

God Blesses Those Who Bless Israel

Dear Friend,



Thank you for subscribing to our *Standing With Israel* weekly e-newsletter, which is usually sent out on Fridays. But on New Year's Day it isn't being published, which gives me an opportunity to ask you to bless Israel with an end-of-the-year donation through Christian Life Missions, our nonprofit partner. I say this because I believe that like me, you believe that God blesses those who bless Israel.

Genesis 12:3 says God promises Abraham: **“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”** (NIV).

In my own life I have seen proof of this promise; when I have blessed Israel and the Jewish people, God has showered His blessings on me. That is why we have set up the “Bless Israel” fund through Christian Life Missions.

Over the last several years through Christian Life Missions and friends like you, we have helped buy an ambulance for Israel; helped rebuild a war-torn city near the Lebanese border; and provided bomb shelters near the Gaza Strip where Kassam rockets from Hamas rain terror on Israeli citizens who had no where to run and hide.

Many ministries raise money for Israel. However, some raise money for Israel but the funds never get to the intended destination, according to what I've been told by Israeli insiders. This has also motivated me to make a way for those who want to bless Israel to do so with integrity through a ministry like Christian Life Missions. We are a small ministry

with little overhead expense. Most of what you give will go directly to "Bless Israel." Christian Life Missions has been around since the mid-1950s and has been a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1980. Over the years Christian Life Missions has functioned with the utmost integrity and without a shred of controversy, so you can give with confidence.

As 2009 winds up and many of us think of places to give before the end of the year, won't you band together with others who (like me) believe in blessing Israel? If your gift is at least \$30 we will give you a copy of David Brog's book *Standing With Israel*, which tells from a Jewish perspective why Bible-believing Christians are Israel's best friend. My company donates the books so everything you give can go to bless the Jewish people and Israel. We have sold or given away nearly 150,000 copies of this important book. If you haven't read it, you need to because it will bless you.

Never before have we asked for donations from the readers of the *Standing With Israel* e-newsletter. But as we sent out this request to our regular Christian Life Missions donors we decided to include readers of this newsletter because we want you to also receive a blessing by blessing the Jewish people and Israel!

Donations can be made by sending a check made payable to "Christian Life Missions," designated for "Bless Israel" in the check's memo line, and sent to Christian Life Missions, 600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746. All checks postmarked on or before December 31, 2009 will receive a 2009 tax receipt.

Donations can also be made online at with a credit card or through PayPal. To me, that's an even quicker and easier way to give.

Please check out our new Christian Life Missions Web site, ,

which tells about all the ministries we support. But the ones closest to my own heart are those that bless God's chosen people. Won't you dig down and give a generous offering this last week of the year—as I'm doing?

God bless you for your generosity.

Steve Strang

President, Christian Life Missions

Founder and Publisher of *Charisma* magazine

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The Gospel According to Lost

✘ By Chris Seay | Thomas Nelson | softcover | 224 pages | \$14.99

Fans of ABC's *Lost* now have a chance to ponder the mysteries of the island with a fellow fanatic. Bouncing around "smoke monster" theories and speculations about who Jacob is has created a sense of camaraderie among faithful *Lost* viewers. An admitted fan, Chris Seay readily joins in these conversations and takes them a step further revealing spiritual lessons gleaned from the hit show.

Where Is God Going? Seven Spiritual Trends of the '00 Decade

The last 10 years weren't just about terrorism and recession. Amid the storm clouds, God was working in profound ways.

We didn't know what to call it—was it the '00s?—yet we've just passed through quite a decade. We had natural disasters (the 2004 Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005), financial meltdowns (bank failures and 10 percent unemployment) and global conflict (9/11 and the war on terror). It brought doom and gloom on one hand and technological breakthroughs on the other. What a ride it has been.

How has God been working during this tumultuous season? Here's my list of seven megatrends that marked these last 10 years:

1. Third-World Christianity kept growing. There are now about 600 million Christians in Africa. Protestant Christianity grew 600 percent in Vietnam in the last decade. In China, where a 50,000-member megachurch was raided in Shanxi province a few weeks ago, there are now an estimated 130 million churchgoers.

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Called to Excellence

Psalm 148:1-14 From the time our three sons were very young until this day I prayed this prayer for them: "Father, I pray our sons will have the same excellent spirit Daniel had. Daniel was filled with Your Spirit, and Your Spirit is excellent."

The Deep Longing

✘ Why have so many Christians embraced the idea that following Christ means losing individuality, creativity, ingenuity, and the passion for excellence in all spheres of life? Too many believers are trapped in "the ordinary" when God promised an

extraordinary life!

The Four Skills Needed to Be an Accountability Partner

☒ Men who are growing spiritually, emotionally and relationally know the importance of having other men in their lives who can hold them accountable. They also recognize the value of helping other men. Proverbs 27:17 says it well: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (NIV). We need one another in order to be sharp. We also need to realize that every man is sharpened differently.

Accountability is not about asking a list of questions. It's about being involved in another man's life. It's coming alongside other men. Godly men know they need to be accountable, but they don't always know what that looks like. I've been in good accountability relationships and bad ones. I've noticed that the accountability partner has four key responsibilities.

Mourning For Messiah

Zechariah 12:1-13:9 This scripture in Zechariah is a powerful prophecy of when the veil of the Jewish people will be dropped and Israel will be saved in a day. Zechariah prophesies, “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first born” (Zech. 12:10, KJV).

Happy New Year

Psalms 146:1-10 We are fast approaching the new year, and soon we will hear the age-old phrase, “Happy New Year!” Everyone wants a happy New Year. The Greek word for happy also means “blessed.” In fact, the Beatitudes in some modern translations say, “Happy is the man who-.-.-.-” instead of “Blessed is the man who-.-.-.-” Let’s think a moment about the word Beatitudes. When we break this word down, we see it means the attitude of our being. This psalm states the attitude we should have daily as we live on earth. Listen to the words of David: “While I live I will praise the Lord, I will sing praises to my God while I have my being” (v. 2).

God Is Great!

Psalm 145:1-21 I remember as a child praying this blessing before every meal: "God is great! God is good! Let us thank Him for our food! Amen." This psalm expresses the greatness of God. David says, "Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" (vv. 2-3).