

Jim's Jottings continued from page 7

As we watch events unfold between Israel and Hamas, we might wonder what we can do? How can we possibly make a difference? What does Jesus' call to us to be peacemakers mean?

First, I believe, that as Christians we need to recognize the complicity of the Church and Christians in fueling the events playing out before us.

For generations, the Christian Church fanned the flames of anti-semitism, accusing the Jews of being Christ-killers. During the Crusades, the aim was not just to rid Jerusalem of the Muslims, but the Jews as well. It was the rhetoric of anti-semitism that led the church in Germany to support Hitler's solution to the "Jewish problem;" and churches in the world at-large to turn a blind eye to it. Feeling threatened throughout the world, the push for a Jewish homeland propelled the Zionist movement to hasten the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

During the struggle for the establishment of Israel, the actions of two groups of Christians were important. First, the more liberal or progressive wings of Christianity, motivated by the guilt of inaction in the face of the Holocaust, turned a blind eye to the injustices and atrocities perpetrated on the Palestinians during Israel's struggle to be established. The almost blind support for Israel diminished/diminishes their voice as advocates for peace between the parties, as their credibility among Palestinians is tarnished.

At the other end of the spectrum, Fundamentalist and many Conservative Christians, fueled by a dispensational view of history have given unfettered support to everything Israel has done to guarantee its existence. They blithely identify the modern state of Israel with the Israel of Scripture. This view point leads them to see the Arabs and Palestinians as enemies of God's people, and that Israel must be supported at all costs in order to assure the fulfillment of prophecy and a speedy return of Jesus.

As Christians, our history (and much of our present) puts us in a difficult position. In many ways, we have bought into the positions of both sides of the conflict: that the promise of land by God is crucial to their identity as God's people.

Historically, we as Christians have also claimed to be children of Abraham, heirs to the promise God made to him. We trace our lineage to the promises of God to Abraham, not through the blood of Ishmael, nor through the blood of Isaac, but through the blood of Jesus, who was the fulfillment of God's promises. We recognize that we have been grafted onto this family tree by having been baptized into Christ Jesus.

In Jesus Christ, the people of God are not identified by land or place of worship — in fact that has all been relativized in our hope and faith in a 'new heavens' and 'new earth.' We move toward a time, not when the Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, but a new Jerusalem will be established with the throne of God at its center.

Jesus Christ has come to show us the way toward peace among enemies, and that way leads through his death to resurrection. We must bear witness to his way of reconciliation if this world is to have any hope for peace.



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CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Jim Holladay
Senior Pastor

Rev. Derek Harris
Associate Pastor:
Music

Dr. Laurice Rogers
Associate Pastor:
Community Care

Jiyoung Kim
Administrative
Secretary

Chris E. Palmer
Plant Manager

The Carillon

Week of October 15, 2023



Jim's Jottings



The blood of Abraham, God's father of the chosen, still flows in the veins of Arab, Jew, and Christian, and too much of it has been spilled in grasping for the inheritance of the revered patriarch in the Middle East. The spilled blood in the Holy Land still cries out to God--an anguished cry for peace.

— Jimmy Carter —

AZ QUOTES

In 1985, former President Jimmy Carter wrote in his book The Blood of Abraham, about the challenges of establishing peace in the Middle East. In the opening chapter he writes: "To understand the roots of the hatred and bloodshed that still shape the relationships among the people of the region, it is useful to go back to the holy scriptures of ancient time. To a remarkable degree, 'the will of God' is the basis for both esoteric debates and the most vicious attacks among Jews, Moslems and Christians."

If you take some time and re-read the story of Abraham, you will quickly realize that there are descendants of Abraham through the Middle East and North Africa. While we often focus on Isaac as the heir of the promise God made to Abraham, Muslims will argue that Isaac was not Abraham's first son. That was Ishmael, who was born to Hagar, the maidservant of Sarah.

According to the customs of the time, if a woman was unable to bear a child, she could give her maidservant to her husband. The child of that union would be

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Oct 15

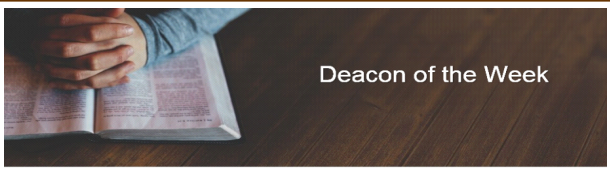
Camera– Errol Morgan

Sound– Ray Powell

Oct 22

Camera– Ruth Holladay

Sound– Lindsey Harris



Deacon of the Week

Dora Vanderhoof

241-9517(h) 693-2286 (c)



SUNDAY

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship on Facebook®

YouTube®,

& lyndonbaptist.org



SCRIPTURE READERS

Oct 15

Faith Matthews

Oct 22

Patricia Edwards-Palme

Oct 29

Julienne Apedanou



Anniversaries

VANDERHOOF, Tim & Dora 10/26

Birthdays

STURDEVANT, Ann 10/18

WASHINGTON, Cecelia 10/20

WASHINGTON, Eureka 10/25

GARWOOD, Madge 10/27

AMPOFO, Maxine 10/29

Jim's Jottings continued from Front Page

considered the legitimate son of her husband, with the full rights of inheritance due the first-born son. Ishmael grew up in Abraham's house, as Abraham's son. However when Isaac was born, Sara became concerned about Isaac's future, and she compelled Abraham to expel Hagar and Ismael from the house and exile from their land. At some point, after Hagar and Ishmael had been exiled from Abraham's house, their food and water ran out. Hagar placed Ishmael at some distance from her, so she would not have to watch him die.

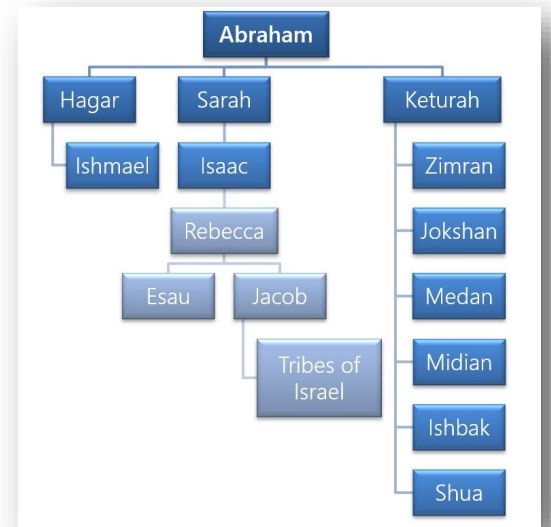
At that point God intervened, providing water and food for the boy and his mother. But, and perhaps more importantly for the story, God promised to make a great nation (people) of Ishmael; and the Scripture affirms, "God was with the boy. . ." It is through Ishmael that many in the Arab world trace their lineage.

The prophet Muhammed certainly believed this to be the case. Through the revelation of the Q'ran to Mohammed, the Prophet came to believe that it was the children of Ishmael who were heirs to the promises God made to Abraham when he called him to leave Ur and go to Canaan (a.k.a. Palestine and surrounds). As Ishmael's heirs, therefore, they have the authentic claim to the land God promised Abraham and his descendants. By right of inheritance, the Arabs, not the Jews have the only legitimate claim to the land.

Ishmael and Isaac were not the only sons of Abraham. After Sara dies, Abraham marries Keturah and has six more: Zimram, Jokshan, Medan, Midian (whose heirs refused to help Moses in the wilderness), Ishbak, and Shuah. It is widely believed that the descendants of these sons populated Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, parts of Egypt and other North African countries. While these descendants have not usually made the same claim to the land and the promises of God that is in contest between Ishmael and Isaac's heirs, they are never the less part of the story.

Former President Carter argues in his book that it is not possible to ignore the religious roots of what is happening in the Middle East today. This is an ancient struggle between competing factions of the same family, all of whom claim that God gave them the land as the legitimate heirs of the blood of Abraham.

How do you make peace between siblings who have been engaged in a blood-feud that goes back thousands of years and is rooted in their understanding of God and God's promise to them? Most of the attempts to create peace have crashed on that question.



Fellowship Dinner Menu

October 18

Chicken Tenders
Tater Tots
Broccoli
Slaw

October 25

Meat Loaf
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Salad

Please make or change your reservation by
NOON on MONDAY
so we can give the caterer an accurate count
425-7150

OCTOBER

Monday, October 16

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, October 17

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

10:00 a.m.—WMU

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Wednesday, October 18

3:30 p.m.—Administrative Team

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m. - Prayer Service

Thursday, October 19

9:30 a.m. - Joyous Singers

Saturday, October 21

9:00 a.m. - Korean School

Monday, October 23

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, October 24

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Wednesday, October 25

5:30 p.m.—Fellowship Dinner

6:00 p.m.—Prayer and Worship

Thursday, October 26

9:30 a.m. - Joyous Singers

Saturday, October 28

9:00 a.m. - Koran School

Monday, October 30

9:00 a.m.—Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, October 31

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

PRAYER GUIDE

October 15, 2023

*God of all who wander in the wilderness, you go before us as
beacon and guide. Lead us through all danger, sustain us
through all desolation, and bring us home to the land you
have prepared for us. Amen.*

DAILY BIBLE READING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday – Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7 – 20;
Jude 17 – 25

Tuesday – Psalm 34; Amos 9:17 – 25

Wednesday – Psalm 34; Song of Solomon
7:1 – 8:4; Philippians 3:13 – 4:1

Thursday – Psalm 96:1 – 9; Judges 17:1 –
6; 3 John 9 – 12

Friday – Psalm 96:1 – 9; Deuteronomy
17:14 – 20; I Peter 5:1 – 5

Saturday – Psalm 96:1 – 9; Isaiah 14:3 –
11; Matthew 14:1 – 12

Sunday – Psalm 96:1 – 9; I Thessalonians
1 – 10; Matthew 22:15 – 22

PRAYER FOR THE MARTYRS

Pray for believers in India who face
imprisonment for talking to friends
and neighbors about Christ.

Pray that financial resources to support
pastors facing anti-conversion
persecution.

Pray for Pastor Matthew in Kenya who
faces ostracism and assaults.

Pray for a church in Nepal that
experiences repeated vandalism and
harassment.

Pray for Christians imprisoned in
inhumane conditions, without trial
dates set, in Eritrea.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Fannie Agee

2003 Red Leaf Drive, 40242

Myshael Brownell

4228 Bayberry Drive, 40216

Marvin Conn

1713 Millgate Road, 40223

Helen Contis

512 Cricket Court, Orange Park FL 32073

Dickie Cox

Forest Springs Care Center, Room 401
4120 Wooded Acre Lane, 40245

Ken Dorton

136 Dorton Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224

Donna Douglas

4003 Pacelli Place, 40245

Virginia Ford

Glen Ridge Health Campus, Room 513
6415 Calm River Way, 40299

Jane Hasty

1605 Mame Court, 40242

Sandy Hoover

1031 Willow Springs Drive, 40242

Pam Wright

3907 Yardley Court, 40299

Raeburn Horne

4611 Haeringdon Drive, 40299

Liz Hornback

8484 Grand Trevi Drive, 40228

Gloria Landgrave

3112 Graystone Manor Parkway, 40241

Gene Morris

3000 Curran Road, 40205

Doris Omerod

1706 Roosevelt Avenue, 40242

Noemi Parroco

Vitality, Room 112
4501 Springdale Road, 40241

Libby Reynolds

9808 Neuquay Circle, 40241

Ann Sturdevant

3604 Breeland Avenue, 40241

Maria Sturdevant

7623 Celebration Way, Crestwood, KY 40014

Barbara Whitley

11710 Robin Lynn Lane, 40243

Prayer for Family and Friends

Evelyn Adiputra

Friend of Ruth Holladay

Rylan Applegate

Grandson of Steve and Ann
Sturdevant

Liz Aulino

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Kyp Bellinger

Family of Jim and Ruth
Holladay

John Biesel

Father of Lindsay Harris

David Brinkley

Nephew of Jane Hasty

Paul Christiansen

Family of Madge Garwood and
Merri McDonald

Billy Compton

Son in Law of Dickie Cox

Alex Delano

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Erin Ford

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Randall Ford

Family of Marty Hamilton

Ronald Furguson

Father of Addie Brownell

Lisa Gilmore

Friend of Derek Harris

Nelson Gruppe

Cousin of Diana Flemister

Jim Harmon

Friend of Marty Hamilton

Ray Hicks

Son of Gary and Victoria Hicks

Dr. Milton Horne

Brother of Raeburn Horne

Emily Janowik and Family

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Deb Jennings and Jordan Hahn

Family of Sandy Hahn

Mr. Kim

Father of Jiyoung Kim

Sara Beth Lowe

Friend of Derek and Lindsey
Harris

Forrest Morehead

Brother-in-Law of Sharon Wood

Jay and Mary North

Friends of Marty Hamilton

Donna Prim

Friend of Gary and Victoria
Hicks

Sean Ruwe

Son of Vera Ruwe

Gladys Smith

Family of Addie Brownell

Mark and Amy Snyder

Family of Sandy Hoover

Sean Stearman

Grandson of Jan Raper

Gloria Waltemyer

Aunt of Shaunna Hoover Gragg

John Taylor Webb

Family of Becki Sikes

Jessica Weisenfels

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Maggie Westwood

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Joseph Williams

Family of Tim and Dora
Vanderhoof