

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

November—December, 2009 ☆ Vol. 19, Number 06

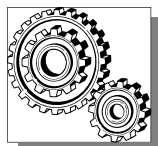
Inside

Reflections on A Night to Honor Israel

Some candid opinions from those attending

Page 3

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website



In the Works

Socialism, the Pope, and the U.S. Constitution (an article about the encyclical Quadragesimo Anno)

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 372-6442.

Honest to God

*A Book Review By
Sue Carlsen*

The book **Honest to God** by Victor L. Styrsky should be read by every Christian who wants to stand with God's people, the Jews. It should also be read by Jews so they can understand how the present day Christian Zionists feel about them. I, as a Christian, love the Jews because God loves them. I've discovered that I'm a Christian Zionist because, according to Styrsky in his introduction, the definition of a Christian Zionist is "... a member of the Christian faith who believes in the eternal covenants God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." In other words, a Bible believing Christian. I believe the Bible. Therefore, I am a Christian Zionist. **Honest to God** looks at ten questions that both Christians & Jews must resolve to realize that we are one family. As one family we should love each other. Unfortunately, many Christians feel that the history of the Jews ended at the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ. Others believe the Jews are just an unreached people and that we should be witnessing to them. Many believe that the Jews are no longer God's favorite people, but that Christians are.

God's view of Jews is different and when we read His Word, Paul says in Romans 11:1, "Did God reject his people? By no means!" God has a wonderful plan for His people. Even the book of Galatians speaks of the promises of God to the Jews in the covenants that were made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Christians have to realize that for over almost 2,000 years Christians have betrayed the Jewish people. So it is understandable that Jews distrust Christians. Many Christians do not know church history, and they do not know how the church has treated the Jews. Pastor Styrsky cites over 100 different times in church history that Christians have persecuted the Jews from Tertullian in 170 AD, who taught that Jews were rejected as the chosen people of God, to the Crusades where the Jews were considered to be God's enemy and thousands were slain, to the Holocaust where Jews were persecuted by Germany from 1938 - through 1946, even to Jimmy Carter's book **Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid**, which reminds all Christians that anti-Semitism is still alive.

Each chapter poses a question as if asked by the Jewish community. The first chapter asks, "Does the Christian community have patience for us (the Jews)?" Styrsky first explains why this question is being asked, knowing that many Christians don't know or understand the history of the Jews. In summary, Pastor Styrsky's answers this first question. "We Christians... Must beseech every Jew we have the privilege of knowing: Does the Jewish community have the patience for us?"

In Chapter 2, the question is, "Do Christians still hate us because we don't believe in Jesus?" To understand this question, we have to realize that our history of how we treated the Jews has strongly hindered our witness to them. He says, "There is no restitution we can offer that could ever compensate for our crimes against you (the Jews) and I ask God and you for forgiveness."

And Styrsky's answer to the question. "Of course we don't hate you. We believe you are the beloved of HaShem and the apple of His eye and I bless you in the name of the God of

"Congress may not abdicate or transfer to others its legitimate functions."

US Supreme Court (1935)

(Continued from page 1)
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Chapter 3 deals with the next question - “*What is your real agenda in reaching out to the Jews?*” To understand this question you have to look at the Jewish messianic theology. We call it the 2nd coming but they believe their Messiah is coming for the first time.

Knowing this, when Pastor Styrsky asked for the reason for that question, he was surprised. He was told that many Jews feel that the Gentiles (non-Jews) believe that we will hasten the Messiah’s coming by helping the Jews return to Israel. When asked where they were told this - it was not from a written source - but always because another Jew had told them.

Pastor Styrsky points out our theologies (Jews & Gentile) are about the same in these three points.

- 1.) A date for the event has already been secure.
- 2) Only God the Father knows the time
- 3) The coming of the Messiah is imminent.

We know that even in Biblical times they were expecting the Messiah to come at any time. For example in I Thessalonians 3:16. For the Jews it’s the first time; for Christians it’s the second time.

We know that we cannot hasten Christ’s return (whether first or second) by anything we do. We all know what was

done to the Jews in past years was horrible. The Jews repeat that “never again” (talking about the Holocaust) will they ever allow it. We as Christian Zionists agree that nothing like the Holocaust should ever happen again. We know that God uses people to do what He wants to be done and we want to be on the Jews’ side in all that happens.

Chapter 4 questions “*What can we do about Christians who target us and our children?*” The answer is usually stated in a way that tries to convert the Jew, not knowing how awful this is to them. Christians don’t realize how wearing a cross makes the Jews feel that Christians only love dead Jews. Even the Mel Gibson movie, ‘The Passion’, made Jews feel that Christians blame them for Jesus’ death and the answer Styrsky gives is the one way we should be handling this question. We should be saying the main point of our faith is to love them and to help them feel loved by us. We don’t want to hurt them.

Chapter 5 queries, “*Why don’t you educate the anti Israel churches?*” This again is a lot easier said than done. Styrsky pointed out there is a time to confront them and a time to walk away. He gives examples and we have to realize how many anti-Semitic people are out there. He states, “We believe our first and most important commission involves the 50 million evangelicals in the U.S. whom we will continue to

gather, educate, and then train so they can become political advocates for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.”

Chapter 6 asks “*How are Christian Zionists trying to influence Israeli politics?*” Christians United for Israel (CUFI) has been called “...one of the most politically influential Christian grass roots organizations in America.” (Bill Moyers Journal PBS March 7, 2008). Pastor Styrsky tells of all the work CUFI has done in the past and how they should be praying for Israel, citing examples of what praying has done in the past.

Christians know that God has given the land of Israel to the Jews and Styrsky tells of how he became CUFI California Director. He even gives Christians an example of how we’d feel if the Muslims try to convert us to Islam.

He lists all the times Israel has tried to make peace (almost 20 times since 1946).

Prime Minister Olmert spoke to a joint session of Congress in 2006. He spoke about the conditions in Israel since it was created saying, “But there has not yet been one year...one week ...even one day... of peace in our land”.

Styrsky’s answer to this question is, “... We will ...do everything we can to keep the U.S. government from enticing or intimidating Israel into making any concessions that Israel’s

leaders do not believe are in the best interest of their nation....”

Chapter 7 states, “*Do you really believe all Jews are going to Hell?*” Pastor Styrsky doesn’t avoid the question, but states his firm belief that God is in control and can do all things. We (Christians) believe in God’s Word which says in Romans 11:26 “All of Israel will be saved”.

Chapter 8 intones, “*You love your enemies? How can you love the terrorists that are killing our children in Israel?*” Pastor Styrsky told them they were two completely different situations. The militants killing people in Israel are nothing like his neighbors. Living in a Muslim community he tells how friendly they are. He also tells how the Scriptures are violent in many places and so is the Koran giving examples of both. He then says, “I abhor the wicked ideology and actions of the militant Islamic movement. When the last deed of a person’s life is a suicide attack upon innocent men, women, and children. I believe God abhors both the act and the person committing it and so do I.”

Question 9 in chapter 9 is, “*What would you say if a Jew told you he wanted to convert to Christianity?*” Pastor Styrsky gives his personnel conversion story and then goes on to describe customs involving the Jews. Styrsky points out, “The Christian faith is a costly and

“No one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true Socialist.”

Pope Pius XI, from his encyclical Quadragesimo Anno, May 1931

painful one for a Jew to follow ... I would direct a Jewish enquirer to speak with his/her rabbi, and to read the New Testament including the passages from the Tanakh referenced throughout the scriptures. As a Christian, I trust it is God alone who can give revelation ... concerning Jesus of Nazareth."

The tenth Chapter asks, "What is your deepest prayer for the Jewish people?" This, asked of an unlearned Christian (one who doesn't know of the historic horror that has happened with the Jews), can result in an answer that can confirm his suspicions that nothing has really changed. Pastor Styrsky then tells of an occasion when he was talking to Jewish students who were seriously looking for the right thing to do. Styrsky then said, "My deepest prayer for you and the Jewish people, is that you be good Jews. I pray that you continue to seek the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob within the words of the Torah, the prophets and the Writings. ... The Jews have precious promises made to them by Almighty God. Upon His Name He has vowed to keep them. I believe He will."

I worship a God that I can't explain, but that can do anything. And I know He will be true to His word.

Sue Carlsen is a member of the Christian Action Ministry and attends North Avenue Alliance Church

Reflections on "A Night to Honor Israel"

On September 10, 2009 Christians United for Israel (CUFI) held a *Night to Honor Israel* at the Burlington Hilton. The Christian Action Ministry was one of the sponsors of the event. Approximately 500 people attended from both the Christian and Jewish communities in Vermont. This was the first time that this event has been held in Vermont and judging from the reaction, will not be the last. Some of the reactions we received will give you a flavor of the evening.

The evening was an amazing event ... I was unprepared for the excitement, the drama, and the emotion of the actual event. I know, now, that the Jews in Vermont are not alone in the face of anti-Semitic/anti Israel actions. - Louise Stoll

You have no idea how important an event this wasparticularly for those in the Jewish community who attended. The positive effect is beyond words for me to describe. It is already having huge ramifications! I also cannot describe my gratitude. - Lenore Broughton

Before getting involved in the Night to Honor Israel, CAM was considering bringing another guest speaker to Vermont. One possibility was Mark Steyn, author of [America Alone](#). One of his main points is the demographic transformation of Europe into "Eurabia." This was succinctly brought out at the Night to Honor Israel by Dr. Charles Jacob in his personal observations of the decline of Christianity in Spain. "What's a nice Jewish boy like you doing worrying about Christianity?"

Another speaker we considered was Robert Spencer, author of several books, including [Stealth Jihad: How Radical Islam is Subverting America without Guns or Bombs](#). Again, Jewish speakers informed Christians of those in America who think in terms of "First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people."

A third speaker we considered was Brigitte Gabriel. A native of Lebanon, she tells of her surprise when she was treated at an Israeli hospital. Contrary to what she had been told as a child, patients are treated according to their medical condition, of course, not according to their religion. Again, at the Night to Honor Israel, the excellence of the Israeli medical infrastructure was evident in the presentation of Magen David Adom. Over \$8,600 was raised for this worthy cause that night.

We were privileged to be part of a Vermont first by working together with Christians United for Israel. "This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." – Psalm 118:23. In the process, the very serious things of which we wanted Christians to be more informed were brought out in the context of a very positive evening.

Lauston Stephens—Roadside Assembly of God

The Daughters of Zion conduct a prayer meeting for the Jewish Nation on the last Saturday of every month from 7 to 8 pm at the Tabernacle of Worship Assembly of God Church, located at 421 Shelburne Street (across from KFC). Call 802-373-5540 for more information. Next dates are November 28 and December 26.

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

In Whose Honor?

As the Holidays inexorably start to appear and consume our time and efforts, let us remember to give thanks to the One who provides for us and gives us the freedoms we enjoy.

Remember during the rush and hubbub of December that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

We at the Christian Action Ministry wish you and your family the best during this season.

**Happy Thanksgiving
and
Merry Christmas**

The **Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc.** is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by volunteers and contributions from the public. Personal, church and business donations are encouraged and are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C)3. The information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

✉ CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495
☎ (802) 372-6442



Next Meetings
*November 10, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
December 15, 7:00 pm
Parkinson's home
Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT NO.165