



## VoydPhil News

### A successful quarter

I recently had the privilege of spending each Sunday for three months teaching a Sunday School class of about two dozen or more in attendance. We were able to cover many subjects in great detail. And—if God willing—giving those there a deeper desire to minister to the Jewish people. I hope there are many more opportunities like this in the future.

### Hen finishing training

My very good friend, Hen (it is pronounced with the guttural “H”) has finished up his initial training in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force). He is now doing some more extensive training and has been assigned to the Gaviti Division. This group of the IDF is easily identified by their purple berets and are the force that is sent into Gaza. So please keep him in your prayers.

# Helping to Fill the Void in God's People

September—October 2008

Vol. 1 No. 1

## What's in a Mission Statement

Part 1

By Mark E. Benjamin

### Mission Statement

To help fill the void in the Jewish individual by teaching fellow Christians about Jewish beliefs and customs. Whereby giving the believers more understanding of their own Jewish heritage and equipping them with the ability to better relate to the Jew. Therefore, resulting in an improved opportunity for bringing the Jewish people to Jesus Christ the Messiah.

What does all that mean? Fantastic question, ready for the answer? ... Beats me, I just typed it into my laptop. You have to admit one thing, it sure sounds cool. Like just about every other mission statement I have ever seen, after you read it you walk away saying, “Wow! I have no idea what that was about, but I sure can’t wait to see what the Lord is going to do there.” I have the same reaction after reading my own mission statement too. I can’t wait to see what’s about to happen next; how

the Lord is going to work through this. But, I’m also not so sure I understand it as a whole. Let’s break it down and see what we come up with... That way we will both know what it means.

### “To help fill the void in the Jewish individual...”

First off, you and I can’t DO anything. We may think we can or it may seem like we do things. But we really can’t. (Job 31:23 (NAS) “...and because of His majesty I can do nothing.” Matt 19:26 (NIV) ... “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”) It is only through God’s allowance do we DO anything. We must be content in helping to do what we can. It is not we that bring someone to Christ, but we can help in preparing the way to Him.

The void is in all of us. Even after we are saved and in Christ, we still have a void. Yes, it is much more apparent before our

rebirth, but it is still there afterwards as well. We still feel that emptiness deep inside, that longing to be truly with Christ. That void will only be filled when we meet Him face to face. But the void in us all before we have given our lives to Him can, and must, be filled before that last day. This is the void that we wish to help in filling.

All people must be saved and all must hear the Word of God. The focus of this ministry is the Jewish Nation. Notice I did not say Israel. That is only part of the Jewish Nation. True, it is the homeland and where the capital and government reside. But, the Jewish Nation is also in every other country around the world. It is daunting to think about saving an entire nation. When each individual is saved then the nation itself will be saved. Hence, we must focus on the Jewish Nation, one individual at a time.

*Continued next issue....*

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# Israel News

## Cease Fire

The cease fire between Hamas and Israel has been in effect for over three months now. How is it going—really?

The amount of Qassam rockets fired into Israel from Gaza has been reduced significantly and the border into Gaza are much more open. But it has not been without incident or breach of the rules of the cease fire.

In fact within just the first few days of the agreement, Qassam rockets streaked the skies above Israel. And since then, there has been more than a handful of times the quiet mornings were disturbed by the sound of early warning alarms and rocket engines.

The reasons given for the attacks have mostly been poor at best, and usually based on non-agreed-to issues. For instance, one of the top excuses has

been IDF (Israeli Defense Force) activities in the West Bank. This, of course, is not valid—for the West Bank and any IDF activities there are not part of the cease fire agreement in Gaza.

Israel has also not been without fault in this delicate situation. They have closed the borders on several occasions. Their reasons for doing so are usually a bit more valid than Hamas'. The closures have mostly been reactions to attacks on the same crossing points that they end up closing. But many have criticized that the closings were too lengthy and too detrimental to the humanitarian situation within the Strip.

After all is said and done; the cease fire has reduced the amount of Qassam rockets and the borders have been open more than before. Is it without incident, certainly not. And there is a long way to go for true peace.

## Elections

The Kadima party elections have certainly been interesting to say the least. Tzipi Livni won the leadership of her party. But will Ehud Olmert make good on his word of stepping down from the Prime Minister posi-

tion? Somehow, I doubt it. Some reason will be given—probably the lack of a coalition government under Tzipi's new rule. But the real time to watch is the general election coming early next year. Kadima will have a tough time holding off the Lukid party.

## Upcoming Holidays

Holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date listed.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rosh HaShana<br>New Year<br>1—2 Tishrei, 5769<br>Sept 30—Oct 1, 2008<br><i>Tues-Wed</i>         | Shemini Atzeret<br>22 Tishrei, 5769<br>October 21, 2008<br><i>Tues</i>                                     |
| Yom Kippur<br>Day of Atonement<br>10 Tishrei 5769<br>October 9, 2008<br><i>Thurs</i>            | Simchat Torah<br>23 Tishrei, 5769<br>October 22, 2008<br><i>Wed</i><br>(Israel: October 21)<br><i>Tues</i> |
| Sukkot<br>Feast of Tabernacles<br>15—21 Tishrei, 5769<br>October 14—20, 2008<br><i>Tues-Mon</i> | Hanukkah<br>25 Kislev—2 Tevet, 5769<br>December 22-29<br><i>Mon-Mon</i>                                    |

## Mark E. Benjamin

### Is available for

Church or Synagogue  
Youth Group  
Torah or Bible study  
Classroom  
Seminars

Men's, Woman's, Single's, Couples' groups

### Topics Can Include

Passover  
Seder  
Sukkot  
Bringing Jews and Christians closer together  
Understanding the Christian or Jew  
Jewish Holidays

For more information, please go to

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