

Christian Media Missions
Russia & Asia Report
September 2008

Israel – The Holy Land
Arabic Campaign Covers All of Israel



Love Gone Cold

– A Sign of the Times

In Matthew we read Jesus' warning on how the love of many will grow cold as a result of abounding lawlessness.

A love growing cold is a sign of the times. There has not been a time in modern history when the bombardment of the church and followers of Christ has been more intense.

Indisputably lawlessness is a phenomena of our times. The break up of the family, the march onto center stage of sexual minorities, dishonesty, corruption, violence are symptoms of lawlessness.

Amidst all this there is a real danger that the love of many believers will go cold. That's why Jesus specifically pointed it out.

So how does one keep the flame burning bright and not grow cold? When love is protected it does not grow cold.

Left unprotected, it will.

Well, we can take defensive measures. A good defense translates into deliberate, calculated action.

We need to filter what we see and hear. Simply put, we watch and listen to that which strengthens our relationship with the Lord. And we steer clear of that which does not.

A well know Christian leader of a megachurch once explained how he kept the flame burning bright in his relationship. He would read faith challenging biographies of great men and women of God. When the going got tough he would withdraw into solitude and listen to songs that rekindled his love—his dedication. He would listen to a song over and over, sometimes 10 times until he would feel his spirit and

the temperature of his love rise. There are many ways to nurture, protect our love for the Lord.

We can choose hobbies, the way we spend our leisure time so that we do not cool off but actually warm up our relationship with God. Spend time with people who live close to God. Ask them how they got that way. We can learn from them.

Here, I believe, lies the secret to getting in on what God is doing in our generation. Keep love burning bright and you won't miss out. A spectator will have a luke warm heart. A participant will always have a burning heart. Undoubtedly, lawlessness will continue to abound. Love does not have to grow cold. Let's keep the flame burning bright.

A Word on Faith

Recently I reread the 11th chapter of the letter to the Hebrews. It contains a list of heroes of faith. The chapter starts with these words: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

I read on: "Without faith it is impossible to please God. We must believe that He is and that He rewards those that seek him." I thought for a

moment. I must please God because I have believed He exists for most of my life.

Yes, but that's only partly correct. We please Him by believing but we are rewarded for seeking Him. Seeking does not mean seeking to find Him. The heroes had already found him. They took it a step further, sought His will and obeyed by faith. They were rewarded

for uncommon obedience. Just read Hebrews chapter 11.

They acted even though the whole world scoffed and said: "Impossible! No way!" Faith was rewarded. Unbelief was put to shame. It still works the same way today.

Hannu Haukka

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Message on a large campaign billboard downtown Haifa: "I tried to escape alcoholism, my life was destroyed, but I found the real savior."



4000 Calls—From Every Corner of the Holy Land

IRR/TV's Arabic phase of the campaign took place in July. It went through the whole month and reached every town and city in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

Approximately 4000 Arabs called the two call centers that were set up for the campaign in Haifa and Bethlehem. About 70 – 80% were Muslim and 8% Druze, which traditionally have been very difficult people to reach with the Gospel. Several Jews called to tell us they have never seen ads on Jerusalem city buses in the Arabic language.

In addition to the massive Arabic media campaign two concerts were held, one in Bethlehem and the other in Haifa. Powerful worship music and the preached Word spoke to the 2000 people that attended. At least 150 Arabs gave their life

to Jesus during the altar calls.

Walid, the director for televising the events and his team of professional cameramen including Muhammed, a Muslim, did an excellent job.

When people were asked to come forward during the altar call at the end of the concert in Haifa Walid was startled to hear through his headset, cameraman Muhammed requesting permission to seek prayer.

Muhammed asked if he could join the others by walking to the front of the stage for prayer. Walid did not want the camera to be unattended so he replied saying that God will hear his prayer from behind his camera just as well as at the front of the stage. Muhammed prayed by his camera to receive Jesus, as his savior, into his life.

God did miracles in the lives of those church members who participated in the

campaign.

Jacqueline, who worked at the Haifa call center has a 14 year old son.

As parents she and her husband were very challenged with his disobedience toward them, and that he refused to attend church services any longer.

The son picked up the campaign book and watched the DVD. The message had a profound effect on him and he prayed to receive Jesus into his heart, and his life changed! He now attends church and his behavior has improved greatly.

Threats From Islamic Extremists

The campaign was not without its problems and challenges. Wherever God is and works in a powerful way the Devil will react and attacks as well.

Islamic extremists made threats during

the campaign. Just before the Arabic campaign began in late June the Islamic daily paper, operated by the extremist organization Fatah, printed an article by extreme Islamic fundamentalist Sheikh Kamal Khateeb. He had heard of the Christian campaign and issued a fatwa, a religious order, to warn all Muslims to not be in contact or involved with the campaign in any way. It seems that God turned this warning into a victory for many Muslims called our call centers regardless and requested the campaign book and DVD.

We noted, somewhat humorously, that Khateeb blamed the Finns, Danes and the Dutch for organizing such a campaign. It was probably his intent to anger the Muslim population by mentioning Denmark and Holland, stirring recent memories of

the satirical Muslim cartoon issued in a Danish newspaper and the Dutch-made movie slamming the Koran. Muslims hate these two countries because of these recent events.

The call centers received threats of arson but none of those threats were carried out.

Congregations Working Together After Campaign

The Arabic campaign in Israel has not ended yet. In fact the outreach is just beginning. Now local congregations are continuing with the process of contacting and ministering to people who responded during the media phase. They have begun by sending out the book and DVD to those

requesting these materials.

The campaign brought the congregations together for the sake of preaching the Gospel. Before the start of the campaign not all the Arabic congregations were on board but as the campaign progressed they saw God was doing his work among the people.

As the media portion of the campaign drew to a close all evangelical Arab congregations had joined forces with their brothers and sister in Christ to help reach their own people.

Earlier in the Spring the Russian and Hebrew language campaigns were held. God willing, the Russian and Hebrew campaigns will continue this fall. The latter will cover all of Israel.

Jari Sippola

Testimonies from Christians of God's power to change their life were seen and heard throughout the Arabic campaign:

- 8 local TV channels
- 8 local radio stations
- 140 huge billboards:
 - 20 of these were in largely Muslim populated areas
- 76 ads on city buses
- 9 popular Arabic newspapers
- 20,000 posters
- 2 of the most popular Internet sites in Israel
- 2 call centers: multiple phone lines manned 12h/7 days a week
- 5000 campaign books and DVD's
- 2 concerts
- 5 outreach services

Calls have come into our call centers from all over Israel. Here is a partial list of cities:

- Abu Gosh
- Abu Sinan
- Afula
- Ashdod
- Ashkelon
- Beersheba
- Beit Jala
- Beit She'an
- Bethlehem
- Eilat
- Gaza
- Haifa
- Hebron
- Jaffa
- Jenin
- Jericho
- Jerusalem
- Cana
- Cafa Yosef
- Karmiel
- Lod
- Nablus
- Nahrea
- Nazareth
- Netanja
- Rahat
- Rama
- Ramallah
- Sederot
- Tel Aviv
- Tiberias
- Tulkarem

Statistics of Israel mega-city campaigns as of Sept. 1, 2008 (approximate figures)

Campaign office, language	Calls	Books & DVD/s sent out	In follow-up
Tel Aviv, Hebrew	10,000	2500 (JFJ-organization)	2400
Jerusalem, Hebrew	1600	1000	1000
Jerusalem, Russian	2000	2000	1400
Haifa, Arabic	3000	3700	1500
Betlehem, Arabic	1000	1100	500
Total	17,600	10,300	6,800

(Calls continue to come in)



Nizar and Rana Francis, from Haifa, came to the concert in Bethlehem. Nizar is a well known Arabic singer in Israel. He is a Christian, but he sings only love songs and mostly at weddings, etc.

Rana Francis

– I cried during the concert in Bethlehem. They asked if people knew Jesus. We were invited to come to the front. I asked myself, do I know Jesus, but I did not know the answer. I realized that as a Christian I needed to change many things in my life. That made me cry and I began to pray that things would change. I prayed that my husband and I can become stronger in our faith in Christ.

As I stepped forward and started to pray I felt my husband at my side holding my hand. I thanked Jesus that he hears our prayers and wants to bless us.

This campaign was a blessing and great influence in my life.

Nizar Francis

– I am a professional singer, at weddings. I try to make people happy through my work, but I can offer only a short term joy and happiness. Because of the campaign I realized that real joy comes from Jesus.

God has given me a burden to speak to people about him. Before I was more interested in the melody of a song rather than the words. Now that God has changed my life the words are more important and God's Word reaches the heart. I hope that His Word will reach everyone.

One of the 140 Arabic campaign billboard ads.



Bus ads in Jerusalem...
...and billboards in Nazareth.



"The Holy Land Will Never Be The Same"



Bassel, Campaign coordinator in Haifa

– We have been at the forefront of all the media: newspapers, TV, radio, billboards, posters and brochures.

Because of this we have been able to completely cover all of the Holy Land—Israel and Palestinian settlements. Compared to traditional methods of evangelism this campaign has exceeded them in reaching the general public.

One man called us and said: “We see your ads everywhere. Everyone knows of your campaign. If this has been your goal, everyone in the Holy Land knows about your campaign.”

Someone else called from the university campus to say: “I am calling you because everyone at the campus is

talking about your campaign. I want to come to your concert and find out more about the power to change my life.”

People are contacting us through the internet and phone, some are in tears. 70–80% of the calls are from Muslims. We are happy that they want to know more about Jesus. Some asking for our help are drug addicts, some are alcoholics. They all want to receive God’s power to change their life and that of their family.

One lady was sobbing uncontrollably when she called us. She and her husband had lost everything. They saw our campaign ad on the side of a city bus with the message: I lost it all but through God’s grace I received something better.”

She call us and asked: “How can I receive something better from God? I want to know. Send us the book and DVD. We definitely need to change our life.”

An Arab called and told us about how he wanted to help his Jewish friend who was addicted to drugs. He asked for the DVD and book. He asked how his friend can receive the power to change.

Another man called us while he was high on drugs: “I’ve tried everything without success. Then I saw your ad and I want to change my life. Help me!”

Yet another told us he sees demons. He had heard of someone being set free of their demons through prayer. He want to change his life around as well.

We have also received letters, even from Gaza. They have come to know Jesus as well. They need help to be able to openly profess their faith in God. They want help to continue as Christians following Jesus.

About 1600 people attended the concert in Haifa. It was a wonderful and historic time, the first concert of this type in the Holy Land. Over 400 Muslims came to the concert that night.

This is just the beginning. We are following up with the callers visiting their homes. We have been greatly encouraged during the campaign.

The churches want to continue with the campaign as well. We want to reach everybody. The Holy Land will never be the same. Things will change around here. We have successfully planted a seed that we will reap in the future.

Thank you to all the support from our prayer partners. Please continue to pray for us. Please continue to support this campaign. We need your prayers and support.

"People Everywhere Are Hungry For God’s Word"

Venise, from the call center in Haifa

– We are reaching a lot of people with the Word of God. We are telling callers about Jesus. It is wonderful to see that so



many people are hungry for God’s Word. We are overjoyed that they are accepting Jesus as their Savior.

One lady who called in was in the process

of divorcing her husband. She requested more information and the book because she believed that God can change her life around, the solution to her problems was at hand.

If we can help one family from destruction it would be a great victory. They will, in turn, help others to find faith in God.

Many Muslims have called in requesting the book.

We are continuing with the call center. As people call in and ask for the DVD and the book we follow up with a visit to talk and pray with them, if they want.



Angy (7 yrs)

– I want to thank everyone working for the campaign because it gave people a

chance to get to know Jesus. Many have come to know him. Even little people like us can know Jesus.

Praise Reports From the Campaign:

– A lady read the personal testimonies of God's power to change lives from our web pages and, through tears, told her story. She had lost everything dear to her and asked for help. She received the campaign book and came out to one of the services.

– An Arab wrote: "I desperately need the book that talks about God's power to change my life and the DVD. I want to change and start all over again. I heard from my friends how the book has affected their life. Lately I have had a lot of misfortune."

– A man from Gaza: "I have looked for the truth for a long time now. Earlier I had met some Christians in Gaza but because of my current situation I have lost touch with them. I would like to get in touch with them again, with your help. Thank you for your efforts."

– A mother of two children who had problems with her husband and family was feeling hopeless and asked for counselling and to help her family experience the power to change with God's help. Her husband was ill and could not earn an income and take care of the family's needs.

– A merchant from Cana called to tell us how the ad on a billboard in front of his store had ministered to him deeply. He requested the campaign book. He and his family came to know to Jesus as their savior.

– A Druze asked: "Can your God accept a someone like me also? Can I become a Christian?"



Praying for seekers in Bethlehem.



Merchant in Haifa reads campaign ad in daily newspaper.

Israel—The



Holy Land



"One Campaign is Not Enough"



Ramez

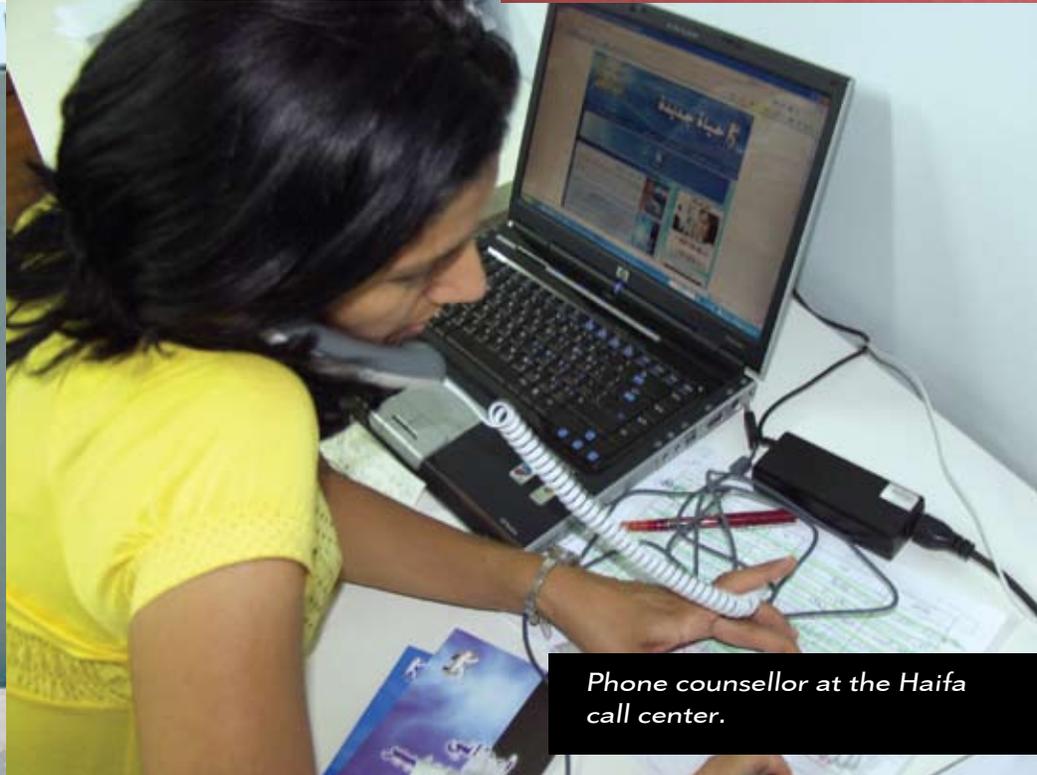
– This campaign was simply amazing! I pray that God gives us the chance of continuing with it.

One campaign such as this is not enough. I am sure that many more churches will come on board when they hear how effective it has been. I am praying that God will open doors and speak to the hearts of people so that we can have another campaign like this.

I have already noticed that churches have joined forces when they began to see the fruits of the campaign. The fact that they are working together is another result of the campaign.



1,600 people attended the concert in Haifa.



Phone counsellor at the Haifa call center.

"Everybody is Talking About The Campaign"

Tony (20 yrs), Haifa

– This is the first time for such an event in our country. Everybody is talking about the campaign.

When I was young I saw my friends using drugs on a daily basis. It is our dream to help these young people stop their drug habits and heal by allowing Jesus to come into their life, for He is the only way and answer to this problem.

One young man called in and order the DVD and book to give to his brother who is a drug addict.

Paul (20 yrs), Haifa

– Thank God for the campaign because these people need Jesus in their life as Savior. A lot of people in Haifa are in trouble. We have a lot of places that lure

young people into spiritual darkness.

Now they have received the message to find the right way to live because of the campaign. The book has encouraging testimonies. I thank the campaign workers for encouraging me with the Word of God. I decided to put everything I have into the campaign in order to help others find God.

"Calls From the Office of the Palestinian Ministry"



black magic and other such bad things. They asked for prayer.

Some calls have come in from Gaza, which is a restricted area, and from other restricted areas because of the newspaper ads. People over there are spiritually very hungry and want to know more about our Lord and more testimonies of God's power to change.

Without Jesus we cannot live or do anything. Please pray for us and this

country, for those who serve the Lord and their families. They need protection from being attacked.

I want to thank IRR/TV Ministries and for their vision of working among the Arabic communities. Continue your good work. This is the time to reach people through the firepower of the media so they can hear about Jesus and accept Him into their heart.

George, West Bank call center coordinator

– The campaign has been a real shocker and a powerful message to many in the Holy Land.

With the permission of Palestinian authorities we were able to put campaign ads into newspapers, on TV and radio. These ads contained personal testimonies of God's power to change in the lives of local people.

It was a miracle that the Palestinian authorities allowed these ads in the media. Everybody in these areas saw the testimonies because of this.

We had billboards and other outdoor ads up in the West Bank areas of Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah, where 99% of the population are Muslim. The West Bank has a population of 2 million and Gaza has 1.5 million residents. It is amazing to hear how God is working among these people.

People have been very open minded and want to know more about Jesus and how God can and has changed other people's lives.

We have received many calls from Palestinian government offices for orders of DVD's and campaign books. Doctors have called in as well.

I ask you to pray on behalf of those ordering the DVD and book so that God would speak to them through the testimonies. Only Jesus can change a person. We want everyone in this country to know Jesus.

One caller from Hebron asked for help as he and his friends were involved with



Workers at the Arabic campaign center in Haifa check for newspaper ads.

IRR/TV Ministry Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

- Israel

Follow-up ministry for the Russian, Hebrew and Arabic campaigns has now begun. Churches have logged over 6000 names of people to contact and visit.

This fall we will continue with a second phase of the campaigns in the Russian and Hebrew languages. The Russian campaign will cover all of Israel and the Hebrew will take place in northern Israel.

- Russia

Mega-city campaigns will take place this fall in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Astrahan, by the Caspian Sea, Kaliningrad, by the Black Sea, and Kaluga, located close to Moscow.

Follow-up ministry continues in the cities of Naberezhnyje Tshelnys and from campaigns held earlier prior to that. Global Leadership Summits will take place in Moscow and Volgograd this November.

- Central Asia

A mega-city campaign will take place in a valley with a population of 8 million. Global Leadership Summits will be held in two Central Asian cities.



Muslims sealed the Golden Gate in 1541 in an attempt to stop the return of the Messiah. Jewish tradition teaches that the Messiah will one day return to Jerusalem through this gate.

- China

A 26-part TV series coproduced by IRR/TV has been seen weekly in China by satellite channel in 2008 and will be repeated soon. IRR/TV has been able to slowly develop a casual relationship with officials at State TV in China. Our prayer is that our relationship would lead to open doors to minister to China's 1.3 billion people, God willing.

- TV programs in the Middle East

TV programs in the Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages are broadcast to countries in the Middle East by satellite channel. New programs are currently being produced at IRR/TV's ministry center this fall.

- Jewish ministry in Russia

Two special events were held for Jews living in Russia, in August. Many turned to the Lord and asked for prayer. Over 200 Jews have heard the Gospel in the past 3 years by attending these events hosted by IRR/TV. At least 25% of these have joined a local church and are growing in their faith in Christ.

- Superbook in Laos

The biblical children's cartoon series Superbook has been airing on Laos national TV network each week.

- IRR/TV staff

IRR/TV staff thank you for your continuing prayers and support. We ask that you remember us this fall season as we tackle the heavy workload.



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