



# Prepare Ministries Camel Courier

## Summer 2013: The Israel Issue



Gary and Stella  
Gilbertson

## What's so important about Israel?

By Gary Gilbertson, Prepare Ministries Founder and Director

Glad you asked! The clear mission of any church or Christian organization is to, "Go make disciples of all nations" as Jesus spoke to his disciples at the end of the book of Matthew. With this mandate as our central focus, we believe the Lord has identified seven focus areas on which to place special teaching emphasis. One of these areas involves making young adults aware of the centrality of the nation of Israel to the purposes of God. We are dedicating a major portion of this issue of the Camel Courier to highlighting the importance of Israel. Read on to learn more!

## Camel Camp 2013: Sturdy Foundations for Stormy Days

By Amanda Johnson, Prepare Campus Missionary



Cynthia Gill, a licensed counselor, teaches about  
"Counseling in Gentleness & Grace."

Today, false doctrines and teachings are infiltrating our nation, churches, and college campuses at an alarming rate. Even the schools with a religious affiliation are teaching how the Bible is contradictory and inaccurate or that all paths or religions lead to the same God and there is no hell. Our job as Christians is to be rooted and grounded in God's word so we can discern the false teachings from what the Bible says and to proclaim His

truth with boldness and confidence. With that said, this year's Camel Camp training theme was "Sturdy Foundations for Stormy Days" and was held on June 6-8 for staff, volunteers, and student leaders. We had three packed days of teachings on Prepare's seven "P"s (or focus areas): prayer & fasting, proclamation of truth, persecution, poor, purity, power of the Holy Spirit, and political responsibility.



## AFRICA ACTION: Join Us!

Mark your calendars and start practicing those lawn games! Prepare is co-sponsoring **Africa Action**, a FUNdraising day benefitting New Mercies Ministries ([www.newmercies.org](http://www.newmercies.org)). An organization initiated by former Prepare staff members Charlie and Karen Oglesby, New Mercies serves the vulnerable in post-crisis nations. *Africa Action* will benefit their signature project – "Faith Village," a community of homes for orphaned and abandoned children in Rwanda, Africa. Join us on **August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10-2** at

**Staring Lake Park in Eden Prairie for an open house style event** including lunch and a family friendly lawn games competition complete with prizes and awards. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 and you can help us get started by **sponsoring a picnic table** for \$50. Please check out the enclosed card for more details and to respond. There will be no charge for the event but donations will be received.



Charlie and Karen  
Oglesby

# The three "M"s of Prepare: Meetings, Mentoring & Missions!



## Guatemala Mission Trip

By David Olson, Prepare Campus Missionary

This past Spring Break, 31 people from Luther and St. Olaf joined together for a mission trip experience in Guatemala for the first week of break. Nine students from Gustavus then came down for their break the following week. All three groups were together for Easter weekend. Five Guatemalan youth from the Palestina church also joined the team for their

first-time mission experience. The groups were able to do a variety of different ministries: teaching English in local schools, Bible distribution to homes, prayer visits to the disabled and sick, open air services and lots of kids' ministry with puppets, skits, songs, and games.

One of the highlights for the trip came in the second week. During a meeting with the youth and church leaders from Palestina, Guatemala, many of them came forward for prayer, specifically being called out to give their lives in service to the Lord in some type of missions call. God's Spirit was moving on the hearts of the group and many tears and heart-felt prayers were lifted up in response. It was powerful to witness God's heart for missions in the lives of these Guatemalan youth.



## Stella's Recipe Corner

Featuring a recipe from Deana Bailey, Stella's friend and a great cook!



## Spring Green Hummus

(...so good you could call it YUMmus!)

### Ingredients (this recipe is easily halved):

2- 15 ounce cans chickpeas (garbanzo beans)  
drained and rinsed in cold water

Juice of two fresh lemons (better than bottled)  
Adjust amount to taste

3 to 6 cloves garlic (or to taste), peeled  
¾ cup tahini (sesame seed paste)

½ cup extra virgin olive oil + 2 tablespoons for  
drizzling]

1 cup loosely packed chopped parsley leaves,  
reserve some for garnish

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 to 2 teaspoons salt—add ½, then more to taste

½ cup half and half (add slowly, use only enough  
to get a creamy consistency

### Instructions:

Blend or food process the chickpeas with ½ cup olive oil. Add all other ingredients and process until very smooth. Adjust texture with more half and half or olive oil just enough to make a soft creamy texture. Taste and adjust salt, garlic, and lemon juice. To serve, smooth into a bowl; drizzle reserved 2 tablespoons oil on top and sprinkle with chopped parsley. Serve with pita wedges, pita chips, raw veggies or crackers. Refrigerate any leftovers.





# ALL ABOUT ISRAEL

## Israel: God's Choice

All Israel articles by Gary Gilbertson unless otherwise noted

President Harry Truman was the first world leader to commit his country to acknowledging the establishment of the nation of Israel following the Second World War. He did this against the counsel of his cabinet. He was a believer who listened to what his mother taught him about blessing Israel. One of God's promises to Abraham was that He would bless those who bless Israel (Genesis 12:3). We in America have certainly received some of these blessings.

Quoting President Obama on his March visit to the Middle East: "More than 3,000 years ago the Jewish people prayed here, tended the land here, prayed to God here," Obama said, "And after centuries of exile and persecution, unparalleled in the history of man, the founding of the Jewish state of Israel was a rebirth, a redemption unlike any in history". We pray that our nation continues to affirm Israel's right to exist.

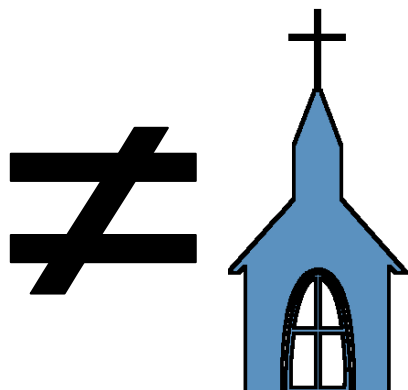
## Obama vows to give Israel his 'unwavering support'



President Barack Obama with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
Minneapolis Star Tribune, March 21, 2013

## Persecution of the People of God: The Church and Israel

A little known fact: Martin Luther passionately evangelized the Jewish people at the time of the Reformation. Having virtually no success, he assumed that God was finished with them and became extremely anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism has been intensifying for years. While in Russia several years ago with a small team of young people, we observed a large poster in a public place. An older man was holding a toddler's hand and there was a caption, "Do your grandchildren a favor. Kill a Jew." We as believers need to be aware that a time is coming for which the Second World War was a dress rehearsal. Christians and Jews, the people of God, will be persecuted together again. Consider watching the movie "The Hiding Place." It will help us prepare for the days ahead.



Many are currently teaching the Church a theology referred to as replacement theology. Its thesis is that the Church has replaced Israel. This is not true. Paul clearly states in Romans 11 that God is not done with natural Israel and that the promises specifically made to Abraham and David would yet be fulfilled. God promised the natural lineage of Abraham a people, a land and a nation (See Genesis 12:3). God also promised Abraham that he would be blessed and would be the source of blessing to the world. Over one half of the world's population calls Abraham "Father;" all of the Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

# A Blessed People and a Blessing People

One absolutely astounding easily observable fact is that in spite of thousands of years of persecution the Jewish people have not just survived. Jews are thriving. With a land mass only about the size of New Jersey and approximately 0.2 percent of the world's population, Israel has the third largest economy in the world. Here is a mind blower. Of the 750 Nobel Peace prizes given between 1901 and 2006, Jews have accounted for 158! If they had the proportion of awards warranted by their population, they would have 1.5 awards. That means that they received not twice as many awards, not 10 times as many awards but more than 100 times as many awards as statistics alone would anticipate. We also have the Jewish nation to thank for the greatest book ever written, far outstripping the closest competitor for the most copies published. The Bible, written by Jewish writers (except Luke), has sold well over 7 billion copies. Of course, we need not be reminded that Jesus is a Jew.



Auschwitz concentration and death camp. An estimated one million people were killed here of the 6 million during World War II.

## A Historical Miracle

We always include a trip to the Holocaust museum on our annual trips to Washington DC. It is sobering to take the 3 hour tour. Dwight Eisenhower, then a general and later our president, insisted that he get a firsthand view of the death camps saying he believed that in the future some would try to say it never happened. Amazingly the president of Iran has now made that claim as well as others around the world. Since the time of Pharaoh, peoples and nations have persecuted, exiled, confiscated their property, and now literally devoted themselves to wiping Israel and Jews off the face of the map... but in vain.

## Getting "Passed Over" – Not Always a Bad Thing

By Donna Swanson, Prepare Campus Missionary



Donna and fiancée, Waihon, at a Passover celebration

In Israel and in Jewish communities all over the world, this year's Passover celebration began at sundown on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Why is Passover, or any of the other biblical feasts usually celebrated only by Jews, also important for Christians? Many important New Testament events took place in the context of these feasts. Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover, He was raised on the Feast of Firstfruits and the Spirit fell during the Feast of Pentecost. God designed all of these feasts to teach us about Jesus. A lamb's blood on an Israelite's doorpost in Egypt at the first Passover caused God's judgment to pass over. In the same way, the blood of Jesus, our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), turns away God's judgment on our sin and releases us from spiritual bondage. Paul's epistles include many references to the feasts, and he assumes that all Christians will celebrate them! In 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, he exhorts the mostly Gentile church in Corinth: "Christ, OUR Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore LET US celebrate the Festival..."



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