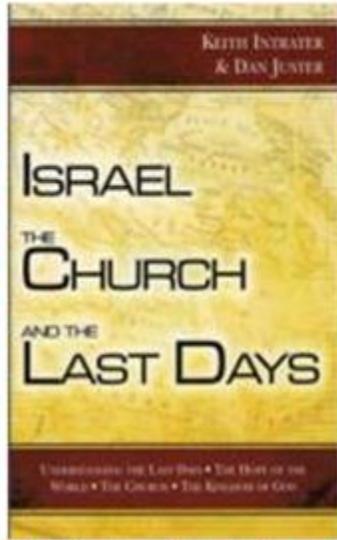


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 12, 2015

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BYZANTINE CHURCH UNCOVERED NEAR JERUSALEM HIGHWAY: A 1,500-year-old church has been uncovered on the road to Jerusalem, during archaeological excavations ahead of road work, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced Wednesday. The church was part of a larger complex that served as a waystation for travelers.

The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, Highway 1, is being widened, and prior to any construction work in the country, excavations are conducted to preserve any possible antiquities in the area. At the entrance to Abu Gosh, not far from Jerusalem, a large Byzantine-era road station was uncovered, including a church.

The church measures about 16 meters (about 52.5 feet) in length, and includes a side chapel measuring 6.5 meters (over 21 feet) long and 3.5 meters (about 11.5 feet) wide, as well as a white mosaic floor. A baptismal font (baptisterium) in the form of a four-leafed clover, symbolizing the cross, was identified in the chapel's northeast corner. In addition, fragments of red-colored plaster were found scattered throughout the building, indicating that the church had been decorated with frescoes.

Rooms found to the west of the church had probably been used as living quarters and for storage. One of the rooms still contained a large quantity of pottery tiles.

According to Annette Nagar, director of the excavation on behalf of the IAA, "The road station and its church were built in the Byzantine period beside the ancient road leading between Jerusalem and the coastal plain. Along this road, which was apparently already established in the Roman period, other settlements and road stations have previously been discovered that served those traveling the route in ancient times. Included in the services provided along the route were churches, such as the one recently uncovered at the entrance to Abu Gosh."

This is not the first church of its kind found by archaeologists. "Other churches have been recorded in the past in Abu Gosh, Qiryat Ye'arim, and Emmaus," Nagar added.

The road station at Abu Gosh was a busy one in its day, as evidenced by the oil lamps, coins, special glass vessels, marble fragments, and mother-of-pearl shells found at the site.

"This road station ceased to be used at the end of the Byzantine period," she said, "although the road beside which it was built was renewed and continued to be in use until modern times."

Pablo Betzer, the IAA's district archaeologist for the Judah region, added, "The finds have been documented and we shall be studying them. A decision has been made with the National Roads Company to cover over the site and preserve it for future generations."

NETANYAHU: THE PALESTINIANS RAN AWAY FROM NEGOTIATIONS: PM Benjamin Netanyahu told visiting Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek this week: "We want two states for two peoples: a Jewish nation state - Israel - living in peace with a demilitarized Palestinian state. Unfortunately, the Palestinians don't negotiate. They ran away from negotiations. They ran away from Barak; they ran away from Sharon; they ran away from Olmert; they ran away from me. They refuse to negotiate and then try to get boycotts on Israel for there not being negotiations - which they refuse to enter." "We have to get back to direct negotiations without preconditions. I think it's important that the international community stop giving the Palestinians a free pass." (Prime Minister's Office)

PA SECURITY FORCES GREET FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK: Emphasizing its refusal to co-exist with Israel or even recognize Israel, the Palestinian Authority continues to present all of Israel as "occupied Palestine." The PA National Security Forces, for example, repeatedly greets its Facebook followers with pictures of Israel and statements like: "Good morning, this photo is from: occupied Jaffa" or "occupied Acre" or "occupied Palestine." "Good evening from Hula Lake in occupied Palestine"

Palestinian Media Watch has documented that the PA and Fatah - both headed by Mahmoud Abbas - use all the means of communications they control to send the message that there is only room for one "Palestine" extending "from the river to the sea" and that all of Israel is "occupied" and will eventually "return" to the Palestinians. Also, Palestinian school children are indoctrinated with the message that there is no Israel but only "Palestine." (PMW)

INT'L LEGAL EXPERTS SLAM IDF – FOR OVER-WARNING GAZANS: The IDF went to extraordinary lengths last summer to prevent civilian casualties while fighting Hamas terrorists in Gaza, but according to international legal experts it went too far in avoiding casualties among the enemy population. Willy Stern of Vanderbilt Law School details in an article how the IDF bombarded Gaza residents with thousands of telephone calls, leaflet drops, TV and radio messages, as well as calls to influential citizens urging them to evacuate residents, and in doing so gave the terrorist enemy detailed information about its troop movements. In contrast, the Hamas "doctrine manual" documents how the terror group urges its fighters to embed themselves among civilians in hopes that the IDF will kill civilians. "Hamas's playbook calls for helping to kill its own civilians, while the IDF's playbook goes to extreme lengths to protect innocent life in war," reads the article. Indeed, international legal experts quoted in the article argued that the IDF's actions do go to inappropriate measures, and may end up harming the ability to fight terrorist organizations. One authority, Michael Schmitt, director of the Stockton Center for the Study for International Law, agreed with other quoted legal advisers that the IDF is creating a dangerous state of affairs that may harm the West in its fight against terrorism. "The IDF's warnings certainly go beyond what the law requires, but they also sometimes go beyond what would be operational good sense elsewhere," he warned. (Israel National News)

GAZANS UPSET WITH UNRWA AID TO BRETHREN IN SYRIA: Israel has often complained that UNRWA, the UN body dealing with "Palestinian refugees," merely exists to continue the conflict without resettling the people it treats as the UN does with all other refugees. But apparently the Palestinian Arabs are unhappy with the organization too - for not giving them enough, and for giving too much to brethren in Syria's Yarmouk neighborhood. Residents of Gaza defined as "refugees," namely the descendants of Arab residents who left Israel in the 1948 War of Independence, are protesting against UNRWA after the latter transferred resources to displaced Palestinian Arab residents of the Yarmouk "refugee camp," a neighborhood in southern Damascus that has been under brutal ISIS attack. The popular committee of refugees held a demonstration on Monday, 8 June, 2015 in front of UNRWA's aid distribution center in the western Al-Muaskar camp, demanding that UNRWA cease the budget cuts planned for them, and calling on donating nations to prop up the UN body. (INN)

UNRWA CLOSELY EMBEDDED WITH HAMAS – PERPETRATES REFUGEE STATUS: While The UN Human Rights Council is tasked with treating and resettling all refugees in the world, UNRWA exists separately and solely to deal with "Palestinian refugees," and has been exposed to be closely embedded with the Hamas terrorist organization as seen in last summer's war with Israel, when rockets were found at UNRWA clinics. Uniquely, "Palestinian refugee" status is "inherited" by the descendants of the original refugees, meaning that today the number of "Palestinian refugees" numbers 5 million in total. Instead of resettling them and helping them to rebuild their lives, UNRWA operates an extensive network of "refugee camps" in which residents are encouraged not to integrate into their host countries. Even in Gaza, those living in "refugee camps" are forbidden from purchasing land outside the "camps." No UN organization was established to aid the 850,000 Jewish refugees who fled or were expelled from Arab countries following 1948. (Arutz-7)

AS THE DEADLINE FOR A FINAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN APPROACHES, a new report by the Associated Press indicates that the White House interprets ballistic missile sanctions as part of the nuclear sanctions that would be removed in any final deal. Throughout negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, the Obama administration has maintained that, while the nuclear-related sanctions would be lifted, in the event of a final deal, the sanctions related to ballistic missiles, human rights, and terror activities would remain in place. Following the negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland in early April, the U.S. released a fact sheet reiterating that position: "U.S. sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under the deal." However, now administration officials "say measures designed to stop Iran from acquiring ballistic missiles are nuclear-related." In the ongoing negotiations, whose impending deadline is June 30, the P5+1 have failed to include ballistic missiles. Former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Dr. Robert Joseph asserted to Congress that the consequences of not including ballistic missiles in the negotiations are "magnified by the other flaws in our negotiating posture." Therefore, the threat of an Iran with nuclear-armed ballistic missiles "will increase not decrease under the anticipated agreement." He concluded that "[t]he threat will also increase to the Gulf Arabs leading to more proliferation in the broader Middle East and a greater risk of war."

A TEAM OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY AND UCLA ASTRONOMERS HAVE DISCOVERED A HUGE CLUSTER OF MORE THAN A MILLION YOUNG STARS FORMING IN A HOT, DUSTY CLOUD OF MOLECULAR GASES IN A DWARF GALAXY VERY NEAR OUR OWN. The star cluster is buried within a massive gas cloud dubbed "Cloud D" in the NGC 5253 dwarf galaxy, and, although it's a billion times brighter than our sun, is barely visible, hidden by its own hot gases and dust. The researchers say the star cluster contains more than 7,000 massive "O" stars: the most brilliant stars in existence and each a million times more luminous than our sun. "Cloud D is an incredibly efficient star and soot factory," says Prof. Sara Beck of TAU's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics and co-author of the research, recently

published in Nature. “This cloud has created a huge cluster of stars, and the stars have created an unprecedented amount of dust.” “Extreme and extraordinary things are happening right in our very own astronomical neighborhood,” Beck says. “In astrophysics we assume that, unless proven otherwise, basic processes are the same everywhere. But here we’re witnessing globular cluster formation — a process which we assumed was ‘turned off’ in our galaxy ten billion years ago — occurring today in a nearby galaxy.”

USA DIPLOMATS REVEAL EU SANCTIONS ASSAULT AFTER IRAN DEAL:

Israel has been fighting the Iran nuclear deal due to the great danger it poses, but senior Western officials have revealed it is also doing so because once a deal is reached, the European Union (EU) and UN are planning a diplomatic offensive targeting the Jewish state. The political assault is meant to force Israel into returning to yet more peace talks with the Palestinian Authority and making dangerous concessions in the process - and reportedly the EU already has a list of sanctions ready to force Israel to bend. A senior Western diplomat said in a report published Tuesday, 9 June, 2015 that "a diplomatic attack against Israel is expected soon that will surprise even the pessimists in Jerusalem." That list is to be translated into an economic assault - unless Israel presents a new set of concessions it is willing to make for a new round of peace talks, after the last set of talks was torpedoed by the PA signing a unity deal with the Hamas terrorist organization. The source added that USA President Barack Obama's threat made in an Israeli interview this month, according to which he may cut USA support for Israel at the UN, specifically was referring to "the sanctions file" against Israel which is currently biding its time at the EU headquarters. (Arutz-7)

ADL SLAMS ‘MYOPIC’ SUPREME COURT DECISION ON JERUSALEM:

A prominent Jewish and pro-Israel organization expressed disappointment over this week’s USA Supreme Court's ruling separating "Jerusalem" from "Israel" on American passports, noting the detriment the precedent-setting ruling has for American Jews and USA -Israel relations. "The question for the Supreme Court in this case involved a simple and ministerial act – whether or not American citizens born in Jerusalem should be allowed to list their birth place as Israel," Anti-Defamation League Director, Abraham Foxman, stated. "The answer to that should have been an easy 'yes.' And the Court did not have to issue a sweeping decision about executive power to reach that conclusion. It is sad and unfortunate that Israel - as a sovereign nation - is the only country in the world whose capital comes under such scrutiny and has to defend its right to determine where its capital city exists," he concluded. "It’s time for the Executive Branch to face the reality: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel." (Arutz-7)

PA: RULING ON JERUSALEM PROVES ISRAEL IS AN ‘OCCUPIER’: The Palestinian Authority (PA) on Monday 8 June, 2015 welcomed the decision of the United States Supreme Court to reject an appeal to have Menachem Binyamin Zivotofsky's passport list "Jerusalem, Israel" as his place of birth, in a key case regarding the city's status as Israel's capital. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, said that "the decision sends an obvious message that Israel is an occupying power of East al-Quds (eastern Jerusalem), the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and the Gaza Strip." In its decision, the Supreme Court on Monday sided with President Barack Obama and criticized Congress for "overstepping its bounds" when it tried to press Obama to have Zivotofsky's passport list "Jerusalem, Israel" as his place of birth. (INN)

POLL: 71% BELIEVE WORLD HAS BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL: The majority of Israelis believe the international community imposes moral double-standards on Israel - and has a definitive bias against the Jewish state. According to a Peace Index survey of the Israel Democracy Institute, 71% of Israelis believe the world has a specific anti-Israel bias; 66.4% of Israelis believe Israel's international relations are "bad." A mere 3.2% of respondents believe relations between Israel and other countries are "very good" and 30.5% believe relations are "quite good." The survey was published Tuesday morning, 9 June, 2015. (INN)

DERSHOWITZ: BDS MOVEMENT TARGETS ISRAEL BUT IGNORES HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENCES WORLD WIDE: Citing a litany of nations across the globe guilty of egregious human rights offenses that have not been subjected to international boycotts, renowned jurist Alan Dershowitz lambasted the BDS, Monday night 8 June, 2015. "Name a single country in the history of the world faced with internal and external threats comparable to those faced by Israel that has ever had a better record in human rights; a better record with compliance of the rule of law; a better record of concern for civilians? I have been asking that question now for 20 years probably to a million people around the world, and I've never gotten a single person even to stand up and name a country, because you can't do it." Moreover, Dershowitz argued that the issue is not about BDS in itself, but rather "the singularity of directing that sanction against the most democratic state in the Middle East – one of the most democratic states in the world. Noting that the sophistication of the movement has advanced considerably, Dershowitz emphasized that it is incumbent upon pro-Israel advocates to do more to prove and demonstrate that those on the side of BDS are not only the wrong side of morality, but of the peace process. "The BDS movement is antagonistic to peace," he said. "It makes it harder for the Palestinians to come to the bargaining table." (J.Post)

FORMER MOSSAD CHIEF: IRAN USING OBAMA’S DESIRE FOR DEAL TO EXTORT CONCESSIONS: Former Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit said this week that Iran's superior skill at negotiations will give them the edge in getting what they want in the emerging nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. "Their patience is much greater than the patience of western negotiators. They will exhaust the Americans, they

will squeeze them." Shavit argued that the Iranians will use the fact that President Obama wants an Iran deal as part of his legacy to their advantage, leveraging his desire to get a deal to extract further Western concessions. He warned that the world's vigilance in making sure that Iran was not pursuing a nuclear weapon would fade, allowing the Islamic Republic an opportunity to develop a bomb. "As time goes by and the world is busy with other problems, there will be less attention paid to them." He warned of the dangers that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose. "A radical Shi'ite leader with his hand on the nuclear trigger is a mind-boggling proposition," he said.(J.Post)

GIULIANI: YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE STUPID NOT TO BE WORRIED BY A NUCLEAR IRAN: Former NY City Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Sunday, 7 June, 2015 that many Democrats, like their Republican counterparts, are against the emerging nuclear deal with Iran but are afraid to say it and go against the policies of President Obama. He said that most Americans were closer to the people of Israel's views than they were to Obama's views. "You would have to be stupid not to be worried by a nuclear Iran, run by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is dedicated to Israel's destruction," Giuliani said. "We went through these negotiations with Iran in the earlier part of this decade, and they cheated for three years and were caught three times cheating," he said. Giuliani contended that Iran is a much more serious problem than ISIS. He said Iran remains "dedicated to the elimination of Israel" and supports jihadists who want to eliminate Christianity. He rejected the idea that Iran had reformed and become more moderate under President Hassan Rouhani. "They are run by a dictator. There are more executions today than there were under Ahmadinejad," he stated. Giuliani said of the Iran deal that "you should make agreements with those that you trust, not those that you mistrust." (Jerusalem Post)

‘GERMANY SAW DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ANTISEMITIC, ANTI-ISRAEL CRIMES IN 2014’: An exponential rise in anti-Israel crimes in Germany committed by foreigners and immigrants in 2014 points to an urgent need for action, a German politician says. The government reported last week that crimes under the category of "Israel-Palestinian Conflict" increased from a total of 41 in 2013 to 575 in 2014. Of these, 331 were "politically motivated crimes committed by foreigners," and 91 were violent crimes. The previous year, there were no violent crimes registered in this category. Government sources noted that while most anti-Semitic crimes can be traced to right-wing extremists, last year's "frightening explosion" of anti-Israel crimes and rise in anti-Semitic crimes after the summer 2014 Gaza conflict were in part traced to perpetrators of Muslim or Arab background. Parliamentarian Volker Beck said policymakers "must not close their eyes to this finding," adding that German Muslim and immigrant associations bear responsibility to tackle this problem. (Jerusalem Post)

DENIED UNDER NAZIS, 102-YEAR-OLD JEWISH WOMAN GETS DOCTORATE: Ingeborg Syllm-Rapoport wasn't allowed to defend her doctoral thesis in 1938 under the Nazis because she was part-Jewish. Nearly eight decades later, she became Germany's oldest recipient of a doctorate at age 102 on Tuesday, 9 June, 2014. Syllm-Rapoport stressed in her acceptance speech that she went through all the efforts of getting the degree at her advanced age not for herself, but for all the others who suffered from injustice during the Third Reich. After the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, they gradually disenfranchised Jews, expelling them from universities, schools and many professions, before eventually deporting and killing them in death camps across Europe. (Ynet)

Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

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