

Good News From the Middle East

Organ donations cross borders and save lives

By Liz Kopp

ABC News' Claire Shipman reported on April 14, 2002 how Israeli victim of terrorist bombing donates kidney that saves a Palestinian Woman.

Aisha Abu Hadir is a Palestinian who can't get the images of an Israeli tragedy out of her mind – 28 people killed by a suicide bomber as they ate Passover dinner. Hadir, 54, has a new kidney today and a new and overwhelming gratitude toward an Israeli family. "I want to thank them all," she said, "and I hope God blesses him and all of his relatives." The Vidor family, still in mourning, can use the blessing. They suffered enormous losses. Nimrod lost not only his father, but also his 21-year-old sister Sivan and her fiancé, Avi. Another sister, Gili, 23, was badly wounded.

Alan Philips in Jerusalem reports that a family of a Palestinian donates organs to let three Israelis live.

David Cohen, whose brother, Yigal, 37, received the heart, said he was "surprised" to hear that the donor was an Arab. "Apparently there are no borders or wars when acts of mercy are concerned."

"This is a noble deed on the part of the family. The very fact of the act taught me that there are other kinds of people on the other side, and maybe there are more. Through people like this we will find the path to peace." The surgeon who carried out the heart transplant, Dr Yaacov Lavie, said he had realized that at one stage he had a Palestinian heart in his right hand and the heart of a Jew in his left. He said, "You smile to yourself and see that deep inside we are the same and all the conflicts are unnecessary."

-Africa to Zion continued

Back in Togo, Sheila had hopes of sending Anam to Israel to further his studies and to everyone's amazement the Israeli government granted him full tuition at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The only thing standing in the way of Anam's opportunity of a lifetime was money for a plane ticket. The dream was so close, yet Anam had resigned himself to postpone the plan indefinitely due to lack of finances. Once again, God had different plans. Just weeks before the program was to begin, Jerusalem Cornerstone was made aware of Anam's situation. JCF immediately forwarded money from its *Don Andeberg Fund* to help pay for his plane ticket. Amazingly, Anam obtained the necessary visa allowing him to travel to Israel only hours before his flight. Looking back, God's design is clear. Anam has been able to come learn first hand about the land and language of the Bible. Not only have biblical passages come alive for him, but the reality of God's workings with his people Israel, in Bible times as well as today, has hit home in a fresh way. His faith has been strengthened and his dedication to the task at hand has deepened. Although a small link in a long chain, Jerusalem Cornerstone has been privileged to contribute to God's plan for Anam, whose translation work will eventually reach his 120,000 fellow Lama speakers.



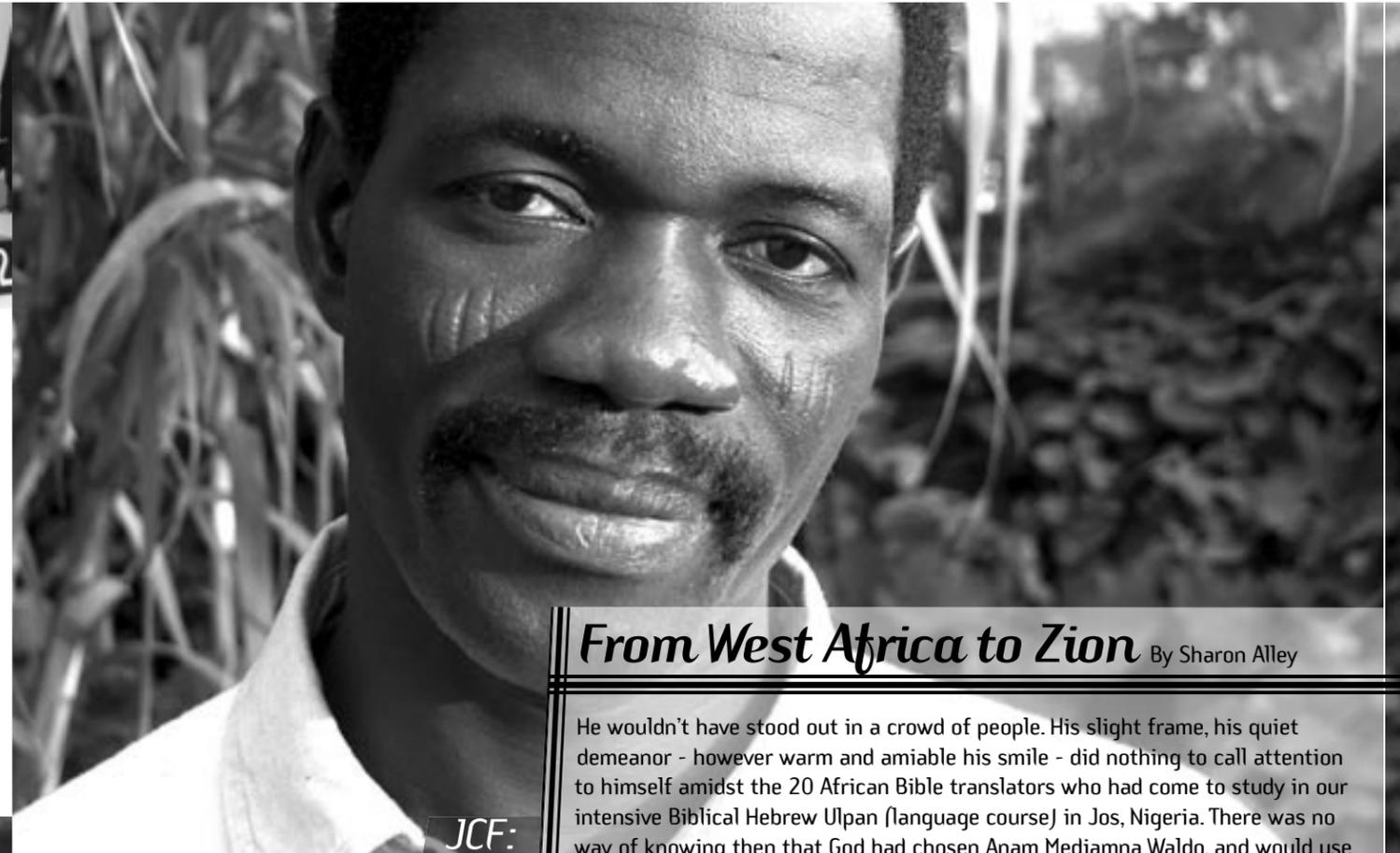
Tours:

Jerusalem Cornerstone Foundation with JCF Guide, Yoni Gerrish is offering the following tours this Fall

-Feast of Tabernacles and Israel Study Tour - October 8-23, 2003 with Wycliffe Bible Translator, Frank Mechlenberg

-Let's Go Up To Zion - November 3-14, 2003 - Hosted by Jack & Judy Stone and Jim & Betsy Gerrish. To make reservations call Judy at 817-488-0114. Seating is limited so act quickly.

For more touring details visit our website: www.jerusalemcornerstone.org



From West Africa to Zion By Sharon Alley

He wouldn't have stood out in a crowd of people. His slight frame, his quiet demeanor - however warm and amiable his smile - did nothing to call attention to himself amidst the 20 African Bible translators who had come to study in our intensive Biblical Hebrew Ulpan (language course) in Jos, Nigeria. There was no way of knowing then that God had chosen Anam Medjamna Waldo, and would use Jerusalem Cornerstone to be a part of His plan.

Born in Kadjalla, Togo in 1966, and the first of seven children, Anam had pursued an education in English and African literature in French-speaking Togo. He then proceeded to teach English in various cities for ten years. In 1992 his pastor asked him to come help translate the Bible into his native tongue, Lama (one of 38 languages in Togo). Meanwhile, an American couple had completed the first New Testament in Lama. Reading the Bible for the first time in his own language impacted Anam like never before and instilled in him the desire to translate. However, after attending seminars on translation the difficulty and immensity of the task became too intimidating, and he resigned from the project. Not only was the task difficult, but in Anam's eyes it seemed too "precious" to be his.

Instead Anam went to work drilling wells for small rural communities to provide them with clean drinking water. He also taught pastors how to initiate similar projects in their communities. Yet God had set him apart for another purpose, and Anam felt no peace until he agreed to resume his position on the translation team. He began to translate the Bible but was forced to do so from English, without recourse to the original language of Hebrew. So in the fall of 2002, when his supervisor, Sheila, heard we were holding our six week Biblical Hebrew Ulpan in Nigeria, she immediately encouraged him to attend.

Having no prior Hebrew background, Anam stood out in the course as a successful student. Excited at the progress of the whole class and with hopeful anticipation of a follow-up course the students returned to translation projects awaiting them in their respective cities and countries. We encouraged them to continue reading the Bible in Hebrew on their own but our ultimate dream has always been to have translators visit the Holy Land in person and be exposed to the language, culture, and geography.

-continued on back

JCF:

We have just observed *shavuot*, or pentecost, in Israel. *Shavuot* is the celebration of the giving of the Law and, for Christians, the giving of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples in Jerusalem. *Shavuot* - which means "Weeks" - was a feast celebrating the faithfulness of God in giving the First Fruits at harvest. In time, the event became associated with the receiving of God's Law on Sinai.

Christians, however, invariably think of the Law in a negative light, even though Psalms celebrates it and exhorts us to take delight in it. The word "Law" should be read "Instruction," from the Hebrew *Torah*. Without God's instruction for life, where would we be?

I believe that celebrating the giving of the *Torah* and the Spirit together brings balance just as the wind gives momentum and the keel maintains stability in a sailboat. Disregarding the *Torah* could leave us subject to every wind and fantasy that blows our way. Though not exposed to view, the keel of the *Torah* will save us from ship-wreck and the winds of the Spirit will guide us to the safety of the harbor.

Charles Kopp

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The Roots of Jerusalem Cornerstone

by Gary Alley

(1963-1969): Love and War

Le Roy M. Kopp and E. Paul Kopp acquired Zion Christian Mission during 1961-2 from William L. Hull. E. Paul's son, Charles moved to Israel in the summer of 1966 to head up the ministry. He met Elizabeth Ozdinec in the fall of '67 after Israel's amazing triumph in the 1967 Six Day War. Charles and Elizabeth wed in 1969.

The Six Day War: June 5th-10th, 1967

This past month, Israel commemorated another modern day marvel during its short existence: its overwhelming victory during the Six Day War of the summer of 1967. In May of 1967, the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel-Nasser was stoking the coals of the pan-Arab world, once again, for a bloody conflagration with the adolescent Jewish state. Shortly before the outbreak of war, he said

The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel...to face the challenge, while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world. Today they will know that the Arabs are arranged for battle, the critical hour has arrived. We have reached the stage of serious action and not declarations.

There were many doubts as to whether Israel would have been able to defend itself against a multi-fronted attack, as Israel's enemies were being supplied by the powerful Soviet Union. Meanwhile, Israel's longtime ally, the United States, was wavering between diplomacy and action.

At the beginning of June, about a quarter of a million Arab troops, with more than 2,000 tanks and 700 aircraft surrounded Israel, a nation of around two million Jews. The leaders of Israel decided they would not be able to endure a massive invasion and chose on June 5th to hit Egypt with a surprise air strike in hopes of crippling the Egyptian air force. That day was a normal summer day in Jerusalem, warm with a slight breeze, as Charles Kopp went about his weekly routine of studying modern Hebrew with new Israeli immigrants in a downtown West Jerusalem ulpan. Nineteen-year old Charles had been in the Land since the previous summer, after having traveled around the world with his father to minister in countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, and Iraq. Charles had been appointed by his father, E. Paul, and grandfather, Le Roy, to head up the work of their newly acquired Israeli organization, Zion Christian Mission.



Six Day War

On that early June morning, Charles woke up at his residence on 33 Prophets Street to a radio broadcast that the long dreaded war had finally broken out. Heading off to his Hebrew class, Charles informed his ulpan teacher about the war announcement but she apparently thought he had misheard it. Later on in the class, gun shots and artillery shells began to ring out around the city. The ulpan class with its windows wide-open could no longer ignore the reality and proximity of the approaching conflict. The teacher asked Charles to assist her in collecting her children from the local school. After helping her, Charles vacated Zion Christian Mission's headquarters on 33 Prophets Street, since it was located near the Jordanian border in the midst of the fiercest shelling. Later that week, after Israel's stunning triumph, Charles returned to 33 Prophets Street and found an ominous hole in the ceiling of his bedroom above his bed left by an artillery shell.

With Israel's unexplainable military success in the face of insurmountable odds, many Christians and Jews worldwide proclaimed the victory of the Six Day War an act of God that had saved the Jewish nation from annihilation. Israel gained possession of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, and the Golan Heights and used these regions as security buffer zones. Israel opened East Jerusalem and the Old City to thousands of Israelis who never had the chance to look upon and worship at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. Zion Christian Mission's work expanded as young Charles began to mature in conjunction with the growing state of Israel.

Refugee Child of Communist Czechoslovakia

Gordon Lindsay and E. Paul Kopp had forged an alliance for Israeli ministry back in 1959, so in October 1967, Gordon Lindsay of Voice of Healing/Christ for the Nations requested E. Paul's son, Charles, to accompany his Texas group during their tour of the Holy Land. When Charles arrived at Ben Gurion airport to meet Lindsay's group, he was informed that one of the tour participants was stuck in Israeli passport control. Elizabeth Ozdinec, a recent high school graduate from Chicago was having difficulty entering Israel because she did not have a passport but rather a laissez passer from the US government which allowed her to travel abroad. Charles, using his trademark diplomatic approach which would come to aid him in the ensuing years, helped convince and assure the Israeli officials



33 Prophets Street

that Elizabeth would leave the country when the tour was over. Over the next two weeks of the tour, Charles and Elizabeth would begin a friendship, which would blossom into marriage on January 1st, 1969. But before that, Charles would come to discover Elizabeth's breath-taking family history. Elizabeth's parents, George and Maria Ozdinec, grew up in the Slovakian countryside of Czechoslovakia during World War II. George came from a well-off, influential landowning family. He particularly excelled in the political world, after having been elected Regional Secretary of the Democratic Party of Czechoslovakia. When the communists came to power in 1948, George and Maria had to flee for their lives to West Germany, leaving their two-year old son, George Jr., with Maria's parents. There in the Ludwigsburg Displaced Persons Camp, George and Maria spent the next year and a half, devastated, homeless, penniless, broken-hearted, and agonized over their abandoned son.

Within that time, the Ozdinecs received an anonymous care package sent by a Baptist church in Chicago with tracts explaining God's plan of redemption through Jesus. They asked Christ to come into their lives and then began sharing the gospel with the rest of the camp. Thereafter, Maria gave birth to Elizabeth on May 13th, 1949. In November 1949, the Ozdinecs immigrated to the United States still without their son who was stranded in Czechoslovakia with his grandparents.

For the next seventeen years, George Jr. grew up receiving mail from his parents in America who were constantly trying to secure his release from Czechoslovakia to no avail. George and Maria, who permanently relocated to Chicago in 1956, founded the Bethany Tabernacle Full Gospel Holiness Church in 1960. In 1966, George Jr., who was serving his mandatory time in the Czech army tried to defect from Czechoslovakia but was caught and imprisoned. Upon hearing of their son's incarceration, the Ozdinec's congregation began a 24-hour-a-day prayer marathon for the release and liberation of George Jr. Once again, the miraculous happened—George Jr. was unexpectedly freed from prison and immediately expelled from Czechoslovakia. On October 30th, 1966, George Jr. flew into Chicago's O'Hara airport to the cries of a large jubilant crowd of congregants and onlookers. After twenty long and painful years, George Jr. was reunited with his parents and met for the first time his three sisters, Elizabeth, Jeanetta, and Ladonna.

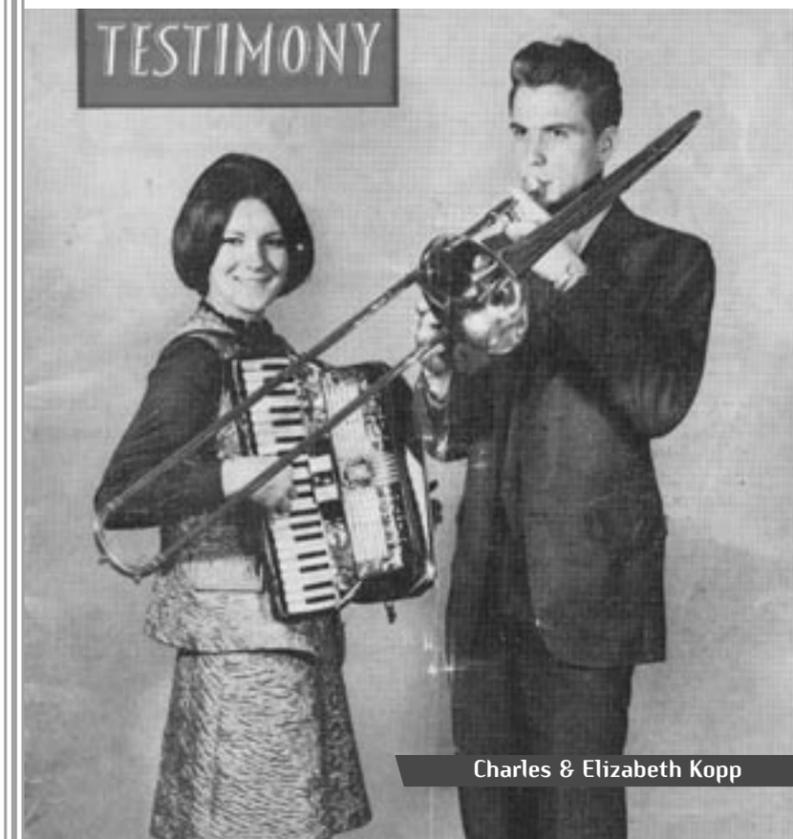
The Miraculous Return through the Cliffs of Thessalonika

Charles and Elizabeth attempted to return to Israel after their honeymoon by traveling through Europe and taking a ferry from Greece. But as Elizabeth and Charles were driving through the winding cliffs of northeastern Greece, their brand new Peugeot, a wedding gift bought for their ministry, went off a bridge that spanned a dry riverbed. The car went careening 120 feet down the slanted cliff, cause to their probable deaths, yet once again God's hand protected. Both Charles and Elizabeth were severely injured, but Charles soon regained consciousness and was able to slither out from their totaled vehicle, climb up to the road and flag down help. They were both rushed to the hospital and Elizabeth, with her shattered leg and other serious injuries, spent the next three weeks hospitalized during Easter of 1969.

With their car demolished and resting in a rocky graveyard, yet their lives mercifully spared by God, Charles and Elizabeth returned to Israel by plane, with a powerful reminder of their unique call for the Lord's work in Israel. Charles and Elizabeth had known



each other for less than two years, yet God had already preserved their young lives, just as He had redeemed Elizabeth's family from certain death in Czechoslovakia, first her parents and then her brother. Charles and Elizabeth continued on with Zion Christian Mission's work at 33 Prophets Street with anticipation for the next work of God in a land that gives testimony to ancient supernatural acts. The miracle of the Six Day War had whetted Israel's senses with messianic expectation and renewed hope; God's Spirit was beginning to move in a new way.



Charles & Elizabeth Kopp