



News From Our National Leader

April 2015

By Graeme Lee



He Is Risen!

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus which we commemorate at Easter was such a special and precious time.

Many of you have visited the “Garden Tomb” in Jerusalem. The most dominant ‘signboard’ amongst the many in that very special setting is the one with just three words - **HE IS RISEN!** Praise God for that great declaration! Praise God that because He lives we also can live!

Israeli Elections

I am writing this column on the day Benjamin Netanyahu won the Israeli Elections. It was a remarkable victory – apparently against the odds! I am delighted!

Prior to the Election, I read several authentic reports that were deeply concerning. They were about “powerful, malicious outside of Israel” groups who were confident about unseating Netanyahu!

So was God at work? Well, of course he is always at work and I personally believe he is not only setting the stage but also the players for these end times! We need to pray for the formation of the new government.



Excellent Meeting in Wellington

Special thanks to Ian Clark of the Onslow Community Church for arranging their special meeting with Israeli Ambassador Yosef Livne and Ambassador for the Philippines to New Zealand, Mrs Virginia Bernevidez. Thanks also to Brian Hooper and Lyn Brooks. Please read report on Page 3.

Psalm 83 Prophecy

This particular prophecy may be considered very controversial. However, as a lifelong student of Eschatology, I find an amazing connection of this war and that of the Gog Magog War! Please read. Contact me any time if you wish.

Israel Study Tour May 2015

By John Gummer, Administrator/Secretary

Touring within the old walls of Jerusalem keeps you on your toes. Around every corner and literally under your feet there are surprises galore. Walking down the Via Dolorosa is somewhat spoilt by what has become a colourful, vibrant and noisy market street with treasures everywhere but far removed from what it would have been like in Jesus day. I remember the hustling and bustling, the shouting of the hawkers which very easily took my mind away from the importance of this street in the last days of Jesus life on earth. I was able with effort to eliminate all that was going on and imagine Jesus dragging the cross between the stone walls and over the cobbled street on the journey to Golgotha and the events of history that took place there.



The Garden Tomb

The Via Dolorosa leads to where Jesus was crucified. My mind was filled with the Gospel accounts of places and events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus. So much so that when I arrived at what is known today as the Garden Tomb I was taken somewhat by surprise. Like all tourist places – I am afraid that all of the holy sites have become this way – there were hawkers selling their wares and lots of people bustling and hustling into and out of the site. The benefit of being in a tour group enabled us to get preferential treatment and so we were shepherded in to where many Christians believe is the area that Jesus spent His last hours during His crucifixion.

Entering the site, I remember being taken to an outlook area and looking in amazement at Skull Hill. We were given an address with the history being explained to us. Although this whole area is one of several likely places wherein these dramatic events



Skull Hill

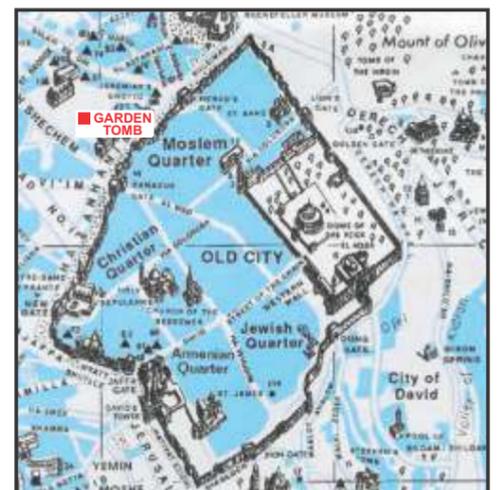
unfolded it didn't seem to matter, as I got immersed in the events of 2000 years ago. I began to imagine I was there and the whole place became real as I saw the olive trees, the olive oil press, and the garden, all of which were a back drop to the events which changed our world.

Slowly we made our way to the tomb and somehow I felt a presence which caused me to become sure I was walking on Holy Ground. Suddenly I

remembered the words from the Bible describing this sacred place. The stones where the women sat after they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, the stark stone escarpment, the hollowed out channel the stone rolled in, and the thick steel Roman pin which secured the tomb.

Entering the Tomb the hair on my arms stood up and looking at the bench where Jesus body could have laid I felt I needed to go down on my knees. For once in my life I was speechless, there was such a feeling of awe and reverence that – correct site or not – you could not help but feel the holiness of Almighty God surround you. I remember National Leader Graeme Lee, commenting to me, “If it's not real then it has had a very real affect, no doubt about it.” It was a surreal feeling, but one that forever remains with me, a moment in time which I could imagine was like a rehearsal for meeting God face to face in Heaven.

Leaving the Garden Tomb, once we had all gathered our thoughts, we were taken to a spot surrounded by olive trees a short distance away in the same grounds. There we were able to celebrate Communion together which was one of the most poignant moments in my life. A time I will never forget. A time I felt sure that I, along with those visiting with me will never forget. Praise the Lord.



A Word from our Treasurer

By Denis Smith, Treasurer

Financial Update:

We thank our Lord, for your wonderful prayer and financial support. Without prayer, our work lacks power. A quote that I read stated “Our prayers do not guarantee that something will happen, but if we do not pray, nothing will happen”.

Also, although we endeavour to keep costs to a minimum, we cannot keep the ministry going, without financial help – and you are wonderful.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and your families, throughout 2015.

Receipts:

When Henk Kamsteeg originally set up the ministry in New Zealand, he sensibly sent out receipts for each donation. However as the ministry has grown, the cost of sending out receipts for each individual donation, has steadily increased, and basic postage is now 80 cents.

We would like to change to annual donation receipts for the full financial year, after March 31 each year, which would provide a great financial saving to the ministry.

However we are aware that some of our faithful supporters like to ensure that their donation (particularly cash donations) have been received, so we are happy to continue to send out individual donation receipts where required. Should you want to continue to receive individual receipts, would you please let us know by telephone, email or preferably a note enclosed with your donation.

Wellington Christians and Political Leaders Meet Israeli Ambassador

By Ian Clark, Onslow Community Church



Onslow Community Church



Ambassador Livne addressing the community



Many young people attended



The gathering...

On a beautiful February evening, almost 200 people from across Wellington, filled Onslow Community Church in Khandallah, Wellington, to hear the Israeli Ambassador, Yosef Livne, talk on "Israel Today."

Onslow Elder, Alastair Boulton, opened the meeting by praying for the leaders of Israel and for peace in the land. Church members told why they signed the message of "Comfort for Israel." Ian Clark, who organised the meeting, said the story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a British Humanitarian, who took a train full of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia to England on the eve of World War II, influenced him to invite Church members to sign the message.

Meeting just before the Jewish Festival of Purim, people also prayed for God's safety for Israel as in the days of Esther.

In November 2014, Ian Clark, of Onslow Community Church, took a message to the Ambassador from members who expressed sympathy with families of four Rabbis murdered in their Synagogue in Jerusalem. Mr Livne gratefully received the message of support, and offered to speak in the Church.

The Israeli Ambassador, Yosef Livne, was warmly welcomed. He acknowledged Israel faces many challenges and threats. He also pointed at Anti-Semitism as an ongoing struggle. Israelis want the same things as New Zealanders – to make plans and to live at peace with their neighbours.

The solution of two states to the Palestinian issue is accepted by most Israelis, but the main hurdle surrounds the issue of how to achieve this. He believes both sides need to talk and underlined that an imposed solution will not succeed. He insisted that as a first step the Palestinians ought to cease anti-Semitic teaching and incitement in schools, media and public discourse. Likewise there should be recognition of Israel as the political expression of the self-determination for Jews. Their refusal, coupled with their insistence on the right of return for those who left when the State of Israel was formed, including descendants, really mean that if Israel were ever to accept this demand, it would result in Israelis being a minority in their own country and no longer the State of the Jews.

Iran and Hezbollah openly state Israel has no right to exist and have an arsenal of 100,000 rockets and missiles pointing at Israel. Iran is a major threat. Not only is it engaged in a nuclear program, it is also promoting Holocaust Denial. At this very moment

a competition is being held for cartoons that say the Holocaust is a lie. Israel is not alone in its concerns. There are several Arab nations, who along with Israel, oppose Iran developing a nuclear capability.

Turning to the threat of Islamic terror, Ambassador Livne explained that while most of us accept diversity and dissent as normal facets of our Way of Life, ISIL and other extremist Islamic entities reject our world view. For them it is "their way or no way" and therefore we should be concerned and understand the nature of the threat. It is at this point, that the circle is complete. If the point of departure was anti-Semitism, the threat of ISIL brings us back to the same point. The attacks in Paris and Copenhagen were also directed against Jewish targets. In other words, historically this occurs when freedom is under threat, Jews are among the first victims - as is evident today.

Against this distressing backdrop, some powerful stories of hope emerged:

- David Bond shared about hosting Israeli Travellers over the last 10 years. Most travellers are backpackers in their 20s. David enjoys chatting about their travels and their beliefs as some are devout Orthodox, and some non-religious. He tells how his faith in God is strengthened by the existence of the State of Israel.

- National MP Brett Hudson said he was proud to be

a friend of Israel and reminded the gathering that New Zealand voted at the United Nations in 1947 for the establishment of the State of Israel. He applauded their achievements as a "start-up nation." (Ian Clark encouraged attendees to visit their local MP and to give him/her a copy of "Israel and Christians Today.") Wellington City Councillor, Malcolm Sparrow, reflected on his visit to Israel with Christian friends, 35 years ago.

- Mrs Virginia Bernevidez, Ambassador for the Philippines to New Zealand, loves Israel and its people. For 50 years the Philippines have enjoyed positive diplomatic relations with Israel. The Philippines were the only Asian country to vote for the formation of the State of Israel. In 2009 a monument was unveiled in Tel Aviv to acknowledge the Philippines receiving 1,200 European Jews, immediately prior to World War II.

When a massive typhoon hit fifteen months ago, Israel was one of the first countries to help. An emergency hospital was built and an Israeli Doctor delivered the first baby born after the typhoon. The grateful parents named their son 'Israel'.

Ambassador Livne encouraged the gathering to speak out against cruelty and inhumanity wherever it happens. In conclusion, he invited questions and received a number from the enthusiastic audience.



Philippines Ambassador Virginia Bernevidez, MC Ian Clark and Ambassador Yosef Livne



Philippines Ambassador Virginia Bernevidez,



National Exposure!

Adverts placed in
NZ INSERT *inside*
ISRAEL & CHRISTIANS TODAY
newspaper for nationwide distribution
at economical rates.

Contact John Gummer:
info@c4israel.org.nz



ISRAEL FOCUS GROUP

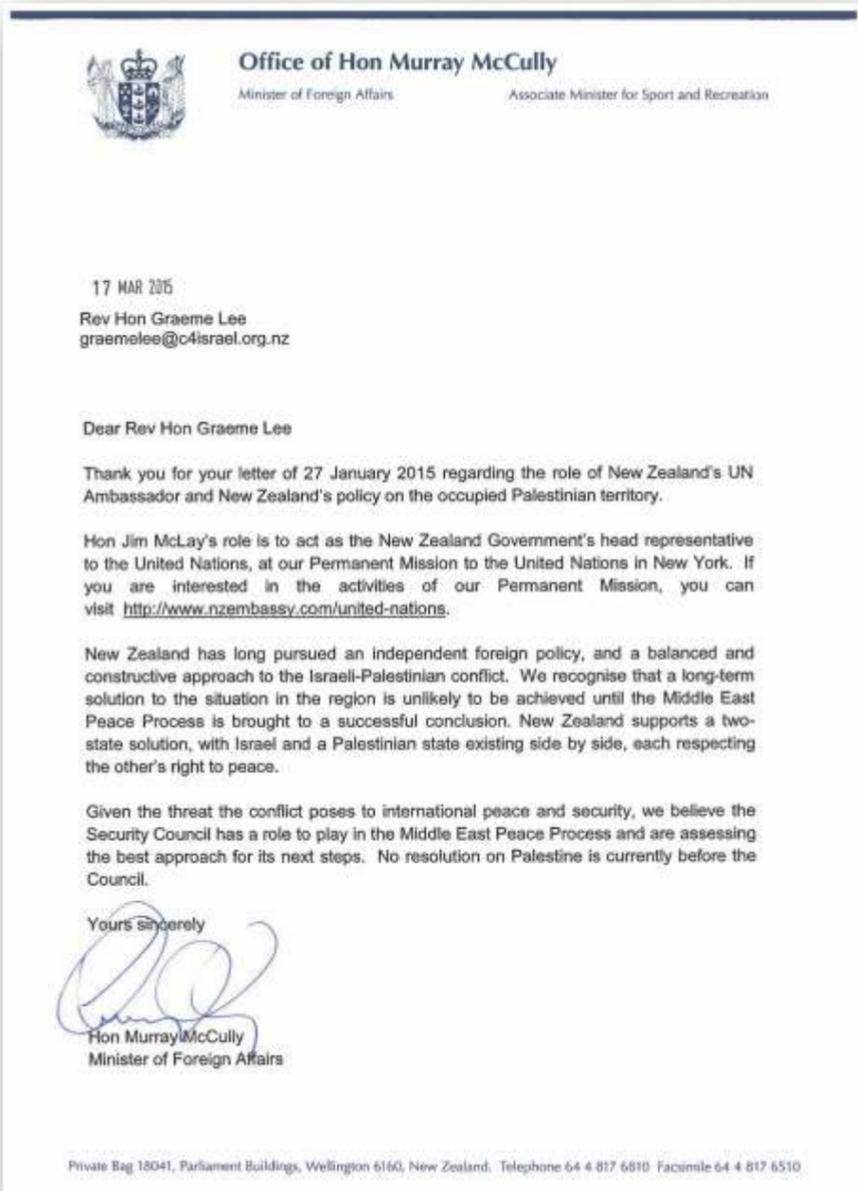
www.israelfocusgroup.co.nz



New Zealand Government Supports a Two-State Solution

Christians for Israel New Zealand wrote to the government when New Zealand was successful in gaining a seat on the UN Security Council. We congratulated the Government but asked particularly for clarification on why they support a two-state solution?

Please pray for the leaders of our nation. Pray that they will understand the negative and dangerous implications of seeking to enforce a "two-state solution" unless sufficient security arrangements are in place to protect Israel. Pray that the Lord will prevent the Security Council from imposing a solution without Israel's consent."



He Is Risen by Graeme Lee

Easter is so special. It is very special to me as I am sure it is to every Christian. Notwithstanding the attempts of the world to trivialise this annual commemoration and submerge it in chocolate eggs, Easter is eternal! It doesn't matter what materialism attempts to do in making it just another shopping day. The unassailable and unarguable eternal truth is that God came down to earth, died on the cross for our sins and rose again which will prevail forever!

What a privilege of worship it is to realise God always had a plan of redemption in mind for me, you and everyone else on the planet. It came to fulfilment when the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ laid down his life and endured the cross. He allowed himself to suffer the pain, the ignomy, the mocking, the shame, the separation from the Father for us all so never ever forget He went to the cross and He went in my stead and your stead!!!

But the grave could not hold the all-conquering victorious Son of God. It was two angelic beings that made the first and great declaration that reverberated throughout Heaven and Hell. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here – He has Risen!

I will never forget the opportunity I had as a teenager in 1954 to stand outside the Garden Tomb with my father and read a roughly etched sign on the ground in front of the Tomb which said again "He is Risen."

There was no 'garden.' The grounds were largely unkept and there were no special places for meditation or communion (all the present provisions and facilities are wonderful). There was only one person on the site who was a 'born-again' Arab and he lived in the only dwelling on the site – a small weatherboard blue and white bungalow.

He said with great passion in response to my questions, "I have the greatest job in the whole world. I tell anyone who comes – 'Don't look for Jesus here – He is Risen!'" and our response today from every ever grateful heart is 'Yes – He is Risen indeed!'

Prayer – We praise you Lord for another opportunity to share with others the remembrance and celebration of the greatest event the world has ever known. Thank you for the sure hope of the Resurrection – that because you live – we live also! Eternity will be an insufficient time to praise and thank you for all you have done for us!



Quick Study on Psalm 83 Prophecy

By Graeme Lee



1. Psalm 83 is a remarkable prophecy. However, it rarely features in 'End Time' Commentaries. Why? Because it is perceived to be another description of the Gog/Magog prophecy which is found in Ezekiel 38-39. This cannot be correct as the group nations plotting against Israel are not the same! Has it been fulfilled in an earlier time? Not that I have discovered.

2. Psalm 83 in the NIV says:
- ¹ O God, do not remain silent; do not turn a deaf ear; do not stand aloof, O God.
 - ² See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads.
 - ³ With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.
 - ⁴ "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."
 - ⁵ With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you -
 - ⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites,
 - ⁷ Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
 - ⁸ Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot's descendants. ^[b]

Isn't the Word of God incredible! Today's news v4 "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."

3. Who are the nations conspiring to wipe out Israel? The Bible names them!
- The Tents of Edom... Palestinians
 - Moab... Central Jordan
 - Gebal... Northern Lebanon
 - Amalek... Negev, Sinai
 - Tyre... South Lebanon, Hezbollah
 - Ishmaelites... Saudi Arabians
 - Hagrites... Egyptians
 - Ammon... North Jordan
 - Philistia... Gaza, Hamas
 - Assyria... Syria

4. Note the Confederacy is headed by the Palestinians (tents of Edom), people of Edom are descendants of Esau – brother of Jacob.

5. So when might this happen? The book of Obadiah provides some interesting statements about Edom:
- V1 – This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom;
 - V10 – Because of the violence against your brother Jacob you will be covered with shame and destroyed forever;
 - V15 – The day of the Lord is near for all Nations. As you have done, it will be done to you.

Incidentally Edom is not a nation today but God recognises them as a nation, it seems for the purpose of his judgement. As the 'Day of the Lord is near' (a reference to 'End Times') then this event must be very near?

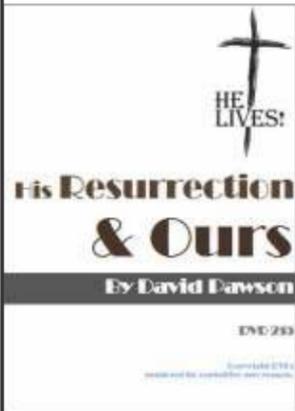
6. How does it fit with the Gog/Magog Russian led invasion of Israel? The Gog/Magog is a huge event and Israel is only saved from the enormous armies by the direct intervention of God Himself!

Logically if this is an appropriate word, the 'Palestinians war would have been an earlier event to the Ezekiel war.' – Ezekiel 38:10,11 are very interesting verses. This is not Israel today but could be after a Psalm 83 War!

7. How will it be fought? The result is clearly spelt out in Obadiah 1:10-12 but Psalm 83 indicates that Israel i.e. the Israel Defence Force will defeat the Palestinians and it will be a decisive victory! i.e. 'There will be no survivors of the House of Esau'; Obadiah 1:18?

8. Psalm 83 v 9 -11 emphasises the actions of decisive victories of Israel in the past. It is amazing that the Bible not only describes the warring factions in detail but even indicates the strength and dominance of the Israeli fighting force of today (Obadiah was written same time after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC).

9. There is an interesting 'side event' to this Prophecy and that is Damascus – largest city of Israel's neighbour Syria will be destroyed Isaiah 17:1. In the current civil war in Syria, Damascus has been shelled and bombed many times but not 'totally destroyed'!



His Resurrection & Ours

1 DVD ~~\$30~~
Special Easter offer
\$20 incl.p&p
(until 30th May 2015)

The International House of Prayer 2011 Series

12 DVDs ~~\$144~~ **\$125 incl.p&p (until 30th May 2015)**

- DVD238 The End Times
- DVD239 Israel in the End Times
- DVD240 The Church in the End Times
- DVD241 The Church and Israel
- DVD242 Habakkuk Part 1
- DVD243 Habakkuk Part 2
- DVD244 The Song of Solomon
- DVD245 The Righteousness of God
- DVD246 Divorce and Remarriage
- DVD247 Grace: Saving, Sovereign or Free
- DVD248 Once Saved Always Saved?
- DVD249 The Mercy of God

The Seven Wonders of HIS Story

10 DVDs ~~\$130~~ **\$105 incl.p&p (until 30th May 2015)**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| DVD228 His Birth | DVD233 His Resurrection Pt 1 |
| DVD229 His Conception | DVD234 His Resurrection Pt 2 |
| DVD230 His Death Part 1 | DVD235 His Ascension |
| DVD231 His Death Part 2 | DVD236 His Return |
| DVD232 His Burial | DVD237 His Judgment |

For more David Pawson DVDs, visit our website:
www.inspirational.org.nz

David Pawson

Weekly Webcast

Updated 8:30am

Every Saturday

Inspirational Media
 P.O. Box 12577, Penrose, Auckland 1642
 Ph: 09 973 5234 / 021 266 2490
 Email: media@inspirational.org.nz
www.inspirational.org.nz

Response - Yes, I want to support Christians For Israel

DONATIONS

- Christians for Israel New Zealand Support \$ _____
- Aliyah
 - One person \$300.00
 - One family (5 persons) \$1,250.00
 - One busload (25 persons) \$6,250.00
- For Zion's Sake \$ _____
- Hineni Jerusalem \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

MATERIALS

- | | Qty | Amount |
|--|-------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Israel & Christians Today</i> Paper | _____ | Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Why End Times</i> by Willem Glashouwer | _____ | \$12.00 ea Book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Why Israel</i> by Willem Glashouwer | _____ | \$20.00 ea Book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Messages by Willem Glashouwer:
<i>Israel's Biblical Background and the Resurrection of Christ</i>
(ICEJ & Holy Trinity Tauranga meetings) | _____ | \$8.00 ea CD |

TOTAL \$ _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Please post gift to: **Christians for IsraelNZ, PO Box 12006, Penrose, Auckland 1642** or Internet Banking: **Westpac Howick 03 0166 0834515 000**

Contact Us

www.facebook.com/c4israel

National Leader:	Graeme Lee	Phone: 09 525 7564	Mobile: 0274 923 238	Email: graemelee@c4israel.org.nz or admin@thecentre.net.nz
Administrator/Secretary:	John Gummer	Phone: 09 974 2613	Mobile: 021 534 407	Email: info@c4israel.org.nz
Address:	Postal - PO Box 12006, Penrose, Auckland 1642		Physical - 297a Church St, Onehunga, Auckland 1061	

For Zion's Sake Ministries

For Zion's Sake Ministries is a non-profit humanitarian aid organization - established and dedicated to assisting the needs of newly arriving immigrants. For most, starting over in Israel is physically and emotionally, as well as economically, overwhelming. Thousands of new immigrants go home to Israel every year. Most of these immigrants arrive in Israel with only the clothes they carry with them in their suitcases. The transition of starting over in a strange land is extremely difficult for most of the immigrants (Olim). For Zion's Sake Ministries assists those in need both spiritually and physically by providing humanitarian aid through their warehouse distribution of furniture, medicine, food coupons, and clothing. Direct financial assistance is given through various Outreach programs.



Hineni Jerusalem

Hineni Jerusalem is a not for profit organization with a focus on Jewish unity, social, and spiritual concerns, while inspiring people of all Faiths, Cultures and Nations to a pursuit of bettering society and a desire for a world of justice and peace. Hineni Jerusalem's contribution to society includes: assistance to survivors of terror, the needy, troubled youth, survivors of the Holocaust, disadvantaged people, and provides humanitarian aid in times of war and need. As a result they have introduced, in the heart of Jerusalem, a center that offers a soup kitchen, various therapies for support and recovery, educational programs, cultural events, National and Jewish holiday celebrations, commemorations, continually creating additional programs as the need arises.