

HAMAS MEMBERS

I know very little about Hamas and its members. My Internet searches reveal that recent estimates of Hamas membership seem to range from 20,000 to 40,000. It appears that there is quite a range of ages. I have also formed the impression that Hamas members are exclusively male.

I believe Israel has announced their intention to kill all Hamas members that they can find anywhere on earth. They have stated their reasons clearly. Hamas members seem have different levels of personal zeal for Hamas's stated goal to kill all Jews. At the extreme end we find Hamas members willing to deliberately kill young Jewish children, toddlers, and babies. I confess I cannot understand that level of hatred and conduct.

The truth is that I do not hate anyone. That was not always true for me. I am 77 years old. I became a born-again Christian at age 35, 42 years ago. God has been at work in me to become kinder and more patient and less inclined to judge others, for example. I have been richly blessed with children and grandchildren.

My Bible says that I belong to God. That I was bought at the cost of the life of Jesus, who gave Himself willingly for me. I am to live as one bought at a price, and not for myself. In my retirement, I created a website called biblicalchristianitytoday.com and it resides at my website called fredglover.com and neither website is involved in funding or fundraising.

Vast numbers of young men in Canada and America have no real knowledge of God's gospel plan. They don't know much about the Bible at all. My Bible says that unless they repent of their sinful choices and seek forgiveness from Jesus, they will burn forever in hell. Last year I started making and producing videos and putting them up on my website, which also contains two versions of my testimony or life story.

I understand that Hamas plans to kill all Christians as well as all Jews. I'm very sorry to hear that, and I confess I cannot understand that level of hatred. I believe that God wants me to provide Scriptural warnings to Hamas members and I hope that some will come to Jesus for forgiveness, and for eternal life. That is what Jesus did when he lived on earth, and what John the Baptist did among people living in his area.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples preached the need to repent and turn to Jesus throughout their lives. The Apostle Paul was famous in his early days for his hatred of Jewish Christians as he eagerly rounded them up to be imprisoned and, in many cases, killed. Jesus reached out to Paul dramatically and Paul became a born-again Christian and was filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

God used the Apostle Paul to write most of the New Testament of our Bible. Paul taught that “all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true, and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. Scripture corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses Scripture to prepare and equip His people to do every good work”.

God makes it clear in the Bible that everyone is going to die, and relatively soon. As a 77-year-old I don't know when I will die. I am grateful to have lived as long as I have. I have wonderful children and grandchildren and a good wife and great siblings and so much to be thankful for. The Bible tells me that God knows exactly when I am going to die, and I am fine with that.

Sometimes Jewish people become Christians, and we call them Messianic Christians, named for Jesus the Messiah. Sometimes their family and friends are quite upset by their decision to follow Jesus. I don't imagine and it will be easy for a Hamas member to become a born-again Christian, but as the Bible says, how could they if no one tells them how?

At age 35 I had noticed that my younger brother and his wife had been changing for the better steadily over several months. My brother had cut back dramatically on drugs and alcohol, for example. I asked their Christian friend what had happened to them, and she explained that they had become born-again Christians. She challenged me to read the Gospel of John carefully and I did so.

At the time I lived 4,000 kilometers away in Arizona. I did read the Gospel of John carefully and in fact went on to read the whole Bible within three or four months. I became a born-again Christian within two months of beginning to read John. Over the past 42 years I have heard quite a few people tell similar stories of being converted by reading the Gospel of John with an open heart and an open mind, asking God to reveal Himself to them as they read John.

Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” and “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me.” “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” And “What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?”

I am told that some number of Hamas members are quite keen to die in battle, based on the rewards they hope to receive after death. I cannot understand that. It seems that lots of Hamas members are not keen to die and I can understand that. But even the ones not keen to die are being hunted down by the IDF, which has developed skills and motivation to do so.

God promises in writing that if you will accept the sacrifice Jesus has made for you and will submit yourself to His Lordship, and will turn forever from your unbelief and your sins, He will give you peace more than your ability to understand, and hope you don't have now, and purpose to live for him instead of for yourself or your cause. You will become God's adopted son. And my brother in the Lord.

More than 20 children have been permanently adopted by members of my extended family and they have in turn produced more than 40 grandchildren. Several different ethnicities are well represented. My only goal here is to obey God in telling people that they can get right with God forever, by coming to Jesus forever, as both Savior and Lord.

I earnestly believe you are in great danger, and I hope you will take my advice and seek Jesus. The Bible says that if you do, He will not turn you away no matter what you have done. The Bible says that's something far worse than death awaits those who will not accept God's offer of salvation through His Son Jesus.

One last thing. The Bible says “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

If you do come to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, which He did, then be sure to tell someone as soon as possible that Jesus is Lord, because as

you can see above, it is very important that you do. Those two verses are what settled it for me 42 years ago and I have never had a doubt since, by God's grace.

I have written in the past about the differences between “Christians in Name Only” and what my mentor, AW Tozer, describes as “True Believers”. God makes it clear in the Bible that He will completely reject lukewarm Christians, Christians in name only.

Please strive to become a “true believer”, consecrated, and dedicated to Christian service and to God's glory, active on the team that is trying to reduce the number of people winding up in hell. A true believer Christian knows that he was bought at a price and tries to live for Jesus.