

dispatch from Jerusalem

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

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Faith in Abundance



BRIDGES FOR PEACE

Christians supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

It is our desire to see Christians and Jews working side by side for better understanding and a more secure Israel. Bridges for Peace seeks to be a ministry of hope and reconciliation. Through programs both in Israel and worldwide, we are giving Christians the opportunity to actively express their biblical responsibility before God to be faithful to Israel and the Jewish community. For too long Christians have been silent. For too long the Jewish community has had to fight its battles alone. It is time Christian individuals and congregations speak up for the people who gave us the Bible.

We are committed to the following goals:

To encourage meaningful and supportive relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

To educate and equip Christians to identify with Israel, the Jewish people and the biblical/Hebraic foundations of our faith.

To bless Israel and the Jewish people in Israel and worldwide through practical assistance, volunteer service and prayer.

To communicate Christian perspectives to the attention of Israeli leaders and the Jewish community-at-large.

To counter anti-Semitism worldwide and support Israel's divine God-given right to exist in her God-given land.

Dispatch from Jerusalem

The *Dispatch from Jerusalem* is Bridges for Peace's signature publication presenting positive news and perspectives from Israel to encourage understanding and support for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

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Join us in practical expressions to bless Israel by becoming an active bridge-builder and participating in fulfilling biblical prophecy through the following educational and humanitarian programs of Bridges for Peace.

Publications: The bimonthly *Dispatch from Jerusalem*, the monthly in-depth study of the Israel Teaching Letter and the weekly e-mailed Israel Current News Update with Prayer Focus. To subscribe, sign up on the front page of our website at www.bridgesforpeace.com

Chai (Life) Night Prayer and Study Groups: A monthly intercessory prayer program for groups desiring to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6).

Bridge-building Projects: Promote better Christian-Jewish understanding and support for Israel at the local and regional levels around the world. Projects offered include Hebrew classes, film series, Israel awareness programs, speakers bureaus and study seminars.

Bible Study Tours in Israel: Bridges for Peace provides a variety of travel opportunities and lectures to help you or your tour group gain a deeper understanding of Israel. (See page 28 for current tours).

Discovery Groups: Groups have the opportunity to serve with us for a period of one to four days.

Short-term Service: A wonderful opportunity for Christians to build sincere relationships by volunteering to serve as short-term staff assisting Israel's poor.

Operation Ezra Projects: Through our food bank, food gifts are distributed to help Israel's needy.

Project Rescue/Project Tikvah (Hope): These programs help the poorest Jews in the countries of the Diaspora.

ZEALOUS8:2: This branch of Bridges for Peace aims at reaching and impacting the young adult generation (18-30) with the message of God's plan and purpose for the nation of Israel (www.zealous82.com).

For more information, contact any of our national offices. We are also available to help you plan activities in your area. When you come to Israel, we would like to meet you or speak to your group. Please contact us in advance to visit our International Headquarters and Outreach Center in Jerusalem.

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MDA, Israel’s national ambulance and emergency medical services, paid a heavy price in the October 7 attack. Hamas destroyed 14 ambulances and murdered 11 MDA personnel. Looking to the future, MDA urgently needed help replenishing the lost resources—and Christians from around the world answered that call for assistance.

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The time has come for every Christian to humbly take his or her place with confidence—in the midst of the current tsunami of antisemitism—in standing with Israel and the Jewish people. Though we are a minority today, we know God will have the victory and Israel will be exalted among the nations.

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David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, once said “If an expert says it can’t be done, get another expert.” These words perfectly express the mindset held by the founders of the modern State of Israel. This is the story of the untried experts tasked with producing the weapons Israel needed to win the War of Independence.

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Just over one year ago, Israel was plunged into the dark night of war. Psalm 121:4 describes God as the Guardian of Israel who watches over this Land and its people without slumbering or sleeping. I am thankful that the God of Israel is alive and active, and that He is still reaching out to the people of Israel with love and care..

By *Rebecca J. Brimmer*



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SORROW AND HOPE

“IT LOOKS like an apocalyptic film!” The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) battalion commander standing next to me murmured these words almost to himself as we peered at the gruesome landscape stretched out before us: the charred shells of burned-out and bullet-riddled cars as far as the eye could see. He caught my eye and said with great sadness, “I still can’t believe it happened.” I gave him a hug, after which we continued gazing upon the endless rows of eerie reminders of the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

Israel brought over 1,200 vehicles destroyed in the attack to Tkuma near the Gaza border. Here, they put the eerie remnants on display for the world to witness the violence committed on that black day. Every car tells a horrific story of murder, bloodshed and violence.

Standing in front of the display is like surveying a giant crime scene. You can see the evidence of bullets tearing through windscreens, while hundreds of bullet holes bear testimony to family vehicles being machine-gunned. Then there are the burnt wreckages of ambulances and shuttle buses that exploded upon the impact of RPG missiles.

I recalled in the days after October 7, 2023 seeing the footage of bodies—bloodied and burned—strewn along Highway 232 alongside an endless path of burning or ransacked cars after Hamas terrorists ambushed the unsuspecting drivers. Gazing at the graveyard of cars at Tkuma, that footage now came rushing back in a raw, grief-stricken moment as I stood silently next to the IDF commander.



Bridges for Peace has been able to donate ambulances and food thanks to our global Christian partners.

Since October 7, I have walked through the destruction of Kibbutz Be’eri and Kfar Aza numerous times, witnessing piles of rubble, charred remains of homes and the scattered debris of children’s toys and bicycles. I have stared at hundreds of pictures of murdered victims at Re’im, the place of the Nova festival, and moved among the trees with a broken heart at the sight of memorials placed by families. I have listened to the heroic stories of survivors who fled from terrorists, soldiers who fought desperately and those who saved hundreds. I have held sobbing mothers and fathers in my arms and cried as they spoke of their murdered children.

One year has now passed. Israel observed the commemoration with tears and determination to press forward with strength and unity as the war continues to rage in Gaza and now also in Lebanon. Israelis will tell you that every day feels like October 7, yet the clarion call, *am Yisrael chai* (the people of Israel live) continues to resound.

Days before the one-year commemoration, Israel experienced another ballistic missile attack from Iran. The Islamic Republic fired 400 missiles, with just over 180 making it into Israel. Interceptions lit up the night sky as the majority of these deadly missiles were shot down. Millions of Israelis ran to bomb shelters, praying to God and huddling with their families. As I was abroad in Japan, my wife comforted our terrified children alone in our safe room, praying with them and reading books while the sirens screamed. Yet Israel witnessed a miracle from God. Not one Israeli was killed! Once again, the God of Israel demonstrated His mercy and power to Israel and the world.

Israel remains in deep trauma and pain. Many see the hand of God at work despite the terror, yet countless lives have been shattered. Too many Israelis now face life with crushed souls, plagued by nightmares. Some feel abandoned by God and the world, while others feel levels of despair and try to cling to hope.

I have met countless people who suffer and struggle. Through their tears, I remind them that they are not alone. God loves them with an everlasting love and has rallied millions of Christians around the world to pray, give, support and

stand with Israel. This is the pulse of Bridges for Peace. This is why our global Christian partners have been able to donate ambulances, provide thousands of bags of food and clothes, purchase home appliances for displaced Israelis, provide trauma care and countless other physical forms of love. Our Christian partners have donated nearly US \$3.3 million since October 7, 2023 to support Israel in its darkest hour. We will not back down. We live and breathe the words of Isaiah 40:1, *“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God.* We demonstrate this love every day and the people in this nation experience it.

A neighbor who has developed a friendship with our family since October 7 sent me a voice message after the Iranian attack. Her voice was strong and confident as she said, “Yesterday was a miracle! I was lying in the middle of the road, seeing all the missiles above my head, terrified and yet saying, ‘God, You’re unbelievable, giving us the best signs we can ever get!’” This is the result from months of impacting our neighbor with love and support, reminding her that she is not alone and that the God of Israel keeps His covenant.

The Lord God of Israel lives and He is moving in the hearts of the people of Israel and stirring the nations. We can get bogged down, distracted, discouraged and angry at the evil, chaos and darkness we see around the world. Or we can seek the Lord, be a light for Him in the darkness, stand boldly for truth, recognize the amazing things that God is doing in the nations and partner with Him as we live in these prophetic days. He is uniting Christians around the world who love what God loves and stand with His nation. Will you be that light that comforts Zion and presses back evil? Donate to our **Crisis Fund** today!

Shalom,
Rev. Peter Fast
International CEO





Israel Fights on Behalf of the Western World

Israel cannot afford to suffer from the blindness the free world suffers from. No major Western media outlet mentioned the fact that the Shiite terror organizations, like the Sunnis, have declared their desire to take over the world. In June, the head of Hezbollah's foreign relations said "Israel is only a means to an end. The real goal is the war with America."

They mean every word. Hezbollah has been carrying out deadly terrorist attacks for over four decades. Most Western newspapers overlook Hezbollah's bloody past, especially when they can point a finger at Israel, accusing it of a fictional genocide.

Israel cannot fold. Its main option is to undermine the Iranian doctrine and the chokehold it is trying to establish around Israel. Hamas is mostly defeated. The Houthis are mostly a nuisance. The real threat is Hezbollah, which has recently received the worst blows in its history. The Iranian investment of billions in Hezbollah has already gone down the drain. Israel reestablished its power of deterrence, which was damaged on October 7.

The big question is whether the Western countries will interfere. Lebanon is close to the heart of France. But France, which prevented Israel from participating in one of the most important arms exhibitions in the world, is helping Hezbollah. The American use of "Don't!" against Israel in Lebanon also helped Hezbollah. Israel still needs military aid and Hezbollah still has bunkers filled to the brim with rockets.

This conflict will take time and a diplomatic settlement is still on the table. However, whoever wants peace must keep striking at Hezbollah while threatening Iran's oil export source. Like the Israeli Air Force said, "Israel can reach anywhere in Iran."

If anyone had doubts that Israel could do it, the doubts have disappeared. Hezbollah led Lebanon to bankruptcy and crisis. This is an opportunity to revive the country. It feels good that Israel is right and it's great that we are finally winning. To reach complete victory, we must be smart too.

Ben-Dror Yemini, *Ynetnews*



A Palestinian State Today: The Dangers to Israel and the Middle East

Discussions on recognizing a Palestinian state in the aftermath of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel convey to the Palestinians that terrorism is profitable and can lead to the realization of their goals.

Hamas has taken credit for the recent decision by Ireland, Norway and Spain to recognize a Palestinian state. Hamas officials see the decision as a result of the October 7 massacre, which they claim thrust the Palestinian issue back onto the forefront of international affairs.

The decision emboldens both the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas, who rejects Israel's right to exist and seeks to replace it with an Islamist state. Moreover, the decision discourages the Palestinians from going back to the negotiating table with Israel.

Not only is the unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state in violation of the provisions of the agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Order [PLO] more than 30 years ago, the recognition offers the Palestinians nothing more than a symbolic victory, and symbolic wins alone will not suffice for the Palestinians. They need new leaders with the moral and political will to start a deradicalization process and enact significant administrative and financial reforms. Regrettably, such leaders are currently unavailable. For years, both the PA and Hamas have used their power to suppress the emergence of new leaders.

Those who are currently advocating for the creation of a Palestinian state, meanwhile, are neglecting several considerations.

First, any prospective Palestinian state will most likely be controlled by Hamas. Public opinion polls conducted both prior to and following the October 7 massacre indicate that the majority of Palestinians prefer Hamas over the PA. The polls also showed that a majority of Palestinians support the "armed struggle" against Israel, reflecting support for Hamas on October 7 and beyond.

Second, the state would serve as a springboard for additional acts of terrorism against Israel. Until October 6, the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip was a separate, sovereign state. After taking control in 2007, Hamas exploited the coastal enclave to produce rockets and mortars, build the world's largest network of terror tunnels and smuggle weapons from Egypt. The Hamas terrorists who attacked Israel crossed an internationally

recognized border with the Gaza Strip (Israel withdrew from the entire Gaza Strip in 2005). The Israeli communities that were attacked were not "illegal settlements." Some were established in the 1940s and 50s.

Third, the assumption that a "demilitarized" Palestinian state would not pose security threats to Israel has proven untrue. The October 7 attack demonstrated Palestinians are capable of killing a large number of Israelis using relatively light weapons, such as rocket-propelled grenades, handguns and AK-47s. Additionally, no Palestinian leader would be able to stop the smuggling of weapons or the formation of armed militias. When the PA ruled the Gaza Strip between 1994 and 2007, they were unable to prevent the strip from being transformed into a base for multiple terrorist groups, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad [PIJ]. Nor was the PA able to stop these groups from smuggling weapons across the border with Egypt. The same applies to the West Bank [Judea and Samaria], where the PA has failed to reign in several armed groups, among them Iran-backed cells.

Fourth, a Palestinian state ruled by Iran's proxies would undoubtedly be a source of instability and insecurity in the Middle East, aside from the threat it would pose to Israel. Four Arab countries are already under Iranian regime occupation: Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The last thing other Arab countries need is another Iranian-affiliated Palestinian state on their borders. The Egyptians and Jordanians prefer Israel on their borders over Hamas or PIJ.

Fifth, the past 30 years has demonstrated that a Palestinian state will not vary from the majority of Arab dictatorships in terms of human rights abuses, corruption and a lack of democracy. Under the PA and Hamas, the Palestinians lack free speech, a functioning parliament and a free media. The last presidential election was held in 2005 when Mahmoud Abbas was elected for a four-year term. The previous parliamentary election was held a year later. Since then, Palestinians have been deprived of the right to vote for a president and a new parliament.

The last thing the Palestinians need is another corrupt authoritarian, kleptocratic state run by leaders who have led them from one catastrophe to another.

Dr. Dan Diker, Khaled Abu Toameh,
Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs

Archaeology: The Unsolv- able Dilemma Facing the Anti-Israel Crowd



A newly discovered seal, which dates to about 700 BC

IN AUGUST, ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS found a 2,700-year-old stone seal near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It's just a few inches in diameter, but it's a big deal for Zionism—and another blow to the Palestinian cause.

The discovery highlights the importance of the continuing work by archaeologists who have spent years sifting through tons of debris that have been dumped outside Jerusalem's walls by the Islamic authorities who control the mosques on the Temple Mount.

That debris comes from renovations undertaken by Islamic officials on the Temple Mount plaza, the holiest site in Judaism. In callous disregard for the sanctity of the site, the Islamic authorities have been discarding the debris from the renovations.

Why do the Islamic authorities want to hide the rubble? Because the Israeli archaeologists going through the discarded debris continually find pieces of the past that reconfirm the thousands of years of Jewish history in the Holy Land. The project's work began in 2005, and their discoveries confirm that the Arab connection to the country is recent and weak.

The stone seal that was just discovered doesn't have any inscriptions referring to "Palestine." It doesn't refer to any indigenous Palestinian holidays, nor does it bear any ancient Palestinian symbols.

The writing on the seal is Hebrew, not Arabic. The name written on it is a Jewish name, not an Arab or Muslim name: Yeho'ezer ben Hoshayahu. That name is very similar to the name of one of King David's warriors. It's not similar to the name of the warrior of some "Palestinian" king. It's also

very similar to a Jewish name mentioned in the biblical book of Jeremiah. It's not similar to any names mentioned in the Quran. As a matter of fact, the city of Jerusalem itself is not mentioned in the Quran either. Despite all the platitudes we hear about how Jerusalem is the "city of three ancient faiths," Jerusalem does not appear a single time in the Quran.

Filip Vukosavovic of the Israel Antiquities Authority said the newly discovered seal, which dates to about 700 BC, was used by someone who "held a senior position in the Kingdom of Judah's administration." Note: Kingdom of Judah, not Kingdom of Palestine.

It was only some 1,400 years after the creation of that seal, in the seventh century AD, that the Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula invaded and occupied the Land of Israel. The Muslim occupiers never called the country "Palestine."

Altogether, the archaeologists of the Temple Mount Sifting Project have uncovered several thousand items related to the biblical period. And not one of those items refers to "Palestinians."

No wonder the Islamic religious authorities treat the debris from their renovations as garbage. They know that every scoop of dirt can reveal additional evidence that the rightful owners of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel are the Jews. In the course of fulfilling the noble scientific purpose of archaeology, Israel's archaeologists are reaffirming the deep roots of the Jewish people in the Holy Land.

Moshe Phillips, *Jewish News Syndicate*

Remnants of Splendor and Destruction in Jerusalem's Ancient Drainage Channel

A COMPLETE GLASS VIAL, grape pips, 2,000-year-old eggshells and complete ceramic lamps, still with soot in them. All these were uncovered in a new excavation in the drainage channel running under what was Jerusalem's main street during the Second Temple period. The excavation, managed by the Israel Antiquities Authority [IAA], reveals Jerusalem's changing urban pulse in the last decades before the Temple's destruction in AD 70.

This excavation exposes the channel that was Jerusalem's main subterranean artery, which passed under the colorful markets of Jerusalem at the foot of the Temple Mount and along the entire length of the City of David.

"Into the channel's mouth were swept the detritus of the life above Jerusalem's main street, where they remained preserved between the walls just as they were at the moment of the city's destruction," explains Dr. Ayala Zilberstein, excavation director on behalf of the IAA. "Small finds tell us a big story, from Jerusalem's heyday of prosperity and splendor when its streets bustled with life, until the city's ebbing moments during the rebellion against the Romans and its total abandonment following the Temple and city's destruction."

In the upper layers of the alluvial soil, the excavators discovered remains from the days of the city's destruction, including complete pottery lamps dated to the end of the Second Temple period. The soot preserved on their rims remains as a sign of the fire that once burned inside them. Some years ago, a complete Roman sword still inside its leather scabbard was discovered a short distance from where the oil lamps were uncovered. The possibility is now being examined that, like the sword, the oil lamps were also held in the hands of the rebels who found a hiding place in this channel.

As the excavators dug ever deeper, they unearthed a multitude of finds that testify to Jerusalem's splendor and wealth during the Second Temple period, the years during which the city hummed with never-ending activity. Complete ceramic vessels were found, including vials of perfume and expensive oils. Next to them was a delicate glass vial that was miraculously preserved without almost any damage.

In light of the archaeological potential inherent in the channel's accumulated layers, all the bags of excavated dirt were saved and then sent to the Temple Mount Sifting Project. Along with coins and colorful beads, the main



Items uncovered during the excavation of the drainage channel

contribution of the project's filtration work came from an unexpected direction. The soil yielded food remains that helped researchers uncover some of the secrets of the ancient Jewish kitchen: grape pips (seeds), kernels of grains, fish bones and even eggshells, all of which shed light on the menu of Jerusalem's residents when the city's life was vibrant.

The richness of the organic finds prompted a battery of diverse laboratory tests to detect remains not visible to the naked eye. Even in a preliminary examination conducted, it was possible to clearly discern the gap between those layers from the city's fully active life to the more recently accumulated layers. "The closer you get to the layers from the city's later days, there is less and less evidence of human artifacts, and the picture begins to form of the demise of the city's vitality," Dr. Zilberstein said.

Israel Antiquities Authority

RECLAIMING Zionism

Israel and the Jewish people were thrust into the international spotlight more than one year ago in the aftermath of the October 7 massacre by the Hamas terrorist organization. For the first few days, as the world watched Israel weep over her 1,200 victims and the 251 hostages swept away to Gaza, the Jewish state had global sympathy. But when Israel fought back, launching a ground operation in Gaza to eradicate the threat of Hamas and return the hostages, the tides turned against her.

Antisemitism rose to a fever pitch, with pro-Palestinian, pro-Hamas, anti-Israel rallies and riots in major cities and university campuses across the Western world. Violence and aggression against Jewish people spiked, while Jewish shops and synagogues were vandalized. However, neither the perpetrators of these reprehensible acts nor those who rally against Israel cop to the label of antisemitism. No, instead they identify as anti-Zionist. “Zionist,” in fact, has become a dirty word spat out of the mouths of those who hate Israel and/or the Jewish people. But like with so many perfectly innocent terms and phrases, the word Zionism was hijacked and its original meaning distorted into something that seems distasteful. The time has come to reclaim Zionism and restore it to its original, biblical meaning.

But what is Zionism?

Zionism is essentially the belief that the Jewish people have the right to their own Jewish state in the biblical Land of Israel. It is the belief that the Jewish people, like any other people, can live in sovereignty and self-determination in their own nation

state. Swedes have the right to live in Sweden. Brazilians have the right to live in Brazil. Don't Jewish people have the right to live in Judea?

Perhaps the best way to understand what Zionism is, is to summarize what it is not. Zionism is not a colonialist movement. It is merely the Jewish people seeking to return to the land God promised to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob millennia ago. Zionism is also not a racist movement. Jewish people have returned from exile in the four corners of the Earth. The Jewish state is a beautifully diverse nation, including thriving populations of non-Jews like Arab Muslims, Christians, Catholics, Druze and so forth. Support for a Jewish state does not mean supporting a Jewish people-only state. Zionism is also not a conspiracy by the Jewish people to take over the world. Frankly, if that were the case, they would be doing a terrible job, given the rampant antisemitism in the mainstream and social media.

History of Zionism

Zionism is inherently embedded within Jewish religion, culture and prayers—ever since the Jewish people were first exiled from their homeland and taken into Babylonian captivity in 597 BC. Psalm 137 tells of their lament in a foreign land: *“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion...If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill”* (v. 1, 5).

Since that exile and the second major exile of Jewish people under the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago, the Jewish people have held a connection with and a longing for their





ancient homeland. Religious Jews who recite the Amidah prayer three times a day say the following words morning, afternoon and evening: “Raise a banner to gather our exiles, and bring us together from the four corners of the earth into our land. Blessed are you L-rd, who gathers the dispersed of His people Israel.” Every year, Jewish people in the Diaspora (the Jewish community outside Israel) end their Passover dinner with the words: “Next year in Jerusalem.”

Modern Zionism came about in the late 19th century amid yet another rise in antisemitism, ostracism and persecution of the Jewish people, particularly in Europe. Enter Austrian playwright and journalist Theodor Herzl, known as the “father” of modern Zionism. Herzl looked around him at the global persecution of his fellow Jews and began a push for the Jewish return to their ancient homeland, where they could live out their Jewish identity in peace and freedom.

Herzl was a political Zionist and sought to draft influential people of the time into joining his efforts to establish a Jewish state in Israel. He published his famous pamphlet entitled “The Jewish State” in 1886, with the subtitle “Proposal of a modern solution for the Jewish Question.” His efforts continued over the years, culminating in the First Zionist Congress of 1897 in Basel, attended by some 200 Jewish influencers from all over the world, but particularly Europe. In its aftermath, Herzl wrote in his diary: “If I had to sum up the Basel Congress in one word—which I shall not do openly—it would be this: At Basel I founded the Jewish state. If I were to say this today, I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years, perhaps, and certainly in 50, everyone will see it.”

Herzl was right. Fifty years later, the modern state of Israel was reborn.

Zionism in the Bible

The word “Zion” in the Bible refers to Jerusalem, later expanding to mean all of Israel. This is the Land that God promised to Abraham—and God also promised to “*bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you*” (Gen. 12:1–3). God later repeats this promise to Isaac in Gen. 26:3: “*Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father*” and to Jacob in Gen. 28:13: “*...the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.*”

God’s purposes and plans for Israel and her people are woven throughout the Scriptures, all the way through to the New Testament. In fact, Jesus was Himself a Jew, born in Judea under Roman rule.

Do you believe that the Jewish people have a right to live in the ancestral homeland that was promised to them by the God of Israel, the God of their forefathers? Do you believe they, like any other people, have the right to exist and live in self-determination? Congratulations, whether you are Christian, Jewish, atheist or any other religion, you are a Zionist.



Kate Norman, *BFP Writer*



The Land of the Bible **Cleansed** of the People of the Bible

When Hitler implemented the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question,” the Nazis coined a term to describe regions after the entire Jewish population had been deported to extermination camps. They proudly called these locations *Judenrein*, or “cleansed of Jews.”

On September 18, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) took a page from the Nazi playbook to pass a Palestinian-drafted resolution demanding a *Judenrein* Old City of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. The world body didn’t use that term, of course. Instead, a two-thirds majority of the UN member states insisted Israel “end without delay its unlawful presence” in “occupied Palestinian territory” and deport the entire Jewish population within 12 months.

UNGA’s motion isn’t a stand-alone. It endorses a July 19 advisory opinion by the UN principal judicial organ, the International Court of Justice, declaring Israel’s presence in the “occupied Palestinian territory” illegal.

The world body lauded the resolution as “historic.” Perhaps the UN should remember it isn’t the first to attempt something as “historic” as rendering locations *Judenrein*. Still, there’s a marked difference between the UN’s effort and the Nazis’ endeavor.



Can Owners Occupy?

The UN's "occupied Palestinian territory" refers primarily to the "West Bank," including eastern Jerusalem with the Old City, City of David and Mount of Olives. It nestles in central Israel along its eastern border with Jordan, comprises 3,438 square miles (5,500 square km.) and is home to just over 3 million people, approximately 2,780,000 Palestinians and 510,000 Jews.

The term was coined 76 years ago. During Israel's War of Independence in 1948, neighboring Jordan invaded, annexed the area, purged it of its Jewish inhabitants and renamed it the "West Bank," a name chosen to indicate its location on the western, as opposed to the eastern bank of the Jordan River. Israel regained the territory during the 1967 Six Day War, and after a 19-year absence, the Jewish people returned to what would become the world's most controversial piece of real estate.

Given the urgency of the Palestinian appeal for a state—and the world's vehement demand that Israel grants this request—one would wonder why the people living under Jordanian rule for nearly two decades didn't make a similar request to their Jordanian overlords, why the Hashemite Kingdom never offered such a state and why the world never demanded it. Palestinian human rights activist Bassem Eid, who was born in Jordanian occupied Jerusalem, summarizes the answer best: "No Jews, no news."

The Title Deed to the Promised Land

Could Jew and Arab finally coexist side-by-side in harmony if Israel compromises, part with the "West Bank" and give the Palestinians what they've told the world they want: a sovereign state in the borders of the West Bank with eastern Jerusalem as capital?

Israel already tried the "land-for-peace" solution when withdrawing from Gaza in 2005, leaving it under sovereign Palestinian rule. Instead of peace, Israel's concession resulted in an Iranian terror proxy on its doorstep, thousands of missiles, the most vicious attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust and the second longest war in its modern history.

Then there's the fact that Israel already made "West Bank" land-for-peace proposals. For instance, at Camp David in 2000, Israel granted 94% of the Palestinian demands, including parts of eastern Jerusalem—only to be shot down by the Palestinians.

Yet perhaps the most pertinent reason why Israel holds onto this area despite the world's censure is astonishingly simple: the "West Bank" bears no witness to the history of a Palestinian people, ancient or otherwise. Instead, this particular parcel of land and the Jewish people are inextricably woven into one another, with the former serving as the stage on which the story of the latter unfolded. The fingerprints of Israel's history—and that of Christianity—are etched into the very rock and soil of what the UN calls "occupied Palestinian territory."

Centuries before the Jordanians came and generations before "West Bank" formed part of our vocabulary, the area was known as Judea and Samaria, the spot where Abraham received God's title deed to the land, "*To your descendants I will give this land*" (Gen. 12:7).

A Stage for the Events of Scripture

Judea and Samaria is considered the cradle of the Jewish people, the backdrop against which two barren individuals grew into a nation. That's where Abraham pitched his tents and purchased the land that would become the final resting place for the Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs. That's where Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, only to leave years later for Egypt in search of grain. Then, under Joshua, Israel returned through the Jordan River into Judea and Samaria, burying Joseph's remains there.

In Shiloh, Israel's first spiritual capital, God answered the prayer of a barren woman with Samuel's birth. In the fields of Bethlehem, Boaz noticed a Moabite widow, and two generations later, their grandson, David, was born. In Judea, this ruddy youth rose from shepherd's field to battlefield and later to the throne. After reigning from Hebron, David chose Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and there, in the Judean hills, Solomon built a Temple to the Almighty.

Years later, Judah heard and shunned the warnings of destruction from Isaiah and Jeremiah, while Samaria served as the podium for Amos and Hosea. When Babylon came, Judah went into exile, and 70 years later, Ezra, Nehemiah and a handful of countrymen returned to the city in the Judean hills to rebuild the ruins and the Temple—only to be dispersed a second time after the Romans sacked Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70.

Despite the exile, a Jewish presence lingered in Judea and Samaria throughout the ages. History documents Jewish communities from Susya in the south to Ein Ganim (now known as Jenin) in the north. A vibrant society of priests thrived in the area between the 4th and the 8th century, and the Jewish community in Hebron flourished throughout the centuries of Ottoman rule. At the end of the nineteenth century, 19,000 Jews called the Old City of Jerusalem home. And before 1948, Jewish communities dotted the area until the Jordanian army either murdered or expelled the inhabitants.

Judea and Samaria's biblical significance isn't limited to the Jewish people alone. The formative events of our faith as Christians also played out against the backdrop of what the world demands become Palestinian. The baptismal spot, the temptation in the wilderness, Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, Golgotha, the empty grave and the upper room are all located in the so-called West Bank.

Every nook and cranny of what the UN calls "occupied Palestinian territory" echoes with the memory of biblical events. That's where some 80% of the Old Testament—and many in the New Testament—occurred. To the people of Israel, Judea and Samaria is the bedrock of their living history, the building blocks of their DNA that continue to reverberate into the present.



Eighty odd years ago, Hitler and his henchmen sought a *Judenrein* Europe. Today, taking a politically correct page from the Nazi's playbook, the UN seeks a *Judenrein* Promised Land, a land of the Bible cleansed from the people of the Bible.

Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief



SINCE THE REESTABLISHMENT of the Jewish state in 1948, Israel has faced existential threats from hostile neighbors, terrorist militias and non-state actors. Central to the preservation and security of the state has been Israel's excellence in military innovation, mastery of intelligence gathering and covert spy missions—with plots only Hollywood could imagine. To the host of antisemites in the world, the undercover workings of a Jewish spy agency reinforce antisemitic stereotypes. Yet the reality is that Israel works in the shadows to thwart potential disasters, prevent full-scale conflicts and preserve lives.

Comfortable in the Gray

Israel excels in military intelligence—an arena where secrecy and precision are paramount—allowing the nation to outmaneuver adversaries. An iconic figure in Israeli espionage is Eli Cohen, whose infiltration of the highest ranks of the Syrian government in the 1960s remains legendary. Disguised as a Syrian businessman, Cohen gained access to high-ranking Syrian officials, even touring the Golan Heights. His deep undercover work allowed Israel to gain critical intelligence about Syria's military capabilities and defenses, information that would prove vital during the 1967 Six Day War. His famous suggestion to plant trees around Syrian bunkers to provide shade for the Syrian soldiers on duty allowed

the Israeli Air Force to easily identify and target key military positions during the fighting. This helped neutralize Syrian defenses, greatly contributing to Israel's swift victory, while minimizing Israeli casualties.

Another prime example is the 1976 Operation Entebbe, where Israeli commandos defied the odds to rescue hijacked hostages from Uganda, minimizing casualties and preventing a diplomatic crisis.

Similarly successful was Operation Moses, also known as the Red Sea Diving Resort operation. In the early 1980s, the Mossad, Israel's famous intelligence agency, established a fake resort on the Sudanese coast, which served as a front to smuggle Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Over four years, Mossad agents secretly rescued thousands of people from persecution and imminent danger, saving countless lives. The operation's success was not revealed until years later, demonstrating Israel's remarkable ability to combine creativity, meticulous planning and secrecy in covert missions.

In more recent times, Israel's intelligence gathering and targeted assassinations of prominent terrorist figureheads—though controversial—are not aimed at death and destruction, but merely seek to disrupt terror plots and save Israeli lives. These operations underscore Israel's strategic use of covert actions to neutralize threats without escalating to widespread violence.

Paging Destruction

Hezbollah remains one of Israel's most dangerous enemies, with its vast arsenal of rockets and a sophisticated network of operatives. Israel's defensive measures against Hezbollah have evolved over time, blending advanced missile defense systems with intelligence operations aimed at preempting attacks. But in the world of espionage, few operations have matched the daring and ingenuity of Israel's recent Mossad attack on Hezbollah. While Israel hasn't taken responsibility, experts agree that only Israeli daring and ingenuity could have pulled off an operation of this caliber.

To avoid detection, Hezbollah had long abandoned the use of mobile phones, which can easily be traced. In their place, the group turned to pagers—wireless devices that receive and display text messages without making phone calls—hoping this would keep their communications secure from Israeli intelligence. A senior Lebanese security source told *Reuters* that Hezbollah ordered 5,000 pagers made by Taiwan-based Gold Apollo, which reportedly arrived in Lebanon earlier this year. In an alleged sophisticated Mossad operation, Israel booby-trapped these 5,000 pagers, which Hezbollah believed were secure devices. According to the source, “The Mossad injected a board inside of the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It's very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner.”

On September 17, 2024, Mossad remotely detonated these pagers, killing or maiming as many as 4,000 Hezbollah operatives, primarily in Lebanon and Syria. The explosion was triggered when users followed a two-step decryption process, ensuring maximum damage. The operation, kept secret for years, devastated Hezbollah's ranks, especially after Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in subsequent strikes.

By turning ordinary pagers into deadly bombs, Israeli intelligence executed one of its most innovative and devastating blows against terrorism, saving countless lives in the process. This covert operation not only stunned the Iranian terror proxy, but also exemplified Israel's commitment to preempting threats and protecting its people in the ever-evolving battlefield of the Middle East. According to the *Washington Post*, the success of this operation was a crucial blow to Hezbollah's operations and added pressure on the group's leadership, further demonstrating Israel's unmatched intelligence capabilities in the region.

Those Pesky Jews?

The stunning success of the covert operation in Lebanon has, however, also once again inflamed antisemitic attitudes toward the Jewish people. The existence of a Jewish spy agency like the Mossad often fuels age-old antisemitic stereotypes, painting Israel and the Jewish people as secretive, manipulative or wielding disproportionate influence behind the scenes. These stereotypes stem from centuries-old conspiracies, such as the shadowy *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which falsely accused the Jewish people of plotting world domination through covert means. The Mossad's



high-profile and sometimes controversial operations, such as targeted assassinations or daring intelligence missions, provide fodder for these baseless claims. Rather than recognizing these actions as standard national security measures, critics with antisemitic leanings exploit them to perpetuate harmful myths about Jewish power, control and global manipulation. This narrative is dangerous, as it incites hatred, fuels global antisemitism and distorts public perception of Israel's legitimate defense efforts.

These tropes—like the idea of an “all-powerful” Jewish cabal controlling world events—are not just false, but also dehumanize Jewish people and paint them as perpetual outsiders with malevolent intent. This is particularly dangerous in an already charged geopolitical environment, where misinformation spreads quickly. The existence of the Mossad, a national intelligence agency tasked with protecting Israel, is often twisted to fit these harmful narratives. However, like any sovereign nation, Israel has the right and responsibility to protect its citizens and national interests. In that capacity, the Mossad functions no differently from agencies like the CIA or MI6, yet is uniquely targeted due to persistent antisemitic biases.

The world struggles to accept the “strong Jew”—Jews who stands up for themselves, who defends their nation and people. It seems the world would prefer if the Jews suffered in silence as in days past. Yet despite the hatred they receive, the Jewish state and its spy agency will operate in whatever manner necessary to save Jewish lives and the State of Israel. And whether the rest of the world recognizes it or not, they do so in a way that will even minimize loss of life in the camp of their enemies.

Nathan Williams,
*Director of Marketing
and Communications*



Israel PHD Student Finds a Way to Zap Mosquito Bites

PICTURE AN EVENING where all you want to do is relax outside with a cool glass of lemonade. Suddenly, you feel an insatiable urge to scratch. You glance down to find not one, not two, but three mosquito bites!

Mosquitoes, often regarded as the most annoying pest, are more than just a nuisance; they are deadly disease carriers. According to the US Centers for Disease Control, these tiny insects are responsible for more human deaths than any other creature worldwide.

Once bitten, the damage is done, and no amount of itching cream can reverse any disease transmission. However, Daniel Voignac, a PhD student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is working on a gel solution designed to prevent mosquito bites before they occur.

Mosquitos determine their next meal through their ‘nose,’ based on the smell we as humans emit. While modern-day repellents do keep the pesky insects at bay by releasing a scent they don’t like, these repellents are often toxic and not environmentally friendly. Instead, Voignac’s research team turned to cellulose gel, a friendlier alternative that masks the human scent as opposed to a smell that make mosquitos zoom the other way. The formula consists of indole, a fragrant flower extract, and cellulose nanocrystals.

To test its effectiveness, volunteers placed their gel-covered arms in a box of mosquitoes for testing. Upon comparison with volunteers who didn’t use the gel, the formula resulted in a staggering 80% reduction in bites.

Voignac is aware this is not a war against bites, rather diseases. “We’re talking about malaria—it’s 1.16 deaths per minute,” he told *NoCamels*. “So it’s also a race against time...we want to race towards deploying it as fast as possible to the people that want it.”

And people do want it...Voignac’s findings were published in *PNAS Nexus*, a journal of the US National Academy of Sciences. The paper reached the ears of many “industry leaders” eager for the gel to hit the market.

Voignac told *ISRAEL21c* that his team is in the final stages of development and are “95% close to the final product.” Moreover, Yisum, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s technology transfer company, has already patented the gel.

In the days to come, Voignac is focused on feedback regarding the product’s sensory qualities—smell and texture—before finalizing the formulation and obtaining regulatory approvals. If all goes according to plan, you’ll soon be able to lather up and enjoy your evenings outside bite free!

Zoë McHenry, *BFP Writer*

Farmers Fight Weeds With AI

MORE GROWS IN THE GARDEN than the gardener can sow. Every farmer will tell you weeds are simply unavoidable. Of course, there are solutions. You can spend countless hours, manually pulling up stubborn weeds, or try your hand at traditional tilling. However, the latter is imprecise, harms the soil and damages the plant. You can also resort to chemicals, which might, in turn, increase the weeds' resilience, which means buying stronger herbicides and eventually agricultural runoff, which will disrupt surrounding water sources, environments and animal life.

A new Israeli start-up company, AgriPass, offers a sustainable alternative that supports farmers in maintaining their quotas while protecting the environment.

"Ever since agriculture was invented, it has been dealing with the problem of managing unwanted weeds," Guy Raz, the founder and CEO of AgriPass, told *ISRAEL21c*. His solution? An AI machine.

From the outside, the machine looks like a simple box tucked behind a tractor. Don't be fooled though. The real magic happens underneath...

AgriPass employs Adaptive Selective Tilling (AST) technology, which enables the device to identify and target weeds in real-time. Using advanced AI, the system scans the crops



and then employs tailored removal strategies based on each weed's characteristics. Little metal claws then shoot down, grab and uproot the weed, leaving the desired plant untouched. The machine boasts impressive capabilities, removing up to 100 weeds per second.

This approach minimizes synthetic herbicides, lowering the chance of mass agal blooms and animal poisoning. According to AgriPass's website, the invention also reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with traditional farming practices. This is not only revolutionary to Israel, but all farmers around the world. No damage to the crops, no harm to the environment and no weeds. Instead, farmers can enjoy an increase in yield, profit and ultimately, food security.

Zoë McHenry, *BFP Writer*

Environment

TURNING PLASTIC INTO BLACK GOLD

LITTLE DID THE dinosaurs know their legacy would spark environmental challenges a millennia later. Today, oil—the "black gold" of our time—has been transformed into plastic, leading to massive waste piles in landfills due to rampant consumerism.

According to Israeli company Plastic Back co-founder and CEO Tal Cohen, 40 million tons of PVC [poly vinyl chloride] plastic is produced annually. This immense quantity has created a bottleneck in the recycling industry, particularly for PVC, polypropylene and other typical plastics. Items we use daily, like produce containers, soda bottles, disposable utensils and health bar wrappers, often end up in the trash.

Plastic Back has found a way to reverse plastic to its original state of crude oil. Through a low-temperature chemical process, Plastic Back depolymerizes hard-to-recycle plastics at just 100°C (212°F). This is quite the feat, considering that traditional pyrolysis processes often require temperatures between 500°C (931°F) and 1,200°C (2,192°F).

The Plastic Back technology works by separating chlorine from the carbon backbone of PVC and converting carbon chains into short liquid hydrocarbons. This approach allows for the treatment of multiple waste streams, including mixed, multilayer and contaminated plastics.

Cohen told *NoCamels* that other recycling companies have only been able to treat 1 or 2% PVC. "We've shown that we can take up to 100% PVC, which was never seen before."

Due to their non-incineration process, Plastic Back significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions while tackling ignored waste streams. The technology not only offers a solution but a way to a more sustainable future.

Zoë McHenry, *BFP Writer*

When Sirens Sound: Christians Saving Lives in Israel

As rocket sirens screamed across Israel on October 7, 2023, the urgent wail of ambulance sirens joined the cacophony in the south. Dozens of emergency vehicles belonging to Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national ambulance and emergency medical services, responded to the flood of calls from civilians facing Hamas terrorists. International law prohibits targeting ambulances and emergency responders during conflict. But Hamas showed no restraint. Terrorists fired directly at MDA vehicles, shooting at windows and tires and even targeting the responders with automatic rifles and RPGs.

Amid this chaos, veteran EMT and dispatch officer Ronit Glaser spent 13 grueling hours at the MDA dispatch center. She fielded calls from terrified civilians and coordinated emergency responses as the terrifying reality began to piece together. Glaser described those harrowing hours: "Our teams started getting hit. All of a sudden, terrorists came directly to hit our teams to make it impossible for us to take care of patients, to save people."

In the aftermath of the attack, it became clear that this formed part of Hamas's premeditated goal: crippling the emergency medical services to ensure that responders were unable to reach and aid innocent victims.

MDA embodies the *Talmudic* (the rabbinic commentary on Jewish tradition and the Hebrew Scriptures), saying: "To save one life is to save a universe." October 7 was no different. Despite the grave risks, MDA teams continued to rush toward the massacre rather than away from it, deploying armored ambulances in front of standard vehicles to evacuate as many victims as possible from the small southern *kibbutzim* [collective communities]. The plan worked, and countless 'universes' were saved.

Sadly, MDA's bravery came at a cost. Hamas destroyed 14 ambulances and murdered 11 MDA personnel on the field. While the precious lives lost are irreplaceable and deeply mourned, MDA looked to the future, urgently needing to replenish their resources.

Bridges for Peace has been a long-standing friend of MDA, partnering with this crucial organization for decades to help save Israeli lives. Thanks to donations from international Christians, we were able to hand over an ambulance as one of our first major gifts to MDA. This ambulance was placed into service in 2014, stationed in Givat Zeev, a neighborhood in Jerusalem, and has to date attended to 2,961 individuals, including 113 victims of violence. A year later, Bridges for Peace donated another ambulance. This time, the vehicle was stationed in northern Israel in Karmiel, providing care to 826 people, including 27 victims of violence. In 2017, two Bridges for Peace medicycles joined MDA's life-saving fleet, enabling rapid responses in densely populated areas. And in 2020, we were honored to donate yet another medicycle, bringing the total of Bridges for Peace emergency vehicles saving Israeli lives to five.

Then came October 7, 2023...In light of the resources lost on that terrible day, our national offices sprang into action, answering MDA's call for assistance. In 2023, our offices in Japan and Canada each contributed a mobile ICU ambulance, vital for transporting critically ill or injured patients, ensuring they receive immediate care en route to hospitals. The life-saving donations continued in October 2024, when our Japan office donated a state-of-the-art bloodmobile, enhancing blood donation and transfusion capacity for





soldiers and civilians across Israel. Additionally, our South African office supplied two fully equipped rapid response vehicles to navigate difficult terrains to reach all emergencies in densely populated areas swiftly.

In total, the monetary value of these emergency vehicles donated following the October 7 attack comes to just shy of US \$700,000. Yet the monetary value is but one of the blessings poured out on Israel.

Each vehicle door proudly displays the flags of the donating nations and heartfelt messages of support, transforming them into symbols of Christian love for Israel. One message on Japan's bloodmobile reads: "We pray daily for the health and safety of the people of Israel! Love from the Christians in Japan."

During the handover ceremony in October 2024, International CEO of Bridges for Peace, Peter Fast, emphasized that these messages assure Israelis they are not alone.

President of Christian Friends of MDA, Anne Ayalon, echoed his sentiments: "When Israelis see that there is Christian support for Israel, it is a surprise and a delight for us. It lifts us up. You are exactly what Bridges for Peace represents—building bridges between Jews and Christians."

Thanks to Christians worldwide who love the God and people of Israel, MDA now has more ambulances on the road, prepared to respond to disasters, terror and accidents. Together, through every siren, we are saving lives—universes, even—here in Israel.



Ronit Glaser's interview forms part of a groundbreaking investigative series, *Israel Unfiltered*. Watch now by scanning the QR code or visiting israelunfiltered.tv

Zoë McHenry,
BFP Writer



Taking Our Place in the Tsunami of Antisemitism

THE WORLD HAS WITNESSED a different kind of tsunami in the 11 months since Hamas attacked the people of Israel on October 7. This is not a tsunami of ocean waves caused by an earthquake, but a tsunami of hatred—hatred of a nation, Israel, and of a people group, the Jews.

Logically, we should have expected a tsunami of sympathy for Israel and the Jewish people, considering how heinous and evil the Hamas attack was. Some of the footage of that day, which the terrorists recorded with their own GoPro cameras, is so sickening that it has still not been shown to the world. That is shocking in itself, considering the unspeakable cruelty we have been shown. Naked women tied to trees for gang rape. Babies beheaded or burned alive while their mothers are brutalized. Fathers' eyes gouged out. Children's limbs chopped off. Terrorists sitting down to eat from their victims' fridges in the midst of their bloody work.

There was sympathy for Israel for a brief moment. But even before the Israel Defense Forces had taken action, the world turned on the Jewish state at the mere thought that Israel would go after Hamas in Gaza to remove the threat. Soon, streets and college quadrangles filled with Hamas sympathizers shouting for the terror organization's success in conquering Israel "from the river to the sea."

Jewish synagogues, schools and neighborhoods around the world experienced a massive increase in expressions of hatred, from graffiti to gunfire. In Canada, an eight-year-old Jewish boy was surrounded by his classmates performing Nazi salutes. He was told that Hitler didn't kill enough Jews. Watchdogs organizations in Germany documented a 320% increase in antisemitic incidents in the month after October 7. In the US, Jewish students feel unsafe on campuses and have reported harassment like being cursed, spat upon and even locked out of classrooms. Online hatred has increased exponentially, apparently fueled by Iranian bots.



The Bitter Root of the Bitter Fruit

Antisemitism, the hatred of Jews, is the world's oldest, most persistent and most consequential hatred. The stated reasons for this hatred have morphed throughout the years. The Christian Church has hated the Jews for their religion, fueled by the clarion call, "You killed Christ." The Nazis despised the Jews for their race, claiming, "You are defiling the Master Race." Now, Arabs, Muslims and their sympathizers in the West have taken up that hatred, this time blaming the Jewish people for their return to their ancestral homeland.

Of course, countless Christians around the world have learned from the Church's history of antisemitism and are seeking to make amends. How could we have turned on our spiritual forefathers and mothers, to whom we owe such a large spiritual debt? These Christians recognize the hatred of the Jewish people as a terrible inversion of how we should have treated our Jewish brothers and sisters. And today, these Christians are standing with Israel.

Antisemitic or Just Not a Fan of Zionism?

Zionism is simply the recognition that a small strip of land in the Middle East—from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea—is the ancestral home of the Jewish people. The Jews are willing to share it with others who have also made it their home. Yet these facts are anathema to many, and the worldwide tsunami of Jew hatred is the result. Anti-Zionism is nothing but today's incarnation of antisemitism.

According to the ancient Hebrew Scriptures—and ours too—God chose the Jews to bless the whole world, to be a light to the nations. Today, we are the beneficiaries of what is known as Judeo-Christian civilization. Among the forces that are working to destroy this civilization is the pernicious lie that the Jews are evil and must be destroyed. The choice before every individual and every nation is clear.

To those who do not look at the world through a religious lens, I would suggest that your choice is also clear. Take a look at the land of milk and honey where 2 million Arab Israelis thrive in relative prosperity with full human rights. Compare that to the two million Gazan Arabs who suffer under a regime that exists for the sole purpose of destroying the Jewish people and nation.

Though We Are Few

A distinguished US military expert on urban warfare, Colonel John Spencer, recently told a Canadian audience that Hamas not only uses its people as "human shields" but as "human sacrifices." The more who die—while Hamas terrorists hide in tunnels—the more the world accuses Israel. Yet Spencer testified that Israel has done more to minimize civilian casualties than any army in the history of urban warfare.

In this tsunami of antisemitism, Israel has been falsely accused not only of targeting civilians but of deliberately starving them. Spencer testified that Hamas has stolen so much food from humanitarian convoys that it is running out of storage places. And that it has earned half a billion dollars in selling this donated food to the Gazans it governs mercilessly.

It's time to stop demonizing Israel and the Jewish people around the world. It's time to be grateful for their past and present contribution to our civilization. It's time to search our hearts, to reject antisemitism and to stand with Israel and with our Jewish neighbors wherever we live.

Following Spencer's address, my wife and I had the privilege of having our picture taken with him. I told him we were Christians standing with Israel. He responded quietly, "So am I." May each one of us humbly take our place with confidence, in the midst of the current tsunami of antisemitism, in standing with Israel and the Jewish people. Though we are a minority today, we know God will have the victory and Israel will be exalted among the nations.

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give" (Isa. 62:1–2).



Donald James,
Interim National Director,
BFP Canada

Achieving

the Impossible



David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, once said "If an expert says it can't be done, get another expert." These 11 words perfectly express the mindset held by the founders of the modern State of Israel. They faced many challenges, not the least of which were the well-equipped armies of their Arab neighbors who had vowed to destroy the young country. The Jewish state-to-be, on the other hand, was woefully lacking in weapons and facing an arms embargo which essentially cut off all possibility of obtaining them.

The situation was so dire that non-Jewish experts thought Israel's survival was impossible. Yet Ben-Gurion called on his untried experts—students of chemistry and physics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Technion in Haifa—to produce the weapons needed to win the War of Independence. They rose to the challenge. You are about to experience a small taste of their story.

It Is Your Duty

HEMED, the Hebrew acronym for Science Corps, was born a few short months before Israel's Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. Uriel Bachrach was one of the 20 young scientists gathered in secret on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus for their introduction to the mission. He recalls, "Dr. Aharon Katchalsky addressed us:

An ink drawn flag raised in what is now called Eilat

Artillery manufactured by the Haganah



‘On May 15, British forces will leave this country. We do not have arms or military industries and the Western nations have imposed an embargo upon us. It is your duty to save our nation.’”

For the next three weeks, Bachrach and his fellow students immersed themselves in military chemistry. None had studied the subject before. A.M. Prentis’ book entitled *Chemicals in War* became their textbook. Mornings were spent on theoretical aspects of subjects like “explosives, incendiaries, smoke and gases,” with each student taking a session and teaching what he had learned from their improvised textbook. Afternoons were spent in the laboratory, exploring the practical side of the morning’s lecture.

Bachrach observed, “The fact that we were students was very helpful in this respect, since we did not hesitate to discuss and study subjects that were new to us.”

Once they finished the classroom portion of their training, they tackled tasks such as replicating existing weaponry and developing new weapons using the limited resources available to them. As demolitions expert Prof. Zvi Pelach later remarked, “The young scientists of HEMED were innovative in their outlooks and produced weapons that were supposed to be impossible to produce. It is very likely that because they were so young and had limited knowledge, they dared to do things that established scientists considered impossible.”

Desperate Times

In late 1947, an inventory of the *Haganah’s* (Jewish underground defense force) weapons was done. The results: 10,000 rifles; 3,800 pistols; no anti-tank weapons; and no artillery. One of the most desperate needs was for an anti-tank weapon. The decision was made to replicate one that the British had developed in World War II—the PIAT (Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank). A PIAT launcher was stolen from the British Army and functioned as a model. It was taken apart and drawings prepared of each part, which then had to be fabricated at a number of different workshops. Some of the parts, such as a spring that was originally constructed of steel wire of a dimension not available had to be modified using multiple strands of a smaller dimension steel wire that was smuggled into the country.

Production of the PIAT shells was no simple matter either. One shell was smuggled out of South Africa and dissected to determine its exact construction. The hollow shells contained the explosive TNT, which was only available in limited amounts.



Arab military fighters in Jerusalem

A source of contaminated TNT, which was removed from old ammunition, was located in Italy, but it needed to be purified. A HEMED scientist undertook the dangerous process of purification and managed to manufacture the shells successfully.

Above and Beyond

The activities of HEMED were not limited to replicating existing weapons but new designs were produced as well. Mosh Epstein, a HEMED engineer, explained, “We were trying to develop a recoilless gun, but could not find any information. We did not have raw materials and had to start from zero. We used water pipe as a barrel and fastened it with a wire. Later, we found some pipes that the British had left in Helez, where they conducted surveys for the detection of oil. In 1949, we first demonstrated the use of the newly developed weapon and hit a target at a distance of 800 meters [875 yd.]”

A comprehensive list of the results of HEMED’s research and design is not possible to cover in this article. However, the following list includes weapons they studied, with some of them going into production: “fuses for detonation, anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, PIAT, flame throwers, anti-tank rifles, six-inch mortars and air bombs.” Bachrach’s book, *The Power of Knowledge—HEMED: The Israeli Science Corps*, is a fascinating read and a window into the accomplishments of those young men who dared to attempt the impossible.

Laying the Foundation

Not only did the young scientists of HEMED help to save their nation, they contributed to the foundation of the scientific community in modern Israel. Some returned to the academic world, while others continued in the development of defensive weaponry. For example, the Iron Dome, a lifesaving weapon well-known since 2011, was developed at Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, originally known as HEMED.

In conclusion, Avi Peleg, a member of the HEMED incendiary group recalls, “We were young and educated in different disciplines. We shared one important common denominator: a spirit of devotion, volunteering and sincere cooperation.”

Ben-Gurion’s faith in his untried experts was not misplaced.

Janet Aslin, *BFP Writer*



Haganah fighters



Faith in Abundance

Just over one year ago, Israel was plunged into the dark night of war. On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a horrific terror attack, sparking a war that continues to wage on. Nearly one year later, on October 1, 2024, I was in an airplane flying to Israel when Iran fired nearly 200 ballistic missiles into Israel. The Israeli man sitting next to me had purchased Wi-Fi and was on his phone watching live as the missiles streaked over Israeli cities. We watched in horror as the scene unfolded. Suddenly, he said to me, “It will be okay. God is with us.” This man wasn’t wearing a *kippah* (yarmulke) or any other religious garb. He was a secular Jew who counted on God to rescue Israel. This war has caused many in Israel to turn toward God.

Songs of Praise amid Sorrow

After living in Israel for 33 years, I enjoy Israeli Hebrew music and often watch new videos. A few months ago, a new music video called *Hallelujah* was released, featuring popular Israeli musicians Moshe Peretz and Yonaton Razel. Peretz is a well known pop artist and used to be a judge on the X Factor Israel, while Razel is a Jewish religious singer. The song is taken from Psalm 150 and is a deeply moving anthem of faith. The first line of the chorus declares, “*With all my soul I will praise God...*” It is sung with such fervor that tears spring to my eyes when I listen to it.



Scan to listen to *Hallelujah*

His Presence in the Darkness

The first hostage the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) found and rescued was Ori Megidish. Her family’s faith in God during her captivity was remarkable. One news source described their actions as follows: “The family waged a holy war, engaging in intense prayer and devotional acts focused on the return of

their daughter.” While Megidish was held hostage, her family arranged for a new *Torah* (Gen.–Deut.) scroll to be brought into her room before being installed in the synagogue, all while the congregation sang praises to God and cried out for her return. It was at that time that they heard she had been rescued.

Megidish later shared her conviction in her own words. “I am a woman of faith. My belief in God sustains me, providing solace and fortitude. Amidst captivity, I felt a profound conviction that divine intervention would deliver me.”



Ori Megidish

She isn’t the only hostage to speak in terms of faith. Thirteen-year-old Yaakov Yagil shared on Instagram that he had a connection with God during his time of captivity. “When I’m often asked what my true connection with the Almighty is, I answer that during captivity, what kept me going was the belief that I wasn’t alone—that He was with me, this One who, although He didn’t manage to protect me from being kidnapped, definitely protected me throughout my time in captivity.”

After Yagil’s release, he determined to become closer to God. He now wears a *kippa*, puts on *tefillin* (phylacteries) and attends synagogue. According to Yagil, he wants to express his gratitude to God for keeping him safe from the enemy.

I have prayed for the hostages since the day they were taken. One of the things I pray for is that God will be with them, to protect them and that they will feel His presence in the midst of danger and evil. These testimonies confirm that those prayers are being answered.

Faith in Abundance

I stay in contact with many Israeli friends. One politically influential friend recently wrote to me, saying, “We are united and determined and our faith is strong. I don’t know what is coming but believe we are in difficult days for a while. Psalm 121 is a song in my heart.” I later found out that this psalm has been added to the daily prayer services in many synagogues.

Statistical data shows that many Israelis have turned to faith since October 7 in order to cope with grief and the ongoing crisis of war. A poll published in the *Jerusalem Post* in February 2024 found that 33% of Israelis have strengthened their faith in God, especially young people between the ages of 18–29. A total of 63% reported praying more, 59% said they are having more conversations with God and 45% recite the psalms more often.

Forward, a Jewish periodical, reports on American Jewish life. They wrote that “Jewish leaders across denominations have for months been describing a profound religious awakening in their communities post October 7.”

When the war broke out in October 2023, we started hearing of soldiers requesting *tefillin*. *Tefillin* are leather boxes with Scripture portions that religious Jews affix to the forehead and arm with leather straps during prayer time. This is done because of the Scripture in Deuteronomy 6:4–9, where we find the *Shema* (“Hear, O Israel”, the centerpiece of Jewish prayer). Verse 8 instructs, “*You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*” Many of

these young men had never worn *tefillin* before. The Orthodox Union website described a presentation ceremony during which the soldiers received their *tefillin*. “There was joy and hugging, there were blessings, and kind words and most of all there was *emunah*, faith, in abundance.”

He Who Watches Over Israel

Stories of military missions and miracles began to surface almost as the war broke out. Ron Ben-Yishai, a veteran Israeli war correspondent, who has been in Gaza multiple times since the beginning of the war, says this has been a war that has solidified *emunah*. “The whole war, you could really feel Hashem (God)... Here you see people who never believed who started coming to *shul* (synagogue services)...Every time we go into a battle, we blow the *shofar* (ram’s horn) and pray. You really feel that this is a Jewish army. We’re doing what we need to do for *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel) and that’s where you feel really close to God.”

Psalm 121:4 describes God as the Guardian of Israel who watches (guards or keeps) over this Land and its people without slumbering or sleeping. I am thankful that the God of Israel is alive and active, and that He is still reaching out to the people of Israel with love and care.

Rebecca J. Brimmer,
International President



Soldiers on the Gaza border gather together for prayer.

Todah Rabah (Thank You) from Israel to You

It was just another day on the bus. I made small talk with the woman beside me, sharing about Bridges for Peace and our programs here in the land. “I am a Christian volunteer,” I explained.

She looked at me in shock. “A Christian?” She couldn’t believe it. Tears filled her eyes as she expressed her gratitude in broken English: “*Todah, todah, todah rabah!*” (Thank you, thank you, thank you very much!)

In these difficult times of war and hatred, anyone who stands with Israel is a cherished ally—even a stranger on the bus. With over 50 years of service in Israel, Bridges for Peace has received countless “todas” and “thank-yous.”

We want to share with you a few of those words of gratitude from across Israel—from the prime minister to the recipients of our programs.



“We are proud of our traditions; we are proud of our Christian friends. The State of Israel would not have come into being if it weren’t for the avid support of Christians. So thank you. Thank you all for standing up with Israel; for standing up for the truth.”

—Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel

“I want to thank you, our Christian brothers and sisters, for your support. As we’ve moved through this year, you’ve literally held us up on your shoulders with your love and support. Yes, we are strong and resilient, but we can’t be strong and resilient all the time. Like a vase, Israel and the Jewish people have been thrown to the floor. We were broken, but the broken pieces were picked up and put back together. We might appear to be fixed, but we will never be the same again. Like the magnificent Iron Dome defense array protecting the skies over Israel, your prayers and support provide the spiritual Iron Dome resting over our nation.”

—Rolene Marks, freelance journalist and broadcaster

“Dear friends. I don’t know who you are, but you are my angels. The principal of the school told me that you are not even Jewish—that you are Christian friends of the Jewish children of Bet Shemesh. May the Lord bless you with good health for all the love you have for my children. Thanks to your generosity, my children receive all the school supplies they need to be successful. They eat hot meals every day. They join all the school activities. And my life has changed. Now, I don’t have to worry about school payments for my children. With the little money I earn, I can pay for electricity and water, and send my children to school with a small sandwich. I could never do that before. You are my angels. Thank you, and God bless you.”

—Aliza, mother of children formerly on the Bridges for Peace Feed a Child Program

“We want to express our deep gratitude for your support and help. This year was not easy for our small family...as well as for the country. However, thanks to you, we felt like part of a large, friendly family. Your help is very important. Thank you!”

—Alexey and Tatyana Ashkinadze, recipients on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program

“As I finish my second year of university and transition into my third at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, your assistance has been a beacon of stability during a challenging period. This past year has been particularly stressful due to the ongoing conflict in Israel. After active reserve duty, it was comforting to know that I did not have to worry about groceries!”

—Atarah, recipient on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program

“I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your incredible support. Your sponsorship has shown that compassionate individuals and organizations believe in the potential and perseverance of new immigrants. Your commitment to fostering peace and assisting newcomers like me in finding our footing is truly admirable. It’s reassuring to know that I am not alone and that there are caring people like you supporting me.”

—Ulyana Khitro, recipient on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program

“You are like a ray of hope that good is stronger and will conquer this darkness!”

—Anatoly, immigrant escaping from the war in Ukraine and recipient on the Bridges for Peace Food Program



“My little family—my daughter Katerina and I—thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the help you provided us during the difficult period of adaptation in Israel after aliyah [immigration to Israel]. Thanks to your support, I was able to pay for additional classes for my daughter, allowing her to discover her talents, make friends and cope with the language barrier.”

—Khorolski family, recipients on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program

“Six years have passed in a flash since the first time you helped and embraced me with warmth and love. I am now finishing my 12 years of education. I am so proud of myself and my accomplishments, and I am even prouder that you have been and still are a significant part of my life. Thank you for the love, support and hugs from afar. Thank you for everything. I hope God rewards you tenfold!”

—Hannah, former recipient on the Bridges for Peace Feed a Child Program

“Thanks to you, we were able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables. We also used the gift cards we received during the holidays to buy gifts and clothes for our daughters. Our lives have changed significantly. My husband is now working for a good company, and I plan to start working once our baby girl begins kindergarten. We believe we are moving closer to the life we’ve always dreamed of here in Israel, and we are truly thankful!”

—Markovits family, recipients on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program

“This [Adoption] program is unlike any other as it gives the Jewish people exactly what they need, when they need it. Other programs provide flashy gifts. However, Bridges for Peace helps on the most practical level. Obviously, the food, but also scarves in the winter, a beautiful picture to put in our home and a monthly bus pass. It is the program that is most in touch with the needs of real people, and it has helped us immensely over the last year. We wanted to thank everyone involved!”

—Gabe and Ilana Faber, former recipients on the Bridges for Peace Adoption Program



Zoë McHenry, BFP Writer



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FAQ



Winter Warmer *Kubbeh* Soup

Kubbeh is a hearty meat-filled semolina dumpling which originated among Jewish communities in the Levant and then brought to Israel by Iraqi Jews coming home after millennia in dispersion. *Kubbeh* can be eaten on its own as a savory snack or light meal, but in winter, these nuggets are usually simmered in bright red beet broth or golden-hued pumpkin soup alongside chunks of tender vegetables, making for a comforting meal on chilly days.

***Kubbeh* dough**

3 c. semolina
3 Tbs. olive oil
½ tsp. salt
1 ½ c. water

***Kubbeh* filling**

1 large onion, finely chopped
3 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 lb. (450 g.) ground beef
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
Oil for frying

Soup

¼ c. oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
4 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 Tbs. sweet paprika
1 tsp. turmeric
½ tsp. cumin
1 Tbs. sugar
1 Tbs. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
4 Tbs. tomato paste
2 lb. (900 g.) pumpkin, cut into small cubes
2–3 celery stalks, cut into rings
7–8 c. water

Making the filling

1. Sauté the chopped onion and garlic until fragrant and translucent.
2. Add the ground beef, salt and pepper. Continue to cook for 10 to 12 minutes, breaking up the meat.
3. Transfer the filling to a bowl, allowing it to cool in the fridge for about an hour.

Making the dough

1. In a large bowl, combine the semolina, oil and salt.
2. Gradually add the water and combine using your hands.
3. Let the mixture rest for 15 to 20 minutes to allow the dough to thicken.

Making the *kubbeh*

1. Oil your hands.
2. Divide the dough into 1.5-inch (4-cm.) balls.
3. Flatten each dough piece and place 1 to 2 teaspoons of the meat filling in the center.
4. Fold the dough around the meat and pinch the edges together to form a parcel. Roll each ball between oiled palms to seal the cracks and smooth the edges.
5. Allow the *kubbeh* to rest in the fridge for about 30 minutes.

Making the soup

1. In a large pot, add the oil, onion, garlic, paprika, turmeric, cumin, sugar, salt and pepper.
2. Fry over medium heat for approximately 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until the onions begin to caramelize.
3. Add the tomato paste and cook for an additional 1 minute.
4. Add the water, pumpkin cubes and celery, and bring to the boil.
5. Once the soup is boiling, reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer for 35 to 45 minutes, until the pumpkin is tender.
6. Gently add the *kubbeh* one by one, cover and simmer over medium heat for an additional 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Serves 8



Mother of Hostage Killed by Friendly Fire Comes Full Circle



Iris Haim speaking at a conference

THE MOTHER OF YOTAM HAIM—who was mistakenly killed by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldiers from the 828th Bislach Brigade while he, Alon Shamriz and Samer Fouad Talalka were in the process of escaping from Hamas captivity—has again exhibited spiritual superiority.

In October, Iris Haim posted a voice message in the brigade’s WhatsApp group to express her gratitude for their elimination of the architect of the October 7, 2023 massacre.

“Exactly 10 months ago, I told you to keep fighting and not to [carry any guilt for the incident]...Today, you did what we’ve all been waiting for. You continue to save us, the people of Israel. You killed Yahya Sinwar. I am so, so proud of our soldiers. I love you. I hug you from afar.”

In one of the most tragic incidents of the war, Yotam, Alon and Samer were misidentified as terrorists and shot by the troops fighting to rescue them. While the entire Israel mourned, the young men responsible suffered unfathomable guilt and grief.

When the identity of the trio was released, the whole country emitted an additional gasp. By this point, Iris had become a household name for her many interviews urging national unity. Recounting stories about Yotam, she repeatedly said that internecine battles only serve to weaken the country during its defensive war.

Israelis admire her ability to set aside politics and blame Hamas exclusively for what befell even her own child. She managed to remain graceful and gracious through her tears, including after being informed of the manner in which Yotam lost his life.

Grasping the impossible situation on the asymmetrical battlefield, Iris knew that the boys behind the “friendly fire” must have believed they were facing the enemy. She also understood that they would never forgive themselves. So she sent a recording to their unit.

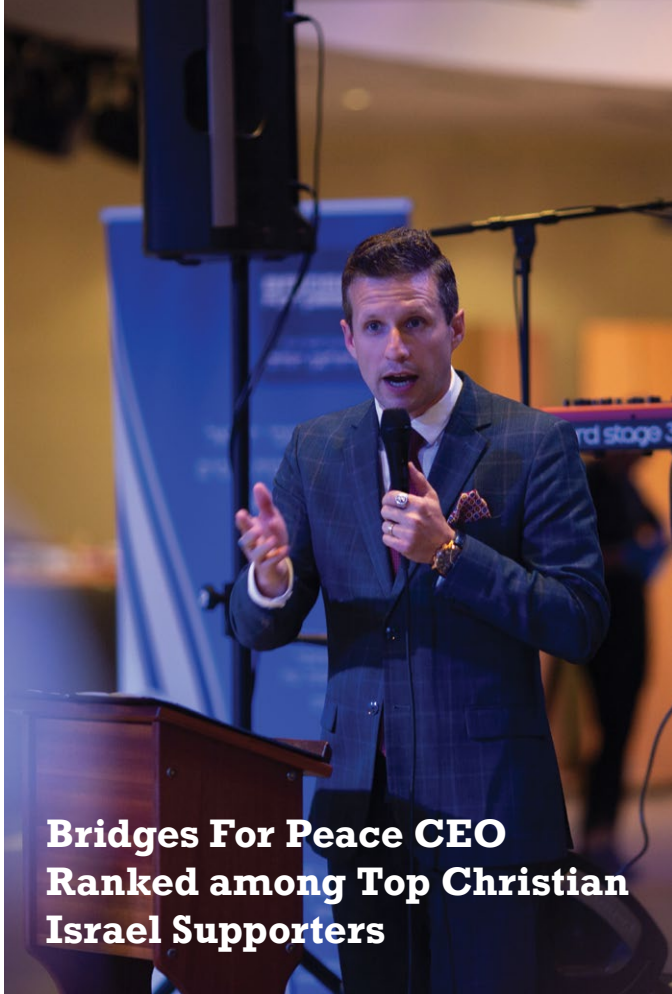
“Hello to Brigade 7828 Bislach Battalion 17. This is Iris Haim. I am Yotam’s mother. I wanted to tell you that I love you very much and I’m hugging you from afar. I know that everything that happened wasn’t your fault at all. It was no one’s fault except for Hamas.”

She then extended an invitation.

“At the first opportunity, you are welcome to come visit us...We want to see you with our own eyes, to embrace you and tell you what you did, as painful and sad as it is to say such a thing, was probably the right thing to do at that moment. None of us is judging you or angry—not me, not my husband, not my daughter, not Yotam of blessed memory, and not Yotam’s brother.”

Nothing can erase the sorrow of the Haim clan or the young men from Bislach. But there is some comfort in the poetic—or divine—justice that led the latter to Sinwar’s location.

Ruthie Blum, *Jewish News Syndicate*



Bridges For Peace CEO Ranked among Top Christian Israel Supporters

BRIDGES FOR PEACE International CEO Rev. Peter Fast ranked among top Christian supporters of Israel in a list published by the Israel Allies Foundation.

The annual list is released each year ahead of *Sukkot*, the Feast of Tabernacles, and includes Christian supporters of Israel—pastors, businesspeople, former politicians, performers and other influential Christians who stand with Israel and the Jewish people. Fast ranked number 14 on the list.

“I am deeply humbled to be included in such a prestigious list of faith-driven men and women who stand with Israel,” Fast said. “For over 50 years, Bridges for Peace has sought to be a beacon of light, comfort, solidarity, support and love to Jewish people around the world and in Israel.

“This light is needed more than ever today in the wake of October 7, 2023,” Fast continued, “as Israel fights for its survival while millions around the world question Israel’s right to exist and spew hate.

“I’ve dedicated my life to being such a light through the work of Bridges for Peace,” Fast explained. “I stand alongside millions of other Christians around the world who are willing to count the cost to oppose evil and stand for righteousness.”

The Israel Allies Foundation’s list is in accordance with biblical prophecy found in Zechariah 14:16, which says in the end times, Gentile nations “...shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*



Enslaved by ISIS, Liberated by Israel

MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS, successes and setbacks culminated in the rescue of Fawzia Amin Sido, a Yazidi woman who was sold to a Hamas terrorist affiliated with ISIS in 2014 and was rescued in October from Gaza. The man behind the operation was Steve Maman, a Canadian–Moroccan Jewish businessman, known as the “Jewish Schindler” for his efforts in rescuing more than 100 Yazidi girls from ISIS.

Maman described the intense months leading up to the rescue, involving high-level political and military contacts in Israel and the US. “It all started in November 2023,” Maman said. “Fawzia managed to upload a TikTok video, and her family realized she was alive.”

From that moment, the family knew they had to contact Maman because of his experience with the Yazidis.

In a 2015 interview, Maman said Oscar Schindler, who saved about 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust, had been a major inspiration. Growing up in Morocco, he learned about coexistence and heard stories about King Mohammed V, who Moroccan Jews regard as a hero for protecting them during World War II.

“It was the hardest rescue operation I’ve ever done,” Maman explained. “The geopolitical challenges between Iraq and Israel, two countries that don’t communicate, made it difficult. I eventually had to divide the tasks and work with each side separately.”

Maman said they trained Fawzia for months, teaching her to familiarize herself with the area in Gaza and approach Israeli forces. “We trained her to make contact with the soldiers, identify fences and spot potential crossings,” he said.

In May, Maman visited Israel and shared Fawzia’s story during a Knesset [parliament] meeting. “I said, ‘There’s an option. I’m here now. There’s a Yazidi girl in Gaza. Let’s try to solve this diplomatically.’”

Fawzia endured a harrowing ordeal in Gaza, with experiences too painful to put into words.

“Israel participated in the rescue,” Maman emphasized. “This story shows the Palestinians don’t just have a problem with Jews but with every other non-Jew or someone who isn’t Muslim. This is the proof—a Yazidi woman held hostage.”

Lior Ben Ari, *Ynetnews*



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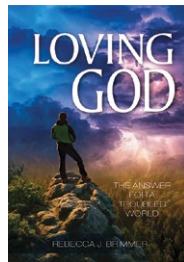
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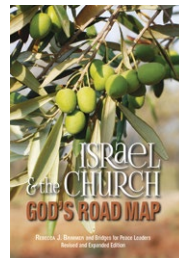


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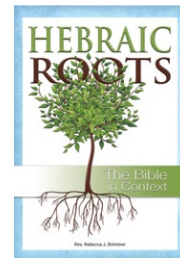
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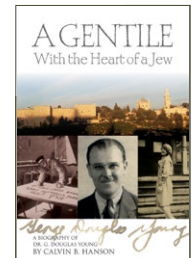
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