

# Israel News Desk

With  
David Hoyle

November 2014

For the last week Israel & the West Bank have been on a knife edge as both Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, later Hebron were hit by terror attacks. Security forces struggled to contain the violence which spread throughout the West Bank & threatened to erupt among Arabs living within the green line (undisputed Israel territory).

The temple area remained a focus point until Mr Netanyahu visited Jordan to meet king Abdullah & John Kerry & announced that the age restriction on men entering the old city of Jerusalem would be lifted. As a result of its lifting last Friday, Friday prayers at the Mosque passed with less trouble but there was rioting and disturbances throughout Judea and Samaria.

Last Monday saw 2 attacks, in 1 a soldier was stabbed outside a railway station in Tel Aviv and later a Palestinian tried to run over a group of people at a bus stop at Gush Etzion just south of Jerusalem before leaving his van and attacking them with a knife. These are not the only incidents but the worse has happened just as I sat down to write this morning, and full details are not yet to hand, but initial reports state that 4 people have been murdered and 8 injured at a West Jerusalem synagogue.

There is now fear of a 3<sup>rd</sup> intifada and Marwan Barghouti, in a letter smuggled from his prison cell called on his followers to "choose global and armed resistance and remain faithful to Arafat's legacy and principles for which tens of thousands of martyrs died". Mr Barghouti is one of the most popular Palestinian leaders, currently imprisoned for murder!

Meantime the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas speaking in Ramallah said, "Jewish settlers are risking a global religious war by attempting to pray on the Temple Mount".

Those who have visited Israel may well have visited Cana where in another incident a man was shot dead attacking a policeman.

**Anti Semitism** The Jewish MP Luciana Berger is still suffering a hate campaign waged against her by a gang of suspected neo-nazis. Ten people this week were arrested outside her constituency's premises where she holds surgeries. One man has already been jailed for sending "anti Semitic tweets" to her. The campaign against her is being orchestrated by American neo-Nazis.

Eric Pickles, Community Secretary, has urged councils to do more to deal with anti Semitic graffiti. Stickers have been observed on phone boxes reading "Gaza = Auschwitz - 48 was a big mistake - cancel Israel".

Sweden, where anti Semitism is rife has officially recognised Palestine. French socialists are tabling a motion to do the same and throughout the world Israel is being isolated. Thank God they have one True Friend who has always turned to them when they turn to Him, pray they will.

Speaking to an Israeli friend this week he said, "David, nobody likes us". How desperately sad.

Among Christians anti Semitism is also rife. The seeds are planted by the likes of Stephen Sizer, with his replacement theology which only stirs more hatred of Israel. Such men have no understanding of God's Word, and in the case of Mr Sizer his "raison d'être" seems to be to tour the world preaching hatred of Jews! Is that Christian? "By their fruits you will know them"!

Writing in the Daily Telegraph Don Hodges says it is time to deal with anti Semitism. He writes, David Cameron and Ed Milliband are decent men but politically cautious, Zero Tolerance should be the watchword. Even Nigel Farage has now linked with a far right party in the European Parliament in order to obtain £1,000,000 in funding. As Mr Hodges says, "politics has become detached from morality". I personally would think so in regards to Israel.

The unions communist and anti Semitic leaders are calling for more boycotts and the Kedem shop in Manchester is under permanent attack. M&S in Manchester are also regularly picketed.

**Maureen Lipman** has ended a life time support for Labour for various reasons but reserved her most stinging criticism for Ed Milliband for his decision to back a Commons motion in favour of recognising Palestine.

She said she had cancelled an invitation to him to have Shabbat dinner at her home (he wanted to learn more about his religion!) because 2 days later he was eating a bacon sandwich. She said he has now got something else in his teeth "ISRAEL".

**Benjamin Netanyahu** was described by an American official as a coward and chicken \*\*\*\*. A comment which drew outrage in Israel. This followed a remark by Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon that John Kerry's efforts to broker a peace deal were "misplaced obsession and Messianic fervour"

**Egypt** yesterday announced it was widening its buffer zone on the Gaza border. It had only last week demolished 800 homes, making 10,000 families homeless to prevent tunnels being dug. What would happen if Israel did similar? There would be international outrage! Because it was a Muslim country – no condemnation.

**Ed Milliband** Writing in The Times Alan Dershowitz says Mr Milliband's recent adverse comments about Israel's invasion into Gaza and condemning David Cameron's failure not to denounce it have convinced him that Mr Milliband is unfit ever to be a Prime Minister. Mr Milliband has never condemned human shields, the main cause of Palestinian civilian deaths.

As we look around, all we can do is pray in these desperate days and look up the coming of our Lord is surely near. Let's also spread the word, we have a responsibility in these last days. *"Maybe we have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this"* Esther 4v14.

I close with an encouraging report from Geoff and Jenny Marshall who have just returned from distributing Bibles in Israel.

### **Scripture Distribution in the Land Tabernacles 2014**

We were invited by the Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures to go to the Land and distribute the Word of God.

Based in Tiberias, we covered many miles throughout Galilee and the Golan.

Praying each morning for the leading and enabling of the Holy Spirit, with no preconceived ideas of our own, we were amazed how the Lord led us.

CD ROMs containing the whole Word of God in many languages specially prepared for the IDF were taken as often as we offered them (with 1 refusal). The lovely versions of the Hebrew New Testaments were accepted on the streets, in cafes, supermarkets, petrol stations etc etc. In bus shelters on our journeys we left New Testaments. In most cases they had gone when we checked later.

We visited a town where there was still a community of Hippies (though now in their 60s). Some had become believers 30 - 40 years ago. G an artist, a lovely sensitive soul had a good knowledge of the New Testament. He listened while Geoff spoke of Yeshua and salvation, and allowed "J" our Messianic friend to pray with him in Hebrew. He thanked us many times for coming. The same happened with "N" who was making beautiful soap. She asked us not to forget her; they both have copies of the New Testament.

"D" a Kibbutznik, after picking up a New Testament and arguing that she didn't need a mediator, seemed to come under conviction as Geoff spoke with her and at the end announced "I am going to go home and ask Yeshua to save me.

Though we had done much general distribution there seemed to be some souls who like fruit lately harvested were ripe for the Kingdom of Yeshua.

May it be so for His glory.

Geoff and Jenny Marshall, Joan Renfold, Joyce Dean