

For Zion's Sake

Fourth Quarter 2018 Jewish Year 5779

GOD RESTORING ISRAEL

FULFILLING HIS PLANS

*"Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob
and have mercy on the whole house of Israel,
and I will be jealous for My Holy Name..."*



Christian Friends of Israel

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For Zion's Sake

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Dear CFI Family,

Over the last matter of months, there has been much violence in the Gaza region. The secular media recently reported that we have been experiencing some of the deadliest days of violence since the 2014 Gaza War. There was a bus set ablaze and Israelis seriously wounded after a rocket attack; there has been much damage done to homes and businesses with fires burning uncontrollably at times. Not only men and women but many children are in the line of fire. Most of these families have lived with the horrors of this chaos with only short times of silence that sporadically come to these communities. Rockets continue to be fired into Israel from Gaza as I write. Recently, over 400 rockets were fired into Israel on one single day, injuring 100 people. The attempted destruction of the Jewish people and Israel as a nation continues. On the outside, the Gaza situation may appear to be a political problem. What people most often fail to see, however, is that this relentless pursuit against the Israeli people and the attempt to destroy Israel is not political, but anti-Semitic at its core and you can see this spirit rising all around the world. It is a spiritual attack against God Himself.

With media outlets around the world reporting on what's happening to Jews throughout the world the ADL [Anti-Defamation League] is saying that Anti-Semitic incidents and online harassment are on the rise. Sadly, seeds of

The targeting of Jews worldwide should serve as a *forewarning* of what we may expect in the future.



hatred are being planted in the hearts and minds of many children and young adults. These seeds are being planted and watered by those in authority over high schools, college campuses and, of course, dispensed throughout the worldwide web.

On October 27th, what is being called the “Deadliest Attack on Jewish Communities in U.S. History” is not something we should be ignoring or forgetting. The targeting of Jews worldwide should serve as a forewarning of what we may expect in the future.

In partnering with Christian Friends of Israel you can bless the Jewish people and let them know that they are not alone at this very difficult time. All of the CFI projects express a message of support, friendship, commitment and unconditional love for the Jewish people. When we provide food and clothing as well as funds for continued education, rents, utilities, home repairs and the like, we are meeting individual personal needs. When we provide the Word of God, meaningful prayers and physical hugs to those that are hurting, the ill, the aged and in single parent situations, we are providing for their spiritual well-being. Every Jewish life that we are able to touch knows that CFI will stand with them now and in the future!

Since 1985, the CFI leadership has also been educating church leaders and congregations worldwide concerning what God says about His Chosen People whom He refers to as the Apple of His Eye. The way we treat them now, will determine how He will treat us in the days to come.

We, however, need your help in order to touch more lives with the truth of God’s Word and His promises in the days ahead. Reflecting on the most recent attack on the synagogue

in Pittsburgh, we need to all be seeking the Lord as to how He can use us to make a lasting difference. We may not be able to change the world, all at one time, but *we can change it one life at a time.*

The Word of God says It Best!

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:2). “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). “Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13).

Please help us do our part by doing yours. We need your help today! Will you do more to let the Jewish people know about your love and support by making a commitment to partner with CFI in 2019? If you already are a monthly donor then please consider increasing your support in the upcoming months. You will never regret taking a stand with God’s Chosen People, for the God of Israel made a promise of blessing to all of us in Genesis 12:3. And in **Luke 6:38** Yeshua said, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Let’s Take a Stand and ‘Together’ make a difference in Israel, One Life at a Time!

Thank you, and Shalom from Jerusalem! 🕊️

Stacey Howard

Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem

GOD RESTORING ISRAEL FULFILLING HIS PLANS

by Kevin Howard

One good look at the headlines each week, and every believer should be thankful and be reminded that God is still on His throne and in control. I can tell you that when you live in Jerusalem, that reassurance is more tangible and reliable than anywhere else I have ever been. To know that you are at the center of focus for the Creator, who always has His eyes on Jerusalem, provides a true sense of security and purpose. To be part of the revealing of His eternal covenant with His Chosen people also brings a humbling, sobering, and overwhelming sense of the miraculous.

Each day in Israel the promises of God continue to be seen. These promises are being fulfilled and the prophetic future is being revealed. Israel is moving from a nation reborn to being a nation restored. The prophet Ezekiel spoke of the restoration of the fortunes of Jacob and God pouring out His Spirit upon Israel, and I can tell you that it is happening at a tremendous pace. While the US saw most of its gains on the markets lost by the fall of this year, Israel's economy continues to remain strong with its stock exchange continuing to rise over the last two years. Despite the months of violent riots and constant onslaught of rocket attacks against Israel by the Arab Palestinians in Gaza, Israel has set new records for tourism in 2018, and is projected to break that record next year. For the third straight year, Aliyah (new immigration of Jews to Israel) is on the increase as more

"Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for My Holy Name... And I will not hide My Face anymore from them, when I pour out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God."

and more

hear the call to

Ezekiel 39:25-29

"come home." This

year saw the launching of Israel's latest modern defense system known as "David's Sling" providing greater security for the nation. Medical advances continue to pour out of Israel with the latest this November when Israeli researchers announced a new breakthrough in organ repair using a person's own cells to repair damage to vital body parts such as the heart, brain, spinal cord and other organs. God is pouring out His spirit and His blessing upon His nation and His people.

"Therefore, thus says the Lord God: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations."





Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore, and I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God” (Ezekiel 39:25-29).

God’s Hand Over Jerusalem

What a difference a year can make in the change of atmosphere and direction. For decades US presidents had kept a commitment of a close alliance with the state of Israel. As many have kept positive rhetoric and financial assistance for Israel’s security, it is the current US president that has made the most tangible statement to the world by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. While US President Donald Trump did not run as a religious or even conservative candidate, his commitment to keep his word by moving the US embassy to Jerusalem seems to have aligned with Scripture concerning Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. That decisive action was quite opposite the atmosphere of the previous administration where former president Barak Obama used his last weeks in office to abstain on the UN resolution 2334, viewed by many as true anti-Israel politics. Watching the changing of world leaders over the last few years as Jerusalem celebrated 50 years of reunification under Jewish hands, and experiencing Israel’s 70th birthday as a nation reborn have truly been both inspiring and encouraging for so many in Israel and around the world. As Christians, knowing that our Jewish Messiah will return to Jerusalem to set up His kingdom makes the times seem closer than ever before.

In observing elections over the past few years, it’s good to recall Romans 13 where Paul reminds us that the authority of God supersedes all others and is the assurance that all Christians should have

that no matter who is leading nations at any given moment. They are placed there for the fulfillment of the purposes of Almighty God. God is not surprised by any election, appointment or resignation of any political figure anywhere in the world.

“... For there is no authority that is not from God, and the existing authorities have been placed where they are by God.” (Romans 13:1, CJB)

In Israel, November brought the election of a new mayor for the city of Jerusalem, replacing the existing Mayor, Nir Barkat. With an initial race of five candidates, the race was extremely close and the top two candidates, Moshe Lion with 33 percent of the vote and Ofer Berkovitch with 29 percent had to compete in a runoff election since neither achieved the 40 percent of the electorate required to win office. What I found as a testimony to the times in which we live, was the story written concerning the very serious comments given to each of the final candidates from the Jewish Sanhedrin as reported on November 8th **“The nascent Sanhedrin has addressed a letter to the two candidates emphasizing the role of the Third Temple in municipal current policy.”** (BIN). While the exact contents of the letter were not revealed, the fact that the new mayor was to be aware of temple considerations in future city planning was awakening. Moshe Lion, who is religiously observant, won the election over Berkovitch, a progressive secular who campaigned heavily to keep Jerusalem businesses open on Shabbat. While Tel Aviv continues promoting the secular and progressive lifestyles of the world, voters seem to have agreed that Jerusalem should continue to hold on to its traditional roots of being a city of biblical values.

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’

calling a bird of prey from the east, t–he man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.” (Isaiah 46:10-11)

An Awakening of the End

The upcoming year of 2019 is poised to see the unveiling of even more prophetic fulfillment as God continues to reveal His plans of restoration for Israel. Many are waiting with bated breath to hear about the United States proposal for a restart of negotiations between Israel and the Arab Palestinians concerning a possible path to peace. Since entering office, US President Trump has been announcing that he has placed his son-in-law Jared Kushner in charge of drafting the plan. This October, the president announced that the proposal would be revealed in about four months, placing the timing in the first quarter of 2019. Will this be just another failed attempt at a political solution for a spiritual problem, or could it set the stage for the next click forward on the spiritual time clock of Israel and produce a manmade peace? For Jews and Christians alike, we remain in agreement that there will be no real and lasting peace until the coming of the Messiah!

As things continue to progress in Israel, and especially in Jerusalem, so many around the world are beginning to wake up to the fact that “something’s up.” While Israel’s rebirth as a nation was a “wake-up call” to Christian theologians around the globe, especially those fully rooted in replacement theology, the focus of so many is turning to Israel NOW more than ever. As God continues to restore the nation’s land, its people, its wealth, and its ruined cities many Christians are watching and asking about the coming of Messiah. Does this all point to the prophesied end of days? If so, when will these “end of days” be here? There are, and always have been, those around the world that feel they have the

answer to those questions. Yet so many predicted dates have come and gone. However, when His disciples asked the same question, Yeshua explained many of the conditions concerning the last days, and let them know that ***“No one knows about that day or hour, ... but only the Father.”*** Another reference concerns the times being as in the days of Noah. A quick look back to Genesis 6: ***“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”*** (Genesis 6:5, NKJV).

Looking at our world full of selfish sinful desire, greed, anti-Semitism and even anti-God conditions today, it is quite easy for even non-believers to see things painted more and more in this light of wickedness and evil. As Scripture reminds us that the intent and the thoughts of the heart are only seen by God, we must also remember that only the Father will know about that day or hour, which means the hearts of humanity will be playing a part in the timing of the end as well.

At the same time, it appears that many from different backgrounds and faiths are discussing the last days today. Jewish Rabbis say we have entered the darkest dark, just before the break of day. The footsteps of the Messiah can be heard. Christian leaders speak with great urgency of the return of Yeshua at any moment. Even secular progressive non-believers are sensing the planet can't take much more, and the end is in sight. It seems that deep inside the spirit of all human kind, there is a stirring of urgency. For those who understand that scripturally, Israel is the time clock of biblical prophecy, the fact that so much is now being focused on and turned to Israel has many reconsidering their past understanding and teaching.

With today's reach of technology, satellites blanket the entire earth with broadcast service, and even in the remotest of areas of continents where you find the poorest and most deplorable conditions. Yet those living there have cell phones, and satellite television. Has the message of salvation reached the whole of the earth? When examining the full text in Scripture it reads the “good news of the kingdom” and perhaps that message of the kingdom is what is now spreading

as God himself is repairing the breach between Jew and Gentile and preparations for a kingdom are underway. Is it possible that the unifying of all the true believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Israel, is also part of that good news of the kingdom? The restoration of the understanding that we are connected to and nourished by the root of a single tree and this is the message that has taken hold and is spreading in our time.

Crossing the Barrier of Division

The enemy is masterful at creating division within the church. When I ask my Jewish friends how much division there is in the Jewish faith, they usually mention five, six, or so different “divisions” of Judaism. In a faith group numbering just over 15 million on the planet that's not so many. Yet I was surprised one day when I was asked the reverse question by my Jewish friend. How many divisions are there in the Christian faith? A quick Internet search will reveal numbers in the thousands, with some saying even the tens of thousands. In pondering the numbers, I was instantly reminded of an image from childhood. I had been walking in the woods with my father, and we came upon a tree that had been struck by lightning. I could not believe how the blow had turned such a strong and mighty tree into thousands of splinters heading off in different directions that no human could ever put back together. As believers many have received the revelation of the need to repair the breach between Jews and Christians. I feel the Lord is also wanting us to consider the division within our own camp. While the nation of Israel was once divided into 12 tribes and two kingdoms, it pains me deeply to think of how many “tribes and kingdoms” the “church” has today. What kind of witness is this to our Jewish brothers and sisters as we reach across the table to offer a hand of friendship and unity, while our own house is so divided?

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25, NKJV)

In knowing that full message, I truly believe the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

is what has brought this revelation. In considering how many of you have come to this revelation, my heart continues to ache for those around us bearing the “title” of Christian, yet still not understanding their connection to the roots of the faith. Far too many are still caught up in Christian anti-Semitism, and Replacement Theology. Perhaps our personal commission may be to begin crossing the manmade divisions of denominational differences, incorrect teaching, language and cultural barriers, and begin to leave the comfort of spending time with those who are “like minded.” I believe it's time to begin to spread the understanding of the kingdom beyond our own circles.

I would ask each of you, to seek the Lord in finding ways to enlarge your own “tent pegs” in the year ahead. Ask the Lord to help you develop a true sense of urgency for the time and season we are in, and to keep a keen eye on developments in Israel, while reaching across those traditional division lines and sharing the message of the coming kingdom of Messiah with those who may not fully understand it scripturally. Some statistics say that each of us has the potential to impact the understanding of thousands of people within our sphere of connection on any issue, and as many as 80,000 people over our lifetime. With today's technology that number is continually increasing, and produces a ripple effect, reaching those in your circle, and they in turn reaching out to theirs and so on. Let's all work together for the glory of our Lord, doing all things according to and in His perfect will. Let's be eager to share the message of His coming kingdom and how Israel, and especially Jerusalem, is the prophetic time piece, and the location of the throne of the coming Messiah.

As a final thought for you to consider, let me say that Israel has now turned seventy and the families of the land of Israel are reuniting from the four corners of the Earth. Jerusalem has been declared the eternal capital and its shaking off its dust and putting on new garments while the city is being rebuilt and fully restored. If there's going to be a wedding, I suggest the bride start gathering her family together, and begin preparing as well. ✨



Dream of Dreams

While driving on a dry and hot excursion across the Negev desert toward Be'er Sheva all my eyes could see was the dry land and dust. There appears to be little hope for anyone or anything trying to survive there. This same location many Olim have traveled across over the decades: H'alam of all h'alams (dream of dreams) to live in Israel, the land of promise. They travel in order to experience life and see springs in the desert places emerge out of old wells.

“HO! Everyone who thirsts come to the waters; ...” Isaiah 55:1a “...For he who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide to the springs of water.” Isaiah 49:10b

Many Ethiopians live in the densely populated city of Be'er Sheva. This is one of the largest cities in the Negev desert of southern Israel. Be'er Sheva was a biblical place where springs and wells were found. Prior to the Holy festivals, our project took an overdue trip to Be'er Sheva to visit three established absorption centers. Absorption Centers are designated as temporary, furnished living quarters where new immigrants can enjoy a supportive framework, tailored to their specific needs, free of charge. Our tour was very educational. We visited three absorption centers with separate personal identities: The first center on our list, the Nurit Absorption Center, was more internationally populated. Ethiopian children appeared to be the largest population and the center also has single parent households. While at this very dry desert location, we saw the need for activities to increase for the youth, especially those youth at risk. This is also of primary concern in single mothers' homes. One project that could obviously use more attention here is equipping the computer lab for the youth. This lab currently consists of only *one working computer*. Hope for the Future recognizes the “h'alam” (dream) for this generation: to institute a STEMS club on the premises!

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord.”

Proverb 19:17

Ethiopians in particular struggle being sufficiently acclimated to keep pace with technological advances in Israel, so the benefits of a working computer lab would be enormous.

The second center was the Charuv Absorption Center. It was impressive to see how the recreation center or coffee house ceremony, “the heartbeat” of Ethiopian people for thousands of years, was built right beside the absorption building. This beautiful replica of the Ethiopian hut “Goji” was a nice addition, and outdoors there is a full garden for local tenants. Even with all these amenities, there was still despair of stagnation among young mothers on the property. Five single mothers agreed to meet with us in the coffee house to tell their life stories. Each story sounded very similar. They lived in the Center over six years, each experienced difficulties maintaining child care and holding down employment. Through emotional tears one lady expressed, “we are too young to just clean houses.” We inquired what dreams or future aspirations they might want to share? They all said none, they had no thoughts of a better day, unlike when they first came to Israel. CFI hopes to change these dynamics. By regaining insight that begins with faith, a h'alam (dream), seeming impossible, becomes possible for those who can visualize it.

Please continue in your prayers for the HFF project to create resources and solve the day care dilemma in the days ahead.

Our final destination was a center that was an artist's **dream** because it included dance, photography, music, a sewing room, etc. I could only imagine that the youth are excited and have very busy, productive days. The assembled mothers caught my eye though. I wondered how many were preparing to survive outside the centers and face hurdles in transition to the community at large. HFF remains optimistic as we know that with God all things are possible. The very day of our tour, we were elated to hear that evening that the Knesset approved an additional 1,000 Ethiopians to enter Israel, whose family members eagerly await them here. Let's thank God that His wonderful light will shine and their “H'alams” will come alive again!

Marcia Brunson

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Outpouring of *Love*

Throughout the year, Christian Friends of Israel is blessed to partner with like-minded nonprofit Israeli organizations. Through this partnership we're able to maximize our effectiveness in reaching even more people in need in Israel.

Because of our donors from around the world, we're continuing the tradition of providing Rosh Hashanah gift baskets for some needy families in the land. Partnering with Rabbi Slavin, our team of volunteers helped package these holiday food baskets in hopes of bringing some happiness into their lives. We also wanted to do our part in helping them welcome in the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah with an extra special gift of love.

Rabbi Slavin's organization's overall purpose is to assist at-risk youth that have either been orphaned or removed from their families by the state, due to abuse in the home. These children live on small campuses where they receive good education and a feeling of community along with an outpouring of love and encouragement. They are provided a stable environment in hopes that they can overcome their overwhelming sense of hurt and abandonment.

The children are placed with surrogate parents during the week as they attend school, enjoy meals together and spend time in play and study, but in many cases, they're able to spend the weekends with their biological families. Overall, the Jewish community has a very close family bond so this time together is meant to hopefully help restore the family to health and rebuild their family unit. There have been many success stories, over the years, from Rabbi Slavin's staff's efforts, and the CFI Jerusalem volunteer staff is so honored to be able to have the opportunity to assist these children and their families, right alongside them.

Throughout the year, our Distribution Center helps provide much needed clothing through our Streams of Blessing project. We are also able to provide gifts and assistance for the major Jewish holidays, sponsor children to attend summer camps, raise funds for playground equipment, schooling supplies, computers, etc., as well as provide personal volunteering throughout the year.

On behalf of these very deserving children I would like to thank you for your prayers and financial support from the nations. In situations such as this, the outpouring of love from Christians around the world speaks volumes to the Jewish Orthodox segment of the population, considering all the anti-Semitic rhetoric being spoken these days. Many times, they express to us how amazed they are that people--especially Christians--would be willing to extend a hand of friendship toward their people with nothing expected in return. Please know that your generous donation to Project Streams of Blessing is impacting and is leaving a lasting impression on the generations of tomorrow. May the God of Israel bless and keep you always. Thank you for your generous support.

Stacey Howard

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Standing with at-risk Youth





Life in Double Reality

"For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight." (Psalm 72:12, 14)

Most of the Holocaust Survivors today live in two realities – one of the present, another one of the past. Their present memories are often fading, and it does take an effort to remember daily assignments, while the past is often their most present memories.

Memories, memories. Like ravens they attack their victims, bother their minds, fluttering in and out, batting wings that will not lite, pecking the ground of rest and recovery until its left full of tiny holes. Especially in the dark hours of long nights, these unwelcomed winged guests from a horrific past start their invasion. The sun comes up in the morning and with its light warms cold hands and feet and chases the night birds and dark shadows of the past away.

Miriam recalls the day, in Auschwitz, when her hair was shaved, and how she lingered there, wanting to wait for her mother. The trauma they suffered in the camp is still vivid: constant hunger, roll-calls all the time, punishments such as being forced to hold their hands in the air for hours while on their knees if someone was missing from roll-call. **She was taken to the showers twice, but the gas failed** – another miracle of survival.

One horrible memory was of an SS Commander who tormented and killed one girl who was trying to flee. This young girl was a ballerina and the guards stripped her and sprayed her with cold water while forcing her to dance in the freezing winter. Of course, the girl danced further and further away from her tormentors, trying to escape the freezing water, until, finally, they shot her to death.

***"The generous soul
will be made rich,
and he who waters will
also be watered himself."***
Proverbs 11:25

Later, during a death march, they were deserted by the SS guards and, eventually, found themselves at an abandoned farm house. The first night, Miriam slept in a storage barn where her shoes were stolen while she slept. It was winter, and, in the morning, she walked, without shoes, into the main house. Upon entry, she found a large area that looked to be like a ballroom, mirrors lining the walls. The owners must have been very rich. As she walked forward, she could see someone walking towards her and she almost banged into the mirror. It was her own reflection, and she did not recognize herself. "It was a horrible feeling," she says.

Though Miriam opened her heart and shared many painful memories with us, she explained that her story was only a short version of all that happened to her during those years. This is typical of all our survivors, some able to share much of their story, while others cannot, due to the pain connected to them.

These precious survivors often tell us, in their own way, how much our visits mean to them, and how the kindness extended brings light to their lives. We know that the time we have with these beautiful ones is limited, and we treasure every minute with them. We could not continue our work without the prayers and faithful support of compassionate people like you. Thank you very much for your devotion to the work of restoration God is doing for His people in His Land.

Olga Kopilova
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Providing Comfort in the Field



Forging Lasting Friendships

Defending the Deed!

Two declarations sponsored by the representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Sudan passed in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) attacking Israel. These declarations deemed the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron and the Tomb of Rachel in Bethlehem as both residing in Occupied Palestine.

International spokesman for the Jewish Community of Hebron Yishai Fleisher called it "nothing but national-identity theft. The jihad uses UNESCO as a legitimate face in their mission to delegitimize the Jewish people's rights to the land of Israel, so they can continue their war against us."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later spoke at the United Nations where he mocked the resolution stating, "So is there no limit to the UN's absurdities when it comes to Israel? Well, apparently not. Because in July, UNESCO declared the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron a Palestinian World Heritage Site. That's worse than fake news; that's fake history. Mind you, it's true that Abraham, the father of both Ishmael and Isaac, is buried there, but so, too, are Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca - Sarah's a Jewish name, by the way--Sarah, Rebecca and Leah, who just happened to be patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jewish people. Well, you won't read about that in the latest UNESCO report,

but if you want to, you can read about it in a somewhat weightier publication. It's called the Bible.

Source: (en.hebron.org.il/news/936)

I've heard it said: it is not Camp David that validates a God-given title deed to the Nation of Israel, but rather King David who was required to defend its very existence. And not much has changed, other than the participants who strive to deny the facts of the historic record (the Bible) regarding the heart of God.

This point is reiterated once again with the recently upheld UNESCO ruling that both attempts to rewrite Biblical facts and also continues to require the modern-day King David's army to defend and protect a citizenship of Jews returning home - another God-given prophecy coming to pass. This defense posture is not only required in Hebron, which incidentally has a Jewish population of less than 1%, but continues along all of the God-given borders of Israel. The risk that these soldiers, Border Police, reservists and volunteers take is a deadly one to be sure.

In recent months, CFI's Project David's Shield has provided backpacks, sweatshirts, fleece blankets and words of encouragement to the brave defenders in and around the Judean city of Hebron. We know God's words

Thus the field of 'Efron in Machpelah, which is by Mamre — the field, its cave and all the trees in and around it — were deeded.

Genesis 23:17, CJB

are eternal and they are in full view yet today. The opportunity to communicate our solidarity with the young soldiers the fact that this Land is worthy of defending is great, but we also tell them that righteousness is at stake. God has spoken; therefore, it is...

We are afforded the opportunity to encourage and build morale due to the relationships forged with Base and Unit Commanders. CFI has long supported the Israel Defense Forces and the Israel Border Police and it's due to the support from those in the Nations who agree with the Word of God that enables us and provides the privilege to represent you. Thank you for your gracious and generous provision for this outreach which serves those who defend this God-appointed land.

Jim McKenzie
Project David's Shield
shield@cfjjerusalem.org



Faithfully Keeping Watch

As we here at Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem reflect on 2018, one thing is very clear, we need you in the upcoming year more than ever.

CFI's Project First Fruits was established by my father decades ago, and his heart was to assist the household of faith, in the land of Israel. Through friends such as yourself, over the years he was able to purchase chairs for growing congregations, assist with badly needed repair projects within the church, purchase computers and sound systems, as well as help congregants who had reached out to their pastor for both moral and financial help. My father's desire was also to help alleviate the burden from the pastor. Over the last three decades, the family of believers in Israel has grown exponentially from 10 to 20 congregations to over 200, so the importance of CFI's PROJECT FIRST FIRSTS has become more crucial than ever.

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28 (NIV)

When one keeps watch they are observing and continuously guarding and caring for someone or something; and a shepherd is one who tends, herds, feeds, or guards a flock. I believe that this is what CFI has been doing with your help for all these years. Being on the ground we see the needs of believers in the land and with your help prevent much hardship by lending a helping hand.

Over the last matter of months, thanks to your generous donations, Project First Fruits was able to help a single mother of two young children. Her goal was to become a seamstress so she could better provide for her family. We were able to pay her tuition in full; and all Praise to God, she has proven faithful to her dream. She will be completing her courses next summer and graduating in August 2019.

We also met Rachel who had recently moved to Israel, and received the news that she now has terminal lung cancer and so is unable to work. Her pastor reached out to us and we were able to pay her rent for the next three months as well as provide her with enough food vouchers to give her at least a month or two of solace.

We were also able to come to the aid of the Levine family who have been struggling financially as they have found themselves in a serious debt situation. They were unable to pay for their two-year-old son's pre-school tuition for the upcoming month. We were able to cover the month of tuition for them and provide them with much needed food vouchers for the next month as well.

To our faithful ministry partners, you have shown through your kindhearted giving your commitment to bless Israel and the Jewish people, and for that, all of us in Jerusalem thank you very much. You are helping us to provide life's basic necessities to the needy within the believing community throughout the Holy Land. As we close 2018, and you consider next year's contributions, please consider further investing in CFI - Jerusalem. We are nothing more than the conduit which brings your desire to help others to a reality here in the land. We are all just people helping people – that is what and who we are – and you, our friends in the nations, are definitely touching the heart of God as you help us bless His chosen people.

May peace and blessing be upon you, and your family, in the upcoming New Year!

Stacey Howard
Project First Fruits
fruits@cfjjerusalem.org



Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10(NIV)



Toys As Terror WEAPONS

"You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth." Psalm 52:3



Kites as Weapons

In recent months, the Israeli firefighters have been exhausted as they have battled the numerous blazes that have consumed wooded and agricultural areas in communities near the Gaza border due to the incendiary kite and balloon attacks from Gaza.

The daily fires sparked by these airborne arson devices have destroyed thousands of acres of farmland, crops, irrigation systems, forests, nature reserves and wildlife in the regions bordering the Gaza Strip. Over 7,000 acres of land had been burned as of August 11, 2018, causing millions of shekels in damages. Hamas has been seizing helium supplied by Israel to hospitals in Gaza and are using it to inflate incendiary balloons. Sadly, little can be done to prevent the helium from being used for these purposes.

What has been going on in this new wave of ongoing attacks along the security fence bordering Gaza, is the false claims by Hamas about "peaceful demonstrators" brutally targeted by "ruthless" Israeli soldiers which are detached from reality. The real story is that since March 30, 2018 Palestinians under the smokescreen of a civilian crowd--terror activists guided and motivated by the Hamas leadership and other terror groups--are seeking to destroy the security fence near the Gaza border. They mobilize brainwashed youth and use women and children as human shields. They knowingly ignore the security agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority that prohibits approaching the fence, and have launched hundreds of kites and helium balloons bearing flammable materials, and occasionally explosives, into Israeli territory.

Furthermore, on August 8, 2018 Hamas fired about 200 missiles into South Israel, causing several civilians in Sderot and other cities in the Negev to be injured while many others were treated for shock.

Reaching Out to Those Under Attack

Our CUA team has made several trips reaching out to the communities bordering Gaza that are affected most seriously by these incendiary kite and balloon attacks. Civilians and farmers are in despair and children are traumatized. Parents told us that now the children don't know how to view the kites and balloons as these toys have been turned into terror weapons by Hamas. The damage is devastating and is still ongoing. It saddens my heart deeply by the fact that the world has continuously chosen to be blind and believe the lies of Hamas rather than the truth (Psalm 52:3).

On your behalf, the CUA team has also gone to visit rocket attack victims at their homes in Sderot as well in other cities in South Israel shortly after they were injured. They were deeply touched by Christian love and support.

Thank you so much for making it possible for Project CUA to reach out to the communities undergoing such horrendous attack and hardship. To continue helping the communities under these ongoing attacks from Gaza, please designate your gift for "Project Communities Under Attack."

The Lord bless you from Zion,

Maggie Huang

Project Communities Under Attack
cua@cfjjerusalem.org



Love Conquers Destruction



FRONTPAGE Jerusalem

Brought to you by Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem



Earl Cox



Ben Kinchlow



Kevin Howard

Insights into Israel and the Middle East

From coast to coast across America and around the world, more listeners are tuning in to FrontPage Jerusalem to hear truth and inspiration about Israel. Highlighting experts in the areas of medicine, high-tech, innovation, biblical history and more, each 30-minute program is packed with understanding from co-hosts Earl Cox, Ben Kinchlow, and Kevin Howard. They bring both a realistic as well as a biblical perspective on the events unfolding in the Middle East region as they relate to Israel.

Finding an alternative to today's slanted secular media can be quite challenging, but FrontPage Jerusalem listeners continue to find quality information about Israel each week as we reach out to those right in the land of Israel.



To find out how you can find a radio station near you, or to listen online, send us your request or comments to feedback@cfijerusalem.org.

Staying Connected Around the World

Keeping up with the constant barrage of information that is pushed our way each day from sources all around the globe is next to impossible. For most, a choice has to be made to filter out the noise bombarding our email accounts, smart phone notifications, and media outlet headlines.

In deciding on your regular source of truth and information about Israel, you can always count on Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem to bring you the very latest true report, post of encouragement, or inspiring forward

from our Social Media team right in Jerusalem.

Whether you like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or some other application, you'll find us there to keep you informed and encouraged with some of the most important information available. Find your way to Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem on social media today.

Got questions?

Email: feedback@cfijerusalem.org

Finding the True Point of Focus

Gearing up for our 2019 season of production, Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem is beginning its schedule for the return of FocalPoint Television at the request of viewers around the world. Join us as we bring you experts on Israel and the Middle East in an easy to follow, packed full of information 30-minute program from Jerusalem.

As we prepare, be sure to contact us for information on how you can tune in to this new season.

Email: feedback@cfijerusalem.org

FocalPoint





Praying in Confidence

*For Zion's sake I will
not keep silent
for Jerusalem's sake
I will not remain quiet
as you trust in Him,
till her vindication
shines out like the dawn,
her salvation
like a blazing torch.*

Isaiah 62:1 NIV

The awakening of Christians around the world to the understanding of the need to pray for the nation of Israel is truly astounding. For the past few decades, the increase in those reaching the heavens in prayer for the nation and her people has grown exponentially. From small home cell meetings, to organized denominational prayer groups, to entire congregations, the Lord has poured out the spirit of prayer upon so many in the days in which we live. The growth in numbers involved in corporate prayer for the nation of Israel, is convincingly a move of the Holy Spirit that has been laid upon the hearts and minds of men and women around the world as God's time clock continues forward.

***For the Lord has chosen Zion,
He has desired it for His dwelling,
saying, "This is My resting place
for ever and ever; here I will sit
enthroned, for I have desired it.***
Psalm 132:13-14

Here at Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem, we have been surrounded by an army of prayer warriors from the nations for many decades, as so many of you have been faithful in your commitment to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and to pray for the nation of Israel. We are both honored and humbled by those who have dedicated countless hours, weeks, and years of their lives fulfilling the Lord's command to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, for Israel and for her people. As God's prophetic timeline continues forward, there are so many of you that have shared the answers to the prayers you have lifted to the throne room of heaven, and we never cease to be amazed at the words of wisdom and the victories received due to your unwavering commitment to spend quality time with the Lord in prayer.

As continued fuel for prayer in the new year of 2019, CFI – Jerusalem is

committed to providing you and your prayer teams with the very latest in understanding, fulfilled prophecy, and happenings on the ground in Israel through our many monthly online resources available for you. Each month, the Watchman's Prayer Letter, OnWatch Jerusalem, and Israel News Digest bring intercessors the most current prayer concerns for the nation of Israel and current news happenings in the land. Every other month, our Wall of Prayer Letter highlights a different city, town, or community in Israel as a highlighted focal point of prayer.

In continuing with our past mandate for the Wall of Prayer, we urge you to connect with us and let us know how we can help you connect with the Nation of Israel in Prayer. Tell us about the cities, towns or situations in Israel that you keep in prayer and intercession. If you haven't received a specific location from us in the past on which to focus in prayer, let us know and we will be happy to add you to the multitudes around the world by giving you a current and specific on-the-ground prayer need.

Now more than ever it is so important that we press into the heavenlies through intercession as so much prophecy continues to unfold around us. God's people are gathering, the nation is preparing, and surely the Messiah's arrival is on the horizon. Let us join together as Christians from around the world to pray in the confidence of our Lord, and according to His will for the nation of Israel.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15

prayer@cfijerusalem.org



Becoming a Community of Believers

In Jewish culture throughout Israel, the sense of community is paramount. While the family is the essential single unit of life, community involvement and awareness are key to everyday life. Each Shabbat, the family comes together for a time of unity and the families of the community come together corporately in synagogue, prayer, and unity of spirit. It is this community that brings a knowledge of belonging, an awareness of security, and the understanding of shared responsibility. The effect of community in Israel connects everyone together in a combined network that is personal, appreciated, and highly treasured.

In the Christian world, we would do well to understand more from our Jewish brothers and sisters in creating that same sense of community that unites us in our faith and reliance on each other. That's one of the main reasons that Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem established its Churches for Israel program more than a decade ago. CFI – Jerusalem Churches for Israel is not just a network of believers around the world, but a true sense of shared community value, understanding and support that combines to produce a powerful connection to the land and people of the nation of Israel.

While congregations worldwide realize the tremendous impact of true information

concerning Israel provided by our teams in Jerusalem, it is the collective community of congregations around the globe in one voice of prayer, support and unconditional love for Israel that contains a powerful spiritual impact on the nation as well as touching the very heart of the Lord.

Becoming a Christian Friends of Israel Church for Israel is absolutely one of the best and most impactful things that your congregation can do in the prophetic days in which we live. Partnering with CFI – Jerusalem as a congregation committed to the Word of God and His promises concerning Israel, you will join multitudes around the globe that give unconditional love, intercessory prayer, and financial support to the people of Israel. Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem, and finding ways to truly bless Israel in the times in which live is of utmost priority as God continues to unveil the fulfillment of His prophetic future.

If your congregation understands the need to support Israel and her people, and hasn't yet taken that step to become a CFI – Jerusalem Church for Israel, then heading into a brand-new year might just be the perfect time. Find out more ways that your congregation can get connected to our global community of Churches for Israel at CFI – Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, brothers,

I call on you in the
name of our Lord

Yeshua the Messiah

to agree, all of you, in

what you say, and not to

let yourselves remain split

into factions but

be restored to having a

common mind and a

common purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (CJB)

churches@cfijerusalem.org



God is There Through all Things

Elizaveta Dranovskaya

was born in the Ukraine in November 1935. Her father

was an officer. Her mother had just finished her studies and become a teacher of Russian language and literature. Liza, as people usually call her, was the first child in the family. Her brother, Yuriy, was born three and a half years later. At that time, they didn't have any Jewish traditions in their home. The parents of Liza were communists. The grandmother, who lived with them and took care of the children, was a religious woman. She taught Liza the prayer "Shma." "You should pray this prayer every time, when you are in danger or when you have difficulties in your life," she said. The atmosphere in their home was warm.

When the war began in the Ukraine in 1941, Liza's father went to fight with the Soviet army. He didn't see his dear ones for four years. The rest of the family evacuated to Armenia. The trip took about one month. They were in a railway carriage together with horses and many other people. The conditions were terrible. They didn't have any food and they were very hungry. So, Liza with others stole the food that was given to the horses. When the train stopped at some stations, they immediately went to look for water. People didn't get anything to drink in the train. There were a lot of different people travelling in those carriages. Not only Jews were fleeing the war--there were Russians, Ukrainians and many other nationalities together.

When the family finally settled in Armenia Liza's mother started to work. The children went to a nursery. Liza was six years old then. One year later she went to school. Sometimes

Liza was beaten by boys. They called her "a Jew". The reason for their behavior was envy rather than racism. From the beginning until the end of the studies this girl got the best grades in the school.

When Liza's father came back from the war, their family was living together for a while, but as usual the Soviet officers were sent many different places. So, the family needed to move. Only Liza stayed in the same city until she finished school. Her parents paid a family, where she was living.

In 1952 Elizaveta moved to Leningrad (now St.-Petersburg). From childhood, she had desired to study microbiology. With her excellent grades Liza got into the university and studied there five years. During that time, she was married. With her husband, she moved to Moscow and started her career in the Capital. Elizaveta Dranovskaya dedicated her life to the fight against different epidemics, contagious diseases and bacteria. She started as a candidate. In 1977, she became a doctor of microbiology. She worked 45 years putting her own health at risk in the research of dangerous epidemics.

Also in 1952 Elizaveta gave birth to her one and only daughter, who years later was married to a religious Zionist. This family made Aliyah in 1992 and lived in a town called Beit-El in Judea (only 300 meters from Ramallah). Because of her daughter Elizaveta moved to Israel in 1997. She took care of little grandchildren for two years. In 1999, she moved to Jerusalem and started to work in her specialty with a local professor. At that time, she was told about CFI, and she came to the Distribution Center as a new immigrant.

Let my mouth be filled with **Your praise** and with **Your glory** all the day. Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails. Psalm 71:8-9 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 71:20-21

In 2000, Elizaveta's brother, Yuriy, moved to Israel. He had cancer. The doctors gave him only two months, but with the help of good medicine and prayers he lived in Israel two years. While taking care of her brother Liza couldn't go to work anymore. She got a small amount of social support from the state of Israel. It was the only income that they had. CFI gave them food vouchers, clothes and other needed things. The volunteers visited Liza's home many times. They helped her get to the doctors and so on. It was God's support to have Christian friends in that time of trouble.

Elizaveta is very thankful to CFI for all the help she has received during the years. She appreciates the opportunity to come to the Distribution Center to get some clothing. Her pension is small, and she wants to help her grandchildren that are already young adults in the Land. "I know many dear people who have been volunteering in CFI. Some of the new volunteers have also become my friends. The support that I get from you is very important. It helps me survive, because I am already physically weak and very sick. Your home visits are also appreciated." she says.

Tiina Karkkainen

Project Open Gates

gates@cfjjerusalem.org

"The best way to support Israel is to send good garments, bedding, clothes and other needed things. By organizing trips and cultural events for the old and sick people you can also be a big blessing to this Land."





Sharing Treasured Moments



Belonging Like Family



Care Beyond Compare

The Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem Bridal Salon has received nearly 100 new dress arrivals during 2018. We want to thank the generous donations of those in the nations that have provided these amazing wedding gowns for new Israeli brides. Your prayers and financial support are also needed to keep the very personal and relational project operating.

*The Lord will perfect that which concerns me;
Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.
Psalm 138:8*

Fulfillment of the *Heart*

My heart is filled with gratitude to God because He gave me the great privilege of serving Him and His precious people here in Jerusalem. I volunteered with CFI for a little more than six years. I was conference coordinator, receptionist, and Bridal Salon coordinator and it was also an amazing experience to see the fulfillment of ancient prophecies as I had the opportunity to talk with and welcome new “olim” at the Distribution Center.

I enjoyed assisting every bride, groom, every mother of the bride or groom, each person who received kind treatment. It was a joy to bring out a beautiful dress or special item for their happy occasion from the hands and hearts of Christians who love their God and love them unconditionally.

I will always treasure those faces and memories in my mind and my heart. May the LORD prosper this vision and ministry in the following years and bring the right person to be in charge of this unique project as I move to the next season in God’s plans for my life.

Thanks to all of you as well for your faithful support and love for CFI and for each one of us who are your feet, hands and voice in the Land of Promise.

Patricia Cuervo Vera

CFI Bridal Salon

Volunteer 2012-2018

bridal@cfjjerusalem.org





Giving of Ourselves

While your first visit to Israel is a life-changing experience that brings inspiration, awakening and revelation to what God is doing in the land and with His Chosen people, many who come to Israel find that they just can't be released from the need to return. Here at Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem, we continuously encounter those who return not just to see more, but to actually experience and do more. That's why partnering with CFI – Jerusalem becomes a multiplied blessing to those who return for the connection to the people of Israel through volunteering with our many projects.

While volunteering with CFI – Jerusalem offers tangible help to people in real need and their community, the benefits usually become even greater for you, the volunteer. Those who volunteer through helping others can reduce stress, combat depression, remain mentally and spiritually stimulated, and find a renewed sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy schedule. Giving in simple tangible ways can help those in need, and improve your own health, happiness and spiritual walk.

That's why Christian Friends of Israel has designed a partnering volunteer program that allows you to simply join us on a planned visit to Israel in whatever way is best for you. Whether you are staying a few days, or a few weeks longer on a scheduled tour, or making a special trip just to help out, we can help you reach those most in need in Israel. For most, after the experience of touring and seeing what Israel has to offer, the time comes when many Christians simply want to give back to the people of the land of Israel-

finding those close relationships that will last a lifetime. They connect at the heart with people that have never experienced the love that Christians bring in the name of Yeshua. So many Israelis are touched to the core of their being to know that Christians--Gentiles from the nations--care about, pray for, and are willing to spend their own time and finances to love, serve and partner with the nation of Israel and her people.

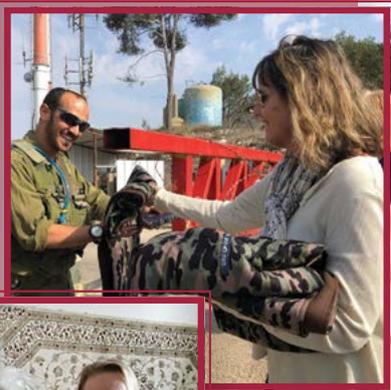
Each year in the fall, our CFI – Jerusalem teams are so blessed to have a regular four-week commitment from our friends in Colorado, USA known as Christians Serving Israel. They plan each year to spend time serving, loving, and simply being with the people of Israel that are assisted by the ministry efforts of Christian Friends of Israel. From assigned work teams that help with repairs and painting, to food baskets and blankets of love, these amazing volunteers give of themselves each year to tangibly touch the lives of needy Israelis throughout the nation.

If you, your prayer group, or your entire congregation are considering ways that you can be the most impactful in your time in the land of Israel, please let us know and we'll work with you to explain ways that will make your experience of volunteering in Israel the beginning of life-long memories that will not only touch your heart, but complete the purpose you have as Christians to fulfill the words of Isaiah 40 as you comfort, comfort His people. Find out more today, as you plan your next trip to Israel by emailing us at: events@cfjjerusalem.org. You will not be able to imagine all God will do in your life as you serve His chosen people in Israel.

Kevin Howard
events@cfjjerusalem.org



**“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)**





 **CFI Brazil**

Christian Friends of Israel Brazil is making great strides in connecting and celebrating with multiple denominations and cities throughout the country. This fall they hosted a tremendous Sukkot celebration that included Israeli dance and cuisine along with praise and worship with many traditional Jewish songs. Along with the celebration, Pastor Abeni Bastos and his team brought biblical teaching on the Feast of Tabernacles and delivered messages that both inspired and encouraged the understanding of the commitment and connection that Christians have to the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.

Without a doubt, the Spirit of God was present in their time of fellowship and celebration as Christian believers in Yeshua, dedicated to pray for and support the nation of Israel with their heartfelt love that was tangibly felt by all in attendance. Thank you, CFI Brazil, for your strong and ongoing commitment to CFI – Jerusalem.

Pastor Abeni Bastos
abenieclaudia@hotmail.com

 **CFI Switzerland**

Our dear Christian Friends of Israel – Switzerland office has been staying quite busy as they journeyed to Holland this fall to visit the Corrie ten Boom house there. After an amazing visit, they invited a guide from Holland to come to Switzerland and share the incredible story of the ten Boom family with believers in Switzerland. The very personal evening brought more than 30 guests to their home for the evening. How wonderful it was to keep the memory alive of the difficult account of Nazi occupation in Holland, and the more than 800 Jewish lives that were saved by the ten Boom family during the Holocaust-- commemorated at Jerusalem’s Yad VaShem Holocaust memorial.

The message made many wonder how Christians would react today if those same life-threatening needs were to ever arise again. The impact of their obedience to the word of God and their love for His Chosen people was deeply felt by everyone present. Thank you, CFI – Switzerland, for your long-standing and continuing love and support for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.

Erika & Walter Mathys
caisuisse@bluemail.ch

When preparing your love offerings for those most in need IN ISRAEL, please remember to specify that your gift is for CFI-JERUSALEM.

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**



CFI Germany

Combining the talents in their family, the Christian Friends of Israel – Germany team is spending time traveling around their nation in conference speaking, worship leading, translation, and ministry engagement participation. Amber and Ewald Sutter were in Berlin during October, along with multiple other ministries at an event bringing more than 1,300 visitors, all eager to hear what God is doing today in Israel and how they could connect.

Highlighting the sessions, Amber and Ewald sang the “Shma Israel” for all in attendance before MK Rabbi Yehuda Glick was to speak. He was so touched by the singing of that song in Germany, that he shared his personal thanks to all members of their band. And for CFI – Germany, the next generation is completely involved as the Sutter’s 9-year-old daughter was called upon to escort a Holocaust Survivor for the Memorial Day session in remembrance of the “Night of Broken Glass” that had taken place 80 years prior when that survivor was only 9 years old himself.

In November, the Sutters were off to Frankfurt to attend the 5th German Israel Congress at the Central Congress Center with the title “Israel – Nation of Nations, Jerusalem – City of Nations”. Participating along with a total of 109 Israel ministries represented, CFI – Germany continued to share how Christian Friends of Israel has continued to directly reach out as the hands and feet of Yeshua for more than three decades in Israel to more than 1,800 in attendance.

Our heartfelt thanks to CFI – Germany for the tremendous efforts they continue to put forth for the kingdom of God and for His Chosen People in Israel.

Amber and Ewald Sutter
info@cfri.de



CFI Australia

Pastor Patrick Russell has stepped up to the challenge of his second bi-annual conference in Townsville, Australia and is reaching out to more in his nation than ever before. Held the last Friday and Saturday in October, Patrick brought in speaker Naim Khoury from Bethlehem to share on the power of prayer for this hour. Supporters of Christians Friends of Israel from many parts of Australia attended the two-day conference, as well as many newcomers. They were blessed as well as challenged to become greater intercessors for the nation of Israel and her people. While believers in Israel are able to worship freely and find their ancient historic sites protected and preserved, the persecution of Christians in places like Bethlehem and Nazareth continues at the hands of Arab Muslims under Palestinian Authority control.

The need to continue to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, and the nation of Israel has never been greater, and CFI – Australia is leading the way with Patrick Russell at the head. Just before arriving back to Australia for his conference, CFI – Jerusalem was greatly blessed as Patrick brought his tour group of over 30 members from around Australia to our Jerusalem Distribution Center for a complete understanding of the more than 30 years of compassion and care for the people of Israel. Thank you to all of our dear friends in Australia, for your ongoing support and intercession for the nation of Israel.

Patrick Russell
cfi_australia@hotmail.com



CFI Bulgaria

The ongoing effects of terrorism continue to leave their mark on the world around us each year and remembering the sudden and tragic loss of the innocent must remain a goal for those in the nations who truly care, especially when those attacks are motivated by the hate of anti-Semitism. Christian Friends of Israel – Bulgaria accepted the invitation to recently attend a ceremony honoring the victims of a Hezbollah terrorist attack that took place at Bulgaria’s Bourgas Airport in 2012.

A terrorist of Lebanese-French origin linked to Hezbollah carried out a suicide attack on a bus with Israeli tourists arriving for vacation in the Bulgarian resort “Sunny Beach.” Five Israeli citizens, including one pregnant woman, along with their Bulgarian bus driver were killed in the attack, while 38 others were seriously injured. Members of the CFI – Bulgaria team quickly responded, and went to the hospital to pray for the wounded just after the attack took place. Now six years later, CFI – Bulgaria’s team members still honor those victims lost, with the laying of flowers at the memorial site at the airport.

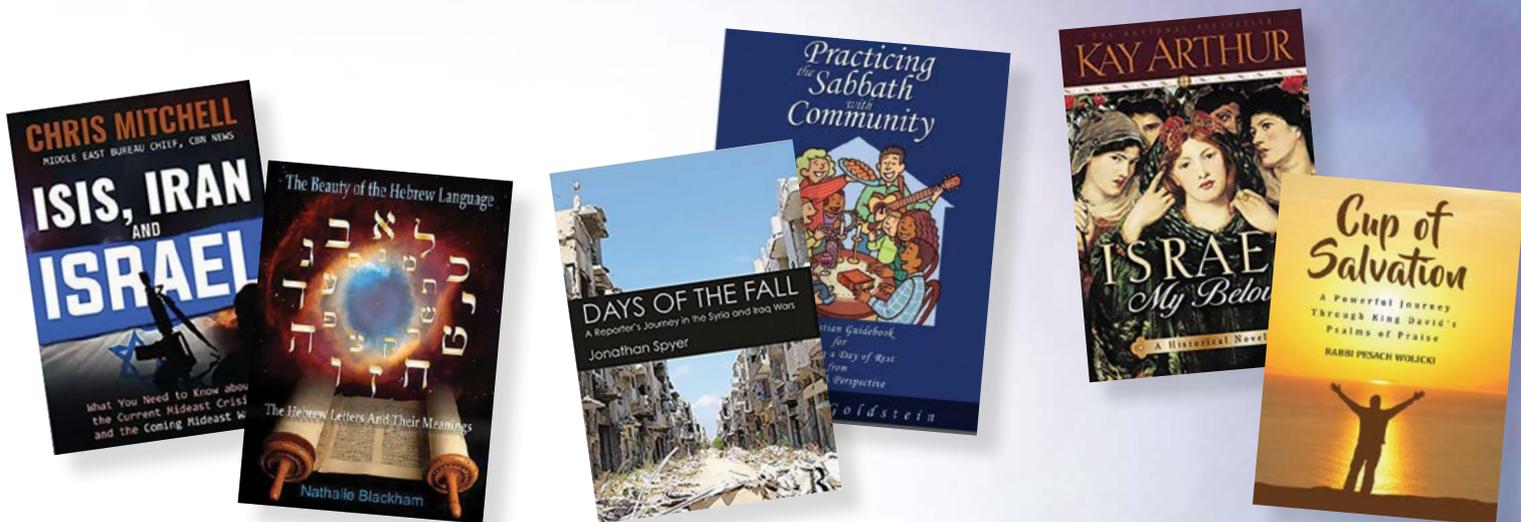
Each year the event is remembered and attended by many Bulgarian statesmen, politicians, and journalists from around the country. Thank you, CFI – Bulgaria, for your unwavering commitment to the people of the nation of Israel as you stand strong in friendship, support and love for the Jewish people. May the God of Israel bless those who keep alive the memory of the covenant that God has made with His Chosen People.

Mitka Atanasova
cfi_bg@yahoo.com



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.



ISIS, Iran and Israel

Chris Mitchell

What you need to know about the current Middle East crisis and the coming Middle East War. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns Iran is developing nuclear weapons not just to annihilate Israel but to destroy the West. U.S. Senator Tom Cotton tells us the Iran deal will lay nuclear trip wires throughout the Middle East, while a German reporter writes ISIS is planning a nuclear tsunami to fulfill its apocalyptic version of Islam.

The Beauty of the Hebrew Language

Nathalie Blackham

In this book Nathalie Blackham takes us on an exciting journey as she shares the spiritual secrets and rich insights God has shown her from the Hebrew language, specifically the Hebrew alphabet. She is not alone in her discoveries. Just as Nathalie writes, this is a worldwide movement. It is one of the signs of the end times that we are living on the threshold of the kingdom of God in the earth when Jesus returns to rule and reign from Jerusalem. Then “the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

Days of the Fall

Jonathan Spyer

This book takes the reader into the heart of the terrible wars in Syria and Iraq. This 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 seeks to place these events within a broader framework.

Practicing the Sabbath with Community

Daniel Goldstein

How does one make a weekly day of rest a reality in this fast-paced world? Practicing the Sabbath with Community has been written to answer this question. The author, Daniel Goldstein has been living in Israel for the past several years and has been living out the Sabbath in community. It is from this perspective that he provides an in-depth look at the traditional Jewish celebration of the Sabbath, accompanied with many practical insights for singles and families alike in order to restore a weekly day of rest that is fun and rejuvenation.

Israel My Beloved

Kay Arthur

It is just past dawn in the life of Israel. Rich with promise, the young nation anticipates a golden future. Yet in their confidence, the Chosen Ones recklessly pursue a path that leads away from their nation’s venerated past. And thus begins the nightmare... As Israel’s sons and daughters are scattered across the globe, pursued by ruthless Grecian and Roman conquerors, bloodthirsty Crusaders with sharp swords and empty hearts, and terrifying leaders of Hitler’s Third Reich, the threads of the once-proud nation continue to fray. Yet amazingly, another garment of hope and peace is being tightly woven together - never to be undone.

Cup of Salvation

Rabbi Pesach Wolicki

Authored by Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, Cup of Salvation: A Powerful Journey Through King David’s Psalms of Praise is a careful study of the original Hebrew text of Psalms 113-118, also known as the “Hallel”, leading us on a journey of praise and worship for all that God does in our lives.

To purchase these great books and other resources visit www.cfijerusalem.org and click on Store.



*For the poor will never cease from the land;
therefore, I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide
to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'*

Deuteronomy 15:11, NKJV

HELPING OTHERS IS A COMMAND

While many Christians around the world think of themselves as giving people, it is in teaching our children and grandchildren the importance of giving to others-- whether it be time, money or committed prayer--that are the most valuable character traits we can pass on to the next generation. The Bible is filled with verses and examples of people, of all ages, who helped those in need. The command listed in Deuteronomy above is part of the instruction given by God through Moses to the people of Israel, and still highly valued among Jews and Christians alike today.

When you give of yourself for others, it doesn't matter if you give a lot or a little--it's a matter of the heart!

Research has identified a link between making a contribution to charity work and the increased activity in the area of the brain that registers joy, which solidifies the following Scripture from Paul to the Corinthians.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, ESV)

This could be the very "heart medicine" you've been looking for!

Giving out of our own need to sow blessing into those whose needs are greater than our own, brings blessing to both the giver and the receiver.

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:32-35, NIV).

Won't you be encouraged today to make a lasting difference in the life of someone in desperate need in the land of Israel? You never know how your act of kindness could draw someone back to or even closer to God. The Word of God is filled with examples for all of life's needs, and the more we read and study, the more relevant every living word is for today. Each of us should consider it a blessing to have this type of powerful information available in Scripture that can help to improve the lives of others!

I pray 2019 proves to be an amazingly blessed year for you, your families, and those you hold most dear. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon, about the blessing that the Lord brings your way!

Stacey Howard

Executive / International Director

Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem



Celebrating Shavuot in JERUSALEM

For so many in the nations, the annual Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem conference and tour is the highlight of their year. Coming together to worship, praise, and hear firsthand about the nation of Israel is inspiring, awakening, and always a great time had by all. The last two years have seen record-setting tourism to Israel as the streets of Jerusalem were filled with visitors celebrating Jerusalem's 50th Anniversary of Reunification as well as Israel's 70th Birthday. Last year's CFI – Jerusalem Conference hosted an outstanding lineup of speakers and the response of thanks and excitement was beyond measure.

This year's conference is celebrating the Feast of Shavuot in the city of Jerusalem, also known as the Feast of Pentecost. Our celebration will take place beginning Monday evening June 3rd, and continue through to the evening of Wednesday, June 5th at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem, the official national memorial of one of the greatest leaders of the Jewish people in the 20th century. Planned speakers include favorites such as Sharon Sanders – CFI – Jerusalem co-founder emeritus, Rick Ridings – Founder of Succat Hallel, Jonathan Spyer – Director of the Rubin Center, David Nekrutman – Executive Director of CJCUC, Chris Mitchell – Middle East Bureau Chief of CBN News, MK Rabbi Yehuda Glick, and so many more. Land tours before and after the conference are already forming in the nations, so you have ample ability to join right in, or organize one of your own with your congregation and friends.

To find out more out about registration, accommodations, tour groups and leaders, and the full agenda of speakers and special events, contact Sarah at:

events@cfjjerusalem.org

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@cfjjerusalem.org.

CFI Representative Nearest You