

For Zion's Sake

First Quarter 2011 Jewish Year 5771

The Challenging of God's Eternal Words

**"Yea, hath God Said...?"
Genesis 3:1**



Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem

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Shalom from Jerusalem



Ray Sanders

"Fear them not therefore; for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak you in light: and what you hear in the ear, that preach you upon the housetops" (Matthew 10:26, 27).

The Dangers of Peace Agreements

All of us are aware of the consternation created by Julian Assange's Wikileaks organization in the leaking of diplomatic cables relating to sensitive political issues. Whereas, some of the cables were politically embarrassing for their authors, their contents provided insight into crucial issues regarding Israel and her Arab neighbors. Of particular importance was Saudi Arabia and Jordan's insistence that the US Administration act more responsibly toward the genuine threat that Iran poses for all the nations in the Middle East and beyond. It was expressed that sanctions are clearly not working and more direct action needed to be taken sooner than later. In fact, Jordan expressed frustration and concern over the Obama administration's incompetence in handling the Iranian threat. One Jordanian Senator beseeched the US to bomb Iran's nuclear installations or "live with an Iranian bomb."

As the US Administration continues to seek appeasement with Iran, and is therefore perceived as being weak, the implications are telling. In 2004, King Abdullah of Jordan warned the West of the growing influence of Iran in the region. However, his warning went unheeded and today not only Lebanon and Syria have fallen under Iranian control but also Iraq, Turkey, Qatar, Gaza and increasingly Oman, Yemen and Afghanistan are also either willing or unwilling members of the axis. This development bodes ill for both Israel and the US as these nations will become more radicalized by Iran's influence. Unfortunately, Abdullah has just accepted a state visit to Iran indicating Jordan is seeking her own "peace agreement" with Iran.

Obviously, Israel does not exist in a vacuum and these regional realignments are impacting her relationship with the Palestinian Authority. Increasingly, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is hardening his position regarding negotiations with Israel, placing almost daily obstacles in the path of any resolution of the conflict. It would seem that the US perceived weakness is the motivation for the PA's intransigence. In addition, Hamas is continuing to launch mortar shells

and Kassam rockets into Israel while warning the IDF not to invade the Gaza Strip in retaliation. IDF Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi called the situation in Gaza "fragile and explosive." However, he believes that Hamas is not willing to escalate the violence as it has not fully recovered from losses experienced two years ago during the IDF's Cast Lead operation.

The situation along Israel's northern border with Lebanon remains quiet while Hizbullah continues to rearm with rockets capable of reaching all of Israel. This is a very troubling reality. An all out attack against Israel by Hizbullah would have devastating consequences in the loss of civilian and military life. What is even more worrying is the possibility of Syria and Hamas joining in the attack. Should this become a reality, Israel may be forced to respond with a limited nuclear weapon against Damascus and Beirut. The destruction of Damascus is foretold in Isaiah 17:1, and is possibly the next major prophetic event to occur in the Middle East.



PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas

As more and more nations come under Iran's political and military influence, Israel is finding herself increasingly isolated and marginalized. Outwardly, everything appears rather tranquil, but inwardly Israel's enemies are planning her destruction. All their pronouncements of seeking peace with Israel is simply a cover to conceal their real motives. As we continue to pray for Israel's security and protection, I

am reminded of the warning from Jeremiah 6:14, *"They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace."*

In His Service,

Ray Sanders

Ray Sanders

International/ Executive Director



The Challenging of God's Eternal Words

"Yea, hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1)

By Sharon Sanders

A coldness goes through my being when I think of the unbelievable disrespect (*chutzpah* in Hebrew meaning "the nerve") that global voices today dare to propagate. They spew outright lies often cloaked in religiosity. With the click of a computer key, countless minds around the earth are influenced to believe their lies. I credit the devil himself! We must never forget one of the greatest deceptions in the history of the world was spread through a well-known historical dictator who pounded a podium with his fist and spread his lies. He privately said "make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." He also said, "The victor will never be asked if he told the truth." (Adolph Hitler) Truth is being trampled on when "religious" leaders say, "there is no longer a Chosen People." Something has gone terribly wrong.

Misguided Statements

Palestinian self-righteous rhetoric emphasized recently: "The Jews are not entitled to even one inch of land..." Have they checked the Bible to uphold that declaration? At a gathering in Rome, October 10-24, 2010, Cyril Salim Bustros, a Lebanese Greek Melkite Archbishop delivered a statement at the Vatican saying, "The Holy Scriptures cannot be used to justify the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of the Palestinians, to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestinian lands." He also added, "The original promises made by God to the children of Israel were nullified by Christ. There is no longer a chosen people." As if that were not sufficient, he further attached another statement "We Christians cannot speak of the 'promised land' as an exclusive right for a privileged Jewish people. This promise was nullified by Christ. There is no longer a chosen people—all men and women of all countries have become the chosen people." The serpent's words, couched in religious terminology, are delivered by many people, who, under his influence (in many cases without realizing it) quote the Bible—and misuse it to teach others principles that oppose what sacred text says. *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ"*

(2 Corinthians 11:13). The synod called on the Vatican to address the rising persecution of Christians in the Middle East (i.e., Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and most recently Egypt) but wrapped up with a joint statement that focused attention on demanding Israel end its "occupation" of Arab lands. The bulk of the two-week meeting was spent discussing how Israel is the root cause of all the Middle East woes, including those faced by its Christians.

Statements like the one from Archbishop Bustras cause people to question God's Word. It is an old enemy tactic. God spoke the world into existence and man says it was a "big bang" with no reference to the Creator. God says man is from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7), the serpent cleverly whispers we "evolved" from apes—anything to make God seem to be a liar. **"God is not a man that He should lie"** (Numbers 23:19). My personal question would be who gives Archbishop Bustras (or anyone else) the authority to twist the sacred writings and tell others that they no longer mean what they say. **We must anchor our lives on the bedrock permanence of God's Holy Word.**

More Confusing Statements

A movie entitled, *With God on Our Side*, claims Christians who love Israel have been led astray and that the Jews are no longer the Chosen People of God. As such, they have no legitimate claim to the Land of Israel and Biblical promises regarding the Land no longer apply to the Jews. The aforementioned synod meeting and the film have a lot in common. They reject a reading of the Bible at face value. When it comes to the promises of God to Israel, "they revive Replacement Theology, they demonize Zionist Christians with charges of propagating a false doctrine that causes human (i.e., Palestinian) suffering and bloodshed, and they embrace Islamist ideology by recognizing Muslim claims to the Land over Jewish ones." (Gil Brenstone, *Israel Today*, 2/10). "...we cannot form doctrines based on human reasoning. It must be based on the Word, and in Jeremiah 31:35-36, God states that Israel will be a nation before me forever...it is an unconditional and eternal covenant that God cut with Himself...It is a fight over the soul of the Church...we cannot be ruled by emotion, but rather must be ruled by God's Word" (Quoted from *Israel Today* from a new book written by Elijah Ben-Haim, Director of Intercrossors for Israel entitled, *Setting the Record Straight*).

Jesus is a Palestinian

Recently Palestinian Media Watch (PMA) (pmw@palwatch.org) reported a lie propagated in the late 1980's in Jerusalem by Hanan Ashwari that Jesus was a Palestinian. "No one denies that," says PA television. PMA stated, "One of the ways the Pales-

tinian Authority attempts to create a Palestinian history is to deny the Jewish nationality of Jesus and misrepresent Him." They say, "The Shahid" (Martyr) President Yasser Arafat used to say: 'Jesus was the first Palestinian Shahid.' Fatah even claims Jesus and Mary were Palestinians par excellence according to their speeches. To take the lie even further they misrepresented Jesus by saying "Jesus...was a 'Palestinian' who preached Islam." (PA Television, (Fatah), 12 May, 2009, and 3 December, 2010). **Innumerable people who do not know the Bible may actually end up believing this heretical propaganda!**

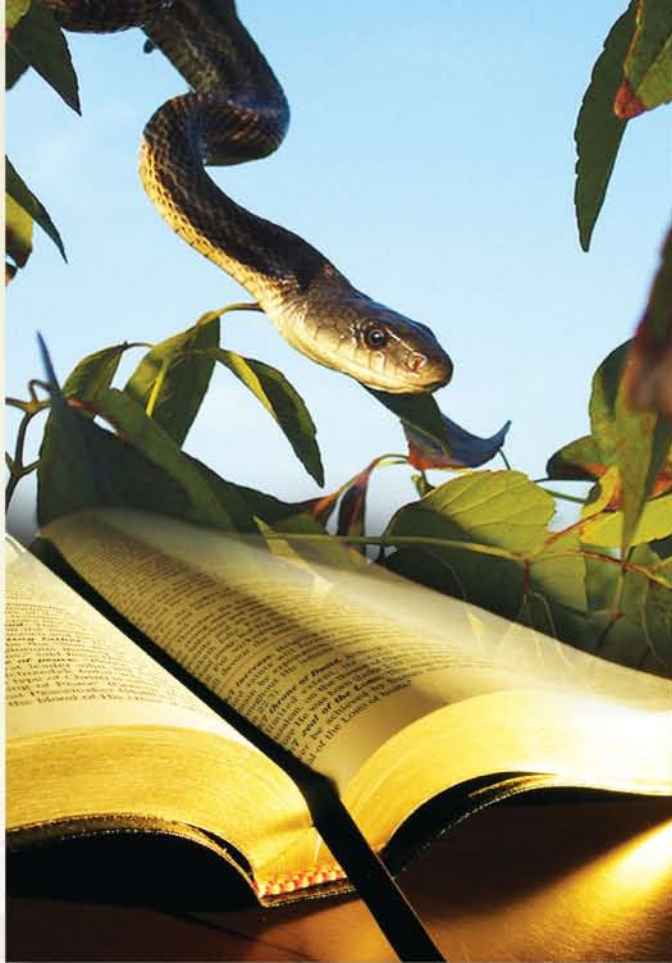
Does God Really Mean What He Has Said?

The first recorded words of the devil constituted a challenge to God's Word: "...yea, *but* God said...?" (Hebrew: *af ki amar Elohim*, Genesis 3:1, KJV). The Hebrew word *arum* means subtle. Subtlety is a character trait of the serpent. "The commentary on the Biblical Hebrew for the word *arum* is craftiness. That is to say that the serpent possessed guile that enabled it to manipulate Eve...the serpent covered over the truth with its craftiness." (*Good Times Ltd*, www.hebrewtoday.com). To this day, the devil hasn't dropped that challenge. He twists God's Word to manipulate others' way of thinking.

In the Torah, (the Jewish Scriptures) the expression "**thus saith the Lord**" occurs over two thousand times. On numerous occasions Yeshua submitted to its authority and warded off each temptation of the devil with, "**It is written.**" The apostles held this view too. Paul insisted that "**all Scripture is breathed out by God**" (2 Timothy 3:16). He claimed, "**This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words**" (1 Corinthians 2:13 NIV)... "**For no prophecy of Scripture was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit**" (2 Peter 1:21) ... Anyone who fears the Lord would have to agree that to challenge the Supreme Being of the Universe, God Almighty, is an arrogant and prideful thing to do...especially when you are connected to or representing the clergy.

John Wesley argued: "The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying 'Thus saith the Lord' when it was their own invention...therefore, the Bible must be given by Divine inspiration."

The Bible explains: "**The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned...**" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Only the gracious, internal working of the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of a person's heart to the things of God and His plans and purposes for Israel and the Church. B. B. Warfield put



“That is to say that the serpent possessed guile that enabled it to manipulate Eve... the serpent covered over the truth with its craftiness.”

it this way, “How unquestionably we must receive its statements...bow before its enunciations of duty, tremble before its warnings, and rest upon its promises.”

Choose To Believe Or Not

Henry Blackaby said: “Since Adam and Eve, people have had to choose who to believe. Satan convinced them that disobeying God would gain them everything. Instead it robbed them of all they had, and for the rest of their lives they experienced only a fraction of the blessing God intended...” Man’s degradation began at the fall of mankind; but how low can creation stoop when it points its finger in God’s Face and questions the One who spoke everything into being!

The countdown to the “twelve o’clock gong” (I do not mean doomsday or the end of time) is a summons to all of us that we are approaching days that may change

history (as we know it). We clearly see that the enemies of Israel are arrogantly challenging God’s Plans and Purposes for the nation. It is a pretentious persuasion being used—influencing others by employing the method of casting doubt on God’s eternal words. We could be close to a period of intense darkness. It is my opinion that man is hitting rock bottom when they openly attempt to make God’s Word obsolete to fit their own agendas.

The Scriptures have to be our bedrock foundation! The devil tries to weaken our stand for Israel through questioning, replacing, and doubting the Sacred Writings. Satan is a schemer, destroyer and thief, who desires worship for himself, worship that belongs to God alone. We must be aware of his ways. Yeshua taught us, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4). At present much of the Church is engaged in an intense spiritual struggle to not relinquish one’s faith in God’s Word and waver in their devotion to Him.

A Courageous Move of Restoration

One of the most heroic moves in the Church came recently when close to 50 members of the Amish Christian communities in the United States and Switzerland visited Israel to apologize to the Jewish People for having rejected Israel and the Jews. The Amish, famous for shunning modern technology, waived their restrictions by boarding cars and an airplane in order to arrive in Israel for their apology. They repented of their historical belief that the Church had replaced Israel and even that Hitler was God’s agent in punishing the Jews for their rejection of Jesus. “You were God’s people long before we were,” they said. “Our people have had some bad attitudes toward the Jewish people...we have come to we have come to say we are sorry and apologize.”

A document stated that the Amish will, from now on, speak out strongly in support of the Jews and the Jewish state. What a shining example the Amish have set for the Church worldwide as a shield against an increasingly aggressive campaign to reverse the nation’s Divine restoration. The sad side is that the Church worldwide many times have rejected the Amish. It is my opinion the Amish have led the way in the *“...restoration of all things”* (Acts 3:21) which will be prior to the Lord’s return.

From my own convictions, I believe we are all presented with the decision to believe God or not and that what He has spoken He has spoken and it is *“settled forever in Heaven”* (Psalm 119:89). We must choose where we stand and make certain we are on the Lord’s side and reject false interpretations when we hear them (Revelation 2:2). As for myself, I believe all of His Eternal words. Have you made that decision? ■

Mt Carmel Relief Fund

The 50-meter flames are gone, the hillsides are charred and homes burned, but the survivors of the terrible disaster which took place less than one month ago, have **a long recovery ahead of them**. It was a very painful and traumatic time. What was the feeling of many of them as they stood before their dwelling place, looking at nothing more than a burned out shell? Just hours before that house had warmed them in the winter chill as they sat at their tables sipping hot coffee.

For most, it will take extended periods of emotional recovery, as well as help with rebuilding.

Burned out homes



Photo by Carrie Hart

With thanks to the nations who responded to help Israel, we now look at the long term effects of hundreds of families across the Mt. Carmel region. They are the children from Beit Oren orphanage, the firefighters and rescue teams who found 15 former Prison Service cadets who had tried to escape from the inferno (to no avail) embracing one another burned and charred. There are many families still in need of help with food and necessities: those in severe trauma, those who have just left hospital, those on the road to recovery, and the widows of the cadets and the **families of 44 victims whose lives were snuffed out in the flames**.

There is no shortage of needs. CFI has been approached by a number of the above needy people and organizations. **Our Relief Fund is growing and we hope to bring a huge blessing to Israel through this tragedy.** May God somehow turn it around and make it work for good. (Romans 8:28) There are a number of important reasons why the Carmel Forest should, for the most part, be allowed to naturally rehabilitate itself; however, please read how you can support financially those who lost their homes, rescue teams in need of equipment or to plant a tree in Israel in this beautiful north country region. Thank you also for your prayers for the individuals and families.

To support the Mt. Carmel Relief Fund you may send a check payable to CFI in Jerusalem, to your nearest Representative in your country or go to the CFI-Jerusalem website. Instructions are on the home page of CFI-Jerusalem.

To donate, please visit www.cfijerusalem.org

Plant-a-Tree in Israel and **Help** Rebuild

Over 5,000,000 trees and 15,000 acres of natural woodland were destroyed in the Mt. Carmel fire. Every tree is important and our partners can plant a new tree in memory of your loved one or in honor of a birth or special event. Each donor will be given a certificate honoring their support. It has been suggested that eucalyptus and carob trees be planted as they thrive in dry conditions and still produce fruit that attracts bees to make honey.

Help keep the memory of the Mt. Carmel forest alive as it rehabilitates itself by the Mighty Hand of God. He can use our hands to help rebuild! You can go online to order your trees at www.cfijerusalem.org or send your gift in honor of those who need help from the CFI Mt. Carmel Relief Fund. Thank you!

"A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease." John Muir





A Bridge for People to Meet God

By Ray Sanders First Fruits Coordinator

Many applications come in to CFI from the household of faith throughout the Land—from all walks of life and all levels of faith. First Fruits was born out of a love for those who are believers. Those who walk in our door needing help have some of the most amazing stories we have ever heard. Some come in tears, some are very shy—concerned about asking for help, and others are so desperate they do not know which way to turn.

Mark was born in Russia, but was never accepted as a Russian, and he knew it was not his home. Mark came to Israel with his family and made their home in the Land. He served as a spiritual leader for a while, but one day a friend gave him a guitar to learn to play. He thought, “Why don’t I just make my own?” He had never played a guitar, let alone built one. He was not a guitar maker, but he couldn’t shake the thought. He knew it was one thing to build a guitar, but another thing to make it sound good. He finished his first guitar in seven months. With each attempt at building guitars, he got better and better. Soon global musicians started buying his guitars and he has now gained recognition as the finest guitar maker in Israel.

He shares his story with many gifted and creative people. He listens to the Spirit of God and step by step God’s voice tells him how to form the sound and make his instruments. Mark says “Every step of the creation of the guitar process is directly from above!” He has been able to meet with some very well-known stars in the music world and has had wonderful conversations about life and about God. He has come to understand that **God has given music as a tool to minister to people** and to bring God’s peace and harmony to man. Sound, he says, is something divine; qualities of harmony can work on people. The first in the Temple were the musicians and the priests. Music brings either harmony or disharmony. Knowing that God has given him the true nature of sound, he is moving toward starting to build his first violin. Mark continues to be a witness everywhere he goes. **He believes he is a bridge for people to reach God.** ■

Right: Ray Sanders with Mark
Left: Mark’s Guitar Workshop

Letters from the HEART

“We are very touched by your donation and we thank you from all our heart. May the Lord of Israel bless your work, your decisions and everyone of you.”
R. and L.

“Thank you for your help and we are so glad to receive it. God is with us. May the Lord bless you in all things.” **E. U.**

“Thank you so much for the kind gift... which you gave us to help us get our children ready for school. As I begin a teacher training course...we were worried about our finances. Your gift came right in time. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your work and generosity. May God bless you abundantly as you reach out and bless families like ours.” **N. G.**

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Project DAVID'S SHIELD

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S
SOLDIERS



OKETZ—THE “STING”

By Karen Lewis David's Shield Coordinator

Recently we made a visit to the Canine Unit in the IDF. The Oketz (“sting” in Hebrew) is a unique Special Forces unit in the IDF. Oketz has undergone a revolution since its establishment in 1939 when the Hagana set up the canine unit to protect the boundaries of Jewish villages under the threat from their Arab neighbors. Today the dogs are trained to sniff out explosives, drugs, and a person in hiding, as well neutralizing a terrorist/kidnapper.

While there I met a dog handler who shared that they themselves go through a long process to be accepted into the unit. They have to undergo the full combat basic training and usually are hand selected for this Special Force Unit. On a daily basis, approximately 12 dogs are out in the field participating in various operations on all of Israel's fronts—Gaza, Samaria, Judea and the northern border of Lebanon.

Man's Best Friend

While a dog is “man's best friend,” in Oketz that saying takes on a new meaning. Soldiers grow up together with their dogs and undergo 18 months of training together before they are released in the field. At the end of their joint service, the soldiers are allowed to take their dog home with them. The relationship between a dog and his handler is based on trust. A special bond is created between the two since the moment they go into an operation the soldier needs to be able to rely 100% on his dog and the dog's capabilities. When it comes to life and death, at the end of the day a soldier's life is worth more, but that does not mean that the dogs are left behind in a battle zone either.

The unit's motto “at the front” perfectly describes the role handlers and their dogs play during a mission. The dog always walks before the Special Forces. The terrorists are always advancing and improving their capabilities and so is the IDF. For example the IDF have had cases when a new type of explosive is being used by terrorists. The dogs would need to train with the explosives and learn their scent before they can detect them in an operation.

There are also female soldiers in the Orketz, mostly deployed with dogs at checkpoints throughout the country where they assist in searching Palestinians illegally crossing into Israel. The dogs move fast and quietly and are able to sneak up on someone or find someone in hiding.



Karen Lewis with the Canine Unit, Oketz and a cemetery for the IDF Dogs

Oftentimes the dogs surprise the infiltrators and tackle them for the soldiers to arrest.

Another advantage of these four-legged warriors is the minimizing of collateral damage. In the counter-terror raids there are only two options, either a soldier searches the house or a dog does. If the dog searches, damage to the house is minimized, as well as harm to the innocent civilians. At the beginning of the second Intifada, commanders were reluctant to take Oketz teams with them on operations. In 2006 the Oketz dogs participated in more than 4,000 operations. In 30 of them they played a key role in saving lives.

While visiting the base the Commander led me to the final resting place for the dogs who gave their lives for the nation of Israel. Not far from their kennels with a beautiful view of the Judean hills lies a patch of mowed grass and carefully laid gravestones of these four-legged soldiers. Among the tombstones, each engraved with the name of the dog, is a sculpture of a dog and a handler that reads, “Walk softly among these stones for here lie heroes. They carried no rifle, nor wore a uniform but always followed orders. They went into battle with trust and love of duty. Who amongst us can say we were better? Walk softly for here lie soldiers of Israel.”

Thanks to you we continue to give gifts to the Israeli soldiers! The winter months are cold and wet and the need for winter clothing continues to be the latest requests. We appreciate your continued support to the David's Shield Project! ■

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Project HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

CONNECTING WITH ETHIOPIAN JEWRY



Ethiopian mother with her children

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31a).

Yafit's Courage

By Donna Roberts Hope for the Future Coordinator

Yafit and her husband were without work for a year. Recently they both were able to find jobs and were trying to pay off the debts they had accrued because of the lack of work. They had succeeded in paying their water debt and were working on their other debts until Yafit's husband, Yoram, had a heart attack. He is only 36 years old so we asked Yafit why this happened. She said that he was working day and night and was getting very little rest, and this combined with not eating right and the stress he was feeling over the huge debts caused him to have a heart attack. He came home after four days in the hospital, but needs time for recuperation. The hospital is giving him some counseling on stress management to hopefully prevent him from having another attack.

Meanwhile, the burden of all this debt is on Yafit's shoulders. She is working from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. five days a week to try to pay these debts. The bank is threatening to take them to court over their mortgage debt and they may lose their house. Their electric bill is over 5,000 NIS (1,400 USD) and will probably be shut off soon. Yafit says that she can only afford to feed their three children bread and rice. She worries about what will become of her family, but is trusting that God cares about them and will provide for them. **Your help to this vitally important community of immigrants who God has brought to Israel is greatly appreciated. They need to know we care.** ■

Ethiopian Memorial

For many years the aliya of Ethiopian Jews was hindered by opposition from the Ethiopian government, lack of support from the Israeli government, and lack of recognition from the Chief Rabbinate. Through the efforts of Menachem Begin's administration, a tenuous escape route through the Sudan was opened whereby Ethiopian Jews disguised as refugees would be spirited out of the country by airplanes flying covertly from Khartoum.

A Long Dangerous Trek

In the early 1980's messengers from communal leaders relayed the news from village to village, leading to the exodus of entire enclaves. Jews sold their houses and cattle, and taking only the bare minimum, began the long, dangerous trek west to Sudan. They hired guides and traveled for weeks or even months across the desert, usually at night. Some of the guides ran off leaving their groups to fend for themselves.


A tragically high number of the Ethiopian Jews died dreadful deaths on the way. They were subjected to harassment, murder, robbery and rape. Some sources estimate that four thousand died en route. In Sudan, they hid their Jewishness in the refugee camps where many remained for a year or more. Sickness, starvation and attacks claimed many lives there. Several of the Ethiopians we work with have told us of their personal experiences on this journey.

On Mount Hertzl, Israel's national cemetery, stands a relatively recently erected monument: a memorial to Ethiopian Jews who died on their journey to reach the Holy Land. The idea to build an official national monument for those who perished was first realized in 1991 when the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency erected a monument at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel. In 2003 the Israeli government took a further step and built a memorial to Ethiopian Jewry on Mount Hertzl. The creation of a monument at a central location of national importance provides the Ethiopian Jews a place to honor their fallen and serves as venue for community events, but most of all it helps make them feel that they are an accepted part of this country. ■

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Ethiopian Jewry Cemetery on Mount Hertzl





Project

FORSAKE THEM NOT

OUTREACH TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



Their Times Are
in His Hands

By Jacob van der Wal Forsake Them Not Coordinator

Forsake Them Not team visiting
many Holocaust survivors

***"But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD:
I say 'You are my God.' My times are in
Your hand" (Psalm 31: 14-15).***

We read these wonderful verses from Psalm 31 at the event for survivors in Kiryat Motzkin. The committee of this city in the north had organized an event for all of their 120 members. We were privileged to be invited to celebrate together with them.

A choir from a neighboring city sang wonderful songs from the past—from the war, the victory over the Nazis, and other well-known songs in Yiddish. One song moved me in particular—Naomi Shemer's song about "Eretz Israel," Israel my country. It touched everyone's heart.

Last year we visited many survivors in the cities above Haifa. Every time, it was a long trip of three hours in the car to arrive at the survivor's home, and three hours back to Jerusalem, where we all live. But every time, we experienced the grace of the Lord on the visits to these precious people. Now, at the event they organized, as we entered the lobby, I recognized some familiar faces. Raissa waved at me. She is married to Avra'am and they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. She is so proud of her husband and also worried about him, because he survived two strokes and has difficulties coping with normal life.

In the front sat Rosa—a remarkable lady. Two months ago she lost her husband. When I visited her after the ten days of mourning, it was difficult to talk about the sad things

that happened to her in her life. But she told me about her children and grandchildren. In town everybody knows her, because she is known as the "Mayor of the Russians." And if she had wanted this job she would have been the mayor! She has an office in the town hall and helps everyone who has a need. She is impressed by the visits we make to many survivors in Israel. Even the Moroccan Jews living in the city are very fond of her.

We met the leader of the Israeli association and her husband, with whom we have worked for many years. In the second row sits Alexander. He was speechless when I visited him, because he was in mourning, and many times he did not know how to go on. The visit really helped him to continue his life—especially with the terrible memories about the Holocaust—without the support of his wife.

Visiting On a Daily Basis

During the event, survivors voiced their appreciation for the Forsake Them Not work among them. We thank the Lord of Israel that He gives us the grace to visit many survivors on a daily basis. At the end of the event we gave out a book of Psalms, an envelope with food vouchers and a card with the Bible verse from Psalm 31. *"But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD: I say 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand."*

We are thankful for your prayers and support. During the winter months the team will give out Sabbath blessings in Jerusalem. We have about 30 survivors we want to give special attention for the Sabbath. ■

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Project UNDER HIS WINGS

COMFORTING TERROR VICTIMS

"Blessed be the Lord: for He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!" (Psalm 31:21)

It Was Just a Regular Day

By Helene Iedema Director of Outreach

**CFI Team
visits
victims of
terror
attacks**

November 9, 2003 started out as a regular day for Neta and her friend who are beautiful teenage girls. After school that evening about 10:00 p.m., they went out jogging in their neighborhood and were enjoying time together. They decided to go to the Pizza Hut, which is located near the Hillel Café to visit one of their friends. They were about one meter from the entrance of the Hillel Café when they saw and heard a huge explosion. Neta's friend stopped and grabbed her. They were both lying on the ground. Her pants were all torn and her leg was bleeding. The paramedics came quickly and rendered first aid. Neta later learned that the main artery in her leg was damaged by shrapnel from the bomb. On the way to the hospital she realized that she didn't have some of her teeth. Her jaw had been crushed. She had to immediately have operations on her face, arm and both legs. More than 14 bolts were taken out of her body and a metal rod had to be inserted in one of her fingers. Her stomach was damaged and her spleen had to be removed.

Immediately after the explosion Neta wanted her parents who soon arrived on the horrible scene. She told her parents, "Don't worry I am okay." Her dad took her to the hospital in his car. At the time, she didn't realize how badly wounded she was and didn't want her parents to worry. Three days after all her initial operations, she woke up in Intensive Care at the hospital. She was afraid to look at herself in the mirror. After five days she finally had the courage to look at herself in the mirror and she burst into tears. It was very hard to see the damage on her face.

Over the years the Under His Wings team stayed in contact with Neta and tried to help where possible. I visited Neta this week to see how she is doing. I found a very fragile young woman who wants to continue to live her life, but is unable to do so. From the time of the attack until now she has had three major operations (jaws, knees, right arm and hand). Only a few months ago she was operated on and had a bone transplant in her jaw. She needs two more operations, one on her jaw and one on her hand. These are very important operations—the one on her jaw, because then she can have teeth implanted, and the one on her hand—because the doctors hope that she will be able to move her fingers normally again.

Still Suffering from Nightmares

For seven years, already Neta has not been able to eat solid food, for several reasons. Her family supports her as much as they can. They had to sell their home to be able to pay all the bills for hospital, doctors, and physiotherapy all these years. She still suffers from nightmares and is afraid to go outside. If she does, she stays close to where they live, and in the company of her parents. After all she went through and still goes through, she says she wants to fight her way back to a normal life, with God's help. Neta lives quite isolated from the outside world and her dream is to have a laptop so that she can be in contact with her friends. **If God should lay it on your heart to support this project it would be very much appreciated.** ■

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A Call to Provoke to

PART 2 - I had a vision I will never forget, while living in Illinois in the 1970's. Two words come to me and they were "healing balm." We've all heard the words "healing balm," but I didn't know what it meant back then. I believe it is *the key* to the Church's call to provoke: God's healing medicine, the balm of Godly compassion, mercy and love that is so deep that it overcomes historical wrongs. You know, CFI teams work to bring healing in more than 50 cities in Israel. Back in the 1980's one of the first survivors I ever worked with said to me, "I'd been under Nazi occupation for four years; I lost all my family. And then I asked myself, 'Why?'" There's that question again. She continued, "Why did it happen to my people? You were the first Christians who came to me. You were the first Christians, to visit my people—you love them, you hug them..." I said, "But we are Christians, the team members are Christians." *In her mind, a Christian was incapable of going and bugging and loving, and serving, being merciful.* She said, "You've changed me—my whole life has changed. I have faith again—I have faith in your people again." In other words she was saying, "You've provoked us to change our way of thinking." The Master's love is unconditional. The Bible says love fulfills the whole Torah, and does harm to no one. Therefore Godly love is the fullness of Torah and it is the fullness of Messiah Jesus and all He taught us. The book of Romans tells us that love is devoted; *will we be devoted to the Jewish people?* As Christians, will we be devoted first to God, to His Son, Jesus, and devoted to the Jewish people in the coming years? Rabbi Yaacov Youlis told me, *"During the Gulf War, when we had missiles flying all over the place, I wrote something in my diary about you Christians."* I said, *"What did you write?"* He said, *"Just two words."* And I said, *"Well, what were those two words?"* And he said, *"They stayed."* He was saying *"you didn't run away when my people were having a hard time."*

Yes, Christianity past sadly profaned the name of the Lord. He said we're to be the salt of the earth. It sounds strange, but somebody once told me, *"Sharon, I love you so much that when you cry, I taste the salt of your tears."* We need to learn to taste the salt of the Jewish people's tears, because what other people on the face of the earth are hated so much, by so many people?

In 1985, our neighbors, Eli and Pnina had us over for Shabbat dinner one evening, and they said, *"Why did you come to live here?"* And so we said, *"Well, we sold everything and came to Israel because God told us to,"* and we shared our testimony. Then Pnina buried her face in her hands and said, *"I am so jealous of your faith, that you would do what our God told you to do."*

In the 1990's CFI was leading Mercy Missions to the Former Soviet Union and I was leading some teams of Christians to locate and help elderly Jewish survivors. We were called to search out the forgotten "hidden treasures" of the Former Soviet Union and I must tell you that I never saw miracles like I saw there. I want to write a book about it someday. We saw the provoking and the healing

of the Jewish hearts and we didn't DO anything! You know what happened? *Mercy and Kindness went along with us.* Our experiences were priceless; we just carried God's love and compassion for His wounded people, who are still wounded with enemies surrounding them today.

The people we visited had gone through much persecution during and after the Holocaust. They said to us, *"You're the first ones who have come to recall our emotional pain,"* and then they said, *"Where have you been?"* They had been forgotten and we began to apply the cure, to let them know that they were remembered and we were there to bless them in some way.

I will never forget Luba who was dressed in black. She'd been dressed in black since the war. And when we met her, she said, *"How can I speak? I can't cry! Maybe I'm from stone?"* As we watched her eyes we saw her step right back into the concentration camps, right back into war. She said, *"When I was in the Ghetto they stacked our people like cords of wood."* A big tear was in her eye but it wouldn't drop, until one of our team members began to cry. And when she cried, she said *"Your tears have come to my heart."* We saw Luba turn from a stone into a candle. On the last day of our farewell we wanted to say goodbye and here came Luba walking down to the party wearing a lavender top. And she said, *"I'll never wear black again."* We had provoked her to hope because she said, *"I know God exists now because you came."*

Mira was 90 years old and she spent three years in Auschwitz. She said, *"They made us eat grass like cows. The hardest part was [seeing] the ovens where they burned my people."* We gave her food, medicine, financial help, and a hand-knitted blanket made by blind Christians from the United Kingdom. She was given a number on her arm, but was never given compensation. We gave her the blanket and she said, *"Oh, for my suffering!"* She received it as some kind of token payment for her pain and her anguish—something to hold on to—to know that someone cared. She was provoked in her heart; she said, *"I'll go to sleep with that blanket, I'll remember this day till the day I'm buried."*

Gersch was a man who suffered so much—all his family was gone, even his children—killed in the Holocaust. He came back to his home in Poland, married again, and had a whole new family—two sons. One day, his wife and he went to the marketplace and while they were away, his so-called "Christian" neighbors came to his door, knocked on the door and murdered both children. He was in a state of deep sorrow and loss of hope when we arrived. But when we left he said, *"Now I believe. You came to us and you gave us love no one else has shown."*

Greater love hath
no man than this,
that a man lay down
his life for his friends.

John 15:13

Another Jewish person said, *"That a Gentile believer, a Christian, knew and loved my God more than me? That made me jealous!"* Another said, *"They follow our God more than we; they show mercy more than we do; they're more Jewish than us!"* Finally an Auschwitz survivor said, *"After the war the Nazis were hungry and*

Jealousy: Did the Church miss her calling?

I fed them. A survivor fed the Nazis with what little bread she had! We said we hoped someday we would be like that. They sometimes provoked us to jealousy.

There's a difference between envy and jealousy; a good friend said to me, "Envy is coveting what belongs to somebody else, but jealousy is when somebody has taken what belongs to you and you want it back."

Derek Prince once said, "The material of the white linen of the Bride, is the righteous acts of the saints." Our Christian fathers, in no uncertain terms, scorned the Jews. It is a scandal. They said, "Those stiff-necked Jews resist us!" Christian anti-Semitism will be judged. Some people have said to me, "If you don't preach to them, I'm not supporting you." Are we, if they do not accept Jesus, to turn on them, force them, reject them, take lives, to get them to accept Him? It's not farfetched because that's what history did. Can you imagine in Spain, "the Inquisitors of the Church" putting Jewish people on tables and putting their hands and their legs in chains and then pulling them apart, inch by inch with a image of Jesus at the end of the table, saying, "Either receive Him or die!" Is it not the Holy Spirit that compels men to believe? We can be His vessels, but we can't make something happen; it's a work of God.

It's not forbidden to see their faults, God forbid—Jewish people sin like all of us. Don't worship them, don't idolize them; keep your feet on the ground. Make the central figure of your life, God, and the Messiah, Yeshua. But, if you read a Jewish Book, and you serve a Jewish Messiah, and you read the words of those prophets and apostles who were all Jewish, I think that we all have a call to provoke to jealousy. In these days of shifting sands, the Church needs to be changed into the likeness of the Lord. And if you're talking to Jewish people and they push you, or they spit on you, then let it be. Let it be His love that bears the pain. Don't forget the great sin of the Church was spiritual pride. The Church used it against the Jews, saying: "Join us, we supersede you; we've got it all, you were cast off and we're the New Israel." The Church didn't say, "We've joined you and embraced your Messiah, Jesus," and stayed humble. Love's immediate response is to give—that's what the Lord did, all the way to the cross.

Grunya survived eight or nine concentration camps and saw her mother hanging from a rope. The Nazis kicked her teeth out, pulled her nails off; they did everything they could to this woman. And she came to us, telling her story and she was so hard, she was so hurting and full of pain. We prayed, "God, what can we ever do to help this precious woman be healed?" And He said, "She's never had a birthday party." And so the staff made a big heart-shaped cake, and put the balloons out and the cards and all the little gifts and everything, and we opened the door

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Romans 11:11

and we sang, "Happy Birthday to you..." She broke down. This was another one who had been so stone-like because she'd been rejected for so long, and her heart melted. She said, "I've never seen this from Christians before!"

We have to be a blessing to take the curse away, and then we can be His real witnesses and you can join us and help us. No one talks about the Scripture about being cut-off if we don't show mercy, and so many have spiritual pride. We love the Jewish people and we're going to pray for them; we're going to stand with them that God can work, and we

can be partakers of the Lamb's humility. I want to challenge us today to bring forth fruit suitable for repentance. For our past can either be "an albatross around our necks"—holding us back, or it can be the wind beneath our wings. Be humble. Did the Good Samaritan put a gospel tract in the man's hand? No, he got down on his knees and he ministered to the person who needed healing. The question might come from God one day, "My people needed to lean against you, were you there?"

A righteous Gentile from Hungary said, "I know that when I stand before God on Judgment Day, I'll not be asked the question posed to Cain: 'Where were you when your brother's blood was crying out to God?'" We have the potential to transform the question that was raised, "Why didn't Christians help us?" May the Lord grant us humility to realize that we're the branch, not the tree. In the end God is going to weigh us on the scales of Mercy, as He has shown Mercy to us. Can the Church recover the sacredness of this call we've been given to provoke? Can we rediscover a long-lost divine request from God for the Church? Are there enough of us to redirect the course of Jewish and Christian history? Those reading this message from our anniversary conference who understand how our spiritual forefathers brought us to where we are in our relationship to Israel, will understand the need for repentance on our part, as the Church. If the Church really begins to answer the call to provoke to jealousy, and become the true face of our Lord, I believe that we will never again have to answer the awkward and uncomfortable question, "Why didn't the Christians help us?" ■

— **By Sharon Sanders**
Director of Ministry & Teaching



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Let the redeemed of the Lord say this—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south” (Psalm 107: 2-3).

LIGHTHOUSE

The Ongoing Exodus

From the early 1990's, CFI's Distribution Center in Jerusalem has sought the welfare of newcomers, no matter what nation they were coming from, to assist them in their early days of getting re-established in their homeland. Those 21 years have now gone by with countless multitudes of new *olim* (immigrants) passing through our doors. Many Christians from the nations responded over those years and provided high quality garments, bedding and finances to provide them a blessing as they came to us for help. **This is part of our ministry of reconciliation between the historical Church and Israel.** A mass departure from the Land of the North is not happening, at this moment in time, but we are monitoring the movement of *aliyah* and preparing for an even greater *aliyah* to come. However we look at it, **our transition period has been good—to have time to prepare for the next groups of Jewish people relocating to Israel.** Our job: to undo damage the historical Church did and to help them settle as smoothly as possible when they arrive. Global anti-Semitism cannot be ignored. As ugly as it is, God will use it to compel His People to return home. And the Lord "...gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south" (Psalm 107:3). The exodus out of Egypt has ceased but the exodus from all the lands in which they were scattered is still ahead of us. CFI is preparing for all of God's Word to be fulfilled "in season."



CFI former Distribution Center

Our latest update reveals that we will be selling the old property on Moriah Street (# 2 and #4). That property served for more than two decades and needs extensive repairs and re-construction. We will turn around and purchase another property for the new Distribution Center, to secure property for the future for ongoing ministry to help the Jewish people. We have two potential buyers for the property. Very soon we should be able to sell (God Willing). We are researching potential new sites at this time, and we hope by the end of January to have a place secured. **Your prayers are very valuable to us at this time that God will lead us to the exact place He has in mind.** Then, we will be able to let all of our supporters involved with *aliyah* know how they can help us in the coming months. A ministry in Australia is willing to assist us at this time to launch the new DC and stock it with goods; another supporter has offered to build a stained glass lighthouse inside the Welcome Area. Church teams are standing by waiting to come and assist us in moving in, cleaning, painting and getting set up again. We are also happy to report that God is calling and bringing us people who are needed to staff the Center. **We ask for your ongoing support and prayers to continue at this time.**

Our picture shows our bond which goes beyond borders. ■



God Will Be In It

As the *aliyah* continues and gains momentum, will God be in it? **God will be in it.** He will be in the ingathering of His People until He brings every last one He wants home. In the Heavens, there must be great rejoicing for every person who arrives safely in Israel. May 2011 be a time of a great ingathering of God's People from the nations. May the complete redemption of Israel and the whole world come speedily. *Aliyah* is an integral part of all of it. That is why CFI Jerusalem will continue with the great vision of being on the "front lines" of *aliyah* assistance. We wish to say a hearty "THANK YOU" to key people of the United Kingdom (Olive Grove Projects) and the United States (HELP International) who have waited patiently for good news in regard to the future Distribution Center.

On Our Way

English Class Continues

English Class Continues

During the temporary transition to a new place, the CFI Distribution Center English classes continue twice a week at CFI Headquarters. Our Russian translator is a Certified teacher of English. Having worked with CFI for over 20 years, she is now a widow and loves serving the people through CFI. The English learning process, the fellowship and communication between us and the class members brings us together each time with joy and expectation. **Our picture shows our bond which goes beyond borders. ■**

Project STREAMS OF BLESSING



Struggling to Get By

By Vered-Faye Wicks Streams of Blessing Coordinator

Emotional breakdowns and family and financial problems have risen in Israel. Many people struggle under heavy burdens of trauma and emotions also. It is our desire to be God's Hand extended not only by showing them the Love of God but also to show them that Christians around the world care for them and are helping practically to lift their loads and carry their burdens.

Liora

Recently a widow came asking for assistance. Liora had been unable to work for over 4 years due to sickness and is struggling to make ends meet on a meager income. She came to us in a state of depression and totally overwhelmed with debts that she was unable to pay. Her daughter and son serve in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Life has become extremely difficult for Liora, but **because of your support for Streams of Blessing we were able to help relieve some of her load.**

Tamara

Our team members also visited an Orthodox family with six children. Some of the children suffer from Celiac's disease, heart problems and diabetes. The mother, Tamara, is unable to work because of a disability and the father's income is very low. This family of eight lives in a very tiny apartment with around 500 sq. ft. of living space. They have no common area for their family to enjoy meals or sit as a family. Sometimes they sit outside and in the winter in the bedrooms to eat. On our visit we discovered the refrigerator was not working and the gas stovetop was broken. They also needed help with food, and overdue utilities. **Streams of Blessing helped by replacing the larger items and also covered many of their overdue bills bringing a blessing to this family from the nations.**



Tamara and family having to eat outdoors

It would take a book to tell you of the many needs of the people who come to our doors seeking help. Lena is an Orthodox mother who just a few months ago was hospitalized and diagnosed with leukemia. Although she is in extreme pain and has been told not to work, she is doing what she can part-time. **Streams of Blessing has helped with food vouchers and has paid for pain medication, which she had been unable to buy.**

The stories shared here are real stories of real people in Israel and are only a few of the many we hear from those coming through our doors. They have touched our hearts and we know they touch God's Heart. We also know that God has placed these precious ones into our care so that we can show them His unfailing love, compassion and mercy toward them. Your love is also reaching them through your gifts. **Thank you for helping us be that Stream of Blessing that is making such a difference in so many lives today!** ■

*"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it"
(Proverbs 3:27).*



Sharing in their battles



Streams of Blessings Event

"Light in the Darkness"

This year was a blessed event for 50 former War Veterans who were hosted at CFI where a program in Russian, Yiddish and Hebrew was presented to elderly former war heroes from the Red Army. Songs of Hanukkah, speeches from the heart and dancing together brought our "family" closer once again. **Thank you for praying for us as we continue our events in Jerusalem to reach many with the love of God during these hard times.**

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I Will Sing Praise to



Tung Fook Church in Hong Kong



Stacy Howard with Maggie Huang, Taiwan



Brethren from China

*"For thus saith the Lord;
Sing with gladness for Jacob,
and shout among the chief of the nations:
publish ye, praise ye, and say,
O Lord, save thy people..."*
(Jeremiah 31:7).

Hear the word of the Lord,
O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off,
and say, He that scattered Israel
will gather him, and keep him,
as a shepherd does his flock"
(Jeremiah 31:10).

*"I will declare thy name unto my brethren:
in the midst of the congregation
will I praise thee"*
(Psalm 22:22).



CFI Singapore Friends - Mr. & Mrs. Chew



Korean children intensely listening



Chinese Christian OnWatch Concert

Thee Among the Nations



Jane Ng, Ruby Gob, Ray and Stacy



Sharon teaching



Intense interest



Karen Kan (CCOW) and Maggie Lo

Stars of the Orient Rising as the Sun

The Church in the Far East carries no baggage from the past toward the Jewish people. The history of Christian anti-Semitism, Replacement Theology and persecution does not exist. In fact, the city of Shanghai was a city of refuge for thousands of Jews who had nowhere else to go during the period of the Shoah (Holocaust). Today, a growing interest in Israel is found in many places of the Far East. Ray and Sharon Sanders accompanied by Mrs. Stacey Howard (their daughter and Director of Administration for the CFI North American Development Division) recently returned from an inspiring ministry tour to Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. During their travels they also were able to visit Viet Nam and China. Everywhere they ministered the ministry messages were well received and the thirst for more teaching never ended. Having been to Beijing where study sessions lasted from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, the Sanders were well acquainted with the Oriental desire to learn more about the Jewish roots of the faith. Having undertaken a number of journeys to the Far East since 1996 Ray and Sharon feel there is no comparison with the personal interest and extremely warm hospitality found in the Far East.

The Sanders were able to help kick off the opening of the Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem in Singapore, in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to Singapore. They ministered in churches with a wide differentiation and spoke in a host of other venues. In Taiwan, they travelled from Taipei in the north speaking in some of the largest churches in the city, and then on throughout the entire scope of the country, introducing CFI to the people of Taiwan. In Hong Kong the love for Israel has developed at a fast pace in a wide range, including Korean, churches. They came together with other Jerusalem ministries (King of Kings Community) and shared in a major concert together for Israel plus a walk-a-thon sponsored by CCOW (Chinese Christian OnWatch). Altogether they ministered in fifty Christian gatherings and returned to Jerusalem very encouraged. Their next ministry trip will (God willing), be in the fall of 2011. If you live in Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, China or S. Korea, you may write to schedule the Sanders to speak in your area by emailing: sharon@cfijerusalem.org. The schedule is presently being planned. ■



Ray and Sharon

— **By Sharon Sanders**
Director of Ministry & Teaching

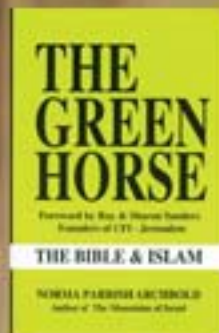
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Light of Jerusalem

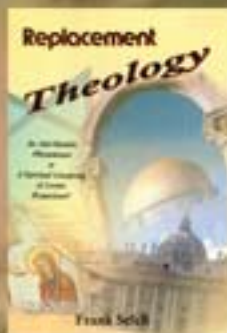
CFI EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES BOOKSTORE

The books below along with other great resources are available in the Light of Jerusalem online bookstore. Please visit our online store at www.cfjjerusalem.org and click on Store. Orders can be submitted online or mailed in, with check enclosed.



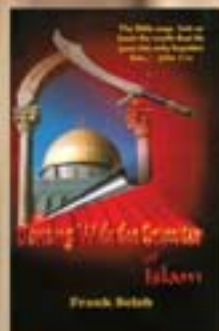
The Green Horse: The Bible and Islam by Norma Archbold

Based on the unshakeable truth of the Bible, *The Green Horse*, is a must read to understand the history of Islamic expansion and how it impacts the world in these times. "As a dedicated writer and researcher Norma writes with validity and relevancy for today. May her extensive research on the goals of Islam and the dangers it poses stir many to serious prayer." *Sharon Sanders, Director of Ministry and Teaching* - \$20.00



Replacement Theology by Frank Selch

What is Replacement Theology? This book helps bring to light how over the centuries Christian Church leaders have degraded the truth of God's purpose for His covenant people, giving entrance to the deception of Islam. - \$12.50



Dancing With the Scimitar of Islam by Frank Selch

This book is a wake-up call for Christians to prepare for battle against the ancient enemy of the God of the Bible, which is consequently also the common enemy of all mankind, and to stand with Israel; for our redemption is drawing near! - \$12.50



Tell The Children by Sharon Sanders

A "picture story book" for little eyes, telling of God's love for the Jewish people. This booklet makes a wonderful gift for young children or for those who work with children. - \$5.00



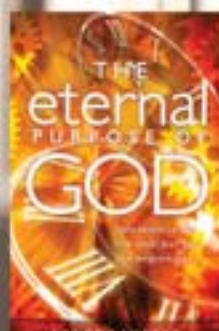
God Keeps Covenant by Wendy Beckett

A thirty-day study on God's Love for Israel which helps answer some of the questions among Christians today concerning the Lord's relationship with the Jewish people. - \$5.00



Homecoming: Our Return to Biblical Roots by Chuck and Karen Cohen

This book encourages us to return to our biblical roots, which means to interpret the New Testament through the filter of the Old just as the early apostles had done. The modern day church has lost much of its original Hebraic perspective that Jesus/Yeshua drew so profoundly from as He ushered in the new covenant. - \$20.00



The Eternal Purpose of God by Lance Lambert

A passionate and inquisitive book which helps answer the ultimate question: What is the meaning of life? Giving you a look into God's ultimate aim in time and the Christian's role in the fulfillment of God's eternal purposes. - \$16.00



Lone Soldiers: Israel's Defenders from Around the World by Herb Keinon

"*Lone Soldiers: Israel's Defenders from Around the World* tells the personal stories of fourteen lone soldiers who have served in the Israeli army. Who are the Lone Soldiers? These are young Jewish men and women who come from all over the world to serve in the IDF out of personal conviction or just plain curious about life in Israel. You will enjoy discovering the hearts of these young soldiers and soon discover God's call on each of their lives!" *Karen Lewis, Coordinator for Project David's Shield* - \$25.00



Project WALL OF PRAYER



A Shield for Israel By Sharon Sanders

In the earlier years of CFI, while working with many Russian immigrants, we came across an eye-catching article in a Russian language newspaper. A journalist had written an article about Christian Friends of Israel and entitled the article: **A Shield for Israel**. They saw us—Christians from the nations—as being a spiritual shield over the nation of Israel. Since natural walls are usually made of brick or stone and solidly set in the ground, a spiritual wall must be anchored in the truths of faith from the Word of God, i.e., the promises of God to this nation. When a spiritual wall is securely set, fewer breaches in the wall are possible.

This admonishes our Watchmen around the world to stand strong, with their Shield of Faith held high. Armor is usually strapped to the arm to give protection against hurled weapons. I think of the phylacteries religious Jews wear, which symbolically are to be a Scriptural protection for their hearts to help them be obedient to God's commands. Jewish men use them during morning and weekday prayers as reminders of their religious duties. As Watchmen for Israel, remember daily your responsibilities to guard and defend the Nation through prayer and intercession. You are the eyes to the blind and strength for the weak, and a shield for the defenseless. Intercessors need to watch the news and never forget their post duties being careful not to fall asleep during watches. Thank you to everyone on the Wall of Prayer in many nations. Please keep an eye on your emails for our **new bi-monthly Wall of Prayer Update** that we send around the world from Jerusalem. Ordinarily these updates will be about a special community that needs prayer. The new electronic way of building and maintaining the Wall of Prayer is more economical for us to spread the Word around the world. **You can help us, by passing on to others, the information from the Wall of Prayer bi-monthly update. Watch for it and pass it on!** For communicating with me, please feel free to write to me at: prayer@cfijerusalem.org. ■

*"I have posted
watchmen on
your walls,
O Jerusalem;
they will never
be silent day
or night"
(Isaiah 62:6).*

Thought About Serving God?

Sometimes we waste many precious years because we do not understand our purpose in life. Many of us are young, middle-aged, or even retired from our secular careers and we have many gifts we could bring to the Body. However, for one reason or another, we put off serving God because of personal ties that we think we cannot leave to God. Living and serving the Lord in Jerusalem can be an exciting, life-changing experience and produces a lasting love for and involvement with the Land of Israel. CFI is building once again our much needed and very special staff of volunteers to push forward the vision and purpose of this ministry. To do that, we need those of you whom God has been speaking to about service in Jerusalem. If you have a skill or talent that you would like to give to CFI for a two-year commitment or even short-term, please be sure to study the open positions listed.

Visit our website at www.cfijerusalem.org to learn more about how you can join a wonderful team serving God in Israel. Contact us today by emailing personnel@cfijerusalem.org to begin the application process.

Currently Seeking the Following:
Executive Secretary for International Director
Administrative Assistant for Streams of Blessing
Under His Wings/Communities Under Attack Coordinator
Human Resources Coordinator
Human Resources Assistant
New Project Coordinators
Conference Coordinator
Bridal Salon Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Head Cook - HQ
Assistant Cook - HQ
Graphic Designer



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I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



By Sharon Sanders
Director of Ministry & Teaching

The definition of "keeper" according to Strong's Hebrew dictionary means "to guard, protect or attend to." We live in a world of self-indulgence and very few look out for other's welfare. Presently, Christians are being persecuted for their faith in many troubled places around the globe. There was a massacre of Iraqi Christians in Baghdad in 2010; Christians were killed in Iran, in Jos—a state in central Nigeria, as well as attacks

on Christians on Jolo Island in the Philippines. Recently, an Islamic suicide bomber killed many Christians in an attack on an Egyptian church. The general removal of a Christian presence from a Muslim-dominated region is one of the serious problems facing us in the promotion of a "clash of civilizations." It seems the time for "the Saturday people and then the Sunday people" has arrived. Have we noticed it? Outright hatred of Christians accounts for the contemporary persecution of Christianity by Islam and that persecution has "hit the radar." Christians are metaphorically handcuffed because we are taught to be nonviolent people, which makes us easy prey for the kill.

Pushing Christians Out of Bethlehem

Israel News reported in December 2010, "The Muslim Fatah-controlled authority in Judea and Samaria pre-empted a "sharp demographic shift" in Bethlehem, where the Christian population went from a 60 percent majority down to only about 15 percent. Approximately 2,000 Christians have been emigrating from the Bethlehem area annually." Justus Reid Weiner told the Jerusalem Institute for Global Jewish Affairs that under the PA-Fatah regime, Christian Arabs have been victims of frequent human rights abuses. Christian institutions have been targeted, there has been denial of employment, economic boycotts, torture, kidnapping, forced marriage, sexual harassment and extortion of Christian Arabs." In one incident, police placed a cardboard sign on (a man's) back that said, "Najib the Christian." Then he was told to "curse Jesus." Most such episodes receive virtually no international media coverage.

The Requirement of Watchfulness

Are we, as believers, through fervent prayer guarding our Christian brothers and sisters in our own lands, or in other lands? We must take the above Scripture seriously and personally, as if it were ourselves we were protecting. Are we really protecting someone and shielding those in harm's way somehow?

They Found Their Way to Us

A grandmother and her daughter and two children walked into our offices recently. They operate a Christian work in Bethlehem, and they asked for help for needy elderly people there. They visit people and provide many with meals. If you can help our Christian friends in Bethlehem, please designate your gifts "*Brother's Keeper*." If you cannot donate, then please pray for them. We will see that these funds go directly toward helping those—whose faith sprung out of a small manger in Bethlehem—to rise once again to become a shining light in this famous city. ■

*And the LORD said
unto Cain, Where is Abel
thy brother? And he said,
I know not: Am I my
brother's keeper?
Genesis 4:9*

*Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the
Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be laboring in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS PART 1

THEFORE WHOSEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK: AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE: AND IT FELL NOT: FOR IT WAS FOUNDED UPON A ROCK. AND EVERY ONE THAT HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM NOT, SHALL BE LIKENED UNTO A FOOLISH MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND: AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE: AND IT FELL: AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT. MATTHEW 7:24-27



When Satan comes and tries to steal our faith or when the stories in the Bible seem like nothing more than words on paper—it's during those times that the roots of our faith need to be firmly planted in a solid, unshakeable foundation. If we're willing to work hard in order to attain earthly possessions and status, then should we not be willing to put forth just as much effort in getting to know the God with whom we desire to spend eternity? The Bible tells us in Colossians 3:23 that "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (See also 2 Thessalonians 3:10, and 2 Timothy 2:15.)

Consider, if you will, the construction of a building. The designers have a concept, and in order to construct their building, they know its foundation must be strong and properly laid. They know that if the foundation is not strong, when storms come, the structure has the potential of falling under the pressure. In order to grow in our walk with the Lord, we must use the same basic principle. It's only going to be through the diligent studying of God's Word that we'll be able to attain a good, strong foundation, and/or knowledge in what we believe. Why is this important? Because when the trials of life come our way, just like a building, we too have the potential of crumbling under pressure, which can cause us to revert to our old ways. Many people find it difficult to study God's Word. This causes them not to get much past accepting the Lord into their hearts. Their relationship really never has a chance to grow because they're not taught how to study the Scriptures. However, when Christians do study the Word they usually concentrate on the New Testament, steering away from the Old because of a feeling that it's irrelevant for today. I believe that if we don't study the Old, how can we have a good solid foundation on which to study the New? See what Matthew 7:24-27 says regarding wise and foolish builders.

Have you ever thought about the foundation on which your faith stands? Have you really ever contemplated the fact that the history of your Gentile faith is rooted in Judaism? Has anyone ever told you that all the prophets, and the disciples were Jewish, and Jesus HIMSELF was a Jew? Did you know that Jesus' ancestry, His family, His upbringing, and His own life's practices were Jewish down to the way He spoke and dressed? Jesus also kept all of the Jewish festivals. One can say that, "Jesus was Jewish to the core, to the center of His very being!" Many Christians are never taught these very basic foundational truths. This is why it's impor-

tant for us to study the Word and show ourselves approved before God! Let's be honest with ourselves; as my mother would say, "If we are the Bride of Christ, then tell me what bride ever gets married without first getting to know the groom's family?"

The Bible tells us in Romans 11 that we Gentiles have been grafted into the faith. The dictionary defines grafting as, "the act of transferring, or transplanting, something ONTO something else." As an example, a farmer will sometimes graft cuttings onto plants when they want to produce a bigger, stronger and better crop. It's the root system of a plant that sustains it. If we want to keep a plant alive, we must first see that it is planted in a good, solid base, and watered on a regular basis so that it will grow further and deeper into its soil. This will enable the plant to withstand hard rain and winds when they come. Just as the farmer grafts a plant, we—both Jew and Gentile, have been grafted together to make one new larger, stronger Body of Christ. If you study the Bible you will find that the Christian faith is rooted in the land of Israel and its people. Since we Gentiles were "grafted" onto the trunk of Judaism, we then represent the branches of the plant or tree, and as Christians, we should be producing the fruit of our faith. If firmly planted and watered regularly by the reading of God's Word, we will find that the knowledge of our root system grows and in turn strengthens our faith, which should then be producing the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our faith is, and will be, the only thing that will keep us from falling when the storms of this life come our way. You might be asking why the God of Israel, the God of the Jews, would do this for the non-Jew? The Word tells us in John 3:16 that, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This is not limiting salvation to one race or religion, but it is for all who believe! *This message was given by Mrs. Howard in the Far East and will be continued in the next edition of For Zion's Sake.* ■

— By Stacey Howard

Director of Administration

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STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED
UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH
NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY
DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 3:16

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FOR EVEN WHEN WE WERE WITH YOU, THIS WE COMMANDED YOU, THAT IF ANY WOULD NOT WORK, NEITHER SHOULD HE EAT. 2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

CFI Representative Activities

All over the world anointed men and women of God have taken up the mantle to spread God's Word in regard to Israel and the Church and to stand for Israel and the Jewish people in their respective countries. The Israeli flag and CFI banner fly in a number of nations.

Our Representatives work year round in diverse cultures and traditions, organizing seminars to counter widespread ignorance and prejudice against Israel. Conferences are held at major universities, tours led to Israel, and debates held on live radio and television. Representatives continually upgrade national and international CFI websites, lobby Parliament, hold prayer fellowship meetings, strengthen outreach to young adults for Israel, and speak at Jewish community centers.

They write and teach about Israel, providing literature to many churches. Representatives even help prepare safe havens for Jewish people; they are involved in translating CFI literature into native languages, and help raise people up as intercessors for Israel. They host Shabbat meals, attend festivals to plant seeds for Israel, meet Israeli dignitaries, and help raise funds for Israel and CFI. Some host CFI volunteers from Israel, craft CFI podium banners for distribution, participate in Pastor's luncheons—thereby educating Pastors—celebrate God's Biblical Feasts, and attend CFI annual board meetings. They also share about CFI's many outreach projects, teach Jewish



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NATIONS

roots (Keshet) courses, host CFI Directors from Jerusalem, help with mail outs, and recruit volunteers.

Our Representatives maintain or help restore diplomatic ties with Israeli Embassies in their nations, help develop new Representatives, enlarging the awareness of CFI-Jerusalem, promote the media and technical operations, and visit local television stations. They attend "Night to Honor Israel" events, develop electronic resource centers, build good teams to work together in their respective offices, visit Bible Colleges and a host of other activities that help the ministry of CFI grow and develop. Their work is of great importance and value.

Taking a Stand for Israel

The Representatives of Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem fill a difficult post in the nations of the world in taking their stand for Israel and the Jewish people.

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CFI Committed to Integrity



In August 2010, Christian Friends of Israel—USA in Charlotte, NC, an Affiliate of CFI-Jerusalem, is now an accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). As an ECFA member, CFI-USA is recognized to follow higher standards of Christian ethics in fundraising, financial accounting and reporting. We are also pleased to report that CFI-America in Burleson, Texas, CFI Representative Office, at this moment is waiting for their accreditation to arrive. To receive an IRS tax deductible receipt for your US donation please contact:

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Founded in 1979, ECFA provides accreditation to leading non-profit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with the ECFA Standards pertaining to responsible stewardship, financial integrity and God-honoring practices.

Both offices have earned the right to display the seal that is a pledge to you that your gifts are used as you delegate.

CFI-America Hospitality



CFI staff and former volunteers visiting CFI-America

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Hampton, of CFI-America have on numerous occasions provided a place of relaxation to CFI volunteers on break. While away from Jerusalem, volunteers are able to enjoy an oasis rest and hospitality while on their way to visit family and friends. The challenges of living in Israel are certainly worth the privilege of serving the Lord through CFI staff and volunteers know they are always welcome in Texas at CFI-America. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hampton for their **generous hospitality**.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your address, please notify us promptly, giving us both your old and your new address. E-mail: cfi@cfijerusalem.org or write to the CFI address below.

Please send all communication relating to *For Zion's Sake* to: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.

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Expenses and Undesignated Funds A big part of the work of CFI-Jerusalem is our outreaches; however, outreach generates expenses (gas, food and shelter) for our teams. Expenses related to the ongoing operation of projects are charged to the designations. Undesignated Funds: This category covers administration expenses, which include volunteer housing, insurance, transportation, and lunch. Your gifts are a double blessing to help the Jewish people and to support the servants of the Lord who carry out His work.

CFI Representative Nearest You