

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

September—October, 2016★ Vol. 26, Number 05

Inside

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions

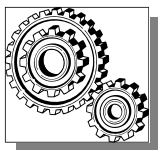
By
Michael Beer

William Federer Returning to VT

*Our guest speaker on
September 23 -24, 2016*

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



In the Works

William Federer

Candidate Scorecard

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.

The BDS movement is a global campaign to increase economic and political pressure on Israel to comply with the stated goals of the movement: their wish to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Golan. This campaign is organized, coordinated, and sponsored by the Palestinian BDS National Committee. The campaign was started in July 2005 with over 170 Palestinian NGOs in support of the Palestinian cause for boycott, divestment and international sanctions against Israel. (1)

Many countries, corporations, unions and various other organizations worldwide have opted to boycott trade with Israel on the grounds of human rights violations. These include, but are not limited to corporations within the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union. In addition, the World Council of Churches, the Church of England, the British Methodist Church, the United Church of Canada, and the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) have also decided to support the BDS

movement.

Many Israeli corporations have been targeted, with unfortunate consequences for the Palestinians of the West Bank who are being negatively impacted. Responding to international boycott pressures and other constraints, a growing number of Israeli companies operating in the Region are moving their facilities to locations within Israel's internationally recognized borders.



The report by Gush Shalom, an anti-occupation organization that monitors such activities, shows that aside from the recent high-profile cases of Ahava (Dead Sea skin care) and SodaStream (a seltzer machine manufacturer), other prominent Israeli companies have also been part of the trend, even though they have

managed to evade publicity. Among them, Teva Pharmaceuticals (a leading producer of generic drugs), Adanim Tea, Modan Bags, and Delta Galil (works with Nike, Target, Tommy Hillfiger), a major clothing exporter. These companies rely heavily on export markets. (2)

So...when 500 Palestinians lose their jobs at SodaStream, they are left with little option but to find work at the Palestinian minimum wage, which in 2014 was \$410 a month; Israel's minimum wage was \$1,217. The Israeli Supreme Court decision in 2007, requiring Palestinians to receive the same salaries and benefits as Israelis, has ensured better working and living conditions for those employed by Israeli companies. A Palestinian employee at SodaStream was quoted 'these people are fighting against my right to work. You're not going to get peace through boycotts. You're not going to get peace through pressure. You get peace through working together.' (3)

“When a nation goes down, or a society perishes, one condition may always be found; they forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what had brought them along.”

Carl Sandburg, American poet

So, if the goal of the campaign is to undermine the wellbeing and livelihood of Palestinians living in the West Bank, they have met with some success. Daily, there are about 90,000 Palestinians who cross into Israel for employment. Imagine their lives if Israel would boycott their livelihood.

Another devious element of the BDS policy is the call for a cultural boycott against Israel. It aims to negatively impact Israel's image and to exclude it from International cultural activities. It harms individual Israeli artists, moviemakers, and performers who are boycotted by those who claim to only oppose Israeli government policies. The performance by American Jewish artist Matisyahu was initially cancelled at a reggae music festival in Spain as part of an effort to boycott Israel. Festival organizers announced they had canceled Matisyahu's performance after he refused to sign a statement endorsing a Palestinian state. A different scenario was the cancellation of a scheduled performance by Black artist Lauryn Hill at Richon Letzion. BDS promoters claimed that performing in Israel today is the equivalent of participating in Sun City, South Africa during the apartheid era.

The allegation that Israel is an apartheid state is untrue and pure slander. It is intended to delegitimize Israel's existence in the eyes of those who may

not be familiar with the South Africa of the early Nelson Mandela days. Mandela was fighting for the right to vote, for the right to choose political leaders, for the right to move and travel freely, for the right to be educated, and to get medical treatment in a hospital of one's choice.

Those who suffered under that system of racial segregation and have been to Israel will be quick to deny that Israel is such a country. In fact, some, such as Kenneth Meshoe, a member of the South African parliament and President of the African Christian Democratic Party, feel that by comparing the two, one is imposing an injustice on the pain blacks had suffered. He states that if the conditions in South Africa had been as they exist in Israel, there would have been no need for an arms struggle. (4) There are Arab judges in the Israeli High Court; there are non-Jewish teachers teaching in Israeli schools, there are 17 Arab members of the Israeli Knesset, and hospitals do not discriminate.

The goal should be to expose the truth and facts about Israel before the lies and conspiracy theories infiltrate. The long-term impact of this movement is threatening for Israel and in fact for the world. Today's university students are the leaders of tomorrow. We need to strengthen their understanding on campus and educate those who are open to hearing

about Israel. It is critical to reach out to those who are neither pro- nor anti-Israel to educate them that Israel is a democratic, moral, progressive, and tolerant nation. In addition to the 1.5 million Arabs living in Israel, the country has absorbed over 120,000 black refugees from Ethiopia, and 75,000 people from India.

"The goal is to expose the BDS movement as the latest platform for delivering anti-Semitism," Laurie Cardoza-Moore, president and founder of The Christian Zionist organization Proclaiming Justice to the Nations (PJTN), told Tazpit Press Service (TPS).

"Unfortunately, the Evangelical Christians are now being targeted by the propagandists and anti-Semites who are accusing Israel of violating Palestinian rights," she claimed. "And the narrative coming out of the Palestinian Authority, as well as from Palestinian Christians like 'Christ at the Checkpoint,' or the Bethlehem Bible College, is that Jesus had more in common with the Palestinians. Some go as far as to say that Jesus was a Palestinian and that he was not Jewish."

"We're trying to combat their narrative because they are targeting the Evangelical Christian community saying, 'You should be standing with your Christian Palestinian brethren and supporting us because we're being persecuted,'" Cardoza-Moore explained. "So it's very important that we communicate the true narrative

to the Evangelical community."

This claim of Israeli apartheid is totally counterintuitive to the promotion of peace and harmony in the Middle East. In fact, it acts a disincentive to peace. It sends a powerful message to the PLO and Hamas leaders that they can wait to get a better settlement if or when BDS gains strength and the sanctions make an impact on Israel.

BDS is an immoral movement that ought to be condemned. It is part of a generalized effort to destroy Israel. It has embezzled the moral high ground from Israel and turned it into a debate about the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Many Israelis believe that the true aim of BDS is to undermine the very existence of Israel with little regard for the welfare of the Palestinians. Since such an acknowledgement by the National Committee would represent political suicide, their tacit agenda is to take over the land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea and create a Palestinian one state solution.

Michael Beer is a concerned citizen regarding Israel

Notes:
1 Wikipedia
2 Haaretz March 27, 2016
3 New York Times Feb 10, 2014
4 Prager University YouTube

"Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption."

President James Garfield

**Two Evenings
With
William Federer**



We are delighted to bring William Federer back to Vermont for two events to share his insight and vast knowledge of America from a Christian perspective. He is a nationally known speaker, best selling author, and host of American Minute on the radio and internet. His Faith in History program airs nationally on DirecTV.

Sept 23, 2016 7:00 pm

**Rutland Area
Christian School**

**112 Lincoln Avenue
Rutland, VT**

Topic:

*The 6000 year Quest for
Global Power & Why
America's Freedoms
are so Rare!*

Sept 24, 2016 7:00 pm

Holiday Inn

**1068 Williston Road
So. Burlington, VT**

Topic:

*Islamic Conquest—
Political Islam's 1400
year War on the West*

Admission is free, but seating is limited to 125

A love offering will be taken

Sponsored by: Christian Action Ministry Network

For reservations: 802-773-2602 Rutland area

802-655-0280 Burlington area

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September 23rd

You don't want to miss this opportunity to find out what led to America's founding under Christian principles, and where our freedom and our liberty originated. You may be surprised!

September 24th

Are you confused about Islam? What do they believe? What is happening in America today?

Don't feel alone! Most people don't know and aren't sure how to address the issue.

This is your chance to learn from an expert on the subject, and be equipped to address your friends and neighbors on the questions we all have.

*"He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."
2 Samuel 23:3*



What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead*
James 2:17

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www.christianactionministry.com

GET INVOLVED

Our Nov-Dec, 2016 issue will include the 13th time over the past 26 years that we have provided a Candidate Survey for the general election. Our survey is different in that the questions are asked from a Christian perspective. This is a big effort to complete and we could use some help.

CAM is looking for individuals to assist us in this semi-annual candidate questionnaire. We ask 20 questions through a mailing to candidates and need volunteers to follow-up and call those candidates who don't return their answers to us. We will provide you with a call list and you can do this from your own home. You will need a phone and an email address. If you want to assist, contact us at camnet@christianactionministry.com.

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- ☎ (802) 372-6442



Next Meetings

September 13, 7:00 pm
Living Hope Christian Church
Williston, Vt.
October 11, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
In
Vermont!**