

# For Zion's Sake

First Quarter 2017 Jewish Year 5777

## ABSOLUTE TRUTH

*"Thy word is true from the beginning:  
and every one of thy righteous judgments  
endureth for ever."*

*Psalm 119:160 KJV*



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# For Zion's Sake

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## Shalom from Jerusalem!

Wow, the first three months of 2017 have just flown by! How are those New Year's resolutions coming along? Whatever our resolutions were or how we choose to explain the last three months away, we must remember, **"Our lives are not our own!"**

Jeremiah 10 verses 23 and 24, *"Adonai, I know that the way of humans is not in their control, humans are not able to direct their steps as they walk. Adonai, correct me, but in moderation, not in your anger, or you'll reduce me to nothing."* (CJB) If your 2017 resolution was set without first seeking God, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider hitting the "reset" button and making prayer for Israel a new or renewed priority.

Did you know that many Jewish people purposefully set aside time throughout their hectic daily lives to pray? Though we each pray in different ways, we all need to make sure to set aside time where we can be alone with God. This alone time will insure that our prayers originate from our hearts and not just our heads. Many Jews also categorize their daily prayers. They have prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of praise, and prayers for specific requests. They apply all of them; praying not only in the morning but in the afternoon and evening as well. Perhaps it's worth considering that Christians take a look at this example of regular daily prayer as well.

As we spend time with God we need not only pray for our needs and those around us, but we should also be praying for those outside of our community. If you're reading this magazine, then you are probably aware of the importance for us, Christians, to pray for the Jewish people, the nation of Israel and for the Peace of Jerusalem. If you're not sure exactly how or what to pray, then ask the Holy Spirit to take the lead in the conversation.

On a daily basis, we are all being exposed to the anti-Semitism which God's people have had to endure throughout the centuries. You may see the animosity and bigotry in TV shows, movies, and even in the nightly news. You may hear it in a comedian's jokes, see it in artist's sketches and cartoons, and of course, we all see and hear the propaganda of calling for the boycotting of Israeli products; with the prejudice not just stopping there. With all this anti-Jewish, anti-Israel rhetoric continually creeping into our lives, we must recognize it and ask God what He would have us to do. We must all be careful not to fall into the enemy's trap of becoming

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Kotel in Jerusalem

desensitized to the hatred, and merely accepting it as the society in which we live. Ignoring any bad situation is never a solution!

So, what can you do? Devote time during your personal prayer time with the Lord to pray for your brother's needs before your own. The people of Israel have been hated for thousands of years but in the year 2017 you have the opportunity, if you so choose, to support them in their time of need. God has a plan and purpose for His People; that's for sure and in the end He will be victorious! Until that day arrives, however, we must do our part and take a stand against the enemy!

You might say, "I just don't have the time to commit to daily prayer". And I would say, "Don't continue to allow the things of the world to destroy you and your relationship with the Heavenly Father". Our Father desires a real relationship with His children and that relationship can only be built through time spent together. Commit yourself to uninterrupted, completely devoted time with the Lord every day; you can't afford not too!

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (CJB) says, ***"Pray regularly. In everything give thanks, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua."*** Some versions will use the words, ***"Pray without ceasing,"*** which might cause some people to give up before even trying, feeling that this type of prayer life is unattainable. However, Paul is saying that if you will spend **QUALITY TIME** with the Father, then you'll be able to face every moment in life, both good and bad, continually sensing and keenly being aware of God's presence.

Now, in Deuteronomy 11:12-13 (CJB), God tells His people, ***"This is a land Adonai your God cares for. The eyes of Adonai your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. So, if you listen carefully to my mitzvot which I am giving you today, to love Adonai your God and serve him with all your heart and all your being; then, [says Adonai,] 'I will give your land...'"*** The Lord said His eyes are ALWAYS on the land of Israel--not sometimes--but always. So as believers in Yeshua I feel we should have the overwhelming desire, and commitment, to petition the God of Israel right along with the Jewish people.

In trying to make this relevant to you in your own countries and homes; consider the tragic breakdown of the family unit throughout much of the world today. Parents are so busy with their lives that they will intentionally, or unintentionally, keep their children as busy as they are. **BUT WHY?** I understand that a parent can't spend every second, of every day, with their children, but what if they purposefully set aside time every day to engage, interact and listen to what their children ARE saying as well as what they are NOT saying? I sincerely believe that parents would be greatly surprised at what they hear. You might not like all of their answers in the beginning, but if you truly want that relationship to grow then it will take work. I believe our Heavenly Father desires that as well.

In that same vein, if you really want to understand God's people and His purposes for them, then take the time to get to know them better. During your prayer time, ask God to open your eyes to see the world as they see it, to give you a heart that feels what they feel, and

**Food for thought: You may not think you have the time or resources to give, but once you start you'll see you can't afford to stop. It's hard sometimes for the human mind to comprehend but the Lord explains it this way, *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," says Adonai. As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."***  
**Isaiah 55:8-9 (CJB)**

pray that their needs and wants be met, just as you would for your own family. After all, aren't we part of the same family anyway?

Finally, I suggest we put others first in our prayer life before asking the Lord to consider our personal needs and wants. I believe you will begin to see miracles in your life once you have your new priorities in order. Remember, the Lord's eyes are always on His people, so keep your eyes on the land of Israel as well, for the Lord's Return is surely on the Horizon. 🙏

Blessings from the City of the Great King!

*Stacey Howard*

Executive / International Director  
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# ABSOLUTE TRUTH

## A Shield Against Deception

by Sharon Sanders

Inscribed on the pages of Sacred Scripture is accuracy to the highest degree, and infallibility, that brings total assurance to seekers of absolute truth. To point mankind to God's Word, is to lead the human race into universal enlightenment, in the midst of a global attempt by mortals to extinguish the light of God's message to men and women, of every race, tribe, culture and lineage. Yeshua's (Jesus') first admonition to His followers, when they challenged Him to give them insight as to the indicators of His Second Coming, without hesitation, He emphasized a strong distinguishing mark of the end times: **deception**. (Psalm 101:7). The act of hiding the truth, especially for someone's advantage, is a hallmark of today's world. Sadly to say, the misleading information we all are sometimes fed in world media is shocking, if not unnerving. The cheating that goes on in normal every day business, the underhandedness, dishonesty and fraud – among many other visible and decidedly dishonest practices put forth in technology, television, radio, and every other modern mode of communication – is shameful.

Because deception is running rampant, I believe we need men and women of stalwart faith from our Judeo-Christian communities to rise up, even if they are in a minority, to help get the facts straight. *"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right and evil doesn't become good, just because it is accepted by a majority."* (R. Warren).

Multitudes in the world are being fooled because they believe lies. Spiritual leaders are also being beguiled because they refuse to assume responsibility for what is true. Too many spiritual leaders are not aware of half truths. If someone gets hold of the wrong half, they have a problem clearly seeing fact and reality. We, as believers in Jesus the Messiah, have a dilemma. Should we sacrifice truth on the altar of popularity or should we shoulder the duty to deal with accountability in our churches, basing our stand upon the absolute truth of Scripture? Thomas Aquinas said, *"As a matter of honor, one man owes it to another to manifest the truth."* Therefore, even though some may stubbornly refuse to be taught, we have a mandate to stand for the truth in this day and age. Some of us are going to be called to speak up. It will take discernment and courage to do so. It is not a time for the fainthearted, but the time for brave followers of our Lord, to stand tall and strong...firmly rooted in God's Word!

Hitler once said, *"make the lie big. Make it simple. Keep saying it. And eventually they will believe it."* This means that beliefs can be manipulated. This is something we do not wish to happen to us. There is a wide range of incorrect "facts" out there, blatant lies, and the printing of incorrect information. Truth is bulldozed and buried in the ground by some reporting, while the media's dirty laundry list of fabrications and half truths hangs on the line for all to see. First and foremost on the hit list of media incorrectness is Israel. Israel, a candle in the world arena of nations, is a light that the world wants

“...HIS TRUTH  
IS A SHIELD...”  
(JPS TANAKH 1917)



extinguished, and is doing all it can to delegitimize it, and along with it, to deny the truth of Scripture. Not only do many nations deny Israel the right to exist--attempting to disconnect it from its ancient history and kingdom--but various religions are seeking to erase historical facts and rewrite history, coming against God's Word. In spiritual terms it looks like satan is deceiving the world. We, as followers of Jesus, must be ever alert to unmask and expose his strategies.

In an article entitled, "Truth is Fallen in the Street" by Dr. Jack Hyles, he stated a perceptive observation when he said, "There will never be a virile Christianity, there will never be a Christianity or a church that will affect and influence society, until the church comes back and says, 'This, ladies and gentlemen, is truth! As long as the Bible may or may not be so, justice will not pass, judgment will have to go back, and equity will not be able to pass in the street, until we come back to saying truth is truth and this is true!'" Truth needs to be proclaimed and declared. He goes on to say, "Where is the truth? The Bible is the truth. Every word of it is true. When this truth falls in the street, we lose our way and man dies without God. When this truth is picked up off the street and held and preached for right, man can find the way through Jesus Christ to life and life eternal."

The popular message today is that Israel has no favor with God. Some even deny its existence, while others shout Israel has no right to their Land. While countries like Iran are physically threatening her survival, some in the Church persecute her by saying she is not the Chosen People. In a nutshell, these Churches are denying the God of Israel. I have travelled to many places on this earth, and rarely did I find a Christian who could answer my question, "What God do we worship, as Christians?" Dead silence. Finally, someone said in a shy voice, "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?" The worshippers didn't even think about who they were worshipping! This is just pure ignorance. I also found those in the Church with little or no knowledge of the nation of Israel.

In Genesis 3:4, the first lie from the lips of the deceiver were, "You most assuredly won't die!" Here, we are first introduced to the power of words. Over and over throughout the annals of time, satan has persuaded mankind to question God. "Yea, hath God said?" (Genesis 3:1) was another challenge raising doubts about God's commands. "Really?" he asked. "None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn't eat any of it?" (Tay) Satan is a master repudiator and rebutter of God's words and he influences mankind to question God or to totally deny Him.

A recent report from *Arutz Sheva*, an Israel news site, reported, "Every day, every hour, lies about Israel are spread online." Ever since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, the Arab world has spread enough anti-Israel propaganda around the world to cause a whole world view that Israel had stolen Arab land, and the world swallowed the pill of deception. From that incongruous starting point, major newspapers around the world, world agencies and diplomatic bodies have spread lies, and have dug their own pit by allowing their foundations to decay in a me-centered world, where rebellion against authority is rampant.

The recent UNESCO resolution against Israel/Judea/Samaria will end up in the dust bin of history. The former POTUS (President of the United States) Barak Obama, shamefully carried out one last harmful maneuver against Israel by not vetoing Resolution 2334, which basically makes the Old City of Jerusalem, and the Kotel (Western Wall) both "occupied territory".

Israel was nearly annihilated in the Security Council vote that demanded an end to all settlement activity and that designated all the land that Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 war, as well as the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, as Arab land occupied by Israel. The question on many western minds is now, *who does Jerusalem belong to?* Few are acknowledging that Jerusalem is the undivided eternal capital of Israel. ***"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bonds in pieces, and cast away their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh..." (Psalm 2:1-4).***

A recent headline read "Christians punish the Defender of Christians in the Middle East." "UN Resolution 2334 was passed with the support of several Christian-dominated countries (France, Britain, Russia, Spain, Uruguay, Angola, Ukraine, Venezuela and New Zealand), while another Christian-dominated country, the United States of America, ensured the resolution's passage by refusing to use the veto it has traditionally used against such resolutions." (Jewishpress.com) In so doing, "the world's Christians are betraying the only state in the Middle East that protects Christians from extinction...This attack by Christians on the Jews of Israel is reminiscent of a long tradition of Christian anti-Semitism, particularly in Europe. It appeared to be in remission for awhile, after the Christian-majority nation of Germany nearly wiped out all Jewish presence in Europe. Are we seeing a return to traditional Christian anti-Semitism, or are we seeing world leaders who are too cowardly to address the real problems (truthfully) and would rather use demonization of Israel as a distraction? Whatever the reason is, the Christians' betrayal of the Jews is as short-sighted as it is wrong. As the *Times of Israel* reported this past Christmas, in the Palestinian-controlled West Bank city of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, the "Christian population is rapidly disappearing," as in the rest of the Arab Middle East. By betraying the Jews, Christians are not only continuing a long history of anti-Semitism but also undermining their own heritage." (Fred Maroun, the Jewish Press.).

Islam claims Israel does not allow religious freedom, while the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem *praises* Israeli religious freedom. Arabs living in Israel shout that Israel is a land "occupier", while the US Republican party platform expressed an unequivocal support for Israel and rejected the false notion that Israel is an occupier. The true face of apostate Christendom has been shown through the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the USA when they called for BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) based on Israel's "human rights abuses" and "militarized violence" against Palestinians. I can tell you the truth, there is no such thing as human rights being

abused by Israelis and no militarized violence perpetrated by the Israelis. My husband and I have lived in Jerusalem for 31 years. Israel, we clearly see, is one tiny nation against a big world of anti-Semitism. The final judgment of the nations is actually based upon how the nations treated His People. God will have the last word (see Hebrews 10:30).

Jerusalem is destined to be the capital of the messianic kingdom to come. It is a "City on a hill" (*ir al tillah*, in Hebrew) and the golden age is just beyond the horizon. As with the Jewish people, when our Watchmen pray for Jerusalem, they envision it not as it is, but as it will be when Yeshua returns. The hard truths of reality are that the coming battle will be over Jerusalem. Jerusalem is "the Place". "There is no city on earth that can compare in value to Jerusalem...With over 800 references to Jerusalem in the Bible there is much that can be learned about it...God Himself has chosen this earthly city to dwell in and to establish His Name among men...There is no other place on earth that has such a destiny." (D. Hershey). ***"For the Lord has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His habitation. This is MY resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it."* (Psalm 132:31-14)**. It will be the seat of power over all nations. This is truth. We must not be hesitant to declare it.

Concluding, the concerns that are keystone issues today, are: (a) the rise of Christian anti-Semitism and the ongoing heresy of Replacement Theology in our churches worldwide, (b) the ongoing inaccurate and unfair media coverage of Israel to the world, and (c) the upsurge of anti-Christian, anti-Jewish and anti-Israel undercurrent in the world today. All three major topics flow out from a hatred for the God of Creation, who says Himself, He is the God of Israel! (Mark 12:26).

We must observe our ongoing struggle to eradicate the barefaced lie of Replacement Theology. The origins of the false teaching began centuries ago with Church forefathers who were anti-Semitic in their hearts. Today, the heresy has been re-kindled in Europe and in America (even though in America there are probably more Israel supporters than anywhere else in the world). By negating the promises God has made to Abraham and his descendants, the "Church" refuses Israel the place and role in God's plans and purposes for which she has been called. By refusing to read the Torah, called the "Old Testament" by most Christians, spiritual leadership becomes callous and indifferent to Israel's past, present and future. "In a sermon I heard recently, a well-known American evangelical teacher announced to his congregation that he would prefer to have the church "fix his car" rather than to get a "free trip" to Israel for his 30th anniversary". (John J. Parsons, *Hebrew for Christians*). Perhaps our pastors and leaders need to read what the great prophet Jeremiah predicted will happen in the future. ***"...the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies..."* (Jeremiah 61:19)**. The Septuagint tells us that the nations will come from the extremity of the earth to admit that their fathers attributed to generations of believers (and non-believers) believing fabrications about the Jewish people. "They killed Christ!" "God is finished with Israel!" and "the Jews are the scum of the earth!" These are all allegations

from the mouths of "Christians" throughout the ages. As long as the scourge of this harmful theology continues, the all-embracing blessing for the followers of Yeshua (Jesus) will not be realized in its fullness. In the coming age and kingdom on this earth, it is made very clear in God's Word, that there will be no anti-Semites under God's dominion rule.

It is only recently that we have been introduced to the terminology "fake news". I'm sure it has been around for a long time, but it has been brought to the surface during President Donald Trump's campaign and early days in the White House. False information about Israel, both Arab and world media propaganda published under the guise of authentic news has finally been exposed. Misleading the world with constant lies about Jewish people, the Land, the nation and its right to their God-given possession of the Land has been to misinform the public via social networks and different modes of modern communication. It is nothing new, but it has been given a more powerful audience with today's technology.

Finally, as we watch the devious and dishonest manner in which liberals, the left, and all who wish to see a One World Government, spew lies about Israel, it will necessitate advocates and campaigners of absolute truth, which is to be found only in one place: God's unchanging Word! If we do not hold fast to our convictions, we will end up being fooled, as much of the world is today. Let us not be as many in the Church worldwide, refusing to accept what is true about Israel and God's Chosen People. God's promises have not failed them. The dry bones, the army of people, the restoration, rebirth of the nation, and return of the people, have all taken place, just as He said. The future of Israel is as bright as the shining sun. Her perpetual and timeless existence is as certain as the sun, moon, stars and the sea are in His care (Jeremiah 31:35-37). For those who cannot accept the truth, they will indeed be fooled and they, or their children, will one day have to admit that they inherited "lies".

Let us all carry the torch of the one permanent light in this dark world today, for it is undoubtedly, without hesitation or reservation, our shield of **absolute truth** on which every human being may rest their belief, protection and confidence. It will be our lifelong stable rock which will never move. From wherever we live, we will join other like minded redeemed from the earth, when we meet on the road to Zion to take part, with the redeemed of Israel, in the Kingdom that is advancing to this earth. In Jerusalem, the King will teach us the Law of the Lord and His Ways. ***"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* (Isaiah 2:3, NIV)**. Let us all remember, there are two paths that lead to deception, as Kierkegaard said. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to accept what is true. Embarking on the right path will move us forward and prevent us from inheriting lies masked in deception. As a matter of honor, we owe it to one another to present absolute truth. ✨



# Concern for the Helpless

*“...a psalm of David. Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble” Psalm 41:1 (NIV).*

Streams of Blessing is a CFI outreach project that encompasses and covers a large number of Jewish people from all walks of life, all ages, and in many different situations. We never run out of situations to face that are not heartrending, sad, and in some cases, tragic. People in all nations face poverty, sickness, and disease; however, when God’s Chosen People suffer, and there is no one to help them, God goes searching for those who will. He searches for comforters, helpers, and those willing to pray. In this century, with much abundance in the West, in Europe, the Far East, and other nations, is it possible that we can overlook our Jewish brothers and sisters who are in such desperate need? Yeshua is clear in Matthew 25 that the judgment of sheep and goats will be established on how the nations treated His (Yeshua’s) brethren. We have an unprecedented window of opportunity given to us, today, to touch the Apple of God’s Eye (Zechariah 2:8) with mercy and kindness, just as God Himself reached out to us (Gentiles), by bringing the news of the Jewish Messiah to us. Will we return the blessings? I’ve had extraordinary visits in the private homes of a number of Jewish people these past weeks that inspire my heart and provoke me to work harder to make a difference in the lives of God’s precious people: Israel. Will you help us change history? *“To the world we may be only one person, but to one person we may be the world.” (Anonymous)*

**David**, 92 and alone, had little food in his refrigerator. Finding his Messiah at age 16, he has led a lonely life, family-wise, but spent his entire life feeding the poor, helping the sick, and reaching out to those in need. During our visit, we were able to assure David that he is not alone and that God is watching over his every need. We took him love, friendship, and some much needed financial assistance from those of you in the nations.

**Vladimir and his wife** are facing a huge debt. They received a devastating call when I was in their home, that confirmed she has cancer. She was to come to the hospital right away. Before our departure, through the tears, we were able to pray for hope and complete healing of her body. We were also



Visiting David, a man of God

*Dear CFI, We do not know what to say and how to express our gratitude toward CFI. How to thank you and all these wonderful people of CFI who help us and look upon us in the most difficult moment! You are our real brothers and sisters, not just friends! This is more than just a gesture of friends. This is like someone staying behind you and does not let you fall down. You give us hope and light while many organizations have just ignored my wife’s suffering. It is not enough just to tell thank you! (Family R.)*

able to lift some of the financial burden lingering over their precious lives.

**An Orthodox mother**, who has been abused, called on us to help her and her children. Living alone, she can barely meet her financial obligations. With expressions of gratitude, she thanked God for the helping hand extended to her from Christians around the world.

**Sophie**, living in a small government apartment, filled with boxes because she has no furniture, shares her story. She and her mentally handicapped son, live on a small pension. She tells of how she came to Israel and now how she struggles to make ends meet. As we pray with her regarding her health, tears fill her eyes, knowing that she has those who care and love her.

Your support and help for Streams of Blessing keeps us fulfilling the needs of Israelis all over Jerusalem and around Israel. Without your prayers and your financial assistance, we could not continue to heal the wounds, apply the healing balm of God’s love, and treat the scars of Christian anti-Semitism.

**God bless you for your faithful help to Streams of Blessing**

**Sharon Sanders**

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God’s Love Helps Heal the Sting of Cancer



He was Waiting for Our Visit



Evsey and Wife



## Destined to live

***“Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the LORD” Jeremiah 16:21 (NKJV).***

Forsake Them Not caseloads always involve CFI home visits to elderly Holocaust Survivors. During these times we enjoy the fellowship and determine how we can help. Recently we revisited our good friend Evsey, who lives by himself. He is very lonely and always so grateful when we visit. His life was spared six times during the WWII – in the Ghetto, where his entire family was murdered; on the battlefield, where he fought alongside the partisans; and later with the Red Army. “I cannot believe that I survived, and cannot comprehend how?” he tells us.

A few months ago Evsey called us when his air conditioning unit broke. It is very challenging to survive the hot summers and cold winters in Jerusalem when there is no central heating, especially for the elderly. We were glad, therefore, that CFI could help with this need and to purchase a new air conditioning unit for Evsey.

On the day of our visit, it was rainy and cold outside, but warm and cozy inside. When we arrived, he said, ***“Your presence here with me is like a fuel that keeps me going. When I see people, I want to live”.***

We told Evsey that we are only able to help him because of all the people around the world, who love

Holocaust Survivors, and support our Forsake Them Not Team.

Evsey related further, “I turned 17 when the war started (1941). I will never forget the first killing raid, when the Germans came to our house and took my entire family out, and also killed my invalid aunt, who could not walk, in front of my very eyes.... Her body was lifted off the ground because of the bullets and this picture never leaves me. I never saw my family again, only one sister escaped... For reasons unknown, they left me alive and ordered the dead bodies to be collected. I spent 17 months in the Ghetto. I tried to escape twice but was caught and almost killed by the German soldiers, only by a miracle, an officer appeared from nowhere and saved my life... I am still puzzled as to why. The purpose of the Ghetto was the total extermination of the Jews. One day 12,000 people were murdered and buried in one mass grave.

I became a hidden member of the Partisan group and helped to smuggle ammunition to the Partisans. Once I came to the Ghetto to help my sister to escape, just before the final killing raid, but it was too late to leave. We hid underneath a wooden toilet, next to a fence and spent three days there, witnessing horrible atrocities and cruelty. The

ghetto was completely destroyed and we finally managed to escape. I left my sister with Russian Partisans, only to find out later that the commander killed her because she was a Jew. Once the area was liberated I joined the Red Army. In August 1944 I was seriously wounded in my leg, which nearly had to be amputated. As soon as I recovered I was eager to return back to the front line, but soon after I was wounded again, this time in my head. I almost lost my hearing, but a miracle happened again and I survived. I firmly believe now in the One (God) who preserved my life out of the fire and I am grateful for it.”

Life is a miracle, which sometimes we do not recognize or appreciate. Survivors, who went through so much suffering, hold on to this miracle and their desire to live is amazing. We are grateful, as CFI’s Holocaust Team, that we can support them and bring God’s joy and comfort to their often very lonely daily lives. ***We greatly appreciate all you prayers for His dear people. You help us to “hold their hands” through your regular support of our work!***

**Olga Kopilova**

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# Torn Apart: Brother against Brother

Twenty years ago, a small group of people from the community of Ofra in Samaria (near Beit El, north of Jerusalem) settled on a mountaintop to start a new life. This group hasn't grown much, but became 40 families, about 200 people. However, over several years, they have been the center of a court case to be removed from their homes due to a claim of ownership of a small portion of the land by Palestinians.

In January 2017, the Israeli High Court required the entire community to not only be removed from their homes, but for the mountaintop community to be dismantled and totally razed. Sadly, through much heartache and tears, the Israeli Border Police were the ones tasked to make this happen. The families – men, women and children – protested as long as they could, and then the day arrived when they had to be physically removed. Some went quietly, but others remained longer in the face of their fellow Jews and were made to leave, against their heart's cry of wanting to remain. For some of the brave warriors who were required to remove their brethren, it proved too much, and there were tears shed as hearts were torn apart.

The week following the extradition, Project David's Shield was invited to meet those who were still in the process of removing this tiny town from its roots. We were told of the stories, and saw the emotionally weary soldiers taking turns fulfilling their assigned mission. War is difficult in any nation, but what could be more grievous than having to remove your own people from the Land God promised to them? *"But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will cause many people to live on you—yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous..."* (Ezekiel 36:8-11 NIV). We know for certain that this uprooting not only

tore apart a community, but a nation, and it was painful to watch.

**CFI accepted the invitation and opportunity to express our solidarity, to encourage, and to show Christian love to the brave defenders of Israel. It was truly an honor for us to be there.**

We went as an extension of all of you, Christians from the nations, who pray for, support and keep us here. We went with the message that **"you are not alone!"** We told them that prayers for protection, discernment and health come from not only the Jewish community, but also from us, their Christian brothers and sisters around the world. When we tell them this, the conversation often leads to an Israeli soldier thinking about and remembering why he or she is giving their lives to defend the very existence of their own People. Christian Friends of Israel is the only Christian ministry in the Land that has a long-term relationship with the Israeli military, soldiers and families. We furnish them with supplies that the Unit Commanders request, such as warm thermal underwear, tactical gloves, fleece jackets, and many other essential items. Over the years, thousands of items have been supplied to Israel's soldiers through your care and love. The purchase of these items are only possible because of you, our partners in ministry, with Project David's Shield. Your support enables us to be positioned as messengers of blessing and friendship!

**Jim McKenzie**  
Project David's Shield  
[shield@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:shield@cfijerusalem.org)



The anguish of being uprooted

*"For I will take you from among the nations, gather you from all the countries, and return you to your own soil." Ezekiel 36:24 (CJB)*



Jim McKenzie with Bill, Larry and Steve of Bell Shoals Baptist (USA)



IDF Soldier In Difficult Position





## Crushed, but not Broken

*“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV)*

Recently, Stacey and I were privileged to meet a Christian Arab woman that for this article we shall call “Havva”. The youngest of three children, Havva was the only girl, with two older brothers. Her earliest memories were those of an alcoholic father and a mother who did not want her. At the age of five months, unwanted by her parents, she was given up to her grandparents. Fortunately for Havva, God provided for her through her grandfather--someone who really cared. A simple man from an Arab village in Israel, he took care of all of her basic needs, and sacrificed much of his own needs to give his young granddaughter the opportunity she deserved.

Sitting in Stacey’s office at our headquarters, Havva began to weep at the memory of a loving grandfather that, in all of her now 30-plus years had been the only one in her life who ever believed in her. At the age of 16, the only stable person in her life passed away and her uncaring grandmother said she was no longer welcome in the home of her youth. Determined to finish the Evangelical Christian School education that her grandfather afforded her, she was able to graduate. Shortly afterwards, she was alone and fending for herself on the streets of Jerusalem.

Now she was faced with the decision of trying to further her education or earn the income necessary to survive. She spent her 20’s earning what she could, but soon the months became years. Early in her 30s, Havva entered a relationship with someone she thought would care for and love her forever. Yet as she had known too often in her past, the relationship soon turned abusive, and this past year it ended with her once again alone and homeless on the streets.

Through her tears, she continued her story by recounting her last year, trying to survive her life of homelessness. Some things that had happened to her, she just could not bring herself to speak of, but she said they were things that none of us would ever want to experience.

She recounted the useless feeling she felt as crowds of people just passed her by as though she was “invisible”. Simply asking for a coin or two, she eventually found herself foraging through the nearest dumpster. Havva told us how people would stop and pet a stray dog, and treat it with a small morsel of food and a loving pat on the head, yet she continued to remain unnoticed to hundreds that would pass her by.

Full of loneliness, despair, and hopelessness, Havva prayed that God would provide her some way out of this pit of darkness. One rainy day this past month, when passing by the CFI Light-house Distribution Center, Havva read the sign on the door. She said the name of Christian Friends of Israel just leapt off the sign and suddenly became a beacon of light and hope to her.



God’s Healing has begun

After a warm introduction from a kind and smiling face at the DC, Stacey and I were soon introduced to her as well. What an opportunity it was to meet someone seeking to become something better for the glory of God, if only she could be afforded the opportunity. After our discussion, she told us how she would just like to live a normal life, and we were able to assist her because of your donations from around the world. We provided her with much needed food vouchers as well as rent and utility assistance.

As Christians in the land of Israel, it is our deep desire to assist those in the household of faith to overcome the obstacles before them, as they strive to show the love of Yeshua through their lives. When we completed our meeting with Havva, she was able to leave knowing she was no longer alone, as Christian Friends of Israel would stand with her as the God of Israel rebuilds her life. As a believer in the land, Havva found the love and compassion that only comes from the truest of friends.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for all you continue to do to make this and every opportunity to help others here in the Land of Israel a true reality. Your strong financial support and constant prayers for the peace of Jerusalem are truly appreciated.

### Kevin Howard

*Project First Fruits*  
[fruits@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:fruits@cfjjerusalem.org)





# Fulfilling Biblical Prophecy

**Returning** to the Israeli territories began after the Six-Day War in 1967, and today there are over 360,000 Israelis living throughout Judea and Samaria. While the world largely condemns Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, it is the fulfillment of many Bible prophecies. Large and well-established communities have been built in Judea and Samaria, including Ma'ale Adumim, about four miles (seven kilometers) outside of Jerusalem. Pisgat Ze'ev, Gilo, Armon HaNatziv, all neighborhoods of Jerusalem, were also built on territory acquired during the '67 war.

## Holding the Fort

Despite the economic advantages enjoyed by the many Arabs co-existing peacefully with Jewish communities, the security threat to Israelis persists. Between the years of 2000 - 2005, more than 1,000 Israeli civilians were killed, and 6,000 were injured in suicide bombings, sniper fire and other forms of terrorism. Thankfully after the construction of the security fence in Judea and Samaria, terror attacks in Israel have decreased greatly. However, Palestinian terrorists still attempt to attack Israeli civilians – especially those living in Judea and Samaria - on a regular basis. These Torah-believing Jewish people are watching out for threats, so that others can live safely. In fact, some say the Jewish population living in Judea and Samaria are “holding the fort” for western civilization against the assault of radical Islam.

## Grief but Never Regret

Many families have paid a huge price to live in their Biblical homeland, and often times they experience the loss of life that goes with it, but they view it as “a privilege.” God promises, **“I will bring Judah and Israel back from**

**captivity and will rebuild them as they were before” (Jeremiah 33:7 NIV).**

Our hearts continue to grieve with many families in Judea including those of Dafna Meir of Otniel – who was killed in front of her own home in January. Hallel Ariel of Kiryat Arba - a 13-year-old girl stabbed to death on her own bed by a terrorist at the end of last June. Rabbi Miki Mark also of Otniel - who was killed in a drive by shooting near his home by terrorists. We reached out with love as well to the many others we were able to assist in Samaria these past months. During our visits, we asked them if the traumatic losses they suffered caused them to doubt their decisions to live in these often-perilous areas. They replied, “Grief yes, but never regret.” We were so deeply moved by their strength. With great faith, they remain obedient to God’s Word in taking possession of that which the Lord gave to their forefathers. There are more than 170 passages in the Bible where God promises to give the Land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob (the Jewish people), as an everlasting inheritance of the land.

Without your strong financial assistance, Project UHW would not be able to continue doing what we are do - reaching out with the love of God in our hearts, to terror victims all over Israel. All of them are comforted and encouraged, even though suffering, knowing that they are loved by you in the nations and that they are not alone.

With heartfelt thanks,

**Maggie Huang**

*Project Under His Wings*  
wings@cfjjerusalem.org



*“Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted”  
Matthew 5:4*



**Top photo:** Remembering back to the terrorist incident **Above:** Extending a hand of Friendship to the mother of Daphna Meir

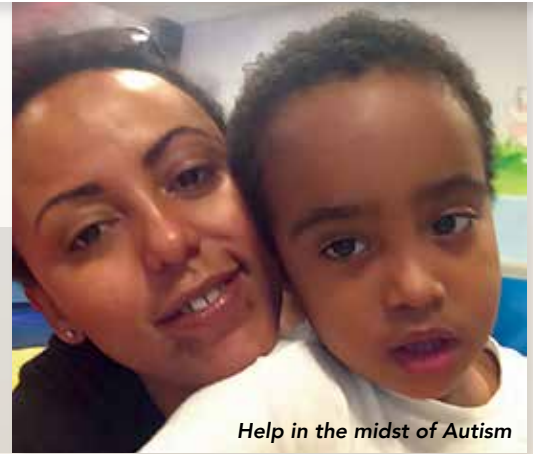




# Serving Beta Israel

*“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.” Psalm 82:3 (NIV)*

**Ethiopian Jews** began moving to Israel in significant numbers after a 1973 ruling by then Chief Sephardic Rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, who said they were truly Jewish and so subject to Israel’s Law of Return—legislation that qualifies any Jew to settle in the country. (Newsweek.com)



*Help in the midst of Autism*

In 1984, the Jewish Ethiopian airlift Operation Moses returned some 8,000 Ethiopians to their ancestral homeland here in Israel, bringing them in over 30 flights, of about 200 per flight from Sudan. In 1985, just after their arrival, Christian Friends of Israel began assisting many of these precious families, with many of the needs required when starting their new life here. In 1991, Israeli airplanes again returned to Ethiopia to lift out an additional 14,000 Ethiopian Jews in just 36 hours. One Ethiopian man was quoted as saying, “We didn’t bring any of our clothes, we didn’t bring any of our things, but we are very glad to be here.” Now, after a 3-year lapse in immigration from Ethiopia, we are again seeing an increase in Ethiopian Jews making Aliyah. It is reported that this new upsurge is expected to bring another 9,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel by the end of 2020.

## Defending the weak and fatherless

Recently, Project Hope for the Future has been able to provide much needed financial assistance to some of the neediest of families in the Jewish Ethiopian Community. One situation was that of a dear soft-spoken, recently widowed woman. Far too early in his life, and without warning, her husband fell to the ground and moments later died of a sudden heart attack. She is now completely alone, as the two of them had not yet had any children. Complicating matters, she is now left with the task of covering all of the monthly expenses that continue, since she and her husband had not prepared for such a tragedy. Project Hope for the Future is standing alongside this precious widow, in comfort and assistance to help her pick up the pieces of her shattered life.

In another situation, a hardworking and dedicated father was working in a local restaurant when a vat of boiling oil spilled on his leg. He was subsequently released from his job find-

ing himself now on disability. He is receiving very little from the social welfare system for his case, and it is not enough to provide for his pregnant wife, and small son. As he looked back however, he remembered how he loved his job, which allowed him free food that he joyfully distributed to the children attending a Jewish Ethiopian afterschool program.

## Hope during times of struggle

In the last issue of *For Zion’s Sake*, we informed you of a young mother that we were so grateful to be able to help in her time of need. As you may recall, she was dealing with very ill parents, a 3-year-old son who suffers from autism, and she had just given up a good paying job due to the overwhelming needs of her family. While her circumstances had brought her to tears of despair, it was the help and support from your generous donations, that enabled us to provide for her. She recently wrote a letter of gratitude thanking us for helping her find hope in the midst of her struggles. She let us know that her son is studying hard each day, and she believes that with God’s help, he will overcome the daily challenges of autism. Her expression of gratitude to Christians in the nations is far beyond the mere words of this page. It is because of you in the nations that CFI was able to relieve some of the current burdens of this beautiful family.

Won’t you consider investing in this very deserving and, at times, forgotten Jewish community? It is only through your commitment to prayer and financial support as Christians in the nations, that we can continue to make such a strong impact in this amazing community. Thank you for all you do.

## Tsehai Legesse-Marabi

*Project Hope for the Future*  
[hope@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:hope@cfijerusalem.org)





# TAKE A *STAND* for Israel Today!

## What do **CFI Churches for Israel** do?

- **Commit to regular financial support for Israel through CFI – Jerusalem’s outreach projects and ministry needs.**
- **Pray regularly for the Peace of Jerusalem, the people of the land, and the many outreaches of CFI – Jerusalem including our staff in Jerusalem, as well as our many representatives in the nations.**
- **Show solidarity with the nation of Israel by visiting the land, arrange outreach opportunities with CFI, and attend our annual Conference and Tour. Your presence here encourages the people and supports Israel’s economy.**
- **Pro-actively show your community that your church stands against the liberal media bias against Israel, the anti-Semitism that is growing worldwide, and the replacement theology deception within the church.**

Christian Friends of Israel began its Churches for Israel Network in 2008, to provide an avenue for churches around the world to connect to Israel in practical, tangible and vital ways. This network in the nations is committed to Israel through the outreach projects of CFI – Jerusalem with financial support, prayer, and advocacy for the nation of Israel.

By becoming a **CFI Church for Israel**, your choosing to stand alongside Israel is in unconditional unity with the Word of God in Genesis 12:3-4 which says: “...I will bless those who bless you, and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (CJB)

Isn't it time that your congregation sets out on a bold new journey to become a Churches for Israel member. You'll be surprised to see what the God of Israel will do in blessing your church, when you bless Israel.

May God's richest blessing be upon your congregations!

Shalom from Jerusalem,

**Stacey Howard**

*Executive / International Director*

Email: [churches@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:churches@cfjjerusalem.org)  
and find your connection to Israel today!

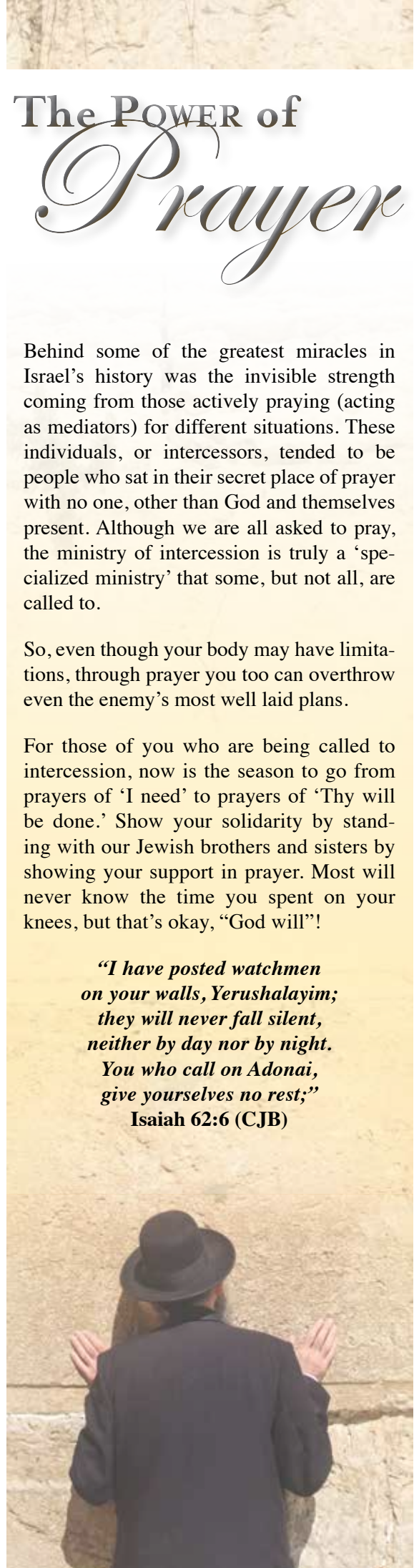
## The POWER of *Prayer*

Behind some of the greatest miracles in Israel's history was the invisible strength coming from those actively praying (acting as mediators) for different situations. These individuals, or intercessors, tended to be people who sat in their secret place of prayer with no one, other than God and themselves present. Although we are all asked to pray, the ministry of intercession is truly a 'specialized ministry' that some, but not all, are called to.

So, even though your body may have limitations, through prayer you too can overthrow even the enemy's most well laid plans.

For those of you who are being called to intercession, now is the season to go from prayers of 'I need' to prayers of 'Thy will be done.' Show your solidarity by standing with our Jewish brothers and sisters by showing your support in prayer. Most will never know the time you spent on your knees, but that's okay, "God will"!

***“I have posted watchmen  
on your walls, Yerushalayim;  
they will never fall silent,  
neither by day nor by night.  
You who call on Adonai,  
give yourselves no rest;”  
Isaiah 62:6 (CJB)***



# IS YOUR ARMOR ON?

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians in chapter 6, he speaks to the body of believers about the need to put on the whole armor of God. It's fascinating that the exhortation from Paul is not just about picking up the sword, which is described as the Word of God, but he sees the whole armor of God for the believer as an item of defense, since the sword can be both for offense as well as defense. So, why have armor in the first place? Isn't God big enough to protect us from whatever might come our way? Even in death, is He not the God of resurrection power?

It becomes clearer as we read Ephesians 6, that the armor is needed for the time in which the warrior has found himself.

In reading verses 10 and 11, the letter states the following, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." So, why the need to even take a stand? Isn't that what our governments are for? What about our mayors and councilmen and women? What about our pastors? Isn't it the job of the shepherd to protect the flock?

The answer appears to be "no". It would seem that it is the responsibility of each believer to take a stand against the enemy themselves. We must stand firm on the **Absolute Truth** of the Word of God, as given to us over the centuries by our Jewish brothers who have preserved the scriptures of the Almighty, and by those in the early Church as written in the books of our Bible, known to many Christians as the New Testament. This armor is of course not merely a shield, but an entire level of defense against the enemy of darkness. Paul speaks of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and fitting the gospel of peace on our feet. Finally, we must defend against the onslaught of the enemy, take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

In today's 21st century world, is this armor still relevant? Aren't we living in the most technologically advanced time of history? Isn't this a time of relative calm and peace around the world? Surely, our governments and evening news' anchors would give us advance warning of any attempt to harm the people of our nations, wouldn't they?

Paul however gives us a glimpse into the reality of the world that shows the real need for the spiritual armor. In verses 12 and 13, his insight lets us know the truth about the time and

season to put on the armor. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that **when the day of evil comes**, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (NIV)

Paul had a strong understanding of the coming days and what the signs of the times would be. In his second letter to Timothy we find the description of the evil days that will come to the world at some point. In 2 Timothy, chapter 3, verses 1-5, it states in the Amplified version: "But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear].<sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self [narcissistic, self-focused], lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane,<sup>3</sup> [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good,<sup>4</sup> traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of [sensual] pleasure rather than lovers of God,<sup>5</sup> holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have denied its power [for their conduct nullifies their claim of faith]..."

When you read these words of Paul, ask yourself a simple question: Are these times upon us, or are they yet to come? Is it time to wear the armor of God, or are we simply able to continue daily life, without it? In other words, are we to just go on with our daily lives and consider that all is well with the world?

It is only the Shield of our Faith, forged in the Absolute Truth of the Lord God Almighty--the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--that can protect us now, and in the days that lie ahead. Remember always that God has not promised us a path with no enemies, or a life without trouble. He has, however, equipped us with everything that we need to be victorious overcomers in this world if we look to Him and stand on His Eternal Word. We can be ready for whatever the world may bring our way, for the Lord of Hosts has given us all we need to stand firm against every ruler, authority, and power of this dark world. And remember, after we have done everything, **we must stand.**

**Standing in Faith and with Israel,  
Kevin Howard**





Earl Cox



Ben Kinchlow



Kevin Howard

FrontPage Jerusalem continues to expand its reach across North America and around the world. Each week Kevin Howard teams up with co-hosts Earl Cox and Ben Kinchlow to bring listeners the very latest happenings around Israel and specifically in Jerusalem. Highlighting the latest advances in technology, medicine and humanitarian efforts by the nation of Israel, this well paced 30 minute program also brings you the very latest news concerning Israel from David Milburn at the CFIJ Newsdesk.

Frontpage Jerusalem also brings to focus the most recent geopolitical happenings around the Middle East with expert analysis from those right on the ground in Israel, and her neighboring countries.

With our latest expansion into the Caribbean Islands, the reach of this must hear information continues to grow for listeners just like you. For more information, or to add your area's Christian Talk Radio station, simply drop us a line at [feedback@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfijerusalem.org).

Listen online anytime at [www.frontpagejerusalem.com](http://www.frontpagejerusalem.com).

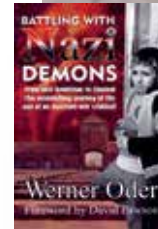


Since its humble beginnings in 2012, FocalPoint Television brought viewers up-close and accurate information from Israel as well as the nations every month into 2014. Though on hold due to Stacey and Kevin's move to Israel in acceptance of the transition of Executive leadership from her parents Ray and Sharon Sanders in June of 2015, the last year and a half presented no opportunity for any studio space in Jerusalem. After a long period of waiting, the Lord opened up a fresh opportunity which enabled a new headquarters location in downtown Jerusalem right next to the CFI Lighthouse Distribution Center in 2016. This new location has now provided adequate space for a new Jerusalem studio.

Preparations have already begun, and plans for construction are set for the summer of 2017, FocalPoint Television will once again bring viewers in the nations fresh, accurate, and biblically balanced programs straight from Jerusalem. Don't miss out on the tremendous outreach opportunity this has in your country. For more information on finding FocalPoint in your area later this year, simply send your email request to:

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

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

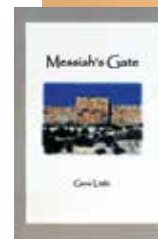


**BATTLING WITH NAZI DEMONS:** Werner Oder presents his personal struggle as the son of a Nazi commander. Growing up, plagued by the demonic, he is desperate for hope. This book documents his story from anti-Semitism to Zionism, and is a reminder that the shadows of the Holocaust are still there.



**THE BEAUTY OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE:** Nathalie Blackham presents a concise and informative overview of the meanings inherent in the letters of the

Hebrew language. With a vast depth of information presented in a concise and fascinating manner, this book is an essential for anyone fascinated by the language of the Bible.



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# PRAISE BE TO THE LORD ALMIGHTY!

*“...and let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they not be unfruitful.”*

**Titus 3:14 (NKJ)**

## LIGHTHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Your international help to us, through prayer, shipments and finances have assisted us over the past few months to serve over 1,064 families, including new immigrants (olim) plus the poor, needy and pensioners. You have sent over 5,413.7 kilos of highest quality garments.



### KAREN YEMIMA MOSQUERA

Karen, a young woman, 22 years old, originally from Ecuador, was killed in a terrorist attack, not far from our offices, in 2014. At CFI, we all heard and saw the news about this terrible tragedy and prayed for the injured and the families of those who were killed.

In January 2017, Karen’s mother and her younger sister came to the CFI Distribution Center. A friend of theirs who had visited CFI, told them about us and *they were curious to find out, as Christians, who we were.* When they mentioned that they were originally from Ecuador, we linked them to the young girl who had been murdered some years ago.



Top photo: Reliving the Terrible Day  
Above photo: Looking at the Family Photos

Shoshana, Karen’s mother, introduced herself to us and showed us photographs and magazines with stories about her daughter and started sharing what happened that terrible day. **We were all in tears.** Karen had loved reading the Holy Scriptures (Torah) since she was very young and her dream was to come to Israel to study in a Jewish studies institute for women. She was so enthusiastic about Shabbat and all the Jewish Feasts. Back in Ecuador, she would read to her father from the Tanach and they would study together. She was buried on the Mount of Olives. Karen told her mother that one day she would be buried there-- her heart’s desire.





Returning Home by the Call of the Lord

## AVIDAM & SHINEY

Avidam & Shiney made aliyah from Mumbai, India in November 2016. They have a two-year-old daughter. “Israel is our Holy Land and we always wanted to come to our Home Land but the decision was made when our daughter was born.”

Avidam & Shiney explained that in India, Jewish institutions, like synagogues and schools always have security guards. They are happy that they are finally home.

## “BORN IN BRAZIL BUT NEVER BELONGED”

More Jewish families from Brazil are visiting our Distribution Center as many are making Aliyah! These families shared with us that more will be arriving in Israel this year and they would come to us right away as they’ve already heard about our organization from friends and family members that arrived before. “Although we were born in Brazil, we never felt that we belonged there. Israel was always our Homeland” they told us.



Happy to Be in their Homeland

## LEFT WITH EMOTIONAL WOUNDS BUT NEVER LOST HOPE!

*“If we wish that the name Israel be not extinguished, then we are in duty bound to create something which may serve as a center for our entire people, like the heart in an organism, from which the blood will stream into all the arteries of the national body and fill it with life.” Eliezer Ben-Yehuda*



A Place for Everyone

Entire families originally from Ukraine are making Aliyah. It is a real blessing to see them starting a new beginning together. Many of them come seeking a better future for their little ones, and after their hearts have grasped what Israel is about, they encourage their parents, grandparents, and siblings to also take the big step. Making Aliyah is truly a step of faith and obedience!

These families told us that it is a huge release for them to be in Israel as the war in Ukraine has left them with *many emotional wounds, but that they never lost hope.* They shared how they realized that we are not the Christians that they have heard about before (who were anti-Semitic). Praise God as this is all part of repairing the damage done for over twenty centuries to the Jewish people. It is indeed an honor for us to serve.

### Rocio Fordham

Project Open Gates  
gates@cfjjerusalem.org





Sharing in the excitement of their special day



The Joy of the Lord is evident



God continues to bring Jews and Christians together

# *The Wedding Invitation*

*“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.”*

## Song of Solomon 6:3

CFI is happy to announce that the renovations and new alterations to our CFI Bridal Salon have been completed. We are able to serve in the Bridal Salon in its fullness in order to bless the People of Israel. The newly decorated Bridal Salon provides the highest quality attire for Jewish weddings and special occasions. Once the word spread that we had again fully re-opened our doors, brides were more than eager to view our collection of wedding dresses for their special upcoming wedding days. Remember – this project is so dear to our hearts because we are often invited to the weddings!

It is such a joy to see the expressions of surprise and awe on the faces of Israeli brides-to-be and their friends or relatives, when they come for their appointment at the CFI Bridal Salon.

When a bride enters the changing room and sees herself in the large mirror with the Biblical inscription on the wall, in English and Hebrew, *“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine”* in gold letters, she begins to feel as if she is a real bride. It is a special emotional moment, because for most, this is the first time they see themselves wearing a wedding dress in such a setting. It is also for most, the first time to be in a “Christian” salon.

*“This is so beautiful”* they all say, and it is! Thanks to your faithful support we have the privilege of being able to not only help them find a wedding gown, but to also serve them in a beautiful and comfortable atmosphere that our visitors really appreciate, and in which, they feel at home.

**Yaffa** is a young Israeli bride who came from Ethiopia when she was a small

girl. Sadly, both of her parents passed away and Yaffa and her fiancé do not earn enough money in order to be able to afford all the expenses of a wedding. The CFI Bridal Salon was a huge blessing for them as she could find a beautiful wedding dress. The bride-groom was able to find the perfect suit.

**Glenda** made “Aliyah” with all of her family from Cuba less than five years ago. They live in Beersheba so she came all the way up to Jerusalem, from the south of Israel, with her mother and grandmother to look for the *dress of her dreams* ...and she found it! She chose a white lace dress, veil and all the accessories she needed. Her grandmother also found an evening dress for her granddaughter’s wedding.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank all of those who are sending their lovely international gowns to us to be worn by Jewish brides, and also for the groom, tuxedos and family evening attire. Also, thank you for all of the beautiful jewelry, including wedding rings for those who cannot afford them. Your newly pledged financial support for our Bridal Salon is also much needed. **It is you, our supporters, who make this special ministry to the Jewish people possible.**

CFI was the first Christian ministry to begin a Bridal Salon outreach in Israel. It remains the only fully operational Christian boutique that has been operational on a long-term basis. Thank you for your continued support.

**Patricia Cuervo**  
*Project Bridal Salon*  
[bridal@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:bridal@cfjjerusalem.org)





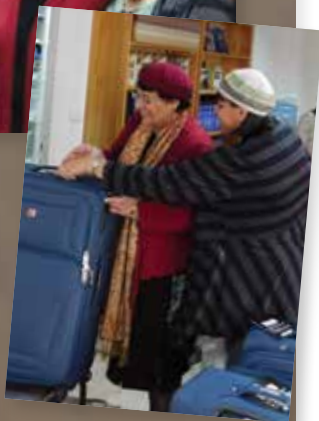
## Restoring Hope

*“Cast your burden on the LORD,  
And He shall sustain you;  
He shall never permit the righteous  
to be moved.”* Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)

As you may recall from our last issue of *For Zion's Sake*, thanks to your *Emergency Aid Fund for Israel* donations, we were privileged to assist 20 families in the community of Halamish following the horrible arson fires caused by terrorists in the Samaria forest areas. Unknown to us at the time, one of the victims in Halamish, had a sister in the community of Tel Mond (just 15 minutes from Netanya) who lost everything to arson as well. We now had the opportunity to help two additional families, each with six children, who find themselves in portable caravans, as they wait to rebuild their houses and lives.

Upon receiving the call for much needed assistance from our partners at CJCUC, members of the CFI team rose to the challenge to provide suitcases for these mobile families, as well as a private visit to shop in our Lighthouse Distribution Center. Along with the suitcases and clothing for 16 people, CFI provided gift cards enough for each of the family members to purchase a brand new pair of shoes for summer, as well as food, and other personal items, in hopes of giving them some relief over the next few months.

This tremendous opportunity to help these amazing communities that are rebuilding their cities, towns and villages throughout the land continues to be possible because of the outpouring of your love and financial support from the nations. May God continue to pour out His blessing upon each one of you, as you continue to show your solidarity with the people here in the land. Your support, in turn, encourages them, and let's them know that they are not alone.



## Plant a Tree

On the 15th of Sh'vat, 5777 Israel celebrated Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for Trees, which heralds the arrival of the spring planting season.

Since tens of thousands of trees were destroyed in the fires this past November, it grants us the opportunity to assist the farmers in Israel, by helping to replace the trees that were lost.

Will you join us in making a difference here in Israel by sending your donation of love today? You will be showing brotherly love, helping to restore and beautify the land, and sending the message to those determined to destroy this land, that we are bound together with bonds that cannot be broken.

Please note that you can dedicate a tree in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. Anyone planting a tree will receive an Authentic Tree Certificate from Jerusalem.



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





# Come join us in celebrating Israel's 70th Birthday! April 16-19, 2018

Millennia ago, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, promised the nation of Israel that while they had been scattered to the 4 corners of the earth, He would return them to the land He had promised to Abraham and his descendants. In the miraculous event of 1948, the Jewish nation watched as that covenant of promise remained true. The descendants of Jacob from around the world celebrated the re-birth of the nation of Israel in a single day!

*"and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them, says the Lord your God." (Amos 9:14-15 NIV)*

Next year in 2018, all of Israel and multitudes from around the world who stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people will celebrate **ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY !**

In recognition of this amazing birthday year, Christian Friends of Israel will be hosting an incredible celebration from April 16th -19th, 2018 in the City of the Great King, Jerusalem. Join those from around the world arriving to Jerusalem, as we come together for a once-in-a-lifetime experience filled with amazing praise and worship, inspiring teaching, along with fascinating excursions in Israel! Don't miss your opportunity to share with the generations to come about your time in Jerusalem, celebrating the 70th birthday of the Miracle of Israel.

Contact: [events@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:events@cfijerusalem.org) Tel: +972 2- 623-3778  
Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 9101701 Israel

## Exceptional Leaders Succeed

CFI – Jerusalem would like to thank the 55 participants of our **2017 Pastors and Leadership Tour** in February. The overwhelming positive response from these Leaders in the nations was tremendous, as many found Scripture literally leaping off the pages of their Bibles as they toured the Land of Israel. Most said the experience truly enhanced their understanding, and brought to light the terrible misconceptions being forced on the nations by secular, liberal media outlets and those presenting replacement theology doctrine. The group examined Israel up-close, and experienced a tangible connection with CFI - Jerusalem as they engaged in hands-on ministry with Israelis that we help on a daily basis.

To keep up to date on the next **CFI – Jerusalem Pastors and Leadership Tour**, be sure to contact Julie and get your next life-time opportunity reserved. **Contact: [events@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:events@cfijerusalem.org)**



Planting trees on a kibbutz

*Please accept our apology.  
In the last issue of For Zion's Sake, our individuals tour listing contained a misprinted location.  
The Bahai Gardens is not a listed CFI Tour location. We apologize for the error.*



# A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY

Just as assuredly as the Lord has called Christians to the saving grace of the Word of God, many times the Lord places as strong a calling upon the lives of those He chooses to do His work on earth. For some it is the remote jungles of some distant land to teach others about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For others, it is a deep desire to help those in their own hometown, metropolplex, or country. For those of us here in Israel, the call of God came to serve 'His people,' in the land of their heritage, and to stand boldly alongside our Jewish friends as Christians from the nations.

If you feel God has placed the call on your life, to serve His people here in the Nation of Israel, won't you take a moment to contact us? It is truly an amazing opportunity to embark on an incredible journey that leads to Jerusalem. Become part of a family, an ongoing legacy of hundreds of people that have carried compassion, friendship and tangible love to the Nation of Israel, for more than 30 years.

Answer the call of God today, and find out how YOU can spend **"Next year, in Jerusalem"**, as you join our amazing staff that God is using to bless His people!

*Contact: [personnel@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:personnel@cfjjerusalem.org)*

## Exciting Opportunities Available

*Translation - Various Languages*

*Outreach Coordinator - Wall of Prayer*

*Administrative Assistant - Headquarters*

*Accounting & Business Assistant - Headquarters*

*Graphic Artist - Media Department*

*Videographer - Media Department*

*Outreach Coordinator - Streams of Blessing*

*Online Content Producer - Media Department*

*Outreach Assistant - Various Projects*

*Editing and Live production - Media Department*

*Director of Operations - Headquarters*

*Finance Manager - Headquarters*

## Make a Difference Beyond Your Borders! We are an Extension of You

Why support Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem and our efforts to serve the Nation of Israel? Because we are your extension, your hands and feet here in the land of Israel showing brotherly love in the most meaningful of ways. Through the love of Yeshua, our Jewish Messiah, we feel a natural affection associated with the Jewish people as our brothers and sisters. The command in Mark 12:31 NIV *'Love your neighbor as yourself'* extends an everlasting bond that loves, even when you're not always loved back, one that gives even when you get nothing in return, and that always looks at what's best in others - **unconditionally**.

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## CFI Canada

What a tremendous joy it was to receive the recent wonderful news that CFI Canada Representative Ken Smith was joined by his beautiful wife Ilene at this year's Missionfest in Vancouver. Just more than a year ago, Ilene had been rushed to the hospital due to bleeding in her brain that put her in critical condition, after which she has persevered and is on the road to recovery. Praise be to the God of Israel for the amazing healing that He has placed upon her, and for the unending prayers of those worldwide that have lifted Ilene and Ken in prayer this last year! At first call of the need for prayer and intercession, the CFI worldwide family began to petition heaven on behalf of Ilene. We rejoice with Ken and Ilene in witnessing the power of our God, and their ongoing unselfish efforts to bless the Nation of Israel, and the tremendous work they accomplish through CFI Canada.

*-Rev. Kenneth Smith  
CFI - Canada Representative  
Contact: smith.revken@shaw.ca*



Ken and Ilene at Vancouver Missionfest



## CFI Switzerland

CFI Switzerland has recently bid a final farewell to Jacqueline Henry, the wife of Jean Henry, who at 92, passed away a few years ago. This couple were the first CFI Representatives to open up the way for Swiss Christians to support and pray for Israel. Jacqueline and her husband were visionaries and pioneers in Switzerland and made an impression on many Swiss Christians when it came to their deep love for the Chosen People. Thousands of parcels of love left their home in Aubonne, and were shipped to the CFI Distribution Center in Jerusalem. Much fellowship was held in Switzerland around the table of the Henry's home. Memories of this wonderful couple will never be forgotten. CFI Switzerland wishes to follow in the footsteps of these Heroes of the Faith in blessing Israel through CFI. The entire CFI Swiss Board will deeply miss both Jean and Jacqueline Henry, but will remember them with much gratitude for their many years of service in blessing the nation of Israel.

*-Walter & Erika Mathys  
CFI - Switzerland Representative  
Contact: caisuisse@bluemail.ch*



Sharon with Jacqueline Henry in Switzerland



## CFI India

CFI – India continues to increase its presence around the country as CFI – India Representative Dr. Ephraim Smith has just appointed a new area representative to the Kerala region. Pastor P Bose Chacko is now reaching out to those in the Kerala area with the message of Christian Friends of Israel and providing even more of the nation of India relevant teaching and practical ways of supporting the nation of Israel through CFI. Dr. Ephraim Smith continues to teach around the country delivering the message of Standing with Israel Today and in the Days to Come along with his now 10 other area representatives throughout the country. Thank you CFI – India for continuing to grow the message of Christian Friends of Israel and standing in solidarity with the nation of Israel.

*-Ephraim Smith  
CFI - India Representative  
Contact: zion\_india@yahoo.com*



Ephraim presents Pastor Chacko his CFI certification





## CFI Australia

An enormous “Thank You” goes out to all of those in Australia for supporting the Nation of Israel and for enabling Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem to meet its \$35K goal. Its because of your generosity that we have been able to replace the extremely outdated computer systems in the Jerusalem Headquarters and Lighthouse Distribution Center. CFI – Australia representative Patrick Russell has shown that no challenge is too big for the God of Israel. The amazing response from those in Australia has been both humbling and encouraging at the same time. May the God of Israel continue to richly bless our dear brothers and sisters “Down Under” for all they do for His Glory!

*-Patrick Russell*  
*CFI - Australia Representative*  
**Contact: [cfaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:cfaustralia@hotmail.com)**



*Thank You!*



Lois and Jennifer in Jerusalem



## CFI China &



## CFI Taiwan

In February of this year, the CFI Jerusalem headquarters had the distinct pleasure to spend some quality time with CFI – China Representative Lois Wang during her extended stay after our Pastors and Leadership Tour. Lois was accompanied by CFI – Taiwan Representative Jennifer Hsiao as they have been teaming up to bring group after group from the Far East to Israel for amazing opportunities to see the Land of Israel up-close and personal. These ladies continue to bring Christians yearning to find out more about the roots of their Christian faith, while coming to see the scriptures fulfilled and alive in Israel for themselves. Lois and Jennifer are encouraging Christians to come and see for themselves why taking a stand with Israel is the right thing to do.

*-Lois Wang, CFI - China Representative*  
**Contact: [cfi.china@gmail.com](mailto:cfi.china@gmail.com)**  
*-Jennifer Hsiao, CFI - Taiwan Representative*  
**Contact: [cfitaiwan13@gmail.com](mailto:cfitaiwan13@gmail.com)**



Chinese group attending  
2017 Pastors and Leadership tour



## Stay Connected and Up-to-Date

Want to know more about what's happening in Israel? With our "boots on the ground" team based in Jerusalem, we have unparalleled opportunities to bring you "Truth out of Zion" which include relevant, up-to-date, and interesting insights that are easy to access. Learn more about our informative resources at:

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

**Print Media:** For Zion's Sake - a quarterly, full-color magazine is available upon request (and also as an online download). FZS is free with a gift of any amount.



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



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

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

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

# Defending the Truth

## Equipping the 21st Century Church



## 2017 Worldwide Speaking Tour

When people want to find absolute truth, it can usually be hard to find and even more difficult to understand, in today's world of political correctness, liberal slants, and media bias. Finding the honest reality about Israel can be exceptionally difficult!

After decades of ministry, Christian Friends of Israel remains at the forefront, providing churches with a genuine understanding of their responsibility to Israel, while proving solid ways to bring tangible help to the people of the land. Congregations worldwide are looking for accurate, fresh, and balanced information about Israel, and CFI brings an authentic message of God's truth to them first-hand. Stacey and Kevin are currently arranging their 2017 speaking engagements in the nations of Australia, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the calendar continues to fill.

If your congregation, your city, or even your country wants to be a place that honors God's covenant with Israel, and you need the accurate truth that CFI can provide from Jerusalem, then please contact Julie and request your dates today.

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

**CFI Representative Nearest You**