

For Zion's Sake

Fourth Quarter 2017 Jewish Year 5778

IT IS WRITTEN
POINTING TO THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES

השניים החלו לספר זה לזה כיצד התרגשו
בשעה שישוע דיבר אליהם וביאר להם
את הכתוב בתנ"ך.

"AND THEY SAID ONE TO ANOTHER,
DID NOT OUR HEART BURN WITHIN US,
WHILE HE TALKED WITH US BY THE WAY,
AND WHILE HE OPENED TO US
THE SCRIPTURES?

LUKE 24:32, KJV



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For Zion's Sake

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Chag Sameach

CFI-Jerusalem Friends and Family!

We've entered into the fall season here in the land. The weather has cooled, the scattered rain showers have begun and the smell of *Hanukkah* is in the air.

The story of *Hanukkah*, also known as The Festival of Lights, is not spoken of in the Torah because the occurrences that inspired the holiday took place after it was written. The celebration is, however, referred to in the New Testament when it notes that Yeshua attended the "Feast of Dedication."

As both the Hanukkah and Christmas holidays are approaching I wanted to take this opportunity to have a little "table talk."

When one prepares their table, it should be set in a way that not only evokes prayer, but encourages conversation, brings joy and laughter, and the opportunity of rekindling relationships with family and friends. Once gathered at the table, the rooms, electronics and conversations that previously separated us should now bring us to a place of oneness and acceptance; a safe place where relationships can grow, mature and bring the potential for spiritual and emotional healing.

The Hebrew language contains relationships between certain words that are not as prevalent in other languages. In looking at the word "table" in Hebrew I found that the word is pronounced "*shulchan*." Wanting to add meaning to the word I took a look at the Hebrew word "*aruch*" which means "set." If you put the two words together, "*shulchan aruch*" literally means to "set table." The Jewish community not only uses these words to mean a physically "set table" but they also refer to the Code of Jewish Law. This is a collective body of Jewish religious laws taken from the Written and Oral Torah, the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments), and so on. This is where the depth of the Hebrew language is so exciting. The "set table" of Jewish laws is literally their guide to the ways they should behave, the ways in which they should go and how they should walk out their day-to-day lives. We should consider this meaning when preparing to set our tables as well.



Not only should ones' table be filled with delicious, physical food created for the body, but it should equally be set with the spiritual food our bodies require to live a God-centered, safe, secure and full life.

Yeshua spoke of our need for spiritual food, as did Peter, Isaiah and Jeremiah. For this discussion I would like to focus on Paul's words in Romans 11:7-12. Paul wrote that Israel had been striving, but that most of the people had not attained the goal. Paul continues writing, ***"God has given them a spirit of dullness — eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, right down to the present day."*** (Vs8) But why? Well, Paul quotes David's words from Psalm 69, ***"Let their dining table become for them a snare and a trap, a pitfall and a punishment. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they can't see, with their backs bent continually."*** (vs9) Interesting choice of words! This has been a controversial topic around many a Christ-centered table. They ask, has God truly cast away His people, or will He still save them, or have they permanently fallen away? If during those discussions someone around the table would pick up the Word of God they would see that the answers to these questions are very simple. For the Scriptures clearly state, **'Heaven Forbid!'**.... God will never forsake His word, or His people. Finally, we are given our task and that is to ***"provoke them to jealousy."*** This Scripture reference shows us that their **spiritual diet** was to somehow mislead them, or confuse them if their table was to become a snare. Sadly, what they were feeding their minds at the time was distracting them to the point that they were incapable of seeing the truth, or reality, even though it was standing right in front of them.

As I previously mentioned, the Table is an object that symbolizes where we literally eat physical food, but in Hebrew it also refers to a collective body of Jewish laws, customs and traditions compiled in a 'Shulchan Aruch'. In bringing the physical, mental, and spiritual nourishment to our **set tables** I believe we'll begin to see the great walls that tend to divide those in the church, as well as so many of our own families, begin to crumble, while bringing the unity and closeness we

all want and need. For many, the family table has become a thing of the past, and for those that still eat at the dinner table it has become a quick breeding ground for arguments, frustration, and tears. As each of you makes plans to prepare your ***"Shulchan Aruch"*** for the upcoming holiday season, I pray that you would be free of the enemy's distractions, discord and impatience. I pray that whether you are celebrating Hanukkah or Christmas your focus would not be self-centered but God-centered. I hope that your stomachs will be full of sufganiyot, potato latkes, turkey, stuffing and warm, soft, buttered bread. And I hope that your tables will be set in a way to welcome not only Shalom, but love, restoration, reconciliation, and unity. I understand that things change from generation to generation, but reflecting on the past can sometimes help us understand how we got to where we are today. Earlier I mentioned that during Jesus' lifetime what is now known as Hanukkah was then referred to as the **"Feast of Dedication."** The word **"dedication"** is not a wimpy word. Its meaning embodies such words as commitment, diligence, perseverance, drive, staying power, blessing, and consecration. It is my hope and prayer that your holiday tables be dedicated to Him; and that He fills your homes with love during this special **season of remembrance.**

My love and thanks to each of you - Hanukkah Sameach and Merry Christmas! 🎄

In His Service,

Stacey Howard

Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem



“IT IS WRITTEN”

POINTING TO THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES

“...THE WORD OF OUR GOD ENDURES FOREVER”
(ISAIAH 40:8; 1 PETER 1:25)

BY SHARON SANDERS

In the world today we find many churches heading down a suicidal path. Why? This year “...new features appear in Christmas programs such as in a Norwegian elementary school...Students will be reading not only Bible verses, but also verses from the Quran.” The article further reports that the “teachings of Mohammed have pushed into church settings around the world. In St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, Scotland, passages from the Quran have been read...as well as...”...singing from the Quran in the Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome, Italy” (Paul Bremmer, APP Frontpage, Faith, Front Page, WND.com). All around the world, in Christian religious settings, the Quran is mixing with the truth of God’s Word to us. “Liberal Christianity has in many cases departed from its foundation in the Word of God,” (Rabbi Johnathan Cahn, WND.com). I would hope that we would know God’s Word so well, that wherever heresy or deception is practiced, we will recognize that “it is *not* written” in God’s continuing, and unchanging Word, which He gave to us through the Jewish people. Dearly beloved Christian brothers and sisters, there can be no price put on the sacred Words of the God of Israel, which were given once and for all to mankind, in the Jewish Scriptures, so commonly categorized wrongly with the label the “Old” Testament. Bear with me, as we uncover a mislabeled, impolite and ill-informed characterization of the books of the Bible.

Because we live in Israel, the words “*Torah*” or “*Tanach*” come spontaneously to believers

in the Land; however, most of the world’s Christians, some 2.3 billion, employ and practice using the word “Old” Testament when speaking of the first part of the Bible. It is a misnomer. Labeling the enduring Word of God in a wrong or inaccurate way is a serious rebellion against God. This error is a faux pas, or more accurately, a failure of the Christian church. Here in Israel, we know it as the Living Word, alive and real. It is sad that we have had a lack of education in this area in order for inherited errors to be corrected. God only knows how many Jewish people died because of Christians believing that “their books” were finished, obsolete and outdated.

Elliot’s Commentary for English Readers tells us, “the verb for ‘teach’ is the root of the Hebrew word for ‘law’, as the teaching of Jehovah. Historically, the Church labeled *Torah* and *Tanach*, (the Hebrew Scriptures) primarily as legalism. By labeling God’s Word as “Old” (the enduring, eternal, everlasting, immortal, imperishable, ongoing, perpetual, and timeless Scriptures, to describe just a few biblical classifications) is a serious insult to our Jewish friends. Clearly, the Lord Jesus established the *Torah*, and based His teachings on *Torah*. Throughout the New Testament continually He said, “It is Written.” Since there was no New Testament at the time Jesus was teaching, it is crystal clear that Jesus laid it out clearly that He was pointing people where to go for answers.

It was the Jewish scrolls He unrolled in the synagogues. He spoke about them on the

dusty roads of Emmaus to his followers. He kindled, and then set their hearts ablaze, with passion and astonishing revelation. If the sacred Scriptures of the Jews were good enough for Jesus, why are they not good enough for us? Paul tells us there is righteousness in the law (Philippians 3:6). Granted, he goes on to teach us that our own purity cannot come from the Scriptures alone (what we call the “Old” Testament) but only through faith in Christ which is the better way. (Philippians 3:9). Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that are impossible for every man to keep, He is our righteousness, through faith in Him. But that does not change the fact that where “it is written” teaches us of God’s Sovereignty, His Holiness, the Ten Commandments, the Psalms, wisdom which speaks clearly, all the Biblical promises for Israel, for us, and prophecies which are being fulfilled and will still yet be carried out in God’s Perfect Timing.

And so, why don’t Christians study it more? The standard reply is “We have the New Testament!” At this response, I can hear Lance Lambert saying, “But, wait just a minute now, let me explain!” The Hebrew Scriptures are actually instruction, and teaching, not a legalistic set of rules, as some might think. *Torah* is specifically the first five of twenty-four books of the *Tanach*, upon which the New Testament was constructed. We must catch a burning desire for the whole Bible and not just for the New Testament. There will be no “New Testament only Churches” in the Coming Kingdom, for the “...law will go forth from Zion” or Isaiah and Micah will have to apologize to the people. (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2).

There are not two Bibles, but One. The God of the “Old Testament” is the God of the “New Testament.” One God. The prophet Malachi declared that the Almighty never changes, nor does His Word (Malachi 3:6). Peter tells us that God’s Words abide throughout the ages. They live on forever. (1 Peter 1:25). Peter, a Jew, did not have a New Testament to which he could refer. So why continue to call it the “Old” Testament? Could it be that some say “we always have” or, “it was done away with when Jesus came”? This would be incompetency and will continue to hinder a believer

from growing into the fullness of his faith and in understanding God’s plan for Israel and mankind. It is time to get rid of long-time dogmatic teachings that are not Scriptural.

Stop Calling It the Old Testament!

These words are the cry from a Jewish heart, and a headline article from the *Jerusalem Post* (Spring 2017, English edition) written by Michael Freund, Founder-President of Shavei Israel, and former Deputy Communications Director under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It captured my attention straightaway, and I privately cheered the author.

It spurred me on to write about what has been on my heart for a long time. But it took his cry of frustration, to get me to do it! This compassionate complaint, defending God’s Words, now puts any “New Testament Only!” church teachings in an arrogant and disrespectful position toward our Jewish brethren. Thinking that Genesis to Malachi is not important, and that these books are not relevant for today puts two God’s before Christians, the “Old Testament” God, commonly thought of as a God of anger, and the New Testament God of love. Even a simple child should be able to tell us that God is a God of love and compassion, from whatever book is in the Bible.

One of the reasons most Church Fathers did not see the restoration of Israel, and the Jewish people, was because they did not understand Hebrew, and could not perceive the “wandering Jew” ever returning to His Land. Therefore, they intensely preached that Israel was out of her Land and the Temple gone, and so, the Church replaced Israel. He alone knows how many hearts of indifference, apathy, spiritual pride and superiority were emblazoned with hatred toward God’s Chosen People, because of these untruths. There are no Words of God that can be declared as irrelevant. If, as the Bereans, those Church Fathers would have searched the Scriptures daily, they would have been able to see God’s promise of Jewish restoration to their homeland in the latter times. They would have avoided the tragic mistake of creating a monster, called Replacement Theology,

that would wreak havoc in the Church, causing a great amount of damage and devastation between Judaism and Christianity, throughout the centuries. We are still in the process of recovery from this error, but assessing the damage to the Jewish heart, is the greatest horror we must face.

Many do not want what they term the “Old” Testament for fear they will be brought “under the law.” It is a mistake, because to be able to process what God is doing in the earth today, particularly among the Jewish people in their God-Given Land, we must read, study and love the Jewish Scriptures. In all the sacred books, we find the wonderful promises of God for Israel and His Chosen People. If one knows the Jewish scriptures, the Gospel makes much more sense because one learns that there has to be a sacrifice for sin. Christians just need to come to learn to love the Hebrew Scriptures period.

“At a time of rising anti-Semitism across Europe and even North America, it is... essential that steps be taken to defend the integrity of Judaism and its sacred texts...Recently, in an episode of the popular American television program, Dateline NBC, journalist Dennis Murphy repeated a stale, offensive, and inappropriate statement. He said “The rhetorical language you used, had a kind of biblical Old Testament ferocity to it,” Murphy said to an interviewee. A message she had sent included phrases such as “I hope to God you are ready for the pain I will show you.” “Burn in the fiery pits of hell tonight as by God’s law.”...Murphy’s impolite and ill-informed characterization of the Book of Books is something that should raise the ire of everyone...After all, it was the *Tanach* (the Jewish scriptures, including the *Torah*, the Prophets and the Writings) which bequeathed to the world values such as charity, brotherhood and forgiveness. These Scriptures challenged man to live by the highest standards of morality and ethics, which continues to inspire countless Jews and others to this very day. Depicting the Hebrew Bible as “ferocious” or cruel is not only an act of iniquity toward the text, but a hurtful affront to those who cherish its teachings and seek to abide by its commandments.

Unfortunately, Murphy is not alone in his prejudice. Examples abound. Recently, an Irish member of the European Parliament named Luke Flanagan criticized Ireland's Health Minister Simon Harris for his policy on medical marijuana by asserting, "Our Minister for Health is like the God of the Old Testament – mean." What kind of trash talk is that? How dare Flanagan or Murphy or anyone else for that matter slander the God of Israel in such terms. Would they speak of other faiths in such a disparaging manner? The use of the term "Old Testament," suggests that the Hebrew Bible is outdated and archaic, like an old shoe...Western civilization often proudly invokes its "Judeo-Christian heritage," and yet the very basis of that patrimony – the Hebrew Bible – is implicitly vilified and demeaned as if it were a relic of a bygone era, rather than the living text that it is.

Labels have power and they affect how people perceive things and the extent to which they value them. For Jews, Torah is the basis of Judaism, the foundational document that defines their faith as well as their relationship with God and our fellow man. As former British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once pointed out, "One of the most tragic moments in Western civilization came when Christians began distinguishing between what they called 'the Old Testament God of vengeance' as opposed to the 'New Testament God of love.'" This is not a small error. One trembles to think how many Jews lost their lives because of it." It is obvious that Mr. Freund was addressing Christians, as we are the only people calling the *Torah* "Old". For countless ages God's Voice which spoke to Moses, has been labeled "archaic, obsolete, and old-fashioned," something like an old car parked in a garage, discarded and forgotten.

And then there is the term legalism. In theology, it can be judged as conduct, in terms of adherence to precise laws. Jesus told us, "I have not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17). In a contextual paraphrase, He was saying, "Do not for a moment suppose, don't even imagine, that I am come to destroy the writings,

nor to pull it down or do away with it." He had come to complete it. He went so far as to say not even the smallest letter, nor one stroke of the scribe's pen would be dropped, until all that had to happen, had occurred. What we often miss is that Jesus also said that whoever disregards it or who abolishes its principles will be the least-esteemed, and will be regarded as small in the Kingdom of Heaven. Knox, Moffit, Rieu, Wey and other Bible scholars, and translators, agree on this.

Let me make it clear. In Christ, we have been given liberty, and freedom from commands that pertain only to the times of Jesus, ancient Israel, and that were meant for the Jewish people as a nation; however, to abandon or renounce God's commandments because they seem "old" is to make light of the beliefs of the Apostles and their congregations. All of the Apostles were Jewish. Because this happened, deception crept into the Church and snuggled up to the soul of Christendom, and put fear into many hearts that they would be found "under" it. Having lived in the Land for a considerable time, I would never ever think of uttering that the *Torah* is "dead and "gone" or "old" and irrelevant in my daily walk with the Master.

It is forbidden in the Book of Revelation to take away from God's Word. Taking away the Writings, never studying it, quoting it, or gleaning from it, would be tantamount to deleting the Words of God. "...and if any one may take away from the words of the scroll...God shall take away his part from the scroll of life, and out of the holy city, and the things that have been written in this scroll..." (Revelation 22:19, *Young's Literal Translation*). It is also written, "And many peoples shall go and say: 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; And He will teach of His ways, And we will walk in His paths. 'For out of Zion shall come forth the law (*Torah*), And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem'" (Isaiah 2:3, JPS Tanakh 1917).

I repeat, we, as Christians, must keep Messiah at the center of the Scriptures, as He fulfilled them. In these latter times, the true Bride must play her part in

bringing back the King. How can this be done without knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures, which we have incorrectly marked as "Old"? If one believes the New Testament, which is a collection of accounts about the work and life of Messiah Jesus, and His miracles upon the earth, how can we miss everything He imparted, based upon it? The Jewish Writings teach what is holy and unholy, good and evil, clean and not clean. "...A good place to start would be to encourage the media and public figures to give the God of Israel and His *Torah* the respect that is their due." (Michael Freund) I believe he is right. The prophet Jeremiah pulled no punches when he said that the *Torah* was the thoughts of God's Heart. "*The anger of the LORD shall not return, until He have executed, and till He have performed the thoughts of His Heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly*" (Jeremiah 23:20). Perhaps we need to pray about taking this basic message to our churches and fellowships. When the King returns to Jerusalem, there will be no "new Bible" being broadcast from Jerusalem, but Messiah will teach from the Only Bible He ever knew – the Hebrew Scriptures.

Jesus repeatedly said, "*It is written*" (Matthew 4:4) ... "*Haven't you read?*" (Matthew 19:4). He raised these questions. The words of His mouth and the spiritual bread He gave out to be eaten, continually strengthened and led the people, just as it does today. "Jesus answered, "*It is written: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*" (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). In other words, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*" (2 Timothy 3:16). There definitely is no place for dividing up the Scriptures and calling part old and part new. As Jesus was handed the Scrolls, He unrolled them and spoke of Himself. (Luke 4:17, 18). Take away the *Torah*, we take away the foundation for the promises of His Coming, as Messiah-King.

Shouldn't we be sharing with our friends, in love, teaching them to read the *whole* Bible in context and time? He only spoke

for, never against Torah and *Tanach*. He pointed out strongly to the religious leaders, that many man-made laws, rules and traditions were not spoken by God. Religious leaders had created them; however, labeling the Hebrew Bible as “ferocious” or cruel, is not only an act of iniquity toward the text, but a hurtful affront to the Jewish community. There is indeed, liberty in Messiah, but not to go against God’s holiness laid before us in the *Torah*. He was in constant debate with the legalists, but the Church’s shameful degradation and neglect of the everlasting *Torah*, has put some Christian houses of worship on shaky foundations. The parchments and scrolls were a part of the most precious belongings of every Jew who loved the God of Israel, in Jesus’ day. Paul certainly didn’t want to go anywhere without them. “*When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, as well as the scrolls, especially the parchments*” (2 Timothy 4:13, *Holman Christian Standard Bible*).

It is sometimes embarrassing to tell a Jewish person, or to be in discussions with Jewish Bible scholars, and have to admit the failure of the Church to take seriously the significance of their Scriptures. *Torah*, seldom mentioned in any church environment, has left the only Bible Jesus read, unknown to many Christians. Its pages are seldom travelled to, like an island in the South China Sea; therefore, the treasures that lie within have yet to be discovered by many. I have been to churches in various countries where pastors stumbled, searching for the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah.

In the Didache, the original constitution of the early Jewish disciples, the instructions they left behind for gentile believers, after their passing, tell the story and confirm the Jewishness of the early congregations. They said, “We must seek to preserve and honor the *Torah* as handed down by the Apostles and Jesus (Yeshua)...We “must not fall prey to those

who said it has been done away with, or who sought to impose their own interpretations...In the spirit of the Apostle Peter, it would have been better to never have “known the Way of Righteousness” than to come to the truth and then be led astray”...“The Master’s yoke was not to separate from the *Torah*...(Didache, page 246- 248, Clayton Jefford, “The Way of Life, The Rediscovered Teachings of the Twelve Apostles to the Gentiles”, First Fruits of Zion, Toby Janicki). Didache, known as The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, is dated by most modern scholars to the first century. Jesus warned us about building our house upon sand. Any foundation other than *Torah* would put us on shaky ground. The Jewish Scriptures give the New Testament the bedrock truth of our Savior’s teachings.

If anyone undermines the authority of God’s Word, it can lead to heresy. The New Testament warns against Replacement Theology – and yet many ended up tampering with the Scriptures by replacing the “Old” Testament with the “New”. “By negating it, we say that God’s covenant with Israel ended with Jesus and that the term “Israel” refers only to the Church.” (Shira Sorko-Ram).

Just as Jesus is alive and not dead, so it is with *Torah*, it is living and endures forever! It is these enduring words which He loved, which we need to live by. These troubled times will call for nothing less. Some of God’s Greatest Heroes in the Bible inspire us to follow in their footsteps with the solid faith, and steadfast love of these men. Let us not sell our Jewish friends down the river, with a display of pride and arrogance.

The Living Water Jesus gave to us came through His Obedience to His Father’s Words. If we want to “sail on” in our faith, then perhaps we will learn to be more sensitive to our Jewish friends, provoking them to jealousy by loving their Scriptures and telling them, “I love the God of Israel, I love the Jewish people and the Land of Israel...My Master has taught me the foundations of the living Scriptures which will remain forever”! This is how you win Jewish friends. I hope that your understanding will penetrate to the deeper meaning of God’s Word. I pray that you will be aglow with holy passion to share the truth, introducing others to actual verity that has been neglected, and then hidden from the Church, for centuries. May every heart burn with the fire of God and a flame in their spiritual lives, that cannot be kindled by earthly torches. Right down through the ages, wherever the true Church has succeeded in her spiritual pursuits, she has brought new hope to man, she has swept away the wrongs and established truth once again, in righteousness. May we merit the title of “*burning hearts*”. ✨





DAVID'S MIGHTY WARRIORS

"Then all Isra'el gathered themselves to David in Hebron and said, 'Here, we are your own flesh and bone. In the past, even when Sha'ul was king, it was you who led Isra'el's military campaigns'; and Adonai your God said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Isra'el, and you will be chief over my people Israel'" (1 Chronicles 11:1,2).



Jim with IDF soldier



Smiling IDF soldiers with knee pads



Soldiers wearing knee pads

The Bible tells us that as King David reigned over both Hebron and then Jerusalem, it was apparent that Jerusalem soon became not only the political capital of Judah and Israel, but also the religious center. To accomplish this, David brought the Ark of the Covenant to the City of David (2 Samuel 6). This was the Ark that had accompanied Israel in the Sinai, that had rested in the tabernacle at Shiloh and that had remained in storage at Kiryat Yearim after being returned by the Philistines. When David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, the religion of Elohim became a unifying factor, strengthening the bond between Judah and Israel.

From the beginning of his career, David showed himself to be a fervent adherent to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His religious devotion was confirmed by the presence in his retaining the priest Abiathar and the prophet Gad. David's devotion to God probably made it easier for the leaders of Israel to accept him as king.

With this background in mind, it begs the question whether a devout follower of the One True God can serve both his country and his God – just as King David seems to have exemplified as told to us in scripture.

Earlier this year the Israel High Court of Justice struck down a law exempting ultra-Orthodox men engaged in religious study from military service, saying it undermined equality. The decision raises the possibility that they could be forced into service, a highly contentious proposition with political implications.

My intention is not to debate political implications but rather highlight the continuing struggle and divide that some in the nation have. On one hand, it seems evident that King David was both a brave warrior and commander of Israel's army, while being a strong proponent of advancing the commandments of God. On the other hand, it's evident that some believe a Jewish state is not allowed

before the coming of the Messiah. Others argue that study of religious texts is just as important to Israel as military service or that ultra-Orthodox soldiers would be confronted with irreligious behavior.

I meet with many IDF soldiers, Border Police and reservists that all speak about the need to protect the Nation of Israel. Some focus on the Biblical account and God-given borders. Some speak about the Jewish people returning to their homeland and ensuring expulsion never happens again. Some tell about their family history and the traditions of serving from a nationalist standpoint, and still others speak of the continued anti-Semitic, anti-Israel narrative that comes from many nations. Yet, still others leave their homeland in the Nations to serve alongside their brothers, as Lone Soldiers talk about the pulling of God to come home and serve. Regardless of the reason, one thing is clear; the need to defend Israel must be performed by modern day King David-type warriors. Jews, (both religious and secular) Arabs, Christians, Druze, Bedouins.... all comprise the IDF.

Recent visits to the brave warriors have included the privilege of following a small training company as they learn to become tank squadron commanders in the IDF. I have visited with them during their initial training, as well as specialty and command training, with opportunities to "train" with them. I encourage them during every visit and speak about the support they have from Christians in the nations. Many long-lasting relationships have and are being formed due to the positive encouragement Christian Friends of Israel can offer, with your help. Thank you always for your continued support of King David's modern day army.

Jim McKenzie
Project David's Shield
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Families on THE EDGE

Boris and Dimitri have each worked hard to build new lives in Israel for their families since their arrival a few years ago. No matter what part of the world you are from, starting over in a new country is always filled with many challenges. Despite the difficulties, they both transitioned well into Israeli society and were very happy to leave the war-torn region of the Ukraine where daily life had become life threatening for their respective families. Even the hardest working fathers however, can quickly be handed discouraging obstacles without warning. A few months back, Boris lost his job, and was suddenly faced with trying to provide for his wife and two children with very little savings. Living from one paycheck to another, the family got behind in rent and utility payments, and just trying to keep food on the table became an instant challenge.

About the same time, Dimitri was facing similar obstacles for his family of five. An injury placed him on partial disability and not long afterward, he too was having to find work again. Living on the edge of financial capability suddenly became a scale tipped the wrong way, and he and his wife began to struggle to keep the monthly bills paid. His situation was considerably more difficult as they had a young toddler, which required Dimitri's wife to stay home to care for.

Humble hearts in need

While asking for help is never easy and can be quite humbling for many men, it has always been the heart of CFI that those in need never be ashamed to reach out in times of real struggle. Project First

Fruits has always been a "hand up" to believers in the land, that come in those times of testing in life when the help of a true friend is desperately needed. It is indeed our honor to be able to assist as many as we can in the household of faith, because of your generosity in the nations. Your giving of love and compassion makes such an amazing difference in the lives of those on the edge of despair. For them to know that Christians in the nations care so deeply about their well-being and ability to thrive in the land of Israel, warms the hearts of those who are able to help on your behalf. The privilege to meet such strong and vibrant families who simply need the compassion of our Lord, brings back the joy that the circumstances would try to steal.

Boris and Dimitri both left CFI's office with renewed encouragement, knowing that Christian friends from around the world cared enough to help lift them out of their time of financial struggling to pay overdue bills, and provide much needed food vouchers to keep quality meals on their families' tables.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you as you continue to pray, love and support the household of faith in Israel through your financial gifts to believers in the land. Thank you!

Kevin Howard

Project First Fruits
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**"FOR THE LORD
TAKES DELIGHT
IN HIS PEOPLE;
HE CROWNS THE
HUMBLE WITH
VICTORY."**

PSALM 149:4 (NIV)



Smiles again for Boris and his family



Dimitri's thankful heart with his two oldest children



Iconic picture of Maghar



Visits to Sitawe's family



Visits to Shanaan's family

Terrorism on Temple Mount

Thank God that a catastrophe in Israel was averted after the Temple Mount terror attack in July 2017. Israel mourned the two police officers killed in this terror attack, and Project UHW team had the privilege to visit the bereaved families of these two Israeli police officers of Druze origin on your behalf, to render our condolences.

Through a visit with the Mayor of Maghar who connected us with the families of the deceased police officers, we got to know a little bit about the city of Maghar as well as the Druze population in Israel, who are loyal to the nation of Israel. Many Druze serve in the IDF, security forces and border police, some of them even in higher ranking positions. The bond between Jewish and Druze soldiers in the Israeli army is commonly referred to as *Brit Damim*—“Covenant of Blood.”

The Druze in Israel

There are around 122,000 Druze living in 22 villages in northern Israel who constitute a separate cultural, social, and religious community. The Druze greatly revere the father-in-law of Moses, Jethro (also known as Reuel), a Kenite shepherd and a Midian priest. According to the biblical narrative, Jethro assisted the Israelites in the desert during the Exodus, accepted monotheism, but ultimately rejoined his own people. While the Druze religion is not accessible to outsiders, they call for complete loyalty by its adherents to the government of the country in which they reside.

On one wall of the meeting room of the Mayor of Maghar, there is a special painting depicting an historical event of the city. Several decades ago when some Druze military leaders from another region conquered Maghar, they ordered that only Druze were allowed to stay. They said the other ethnic groups must leave. However, the chief and elders of Maghar replied that it is either ALL OF US stay or EVERYONE leave. In many

ways, God has blessed the city of Maghar whose civilians (Druze, Christians and Muslims) co-exist peacefully perhaps because of the stance of its leaders. “...for there is a future for the man of peace” (Psalm 37:37b).

Victims of the Temple Mount Attack

Two officers were killed on duty at the Temple Mount by terrorists armed with machine guns, a pistol and knives. They were identified as Haiel Sitawe and Kamil Shanaan. Sitawe, was 30 years old, and lived in the village of Maghar in the Galilee. Shanaan, was only 22 years old, and lived in the village of Hurfeish in the Golan Region.

Haiel Sitawe had joined the Border Police as part of his mandatory national service in 2012 and had served at the Temple Mount since then. He is survived by his wife, who is a math student, and their two-month-old baby boy, who was just two weeks old when his father was murdered by the radical Islamic terrorists. Kamil Shanaan joined the Border Police right after high school and signed on as a career officer just seven months before the attack. He leaves behind his parents and two older siblings. Kamil was the youngest son of Shachiv Shanaan a former Knesset Member with Israel's Labor Party.

The bereaved families of both deceased police officers wrote to us after our visits, and thanked us for all of our love and support for the families, saying our visits greatly warmed their hearts in their time of deep sorrow. Thank you more than ever, for your much needed support of Project Under His Wings, which enables us to come alongside the families of the victims of terror attacks with the love of Yeshua and you in the nations.

Maggie Huang

Project Communities Under Attack
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DAWNING OF A *New Season*

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD...” Psalms 37:23 (NKJV)

The nation of Israel has been working with the absorption process to assimilate many cultures from the world into Israeli society. By 1983, the absorption issues of housing, education, employment and practical organization for the Jewish Ethiopians were in full swing, but in many aspects not achieving the desired results. Today we still see that many families that went to absorption centers have moved out in a timely manner, yet still many others have lived in these centers for over seven years now. One such absorption center was this year sold from under the Aliya and Integration Ministry, resulting in eviction notices handed to many Ethiopian Jewish families who had limited ability to find decent housing quickly. The evacuation notice of families from the Mevaseret Zion absorption center quickly appealed for a delay and we ask that you would pray that a real solution be found quickly. Another area of prayer for this community is the education model that teaches Hebrew to the youth but can overlook the needs of the older generations. Many parents and grand-parents to this day cannot speak Hebrew, and with over 34 dialects among Ethiopians, there are many problems for families being able to communicate effectively. This issue further hinders many parents' ability to help their school-age children with homework, which can contribute, to academic breakdown. Children of Ethiopian Jewry tend to show on average a 65% lower rate of testing than the national level.

“Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)

The dawning of a new day is upon us as things are changing. The education minister recently announced upcoming changes in the education system that will benefit so many students falling behind in

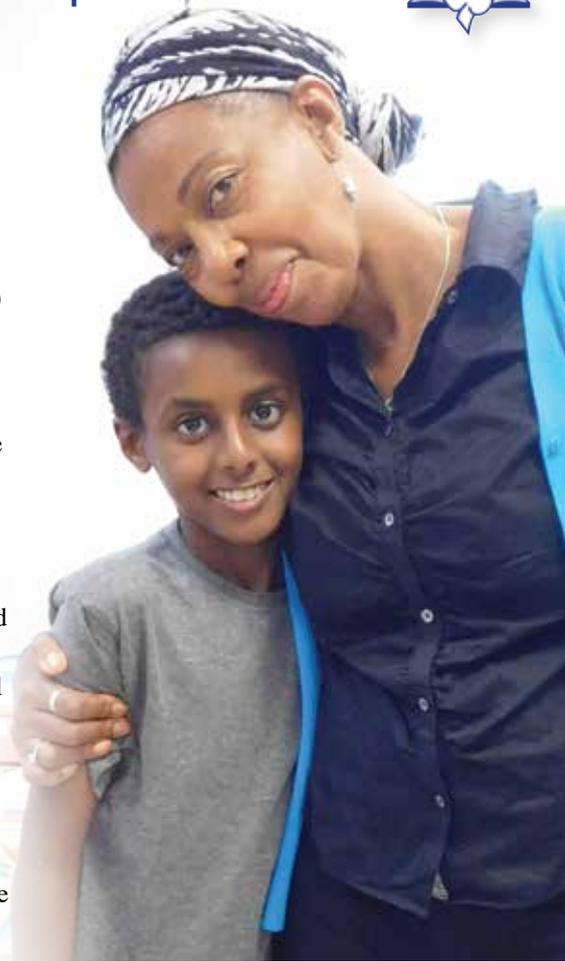
Israel. Beyond that we at CFI have seen many changes among the Ethiopian Jews as a community in their desire to improve their education. With the ongoing help of donors like you, our assistance to the Ethiopian children and their families has resulted in many afterschool and enrichment centers lifting up the deeply affected lives of those we are working with. From having the right connection to afterschool programs and social workers assisting in communities, we are all coming together to make a real difference.

Bearing one another's burdens as we unconditionally apply the principals in the word of God, we are seeing real changes and a renewed purpose for having the courage to face tomorrow with a different mindset and a heart filled with confidence instead of fear of rejection. On the horizon, there are new opportunities to see enriched extracurricular activities with many of these activities addressing past historical issues contributing to learning. We are working on afterschool dance studios giving scholarships for Jewish Ethiopian students and extra tutorial classes developing in Jerusalem at local community centers!

“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

We have much to be thankful for, with those of you who are continually praying for the Ethiopian Jewish Community and for being a financial partner in our efforts in assisting those who would sacrifice everything to come home, to the land of Israel.

Marcia Brunson
Project Hope for the Future
hope@cfjjerusalem.org



Introducing Marcia Brunson
CFI's New Coordinator for Project Hope for the Future



Providing warmth for heart and home



Forging bonds of friendship



No Shrugging of the Shoulders

“But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears...” (Zechariah 7:11). “They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do” (Galatians 2:10).

When Israel failed to show mercy and compassion, everyone to his brother, the widow, or the fatherless, the alien or the poor, God required justice. We must always remember the forgotten and lonely, to heal the brokenhearted and to feed, clothe and help the weak. Wherever we can, we must show the proof of our love (2 Corinthians 8:24). When we receive a call for help, or someone has applied for assistance, our knock at their door can make all the difference in their lives. Because of the hard work of Christian Zionists over the years, the Israeli Knesset recently recognized the work of many Christian ministries because it HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE and God is bringing closer together, Jews and Christians. Those of us on the ground must labor. It is essential that our friends undergird our efforts.

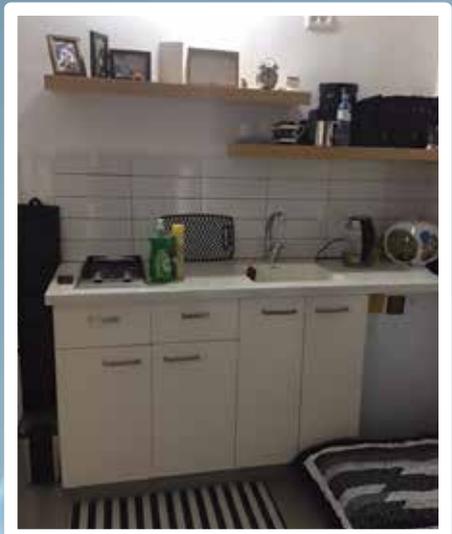
Thank you to everyone who believes in our work, in the tedious ministry of reconciliation. God is at work because of your faithfulness! Recently Lilyah, one of our long-term volunteers who came to us as a Jewish immigrant and stayed to help over 20 years, recounted recently how she met a Jewish lady on the street in Jerusalem. She recognized Lilyah and said “I am so grateful to Christian Friends of Israel (society) for the help they have given to me in the early days of my life in Israel. It has really made a difference!”

Sharon Sanders
Project Streams of Blessing
streams@cfjjerusalem.org

“We cannot shrug our shoulders, remaining indifferent or undecided about helping.”



A former IDF soldier, now in reserves, lives in very modest low income housing with his wife and son. His wife has mental health issues and the young son is looking forward to one day serving in the IDF, just as his father. A plea for help to replace part of the furniture in his very small dwelling place came to us. Another family touched by God’s Love.



Cleaning and redecorating a small apartment, for a single man who lost his family, the Colorado Team made a one room apartment turn into a “home”. It brought tears to his eyes.



Our Team from Colorado, USA, helping to make it all possible!



CONQUERING THROUGH LIVING LIFE

“Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come. You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side” (Psalm 71:18, 20-21, NKJV).

The Holocaust - the biggest tragedy of the Jewish people and one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century, took place over 70 years ago, but still leaves incredibly deep wounds in people's hearts and lives. Even in our day more and more horrible facts about the Nazi crimes are being discovered. One Holocaust Survivor CFI has known for many years, recently made a statement: "The Holocaust is like a mountain, the further away you move from it, the greater it looks."

As a team we do our best to help preserve memories by learning about these events that happened and then passing them on to those who are willing to hear. As we learn more through the personal stories of the Holocaust Survivors we visit, we feel an urgent need to speak about it.

On one of our latest visits, Esther, who we have known for some 10 years, and who has been hesitating to share the details of her experiences in various labor camps, including Auschwitz and the death marches, finally opened up and shared with us some of her story. The whole experience was so painful and humiliating for her that she had never spoken about it before.

Esther was born in Tarnow in Poland. In 1939 the area was occupied by the Germans and strict rules for the Jews were implemented. Their properties and businesses were confiscated. The ghetto was established in June 1942, just after the massive killing raid which took the lives of 7,000 Jews, and another 11,500 Jews were taken to various death camps across Poland. In 1943 Esther saw her mother for the last time. She, her father and brother, along with other family members, were sent to a labor camp, where they stayed for a year. After that Esther was separated from them and sent to Auschwitz. She survived that, and the death march she went on after that, and was then liberated just a few days before the war finished. When she

went back to Poland her greatest fear was confirmed - all her family had perished and she was totally alone!

She was taken to the Jewish orphanage, where she started to learn Hebrew. The aim of the orphanage was to take the children to Eretz Israel. After a few months of learning, Esther was able to express herself by writing her first essay, which I would like to share with you:

Esther was sixteen when she moved to Israel in 1948. She was supposed to come a year earlier. She was one of the 4,500 passengers who tried to sail to Israel on the famous ship, The Exodus, which the British government then forced to return to France. Upon her final arrival in Israel, Esther went to Nahalal, a farming school for the youth Aliyah. She had a great desire to build her homeland. Esther's life story is one of suffering, but also of great victory over all the attempts to kill and destroy her life. She now has beautiful children and grandchildren and considers this the biggest investment of her life--in the state of Israel.

The Forsake Them Not team feels it is a great privilege to meet Esther, and many others like her, who have experienced so many horrors in their past, and who carry pain, humiliation and loss in their hearts. We are so grateful for this opportunity to minister to these broken-hearted people, on your behalf, made possible by your financial help and prayers.

Olga Kopilova

Project Forsake Them Not

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Working at Nahalal farming school

02.02.1948
 A page from the diary. The last day in Auschwitz. This happened in the camp on 18th January 1945. There were people imprisoned inside broken wooden huts. They were all exhausted, half dead. The German Nazis were in a hurry to move the prisoners aged 20 to central Germany. They all looked on the brink of death, hungry, almost naked, no shoes. Over several days the Germans continued to line up people from the camp and then send them to the crematorium under the supervision of the SS soldiers. We saw the smoke rising up to heaven hiding the frozen sun. The SS soldiers nervously walked from place to place because they knew that their end was close. The front line was coming closer which was why they had to move the rest of the prisoners into Germany. The death marches. The walk was so difficult. Many died on the way and never saw redemption. Nevertheless there were still some who managed to survive from the hands of these killers, and I was among them."



Salt and Light in a Dark World

A Season to Shine on Jerusalem

When we speak with people around the world, many have given up hope for the future of a Christian Europe due to so many factors. The enormous influx of Muslim immigration and refugees, the political correctness of national governments, the apathy in so many hearts toward God, and the rise of materialism and humanism, are just a few of the reasons we hear.

With all that is changing in the world around us, Stacey and I were so encouraged to spend time with the remnant of true believers within the church as we traveled to Europe this past fall. Congregations in Switzerland, France and the UK still hold to the truth of Scripture and knowledge that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is still in control and fulfilling His Word today.

We were excited to see so many hungry for fresh and accurate information about the Lord’s beloved Israel, and especially what He is doing in Jerusalem. Many joined us in lifting up the name of the Lord in special times together as we celebrated all that has been accomplished over nearly seven decades in the Land of Israel.

Our deepest thanks go out to all of those who attended the conferences in Switzerland, France and the UK, as well as the many congregations where we spoke. We experienced meeting those who have stayed the course and look forward to the future God’s word has promised for His people and the land He has promised them.

We cannot say “Thank You” enough to CFI Representatives Erika and Walter Mathys in Switzerland, Andre and Helene Van Nieuwenhuysse in France, and Jacob Vince along with David and Julia Soakell in the UK for the amazing experience of getting to really know the believers in their respective countries, and for taking such good care of us as they hosted us in their nations.



May the God of Israel bless each and every one of your nations, your cities, and your families for all you do for His people and the nation of Israel!

Stacey and Kevin Howard
CFI - Jerusalem

*“You are the salt of the earth;...
“You are the light of the world...
Let your light so shine before men, that
they may see your good works and glorify
your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)







Crossing Over

Be strong and of a good courage... JOSHUA 1:9

ALEX

"I am originally from Kiev, Ukraine and I decided to make Aliyah after my year in the Masa program. This program allowed me to learn more about the Israeli culture and to study Hebrew for 10 months. I have just found a job and now I can settle into my new life in much better. My conviction of Aliyah and my love for my nation are very strong and I am here to stay!"

Alex became an Israeli citizen in June 2017 and came to our center two weeks after that. His friends recommended our center to him and told him to come exactly at 9am as many times we have Olim waiting at our doors, even at eight in the morning. Alex has an Israeli girlfriend and seemed very happy and excited when he was sharing about her with us; we told him about our Bridal Salon project and said to him that we would love to see him back and witness this aspect of his life!

JAIME AND FLOR

Jaime and Flor arrived from Colombia in 2011. Although Flor is not Jewish, she always felt very attached to Israel. They have five children and two of them are living in Israel with their respective families.

Jamie's family are originally from Romania. His father and siblings managed to escape during WWII, but they got separated. The ship which carried Jamie and his grandmother, landed in South America and the Jews from this ship became scattered throughout the continent. His siblings ended up in North America. It was not so long ago that the siblings got in touch through internet connections. They hope to meet in Israel. Flor shared that during a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, she made some inquiries about her husband's father. She was given a lot of information and they declared Jaime's father dead. However, he had escaped to South America after his first wife died in a concentration camp and never gave any notice or said goodbye. He never really shared much about the horrors he saw during this terrible period in history.

Jaime was in tears during our conversation, because he couldn't really help his father with the pain he carried all his life and he died at the age of 56. We were encouraging Jaime with Bible verses and also by reminding him of the lovely children and grand-children that the Lord Almighty has given him. What the enemy intended to wipe out, God rescued with His Hands.

SOFIA & LEONID

We went to Har Gilo to visit Sofia and Leonid. Har Gilo is an Israeli community which is located about five kilometres south of Jerusalem and two kilometres west of Bethlehem, in the northern Judean Hills. It's a very beautiful area, with new buildings and lots of greenery. The entire community is fenced and we can clearly see the closest two Arab villages. Leonid and Sofia have lived here for more than 10 years. They made aliyah in 1991 after the borders of the Former Soviet Union were opened for Jews to return to their Land. They did not want to come to Israel as they had a settled life in Ukraine, but they were afraid that the borders would be closed again and they would never again see their daughter who lived in Israel. Sofia remembers the large lines, the hundreds of families gathering together with their precious belongings, waiting for the plane to finally bring them home. She says: "It was a very big airplane and when we looked around and saw we were all Jewish, we felt exactly like the Exodus!"

Sofia was born in a ghetto in Ukraine just a few months before the Red Army liberated them. She learned about the horrors of the war and Holocaust through her parents and other Jews. 50 members of her father's family were executed during the Vinnitsa massacre, including her father's only sibling.

Adolf Hitler placed his easternmost headquarters called Führerhauptquartier Werwolf near the town of Vinnitsa and spent a number of weeks there in 1942 and early 1943. One infamous photo, The Last Jew of Vinnitsa, shows a member of Einsatzgruppe D about to execute a Jew kneeling before a mass grave. The text The Last Jew of Vinnitsa was written on the back of the photograph, which was found in a photo album belonging to a German soldier. It was captured by the Red Army on March 20th 1944.

During our visit, Sofia asked us a lot of questions such as, "Does the Tanach say that when God would bring His people back to Israel, they would face massacres and terrorism?" Is evil one day going to stop and who is going to win in the end?" We tried to answer to some of her questions; we quoted some Bible verses and remembered some of the Bible stories and we concluded with a hopeful reminder: Israel's Iron Dome is God's hand upon her.



KIRA

Kira received information about us from the Jewish Agency office in Ukraine and phoned us to learn in which way we help the Olim. She is in her late 80's and has two sons. The youngest made aliyah years before her and the oldest one, Maxim arrived in Israel together with her. Maxim served in the Russian army and in the war with Afghanistan, he was injured which left him disabled for life. Kira's husband died during the same war. Kira said that she is usually quite strong to face adversities and difficult situations, but living in Israel is very hard for her, after being a School Principal for more than 20 years and starting over now. Kira and Maxim came to Israel in March 2017 and just a day before they arrived, Kira's youngest son found them an apartment in an open area where Maxim can use his wheelchair with no difficulty. Kira is a very pleasant lady and a woman of faith. We brought a gift bag for her and also for Maxim and some summer clothing as well. Kira's youngest son will bring her to our centre when she feels stronger.

DANIEL

Daniel had been to his therapy session and was on his way back to his base in Tzfat when he knocked on our doors one afternoon in July. We were closed at the time, but we let him come in. He received a gift bag and although the weather was extremely hot, he needed winter jackets, socks and a pair of jeans. Daniel is rather tall and he finds it very expensive and difficult to buy winter clothes. At that moment, we were sorting clothes and one of the staff members just had opened a box and hung an XL Ski Jacket from the USA container. It fit him perfectly! He also received an IDF jacket given to us by the David Shield project; and a very nice brand new backpack! Daniel was also very grateful to receive a Portuguese-Hebrew Tanakh as he made aliyah from Brazil. He left our building with lots of words of gratitude and said he would let his fellow soldiers know about our organization. Let us pray for Daniel, for the Lord's guidance and safety as he has 6 more months left to finish his IDF service.

Rocio Fordham

Project Open Gates
gates@cfjjerusalem.org

HELP INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CONTAINER

We have been working hard to finish sorting the remaining boxes from the last container, in order to prepare for the next container on its way. We would like to express our gratitude to the Jubilee Humanitarian Aid an Israeli organization and the Highway to Zion group from North Carolina, USA for their precious help with unloading the container. Before we had finished loading all the boxes in our storage room, a lovely couple of Orthodox Jews who were walking down our street, saw us working hard in the hot sun and blessed us all with fresh watermelon! Also, several Orthodox Jews stopped and asked us who we were and what this was all about. They asked us to thank those of you in the nations that donate the clothes! Exhausted, but with a joyful heart, we replied, *Toda Raba & Shabbat Shalom!*

Olim testimony to our DC staff: "No one has offered us so many lovely things to choose from and for free! The work you do is a work of righteous people, so please keep on doing it until Mashiach comes!" - Ruth

"Thank you for what you do to help the Olim. I don't have words to express how my family appreciates your great help and also your encouragement as here we are new beginners in almost everything. My husband, my three children and I say to you all: thank you and may the Lord bless you! - Katya



Seasons

**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance”
Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 (ESV)**

Judaism views marriage as the ideal human state. It is a spiritual bonding between a man and a woman as the fulfillment of God’s first commandment **“Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28)**. Also, according to the Torah, the woman was created because **“It is not good for a man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18)**

Since Marriage is considered a commandment and fundamental part of Jewish life, we should not be surprised that in rabbinical literature we find abundant traditions, regulations and advice regarding all aspects of it until the day of the wedding ceremony, including, of course, choosing the date!

According to tradition Jewish weddings are prohibited or at least discouraged on:

- Shabbat or religious holidays as celebrating both diminishes the greater joy that could be derived if each were celebrated on its own. It is also forbidden to conduct legal transactions on a Shabbat, and the wedding ceremony is considered a legal matter.
- From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur because this time is dedicated to reflection and repentance for one’s sins over the previous year, and is not suitable for celebrations.
- Days of great sadness, such as fast days, or the 30 days immediately following the funeral of an immediate family member are also prohibited.

However, Rabbis consider the best days for getting married as follows:

- During the creation, the third day, Tuesday, is the only day the Torah says twice, **“And G-d saw that it was good.”** This is interpreted as a doubly good day -- **“Good for Heaven, and good for creation.”**
- The month of Adar is the transformation of **“mourning to joy” (Esther 9:22)**. Jews consider it a **“lucky month.”** also Kislev, when Chanukah is celebrated as a time of light and happiness.
- **“Tu B’Av” (15th day of Av):** This semi-festive holiday has always been associated with Jewish marriage, as the Jewish **“Valentine’s Day”**.

Most important is marrying the right person and God has infinite resources to provide. Here’s a recent thank you letter from a bride we served. Thank you so much for your faithful support.

Patricia Cuervo
Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfjjerusalem.org



Dear CFI and all of its donors,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your massive contribution to my wedding day.

God has always had His hand in our love story and your ministry was a continuation of His work in and for us. My husband and I met in Israel when he came here from the UK as an intern at a rehab.

We had only a handful of conversations during his time in the land. It was approximately a year and half after his returning home that we made contact again over the Internet. We continued talking for several months and each took one turn flying to the other’s country. Eventually he moved to the land where we fell more in love and God made it clear that He was bringing us together.

We received such excellent help from the CFI staff who went above and beyond. Being able to get an incredible wedding dress for no cost was a blessing that I could not have anticipated or fathomed. The relief of that huge financial burden allowed us to be able to have a really incredible day with our friends and family. I absolutely loved the dress and I felt absolutely amazing because of it.

Thank you so very much for all you’ve done for us. Words don’t do justice to how grateful we are for everything.

Much love and blessings,
“Claire”



Praying without Ceasing

Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel..."

Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NIV)

Of all of the gifts and talents the Lord has so graciously blessed us with, it is the gift of intercession that is perhaps the most intimate and powerful in the spiritual realm. The battles of life are truly won through prayer and petition as we see happening so many times in Scripture.

Christian Friends of Israel is privileged to be able to partner with intercessors around the world in daily prayer for Israel, and the peace of Jerusalem. It is by the unified voices of all of you in the nations that so many plans of the enemy are destroyed. The unwavering commitment of those who come to the God of Israel in prayer and intercede for the place He has set his own name, and the people that are the apple of His eye, is wonderful.

While you continue in prayer for the nation of Israel, please also continue to

pray for the many members of Christian Friends of Israel around the world. From our volunteers in Jerusalem, to our representatives in the nations, and every single person attached to this ministry of love and compassion for the nation of Israel--we thank you for your prayers.

As the New Year arrives, may we raise our voices even louder, and with even greater unity of spirit as we lift our hearts to heaven for all of Israel, and the soon return of the Messiah!

I invite you to stay connected to Israel each month with our timely online prayer newsletters as well as hearing directly from you by email with your comments to share the latest revelation that the Lord has given you concerning Israel.

prayer@cfjjerusalem.org

Churches United for Israel

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."
Romans 12:4-5 (NKJV)

Strength in Unity

As you change your calendars to 2018 and you consider new commitments for the year ahead, I would like to challenge you to speak with your church leaders about becoming a Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem "Church for Israel." Partnering with Christian Friends of Israel in your nation is a solid way of showing the kind of unity that Paul spoke about in Romans 12 when he spoke about "many members, one body."

By becoming a CFI Church for Israel, your partnership with us is lasting proof of your stand with the nation of Israel and the covenant that God made with His people--standing firm on the promise that God has made to bless those who bless His people Israel. The commitment of your congregation to support the nation of Israel through CFI, in prayer, advocacy and financial gifts is more than just a single offering to God, it is a constant connection to Israel as a body of believers.

Along with your official certification from Jerusalem as a CFI – Church for Israel, we will provide your congregation with monthly updates on what's happening on the ground in



Jerusalem, as well as the very latest ministry efforts of our life-changing Outreach Projects that help so many here in the land.

Take the opportunity today to ask your pastor, minister or lay leader to find out more about the many connections to Israel that our Churches for Israel network is already providing for many congregations around the world. Welcome to the family of many members in unity, as one body of believers.

churches@cfjjerusalem.org



His name shall endure for ever:
the sun: and men shall be blessed in him:



CFI SOUTH AFRICA

CFI-South Africa exists because of the many precious supporters in South Africa and also in the neighboring states of Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho. Special recognition must be given to these exceptional people who pray so faithfully and who give so generously to the work of CFI in Israel. At a time when South Africa is going through some very serious economic problems, the supporters of CFI in South Africa continue to give in a truly amazing way, despite their lack. The headquarters are located in Port Elizabeth, the capital city of the Eastern Cape Province. The monthly magazine, which is distributed to all supporters, is a significant means of updating readers about CFI in Israel, teaching the Word of the Lord as it relates to Israel - past, present and future, and declaring the truth about Israel by coming against the false media reports that abound worldwide, including in South Africa. It's a very large area to cover but together with electronic facilities and a friendly voice at the end of a telephone we continue to reach out to a world that desperately needs to know truth about Israel.

Michael & Pam Holloway
Contact: cfisa@telkomsa.net



CFI BULGARIA

Since 1997, CFI-Bulgaria has continued to maintain close relationships in the Jewish community in Bulgaria, while providing those in the church with current and accurate information about Israel. Translating and distributing CFI publications in the Bulgarian language, as well as organizing Israel conferences and events keep both Mitka and Atanas very active all year long. Bulgaria has a deep legacy from 1943 in which the nation did not allow a single Jew from Bulgaria proper to be sent to the Nazi concentration camps. Every year on March 10th the Bulgarian Jews commemorate this event, and there is a special monument in Plovdiv as a lasting expression of gratitude.

Mitka Atanasova
Contact: cfi_bg@yahoo.com



CFI USA

For the past twenty-five years, CFI-USA has worked with numerous ministries, churches and organizations in order to assist Israel's poorest population, and being a blessing and encouragement to the Jewish people. In 2018, we plan to continue fulfilling our commitment by hosting ministry visitors, prayer groups and representing the work in various conferences and events throughout the year. With friends from around the US, we look forward to celebrating Israel's 70th State Anniversary in Jerusalem in April 2018. We thank the Lord, supporters and intercessors in the US, CFI Jerusalem leadership, and co-workers in the nations for the privilege of ministering to His chosen people.

Hannele Pardain
Contact: cfiusa@cfi-usa.org

his name shall be continued as long as all nations shall call him blessed. *Psalm 72:17*



CFI Germany

We have been serving with CFI – Germany now for more than 15 years, first as administrators in 2002, and then since 2006 as the official German representatives. We have been blessed to watch God provide for and grow the German office. We are happy to see that God has moved us out of a debt situation into a place where we now have above and beyond our needs and able to more than triple the amount of donations we are sending to Israel! We have greatly enjoyed seeing the rising number of Facebook friends and are currently communicating with nearly 5,000 people via Facebook. We are also excited to finally be able to host not just one, but two CFI conferences with Stacey and Kevin Howard in Germany, one in the north and one in the south in March of 2018. They will be flying in from Israel to share God's Word from Jerusalem and give the people of Germany the opportunity to become partners with CFI to bless and support Israel in a very practical way.

Ewald & Amber Sutter
Contact: medien@cfri.de



CFI Netherlands

The Lord continues to do tremendous things through CFI – Netherlands as Kyre and Grace continue to teach the Kesher Course to many Christians in Holland, connecting them to the Hebraic roots of their faith. Working with translation in multiple languages, the Kesher Course, which originated from CFI – UK is transforming many lives in the Dutch-speaking nation, and helping Christians find their connection to Israel through the Hebrew language. Along with the Kesher course, Kyre and Grace have embarked on a new project for 2018 as they are working to help supply an annual container of items for the new immigrants to Israel in support of Project Open Gates. Please continue to lift our Dutch friends in the Netherlands in prayer as God prospers and enlarges the tents of CFI – Netherlands.

Kyre & Grace van Opstal
Contact: info@cfi-nederland.nl



CFI Sri Lanka

For years now, Mohan Weerakoon has continued to share the gospel of the kingdom to those in Sri Lanka as he connects so many to the nation of Israel and shares the covenant of God with His chosen people. Reaching out to the youth in the nations, Mohan is raising up a new generation of believers that have a strong understanding of the Christian connection to Israel in our faith. In a land that is very much touched by the influence of Islam, CFI–Sri Lanka has been a beacon of hope and light about the nation of Israel and what the Lord continues to do in these last days. Prayer and support for our dear brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka is needed as they press through in reaching many about the incredible prophetic hand of the God of Israel and the Jewish nation.

Mohan Weerakoon
Contact: mohanwg@sltmet.lk





For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
that are sown in it to spring forth;
and praise to spring forth before all



CFI France

The love and commitment of those in France toward the nation of Israel is expressed so wonderfully by the long-lasting efforts of Andre and Helene and their wonderful team in France. While hosting a tremendous conference in Grenoble, France this year so many were encouraged to stay on course with their profound outreach to Israel in spite of so many changes in the world today. In addition to working diligently distributing the French publications of CFI literature each month, Andre and Helene were also in attendance at the time of repentance in Drancy, France--a place where more than 10,000 arrested Jews were locked up and held before being forced to board a train to the death camp in Auschwitz.

Andre & Helene Van Nieuwenhuyse
Contact: contact.caifrance@gmail.com



CFI Australia

CFI – Australia has made a positive and lasting impression on the nation of Australia for the kingdom through the continuing efforts of Patrick Russell. While Patrick has been key to the success of the office of CFI – Jerusalem through the years in raising much needed funds for tangible assets like vehicles and computers, the Lord continues to enlarge the reach of ministry there. Although recently in Israel for the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC's victory in Beersheba in 1917, Patrick has also been instrumental in reaching out to neighboring Papua New Guinea with the message of Israel. He recently toured the small nation and brought the word of the Lord about Israel to pastors and leaders at Oceania Bible College in Papua New Guinea where exciting agricultural projects have been set up by Israel to train and equip the wonderful people there.

Patrick Russell
Contact: cfaustralia@hotmail.com



CFI Mexico

The reports from CFI–Mexico are so encouraging and fruitful as Pastor Ruperto and his wife Sandra work diligently to expand the reach of CFI in the Spanish-speaking nation. Working with their amazing team in Mexico, they put together their annual celebration to honor the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. This year's event was attended by more than 300 people from cities throughout the states of Veracruz and Tabasco. Along with their tireless efforts for the nation of Israel through CFI, they are happy to announce their new Spanish website for Spanish speakers in the nations, to connect with the outreach projects of CFI Jerusalem and stay in touch with current happenings in Israel.

Ruperto & Sandra Badillo
Contact: saky96@hotmail.com

and as the garden causeth the things
so the Lord God will cause righteousness
the nations. *Isaiah 61:11*



CFI India, Pune

The work in Pune, India continues to be exciting and at a very strong pace as Pastor Sonny Chandra teaches many pastors and leaders about the strong biblical mandate that Christians have toward Israel, in his region of India. With intensive seminars at churches throughout the area, he is making a real difference in the understanding about Israel with the topic, "Prophetically Understanding Why We Pray for Israel." Pastor Chandra also brought the word of the Lord concerning the biblical Feast of Sukkot at a special week-long gathering in Pune for many eager to learn of its importance and relevance for the first time.

N.K. Chandra

Contact: zion_india@yahoo.com



CFI UK

CFI – UK has been a mainstay for Christian education on Israel for decades, and this year's national conference was right in line with that message. An annual success in Eastbourne, UK this year's well attended conference focused on "Israel: Covenants and Kingdom." Along with the conference, Jacob Vince and his team joined thousands in the UK for the historic celebration of Balfour 100, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration at the Royal Albert Hall in south Kensington. Jacob continues to travel and speak often about the need to stand with Israel in the days and times in which we live.

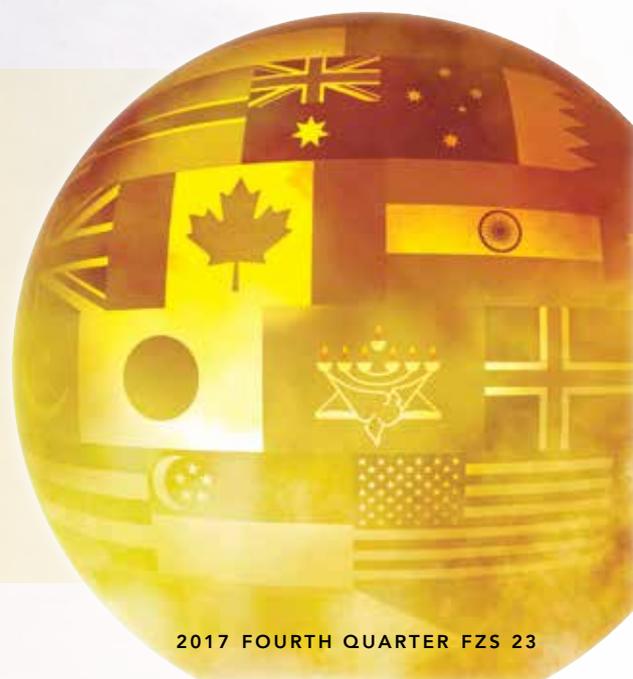
Jacob Vince

Contact: info@cfi.org.uk



Christian Friends of Israel is so honored to call each and every representative we have in over 30 nations around the world part of our CFI Family. The call of God placed on these individuals to be a support in prayer, solidarity, and financial assistance to the nation of Israel is unparalleled. The unity of spirit and the heart of compassion that each has for their own nation to be part of the covenants of God to His people, and the need for Christians around the world to understand their biblical heritage is truly a fulfillment of Scripture. So we say, "Thank You" from the depth of our souls for all you do for the kingdom of the Most High God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the God of Israel.

For information on becoming a CFI – Representative in your nation contact: internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org





FRONTPAGE

Jerusalem

the voice of Israel to the world



brought to you by Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

The Voice of Israel to the World

Today more than ever, Christians globally are looking for accurate, positive, and current information about the nation of Israel, especially concerning Jerusalem. The times in which we live are enabling us to witness the prophetic hand of God in the fulfillment of His promises to Israel as well as the gentile nations that bless her. That's why **FrontPage Jerusalem** has become such a vital resource to so many listeners around the world. Bringing intriguing, enlightening, and Scripture-based interviews to millions around the world, Frontpage Jerusalem continues to be the "Voice of Israel to the World". Each 30-minute program highlights a specific issue involving Israel and the greater Middle East. Experts in their field explaining issues of great significance, keep listeners up to date on the real truth of what's happening on the ground in God's covenant land.

For more information on finding stations in your area, email: feedback@cfijerusalem.org.

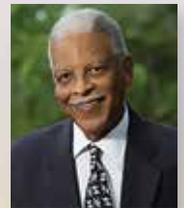
To listen online go to frontpagejerusalem.com



Earl Cox



Kevin Howard



Ben Kinchlow



FocalPoint

We could not be more excited about the new season in the year ahead, with the relaunch of FocalPoint Television. Programs are packed with information from those in Israel with firsthand knowledge of issues facing the tiny nation on a daily basis. From political officials to biblical scholars, global analysts and the latest technological advances, you simply won't want to miss a single program detailing current information about Israel. FocalPoint will also keep viewers current on the most recent hands-on ministry of the incredible outreach projects of Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem. Please join us in prayer and support for this vital portion of ministry that combats anti-Israel, anti-Zionist, and anti-Semitic propaganda that is spread around the globe in so many secular media outlets today. Find out how you can participate in making a real difference in the world for generations to come.

Find out more by emailing today:
feedback@cfijerusalem.org



E-Newsletters: We currently provide the Wall of Prayer Newsletter electronically, along with our Watchman's Prayer Letter, Israel News Digest, and OnWatch.

Sign-up at: listadm@cfijerusalem.org.

Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, Tumblr and more...





EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

CFI constantly strives to bring relevant educational resources to teach the truth about the relationship between Israel and the Church according to biblical scripture.

Small Beginnings - As Dennis recounts the events of his life's journey, he makes observations and comments on a wide range of subjects such as parenthood and Christian living, drawn from the hindsight of wisdom and experience he's gained along the way. This well-written autobiography makes compelling reading, as it's a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness in the provision and protection of His children.

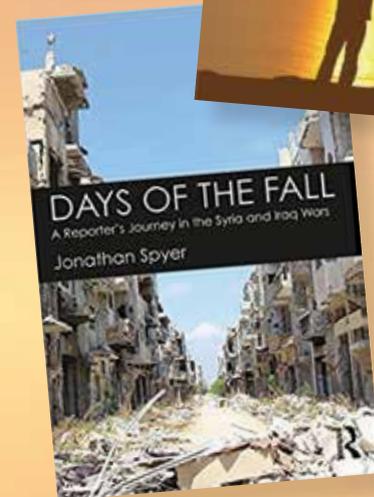
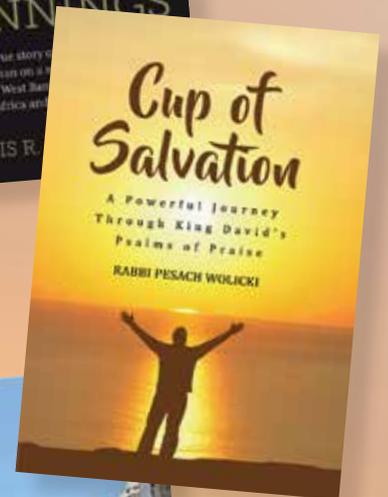
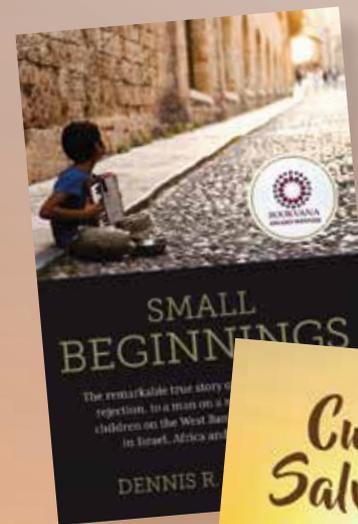
By Dennis McLeod

Cup of Salvation, also known as *Cup of Salvation: A Powerful Journey Through King David's Psalms of Praise*, is a book written by Rabbi Pesach Wolicki and published by the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation (CJCUC) in 2017. The book is a devotional biblical commentary on Psalms 113-118 otherwise known as the Hallel.

By Rabbi Pesach Wolicki

Days of the Fall takes the reader into the heart of the terrible wars in Syria and Iraq. The book combines frontline reporting with analysis of the deeper causes and effects of the conflict. Over five years, Jonathan Spyer reported from the depths of the wars, spending time in Aleppo, Baghdad, Damascus, Mosul, Idlib, Hasaka and other frontline areas. The book depicts these events, and seeks to place them within a broader framework.

By Jonathan Spyer



CFI Jerusalem Calendar

Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem's 16 month Hebrew calendar has been produced and printed in Israel to help you stay connected to the Biblical calendar with highlights including each New Moon, the Biblical Festivals and the weekly Shabbats. For the Jewish Year of 5778 (September 2017 through December 2018), this beautiful calendar provides inspiration, encouragement, and connection to the Land of Israel.

Order Online at a special year-end price: www.cfjjerusalem.org



Helping the lost tribes come HOME

While CFI has been assisting new immigrants from around the world for decades, as over 250,000 have been assisted in our Distribution Center in downtown Jerusalem, we were tremendously blessed to be able to partner with our friends at Shavei Israel to sponsor a family of five Bnei Menashe to come home to reunite with their family after 17 years of separation. Tzvi Khaute and his wife made Aliyah from Manipur India in 2000, but his parents, sister, niece and nephew remained behind. Only one of Tzvi’s five children had ever met their grandparents. It was such an honor to be a small part of a wonderful family reunion. The blessing was a double portion for CFI as the Christians Serving Israel team from Colorado joined us in the celebration and welcome at Ben Gurion airport. Your generous donations provided for the family’s flight to Israel as well as the first three months of their absorption center expenses along with food vouchers and a special personal gift for each of them.



Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. Isaiah 49:22 (KJV)

Standing strong to combat terror

Christian Friends of Israel was honored to support the efforts of Yatar Israel, an elite counter-terror volunteer force under the command of the Israel Border Police. Yatar was established in order to work hand in hand with security intelligence units and special commando forces to prevent and combat terror. Their request was to help fund a specialized, state of the art, compact all terrain 4 X 4 ATV that maneuvers in tight spaces and are Yatar’s “secret weapon”, designed to pursue and capture terrorists before they attack. Yatar operates as a 100% volunteer unit, and is not funded by the Israeli government.

After meeting with Yatar we uncovered the specifics of how our funding could support such a worthy cause. We want to acknowledge the funding efforts of Hannele Pardain at CFI-USA for the generous support that was a tremendous resource for this particular donation. We are so thankful for our partnerships within the Jewish community that allow us to stand beside them, and to strengthen our relationship together as Jews and Christians.





Season of Giving

Dear CFI Family and Friends,

Each year as the calendar turns to December, we begin to reflect over the year we are closing, and begin to focus on what the Lord may have in store for the New Year ahead. This past year in Israel, we have been able to meet many of the financial requests sent our way from those most in need here. However, as with every year, we always wish we could do more.

Through your generosity in the nations to the nation of Israel, so many lives are touched in such a deep and meaningful way, with the knowledge that Christians in the nations pray for, stand with, and love the people of this tiny nation where God has placed his Name. For that love and compassion, we want to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you so much for all you do!"

Meeting the needs of terror attack victims, elderly Holocaust Survivors, young soldiers in the IDF, the Ethiopian community, new immigrants, the widows and orphans, as well as the household of faith in Israel is more than our mandate—it is our honor and privilege. Our ability to meet those needs would never be possible though, without the blessing of the Lord through donors just like you. You are the ones that make the Lord's entire ministry possible as we reach out as your hands and feet here in the land of Israel.

Unfortunately, each year ends with our needing to be able to do more, as the need is always beyond the resources we have. However, our God is bigger than every need, and with that, we want to ask you to seriously pray about helping us more than ever before in the year ahead. Won't you take a moment to ask the Lord what you can do above and beyond out of the abundance that He has provided you? I know in my heart of hearts, that He will indeed open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that you cannot contain because of all you do for His people in Israel.

During this season of giving and reflection for Christians around the world, may God richly bless you and your family as you bless His people according to Genesis 12:3, and you seek His face more on how you can be that special blessing to someone you may never meet until the coming of Messiah.

God bless you for each and everything you do for His Kingdom, and His nation of Israel.

Stacey and Kevin Howard
CFI-Jerusalem



Christian Friends of Israel
invites you to celebrate

Israel's 70th Birthday

April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem



Throughout our lifetime, God provides us all with those "life events" that are so special and important that we just have to be there no matter how busy life gets. "Once in a lifetime" opportunities like the wedding of a child, a 50th anniversary, or the birth of a grandchild.

In April of 2018, one of those lifetime opportunities is happening in Israel, and you don't want to miss your chance to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday in Jerusalem. Join Christians from nations around the world as they come up to Jerusalem and celebrate with all of Israel.

The Christian Friends of Israel annual conference will be held in Jerusalem from April 16-19, 2018 with post-conference tour following. This is your opportunity to see first-hand how Israel celebrates Independence Day during this monumental and prophetic time. Join us in Jerusalem for outstanding speakers, worship that reaches the heavens, and up-close connections with the Christian Friends of Israel outreach projects and the people we serve.

2018 Conference Scheduled Speakers



Rick Ridings • Jonathan Spyer • David Nekrutman

Sharon Sanders • Danny Ayalon • Chris Mitchell

Register at: events.cfijerusalem.org
Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 9101701 Israel
Speakers subject to change.

Feedback Corner We would like to hear from you! If you think this magazine is a blessing, let us know. If you've got the next great thing that we need to talk about, we need to hear from you! Do you like the layout, but not the content, or vice versa...? Give us your input! Email us at:

feedback@cfijerusalem.org.

CFI Representative Nearest You