

Articles and Sermons :: "There's no persecution in the Holy Land â€" unless you share your faith,"

"There's no persecution in the Holy Land â€" unless you share your faith," - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 12:11

"The Voice of the Martyrs, a Christian nonprofit that highlights the persecution of Christians worldwide, has drawn its attention this month to the hostilities faced by Christians in the Holy Land, and acknowledges that some might find its "position of highlighting Israel as a hostile nation" disagreeable and offensive.

"There's no persecution in the Holy Land â€" unless you share your faith," reads the quote on the cover of The Voice of the Martyr's February 2014 newsletter. The quote is attributed to Steven Houry, an Arab Israeli Christian who pastors churches in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Pastor Houry has spoken in the media of witnessing church members being attacked because of their faith, and of losing an uncle who was martyred.

The Voice of the Martyrs, founded in 1967 by a Jewish couple, lists Israel on its "restricted nations" map as a "hostile nation."

The Oklahoma-based nonprofit writes of the February issue's cover story in a Facebook post"

Christian bookstores are filled with publications on Israel â€" on topics ranging from the nation's rich history to biblical prophecy and the end times. Discussions of Israel reveal varying opinions and even controversies. But rarely will you read or hear a discussion about Israel being hostile toward the followers of Christ who live there. That statement itself may evoke strong opinions.

Many Christians in Israel today live free of persecution. But those who share their faith and witness on the frontlines of the nation's spiritual battleground face an altogether different experience. Rami Ayyad, manager of a Bible Society bookstore in the Gaza Strip, was kidnapped and killed because of his witness for Christ.

While most persecution against Christians in the Holy Land is at the hands of radical Muslims, believers are also persecuted by anti-missionary Jewish activists. The activists sometimes spray graffiti on Christian churches in what are called "price tag attacks" (exacting a price on anything that seems to threaten Jewish sovereignty). A few months ago, they painted "Jesus is a monkey" on a church that is a major pilgrimage site for Christians.

While noting that Israel is "at the heart of our Christian faith" and suggesting the country has a significant role in future events, The Voice of the Martyrs reminded supporters that "as followers of Christ today, we are still called to be his witnesses" by evangelizing, even amid threats of torture, imprisonment and death.

"VOM's calling also remains unchanged â€" serving those who suffer because of their witness for Christ, be it in Colombia, Iran, Nepal or even Israel," the nonprofit states.

"More than 120,000 Christians live in Israel, including about 17,000 Messianic Jewish believers. There are an estimated 8,000 Palestinian Arab evangelical believers, with 1,400 of those in the West Bank and 300 in Gaza," according to the persecution watchdog organization.

Excerpts from the VOM February 2014 newsletter shared online include the story of Messianic Jew Ami Ortiz, who was seriously wounded as a teen in 2008 when he opened a bomb disguised as a gift left at his home by U.S.-born Yaakov "Jack" Teitel. Teitel, dubbed a "Jewish terrorist" throughout the case, was sentenced in 2013 to two life terms in prison plus 30 years for the bomb attack, and the murder and attempted murder of others in Israel. Teitel confessed to wanting to kill the teen's father, Pastor David Ortiz, because of his position in the Messianic Jewish community.

Pastor Ortiz, despite the attack, called for Christians to stand in support of Israel, as Teitel was not representative of all Israelis.

"They should continue to pray for Israel, supporting Israel. These radicals are less than one percent of the population. They don't represent the Israeli public," he said after the bombing.

The U.S. Department of State reveals in its 2012 Report on International Religious Freedom regarding Israel and the Oc

occupied Territories that while "the country's laws and policies provide for religious freedom and the government generally respected religious freedom in practice," that attitude among Jews toward missionary activities and conversations were negative.

"Most Jews opposed missionary activity directed at Jews, and some were hostile to Jewish converts to Christianity," according to the State Department's report. "Messianic Jews and Jehovah's Witnesses were harassed regularly by Yad L'Achim and Lev L'Achim, Jewish religious organizations opposed to missionary activity."

Despite the resistance to Christian evangelism efforts among some Israelis, the Middle East country has long enjoyed the favoritism of many American evangelical Christian groups and prominent individuals, such as Texas Pastor John Hagee and Christian Broadcasting Network founder Pat Robertson.

However, some Christians have been pushing for a more balanced approach to how U.S. evangelicals discuss the longstanding Mid-East conflict. Todd Deatherage of the Telos Group, which encourages American evangelicals to help positively transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said he and other faith-based groups and Christian activists want to persuade evangelicals "to affirm and support the dignity of all the people of the Holy Land, to be truly pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian at the same time."

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-persecution-in-hostile-israel-highlighted-by-evangelical-group-some-may-disagree-and-even-take-offense-says-nonprofit-113877/>

Re: "There's no persecution in the Holy Land unless you share your faith" - posted by murrcoir (), on: 2014/10/16 15:2

I hope everyone will see through this Anti-Semitic article, that's been posted on here.

What do I mean: well this article is to get you to form a bad opinion about Israel and the Jews. If I was a moderator this thread would be locked..

However just in case you can't see through it, please take a look at the Christians that are pushing "balanced approach" and you'll find something that's far less than balanced.

The Telos group is largely funded by the Soros Foundation, it's the Soros' foundation funds thirty organizations that spend inordinate time and resources condemning Israel. They seem to have influenced someone at the voice of the maytr's...

Quote: However, some Christians have been pushing for a more balanced approach to how U.S. evangelicals discuss the longstanding Mid-East conflict.

Telos gives Christian leaders are given "educational pilgrimages" when on that pilgrimage they will meet Rev. Mitri Raheb and Archbishop Elias Chacour.

Mitri Raheb, read about him here.

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Israel-slams-award-to-anti-Semitic-pastor>

Archbishop Elias Chacour read more about him here.

http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=8&x_nameinnews=374&x_article=2650

- posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 15:42

RE: /// They seem to have influenced someone at the voice of the maytr's...///

DO you have any evidence for that accusation ?

Persecution of Ethiopian Believers in Israel - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 15:52

Persecution of Ethiopian Believers in Israel

The Ethiopian messianic community in Israel developed as a result of Operation Solomon, beginning in 1990. Included in the earliest immigrations to Israel were some of the Jewish believers, pastors and elders from Ethiopia. Once settled in the Land, they organized home fellowships which grew and matured into congregations. Today, there is a network of Ethiopian congregations throughout Israel, bound together by a commitment to Y'shua and a desire to worship in Israel as Ethiopian believers.

During the past year, the leaders of the Ethiopian messianic congregations in Israel have reported accounts of persecution from the Orthodox Jewish community. This persecution has taken various forms. People have been threatened with loss of jobs, housing and with having their citizenship revoked. Religious leaders within the Ethiopian community have been urged to speak out publicly against the messianic believers. There are threats and accusations on daily radio shows in the Amharic language.

The visas and immigrant status of Ethiopian believers have undergone unusual scrutiny from the Ministry of Interior. An article in the Hebrew newspaper, Ha'aretz Daily, reported that the Ministry of Interior was considering stripping three Ethiopian sisters of their citizenship and deporting them to their homeland. The Ministry of Interior had viewed videotape footage of a messianic Jewish event. The tape showed a choir comprised of young Ethiopians and resulted in a campaign to compile incriminating evidence against the three sisters. They had come to Israel in 1991 as part of Operation Solomon, accompanied by a man they called father." He was an Ethiopian Jew who had adopted them years before and presented them to Israeli authorities as his own daughters. The three young women had never tried to conceal their own, non-Jewish identities from Israeli officials.

The unique aspect of their case is that they have all been in Israel for over nine years. They studied at boarding schools and became integrated into the society. They view themselves as Jews and also as messianic believers.

This case has far-reaching implications for the Israeli government's right to go back into the files of Jewish believers. The sisters' lawyer, Nadav Haber, had this to say: "Such meddling in the women's pastâ€"encourages highly worrisome social phenomenaâ€" Will there be a witch-hunt to find those olim who profess faith in Messiah and were granted citizenship years ago? As a messianic community, we need to pray, not only for the situation confronting these Ethiopian sisters, but that those who would look to dismantle the non-sabra messianic community in Israel would be stopped from pursuing such actions.

<http://www.jewsforjesus.org/publications/havurah/v03-n02/persecution>

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/10/16 16:54

Quote: DO you have any evidence for that accusation ?

The article posted also promotes Telso...

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 17:05

RE: ///The article posted also promotes Telso...///

Are you speaking of the christian post artical or the VOM artical ? Edit add: or the Jews for Jesus artical ?

I was asking specifically pertaining to your accusations about VOM, do you have any evidence ?

Even though I also believe that you are overreacting about the christian post artical.

Re: Persecution of Ethiopian Believers in Israel - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/10/16 17:37

On a side note I wonder how the Ethiopian believers (who it seems became citizens of Israel through lies) would get on in Gaza, Saudi, Iran, Libya, the Islamic state, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iran...

You must asked yourself at a time when anti-semitism is on the rise in this world, simply meaning this; that the powers of darkness are influencing both the world and so called christians into that way of thinking, that you are jumping on the band wagon

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/10/16 17:45

Quote: Even though I also believe that you are overreacting about the christian post artical

You see me as over reacting, because you don't see the pure evil behind the article...

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 18:27

Brother you continue to avoid my question.

"I was asking specifically pertaining to your accusations about VOM, do you have any evidence ? "

Re: "There's no persecution in the Holy Land â€¦ unless you share your fait, on: 2014/10/16 18:34

hey papa,

slow day today?.....so you figure that doing a little flame throwing and troll baiting will help while a way a few hours of a boring life?

aint taking the bait.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 18:47

Brother HezWelling,

would you please read what is written instead of jumping on the defensive and personally attacking.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/10/16 19:36

RE:///You must asked yourself at a time when anti-semitism is on the rise in this world, simply meaning this; that the powers of darkness are influencing both the world and so called christians into that way of thinking, that you are jumping on the band wagon///

Perhaps you are right brother,

I find myself a bit confused as to what seems to be almost an exceptance of unsaved Jewish peoples as though they are saved but may I certainly not jump on any kind of anti-semitic bandwagon. May I be as the ten boom family and willing to lay my life down for the Jewish people.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/10/16 22:02

Quote: Perhaps you are right brother,

I find myself a bit confused as to what seems to be almost an exceptance of unsaved Jewish peoples as though they are saved but may I certainly not jump on any kind of anti-semitic bandwagon. May I be as the ten boom family and willing to lay my life down for the Jewish people.

I don't understand it, but I have a love for Israel and the Jewish people, does that mean that I think they are saved or would accept them as such.. Nope... and I would fully expect to be mocked and persecuted by hardcore zealots if witnessing to them..

Oscar Schindler story sticks in my mind as he gave an unselfish love, of sorts, to the Jews...