

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 10, 2017 (21th of Cheshvan, 5778)



1,600 – YEAR – OLD CHURCH MOSAIC PUZZLES OUT KEY ROLE OF WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY: A newly uncovered mosaic in the western Galilee speaks to the relatively high status of women in the early Church. Dating to the 5th century, a Greek-language inscription memorializes one “Sausann” (or Shoshana) as a donor for the construction of a village church. It is one of seven inscriptions — including a massive five-meter long text — which were found in three Byzantine churches during this summer’s excavations by Kinneret College archaeologist. Unusual in a patriarchal society, the donor Sausann is credited in the inscription independently of any spouse or male guardian. This Sausann is thought to have been a woman of some standing, perhaps following in the footsteps of her presumed namesake, the female disciple Susannah, who was among the women named in Luke 8:3 who provided for Yeshua “out of their resources. The find buttresses the position taken by a growing number of early church scholars that women played an important role in its foundation. According to a recent article in Christianity Today, “in the upper echelons of society, women often converted to Christianity while their male relatives remained pagans, lest they lose their senatorial status. This too contributed to the inordinate number of women in the church, particularly upper-class women.” (Times of Israel)

‘ARABS SEXUALLY HARASS ME EVERY TIME I GO OUTSIDE’: I immigrated to Israel in 2000, and since then I’ve grown up and was educated in Nazareth Illit (Upper Nazareth). A wonderful city by all accounts; the capital of the Galilee - with one problem that has become a daily reality for every woman who lives in this city: Sexual harassment. The term sexual harassment sounds very bombastic and aggravated by the ease with which this term is bandied about and what it has become in our public consciousness. But when everyday situations such as walking to or from work, catching a

bus to the mall, boarding a taxi, throwing garbage in the dumpster outside - become unpleasant, unbearable, or even impossible, one can appreciate that there is a problem. So I am Jenny, 21, now from Ramat Gan, but until two months ago I was living in Nazareth Illit. I experienced harassment on a daily basis by minorities in my hometown. I couldn't leave the house without being honked at, without being catcalled, without being invited to get into a car. In the more unusual cases (which unfortunately are not unusual in Nazareth Illit), these harassers aren't embarrassed in the slightest to stop next to me or in front of me down the road, and suggest that I get in the car. I mean, with no hesitation whatsoever. And I ask - why? Why, regardless of my attire (for the sake of disclosure - it's not provocative, just because it is not my style). How do I know that the harassers are members of minorities? When you grow up in a mixed environment, in a town surrounded by Arab villages; when you work with this population (whom, incidentally, I greatly respect), you simply learn to identify them. There is no politically correct answer. You recognize the vehicles, you recognize the accent, you recognize the language. You learn to identify the expressions, the faces, the pattern of behavior. You just know. Not because you're a racist, not because you assume, not because you're guessing, not because you estimate. You just know. Among the many ways to harass a person, harassment in his public and secure space is perhaps the most serious, at least to me, because it disrupts the most basic thing a person needs in his or her living environment - that is security. (Arutz-7)

ARAB CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ATTACK JEWISH PRESCHOOL IN TEL AVIV:

Despite an influx of foreign aid dwarfing the per-capita investments in post-World War II Europe, the Palestinian Authority has failed to create jobs for its people. Israel has sought to alleviate the pressure that unemployment brings by allowing large numbers of Palestinian Arabs to enter its sovereign territory each day to work in construction. On Sunday 5 Nov. 2017, it was demonstrated how such gestures of goodwill can sometimes backfire. Fortunately, this time, it was without tragic consequences. Some 100 Jewish children had to be urgently evacuated from their preschool in the Tel Aviv suburb of Givatayim when Arab construction workers at an adjacent building site began hurling stones. The children were all inside the preschool at the time, which is why no one was injured. A school staff member witnessed the attack when she went to the kitchen and saw the construction workers throwing rocks and cursing the Jews inside. Police were called to the scene, and arrested two of the Arabs involved. The perpetrators were later released on bail with a restraining order. (Israel Today)

PALESTINIAN TERROR GROUP THREATENS IDF, PROMISES WAR WITH ISRAEL:

The organization, which has been classified as a terrorist entity by both the EU and the USA, boasts of preparing for a major conflict with Israel. The military wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an organization that orchestrated terrorist attacks that killed scores of Israelis over the years and has been classified by both the United States and the European Union as a terrorist entity, released on Tues. 7 Nov. 2017 a threatening video against the Jewish state and in particular its army. The video depicts IDF vehicles moving along the security barrier between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and as one vehicle emerges a text appears in Arabic and in Hebrew on the screen saying: "In the line of fire." The video also shows Palestinian snipers aiming their weapons at Israeli combat engineering units that operate in the area in order to ensure the safety of other military units as well as uncover terror tunnels being dug into Israeli territory with the intent of harming the country's population. "The weapon of resistance is a holy weapon, one we will not accept seeing damaged, and it will remain in the hands of the resistance which doubles its efforts to prepare for the next confrontation." (J.Post)

IRAN PLEDGES TO SUPPORT LEBANON STABILITY AFTER PM RESIGNED: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says his country will "not hesitate" to help maintain the stability of Lebanon following the resignation of the Lebanese Saudi-backed prime minister that threw the government into disarray. According to Rouhani's official website, the Iranian president called his Lebanese counterpart, Michel Aoun, on 7 Nov. 2017 to assure him that the Iranian leader firmly believes the Lebanese people will overcome "this sedition" and will not let their country become "a battlefield for foreign powers." Saad Hariri unexpectedly announced his resignation last weekend from Saudi Arabia and in a televised speech accused Iran of meddling in Arab affairs and the Iran-backed Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah of holding Lebanon hostage. The resignation was seen as a reflection of growing tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, its arch rival in the region. (Fox)

SAUDIS, IRAN ON PATH TO 'VERY, VERY BLOODY' WAR: While the world tries to interpret Saudi Arabia's moves to clamp down on corruption and watches the kingdom accuse Iran of an "act of war," a former Reagan administration Pentagon official says Saudi Arabia is gearing up for the very real possibility of a "very, very bloody" war with Iran. Within the past several days, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is next in line to the Saudi throne, has ordered the arrests of many government officials, including 11 princes, on allegations of corruption. More recently, the crown prince accused Iran of an "act of war" after Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen launched an Iranian missile toward the Saudi capital of Riyadh. The Houthis admit firing the missile, and Saudi investigators say the fragments prove the missile is from Iran. Furthermore, the Saudi-friendly prime minister of Lebanon abruptly resigned, and many other elements of the Lebanese government are loyal to the Shiite regime in Iran.

Frank Gaffney is president of the Center for Security Policy, and he served as an assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration. He said these recent events are very significant. "Something is moving, for sure," Gaffney told news sources. "I think this is a lot bigger than chess pieces. I think this is nothing less than tectonic shifts taking place throughout the region." Gaffney said Iran's goal of creating a "Shiite Crescent" is greatly disturbing to the Saudis. The crescent is a continuous stretch of Iranian-dominated areas that stretches from the southern end of the Red Sea through Yemen to Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. He said Crown Prince Salman is bracing for a major fight to prevent Iran control of the entire region. "As I see it, is probably a very, very bloody war in that part of the world and it may not be confined to that part of the world," Gaffney said. (WND)

USA LAUDS SAUDI EXPOSURE OF IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR YEMEN REBELS: The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen is blaming a rebel missile launch on Iran and warning it could be "considered as an act of war." On 6 Nov. 2017, the coalition also closed off the land, sea and air ports to the Arab world's poorest country over the missile launch targeting Riyadh. The United States says it welcomes Saudi Arabia's statement exposing Iranian support for Yemen's Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia's crown prince said on 7 Nov. 2017 that a ballistic missile fired at the kingdom by Yemeni rebels was a "direct military aggression by the Iranian regime." The White House's statement says the USA condemns the Iranian government's activities and stands with Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf partners against Iran's aggression and "blatant" violations of international law. It says missile systems were not present in Yemen before the civil war there. It also urges the United Nations to review evidence that Iran is perpetuating the war in Yemen to further its regional ambitions. A Saudi-led military coalition has been at war with Yemen's Houthi rebels for more than two years. (Washington Post)

ISRAELI PM BENJAMIN NETANYAHU EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF SHOOTING ‘SAVAGERY’: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed solidarity with the victims of Sunday’s 5 Nov. 2017 shooting attack on a Baptist church in Texas in which up to 27 people have been killed. Netanyahu said he was “horrified by the savagery in Texas. Our hearts are with the victims, their families and the American people,” the Israeli leader said. The mass shooting occurred at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio. The gunman, who was later shot dead by police, walked in to the church at 11:30 on Sunday morning and began spraying the crowd with bullets. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said that on top of the 27 deaths, “many more” had been injured. Paxton said that “In a small town, I can imagine that these people are devastated. And everyone in the community is going to have some type of close relationship” to those either killed or injured in the shooting outrage. (J.Post)

ISRAELI MILITARY SAYS IT WILL PREVENT JIHADIST TAKEOVER OF SYRIAN DRUZE VILLAGE ON GOLAN BORDER: In an unusual public declaration on Friday 3 Nov. 2017 the Israeli military announced it would thwart a potential takeover of a Syrian Druze town by jihadists. The IDF statement came after a Nusra Front suicide bomber killed at least nine people in Hader, which is located just across the border from Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights. The IDF said Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot and other top officers had conducted a situational assessment about what was transpiring in Hader. “The IDF is prepared and ready to assist the residents of the village and prevent damage to or capture of Hader, out of a commitment to the Druze population,” it said. Since the civil war in Syria erupted in 2011, Israel has largely sought to remain neutral in the bloody conflict. However, the IDF has responded with pinpoint strikes to occasional cross-border fire - both errant and intentional - in the Golan Heights and has reportedly bombed a number of Hezbollah-bound arms convoys and other targets in Syria tied to the Iran-backed, Lebanon-based Shia terror group in recent years. Israel has also provided medical treatment to thousands of people wounded in the fighting in Syria. (Algemeinger)

LEBANESE PM RESIGNS, BLASTS IRAN AND HEZBOLLAH: Lebanese PM Saad Hariri unexpectedly announced his resignation 4 Nov. 2017 citing Iran's "grip" on the country and threats to his life. "I announce my resignation from the post of prime minister," he said in a speech broadcast from Saudi Arabia. "I feel that my life is being targeted," added Hariri. "In recent years, Hezbollah has used the power of its weapons to impose a fait accompli," he stated. Hariri, a two-time prime minister whose father Rafik was assassinated when he held the same position in 2005, accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of seeking hegemony in the region. PM Netanyahu responded to Hariri's resignation on Saturday night, saying, "The resignation of Prime Minister Hariri and his remarks are a wake-up call to the international community to take action against the Iranian aggression that is trying to turn Syria into a second Lebanon. This aggression endangers not only Israel but the entire Middle East. The international community needs confront this aggression," he added. (Arutz-7)

ARAB MEDIA: WESTERN INTELLIGENCE WARNED HARIRI OF DEATH PLOT: Western intelligence agencies warned former Lebanese prime minister Saad al-Hariri of an assassination plot against him, the Saudi-owned pan-Arab newspaper Asharq al-Awsat reported on 5 Nov. 2017. Asharq al-Awsat reported that the sources "revealed that he had received Western warnings of an assassination attempt that was prepared against him". Hariri announced his surprise resignation the previous day, citing a plot to kill him, and saying the climate in Lebanon resembled that before the assassination of his father Rafik al-Hariri, who was also prime minister, in 2005. He criticized Iran and its Lebanese

ally Hezbollah for their role in Lebanon and other Arab countries. Hariri travelled to Riyadh on 4 Nov. 2017 and did not return to Lebanon. His resignation was made in a televised statement from an undisclosed location. Saudi Arabia is an arch rival of Iran. Asharq al-Awsat reported unnamed sources as speculating that Hariri would remain outside Lebanon because of the security threat against him. (J.Post)

RIYADH DETAINS PRINCES, POLITICIANS IN CRAKDOWN ON CORRUPTION: In the latest shakeup in the House of Saud, 11 princes, four current ministers and dozens of former high-ranking officials were arrested in what was described as a crackdown on corruption. They reportedly include well-known billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and two sons of the late King Abdullah. A concurrent cabinet reshuffle also saw Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, once a front-runner to assume the throne, removed as chief of the elite National Guard internal security force, whereas Mohammed al-Tuwaijri was named the new economy minister. Salman also announced the creation of a formal anti-corruption committee to be chaired by his son, 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed. Analysts say the changes consolidate Mohammed's power over of the kingdom's institutions—he already serves as defense minister—which had long been overseen by separate branches of the ruling family. Since being named heir to the throne in June 2017, Mohammed has rapidly moved to modernize the country, foremost through his Vision 2030 plan, which aims to wean Riyadh off of its oil dependence while creating the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world and by relaxing stringent religious laws, most notably the recent decision to permit women to drive cars. (Medialine)

EGYPT SECURITY FORCES DEPRIVING CHRISTIANS OF RIGHTS: Police in Egypt are failing to follow a new law that provides the nation's Christians with freedom of worship, the right to restore old churches and build a new one – all under pressure from Muslims. Researcher C. Meital wrote that the issue of discrimination against Egypt's Coptic Christian minority has resurfaced recently in the Egyptian media. "The renewed debate follows claims that the security forces, submitting to pressure by Islamist elements, are depriving Copters of their freedom of worship". They say security forces have been preventing them from holding prayers in several villages in Upper Egypt. In August 2017 two more incidents in Al-Minya villages were reported; in one, the security forces reportedly shut down a church in Kidwan village, and in the other, they prevented Copts from holding services in an apartment in Al-Faran village on the grounds that it was not an authorized church.

The report cites a request from Bishop Macarius of Al-Minya for the federal government to uphold the law, as more than 15 churches have been shut down and about 70 villages have no church at all. That's why Cops seek alternative locations to worship, officials said. Coptic villagers wrote to Al-Sisi: "In every meeting with Copts you Al-Sisi stress the impropriety of directing offensive expressions at any Egyptian citizen, but today we know that what is happening in practice represents the opposite of your approach, for we are treated like criminals and transgressors who must be prosecuted merely for practicing their religion." (WND)

NIKKI HALEY: UNLESS UN RIGHTS COUNCIL REFORMS, USA IS OUT: The United States is ready to pull out of the UN Human Rights Council unless it institutes reforms, including removing Israel as a permanent item on its agenda, USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley told an Israeli American audience. "The Human Rights Council will either adopt these reforms, or the United States will leave." Haley said the USA proposed reforms include removing "Item 7," which requires a report on Israeli actions in Judea & Samaria each time the panel convenes. She said the United States also wanted structural changes that would keep major human rights abusers from joining the council. Haley said the USA delegation was endeavoring to keep unpublished a list the UN Human Rights Council is

compiling of companies doing business with Judea & Samaria settlements. Israel and the United States see the list as a blacklist for boycotters. She described one of the Obama administration's last acts — allowing through a UN Security Council resolution condemning settlements — as a “betrayal” of Israel. (Times of Israel)

FAMILY SAVED WHEN DOG WAKES THEM UP DURING FIRE BELIEVED SET BY ISLAMIST NEIGHBOR: A Jewish family from the Paris area has their dog to thank for their escape from a fire that they believe may have been started outside their home by an Islamist neighbor. The family was awakened after midnight on Friday night 3 Nov. 2017, by the dog's insistent barking to discover that their front door was on fire, with smoke rapidly filling up the interior of their apartment in the southeastern suburb of Creteil, said the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, or BNVCA. The door had been set on fire by individuals who doused it with a highly flammable fluid, police concluded. The family told police that they suspected a neighbor, who is an Arab, and whom BNVCA said has expressed extremist and anti-Semitic views online. Police detained the neighbor in connection with the incident. Last week, an unidentified person set the family's car on fire. “The incident confirms BNVCA's observation that anti-Semitic acts that began as targeting property belonging to Jews (synagogues, schools, community centers) or as assaults on people on the street have evolved into attacks on Jews inside their own homes,” the group wrote. (JTA)



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