

December 2017

Pastor-Advisory Board

Rev. Bill Bates
Inspire Church, Sedro Wooley

Rev. Earl Bradley
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

Rev. Randy Burtis
Luis Palau Crusades

Rev. Kevin Earls
Gateway Christian Fellowship, Shelton

Rev. Mike Fogaras
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

Rev. Ted Hanson
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

Rev. Scott Manley
Flood The Sound, Olympia

Rev. Scott Montagne
Calvary Christian Assembly, Seattle

Rev. Jon Oletske
Stone Church, Yakima

Rev. Ken Parsley
Church on the Move, Yakima

Rev. Jim Ripley
Neighborhood Christian Cntr, Tumwater

Rev. Reuben Sapien
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

Rev. Dan Secrist
Faith Assembly of Lacey

Rev. Tim Taylor
Watchman Ministries International

Rev. Dwain Wolfe
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

Board of Directors

Paul Middleton
Chairman, Olympia

Jim Winterstein
Secretary/Treas., Olympia

Scott Blanton
Vancouver

Bob Higley
Olympia

Dorsey Holt
Shelton

Jere Irwin
Yakima

Michael Odell
Blaine

Dick Raport
Camano Island

Jim Robinson
Spokane

Ray Wing
Olympia

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

Staff

George Gauntlett
Data Administration

Beth Davis
Accounting

Julie Gallagher
Prayer Coordinator

Carl Walker
Lead Intercessor

Rusty Howell
Field Director

Steve Matthews
Field Director

JERUSALEM

Trump says he intends to move America's embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

"The most important reason Jews and Arabs cannot get together is not land...it is not money or history. The reason for the continual conflict over the city of Jerusalem is theology." --John Hagee, Jerusalem Countdown

We're confident Donald Trump is not 2017's top news story for some 20 million people currently experiencing severe famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria. Nor is it likely our tweeter-in-chief is foremost in the minds of Venezuelans where a national economic collapse has driven the cost of a basic basket of goods to nearly 2.7 million bolivars—the equivalent of six month's wages.¹ Nevertheless, many domestic news outlets suggest that this has been an apocalyptic year brought about by President Trump—the catalyst-in-chief!

CBS News, for instance, has compiled a list of 17 news events (save for the August solar eclipse), inferring presidential fingerprints, directly or indirectly. These events include:

1. President Donald Trump's tweets
2. The Women's March
3. Harvey Weinstein allegations & #MeToo movement
4. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria
5. The Russia investigation
6. James Comey's firing and testimony
7. White House hirings and firings
8. The solar eclipse
9. Violent rally in Charlottesville, Virginia
10. NFL players kneel during national anthem
11. Tensions with North Korea
12. Mass shootings in Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs, TX
13. Terror attacks around the world
14. President Trump's travel ban
15. Major votes on health care and tax reform
16. Special election in Alabama
17. "Fake news"

Surprisingly, CBS and many other news outlets have taken a pass on what we think is one of the most consequential news events of 2017—Trump's announcement that the United States will, in the very near future, relocate its foreign embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. When this does occur however, America's ambassador will not be the first to secure housing in the holy city.

Currently, the U.S. and 13 other mostly western European nations have consulate generals serving in Jerusalem in addition to their official embassies in Tel Aviv. The lone diplomatic embassy long-established in Jerusalem, and anxiously anticipating new neighbors, is the International Christian Embassy that has ministered unflinchingly to Israel's governing leaders since the early 1980s.

Why is Israel's preferred location for its capitol even being discussed?

There are currently 194 nation-states plus the Holy See that each have self-defined their own governing capitols. Only one nation in the world has been denied the obvious and necessary courtesy of designating its preferred locale for foreign officials to come calling.

By contrast, Jordan, Israel's immediate neighbor to the east of the Dead Sea, claims that Amman is its capitol city, even though that nation-state didn't come into existence until 1946. Situated on land once known as the Nabataean Kingdom, the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and finally the Emirate of Transjordan in 1921, no protests were heard in 1946 when the former British protectorate officially became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Local Arabs became *Jordanians*, Amman their capitol, and that was that.

But with all the Middle East in turmoil, why would President Trump push the embassy issue now?

For starters, Trump seems to have an incredible sense of timing. He knows the big boy on the block, the Sunni-Muslim nation of Saudi Arabia, has long opposed the concept of Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem. At this time, however, the Saudis are dealing with their own serious threats, internal and external.

Some weeks ago, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the arrest of dozens of high-level government officials, including 11 princes, in an anti-corruption crackdown. Within a few hours, Prince Mansour bin Muqrin was killed in a helicopter crash and Prince Abdul Aziz was killed while resisting arrest. According to other sources, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal whose personal fortune is estimated at \$17 billion, is also now in cuffs. "Alwaleed has been a major donor to the Clinton Foundation, a client of the Podesta Group and 'coincidentally' owns four floors of the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas. He is reported to have covered Barack Obama's tuition at Harvard."²

The Saudi *Sunnis* also face withering threats from *Shiite* Muslim leaders in Iran as well as the terror group Hezbollah, long holed up in Beirut. As a result, the Saudis recently entered into a mutual military compact with Israel. Reports indicate the Saudis have gained much needed technical support and are very pleased.

Further north, majority Sunni-Muslims in Syria, continue to wage civil war against President Bashar al-Assad whose family is *Alawite*, an offshoot of *Shiite* Islam. Increasing tensions in late 2010, eventually led to a full-scale uprising, largely because top positions in Assad's military were held in check by Alawites. Most of the rebels from the Free Syrian Army and other opposition groups come from Syria's *Sunni* majority. While Assad would prefer to be warring with Israel, he too, is preoccupied at the moment.

Will the United Nations eventually recognize Jerusalem as Israel's exclusive and rightful capital?

In our opinion, probably not.

In 1947, only a few months after the United Nations welcomed Jordan and its chosen capitol Amman into the world body, the same General Assembly... "passed a resolution that established Jerusalem as a 'corpus separatum.' This is a legal term meaning a 'body of separate covenant.' This has never happened before in history. No city has ever been set aside by a human government... to abide by different laws than the rest of the world."³ Although Jerusalem has been a capital to no other nation except Israel, it appears it has been set apart by God, not just the United Nations.

We emphatically support the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capitol, and truly yearn for our Jewish brethren to prosper in the land promised to Abraham for an eternal inheritance. But the *prophets* have informed us what to expect in the very near future, and what we must do. The Church must look for ways to comfort "Jacob" in his affliction.

The Church is also instructed to pray for the PEACE of Jerusalem, trusting that HE is even at the door.

Rick Forcier

¹ cnn.com/2017/12/24/americas/venezuela-migration-to-colombia/index.html

² Kelly, Jack, "Half-Full Report," 11/10/2017

³ oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/how-can-we-pray-for-the-peace-of-jerusalem/