



ANTISEMITISM ON THE RISE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

August 2016

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom in His wonderful grace. We do not send out a full newsletter in August. Instead, we usually share some of the prayer concerns I have for our staff and the work of Chosen People Ministries around the globe.

However, today I write to you with a broken heart and a deep concern for the survival of the Jewish people. Just when you thought the world was safe for the Jewish people—it is NOT!

Recently, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported the following,

Since 13 September 2015, 40 people have been killed in terrorist attacks and 511 people (including 4 Palestinians) injured. There have been 155 stabbing attacks (including 76 attempted attacks), 96 shootings, 45 vehicular (ramming) attacks and one vehicle (bus) bombing.¹

Not a day goes by, it seems, that innocent Israelis, visitors to Israel and innocent Palestinians are not being attacked by ruthless, hate-filled *pedestrian terrorists*, blinded by a mixture of radical Islam and misguided nationalism! How I wish this were not true and that I would not have to mention these kinds of activities. I would much rather speak about the great things God is doing among Israelis and also among Israeli Palestinians.

And believe me—there is much good to speak about as both the Israeli and Palestinian church continues to grow in the midst of violence and unrest within Israel. Yet, the attacks against Israelis have in reality been attacks against Jewish people in general as proven by what has taken place recently in France, England and in other countries as well. This growing group of antisemites claim to be politically motivated when in fact, it is just old-fashioned racially driven antisemitism!

Please see the enclosed prayer sheet so that you can pray for the families of the victims and join me in mourning for those

who lost their lives simply because they were Jewish or visited the Holy Land.

Antisemitism on the Rise in England

Though some of the most vicious attacks are taking place in Israel and France, antisemitism continues to rear its ugly head in Western countries around the globe—especially in the United Kingdom. In the midst of all of the attention England has received because of Brexit, and the internal politics within the Conservative and Labour Parties—a virulent form of antisemitism, racist in nature, has been growing by leaps and bounds within England and has recently come to light in reports by officials in the United Kingdom who are very concerned about the growth of British antisemitism.

The British government has formed a committee to study the issue and make recommendations called The All Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism. They produced an extensive report detailing the growing antisemitism in the UK.²

This group affirms the findings of Community Security Trust (CST), which operates within the Jewish community to report on antisemitism and provide guidance on security issues for the Jewish community. In their most recent report, they claim that,

There were 924 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in 2015, the third-highest annual total CST has ever recorded. The total of 924 incidents is a fall of 22 per cent from the 2014 total of 1,179 anti-Semitic incidents, which was the highest annual total recorded by CST. The second-highest annual total recorded by CST was 931 anti-Semitic incidents in 2009.³

In fact, the current mayor of London, a Muslim, said the following in a recent interview,

Sadly, for many people here in London, anti-Semitism is a very present problem. Over the past five years, anti-Semitic offenses in the capital have increased by 153 percent with 267 more offenses in 2015 compared to 2011. There are schools in London that need security simply because they are Jewish faith schools. There are places of worship that require protection simply because they are synagogues. This simply isn't good enough. I am adopting a strict zero-tolerance approach to anti-Semitism and all hate crime—whether it's on the basis of someone's age, sexuality, gender, religion, race, nationality or disability.⁴

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There is no doubt in my mind, as I travel to London three or four times a year to help with our growing work in what is known as Golders Green—one of the most Jewish areas of North London—that this is even worse than is being reported.

On a Very Personal Note

May I further explain why this is so heartbreaking for me?

I was born only seven years after the end of the Holocaust and grew up in its shadow. My grandparents on both sides came to the United States prior to the Holocaust, but most of their family remained in Europe and perished. My mother's parents both came from religious Jewish homes with many children. Aside from one half brother who survived the war by fleeing Minsk and going to Shanghai, the majority of both my grandparents' families were slaughtered by the Nazis. The same was true of my wife's family who were originally from Romania.

As was typical of my grandparents' generation, they simply never spoke to the grandchildren about the siblings they never heard from again. Almost every Sunday we would visit my grandparents' home in Brooklyn, New York and, I would see the family pictures on the wall of relatives I would never meet because they died by Hitler's hand.

So, I would say the Holocaust cast a dark shadow over my childhood and is foundational to my Jewish identity.



In addition to the Holocaust, there was one other major event of the last century that was formative for me as a Jewish American—the establishment of the state of Israel. Growing up I didn't know anyone who lived in Israel, yet the very presence of a Jewish nation was an encouragement to me and became a rallying point for my Jewish friends and me. We took great pride in our Jewish identity. After all, now the Jewish people had an army, country and economy where we could not be told what jobs we could and could not have, as was the case when my grandparents left Russia to move to the United States.

The very idea of a Jewish nation provides hope to those living outside Israel, especially in light of the Holocaust. Our “never again” would be far less meaningful if it were not for the existence of the state of Israel. As Diaspora Jews we know that if antisemitism gets out of hand, as we are starting to see in England, France and other parts of Europe, that there is a safe haven for Jewish people that now exists.

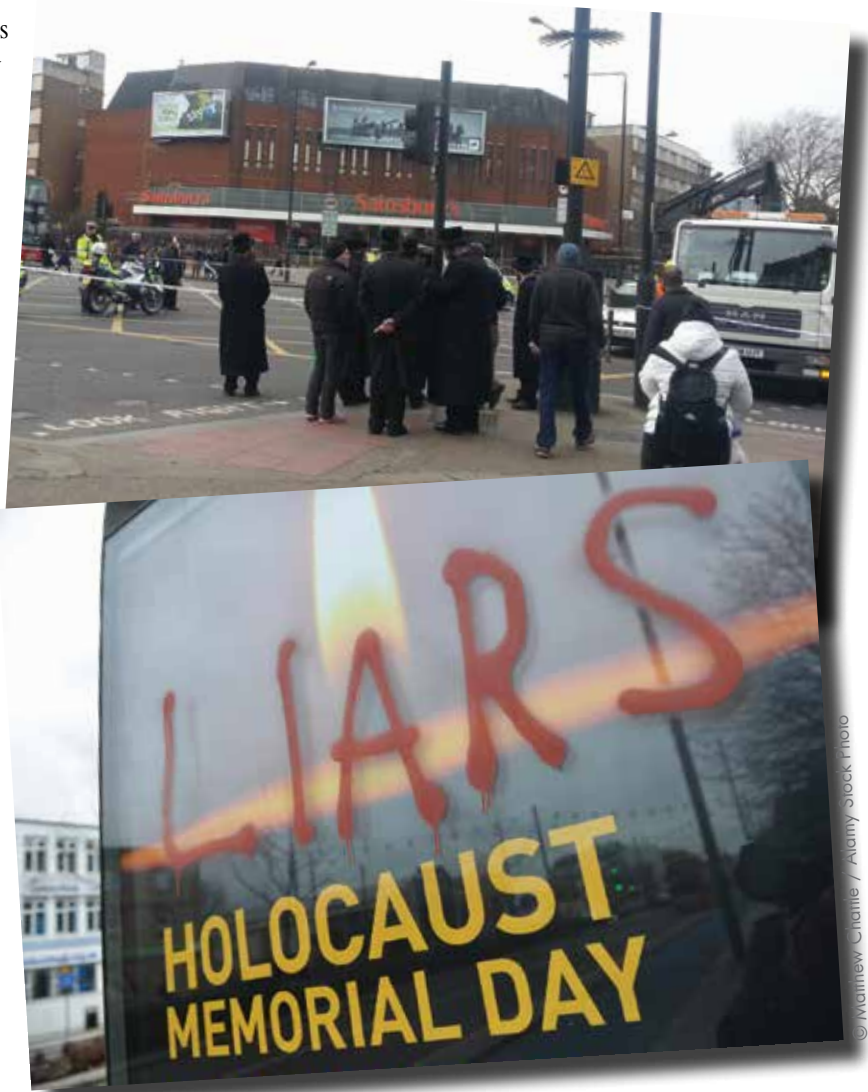
A Greater Hope!

But we know there is a greater hope for the safety of the Jewish people, and for all people—and that hope is found in Jesus the Messiah. In the midst of all of the mistreatment and growing persecution of Jewish people in Europe and the challenges to Jewish safety in the Land of Israel—I want to assure you that the work of the Lord continues. At this moment in time, Your Mission to the Jewish People is bringing the message of the Prince of Peace to Jewish people in 16 countries around the world—many of which are experiencing this terrible plague of antisemitism. We are finding that Jewish people are more open to Jesus, especially in Israel, than I can remember in recent years—thank God!

Together for the Lord and the Jewish People

Thank you for your love and faithfulness and deep concern for the Jewish people.

We cannot do what we do without your partnership and financial support. Would you consider giving a generous gift to Chosen People Ministries this month to help us reach Jewish people for Jesus? The hardships Jewish people are now facing because of the growth of antisemitism and the growing intensity of attacks within Israel are causing Jewish people to be more open to a hope beyond this world—a hope even greater than the Land of Israel—a hope that is only found in the Lord Himself.



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Looking Ahead

We know that the one who is behind all antisemitism is the devil himself and he is trying to destroy the Jewish people because he understands that God has a continuing role for them.

We still believe that the turning of the Jewish people to Jesus will lead to the very return of Jesus, according to the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 11:25-27. Paul writes,

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, HE will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” This is MY covenant with them, when I take away their sins.

All of history is leading up to this great day of deliverance. The Jewish people survive because God is faithful to His promises! But that does not mean we will not face difficult times ahead and certainly the global rise of antisemitism and violence in Israel, France, England and other areas of the world is a growing challenge that I never expected to face in my lifetime.

So please pray for the Jewish people and help us during these dire times to reach out to Jewish people with the love of Jesus the Messiah. NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND TO TELL GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE ABOUT THE MESSIAH!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring, standing up and praying for the Jewish people at this time.

Your brother in the Messiah Jesus,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President
Chosen People Ministries

P.S. I do not have to tell you that the summer months are, on the one hand, the most productive season of the year for evangelism and yet seem to be the leanest time of the year for financial support. Right now we have dozens of staff and volunteer evangelists on the streets of New York City and in Israel sharing the Gospel through intensive summer programs. So, we really do need your financial support this month.

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- 1 <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>
 - 2 Their report, produced in February 2015 is readily available and can be downloaded as a PDF. <http://antisemitism.org.uk>
 - 3 https://cst.org.uk/data/file/1/9/Incidents_Report_2015.1454417905.pdf p.4
 - 4 <http://m.jpost.com/Opinion/A-strict-zero-tolerance-approach-to-anti-Semitism>

