

# For Zion's Sake

First Quarter 2019 Jewish Year 5779

My soul, wait silently for God alone,  
for my expectation is from Him. He  
only is my rock and my salvation; He  
is my defense; I shall not be moved.

Psalm 62:5-6



Is Antisemitism's  
Grip Returning?

**Christian Friends of Israel**

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# For Zion's Sake

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## Shalom from Jerusalem!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your love and support during the difficult past year for our family. With the loss of both of my husband's parents, Steve and Madeline Howard, as well as the traumatic fall my mother Sharon took this past August that hospitalized her for a month, it has solidified in my own life how much more I need to just let go and let God be in control.

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)*

**Less of me and more of you, Lord**, has been my prayer in this new year. For it is only through Him that we can find the strength to press-on in our service for Him. He is our strength, our defense and our salvation.

*But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded. 2 Chronicles 15:7 (NIV)*

## What a Great and Mighty God we serve!

Having been back in the United States for an extended period of time also brought new light to how fast our world around us is changing. I think you would agree that it can be exhausting to try to keep up with everything. It's one thing when you are trying to keep up with the latest fashions, technology or social media, but the changes of which I'm speaking are the ones that test our core faith, our moral character, our knowledge of the Word of God, our biblical virtues and even a person's support for his or her own nation. Around the globe, it seems that so many individuals, couples and families are struggling both physically and mentally around the globe. Oh, how we again need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Fire of God to rain down!



*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

**Acts 4:31(NIV)**

*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31(NIV)*

We need His spirit to rain down and wake-up the world before our window of opportunity to come to Him is closed forever! Of course, our Lord is not shocked by these events, trends or conditions of the world, however, I have to believe that He is deeply grieved by so many things. We should be grieved as well! What kind of world are we going to leave for the generations to follow us should the coming of the Lord continue to tarry? As long as we each have breath in our bodies, we need to be actively combating the enemy of this world.

*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. Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)*

One of the many things that my mother, grandmother and mother-in-law have taught me over the years is even if you can't physically do something, you most certainly can and should actively pray. You can be praying against anti-Semitism, against the BDS movement, against the left-wing activists whose agendas are aimed at tearing down, oppressing and silencing Bible believing, God fearing people. Pray for those of us who are serving in Israel and the other nations throughout the world, pray that the Lord will keep us healthy and protected so that we can continue to assist those in need throughout Israel and around the globe.

I like how S.D. Gordon put it when he said. **“You can do more than pray after you have prayed but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”**

As Christian Friends of Israel continues to reach out to the people of Israel, it is a great comfort for them to know that there are Christians like yourself, who love Israel and are willing to support them in their times of need.

Thank you from all of us serving here in Jerusalem and from all the recipients who have at some point felt your love through both your prayers and faithful giving. May we all continue to stand up for what is right, have a voice against what is wrong and be willing to fight for biblical truth until our last breath.

*“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ...”*  
Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

Thank you for all you have done for Israel and her people, and for all you will continue to do throughout the year by partnering with CFI – Jerusalem! 🙏

Blessings and Shalom,

*Stacey Howard*

Executive / International Director  
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem

*“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.”* Matthew 25:31-33 (NIV)



# Is Antisemitism's Grip Returning?

by Kevin Howard

**O**ver the centuries, the Jewish people have suffered terrible acts of violence, persecution, and overwhelming emotional distress. While much of the biblical narrative alludes to their relationship with a Holy God being at the center of terrible captivity and exile, it was their final dispersion to the four corners of the earth that scattered the Chosen people of God in the record of the biblical account. Yet after all of this time and with such a long history as a people, they still are dealing with the issues of persecution, prejudice and even hatred. In looking at the historical past, is the root of this type of prejudice ethnic, religious, racial, political, all the above or something more?

## History's anti-Semitic past

When the subject of anti-Semitism is brought up in dialogue, for most the immediate connection of the word is often to the Holocaust during WWII. Most of the world has been familiar with the history surrounding the persecution and eventual murder of more than six million Jews, with some scholars estimating eight million or more, during that time period. The Nazi regime under Hitler remains today as the most recent and vivid destructive means against the Jewish people in modern history. While the Nazis did have a military force fighting against the allied forces, it was the hidden shadows of the death camps where the most horrific casualties took place against innocent civilians simply because of their religion, their heritage, and their culture. This immense hatred of a single people group, as well as those who tried to help them, will forever be one of humanity's darkest times.

Yet, the Holocaust was not history's only revelation of the extremes of anti-Semitic prejudice and hatred that have been displayed against the Jewish people. A quick look at the definition of anti-Semitism in today's dictionary finds the following: "hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group" (Merriam Webster dictionary).

*Antisemitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews. A person who holds such positions is called an anti-Semite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism.... Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Although the term did not come into common usage until the 19th century, it is now also applied to historic anti-Jewish incidents. Notable instances of persecution include the Rhineland massacres preceding the First Crusade in 1096, the Edict of Expulsion from England in 1290, the massacres of Spanish Jews in 1391, the persecutions of the Spanish Inquisition, the expulsion from Spain in 1492, the Cossack massacres in Ukraine from 1648 to 1657, various anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire between 1821 and 1906, the 1894–1906 Dreyfus affair in France, the Holocaust in German-occupied Europe during World War II, Soviet anti-Jewish policies, and Arab and Muslim involvement in the Jewish exodus from Arab and Muslim countries. (Wiki – anti-Semitism)*

Found throughout history we see over and over how this prejudice has cost humanity so much despair and so many Jewish families their precious lives and loved ones. The question remains however, is anti-Semitism rooted in culture, ethnicity, or religious differences alone, or is there a deeper meaning for the prejudice displayed against the Jewish People?

In the fourth quarter 2015 *For Zion's Sake*, Sharon Sanders provided a unique understanding of the anti-Jewish rhetoric found within the writings of the early church fathers. She wrote: *Volumes of slanderous talk addressing the Jewish people came also from the lips of Christendom's forefathers who influenced Christian communities all over the world. Sermons given by Church Fathers assisted in the spreading of lies about the Chosen People and damaged hearts—people ended up prejudiced against the Jewish people from drinking barrels of "tainted wine".*

My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.  
He only is my rock and my salvation;  
He is my defense; I shall not be moved.  
(Psalm 62:5-6)

Epistle of Barnabas: “Take heed to yourselves and be not like some...saying that the covenant is theirs as well as ours. It is ours, but they lost it completely just after Moses received it.” “The custom of circumcising the flesh, handed down from Abraham, was given to you (Jews) as a distinguishing mark, to set you off from...us Christians...that you might suffer the afflictions that are now justly yours...and...God imposed upon you the observance of Shabbat as a mark.”

Justin Martyr: “The Jews...have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming this conspiracy against the Savior...”

Origen: “The synagogue is worse than a brothel...the temple of demons...the cavern of devils...I hate the Jews...”

John Chrysostom: “How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews)...”

St. Augustine: Known as “the meekest of Christian men, he said: “How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews) with your two-edged sword, so that there should be none to oppose your word!...”

Peter the Venerable: “...I doubt whether a Jew can be really human...”

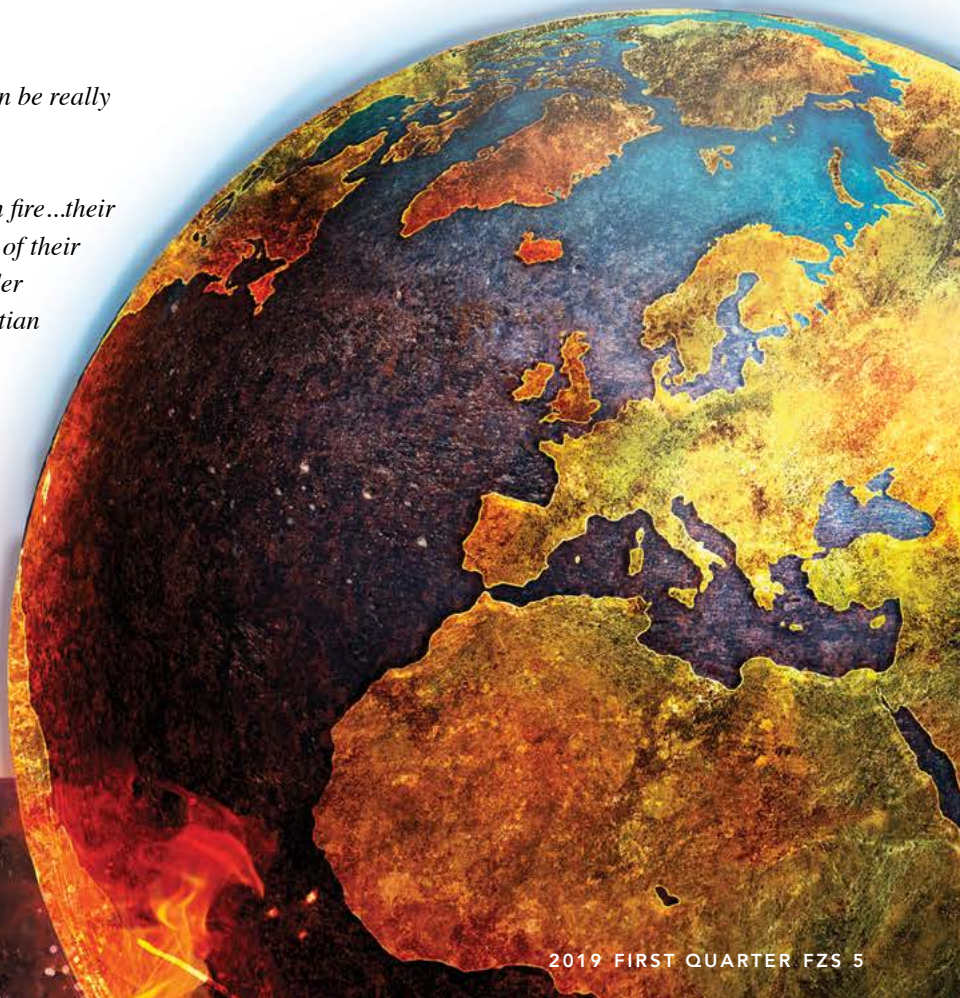
Martin Luther: Their synagogues should be set on fire...their homes should likewise be broken down...deprived of their prayer-books...their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach...next to the devil, a Christian has no more bitter and galling foe than a Jew....”

### Is anti-Semitism rising again?

Since the miraculous rebirth of the nation of Israel in 1948, an ugly hand of Islamic hatred and prejudice against the Jewish people can be seen quite clearly by most. The Jewish nation returning to its original ancient homeland has indeed had a profound effect on the entire Middle East region. Adding to that the

amazing Israeli victory in the Six-day war of 1967 to re-unify the city of Jerusalem under Jewish control, the Middle East neighborhood has become a regular place of aggression and violent hostility against the Jewish nation.

When anti-Semitism makes world headlines today, it usually is reported as some form of physical violence or political rhetoric. Whether it is Jewish gravesites that have been vandalized with painted Nazi swastikas, or Synagogues that have been damaged or destroyed, the physical violence has continued. Yet, the most violent attacks upon our Jewish friends are revealed in massacres like the violent October 2018 attack on the Pittsburgh synagogue where a single gunman killed 11 people and wounded seven more. Beyond the physical damage and death inflicted upon innocent lives, the true stain upon us all is a reality that a hatred, once manifested in the heart of an individual can be turned into an act of senseless violence that destroys so many lives, including those surrounding the victims and their communities.



Even the secular media is speaking about anti-Semitism and how it just won't seem to leave, especially in the continent of Europe. A major global news service conducted a survey last year among nations in Europe concerning the Holocaust. Their survey showed that around one third of Europeans know either just a little or nothing about the Holocaust. Other comments from the survey pertained to opinions about Jews having too much influence in business, finance, media and politics.

The rise of anti-Semitic tone and rhetoric seems to also be reaching into the political arenas of Western nations. Heavily reported was last year's media coverage on the UK Labour party, headed by Jeremy Corbyn, with accusations of anti-Semitic rhetoric being displayed often. Also, in the US Congress, the newly elected House Representative from Minnesota, Ilhan Omar recently faced allegations of anti-Semitic rhetoric that had secular media quoting government officials, members of Congress, and even the Vice President about her comments.

With all of the historical reference concerning the Jewish people over time, how is it that so many facts appear to be fading from the understanding of those in the very nations where the Holocaust took place, as well as the nations that came to the aid of those who survived those atrocities? Is it possible that the new atmosphere goes beyond the traditional Holocaust denial rhetoric, and is becoming a situation of historical fact fading from the pages of reference for those in the secular world around us?

### **Is anti-Semitism a spiritual issue?**

The possibility exists that the underlying issues concerning anti-Semitism are actually spiritual in nature. Is it possible that prejudice and hatred of the Jewish people are an expression of a world that simply doesn't want to believe what is written in Scripture? The thought of a Holy God choosing a people to call His own could generate a lot of emotional response in those considered as "not chosen." Perhaps it could even generate a need to replace what God intended with a more human philosophical approach. What would make them so special to be "chosen" after all?


While Scripture clearly shows God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, ***"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*** It also indicates that this is something Abraham is not providing for himself. It is something that God is doing for him and through him. While the promise indicates that blessing will flow to "all peoples on earth," it is through Abraham's descendants that the blessing will flow over time. Since the beginning of creation, God has planned and pur-

posed all things by His word. Scripture shows that the fall of mankind in the garden brought sin into the world. Yet even today the world is trying to negate that biblical account. Dr. Dennis Lindsay, the President and CEO of Christ for the Nations in Dallas, TX, shares his thoughts with students about how the theory of evolution was introduced as a means of eliminating God from the equation. After all, Dennis teaches, if God didn't create the world, then there really is no such thing as sin, if there is no God. And if there is no sin, then why would we ever need a savior? He feels that trying to prove there is no God of creation is simply a way for today's humanistic society to question a need for salvation in the first place.

***Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They deal corruptly, their deeds are vile, not one does what is right. (Psalm 14:1 CJB)***

Is it possible that the onslaught against the Jewish people is simply an onslaught against God himself? From a spiritual aspect, could it be that the spirit behind anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, anti-Israelism, is the same spirit of denial that God is who He says He is? Could it be simply that the very existence of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel is a shining beacon showing the world that God is who He says He is, that He keeps His promises, and His word is indeed truth?

Why God chose the Jewish nation as His people remains a mystery even to them, but the scriptural facts showing that he did remain as well. Scripture records that He chose a people to be separate unto Himself. As many around the world continue to study the word of God for themselves and see the importance of Israel and the Jewish people returning to their ancient homeland, rebuilding their nation, being a strong and blessed people, once again turning their face to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we should all be encouraged that the God of creation is still on His throne, He keeps His promises, and the Messiah is soon to appear.

As Christians in the nations, our need to speak out against the onslaught of anti-Semitism, BDS, and all other attacks against the Jewish people and the nation of Israel is imperative in standing biblically aligned with the God whom we serve. If we understand that our Holy Scriptures, the prophets of old, our Jewish Messiah Jesus and his disciples are all from a Jewish heritage and family, then we must stand alongside them today in their times of greatest need. We must do our part to push back the increasing grip of anti-Semitism around the world. We must help in waking up our own Christian family around the world to the understanding that our faith is wholly and completely connected to the root of the scriptural heritage of the Jewish nation, and that the God we all serve is the one True God of the Bible--the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel. 



# Passover

## No One Left Behind

*"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you..." Exodus 12:13*

One of the greatest honors we have as Christian Friends of Israel in blessing the people of the land is partnering through those with a likeminded vision of helping the most needy in Israel, that might not come to us directly as individuals. Over the last few years, Christian Friends of Israel has collaborated with another Israeli organization to help in arranging Open Passover Seders, which take place throughout Israel during the Feast of Passover. This year was no different, as CFI has provided 100 Israelis the unique opportunity to participate in a Passover Seder, which due to circumstances may be something they have not been able to participate in before.

The Open Passover Seders are meant to reach out and serve the needier population in Israel such as the Ethiopian and Russian Jewish immigrants, single-parent families, those in adult day-care facilities, widowed and lonely seniors, and anyone just needing a welcoming place. The Seder serves as the holiday's focal point to re-live the experience of the Exodus from Egypt, and to celebrate lives of freedom from enslavement. The metaphors and parallels of "slavery" and "liberation" have accompanied all of mankind over the centuries.

These Seders have a two-fold mission: to reach those with limited economic means, as well as to help deepen their understanding of Jewish history, tradition and culture. Participants gather at tables which have been beautifully arranged and sing together, read scripture from the Torah

and yes of course, eat great traditional Passover food. The dinners are conducted by personable educators who make the Haggadah stories come alive and relevant to our times today. This experience is meant to lift spirits, with the hope that each participant will feel a personal connection with the exodus story and God's plan of redemption. This type of social setting gives attendees the opportunity to strengthen relationships with others that are going through the same type of hardships or who are in similar economic situations.

With each successive year, the desire for this live hosted and very personal social event continues to grow, so please know how much we greatly appreciate your ongoing giving to Project Streams of Blessing that allows us to continue in participating with our dear Israeli friends. Your giving enables us to continue taking part in many more outreach opportunities just like this one.

It is our ongoing prayer that no one in Israel will be left out of the opportunity to spend this very special night of the year together with true friends and not have to spend it alone. We hope that is your prayer as well. Thank you for your gifts of love and care for Israel and the Jewish people.

**Stacey Howard**

*Project Streams of Blessing*  
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# I Will Remember


***“Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing” Isaiah 40:26.***

Every creation of the Almighty God is unique and bears His name as a copyright of His nature and character, a reflection of His glory and faithfulness. He did not only create the stars in the heavens, but He named them, and He remembers them all by name. How much more does He know and treasure every person whom He created in His image and for Himself. Just as the stars in the heavens, none of their names ever go missing from His heart.

During the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler attempted to erase the names of the Jews and replace them with a number. His goal was to wipe away even the memory of the ones upon whom God Himself wrote His own name as His everlasting inheritance through His everlasting covenant. But such attempts will not prevail, for who can contend with the Holy One of Israel?

On the 27th of January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, many meetings were held, and many Holocaust survivors, along with their children, and government officials gathered together to light six candles in the memory of six million innocent Jewish lives cruelly murdered by the Nazi regime. Six million is a number that is impossible to comprehend if we try to call out every single name – every single life, individual, destiny. Will all these precious lives one day just become a number, an empty space? It may, for all of us who live today, but not for the God of eternity; for precious in His sight is the death of His people. He knows them all by name.

As a team here, we had the privilege to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony in Tel Aviv, organized by the Association of the Concentration Camp and Ghetto Survivors. Over 100 Holocaust Survivors came, but they did not come alone. Deep within their hearts they carried their mothers and fathers, siblings and cousins, grandparents and close friends, and they carried them all by name. We could see the weight of those names – those memories - in their posture, their eyes and hearts. As candles were lit, the names, those precious names, were spoken aloud with deep sobbing, unbearable pain, piercing the ears and hearts of listeners as with a sword. ***Names. Silence. Weeping. Memories. Lost hopes.***



**“Mother** - Ida Koifman – died during the deadly march from Transnistria to Bershad. No grave, no place to remember.”

**“Father** - Itsack Beiderman – killed while trying to protect his mother Ada Beiderman, my grandmother.”

**“Groysman family** - mother Leyka, brother Shmulik and Leyb, sisters Rachel, Musya and Sarele. All killed in a mass grave, in Belarus.”

The event is over. Heavy suitcases, packed tight with the past, ready to be carried back home again in silence. Everyone has their own load. They all know, they all understand the weight. No words are needed, no words are adequate. As weighty as the load of these dear people is, so we should also take the weight of our responsibility before their God in comfort, prayer and hard work of removing the stones of bitterness and loss. No one is missing. Nothing is lost. ***We remember their names. We remember their stories. We remember their lives. We remember.***

**The history of the Holocaust would remain only history without the remembrance of the names of the survivors. Just as God never forgets the names of His children, let us also not forget. With the support of those like you, we can know the names--to preserve the memories--of at least a few of the six million lost, as well as those who survived. Thank you.**

**Olga Kopilova**  
*Project Forsake Them Not*  
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# Spirit Led

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and commissioned me to bring good news to the humble and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up [the wounds of] the brokenhearted, to proclaim release [from confinement and condemnation] to the [physical and spiritual] captives and freedom to prisoners..." Isaiah 61:1(AMP).*

## No justification to be an enemy of Israel

Since March 30, 2018, Israel has been contending with ongoing violent attempts by masses of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip – civilians and operatives – to sabotage and destroy Israel's defensive security infrastructure along its border with Gaza, penetrate Israel's territory, harm Israeli security forces, and overrun Israeli civilian areas and harm Israeli civilians (the "Gaza border events"). While these events are part of a broader armed conflict with Israel--which throughout 2018 has included direct attacks, rockets, mortar shells and more--there has been an orchestrated campaign of mass events occurring at the border.

These border events have been primarily organized and led by Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization that controls the entirety of the Gaza Strip. Hamas has been waging an ongoing armed conflict against Israel using various means to penetrate into Israeli territory and attack both Israeli security forces and the civilian population. Over the years, these means have included suicide bombings in Israeli population centers, tens of thousands of rockets and mortars launched from Gaza into Israel, cross-border assault tunnels reaching from Gaza into Israel, and various cross-border attacks such as anti-tank fire, machine gun fire, above-ground infiltration by terrorist cells and the placing of explosives along the security infrastructure.

## IDF choosing life and morality

In response to these events, Israel has tried a number of means to avoid having to use force against attempts to breach its border. This has included sending messages to Gaza on social and traditional media, directly calling bus companies contracted by Hamas to transport people to the border, and dropping leaflets over Gaza.

The IDF conducted specialized training for its forces, equipped them with non-lethal means, and ensured that

IDF forces are well acquainted with the Standard Operating Procedures (the SOPs).

These SOPs were the subject of a petition to Israel's Supreme Court, during which Israel presented a detailed position of the legality of the SOPs and its activities during the Gaza border events. The Supreme Court rejected the petition against the SOPs, and found in favor of Israel's factual and legal arguments.

In accordance with the SOPs, which are in line with international law, potentially lethal force is only used as a means of last resort, after all other non-lethal means have been exhausted, and only where the use of such force is required to repel a clear and imminent threat.

## Choosing to be led by the Spirit

The spirit of the IDF draws on its military traditions and heritage as the Israel Defense Forces; also the tradition of the State of Israel, its democratic principles, laws and institutions. In addition, the tradition of the Jewish People throughout their history, and universal moral values based on the value and dignity of human life are relied upon.

CFI Project David's Shield continues to be honored with the opportunity to encourage these brave Warriors to be about the commission of God's prophetic Word to defend the very people He has returned to the Land of Israel. We do this with personal visits to Army bases, graduation ceremonies, Lone Soldier Centers, training activity sites, Leadership Academies, remote posts and even Holiday celebrations. We are privileged to be included in their lives and have been invited to many activities which include the parents of the soldiers. This constitutes an acceptance as part of the family.

We gift the soldiers with blankets, fleece jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts, tents, backpacks and on occasion homemade baked goods and pizza – as acts of kindness, love and support. We are grateful to the many supporters of this important project and are constantly telling the soldiers about the support from their Christian Friends of Israel.

## Jim McKenzie

Project David's Shield  
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"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food, and someone says to him, 'Shalom! Keep warm and eat heartily!' without giving him what he needs, what good does it do?"

James 2:15-16 (CJB)

## Standing Strong Together as Family

When we think of the term family, for most our thoughts go to those who belong to us as our immediate relatives. From parents and grandparents, to children and grandchildren, adding to the abundance our extended family of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins galore. Yet as believers in Yeshua, Christians possess a greater extended family throughout the entire body of believers.

This extended reach propels us into the reality that we are in certain terms, a family of faith – a Christian family. For decades, Christian Friends of Israel has cherished its commitment to the family of believers here in Israel and has chosen to stand with them in their times of most desperate need.

Recently, we had the privilege of assisting Sarah who is a struggling single mother of a teenage son. Having raised teenagers, I know it can be quite challenging with both parents in the home and the thought of accomplishing it alone feels quite overwhelming. Sarah's been working hard to take care of her son and has done a tremendous job of staying out of debt, however, she's having trouble making ends meet. Recently her local pastor suggested she contact CFI to see if we might be able to help. She very much needed a loving hand to grab onto in order to walk through this quite difficult time. After assessing her needs, CFI was able to provide her with one month's rent as well as pay all her utilities up to date, thanks to the generosity of caring Christians in the nations just like you. We were also able to provide her and her son with enough food vouchers to cover costs for at least two weeks. Thank you!

Along with Sarah, we were blessed to meet with Michael, who reached out to CFI at the suggestion of many believers in the land, when he found himself in a time of need. Michael is a self-employed contractor in the construction business in Israel, but work had been slow over the last several months and trying to rid himself of some old debts, he had become exceedingly anxious about his financial situation. Debt collectors began calling and were threatening to take his vehicle if he didn't pay them overdue balances, and it has been his only means of transportation which is a must in his line of work. Through Project First Fruits, CFI was able to come alongside this brother of our extended family and provide him a helping hand up and out of the pit of despair. The same as with Sarah, we were able to assist Michael with rent for one month, pay up all of his utilities to date and provide him enough food for a month.

Without your generosity from the nations, many of our dear brothers and sisters in the household of faith would be overwhelmed, and even break under the pressure of the harsh realities that so many of them face. As Christians in the land, it is not only our duty, but our sincere honor to stand alongside our brethren here and say to the Lord, yes, we are our brother's keeper.

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# A CLASH of *Spiritual Kingdoms*

Jewish people so provoked God to anger that in His wrath they were scattered all over the world, but God also promises Israel's restoration for His glory. **“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. (Jeremiah 32: 37)**

Since the rebirth of Israel in 1948, this tiny nation has endured repeated wars and terror attacks carried out by hostile people that are committed to Israel's destruction.

Israel's survival from 1948 to the present certainly is the result of God's protection as well as immeasurable sacrifice (still is) on the part of generation after generation of Israeli Jews.

**“Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul....Says the LORD, the God of Israel.” (Jeremiah 32: 41)**

## Standing In the Gap for Israel

Please lift up the wounded survivors as well as the bereaved families in prayer. The pain and sorrow of losing their loved ones will be with them forever. Please also cover Israel's security with your prayer. It is a huge security challenge for the people of Israel having Palestinians working among them who have carried out terror attacks against the Israeli Jews from time to time.

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in restoring Israel for His glory, through your much needed prayer and financial support for this important Project of CFI so we can reach out to the wounded or the bereaved families of the deceased victims of terror attack. The peace of God and protection be with you and your loved ones wherever you go.

**Maggie Huang**  
Project Under His Wings  
[wings@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:wings@cfjjerusalem.org)

## The Nature of The Struggles

*The Book of Ephesians instructs us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, ...but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).* From the surface the conflict that Israel has faced looks like a conflict between Jews and the Palestinians, however, the battle indeed is not between Israeli and Palestinian, not even between Arab and Jew, but a religious struggle in which Israel is at the epicenter of the spiritual battle of the ages—a clash of spiritual kingdoms.

In the Biblical heartland - Judea, Samaria, Jerusalem and other parts of the land of Israel, terror attacks happen almost on a daily basis. The following are just some of the major terror attacks among all the wounded, and families of the deceased terror victims that Project Under His Wings has reached this past year:

**Halamish Terror Attack** A brainwashed and hatred-filled Palestinian youth with a sharp sword entered the house and brutally killed three family members and seriously wounded their mother at their celebration of a new-born male child at home in Halamish. Halamish is located in the southwestern Samaritan hills to the north of Ramallah.



**Har Adar Terror Attack** Three security guards were killed and a fourth guard was seriously injured by a Palestinian who was well-known and trusted in Har Adar where he worked. Har Adar is approximately 15 kilometers west of Jerusalem. By God's help Project UHW reached out to all of the four families. It is heart breaking to hear one bereaved mother who told us that instead of planning for the graduation or the wedding of their brilliant son, they had a funeral.



**Jerusalem Central Bus Station Terror Attack** One security guard was almost killed at the entrance of the Station by a Palestinian youth who suddenly pulled a knife and stabbed the heart of a security guard checking his ID. Thank God for the miracle that the security guard survived as he was in a coma for three weeks.



**Geva Binyamin Terror Attack** An Israeli community located five kilometers northeast of Jerusalem. Is where a young Palestinian infiltrated the Geva Binyamin neighborhood, stabbing to death one person and wounding two. We had the privilege of coming alongside to comfort the bereaved young widow with two young children, ages three and 10 months respectively.





# Bringing to *Life* the ANCIENT PATHS

“THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: “STAND AT THE CROSSROADS AND LOOK, ASK FOR THE ANCIENT PATHS, ASK WHERE THE GOOD WAY IS, AND WALK IN IT, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOUL” JEREMIAH 6:16.

The first generation of Ethiopian Israelis came with such mixed emotions after the euphoria of the airlift and arriving in Israel. They felt relief that finally they would be arriving in the land flowing with milk and honey. With the opportunity for a new start, it was conveyed to me from an Ethiopian elder that 90% of the Immigrants from Ethiopia were actually farmers. Another Elder in the community gave this explanation: “Once arriving here, there were no lands allocated for agriculture, they just wanted us to live, as other Israelis.” This was the only vision they could have. It may have felt like the best answer at the time, but within a short time, many Ethiopian immigrants found that they could not partake of the Israeli food supply--especially the wheat flour products here--without significant digestive complications. The food here was so different and the sugar content made many of them sick. Today, professionals clearly feel one of the main reasons why many Ethiopians are suffering with chronic kidney failure related directly to diabetes, may be attributed to the change in food.

Restoring the old agricultural traditions of the elderly people in Bnei Brak became a vision that an elderly man shared with our friend Rachel. One of our challenges is to reinforce memories and re-awaken traditions connected with the practice of farming in this community. Hope for the Future took this to heart by helping to clear, till and cultivate a plot of land earmarked for garden use. This “Garden of Hope” became

a true possibility when James Levi, a motivated volunteer from Cameroon came to bless CFI with his talents and many gifts.

The project took two days to complete. In the process, you could feel and see the excitement of the men and women that lived in this apartment complex. On the first day, we cleared the land of all tall grass, rocks and trash. This took a lot of sweat and muscle! Some of the elderly men actually came to assist us, which was a great milestone. As we know, this silent generation has spent countless days sitting in their courtyard staring into space with little to do or stimulate

them. Immediately, we noticed a shift in their countenance. Smiles and chatter replaced the empty looks! Even the youth returning from school took a genuine interest in this project. We finished the Hope Garden project on the second day. Kim Brunson joined James in making the landscape appealing as they both planted the winter seeds. In the following month, we will plant the spring crop of peppers and spices. Rachel texted later that day to report that the entire Ethiopian community is very excited! They feel that they have something of their own to tend and cultivate. Hope for The Future shares smiles with those in the community who have had hope flood their hearts today as an outcome of this integral project.

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



Rachel helps clear ground



James assisting in rock removal

# Where is the Church?

**Acts of terror against the nation of Israel are Israelis' regular reality. How long will the International Church Community continue to make excuses to pay no attention and remain silent?**

## Israel over the last six months

### March 2019 Headlines:

- A lone terrorist goes on prolonged stabbing and shooting spree against Israeli soldiers and civilians.
- The terrorists do not even fear our army. They destroy fences, throw stones and Molotov cocktails at our soldiers!
- Rockets fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv for first time since 2014; attack causing widespread panic; no injuries. (*Israel Today*)

The recent form of terrorism against Israel is "arson terror," to which the Gazans attach incendiary material and send balloons and kites over the border to the Israeli side. Since March 2018, about 800 such kites and helium balloons have been launched (over 600 of them intercepted), causing over 450 fires. To date, more than 2,600 hectares (6,424 acres) of agricultural fields and forests have been damaged by the fires. The loss to the farmers is estimated at 7-8 million shekels (about \$2 million). The real cost however, is much higher: the entire eco-system of the western Negev has been affected. Trees that have stood for generations – preventing soil erosion, improving the carbon footprint and providing a habitat for birds and animals – have been destroyed. Experts estimate that it will take decades for the area to fully recover.

- February 2019 - 19-year old Ori Ansbacher was violently assaulted and stabbed to death in the Jerusalem Ein Yael forest, while taking a walk near her workplace. On February 8, Israeli Police arrested Arafat Irfiya (29), a Palestinian from Hebron. Arafat Irfiya admitted that the murder was a nationalistically motivated stabbing attack.
- January 2019 - Security forces arrested a terrorist suspected of perpetrating the December 13 attack at Givat Assaf, in which two soldiers were killed. The terrorist, a member of the Barghouti family that has a history of involvement in terror, was released from prison in April 2018 after serving an 11-year sentence. His brother, who carried out the shooting attack at the Ofra bus stop on December 9, was shot and killed on December 12, while attempting to evade arrest.

*"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch"  
Isaiah 62:1.*

• December 2018: Terrorist events: 3 killed, 28 injured; 3 stabbing/attempted stabbing; 3 shooting attacks, 4 ramming attacks, 8 roadside bombs, 270 stone-throwing; 30 arson terror and petrol bombs.

• November 2018: Terrorist events: 2 killed, 12 injured; 4 stabbing/attempted stabbing; 5 shooting attacks, 1 ramming attack, 8 roadside bombs, 178 stone-throwing; 42 arson terror and petrol bombs.

• October 2018: Terrorist events: 2 killed, 18 injured; 4 stabbing/attempted stabbing; 1 shooting attack, 0 ramming attacks, 19 roadside bombs, 138 stone-throwing; 139 arson terror and petrol bombs. ([embassies.gov.il](http://embassies.gov.il))

In Psalm 122:6 David urges us to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, or more specifically, that we ask for SHALOM in Jerusalem. As far as God is concerned, Jerusalem is at the center of the world. So, when the Bible says that we should "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," it is because what happens in Jerusalem has a ripple effect around the entire world.

As we see prophetic events of the Lord's return taking place it is my hope and prayer that the church will stand up and position itself alongside God's purposes. Isaiah left us with these words to write on our hearts, "I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give Him no rest till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" Isaiah 62:6-7.

**Come On Church We've Got Work to Do!**



# Keeping our hearts toward *Israel in Prayer*

The call to prayer for the nation of Israel is steadfast in the hearts of so many around the world. The nation and her people are in constant need for those of you in the nations to continually keep God's chosen people in your prayers of intercession. Paul wrote in his letter to the Thessalonians to **"Pray without ceasing."** While it is not possible to live and function in our daily lives while being on our knees in prayer 24/7, it is vital that we keep the things of God ever present on our hearts and minds as we keep an attitude of thankfulness and supplication before our Lord at all times.

While David wrote in Psalm 122 the command of the Lord to **"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,"** and let those who love her prosper, it was for centuries before the rebirth of Israel in 1948 as a nation, that Jews around the world yearning so deeply for the promise of restoration to the land that the phrase, "next year in Jerusalem" took on such a deep meaning. Waiting for the Lord to restore His people to their ancient homeland from the four corners of the earth had been their heart cry for so many years.

"HEAR THE SUPPLICATIONS OF  
YOUR SERVANT AND OF YOUR  
PEOPLE ISRAEL WHEN THEY PRAY  
TOWARD THIS PLACE. HEAR FROM  
HEAVEN, YOUR DWELLING PLACE;  
AND WHEN YOU HEAR, FORGIVE"

2 CHRONICLES 6:21, NIV.

With Israel now restored as a nation, and Jerusalem as its eternal capital, some might consider that the need to pray for Israel is over. However, not until Messiah returns, will there truly be peace in Jerusalem, all of Israel and even for the entire world. That's why it is so important that those who have interceded for Israel for so long, to never give up in their petitions to heaven for the Lord's perfect will to come to completion.

After the completion of the first temple in Jerusalem, Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands in prayer to the God of Israel as described in 2 Chronicles, chapter 6. Solomon said in verse 14, **"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way."** This scripture tells us of the action associated with Paul's words of praying without ceasing. Along with our prayers we are to continue wholeheartedly in the ways of God as He has instructed. I believe it is in this way, that our prayers are reaching their maximum effectiveness before a righteous God.

May your continued intercession for Israel and her people be like constant incense to the throne of God. It is our prayer that the Lord will bring forgiveness to those in the nations as they pray from the depth of their souls for His perfect will to be done for Israel, in our own nations, and for the whole earth.



## Are you a Church Lay Leader, a Pastor, or a Cell Group Leader?

We cannot have a Biblical Church or Bride without Israel. Bible prophecy is imperative to know in the last days and one cannot learn about Bible prophecy without understanding and teaching on the importance of Israel in scripture. It is all about knowing God's plans and purposes for this beloved nation and how the Church fits into God's eternal plan. Now is the time to identify your congregation as a church that stands with Israel and supports her through Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem.

### **What Christian Friends of Israel Churches for Israel - Proclaim and Do:**

We believe that the Jewish people have the right to the Land of Israel as God Almighty has explained in scripture.

We maintain that Israel has a right to her own safe and secure borders.

We promise to support Israel through Christian Friends of Israel on a monthly basis (Genesis 12:3).

We pledge to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, the Nation of Israel, and the people of Israel on a regular basis.

We vow to have no anti-semitism of any kind in our church and will work to speak out against it in our community.

We affirm that we share in the Commonwealth of Israel through the Messiah Jesus.

We will speak out on Israel's behalf when called upon to give an answer regarding the nation of Israel and her people.

We extend the invitation to Christian Friends of Israel Leadership and Official Nation Representatives to visit our church.

We acknowledge CFI to be in a unique position with its headquarters in Jerusalem and will keep in regular relationship with CFI Jerusalem.

We consider to undertake a Christian Friends of Israel Bless Israel event whenever practical.

Christian Friends of Israel is recognized as a major pro-Israel organization with its headquarters based in Jerusalem. It is a grass-roots organization with a mission of reconciliation and healing.

**Become a "Church for Israel" today!  
Go online to [cfijerusalem.org](http://cfijerusalem.org) to find out more.**

***[churches@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:churches@cfijerusalem.org)***



# Finding a *True Home in Israel*

## ANNA KRAVCHENKO - UKRAINE

There are still a lot of Jewish people coming from the Ukraine to the promised land. In August 2018 they brought about 500 new olim in five airplanes from Kiev to the Ben Gurion airport. Christians from different countries helped to organize and assist for these specific Aliyah flights. One of the passengers, who moved to Israel with this group, was Anna Kravchenko. She came to our DC last week and shared her experiences with us.

Anna was born in 1936 and she lived her whole life until now in the Ukraine. What was the reason that brought her into the Land? Anna's granddaughter already came to Israel many years ago and a few years after her, Anna's only daughter decided to make Aliyah, too. They both had worked in an organization that is helping Jews to move to Israel. So, they knew the way.

Anna visited her loved ones several times. Her husband had surgery in Israel about 10 years ago. The diagnosis of this man was so bad that the doctors thought he would live only a couple of months. After the operation in an Israeli hospital he lived another nine years, but Anna lost her husband some months ago. She felt lonely and decided to join her family in Jerusalem. Christians helped her all the way to the airport of the capital of the Ukraine. She could only take with her 70 kg as personal luggage.

Now, Anna lives with her daughter in Jerusalem, but she wants to have her own

place, even a little one, if it would be possible. In the future she may have to have an operation, too. She is waiting for the right diagnosis from the doctors.

Anna enjoys many things in Israel. She loves to watch children and families going by or spending time together. She enjoys seeing different cultures here in Jerusalem. Anna has begun to attend synagogue. It is a great joy for her to see many young people praying and fellowshiping together. She hasn't been a religious person herself, but now she has started to read the Tanach [the Bible] and be interested about the faith of her forefathers.

The new language is a challenge. To buy products and to travel alone in the city is still difficult for Anna, but she is not fearful. She is ready to learn new things in her new homeland, and her family is here to help her every step of the way. Baruch haShem!

## LARISA DMITRIYEV - UKRAINE

Rainy days are not the most popular days to visit our Distribution Center in Jerusalem. But there are always some brave people that come to us despite the bad weather. One of them was Larisa Dmitriyev from the city of Ashkelon. She was given clothing and a special gift for a first-time visitor. I asked her to share a little about her life, and she was happy to do it.

Larisa was born in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1949. She lived there all of her life until she moved to Israel in March

2018. Larisa's husband was a Jew and she also has Jewish roots, which were unfortunately hidden during the period of the Soviet Union. From her childhood she had friends that were Jewish. Her very best friend is also Jewish.

Larisa worked as a financier. She has only one son. He has a good profession, but he couldn't find a suitable job in the Ukraine. There were some Israeli friends that invited him to make Aliyah. So, he came into the Land with his family in 2017.

Larisa had visited Israel after the death of her beloved husband some years before that. So when she was going through the time of mourning a good friend invited her to spend some weeks in Kazrin, in northern Israel. She didn't have any special feelings then. She just needed comfort and understanding.

Larisa made Aliyah only because her son lives here. Two months after moving into the Land doctors found cancer in her body. Praise God, she was operated on in time. Larisa is very thankful to the State of Israel for saving her life. She appreciates the ability and the attitude of this country to receive so many new immigrants. "Israel takes care of people, who haven't done anything to build this Land. It is an amazing thing!"

When Larisa was a child, she experienced the goodness of people in the Ukrainian neighborhood she was living in. People were helping each other in every way. There was an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding but

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews II: 9-10 (NIV)





**Anna truly blessed by the DC.**



**Smiles tell the story completely!**

over time, it disappeared. “Now you can’t find it there anymore,” she says. Here in Israel Larisa has seen something similar. As a new immigrant she got help from different people. It reminds her of the good experience of childhood. A Christian organization also helped her move to Israel. “They did so many things for me! I am so thankful to them!”

“I have seen friendliness and helpfulness in Israel. Also I like the attitude of hard work here!” Larisa loves plants, and she is impressed, how the Land is growing and how Israelis take good care of their land.

And how about difficulties? “There are so many things that you just don’t know, when you come to live in Israel. It is difficult to get needed information and advice sometimes. Little problems can become big issues, when you don’t know, what to do.

#### **KIRA AND AXINYA - RUSSIA**

These two young women have already visited our Distribution Center four times. I decided to talk with them and get to know a little bit more about their lives.

Both ladies came from Russia. Kira made Aliyah one year ago. Axinya has already been a citizen of Israel for two years. Before moving to the Land, they joined special programs that help Jewish youth move to the Land of Israel.

At first, they were given an opportunity to come and visit Israel for 10 days FOR FREE. Kira didn’t believe that it was a real and true offer until she was in the airport with her little daughter and received the airline tickets. After this

first journey both girls were invited to the program called “Masah”. This time they came to Israel for 10 months and paid only a small amount of money for it. During these months they studied Hebrew with a very good teacher. They also got to know a lot about the life and the culture of Israel.

Kira came here again with her little daughter. Her father in Moscow encouraged her to take these steps. She got the information about these programs from a family friend who knew that their grandfather was a Jewish. Axinya participated in various activities of the Jewish community in Saint-Petersburg from the age of 14. There she got to know about different opportunities to come to Israel.

Both Kira and Axinya made their decision to stay in Israel right after the program “Masah”. Axinya continued to study Hebrew at a higher level. She is still studying. She wants to get her university education provided here in Israel. At the same time Axinya is working in a nursery. In the beginning her parents were not happy about her decision to stay in Israel. Now they have accepted it. Kira is a midwife. She already got married in Israel. She is also working in a nursery in the kibbutz where she is living. To certify her education in Israel she takes special courses in Hebrew.

About the difficulties in Israel these young women didn’t have much to say. For Kira the first months were difficult, because her daughter was missing her grandparents so much. For Axinya herself it was not easy at all to leave the family and friends in Saint-Petersburg. In the beginning she felt that she was alone

in a foreign country. It took time to get used to new places and people.

And what is the best thing in the Land? For Kira it is “the people of Israel” and of course her new beloved Israeli husband. Axinya is still waiting for the right person to come into her life. She wants to have a good job and a family in Israel.

Both girls are thankful to Christians who are helping new olim. Axinya said that she was very happy to get a pot, a pan and some sheets, when she first came to our DC. She had problems with opening a bank account and she didn’t have any money to buy things for her household at that time. So, the gift was very needed!

Kira is glad to see the good quality of the clothes that are offered to new immigrants. She believes that when Christians are helping other people, they are doing righteous things. She hopes and wishes her Christian friends all the best: “I wish that you also will meet good and helpful people in your lives!”

#### **Tiina Karkkainen**

*Project Open Gates*  
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## Saving the day with the *Perfect Dress*

The last months in our bridal salon have been busy. Twenty brides have come in to look at our collection. With gratefulness we can say that most of them found “the dress” in our salon.

There have been some urgent cases among these ladies. One of them had nightmares, because her wedding was going to be in two weeks and she didn’t have a dress yet. So, she came and we started to try on different options. One was very good. Another dress looked even better. Our client started to feel herself “saved”. As we continued to try on just a few more dresses, we found “the best one”. This young woman, who is a new immigrant from Argentina, was so happy. The next day she came to choose some jewelry that went with the dress. She was very thankful. It was a great joy to be the help that she needed at that specific time in her life.

One of the brides was brought to our salon by her pastor. She was an Ethiopian Jew from Tel Aviv. The wedding was planned for the next week in their congregation. In this case we needed big sizes. I was a little worried, because we don’t have so many big size dresses in our collection at the moment. And she wanted to have a puffy and shiny one with a long train! So, I took out every option that we had. In the Jewish tradition your shoulders and the upper part of the arms should be covered when you are standing before the rabbi under the Huppa. This young woman didn’t have much time to go to a dressmaker and make changes to her dress. Some options were okay, but they were without sleeves. One was very beautiful and shiny, but it was too big. Then we found it! This dress wasn’t maybe so shiny as the first ones, but it fit well and it had a train and short sleeves.

Our client made her decision quickly. “This is my dress!” I was very glad, when she left our salon carrying a large garment bag, ready for her wedding.

Two weeks ago, on Wednesday we received a troubled visitor in our salon. A man came in and told his story. His bride had ordered a wedding dress from abroad, but the dress was held up in customs and while waiting to get it from there, time was running out. This couple only had six days left before their flight to Prague, where the wedding was going to take place. The situation was very critical. We gave the bride an appointment on Friday, because on Thursday we already had people coming to the bridal salon. She came and, thank God, this bride was a smaller size person and she was quick. She tried on different dresses. There were four very good options for her. It was even difficult to decide, which of them was the best one. But it was a good problem in her situation! We took some photos and sent them to her mother. By the way, many times brides want to know the opinion of their mother before they make their choice. In the end this girl chose the most glorious and also the most unpractical dress of the four options. But she was happy and grateful.

Now we are waiting for the wedding photos of these “saved brides” in their dresses with their happy husbands. Thank God for the opportunity to help so many brides of Israel!

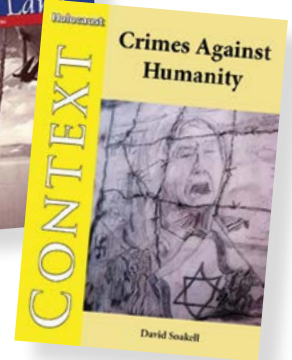
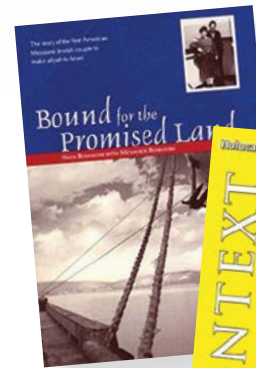
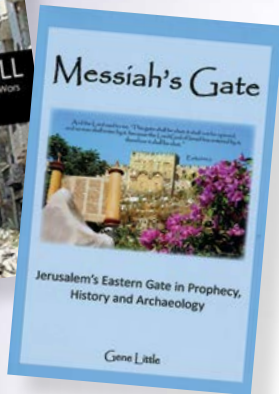
**Tiina Karkkainen**  
*Project Bridal Salon*  
[bridal@cfjerusalem.org](mailto:bridal@cfjerusalem.org)

*And now these  
three remain:  
faith, hope and  
love. But the  
greatest of these is  
Love.*



# EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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



## Days of the Fall

*Jonathan Spyer*

Over a period of five years, the author reported from the depths of the wars, spending time in Aleppo, Baghdad, Mosul, Idlib and other frontline areas. He witnessed some of the most dramatic events of the war. This book depicts these events and seeks to place them within a broader framework and also notes this confusing space has now become an arena for proxy conflict between regional and global powers.

## Messiah's Gate

*Gene Little*

Jerusalem's Eastern Gate stands as a vivid reminder of the Lord's return. A silent presence for centuries this gate faces the Mount of Olives and beckons all to gaze upon its sealed doorways. This is where the promised Messiah will enter. Gene Little has endeavored to examine the Eastern Gate from a historical, archaeological and a spiritual viewpoint. Discover the hidden secrets about this portal when you read *Messiah's Gate*. Will you be ready, when the cry is made in the Midnight hour: "*Behold the bridegroom cometh*"?

## Battling With Nazi Demons

*Werner Oder*

From anti-Semitism to Zionism--the astonishing journey of the son of an Austrian war criminal. Werner Oder's life has been full of dark secrets about what his father SS Scharfuhrer Wilhelm Oder, Chief instructor of the Sipo-SD School, Rabka, Poland (1941-3) had done. "I have researched the SD School for over 30 years and I know what happened there in the name of National Socialism." In his amazing story Werner delved into a world of dark conspiracy to uncover the truth, that his father and others were complicit in the murder of approximately 2000 Jewish men, women and children. This is the extraordinary account of the son of a Nazi and his family life over which he had no control. - Dr Robin O'Neil, former Scotland Yard Police Major Crime Investigator and Hon. Research Fellow, Department of Hebrew Jewish Studies, University College London.

## Sharing the Soul of Israel

*Marie-Therese Feuerstein*

See and understand the Land where the Christian story began. Share pearls of Christian and Jewish wisdom. Journey toward emotional and spiritual healing. A multi-faith book to help you draw closer to the Creator.

## Bound for the Promised Land

*Haya Benhayim*

An inspiring story of an American Jewish couple making Aliyah (immigrating to Israel), is told from Haya's perspective. They arrived by ship in Haifa on March 17, 1963. Afterward, they lived on a kibbutz for four months and before the end of the year, they had become the first American Jewish couple to settle in the "Wild West" town of Eilat at the Southern tip of Israel. There they lived through the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars. In 1977 they moved to Jerusalem, where they currently live.

## Crimes Against Humanity

*David Soakell*

This booklet is a compilation of poetry and reflections, plus Holocaust Survivors' testimony to the on-going impact that those momentous events still continue to have, so many years later, in the lives of countless thousands today. All proceeds are being donated to Project Forsake Them Not.

To purchase these great books and other resources visit [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) and click on Store.



 **CFI Pune-India**

 **CFI Australia**

Only conduct your lives  
in a way worthy of the  
Good News of the  
Messiah; so that whether  
I come and see you or  
I hear about you from a  
distance, you stand firm,  
united in spirit, fighting  
with one accord for the  
faith of the Good News  
Philippians 1:27 (CJB)

Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem had the honor and delight to meet up with Nicky Chandra in Jerusalem’s Old City near Jaffa Gate during his recent visit to Israel. Pastor Nicky works alongside his father Pastor Sonny Chandra as CFI – Pune India representatives in the nation of India. The entire family is greatly involved in sharing the message of Israel in their region of India and are holding regular seminars and feast celebrations.

Recently in the state of Maharashtra, which spans west-central India including Mumbai, they conducted the CFI Maharashtra Seminar on the Church and Israel. Despite a regional strike organized by the area’s largest political party, the seminar was attended by more than 125 participants, including fifty pastors of various denominations and churches. In three sessions of teaching, the topics included the Church and Israel as two sides of the same coin, God’s Covenant with Israel and Replacement Theology, as well as the Jewish contributions to the world based on Genesis 12:3.

Please continue to lift our dear brothers and sisters throughout the nation of India as they bring the revelation of truth to the Church, that God has never forsaken His chosen people and they are continuing to make their way home to their ancestral homeland of Israel.

*Pastor Sonny Chandra  
zion\_india@yahoo.com*

While the nation of Australia may be a physically large and vast country, that overwhelming size is no deterrent to CFI – Australia representative Patrick Russell and his wife Bernadette. This amazing team reach far and wide across the nation proclaiming the great and mighty things of the Lord concerning the nation of Israel and His covenant promises to them.

Although Patrick works full time in his own nation, he has been able to reach even beyond, and put tireless efforts into raising up a fresh and new CFI representation now in the nation of Papua New Guinea. Traveling to the neighboring country multiple times over the last few years, the fruit of Patrick’s diligence and perseverance for the Lord has come to pass. This spring he will be present as we inaugurate the newest member of the Christian Friends of Israel worldwide family, as we welcome in Pastor Tony Dalaka in Papua New Guinea.

Please lift this incredible nation, with a tremendous heart for Israel and her people to the Lord in prayer as God begins a new work there that is sure to bring intercession and blessing to the nation of Israel for decades to come. Our deepest thanks and respect go out to Patrick Russell for his wonderful commitment to the work and reach of Christian Friends of Israel throughout Australia, and we look forward to honoring our newest member of the CFI worldwide family in our next publication.

*Patrick Russell  
cfiaustralia@hotmail.com*

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



## CFI Switzerland

As part of the long-standing Christian Friends of Israel representatives in the nations, Walter and Erika Mathys placed their lives in the Lord's hands in decades of devoted ministry work in the nation of Switzerland. They have an amazing and helpful board that assists them in reaching those in their nation in so many ways.

Most recently, Walter and Erika gathered 20 people and attended an event at the Great Synagogue of Lausanne, in Vaud, Switzerland. The nation of Switzerland has approximately 20,000 declared Jews in the country who are part of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities. In an act of solidarity with the Jewish people there, the group met together in the Great Synagogue of Lausanne. A great appreciation of all that the Church has received from our Jewish brothers including the patriarchs, the law, the prophets, the Holy Scriptures and even our Jewish Messiah Jesus was both discussed and proclaimed. The group's purpose was to solidify the "link" that Christianity has to this biblical heritage, and to better understand, intercede for and work together with our scriptural family.

Please help us in our continuation of lifting up the nations in Europe as the grip of anti-Semitism tries to take a stronger hold on the younger generations, political movements, and even many considering themselves as Christians in the church. Your intercession for the nation of Switzerland and all of Europe is always appreciated and needed.

*Walter and Erika Mathys  
cauisse@bluemail.ch*

## CFI France

For decades, the devotion and love for Israel and the Jewish people has been a beacon of light and hope in the nation of France due to the tireless efforts of André and Hélène Van Nieuwenhuysse and their incredible staff. Keeping the focus on Israel in a nation that is dealing with much opposition in the church that is both difficult and time consuming, but their efforts are indeed seen by the Lord and much fruit is coming to pass.

Recently they were in Dijon (in the east of France), where Christian Friends of Israel – France and several other Christian organizations were invited by France – Israel – Dijon for the opening of the Mashav exhibition. During their time at the event, CAI France was warmly welcomed by the Israeli Ambassador to France, Mrs. Aliza Bin-Noun. As she is all too aware of the growing anti-Semitism issue in France, she greatly thanked CFI – France, as well as other organizations, for their strong stance and support for Israel in the midst of the extremely difficult circumstances found throughout the nation of France. Thanks to the generosity of many donors in France, CAI – France was able to provide for 300 new trees to be planted in the area of Arras next to the Gaza border to begin to heal the area that has been devastated by more than a year of terrorist arson fires involving incendiary balloons and kites sent into Israel from Gaza.

Please continue to lift up the desperately needed work in the nation of France, and bring the needs and concerns of the Christian Friends of Israel – France team before the throne of our Lord in regular prayer as they press on in the weeks, months and years ahead.

*André and Hélène Van Nieuwenhuysse  
contact.caifrance@gmail.com*

## CFI Mexico

The multitude of our Christian Friends of Israel in the Spanish-speaking world are thrilled with the launch of the CFI – Mexico website of CFI – Hispano which reaches out to Spanish speakers around the world with Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem publications and information in Spanish.

During the first three months of 2019, Pastor Ruperto Badillo and his team in Veracruz, Mexico have been extremely busy sharing our shared biblical connection to Israel in the cities of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Gomez, Palacio, Durango y Mérida, Yucatán and more. Reaching across denominational barriers Pastor Ruperto continues to prepare those in Mexico for a new trip to Israel in the year ahead. His unwavering commitment to what God is doing in the church concerning the nation of Israel has kept his schedule busy and his team reaching out across the nation of Mexico.

Pastor Ruperto has pressed forward with his ministry efforts this past year despite even his increased personal needs with his wonderful wife Sandra. After falling ill last year and requiring surgery and follow-up treatments, the Badillo family have pulled in even closer to the God of Israel for their strength and perseverance during this very difficult time. Please continue to lift dear Sandra and all of the Badillo family to the Lord as she continues regaining her physical strength and presses on in her recovery in the months ahead. CFI – Mexico is such a blessing to the nation of Israel and all of our partners in the Spanish-speaking world. May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be the strong tower of strength for all who seek His face.

*Pastor Ruperto Badillo  
Saky96@hotmail.com*

# Come Celebrate

## CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL Invites You to Celebrate Shavuot with us in Jerusalem!

Christian Friends of Israel is hosting its annual conference at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center from June 3 – 5, 2019. This year's conference is celebrating the Feast of Shavuot also known as the Feast of Pentecost. This will be a historic event and an appointed time as believers from around the world come together in Jerusalem to worship the God of Israel.

Shavuot is one of the most important times in Jewish history. It is one of the three major Feasts (Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot, or Tabernacles) when the Lord has commanded the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and to bring a special sacrifice offering to Him according to Leviticus 23:17.

Every year Christians from around the world attend our annual conference and experience a life-changing journey. Our participants take special tours of Israel and watch the Bible come alive. When they come to Jerusalem they can immerse themselves in the land of the Bible as they interact with the people and culture of Israel. Come and visit historic sites and take a tour that will guide you "in the footsteps of Jesus. Not only will you see the Bible come alive but you will also have an encounter with God in a whole new way.

We have already lined up some of the most dynamic speakers that will bring forth amazing teaching and current information on what God is doing today. Our anointed speakers include Sharon Sanders – CFI –Jerusalem Co-founder, Rick Ridings – Founder of Succat Hallel, Jonathan Spyer – Director of the Rubin Center, David Nekrutman – Executive Director of CJCUC, Chris Mitchell – Middle East Bureau Chief of CBN News, MK Rabbi Yehuda Glick, and more.

We would like to invite you to join us for an experience of a lifetime, where your faith will take on a whole new dimension.

**For more information  
and to register visit:**

**[events.cfjjerusalem.org](http://events.cfjjerusalem.org)**





***I call on the LORD in my distress, and He answers me. Psalm 120:1***

On August 26th, 2018, my mother, Sharon Sanders, took a dreadful fall down the stairs of her home. When she landed, she broke the largest and strongest bone in her body, the femur in her right leg. When the bone broke in three places, it splintered causing extensive damage to the area above her knee. After waiting

two weeks in the hospital for the trauma and swelling to her leg to reduce, she was finally admitted to surgery to repair the damage on September 3, 2018. It has been a slow and painful road to recovery. Since the beginning of March 2019 however, she has been given the go ahead to begin bearing full weight on her right leg. All Praise is given to Our Heavenly Father as her healing continues!

Thank you to all of you, for your continual prayers, notes of encouragement, love and support for my mother during this very difficult time. The Lord has truly been faithful!

While continuing to recover from the injury to her leg however, my mother is now dealing with the need to have cataract surgery on her right eye that is scheduled for May 15, 2019. She would greatly appreciate your prayer covering during that time, that all anxiety and concern would be gone and that the peace of the Lord would fill her cup to overflowing.

It's been a long journey, but we should all be seeing her back out walking, leaping and praising God on the streets of Jerusalem in the very near future.

**Stacey Howard**

***The enemy won't keep this amazing woman of God down!***

**If you would like to send Sharon well wishes please email: [sharon@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:sharon@cfijerusalem.org).**

**Ethiopian Airlines 302 Plane Crash was personal...**

Since December of 2013, Tsehai Legesse-Mabari has worked with excellence for Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem and has been both a true blessing to the ministry work and wonderful woman of God.

However, on March 10, 2019, Tsehai's family received the type of phone call that any of us would dread to receive. Her sister's son, Sidrak Getachew, was on the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302 that crashed shortly after take-off killing all 157 people on board.

While Sidrak's family had made Aliyah to Israel in 2001, Sidrak's Aliyah status was not completed. In 2015, the Israeli company that his parents worked for, transferred the family to Kenya for business purposes. Early Sunday morning on March 10th, Sidrak boarded Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 in Addis Ababa which was headed for Nairobi Kenya where his parents have been stationed for the last 3 years. He had planned on staying in Kenya while studying theology, until his Aliyah status to Israel was completely finalized.

While it had been 17 years, since making Aliyah in 2001, due to this enormous tragedy, Tsehai found herself needing

to go back home to Ethiopia to comfort her family. Christian Friends of Israel made sure that she was afforded the opportunity to get back to Ethiopia and be with her family during this time of tremendous grief.

On behalf of Tsehai and her family, I would ask that you NOT forget this devastating loss of life regarding her family and that you would cover them in prayer as they search for answers, closure, peace and healing as well as all of the other families affected by this horrific tragedy that claimed 157 lives from 30 nations.

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4(NIV)***



**To plant a memorial tree for crash victims please visit [cfijerusalem.com](http://cfijerusalem.com).**



# Focus in and Filter out the Noise

In today's connected tech savvy world, the daily technology can be a real blessing in helping us do more than ever before. However, that increase in connectivity has also created an over-abundance of sheer technology "noise" that is constantly dropping emails, texts, alerts, headlines and the like into our everyday lives. Finding ways to filter out the fake news, the nonsense, and never-ending advertisements is at best challenging if at time seemingly impossible.

For those needing to connect to Israel in a real and tangible way to find out the true report of what's happening on the ground, we at Christian Friends of Israel have created a collection of concise, condensed and scripturally sound media outlets for you to engage with.

Providing readers with weekly headline stories, our **Israel News Digest** keeps you updated on the "big picture" stories of what Israel is doing and what they are dealing with. Each month, our **Watchman's Prayer Letter** goes out to multitudes worldwide as fuel for intercessory prayer for the nation of Israel and the people here in the land. **OnWatch Jerusalem** keeps prayer warriors in tune with the latest needs for prayer as we continue to keep watch over Jerusalem and pray for eternal peace in the kingdom to come. **Our Wall of Prayer** letter highlights specific geographic areas of Israel in desperate need of prayer for strategic pinpointed intercessors to focus on.

Each week, **FrontPage Jerusalem** radio brings a fresh and fascinating highlighted issue concerning the nation of Israel involving the latest archaeological find, newest medical advancement, recent high-tech innovation, or simply the next great reason to come and visit the land. Listeners across the globe tune in each week on their favorite radio station or simply go online to catch the latest from the "Voice of Israel to the World".

This year we are also poised to showcase the much-anticipated restart of the **FocalPoint** television program as it begins a new chapter in reaching across the world to bring the very latest information about Israel and the Middle East.

Be sure you stay informed with the very latest accurate information from Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem media sources, as you focus in on the real story of what's happening in Israel and begin to tune out the noise and clutter from the secular media around us all.



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

Email us at:  
[feedback@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfjjerusalem.org).

CFI Representative Nearest You