

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

July-august, 2003 ☆ Vol. 13, Number 4

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Israel Under Siege, Needs Your Help

By
Steven H. Atherton

Survey Results on Physician Assisted Suicide

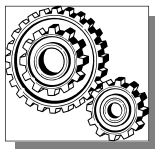
Different responses depending on how the question is asked.

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Good Samaritans Network

A description of this volunteer organization

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In the Works

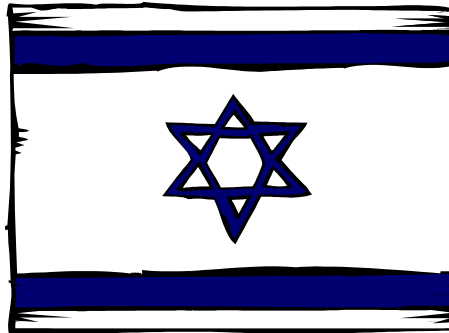
Looking for interested people to become involved in CAM

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 288-9173.

Worn out by terrorism, under mounting pressure from a hostile world to make peace at any cost and in a deep economic slump, Israel needs your help right now. As Christians, we know that God said to Abram "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee." Gen. 12:3. Moreover, we know that God promised to make of Abram a "great nation" and to give him a land that stretched from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates (an area much greater than modern day Israel, even including the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights). See Gen. 12:1-2 and Gen. 15:18. Finally, we know that Israel is that great nation that God made of Abram and that we are, therefore, to bless them. Our problem is how do we perform that charge?

Recently, this issue was brought to a head for me when I was invited to attend the annual AIPAC policy conference as part of the Vermont delegation. (AIPAC is short for the American Israel Public Affairs

Committee). For more information visit www.aipac.org. It is a non-partisan, pro-Israel group that obviously has extraordinary influence in Washington. Many of our national political leaders spoke and/or attended the conference. Speakers included our Secretary of State, National Security Advisor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the Speaker



of the House and the Democratic Minority Leader of the House. Gary Bauer was invited and his speech, to the surprise of many, was greeted with multiple spontaneous standing ovations. Attendees were also treated to speeches and short film clips from many top Israeli political and military leaders as well as analysts of the current scene in the Middle East.

In the aftermath of this meeting, I accepted an invitation to join AIPAC and work with its New England leadership to help organize the pro-Israel forces in the State of Vermont. Sadly, our efforts begin on the heels of yet another failure by Vermont Christians to influence the representatives of our State. Specifically, Vermont was the only State in the union that did not have a single member of its Congressional Delegation sign a letter urging the President to adhere to the principals outlined in his June 24, 2002 speech in moving forward with the Road Map for Peace. Those principles included that the Palestinian Authority must completely eradicate terrorism

and operate as a transparent organization (financially). Our delegation's failure might have been a point of celebration if the reason for their failure had been a concern that the President's plan was not sufficiently protective of Israel. Unfortunately, the reality is that our delegation seems to think that the President is expecting too much of the Palestinians and not enough of Israel.



I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee.
Gen. 12:3

(Continued from page 1)

What are we to do about this situation? Although there are many legitimate avenues to pursue, including visiting Israel, buying Israeli goods and supporting organizations that give aid to Israel; for purposes of this article I will focus on three: prayer, education, and lobbying.

Prayer

As Christians, we too often neglect the power of prayer. It is one of the primary ways in which we express our faith in God, whom we cannot see, and He manifests His presence to us by His power. Furthermore, it is a weapon that any individual can exercise. As James said, “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16.) James then goes on to remind us that Elijah, being a man subject to like passions as are we, earnestly prayed and it rained not for 3.5 years. (See I Kings 17-18 and James 15:17-18.) Similarly, Jesus said “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” (Matthew 17:10.) Thus we know that all it takes is one believer’s fervent prayer to make a difference. How much more if two or more touch and agree?

Education

In Vermont, the Palestinian narrative of a poor people, wrenched from their homeland and herded into refugee camps by the rich and militarily superior Jews, has taken root. Further, people have accepted the depiction of the suicide bomb-

ings as a popular uprising (or intifada) that is the “natural” response to oppressive Israeli policies. Nothing could be further from the truth, but in order to confront this lie we need to first educate ourselves and then others. While I will respond briefly to these issues in this article, I recommend that you refer to some of the resources cited at the end of this article for further study.

First, let’s look at the term *Palestinian*. It does not, contrary to common belief, refer to a distinct people, but rather derives from an administrative district established by the Romans as an insult to the Jews. The name was later re-adopted by the British during the period of the League of Nation’s British Mandate following World War I. Interestingly, under the British Mandate the Jews were called *Palestinians*. There are some that say that the term relates back to the ancient Philistines which, even if true, fails to recognize that the Philistines were trespassers in the promised land then, as they are now.

Second, there never has been a *Palestinian* state. Up until 1967, Egypt, Jordan and Syria controlled the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Golan Heights (the so-called “occupied territories”) and not once did they offer to create a *homeland* for the *Palestinians*. By contrast, Israel acquired these lands legitimately as part of the cease fire agreement it entered into with its Arab neighbors to bring an end to the Six Day War, and yet it is the only nation that has taken concrete steps toward creating a *homeland* for the *Palestinians*.

Third, the current *intifada* is not a grass roots uprising in response to Israeli policies.

Rather, the suicide bombings are carefully orchestrated acts of terror. Suicide bombers are recruited, isolated from family and friends, equipped with sophisticated vests, and ushered to the bombing site by handlers to make certain that they complete their mission. There is nothing “natural” or spontaneous about them for it is not “natural” for man to take his own life. Rather, the suicide bombings are a supernatural (demonic) response to the fury that the Muslim world has toward Israel because Israel IS God’s chosen people.

Finally, Israel’s material wealth and military power is not the result of any natural endowments. (Its hostile neighbors are better situated in that regard.) Rather it is a function of the grace that God has upon His people. Israel need not apologize for His favor nor shrink from the exercise of those gifts that He has given to them.

Lobbying

Lobbying is the province of intellectuals and political elites, right? Wrong. Lobbying is our duty as principals for our agents (i.e. our elected representatives) need to know our opinions on critical issues if they are to represent us properly. In conversations with Senator Leahy and Congressman Sanders’ staff during my trip to Washington, it was clear that they received many more letters from constituents expressing anti-Israeli sentiments than they did from pro-Israel people. This is particularly sad when you know that 10-20 letters from Vermont constituents is considered by our representatives to be a “flood.” In that vein, I plan to keep the leadership of CAM informed

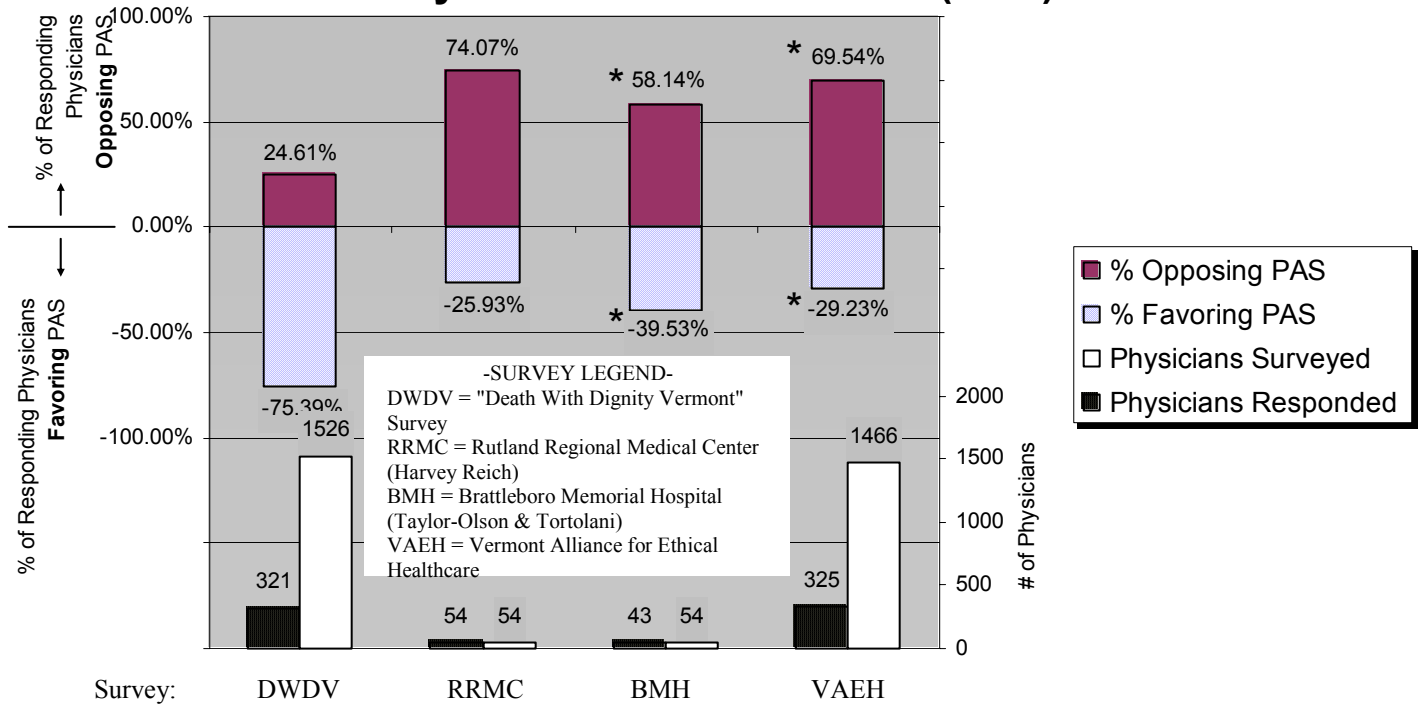
of issues of critical importance to Israel where a simple letter to our Congressional Delegation expressing support could make a tremendous difference to the people of Israel.

In conclusion, let me say that my hope and prayer to God for you is that you will choose to bless Israel, for I know that God will honor His promise and bless you in return. If you are interested in learning more about issues of importance to Israel and how you can help, feel free to contact me. I can be reached by phone at 802-485-5595 or by email at sather-ton@thedigitallawyer.com. Further, although nothing can beat your Bible for understanding the Arab/Israeli conflict, excellent sources of current information can be found online at AIPAC’s web site (www.aipac.org) or any of the following resources: Myths and Facts, by Peter Bard available online at <http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/myths/mftoc.html>, the Tzemach Institute for Biblical Studies at <http://www.tzemach.org/index.htm>, or the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem at <http://www.icej.org/index.html>. Thank you for your time.

Steve Atherton is a Christian Minister and Attorney located in Northfield Falls, Vermont



2003 Surveys of Vermont Physicians Favoring or Opposing Legalization of Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS)



Survey Questions (see graph for overall support/oppose PAS results)

The Death With Dignity Vermont (DWDV) survey gave three choices for supporting their position and one for opposing their position: 1.) "I am in favor of the legislation proposed by DWDV, but personally am unwilling to become involved." 2.) "I am in favor of the legislation proposed by DWDV." 3.) "I am willing to have my name to be listed as a supporter of the DWDV legislation (signature requested)." 4.) "I am not supportive of this legislation."

The Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH) survey gave two questions: 1.) "Are you against legislation legalizing physician-assisted suicide?" 2.) "Are you for or against making physician assisted suicide a crime?"

The Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) survey gave ten questions: 1.) "Do you support compassion and relief of pain and suffering in the care of the terminally ill?" 2.) "Do you wish to see physician-assisted suicide legalized in Vermont?" 3.) "Do you wish to see euthanasia legalized in Vermont?" 4.) "If physician-assisted suicide was legal, would you be willing to write a prescription for a lethal medication dose for a patient in your care?" 5.) "If physician-assisted suicide was legal, would you be willing to write a prescription for a lethal medication dose for a patient referred to you for this?" 6.) "Do you support the Vermont Medical Society's adopted position on physician-assisted suicide dated 4/28/97?" 7.) "Do you support the Vermont Medical Society's proposed position on physician-assisted suicide dated 2/21/2003?" 8.) "Do you believe that issues concerning the care of a dying patient are only between the patient, his/her family and his/her physician?" 9.) "Has any patient ever approached you to end his/her life?" 10.) "Do you believe that there are appropriate end of life resources available for you and your patients?"

The Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare (VAEH) survey contained a single question with checkboxes for "I oppose" and "I support" along a space for comments: 1.) "What is your position on the proposed Vermont Death With Dignity Act (physician-assisted suicide) legislation?"

Information compiled by Mark Flemming, President of CAM

What can I



Faith without works is dead James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

Good Samaritans Network

By Sue Carlsen

The Good Samaritans Network is an Inter-denominational Ministry, which enables individuals to put their faith into action by matching volunteers with people with specific needs. We provide services for people in need, i.e. people helping people. We are located at the Fanny Allen and our phone number is 802-847-1447. We serve people of all faiths with compassion, respect and dignity.

If you are interested in volunteering please call our office and we will send you an application. We mainly need people willing to give rides to others for doctors' and dental appointments, shopping, therapy appointments etc. Many elderly and/or disabled clients need help with repairs and home care both inside and outside of their houses, such as minor water leaks or electrical repair, masonry work or painting. Others may need help with cooking, light cleaning or laundry. Still others need help with heavy cleaning, washing windows or yard work. Some need help in renovating their house for a disabled family member. Still others may be only asking for personal visits.

We would like to help needy people financially, but our funding is only from private donors and so we are unable to do so at this time. Since we value our volunteers we would like to know when and where you are free to help. Chittenden County is the area we serve.

Any help or donations you can give us would be gratefully accepted. Donations can be sent to: The Good Samaritans Network, Fanny Allen Campus, 790 College Parkway, Colchester, Vt. 05446

Sue Carlsen attends North Avenue Alliance Church

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✉ CAM Network, Inc.
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Next Meetings
July 7, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
August 4, 7:00 pm
Parkinson residence
Hinesburg, Vt.

Making A Difference in Vermont!



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