

## *I Stand With Israel!*

### **Elders:**

John Deffenbaugh  
Wayne Douthitt  
Glen Honeycutt  
Rick Hyder  
Bill Reiboldt

### **Deacons:**

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Alan Cook  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Tim Murray  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

### **Local Evangelists:**

Danny Boggs  
Luke Yates

### **Worship Assemblies**

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

### **Bible Classes**

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Due to recent actions from our current government, I have seen a multitude of people exclaim, "I stand with Israel!" and "We must always support Israel!" I often wonder the reasoning behind these statements. If you are someone who believes that we should support and stand with Israel, I want you to pause for just a second and ask yourself, "Why?" What is your reasoning for why you believe the United States should stand with Israel? Once you have that reason at the front of your mind, see if it lines up with one of the following.

- Is it because you think that America should support any and all countries, which includes Israel?
- Is it simply because of political reasons?
- Is it because America can use Israel and its location to defeat her enemies?
- Is it because of religious reasons?

Oftentimes, those who throw in their supportive words for Israel do so out of purely religious motives. Some of those who call themselves Christians, as well as some actual Christians, believe to some degree that the nation of Israel still constitutes God's holy nation and that God is going to restore the Palestinian land back to the Jews in the future. But is that the case? Does God have a special, unique relationship with the Jews that occupy the area in and around the state of Israel? Is God going to restore the land back to the Jews?

Many years ago God told Abram, "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3). This promise was fulfilled in part through the establishment of the physical nation of Israel through Abraham's seed in the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:7; 15:8; Joshua 11:23; 21:43-45). That physical nation was the nation of God's people (Deuteronomy 7:6). Over time, God punished and destroyed His nation of Israel because of their constant sin (Leviticus 26:27-39; Deuteronomy 8:19-20; Hosea 13:9). When we think about the Israel of today, that state is about as similar to the Israel of the Old Testament as the American city of Philadelphia is similar to the ancient Philadelphia in Asia. They share the same name, but they are completely different. When you hear about the state of Israel, which began in 1948, please don't equate or connect that nation to the Israelite nation of old. That former covenant that God made with the physical nation of

Israel has become obsolete and God has no desire to restore that covenant once again (Hebrews 8:13).

The Bible is clear that the promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3 has been fulfilled through the seed of Christ (Galatians 3:16; Acts 3:25-26; Romans 4:13-17). The true, spiritual Israel is the Lord's church that transcends physical borders (Galatians 6:15-16; Romans 9:6-8; Acts 10:34-35). Galatians 3:28-29 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." We are not Abraham's offspring based on our ethnic background. We are Abraham's offspring because we are in Christ!

The Jews – the people of Israel – had a big part in killing Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36; 7:52). Even God Himself didn't stand with physical Israel once they crucified His own Son. He punished them greatly by sending the Romans to destroy the temple and Jewish records (Matthew 24:1-35). Isn't it ironic that the group who had the biggest part in murdering Jesus is also the same group that many so-called "Christians" are quick to defend on the basis of religion? Isn't it sad that some Christians will go all out to support Israel, yet won't even support their own brothers and sisters in Christ? We certainly should do good to all people, but we need to especially be there for our spiritual family (Galatians 6:10). Some seem to have more respect for physical Israel than they do for Jesus and spiritual Israel, but salvation is not through the physical nation of Israel and its old law (Hebrews 7:18; 8:5-7; 10:1-4). Salvation is only through Jesus (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

I stand with Israel and you should too. I stand with the Lord's church, which is the true Israel. I stand with the promised spiritual remnant of Abraham's seed through Christ. I honestly don't care one way or the other if America supports the modern-day nation of Israel. I suppose valid political and strategic reasons exist for supporting Israel. There is certainly nothing wrong with America supporting another country, whether it be Israel or somewhere else. There is, however, something wrong with the idea that we should support Israel because we think Israel is God's blessed nation or that God will restore His physical kingdom back to Palestine. I stand with Israel (A.K.A., the church). Do you?

*Luke Yates*



Kay Anderson, Betty Ball, Yvonne Barker, Jack Brodie, Shannon Brodie, Charles Collinsworth Sr., Pete and Leona Conrow, Jace Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lana Couch, Lee Crabtree, Robert Crawford, Glenda Daniels, Kenneth Daniels, Kristie Deffenbaugh, Wayne Deffenbaugh, Wayne Douthitt, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Faye Haight, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Larry Jones, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- Mary Jane Flint is scheduled for knee surgery next Tuesday.
- Susie Tomlin anticipates hip surgery next Wednesday.

To my church brothers and sisters,  
I want to thank you for each and every kindness and the love you have shone me, especially the singing.

In Christian Love,  
*Wilma Knoll*

Thank you, thank you, thank YOU! To all who helped deliver Meals on Wheels. We had a good two weeks.

*Eldon Morgan*

**It's a girl!** Leona Ann Murray was born to Landon and Chani last Wednesday night. Congratulations to grandparents Todd and Ginger Murray and the entire Murray family.



**This Sunday's Sermons:**

A.M. *The Gospel: Clarity for Our Confusion*  
(Danny Boggs)  
P.M. *A Woman's Worth*  
(Luke Yates)

**Wilma Knoll's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** is next Monday, January 9. Let's remember her with cards on this special day.

**The Thursday morning ladies' morning Bible class** will resume at 10:00 this Thursday with a study of Exodus 16.

The **women's Bible study on the book of Hosea** will meet this Thursday at 7:00 at Carla Murray's home.

**Men's Breakfast:** All men are invited to join us at Braum's this Thursday at 7:00.

**Juice boxes:** We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.

**Make Plans:** January 29 brings our next fifth Sunday contribution opportunity. Thanks again to everyone who gave so generously in our kickoff in October to pay for our new building. Everything that we give above our budget on the 29th will help pay to pay for the construction. While it's hard to see the progress on the building so far, things are happening every day and will soon be more visible.

**You Can Do It, Too!** Lisa Daniels has set a goal for the new year to memorize two Bible verses a week. Many of us make Bible reading plans every year. How long has it been since you made a Bible memorizing plan? Lisa would love to know what your favorites are.

**The monthly area-wide preachers' and church leaders' luncheon** is next Monday at 11:00 at Golden Corral in Joplin. You can share a ride from the Hillcrest parking lot at 10:30.

*Only 159 days until Green Valley Bible Camp!*

**Whom could you  
invite to our services  
this week?**

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Prayers Sunday, January 8**

- AM Opening: Tim Murray
- AM Closing: John Deffenbaugh
- PM Opening: Eldon Morgan
- PM Closing: David Fehring

**Scripture Reading Sunday, January 8**

- 1 John 4:1-6, Nate Van Dorn

**Prayers Wednesday, January 11**

- Opening: Stuart Anderson
- Closing: Kaden King

RECORDS	01-01-17	01-03-16
Bible Study	132	149
AM Worship	178	209
PM Worship	157	133
Wednesday	146	159
Contribution	\$9,462.80	\$26,458.30
Budget	\$7,075.67	\$6,749.17