

The Chosen People

FEBRUARY 1983 ISSN 0013-758X

*Can Israel Survive
The Moslem Bomb?*



From the President



FEBRUARY 1983

Israel won the war in southern Lebanon but she lost the greater battle of Western media exposure. Israel did what was necessary to secure her borders and stop terrorist attacks, but the PLO won the media victory.

The gross misrepresentation of facts by the Western press made Israel look like a cruel aggressor. Some of the media campaigns were so successful that strong divisions concerning Israel's role in Lebanon have developed for the first time within the American-Jewish community and within Israel herself.

Now, with the withdrawal of the PLO from Lebanon, in the aftermath of investigations into the Beirut massacre and with the sifting of the news material, I believe Israel will be exonerated from the malicious charges leveled against her by the Western news media.

This is not to say that Israel is totally right in all her actions. This would be foolish. Too often evangelical Christians feel that Israel, simply because she is Israel, can do no wrong. Israelis are human. They too make mistakes. No one is asking for unilateral acceptance of all Israel's policies. But neither do we want to see a distorted picture of Israel presented by the Western news media.

We believe Israel is back in her land in fulfillment of God's prophetic Word. They are in the land "in unbelief" (cf. Ezek. 36). They have become an exceeding great army (cf. Ezek. 37). According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Israel is now the fourth strongest military power in the world. According to Major Elliot of the Institute, Israel's air force is, without doubt, the best in the world. Israel also possesses some of the most highly developed nonnuclear hardware in the world today. I believe it is the emergence of Israel as a military might that is threatening the influence of the super powers in the Middle East and that is thus creating the backlash in the press and media throughout the world.

David K. Shieler, writing for the *New York Times*, stated, "In a sense this war [in Lebanon] has been Israel's first overt large scale experiment with the temptations and pitfalls of being a regional power. Inasmuch as the broad political objectives were optional and exceeded the strictest security demands, the war became the medium through which Israel, for the first time, used its military forces much as a super power tries to do."

The invasion of Lebanon by Israel served notice to the world that Israel is capable of maintaining peace in the Middle East. I believe it was used as a warning to the nations of the world that God can and will use the Israelis as a rod of chastisement for the nations, should the nations continue to refuse and rebel against the message of the Gospel. If God could use a pagan Babylonian nation under Nebuchadnezzar to judge Israel (cf. Jer. 25), then certainly God can and will use a secular Israel to judge the nations.

In this issue of *The Chosen People*, you will come face to face with the Moslem world and its impact on Israel and the Middle East. You'll see the necessity for Israel's strong military presence in the Middle East. You'll be blessed and challenged by the missionary stories and testimonies. God is truly doing a marvelous work through your missionaries as they faithfully bring the Gospel to the Jewish people.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and your generous and sacrificial support of this vital ministry. Please continue to uphold us in prayer.

Shalom, Shalom!

Harold A. Sevens

The Chosen People

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By JEANNE REES
Missionary, N.Y.

It's wonderful to be the one who plants a seed in someone's heart for Jesus. It's also exciting to be the one who waters a seed that has been planted. But what a great blessing to be the one who picks ripe fruit off the tree!

God brought just such a rare blessing into my life when I met Bonnie. This secular Jewish girl in her mid-20s worked with Kim, a young believer in my church. Whenever they had the chance to chat, Kim took the opportunity to tell Bonnie about her Savior. She was planting the first seeds for Christ in Bonnie's heart. Soon, Kim felt it would be better if a Jewish believer could talk with her. So she called me and asked if I would like to meet Bonnie.

"Jeanne," she began, "there's a Jewish girl who works with me. I believe she might be open to the Gospel. Could you talk with her?" I invited the girls to visit me at home on a Tuesday evening.

The two of us sat comfortably on the couch in my livingroom. Once Bonnie put out her cigarette, I began to ask her questions about her Jewish background. She admitted that her knowledge of Judaism was limited.

I found that the only traces left of Bonnie's Jewish background were products of her grandparents' Orthodox traditions. Although she had admitted that she had little respect for religion, I couldn't help but notice that she was curious to hear about what I believed.

She sat up and listened as I explained the Jewish sacrificial system. "Oh! I've never heard of that," she admitted, surprised to hear that such a thing was necessary. Once she realized I was



IT WAS NEVER SO EASY TO LEAD A JEWISH PERSON TO CHRIST

declaring that Jesus was the One who bore our sins, she said, "You sound just like my mother-in-law." I later discovered that her mother-in-law attended the same church I belonged to when I lived in Queens. She believed in Jesus too.

I was delighted to hear that Bonnie was familiar with what I believed. "Could I read you a portion of Scripture?" I asked. She agreed, and I began with Isaiah 52:13, reading to the end of chapter 53. I didn't tell her that this Scripture was from the Old Testament. "Bonnie, about whom does this speak?" I asked after reading to her.

For a minute Bonnie remained still, thinking about my question. Then she burst out with her answer. "Oh, that's Jesus on the cross." Her answer encouraged me to go on to the next logical step.

I told Bonnie that the passage I read her from Isaiah was written about 700 BC—before Christ was even born, and she was truly surprised.

Now it was a good time to ask her about atonement. "Bonnie," I inquired, "how do Jews celebrate Yom Kippur?"

"They go to synagogue and they fast," she replied. To Bonnie, however, this never meant a thing. In fact, she even ridiculed her grandparents for what she regarded as meaningless practices.

"Well, let's see how God wants us to celebrate it," I suggested.

"Okay," she agreed.

I handed Bonnie a Bible so that she could read along as I read Leviticus 16. When we completed the chapter, I asked, "Do we observe Yom Kippur today as we are supposed to according to the Scriptures?"

"No, I guess not," she replied. Then, with a puzzled look on her face, she asked, "Well, how do we get our blood atonement then?"

I could hardly believe Bonnie's question. Inside my heart, I thanked the Lord. He then led me to read the eighth chapter of Hebrews. Then we read Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews chapter 9, where everything finally came together for Bonnie. She eagerly soaked up the Scriptures, wanting to learn more and more.

Suddenly, she came to a startling conclusion. I just couldn't believe my ears when I heard her say, "Then, when Jesus died on the cross, He took

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His blood into the holy place in heaven to be our blood atonement."

I looked at Bonnie in amazement. "That's it!" I exclaimed, "that's the message of the Gospel in a nutshell."

"Bonnie," I asked, "if you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven or hell?"

She thought for just a second and replied with confidence, "I'd go to heaven." This is an answer many people give. As a missionary, I've learned that I must find out the reason they believe this. Many times they think their good works will be acceptable to God. I suspected this might be the case with Bonnie too, but I was in for another surprise.

"Why do you think so?" I asked.

"Because I believe everything you've told me," she said. Now I needed to ask the Lord to help me continue because, by this time, I was simply stunned by all that had happened.

I went on and asked, "If I had asked you the same question an hour ago, what would your answer have been?"

"Probably, hell," she answered.

Later I realized the wonderful plan God had worked out for Bonnie. Her mother-in-law had planted the first seed in her heart. Then Kim watered that seed as they spent time together at work. And, finally, I was leading her to the truth, almost effortlessly.

"Well," I suggested, "why don't we pray?"

Bonnie eagerly asked the Lord into her heart. He had prepared her in such a manner that when she heard about her Messiah it all rang true in her heart.

Together we walked into the family room where my husband and Kim were sitting. With a smile, I declared, as I presented Bonnie, "Here's your new sister!" □



Describing the Orthodox Jewish head covering for a morning (Tuesday 9:30) Bible study in her home. Jeanne is using ABMJ's "Introducing the Jewish People to Their Messiah" as a springboard for a lively discussion.

A Hebrew Christian Retreat ...

Melissa Horig and Barry Rubin



Vince Morgan (below) of Conservative Baptist Home Missions Society ministers the Word.



"IT AIN'T JUST LOX'N BAGELS"



Max Riben and daughter Sylvia (N.J.) share a friendly game of chess (this page above) while Larry Weinstein (N.Y.C.) takes a break (right) at the volleyball court. One of the many seminars (opp. pg.) finds interested listeners in Steffi Rubin (Barry's wife) and Mrs. Mottel Baleston (background) at the Warwick Retreat.



Melissa Honig knew there were other Jews who believed in Jesus, but she hadn't met any. So when she visited New York she called the Manhattan branch of Beth Sar Shalom. "Come on over," Sam Nadler invited when he heard Melissa's story. Melissa accepted Sam's invitation and stopped by the office.

Sam's heart was greatly blessed when Melissa told him how she had come to know Christ and that she now wanted to have some part

in reaching other Jewish people for Him. There was just one problem: Melissa lived in Nashville, Tennessee, which was not a convenient location to be in regular contact with any of the Beth Sar Shalom missionaries.

"But it just so happens," Sam explained, "that I know a Hebrew-Christian couple in that area, and I think they might be able to work with you on a regular basis." Sam took Melissa's address and phone number, and a few weeks later Melissa got a call from Barry Rubin.

When Barry and Steffi Rubin (now working on ABMJ staff) got together with Melissa, their fellowship in the Lord rapidly bonded them together. They discussed different ways they could do something for God in Nashville. Through the Lord and His good timing, a group of Jewish believers

was formed. They met regularly to pray and study God's Word.

Barry, Sam and Melissa exemplify a vital lesson: In God's kingdom there are no organizational boundaries. Last spring, this same principle was seen in operation many times over when Barry, Sam, Melissa and 90 others who form a cooperative network of Hebrew-Christians met for a retreat at the Warwick Family Center in New York.

The gathering was sponsored by many different ministries. Among them were Ariel ministries, Conservative Baptist Home Missions Society and Beth Sar Shalom (ABMJ).

The variety of individuals God chose to assemble there delighted everyone: There were people who had music ministries and people who had prison ministries. There were grandparents

and grandchildren. There were students, soldiers and laymen. There was as great a variety of testimonies as there were individuals. It was a time to lay aside all the boundaries that often separate people from one another and come together as a family

of Jewish believers who love their Messiah.

People shared fresh ideas, new insights and, most of all, a deep appreciation for the diverse army that God is raising up in these last days.

We'd like for you, our *Chosen People* family, to pray for future gatherings like this one. If you are a Jewish believer and would like to be part of these informal fellowships, consider attending a future retreat. For more information, contact any of the participating ministries or call David Hodges at (516) 593-8800. □



THE PATRON SAINT OF

By DR. DANIEL FUCHS

A new "saint" is being canonized. He is "Saint Yasser Arafat." He even changed his uniform for his initial interview with Pope John Paul II. *Newsweek* magazine reported the following on September 27, 1982:

Arafat removed his customary pistol and holster for the occasion and went to his meeting with John Paul playing the man of peace. "It is in the same line as Jesus Christ—a Palestinian who is seeking to help the poor and oppressed," said PLO spokesman Mahmoud Labadi. Afterward, another associate of Arafat—a Palestinian Roman Catholic priest named Ibrahim Ayad—declared: "Now that the head of the Palestinians has been received by the pope, Catholics throughout the world will cease to look on the PLO as a terrorist organization.

Three-Piece Suits: The meeting was conducted in English—which both men speak with strong accents—and lasted beyond the 15 minutes originally scheduled. The pope gave Arafat and his two close aides a medal bearing his own image; Arafat presented the pope a mother-of-pearl replica of the Nativity executed by Palestinian artisans in Bethlehem. PLO officials who accompanied Arafat wore three-piece suits and ties in place of their customary khaki fatigues. "It appears we're not fighters anymore but diplomats," said one Arafat aide, obviously ill at ease in mufti. "So, we have to look like diplomats."

While the thought of a Saint Arafat is absurd, there is no doubt that the most infamous terrorist since Eichmann is now garbed in the garments of an apostle of peace.

The terrifying aspect of this "metamorphosis" is that it is the creation of our own television and news media in their coverage of the war in Lebanon. The war in the Middle East is crucial, but the Palestinians have changed the battlefield: It is no longer in Beirut; the real battle wages in Washington, and it is being telecast on the nightly news. The sad fact is that the battle for the hearts and minds of the American people is being won by the Palestinians. We need to remember the Abrahamic Covenant, "I will curse him that curseth thee."

We must make our position clear. True, we do not agree with everything Israel has done. Some of her acts sadden us. But we realize that Israel has returned to her land in unbelief. We have to disagree with many of the details of Israel's actions, but we can stand firm in our conviction that Israel's return to the land is an act of God fulfilling His Word, "Unto thy seed have I given this land" (Gen. 15:18).

Even apart from the fulfillment of prophecy, it is our conviction that it will be political suicide to encourage

the forces of international terrorism to succeed in their aim in the Middle East. A few weeks ago I stood at the Israel-Lebanon border while a Juggernaut Russian tank, which the Israelis had captured, was crossing the border. It was a terrifying machine. I thanked God that the Israelis had captured it. Perhaps I was selfish in my thanks. I was relieved that it would not be used against us. Just as the PLO has sworn to destroy Israel, so the Soviet Union has sworn to destroy our way of life.

We have been duped into blaming Israel for a war she did not start, instead of praising God for what Israel has done for us. In a few months Israel has

1. Crippled international terrorism.
2. Tested our weapons against the Soviet Union's and proved them more than adequate.
3. Destroyed the Soviet Union's image in the Middle East.
4. Vividly demonstrated that the Arab world doesn't want the PLO.
5. Freed Lebanon.
6. Opened new avenues whereby we, together with Lebanon, Egypt and Israel, will be able to expand the "peace offensive" so nobly begun by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin.

We must not permit Arafat's propaganda offensive to succeed where his terrorists failed.

It seems as if Arafat is winning the war of words not only in the American media, but also in the evangelical press. In September one of the world's finest missionary statesmen wrote an article in one of the finest evangelical magazines. It was a well-written article, and it was an effective plea for God's children to contribute generously to Lebanese relief. I heartily agree with the motive of the





THE WESTERN PRESS

author, but the article could have been even more effective by omitting such offerings as the following:

"Israel, the country skilled in making the desert blossom like a rose, knows also how to turn a rose into a desert."

"Military traffic takes priority. The sheer magnitude of this one visible piece of the Israeli war machine is incredible. David seems determined to become Goliath. Perhaps someone in charge should reread that Bible story."

What the author forgets is that if David hadn't killed Goliath, Israel's armies would

is welcome. It means, they hope, that the brutal sway of the PLO over their lives has ended, and that the PLO will no longer lure punitive Israeli bombs to their towns and villages. It means also that the reconstruction of Lebanese society by the Lebanese can now at least be contemplated. That is why delegates to the Washington convention to the American Lebanese League were cheered, according to the Washington Post, by events in Lebanon, and "the major complaint . . . was that it didn't go far enough." The Boston Globe reported that representatives of two other associations of Lebanese Americans in Massachusetts, where many recent Lebanese exiles have settled, said in a press conference that "the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is the best thing that could have happened to that country." These are not heartless views, and they reflect sentiment back home. "I am glad that the Israelis have come," a Maronite woman told David Ignatius of the Wall Street Journal. "We've been on the cross for the last seven years." This is why so many of her countrymen showered advancing Israeli troops with flowers.

The New Republic,
July 5, 1982

As a result of Arafat's invasion of Lebanon, intensive warfare broke out between Arafat's Moslem PLO and the Lebanese Christians. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese Christians went into exile, and Syria entered the fray as a "peacekeeping force" in 1975. The result was carnage. The same evangelical magazine that printed the bitter anti-Israel diatribes quoted above calmly described the slaughter of 60,000 Lebanese men, women and children by the Syrians and the PLO as if it were an elegy in a country churchyard.

There once was a beautiful country on the Mediterranean—a country in which Christians and Muslims shared the land's beauty and blessing.

Children played in the fields, picked flowers for their mothers. Men sweated under the sun, making a living for their loved ones. Young people talked about their dreams and looked toward a bright future.

Then, suddenly, darkness came upon the land.

Churches and mosques were destroyed. Schools stood empty, hospitals full. Men carried guns. Women wore black in mourning. Children could pick no more flowers. "It's the war," they were told. Yet some children still picked flowers—to place on their fathers' and brothers' graves.

Sixty thousand dead—men, women, children. Young people learned to hate. To carry guns. To fight. High school students who had shared the same desks now turned into enemies.

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have been annihilated. War is terrible, but sometimes necessary.

We believe that the Christian public should know the facts. In 1970 the growing PLO became an enormous threat to the government of Jordan, and Yasser Arafat literally invaded Lebanon.

Yasser Arafat chose Lebanon because Lebanon was too weak and too fissured to resist. Lebanon had been designated by the stronger Arabs to play host to those whom no one else would have. The PLO disrupted the frail internal balance of Lebanese society; its armed gangs bullied and tyrannized those who would not submit to their designs. Those who would not be bullied or tyrannized were likely to be murdered, sometimes gruesomely. But because the Israelis also retaliated, and sometimes too harshly, for the deeds of the PLO across the border, indigenous Lebanese inevitably were caught and killed in bloody battles of retribution and preemption of which they were wholly innocent victims. From the beginning the PLO used civilians as a protective shield for its operations. The more this inhibited Israeli action—and it did—the more the PLO was encouraged to base its personnel and equipment where ordinary people work and live. To most Lebanese, then, the victory of Israel, even at so dreadfully high a cost in human life,

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Peaceful Lebanon became a land of darkness and destruction, a country of sufferers crying out for help.

That was 1975.

The carnage increased from 1975 until 1982. The same article we quoted from *The New Republic* claimed, "Carnage became commonplace. No fewer than seventy thousand civilians—some say one hundred thousand—died in what the world chose to call a civil war in order to cover up its silent complicity in a long war of occupation by two foreign armies. To this day, the resident Syrians are called 'peacekeeping forces.'"

Ibid., p. 7



"I THOUGHT I NEEDED A PRAYER BOOK TO TALK TO GOD."

What a life! Being Jewish was just great for me. I thought of it as a privilege. All through my boyhood, as I was growing up in the Bronx, Hebrew school, synagogue and all the Jewish holy days were occasions in which I could flaunt my pride.

God? Oh, He was in there somewhere. But I couldn't tell you exactly where. He didn't require too much thought. I knew who I was and I thought that would always be enough.

It was easy for me to feel proud of my Judaism. I had a lot of company. Everyone in my neighborhood was Jewish.

It wasn't so easy, however, for my wife, Ardell. She was raised in an Orthodox home in a mixed community in Brooklyn. It's hard to hang onto your family traditions when your Gentile friends are taking you to church on Sundays. Ardell's parents didn't like that one bit. That's one reason

why they finally decided to move to the Bronx. It would afford them the comfort of knowing that they could give their daughter "the right kind of friends."

Ardell did make some Jewish friends, and then she did what most Jewish girls in the Bronx were expected to do. She met a nice Jewish boy and married him. I was that lucky fellow!

For 25 years we enjoyed most of the comforts of a middle-class couple. Then our world fell apart. I lost my job, and we suddenly found ourselves with some devastating financial problems.

I needed help. Yet I didn't feel that I could discuss my problem with anyone. How could I admit that I could no longer make ends meet? We especially didn't want our daughter to know. But a secret like that can only be kept for a short while.

We just couldn't hide it any longer. We had to find someone we could confide in. So we chose Ardell's sister, Audrey. She had always been open and honest with us, so it would be easy for us to do the same. We could only remember one instance when it took Audrey a while to tell us exactly what was on her mind. For two and

Testimony of
Jack and Ardell
Laster



SYNAGOGUE AND FESTIVAL PRAYER BOOK

While the thought of a Saint Arafat is absurd, there is no doubt that the most infamous terrorist since Eichmann is now garbed in the garments of an apostle of peace.

This is what Israel stopped when she invaded Lebanon. How is it that those who so blatantly condemn Israel's advance into Lebanon condone and even seemingly approve the real rape of Lebanon by Syria and the PLO?

But Israel had to attack Lebanon for her own existence as well. In the year prior to Israel's attack, the PLO maintained almost continual heavy shelling of Israel. This resulted in tens of thousands of Israeli citizens

living in bomb shelters. Arab terrorism had succeeded. Under the guise of a cease-fire the PLO amassed enormous amounts of Russian materiel. Make no mistake about it: Israel's attack was in self-defense.

Both Jews and Arabs need the Gospel. On my recent trip to Israel I met two young Israeli believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They maintain a beautiful witness for our Lord. They are members of an informal assembly of believers—all young—all loving the Lord, and all quietly witnessing. There are about 100 of them, half of them Jewish, half of them Arab!

"For He is our peace, who hath made both one." What the United Nations cannot do, the Gospel *can* do! □

one-half years she had secretly believed in Jesus. Then, finally, when she just had to share the news, she called us. Ardell was upset because she thought her sister had joined a cult.

I was a little more open-minded about Audrey's beliefs, and Audrey even thought, at one time, that I might end up believing in Jesus too. I wanted to tell her not to waste her time praying for me, but I didn't want to hurt her feelings. I was determined to remain faithful to my upbringing and remember what I had been taught about the Messiah. I was going to wait for Him to come. Ever since I was a

boy I'd wonder, "Is the Messiah going to come by the time I'm 100 years old?"

Now, the way my financial situation was going, I thought He'd never show up. I was soon to find out just how wrong I was.

When we told Audrey all about our problems, she first assured us that she would do all she could to help. She said she'd call her church and tell them to pray for us. But somehow that didn't give us as much comfort as the visitor she sent us did.

We were glad to be having company—someone we could just talk to. Yet, when Israel Cohen, ABMJ missionary, appeared at our door we were a bit confused. Audrey didn't tell us she was sending a Jewish believer in Jesus. She just said it was someone who would comfort us. She was right. He did comfort us—in a special way.

He told us that God sees His people through all trials, no matter how difficult. Illness, depression, even financial problems—He can solve them all. "Wow, could this be possible? Could God really help us in such practical ways?" I wondered. I had to admit that I felt comfortable with what Israel was saying. I had heard it before from Audrey. Now it seemed that all she had said to me was being confirmed. Suddenly, it sounded more than possible that Jesus could be the Lord. It sounded right!

Meanwhile, I didn't know it but God was also touching Ardell's heart. She now understood that it wasn't a cult her sister was involved in after all. She realized that there is a large group of Jewish people who believe in Jesus as the Messiah. Ardell now felt that Israel wasn't simply talking about a strange man named Jesus. He was talking about her Savior!

While she wondered if she would have to get down on her knees to pray, I wondered how I was ever going to step foot in a church.

When Israel suggested that we pray, I got up, out of habit, to get my siddur (Jewish prayer book). I thought I needed a prayer book to talk to God. But Israel called me back and told me that he was talking about a different kind of prayer—one we could make in our hearts. It was easy! If God loved us so much that He could actually send His Son to die for us, this was the least we could do to thank Him. Straight from our hearts, Ardell and I pledged our commitment to Christ.

As we continued to talk to Israel, I suddenly found that a new peace was forming inside me. With it came the confidence that God could certainly heal every wound in our lives. I thought of the two of us, Ardell and myself, sincerely vowing our commitment to Jesus our Messiah. I never would have thought it possible—a nice Jewish boy from the Bronx believing in Jesus! Yet it was the most natural thing we could ever do in our lives.

It was true. God could even help us in our financial struggle. Help poured in from our families and ABMJ. With open hearts, they gave us the love that God had given them to share, and somehow it didn't matter anymore that we had been evicted from our home. We were just rejoicing that we had a permanent home in God's family.

Day by day the Lord is strengthening our faith. We thrive on His Word, rejoicing as we discover the truth about our lives and about His everlasting promises. We only ask that the Lord will soon give us the boldness we need to tell our daughter about the Messiah with the same kind of love that attracted us to Him. Please pray with us that He will prepare her heart for the message we long to share. □

CAN ISRAEL SURVIVE

By TERRY DELANEY

Most people are sure that if a nuclear war is ever fought on this planet it will be between Russia and the United States. A *Newsweek* magazine poll indicates that seven out of ten Americans are convinced of this fact. But leading authorities on the subject have a strikingly different opinion.

A special Delphi poll of these experts revealed that they expect the first nuclear war will be waged between Israel and the Arab world. The chilling fact is that the Delphi poll has proved to be uncannily accurate in its predictions for nearly 30 years.

A quick check of activities in the Middle East confirms that the Delphi poll may be right on target in regard to a future Arab-Israeli nuclear confrontation.

Western intelligence experts are convinced that Israel has already built nuclear weapons. The CIA first reported that Israel had an atomic bomb in 1968.

Israel has steadfastly denied the charge, but admits that she could quickly

assemble such a weapon if it ever becomes necessary.

In 1981, the late Moshe Dayan told an Italian television audience, "We are not going to be the first ones to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East." Then he went on to admit, "But we do have the capacity to produce nuclear weapons . . . If the Arabs are willing to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East, then Israel should not be too late in having nuclear weapons too."

This and similar statements made to the press by various Israeli officials appear to be legal fiction. Although they may be technically true, the truth is being used to cloak the facts. An atomic bomb doesn't exist until a plutonium core is placed into a high-explosive cladding and both are then put into a shell. Thus, until the final step is complete, Israel can technically claim she doesn't have the bomb. As

one writer quipped, "The last screw has not been turned.

No screw, no bomb."

Even though the Arab world is lagging behind Israel in its quest for nuclear weapons, experts agree that the Arabs will soon achieve their goal. As far back as 1970, Colonel Qaddafi



WANT THE MOSLEM BOMB?

of Libya sent one of his most trusted deputies to Egypt to talk to Gamal Nasser about how Qaddafi could secure an atomic bomb. Since Libya lacked the sophisticated technical skills required to build such a weapon, Qaddafi was looking for other means.

Mohamed Heikal, a former editor of the semi-official Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram* and a personal envoy of President Nasser, revealed what happened in the meeting with Qaddafi's deputy. When Nasser asked him what Qaddafi wanted, the Libyan deputy replied, "We are going to buy an atomic bomb." Then, he went on to modestly explain, "We don't want a big atomic bomb, just a tactical one."

Qaddafi's deputy told Nasser that they knew the U.S. and Soviets wouldn't sell them such a weapon, but they felt the Chinese might. Mr. Heikal later learned that the Libyans had, indeed, approached the Chinese about such a purchase. Heikal wrote in his book, *The Road to Ramadan**, that Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai politely told the Libyans that atomic bombs are generally not for sale.

The Chinese response did not discourage Qaddafi. In 1975, the Libyan leader told a reporter from the Lebanese newspaper *An Nahar*, "People now say that this country has fifty planes and that country has five hundred. The day will come when they will say that this country has three nuclear bombs and that country has ten. When that day comes, Libya will not be absent."

How will Libya do it? Some nuclear experts believe they may acquire nuclear weapons through the "Pakistan connection." Many westerners frequently forget the fact that Pakistan is a devoutly Moslem nation. If the Moslem world were ever united in calling a *jihād* (religious war) against Israel, Pakistan could be expected to help. Once we understand the history of Pakistan, we can easily see how the Pakistanis may one day become suppliers of Libya's nuclear weapons.

Through the years, Pakistan has had severe problems with the Hindus of India. In their last major clash, Pakistan was ripped asunder with the help of India, losing 60 percent of her population to the newly created state of Bangladesh.

The humiliated Pakistanis turned to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to rebuild their nation's fortunes. Almost immediately, Bhutto set out to make Pakistan the first Third World nation to possess nuclear weapons. But their hated rival, India, achieved the feat first.

Bhutto had already warned the world, "If India builds the bomb, we will eat grass or leaves, or even go hungry. But we will get one of our own. We have no alternative." Thus, the nuclear race between India and Pakistan was begun in earnest.

Nuclear experts generally agree that Pakistan has the sophisticated scientific skill required to build an atomic bomb. They believe that the Pakistanis could build their first nuclear weapons as early as 1984. But there was one major obstacle—money. It costs hundreds of millions of dollars to build a nuclear bomb. The big question was... where could the Pakistanis get such a huge sum of money?

Enter the Libyans! Colonel Qaddafi seized the opportunity. His nation had the petro-dollars but lacked the scientific skill. Pakistan had the scientific skill but lacked the dollars. It was the perfect marriage.

Qaddafi reportedly sent Pakistan \$200 million for the project and Saudi Arabia added another \$500 million. Both nations had vowed to destroy Israel, and now it seemed they might get their opportunity.

Since Bhutto was overthrown and executed before the project was completed, the world will never know if he would have actually given nuclear

**The Road to Ramadan* by Mohamed Heikal, Times Books, 1975, is not available through ABMJ.

weapons to Israel's enemies.

The Arab world is still convinced that the Pakistanis will be the first Moslem nation to build atomic bombs. The only question that remains is whether or not the Pakistanis will make these bombs available in a future war against Israel. Libya and Saudi Arabia certainly have every right to ask Pakistan for nuclear weapons, since it was their petro-dollars that helped build them.

While Bhutto and Qaddafi were busy plotting how they would produce a Moslem bomb, Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, had ideas of his own. Saddam Hussein recognized the power of the petro-dollar over the Western world. Since his nation sits on the second largest oil reserve in the world, he has a lot of petro-dollars to spend.

Hussein began to use these dollars to acquire both the technology and the materials necessary to build an atomic reactor. It was from this reactor that the Iraqis eventually planned to build their atomic bomb. Even when buying a nuclear reactor from the French government, Hussein boasted to the Beirut magazine *al-Ushua al Arabi* that the supposedly peaceful reactor was "the first Arab attempt at nuclear arming." No one in the Western world cared to hear the boast, especially the French government, which was struggling with a yearly trade imbalance ranging in the billions of dollars, largely spent on Iraqi oil.

The Israelis nervously watched Hussein's efforts. They noted that the \$260 million French-built Tammuz nuclear reactor was 14 times more powerful than most research reactors. It was far too powerful to be used solely for the purpose of research. What was even more worrisome was the man who might one day hold an atomic bomb in his hands. Hussein was a man to be feared.

A 33-page Israeli intelligence report described Hussein as a "cunning,

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Can You Answer These Three Questions?

1. **How many Gods do you believe in?** Do you believe Jesus is God? What about the Holy Spirit? What about your Heavenly Father, is He God too? How many does that make? Three! So how can you Christians say you don't believe in three Gods?
2. **The Bible says when the Messiah came He would bring peace.** Your so-called Messiah, Jesus, has come, but we still don't have peace. So how can He be the Messiah?
3. **How could Jesus possibly be born of a virgin?** We are not naive. We know medical facts. How can you say He was born of a virgin?

These are just some of the questions our missionaries face every day. If you've never heard them put quite this way before, you've probably never had the privilege of sharing Christ with a Jewish person. If you've heard them, you've already discovered the value of knowing a missionary to the Jews who can help you.

Our missionaries have learned how to answer such questions. That's just one of the reasons we see so many Jewish people coming to Christ every year.

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The story of the Arab's quest for nuclear weapons is not finished. Even as you read this article, Arab scientists are working behind closed doors to produce the ultimate weapon of destruction to use against Israel



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sophisticated, cruel, and brave man." The psychological profile noted, "Considerations of conscience and morality would not stop him from using it [an atomic bomb]." The profile finally concluded, "If in his estimation the use of atomic weapons would give him the chance to strike Israel, and gain for himself at the same time a leadership position in the Arab world, he would not hesitate to use the bomb even if it would cost him similar retaliation from Israel, which would create damage and loss of life in Iraq itself."

Under such conditions, Israel could not let Hussein come into possession of an atomic bomb. The first Tammuz research reactor was destroyed in a French warehouse just hours before it was to be shipped to Iraq. No one has ever proved who sabotaged the reactor, but rumors persist in the intelligence world that the Mossad, Israel's highly skilled intelligence service, accomplished the feat. The second Tammuz reactor was destroyed by Israel's daring air raid in 1981.

Yet the story of the Arabs' relentless quest for nuclear weapons is not finished. Even as you read this article, Arab scientists are working behind closed doors to produce the ultimate weapon of destruction to use against Israel.

After Israel's destruction of the Tammuz reactor in 1981, Prime Minister Menachem Begin pointed out to the world press what would happen if the Arabs were ever to drop atomic bombs on the tiny Jewish state. Just three atomic bombs dropped along the Tel Aviv-Haifa corridor would kill 600,000 Israelis. It would be like the U.S. losing 44 million people in a single attack. Begin asked the press, "Where is the country which would tolerate such a knocking at its doors?" Obviously, the answer is none would.

So Israel's super-secret intelligence service, the Mossad, carefully monitors the Arab world's effort to build a Moslem bomb. Their eyes carefully and continuously focus on Pakistan, Libya and Iraq. But what, you may ask, if they miss something and the bomb eventually falls into the hands of Hussein or Qaddafi?

Long ago, the psalmist declared, "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul" (Ps. 121:4, 5, 7).

Yes, the Arab world may be building the bomb to use against Israel. But the Scriptures declare, "There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord" (Prov. 21:30, NIV).

DIARY OF A SUMMER MISSIONARY PART III

"I'M JUST WAITING TO DIE"

By DIANA HOLDITCH
Summer Missionary

When does a person become too old to hear the Gospel? We've all heard the expression, "They're too old and set in their ways to ever change." But is it really true?

When I first saw Rose she was sitting on a bench with four other elderly ladies in front of a New York City nursing home.

As Charlene (ABMJ volunteer missionary) and I strolled along we spotted these ladies quietly sitting and enjoying the bright afternoon sun. Each was wrapped in her own separate world, as though at their age there was nothing left to say.

Smiling politely, we asked Rose, the first woman on the bench, if she would give us some of her time. She was happy to oblige and perhaps even a bit relieved to be distracted from her boredom. So Charlene and I stood close beside her and began to go through our spiritual survey.

As Rose started to open up and share her honest opinions with us, we noticed the two women beside her were becoming uncomfortable.

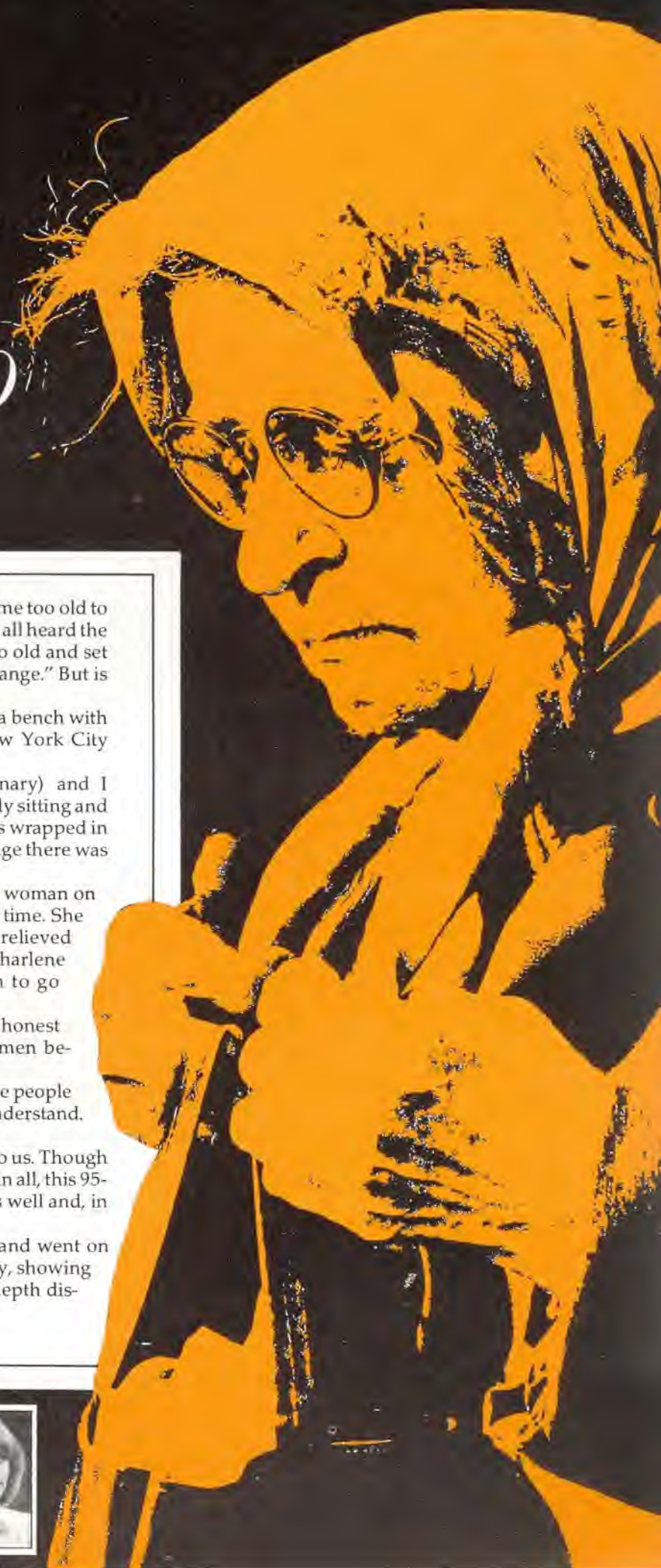
"Oh, no," one lamented to the other, "these people are trying to convert Rose. Rose doesn't understand. Rose is too senile."

Yet, Rose didn't seem the least bit senile to us. Though she did have a moderate loss of hearing, all in all, this 95-year-old woman was able to understand us well and, in turn, express her thoughts clearly.

I simply ignored her friend's comment and went on with the questions. "Rose," I asked candidly, showing her that I now wanted to begin a more in-depth discussion, "what is your purpose in life?"

continued on following page

Diana Holditch



“Rose,” I asked, “what is your purpose in life?” She thought for a moment and finally replied, “It used to be to have success, but now I’m just waiting to die.”

She thought for a moment, her lips pursed as if she were holding one thought in her mind while forming another. Finally she said, “It used to be to have a lot of money and to be successful, but now. . . .” She paused for a moment and with a look of self-assuredness she stated, “Now, I’m just waiting to die!”

Her blunt statement came as a surprise to me. I’ll admit that Rose wasn’t the most vibrant elderly woman I had ever met, but she didn’t seem to have given up on life either.

I had to know more about why she felt this way, and I was anxious to tell her what a difference God could make in her life. So, I jumped down to the end of the survey and asked, “Where will you go when you die?” I didn’t intend to sound disrespectful. I just wanted to get to the heart of the survey.

I was glad to see that my blunt question hadn’t startled her. But then I learned why she didn’t react. She just didn’t hear the question!

At this point, the friend beside her offered some help. “Rose,” she yelled in a loud voice with a Yiddish accent, “are you going to heaven or hell when you die?”

Both Charlene and I were surprised and amused by this rephrasing of our question.

Rose looked at me to reply, her eyes saying this was an easy one to answer. “That, young lady, is for God to decide.”

I gently objected, telling her, “We can know if we’re going to heaven.”

I was about to explain why I believed this, when she interrupted, “Oh, no, I can’t know where I’m going. Besides, I’m just an old woman, and there’s no place for me to go anyway. I’m just going into the ground.” The discouraged look on my face didn’t stop her. “I don’t need to go anywhere else,” she concluded.

With this, Rose launched into a completely different topic, telling us about her life. Much like two grandchildren with their wise, experienced grandmother, Charlene and I quietly

sat and listened.

Rose had grown up in Poland and had lived through the unspeakable horrors of the concentration camps. The cruelties she witnessed, however, didn’t make her feel bitter toward God, she claimed. She attributed them to man and his sinful nature.

Man’s sinfulness! This was a good place to tell her about Jesus and what He had done to bring salvation to us. But my voice was suddenly overruled by the louder beckoning of Rose’s friend, who was now becoming angry. She was disgusted with Rose’s honesty with us and couldn’t take it any longer. Seizing her by the hand, she announced, “We’re leaving, Rose.”

“How could this be happening, Lord?” I asked. It didn’t seem fair. We were just beginning to share in such a wonderful way, with the conversation turning to Jesus. I felt crushed and I quickly looked to God, saying, “Lord, this isn’t Your plan, is it? It couldn’t be!”

I was right. This wasn’t His plan. As Rose began to leave, I said “Goodbye” and thanked her for her time. She responded pleasantly, “oh, anytime girls.”

Then she turned around as she was passing the bench with her friends and asked, “By the way, what was this survey for, anyway?”

I began an explanation and, in order to hear it, she had to come closer and eventually sit down on the bench again.

Her friend was obviously exasperated by this time and decided against another attempt to “rescue” Rose.

“We’re from an organization,” I explained, “that believes in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. We’re giving this survey to people because we love God so much that we want to be able to share that love with other people.”

Now, I had my chance to pick up right where we had left off when we were interrupted. I explained that Jesus provided atonement for man’s sins so that we might be able to approach God.

Rose had been raised in an Orthodox home, so the idea of a blood atonement was not new to her. She was surprised, however, to hear that even though the temple was no longer here, God still required a sacrifice for sins. Still, she certainly could understand that man, on his own, was not righteous enough to come to God.

“Jesus, our Messiah, fulfilled the role of Savior for all eternity,” I said, portraying the same enthusiasm I felt.

This was difficult for Rose to understand. So, I showed her the link between some of the Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament fulfillments. Now, she seemed enlightened by what she had learned.

I thought it would be a good time to read her the prayer in the *L’Chaim* (Life) booklet.

“Messiah Jesus,” I read, “I admit that I have sinned. I believe You have provided the blood atonement for me. I receive You as my Messiah. Thank You for forgiving my sins and coming into my life as You promised.”

I looked up at Rose and asked, “Could this prayer be what’s in your heart right now?”

“I don’t know,” she replied. “Actually, I’m still searching to find out if God really is there. But now, since we’ve talked, I feel open for Him to tell me so.” It was the first time that she admitted her doubts about God.

I knew our discussion meant a great deal to Rose, and it warmed my heart to hear her say, “Well, if God cares as much as you say He does, maybe He *does* exist. And maybe even at 95 there’s still a chance for me to get to know this God.”

Charlene and I smiled as Rose parted our company. We knew a seed had been planted in her heart. We stood and watched as Rose slowly walked toward the nursing home, carrying the *L’Chaim* booklet in her wrinkled hands.

Please remember to pray for Rose. Pray that she will carry this message of love into her heart just as easily as she carried it into her home. □

Questions and Answers

by DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

QUESTION: The teaching about a literal eternal hell troubles me. How could God live in co-existence with such a place throughout eternity? Would this not mar our enjoyment of heaven and would not the annihilation of the wicked be more just after a period of punishment proportionate to their crimes?

ANSWER: The teaching of a literal eternal hell should trouble everybody from one aspect or another. The aspects you mention have troubled many, and there is no direct Scriptures, to my knowledge, that touch upon them. No matter what we should like to think or believe about the issues involved, it is wrong to reinterpret the Bible to make it conform with our concepts. On the other hand, we are thinking, feeling human beings and cannot ultimately avoid reflecting

on these things. Evidently, when God created man in His image, eternity was involved, and so from the very nature of the spirit of man annihilation is ruled out. This seems to be the case with other created spirit beings and, consequently, when Satan fell and took a third of the angels with him, God prepared hell for his reception (Mt. 25:41). The fact that this place is referred to as being "prepared" indicates its suitability for those it is to receive. From this viewpoint we might almost say that it would be a hell tenfold worse for those not cleansed in the blood of the Lamb to have to be in the presence of a holy God. So one day we might come to learn that hell is not only the result of the justice of God but His mercy also. In any case, its existence is never set forth as contradictory to anything in the nature of God in either time or eternity. With this we have to rest our case realizing

that what will not mar eternity for Him will have no effect upon us. If only now in this life we would be overwhelmed by the constraining love of Christ and the compassion for the lost that would make us the effective witnesses we ought to be!

QUESTION: At what age does a Hebrew boy generally begin the study of the Talmud and how long does it generally take to finish the study?

ANSWER: It all depends upon the talent and capability of the child. However, the Talmud laid the following rules: When a child is five years old he must begin to read the Bible. At ten he must study the Mishnah. At fifteen he must study the Gemarah. From that age on the higher study of rabbinical literature begins.

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