

For Zion's Sake

Second Quarter 2010 Jewish Year 5770



**“...the Hand of the
Lord has done this...”
–Isaiah 41:20**

25TH

SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem

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Ray Sanders

from JERUSALEM DIRECTOR'S LETTER



***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive against you shall perish. You shall seek them and not find them - those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing. For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'"* Isaiah 41:10-13.**

Dear Christian friends of Israel:

These are challenging times for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. With Israel's principal ally in the West, the United States, slowly but deliberately turning her back on the only democratically-elected nation in the Middle East, the ramifications for both nations are enormous. Israel not having the assured support of the United States, her enemies will conclude her deterrence has been weakened, making the nation more vulnerable to attack. No doubt this will also embolden expressions of anti-Semitism to increase in various nations and churches. Israel and the Jewish people will find themselves further isolated in the community of nations as acts of hatred and violence will be escalated. Rather than according the Prime Minister of Israel respect and honor as an ally of United States, the President treated Netanyahu as an adversary and not a peace partner. Israel's detractors will certainly see this as a prime opportunity to further castigate and delegitimize Israel's right of existence as a Jewish state in an Islamic Middle East.

Watching and Praying for Israel

As Christian friends of Israel we cannot and must not be silent at such a time in Israel's history. We are all familiar with the Scripture exhorting us to be "watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem" from Isaiah 62:6,7. Certainly we as Christians can most effectively support Israel during these perilous times of uncertainty and tension through our prayers and intercession. We particularly need to intercede for Israel's governmental leadership to turn to the God of Israel for wisdom and guidance as they negotiate the diplomatic "minefield" of international politics. The Prime Minister of Israel must make decisions that are conducive to the peace and security of Israel and her citizens. The above admonition from Isaiah emphatically warns the nations of the consequences of coming against Israel and brings comfort to all of us who have been called alongside Israel and the Jewish people in these extraordinary times.

Another prophetic Scripture that has been resonating with me for some time is Joel 3:2. Historically, the United States has remained Israel's staunchest

ally since its inception in 1948. The bond between these two nations has remained "rock solid" and not penetrable. However, recent diplomatic developments have greatly shaken this relationship and are cause for grave concern by those of us who are Israel's friends. The unthinkable is slowly beginning to happen and there is a reluctance to acknowledge the inevitable consequences of Israel's isolation among the nations. As a Christian I was convinced this would probably not happen during my lifetime. However, it is now very clear this possibility is upon us as the nations are seeking to divide Jerusalem and scatter the Jewish people living in Judea and Samaria. This will only serve to hasten God's judgment between the sheep and goat nations. I would have never thought that the nation I grew up in and love so much would become a goat nation toward Israel. Nevertheless, with our eyes we see this possibility fast becoming a stark reality! **However, even if our governments turn away, we can receive the blessing for our households by remaining faithful in helping and blessing God's people according to His Word.** Sharon and I are in our 25th year of ministry to the people of Israel. In fact, we are celebrating this milestone by sponsoring a conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem from May 31st to June 3rd. You may still register by going to our website at: www.cfjjerusalem.org or emailing CFI at: penny@cfjjerusalem.org. We encourage all of our faithful supporters to join us as we commemorate this momentous occasion. If you cannot attend, perhaps this would be a perfect opportunity for you to share your memories and send a special anniversary offering for the ongoing work of CFI in Israel. We give all the glory to the Lord as He raised up the ministry and has sustained it. As the Lord has been faithful in the past, we believe He will remain faithful to us in the difficult days ahead.

***"You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you"* (John 15:16).**

Sincerely in the Lord,

Ray Sanders

Ray A. Sanders
Executive/International Director

—TO GOD BE THE GLORY—

Pioneers Blaze A Trail



“CFI is about tearing down walls and clearing new roads of understanding through relationships...”

What do a research chemist, a cousin of the legendary Orde Wingate—the beloved Christian Zionist and trainer of the Haganah—a direct descendant of the pilgrims who reached America on the Mayflower, and a representative of the President of the United States to Europe, have to do with the founding of Christian Friends of Israel? These people constitute the establishing founders of Christian Friends of Israel. They had one thing in common. All were committed Bible-believing Christians, supporters of Biblical Zionism and loved the Jewish people.

Severing Ties To Historical Christian Anti-Semitism

Historically, a lack of genuine friends among the nations had a profound effect upon the Jewish state. However, in a 20th century prophetic move of God among Torah loving Christians, proclaiming, “Israel, you are not alone” these not-so-ordinary Christians gathered at the site of a former Crusader settlement in the Land of Israel in December 1985. CFI became *one* of the pioneering ministries of this generation to help undo damage of historical Christendom. Having cut ties with historical Christian anti-Semitism, which did much damage, this pioneer work would represent a tremendous act of blessing to the Jewish nation and a movement of remarkable support

on behalf of Christendom. Merely 40 years after the Holocaust in “Christian” Europe, the conditions in Israel were arduous and the ground hard, but strong hands were put to this prophetic plow and God opened up a new furrow in the soil of Israel. While evangelical Christianity today is under much scrutiny by the Jewish world, the founders of CFI wish to state that the organization does not hold to peculiar apocalyptic doctrines and invites their Jewish friends for discussions on this much publicized subject. CFI is about tearing down walls and clearing new roads of understanding through relationships, and working tirelessly toward the repairing (*tikkun olam*) of the (Jewish-Christian) world. Perhaps the passengers on the famous ship that dropped anchor on new shores and the well-known Orde Wingate would be pleasantly surprised that future

trailblazers, seeking the welfare of the Jewish people, would arise from their own family tree. God's ways are truly higher than man's.

Starting Over

In June 1985, an enthusiastic, young couple from the United States sensed the beckoning call of God to move to Israel following a departure from business careers that had given birth to their "American dream." Ray Sanders, a graduate of Iowa State University, was a corporate business farm manager and farm real estate broker. Sharon, his wife, was a delegate of the President of the United

States, "People to People" program to Europe, and a Legal/Judicial Secretary in the Supreme Court Reporter's Office in the State of Illinois. Their theological training as Ordained Ministers was through Christ for the Nations Bible College of Dallas, Texas. A beloved and only daughter,

Stacey, was married the day before the Sanders left for Bible College. Feeling a compelling push to leave the country of their birth in order to help the Jewish people in Israel, they made the monumental decision to identify with the many immigrants who had arrived on America's and Israel's shores. They too experienced "starting over." The Sanders arrived with only suitcases in their hands after disposing of their earthly wealth (house, properties, careers, possessions). They stepped out in faith into a new way of life in a world where they had the daunting burden of being "strangers."

The Beginning

In December 1985, a group of Christian leaders from the UK, USA and France, gave the young couple charge to begin a Jerusalem Coordinating Office. These not-so-ordinary Christians with their knowledge of business administration, management, legal experience, organizational skills and a strong work ethic, had come to serve, learn and live with the Chosen People. No one had any idea whether their efforts would stir others to join them.

Ray and Sharon Sanders

Through an understanding of the Biblical promises of Israel's restoration, the Sanders were inspired, enthusiastic and endowed with an unexplainable energy and determination which propelled them. They both bonded with Israel from the beginning – identifying with the struggles which quickly made them feel more like pioneers, rather than outsiders. The time of the formation of CFI was a year characterized neither by an emergency in the Middle East, nor by massive immigration to Israel requiring large infusions of aid. However, the coming to power of Mikhail Gorbachev in the former USSR, and his policies of *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (economic reforms) led to major changes in the former Soviet Union. Among the modifications was to allow Jewish Refuseniks to immigrate to Israel. With perseverance in their assigned task, the Sanders began to build a Christian organization in Israel from the ground up. It was no easy undertaking. However, they were present in Israel when the "dry bones" began to walk home—especially from the "land of the north"—and the *aliyah* and ingathering of the 1990's would be stamped forever as a seal on their hearts. Deep in the Sanders' hearts was a desire to be a blessing to Israel. (Genesis 12:3). Out of this Biblical desire to be a blessing to Israel emerged a worldwide network of Christians providing newcomers to Israel with social service support, relief and sustaining aid.

CFI's Crucial Role

CFI played a role in the practical building up of the country in the 1990's and ever since over 1,117,000 immigrants have come to Israel. **CFI staff from many nations** helped more than well over a quarter of a million Jewish people—welcoming them as newcomers to their homeland through CFI's Distribution Center property which the organization owns near the Jerusalem Central Bus Station. Those 250,000 (plus) new immigrants (enough to fill Teddy Stadium more than ten times) began arriving for help at their Distribution Center at the end of the Cold War in 1991. God had **CFI on the ground in Israel when they were needed**. A department called Open Gates has received hundreds



"Deep in the Sanders' hearts was a desire to be a blessing to Israel."

(Genesis 12:3)

of tons of highest quality garments which arrived via ship to the Port of Ashdod—sent from Christian friends around the world. Working in answer to the call of social service workers and agencies across the country, the acts of mercy and compassion brought a contribution to the State of Israel that started as a flood in the early 1990's and is continuing as a steady stream of service in the year 2010.

The CFI Distribution Center was one of the first Christian welcome centers helping Jewish people. It maintains one of the most charming bridal salons in Israel. Countless Jewish brides avail themselves of complete wedding attire, for bride, groom and whole families, and often wedding rings for their special day—another “gift” from Christian friends in the nations. Another department, Doors of Hope, usually has appointments scheduled six months in advance for those needing personal and financial assistance. The contribution of CFI has seen several hundred thousand Israelis passing through their doors, leaving with smiles and happy faces writing a new chapter in the history of Jewish-Christian relations.

Remarkably, the organization that began in the Sanders' apartment in Mevaseret Zion has grown around the world. Five years ago another property on HaAgan Street in Jerusalem (formerly Dr. Ticho's Eye Hospital) an historical landmark, became the headquarters of this multi-faceted organization. The building is on the municipality's list of “Houses Within,” which Israelis tour each year. The three-story building accommodates departments that are coordinated by Christians from various countries.

The departments include assisting IDF combat and artillery units from North to South throughout Israel (David's Shield); aiding survivors of terror attacks (Under His Wings); as well as administering a War Relief Fund. CFI was on the ground helping during the second Lebanon War and is helping with casualties of Sderot. They also assist Ethiopian immigrants through Hope for the Future. A Holocaust department called Forsake Them

Not works with staff from Holland and Russia. **All Project Coordinators work directly with social workers, hot lines, referrals and community leaders throughout Israel.** The Last Shall Be First, meets the necessities of the poorest of the poor from a wide range of people including war veterans, sabras, Orthodox and the man from off-the-street. Via official channels, LSBF helps refugees from Africa.

Hasbara* for Israel

The Sanders are charter members of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and have travelled to over 40 nations speaking on Israel's behalf. Annual conferences held in Jerusalem have drawn thousands of pilgrims over the years to Israel to discover their Jewish roots and to bring tourism to the Holy City. The organization has a website (www.cfijerusalem.org), a Media Department, which produces two quarterly magazines, an Israel News Digest, Watchman's Prayer Letter, On Watch and many other educational resources pertinent to Israel for the Church around the world. These publications are being translated and an in-house studio captures video interviews for the website. A Middle East prophetic Update (MEUD, by Lance Lambert) is sent around the world for distribution and is translated into numerous languages. A new Chinese page has just opened on the CFI website. The Wall of Prayer connects Christians who pray for communities across Israel in approximately 100 nations which are involved in this project.

A Good Name

Millions of dollars have flowed to Israel through this unique organization that channels designated gifts to those in need in Israeli society. A yearly Israeli audit validates CFI's integrity. It is one organization that has undoubtedly made a difference. The halls and offices of CFI are lined with banners, certificates and awards from nearly every community across Israel who has expressed gratitude to this ministry which represents friendship and love from Christians in the nations.

CFI also has two associates on board in Israel representing the Israeli community: a former optician and Rabbi, Yaakov Youlis, whose grandfather was a

Chief Rabbi under the Turks. Also retired Brigadier General with the Border Police, Zvi Givati is a local connector between Israelis and the organization. Zvi's background is extensive in Jewish-Christian relations. While CFI has been a reconciliatory instrument for the duration of its lifespan—rather than a traditional “institution”—it works hard at developing relationships with all aspects of Israeli society, both governmental and non-governmental.

Making A Difference

Having passed through two Gulf Wars, two Intifadas, two Lebanon Wars and the Gaza Conflict, the Sanders look forward to the future. “Making a difference” is their motto and repairing the breach between Israel and the Church is high on their program. If CFI had a symbol other than its logo, it would be the heart representing Christians around the world who love the Jewish people. To the Sanders, knowing that the Jewish people have been touched with benevolence and kindness (during the past twenty-five years) is worth all of the work so far accomplished. They believe they are helping undo damage done by the Church and representing Jesus in the correct way. This couple, along with the next family generation and the entire staff are determined to stand as genuine Christian friends of Israel. **With the help of God,** they plan to continue to lead CFI in the pioneering spirit and courage of their well-known predecessors.

“They believe they are representing Jesus in the correct way...”

“...they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God...” (1 Peter 2:12).

*Hasbara = educational information

CFI

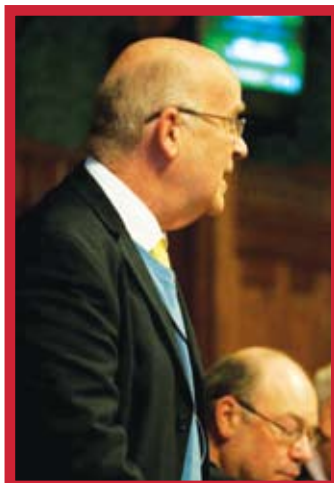


IN THE NATIONS

Fighting the BATTLE for ISRAEL



Audience



Geoffrey Smith, CFI Director, speaking in Westminster



CFI-UK

Earlier this year over 250 members of the Jewish and Christian communities, from all over the UK, met at Westminster to lobby MPs on the issues such as the threat to Israel, and the West, of a nuclear-armed Iran.

CFI and the Zion Federation met 73 MPs and had face-to-face meetings. The group was addressed in the Gladstone Room, of the House of Commons, in the Palace of Westminster. The lobby was an historic day in Jewish-Christian relations and in working together for Israeli-British relations.



Parliament session (a historic day)

Nine MPs came to speak in the Committee Room and participants met with at least 60 MPs. CFI supporters came from N. Ireland, Wales, Devon and Lancaster.

Email: info@cfi.org.uk



David Soakell in his CFI office

CFI-UK Church Liaison Officer

David Soakell holds the role of Church Liaison Officer for CFI-UK. This role involves the care and recruiting of CFI-UK Reps. Along with recruiting new Reps in Edinburgh, Lincolnshire, Manchester and Perth in Scotland, CFI-UK has new Reps in Stoke, Great Yarmouth, and Thetford in Norfolk. David is also North East Area Rep. He writes the weekly CFI "Watching Over Zion" News Report, which goes out via email to thousands of people throughout Europe, Australia, Israel, Brazil, Canada, USA, South America, India and Singapore.

David is one of the most gifted and capable representatives CFI has and we ask that you pray for him and his family that all provisions will be made for his personal needs and that health and life will follow him and his family for all their lives. You may email David at: david@cfi.org.uk



CFI-AUSTRALIA (Raising the Israeli Flag in Australia)

Patrick Russell has been a fully ordained minister. He and his wife Bernadette and their two children, Monique and Joshua, have served the Lord in the countries of Malta and Spain. He has also been in full time pastoral work in Australia for the last 8 years. Patrick took on the role of Australian Director for Christian Friends of Israel in September 2008 and currently serves a

local church as pastor as well as director for CFI. His goal as Australian Director for CFI is to introduce the work in as many churches as possible, at the same time giving a Biblical understanding to the churches of Israel's significance and relationship to the



Patrick Russell

church. He is looking at taking the message and ministry of CFI to those churches and individuals who are yet to receive a clear, and Biblical understanding. Praise God for the doors He is opening for Patrick. Email: cfaustralia@hotmail.com

For a representative in your country go to www.cfijerusalem.org and click on *representatives*.



EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

PROJECT

ISRAEL TRAINING PROGRAM

FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Adi Zahavi, International Director of EVP

The Emergency Volunteer Project (EVP) was born from the lessons of the Second Lebanese War. It came from a desire to provide help and assistance to the many thousands of Israeli civilians, men, women and children, forced to evacuate their homes and live in bomb shelters for weeks on end! The tasks facing Israel's municipalities and the

emergency services increase exponentially in crisis situations. Calls for aid come in from people who, in normal situations, are self-sufficient and take responsibility for themselves and their families.

When forced to live in a bomb shelter, control of your life is taken from you and you depend on external forces to provide the daily necessities of life—food, water, medical supplies and treatment, power, emotional and psychological support, moral support and more. Israel's municipal emergency services are, in emergency situations, stretched beyond the breaking point. Despite heroic efforts and many selfless volunteers from within Israel, the load is just too great. This is why the EVP established its aid program – **to recruit and train supporters of Israel** from abroad to step up and take an active stand by coming to Israel when the need is greatest, giving aid where it is most needed and making a real difference. The EVP team in Israel consists of experienced emergency personnel who know only too well the needs of civilians and emergency services working in close cooperation with municipal emergency services and Israel's central aid agencies. The EVP has put in place

a volunteer framework that deploys teams of concerned individuals with local emergency service units when the need arises. **We are seeking to recruit professional firefighters and rescue personnel to work with and as part of the Israeli Fire & Rescue services.** Firefighters will be deployed in one of the 24 departments in Israel according to their wish to help in the front line or in the back line in time of emergency.



Firefighters responding

We are also seeking to recruit non-professional emergency personnel to work with municipal emergency teams in a wide variety of tasks: preparing and distributing food supplies to shelters, providing emotional and moral support to shelter inhabitants, working with local emergency field teams providing immediate assistance and solutions for different events and needs in emergency areas, working with local maintenance teams to provide temporary solutions for damaged infrastructure, etc—these are just some of the ways to help.

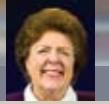
We need your help! Will you stand with Israel during the next emergency?

“If anyone sees his brother in need but closes his heart to him, how can the love of God be remaining in him?”
(1John 3:7)

AN URGENT CALL TO CHRISTIANS...

If you would like to participate, please contact: Stacey Howard at: stacey@cfijerusalem.org. (for USA or anywhere in N. America). For all other nations contact Vered-Faye Wicks at: vered-faye@cfijerusalem.org





THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST PROGRAM WORKS WITH JEWISH HOT LINES, SOCIAL WORKERS AND DIRECTORS OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL AGENCIES.



Helping to Carry the LOAD...

Supporting War Veterans

Caring for a mother from Iran

Repairing the WORLD

Our acts of kindness in the name of the Lord are not always big things...but they are done with great love. Doing "tikun olam" (repairing the world) for God's Glory needs to be done while we can. We could never keep His love in a box and lose our opportunities.

Over the past years countless people have worn our clothing on the streets of Jerusalem which you have sent to us, they carried countless bags of goods from our Distribution Center and received financial help from your giving – all which helps to relieve their burdens. **Everything has been done so God would receive the glory** and His world would be a better place. Every good deed or act of kindness was an act of restoration, of putting God's world back into order the way He created it. We praise God for everyone who has stood with this ministry for over a quarter of a century. You are the real heroes of this work. **We only take what you give and pass it on in His Name.**

Always Give Your Best

A famous woman once said "If you are kind, people will accuse you of selfish motives; be kind anyway. The good you do today, most people will forget; do good anyway. Give the world the best you've got and it may never be enough; but give your best anyway. In the final analysis it's between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway." Great advice. Showing compassion is what the Lord taught us to do and we will be blessed when we consider the poor...we'll always have them with us. They walk the streets, sit on the street corners, come to our door. A big thank you to everyone whose heart is moved to compassion. This makes each giver a partner-in-ministry with us to be a blessing, to comfort and to show God's mercy. We have a long way to go to fulfill the command to "provoke to jealousy" but if we do not do it, who will? God has called us. Thank you for being a part of this monumental task. "Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble... protects them and keeps them alive...gives them prosperity... and rescues them from their enemies...nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health." (Psalm 41:1-3, NLT).

By Sharon Sanders
Director of Ministry & Teaching



Sharon with a young girl who came to the Headquarters for assistance

"Carry each other's burdens... each one has his own load to carry."

Galatians 6:2,5



Left: Lilya and Itzhak Shchlyar. Right: Itzhak

THE END OF A JOURNEY

ITZHAK GOES HOME

Aliyah in 1991

Despite being the victim of a terrorist bus bombing, extreme financial hardship and the hospitalization for brain cancer with paralysis, Itzhak Shchlyar and his wife, Lilya, strongly declared they would never trade life in Israel for the communist Ukraine from which they emigrated, for “a million dollars – for anything!” The two made *aliyah* in 1991, sacrificing their pensions, home, possessions, and leaving behind family members. Itzhak was retired from 37 years in the Russian armed forces as a Physician/Colonel, and Lilya was an English teacher. Though Itzhak’s father and grandfather were “Zionists,” Lilya’s family never discussed Israel or their Jewish heritage. Her mother was religious, but out of fear of the Communist Party, it was never acknowledged in the home, other than with the matzah she made for Pesach. When her grandmother died, she received a necklace with an unusual pendant, which she wore to a teachers’ meeting. One of her fellow teachers quietly approached her saying, “Don’t you know that it is a Magen David you are wearing? Quickly – hide it inside your shirt.” Though, as Lilya said, **“In Ukraine we were not even allowed to ‘THINK of God,’ I did think of Him, and I knew all my life that He was helping me!” And, “I still know He helps me even now.”**

As new immigrants 19 years ago, Itzhak and Lilya were forced to abandon their former professional careers. To earn a living, Itzhak served as a caretaker for the elderly in a nursing home volunteering extra hours to care for his needy patients. Lilya took jobs cleaning, baby sitting, ironing, and later was able to serve with Christian Friends of Israel as a cook, distributor of clothes and teacher of English to the new immigrants at the Distribution Center. She continues in this capacity to this day as a very valued and faithful employee of CFI.

Itzhak Miraculously Spared

On the morning of May 18, 2003, traveling from his home in the Pizgat Ze’ev neighborhood to his nursing home job, Itzhak’s life was miraculously spared as a terrorist bomb exploded on his bus #6. He had been sitting near the front of the bus where the bomber, dressed as an Orthodox Jew, entered the front door and immediately set off the bomb. Itzhak remembers seeing the inside of the bus after the bomb went off, and feeling as though he was floating up into a dark cloud. He saw bloody flesh, arms and legs separated from their bodies around him. He heard voices saying: “get

out, get out.” He doesn’t know how, but somehow he got out of the bus. Next thing he knew, he was being transported by ambulance to the hospital. Though the ladies sitting in the seats directly in front of him were killed, Itzhak survived, with a ball bearing imbedded in his shoulder, and both eardrums damaged. Had it not been for the sunglasses he wore, and the satchel in front of his legs, the damage could have been even more severe. Seven were killed, twenty others wounded, and four seriously injured in this attack. These were all familiar faces to Itzhak—fellow passengers on that early morning bus trip each day.

As a military physician for 37 years, Itzhak’s experience with severely wounded victims helped him deal psychologically with this tragedy... the hearing loss and inability to work after the bombing were stressful. CFI brought gifts for Itzhak, and at first, he was reluctant to receive them. As a hard-working Russian, it was very difficult for him to accept financial help that was not earned. Itzhak was also given a personalized Certificate of Sacrifice and Courage in the ongoing struggle against terror in the Land of Israel, a decorative pillow with a blue Star of David/red heart hand stitched on it, a small afghan, and a book of Psalms. He is familiar with and thankful for the Psalms of David. CFI also helped with apartment bills while recuperating... **Itzhak said his heart was very touched as he rubbed his heart, and broke into a huge smile!**

Loved by CFI

Only weeks ago, Itzhak was sent home from the hospital. His brain cancer, his paralysis over much of his body and his great pain did not deter the gentle manner in which he suffered. On a Shabbat day, he told his family “I am dying...” As God was preparing to take him home, he never lost his mild and loving character. As they were taking him on the stretcher to the ambulance, his heart stopped and the love of Lilya’s life was gone. In trying to adjust to this way of life without her husband, as a widow, **Lilya is in need of financial help at this time of her life.** This valiant and inspiring couple have meant a lot to all of us at CFI.

Three years ago, Itzhak and Lilya celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage, with a wonderful reception given by CFI. As Lilya states with deep conviction, “The Lord wanted us to come to Israel!” She speaks the truth of His Word, ***“The Lord has saved His people, the remnant of Israel. For I will bring them from the north and from earth’s farthest ends ... it will be a great company who comes. Tears of joy shall stream down their faces, and I will lead them home with great care.”*** (Jeremiah 31:7-9)



Did you know it is written about YOU in the Bible?

Isometimes wonder what the men of God of old saw thousands of years ago when they prophesied about the Jewish people coming back to the Land of Israel. Did they see their descendants, travelling thousands of kilometers on foot from Russia in the 18th-19th centuries to arrive in the Land their forefathers dreamed about for generations? Did they see their great-great- great...grandsons in the beginning of the 20th century and after the restoration of the State of Israel getting off the ships on the shores of Haifa and Jaffa, kneeling down to kiss their beloved Land? Did they see their great-great-great... granddaughters with babies in their arms in modern times coming down the plane ramps at Ben Gurion from the four corners of the earth? Did they see their faces; did they know their names...? God's word tells us that not only has God called His children by name and they are His (Isaiah 43:1), but also that those He is bringing back from the four corners of the earth are called by HIS name and are created for HIS glory (Isaiah 43:7).



Gergana giving out Jewish Scriptures

Thousands of new immigrants have been welcomed and served in CFI's Distribution Center over the years and each one who walks through our doors is living proof that "God's word stands forever." Each *oleh chadash* (new immigrant) is a fulfillment of God's prophecies, recorded in the Bible thousands of years ago! Recently on a Friday morning we had more than 60 new immigrants come to Open Gates. The social worker from the absorption center in Beersheva (in the Negev) called us in advance to tell us a group of around 20 would be coming that day, but in addition to them, God blessed us with more new immigrants coming from the northern Israeli towns of Kiryat Chaim, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Yam, Kiryat Ata, as well as people from Tel Aviv, etc., and, of course, Jerusalem. The people in the groups were from a number of nations as well – new immigrants who have made *aliyah* from the Ukraine, Russia, Belorussia, England, Cuba, South Africa, USA, etc. A family that had made *aliyah* from South Africa told us their luggage was lost on their way to Israel and they were so grateful for all the household gifts and clothing they received from us!

As Christians we are indebted to the Jewish people for preserving the Scriptures throughout the centuries. What a privilege it is in return to present them with their own copy of the *Tanach* as part of the blessing basket upon their first visit to us! It is a much welcomed and appreciated gift by all *olim* who cannot afford to buy it on their tight budget. Families with children are particularly grateful because the *Tanach* is studied as part of the curriculum in all Israeli schools and upon their graduation from high-school students have to pass an exam in *Tanach*. ***“Assemble the people before Me to hear My words so that they may learn to revere Me as long as they live in the Land and may teach them to their children” (Deuteronomy 4:10).*** And while the *Tanach* is their Scriptures, many of the Jewish people who return to the Land are not familiar with them and haven't read God's word. Their emotions vary from surprise to genuine tears when we ask them if they know it is written about them in the *Tanach* and encourage them to read some of the prophecies about their return to the Land. As one new immigrant wrote in our guest book in Open Gates: "You warm not only our bodies with your clothing, but our souls as well...." Many are encouraged to go home and study for themselves the Word which "gives light and understanding" (Psalm 119:130). Someone once said that there are three things that will remain for eternity: God, God's word and the souls of men. Please pray that as the new *olim* read the Word, they will pray the prayer of the Psalmist: ***“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your Law” (Psalm 119:18).***

**“The grass
witheres,
the flowers
fade,
but the word
of our
God stands
forever”
(Isaiah 40:8).**

By Gergana Petrova, DC Coordinator

OPEN GATES WORKS WITH SOCIAL WORKERS
FROM ABSORPTION CENTERS FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS.

Israel is My Home...

In many cases the majority of Jews living around the world do not know the Scriptures and the prophecies about God's call to His people. After reaching the Promised Land our Heavenly Father often allows them to face many difficulties and problems, as the Children of Israel did in the desert.

On many occasions we have repeatedly read the same Biblical passage but with limited understanding, either from lack of faith or conviction in the Word of God, but there comes a moment, when by the grace of God, our eyes are open. The Lord is doing this more and more with those to whom He said: "I will be your God and you shall be my people." Wonderful is the Lord who enables the understanding to come to His children so they are open to His word, and heed His call to return to the Land of Promise, their home.

Peter (55, England)

Peter, a very polite and cheerful Englishman, told us he lived in his country until the age of 20, and then travelled to Australia and stayed there for 15 years. He then started looking for a better future, and decided to travel and work in the United States. He worked there as a fencing teacher. After his work visa expired in the US and the economic situation became unstable, he returned to England. It was only upon returning to his native country that he started to become interested in his Jewish roots.

So, he went to the synagogue and it was there that he read for first time the Scriptures and the prophecies about God's chosen people. The rabbi of the synagogue said to him: "God is calling you to return to your Home." Those words had such an impact that He immediately decided to make *aliyah*. This was the period of Rosh Hashanah (September 2009) and he soon arrived in the Land of Israel - on 28th December. He is now continuing in his career as a fencing teacher. *"I loved America and was always glad to come back to it. But never in all the years that followed have I known one moment of home-sickness or ever once regretted leaving it for Palestine."* – Golda Meir [Note: Israel was called Palestine, in the early days.]

"...I am come unto the country which the Lord swore unto our Fathers for to give us..." (Deuteronomy 26:3)

From left: Rocio, Yaneisy, Ester, Peter and Lilya

Yaneisy (26, Cuba)

Every time that we have Spanish-speaking new immigrants come to us my heart fills with joy. The Spanish language is a beautiful language and the South American people are very friendly and affectionate.

This time God allowed me to meet a pretty young Jewish girl, named Yaneisy. She was born in a province of Cuba. After her parents were divorced she went to live with her father. She has two brothers—one of them lives in the United States, and the other lives in Havana, the capital of Cuba. She has been married for eight years.

When I asked her how she felt being in Israel, she said: "I am very happy to be here," but after we continued our conversation and especially when she remembered her father and the experiences of her life in Cuba, she began to mourn. I hugged her and she said she was okay, but she was still very sad. I took her hands and I said to her that God will take care of her and her family.

Thanks To CFI

Yaneisy told us: "I did not know it was possible to leave Cuba, you know, we all wanted to leave. There was no food! And if there was, we could not buy it. We had many restrictions. For us to have a little more food, my father and I had to travel many hours to one of the three synagogues in Havana for a bit of donated food. Although my mom's father was president of one of the synagogues, I was not closely related or knew much about my roots. You know when you live in a small town many things are unknown, and to travel outside the country is almost unheard of in Cuba. When I found out that one of my cousins left the country to live in Israel I said to myself, "If he traveled, I can do it too!" My husband was the most excited about the news, so we submitted all our documents to make *aliyah*. I am very happy to be in Israel, I can buy food and things that we want or need. I have good friends and we have received much help, just as we are receiving from you today. The only thing that saddens me is that I cannot send anything to my father. If I do, it is certain it would be taken by others, because of the need in Cuba. But on the other hand, now that my husband and I are here we can look after our children well and give them a home!"

"O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield..." (Psalm 115:9)

By Rocio Perez, DC Volunteer

Silver Bells and Bridal Belles!

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues” (Revelation 7:9).

The Bridal Salon is located at the Distribution Center in the heart of Jerusalem, and since its inception in 1991, over 1,000 people have been outfitted for either weddings or special events they have attended. Included in this figure are over 500 brides! The brides came from many nations around the world, including Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Armenia, USA, Britain, Holland, Japan—to name but a few—each one, blessed through this beautiful ministry.

We have helped many people and our policy at CFI has always been to bless and serve, to the best of our ability, those in need without discrimination of faith, color or creed. Over the years, as you can imagine, there have been many love stories—some under tragic and sometimes threatening situations such as the Eritrean refugees that have fled for their lives from their homeland of Eritrea to seek refuge in Israel. Some of these were shot and even killed by Egyptians as they came across the Israeli border. Some of the brides we have dressed met while volunteering here in the Land, including four brides that volunteered at the Distribution Center! Some brides have met their marriage partners while studying; others, in work places. There are so many stories, they could fill a book! Each love story shared by both brides and grooms over the years has



A Bride from Israel

been unique, but they all have one thing in common: **they were all dressed for their special wedding day by the faithful supporters of CFI**, who love Israel and want to bless the people living here in the Land. Some couples were married in Synagogues, others in the desert, some in gardens, and others in restaurants. Some planned a year ahead, some a few months for their special day, but for one particular lady it was for her wedding the very next day! Whatever the situation or challenge, CFI has always been there to try to fulfil that particular bride’s desire to find the best gown for the greatest day of her life – her wedding day. It has been a great privilege to be a part of such a unique ministry as CFI and an even greater privilege to dress so many beautiful brides. The “icing on the cake” of course is to be invited to the wedding itself. I have had the great honor of attending over 30 weddings of those I have helped through CFI, but I continue to wait, with anticipation, for the greatest wedding – the marriage supper of the Lamb!

As we reflect on the past 25 years of the ministry of CFI and look ahead, I am reminded of the teaching of the Master when He told us that in the last days there would be wars and rumors of wars, but that as in the days of Noah people would still continue to marry. No more have those words been true than in Israel today—a small country that has known many “wars and rumors of wars” in its history; but the people still courageously live their lives to the full, marry and have children. I thank the Lord for allowing us as volunteers to be a part of His special work through CFI, with His special nation and diversity of people. Long may the work of CFI continue and pray that we may be found faithful servants serving His people until His return.

By Pam Bird

The bridal Salon has outfitted many Brides from the nations



Revelation 7:9



The CFI Distribution Center was opened in the middle of the Gulf War (1991). While the missiles were being launched from western Iraq, sirens were sounding and streets were bare in Jerusalem, Ray Sanders was working to secure a place for God's newcomers from the "land of the north" to come to receive help from Christians. A former youth hostel strategically located near the Central Bus Station in Jerusalem was secured, renovated and prayed over by the CFI board and leaders. The decade of the 1990's saw immigrants standing and waiting for the Center to open in the mornings, sometimes as many as 125 immigrants per day. Miracles and special happenings have taken place in this Center where Jewish people have felt cared for and made welcome to their new homeland. Today the Center continues to have a steady flow of newcomers and repeat visitors who still need assistance from us. It is all possible, only because of GOD and the help of our supporters and partners-in-ministry around the world.



Hong Kong Tour Group visits the Distribution Center

An Invitation

CFI welcomes Tour Groups like the above (from Hong Kong) to visit our Center to learn more about what Christians do to be a blessing to the Chosen People. For scheduling a time for your tour group please email: gergana@cfijerusalem.org

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Project

Celebrating Together in Jerusalem

"Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways" (Proverbs 8:32).

As the Bar & Bat Mitzvah Project goes into its second year, we had a very unique situation concerning a family that had a boy and a girl that celebrated their special birthdays together. Daniella is 12 and Shauli is 13. Their birthdays, although a year apart, fulfill the Jewish tradition of a girl celebrating her Bat Mitzvah at the age of 12 and the boy's Bar Mitzvah at the age of 13. Because they were born just a year apart they were able to have their special birthdays together – quite unique!

The children came in to the Center with their mother, who is from Peru and speaks Spanish. They chose nice outfits ready for this special event. We also gave them each a book of Psalms in Hebrew, a certificate and a birthday card to commemorate their special day. Of course Shauli also received the traditional tallit and kippa that Bar Mitzvah boys receive. **We thank the Lord for this lovely family and pray that He will continue to bless and encourage them as they read His word.**



Joy and happiness on their special day

DOORS OF HOPE WORKS ALONG
WITH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

Difficult Days

David is one of the many Israelis whom we have been able to help financially through project “Doors of Hope” because of you – our supporters in the nations. People who turn for help to “Doors of Hope” have found themselves in difficult life circumstances for one reason or another – death of a spouse, divorce, illness, losing a job, etc.

We didn’t meet David in person until he came to us to pick up his check after his application was approved. David lives in Mevaseret Zion (a suburb of Jerusalem) and has many health problems. At the time he turned to us for assistance he was in a wheelchair. He sent his application to us by mail and Iosif talked to him on the phone several times trying to evaluate his situation so that we would spare David the need to come to the office, as he was unable to ride the bus and could not afford a taxi. In his request David listed his many needs, among which were the need for help with food, and a new washing machine and a stove, because the ones he had in his home were old and broken down. He also expressed a desire to have a computer.

David was born in Morocco and his parents made *aliyah* to Israel in 1956 when he was two years old. The Cohen family was among the first settlers of Mevaseret Zion and they had seven children. It was the end of the ‘70s when David finished his army service and he decided to “try his luck,” as people say here, over the ocean and did what many Israelis did at the time – flew to America. There he met his future wife. They were married and lived in the USA for 15 years. During that time they had three children – two girls and a boy. They came back to Israel in 1995, but life in Israel was difficult. David’s wife was not able to adjust and learn the language. David started working in construction and doing road repairs, but he had a work accident and broke his back. He wasn’t able to work for a long time, which caused great financial difficulties for the family.

One day he lost all hope—David went to his father’s house and stayed there overnight. When he came back home the next day he found that his wife and children were missing. Two days later he found out that she took the children with her and flew back to America without writing him a note and without having any legal right to take children away from him. These children were his life. David did not wait long and filed a request for legal aid and they began an investigation in the hope of bringing the children back. After a long period of time the U.S. authorities gave him legal permission to bring the children back to Israel. “I could have brought my kids back at that time, but I was afraid. How could I raise three children by myself—especially since I was ill and my income was

approximately \$475 per month, money that I receive from social welfare? I gave up the idea to bring the children back to Israel. I didn’t want to ruin my children’s future. I decided that it was better for them to stay with their mother. It was a painful choice, but I did it for the good of the children,” said David.



Newspaper article on David’s custody battle to get his three children back



Healing for David

Eight years later David’s friend from America managed to find the phone number of David’s daughter, Erica. “When she heard me on the phone she called me ‘Daddy’ and that made me so happy. Through her, I managed to get in touch with the other two children.” Although we wish we could help David more it is impossible to meet every need that he has. Still because of your generous giving we were able to help him buy a stove and washing machine, as well as NIS 2000 in food vouchers. **Apart from David’s hope to see his children again, which we promised him we’ll be praying for**—David would very much like to have a computer. That will make the communication with his children in America easier and less expensive than using a phone. Thank you for your contributions to Project Doors of Hope and for making it possible to help many of God’s chosen people.

Please pray that God will bring healing to David, that He will provide for his desire for a computer, that his dream to see his children in America again will be fulfilled, and most importantly, that God will “*turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers*” (Malachi 4:6).

By Iosif and Anita Morari



Marlena with ring on finger



From left: Nora, Marlena and Senikka

Lost & Found

Over the past 25 years CFI has had numerous staff, some locals, others called to serve from the nations. One long-serving member of the Distribution Center staff is Marlena Avrotinsky. She began working at the Distribution Center in May 1991, shortly after the Center opened. Marlena, soon to be 85, retired two years ago, but is still a loved family member of CFI. I still visit her and her husband Effim, and enjoy taking other former CFI staff to visit her when they come back to Jerusalem. Last year Senikka and Nora, who volunteered with CFI some years ago, came with me to visit her. While reminiscing about their time of working together, Marlena remembered with great emotion, how the Lord had moved in her life and the miracle of a lost diamond from a ring she was wearing. On my latest visit to Marlena she shared with me the details of the diamond and other miraculous stories she remembers in her life when the Lord watched over her and her family:

His Hands Held Me

"I was born in the Soviet Union and knew nothing about God or religion, but I always felt that somebody gave His hands to hold me and I felt it. There were three particular times that I felt this help and I want to share them. The first time was when I was taken prisoner by the Nazis in Russia. All the Jewish people in my village were rounded up and marched to an open field to be shot. I asked one of the German soldiers if I could use the bushes to relieve myself and ran away unnoticed by the soldiers – my life was spared! The second time followed later when my friend and I hid in a haystack during the night while trying to avoid arrest by the Nazis. When morning came we were told the haystack was in the middle of a minefield. Again my life was spared!

The third event occurred while I was volunteering with CFI at the Distribution Center. At that time we had two Managers: Jonathan and Brian Taylor. In those early years the Center only had the one building, and we worked serving the people and folding clothes in what is now the Doors of Hope room. One particular day I was wearing a single diamond ring that my mother-in-law Sarah had left for me after she died. It was a Russian

tradition that if there were no girls in a family then a precious item such as a piece of jewelry would be passed on to a daughter-in-law. I was the eldest so she gave me the most valuable item she possessed, her solitaire diamond ring, which I treasured. While we were having lunch together I happened to look down and noticed that the diamond from this precious ring was missing—I was distraught. All the staff was concerned and I was sure I would never find it again. Brian offered to pray but I felt sure it was lost forever! But what else could I do? He and the staff prayed and asked God to help me find it. After lunch I went back into the bathroom where I had washed my hands before lunch trying to retrace my steps. I had no belief that I would ever find this diamond but I didn't want to upset Brian. Then I noticed something glistening on the floor—it was the diamond that had fallen out of my ring! After this I was sure this was proof that God exists and cares for me!

Power of Prayer

In 1992 Brian and the staff prayed for my granddaughter Natalia. She was in a coma in Odessa and deathly ill with encephalitis. The doctors gave her no hope—she was only 19 years of age—how could this be? I was in shock and upset so decided to share this with the staff. **Brian knelt down on the floor and prayed.** He told me if the doctors could not help, God would. After praying he gave me a bottle of anointing oil for my husband Effim to take with him to Odessa. Anne Laycock, another staff member gave me powdered food supplement for her also. Effim was in Odessa for six weeks. Just before Effim was due to return, my granddaughter was home and well! Once again God helped and I know it was the prayers that made the difference!"

"...fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you."

1 Samuel 12:24

By Pam Bird



Sorting Things Out



Preparing the clothes to be received

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” – Genesis 12:3

For many years now CFI has been ministering to the people of Israel, fulfilling the prophecies above with great diligence. I have been working in the sorting room of the Distribution Center for seven years now and would like to share with you a bit of what I do. On the one hand, the work in the sorting room may seem routine and uneventful and there isn't much contact with the new immigrants or the needy people who come to us for help. On the other hand I feel honored to be the first one to open the boxes filled with blessings that God is pouring out over His people. He does this through every believer in the nations who has received a revelation about God's plan for the people of Israel. **Every minute of the work day I see God's word being fulfilled**, as I think of the thousands of people in the nations who send their gifts of love to the Jewish people and I thank God for every believer who has chosen to bless Israel. We are very grateful for all the clothing, shoes, household items, toys, etc., that we receive and it is a great joy that we can assure the new *olim* and the needy Israelis that everything they receive is of the highest possible quality. This is very important for everyone who receives help from us, because it shows the

love and respect of Christians in the nations, in deed. (James 2:17, 26)

The gifts the needy people receive from us give them hope for the future, as they believe that one day they themselves will also be able to bless and be of help to people in need. Very often we have witnessed cases when someone asks for a specific item that we don't have at the moment, but by the end of their half an hour visit we have opened another box containing the exact item, size and even color they have asked for just minutes before! Sometimes we even receive items we are not so sure how to use or who will need them, but God sends people who know exactly what to do with those items. It is a privilege to not only be a part of God's plan and fulfill His word, but also to see how He moves and blesses His children, and as a result, people begin to seek Him. May God bless and strengthen each believer who serves Him and does His will! Let us continue to "offer... sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ Jesus..." (1 Peter 2:5), do good to the least of Jesus' brothers (Matthew 25:40), and do the work of the One who sends us as long as it is day... (John 9:5).

By DC Staff

Receivers of the sorted clothing

How You Can Help! Gift Sets

A wonderful way CFI supporters at home can reach out with a warm, comforting welcome to new immigrants, is to donate individual linen and towel sets for our gift baskets. Each **new** linen gift set should contain one pillow case, one undersheet and one sheet for the blanket. These should come in single and double sizes, enabling us to give to both single people and to families. The **new** towel set should consist of one large towel, one medium towel, and one wash cloth. It would be nice to have two variants: one with darker colors for men, and one with lighter colors for women.

This would be such a tremendous help, enabling us to be able to purchase and add other needed items to the gift baskets here in Jerusalem before distribution. Thank you for your generous heart—blessing His beloved people with a welcoming "hug" even from afar.

"Please send your gifts of sheet and towel sets to: **HELP International**, 629 14th St. SW, Loveland, Co. 80537. Email: jeankaye@helpint.org or donwilson@helpint.org. For UK large shipment send to: **Olive Grove Projects-United Kingdom**, Rob & Margaret Hearing. Email: olivegrove@ntlworld.com (We can no longer receive direct mailings of new items at the Distribution Center, because of customs charges.)

TOWEL SET



SHEET SET



UNDER HIS WINGS VISITS THE FAMILIES OF THE AFFLICTED AND SUFFERING.



A victim of terror



Scene of terror attack

Varia with Mark whose daughter was killed

BORN IN TERROR

“Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; declare among the peoples His deeds. For He who requires blood remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the afflicted” (Psalm 9:11-12).

In the late evening of June 1, 2001, CFI co-founders Ray and Sharon Sanders were celebrating their wedding anniversary in Tel Aviv by taking a walk along the Mediterranean beach. Suddenly, there was a tremendous explosion. They immediately knew that a deadly attack against God’s Chosen People, the Jews, in the Land of Israel had just happened.

Life or Death

A discotheque for young Israelis called the Dolphinarium was the unfortunate location of that evening’s unbelievable disaster. As young teenagers gathered together to await the doors opening at the Dolphinarium, a suicide bomber managed to place himself in the middle of a crowd of innocent, young girls. The horrible result was 21 killed and 132 injured. The majority of those killed were teenage girls who were going to the popular discotheque just to celebrate the end of a school year.

Shortly after this experience, Ray and Sharon began a new project for Christian Friends of Israel called Under His Wings. Since then, Under His Wings has visited hundreds of Israelis who were injured, maimed or just miraculously survived the atrocities of a terrorist attack. Instantly, their lives were changed forever when a loud blast was heard and body parts were thrown everywhere. At that very moment, the proximity of where a person was standing to the terrorist determined whether they lived or died. Since 2001, CFI has been able to reach out to these victims. We listen to their experiences intently and with loving care. We also bless them with finances for another operation or other medical expenses. Remembering what they endured and showing true Christian love is the best gift that we can offer. Project Under His Wings visits relatives of victims who were murdered in terrorist attacks. **Their pain has no end.**

He Heard About The Love

Every year on June 1st, the parents of those innocent young victims of the Dolphinarium attack gather together at a monument that has been erected in their memory. Throughout the past nine years, CFI has been able to visit and bless many of these parents. During last year’s meeting at the monument, Mark, a father who we had not visited, heard about the love CFI shows and called the main office in Jerusalem.

Our visit to Mark, one week later was a mutual blessing as he re-lived that horrific evening. Knowing that his daughter had gone to the Dolphinarium, when Mark heard the news about the bombing, he immediately called her cell phone. There was no answer. Calling the parents of his daughter’s friend only increased his worst fears when they announced their daughter did not answer her cell phone either. For the next few hours, anxiety and panic ruled as Mark searched for his only daughter, until he received the unbearable news. After showing us a memorial video of his daughter’s life, Mark explained to us how his daughter enjoyed dancing all her life. When she was twelve years old, she “invited” her daddy to learn to dance. Dancing became a father-daughter past time full of fun and laughter. Many years later following his daughter’s death, Mark was consumed with grief. His tragedy did not end with his daughter. At the news of her beloved granddaughter’s death, Mark’s elderly mother had a stroke. Within one year after losing his daughter, Mark’s parents also died.

Seeking the joy that he once had when his daughter was alive, Mark quit his executive job and began a new life as a dancing instructor. Mark told us that “when he is dancing, he feels closest to his daughter.” Mark was extremely grateful for the time CFI visited and listened to a father still trying to cope with his grief nine years later. *“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing...” (Psalm 30:11).*

By Cary Jarrett



CUA WORKS WITH MAYORS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

UNDECLARED WAR IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL

In the 2006 Second Lebanon War, Christian Friends of Israel (CFI) maintained and operated a War Relief Fund to help families directly affected by rockets fired from Lebanon by Hizbullah. For the first time in Israel's history, rockets launched from Lebanon reached as far south as Haifa killing, injuring, and maiming innocent civilians. In 2006, CFI was there to provide relief to God's Chosen People.

Today and for the past eight years, similar war tactics still exist in southern Israel near Gaza. The former War Relief Fund is now known as Communities Under Attack. Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists have fired over 8,000 Qassam rockets and mortars at Israeli communities. The majority of these homemade missiles are aimed at the little town of Sderot, population 22,000. Since the end of Operation Cast Lead in Gaza in January 2009, we have been traveling to Sderot weekly to bless families in this traumatized city. We work closely with Sderot's Social Affairs to find the neediest and most desperate families to visit. We also work hand-in-hand with the Municipality of Sderot to encourage the young children of Sderot that have to grow up in fear of incoming rockets.

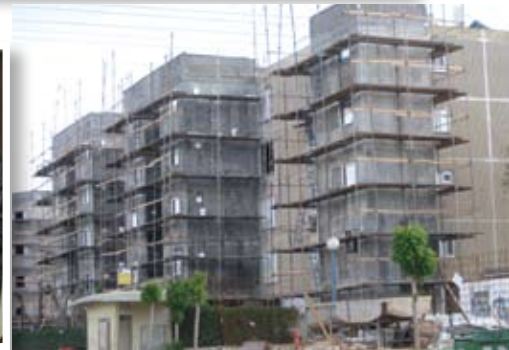
Communities Under Attack is actively involved in an After School Program for sixth graders; has helped to establish a Hebrew/English library at Sderot's Ethiopian Community Center; has purchased school books for the poorest families that could not afford them; and through Social Affairs has sponsored many needy kids at Community Centers, who would not otherwise have an opportunity to enjoy music lessons or sporting events. In this "undeclared war" with Hamas, we are a partner with the City of Sderot that suffers so greatly, yet is determined to stay in their homes and educate their children. *"When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place..."* (Mark 13:7).



After School Program for sixth graders



Ray Sanders receiving recognition award from Mayor in Sderot. Right: Five story bomb shelter in Sderot being built.



From a Ghetto in Moldova to Sderot

As young children, Alexander and Maria spent a few years of their childhood during World War II in a ghetto in Moldova. Suffering through but overcoming unspeakable conditions, Alexander and Maria have been married for 55 years and now face new challenges together in Sderot. Even though his mind is still young and very active, a major heart attack and diabetes have restricted Alexander. **Because of Christian love and donations** from around the world, CFI was able to provide Alexander and Maria with an opportunity to purchase a new, sturdy wheelchair.

They still face a major challenge while living on the top floor of a five story apartment building that does not have an elevator. Because of the threat of Qassams in Sderot, living on the top floor is not desirable. With only 15 seconds to take cover at the sound of the warning siren, it is impossible for Alexander to walk down five flights of stairs to the bomb shelter.

In the Neve Eshkol neighborhood of Sderot, many five-story bomb shelters are being built or have already been completed. Unfortunately, for Alexander and Maria, there is a commercial store on the ground level below their apartment. This prevents the building of a reinforced shelter room next to their apartment. Moving can be extremely difficult in Sderot and where they live now is home to them. Please pray for Alexander and Maria's safety and protection. If you would like to assist families in Sderot, please designate your donation to **Communities Under Attack**.

NOTE: "...the members of this organization assist Sderot citizens and other community areas. The list of their deeds never ends...I want to testify of their devotional attitude to the needy and hurting, and all out of solidarity identification with the citizens of Sderot, as well as all the massive assistance during the "Ofereit Yezuka" operation...Sderot needs their assistance."

Mr. A. Ben Tzvi, Municipality, Sderot

By Cary Jarrett



Media And Development

NADD Continues To Forge Ahead

As the ministry of Christian Friends of Israel continues to forge ahead at the direction of the Lord, the efforts in American Churches, organizations, and small groups continue as Kevin and Stacey Howard work on the ground in the United States. Birthed in 2009 as an opportunity for CFI to expand its calling of ministry to the church, the North American Development Division (NADD) of CFI-Jerusalem is continuing to minister throughout the country. Pastors, lay leaders, and home group leaders are seeing the outpouring of the desire of Christians to know more about Israel, the Jewish people and the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

Ministering to the Body as an extended arm of CFI-Jerusalem, the Howards are ready to spend time with your church or organization to teach and explain the heart of the ministry of Christian Friends of Israel, and how it effectively touches the lives of so many. Whether God has just recently placed Israel on your heart, or you have been a lover of Israel and its people for a long time, Kevin and Stacey would love to hear from you soon. To find out more about what is happening in America, contact Stacey at stacey@cfijerusalem.org, or go to www.cfijerusalem.org and click on 'About Us'. We hope to hear from you soon!



NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Kevin and Stacey Howard, Directors of NADD, showcase CFI-Jerusalem throughout America

Brand New CFI Media available June 2010

Conference Messages

Message Titles:

"The Restoration of All Things: Restoration of the Kingdom"

Lance Lambert

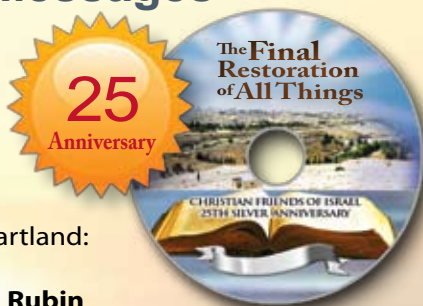
"Settling the Biblical Heartland: The Challenge of a Modern Pioneer" **David Rubin**

"Israel's Challenge Ahead With the Nations: The Importance of Her Friends" **Danny Ayalon**

"Revival in the Church: Will it Come Without Praying for Israel?" **Rick Ridings**

"A Call to Provoke to Jealousy: Did the Church Miss Her Calling?" **Sharon Sanders**

"A Long Overdue Conversation: Come Let Us Reason Together" **David Nekrutman**



"Salvation is of the Jews: Embracing Our Debt to Israel" **Dr. Marvin Wilson**

"For Zion's Sake" Will We Remain Silent: Can We Make A Difference?" **Geoffrey Smith**

"The Fulfillment of A Dream: The Lost Jews of China Come Home" **Michael Freund**

"Preparation for the Mid-night Hour: A Bridal Call to Holiness" **Reuven Ross**

Conference Messages Prices: individual cd \$8 USD or the entire set of 10 \$70 USD

Jerusalem's Timeless Messages Prices: \$7 USD each *prices listed are inclusive of shipping

To order go to: www.cfijerusalem.org and click on "cfi shop"

Timeless Messages

Lance Lambert:

"Israel: Touchstone for the Church"
- CFI Shavout 1990 Celebration

"Jerusalem: A Cup of Trembling"
- CFI Shavout 1996 Conference

"The Nations and Their Relations to Israel"
- CFI International Teaching Seminar 1988

"Intercession: The Call to be Watchmen"
- CFI International Teaching Seminar 1987

"The Responsibility of the Church to the Jew and Israel"
- CFI Conference - Christ for the Nations, TX

"The Fig Tree: Learn Its Lesson"
- CFI Conference - Christ for the Nations, TX

"The Spiritual Significance of Israel"
- CFI Shavout 1991 Conference

Derek Prince:

"Jacob and Esau"
- CFI Shavout 1992 Conference





HISTORY of PROJECT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

HFF WORKS WITH LOCAL SOCIAL WORKERS FROM ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITIES.

CFI's outreach to the Ethiopian immigrants was started by Sharon Sanders when she saw the desperate needs of these people at a nearby absorption center. In addition to their physical needs, the Ethiopian immigrants were suffering emotionally. In the rush to bring them to Israel, many families were separated from their loved ones. Family is very important to the Ethiopians and this situation caused them immense suffering. Started in the early 1990's right after Operation Solomon brought 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel, the outreach was called "Together Again." This name expressed the hope that families would be reunited. Today there are over 110,000 Ethiopians living in Israel and many of the families have been reunited, but there are many that still have family left in Ethiopia.

How The Work Increased

Sharon started by giving these families clothing and financial help. As the outreach grew and the work at the ministry increased, Sharon turned the Ethiopian outreach over to Mondella Benton. Mondella worked for one and a half years expanding the program and at that time the program became known as "Project Hope for the Future." This name seemed very appropriate as the Ethiopian immigrants needed to know that there is hope and a future here. Over five years ago I began coordinating Project Hope for the Future. The project has grown over that time. Five years ago one family was sponsored and now, thirty-five families receive help and encouragement each month from their sponsors. One hundred seventy-one individual families over the last five years have applied for assistance. Many of these families have been helped a number of times. New Ethiopian immigrants at five absorption centers in northern Israel have been assisted with clothing, toiletries, school supplies and backpacks. In addition, many baby bundles have been given to new mothers. Two after-school tutoring programs for Ethiopian children have received support and several Ethiopian community groups have received money to buy food for community Seder meals for Passover. We were only able to do these things with God's help and thanks to your faithfulness.



Helping immigrants in Northern Israel

Ongoing Needs

- School supplies and backpacks
- Financial help for families
- Adoption of Ethiopian families
- Scholarship funds to help young Ethiopians students
- Work teams to paint and repair Ethiopian homes
- Help to send children to summer camp to keep them off the streets
- Support for after-school programs
- Prayers for successful integration of the Ethiopians

To adopt an Ethiopian family, please contact Donna at CFI, P.O. Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL, or e-mail: donna@cfjjerusalem.org for more details. To donate items or to support Project HFF financially, please send these items to: Project Hope for the Future at the CFI address above.

By Donna Roberts, Hope for the Future Coordinator

Above: Donna helping families through referrals by social workers and through word-of-mouth.

Below: Ethiopian children

"For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



FIRST FRUITS WORKS WITH LOCAL PASTORS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS.



Vered (right) helping to meet a need

Fruits Reflect Character

“...they have supplied their needs.”
(1 Corinthians 16:17). To everyone who helps us and labors with us, a heartfelt thank you from Jerusalem.

Before we began the work in Israel, our Bible College Professor prayed John 15:5 over us and it became our “motto” as we worked. Fruit reflects the character of the tree on which it grows and is always borne from someone else’s benefit, not our own. As every oak tree starts as an acorn so every ministry of the Lord starts as a seed. We thank God who showed us that tithing was to be a discipline in our private lives as well as in the ministry of CFI. It was out of tithing to other ministries First Fruits was born to help others and not only our own ministry. From this we know that our fruit is evident and able to be seen as a good tree.

Thank you to everyone who supports the ongoing ministry of First Fruits.

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that waters shall be watered himself.”
(Proverbs 11:25)

By Ray Sanders,
First Fruits Coordinator

THANK YOU LETTERS

Support for Amir’s Studies

Dear Mr. Sanders, Thanks so much for your generous support for Amir’s studies. He is so grateful to have the possibility to complete his studies. Although he cannot express himself, I have the impression that this support is a big testimony for him, since he knows, that believers in Jesus are supporting him. He says: “In our society (meaning The Moslem West Bank Society) something like this does not exist. Everyone is just looking out for himself” ...the next big prayer request is that Amir will find work after finishing the studies, since the unemployment in the West Bank is very high.....we are praying.

Community of Reconciliation

CFI Helped with Rent

Dear Sir, My wife and I thank you so much for your gift...it will help us to pay the rent. As a believer in Yeshua, in Maghar, I suffer persecution and it is difficult to make ends meet. May the Lord bless you and prosper your ministry. Thanks for your help.

In Him, Asakla S.

You Came Just in Time

Dear Friends, I wish to thank you so much for the generous donation...we had been going through a time of financial pressure and your gift came just in time to help meet this need. You have been a great blessing and a real encouragement. May the Lord richly bless you,
Zvi R.

Forced Out of Their Home

Dear CFI, I would like to take this time to thank all those involved in CFI’s Project First Fruits, for the financial help which was granted to my husband and myself. It came at exactly the right time...we were forced to leave our homes in Nisanit; a community once located in the Northern Gaza Strip. The conditions for recovery from this traumatic event have been less than favorable; the additional need to ask for help was not an easy one...once again, thank you for your love, prayers and your generous support.

Tina and Moshe N.



FORSAKE THEM NOT WORKS WITH LEADERS, FORMER NAZI PRISONERS AND CONCENTRATION CAMP ASSOCIATIONS.



Michael and Tonia Shteinman

Motivated By GOD'S LOVE

Dear Holocaust Team,

With all of my heart I would like to thank all of you for the hard work that you have done for many years for the Jewish community here in Israel. It is especially important that you try to reach out to the heart of every person with whom you are in contact. You have sympathy for people's hardships, you find the right way to comfort people's worries and you rejoice with us in good times. The expression of your compassion comes from the bottom of your hearts. It is obvious that everything you do, you do sincerely. It is highly appreciated. Especially we are touched by the fact that your work is made possible by donations of your fellow Christians from different countries who are motivated by love toward one true God, and who make all efforts to help us Jews whose faith has much in common with the Christian faith.

Dear Helene, please allow me in this letter to express my sincere gratitude for showing me care and for giving me precious gifts. Please tell our thanks to all the Christians who support us and donate their personal gifts through your organization. Obviously, this letter is also an expression of gratitude to the Almighty for such kind and sensitive people like you here in this Land.

With honor and gratitude,
Michael Shteinman,
Holocaust survivor, Jerusalem

**"For I will restore health
to you and heal
you of your wounds,'
says the LORD..."**

Jeremiah 30:17

By Helene Iedema,
Director of Outreach

Visiting 50 Cities

The work among the Holocaust survivors has grown tremendously since then. The latest information we have received is that there are still 75,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel. Working in close co-operation with local Jewish Holocaust survivor organizations. The team visits survivors in 50 different cities in Israel. Before our visit to a certain city, we ask the local survivor coordinator to give us names of survivors who are needy, sick, or lonely and are willing to host us. **Every time they open their hearts and doors to us there is a blessed visit.**

ISRAEL'S HEROES



David's Shield
Support of Israel's soldiers
Karen Lewis, Coordinator

DAVID'S SHIELD WORKS WITH IDF BASE COMMANDERS AND OFFICERS.



Karen Lewis presenting soldiers with Fleece Jackets

Our outreach to the Israeli soldiers began in the mid-1990's when Riki heard about CFI through a friend. According to Riki it was her mother, Rachel, who began baking cookies and donuts for the soldiers during Chanukah near her Moshav. Soon soldiers were appearing on her doorstep and she began to feed them. Rachel's reputation increased, more soldiers came and soon the task to feed and care for them became expensive. It was during this time that CFI became involved by making our first contribution to the soldiers—socks!

During those days we began to organize 300-600 care packages every year for the Israeli soldiers. It wasn't until six years ago that CFI was able to develop our outreach to the Israeli soldiers full time. Project Care Package soon became Project David's Shield as we sought to encompass more needs in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Our mission in Project David's Shield is to come alongside each Israeli combat soldier and lone soldier to show them our deep appreciation for the sacrifices they are making in securing Israel's safety and the survival of the Jewish people. Our gifts to them are not only a warm reminder that Christians from the nations love and support them but also are gifts that are truly needed.

At the age of 18, these courageous young men and women join the IDF for 2-3 years promising to defend the State of Israel and guaranteeing the safety of those who reside within its borders. Salaries are minimal for the soldiers, as a non-combat soldier receives no more than \$75 a month and if they serve as a combat soldier they receive \$150 a month. In the Israeli culture the family is responsible to lend a hand to the soldiers during their time of service by doing their laundry, pro-

viding a place to sleep on the weekends, buying personal necessities, etc. The military does provide uniforms and a coat and even in some units, boots. The army also provides food and a place to sleep while the soldiers are on duty at the base. When the soldiers are in uniform they even get a free ride on public transportation. As you can see it's a family and a society effort! That's where Christian Friends of Israel comes in! Our gifts are being used as a "family support" system within the State of Israel.

We purchase our products from local manufacturers which meet the military regulation: fleece jackets, thermal clothing, gloves, hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, backpacks and other requests. We coordinate our contributions with the Libi Fund, located near Tel Aviv, who in turn gives us authorization to go directly to the bases so we can give our donations straight to the soldiers.

Since the birth of this nation it could be said that God has been doing a work of restoring Israel to her position of His sovereign call. Through this progression God is calling us—Christians from the nations—to come alongside the Jewish People and love them into the fullness of their calling! With every gift we give, every task we do, every prayer we pray for Israel's redemption, we are bringing great glory to God as well as serving the Jewish people! Your gift to David's Shield is doing just that as we continue to provide for the needs of the Israeli Defense Forces. God is certainly doing great things through us for David's Army today!

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 6:16).

By Karen Lewis
David's Shield Coordinator





TO OUR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The Bible says "...Jesus...watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury..." (Mark 12:41, NIV). If we think about it, He still actually watches us. Each time God asks us to give He observes our obedience, consistency and generosity or the lack of it. It is said that He does not measure us by how much we give, but what we have and what we keep. That is why Jesus said "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

One day the Lord will return to set up His Kingdom (in Jerusalem) and since there will be no end to it, it is not hard to figure out where we need invest. The Lord will continue to challenge priorities and values. So many of you who read our literature and respond to our needs have already "stored up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). We thank God for all of the generous and caring partners-in-ministry whose every act of kindness and obedience will have a blessing waiting for them one day. "Every good gift...is from above, and comes down from the Father..." (James 1:17). Thank you to all of you, who in spite of difficult times, continue to give God your heart and your gifts. You are the kind of family God is building for Himself. Christian Friends of Israel—Jerusalem and around the world thank you... you are our friends and family who have connected with us and use us as a channel for blessing Israel in the name of the Lord (and yours). We value you highly for without you we could not continue this on-going ministry among His Chosen People.



Pray for the CFI team in Jerusalem

In His Service,
Ray and Sharon Sanders
Co-founders, Directors and the CFI Team in Jerusalem

CFI Representative Nearest You

For Zion's Sake

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E-mail: cfi@cfijerusalem.org or write to the CFI address below. Please send all communication relating to For Zion's Sake to: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL



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