



from Garth...

## Cry for Hope

**As I write this short newsletter I should be in Palestine**, singing at Baraka Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem. But Gill was ill just before our trip and so we postponed it. We have rebooked our trip for the end of April next year.

Obviously the trip wouldn't have worked, even if we had got there. It's distressing talking to friends, "Everything is closing down and people are being evacuated - and hotels are being closed."

Even last night a friend of ours called Marwan who lives in our town sent round a picture of very heavy bombing in Gaza. You could hardly make out the building underneath all the explosions, and his comment was "That's where my family lives."

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This morning I heard Husam Zomlot speaking on CNN, being interviewed by Christiane Amanpour. Husam as many of you will know is head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK. **It was important to hear what he had to say and very moving. There are so many interviews at the moment that don't reflect such a helpful voice. Here is a link to it on Twitter**



*Husam Zomlot*

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**I find at the moment that parts of lyrics of songs keep coming into my mind**, and I thought I would put a few little bits of songs perhaps as an aid to our thoughts and prayers at this time. Here's one called "**On An April Day**" and it's remembering the massacre of Deir Yassin on 9th April 1948

*The people spoke in whispers on an April day  
As rumours of the killings came on an April day  
The Irgun came and the Stern gang came - Haganah had even been  
And visited the village, the village of Deir Yassin*

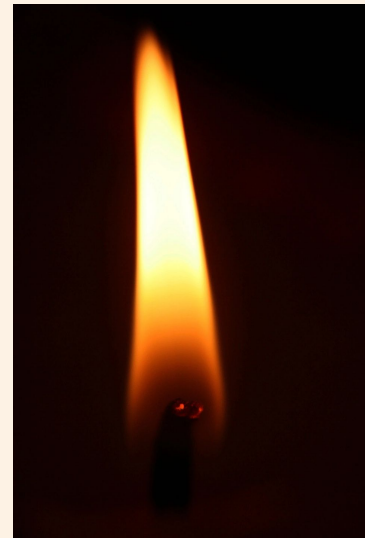
*Who listened to the whispers on an April day  
Of what happened in the stone quarry on an April day  
The men paraded in Jerusalem, then in the quarry slain  
The press were shown so proudly, the dead of Deir Yassin*

*Let the whisper get louder, let the truth be told.  
It's only when we remember that there's any hope.  
And as the soldiers come again to Gaza and Jenin  
Let's no more speak in whispers for the sake of Deir Yassin.*

*Let's no more speak in whispers to show we've learned from Deir Yassin.*

**And as we pray for International Law to be followed and for violence to be rejected** here's a verse from "**Ten Measures of Beauty**" as a prayer,

*May the justice of God fall down like fire  
And bring a home for the Palestinian  
May the mercy of God pour down like rain  
And protect the Jewish people  
And may the beautiful eyes of a holy God  
Who weeps for all God's children  
Bring the healing hope for the wounded ones  
For the Jew and the Palestinian*



**The Christian churches of Palestine wrote an article called **Cry For Hope** and I used some of the words for a song of the same name:**

*From a wounded land  
Comes a cry for hope  
Comes straight from the heart  
Of Palestinian suffering  
They are asking for support  
Asking us to speak up  
Time to take a stand  
For justice and love*

*They've been silenced too long  
Ignored too long*

*Now is the time  
For decisive action  
They've been marginalised  
Dehumanised  
It's time to take a stand  
For decisive action*

*May we never be silent  
In response to this call  
May our churches respond  
To the cry for hope  
May we all raise our voices  
And take action today  
Let's end the occupation  
Let Justice lead the way*

*It's a call for hope  
To the people of God  
To show God's ways,  
Justice, peace and love  
All are made in the image  
The image of God  
So no more apartheid,  
Let's have equality for all*

## **When resurrection came to Palestine**

**The world was changed  
Hope rose again  
A message of love - such a holy sign  
Could it happen again - could it happen today  
Could hope rise again in Palestine  
Could hope rise again in Palestine**

**O God bring humanity back to the Holy Land  
May the warmth of your love  
Bring hope for all  
We stand with those whose freedom's denied  
Could equality and justice come for all  
Could hope rise again in Palestine  
Could hope rise again – in Palestine**

**Now the Via Dolorosa goes right through Gaza –  
Goes down every bombed and broken street**

While the loving heart of Jesus always reminds us  
That Palestinians are humans too

Garth Hewitt



You can find all the lyrics to  
Garth's album **Songs From the Fifth Gospel**  
**on this link here**

The email below has come today from Mazin Qumsiyeh, a Professor in Bethlehem University - we're including it here as Mazin puts links you can follow for more information

"I received dozens of messages inquiring about my thoughts on what is going on now in Palestine and how we are doing and what is going to happen. It is really very simple: we have 15 million native Palestinians, 8 million of us are refugees or displaced people (2/3rd of Gaza's 2.2 million are refugees). Israel cannot be allowed to get away with stealing lands and resources and setting up a racist apartheid regime. ... to read more, see [blog here](#)

[Oslo accords: failure or betrayal](#)

[The seven most racist Israeli laws](#)

[Israel weaponisation of water against Palestine is not just a strategic move, it is a crime against humanity](#)

[Interview I did in 2009](#)

[300 groups call on the UN to investigate apartheid](#)

Stay Human and keep Palestine alive"

*Mazin Qumsiyeh*

*A bedouin in cyberspace, a villager at home*

*Professor, Founder, and (volunteer) Director*

*Palestine Museum of Natural History*

*Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability*

*Bethlehem University*

*Occupied Palestine*



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