

Fellowship of Fools

Several years ago, ads from the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews* (IFCJ) began appearing on cable TV. Each ad introduced a woman named Yael Eckstein, who is filmed entering a dilapidated home during winter months and then greeted by an elderly woman wearing a heavy coat and scarf, indoors. The room is dimly lit and sparsely furnished. While the camera focuses on the wrinkled and toothless old woman -- who appears to be well over 90 -- Ms. Eckstein begins narrating her pitch.

She is delivering boxes of food the old lady needs to survive, courtesy of the (IFCJ,) although she neglects to mention her charitable organization by name. This elderly woman is alleged to be a Jewish Holocaust survivor living alone in **Russia**. Ms. Eckstein then informs the audience that a contribution of \$25 a month would save people like the old woman by providing enough food to survive for one month.

Years later, Ms. Eckstein returned in a different ad delivering food to what appeared to be the very same old woman, offering her (and others) what seemed to be a similar box of food and reminding viewers that these Jewish Holocaust survivors need the boxed food to survive. This time, however, the old lady was located in **Israel**. The \$25 per month appeal is repeated in the ad.

Soon after Russia invaded the Ukraine, a third ad appeared on TV with Ms. Eckstein. This time she's in an airport terminal, standing in front of several huge pallets stacked with similar boxes of food. In the background is a large cargo plane, and Ms. Eckstein informs viewers that the huge pallets behind her are being shipped to the **Ukraine** by the IFCJ. In all the years these ads appeared, this is the first overt mention of her organization by name.

The approximately one cubic-foot boxes appear identical to those in other ads, but this time she reveals their contents. She informs the audience that one box will keep each of the 300,000 **Ukrainian Jews** alive for another month. In this ad she interviews several elderly women as they gratefully receive their food. They look an awful lot like the elderly women from earlier ads, but the monthly price is now \$42 per box.

One glaring omission from her many ads is any reassurance that a single Christian ever has or ever will receive any benefit from her charitable efforts. Here is the organization's stated purpose: *"...providing life-saving work and food for needy Jews around the world...and building bridges between Christians and Jews world-wide."*

The IFCJ specifically targets the following beneficiaries for benevolence: Holocaust survivors; Jewish orphans and other Jewish children; Poor and elderly Jews; Persecuted and oppressed Jews; ***Israeli Defense Force*** soldiers and their families; Jewish victims of terror and war; And Jews needing to be repatriated to Israel.

Well, P.T. Barnum declared there's one born every minute! Although "Christians" are prominently mentioned in the organization's name, no mention of them actually benefitting from the IFCJ is ever uttered. The IFCJ is happy to accept their contributions, however, some of which go to pay Yael Eckstein's \$700,000 per year salary.

Evangelical Christians who naively contribute to the IFCJ believe they are doing *God's Work*, but they are merely falling for Jewish *chutzpah* by subsidizing a demonstrably ethnocentric organization whose sole concern remains its fellow Jews and not Christians.

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