



Pictures of victims in the Hall of Names in Yad VaShem, Jerusalem

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## Holocaust could happen again...

### Anti-Israel sentiment is the new anti-Semitism

A prominent Israeli-British historian, Professor Robert Wistrich (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), warned recently that the slogan "Never Again" is fading and that there is a very real possibility for a repeat of the Holocaust. Professor Wistrich explains that the politics and social attitudes that gave rise to and allowed the Nazi Holocaust to occur are still very much with us. In particular, he notes that Islam has much more openly conducted a religious war against the Jews in recent years, while Europe and the West have reacted with general indifference to that fact.

"We are in an era once again where the Jews are facing genocidal threats as a people," Wistrich said in an interview with Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*. "We have not been in that situation for quite a while. And maybe this is the first time since the Holocaust that Jews feel that this is palpable." Wistrich also acknowledged the enormous rise in anti-Semitism in Europe in recent years, fueled largely by more brazen Muslim populations there. An annual study done by Tel Aviv University, titled "Anti-Semitism Worldwide," revealed that attacks on and harassment of Jews doubled in 2009, especially in Europe and Canada. The report noted that the enormous jump in just one year can be attributed to the blurring of lines between hatred of Jews as a people and condemnation of Israel as a nation. In other words—and as many Israelis and friends of Israel have warned—***anti-Israel sentiment is the new anti-Semitism.***

### CFI assisting Holocaust survivors

Christians from all over the world have been assisting the survivors in Israel for decades. But with many of the estimated 250,000 survivors now in dire straits, there is a need to do more while there is still time.

Three years ago, the plight of Israel's Holocaust survivors became something of a national scandal when media reports revealed that nearly one-third were living in poverty. The government has responded with increases in their pension allotments, and local charities are expanding their outreach. Christians are joining the effort, as well.

CFI sensed a special burden for Holocaust survivors more than 10 years ago. The *Forsake Them Not* department was opened in order to reach out to those living in about fifty cities across Israel. Over the past decade this department has developed several projects, including field trips throughout the Land, home visits, and sponsoring community events on major Israeli holidays and Yom HaShoah—the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Sometimes CFI volunteers are able to help with special needs, such as medicine and food, dental care, eye glasses and hearing aids. "Our dedicated team reaches out with love and compassion to these dear people who have suffered so much. The language of God's love speaks louder than our words, and is a healing balm," says Helene Iedema, head of the *Forsake Them Not* department.

Helene adds that there is "a sense of urgency in our ministry. It is becoming difficult to organize events because the health of many survivors is deteriorating. So, we are focusing more on home visits. We realize that each visit may be the last time we see a survivor." Recently, CFI's Holocaust Team began taking along forms from Yad VaShem to collect as much data as possible on unknown victims of the Nazi genocide. "We want to make sure that every person will be remembered," says Helene.

*(Adapted from The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition, April 2010 and Israel Today-Headline News.)*

# Let us not forget: A Christian leadership seminar at Yad VaShem

When there are no more witnesses...

In April 2010 I had the honor and privilege to be chosen to participate in the first Seminar for Christian Leadership held at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem. The gathering took place under the auspices of The International School for Holocaust Studies and Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. The professors and presenters were teachers from Hebrew University, a Knesset member, rabbis and holocaust survivors. During the week-long seminar, we were immersed in the facts, history and literature of the holocaust, as well as the history of anti-Semitism and the nation of Israel. Some of the topics covered were: *Judaism and Anti-Judaism in Medieval Christianity*, *The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism in Europe*, *Cultural and Spiritual Resistance in the Ghettos*, *The Problems Facing Israel Today*.

It was an emotional week for the 23 people from 8 nations who participated. We were in class from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 at night. I can say with full assurance that all of us who participated left this conference as changed people. What changed us was much more than simply learning facts and figures. It was having our lives touched by history and our hearts awakened to the incredible strength and resilience of the human spirit to overcome, survive and live.

It is not possible to put in a short article all that I experienced or learned. However, what I became keenly aware of is that within the next 20 years, there will not be any Holocaust survivors alive. In fact, there will not be anyone alive who witnessed the atrocities committed by the Nazis. None of the soldiers who liberated the camps will be with us. In other words, all the eye witnesses will be gone! Who, then, will give voice to those who can no longer speak? Who, then, will champion the cause of the innocent who perished in the Holocaust?

I became painfully aware of this fact when we had the opportunity to sit down with Nachum and Genya Manor and hear their story. Nachum was number 69439 and Genya was number 76485 on Schindler's list. They were 18 years old when they met in Schindler's factory and then married after the war. After they had shared their story, we were allowed to ask questions of them. One person asked what happen to Nachum's finger. (Part of one of his fingers was missing.) He told us that it had been cut off by one of the tooling machines in Schindler's factory. The normal response might be, "How awful!" But what was really awful was that Nachum could not work because of the injury, which would not be acceptable to the German SS guards. Schindler knew that if the SS found out that



Mark at Oskar Schindler's (1908–1974) grave site in Jerusalem.

Nachum was not able to work, he would have been sent to a concentration camp by the German guards to be disposed of. Schindler kept him hidden until his wound healed and he could once again work in the factory.

Genya was asked about her experience at Auschwitz. As you may recall from the movie, "Schindler's List," the women's train did not make it to Schindler's factory, at first, but was diverted to the concentration camp. She spoke of the fear and sense of death that overcame her and the 300 other women and girls when the doors to the cattle cars opened and they saw that, instead of being at the factory, they were at Auschwitz. Their hope turned to despair.

## Anne Frank's best friend

At a latter seminar gathering, there was a meeting with Hanna Pick, Anne Frank's best friend, whose family lived next door to the Frank family. She spoke of their friendship, recalling the day when she went to Anne's house to play and was told that Anne had gone to Switzerland to visit her family. Hanna told us of her surprise when she found Anne at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp among a group of women that came from Auschwitz. It was then that Hannah learned the true story of what happened to the Franks. (Anne subsequently died at the Bergen Belsen concentration camp.)

Why is it important to share these stories? The answer came to me as I sat listening to these Holocaust survivors. Nachum, Genya and Hanna are in their eighties. The realization hit me as I listened to them, that in the not-too-

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distant future, their voices would be gone. It was then that I had this overwhelming sense of responsibility for what I had heard from three people who took the time to share their lives and experiences with us. I understood that I could be a voice to speak on behalf of those who no longer will speak.

That responsibility rests not only with me. It belongs to all of us who must not be silent. It is foolish to think that the Holocaust could never happen again. Anti-Semitism is more prevalent today than it was before WWII. The nations are turning against Israel in fulfillment of biblical prophecy. You and I must not let history repeat itself, *nor should we allow history to be rewritten*. I recently heard someone say, “You have to learn about the past to protect the future.” You and I have to be strong voices in our churches and communities for Israel and the Jewish people.

I will close this article with two quotes. First Daniel Ayalon, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel and a member of the Knesset, said to us: “We rely on our friends to simply speak the truth.” The second quote is from one of our professors at the seminar: “What is important to remember is that the Shoa (Holocaust) was not only possible because of the cruelty of the perpetrators but because of the silence of the people who stood by and did nothing.” I encourage each one of us to not keep silent.

“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall *never hold their peace* day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, *do not keep silent*, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth” (Isaiah 62:6–7, NKJV, italics added).

— Mark DeVito, Chairman of the Board, CFI–USA



Names of concentration camps, such as Bergen-Belsen, displayed in the Hall of Remembrance, Yad VaShem.

## Will God fight for Israel again?

### Every knee shall bow...

If God fought for Israel because He wanted them to inherit and possess the Land that He chose for them, Himself, and commanded Moses and Joshua to identify the borders and regions that belonged to them, then this Land is His Gift to His People. Why would He change His mind? The world may change but God is unchangeable. He does not say one thing in one age and change His mind in another age. This is the immutability of God’s Holy Word. It is not possible to change it! He, Himself, said, “*I change not*” (Mal. 3:6).

Christianity has tried to interpret it at times with a biased point of view, and Islam has tried to twist it to make it seem obsolete, but “what God has spoken He has spoken.” This is the unshakeable foundation of His Holy Word that we can count on and know on which side to stand in these latter days. If God would not fight for Israel and He allowed it to be destroyed, then His promise, spoken through the lips of the Prophet Jeremiah, would not be true, for God said,

*“Thus saith the Lord, which gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; the Lord of hosts is His name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever” (Jer. 31:35, 36).* God will be with Israel, and all the world shall see that, once again, HIS NAME will go throughout the world as being the One True God. Then “*every knee shall bow*” to His Majesty.

### Let us go to prayer:

- PRAY that Israel’s enemies will soften at the fear of the mention of God’s Name and that their defiance will melt like butter (Psalm 2:10–12).
- INTERCEDE for those who are strong-arming Israel and pray that their eyes will be opened to see their folly and misguided thinking in regard to God’s Chosen People (2 Kings 6:17 and 6:20).
- PLEAD with God to open up more eyes of the spiritually blind (Rev. 3:18).
- PRAY for those in authority and in high places, that they will not jeopardize their countries and peoples and put a curse upon their nations, turning those who once were friends into goat nations (Zeph. 12:10; Zech. 12:9).
- PRAY that God will open the eyes of Israel to their God and Messiah (Isa. 55:11).

(Adapted from OnWatch Jerusalem, May 2010, by Sharon Sanders and the Bible NAS.)

## Jerusalem must remain united

### As the center of the world

Jerusalem should return to the role it played in history, when it was the center of the world and a major destination of pilgrims from all religions, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat told an audience in London in April. “I want to return to the role Jerusalem played 2,000–3,000 years ago. Jerusalem has that potential today,” he said.



Nir Barkat, Mayor of Jerusalem

“The challenge is to open up Jerusalem for the benefit of the world, open its economy, and expand freedom of religion. Where there is economic growth, people become calmer,” he went on.

“There isn’t one instance in history in which a city has split that ever worked.

Understanding the needs of the different sectors of the city and the role that Jerusalem must play, it has to stay united, And we have to focus; we must focus on the whole.” Barkat declared that “if there is one city in the world that has to work as a whole, it is Jerusalem. If there is one city in the world that can make an impact on the world, that is the city of Jerusalem.”

“In east Jerusalem some of the neighborhoods were not planned properly, which forced us to re-plan areas for the benefit of the Arab residents,” he explained. Speaking about the peace process, Barkat said that during all previous negotiations, building in the city continued for the benefit of all residents. “Demanding a freeze in the city is an obstacle and undermines peace,” he said. (Adopted: Jonny Paul, *Jerusalem Post* correspondent, United Jerusalem should reclaim its role as the center of the world, Barkat says.)



Neighborhood in Jerusalem

## Comfort My people...

### Calling in the morning

In an early morning of July 2000, I woke up feeling that something was “bubbling up from my belly.” As soon as I opened my eyes, a melody began flowing out of my mouth. It was so beautiful and holy, and I felt peace and joy surrounding me. I realized that there may be more to come and asked the Lord if there were any words to go with the melody. Immediately words in Hebrew came up: “*Nachamu, nachamu, ami, yomar Adonai Eloheicha.*” (“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God,” Isaiah 40:1 NAS). Through the song, the Holy Spirit remained with me the entire day, leading me to worship, assisting in prayer and bringing comfort that He wanted me to show to *His* Jewish people. I understood that I had more work ahead.

In that same year, Galilee of the Nations produced a music CD, called *Elohim*. A couple of years later I received one of the CDs as a gift, and to my surprise I found a song “Comfort My People” on it. I was even more surprised to learn that this song was similar to the one I had received from the Lord. For years I have treasured the *Elohim* CD as a reminder from the Lord, God of Israel, that He speaks to us in all the ways we can be reached—even by giving a song with a specific calling. (A personal note from Hannele Pardain, executive director, CFI-USA.)

### Songs with purpose

“Elohim” is the Hebrew name for GOD, the One and Only True GOD, the GOD of the Bible, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

These songs bring you the life, culture and history of Israel. One of the songs, “Eli Eli,” was written by Hannah Szenes, who at 18 immigrated to the Land (of Israel). Upon her arrival, she fell on the sand at the seashore of Caesarea and afterward wrote this prayer of hope. During World War II, she volunteered to be sent for secret Jewish children’s rescue missions in Europe and was later captured by Nazi’s and executed in 1944.

Another song, “Only You God”, was written after the 1997 terrorist bombing on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem that took the lives of many. The song begins with cry, “*The situation is so terrible and the grief so overwhelming. Only you God are able...*” **Order now for \$18.00, CD08-A1007.**

