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Week 34: Christian Zionism

WEEK 34 AUG. 20 TO AUG. 26 **CHRISTIAN ZIONISM**



"The emigration of Jews from Russia is funded and facilitated by Christian Zionist agencies in partnership with the Jewish Agency."

"Christian Zionists have lobbied the US Administration to relocate its embassy to Jerusalem and thereby ensure that Jerusalem is recognised as the undivided capital of

"Christian Zionists offer varying degrees of support for organisations... committed to destroying the Dome of the Rock and rebuilding the Jewish Temple..."

"Christian Zionists...are deeply sceptical of the possibility of a lasting peace between Jews and Arabs and therefore oppose the peace process."

Sources: "What is Christian Zionism?" by Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer

<http://kuminow.com/ChristianZionism>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday **Jonathan Kuttab**, the new executive director of **Friends of Sabeel North America** spoke about the role of the U.S. in Palestine: what it is and what it should be. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes her bio, the advocacy instructions, and links shared during the gathering.

We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use language such as:

Last week we learned about the role of the U.S. in Palestine: what it is and what it should be. Our guest was Jonathan Kuttab, the new executive director of Friends of Sabeel North America. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://youtu.be/TviQMGaDRyM>

THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Statement by the Patriarch and Local Heads of Churches In Jerusalem

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Christian Zionism is a modern theological and political movement that embraces the most extreme ideological positions of Zionism, thereby becoming detrimental to a just peace within Palestine and Israel. The Christian

The Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism was issued 15 years ago by Palestinian Christian churches on August 22, 2006. The signatories were Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Archbishop Swerios Malki Mourad, Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal, and Bishop Munib Younan.

You can read the Jerusalem Declaration on Anti-Semitism [here](#).

Next Online Gathering



August 24: Week 34 - Christian Zionism

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

All Palestinians regardless of their faith face similar challenges. However, Palestinian Christians face a specific kind of challenge from Christian Zionists who manipulate scripture to support the oppression of Palestinians. On August 22, 2006 Palestinian Christian churches addressed the threat of Christian Zionism with the "Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism." We mark the anniversary of the declaration by learning about Christian Zionism and learning what you can do so that together we can rise up.

Our guest will be **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer** of **Peacemakers Trust**.

Time: Tuesday, August 24, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm

- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

This Week's Kumi Now Entry

Please note: To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Friday, and this newsletter should go out each Friday or Saturday.

Sharing and publicizing: The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

Kumi Week #34: Christian Zionism

Week 34 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). At its simplest, Christian Zionism is Christian support for Zionism. Christian Zionists support Zionism as a national movement for the return of the Jewish people to Palestine and the sovereignty of the Jews over the whole land. They see themselves as defenders of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. Christian Zionists are organized into a broad coalition of agencies around the world. There are an estimated 250 Christian Zionist organizations operating in America alone.

Christian Zionists claim that the promise of the land made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph was unconditional and eternal. God who scattered Israel will gather Israel back. Christian Zionists believe that Jewish people are the chosen race and have a unique relationship to God. According to their biblical literalism, they believe the Church's responsibility is to provide comfort and blessing to Israel in order to keep God's blessing. Those deemed to be critical of Israel are viewed as thwarting God's will.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer on challenging Christian Zionism. And here are a few more facts for you:

Just the facts. The Political Agenda of Christian Zionism...

The belief that the Jews remain God's chosen people ...results in the uncritical endorsement of and justification for Israel's racist and apartheid policies...

As God's chosen people, the final restoration of the Jews to Israel is actively encouraged...

Eretz Israel...belongs exclusively to the Jewish people, therefore the land must be annexed and colonised...

Jerusalem is regarded as the eternal and exclusive capital of the Jews, and cannot be shared with the Palestinians...

Christian Zionists offer varying degrees of support for organisations...committed to destroying the Dome of the Rock and rebuilding the Jewish Temple...

Christian Zionists invariably have a pessimistic view of the future, convinced that there will be an apocalyptic war of Armageddon in the imminent future...

Sources: "What is Christian Zionism?" by Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer

<http://kuminow.com/ChristianZionism>

Understanding Christian Zionism: Just the Facts. The Political Agenda of Christian Zionism...

- "The belief that the Jews remain God's chosen people leads Christian Zionists to seek to bless Israel in material ways. However, this also invariably results in the uncritical endorsement of and justification for Israel's racist and apartheid policies, in the media, among politicians and through solidarity tours to Israel.
- As God's chosen people, the final restoration of the Jews to Israel is therefore actively encouraged. The emigration of Jews from Russia is funded and facilitated by Christian Zionist agencies in partnership with the Jewish Agency.
- Eretz Israel, as delineated in the Hebrew scriptures, from the Nile to the Euphrates, belongs exclusively to the Jewish people, therefore the land must be annexed and colonised, Palestinians forcibly removed through home demolitions and land confiscation and the illegal Jewish settlements expanded and consolidated.
- Jerusalem is regarded as the eternal and exclusive capital of the Jews, and cannot be shared with the Palestinians. Therefore Christian Zionists have lobbied the US Administration to relocate its embassy to Jerusalem and thereby ensure that Jerusalem is recognised as the undivided capital of Israel.
- Christian Zionists offer varying degrees of support for organisations such as the Jewish Temple Mount Faithful who are committed to destroying the Dome of the Rock and rebuilding the Jewish Temple on the Haram Al-Sharif (Noble sanctuary of Al-Aqsa).
- Christian Zionists invariably have a pessimistic view of the future, convinced that there will be an apocalyptic war of Armageddon in the imminent future. They are

deeply sceptical of the possibility of a lasting peace between Jews and Arabs and therefore oppose the peace process."

Sources

This week's Just the Facts comes from **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer's** ["What Is Christian Zionism?"](#)

Learning More

Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer has a book called *Zion's Christian Soldier's? The Bible, Israel, and the Church* (more info below). And you can watch Stephen Sizer's [2019 talk on Christian Zionism](#) at the Christ at the Checkpoint USA conference.

To go deeper, we will be developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry as well as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

Kumi Action



Speak with a representative of your school library or community library, encouraging them to stock more digital and physical resources and books that counteract the harmful politics and theology of Christian Zionism. Ask them to stock the books mentioned below or buy one of these books yourself and donate it to a library or pass it on to a friend!

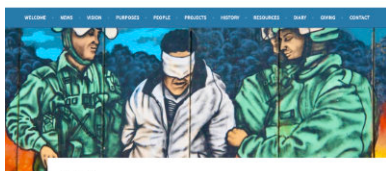
Possible books:

- Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis, and Mauine Tobin (eds) *Challenging Christian Zionism* (Melisende, 2005)
- Gary Burge, *Whose Land, Whose Promise?* (Authentic, 2003)
- Colin Chapman, *Whose Promised Land?* (Lion publishing, 2002)
- Stephen Sizer, *Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon?* (IVP, 2004)
- Stephen Sizer, *Zion's Christian Soldiers?: The Bible, Israel and the Church* (IVP, 2007)

Take pictures of the books you requested or donated and share them on social media. Include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi34.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



WELCOME

We seek to be catalysts for peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed.

Peacemakers Trust aspires to be catalysts for peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed, or reconciliation is needed. Our vision is of a world reconciled to God and where people are at peace with one another. The **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer** is the founder and director. His PhD thesis examined the historical roots, theological basis, and political consequences of Christian Zionism.

You can find Peacemakers Trust on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#). You can find Stephen Sizer on his [website](#) and follow him on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in August so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: AUGUST, 2021

Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35
				
August 3 <i>Collective Punishment</i>	August 10 <i>Indigenous Rights</i>	August 17 <i>U.S. Role in Palestine</i>	August 24 <i>Christian Zionism</i>	August 31 <i>Art as Resistance</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

August 31: Week 35 - Art as Resistance

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Art as a creative tool of resistance is a cornerstone of a successful nonviolent resistance. While some resist the occupation with stones or guns or worse, and others turn to politics or religion, still others turn to art. One such artist was Naji Al-Ali, the political cartoonist who

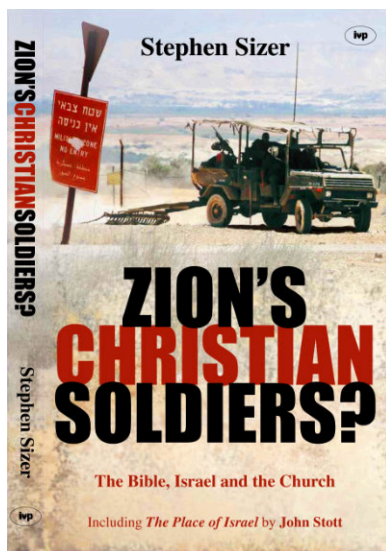


created Handala. Naji Al-Ali was assassinated for his art, and died on August 29, 1987. In honor of Naji Al-Ali, and all the brave Palestinian artists who have risked their lives in the service of truth and art, this week we look at art as resistance in Palestine.

For our Kumi Action we will work with a local church, gallery, concert venue, theatre, or school to host or produce a show of Palestinian art or that features Palestinian artists.

You Should Watch or Read...

One (or maybe two) recent or not-so-recent film, book, video, article, or other piece of art that you should consider reading or watching this week. Have a recommendation? Let us know.



Zion's Christian Soldiers? The Bible, Israel and the Church

If you want to fully understand Christian Zionism and its effects on Palestine and Israel, this is the place to start. About the book:

“Many Bible-believing Christians are convinced that God blesses those nations that stand with Israel and curses those that don’t. This belief has had a significant influence on attitudes toward the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. Stephen Sizer contends that this view is based on the misinterpretation of the Bible. He provides an introduction to Christian Zionism and a clear response and positive alternative based on a careful study of relevant biblical texts”

You can find more information on the book, excerpts from it, and helpful study guides and other materials on Stephen Sizer’s [website](#).



The Brazilian Palestine

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** has selected ***The Brazilian Palestine*** (Documentary, 2017, 79 minutes) as their film of the week. You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). More about the film:

“Marked by ethnic and cultural diversity, Rio Grande do Sul now houses thousands of Palestinian immigrants and their descendants. The communities born of the Nakba seek, in the diaspora, full integration and a new citizenship in Brazil. Today, they try to survive, grow and gain recognition for their economic, social and cultural contribution. With scenes filmed in southern Brazil and the Middle East, *The Brazilian Palestine* reveals the

roots, the degree of integration, and the sense of belonging felt by six families enduring prejudice, persecution and war. Theirs are stories of the living, that reveal lost places and stories left behind.
”

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Friday/Saturday, focused on our next topic, [Art as Resistance](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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