

Compassion

By Hap Hansen

I have a fairly substantial library of books. Many of them are historical novels about Presidents of the United States. I am curious about what future writers will have to say about our current President. Besides the Bible, my favorite book, my favorite movie and my favorite piece of music is about the Leon Uris novel, *Exodus*. It is a novel about the birth of a new nation, Israel.

Essentially, it concerns the plight, problems and suffering of Jewish refugee children trying to reach Israel by sailing through a British Naval blockade, just to find freedom. Uris paints a vivid and dramatic picture of a Jewish dream to establish a homeland, to live in God-given peace, to build cities, to turn the desert into gardens, to worship in the ways of Abraham and live far from the shadows of oppression. Like Israel, the United States has always had the compassion to allow entry for those who are poor, downtrodden, hungry, and are trying to escape the hated regimes of brutal dictatorships, just to find freedom. Where is that compassion now?