen. A thinker who can write and a writer who can think. Someone who’s been to Hebrew school. A theologian with a heart for Israel who preferably has traveled there and wants to return. If you know someone qualified to speak and write to this ministry’s vast television audience and newsletter readership, ask him to send a resumé, cover letter, and video of himself teaching to Cynthia’s attention at: **Zola Levitt Ministries**, 10300 N Central Expy, Ste 170, Dallas, TX 75231



Silent Extermination of Iraq's "Christian Dogs"

By Raymond Ibrahim, FrontPageMag.com

In early April, an Iraqi Muslim scholar issued a *fatwa* that, among other barbarities, asserts that "it is permissible to spill the blood of Iraqi Christians." Inciting as the *fatwa* is, it is also redundant. While last October's Baghdad church attack which killed some sixty Christians was widely reported, the fact is, Christian life in Iraq has been a living hell ever since U.S. forces ousted the late Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Among other atrocities, beheading and crucifying Christians are not irregular occurrences; and messages saying "you Christian dogs, leave or die" are typical. John Eibner, CEO of Christian Solidarity International, summarized the situation well in a recent letter to President Obama:

The threat of extermination is not empty. Since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, more than half the country's Christian population has been forced by targeted violence to seek refuge abroad or to live away from their homes as internally displaced people. According to the Hammurabi Human Rights Organization, over 700 Christians, including bishops and priests, have been killed and 61 churches have been bombed. Seven years into Operation Iraqi Freedom, Catholic Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk reports: "He who is not a Muslim in Iraq is a second-class citizen. Often it is necessary to convert or emigrate, otherwise one risks being killed." This anti-Christian violence is sustained by a widespread culture of Muslim supremacism that extends far beyond those who pull the triggers and detonate the bombs.

The grand irony, of course, is that Christian persecution has increased exponentially under U.S. occupation. As one top Vatican official put it,



Christians, "paradoxically, were more protected under the dictatorship" of Saddam Hussein.

What does one make of this? Saddam appears to have made use of the better-educated Christians, who posed no risk to his rule. Moreover, by keeping a tight lid on his nation's Islamists [advocates of Islam as a political system]—who hated him as a secular apostate no less than the Christians—the latter benefited indirectly.

Conversely, by empowering "the people," the U.S. has unwittingly undone Iraq's Christian minority. Naively projecting Western values on Muslims, the U.S. continues to think that "people-power" will naturally culminate into a Western-like, egalitarian society—despite all the evidence otherwise. The fact is, in the Arab/Muslim world, "majority rule" traditionally means domination by the largest tribe or sect; increasingly, it means Islamist domination.

Either which way, the minorities—notably the indigenous Christians—are the first to suffer once the genie of "people-power" is uncorked. Indeed, evidence indicates that the U.S.-backed "democratic" government of Iraq enables and incites the persecution of its Christians. (All of this raises the pivotal question: Do heavy-handed tyrants—Saddam, Mubarak, Kaddafi, et al—create brutal societies, or do brutal societies create the need for heavy-handed tyrants to keep order?)

Another indicator that empowering Muslim masses equates to Christian suffering is the fact that, though Iraqi Christians amount to a mere 5% of the population, they make up nearly 40% of the refugees fleeing Iraq. It is now the same in Egypt. ★



Red Cross: No Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

By Hillel Fendel, IsraelNationalNews.com

“There is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza.” So states categorically Mathilde Redmatn, the deputy director of the Red Cross in the Gaza Strip.

“If you go to the supermarket, there are products,” she said. “There are restaurants and a nice beach. The problem is mainly in maintenance of infrastructure and in access to certain goods such as concrete. Israel has the legitimate right to protect [its] civilian population, but this right should be balanced with the right of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip.”

She acknowledged that Israel has eased its closure on Gaza and has partially lifted export bans.

Turkey’s Bait & Switch

By Caroline B. Glick
www.JewishWorldReview.com

Ever since Turkey’s Islamist Justice and Peace AKP party under Recep Tayyip Erdogan won the November 2002 elections, Western officials have upheld the AKP, Erdogan, and his colleagues as proof that political Islam is consonant with democratic values. During

Erdogan’s June 2005 visit to the White House for instance, then-president George W. Bush praised Turkish democracy as “an important example for the people in the broader Middle East.”

Unfortunately, nine years into the AKP’s “democratic” regime, it is clear that Erdogan and his colleagues’ embrace of the language and tools of democracy was a mile wide and an inch thick. They used democracy to gain power. Now that they have power, they are systematically destroying freedom in their country.

Turkey’s freedom of the press ranks 138th on the country index compiled by the international media freedom group Reporters Sans Frontiers. Sixty-eight journalists languish in Turkish jails for the crime of doing their job. The most recent roundup of reporters occurred in early March. And it is demonstrative of Turkey’s Islamist leaders’ exploitation of democratic freedoms in the service of their tyrannical ends.



Turkey is a cautionary tale for the West which is now faced with the prospect of AKP-like regimes from Egypt to Tunisia to Jordan to the Persian Gulf. And the real issue that Western leaders must address is how things in Turkey were permitted to deteriorate to the point they have without any U.S. or European official lifting a finger to stem the Islamist tide.

Anti-Semitism in Norway

By Alan M. Dershowitz
The Wall Street Journal

I recently completed a tour of Norwegian universities, where I spoke about international law as applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But the tour nearly never happened.

Its sponsor, a Norwegian pro-Israel group, offered to have me lecture without any charge to the three major universities. Norwegian universities generally jump at any opportunity to invite lecturers from elsewhere. When my Harvard colleague Stephen Walt, co-author of *The Israel Lobby*, came to Norway, he was immediately invited to present a lecture at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. Likewise with Ilan Pappé, a similar demonizer of Israel, who teaches at Oxford.

My hosts expected, therefore, that their offer to have me present a different academic perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would be eagerly accepted. I have written half a dozen books on the subject presenting a centrist view in support of the two-state solution. But the universities refused.



The dean of the law faculty at Bergen University said he would be “honored” to have me present a lecture “on the O.J. Simpson case,” as long as I was willing to promise not to mention Israel. An administrator at the Trondheim school said that Israel was too “controversial.”

The University of Oslo simply said “no” without offering an excuse. That led one journalist to wonder whether the Norwegian universities believe that I am “not entirely house-trained.”

Only once before have I been prevented from lecturing at universities in a country. The other country was Apartheid South Africa.

Norway to Jews: O.J., yes; Israel, no.

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM/ by Mike Peters



The Koran-Burning In Perspective

Posted by [GIDEON612](#) on www.theblaze.com in response to the recent Koran-burning and resulting riots:

The Bible is the most comprehensive book on this planet. It contains science, farming, behavior, astronomy, psychology, behavior, treatment of others and yourself, and on and on and on. I don't agree with burning the Bible, but I am not going out and beheading their [Muslim] religious leaders or bombing their worship areas. God is not contained by the Bible, and I cannot kill Him by burning it. If Muslims believe that their book contains their god, I pray for them. Sad place for their god to live.

We are all born without God in us, and it is our job to get Him in us. *There* is the meaning of life. ★

19 MUSLIM
TERRORISTS KILL
3000 AMERICANS...

YOU CAN'T JUDGE
ALL MUSLIMS BY
THE ACTIONS OF A
FEW EXTREMISTS.



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THREATENS TO
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Religion does not “make good people do evil.” But evil people can twist religion, and then evil people—or people who are just ignorant and easily led—will use it as an excuse to behave badly and not feel guilty.

—V. (Brighton, England)



“Mom, How Are You?”

A man calls his mother in Florida. “Mom, how are you?”
 “Not too good,” says the mother. “I’ve been very weak.”
 “Why are you so weak?” asks the son.
 “Because I haven’t eaten in 38 days.”
 “That’s terrible. Why haven’t you eaten in 38 days?” asks the son.



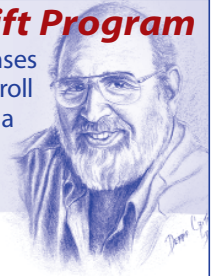
The mother answers, “Because I didn’t want my mouth to be filled with food if you should call.” ★



“For Father’s Day, I’m giving my dad an hour of free tech support.”

Automatic First Aid! Zola’s Monthly Gift Program

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



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

1. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th
2. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other _____
3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month’s gift. The monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks, and you can cancel at any time.
4. Signature _____ (required for processing)
5. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____

If you wish to use your **credit/debit card** for donations, please follow directions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 below. Your charge date will be between the 15th and 20th of each month. You may cancel at any time.

6. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other _____
7. Credit card: MasterCard Visa Discover AMEX Card ID# required _____
8. Credit card #: _____ Exp. date ____/____
9. Signature _____ (required for processing)
10. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____

France Bans Burka

www.HuffingtonPost.com

In April, France became the first country to ban veiling the face anywhere in public. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the veils imprison women and contradict this secular nation's values of dignity and equality.

Those caught violating the ban—including women wearing *nikab* veils with just a slit for the eyes—are liable for a fine of 150 Euros (\$221) or lessons in French citizenship. People who force women to don a veil are subject to up to a year in prison and a fine of 30,000 Euros (\$44,000), and possibly twice that if the veiled person is a minor.

The law is worded to trip safely through legal minefields: The words “women,” “Muslim,” and “veil” are not even mentioned. The law says it is illegal to hide the face in the public space.



Nicolas Sarkozy

Sarkozy said that the veils are not welcome in France. Moderate Muslim leaders in France and elsewhere agree that Islam does not require women to cover their faces. Such laws have been stirring controversy across Europe. A summary (from Reuters) of European policies on wearing the Muslim veil:

France is the first country in Europe to ban full-face veils. Under the new law, police escort the veiled person to a police station and ask her (him?) to remove the veil there for identification.

In 2004, France banned headscarves from state primary and secondary schools under a law against conspicuous religious symbols, which also covers Jewish *kippa* skullcaps and large Christian crosses. Female university students may wear headscarves that do not cover the face, since they are adults. Teachers and other civil servants may not wear any religious symbols at work.

The **Dutch** minority coalition government is under pressure from Geert Wilders's anti-Muslim Freedom Party to introduce a ban on wearing full-face veils in public places.

Italy: Some towns have tried to ban burkas with local decrees. A 1975 law provides for fines and jail time for those who cover their face with anything that prevents their identification by police.

Belgium's lower house voted a year ago in favor of banning the full veil. However, the ban has not been enacted and is on hold owing to long-term political deadlock.



The wearing of Islamic veils or headscarves is officially prohibited at universities in predominantly Muslim but constitutionally secular **Turkey**. However, the Higher Education Board, in a landmark decision last October, ordered Istanbul University to prevent teachers expelling female students who do not comply with the ban from classrooms. Civil servants are also banned from wearing the headscarf, which is otherwise commonly worn by many Turkish women, including the wives of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and President Abdullah Gul.

Seven of **Germany's** 16 states have banned teachers in state schools from wearing Islamic headscarves; and Hesse in February became the only German regional state to ban face veils for public sector workers.

An opinion poll last year indicated that 61 percent of Germans favor a burka ban.

After decades of ignoring the Islamic threat to their respective nations, the Europeans seem finally to realize that they are now at risk. —Lou, former ZLM editor ★

Israel Tour FAQs

By Tracie, Zola Tours Manager

I hope anyone considering a Holy Land pilgrimage will review the following Frequently Asked Questions.

How large are the tours?

Holy Land tours in general exist as either huge tours with 10+ buses (often with a national ministry) or as very small tours comprising group members from the same church. **Zola Tours (ZT)** conducts three medium-size tours every year. This allows our groups to have clout while remaining nimble, visiting more sites and really experiencing Israel without getting “bumped.” We are all strangers when we arrive, but close friends when we leave!



What staff members accompany the group?

ZT tours are very well staffed. Ordinary Israel bus tours have just two staff people: the guide and the driver. **Zola Tours** have Tour Pastors and passenger liaisons in addition to the guides and drivers. This is almost unheard of! Such manpower ensures a topnotch tour that is spiritually rich as well as logistically smooth. We also position staff at the hotel's welcome desk in the evenings for your convenience.

How do I register?

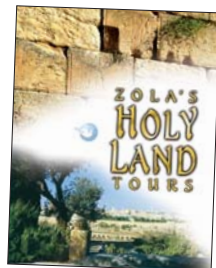
The quickest way to register is online at www.levitt.com/tours. Click on the trip you'd like and then on the “register online” link at the bottom. You're also welcome to mail in the registration form. We can send you a form to mail back, or you can download the form and tour brochure—their links are located just above the “register online” link. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, as I write this, we have only 30 seats remaining for the Fall Tour. The first registration to arrive will get the seat—and it takes less

than 10 minutes to register online. If you don't have computer access, perhaps a family member or friend will be willing to help you.

What if I cancel? What about trip insurance?

Our Travel Guard insurance agent—in the industry for 35 years—says that **Zola Tours** has the most generous cancellation policy. We allow you to cancel, with a full refund, up until 60 days prior to departure. Moreover, if you cancel within 60 days and don't have travel insurance, we'll refund 80% of the trip cost if we can fill the vacated seats. Fortunately, our passengers rarely cancel. They have been waiting a lifetime to go to Israel. And I must say that we are humbled and blessed to be entrusted with this very important task.

Incidentally, as announced on page 20 of the *May Levitt Letter*, the 2011 Fall Tour celebrates our reunion tour with Zola's widow, Sandra. ★



Don't delay; register today at levitt.com/tours or call 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377) for a brochure. See back cover tour info.



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- Our Fall Tour Dates:**
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- Israel:** Oct. 23–Nov. 2
- Israel/Petra:** Oct. 23–Nov. 6
- Greece/Israel/Petra:** Oct. 18–Nov. 6

Don't miss Sandra's reunion on this Fall Tour!



Scan this with a smartphone QR reader app to go to our tour page.



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