

# Kairos a political thrust, hidden in biblical jargon

REVEREND Edwin Arrison referred to the Palestine Kairos Document and thanked "God for the Palestinian Christians who have called us to a theology of life and of love".

But is it really a document of love? Even more concerning is its interpretation of biblical (Christian) love as supportive of resistance, by implication terror attacks, against oppression. At its core, it is a political document. It aims to get support within the international Christian community to pressure Israel to give in to the Palestinian political ideals.

Lobbying for international support by inducing emotional responses through incorrectly applying Christian jargon is not a Christian call for justice. With the exception of Arab Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, the heads of churches played no role in the origins of this document. Some of them were taken by surprise when it appeared, according to Malcolm Lowe's *Palestine 'Kairos' Document: A behind-the-scenes analysis* in April.

Consequently they issued a brief statement of their own: "We, the patriarchs and heads of churches in Jerusalem, hear the cry of hope that our children have launched in these difficult times that we still experience in this Holy Land. We support them and stand by them in their faith, their hope, their love and their vision for the future. We also support the call to all our faithful as well as to the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, to the international community and to the world churches in order to accelerate the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation in this Holy Land. We ask God to bless all our children by giving them more power in order to contribute effectively in establishing and developing their community, while making it a community of love, trust, justice and peace."

Evidently, this is anything but an endorsement of worldwide campaigns against the State of Israel.

Instead of calling for sanctions and divestment, they are calling upon the mentioned roleplayers to assist in help-

ists and other Christians that support Israel?

Nobody denies the fact that some Palestinians are suffering, but to blame Israel for all their suffering is not the real truth. A major reason given is the wall, of which a large part is only a fence, and the security checkpoints. These unfortunate measures were necessitated by the Palestinian bombing campaign in which many people died in blasts in public places and buses. The barrier has been successful. The many checkpoints Palestinians have to go through are experienced as an injustice, but Israel was forced to take such drastic measures to protect its citizens. Many of these checkpoints were removed recently and more will be removed as the reality on the ground improves.

Hisham Abu Varia, an Arab lieutenant colonel in the Israel Defence Force, said: "To get privileges one has to give and not just receive. The state protects its citizens even if they don't serve - my parents live off income support. You must contribute to the country you live off. What other country would have an Arab Kogasset member, who is being paid by the state, promoting the interests of the Islamic movement and jeopardising the promotion of the sector it is supposed to represent?"

The unloving way in which Reverend Arrison described Christian pilgrimages to Israel will offend many Christians. Does he also regard Muslim pilgrimages to Mecca "really just tours to heritage sites"?

Many Christians in "the tours to Israel movement" indeed interact with Christians by attending church services in Israel, pray and have Bible study sessions at "heritage sites", such as the Garden Tomb, Mount of Olives and others.

Calling the Palestinian Christians the only living stones and regarding Israeli Christians as dead stones clearly exposes the judgmental and biased attitude of Reverend Arrison. Are we witnessing a new wave of anti-semitism? This time nicely tucked

away and sugar coated as anti-Zionism. And if we read history with a pure and honest mind, we clearly see the similarities of the pre-Holocaust era. Ironically, the church was also involved in creating the atmosphere for the Holocaust to happen, by being silent and vocally promoting anti-Jewish sentiments. This particular part of history is easily available for everyone to read.

Reverend Arrison, love and compassion need to be shared among all humans and not a select group and my prayer is that you have the same love and compassion for the people of Darfur, Somalia and Zimbabwe and many others, as you have for the Palestinian people.

We, as Bible-believing Christians pray and believe that peace will eventually come to the Middle East.

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REGARDING Reverend Arrison's article, I believe that G-d does not support only the oppressed, as he intimates - he supersedes everybody and all nations.

Would it not be more advantageous for the world to live together in harmony? Reverend Arrison's article advocates hatred for the Jewish people, probably only because they are the chosen race, chosen to lead us all out of the darkness.

Jews are not better than anyone else, but they have a strong moral code and a strong association with the supreme being.

Why do people continually condemn the Jewish people?

My plea is to ask people to open their minds to the possibility that they may be wrong.

It is about time that militant Muslims and anti-semites looked at themselves and started behaving like true, decent Christians.

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