

Israel OKs Christian TV station

Content will include Messianic programming

By REBEKAH KOLBER

The State of Israel has granted Daystar TV, a Christian television network that airs several Messianic television shows, permission to broadcast in Israel. While some cable access stations in Israel broadcast a limited number of Christian shows, it is the first time that the Israeli government has issued a permit to an explicitly Christian network that only airs believing content.

Daystar Television Network now operates 200 television stations outside the United States and 50 stations within the U.S., reaching more than 55 million people. Marcus Lamb, president of Daystar, announced the new Israeli channel during a live broadcast in May saying, "This is a first. Never before has the nation of Israel granted a license for a 100 percent Christian channel to broadcast into all of Israel. Up until now, it has either been illegal, impossible, or impractical."

One of the Messianic shows that will now be available in Israel is the 30-minute weekly "Jewish Voice Today," hosted by Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, which teaches the Jewish roots of the New Testament, discusses biblical prophecy and shows interviews with Jewish believers about their faith journeys.

Bernis first heard the news when Marcus Lamb's office sent out a special communication to all Daystar programmers after the agreement was finalized. "Still, I had to check it out for myself since it seemed so unbelievable," said Bernis. "To my delight, I was able to confirm that it was, indeed, all true when I was in Israel a week or two later. We are now on both major cable companies during prime time. What an incredible breakthrough!"

Lamb agrees. The message of the Gospel will now be going into "every home in Israel 24 hours a day, seven days per week," he said. "This is a moment in time that we will

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BRINGING YESHUA TO A HURTING WORLD

Med team treats Ethiopian Jews

By REBEKAH KOLBER

A two-week outreach in March brought sight to the blind in Ethiopia's Jewish community, reaching more than 7,500 in the impoverished Gondar mountains and the slums of Addis Ababa. The outreach, organized by Jewish Voice Ministries International, was made possible by a team of 70 volunteer healthcare professionals including surgeons, dentists, nurses, ophthalmologists and pediatricians.

This was primarily a medical service trip, said Jonathan Bernis, executive director of JVML. It was "an expression of God's love and care for a people abandoned by Israel and most of the world." But the team didn't just provide medicine, they also brought more than 1,200 of those treated to faith in Yeshua as their Messiah. Some who could not be helped by doctors saw more miraculous cures. Twelve people had their hearing restored, three were healed of



This Ethiopian baby has a brighter future after cataract surgery.

blindness and a young girl who had been lame since birth was given the strength to walk, said Bernis.

"I've learned that people don't care what you know, until they know you care," he said. "Because the people received love and medical assistance, they were eager to listen to (our) message with open hearts."

The Beit Avraham and Beta Israel communities are some of the poorest Jewish people on earth. Many of those helped with medical, dental or eye care during the outreach had never

seen a doctor before, Bernis said.

The Beit Avraham and Beta Israel are "enigmatic, but forgotten communities of Black Jews," said Bernis. "Some trace their ancestry back to Menelik, the alleged son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, while others believe they are direct descendants of Dan, one of the 12 tribes of Israel, scattered and lost through the centuries."

Beginning in 1984, the Israeli

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Group uses Ten Commandments in street ministry

By REBEKAH KOLBER

In San Diego, Messianics are taking to the streets with the Gospel, sharing old wisdom in a new way. Real Evangelism is both an ad hoc street ministry run by Joseph Rollins and Yvona Friedmann and an "equipping ministry" dedicated to teaching the way of evangelism as a lifestyle that was used by Yeshua, the

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Joseph Rollins shares on a city street in San Diego.

Israelis reaching Israelis: with the Gospel



Army volunteers with a banner that reads 'Gate of the Valley helping needy families.'

By REBEKAH KOLBER

Missions in Israel are often started by foreign believers with little understanding of the culture and few local contacts. But with a growing body of mature Messianics, some of the most effective outreach work is being done by indigenous groups.

Many work solely as evangelists while others focus on charity. At least one group is doing both. Gate of the Valley, an outreach of One of Zion Foundation, was founded in 2004 by Joseph and Nurit Eliahu with the

help of six volunteers. Joseph and Nurit are both sabras (native Israelis) who came to faith six years ago. The couple, who have five children, live in Rishon Letzion.

They created Gate of the Valley to share the love of Yeshua with other Israelis by providing for basic needs while also addressing the recipients' need to hear a message of hope through faith in the Messiah.

More than 40 families have come to faith through this ministry.

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Palestinians teeter on brink of civil war

By DAVID DOLAN

Intense clashes broke out in May in the Gaza Strip in what some commentators said could be a prelude to full-blown Palestinian civil war.

The fighting, which left a dozen dead and scores injured, involved members of a new 3,000-man Hamas militia under Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and security personnel loyal to PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

The Hamas militia was formed despite warnings from Abbas that it could split the Palestinian people and lead to a major internal conflict. In early June, Hamas officials agreed to pull the Islamic militiamen out of public places in Gaza City, but refused demands that the force be disbanded. This led the rival Fatah Party that Abbas heads to establish its own armed militias in several areas north of Jerusalem.

The clashes, which continued on and off all month, intensified after attackers

attempted to assassinate Tariq Abu Rajab, the head of PA intelligence services in the Gaza Strip. Hamas gunmen were believed to be behind the bombing of an elevator shaft in the intelligence headquarters in Gaza City. The blast killed one of Rajab's bodyguards and wounded seven others.

A close friend of Abbas, Rajab is a stern opponent of Hamas. But Hamas denied it was behind the attack and a previously unknown group, "The al-Qaida

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Reviews

Books • Music • Films



'In Awe of You'
CD by
Philip
Stanley
Klein

Klein's flair for the dramatic shines through in latest CD

REVIEWED BY AMY GREEN

The confident voice of a fine musician singing great melodies is always cause for rejoicing and Philip Stanley Klein's new CD has some beautiful tunes and grand music making.

Klein's home element is clearly the stage. Many times, as the music swelled and Klein's voice took flight, I felt as if the singer was compelling me from just beyond the speakers and only wished that we could make eye contact. Klein's desire to seize hold of his audience and leave them with a deeper passion for the Lord is in every track.

If you love drama, you'll enjoy hearing the old Russian national anthem in a beautiful rendition entitled, "The Love of God." Anyone who's spent long hours studying the Book of Ephesians, will equally appreciate the way it's been encompassed in his opening track ("Ephesians"). But when he joins the fiddle in the plaintive opening notes in "Take My Sin, Oh God," I didn't know whether to laugh or sigh.

On the other hand, sometimes the arrangements are a bit too clever. Saying there's something for everyone is not always a compliment. I had trouble following Klein's "island beat" when he started singing "Humble yourself before the Lord."

One thing is for certain: Klein never lacks for emotional flair. Trumpets, fiddles, timpani crescendos, they're all here.

Considering the contemporary scene, Klein has great timing. This is a great day for men with real voices. Let's have more of it, schmaltz and all—and conference organizers take note—we need to see this guy on stage. After listening to this album a few times I'm excited about the prospect of eye contact.

Amy Green is an occasional reviewer of books and music for The Messianic Times.

Fresh insights on Torah provided by FFOZ book

REVIEWED BY
HYLAN SLOBODKIN

D. Thomas Lancaster, in his "Restoration: Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus," does not attack historic Christianity, as is the habit of some when dealing with this subject matter. Instead, he acknowledges his Christian roots but then graciously points readers to deeper roots that have been overlooked for centuries. He presents a compelling argument for the Church to return to its Jewish roots and what he calls the "original, biblical expression of faith in Jesus."

Lancaster describes Torah not as a bunch of laws leading to legalism, but as a bunch of grace leading to obedience. He

explains what Torah is and what it is not. He makes an excellent case for all believers in Yeshua to keep Torah just as Messiah did, not in a salvific sense, but with joy walking out our faith.

Lancaster puts the festivals of Leviticus 23 into perspective. "Unlike our day planners and easily deleted Palm Pilot entries, God's day planner does not change." Restoration is not an exhaustive treatise on the festivals. However, I found this section lacking in scriptural back-up. I found myself writing biblical references in the margins to compliment those given.

Lancaster says, "Human beings are the only mammals synchronized to the moon. A woman's body is uniquely



Restoration
Returning the Torah of God to the Disciples of Jesus
by D. Thomas Lancaster
First Fruits of Zion; 2005; 164 pp. \$15.00

tuned to God's calendar and, like the moon, is an ongoing picture of renewal and rebirth." What a beautiful picture!

One of the most meaningful and insightful chapters describes The Rule of Law. It would be "madness and folly to assume that by merit of our salvation we possess some special immunity to God's commands. Without The Rule of Law, the ethics of the Torah are reduced to simply good advice. Without The Rule of Law, the Ten Commandments become the Ten Suggestions." No one is above or exempt from the laws of Torah. Yeshua expounded on this beautifully in Matthew 5:17-19.

I have very few complaints. However, Lancaster uses some Talmudic stories, Jewish leg-

ends and wives tales from the apocrypha, which weaken his arguments, distract from historical truth and bring into question his biblical scholarship. I would have left them out and stuck to scripture.

Lancaster masterfully explains the differences between moral law, civil law and ceremonial law. He discusses the difficult laws of Torah, the oral Torah and Paul's teaching on Torah. Well done. He quotes Matthew 24-12 and poses that "lawlessness" is actually Torahlessness. Thank you for new insight. On a scale of one to 10 I give Restoration a 9+. A good read for all believers in Messiah.

Hylan Slobodkin is Rabbi at Beit Tikvah in Newcastle, Wash.



Messianic Life Lessons From the Boom of Jonah

Finding and Following the Will of God

by Sam Nadler
Word of Messiah Ministries (2005);
Charlotte, NC; 149 pp.

REVIEWED BY
AMY GREEN

Few teachers possess the boldness and conviction of Sam Nadler. He's been a missionary pioneer and leader, a brilliant evangelist and effective congregational planter. He is one of the most remarkable teachers to hold an audience in the palm of his hand. And thankfully, his wife Miriam compels him to put his hard won insights into print!

It is a gift to communicate powerfully yet simply. If Nadler raises any complaint from his

peers it's this—he makes it look too easy. This delightful commentary on Jonah is a wonderful example of Nadler examining a prophetic gem verse by verse and drawing precious insights from every one.

Nadler's special gift is to instill in readers a profound sense of the authority and the urgency of God's Word. Because Jonah's message is a powerful model for examining the missionary call that Nadler understands so well, the author's insights are particularly effective here.

Powerful insights abound all

throughout this small, but highly packed volume. You won't want to miss how to understand the phrase: "the presence of the Lord." (chapter 1). But Nadler also includes significant lessons on submission to the Lord (chapter 2). There are also essential insights on renewal and repentance (chapter 3). This leads to a beautiful climax on God's sovereign love (chapter 4). In each case, Nadler shows his wide range of perspective—solid in theology, highly personal in application. You'll be touched by the story of Socrates drawing a

young man from sin or the Chinese believer who sold himself into slavery to bring the Gospel to South African slaves. And each page is steeped in knowledge of the Hebrew text, directives from the B'rit Chadashah (New Testament) and the priority of serving Yeshua above all.

How does Sam deliver so much, so effectively? I don't know. But you'll be blessed for years to come by having this book on your shelf. And when you see Sam's wife, don't forget to say, "Thanks, Miriam."

Jonah's message a model for missionary call

New CD offers cantorial music to Messianics

REVIEWED BY
JEREMIAH GREENBERG

Shelly London, a Messianic cantor from central Florida, has recorded a collection of Shabbat and high holiday liturgy in his "For the love of God" CD. Accompanied in part by concert pianist Alyosha Ryabinov, he is presenting cantorial music to the Messianic movement in a new format.

London believes the words of the Hebrew liturgy, especially many high holiday prayers, contain a depth of worship and devotion to God that has been missed by many who fail to get past the language barrier. What shines through is an appreciation of the meanings behind the cantorial prayers—something normally missed by those who believe that singing has to be participatory to be truly wor-

shipful. While we are listening to his chanting of the High Holiday liturgy in the traditional cantorial style, I believe he wants us to follow along in the translation of the music, something he has provided for us in the CD insert. In that way, we will be able to understand and feel what he is attempting to convey through his rendition of the Hebrew prayers.

With the Shabbat liturgy

items, London has recorded mostly easy to follow sing-along type tunes, although not without at least some of his particular personal cantorial style. All of the Shabbat tunes can be found in one of the commonly circulated Messianic prayer books, so this CD can also be used for learning many of the commonly used Shabbat prayers.

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