

LATEST NEWS # 512, May 28, 2008

The following news concerns Israel

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Public burning of New Testaments: Bible Society Director calls for prayer

ISRAEL — The Director of the Bible Society in Israel, Victor Kalisher, has called on the UBS fellowship to pray following an incident in which hundreds of New Testaments published by the Bible Society were publicly burned.

The Scriptures were gathered up and destroyed on Sunday, May 18, by Yeshiva Orthodox Jewish students in Or Jehuda. The incident came to wider attention this week when an Israeli newspaper published a story crediting the city's Deputy Mayor with having organised the episode. The students collected the Scriptures from door to door in an area with a large population of Ethiopian Jews, who had been given them by local Messianic Jews (as Jewish Christians call themselves).

Later, the Deputy Mayor told *The Jerusalem Post* that the burning had been "regrettable and unplanned".

Mr Kalisher noted that there had recently been an increase in the opposition of religious groups to Messianic Jews and to the work of the Bible Society, but that at the same time this had brought about an increased level of interest in the New Testament.

At a New Age festival held during the Feast of Passover, for example, some 4000 Scriptures were distributed.



"Many people are seeking the truth and have a keen interest in reading the New Testament and learning about the Messiah," he said. "Pray that the doors will remain open for us to bring the Word of God. Pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of those who have received the Word – and of those who oppose it."

He also urged caution.

“We need to be careful and wise,” he said, “and seek the Lord’s protection and wisdom while serving according to his will and to his glory.”

This story refers to project 79423 and project 79425.

Photos (UBS/Dag Smemo):

ISR08DJ-6: Young people at the Bombamela Festival, a largely New Age festival that takes place every year at Nizanim Beach, in Israel. The Bible Society in Israel does Christian outreach at festivals like this.

For further information please contact comms@ubs-wsc.org

