

I have been to Palestine and Israel, I have met the people.

This evening, I prepared a very short snap shot video to share from my last visit (apologies for the poor quality- it was a few years ago). www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpqrtvdwiOJA

While I was in Palestine, I was invited to an event by the Mayor (at the time) of Bethlehem. He and his family are Christians. He had been personally affected when a member of his family was caught in the cross fire and died. He confirmed that the Israeli troops are heavy handed.

I went from Palestine to Israel via the separation wall and was surprised at the security. I was surprised that no locals could cross over. This includes Palestinian Jews and Christians and Israeli Muslims and Christians - no one can cross unless they apply for a permit (our Christian Israeli tour-guide had a permit).

The whole situation is awful. From reading the Bible I can see that these hostilities are nothing new. From recent history, factions on both sides of the wall have adversely affected each other - but there are signs of reconciliation: <http://www.newsweek.com/israeli-palestinian-teens-lead-example-peaceful-dialogue-263312>

In terms of the Christian Peoples Alliance manifesto statement regarding the situation: Israel is a small country in the heart of the Middle East surrounded by some very aggressive neighbours. Over the years these neighbours have 3 times tried to wipe them out (1948, 1967 and 1973). There have been many attempts at peace most notably with Egypt and Jordan which have led to Israel returning land it has gained during wars in return for peace. They have also unilaterally withdrawn from the Gaza strip in an effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Despite all these efforts they have enemies committed to wiping them off the map.

1. We assert the right of the nation of Israel to exist in peace, recognised by the PLA and Hamas.
2. We assert the right of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, to live in peace
3. We assert the duty of all people within Israel and without to engage in a democratic process to help bring peace in the region.
4. We assert the duty of the international community to support Israel in promoting these rights and duties.

We believe that Saudi Arabia and Iran are a much bigger threat to world peace as they are exporting terror all over the world and no arms should be sold to them.

We believe that we should rethink who gets our foreign aid budget. We believe more should go to helping refugees fleeing violence and those in war zones.

Thank you for caring about this situation and God bless you with your campaign.