

MID-EAST e-NEWS

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

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**** Two Years, 48 Issues ****

Welcome

Having received a note about the growth of the Iraqi school in Amman, I thought you'd be interested in this work. The school now has the opportunity to expand into a larger building, as you can read.

Also, as the result of a friend asking me about the population of Jerusalem during the latter part of the Ottoman Empire, I have put together a somewhat more detailed compilation of data for the whole of the Ottoman period, and until 1948. The data is always to be taken with circumspection, but I think the general outline is accurate enough.

Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net & check the web for back issues.

Iraqi Refugee School

Close to downtown Amman, a city that has seen numerous groups of refugees over the years, a school is being provided for the children of Iraqi refugees. These children are from Muslim, Christian (Chaldean and Assyrian) and Sabeian families (the Sabeians are followers of John the Baptist); these are families that have found themselves with nowhere else to go. For several years the Jordanian government would not allow these refugee children to attend public school, and even if they did, most of them could not afford the books and uniforms they would need. This year the prohibition even extends to private schools. As a church ministry we are able to help them by providing training, but cannot issue them an official diploma.

Here, in Iraqi Grace Church & School, the children are provided with a basic education at no cost. A Christian school, the refugee children attend daily chapel, and learn English alongside the other basic classes. As a result of the testimony of the school to the needy families, many of them have accepted Christ. Through this growing fellowship a church has formed that has now moved into its own building, with over 100 regularly attending.

Below I include part of a letter from the school. (Email for more information on how you can help.)

Dear Friends,

Our school for Iraqi refugees resumed classes this week. The first day was really great. The kids returning from last year were so happy to see their friends again and their teachers. And there are sooo many new kids. Remember a year and a half ago we were praying that God would double our enrollment from 80 to 160? We ended last year with 220. This year we started with over 300! And way over 100 are still on the waiting list with more come every day.

We told the parents on the waiting list to come back in a week to see if there is room, but they continue to come day after day, begging us to let their children in. This has really taken its toll on Ruth. She came home and cried for 15 minutes yesterday after turning children away. But there are plenty of bright spots too. One lady whose child was let in grabbed Ruth's hand and started kissing it, and thanking her!

I had a lot of special moments too. One little first grader from last year was so shy she would hardly talk. This year she saw me, gave an excited little bounce, said "Professor Jody!", and ran up and gave me a kiss!

We really need that new building.

With the new building we would be able to double our enrollment, and we would have a playground, and room to breath! We rented a bus and went with the church leaders for prayer to the new building (see photo). Afterwards we took a poll and the church was unanimous in their support for the move. Please pray for us as we put together a plan for the fund raising. In September I will be meeting with key Jordanian leaders and, God willing, I will be coming to the States in October. I will be meeting and gathering advice and support from some of my "mentors", respected friends, and key supporters. Pray that God would guide, direct and open doors.



Church and School workers on the roof of the 'new' building they are praying for.

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(Watch this space for updates on the school).

Jerusalem's Population

Population figures for Jerusalem are scanty during much of the Ottoman period, but a general pattern is discernible. During the Ottoman period citizens of Jerusalem would not admit the true numbers to avoid increased tax. Since then, numbers continue to have a political significance, which can make research difficult. I have evaluated the numbers given here, and they seem consistent across various sources. Specific sources are given, but many more were used.

Year	Population (thousands)				Comments	Src
	5	10	50	100		
1525	3,670	714	1194		At this time Safed was the center of the Jewish community. Jerusalem benefited from the ending of the Mamluk reign.	3
1533	884	1363	7,708		Orderly government stimulated Jewish immigration, most went to Safad, which had a population of 10,000 in 1553.	2, 3
1553	1956	1958	11,912		Jewish residents of Jerusalem included Ashkenazi (15 families) but mostly Sephardic and some Moorish Jews.	1, 3
1600s	1000	1000	~8,000		A decline during the 17 th Century led to a population of about 7,000 in the city. This partly resulted from the Ottoman wars against Europe.	4, 5
1775	222	3000	~10,000		Jews would immigrate to Jerusalem to be buried there. Yeshivot (religious schools) began to be opened in Jerusalem in late 1700s.	6
1806	4,000	2774	2000		Earthquakes in the 1830s caused many more of Safed's residents to move to Jerusalem during the period following.	7
1849	4,500	2,500	8,000		During the 1800s the European visitors (including Mark Twain) brought back reports of an empty and desolate land.	8
1844	5,000	3,390	7,120		Reforms, with greater status for non-Muslims continued after 1840 Ottoman reconquest of Jerusalem (from Egypt).	9
1864	4,500	2,500	8,000		Until the 1860s, most of Jerusalem's residents lived within the Old City. Around this time Jews constituted the majority of Jerusalem's	10
1876	7,560	5,470	12,000		Earlier times had seen Messianic fervor (the Crusades, the Ottoman conquest) but the late 1800s saw increased movement into Palestine.	11
1896	8,560	8,748	28,112		Herzl, a journalist who had witnessed the Dreyfus trial in France, established the World Zionist Organization in Basle in 1896.	11
1905	11,000	8,000	13,400		These figures are quoted for the 1905 Ottoman Census but (13) has a different set of values. The Sultan had restricted Jewish immigration.	12, 13
1912	12,000	13,000	45,000		Both Muslim and Jewish immigration increased during this period. By now most Jerusalemites live outside the Old City walls.	14
1922	13,413	14,699	33,971		Difficult economic circumstances, including the war, caused many Jews to leave Jerusalem. British Mandate takes control of Palestine.	11, 15, 16
1931	19,894	19,335	51,222		Immigration rate increases from Europe.	11
1946	33,680	31,330	99,320		Refugees from Nazi Germany arrive during and after WW II.	17
1948	40,000	25,000	100,000		Israel declares independence on May 14, 1948.	11

1. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vie/Jerusalem1.html>
2. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/Ottoman.html>
3. F. E. Peters, *Jerusalem*, Princeton, 1985 (p484)
4. http://www.acj.org/Daily%20News/December/Dec_20.htm
5. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vie/Jerusalem1.html>
6. <http://www.jcpa.org/jpsr/f94-jb.htm>
7. <http://www.jerusalemmites.org/jerusalem/ottoman/24.htm>
8. <http://www.pushhamburger.com/mar04.htm>
9. <http://www.mideastweb.org/palpop.htm>

10. <http://www.unitedjerusalem.org/index2.asp?id=59794>
11. <http://www.infoisrael.net/cgi-local/text.pl?source=3/e/230620031>
12. http://www.jerusalemiloveyou.net/article.php?id_article=17
13. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08364a.htm>
14. <http://www.jerusalem-archives.org/period2/2-7.html>
15. <http://www.ldolphin.org/psalm2.html>
16. <http://members.tripod.com/~TheHOPE/yusalem2a.htm>
17. <http://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Maps/Story574.html>

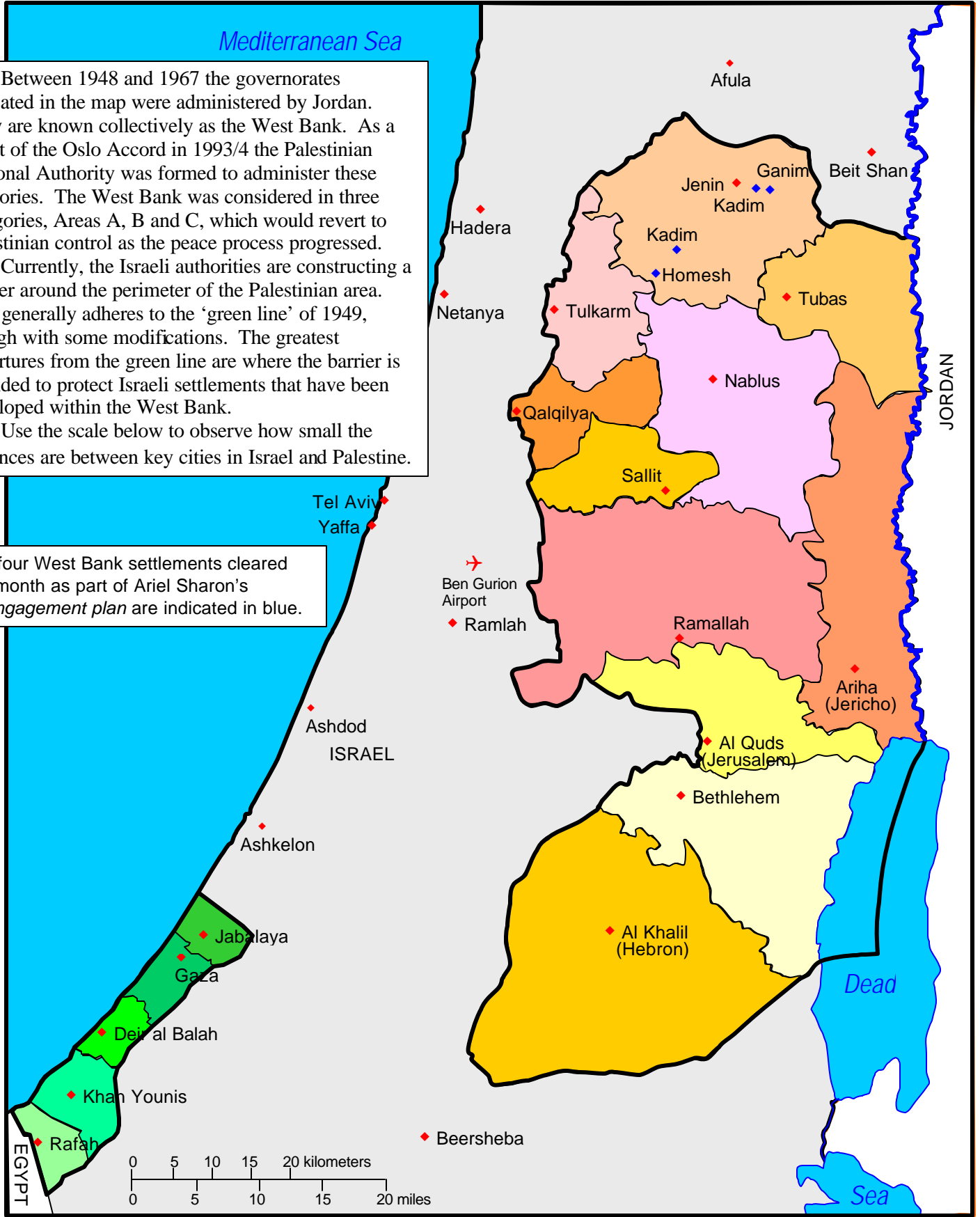
The Palestinian Territories

Between 1948 and 1967 the governorates indicated in the map were administered by Jordan. They are known collectively as the West Bank. As a result of the Oslo Accord in 1993/4 the Palestinian National Authority was formed to administer these territories. The West Bank was considered in three categories, Areas A, B and C, which would revert to Palestinian control as the peace process progressed.

Currently, the Israeli authorities are constructing a barrier around the perimeter of the Palestinian area. This generally adheres to the 'green line' of 1949, though with some modifications. The greatest departures from the green line are where the barrier is intended to protect Israeli settlements that have been developed within the West Bank.

Use the scale below to observe how small the distances are between key cities in Israel and Palestine.

The four West Bank settlements cleared this month as part of Ariel Sharon's *disengagement plan* are indicated in blue.



This Month

Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
Europe	Italy expels Muslim preachers			Cleric (Bakri) leaves UK for Lebanon										France expels militant to Algeria																	
Africa	Mauritania king deposed						Mauritania junta names new PM			Kiir becomes VP after Garang's death										UN refugee chief visits Darfur & Chad											
Asia	Aceh peace accord signed (on 15 th) - amnesty (30 th)						Mine kills 5 Russians in Grozny						Dagestan bomb kills 3 police						Philippines ferry bombed-30 hurt												
Pakistan	Border refugee camps to be closed						1 st round of elections-10 die in violence						Local elections claimed by Musharraf supporters																		
Afghan.	Bomb kills 5 soldiers in Waziristan			Cruise missile tested			2 US down in Humvee						8 rebels die in battle			Woman 'spy' killed			US assault rebel valley			2 US die in bombing			40 militants killed in Koregnal valley			Indian PM visits Kabul			
Taliban activity increases	Ghazni doctor killed			Kandahar market bomb			NATO helicopter crashes			4 US die in convoy bomb			Roadside bomb kills 1 US																		
Arabia	King Fahd dies-succeeded by Abdullah						Terror threat closes US embassy in Saudi						Al Qaeda leader killed in Medina						Arab League objects to Iraq charter												
Iraq	11 bodies found in Baghdad			Drive-by shootings kill 10 police			11 die in attacks			Hawija councilman killed			Sunnis demonstrate against charter, Baquba, Tikrit																		
Charter process continues in due August 15th to 22nd Op.	Quick Strike in Haditha region			Baghdad car bomb kills 3+			30 bodies found in grave			Sunnis oppose charter points			Talabani convoy attacked, 18 die																		
Concerns women's rights (if Islamic Law prevails).Sunni concern over Shia southern autonomy clause. Draft may go to October referendum US deaths: 8/2: 1,787, 8/7: 1,828, 8/21: 1,866.	Journalist-Vincent-killed in Basra			Gov. ernment official kidnapped			Charter deadline extended 1 wk			Charter deadline extended 3 days			Tribal fight - pro-Qaeda v pro govt.																		
	Bomb nr Kirkuk kills 4 Shia			W. Baghdad car bomb-7 die			Zarqawi aide killed by forces in Mosul			Bomb cuts electricity for oil pipelines			Militant sites hit nr Syria																		
	Shia consider federal state			5 US killed in attacks			Bus station bomb kills 43			Sadr militia clash with other Shia in Najaf			Shia festival bomb-16 die																		
	Mass Shia wedding in Baghdad			3 US die in bombings			Mehdi brigade rescues 4 hostages			Romania offers Iraq debt relief			36 bodies found in mass grave			2 US killed in Iraq															
	Attacks kill 10 Iraqis			3 pro-election Sunnis killed			Impasse w/ Sunnis over Charter																								
Iran	Pres. Ahmedinejad sworn in						Enrichment begins in nuclear plant						UN questions source of enriched uranium																		
	Bomb near BA & BP offices			NE Floods: 50+ die			Kurdish unrest-12+ killed																								
Turkey	Small bombs in Antalya injure 6			5 soldiers killed by Kurd rebels			Syrian held over plot to bomb Israeli ships			PKK declares 1-month ceasefire			EU questions Turkey position on Cyprus																		
	5 PKK arrested in bomb plot			Erdogan admits errors on Kurd issue			Grand Prix held in Istanbul																								
Lebanon	Al Bakri arrested						Bomb in Beirut shopping center			Hizbollah rockets hit N. Israel			Security chiefs arrested over Hariri death																		
Syria	Syria reopens border for trucks						10 to be deported from UK			Kurds clash with police																					
Jordan	17 Al Qaeda arrested						Agreement with UK over deportee treatment			Rockets fired at US ship in Aqaba-set on timers by Iraqi group																					
Egypt	Sharm elSheikh bomber killed						9 presidential candidates approved, inc Ayman Nour						4 police killed in Sinai, Bedouin assist attackers																		
Israel	Egypt agrees to patrol Gaza border			Netanyahu resigns to protest pullout			Troops begin enforcing settlement pullout			4 West Bank settlements cleared, by 23rd			IDF kill 5 in Tulkarm, inc 2 bystanders																		
Settlers removed from Gaza & 4 WB settlements by IDF in 1 week of action.	Settlers protest in Sderot			Gunmen seize UN workers, rescued later			Troops forcibly remove settlers from Gaza - completed on 22 nd			Land appropriated for Maale Adumim fence			US questions Maale Adumim in security fence																		
	Israeli Jew convicted of aiding bomber			9 soldiers desert to protest pullout			Hurndall killer jailed			Egypt agrees to patrol S. Gaza border			Israeli guard attacked at Cave of Patriarchs, Hebron																		
	150 protesters detained			AIPAC lobbyists charged in USA			Large Tel Aviv demo against pullout			Suicide bomb at bus station-10 injured			Netanyahu challenges Sharon																		
	Soldier kills 4 Israeli-Arabs on bus, is killed in reprisal			WB settler kills 4 Palestinians																											
Palestine	Boy killed by stray militant rocket			Abbas criticizes violence			Orthodox students knifed in Old City -1 dies																								
Calls for calm as Israeli pullout begins.	Islamic Jihad to halt attacks during pullout						Elections planned for January			Barenboim concert in Ramallah			Rockets fired from Gaza into Sderot			PFLP said to be back in Gaza															
	Gunmen ambush soldier nr Morag						Hamas video threatens Israel																								
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W