Israel’s Dual Reality

A soldier joins an Orthodox man at the Western Wall, a common scene as Israel must continually defend their nation’s right to exist.

Meet TBN’s Mati Shoshani
page 4

TBN’s New Fall Lineup
page 5

Israel’s Family Bible
page 6
Here in the United States, when we see a colorful balloon floating by in a clear blue sky, we smile. We assume some child has let it go for the joy of watching it sail away. Sadly, for people living in southern Israel, the sight of a balloon triggers alarm, rather than smiles these days. For several years now, terrorist cells within Hamas in the Gaza Strip have taken to attaching incendiary bombs to helium balloons and releasing them when the winds are right to carry them into southern Israel. These fire bombs are released in the hope that they will land on an Israeli home or business and burn it down or, at minimum, set an Israeli farmer’s field on fire. Many have done just that. A typical headline in Israel from a few months ago read, “Incendiary Balloons from Gaza Set Off Three Fires in Southern Israel Yesterday.”

... these attacks have become an almost daily feature of life for the people of southern Israel—along with periodic waves of rocket attacks that trigger air raid sirens and send Israeli families with terrified children scrambling into bomb shelters.

Dear TBN Partner, Laurie and I believe it’s important that you know these attacks have become an almost-daily feature of life for the people of southern Israel—an along with the periodic waves of rocket attacks that trigger air-raid sirens and send Israeli families with terrified children scrambling into bomb shelters. The range of those rockets has been increasing lately.

For example, in March of this year, a rocket fired from Gaza flew all the way north of Tel Aviv, striking and demolishing a home. Seven were injured in the blast—including two children and one baby—but, thank the Lord, no one was killed.

ENEMIES ALL AROUND
If you follow the news, you know that families living in Israel not only have to be on constant guard against attacks from the south, they have to keep their eyes to the north as well. Both Syria and Lebanon on Israel’s northern border are home to the terrorist army Hezbollah, a group heavily supported by the mullahs of Iran. Iran, in turn, is being backed by Russia. Laurie and I mention all of this to you now for several reasons.

We know you understand how important this remarkable nation is to God and to His plans for redeeming the world through His Son, Jesus.

First and foremost, we care deeply about Israel and know that you do too. We know you understand how important this remarkable nation is to God and to His plans for redeeming the world through His Son, Jesus.

AN EXCITING MOVE OF GOD
Amid this turmoil, there is growing evidence of a Messianic revival quietly going on inside Israel. “Messianic” Believers are Jewish people who have come to realize that Jesus was and is the promised Messiah, and their numbers are increasing.

In fact, the number of Messianic congregations inside the country has been rising for decades. A 1989 survey found only 30 Messianic congregations in the entire country. By 1999, a study found that had grown to 81 fellowships. Fast-forward to 2017, where a study by the Texas-based organization “One for Israel” identified more than 300 Messianic congregations.

Please join TBN in praying for, encouraging, and supporting this historic and prophetically important move of God.

COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM
 Lies, smears, and distortions about Israel fill many media channels. Day after day, we’re bombarded with negative news twisted to put the people and government of Israel in a bad light. >>
Where will people hear the truth? On TBN! Delivering the truth about Israel and the Jewish people to the world is something your partnership with TBN does 365 days each year. In some places in the world where TBN Networks are made available, you may be providing the only pro-Israel, pro-truth message some people will ever hear.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

When you strip away all the lies and find the deepest truths about Israel, the “Holy Land” will come alive. Countless people have visited Israel and emerged from their journey with a deeper faith than they’ve ever had before. Including Kathie Lee Gifford.

That’s why we’re sending a copy of her book The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi to every partner who supports TBN this month with any gift. Her journey into the heart of Scriptural faith and the land where Jesus walked has come alive. Countless people have visited Israel and emerged from their journey with a deeper faith than they’ve ever had before. Including Kathie Lee Gifford.

Meet Matti Shoshani, Director of Operations for TBN’s Jerusalem studios, one of many amazing individuals who help make TBN’s presence in Jerusalem a powerful beacon of truth about Israel to the world.

We recently caught up with Matti so we could bring you some of his first-person insights into what it’s like to be a Messianic Jewish Believer in Israel, as well as a key part of TBN’s work in the land where Jesus walked.

The main article in this issue of your newsletter makes clear, the threat of attack by terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, from both the north and the south, is a constant reality of daily life for people living in certain areas of Israel. And every Israeli citizen lives in constant awareness of Iran’s periodic threats to wipe Israel from the map of the Middle East.

Nevertheless, Matti is quick to add that the vast majority of Israelis live in safety and enjoy life. Israeli citizens have enormous confidence in the nation’s military and security measures such as the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system. Even so, decades of conflict and threats have taken a subtle toll on the average Israeli’s soul. Nevertheless, Matti is quick to add that the vast majority of Israelis live in safety and enjoy life. Israeli citizens have enormous confidence in the nation’s military and security measures such as the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

As the main article in this issue of your newsletter makes clear, the threat of attack by terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, from both the north and the south, is a constant reality of daily life for people living in certain areas of Israel. And every Israeli citizen lives in constant awareness of Iran’s periodic threats to wipe Israel from the map of the Middle East.

Nevertheless, Matti is quick to add that the vast majority of Israelis live in safety and enjoy life. Israeli citizens have enormous confidence in the nation’s military and security measures such as the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system. Even so, decades of conflict and threats have taken a subtle toll on the average Israeli’s soul.

Mati recalls an observation that his wife made shortly after she immigrated to Israel from the United States. She noted, “No one in this country talks about the fact that everyone here is walking around with some level of PTSD” (post-traumatic stress disorder). Mati agrees. “We’ve just learned to live with this idea that we’re surrounded by enemies and that there’s always a small, but ever-present level of threat.”

Sadly, the Shoshanis have also had to learn how to reassure their small children when the missile sirens sound or when they come home disturbed news reports. This, too, is a reality of living in Israel today.

What Israelis like Mati and his wife find far more upsetting is how their beloved home country is portrayed in the news media around the world. Lies, myths, distortions, and half-truths about Israel are common. This powerful anti-Israel propaganda campaign, in turn, fuels efforts like the global BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) aimed at isolating and crippling Israel economically.

That’s just one of the many reasons TBN Networks around the world play such a vital role right now. With dozens of networks broadcasting in 17 languages, TBN is combating lies about Israel with the truth. And TBN’s Jerusalem studios give TBN the ability to give the entire world a window into what an amazing place Israel really is.

Many TBN original and sponsored programs—including The Watchman with Erick Stakelbeck, Drive Thru History, Why Israel Matters—and others—are often produced in Israel with the help of TBN staff like Mati, as well as our facilities and equipment. Mati’s deep knowledge of the country and its unique customs has proven to be a vital resource for TBN programmers filming in Israel. Whenever you see a TBN programmer broadcasting from Israel, it’s likely that Mati Shoshani and his team helped make that broadcast possible.

Of course, TBN Partners make that help possible too. Mati is grateful to TBN’s friends and partners for being a part of his vital work. That work involves nothing less than showing the real, beautiful, diverse Israel to the world.
This month in 1565, Spanish settlers in St. Augustine, Florida, formed the first Roman Catholic Parish in the U.S.

Puritans from England, seeking religious freedom, set sail for America this month in 1620. They would later be known as Pilgrims.

The U.S. Congress amended the Constitution to prohibit the establishment of a state church—or governmental interference with the free exercise of religion—this month in 1789.

Note: You can find out more about the Messianic Jewish Family Bible: Tree of Life Version, and other special resources available to our partners this month, on the back page of this newsletter.
The Rock (Jesus), the Road (Israel), and the Rabbi (God’s Word)

After a tour through Israel, led by Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel, Kathie Lee Gifford began to see the Gospel in a whole new light—one that merged her Christian faith with its Jewish roots. In her book *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*, she tells the stories of her journey and how a better understanding of Greek and Hebrew strengthened her faith.

Yours this month only, with a gift in support of TBN’s global outreach.

See Scripture Come to Life

In addition to Kathie Lee Gifford’s book, this companion study guide and 6-lesson DVD were created to give readers and small groups a deeper look into God’s Word from the inspiration of the original Greek and Hebrew languages.

*With your gift of $70 or more, get this study set PLUS The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi book.*

Explore the Jewish-Christian Connection Through Scripture

This fresh, yet faithful translation of both the Old and New Testaments has been put together by an extraordinary team of expert Messianic Jewish scholars. As you peek into this “Jewish family diary,” you will be introduced to the Hebraic roots and idioms of the original Scriptures and story of God’s people, all from a Jewish perspective.

Yours this month only, with your gift of $240 *OR a NEW monthly recurring gift of $40 or more, PLUS* The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi and the companion study set.

3 WAYS TO GIVE
Your gift is spreading the Gospel worldwide!

MAIL check or card
PHONE 800.201.5200
ONLINE tbn.org/newsletter

---

For your gift of any amount

My Journey into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where It All Began

For More Information About TBN, Please Go To TBN.org Or Write TBN At P.O. Box 316, Fort Worth, TX 76161-3160