

# *For Zion's Sake*

First Quarter 2015 Jewish Year 5775



## **Kingdom Against Kingdom**

**"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom  
against kingdom...." Matthew 24:7.**



*Christian Friends of Israel*

PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 91015 ISRAEL Tel: 972-2-6233778  
Fax: 972-2-6233913 [cfi@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:cfi@cfijerusalem.org) [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

# For Zion's Sake

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MANAGING DIRECTOR/WRITER: **Sharon Sanders**

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER: **Marita Brokenshaw**

EDITOR: **Coral Mings**

STAFF WRITERS: **Patricia Cuervo, Linda Edwards,**

**Maggie Huang, Olga Kopilova, Jim McKenzie, Jackie Nelson,**

**Ray Sanders, Stacey Howard**

LOCAL MEDIA MANAGER: **Michael Fordham**

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## Letter From Jerusalem



Temple Mount, Jerusalem

*"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Genesis 6: 11-13*

**THESE SCRIPTURES** may seem a strange way to begin this Director's Letter. However, upon daily reading the news headlines it is clear we are living in a world becoming more violent resulting in a major loss of life. Human life has become so devalued that men, women and children are slaughtered without a second thought. What used to be violent crime in our major cities has now come to rural neighborhoods around the world. The brutal beheading of innocent individuals has become a common place act of wonton shedding of blood. Its intent is to strike fear into the minds and hearts of people throughout the world.

The Middle East has been a source of growing violence linked to the rise of radical Islam whose ultimate goal is world conquest and the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate with Jerusalem as its capital. Fortunately, Israel remains the greatest impediment to their goal. The Palestinian-Israeli dispute is the primary obstacle to stability in the Middle East. This has been the universal conventional wisdom since the early 1960's. It was diligently propagated by Arab leaders across the political spectrum who blamed any and all Middle East conflict on Israel's refusal to compromise on the relinquishing of "land for peace." This wisdom was confirmed by every US president since Lyndon B. Johnson via public pronouncement, or clear implication by nine presidents in total. However, this perspective was all changed on September 24th, 2014.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly, US President Barack Obama stated the following: "The situation in Iraq, Syria and Libya should cure anyone of the illusion that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the main source of problems in the region; for far too long, it has been used in part as a way to distract people from problems at home."

This statement was a radical change in the official US policy line. For while Obama went on to emphasize the moral imperative of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, his statement suggests strongly that Middle East observers everywhere have been hit by reality – that real-time developments have made it impossible



Ray Sanders

to see Israel as responsible for the bad things happening in the region. The president's declaration was also mind-boggling because he identified the reality which necessitated the new change in perception, and this reality is very recent – only a few years old. Until the dissolution of Libya, Syria and Iraq, the Middle East could reasonably have been viewed through the now defunct illusion of Israel's being to blame for all its problems.

### Different Insight

Whereas, President Obama may have experienced a "revelation" regarding the historical Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it seems that the US Secretary of State has been given different insight on the lack of peace in the Middle East. It would be interesting to know which Arab leaders are telling Kerry that the absence of peace between Israel and the Palestinians is a "cause of recruitment" to Islamic State. Is that something he is hearing from the Qatari Emir, whose kingdom has been cited by the US Treasury Department as a major funder of Islamic State (IS). Ironically, the Emir just happens to be one of Kerry's favorite regional leaders.

If the Emir did blame Israel for the rise of IS, then his statement would constitute yet another instance of the double game Qatar has been playing with the American leadership. On the one hand, the regime is financing jihad, and on the other hand, it pretends to side with the West against the jihad it is funding. This happens to be the case with the violence we are experiencing in Jerusalem. According to a recently published investigative report, Qatar is financing in the capital. According to the report, the Islamic rioters who daily attack Jewish visitors and police forces on the Temple Mount are paid by Qatar through the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement. The Qatari government and other Islamic funds are transferring vast sums of money to the Islamic Movement's radical northern branch headed by Sheikh Ra'ed Salah. The Islamic Movement in turn is paying thousands of shekels every month to hundreds of men and women, mainly Muslim Israeli citizens, who call themselves Murbitat.

The Murbitat presents itself as an Islamic prayer group, but the groups' job is to harass Jews and police on the Temple Mount. They scream and curse at Jewish visitors and in recent months have escalated their violence against them and their police escorts. These violent attacks include assaults with rocks, firebombs and firecrackers. To prevent the police from blocking their entry to the Mount, members of the Murbitat enter the mosques in times of relative calm and then remain there

for weeks at a time. The women are used for smuggling firecrackers and other weaponry onto the Temple mount by hiding them in their clothing.

### The Same Poisonous Tree

The goal of the Islamic violence on the Temple Mount and throughout Jerusalem is to overthrow regional regimes that oppose the Muslim Brotherhood while igniting a pan-Islamic war against the Jewish state. By insinuating that Israel is to blame for IS's rise to power, Kerry was not simply blaming the victim; he was empowering the aggressor. For the West to defeat IS, it first needs to recognize that Prime Minister Netanyahu was right when he said at the UN last month that IS and Hamas – and increasingly Qatari-financed Fatah – are "branches of the same poisonous tree."

With the recent announcement that the Israeli government had approved the construction of 1,250 new housing units in Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, Netanyahu showed that Israel prefers freedom and security to good relations with Washington and Brussels. "They need to understand that by forcing Israel to make that choice, they are hurting themselves and the cause of their own freedom and security far more than they are harming Israel"

Following on from this announcement, the Prime Minister authorized planning for 1,060 housing units in Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the pre-1967 lines. The PM declared, "There is a broad consensus among the public that Israel has the right to build in the Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem and the settlement blocs. All Israeli governments have done that over the past 50 years. It is also clear to the Palestinians that these places will remain under Israeli sovereignty in any future accord. Just as the French build in Paris, and the English in London, so too Israelis build in Jerusalem."

These pronouncements have caused a chorus of condemnation from the West and within the Israeli government. Clearly this volatile issue will continue to cause many repercussions in the weeks ahead. As Christians, we must make this matter a serious issue for prayer and intercession. The land of Israel was given to the Jewish people as an eternal inheritance and is not to be relinquished for any false "peace treaty" designed to weaken and eventually destroy Israel.

*"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God"* Genesis 17:7,8.

Sincerely in His Grace,

*Ray Sanders*

Ray Sanders

Co-Founder

Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem

Jerusalem Office Email: [ray@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:ray@cfijerusalem.org)

By Sharon Sanders



# KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM



One billion Muslims bow to Allah

**YESHUA WAS CLEAR THAT "NATION SHALL RISE AGAINST NATION AND KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM." (MATTHEW 24:7)**

## Spiritual Darkness all Around

"...then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). The depth of spiritual darkness that has arisen on the earth today no one with the inner light of God has ever seen before (not since the darkness of the Middle Ages). There is little doubt the world has fallen into chaos and through advanced technology evil has increased rapidly. It seems Satan has captured the hearts and minds of multitudes and now holds them hostage. Unless extreme Islamic militants such as ISIS and ISIL see the light of Jesus Christ, through the mercy of One True God of Israel, the blood-thirsty spirit of death, with its obsession to kill *anyone* who challenges it, will continue to stalk the earth. The rallying cry, always shrill, and always shouted in chorus has decreed all Christians and Jews must die unless they bow to Allah.

The beheading of Jews and Christians by Islamic terrorists is a form of punishment for all who do not convert to Islam and will likely be the form of execution of all who stay faithful to God and the Lord Jesus (Yeshua) in these latter times.

## Sanctification of God's Name

In Revelation the Apostle John saw those who gave up their lives by being beheaded *for their faith*. Those who did not worship the beast reigned with Yeshua for 1000 years on the earth. They paid the ultimate price—but they *proved* their allegiance to Yeshua (Jesus) when confronted with the choice of either bowing to a false god or remaining true to the One True God and Messiah. They constitute the "martyrs" in this prophetic book. ***I saw thrones...and I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the Word of God***" (Revelation 20:4).

In Greek, the word "*martus*" means to "bear witness" - even if it leads to death in order to follow the truth. In Hebrew, the word for martyr is associated with "*Kiddush Hashem*" meaning "sanctification of God's Name." Judaism has itself been a religion of "martyrdom" and it was this Jewish characteristic that inspired Christian martyrdom. Both are saying "*If we have to die for the truth, then we will die for the truth!*"

Those who follow Islam, sadly, despise the authority of Israel's God at the highest level. Each time Islamic terrorists kill, they satisfy their god by bowing to his demands of bloodshed. Today, the universal Jihadist rallying cry is "We

love death". It carries an explicitly sacred love of death. I can tell you that Israelis love life! One kingdom loves death and the other kingdom loves life!

"Somewhat like war, Islamic terrorism is founded upon assorted fantasies of redemption through sacrifice..." Jerusalem needs sacrifices and blood"...the promised reward for those who would sacrifice everything for jihad is salvation...says Sura 2:154 "Do not think that those who are killed in the way of Allah are dead, for indeed they are alive, even though you are not aware"...for the dar al-Islam (world of Islam) and the dar al-harb (world of war), acts of terror against unbelievers have long been taken as an exemplary expression of sacredness...they say the dead shall not rise, until the Palestinians shall kill all the Jews...the planned Islamic war against Israel is conceived as a distinctly "final solution" for "the Jews"...suicide against Jews represents...a divinely mandated road to salvation that reward doubly...killing Jews offers the optimal immunization against personal death...for Hamas, Fatah, and other Jihadist fighters, the terror-based struggle...has been about God and about immortality...for Jihadists, the ethos of redemption through sacrifice remains an immutably core pillar of both individual and collective Islamic existence...". (Professor Louis Rene Beres, Unity Coalition for Israel, 12/5/2014). The only problem: they are slaves to a god of death and do not know it.

As barbaric as it may be, decapitation began under the prophet Muhammad as he entered Mecca with his army. He called to his warriors: "Do you see the soldiers?...Go and slaughter them." The Arabic word for slaughter is "*thabih*" and presents the picture of a farmer harvesting his crop with a scythe. In other words, Muhammad gave the directive, 'Cut their heads from their bodies as you would cut fruit from the branch of a tree.' The Lord Jesus said, **"... all who draw the sword will die by the sword" (Matthew 26:52)**. We must stand up to evil, but do so wisely, resisting in such a way that we do not become evil in the process.

## What Is An Islamic Caliphate?

Christians are asking the above question. The world *Caliphate* comes from the Arabic word "*Khalifut*"...which means something has been exchanged or replaced. An Islamic kingdom is ruled by a Caliph, a supreme religious leader. In this case, the newly formed Islamic Caliphate has one driving desire: to attempt to replace the true Universal Kingdom of the one True God - to do that they must get rid of the Jews! This kingdom of darkness has been revived from the slumber of centuries, and is presently galloping across the earth at an accelerated pace. A kingdom *has* arisen against God's Coming Kingdom—another sign of the end times.

We watch as nations sharpen their swords to use against one another while ethnic upheavels stir up the spirit of lawlessness, but when kingdoms (Hebrew: *mamlakah*) clash in violent confrontation it's a dominion issue...kingdom usurpers who are thirsty for power through shedding blood.

It *could* put fear in one's heart. As a child, one night I saw a bright light outside my bedroom window. I was full of fear and didn't know what to do but I dropped to my knees and prayed to God. I know now it must have been the Aurora Borealis with its colored lights seen in the skies in the north but I did not know what this great light was at the time. We can follow end time developments with fearful hearts or we can fall to our knees in prayer and ask God to protect us from the evil that has been unleashed. Jesus said "Lo, I am with you even until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). He will be with us.

The coming not-so-distant battles will be over the Land of Israel and Jerusalem. This tiny nation sticks like a "bone in the throat" of Islam. Its existence simply makes fanatic Moslems "choke." Their plan is to conquer the entire Middle East for the sake of Allah and then rule the whole world. "...radical Islam is a threat to our common civilization...it worships tyranny and terror. They seek to impose a new dark age on humanity." *Benjamin Netanyahu*. One can't help but wonder how it is that thousands of deceived young men and women from civilized nations join movements such as ISIS, ISIL and Hamas (the Hebrew word for violence). They appear to be "drawn" by an enticing spirit which lures



The hoofbeats of an Islamic Kingdom

**"...AND I SAW THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN BEHEADED BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS AND BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD." (REVELATION 20:4)**

them. Jesus said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." (Matthew 24:11).

## A Breakthrough in the Darkness

In the midst of the recent conflict in Gaza, a force of IDF soldiers went into a mosque looking for weapons, explosives and rockets, and encountered a female suicide bomber who was about to detonate the belt she wore. One of the Israeli soldiers instinctively recited the opening words of the holiest Jewish prayer "Shema Yisrael!" The female suicide bomber hesitated and began trembling, giving the soldiers a chance to grab her and disable the device. An investigation uncovered that the female suicide bomber was a Jew who had married a Palestinian in Israel and, after the wedding, was smuggled against her will into Gaza. There she lived a life filled with abuse and humiliation and was basically a captive. An Israeli armored force went in to Gaza and rescued her two small children." (8/14, Breitbart News, www.breitbart.com). What a testimony to the God of Israel and His ability to break through the darkness of the life of this female suicide bomber.

The followers of Mohammed claim Islam is greater than Judaism and Christianity and that it has replaced both communities of faith. The symbol on the Islamic flag is a crescent moon and the cry of Islam while waving it proudly is: "Allah hu Akbar" meaning "Allah is Great"...it is literally a war cry of frenzied spirits in hot pursuit of a **kingdom!** The seizing of that which belongs to Almighty God is the supreme goal which drives them.

It is important to note, that Lucifer ("satan" in Hebrew) means chief adversary of God who rules much of mankind, holds many captive in his grip. Let us never forget he desires to sit in the Supreme Seat of Authority (Hebrew "Kisseh") the seat of royal honor which belongs to God Almighty alone. Once cast out of Heaven because of rebellion, his goal has always been to set up his kingdom on earth among men. "How are you fallen from heaven, o Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground...which did weaken the nations...for you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14). This is the same Lucifer who

## "MOHAMMED'S TEACHINGS ARE BEHIND MUCH OF THE BARBARIC DEATHS TAKING PLACE TODAY"



Terror knows no age limit



ISIS fighters swearing allegiance to Allah - "another god"

today fills the earth with terror, and shakes kingdoms. The good news is that this darkest of angels will, in the end, be destroyed by God (Revelation 20:7-10).

At the time of this writing, ISIS and ISIL continue on a destructive path. However, as we turn to the Book of Psalms, we find God chuckling. Perhaps we think God is breaking His own code of behavior by laughing at His enemies who come against His People but the Word clearly states: "He Who dwells in Heaven laughs; the Lord mocks them"...the Lord treats them with contempt and scorn..." (Psalm 2:1-4). It is almost as if He is amused at the plans these barbarians are making. God knows He is the All Powerful and Almighty One and He knows the schemes and plans of the darkest of kingdoms. Nothing takes Him by surprise. He knows their ultimate goal is to conquer His People, Land and City, Jerusalem, but He has put His Name there forever. Even if the words inscribed on the ISIS flag translate into "There is no god but Allah, Mohammad is the messenger of Allah"—it does not change the fact that it is the God of Israel who ultimately will rule from Jerusalem!

## What is ISIS?

The prophet Jeremiah talks about a wicked and evil people coming against Israel in the latter days: "And I will make you (Israel) to this people (these evil ones) a fortified bronze wall; and they (perhaps ISIS or ISIL) will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you," says the Lord. I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you from the grip of the terrible" (Jeremiah 15:20-21).

According to a former Moslem, who became a Christian, Shariah law is the worldwide aim of ISIS. Shariah law, a 1000-year-old doctrine, is not a political ideology. It is based upon a false spiritual trinity...a counterfeit of the real one. ISIL means the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The Levant includes Lebanon to Israel's north plus Israel and all lands in the eastern Mediterranean area. Both ISIS and ISIL stand for violence and barbarianism. Yes, the prophet Daniel saw in his vision that a people of fierce countenances, who spoke in dark sentences, would arise! (The Hebrew word for fierce is *akzar* which means cruel and barbarous). A report during the Gaza Conflict stated that some people in Gaza could not recognize what the terrorists around them

were saying...they spoke in “dark sentences.” We may be literally witnessing the very movements that will form the kingdom of the anti-christ, a leader who will pledge to usher in an era of peace.

Lance Lambert once said, “If” the antichrist is standing in the offing...the stage is set to receive a false messiah. This way of thinking is already in the world. He also said “If” Obama’s name really means “the blessing of Hussein” and in Persian “obama” translates, “He is with us”...(we know we have a counterfeit)...” Lance also spoke about a 7th-century figure central to Shiite Islam, the sect that rules Iran, which predicted what the world would be like in the last days. A tall black man commanding a strong army will take power in the west. He would carry a clear sign for the 3rd Imam—Hussein. I am not saying Obama is that man (and neither is Lance Lambert) but it gives us food to chew on.

Let’s look at the word Hamas. The original Hebrew word is pronounced “*chamas*” with a “*kh*” sound at the beginning. Today...according to the Hebrew Lexicon, the Arabic cognate means “warlike...and violent.” One day Isaiah says “*Violence (hamas) shall no more be heard in thy Land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but you shall call your walls salvation, and your gates Praise*” (Isaiah 60:18). Israeli armed forces are preparing now for another fierce onslaught of rockets from the north especially since the bombing of terror targets in Syria and with the discovery of more tunnel systems than in Gaza, much prayer is going to be needed. The sounds of a far greater war than the conflict in Gaza may be just over the horizon.

As much as the enemies of Israel are driven by evil and darkness, we need to pray that souls will be freed from chains of satanic strongholds. For any of us to say that a man or woman is too far gone to be brought to repentance is to judge wrongly. God is still stronger than any evil grip. Eyes *can* be opened to truth and chains of bondage broken. Some of the testimonies I’ve heard of on the Internet and read in books written by former Muslims, testify to the power of God to break deception over the hardest of men who had become monsters. Replacement Theology, another more subtle deception, says that God has abandoned Israel and replaced it with the Church. Islam says both Israel and the Church are to be replaced. We have a lot of praying to do for end time miracles and the saving of captive souls.

The Final Battle will be when Israel’s enemies come thundering toward Israel in the latter days —**kingdom against kingdom**— we need to cling to the Rock that never moves - the Rock of Ages, the cornerstone of the Coming Kingdom... but beware of deception!

To an alarming degree, deceptive teachings, such as **Chrislam**, have entered many churches in the west. Darkness has been invited into places of light. Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, has recently spoken loudly against those who are opening their doors to Chrislam mixing a false religion that worships another god *with* Jesus Christ, the True Way. When Chrislam was formed, the alliance of Church and Islam polluted our holy places. From the Church’s point of view it is under the guise of “reaching out,” but a lack of understanding the Islamic mind creates a very naïve Christian understanding of Islam.

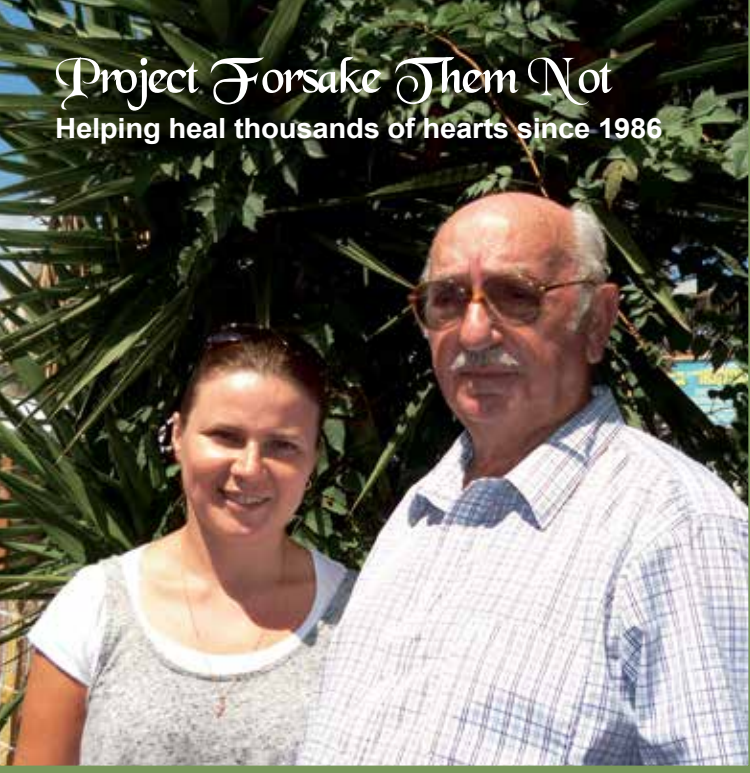
Recently, in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., a Moslem prayer service took place in a Church! The sanctuary was filled with followers of a kingdom of darkness bowing the opposite direction of the Kingdom of the Cross. The “Church” had welcomed the Islamic worshippers through “outreach”. As a distraught Christian woman called out, “**Jesus Christ is Lord**” she was ushered out and the service continued. This is pure spiritual deception. Is anyone questioning “**What fellowship does light have with darkness?**” (2 Corinthians 6:14). “**Let no man deceive you...for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first**” (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Yes, kingdom against kingdom are on a collision course, but “keep the faith.” We know who wins!

**By Sharon Sanders**



ISIS Flag With Its Proclamation

**“...AND THEY WILL  
FIGHT AGAINST YOU,  
BUT THEY SHALL NOT  
PREVAIL AGAINST YOU...”  
JEREMIAH 15:20-21**



Olga with Yakov

On July 7, 2014, Israel entered another war with Gaza, called Operation Protective Edge. Forsake Them Not did not cancel its trips to the Southern towns of Israel and, together with Survivors, experienced siren alarms. We decided to serve the people of Israel in practical ways, bringing support and comfort to them.

We have known Yakov for many years and this friendship is precious to the Forsake Them Not team

## Yakov's Troubles

"I was born in the village of Dzhuryn in Vinnitsa Oblast, Ukraine. I was 6 years old when the war began. For us children, the word "war" meant nothing. But when the first bombs fell to the village and first houses were destroyed, first casualties and blood – we quickly understood what war was. It still amazes me how a child's memory saves information and reproduces it today, one episode after another...

The Germans came into Dzhuryn in July, 1941. A few days later they barricaded a couple of streets with barbed wire, and a ghetto was ready. All Jews were forced to go there facing hunger, sickness and death. I could not understand why we had to leave our home, why I had to go behind the wire, why we did not have enough food, why our windows were shot at during nights. When the snow fell, we were taken on a march to the concentration camp called, "the Loop," located in Pechori. It was a long, hard walk; many were killed along the way. We found ourselves behind a high stone fence in extremely overcrowded space. My mother found a small spot under the stairs, next to a pool. We washed ourselves there, and drank water from the same place.

Our third attempt to run away was successful. The way to Dzhuryn's Ghetto was difficult, but we finally got there. By that time the ghetto was overcrowded with more than 3000 refugees from Rumania. Many people

# SERVING Jewish Survivors In the the Land

died daily because of sicknesses and hunger. The only joy was that the policemen were not allowed to kill the Jews. The Ghetto was liberated in March, 1944, but the Germans still held their positions and the fight line was only 30 km from Dzhuryn. Often the German planes bombed the area and we boys learned to distinguish Russian planes from German.

People say: "Time is healing," but I am not sure about that. One of the most terrifying experiences I had was just after the liberation. The Germans used illumination rounds (fired parachute flares, providing light for night fighting) before their air raids. Just imagine such a horror: suddenly it gets as light as day with the noise of air-planes overhead, but you can't see them; you are blinded and don't know where to run... In the beginning we ran to the open fields. Later we just stayed indoors. It was safer.

I came to Israel in October 1999. Today, here in Ashdod, we run to our bomb shelters, but we are not afraid, even though the night sirens bring back the horrible memories of the past."

The passage from Isaiah 40:1, "*Comfort, Yes, Comfort My people,*" was a guide for us. Thank you for your stand with Israel during this crucial time. We do appreciate your prayers and support. Your gifts enable us to go to the people's homes and personally show them that they are not alone.

By **Olga Kopilova**, Forsake Them Not Coordinator

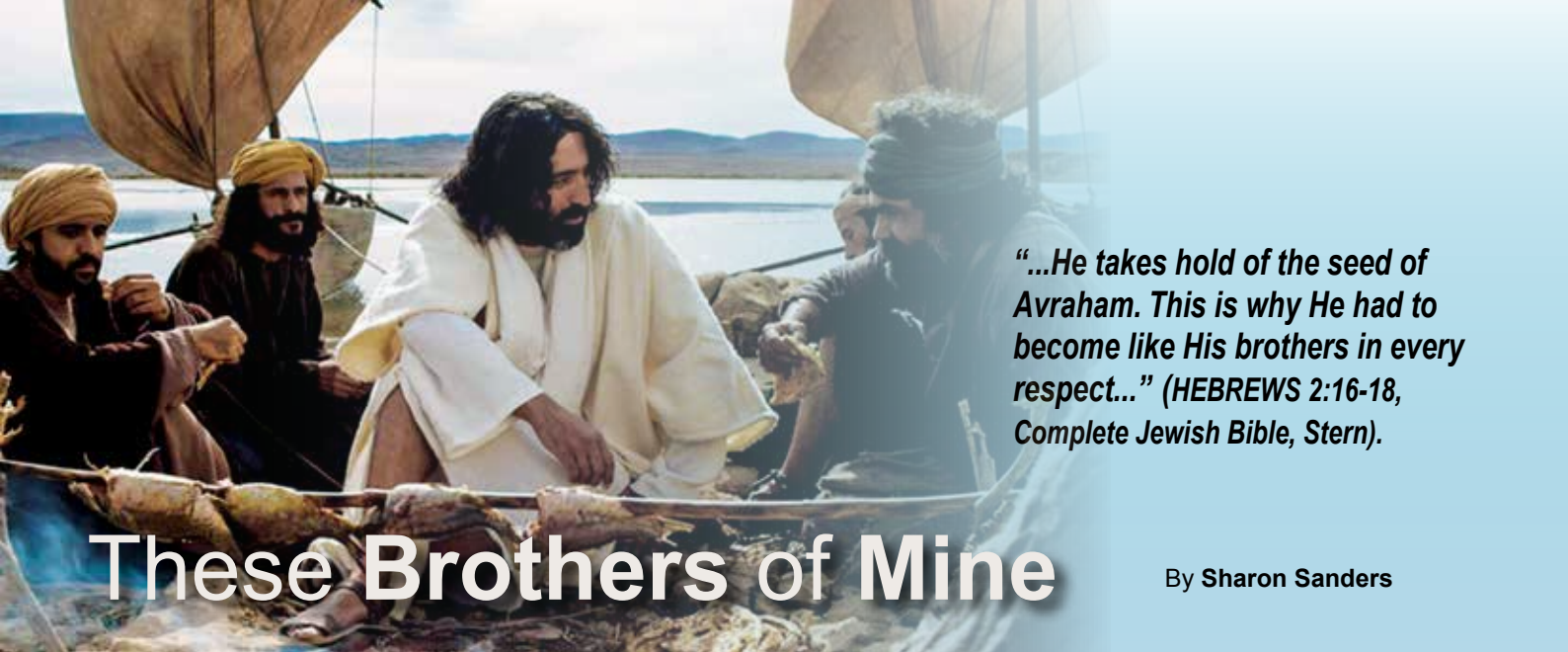
Yakov recalls his story in a book



Yakov in Uniform - 1955







***“...He takes hold of the seed of Avraham. This is why He had to become like His brothers in every respect...” (HEBREWS 2:16-18, Complete Jewish Bible, Stern).***

# These Brothers of Mine

By Sharon Sanders

**JUST LIKE HIS BROTHERS:** How important it is for Christians to read the Bible in context. Understanding the meaning behind the words brought out in **Hebrew exegesis** (pulling out the true meaning from the Hebrew language) and setting the words in terms which can be fully understood and assessed properly is key to comprehending Yeshua (Jesus).

I've always been intrigued by the word “*brethren*” in Matthew's passage regarding the Coming Kingdom when the Lord Yeshua sits on His throne of glory in Jerusalem. Let's take time to explore the meaning of the word, *brethren*. While teaching recently in Hong Kong with Claire Pfann, co-founder of the Center for the Study of Early Christianity (now University of the Holy Land) in Jerusalem, Claire, an experienced Bible scholar and teacher in Jerusalem, clearly spelled out—in agreement with my own studies—that the word “*brethren*” in this passage has been a bit misused.

Let's examine the passage. ***“When the Son of Man comes in His glory...and He will sit on His glorious throne, all the nations will be assembled before Him, and He will separate people one from another, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The ‘sheep’ He will place at His right hand (the hand of blessing and strength) and the ‘goats’ at His left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you...For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you made me your guest. I needed clothes and you provided them, I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. Then the people who have done what God wants will reply ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you our guest, or needing clothes and provide them? When did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ The King will say to them, ‘Yes! I tell you that whenever you did these things for one of the least important of these brothers of mine (brethren is used in the King James), you did them for me!’ (Matthew 25:24-46).***

He tells us that the “goats” were sent away from Him (to His left) as they turned away from His brothers, and did not help them when a cry for help was made.

This passage has been claimed by the Church of history to mean that when we see *our* “brothers or brethren” hungry, thirsty or needing help, that we should help them. Yes! This is correct and we should always imitate our Master and ***“do unto others as we would have them do unto us” (Matthew 7:12)***. Serving our own brethren in the Church is *definitely* a correct Biblical principle. **But** what did the historical Church do when the *Jewish* people needed them? Did they feed them when they stood at the door of their homes in Europe during the Holocaust? How about those who stood bloody and naked before their eyes? Did they clothe them and take them in? We know the answer.

The historical Church failed. It missed the call of Romans 11. **The Church today must not repeat the same mistakes.** In its context the word “*brethren*” or brothers means Jesus' fellow Jews. As Claire Pfann brought out in her teaching in Hong Kong, at the time Yeshua spoke these words it was well known, that *only Jews* called each other “*brethren*.” Jews also would not have called gentiles *brothers*. Added to this, at the time Yeshua taught this to His Disciples there was yet no institution called “**the Church**”. We can now clearly see what the words, “*brothers of mine*” literally mean. Yeshua was clearly stating ***“If you touch my Jewish brothers wrongly, it is as if you have touched Me!”***

Yeshua was truly made in the likeness of His Jewish brethren *but* the historical Church changed his physical appearance and depicted Him as a blue eyed, blonde-haired baby in a manger/creche. Orthodox Christianity depictions show him often with different faces and a metallic halo around His head. If Yeshua had not been Jewish, he would not have been able to fulfill the role of Cohen HaGadol (High Priest) in the service of God in the Temple. **I hope it is clear that when we have opportunities to touch the lives of these brothers of His...it is as if we were actually touching the Lord Himself.**

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# PURITY OF ARMS



CFI enjoys good relationships with the IDF



CFI Project Coordinator Jim McKenzie learning from an IDF soldier

*"The IDF servicemen and women will use their weapons and force only for the purpose of their mission, only to the necessary extent and will maintain their humanity even during combat. IDF soldiers will not use their weapons and force to harm human beings who are not combatants or prisoners of war, and will do all in their power to avoid causing harm to their lives, bodies, dignity and property." IDF Code of Ethics*

**In the recent war** with Hamas, it would have been very easy for Israel to resolve the conflict with this terror organization if they had chosen to just bomb the entire Gaza strip. However, knowing Hamas had infiltrated throughout the civilian population, the Jewish people stood by their high standards of protecting human life and made the decision to instead risk the lives of their young men and women in the armed forces in order to save innocent Gazan lives. This was the purpose of the ground operation – because Hamas had hidden their weapons, missile launchers and tunnels in civilian homes, schools and Mosques. A famous quote from former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir states, "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

The IDF went to great lengths to warn the innocent people of Gaza as they carried out their mission to destroy the rockets and tunnels being used against the Israeli civilian population. Not only did the Air Force drop leaflets over communities warning them to leave the area being targeted to combat Hamas terrorists, but the army also sent phone calls and text messages as a warning. If that wasn't enough, the Air Force then dropped a non-explosive missile on the roof of the building they were about to target as a warning, giving five more minutes for anyone else who may have chosen to not leave the building. In a recent visit to an Air Force base, I was told that this "knock on the roof" was at a cost of \$25,000 USD per

***"Through God we will do valiantly,  
For it is He who shall tread down  
our enemies" Psalm 60:12.  
New King James Version (NKJV)***

instance. The sad thing is that Hamas has such a strong influence over the people that they would tell them to run to the roof – as a human shield - to deter the IDF from dropping the missile on their building. Several times the mission had to be aborted for this reason, due to the respect for innocent human lives. The "pilot" discharging the missile has full control over the direction of the missile and its target all the way to impact, and therefore, even after it has been discharged; it can be directed to a different target if needed - such as an open area or empty building.

In the Middle East region, the moral integrity and purity with which the IDF chooses to conduct themselves is beyond reproach, and this military force is known as one of the most humane armies in the world. Although the intent of Israel's enemies is to cause harm, the Israeli army chooses to defend themselves with compassion for their enemies, even during a time of conflict. Even how and when they use their weapons against their attackers sets them apart. While combatants who chose to start the war hidden behind women, children and babies—as they held their weapons, missiles and bombs—the Israeli soldiers used great restraint and only fired when their personal lives were in danger. This is the same for every conflict they find themselves in throughout the country.

Even though the servicemen and women of the Israel Defense Forces are confident that what they are doing is right, they have told us how much it encourages them to know there are others who stand with them and understand the morality with which they conduct themselves. **Thank you for your support of this modern day King David's army.**

By **Jim McKenzie**, Project David's Shield Coordinator

## Overwhelmed But Hopeful

Atsnafa Family—two of seven sons, the father and mother and the oldest of two daughters



Home from boarding school



Bathroom for 12 people



Bedroom can only fit a single bed and wardrobe

**Defeat is not on the lips of this family.** Hope is the thread with which the tapestry of our life is woven, mended and at times reconstructed, forming a unique and extravagant work of art that only the Creator, our Lord, is able to perfect. Similarly, the magnificence of His handiwork becomes obscured or damaged as the cord of “hope” or expectation that binds or reconstructs is weakened and seemingly fades away into imperfection.

For some, desperation is the spring-board that provides strength and motivation to rise above the adversities of life. On the other hand, desperation is likely to be the weight that crushes and destroys all sense of hope and security, for those who believe they are a “victim” of their circumstances. Why is that? Why is it that desperate circumstances or situations create a “fork” or divide in the road of life—a road to victory—or, a road to defeat. Many lives of those we come in contact with through Hope for the Future (HFF) are teetering in the balance. The following highlights one of the “desperate” family situations in which parents are fighting for their family’s mere existence.

The Atsnafa family has 12 people living in a very small three bedroom home. There are nine children living at home, plus the young son of one of the daughters. Seven of the children are under 18 and are still in school—six boys attend the WIZO Pardes Katz Afterschool Program that HFF supports. One of the boys is in boarding school during the week and home on weekends.... One girl is in the army but comes home when not on duty. One boy was in the army, but lives at home due to a dishonorable discharge for drinking—a result of trying to cope with extreme family issues.... One girl finished the army, received her certification to become a dental assistant, but lives at home with her son. The mother is suffering from unsuccessful eye surgeries--the effects of severe diabetes and is unable to work. The husband works and collects odds-and-ends that he can sell for extra cash. The stress of living in a small place with 12 people of varying ages, in addition to financial problems, medical issues for the mother and many other challenges is overwhelming, especially the mother. For instance, the principal of the school wanted to have the children taken away, by the welfare department, if she fails to provide a sandwich or food for her children’s lunch.

This week, as a means of bringing “light” to the family dwelling and hope of more to come, HFF and a CFI volunteer work team from Colorado, painted their home. We pray to the Lord for His will to be done and that His Kingdom will come in the lives of the Atsnafa family corporately and individually. I am reminded of a song taken from Psalm 61:2 **“When I am overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I....”** Thank you for your ongoing support of the disadvantaged from this Jewish community.

By Linda Edwards, Hope for the Future Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

“...His love endures forever...” Psalm 100:5

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But the good Samaritan reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” – Martin Luther King Jr

Jackie Nelson Blesses a Widow

## Giving Widows a Reason to Celebrate



Making friends forever



God's blessings abounded



His light shone all around

**A RECENT CFI SHORT TERM SERVICE TEAM** from Colorado and Nevada (USA) assisted our Streams of Blessing department in throwing a great birthday party for the widows of our Russian War Veterans. We wanted to celebrate everyone's birthday in 2014! **God arranged this** to make them feel special and **let them know that we are Christian Friends of Israel; and we love them, support them, and are their genuine friends** who have *become like family* to many of the elderly. A large amount of planning, shopping, baking and creating beautiful boutique gift bags and cards for each of the widows kept everyone busy right up until the day of the special occasion.

Some of the invited widows were unable to attend due to health problems, some of our **service team** visited them in their homes. When the doorbell of Laila rang and our team appeared at her door, she was overcome with joy. She covered her eyes as if she wanted to cry and shout for joy at the same time. As we presented her with her gifts (with tears in her eyes) she thanked us over and over. Because she was ill, we blessed her with a prayer for good health. We imagine that as she lay back on her bed her head would have been still trying to absorb her experience with her newfound friends. We all came away knowing she felt special, loved, and cared for that day. We left her apartment knowing we had touched one of His Own... having a hard time containing *our* tears of joy for being used by the Lord in such a tangible way. **“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” James 1:27.**

Upon the arrival of our guests, they were immediately adorned, with a beautiful felt rose. Each rose had been hand created by a team of Christian sisters in Colorado. As the party commenced everyone enjoyed delicious homemade cupcakes, savory pastries and Russian candies. The team sang a variety of songs in Hebrew and English. Our listeners were joyful and for a period of time able to forget their personal problems. **They were being loved!** All enjoyed their own beautiful gift bag containing a variety of personal items and an individual birthday card signed by all the members of the team. We **must** care about the needs of those living alone. It is hard for some to grasp the concept of God's love when they don't know when they will be remembered again. One team member contributed four beautiful vases filled with flowers. Our guests loved being given a gift as a “winner” at the end of the event. Indeed, it was a memorable event for both the attendees and short term volunteers. The widows told us repeatedly that they had no words ade-



# Christian Service In Action

quate to speak and to say how blessed they felt. Many "Toda Rabas" (thank you's) were spoken to the team before departure back to reality...many alone again in their small apartments with no spouse or family nearby. **Thanks to the Lord for His goodness! This is our shining hour!**

**A CALL FOR SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS!** CFI would like to take this opportunity to call for other short term volunteers who will open their heart and hands to God to learn compassion and to give help to those in need. Will you help us expand our Department of Service here at CFI-Jerusalem? **How About Long Term? We await your application. Go online to [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) and sign up or contact us directly.** You may apply to serve with our long term staff in Jerusalem for one or two weeks, or two to three months at a time. Write to us for further information on how you can sign up...as you serve you will bless...as you bless you will shine....and as you shine, you reflect His Face to Israel. Help us won't you, undo damage the historical Church did to the Jewish people through the sign of the Cross? Join multitudes who have already served. Many look forward to returning immediately after arriving home. You can also form a team as this Colorado and Nevada team did. Write us today for more information about joining us short term.



Using God given skills

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

By Jackie Nelson, Streams of Blessing Coordinator

Love in action is Service

His joy was contagious



Serving others is serving God



# 2015 CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

(Celebrates 30 Years)



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LAMBERT



PETER  
TSUKAHIRA



DAVID  
NEKRUTMAN



AVNER  
BOSKEY



RICK  
RIDINGS



SHARON  
SANDERS



KEVIN  
HOWARD

## Bible Prophecy and The Coming Kingdom

*"...they asked Him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).*

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**Special Conference Highlights:** Through the Years Down Memory Lane, Generation to Generation Changeover, Israeli Dignitaries, Jewish and Christian Bible Scholars (international and local), Special Tributes, Israeli Dancing, Praise and Worship by Rick and Patti Ridings, Barry and Batya Segal, Amber Sutter, Melody of My Heart, prayer and intercession for Israel, spotlight speakers, Break Out sessions, special forum, Communion service and more...

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# OF ISRAEL JERUSALEM

## of Standing With Israel)



DAVID  
SOAKELL

AVI  
LIPKIN

BOAZ  
MICHAEL

FATHER  
NADAFF

All speakers subject to change

## Meet the People of Israel

### Tour: June 5-11, 2015

Optional Visits to these interesting sites in Jerusalem  
(Three afternoons during the CFI Conference)

- Walk in the footsteps of the Patriarchs in Biblical Hebron
- Meet with a Palestinian Christian Pastor in Bethlehem
- Climb historical Masada
- Dead Sea
- Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.
- Qasr el Yahud, where John the Baptist baptized in the river Jordan
- Ancient Shilo where the children of Israel brought the Tabernacle
- Visit the Israeli Community of Beit El where Jacob had his dream
- Mount Gerizim
- Defining Moments on the Mount of Beatitudes
- An unforgettable boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Visit Carmel Assembly on Mount Carmel
- Enjoy a traditional Shabbat dinner and time with Ray and Sharon

Worship Leaders



RICK AND  
PATTI RIDINGS



BARRY AND  
BATYA SEGAL



Meeting Christians from other Nations

## A Personal Invitation to Come Up to Jerusalem!

June 1-11, 2015	Double Occupancy	Full Conference and Tour Package	US \$1,999
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June 1-5, 2015	Double Occupancy	Conference Only Plus accommodation	US \$699
June 1-5, 2015	Single Occupancy	Conference Only Plus Accommodation	US \$1,089

Because of this special year, rooms will fill up quickly, book now! As soon as rooms fill at the hotel venue, registrants will be booked in other hotels.



**Keshet Educational Journeys**

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“Make a tour of the Holy Scriptures by walking through the pages of the Bible on site”





Lives pained by traumatic experiences



CFI's Maggie Huang visits terror victims

## The Grief and Pain Remain

**SINCE SEPTEMBER 2000**, Israel has experienced repeated deadly terror attacks that have claimed many civilian casualties, disrupted daily life and the economy and created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. More than 1,000 Israelis were killed and more than 8,000 were injured as a result of Palestinian terror attacks. After a terror attack happens it usually is on the news for a day or two, then people move on in life and forget. **However, the grief, trauma, and pain of the victims and the families of the deceased simply do not go away.** Two, three, and even 10 years later victims and their families are often still coping with the ongoing aftermath of problems.

**Yoram** is unable to go back to a normal life after the terror attack that he went through – a horrendous suicide bombing. Images of severed arms, of bodies sliced in half, of spurting arteries, and pools of blood are indelibly etched in his mind. He was so incapacitated by grief and trauma that it also caused the closing of his shoe store.

**Lubov** is a mother with a torn heart who still weeps over her teenage daughter who was killed in a terror attack in Central Israel. Lubov was hospitalized for 4 years as she was severely depressed over her daughter's death. **Another mother, Kochava**, is also still in deep sorrow over her son who was killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem shortly after he completed his IDF service. The grief over her deceased son put Kochava's faith in God to a great test. Poisonous explosives stuffed in a suicide bomb caused **Ester** post trauma, cancer and several serious diseases, and also made her son an indirect victim of terror. After the attack, being a **single mom**, Ester was fighting for her life to the point that she was unable to attend to the needs of her son. As a result, her son later developed kidney problems that now need dialysis. The immune systems of both Ester and her son are extremely weak requiring visits to the doctor constantly. A terror attack took its toll on **Eli's** (as well as several others') **marriage** as his career was

ended. He just could not overcome the trauma of the terror attack. Many other terror survivors (and families of the deceased victims) have untold heartache and memories from these wicked attacks.

### Weep with those who Weep

Many of the terror victims in Israel hide themselves in the dark, weeping alone. Many feel un-wrapped deep grief, and feel forgotten. There is the added stress of unpaid bills plus the inability to provide for families and to pay for medical and other basic needs. Many terror victims are facing financial hardships. With the financial assistance given by Christians worldwide, **CFI's "Under His Wings" (UHW) team visits with the terror victims in their distress, compassionately listening and also acknowledging their continuing pains, touching lives with God's love that helps heal damaged hearts. CFI conveys the message, "WE REMEMBER, WE CARE AND GOD CARES."**

Thank you for *prayerfully* considering supporting Project "Under His Wings" as we continue our work of reaching the victims of terror attack who have suffered great loss and unspeakable trauma and grief at the hands of hatred-filled terrorists. **The Lord bless you for praying and supporting us.**

By **Maggie Huang**, Under His Wings Coordinator



CFI helps provide therapy in many ways



# Rooted In Brotherhood

By Ray Sanders

**WHEN WE THINK OF ALL THE WONDERS OF GOD'S** magnificent creation, we are especially awed by the giant sequoia tree. These amazing behemoths of the forest can grow to around 300 feet tall with a diameter that exceeds 20 feet. They can live over 3,000 years and are even fire resistant. In fact, forest fires pop the sequoia cones open, distributing their seeds on the forest floor that has been fertilized by the ashes. Perhaps the most amazing fact is that these trees can grow in just three feet of soil and withstand high winds. Their strength lies in the fact that their roots intertwine with other sequoias, providing mutual strength and shared resources." (*Word for Today*). To remember this may help some of us get to the root of our own problems.

The Household of Faith's ability to stand tall in spite of the spiritual warfare and winds of life in the Middle East is directly related to the love and support they receive from the nations. Think how difficult it is to withstand the adversities of life here if no one is sharing the roots of their strength with them. We need to let the roots of God's love, through our First Fruits Department, be entwined with believers who need our support. Thank you for responding to the many needs that exist here in Israel.

## SHARE IN THE VINTAGE FRUIT WITH US! FROM THE VINEYARD

**SO THANKFUL:** "Grace and peace...we are so thankful [for] your support for our people for so many years. **Let the God of Israel bless you as you bless us.** We have a sister who has children and her husband [is] not working...We do not have enough income to manage the family and we are in need of your support. We are so thankful for CFI. Let the God of Israel bless you." B.B. Ethiopian community

**BLESSING THE CHILDREN:** "Greetings...we would like to thank you for the generous gift...designated for **summer camps for children of needy families.** These people could not have attended as they could not afford it otherwise. It has been a great encouragement for the parents and a great blessing for the children. Thank you for your support." Pastor TS

**HOME TO LIVE IN:** "Blessings...we were able to secure renting an apartment by using your gift toward our rent for the next four months, **so we have a home to live in and my little boys are very, very happy.** We thank you so very much with all of our hearts." HS

**FINANCIAL HELP:** "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the financial help that you gave me... Your assistance will help me a lot. **May God bless you for your kindness and may you always be able to bless others...**" *"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the father is this, to visit orphans and widows in their trouble..."* NS

**FIRST FRUITS** continues on its journey of giving blessings to the Household of Faith throughout the Land of Israel, which knows no barriers, no partiality...helping people from every land around the world who have come home (many spiritual leaders, both Orthodox and non-orthodox, Christian congregations and all who believe in the One True God). Won't you help us encourage them in their walk with God and strengthen their faith during these difficult days when Islam wants to eliminate both Jew and Christian and their faith in the God of Israel? **Your gift of love strengthens people of faith in Israel today.**

**Wouldn't you like to bless a Pastor or spiritual leader of a congregation in Israel that needs help?**

# The Lighthouse Distribution Center

Meeting crowds of newcomers since 1990



“The Jews in Poland weren’t as fortunate. They didn’t see what was coming.”

## From Fear to Freedom

**GOD IS CONTINUALLY BRINGING HOME HIS PEOPLE** from exile. CFI receives current information every day about the situation in the Ukraine, first hand. **Numerous times immigrants are unable to hold back the tears in their eyes as they recall families they have had to leave behind.** One lady shared with us that her daughter couldn’t make *aliyah* because she is fourth generation Jewish. The law in Israel does not allow her to make *aliyah* in those circumstances. **Although the situation in Israel has been uneasy, these new immigrants seem to have a strong inner conviction that Israel is the place they are called to be.**

Recent Ukrainian immigrant visitors have come from **Slavyansk, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kramatorsk, Gorlovik, Shakhtersk, Zaporoghie and Odessa.** As the situation deteriorates there many **more are expected to soon follow.** It is so amazing to see many of these *Olim* on their second or third day in Israel. The unrest is in the area from Donetsk and Lugansk. In Donetsk there is violence in parts of the city and the airport was retaken from pro-Russian groups.

● **Lugansk:** many Jewish people made *aliyah* in the 1990’s. Recently the Israeli Consul helped remaining Jews leave the Ukraine with the Jewish Agency and Ezra’s assistance. There is a shortage of electricity at night, and terrorism has increased against young people (14 July 2014)

● **Kramatorsk:** despite the unrest, community programs continue.

● **Slavyansk:** there was a disturbing situation in May with shootings and explosions. People with young children left the town and interest in *aliyah* has risen.



This Jewish war veteran made *aliyah* years ago. Now a pensioner, he is loved and served at the DC

- **Mariupol:** in October 1941, 6,000 – 10,000 Jews were murdered by the Nazis. In June 2014, the city was won back from the pro-Russian rebels.
- **Gorlovka:** is 50 km. from Donetsk, and has about 100,000 inhabitants, up to 10,000 are Jewish.

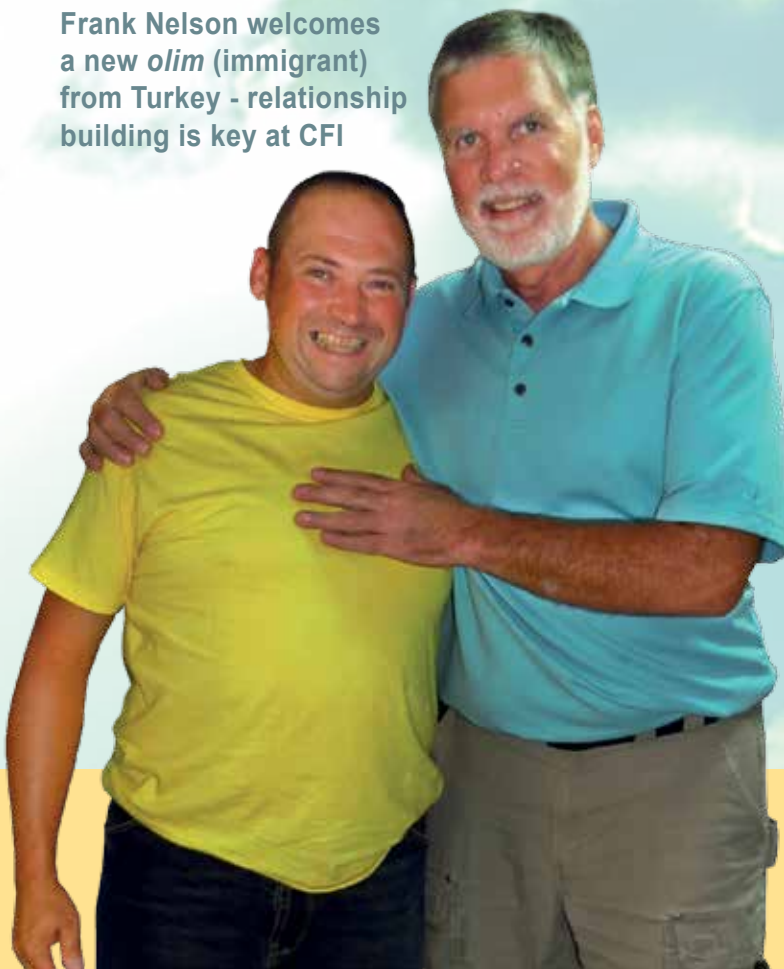
New immigrants have been placed in the coastal cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon. Lately these cities have been the target of hundreds of rocket attacks from HAMAS terrorists in Gaza. These immigrants have a strong faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It inspires us to see their determination to establish their new lives despite the dangers. They continue to journey to our Jerusalem Distribution Center to receive much needed help in their first days here. We give an experience of genuine Christian love and care they have found no where else. **It is a favorite moment when we tell them why we left our homes to help them!**



**Anti-Semitism has grown in Europe** to unbelievable proportions. Europe stands at risk of becoming “Judenrein” or free of Jews, Abraham Foxman said in a statement in Berlin recently. Polls show that 24% of the adult population in Western Europe and 34% in Eastern Europe hold deep-seated anti-Jewish views. Thank God we have a Distribution Center staff who makes home visits to our newcomers. God knows they need encouragement and love as well as comfort. **We are praising Him for healing hearts through CFI.**

New immigrants, Sasha and Margarita in Ashdod, opened their home to CFI staff, proudly showing us the new and beautiful bedding they received at the CFI Distribution Center only days before. A wonderful dinner including Russian folk songs followed. They told us that they were now discovering what it means to be Jewish. They had been robbed of their Jewish heritage by former Soviet Union policies. **“But this is a people robbed and plundered...”**. (Isaiah 42:22).

**Frank Nelson welcomes a new olim (immigrant) from Turkey - relationship building is key at CFI**



CFI's Frank Nelson stands outside WIZO headquarters

**WIZO**, the Women's International Zionist Organization, is an international movement dedicated to the advancement of the status of women. It also contributes to the welfare of all sectors of Israeli society and encouragement of Jewish education in Israel and the Diaspora. It is an international movement of Zionist women, founded in England in 1920. WIZO and CFI work together.

Today, there are more than a quarter of a million volunteers in 50 Federations throughout the world. Together they are working for the welfare of the citizens of Israel by providing help and support in the operation of hundreds of educational, welfare projects, and other services. **As we prepared to receive our container from H.E.L.P. International, we were able to share out of our abundance with WIZO.** The leaders of WIZO Jerusalem showed much appreciation. What a great privilege to bless them.

**“But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity: and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make him afraid”** (Jeremiah 46:27).

By Rocio Fordham, Project Open Gates Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



CFI Bridal Coordinator, Patty, with Michal



Michal, reading from Torah Scroll at the Western Wall



Michal and her family



# CFI Bridal Salon

*“...How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!...” (Psalm 119: 9-10).*

Thanks to your generosity, the CFI Bridal Salon is able to generously bless many brides, grooms and their families by providing high quality wedding dresses, evening dresses and suits for those who cannot afford to purchase Bridal items.

CFI also provides gifts for Bar and Bat Mitzvah events (Israeli boys age 13/girls age 12) to bless them on their “special birthday.” According to Jewish tradition they become “adults” with spiritual responsibilities; and for the first time they can be called to read from the Torah Scrolls in the synagogue. Among our many items of blessing we typically provide kipot (head covering), prayer shawl (Tallit), birthday cards, a Book of Psalms (Hebrew or bilingual), dress trousers, white shirt and socks for each boy.

For the young girls we offer a special selection of beautiful dresses donated from the nations, and each girl can choose from them the one they desire. We also provide dress shoes, a Book of Psalms, a birthday card, scarf, jewellery and a handbag.

### Your monetary donations help us purchase these items!

Michal celebrated her “Bat Mitzvah” this year and I was honored to be invited to the modest but touching event. As “*Olim*” (new immigrants) in Israel, Michal’s parents work hard to give their children the best they can, but the challenges and needs are many.

At the CFI Bridal Salon, Michal was given nice presents that made her feel special and loved. She also found a beautiful pink dress to wear for her Bat Mitzvah when she read from the Torah scroll for the first time at the Western Wall in the presence of her family and friends. She was very thankful for all the gifts. When she saw the dress she said, “How come nobody has taken this dress? I love it.” I told her that nobody took it before because it was meant just for her!

By Patricia Cuervo, Bridal Salon Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



Patty and a beautiful Israeli bride



## Aharai & CFI Run Together



CFI's Project David's Shield, our ministry to Israeli soldiers since 1988, was invited recently to partner with Aharai (Hebrew for "Follow Me"). This Israeli leadership program mentors youth, and prepares them for military service in the Israel Defense Forces.

Joining Forces: CFI connected with Israeli youth shoulder-to-shoulder in sponsoring a race to promote unity between the youth and current IDF soldiers. David Kalisher, a Jerusalem insurance agent and friend of CFI helped arrange this great link-up.



CFI Cuts the Ribbon: Jim McKenzie, Project David's Shield Coordinator, was honored, *on behalf of CFI*, to cut the ribbon to start the race, and to speak to the group in the closing ceremony. As Jim spoke of CFI's solidarity as Christians (with the IDF, the community and the youth), the Head Councilman and leader of the event spoke, "I looked into the eyes of the parents, and saw that what you shared with them went straight into their hearts. It was good for you to be here today." May CFI, through your precious support of our relationship building work, have many more opportunities to partner with the Israeli communities in which we serve and show our support.

Israeli runners wearing CFI logo on t-shirts

**As Christians in the Land of Israel we pray God will give us continued favor to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Israeli communities to undo the damage of historical Christianity. Your help and prayers are so valuable to this work.**

# VOLUNTEER WITH US IN JERUSALEM

CFI Jerusalem gives you the opportunity to live out your faith by working with other Christians in a Christ-centered, team-like environment. Use your gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of others, while fulfilling your God given purpose in life. Join our "Fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).



### **Volunteer benefits:**

Housing, Health Insurance, Bus Pass, Daily meal, Accrued Vacation Time

### **Current Open Positions:**

- Media – Editor, Producer, Writer, Graphic Artists, Marketing and Social Media Professionals
- Accounting, Bookkeeping and HR Professionals
- Executive Secretarial and Administrative Assistants
- Conference Experience/Tour Coordinator
- Translators – Chinese, Spanish and Hebrew

*Volunteer versus salaried benefits differ. Please inquire for details.*



[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



[personnel@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:personnel@cfijerusalem.org)



# Providing Warmth during Hanukkah Season

## Winter Clothes for Every Child

*...she reaches forth her hands to the needy Proverbs 31:20 ESV*

In mid-November, Sha'alei Tikva contacted Christian Friends of Israel requesting assistance with their "Warm Winter Campaign". Recognizing that winter was just around the corner their desire was to help some very needy children have the chance to experience an extra special Hanukkah.

Thanks to CFI donors from around the world, we were able to assist 120 children by providing gift cards to a local retail store. This enabled each child to shop and pick out a brand new sweatshirt of their choice. This may not seem like a lot to some but throughout Israel many school aged children - on a daily basis - do not have the appropriate clothing with which to face the chill and rain.

Christian Friends of Israel was honored to stand in the gap by providing this tangible gift of love from Christians throughout the nations.

***Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God***  
*Hebrews 13:16 ESV*



from left to right: Sharon Sanders, Stacey Howard, Jackie Nelson, Pini Volf and Shlomi Turgeman

*Hi Sharon, Hi Stacey and Hi Jackie,*

*I hope all of you are well.*

*We received such exciting comments from the kids and their parents thanks to you!!! ... It was so heartwarming to know that the children could buy a new outfit for Hanukkah and Winter.*

*Warm Regards,*  
*Shlomi Turgeman, Treasurer Shaarei Tkvah*

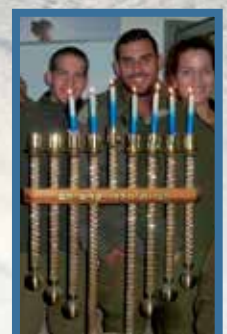


## GIVING GIFTS OF WARMTH

*fleece jackets* for the body and *encouragement* for the heart

The season during Chanukah and the winter months can be quite challenging for the Israel Defense Forces, and a "desert" region brings very cold nights. Whether they are in the southern desert, the mountains of Judea and Samaria, or the heights of the Golan – when the sun goes down, the cold settles in. Our partner organization, Libi Fund, with whom we work to distribute jackets, placed a full page ad in the IDF monthly magazine *B'Mahane* telling of the partnership of Christians donating to help keep the army warm this winter. The heading reads, "*Christian Friends of Israel hugs you.*"

Project David's Shield provided many of Israel's defenders with gifts of fleece jackets to help keep them warm as they serve to protect the Land and people. Recently, the Oketz canine Special Forces unit Commander invited me to light the Chanukiah for the soldiers at a special candle lighting ceremony. We had provided gifts of fleece jackets for this unit. After the blessings were prayed and the candles were lit, we thanked them for being courageous warriors like in the days of the Maccabees – standing up for what is right and protecting God's Land.



# CFI Representatives in the Nations

**United Kingdom**  
**India**



David and Julie Soakell

## CFI UK Holocaust Exhibition:

### On the Roads of the United Kingdom

CFI's Holocaust tour began 6 January 2014 and ran through 17 July 2014. The tour consisted of many towns and cities in the North of England from Newcastle through to Scarborough. Featured in many schools, churches and libraries, it is a success everywhere it is taken.

### Leed's-Devon-Cornwall-Somerset

In July in Yorkshire, the Jewish community showed their appreciation and support of CFI as we continue to stand alongside. David Soakell, CFI UK Church Liaison Officer, spoke at the event and the response from the Jewish community once again was heartwarming. Dortmund Square in Leeds was packed with peaceful campaigners showing their support for Israel. More speaking tours of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset drew many supporters from numerous churches this year.

### Eastbourne

In September two more conferences were held in Eastbourne. CFI Area Representatives gathered together for this biennial conference and had 15 areas of the 22 UK areas covered at the Conference. Area Reps from Inverness-shire, Edinburgh, the Scottish Borders, N. Yorkshire, Tees Valley, E. Yorkshire, W. Midlands, Birmingham, N. Wales, Monmouth, Swindon, Norwich, Essex, Devon and SW and W Sussex came for a productive time together.

Promotion of the CFI Jerusalem 30th Pearl Anniversary Conference June 1,2,3,4, 2015, is now a priority for the UK office. A tour is being organized from the UK and no one will want to miss it. A special invitation is extended to CFI's dear friends in the UK who have stood by the work in Israel since our inception in December, 1985. Come and join us for this significant event. It is the time and season to come to Israel. See your local CFI UK office for further information to sign up now. **Contact: Jacob Vince, [www.cfi.org.uk](http://www.cfi.org.uk)**



## New CFI India Chapter Pune, Maharashtra

**A NEW COORDINATOR FOR CFI** in the State of Maharashtra, India, has been selected and events have already begun in the city. Recently an all-day Seminar for Pastors and Church Leaders was held along with Youth Leaders of various churches and denominations in Pune, Maharashtra, at Hindustani Covenant Church. Over 200 people attended these first meetings. The response to the Seminar and meetings was overwhelming with immediate invitations to do another Seminar in Surat in the State of Gujarat. Welcome to our new branches in India. God is with you at this important time. **Contact: Bro. N. K. Chandra at [rebanpapers@yahoo.com](mailto:rebanpapers@yahoo.com)**

CFI Asia Trip  
Hong Kong  
Taiwan  
China  
Singapore

## To the Far East and Back—to Jerusalem



the Body of Christ in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China or Singapore, the desire to learn more about Israel and the Church exceeds nearly anywhere in the world presently. The power of prayer and intercession can be felt in every service, the interest in learning about their Hebrew foundations and roots was obvious everywhere we travelled. No meetings were scantily attended. Instead the halls of the campuses, pews in the churches, and seats in the conferences were all full.

CFI has been travelling to the Far East for years and the excitement of learning more has not lost its momentum. The smiles and warm faces of so many friends who came to hear about Israel and the Church, through the teaching of Sharon Sanders, was heartwarming. Graciousness is also a characteristic of the Chinese people. Where Replacement Theology blurs the vision of many Christians in Europe and in America, the eyes of the Chinese are wide open for more education regarding the People of the Book. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU IN HONG KONG, TAIWAN, CHINA and SINGAPORE for your loving hearts for CFI. We appreciate you very, very much.

Stacey and Sharon began the Far East Ministry Journey in Hong Kong where the CFI Representative, May Wong, had planned a campus event where the auditorium was filled with mainland Chinese who had come to learn more about Israel and the Church. Even questions raised about “who is ISIS and what is an Islamic Caliphate?” were answered. Mandarin seminars were also held as well as other church meetings. By the time we arrived in Taiwan, we realized that the Taiwan churches are just now beginning to understand Israel and God’s plans and purposes for her. We travelled by car, train and plane and enjoyed seeing hearts changed toward Israel and new prayer warriors and supporters come on board.

Arriving in Beijing, the familiar sight of gentle and loving friends of the ministry warmed our hearts. Every church meeting was packed full of lovers of Zion and the joy of singing her songs thrilled everyone. It was precious to see the hearts of pastors desiring to learn also...what they did not learn in seminary or bible college. Right now the Far East is experiencing God’s Holy Spirit in fullness which includes Israel. The insatiable desire to learn more is so different than the churches in Europe and America. In the Far East, almost everywhere you go there is an interest in Israel. May our churches in Europe and America once again burn with desire to walk with the Lord with a passion and to pray for Israel and to be a blessing to her as the Chinese church is presently doing.

Also there is a great love for Israel in Africa and India that is burning in the hearts of many Christians. In India Christians are demonstrating before their government in order to be allowed to travel to the Holy Land to see the won-

**LOVE FOR ISRAEL** was contagious everywhere we went. Many mainland Chinese travelled to Hong Kong to fill the campus auditorium with their hungry hearts for Israel. As Clare Pfann, co-founder of the University of the Holy Land, Stacey Howard, Executive Director of Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem and Sharon Sanders ministered from God’s Word on Israel. The only shortage we experienced was not enough time to say all we wanted to say. Thank you to the Far East for your wonderful love for CFI! Travelling to the Far East is an experience that one never forgets. The hospitality and the love and caring hearts of the Chinese people are beyond what most countries ever give out, especially to those coming from abroad. But when Jerusalem comes to



CFI Representative, May Wong in Hong Kong



Claire Pfann, Teacher, University of the Holy Land





# Choosing to Stand with Israel...



Stacey, CFI China Rep. Lois Wang and Sarah, Interpreter



CFI with Edith Autor at Calvary Church, Hong Kong

derful restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland. Finally, in Singapore, our lifelong friends introduced to us by Lance Lambert years ago, not only made us feel at home but once again shared their hearts about Israel with us. Our Representative, Rev. Timothy Chow, Rector of the largest spirit filled church in Singapore blessed CFI in a service dedicated to Israel. As Sharon Sanders spoke and taught, the halls of this great cathedral rang with songs of praise to God for His People. The infectious love for Israel which exudes from Pastor Timothy has permeated many members of his congregation. Thank you to every intercessor who prayed for us for our safe return home.

## THE POWER OF CRYING OUT

One of the most touching signs of the continuing move of the Holy Spirit in the Far East was the degree of intensity of prayer and crying out to God which we experienced in, especially, China, among the brethren. When visiting the west today the most significant difference between the prayers of God's people in China and the West was the fervency in the prayers of the Chinese believers—a fervency of spirit in crying out. When we grasp this, the pages of Scripture come alive with sound as David said: ***"In my distress I... cried unto my God: He heard my voice..."*** (Psalm 18:6). The Hebrew word that describes David's outcry is *shava*, a higher pitched cry for help. The Greek verb for crying out is a strong word usually translated as "shouting." When we allow the Holy Spirit to cry out from within for situations that require desperate measures, we must allow Him to have freedom in our prayers.

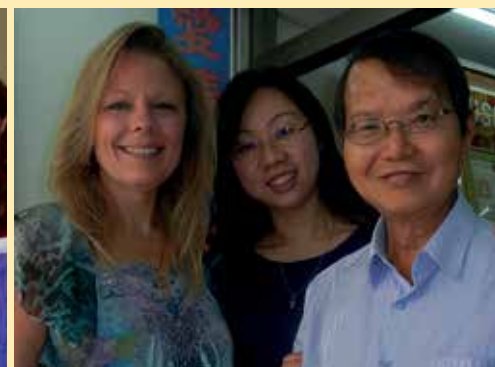
It was inspiring to us as we travelled to find eagerness of heart to "go to prayer" for Israel and the Jewish people and usually there was no hesitation to cry out. All were eager to learn about our Hebraic foundations and how to pray for Israel. Nothing the worldwide body of Yeshua does is more important than to learn the power of crying

out for God's Chosen People. May armies of prayer warriors rise up to meet the days that lie ahead. Join our **CFI Watchman Prayer Groups** around the world. Be sure to sign up to receive our free online weekly, monthly and bi-monthly prayer letters, teaching letters and bulletins.

By Sharon Sanders



Raising the Israeli flag in Taiwan



## CFI Journey to Mexico

Vera Cruz  
Boca Del Rio

# CFI From Jerusalem to Mexico



Pastor Ruperto Badillo prays with great passion for Israel



Kevin teaches on bible prophecy and Israel's restoration

## The Spirit of the Lord Moved In Many Hearts

**"Passion for Israel"** in October 2013, made a great impact among the Spanish Christians and churches at which time CFI was identified as Ambassadors of good news from Israel. Interviews with local newspapers in the State of Veracruz "El Dictamen," Radio-Formula and Televisa in Mexico and Veracruz paved the way for CFI Jerusalem to return to Veracruz for another seminar in November 2014.

## Bravo to Vera Cruz, Mexico!

From the time the flight landed in Mexico City until the time of our departure, Mexican hearts showed a deep love and appreciation for CFI and our work among the Jewish people. The power of the Holy Spirit was evident in the church services and the "Passion for Israel" conference held in Veracruz. Kevin Howard, Director of Technology for CFI Jerusalem was a key speaker during the conference sharing about 'Ezekiel and the Dry Bones'. His media presentation and words went straight to the heart of the people who had come to learn more about Bible Prophecy and Israel. Sharon Sanders taught several times on the Coming Kingdom, The Hand of God over Israel and related topics. Pastor Ruperto Badillo, CFI Representative for Mexico, arranged for radio, television and newspaper interviews. A Representative from the Governor's Office also spoke at the Passion for Israel conference, expressing strong support of the nation of Israel. The Mayor of Boca Del Rio was also very supportive of Israel and our efforts there in our private meeting with him.



Sharon teaches about the Coming Kingdom



Pastor Benjamin Krepostman shares his heart



The congregation stood strong in agreement and prayer

# Spanish World stands with Israel too...

A big thank you to Dr. Miguel Blanco who was our lovely host in his lively and packed out "Maranatha" church! Meetings with businessmen and market place workers were also held and additional Television and Radio time was booked for CFI to inform the nation what was going on In Israel. Pastor Ruperto and Sandra were the most gracious of hosts during Our entire time in Mexico.

Praise the Lord for Mexico! Everywhere we travelled God went before us! "The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you..." (Deuteronomy 31:8). In context this Scripture was and is for Israel but the God of Israel is also our God; therefore, it was He that led us all the way.

## Praise Report and Special Prayer Request:

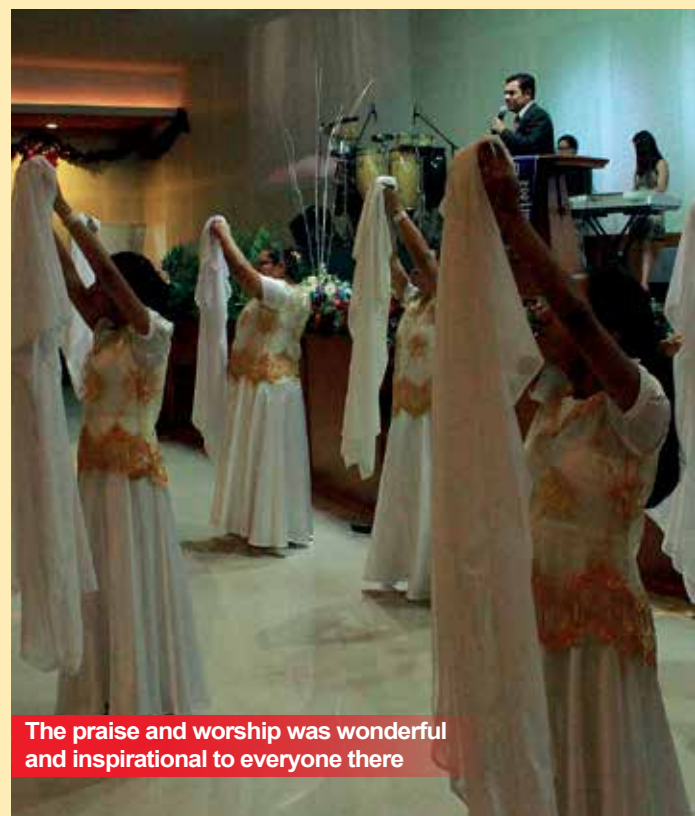
Christian Friends of Israel is so very thrilled that Pastor Rupert Badillo has agreed to come alongside Christian Friends of Israel and accepting his position as our Christian Friends of Israel Mexico Representative. He is a very humble man with a HUGE HEART for Israel and the work of CFI Jerusalem.

This exciting news brings with it a new Christian Friends of Israel Spanish website which is currently in the making. Thank you ahead of time for your much needed prayers and support as the enemy would like nothing less than to see this much needed connection into the Spanish speaking world fail to become a reality.

Finally, thank you MEXICO for such a warm and touching stay. And thank you, once again, to our intercessors for traveling with us in the spirit of prayer to Mexico and back home.



The Spirit of the Lord moved mightily during the conference



The praise and worship was wonderful and inspirational to everyone there



The Governor's office shared its support



## FocalPoint TV Update

**Isaiah 54:2 states, the time has come to “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, and hold nothing back; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.”**

The above verse is, of course, speaking to the children of Israel. The Lord is encouraging them as to what future blessings lie ahead of them. In applying this to **FocalPoint** we are saying, “the four walls in which we are currently standing are no longer big enough. It’s time for change!” The vision of what God can do through us reaches well beyond any walls that might strive to contain the ministry efforts of Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem. We will continue to shout praises of joy during this time of growth for “*The LORD directs the steps of the godly; and He delights in every detail of their lives*” Psalm 37:23.

### Communicating What We Do

We will continue to communicate by publications, Internet and video while always focusing on bringing you the positive, relevant and biblically balanced news and information you deserve. Updates regarding upcoming shows will be posted on the website as they become available.

In addition, the Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem Annual Conference & Tour has become an essential gathering you won’t want to miss. It’s a special time in which people from all over the world come to be educated regarding Israel, her people and the numerous ministry endeavors of CFI. For years we have offered our participants some of the best worship leaders, pastors, teachers, government and city officials the nation of Israel has to offer. We encourage you to come be a part of the CFI’s 30th Anniversary Conference which will run from June 1-4, 2015, and be followed by a uniquely designed tour.

Everyone should visit Israel at least once in their lifetime. If you’ve never been, don’t wait any longer. *Enlarge your tents, lengthen your cords, hold nothing back and make 2015 your year in Jerusalem!*

Again, thank you, for your continued prayers and support.

*Kevin and Stacey Howard*

You Can Find Us On:



@focalpointtv



Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem



[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

Please click the FocalPoint Logo



FocalPoint TV



[cfi@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:cfi@cfijerusalem.org)



[info@focalpointtv.com](mailto:info@focalpointtv.com)

# FocalPoint

Reaching Around the World

CFI Representative Nearest You