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CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
 INTERNATIONAL

Welcome home...

Olim (immigrants) exiting the plane in their new homeland, Israel



While preparing for their Aliyah - their move to Israel - these olim were assisted by the team of Christians for Israel Ukraine. They will participate in the absorption programme 'First Home in the Homeland' for five months.

Read more on page 7 and page 12 about First Home in the Homeland and our Aliyah work.

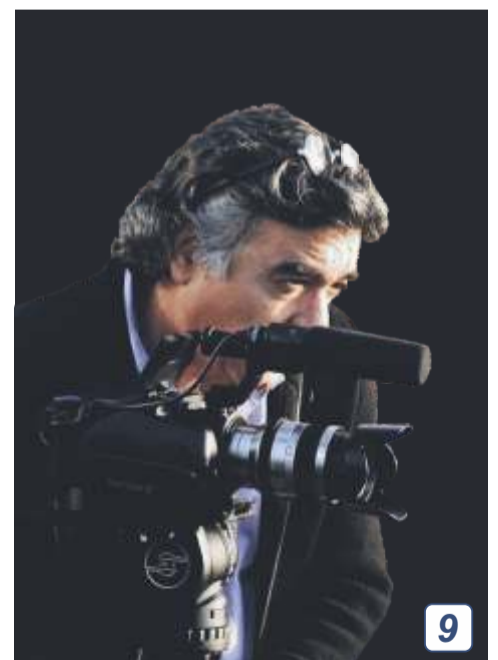
Photo credit: Henk Visscher



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The Leaves of the Tree will be for the Healing of the Nations

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor & Executive Director, Christians for Israel International



I don't know about you, but I am only just starting to get a grip on God. Each time I think I have put Him in a box, He shows me how much greater He is than I can imagine. And surprisingly, it is Israel – who is showing me how little I know, and so more of who God is.

As a young person growing up in Australia, I honestly had no idea about Israel beyond what I read in the newspapers. Fortunately, I had some good Jewish friends, and I knew many Jewish people. Melbourne apparently has the largest community of holocaust survivors outside Israel. One of my favorite memories are the days I spent at an old peoples' home near our place, where an elderly gentleman by the name of Helmut would tell me about his life in Nazi Germany, how he escaped to Italy where he studied law in Turin, and how he managed to escape to Australia in 1939, where he met his future wife who was at the time a missionary in China. I always thought that was an amazing testimony, and was amazed at Helmut's trust in God and the peace he had in his heart.

We received no Biblical or historical teaching about Israel and the "bigger picture" of God's plan with this world. We were lucky if portions of the Old Testament were read on Sunday mornings, and even luckier if the minister dared to preach about that portion. Inevitably the sermon was about how Israel got it wrong, about how important we are as Christians, and about how God is going to redeem the world through the Church.

All of this was important. But I believe we were only touching the tip of the iceberg,

and probably missing most of what God wants us to know about Him.

One of the things that great Bible teachers like Derek Prince and Lance Lambert (and so many others) have taught us in recent decades is that God is a God of history. God's purposes with His creation go so much further than our personal salvation. God has a wonderful plan with the whole creation. The nations and peoples of the earth are part of His creation, and therefore part of His plan of redemption.

This is no new teaching. In fact, throughout the generations and centuries, there have always been those who in different church denominations have studied and taught about God's greater plans of creation and redemption. Just think of great Messianic Christian teachers such as David Baron and Alfred Edersheim in the 19th century. But somehow this teaching has been pushed into the margins of the mainstream of the church. I suspect because it challenges the validity of much of what the mainstream teaches.

In summary: In *Genesis 10*, we see the establishment of 70 nations from the sons of Noah (Ham, Shem and Japheth), from which "the nations spread out over the earth after the flood". In *Genesis 9*, God sealed His covenant of grace and love for His creation – including, presumably, the nations. In the initial development, "the whole world had one language and a common speech" (*Genesis 11:1*). But before long, the nations gathered together in Babel to determine their own destiny, and to "make a name" for themselves (*Genesis 11:4*). It was this spirit of rebellion and self-sufficiency that caused God to intervene: He gave them different languages so they could not understand themselves, and scattered the nations over the whole earth (*Genesis 11*). But God did not just judge the nations for their disobedience, He also gave them the means for redemption: He called one man out of Babylon to a land that God would give him, and promised to make him into a "great

nation" – a nation that would be God's means for blessing all the nations:

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." *Genesis 12*

Wow! How amazing! God's dealing with Israel and the nations (peoples) is a demonstration of His grace and love – but equally of His holiness and righteousness. At all times He holds out to us – both as individuals but also as nations – the means for redemption and peace. But equally He demands that we comply with His paths, with His revealed economy, and not our own.

>> Israel was created as a nation, and she is and continues to be called to be the first amongst the nations. The coming of God's Son in the flesh and His work of salvation by dying for our sins did not negate or replace this calling.

When Paul concludes in *Romans 11*, in relation to the people of Israel – he was struggling with their "blindness and deafness" and the fact that they did not (as a whole) accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour – that "God's gifts and His call are irrevocable". He was not just talking about their relationships as individuals with God – he was talking about their calling and election as a nation.

In the *Book of Revelation* we read that in the future Kingdom of God, the nations will have their place. The last book of the Bible, *Revelation 22*, speaks about the tree of life, whose leaves are "for the healing of the nations" (*Revelation 22:2*).

At that time, "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city [Jerusalem?], and his servants will serve him".

God loves individuals. But He also loves the nations. He wants to bless them both, and through them all creation. But we as individuals – in our corporate identity as body of Christ, and as nations – can only be truly blessed when we trust in God and submit to God's purposes and plans, which flow from His love for His own creation, and not create our own plans and purposes, which flow from our limited understanding and reasoning.

This, in its essence, is the crimson thread throughout the Bible, the Biblical principle that runs through history – are we (as individuals and church, but also as peoples/nations) relying on God to do what He has promised, or are we trying to create our own reality?

This raises a whole bunch of difficult questions that challenge traditional thinking about the identity of Israel and the church. But we need to grapple with these issues honestly. As Christians, we are inclined to focus very much on ourselves, and our salvation as individuals. This is of course very important. As editors of this newspaper we do not for one moment want to challenge the importance of individual salvation. But we would like to suggest that this is just the beginning, just a part of a much bigger story. When we study the Bible in the light of history and current affairs (and vice versa), we start to see so much more about who God is, what He is doing today, and what He plans to do in the future. We just need the keys to unlock these mysteries.

In future editions of this newspaper, we will explore these themes in more details. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this edition of *Israel & Christians Today*.

One thing is for sure – we are living in exciting days!

Christians for Israel Launched in Brazil

Christians for Israel Brazil Training @ Susie Valadao Mission Training Center-Itanhomi-MG



Christians for Israel International has established an affiliate in Brazil.

The office is based in Belo Horizonte (in Minas Gerais) under leadership of Val Nogueira. A governing board has been appointed, and a

team of volunteers is being formed. The office in Brazil will serve as base for further development of the ministry in South America.

Christians for Israel Brazil hosted International President Willem Glashouwer for a series of lectures and intensive training seminars in several provinces in March 2016. Time and again, the participants were amazed at the new revelations

about God's faithfulness to Israel and His plans for Israel, the church and the nations. Many churches expressed their hunger for more teaching and understanding on these issues. We sense that the Holy Spirit is preparing the bride in South America through greater

teaching and understanding of God's purposes.

The ministry in Brazil will focus on teaching, prayer and comfort of the Jewish people through support of aliyah. Christians for Israel is honoured to partner with the Gideon 24/7 Ministry in Brazil and South America.

We are delighted that a Brazilian team of young adults will join the inaugural Christians for Israel Isreality International Young Adults programme in Israel from 3 – 15 July 2016.

Please pray for these young adults and for Pastor Val and her team as they seek to develop this ministry to the body of Christ in Brazil and beyond.



Rev Glashouwer spoke at the First Presbyterian Church of Contagem MG. About 700 people were present.

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The Story of Christians for Israel in East Africa

By Joe Nam, Media Specialist Christians for Israel Uganda

Back in 2009, Evangelist Drake Kanaabo answered his ringing phone. It was his friend Pastor David Juma calling from Nairobi.

After the usual exchange of courtesies, Juma asked Kanaabo if he would be able to welcome some visitors from the Christians for Israel International office in the Netherlands, and to organise a meeting for them with 200 Pastors, in Uganda.

Kanaabo's reply was curt, "I am busy," he told Juma. In East Africa, this is a polite way of saying, "I have other important things to do". The conversation ended shortly afterwards. That night, Drake had a dream, about an old man who came and cautioned him about the importance of receiving visitors.

The next morning, Kanaabo phoned Juma back and confirmed he would welcome the visitors. So the delegation from the Christians for Israel International office consisting of Andrew Tucker (Executive Director Christians for Israel), Willem Glashouwer (President Christians for Israel) and Jos van Westing (Fundraising & Development), flew to Kampala. The meeting with the Pastors was arranged and the delegation shared the vision and importance of blessing Israel with the group.

"Shortly before they left, the delegation asked me if I could promote the Christians for Israel vision in Uganda," says Drake Kanaabo. "This is how we opened the Christians for Israel office in Kampala, Uganda's capital city."

>> Christians for Israel Uganda Starts

With support from the International office, the Christians for Israel Uganda office had a humble beginning. The Chairman, Drake Kanaabo assembled a team of volunteers to help him.

Christians for Israel Uganda office in Kampala



Christians for Israel Uganda first started in Drake's private office at Redeemed Church in Makerere Hill before moving to a rented office in the central business district in Kampala.

"We had a lot of goodwill from people who loved and prayed for Israel," says Kanaabo. "A number of them made donations in cash and other forms to keep us going. Some came in to help as volunteers."

>> Travels, Studies and Volunteers

Around this time, Christians for Israel Uganda started sending pilgrim groups to Israel. In fact, recent figures show that they have

organised visits to the Holy Land for over 600 people in the past few years.

Christians for Israel has also been instrumental in arranging for Ugandans to attend short courses in Israel. Edward Baligonzi, who studied in the Holy Land, with the help of Christians for Israel Uganda and a scholarship by the State of Israel in 2014, says studying in Israel was a wonderful experience. "It's hard to describe it, it was marvelous, an unforgettable experience. It combined studies, fun and travel all in one."

Not only are more Ugandans now travelling to Israel, our Israeli friends are also sending volunteers to work in Uganda through the Christians for Israel office.



>> Christians for Israel Uganda as 'Embassy of Israel' in Uganda

Not surprisingly, after seeing the Christians for Israel sign, curiosity gets the better of a lot of people. "People frequently walk in here to inquire if this is the Embassy of Israel," says Berna Okoth, the front desk Manager at Christians for Israel Uganda.

In a way, it is. When visiting Israeli diplomats are asked when the Embassy of Israel will be opened in Uganda, their common reply, in reference to the Christians for Israel Uganda office, has always been, "We already have an Embassy here, this is the Embassy of Israel in Uganda."

Since 2009, when Christians for Israel Uganda opened, a number of Israeli diplomats have visited the Christians for Israel Uganda office. The Christians for Israel Uganda office is in a prime location in Kampala, next to high-end Hotels and corporate offices. The office itself has beautiful furnishings with panoramic pictures of Jerusalem prominently displayed.

Guests are very impressed when they enter the 'Embassy of



Drake Kanaabo handing a gift of friendship to H.E. the Ambassador on behalf of Christians for Israel Uganda

Israel' in Uganda, and not just because they are welcomed by the radiant smiles of Berna Okoth and Sarah Nakibuuka, the two front desk managers.

The office has had the privilege of hosting many Israeli diplomats including current Head of Israel International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), Ambassador Gil Haskel, The Director General of the Knesset, Mr Ronen Plot and the current Ambassador of Israel to Uganda, His Excellency Yahel Vilan.

>> Celebrating Yom Ha'artzmaut

Christians for Israel Uganda has twice had the privilege to co-host the celebrations of Yom Ha'artzmaut (Israel Independence Day), with the Embassy of Israel.

This year's 68th Independence Anniversary Celebrations, which was hosted by Christians for Israel Uganda and the Embassy of Israel, was graced by the First Lady of Uganda, Mrs Janet Museveni. In her speech, she expressed appreciation for the special friendship between Israel and Uganda. She also pointed out the shared Judeo-Christian Heritage of Israel and Uganda.

>> Vibrant and Growing

Christians for Israel Uganda is alive and vibrant and is growing everyday. It has helped to establish other affiliates - Christians for Israel South Sudan opened in 2012, Christians for Israel Swaziland and Christians for Israel Ethiopia both opened in 2013. Christians for Israel Uganda has also assisted in opening affiliate offices in Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania.

In addition, numerous conferences have been held to educate the Christian Churches in Uganda about the importance of blessing Israel, the deception of replacement theology, which teaches that the Christian Church replaced Israel in God's plan, and the dangers of anti-semitism.

Looking forward, Drake Kanaabo can rightly say, "Thus far has the Lord brought us", a testament to just how far one phone call can go.



From left to right: Sarah Nakibuuka and Berna Okoth with Mrs Josephine Kanaabo

Short News

The Oldest Man on Earth - Holocaust Survivor Israel Kristal



The oldest living man in the world is a survivor of Auschwitz, the biggest death camp in the history of mankind, and he has lived in Haifa, Israel since 1950. Israel Kristal, 112.5 years old, Israeli Holocaust survivor, was officially announced in March this year by Guinness World Records as the oldest known man living.

Kristal was born in Poland (then part of the Russian Empire) on 15 September 1903, to a religious Jewish family, three months before the Wright brothers made their first successful flight. He has been an orphan for 106 years, since his mother died in 1910.

Anti-drone Defense System



Anti-drone defense system Israel has a new weapon: the Drone Dome defense system. With this system unmanned aerial vehicles can be intercepted. The shield can detect, track and neutralize drones.

Israel Prize to Almog



Doron Almog received the 2016 Israel Prize for lifetime achievement and exceptional contribution to the nation. The Israel Prize is regarded as the state's highest honor.

Almog served the State of Israel for decades as Major General in the IDF. However, he received the prestigious prize for service in another field - the Foundation of Aleh Negev, a rehabilitation village for adults with multiple disabilities. Almog was motivated by his son, Eran, who was born with severe autism and developmental delays.

Christians for Israel supports the work of Aleh and regularly sends volunteers to the center.

Israel Coming Back to Africa, Africa Going Back to Israel

By Joe Nam, Media Specialist Christians for Israel Uganda

In a way, Israel and Africa behave like estranged lovers, having sparked off a whirlwind romance in the 1950's, culminating into a full blown relationship in the 1960's. And then, bang! A disagreement in the 1970's leading to a bitter split that still lingers.

But it's time for a re-union. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently said that Israel is coming back to Africa and will do so in "a big way". Netanyahu's optimism notwithstanding, this re-union will not be without hurdles. It is certain that some countries in Africa and beyond, will not like this re-union and may do anything to stop it.

Israel started courting Africa in the 1950s, not long after the birth of the State of Israel in 1948. By the time the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was established in 1963, Israel through its flamboyant Foreign Minister Golda Meir, had already made significant contacts in Africa.

Beyond philanthropic solidarity, Israel had strategic reasons to win friends in Africa. Israel had to beat encirclement by hostile Arab states which enforced a policy of boycott on Israel. Israel also needed Africa's block vote at the United Nations.

By the mid 1960s, the majority of African countries had won independence from colonial powers, mainly Britain and France. Israel lost no time in embarking on a full scale engagement with Africa in almost every aspect of bilateral cooperation and development.

Whilst defending her African policy, Golda Meir said, "We are going to send out to the new African states, scores, even hundreds,

thousands of Israeli experts of every sort - technologists, scientists, doctors, engineers, teachers, agronomists, irrigation experts ... to unselfishly share their know-how with the African people. And send, she did. By 1967, Israel enjoyed cordial diplomatic relations with the majority of African countries in the Sub-Sahara.

Contrary to expectations in Israel however, bilateral ties with African countries did not translate into a pro-Israel vote at the United Nations and other international forums. By 1973, all African countries had severed diplomatic ties with Israel, some of them at very short notice. What went wrong?

>> Why Israel Failed in Africa

The failure of Israeli foreign policy in Africa in the 1970's has been the subject of intense public discourse and case study in diplomacy, in Israel and beyond. In hindsight and from the African perspective, the following four reasons may have been the reason.

1. Non Articulation of Zionism

The State of Israel did not articulate Zionism adequately to an African audience, especially African leaders. Zionism was not differentiated from colonialism and imperialism. So Arab propagandists had a field day in Africa, effortlessly convincing African leaders that Zionism, imperialism and colonialism are triplets from the same mother. African leaders, still fighting to free parts of the continent from colonialism believed the deception.

** Zionism is currently being equated to fascism and their appears to be no dedicated effort by*

Israel to properly articulate and differentiate Zionism from fascism. In fact, one sometimes gets the impression that some Israeli leaders are embarrassed to speak openly about Zionism and would rather carefully tread the lingo of political correctness and international diplomacy.

** A candid talk about Zionism in the UN General Assembly would sound like this, "Look here world, what you call Palestine is our land, it was given to our Father Abraham by God himself thousands of years ago, although we have been absent from the land due to some issues with God himself, we are now taking it back at this appointed time, it belongs to us for all time."*

2. Enticing Africa with Gifts

Even in the dating scene, suitors with the best gifts do not always win the woman's heart and hand in marriage. Quite the contrary - and a puzzle of psychology as well, women have always tended to gravitate towards the 'bad boys'. There appears to have been the same parallel in the contest between Israel and the Arab league in the 1970's. The Arab league (bad boys) did manage to persuade Africa that Israel (good and well meaning boys) was not acting in Africa's best interests.

Some opinions say it was naive of Israel to shower Africa with expensive gifts (bilateral assistance) and expect reciprocation from Africa in form of love (bandwagon support for Israeli policy).

**We appear to be back on the same spot as the 1960's and re-enacting the scripts.*

**The flaunting of bilateral assistance to Africa by Israel is not always a good selling point in winning Africa's wholehearted support.*

3. Role of Internal Support Groups

The role of internal support groups in Africa, as elsewhere, is crucial to the success of Israel. A case in point is the strong pro-Israel lobby in the United States. Israel needs a strong lobby and support groups in the form of civil society organisations, academic institutions, faith based organisations and more, in Africa, for the success of an Israeli-Africa Policy. No such groups existed in Africa in 1970's. Some pro-Israel groups are now however developing in Africa.

4. African Internal Dynamic

Given the sheer diversity of Africa in terms of ethnicity, cultures and countries, how does Israel get to successfully relate with Africa in politics and related endeavors. That's a challenge of no small magnitude. It is important that Israel invests in understanding the internal dynamic in Africa. An understanding of the complexities and nuances that drive Africa is crucial to successfully dealing with Africa.

>> Israel and the African Union

Israel's observer status at the African Union was revoked in 2002 during the inauguration of the African Union. This was done at the instigation of the late Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. Israel is now in a drive to regain her observer status at the African Union.

Israel's success in Africa, including the African Union, will depend to a great extent in successfully addressing the hurdles we have discussed above.

68th Independence Anniversary of the State of Israel hosted by Christians for Israel Uganda



Drake Kanaabo

>> Christians for Israel Uganda recently hosted the 68th anniversary of the State of Israel in Kampala.

The event was attended 450 guests, the guest of honor being the First Lady of Uganda, Mrs. Museveni.

Furthermore the celebration was attended by the Ambassador of Israel to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Seychelles, Mr. Yahel Vilan together with a delegation from the Israeli embassy in Kenya, many ambassadors,

government ministers, members of parliament, the Jewish community of Uganda, friends of Christians for Israel and a media team.

Christians for Israel Regional Director East Africa, Mr. Drake Kanaabo, gave a moving speech and handed a gift of friendship to H.E. the Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Vilan.

The colorful ceremony moved the hearts of the people that were present. Drake Kanaabo said, "Continue to pray for us in Uganda as we try to stand in the gap for Israel and our nation."



Celebrating the 68th Anniversary of the State of Israel



From left to right: Yarun Dumsky, Drake Kanaabo, Ambassador Yahel Vilan, First Lady Janet Museveni & Henry Oryem Okello

40 Years On - Entebbe Continues to Inspire

By Joe Nam, Media Specialist Christians for Israel Uganda

It's June 2016. I am entering a coffee café in Uganda's capital city Kampala. I frequent this place during the evening social hour to catch up on news of the latest happenings in the city. Here, in between sips of coffee and tea, patrons get to discuss the hottest topics of the day. I am just in time to catch animated conversation going on about the Entebbe Rescue. So I sit to listen.



In Uganda, this epic event is referred to as the Entebbe Raid or Operation Thunderbolt. This was when, on the night of 4 July 1976, Israel landed over 200 commandos and soldiers at Entebbe Airport in Uganda, East Africa, to rescue 105 hostages held by terrorists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The story is widely known. Air France flight 139 leaves Tel Aviv Airport on 27 June en-route to Paris. The plane lands in Athens to pick up more passengers. This is when terrorists enter the plane using forged passports. Half an hour into the flight, the terrorists jump up with weapons and hold up the passengers and crew. The pilot is ordered to divert the plane and fly south. After re-fuelling in Benghazi, Libya, the plane is commandeered further south, landing in Entebbe on 28 June.



Reminiscent of the Holocaust days, Jewish passengers are separated from non-Jewish passengers. Non-Jews are released while Jewish passengers and crew of Air France remain as hostages. The State of Israel is in a dilemma - should they meet the terrorist demands?

Meeting the terrorists' demands seems the only logical thing to do as pressure mounts on Israel from families of the hostages who demand that the government should give in. But doing so would be self-defeating for the State of Israel which pursues a policy of non-negotiation with terrorists. So negotiations with the terrorists start while Israel also explores the option of rescuing the hostages.

The terrorists, now under the patronage of Uganda's President, Idi Amin Dada, demand



the release of 40 Palestinian militants held in Israel and 13 other detainees imprisoned in Kenya, France, Switzerland, and West Germany on charges of terrorism. The terrorists make it known in no uncertain terms that failure to meet their demands means they will kill all of the hostages.

Against all imaginable odds however, Israel carries out a daring operation rescuing all hostages except three who die in the cross fire, Jonathan Netanyahu 'Yoni', the commander of the operation, who dies from a sniper's fire and Dora Bloch, who is left behind. The whole world is left stunned by the success of the rescue mission.

As I listen to the discussions at the café, it is obvious that, 40 years on, the Entebbe rescue still evokes as much excitement as it did 40 years ago. And with the expected visit of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Uganda on 4 July 2016, the Entebbe rescue is again at the forefront of national news. It has also become the topic of frequent discussions in homes and public places.

>> Key Events After the Entebbe Rescue

- The first casualty of Idi Amin after the Entebbe Rescue was Dora Bloch, an Israeli hostage who had fallen ill and was hospitalised at Mulago Hospital, twenty kilometers from Entebbe. She was not at Entebbe airport at the time of rescue. She was dragged from her hospital bed and shot dead on the orders of President Idi Amin in the morning after the rescue of the other hostages. Dora Bloch's remains were exhumed from a shallow grave at a sugar plantation on the Kampala-jinja Highway by her family in 1979, after the fall of Amin, and flown out of Uganda for a proper burial.

- In his address to the UN Security Council, Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog said, "We come with a simple message to the Council: we are proud of what we have done because we have demonstrated to the world that a small country like Israel, considers the dignity of man, human life and human freedom to constitute the highest values. We are proud not only because we have saved the lives of over a hundred innocent people - men, women and children - but because of the significance of our act for the cause of human freedom."

- Western nations spoke in support of the raid. West Germany called the raid 'an act of self defense.' Switzerland and France praised the operation. Representatives of the United Kingdom and United States offered significant praise, calling the Entebbe raid 'an impossible operation.' Some in the United States noted that the hostages were freed on 4 July 1976, 200 years after the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

- UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim described the raid as 'a serious violation of the national sovereignty of a United Nations member state' (meaning Uganda).

- The Arab and communist world condemned the operation, calling it an act of aggression.

- Idi Amin was humiliated by the surprise rescue. He believed Kenya had colluded with Israel in planning the rescue and hundreds of Kenyans living in Uganda were killed soon afterwards. Amin also threatened to invade Kenya. The rescue operation significantly weakened Amin's military strength. Amin was forced into exile three years later, by a



combined force of the Tanzanian Peoples Defense Forces (TPDF) and Ugandan guerillas exiled in Tanzania. Idi Amin died in exile in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in August 2003.

- As a result of the operation, the United States military developed highly trained rescue teams modeled on the Entebbe rescue. One notable attempt to imitate Operation Thunderbolt was Operation Eagle Claw, a failed rescue attempt of 53 American embassy personnel held hostage in Tehran during the Iran Hostage Crisis.



- In 2007, current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family made a private visit to Uganda at the invitation of President Yoweri Museveni and laid a wreath at Entebbe Old Airport where Yoni died.

- In August 2012, Uganda and Israel commemorated the rescue at a somber ceremony at Entebbe Old Airport. Uganda and Israel renewed their commitment in the fight against terrorism and to work towards humanity.

In addition, wreaths were laid, a moment of silence was held, speeches were given, and a poem was recited. The flags of Uganda and Israel waved side by side, demonstrating the two countries' renewed and strong bilateral relations. The ceremony was attended by the then Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Israel, Daniel Ayalon.



>> What the Entebbe Rescue Inspired

The Entebbe rescue also became the subject of numerous films and documentaries including; Victory at Entebbe 1976, Raid on Entebbe 1977, The Rise and Fall of Idi Amin 1980, Delta Force 1986, Zameen 2003, The Last King of Scotland 2006, Cohen on the Bridge 2010, To Live or Die in Entebbe 2012 and more.

A number of plays and books have also been written inspired by the Entebbe Rescue.

Short News

PA's Billion Dollar Terror Funding Scam Revealed



PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas

Western governments continue mass aid for PA after it promised to stop paying jailed terrorists' salaries, but new report exposes the lie.

A recent shocking report reveals that the Palestinian Authority (PA) has fooled Western governments, raking in over a billion dollars in aid from them annually despite breaching their demands that it stop paying salaries to terrorist prisoners.

The report by Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), exposes how the PA has coped since August 2014, when - in the face of demands by the US and European donor countries that it stop paying salaries to jailed terrorists - it announced it would stop the terror funding.

At the time, the PA claimed that it would not pay the jailed terrorists their salaries and instead the payment would be made by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the body behind the PA that had its terror status removed in the 1994 Oslo Accords when the PA was created.

Summarising its report, PMW concluded by noting that "since it continues to fund salaries to terrorists, thereby clearly violating its promise to donors, the PA should be ineligible to receive Western donor money."

"However, through this deception the PA is still reaping over a billion dollars in foreign aid."

Israel Rejects French Peace Initiative

Jerusalem warns international summit will 'distance PA from direct talks,' as France remains vague on 'Palestine' recognition threats.

Jerusalem responded to the looming French peace initiative, which is to involve an international effort forcing peace talks on Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA).

As part of the French initiative, an international summit has been announced for May 30, in which ministers from 20 countries will prepare an international summit in the second half of 2016, which would include Israeli and PA leaders.

"Israel adheres to its position that the best way to a solution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is direct bilateral negotiations," read the Prime Minister's Office statement on the initiative on Thursday, April 28.

Restating Prime Minister Netanyahu's frequent public offers to negotiate with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, the statement said, "Israel is prepared to start them (negotiations) immediately with no preconditions."

Uganda Defence Force Prays and Fasts for Israel

By Jos van Westing, Christians for Israel International – Manager Fundraising and Development



In early January 2016, I was privileged to be part of an amazing event in Uganda. Drake Kanaabo, our Regional Director for East Africa, organised a prayer and fasting event in Uganda for five days for 170 officers of the Ugandan Defence Force. This is the first time in history that such an event has occurred, and it represents a break-through following the way Uganda mistreated Israel and the Jewish people under the dictator Idi Amin.

The whole event was organised by Christians for Israel Uganda, together with Brigade General David Wakalu, assisted by General Michael Ondoga. Many high-ranking officers came together for intercession for God's chosen people and the Promised Land.

Almost all Ugandans love Israel and it is heartwarming to witness their intensive prayers, as this is a contrast to so many other

countries today! We were honored that the Israeli Deputy Ambassador to Uganda and East-Africa, Mr. Nadav Peldman, based in Nairobi, Kenya, attended this event. Together with Drake, the Deputy Ambassador and I were transported by canoe from the mainland to Bussi Island in Lake Victoria, where the event took place. The Deputy Ambassador was also invited to officially open a new Medical Centre Doctor's Village on the Island. As he noted in his speech to the participants, Ambassador Peldman was greatly impressed by the love for Israel that he experienced.

>> Collective repentance

All the officers collectively expressed their sorrow about what happened in 1976 during the Raid on Entebbe under dictator Idi Amin, in which Jonathan (Yoni) Netanyahu lost his life, as well as the expulsion of Israelis from Uganda under Amin. Even though eighteen Ugandan soldiers lost their lives during the Israeli intervention on the airport to set the hostages free, until today these events have been a heavy burden on the Ugandan Military.

The officers repented on behalf of the whole Ugandan Defence Force for the enmity shown by Uganda to Israel over the decades, and officially asked the Deputy Ambassador to forgive them as an Israeli, on behalf of the entire Jewish Nation: this was a very emotional

moment. During the event I had the opportunity to teach the participants about God's plan for Israel, the Church and the nations and to explain to the officers about the Mission and Vision of Christians for Israel International. The message was very well received, and although most of them were born-again Christians, the officers were astonished to hear many new insights from the Bible, as they are so much influenced by Replacement Theology.

>> Other speaking engagements

Another opportunity I had, to speak for just one hour with 200 youngsters at a school camp outside Kampala, had a great impact on these children between fifteen and twenty years old as they were only familiar with the idea that THEY are the New Israel! We showed them from the Bible that this is misleading!

Furthermore, I was asked to speak in the Church of "Volunteers of Salvation Outreach Ministries" (VOSO) of Pastor Sarah Mikisa in Kampala.

Once a year all 210 church members spend a whole week praying day and night for Israel. Pastors from other churches were

also invited as visitors in order to learn about Israel.

I have never experienced more love for God's people than in this place where they start with the National Israeli Anthem (in Hebrew!) and of Uganda every day! Remarkably, many of them, including Pastor Sarah, have a Muslim background.

Eight and a half hours of teaching in two days about God's plan for Israel made them so hungry for the Word of God, that one night we finished at 11.30pm. The Why Israel? Teachings were a revelation to them, and they plan to do this again every year.

To quote what so many Ugandans told me: "I am blessed".



Israel and the Church - Allies or Enemies?

By Andrew Tucker and Kees de Vreugd

In recent decades, many mainline churches in the West have joined Arab and Palestinian Christian leaders in their call to the international community to engage in a campaign to delegitimise Israel. The last decade in particular has seen a significant growth of active campaigns within the mainstream Protestant churches, particularly in North America and Europe, promoting the Palestinian cause, criticising Israel's presence in Judea and Samaria, and even challenging the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Many mainline Protestant churches now even publicly promote the BDS movement and other campaigns to put political pressure on Israel.

These statements and initiatives receive much media attention, and create the impression that most Christians deny the legitimacy of the Jewish State of Israel, or at least are strong proponents of Arab/Palestinian demands in which Israel's interests are given little attention.

>> Christian Supersessionism

In many of the statements issued by churches and church organisations, one can sense an almost violent opposition to Israel's perceived claims to exclusivity.

This kind of thinking is known in theological terms as "supersessionism", which goes back to as early as the second century CE. Some argue that its roots are to be found already in the New Testament itself, but this ignores the complex sociological aspects of the process of drifting apart of Christianity and Judaism, a process that took a century or even centuries.

>> In the New Testament era, the 'Jesus movement' was one of many within contemporary Judaism, and many seemingly anti-Jewish utterances in the

New Testament should be understood in the context of a sharp-edged internal Jewish debate.

Later on, however, as gentile believers gained the majority in the rising Church, the modes shifted. The young Christian Church had to cope with both internal and external struggles. Internally, the borders of the true faith had to be drawn. Externally, the new religion had to fight for its place in the multi-religious society of the Roman Empire. Both struggles went hand in hand.

Surprisingly, many of these early theologians also believed in a future salvation of the nation of Israel in accordance with Old Testament prophecy and the Apostle Paul's teachings. Even Justin Martyr cites from the prophet *Zachariah 12:10* to show that "the people of the Jews" will one day accept Jesus and mourn over Him "when they see Him coming in glory". In other words, the Jews (Justin even makes mention of the twelve tribes), despite being "Christ-killers", will return to God's favor. Later on, Augustine (c. 400 CE) will express the same expectation, adding that this is "a familiar theme in the conversation and heart of the faithful".

>> The Church and NGO's

The World Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and United Church of Christ participated in the World Conference Against Racism in 2001, thereby helping to lay the foundations for the modern BDS movement.

Since 2001, BDS has developed as a key issue in mainline Christian denominations in the United States, Europe, Canada and elsewhere. A number of European governments, the United States and Canada provide funds for church-based efforts to delegitimise Israel.

These tax-payer funds are disbursed as grants to church-based humanitarian NGOs, including Christian groups that promote BDS and the one-state solution. For example:

- The Dutch government grants hundreds of millions of euros annually to Dutch church-based aid organisations such as Kerk in Actie (KIA), the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Oxfam Novib, Cordaid and Pax Christi. In turn, these groups disburse these funds to NGOs around the world. KIA and ICCO both provide funds to support the work of Sabeel, a Christian organisation established with the express purpose of the "delegitimation and criminalisation of the Israeli government."
- The Swedish government's International Development Cooperation Agency provides millions of dollars aid per annum to Diakonia, Sweden's largest humanitarian NGO. Diakonia, founded in 1966 by five Swedish churches, is closely associated with and provides financial assistance to Sabeel.
- The Holy Land Trust (HLT) is an NGO established in Israel. HLT conducts a wide range of activities, such as tours to the region, with the objective of delegitimising Israel. HLT has received funding in recent years from government-sponsored NGOs in USA, Netherlands, UK, and EU.
- The World Council of Churches (WCC) is funded by a number of governments, either directly or via church aid organisations in Europe and North America. The WCC's Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel purposefully uses what NGO Monitor describes as "inflammatory and demonising rhetoric against Israel" and engages in BDS campaigns.
- In a detailed report published in November 2012, Italian researchers show that since 2001, the Italian government and local Italian authorities have provided millions of tax-payer euros to a number of NGOs that are actively involved in "anti-peace and anti-Israel political activity."

>> Conclusions

There is no doubt that, at least in the traditional home of Christianity - North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand - there is an increasingly voluminous part of the Church that is outspokenly opposed to the State of Israel and critical of its policies in relation to Arab Palestinians, who are perceived as being the underdogs.

But it must be stressed that, even in North America and Europe, official statements or initiatives of church denominations or organisations do not necessarily reflect the opinions of their grass-roots constituencies.

They are often as not the result of initiatives taken by certain elements within the organisation, mostly reflecting left-wing, anti-establishment ideologies. The rank-and-file members of the established churches in the West are just as likely to be neutral on such issues, and the majority probably opposes any form of boycott.

Interestingly, those regions of the world where the church is growing fastest - Africa and Asia - are much less influenced by traditional supersessionist theologies, and as such are more inclined to be neutral or even supportive of Israel and the Jewish people. The challenge now is to give these Christians a platform to raise their voice into the political sphere, where the anti-Israel advocates have to date been so influential.

Andrew Tucker is Executive Director of Christians for Israel International and Legal Counsel for the European Coalition for Israel.

Kees de Vreugd is a theologian, and editor of the publication Israel en de Kerk (Israel and the church). He works with Christians for Israel in the Netherlands.

Jewish Agency's "First Home in the Homeland" Project

By Ruud van Neijhof, Christians for Israel International Educational Programs



Delegates from Christians for Israel and Aliyah fieldworker Koen Carlier with Orly Wolstein and Elena Kovarsky (third and fourth from left)

A delegation from Christians for Israel International recently visited the Jewish Agency's "First Home in the Homeland" project at kibbutz Revivim in the Negev desert. Elena Kovarsky (director), Svetta (Orly is her new Israeli name) Wolstein (assistant to Elena Kovarsky) accompanied the delegation and prepared a hearty welcome.

Tomer Reznik, born and raised in Revivim explained the foundation and background of the kibbutz. The community was formed in 1943 in Rishon LeZion with help from the UK government and young immigrants from Austria, Italy and Germany, all of whom had been educated at kibbutz Givat Brenner and were members of HaNoar HaOved VeHaLomed. The kibbutz itself was established in July 1943 as one of the three lookouts, and was initially named Tel HaTzofim (Scout's hill). It was later renamed Revivim by Berl Katznelson after the magazine edited by Yosef Haim Brenner (for whom Givat Brenner was named). Its name is also taken from the Bible, *Psalm 65:11*: "You (Lord) ... level its ridges, you soften it with showers."

Originally the kibbutz was the scene of an agricultural experiment. It was a deserted place, with hardly any water but had good relations with the local Bedouins. The first thing they did was design and build a water system. It involved a lot of hard work in this lonely place. There was no transport available and the first pioneers lived in a cave. When things improved they built a house and started growing gladiolas in 1946. Since the winter of 1946 was quite rainy, the gladiolas flowered very well. The UN sent a committee in 1947 to Revivim to view the local situation. The committee was impressed to see the gladiolas. Although the Arabs didn't want to cooperate initially, in 1948 the Negev came under Israeli rule. In the early years of the state, it absorbed many of the Jewish refugees from Arab countries, with the Israeli government setting up many development towns, such as Arad, Sderot and Netivot. Since then, the Negev has also become home to many of the Israeli Defence Force major bases - a process accelerating in the past two decades. Transportation was poor in those days, the dreams were big and everything involved a lot of hard work.

The next development phase started in the 1970's. A factory was founded, so agriculture was not the only source of income. Today the factory is part of Raval ACS Ltd, who specialise in fuel venting systems for vehicles, such as General Motors, Jaguar, Skoda and many more. In 1969 Volkswagon (VW) came to Israel and bought a 90% share of the Israeli magnesium production. VW also came to Revivim and because one person from the kibbutz spoke a

little German, contact was made. Ten years later VW installed Revivim's fuel valves in their motor cars.

Tomer was born and raised in Revivim, but his parents are from Canada. Once when he was a young boy, he went to the dining room in Revivim and there was a Russian boy who told him that his Dad's name was Victor too. Today they are friends. The Russian boy was part of the first group of olim (immigrants) in Revivim. It's one big family. They share big dreams while making roots. Their lives are not only focussed on agriculture and industry but also on human relations. People matter in Revivim and it is a good place to start, according to Tomer.

>> Make dreams come true, make the desert your home. Revivim is a community with high values.

Elena Kovarsky, director of "First Home in the Homeland", made aliyah 25 years ago from Moscow with her husband and one-year-old daughter. She was amazed to see the "soft landing" that was prepared for them in Revivim. There was an apartment, food in the fridge, flowers on the table, a welcome message in Russian on the door and chocolates on the bed. So strange! The woman who welcomed us didn't even know us! But she said "Welcome! This is your new home". We went to Ulpan, a Hebrew language school for about three months. Families usually then move on, although some stay and become members of kibbutz Revivim.

Every year 220 families (in total 550 olim) come to Israel and take part in the Jewish Agency's First Home in the Homeland programme, spread over 44 kibbutzim. Christians for Israel is the main sponsor of this programme. This support is very important. If the olim do not succeed in learning Hebrew in six months they have to accept low jobs and usually stay poor. They don't usually advance in society and sometimes go back to their former country.

The olim are not supposed to stay in Revivim. They take part in a programme that will take six months to one year to enable them to learn modern Hebrew (Ivriet). It is important to make them independent and fluent in Hebrew, so they study five days a week and five hours a day. The financial support comes from Christians for Israel, so they don't have to work and can concentrate on learning Hebrew. The Jewish Agency matches the funds donated by Christians for Israel.

The olim are strong and independent after one year. We don't have to give them solutions. We

give them the tools to find the solutions themselves. The government helps them to find jobs in their first, second and third years and a place to live. However, most olim will find their own solutions and find jobs independently. There are plenty of jobs in Israel if you are fluent in Hebrew and can function independently.

Two years ago, when the war in Ukraine broke out, many more olim came to Israel. That made it necessary for us to find solutions for housing and to help with learning Hebrew. Because some of the refugees weren't prepared, they needed additional help. Fortunately Ulpan have Russian speaking psychologists available.

Orly Wolstein, assistant to Elena Kovarsky, made aliyah four years ago. Orly is now helping people in Ukraine with a group Skype session on Sunday morning. Others doing this also are Elena in Be'ersheva, Orly in Revivim and the olim in Ukraine.

In the kibbutz Revivim there are six new families, and a five month waiting list. By the middle of March this year, 56 olim families were in Israel. By mid August another 70 or 80 families will be in Israel and by the end of December, another 75. In total some 220 families during 2016.

Together with the Jewish Agency in Ukraine, the olim from Ukraine decide on what programme to take part in, depending on the desired options and their profiles. For example, do they have young children? Have they already learned Hebrew? The application is sent to Revivim and an interview is held with each family to make sure that they really understand what they want to do and to find the right kibbutz.

So, this is a two-way process. There are 50 grade areas, depending on age, needs, time of aliyah, Hebrew background, language knowledge, children, vocational specialisation, etc.

There are social workers in the programme, with 400 olim attending. Some are new, some are in their final phase. In the kibbutz Revivim there are 800 people, 400 of which are olim. It is said that "every learned word in Hebrew adds a shekel to their income".

The kibbutz movement has a volunteer programme for young adults. Presently there are volunteers from Korea, Poland, Ireland and Sweden. Most stay for three to eleven months. The agency for the volunteers is the "KPC", the "Kibbutz Program Center".

Volunteers can work in the kitchen and do house keeping. It is also possible to learn Hebrew in short Hebrew courses. Volunteering is possible for three to five weeks or as long as two months. Tour groups are also welcome to kibbutz Revivim, with notification in advance.

There is a long waiting list for the 'First Home in the Homeland' programme with more than 80 Jewish families from the Former Soviet Union. Jews from France have also indicated that they want to join the programme. Assisting a family in the "First Home" programme costs US \$250 a month.

>> Please support this 'First Home in the Homeland' programme and help the people settle in the land of Israel! Any amount is welcome!

Short News

Smart Solution for Pesky Foreign Currency



Anybody who has traveled internationally knows the dilemma. With the trip over, you find yourself waiting to board the flight home with the last foreign coins or bills still rattling around in your pockets. Thanks to TravelersBox, a revolutionary Israeli start-up, there is now an option that allows you to redeem unused foreign coins and bills for something useful - right before boarding your flight home.

Scripture and Language Statistics

Millions more people around the world have access to God's Word in the language they understand best. God is accomplishing His mission through His power and through partnership. There are about 7,000 languages in active use and at least one book of Scripture exists in over 2,900 of these languages. At least 1.5 billion people do not have the full Bible available in their first language. Over 663 million of these have the New Testament; others have portions or at least some level of work begun. There is known active translation and/or linguistic development happening in 2,267 languages across more than 130 countries. As of October 1st 2015, estimates suggest between 165 and 180 million people speaking up to 1,800 languages are understood to 'likely need Bible translation to begin'.

First Modern Maps of Jerusalem Auctioned Off

The first modern topographic maps of Jerusalem were made by Charles Wilson, a British engineer Captain. The maps date back to 1865 and were made after Wilson had conducted an archaeological, cartographic survey. The buyer paid US\$3198 for the maps.

Need for Food Parcels in Ukraine



Christians for Israel packs and distributes thousands of food parcels for poor Jewish families and refugees all over Ukraine. This is really a great help especially in these uncertain times. This year we have been able to supply 15,000 food parcels so far, but more parcels are needed. Your contribution for one or more food parcels will make a poor Jewish family in Ukraine very happy, while giving our team the opportunity to share God's promise about the return to the Promised Land (Aliyah).

Where UNESCO and ISIS Converge By Caroline B. Glick, sourced from townhall.com



Recently, UNESCO's director general Irina Bokova issued a statement congratulating Russian-backed Syrian forces for

liberating the ancient city of Palmyra from Islamic State (ISIS). Bokova said Palmyra "carries the memory of the Syrian people, and the values of cultural diversity, tolerance and openness that have made this region a cradle of civilisation." Bokova added, "The deliberate destruction of heritage is a war crime, and UNESCO will do everything in its power to document the damage so that these crimes do not go unpunished. I wish to remind all parties present of the absolute necessity to preserve this unique heritage as an essential condition for peace and the future of the region."

UNESCO's executive board recently passed a resolution unanimously outlining the steps the organisation would take to rebuild the devastated site, whose major monuments were destroyed or damaged during the city's ten months under ISIS rule.

>> All of this, is all very well and nice.

The problem is that UNESCO commits the very crimes for which it condemns ISIS. Indeed, it committed the crime of seeking to wipe out history, whose preservation is "an essential condition for peace and the future of the region," the day it passed its resolution on Palmyra.

Right after UNESCO's board unanimously passed its resolution on Palmyra, it also passed a resolution whose goal is to erase Jewish history in the land of Israel.

The resolution, titled merely "Occupied Palestine," (a country that doesn't even exist), defined the Temple Mount, Judaism's most sacred site, as an exclusively Muslim site. Jews who visit it were referred to derisively as "right wing extremists."

>> The Western Wall, Judaism's second holiest site, was similarly referred to as an exclusively Islamic site.

The resolution reinstated a previous resolution's false claim that the tombs of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jewish people in Hebron and Bethlehem are mosques. The resolution was also a war crime, where UNESCO acted with malice to destroy the historical record.

In another act of cultural aggression, whose goal is to destroy the historical record, the resolution UNESCO falsely and maliciously referred to Jewish cemeteries as "fake graves," in "Muslim cemeteries." And if that weren't enough, UNESCO denounced Israel for the

"conversion of many Islamic and Byzantine remains into so-called Jewish ritual baths or into Jewish prayer places."

UNESCO's acts are not the ravings of lunatic extremists or genocidal imperialists shouting about caliphates, crucifying and enslaving innocents. The latest resolution was sponsored by supposedly moderate Islamic countries, two of which – Jordan and Egypt – have peace treaties with Israel.

Support for the resolution wasn't limited to Islamic countries voting as a bloc. France, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, India, Russia and Argentina were among the nations who voted in favour of a decision that referred to the Western Wall in scare quotes.

The US sits on UNESCO's executive board despite its open anti-Semitism. By doing so, the US grants legitimacy to a body which is waging a culture war against Israel no less determined – and arguably no less criminal – than ISIS's war against all vestiges of non-jihadist culture in Syria, Iraq and throughout the world. And why shouldn't it act in this way? Much of the cultural elite in the Western world has joined UNESCO in its campaign to erase Jewish civilisation from the historical and scientific record.

UNESCO's culture war against Israel is of course led by the Palestinians. The entire Palestinian national narrative is based on a conscious co-optation and theft of Jewish history. The Palestinians themselves understand exactly what they are doing.

In 2011, The Guardian and al Jazeera published what they referred to as "the Palestine Papers." The papers were taken from the PLO's negotiations support unit, charged with instructing Palestinian negotiators with Israel about their positions in the talks.

>> Among the papers was one that explained why the Jewish connection to the entire land of Israel – rather than just to Judea and Samaria – must be denied at all costs.

"Recognition of the Jewish people and their right of self-determination may lend credence to the Jewish people's claim to all of Historic Palestine," the document warned. That document was nothing new. Rather, it was simply a restatement of the PLO Charter. The charter states, "Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood. Judaism, being a religion is not an independent nationality. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong."

PLO chief and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lives by these lies. He has repeatedly denied the historical record, proclaiming that there was never a Jewish

Ancient city of Palmyra



temple in Jerusalem and that Jews have no history in the land of Israel. No Palestinian leader has ever disagreed with him. Rather, the PLO has a long, unbroken record of committing war crimes no different from ISIS's in deliberately destroying Jewish antiquities, starting with the Temple Mount, which, since the PA was established in 1994 has been the focus of sustained campaign of destruction ordered by PA leaders and conducted by Palestinians.

Like the Temple Mount – the cradle not only of Judaism but of Christianity as well – so Jewish sites throughout Judea, Samaria and Gaza have been systematically plundered, torched, vandalised, turned into mosques and destroyed by the Palestinians, often acting on orders from the PA. The Shalom al Yisrael synagogue in Jericho was first destroyed immediately after the PA took control of the city in 1994. The same is the case of the ancient synagogue in Gaza. Joseph's Tomb and in Nablus was torched and turned into a mosque.

In 2014 UNESCO declared the ruins of Bar Kochba's fortress of Beitar a World Heritage Site. Except that they called it Battir. And they said it was a Roman site. And they erased its Jewish roots, claiming the terraced agriculture the Jews of ancient Israel developed was a Roman innovation.

When UNESCO began considering Beitar's application for its protected status, The New York Times eagerly published its historical revisionism. This is not surprising. The Times has repeatedly reported stories whose purpose is to erase the Jewish history of Israel. Last October, the Times published a story about the Temple Mount which cast aside mountains of evidence, gathered over decades by professional archaeologists, in order to question whether the Jewish temples were really located there.

In elite universities, students receive doctorates and go on to receive tenure despite, or perhaps due to their publication of politicised research, which free from evidence, demonises Israel and Israelis as colonialist implants with no history or rights to Israel.

For instance, in 2007, Barnard College granted tenure to Nadia Abu El-Haj. In 2001, El-Haj, an anthropologist with no training or experience in archaeology, published *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. In her book, El-Haj alleged that Israeli archaeologists have deliberately falsified their findings. El-Haj claimed that the artifacts and sites they discovered and excavated were actually Islamic but the Jews hid the evidence. Jews, she said, also destroyed Christian sites with bulldozers.

Harvard Professor James Russell referred to her book as "malign fantasy," designed to demonstrate the "colonial essence" of Zionism by denying the history of "Jewish sovereignty and long historical presence." But most of El-Haj's esteemed colleagues applauded her act of academic aggression against history and science. Her colleagues at Barnard rewarded her with tenure. Her colleagues throughout the academic world showered her book with applause.

In so doing, they, like the governments that supported the UNESCO resolution denying Jewish history, and condemning Israel for stubbornly defending its heritage, and like the New York Times and other elite publications that publish as fact Palestinian historical falsehoods, are committing the same war crime that ISIS committed in Palmyra. They are, in Bokova's words, engaging in "the deliberate destruction of heritage."

>> Just as Bokova pledged to document all of ISIS's war crimes against ancient heritage sites "so that these crimes do not go unpunished," so Israel should document the actions of UNESCO and its allies that aid and abet the destruction of Jewish heritage sites.

History itself will convict them.



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Ceremony in Venice Marks the 500th Anniversary of the First Jewish Ghetto

Sourced from tabletmag.com. Written by Livia Albeck-Ripka

On Tuesday night, March 29, at La Fenice theater in Venice, Italy, the world's first ghetto was remembered 500 years after a 1516 decree from the Venetian Senate confined the city's 700 Jews to a small gated island on the periphery of the lagoon. The event, said historian Simon Schama during his keynote speech, was a time to reflect on the ghetto's dual role in both ostracising and uniting Jews.

>> "Our commemoration should be weighing in the balance of rejoicing and mourning," he said. "History is not always a stroll down memory lane."

During the ceremony, an orchestra, conducted by Israel-born Omer Meir Wellber, played Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D major, which washed over a number of luminaries in attendance, including Venetian Mayor Luigi Brugnaro.

President of the Jewish Community of Venice Paolo Gnignati said the anniversary was an opportunity to "emphasise the capacity and steadfastness of a group that, in spite of adverse conditions, and against all reasonable expectations, succeeded in making the ghetto a place where Jewish tradition could grow."

He noted the ghetto's five extant synagogues, the first printed edition of the Talmud, and the capacity to "to indomitably maintain [its]

A reveler blows a kiss during Venice's Carnival celebrations.



own strong and independent identity over the centuries, fostering cultural exchanges and influencing the surrounding society."

It was vital to "remember all of this because of what is happening today in Europe," added Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress. "Jews learned what happened when the world is silent and we learned it the hard way. When we face the past with complete honesty we actually create a much better future."

Schama echoed this sentiment, saying it was "incumbent on Jews and non-Jews not to be silent" particularly in the wake of the Brussels attacks that killed 35 people. "But it is not enough to denounce fanaticism," he said. "We

have to educate. Where better than this commemoration in this city to start?"

The opening ceremony marks the beginning of a yearlong cultural calendar including the first performance of *The Merchant of Venice* in the ghetto itself, featuring Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an exhibition at the Doge's Palace, as well as literary panels, conferences, and other events.

Andrew Tucker (International Executive Director), Marie Louise Weissenbock (Director - Europe), and Edda Fogorollo (Chairperson - Italy) will visit Venice from 16th - 18th June to meet with representatives of the Jewish community in Venice.

Hold the Party By Maurice Chayut, Jewish Filmmaker

In the beginning of May 2016 good news came out from Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, the number of anti-Semitic incidents worldwide declined in 2015 by nearly 50 percent compared to the previous year, hitting the lowest level in a decade. But before we open the champagne bottles and celebrate this good news, I have to stop and maybe spoil this party. One thing that caught my eye in this study and actually in all other studies; do they research people's anxiety or fear? Can it be that there are fewer incidents because Jewish people in Europe are more cautious? Steve Lewis, 45, from Manchester England said: "I try to not look overtly Jewish. I'm not going to take the risk. I'm not looking for trouble".

And this reality is not measured or discussed in studies or polls. In 2014 during the Gaza war, I drove to a certain neighborhood with my little son who was less than six years old, he had a hat on his head with big Hebrew letter Tzahal (Israeli army). Before we disembarked, I asked him to leave the hat in the car. To this day, I am still surprised by my behaviour. Was it fear, anxiety or caution? After all, I survived the Yom Kippur War, served four years in the Israeli army as an officer and still, like Mr. Lewis, I did not want to take the risk. Many Jews in Europe do not want to take the risk, they are very cautious. In 2014, Jews in Amsterdam removed the Mezuzahs' from their doors, they did not want to be identified as Jewish. In Berlin, a Jewish newspaper started sending the newspaper in a blank envelope so people would be protected and not identified as readers of a Jewish newspaper.

Rabbi Zvi Ammar, the head of the Jewish community in Marseille, made a statement after an attack, saying that Jews should avoid

wearing kippahs in public. "Not wearing the kippah can save lives and nothing is more important."

This fear, anxiety or plain caution does not show up in government reports, it is not reported, people just learn to live with it. When a mother drops her kids in a Jewish school, she sees the fences, the cameras and police standing with weapons. Does she feel more secure or does it remind her that the Jewish need to be protected in Europe? Some Jewish communities have to send their children to Jewish schools, they have no choice, their children will be harassed in public schools.

Anxiety is highest in France, where the most deadliest attack took place. This fear and anxiety is the reason why Jews are leaving France to Israel, Canada and the US. Most of them say that the price to live in fear is too high.

Are these fears and anxieties real? According to Ron van der Wieken from CJO (Central Jewish Board), there is no fear or anxiety among the Jewish population in The Netherlands; it is a state of heightened caution. Jews are more aware of who walks behind them and are more careful in their daily life; it is just an increased awareness. Ron believes that 2014 was an abnormal year because of the war in Gaza and if you take out 2014 from the study, you will see that there is, over the years, a steady increase in (antisemitic) incidents.

Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs, the chief Rabbi of the Netherlands, believes the reason there was a drop in anti-Semitism acts is, people stopped reporting them. He still hears dirty Jew as often today as he heard in 2014, and there is more anxiety today than there was ten years

ago. He sees more insecurity among the Jewish community today than in the past and Jews are questioning more and more if they have a future in the Netherlands.

We know from medical studies that people change their behaviour when they are in a constant state of fear or anxiety. How does the fear and anxiety influence the daily life of a European Jew? Does a person debate with himself if he should or can wear a Kippa or the necklace with the Star of David when he goes out today? How much risk can he take? Does he take more risk on Saturday (holy-day) going to the synagogue than on weekdays?

>> Polls and studies might show that anti-Semitism acts declined in 2015, but are Jews feel safer today than a year ago? The answer is probably no!

I do not think that the Jews who took down their Mezuzahs are rushing to put them back; the feeling of insecurity, anxiousness and fear is here to stay. It is a personal feeling that is not measured by studies, and some are more anxious than others. The anti-Semitism monster is awake and to put him back to sleep will require work and a major shift, unfortunately it is not a priority for the governments of Europe. A Jewish person walking in the street of Amsterdam needs to feel as safe as any Dutch person. I don't feel safe talking to my son in Hebrew in certain parts of the city, and that is simply unacceptable. A Jewish person wearing a Kippa or a Star of David around his neck has the right to walk free and feel safe anywhere in Europe. Until that day comes, I will keep my champagne bottle cold and closed.

Prayer Points

By Pieter Bénard,
Christians for
Israel Prayer
Coordinator



Israel

- In *Isaiah 54:7-8*, two promises are mentioned that God makes to His people. They were spoken thousands of years ago, but are very topical. Thank God for His promises!
- In *Jeremiah 31:16-17*, two other promises are mentioned: the return from the land of the enemy and the return to their own land. Thank God for Aliyah and for the return of the Jewish people.
- Pray that God, in our days where Biblical prophecies are unfolding, will reveal Himself to His people and the nations around Israel.
- The Palestinian leader Abbas said: "Every person who accepts a Palestinian state without Jerusalem as capital is a traitor." The Bible says the following: "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves." *Zechariah 12:2-3*

Iran

- Threats and terror surround Israel. Think about ISIS, Iran and Hezbollah. Pray that God will destroy all evil.
- After Iran closed a very favourable deal last year with five western nations about their nuclear programme, they rule out any further negotiations. Their stance and call to destroy the State of Israel remains the same. Please continue to pray: Spare Your people, Lord!
- Iran fights a fierce battle against Israel, through media, through arms supplies and financing of terror. Pray that this power will be destroyed and that the Lord will be merciful upon His people. *Psalms 56*

Christians for Israel

- Pray for protection for the Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the city of Jerusalem. Thank God for our partner, Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC) through which we may offer our help and encouragement.
- Pray for the worldwide work of Christians for Israel. Thank God that more and more people are starting to pray for God's plans with Israel, the return of the Jewish people and the peace of Jerusalem.

Intercessory Prayer

- Be prepared! "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him" *Matthew 24:44*. Standing in the gap for Israel, God's Chosen People and expecting the return of Jesus, God's Son, are inseparable. Thank God that we understand these times.
- "If you will not stand on the rock, the Bible, in the future, you will gradually become an enemy of Israel. The battle will be fierce." *Elihu Ben Chaim*. Pray that we will remain standing.

For more Prayer Points, please go to our website www.c4israel.org.nz

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day Address by PM Netanyahu

Communicated by the Prime Minister's Media Adviser

>> **The tragedy that befell our people must never happen again. Today, in our eternal capital Jerusalem, I reiterate the commitment: There will never be another Holocaust.**

Following is the address by PM Benjamin Netanyahu on the eve (4 May) of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day:

"Distinguished President, Reuven Rivlin, and his wife, distinguished guests, and first and foremost our brothers and sisters, the Holocaust survivors who lit the torches of remembrance and hope, you moved me. My wife and I met with you in my office yesterday. You spoke from your hearts; you told us how you maintained your humanity in the most inhuman conditions; you told us how you held on to life; and how you created a new life here in Israel. It is our duty to ensure that you and all of the Holocaust survivors continue to live your lives in comfort and dignity.

Mr. President, what you said is true. We did not do enough over the years, but in the last few years we have added resources for this and we will continue to do so for one simple reason – because you deserve it. It is your right, not an act of charity. It is a debt owed to you by the State of Israel, and we will pay this debt.

A distinct message came up in our meeting. The tragedy that befell our people must never happen again. In our eternal capital Jerusalem, I reiterate the commitment: There will never be another Holocaust. What paved the way for the Holocaust? What oiled the wheels of the Nazi death machine? The answer is the lie. Nazi propaganda portrayed the Jews as the source of all evil in the world, poisoners of wells, parasites, the enemies of humanity. The defamation preceded the extermination. The Nazi regime in Germany was defeated 71 years ago, yet anti-Semitism and the lies did not die along with Hitler in his bunker. Because today, millions of people in the Muslim world read and hear horrendous fabrications about the Jewish people. They are told that Jews are the offspring of apes and pigs. They are told that Jews – and I quote – "drink the blood of their enemies in goblets." These and other lies are spreading in social media, through means of dissemination that Hitler and Goebbels could not have even imagined. This incitement stems from radical Islam and the Arab world,

but in recent years it is joined by no less venomous incitement from the Western world. British members of parliament, Swedish high-ranking officials, French public opinion makers. I have to say that anti-Semitism today is a peculiar matchmaker – the elites who supposedly represent human progress have joined forces with the most sinister, barbaric fanatics on earth who behead people, oppress women, persecute LGBTs, destroy cultural treasures. They have teamed up to propagate the anti-Semitic virus against one target – us, against the State of Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East which upholds values of progress and human dignity. Their hostility towards Israel has long exceeded legitimate criticism, if that ever existed. This is the total rejection of a state for the Jewish people. While throughout history the anti-Semites depicted Jews as the enemies of humanity, they now present the Jewish state as the enemy of humanity. This lie has no limits.

Recently, the UN's UNESCO agency – and you have to hear this to believe that these things were said – the UNESCO agency resolved that the Temple Mount, Mount Moriah, is in no way linked to the Jewish people. Pay attention to what is happening here. A global organisation responsible for preserving history is offhandedly rewriting a basic fact of human history. This is willful ignorance. Even worse – it is an addiction to a lie and its dissemination around the world until it is accepted as fact. This is precisely how Jew haters have acted throughout the ages.

Today they cloak the root cause of the conflict between us and the Palestinian – the refusal to recognise the State of Israel in any borders. They justify the worst violence against us. They say we are responsible for the terrorist attack in Paris. They perceive the victim as the aggressor and the aggressor as the victim. The Nazis said that the Jews were to blame for everything. Present-day anti-Semites say that Israel is to blame for everything. Many of the fathers of Zionism believed that the source of this perverse hatred of the Jews is our people's unique circumstance whereby we were homeless and dispersed among the nations. They hoped, and many of them believed, that if the Jews had a state of their own, this hatred towards them would pass from the world.

Distinguished guests, regrettably reality demonstrates that this optimistic assumption of the fathers of Zionism was clearly mistaken.

There were those who once thought that Zionism was the cure for anti-Semitism, and today there are those who believe that Zionism is the reason for anti-Semitism. They are also wrong.

The hatred of Jews draws on many and ancient sources, and it will not pass from the world easily. We must do three things to fight it: fight the lie, boost our strength and build our country. There is only one way to fight a lie, and that is to disprove the falsehood and spread the truth. Truth means insisting on historical facts starting with the deep attachment of our people to our country. Truth means denouncing the double standard applied to the State of Israel and only to the State of Israel. We must mobilise to spread the truth with the same fervor as our enemies mobilise to spread the lie.

We must all join this battle. And here is another fact: in today's virtual world, it is easy to use the most advanced technology to spread the most ancient hatred. But the same technology can be used to spread the truth too, and this technology can be found in the pockets of each and every one of you. All of you have the electronic device needed to spread the truth in your pockets and in your homes. Many Jews are already doing this in Israel and around the world, and I call on you, members of modern humanity, to join us in our efforts to ward off the lies. Because, as Herzl predicted and as the rise of Nazism proved, anti-Semitism is disastrous for the Jews, but will eventually wreak havoc on all humanity, and therefore we must all fight it.

While we fight for the truth, we must also continue to build our defenses. Because even if we cannot eradicate this hatred of the Jews, we can curb the murderous attacks on us, and to this end we are diligently enhancing our military might. For many generations we were like a driven leaf, powerless, defenseless, but that is no longer the case.

The IDF is one of the strongest armies in the world, not only because of the tanks, planes, submarines and cyber, but largely because of the courage of our soldiers. Here they stand before us, and with them, standing shoulder to shoulder are all of our defense forces – the police, the Shin Bet, Mossad. They are inspired by the Jews who fought the Nazis in the allied forces, in the ghettos, the camps and the woods. We have learned the lesson. We do not ignore those who call for our destruction and



PM Netanyahu addressing the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day ceremony at Yad Vashem

we are not deterred by them. There are those who choose to overlook the intentions of Iran, who etches on its missiles "Israel must be wiped out," and holds Holocaust-denial contests. These days they have a Holocaust-denial cartoon competition. Is there anything more depraved than that? We do not ignore this. Some are willing to accept Iran having nuclear weapons, but we do not and will not. Anyone planning our annihilation should know that the State of Israel is very strong. We have strong defense, offence and deterrence capabilities. The bitter enemy will no longer dwell securely; Yehudah will now dwell securely. In addition to refuting the lies and augmenting our strength we must continue to build our country, and we continue to develop Israel by leaps and bounds.

In the 68 years of Israel's independence, Israel's population has multiplied by ten and its economy by one hundred. We have absorbed millions of immigrants from 70 Diaspora communities. We are laying foundations, putting down tracks, breaking new frontiers in science, technology, culture, art, in every field. Israel is the definitive testament to the creative spirit and the life that beats in the hearts of the Jews. We all draw inspiration from this spirit that exists in you, the Holocaust survivors. You, who witnessed the Nazi horrors, are living testaments of the light that broke through the cracks of the darkness of death. Your grandchildren and great-grandchildren walk among us tall and proud, and like you, contribute to the country's security, development and prosperity.

The prophet Isaiah promised to give unto the mourners of Zion splendor instead of ashes. And that is the essence of Israel's rebirth – splendor instead of ashes. More than anything else, the flourishing State of Israel signifies the triumph of light over darkness, life over death and truth over lies."

ECI Co-Hosted Passover Seder at the UN as Israel Faces Critical Security Council Resolution

Sourced from www.ec4i.org



The European Coalition for Israel through its Forum for Cultural Diplomacy and the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN co-hosted a historic Passover Seder at the UN headquarters in New York recently.

UN ambassadors from some 30 nations came together to celebrate what is believed to be the first official Passover Seder inside the UN

headquarters in New York. Going through the Passover text, or Haggadah as it is known in Hebrew, Rabbi Elie Abadie explained the universal messages of Passover (Pesach), while other participating ministers and UN diplomats read selected passages from the Haggadah text. Both Rabbi Abadie and the Israeli Permanent

Representative to the UN Danny Danon spoke about their own experiences of exodus as their respective families had to flee Egypt and Syria after the creation of the Jewish State.

"The universal message of Passover is that God saved us and made us free. This means that every person is entitled to freedom," Rabbi Abadie said. His own family received this

message of freedom in the form of a telex on the day of Passover in 1971, when Mexico granted them refugee status, after they had been living as stateless people in Lebanon for many years. Today, he serves as the Chief Rabbi at the Edmond Safra Synagogue in New York. As Israel was faced with a critical Resolution in the UN Security Council, ECI Director for UN affairs, Gregory Lafitte, reiterated the story of Esther, which took place during Passover in Persia 2372 years ago. Esther called for a fast in response to Haman's plot to annihilate the Jewish people. "Also today, there are reasons to fast as we witness the resurgence of various forms of anti-Semitism around the world," he said. Gregory also cited an old Jewish saying, which summarises Jewish history by stating, "They tried to kill us; we survived; now let us eat."

In his brief speech, ECI Founding Director Tomas Sandell mentioned the Exodus as an epic event that has inspired social reformers throughout history, such as the civil rights

movement in the US in the 1960's as well as the process of decolonisation in Africa and other parts of the world. "Passover is a powerful reminder of how our fate as individuals and nations is ultimately beyond the politics of this world, as we look back at the intervention on behalf of the Jewish people in the Exodus. This is a relevant message for Israel and the nations still to this day," he said.

The Passover Seder was part of the ongoing work of the European Coalition for Israel at the UN to promote the Jewish holidays in order to honour the Jewish people and their invaluable contribution to world culture and peace. Last year, ECI's efforts resulted in the recognition of Yom Kippur as an official UN holiday.

Christians for Israel was one of the founding members of the ECI in 2004, and continues to support the work of ECI.



The Letters of the Aleph-bet: Dalet

By Kees de Vreugd, Theologian, Christians for Israel International, and Editor of Israel and the Church

The word 'Dalet' means 'door'. The door is the entrance to the home (*the beth*). In the previous episode, we saw that the Dalet represents the poor man who receives charity from the rich man (*the Gimel*).

The Talmud identifies the subtle nature of charity in the shape of the Dalet: Why does the Dalet's tiny roof extend to the rear, in the direction of the Gimel (benefactor)? Because the needy person must allow the rich person to find him.

In other words, enable him without hindrance. But, why is the Dalet's face turned away from the Gimel? Because he has to help him in secret, with an averted face as it were, without embarrassing him publicly.

In Jewish mysticism, the Dalet is associated with the Aramaic word *de-let*, 'he who has nothing, or is nothing'. Man is nothing and can do nothing of himself, without the power of God's loving kindness.

Psalm 62:13 says: "Also Yours, O Lord, is loving kindness. For You reward a man for his work."

The Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of Hassidism, comments that being rewarded for work is, in reality, not loving kindness, but simply how it ought to be. The phrase 'for his work' can alternatively be interpreted to mean 'as if it is his work'. This represents the profound goodness of God: He shapes the reward to appear as if it is earned, in

order to not embarrass the recipient. God's goodness finds profound expression in His judgement. He is merciful to the Dalet, those who, out of themselves, have nothing.

And finally, the Dalet is the first letter of the word *dira*, that means 'home'. It refers to the dwelling place that God wants to make here, below. In short: Dalet is the door through which the humble person gains entrance into God's dwelling on earth.

Isreality International: Update on our First Upcoming "Experience Israel" Trip for Young Adults

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Tour Leader, Director, Christians for Israel Austria and Regional Director Europe



From 3 to 15 July 2016, around 20 participants aged between 18 and 35 years, coming from seven countries including Australia, Austria, Brazil, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and the USA, will take part in this special tour, organised by Christians for Israel International.

The trip consists of three main parts:

- Bible study
- Meeting young Jewish and Arab Israelis
- Sharing in fun and action as well as serving the country and its people with voluntary work.

The programme highlights include three days in Galilee, where Jesus taught his disciples, with onsite Bible teaching by Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer, as well as gaining political insights through talks by Andrew Tucker, our legal expert in International Law; activities such as rafting on the Jordan River, swimming in the Dead Sea, climbing Masada and meeting with young Israelis; visiting the biblical heartland of Israel (Judea and Samaria); experiencing Shabbat in Jerusalem; and doing volunteer work in Jerusalem and surroundings. The tour will be led by me, Marie-Louise Weissenböck and John Henry Nosen (Christians for Israel USA/YWAM Naples). Both of us have extensive experience in working with young people. I have also led many Israel tours to date. The programme has been organised in partnership with Keshet Educational Tours from Jerusalem.

The focus of the tour will be on exploring the meaning of the Jewish people and the land in the Bible, and what that means for our

personal walk with Jesus. Together we will be going on a journey of discovery into the richness of the Bible, the connection between Christians and the Jewish people, and God's purpose for our lives.

Through this tour, we hope to empower young adults to be a voice for Israel and the Jewish people in their own nation and to inspire others to become part of the Isreality network. Our mission is to train, equip and commission young adult leaders, enabling them to raise awareness about God's plans and purposes for Israel, the Jewish people and the Church and to comfort the Jewish nation in prayer and action. In each country, where Christians for Israel is active, we wish to establish national Isreality groups, who can meet and carry out activities together.

Christians for Israel also envisions providing yearly programmes in Israel and elsewhere (e.g. helping impoverished Jewish people in the war-torn Ukraine by packaging and delivering

food parcels) whereby national or international Isreality groups are enabled to be a blessing to the Jewish people, especially holocaust survivors, via volunteer programmes. Special programmes also will be offered at international and national levels for discipleship and training of young Christians in their walk with Jesus the Jew and prepare for His coming again.

In summary, Isreality will be a mix of fun, information and education. It is a place where young adults can share experiences, pray and worship together, carry out acts of service and through teaching, gain a deeper understanding of God's plans and purposes for Israel, the Jewish people and the Church.

For further information and a detailed itinerary of the Isreality "Experience Israel" Tour, go to: www.isreality.org



Fighting Anti-Semitism on Campus

Courtesy of Israel Today

Natan Sharansky and Michael Douglas take on the BDS movement



Academy Award-winning American actor Michael Douglas and Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky teamed up to combat growing anti-Semitism and the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement on US college campuses. Douglas and Sharansky, a former Prisoner of Zion who immigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union in 1986, brought the campaign to three top institutions: Brown, Stanford and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The programme was co-hosted by the Genesis Prize Foundation, Hillel International and Jewish Agency. Douglas won the \$1 million Genesis Prize last year.

"This is the first time in this current period of heightened anti-Israel activity on campus that a Hollywood celebrity has offered to join with a world Jewish leader to visit US college campuses and speak with students about Israel and the Jewish people," said Genesis Prize

Chairman Stan Polovets. "At a time when certain individuals and groups in the academic community as well as other forces are making sustained efforts to delegitimise Israel, these visits are particularly important and timely."

Douglas' father, legendary actor Kirk Douglas, is Jewish though his mother, actress Diana Dill, was not.

"I felt I was part of the Tribe," Douglas told the audience. "As secular as I am, just being a part of that community and the values they represented meant a tremendous amount to me."

Douglas described the BDS movement as an "ugly cancer" and noted that it is virtually impossible to have a dialogue with students who are intent on demonising Israel. "Very quickly you find out they don't know how to talk - they really don't," he said. "They [only] know how to protest."

The Zionist Monk Who Teaches Israelis How To Speak Arabic

By Elhanan Miller. Sourced from www.tabletmag.com



Two weeks shy of 90, Yohanan Elihai is feverishly working in his Jerusalem study on updating his Arabic-Hebrew dictionary, published by the Ministry of Defense over a decade ago. That dictionary contains 5,000 words and 10,000 sentences; but he would like it to conform to his famous Arabic-English Olive Tree Dictionary, published in 2007, which contains 8,000 words and 17,000 sentences.

Widely acknowledged as the most authoritative Arabic teacher in the country, Elihai is also the author of numerous textbooks and dictionaries on the colloquial dialect of the Palestinians. He is also a Catholic monk.

Ever since he decided to tie his life to the destiny of the Jewish people and immigrated to Israel six decades ago, Elihai has considered himself a Zionist. But peeking out of his living room window at the Arab village of Sur Baher, he looks back at a life lived in two parallel

worlds. "I am a Christian, 100 percent Israeli, who loves the Palestinians," he recently told an interviewer. "I wish for our well-being, but for theirs, too."

His connection to Arabic began shortly after his discovery of the Jewish plight. During the War, he became fascinated with the biography of Charles de Foucauld, a French national. Upon his return to France in 1947, now a member of the Little Brothers of Jesus, Elihai was already becoming somewhat of a Zionist.

In Damascus, Elihai's day job was to produce metal dishes. But in his spare time, he would document the Syrian dialect, compiling a personal dictionary that contained 5,000 words. In 1950, after a year in Damascus being followed by Syrian intelligence, he learned that the Little Sisters of Jesus—the female equivalent of his order—were preparing to open a branch in Israel.

Elihai's fixation with the Jews would better be addressed in the Moroccan city of Marrakech, where an ancient community still thrived, the priest exclaimed. But the Moroccan Jews were suspicious of the strange Catholic who insisted on communicating with them in French and broken Hebrew. "In my prayers, I would ask God: 'Why did you, the all-knowing, let me waste three years of my life studying Arabic instead of starting immediately with Hebrew?'" he recalled. "God pushed aside a small cloud, winked at me, and said: 'Just you wait, my friend, and one day you'll understand.'"

Heartbreaking Farewell

Aliyah work update in Ukraine

>> Busy, busy, busy... This is how you can define the work of Aliyah fieldworker Koen Carlier. He barely sits still.

Whether it is purchasing the food for food parcels and arranging their distribution throughout Ukraine; or driving thousands of kilometers to the east of Ukraine to bring refugees to temporary shelters; or answering dozens of requests for rides to the Israeli embassy or the airport. In recent years, the work of one individual has become a full-fledged department in Ukraine with a wonderful and dedicated team.

And yet the work remains exactly the same. Koen and his team visit people in their homes, arrange their transport to the Embassy and bring people to the airport for their final departure to Israel.

>> The Didkovski Family

Recently, Koen went to the Didkovski family. "I arrived at their home on a Monday afternoon, I had just returned from a trip to the east of Ukraine. We were there to pick them up but to my surprise, there were many friends and relatives in and around the house. After the luggage was loaded into our van, I explained to everyone that God is bringing His people back to the land of Israel. Then came the toughest part of the trip - the farewell. Saying goodbye to one's family and friends is heartbreaking, especially for the elderly."

>> Holocaust Testimony

Koen continues his update: "In the shelter, we had a pleasant get-together with the people

who will leave for Israel the following morning. One of them, Elizaveta, shared her story with us. As a small child, she was betrayed during the Holocaust and sent to the ghetto in the village of Pechora. There she spent three terrible years along with her mother.

Over the years, I often hear testimonies from the elderly about the Holocaust in Ukraine, and every time I shudder. That enormous suffering, which is still alive today."

In the shelter in Kiev



>> A Good Start

"In the quiet early morning, we drove to the airport. Elizaveta will go to her daughters place who lives in Ashdod. The Didkovski family is on their way to a kibbutz which is part of the integration programme 'First Home in the Homeland'. With this programme, the Didkovski family has a very good chance of building a new life in Israel."

>> The Youngest Olim Since the Beginning of the War

One last thing Koen shares with us: "Recently we helped the youngest person since the day our shelter began functioning, cute little Kira Kats. She was just two months old at the time. Her parents - Sasha and Katia are a young couple from Alchevsk in the Lugansk region



Baby Kira Kats and her family



The collage above is a beautiful compilation of the Aliyah journey of two families as seen through the eyes of photographer, Henk Visscher.

Didkovski family at the airport



and they came to the shelter at the request of the Jewish Agency. The family suffered being pregnant while living in the zone of military operations, and they were forced to go to Russia in order to give birth to their child. They then spent their last savings to get back to Ukraine. In our shelter, we did our best to provide them with the necessary care before we brought them to the airport. They are now in Israel!

>> Please support our Aliyah work by completing the response coupon below. Any amount is welcome!



Didkovski family saying goodbye

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