

For Zion's Sake

Second Quarter 2014 Jewish Year 5774

THE MERCY SEAT



Christian Friends of Israel

PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 91015 ISRAEL Tel: 972-2-6233778
Fax: 972-2-6233913 cfi@cfijerusalem.org www.cfijerusalem.org

For Zion's Sake

A Quarterly Publication / Printed in Israel

MANAGING DIRECTOR/WRITER: **Sharon Sanders**

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER: **Marita Brokenshaw**

EDITOR: **Coral Mings**

STAFF WRITERS: **Linda Edwards, Stacey Howard, Maggie Huang,**

Jim McKenzie, Gordon Milmine, Jenny Milmine, Ray Sanders

LOCAL MEDIA MANAGER: **Michael Fordham**

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY: **Kevin Howard**

Front Cover: (c) 2009 James Group Studios Inc.

Project photos: CFI Staff



For Zion's Sake is published by Christian Friends of Israel's Jerusalem Office, free of charge to supporters. All articles may be quoted with proper attribution. If you wish to help distribute CFI's quarterly publications, contact us: cfi@cfijerusalem.org or by mail at the address below. You can help us distribute our literature to your church and friends.

How To Give: Contributions and love gifts for the ongoing ministry work and outreaches may be sent by personal check payable to Christian Friends of Israel (see address below or local Representative). We accept the following currencies: US dollars, Canadian dollars, British pounds, Euros, New Israeli shekels and Swiss francs. Australian dollars must be remitted in US currency checks. Mail checks to the following address: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.

Automatic Deposits: Wire Transfer Information: Israel Discount Bank, 15 Kanfei Nesharim (Branch # 331), Account Name: Christian Friends of Israel, SWIFT code: IDBLILITJLM, Acct. No. 2772657. Please include any designation in "Remittance Information." IBAN for USD IL330113310000002772657, IBAN for EURO IL140113310000004772654, IBAN for GBP IL750113310000003772650. Add US \$20 or equivalent in foreign currency to cover direct deposit bank fees or instruct your bank to charge you with all related fees both in Israel or abroad.

Credit Card and Online Information: For credit card orders, please fill out the enclosed form in this publication. Fill in the amount of your gift, the currency and the card information as indicated. Credit cards must have an expiration date and signature. ONLY VISA and MASTERCARD are accepted. Please include your mailing address and your e-mail address if you have one. For online donations, please visit our website at: www.cfijerusalem.org and click on "Contribute."

Tax Laws & US Tax Deductible Receipts: CFI Jerusalem, a legally registered organization in the State of Israel, issues official Israeli tax receipts. We are happy to send this for each donation sent to Jerusalem; however, you can receive an official authorized local country tax deduction, (i.e. CFI America and CFI USA, both IRS recognized 501(c)3 status.) Tax laws pertaining to contributions vary by country. Contact your local Representative nearest you for further information or go online: www.cfijerusalem.org and click on "Representatives."

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

Mail to: CFI - PO Box 1813 - Jerusalem 91015 ISRAEL

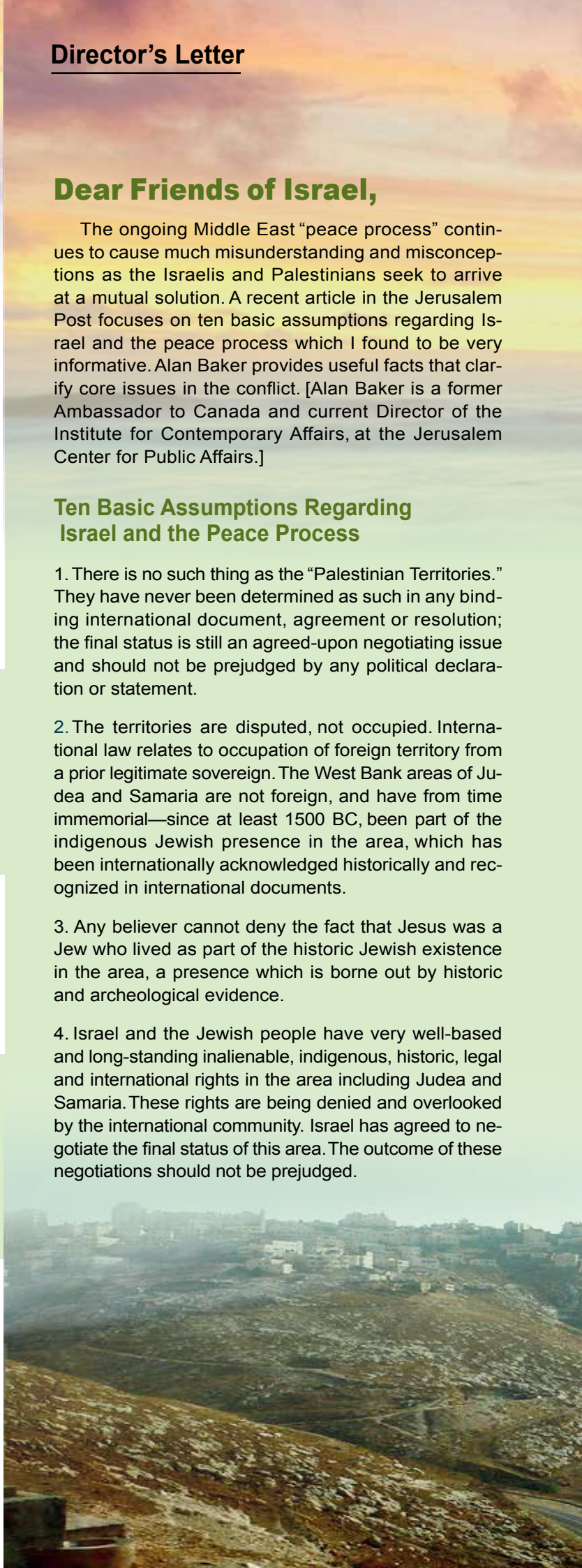
Director's Letter

Dear Friends of Israel,

The ongoing Middle East "peace process" continues to cause much misunderstanding and misconceptions as the Israelis and Palestinians seek to arrive at a mutual solution. A recent article in the Jerusalem Post focuses on ten basic assumptions regarding Israel and the peace process which I found to be very informative. Alan Baker provides useful facts that clarify core issues in the conflict. [Alan Baker is a former Ambassador to Canada and current Director of the Institute for Contemporary Affairs, at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.]

Ten Basic Assumptions Regarding Israel and the Peace Process

1. There is no such thing as the "Palestinian Territories." They have never been determined as such in any binding international document, agreement or resolution; the final status is still an agreed-upon negotiating issue and should not be prejudged by any political declaration or statement.
2. The territories are disputed, not occupied. International law relates to occupation of foreign territory from a prior legitimate sovereign. The West Bank areas of Judea and Samaria are not foreign, and have from time immemorial—since at least 1500 BC, been part of the indigenous Jewish presence in the area, which has been internationally acknowledged historically and recognized in international documents.
3. Any believer cannot deny the fact that Jesus was a Jew who lived as part of the historic Jewish existence in the area, a presence which is borne out by historic and archeological evidence.
4. Israel and the Jewish people have very well-based and long-standing inalienable, indigenous, historic, legal and international rights in the area including Judea and Samaria. These rights are being denied and overlooked by the international community. Israel has agreed to negotiate the final status of this area. The outcome of these negotiations should not be prejudged.



“The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me” (Leviticus 25:23).

“For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all the countries, and bring you into your own land” (Ezekiel 36:24).

“Then He said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it” (Genesis 15:7).

5. Claims by Palestinian spokesmen to indigenous or historic status or presence are patently false and misleading. The Arab presence in geographic Palestine commenced in 630 AD and comprises Bedouin tribes and families that generated from the Arabian Peninsula to the area of geographic Palestine in search of employment and economic benefit.

6. The allegation that Israel’s settlements are “illegitimate” is a misreading of international law and in itself prejudices an agreed-upon negotiating issue. The prohibition of forced transfer of population into “occupied territory” was drafted into the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to prevent a repeat of the mass, forced population transfers carried out by the Nazis. It was not intended, and cannot be interpreted to apply to Israel’s communities in Judea and Samaria.

7. In accordance with international norms regarding administration of territory, construction of, and within communities is strictly on land that is not privately owned, and is under the legal supervision of Israel’s Supreme Court.

8. Reliance on the term “1967 borders, or lines” has no basis in law or fact and cannot and should not constitute any point of reference in the negotiations. The 1949 Armistice Demarcation Line was distinctly determined not to constitute a border. The term “1967 borders or lines” was not referred to in the Oslo Accords. All parties have accepted the call by the UN Security Council in resolution 242...for “secure and recognized boundaries.” This resolution makes no reference to 1967 lines.

9. The ongoing Palestinian incitement against Israel, sponsorship and support of the campaign to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel, threats to prosecute Is-

raeli leaders in international tribunals and threats to appeal to UN and international bodies are all totally incompatible with any bona fide negotiation for peace in the area. These phenomena violate Palestinian commitments. Clear and definitive action must be taken by the Palestinian leadership to bring these phenomena to an immediate end.

10. Any attempt to prohibit or deny the presence of Jews in the area is anathema to all accepted civilized and humanitarian norms and should be totally rejected.

As a Christian having lived in the Land of Israel for many years, I would ask each person reading this article to ponder seriously the implications of these assumptions that the world and much of the Church are making, because it is a serious consideration before God.

“But Israel shall be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; you shall not be ashamed or disgraced forever and ever” (Isaiah 45:17).



Sincerely in the Lord’s service,

Ray Sanders

Ray Sanders,
Executive/
International Director

“Your ‘word’ in For Zion’s Sake concerning ‘the scrolls’ was excellent. We have been trying to share this kind of teaching these last couple of years in the Midlands, Cannock, England. A few listened and understood.” –Mo and Terry A



The Mercy Seat

“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold...you shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark...and there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony...” (Exodus 25:17-22).

THE MERCY SEAT was the lid or cover of solid gold on the Ark, which was a small chest overlaid with gold. Visualize at each end of the Mercy Seat, and in one piece with it, two hammered gold cherubim (seraphs or angels) facing one another. Their outstretched wings overshadowed the gold atonement cover and their faces constantly looked down upon it. They were *symbols* of the presence and holiness of the Lord and were His chosen instruments of judgment for any sinful approach toward His Presence. As the cherubim looked upon the blood sprinkled by the High Priest of Israel, the wrath of God was appeased and they were at peace. God spoke from above the mercy seat (Exodus 25:22) and the seraphim provided a throne for God where He would mediate His rule on earth as a representation of the throne in Heaven in the times of the Great Temple in Jerusalem.

The Mercy Seat: the Place of the Blood

In the New Testament this Mercy Seat is spoken of in Hebrews 9:2-5 and Romans 3:23-26.

This mercy seat, *“kapporet”* in Hebrew, means atonement location as in cleansing. In Greek the word is *“hilasterion”* meaning propitiation (someone who appeases or conciliates — someone who satisfies a need for something). It is used in the New Testament in Romans 3:25 where we are told that God presented Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) as a propitiation or “mercy seat” for us. The seat did not derive its worth from the purity of its gold, but it was the place where the blood of sacrifices were sprinkled in the presence of Yahweh. As a propitiatory, Yeshua, through faith in the purity of His blood sacrifice, fulfills our need at this mercy seat. Mercy has been described as showing compassion, or showing forgiveness when it is within one’s power to punish. Alternative meanings are leniency, clemency, grace, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, generosity or blessing.

God’s mercy has met believers on an infinitely great scale. We do not receive what we really deserve. When our hand was in the cookie jar and we broke the cookie jar, it was His forbearance of our being caught in the act, and forgiving us that is the ultimate expression of mercy was presented to us. (John 3:17). I believe we can all thank God that Yeshua is our mercy seat and He is the one we still run to when forgiveness is required.

By Sharon Sanders



Receiving mercy at the feet of the Master

“The quality of **mercy** is not strained; it droppeth as the **gentle rain** from heaven upon the place beneath. It is **twice blessed**—it blesseth him that **gives**, and him that **takes**.”

—William Shakespeare

For Mercy's Sake

In 1988, three years after our arrival in Jerusalem and the birth of Christian Friends of Israel in December 1985, a parcel arrived from a Mr. Jonathan Sacks in America. I had never met him and do not know where to locate him even today, but he mailed a large envelope to us and inside was a spiral-bound manual entitled *For Mercy's Sake (The Christian's Role in Healing the Jewish Heart)*. That small manual, having been buried under a large number of books for years, was recently resurrected and I have referenced it here. I share Jonathan's name because portions of this article are direct quotes. I wish to give him proper credit for sending this wonderfully researched work to us many years ago. The “*healing balm*” that CFI came to be to the Jewish nation is indeed, because of mercy's sake. In the handbook are chapters with titles such as: Mercy: The Healing Medicine; Mercy: The Believer's Response; and Mercy: The Application. As I reviewed it again, I saw that CFI is indeed fulfilling our role as servants of His mercy. (Matthew 5:17). Here is what I discovered.


His pen, mightier than a sword, cut an accurate portrait of the Jewish heart after the Holocaust. Trust had been destroyed. All non-Jewish people would be met with suspicion. Even sincere efforts to love would be met with the expectancy that strings were attached. Upon our arrival in Israel, in 1985, their wounds were still exposed. The Jewish people sometimes said to us, “Why would you want to help me?...you are a Christian!” “Why did you come here?” We quickly learned that they thought it impossible for a non-Jew to be their real friends. The memories of betrayal, persecution, victimization, fear, terror, and despairing of life had become embedded in the Jewish soul, throughout 20 centuries, while they were scattered among the Gentiles where too often they were treated like a cancer. Few Christians said: “Do not fear, we will shield you!” By 1988 we had learned that the condition of the Jewish heart was truly in great need of healing. So what was the cure?

As Jonathan had written, God's mercy was the critical healing ointment needed. As we began to apply this “salve” of mercy, the Jewish soul, through gentle compassion and love, began to respond. An understanding heart was and still is a vital part of their healing process. The Bible repeatedly states that mercy will characterize God's dealings with Israel in the last days and we should imitate



Photo: Reynold Mainse www.reynoldmainse.com

The mercy seat, (Kapporet in Hebrew) means atonement place



Him (See Jeremiah 33:23-26). We understand so much better now that God consoles them in their wounded and often depressed condition through us, His vessels.

The two words “healing balm” were imparted to us in a vision long before we arrived in Israel and were emblazoned upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We did not know their meaning until after we found out how great the need was by living in Israel among the Jewish people. It was only after multiple visits in their homes listening to stories of pain and suffering that we realized what medicinal application was needed.” It was simply mercy... characterized by unconditional love. (Read Psalm 102:12-19; 20, 22.) We became aware how God wanted us to *give back to them, the same mercy He had bestowed upon us*. We would be given the prophetic responsibility of being chosen vessels of mercy to His Chosen Ones. One Jewish couple acknowledged our role and casually, but boldly proclaimed what I will never forget: “You are two thousand years late, but thank God you came!”

Being deeply concerned with *their* inner healing, God’s requirements were for us to enter their lives with a compassion which they had never before experienced outside of their Jewish community. CFI teams are still carrying His Love. Testimonies of healing experiences are multiple. This identical compassion motivated Jesus to meet the needs of the weak and wounded He encountered. He met each person where they were and went into their homes and ministered.

It deeply affects us adversely when we hear of Christians who come to Israel and without thought or care of another’s feelings, approach a Jewish person and boldly proclaim: “You are blind, you just don’t see Jesus!” They do not know the person. They never took the time to build a relationship with them. They simply feel compelled to compulsively add another prideful blow to an already blurred vision of Jesus. Did it ever occur to them that “maybe” their Jewish friend could not see Him clearly because of the condescending attitudes of superiority which Christendom has shown the Jewish community for centuries? The Lord should be seen in our eyes, perceived in our lives, and our willingness to do anything it takes to bring blessing. Restoring trust takes time. The healing of Jewish hearts is still our call from God. Only when their hearts are healed through unconditional love, that neither makes demands nor expects concession, will strongholds of mistrust keep Jews and Christians from being faithful friends, be broken. It is only through mercy, that the true Gospel of Yeshua is *lived*.

Church Passes By

As the Father performed merciful deeds for us before they were deserved, His children are to do the same to others. Isn’t it wonderful that God did not wait until we were righteous and measured up to His desires before being merciful to us? In fact, it was only possible for us to approach God *after* we had been touched by His Mercy. We must keep praying and extending mercy until the Jewish people are fully restored. The Lord gave the greatest gift of all—Himself and we need to give of ourselves for the historical wounds inflicted over a span of 1900 years to be healed. It takes time.

Tragically, resembling the band of thieves who wounded the man on the road to Jericho, Christianity left the Jewish people half dead, abandoned, and without hope during their calamity and times of trouble. It is as if we passed by “on the other side” not wanting to get involved with their dilemmas which called for choices to be made by believers. It was sadly far more convenient to let them die by turning a blind eye to their suffering.

Not long ago an orthodox rabbi came to visit me and asked, “How did the Nazis know which homes were Jewish homes when they came to Poland?” Then he answered his own question: “The Christians in Poland pointed to where the Jewish houses were.” His relatives had taken in a Christian man who had lived with them for years as he had no other place to live. He ate and drank at their table. They counted him as one of their family—*until* the Nazis came. Who was the first person to turn the Jewish family in? The Christian who had eaten at their table in their home. He informed the Nazis and had the family transported to a concentration camp! Yes, most of Christendom left the Jewish people half dead on the side of the road and then passed by to the other side forgetting the words of Jesus “...*love thy neighbor as thyself*...” (Mark 12:31; Leviticus 19:18).

Luther's Challenge

In 1519, Martin Luther challenged the Church doctrine *Servitus Judaeorum* (Servitude of the Jews) established by Justinian. Luther wrote, "Absurd theologians defend hatred for the Jews...what Jew would consent to enter our ranks when he sees the cruelty and enmity we wreak on them—that in our behavior toward them we less resemble Christians than beasts?" In Luther's 1523 essay, "*That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew*," Luther condemned the inhuman treatment of the Jewish people and urged Christians to be *merciful* and to treat them kindly. Luther's fervent desire was that the Jewish people would hear the Gospel proclaimed clearly and be moved to convert to Christianity. And so, he argued: If I had been a Jew and had seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner have become a hog than a Christian. They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property...they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but only subject them to pomp and mockery...if the apostles, who were also Jews, had dealt with us Gentiles as we Gentiles deal with the Jews, there would never have been a Christian among the Gentiles... when we are inclined to boast of our position (as Christians) we should remember that we are but Gentiles, but the Jews are of the lineage of Christ.

We are aliens and in-laws; they are blood relatives, cousins, and brothers of our Lord. Therefore, if one is to boast of flesh and blood, the Jews are actually nearer to Christ than we are...if we really want to help them, we must be guided in our dealings with them not by papal law but by the law of Christian love. We must receive them...and permit them to trade and work with us, that they may have occasion and opportunity to associate with us, hear our Christian teaching, and witness our Christian life..." Sadly, he turned from mercy and taught his followers that it was satisfactory to be cruel to the Jewish people because they did not deserve to live (*The Jews and Their Lies*). That is one reason why so many Christians did not stop to help the Jewish people during the Holocaust. They listened blindly to their leader instead of searching *the Scriptures* to see what God said about blessing the Jewish people, beginning with Genesis 12:3.

Vessels of Healing

In the writings of Isaiah God asks a question: "*by whom will I comfort you?*" (Isaiah 51:18-19). As the nations turn against the Jewish people the growing sense of isolation is developing. Christian friends of Israel must continue to answer the call to be vessels of mercy to the Jewish person. History all too clearly reveals Christianity as some of the worst persecutors of the Jewish people. We thank God for awakening multitudes of believers to the importance of our Hebraic roots and to the spiritual debt we owe to the Jewish people. Over the past 25-30 years, pioneer organizations such as CFI, have been working to undo the damage done in the name of the Lord to His Precious Chosen People.

The Good Samaritans, through a ministry such as CFI, now are able to sit by the wounded man's side through dark hours. Whenever possible, provision is made for the wounded man's needs, whether trauma, scars or as is the case quite often, loneliness in old age. **If we do not know what it is to kneel beside someone who needs an arm of support, a tissue to wipe their tears or a gentle caring hand to comfort... perhaps we need to learn more from the Master.** Thank God for those who have heard the shofar's call (Isaiah 18:3) and dedicate themselves to responding to its summons for mercy. "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*" (Matthew 5:7).

None of us deserve God's incredible patience and long-suffering and in the natural, it is sometimes hard to believe. He has loved us all through many mistakes that have been made in our lifetimes. Precious is the merciful kindness of the Lord, **more valuable than gold**. "*Let Israel now say...let the House of Aaron now say...let them now that fear the Lord say, that His mercy endureth forever*" (Psalm 118:204). Let us all approach Him with deeper gratitude and understanding, while trying to grasp such incredible love coming from the Almighty One, at the place He made for us to approach...**the Mercy Seat**.

**"What does the Lord require?
To love mercy" (Romans 11:22).**



The Dog House



Dora's family photograph before the war

HOW Holocaust Survivors Live!

THERE ARE ABOUT 70,000 Holocaust Survivors living in the Land of Israel. As they age many struggle with deteriorating health issues. The majority live in private apartments and in many cases their spouse is their primary care giver. Other survivors have a care-giver each morning, but are then left alone for many hours, making the days lonely and long without human contact, especially if the neighbors are busy, unfriendly or speak a different language. Those survivors with really challenging health problems are permitted to have a 24/7 live-in home helper who becomes very dear to them if the match is good.

Some survivors have not been outside for years to enjoy the fresh air, because they suffer with mobility problems or live in an apartment building with no elevator! Survivors in poorer apartment buildings can be faced with the problem of a dirty, smelly, insufficiently lit stairwell to navigate whenever they do go out. The adjustments associated with growing older are no different in Israel to anywhere else in the world, except that survivors are flooded with grief and difficult memories which revisit and haunt them when they have time to think. Dora's personal story highlights the weight of memories which she lives with night and day.

Dora was 12 years old when the Germans arrived in 1941. After the first killing raid a ghetto was formed for the surviving Jews, but there was no food and it was hard to get any work in exchange for food. When another killing raid began in the ghetto, Dora's father made her sister and a brother hide in the small space between the ceiling and the roof where he hoped they would be safe. Unfortunately someone saw the rest of the family rushing to hide in the cellar and betrayed them to the Germans.

From above Dora could hear screams from her mother and the baby! She was so afraid and they stayed in that small space for five days! When they finally came down they saw the bodies of their mother and the rest of their family lying on the floor! Dora walked in a daze from village to village. Sometimes she was able to work in exchange for food, but she was never welcome to stay during the night because when she slept she cried and screamed loudly.

One lady however, offered her the dog house to live in, (the dog had already been shot by Germans). It had a small opening at the front, but was big enough for her to sit all day at the back in the darkness without being seen. At night she was able to sneak out and eat what the lady provided in the house. This is how she lived until liberation day in March 1944. Her story has been published, in Russian, in a book of survivor stories entitled "Remember" and her family photograph, taken before the war, was chosen for the front cover. From all those present that day only Dora, an uncle and a cousin survived and Dora lives with that grief daily.

Our team home visits communicate Christian love brings friendship, comfort and encouragement which soften their hearts. **Thank you very much to those who have made this possible.** This door of opportunity will not be open for many more years, but with your sustained support we will continue to see hearts softened before it is too late.

"Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever" Psalm 28:9 (NIV).

By Jenny Milmine, Forsake Them Not Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org

Honor & Principle

Defense of the State, its Citizens and its Residents – *The IDF's goal is to defend the existence of the State of Israel, its independence and the security of the citizens and residents of the state.*

Love of the Homeland and Loyalty to the Country – *At the core of service in the IDF stand the love of the homeland and the commitment and devotion to the State of Israel—a democratic state that serves as a national home for the Jewish People—its citizens and residents.*

Human Dignity – *The IDF and its soldiers are obligated to protect human dignity. Every human being is of value regardless of his or her origin, religion, nationality, gender, status or position.*

Defense, Love, Loyalty and Human Dignity – are character traits that would not typically be linked together as a definition of a military force. However, the Israel Defense Forces are not typical. As a matter of fact, they are quite unique. Security and defense is the goal of the IDF, but at its core of service is the love of the homeland for the Jewish People. This love is the motivating reason these brave warriors report for duty. It's a service that they willingly provide to both the God of Israel and its citizens and residents.

The IDF is a modern day King David's Army protecting the God-given title deed and national home for the Jewish People. We serve a God who commands us to act with compassion and human dignity. *"I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with **life** and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, **choose life**, so that you will live, you and your descendants"* (Deuteronomy 30:19 CJB). The IDF is obligated to perform in a manner which protects the dignity of others, including its enemies. I've seen firsthand the extent to which these soldiers conduct their training in order to adhere to this very important mandate. Why is it so important? Because it's what separates the mission of the IDF from its enemies. **Life is protected at all costs.**

Trained To Withhold Deadly Force

A few months ago, a young IDF soldier in uniform was recovering from sick leave and traveling to his unit near Tel-Aviv. He was asleep on a public bus. He was attacked and killed by a terrorist who simply wanted to kill a Jew. Yes, this was a seemingly never ending excuse for murder. This terrorist was confronted by another IDF soldier, and though he was armed, chose to take the terrorist into custody rather than inflict harm upon him. He did this because the IDF soldier is trained to withhold the use of deadly force unless their life is in immediate danger. The terrorist immediately surrendered.

CFI's Project David's Shield is continually privileged to visit with Commanders and Army units throughout Israel. During a recent visit to a base near Qatzrin, I met with a group of warriors who were training for specific patrols and maneuvers. The training is always changing depending on the most recent threats from the neighbors of Israel. We were delivering fleece jackets, a very much needed item of comfort and pride for the soldiers. During introductions, we were given the privilege of hearing from one particular soldier who shared his story of becoming a Lone Soldier from Ukraine. His story was full of love for Israel and wanting his young wife and newborn to be proud of him. I asked him to give me the one *real* reason he left his former home to join Israel's Army. He said, "Because I'm a Jew!"

Pray for the brave soldiers of the IDF, and to consider supporting the efforts of **Project David's Shield** as we strive to bring comfort and encouragement.

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



Stretching out a friendly hand

"Stay in this land, and I will be with you and bless you, because I will give all these lands to you and to your descendants" (Genesis 26:3 CJB).



Jim receiving on-the-ground military education

God Watches Over Israel



Ray Sanders with a family in need



Unknown heroes helping Paul

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1Corinthians 15:58).

THE POWER OF HIS LOVE is helping others in the Body to know that they do not need to walk through life alone. Through caring hearts of believers around the world, we can personally make life easier for those who have various needs with family, school, rent, hospital bills and health issues. The Bible tells us *“Bear ye one another’s burdens.”* (Galatians 6:1-10). It is our joy to help uphold those members of the Body who have personal problems they are dealing with in their lives.

To God and to you, we say a big thank you on behalf of those who struggle. There is no shortage of requests for help and assistance from believers who are referred to us. Thank you for being our rope holders to help others continue on in their ministry, work place or home. If we study the story of the rope holders for Paul, we realize that the Scriptures do not give us their names but they truly are the heroes who helped save him and his ministry. **Likewise, so many of you around the world are not mentioned by name but God has recorded your righteous deeds and gifts of love and charity into His Work.**

In regard to helping the brethren in Israel we hear of Paul’s devotion to the ministry of the saints. *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him...”* (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Letters of Appreciation

Shalom Dear Workers of CFI:

“We express our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to all workers and sponsors, who were involved in helping us. Thanks to you, your sensitivity and responsiveness, we have food. For our family it is a very important and significant event. Thank you for everything! May God bless you! We wish you success in your blessed work, personal prosperity and good health!” **DV family**

Dear Friends:

“I would like from all of my heart to express my deep gratitude and respect for your care and generous participation in my desperate situation. Thanks to you I can testify about one more miracle which God is doing in my family...It is a great blessing to have people like you in Israel. I am inspired by your example. I would like to help others as well. Thank you very much. May God bless with abundance your fund for your further work. Be blessed with good health and peace.” **VT**

By **Ray Sanders**, Project First Fruits Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org

The Lord God Will Help—Me!

“...therefore, I will not be disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed” (Isaiah 50:7 NKJV).

I WANT TO INTRODUCE you to an amazing young man that I recently met. His name is Avevo. He and his family immigrated to Israel in 2004—and, lived for two years in an absorption center for Ethiopian immigrants. As a little guy growing up in Ethiopia, Avevo had an even greater hurdle to overcome than most children of Jewish heritage—he had epilepsy.

In 2006, Avevo and his family left the absorption center and moved to Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv. In September 2006, Avevo arrived at WIZO Pardes Katz Afterschool Program. This was the very first day that the doors opened to receive Ethiopian children living in the neighborhood near the Center. According to Rachel, Director of the Afterschool Program, Avevo had a “memory problem.” After spending five minutes with him, his tutors would “run away” from him, very frustrated. Likewise, as you might imagine, Avevo’s condition put a strain on the family—going every three months to get medicine to maintain his “equilibrium.” Although the staff—teachers/tutors and volunteers, encouraged Rachel to “give up on him”—she refused, because she saw that Avevo had “ambition.” In addition to his regular school homework, he began teaching himself English, from the Internet. At one point, he asked Rachel if she would buy him a book to read. When she asked Avevo what type of book, he said, a “dictionary.”

HFF Present Laptop to Avevo

Avevo often stays at Rachel’s office until midnight to study on his own. His grades have improved from “0” to above average. Rachel showed me an English exam on which Avevo received an 82.5 test score. Avevo’s social worker was amazed at his score, as well. Now, at age 17, Avevo is planning to attend college in the fall. For that reason, at Rachel’s request, HFF was able to purchase a laptop computer for him.

In January 2014, my friends Jim and Vicki Tjarks, of David’s Harp Ministries, spent two weeks in Israel. Their ministry’s primary mission is “to bring peace to the weary soul and healing to the broken body by surrounding those in need with songs of deliverance, in English and Hebrew.” **Jim—a “harp maker,” musician and psalmist, and Vicki, an anointed music vocalist—were given permission by Rachel to minister God’s love and shalom [peace] to the afterschool children, their parents and staff.**

Touching Lives Through Music

The anointed sound of harp music and Psalms brought heaven down into the Center as the love and presence of the Father touched the hearts of everyone there. Avevo’s tutor that evening was a young man named Gadi, who is currently serving in the military. On Gadi’s days off, from the military, he volunteers (from age 14) as a math and English tutor. **The harp music coupled with readings from Hebrew Scriptures, moved Gadi and some of the others to tears—overwhelmed that Christians loved them enough to do something so special.** The staff and the children became one with the music and danced during one of the more lively songs about Jerusalem. What a special evening appointed by God! That evening was the first time that I met Avevo.

Thank you so much for your loving faithfulness to the Lord and His People, from Ethiopia. It is awe-inspiring to see those who are seemingly at a disadvantage, triumph over adversity. It is evident that Avevo has set his face like flint, assured the he will not be disgraced or ashamed because the Lord God Himself is his helper.

By **Linda Edwards**, Hope for the Future Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org



Rachel and Avevo with his new laptop



Avevo’s tutoring session with Gadi



Ethiopian harp called Begena

*“I will praise You with a harp.
Even your truth, O my
God; to You I will sing praises with
the lyre, O Holy One of Israel”
(Psalm 71:22).*

Why Christians Should Be Friends of Israel

IF ANY FOLLOWER OF JESUS (YESHUA) asks the reasons why we must stand with Israel, we hope you will find this article helpful. First, it is morally right and our duty because everything the Church possesses came from the Nation of Israel. There is nothing essential to our faith that Israel did not give us. It is important that we recognize this and not try to deny it.

A tree, once the roots are deep into the ground cannot transfer the root system to another tree. It remains the support system for the tree; likewise, Christianity's root system goes deep in the soil of Israel and to totally divest and separate from our roots would mean we would have to chop our tree down and destroy its roots to get rid of it. Knowing where we came from helps the Church know where she is going.

"We must remember that Israel, is very special to God. We read in Deuteronomy 7:6-8: **"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."** (S. Michael Houdmann www.gotquestions.com).

Jesus (Yeshua) made a strong point to the woman at the well in Samaria. He said **"Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22)**. It is that simple. Without Israel there is no salvation (as mentioned above). They gave us Jesus, the Bible, the Prophets, Psalmists and Apostles of the New Testament. Without them we would inherit nothing. We owe them a "great debt." (Derek Prince)

Jews are, Biblically speaking, the "Chosen People of God. We read in Genesis 12:2-3, the principle and the promise God gave to mankind: **"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."**

When Jesus (Yeshua) returns to judge the nations (Matthew 24:31-46) He judges them on how they treated His brethren, the Jews, when the opportunity arose. This judgment on His Throne is no small forthcoming event and we Christians had better heed His forewarning of what will happen when He rules and reigns (from Jerusalem) for one thousand years. (Psalm 72:2,3,11; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4-5; 42:1,4; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

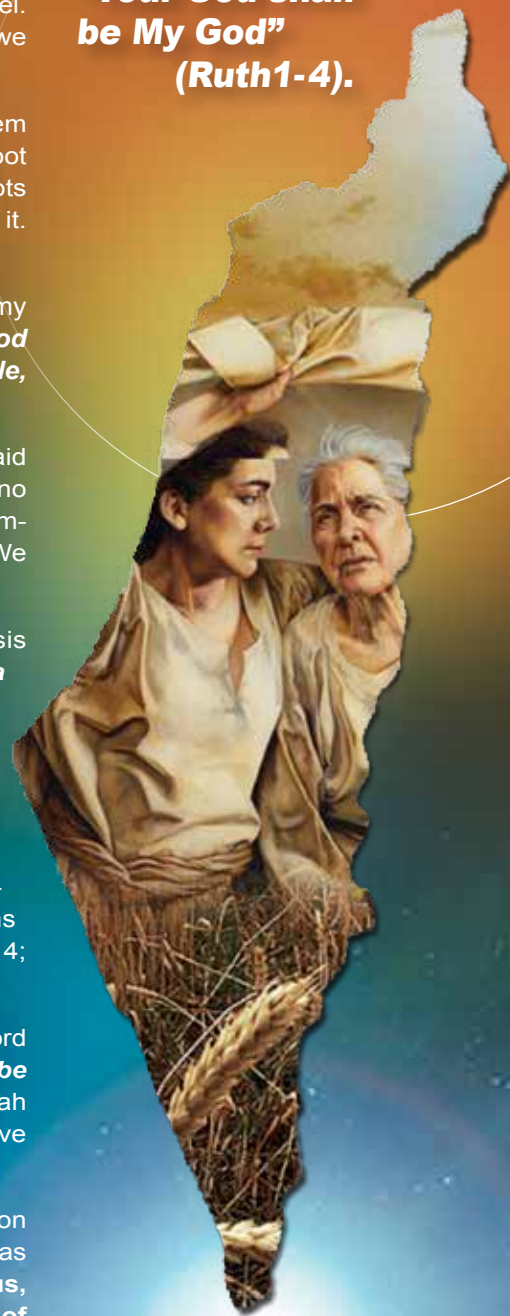
When the sheep and the goats are separated, I want to be on the side of the Lord with the sheep nations, don't you? Revelation 5:5 tells us that the **"Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, prevailed to open the Book."** The Jewish Messiah and Savior of the World is still a Jew, in-the-flesh, when He returns. How could I not love His People and the Nation?

The above are just a few among multitudes of justifications to support the Nation of Israel and the Jewish people and their right to their own God-given borders, just as our nations have their own borders. **Our challenge is for every follower of Jesus, to consider joining Naomi as Ruth did and never turn back. It is in the Spirit of Ruth that we join the nation and people as Ruth so lovingly proclaimed "your God shall be My God" (Ruth 1-4).**

"It is this kind of loyalty that will make one a good disciple (follower) of Jesus. It is a loyalty that will assume any risks, accept whatever losses are called for, and steadfastly follow on" (Matthew 16:24). (Jon W. Quinn, Expository Files).

For a free copy of "Why Christians Should be Friends of Israel" please email: churches@cfijerusalem.org.

"Your God shall be My God" (Ruth 1-4).





CHURCHES *For Israel*



Is Your House of Worship a “Church for Israel?”

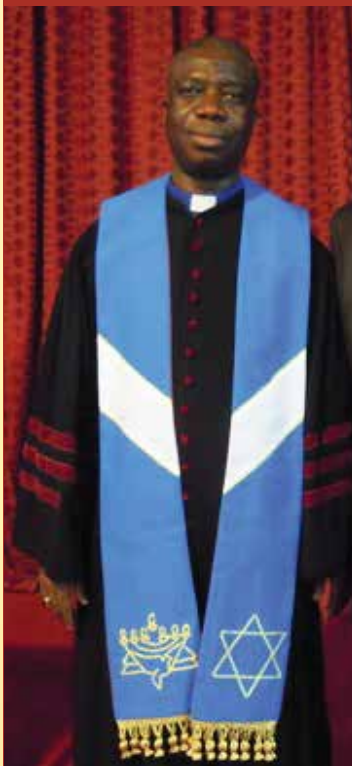
God’s commandment was to bless Israel and no one can reverse it (Numbers 23:20). By flowing with God’s choice of blessing, we can enter into the support of God’s decision and we become eligible to drink from His cup of blessing which was promised in Genesis 12:3. Balaam could not remain neutral, as Balak asked him to do. (Numbers 23:25). He made a decision to bless that which God had blessed (Numbers 24:1). *“He who does not delight in blessing, it will be far from him”* (Psalm 109:17). On the horizon of the future, will come the judgment of the nations in the Kingdom of the rule of the Messiah on earth for two thousand years (see Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27; Acts 10:42; Romans 2:16; 14:10,12; Galatians 6:7; Ephesians 6:8).

In the shadow of the past, the historical Church “looked upon the Jews and shook their heads” – as David foresaw in Psalm 109:25). The church of history marked the Jews instead of blessing them. The God of Israel has an everlasting love and covenant with His Chosen People. Why should the Church not recognize this? If God had broken His Covenant with His People, there could be no assurance that He would keep His Word to us.

We should rejoice that the God of Israel, whom both Israel and the Church worship, is a Divine Promise Keeper. Should it not thrill us to the point of rejoicing that we have opportunities to bring blessing to that which is so dear to His Heart? We are told Israel is the *“apple of His Eye”* (Zechariah 2:8). Every tribe was blessed by Jacob according to God’s commands see (Genesis 49:28) and every Gentile will be blessed as if he or she were blessing the Lord Jesus. (Matthew 25).



Churches for Israel
GIFT PACKET



CFI Congo Bishop and
Representative

Join other
churches from
around the world in
this Ministry of
Reconciliation and
Restoration

The Children of Israel are a chosen people. The late Derek Prince always said **“God never makes a mistake; therefore, the Church should never be a rival for the title **“Chosen People”** but to rejoice with them as commanded in Romans 15:10 that God has chosen a People (whom we have joined), a Land (which Jesus will return to) and a City (from where He will rule and reign). This is great cause for celebration.**

The debt we owe to this nation who gave us all the Church possesses is great. Who would ever want to imagine being a Christian who does not support our roots? As Ruth joined Naomi, will you and your church stand in the **Spirit of Ruth?** Ruth chose to go with Naomi—never to leave her. Her sister-in-law Orpah chose to turn and walk away. **Will you encourage your church to take a stand for Israel?** All who love Israel we encourage you to speak to your pastor so your church can become a “Church for Israel.” For a contribution of \$50 US or more (per month) your church will be registered in Jerusalem as having made a choice to *be like Ruth*.

Your Pastor will be presented with a **Church gift packet** of (1) beautifully designed **Churches for Israel Certificate** (suitable for framing), (2) a **small Israeli flag** (c) a **congregational proclamation**, (3) **CFI online publications** suitable for church prayer groups and individuals (i.e. **prayer, teaching letters, Wall of Prayer assignment for your church, prayer alerts and weekly news from Israel.**) **A picture of your church congregation will appear on our world map in Jerusalem along with others who have chosen to be recognized as standing with Israel.**

Pastors who support for at least one year the ongoing work of CFI in Jerusalem will receive personally a beautiful Pastor’s stole available through CFI Jerusalem. **Email us at: churches@cfijerusalem.org.**

Project Under His Wings

Comforting terror victims

We are the VICTORS!

PROJECT UHW was established during the peak of the Second Intifada to reach out to terror victims. Witnessing the daily struggles of terror victims is an intense or even overwhelming experience; however, nothing can compare to the joy of seeing them make progress. May you be encouraged by reading one of the stories of the progress of the terror victims with whom Project UHW plays a crucial role.



Rafi and Eran's child

"The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; ... and not surrender him to the desire of his foes" (Psalm 41:2).

Eran and Avi Mizrachi are twins who are now in their late 20s. In our recent visit to them we were greatly moved by the attitude they have toward what was intended for evil, namely, the terror attack. As twins normally do things together, they were also injured in two terror attacks together. The first suicide bombing happened on their way to school on the bus. Furthermore, one of them was nearly killed in the second attack.

Nearly Killed at Second Attack

Eran and Avi were celebrating their 16th birthday on Ben Yehuda street (a popular youth hang-out place) with a group of their friends on December 1, 2001, when a suicide bomber detonated his bomb that evening. Eran's skull was cracked open by the bomb, and he was left for dead among the other dead bodies lined up ready to be put into body bags and sent to the mortuary. A volunteer paramedic raced to the scene immediately upon hearing the blast, and saw Eran's charred black body among the dead and for some reason exclaimed, "HE IS NOT DEAD!" and instantly she dropped to her knees and began artificial respiration procedures, slowly but surely bringing him back to life, until the other paramedics, were convinced it was true.



Avi and his father Rafi

Eran's identity could not be ascertained for some time, because all his credentials were demolished and he was so disfigured he was unrecognizable. It took his parents twenty-four hours of frantic searching to actually identify him in a hospital. Later it was discovered that the volunteer paramedic who "brought him back to life" was a friend of his, although she didn't recognize him either.

Avi recalled what happened. As they were preparing to leave, suddenly he heard a loud explosion and he found himself thrown to the ground. He heard screams and saw bloodied bodies strewn everywhere. He caught sight of his brother's girlfriend and jumped to help her, carrying her body to the ambulance that just arrived on the scene. Then he collapsed. He didn't learn until later when he was in the hospital that his own body had been sprayed all over with shrapnel and his left ankle and foot were badly damaged.

Ongoing Treatment Needed

Eran and Avi still need ongoing surgery and treatment for trauma even 12 years after the attack; and Eran lost most of his memory and had to be re-taught everything, as much of his brain was damaged. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Truly God is faithful. He not only has been restoring Eran and Avi, but also has established family for both of them. Eran is married and has two small children, and Avi was married last year.

Despite the severe injuries, pain, trauma, heartache, tears and hardship the terror attack brought to this family, Avi said they win, because the enemies died but they live on! We were deeply moved by their attitude—VICTOR instead of victim mentality in the face of terrorism! They reminded me of Psalm 118:17 *"I will not die, but live, and tell of the works of the LORD."* The family gratefully recounted the warm memories of the love, visit and practical help they received from CFI volunteers while their sons were in the hospital. This was during the most difficult time after the terror attack happened, and they said it meant so much to them.

Thank you so much for supporting this important Project so UHW teams can continue reaching out to victims of terror attack. Bless you from Jerusalem.

By Maggie Huang, Under His Wings Coordinator

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" ~Jeremiah 29:11



CFI staff making home visits



Love never fails



Wrapped in Christian love



I'm glad you are here

RELIVING THEIR *Stories*



Yuri, War Veteran leader with Sharon



We really are not forgotten!



Thank you for visiting us!

WE LEARN from the words of Job, people in grief and trauma do not always need words. Sometimes they just need someone to sit with them, to put an arm around them, to listen while they share their stories and to give a hug when we begin to see tears. *Listening is the most loving and Messiah-like thing we can do.*

Many elderly in Israel are traumatized from rockets having hit their homes, from bombings on buses, terror attacks in which they or their families were involved as victims, and especially memories from the past. The scars of many have not been totally healed and now left alone in old age the past comes up again. Many suffer from ailments brought on from periods of war and other difficult times of their lives. Just being there for them is enough... the fact that we have come!

The help given by our supporters and received on their behalf, bring untold joy to their hearts to think that there are Christians in the nations who love them, and want to help them even when they have never met them. "We are here to live for Him—for Him and for the elderly. When people you care for look up at you, they want to see His Face. When you look down at them, you have to look through His Eyes. The elderly are especially at risk. They are on their own, often alone without a spouse, with no one to speak for them and no one to stand up and express to the world their loneliness and... that they are still valuable. **(Mary Bernard)**

EYES ASK FOR HELP

The warmth of his smile and the humble attitude with which he came, won my heart immediately. He had risen early from his small living quarters to catch a bus and walk to see me at CFI. Yuri greeted me in the traditional Russian language and then proceeded to tell me that he had been selected to organize and head up the elderly War Veterans Association in Jerusalem because our former head, Wolff, could no longer make it out of his home. This saddened my heart as I have known Wolff for many years now and his gracious spirit and warm heart always made us feel we were among family when we got together for events at the ministry. **I had seen tears in Wolff's eyes before and now I would see them in Yuri's...as he asked "might we be able to help them?"**

Their desire was only to honor some of their friends who had turned 90 or 100. We said "of course" and proceeded to plan an excursion to take them in the spring on a trip around Jerusalem to see their beloved City. We have an entirely new list of war veterans now to make home visits too...**Please pray for Streams of Blessing as we continue to peer into the eyes** of those who are trying to tell us their story.

Streams of Blessing aims to help those who come to us to feel important, and that all are precious and valuable. **Thank you so much to everyone who helps us be there for them.**

By Sharon Sanders, Streams of Blessing Coordinator

"As it is written, he hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever" -2 Corinthians 9:9



LORD TAKE THE LEAD!

“God will instruct me and teach me in the way I should go. He will guide me with His eye” (Psalm 32:8).

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL had been waiting for the Lord to give Joshua instructions that they might take the Walls of Jericho. During their waiting time they were instructed to prepare themselves spiritually to be used by God - for a much higher purpose.

It was morning and the Lord finally released Joshua to continue moving the Israelites toward Jericho. The people were to watch for the Ark of the Covenant and once in sight they were to begin moving in its direction, but keeping a specific distance between them and the ark. Once the Ark was on the move the Israelites fell into a military like positioning as directed. As they moved toward Jericho the Lord spoke to Joshua again. He relayed the Lord’s instructions explaining how the Israelites would know that the living God of Israel was among them. He told them that the Ark would continue to lead their way but, again, during a time of waiting they were to choose twelve men—one from each tribe—that would now follow directly after the Ark in the procession. He continued to explain that as soon as the priests who were carrying the Ark of the LORD step into the waters of the Jordan the LORD would be stepping foot into the Jordan River as well, preparing the way for them.

Crossing the Jordan was the only way for the Israelites to get to Jericho but considering the time of the year, harvest time, the river was well over its banks. They needed no less than a miracle at this point, because somehow the Whole Nation of Israel needed to cross this great divide in order to reach the other side.

The Ark was again on the move; so the Israelites broke camp and prepared to follow just as God had instructed. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant followed by a representative from each of the twelve tribes, and then the others. As soon as the priests and the Ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the edge of the water the flow of water from upstream ceased. It stood at attention a far in the distance and the water flowing down toward the

Dead Sea stopped its flow as well. The priests and the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood in the middle of the Jordan “on dry ground” while THE WHOLE NATION OF ISRAEL passed by.

The Church can learn much from this story. I believe that this truly is a picture of how, through Israel’s obedience, they were able to not only cross a RIVER, on DRY land, but also fulfill God’s purpose for them in conquering the Walls of Jericho.

God HAS already prepared the way for Israel and the Church (each of us) to enter into His Will. If we, the Body of Christ, can learn how to listen for His instructions and wait for His timing, and then during the waiting period learn how to prepare ourselves to be used to fulfill our God-given purpose, we will reach the Jordan of our lives and cross over. We must be careful not to move ahead of God but to be on alert and ready to move. God knew that the Jewish people stood before him as a “Holy Nation”; otherwise His purpose and plan could not have been fulfilled through them—at which time He could have chosen a more righteous group.

“The Church is a Body of people, not a building. Israel is a Chosen people of God not just a state. CFI is a chosen channel of blessing for the nations to send their love and support to Israel not just an organization. Lord, bind us all together and teach us to submit our wills to you. Teach us to hear your voice, to be patient for your leading and during our time of waiting to seek your face so that we can be used to fulfill your plans and purposes.” Amen!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

By **Stacey Howard**,
Director of Administration/CFI—Jerusalem
North American Development Division



CFI UPDATE...

PROGRESS REPORT! Our God given partners from Taiwan are progressing forward in purchasing a once-in-a-lifetime parcel of real estate in the heart of Jerusalem. This spot in the heart of Jerusalem will house a permanent home for Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem.

During the summer months CFI staff in Jerusalem will be working in a transition-mode at various work stations in different places. By the end of the summer we hope to be moved into a permanent home for CFI in Jerusalem.

The progress to acquire this special property is progressing on schedule **because of the prayers from around the world.** Registration, legal documents and forming an educational legally registered organization in Jerusalem is also progressing very quickly.

Please direct your prayers at this time for the God given (and chosen) vessels who will form a Godly partnership for property acquisition in the City of the Great King. Our partner desires only God called and chosen vessels. Pray for "David" in Taiwan. God knows the desires of his heart. Continue directing your prayers to God for the upcoming home for CFI and proclaim with us **GOD IS ABLE** to do this miracle! Gifts for the upcoming move may be designated **"Building Fund."**

**Your prayers
are making
the difference!**



S.O.S.

**Send or Share the Word
from Jerusalem**

Help Us To Distribute Free Online CFI Publications to the Christian World

- Israel News Digest (weekly)
- OnWatch Teaching Bulletin (monthly)
- Watchman's Prayer Letter (monthly)
- Wall of Prayer Assignment (bi-monthly)
- Prayer Alert News Flashes (emergencies)

Start Sharing Today!

Upon receiving our publications feel free to forward CFI Newsletters, Bulletins and Prayer Letters to your Friends

You may also send the names of Friends who wish to receive to listadmin@cfijerusalem.org

"Plant a Tree"

**In the CFI Portion of the
Jerusalem Forest**

When a loved one passes, a tree goes on living.

When a baby is born, a tree brings forth new blossoms.

When a birthday is remembered, a tree adds another year to its life.

Plant your tree in memory of your special occasion!

Contact: Please email pat@cfijerusalem.org



Turning Points in Life

THERE ARE MANY TURNS in the pathway of life. One of the major turning points in many lives here in Israel is when people make *aliyah* from around the world. They make sacrifices when they come to Israel. **Often they can only bring a suitcase** each, which is not much. When you are shifting countries and you have to leave most of your possessions behind it is not easy. When people suffer marital problems or ill health these are also difficult turning points.

At times like these it is good to have support from others who really care. Christian Friends of Israel has been created to be a support during times of stress and change. Project Open Gates is one of the projects where we make contact with needy families and provide financial assistance where we can. We welcome those who are making *aliyah* to Israel and provide them with clothing and a gift bag with basic household items to assist them and financial assistance.

“...then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations...” (Deuteronomy 30:3).

“The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: He gathereth together the outcasts of Israel” (Psalm 147:2).

Bringing joy through Christian love



Reading about Christian Friends of Israel

The Poor Struggle

It is a very difficult pathway that the poorer families walk with many challenges and demands. The typical family that applies for Financial Assistance has the following features: They have been divorced. They are under a great amount of emotional stress from financial, work and family pressures. They lack support from others. Often they are isolated from family members or the family members who would like to help are in the same situation. Mentally they just about give up trying to work out a solution because it is too overwhelming.

Their physical health is suffering because of the lack of good food and medical and dental support. Unpaid debts just snowball into large amounts and they just give up. They struggle with the Social welfare system to get adequate assistance. Price increases, low wages and insufficient government support make life extremely challenging.

“One man who visited us lives with his disabled wife who is not able to leave the apartment. He is an **85-year-old man**. Their power bill is high because they have used the heaters a lot over the winter time. He would like help to purchase a new TV, a clock for the wall, and maybe some food vouchers.”

“We interviewed another 53-year-old lady who is divorced. She has an older daughter who is married and a son who lives with her who is severely mentally disabled. Her elderly father, who is **96 years old**, also lives with her. Her largest concern is about her apartment, which her father purchased, but is now needing a lot of maintenance. The rain water comes through the ceiling.”



Your support helped these Jewish people realize they do not stand alone

Warning Signs: Having to Live in Readiness

ANTI-SEMITISM IS ON THE RISE AGAIN! Because of unstable conditions in the Ukraine, Ukrainian Jewish communities are being told to live in a state of readiness to leave. Not only in the Ukraine but also in Rome, recent offenses against Jewish people raised fear and concern throughout Italy. In America concern is also rising, as Tom, who made *aliyah* to Israel, recently reported his friend being attacked in Florida and badly beaten. He decided to leave now before it is too late. A recent survey reports the Israeli population surpassed eight million people. The population grew by 147,000 in 2013. This figure includes 19,200 immigrants from around the world. Jewish immigrants from France soared by 63%. The oldest person to immigrate was a 103-year-old man from the USA and the youngest was only five weeks old.

From Our Guest Book

"Many thanks from the family of newcomers from Siberia. We are pensioners. Your help is very important to us. We wish you much success in your good and special work."

*"It is good that there are **Christian** people who take care of Jewish people. Many thanks for your help. Your help is very useful for old people in our country. May God bless you and your organization in the future. Be healthy. Much happiness and joy to you and your families."*

*"We thank your organization for such good attention and help in **the first days** and months of our being in Israel."*

Sometimes people feel trapped by their circumstances. At times like this we need to stand with them and provide assistance. Thank you very much for your support in prayer and finance. **We love to see people leaving the Light-house Distribution Center bearing gifts with joy and gratitude in their hearts to the followers of Jesus.**

By Gordon Milmine, Open Gates Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org

Rivka's Wedding Day!

"...I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land ..." (Ezekiel 37:21-22 ESV)

What an wonderful experience it was to hear the CFI-Bridal Salon filled with praise in Amharic when this beautiful bride came with her mother and her friend to choose her special wedding dress! They had prayed that they would find the right dress quickly. It took only three tries to find the perfect dress and it fit like a glove! The melodious Amharic chants filled the atmosphere with joy and peace.

Rivka and her family are part of the Jewish Ethiopian community in Israel. Although she is fluent in Hebrew as well, her mother tongue is Amharic—the language of her heart, the language to worship and praise God for His faithfulness, to give Him thanks for finding her soul mate! What better reason to sing to the Lord?

As CFI Bridal Coordinator, I had the privilege of being invited to the wedding. Aaron, the bridegroom, is Jewish from France. God is bringing His People from the four corners of the earth and making them ONE. Love seems to be the perfect way for this to happen.

On Rivka and Aaron's behalf I want to thank each of you for your generosity and willing heart to bless Israel and the Jewish People through your support of CFI's ministry, and especially the Bridal Salon. Long life and happiness to this new Israeli family!

If you would like to donate your bridal gown (from 1-3 years old) for a Jewish bride on loan from the CFI Jerusalem Bridal Salon, email: patty@cfijerusalem.org

By Patricia Cuervo, Bridal Salon Coordinator

*"Behold, thou art fair, my love: behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes."
(Song of Solomon 1:15)*



CFI's invitations to weddings bond us together

CFI SHIPMENTS from the Nations



VOLUNTEERS joyfully sorted and packed large boxes full of men's, women's and children's garments to be given to Jewish newcomers who recently immigrated to Israel. Contagious excitement was in the air as everyone could imagine what marvelous blessings the beautiful garments would be to the Jewish people who arrive in Israel with little in the way of material possessions! CFI's Collection Center packed 1,450 boxes of high quality clothing in the last shipment with so much love and compassion!

CFI's Distribution Center (D.C.) for new immigrants, located near the Central Bus station in Jerusalem, provides household items, bedding and bath items, clothing for all ages and financial help to the newcomers upon arrival at our the D.C. Meaningful discussions on how new immigrants are fulfilling God's promises in the Scriptures, along with a gift of the Jewish Scriptures, were presented to over 4,413 people last year alone.

Our gifts serve to build bridges and tear down walls between the **Jewish and Christian communities** in a very important way. H.E.L.P. International (His Everlasting Love Prevails) is a non-profit outreach founded in

To send parcels to H.E.L.P. International Warehouse (CFI Jerusalem's American based Collection Center) you may send to: 629 14th Street, SW, Loveland, Colorado, USA

2000 to provide disaster relief and humanitarian aid locally and internationally. Excited **Colorado Christians** just recently gathered together at H.E.L.P. International to pack boxes for the next shipment to Israel this summer. They worked, together with God, for His purposes of gathering the Jewish people (who are no longer only Dry Bones in the Valley of Ezekiel) but are a great army of restored people who have become a living and thriving nation in their homeland. **You can join with others to play an important part in this Ingathering.**

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Co-Laborers Working for God!



Workers for the Lord in Jerusalem

CFI staff and volunteers are co-laborers with God's Will and purposes for blessing Israel and changing history in Jewish-Christian relations. Many are professionals in their field and all look forward to the Coming of the Lord to Jerusalem. The essential characteristics of a God called person to CFI Jerusalem is a servant's heart, right motivations and a willingness to learn. All have sacrificed to come and work in Israel and for all who come with righteous attitudes and characters **God rejoices in their service.**

Some find CFI a launching pad to the next step in life but others find a long term calling from God. Those who serve with pure hearts reap **"things that are beyond our seeing"**... rewards beyond what can be imagined according to God's Word for those who sold out to Him. Write to us if you are sensing "the call."

At this time we are searching for a:

- **Tour & Conference Coordinator** • **Chinese Translator**

We welcome **short term** and **"hands on" service** from one week or up to 3 months.

Why not apply to spend your summer holidays with us!

Contact us at: personnel@cfijerusalem.org or go to our website and click on "Volunteer" for further details.

CFI REPRESENTATIVES are active in solidarity, education, literature distribution, CFI awareness meetings, diplomatic relationships, and active support of the work established in Jerusalem—especially in being pillars in CFI Jerusalem’s outreaches and programs to the Jewish people. Thank you for contacting your local Representative about how YOU can be a greater blessing to Israel. **Visit our worldwide web for your country contact.**



Ordination of Hannele Pardain, Chanukah 5774

News From CFI–USA

CFI long time Affiliate, **Hannele Pardain**, was recently ordained in the Antioch International Church of Charlotte, North Carolina. Derek Prince’s grandson and the Senior Pastor of Antioch International Church, Dr. Peter D. Wyns, conferred the ordination. Derek was an important foundational advisor to CFI Jerusalem and very involved with us in our beginnings. Prophetic words at her ordination spoke about the mantle and dual calling of Deborah and Ruth was upon Hannele’s life.

The timing of the ordination was seen as a prophetic event, because it was held during Chanukah. The event girded her with prayer for an expanding ministry concerning Israel. CFI Jerusalem wishes to extend our thankful hearts for the ongoing service and undergirding support given to CFI Jerusalem for our ongoing work in Israel today. “Well Done” Hannele! For more information contact: cfi-usa@cfi-usa.org



CFI–USA



Pastor Milton Macarena

CFI Honduras Representative Receives Mantle

Honduras, very rich culturally, following a visit by CFI’s International Spanish Representative, Mrs. Ruth Carlson, has embraced a deeper heart knowledge of their Lord and Savior through the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith teaching anchored by Ray and Sharon Sanders.

Many Pastors present repented before God for the damage the Christian church has done to our Jewish brothers. Many invitations await CFI in Spanish speaking countries. Contact **Mrs. Ruth Carlson**, telephone: 360-895-3187 in the USA and Pastor Milton Macarena in Honduras at: miltonmascareo@yahoo.es



CFI–Honduras



Conference on Israel in Honduras



Attending CFI conference in Cuba

Cuba Steps Up To Be Counted

Pastor Ricardodiaz Cardenas, comes from Havana, Cuba, and is an overseer of 20 Pastors. CFI International Latin American Representative Mrs. Ruth Carlson and her husband recently returned from a CFI conference in Cuba where the glory of God was felt very strongly. Pastor Ricardodiaz Cardenas, also a church planter, spoke to many participants. Cuba has now put her name on the map of Christians who love and support Israel through CFI.

As the CFI ministry was presented, participants tears welled up in many eyes. Many hearts were touched and many now wish to be taught about Israel including Pastors who were never taught in Seminary. Mrs. Carlson stated “We can say that all Pastors at this conference recognized what Christianity did to our Jewish brothers.” Attendees were repentant with all their hearts. Contact Ruth Carlson at: cfimundohispano@hotmail.com or **Pastor Cardenas** at: raul.stevens@infomed.sld.cu



CFI-Cuba

New Zealand Passes CFI Baton

Dennis and Penny McLeod joined CFI in 1994 when Dennis became the Manager of the Distribution Center, working with new immigrants. At the close of their work in Jerusalem they returned home to New Zealand and took up the position of Christian Friends of Israel Representatives. “Well Done” are our expressions of gratitude to our 20-year-veterans. The work for CFI they have begun is well established and the work is carrying on.

Stephen Woolerton has been appointed as our New Zealand Representative. His career has been in IT providing computing services for schools and businesses. He is also engaged in studying Biblical Hebrew and is an avid student of the Bible in its original language for the insights and greater depth of understanding it brings. Contact **Stephen Woolerton** at: cfi@ihug.co.nz



CFI-New Zealand



Penny and Dennis McLeod



Stephen Woolerton

New Singapore Representative

Reverend Timothy Chow Rector St. Andrews Cathedral in Singapore has been an ordained minister for over 18 years and has been in full-time ministry for over 32 years. He has been very much involved in church planting and pastoring local churches. He has a deep commitment to seeing the Body of Christ grow in maturity through disciplining and missions involvement. He is a great lover of Israel and is married to Joyce, his wife of 26 years. They have two grown children. Welcome to Reverend Timothy Chow! He is joined with a great team in Singapore who assist in a variety of ways to further the work of CFI in Singapore. Contact: timchow@livingstreams.org.sg



Rev. Timothy Chow



CFI-Singapore

CFI STATEMENT — Defining Ourselves

“We believe that **Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world**; however, our stand alongside Israel is not contingent upon this belief.” We will love *unconditionally*. However if there is an absence of a defined Christology it can lead well meaning followers of Jesus who love Israel into lower expressions of Christ’s identity. Never follow a movement where Christ is no more than a mere rabbi, teacher or prophet. Without a doubt, **CFI believes Jesus is the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world as stated**. What is important is that Christians learn from history—how to approach the Jewish people after a tragic and shameful history of representing Christ in the wrong way. May we learn from our historical mistakes and never repeat them again.

FOCALPOINT

CFI IS Reaching Around The Globe

–Where Israel IS the Point of Focus

FocalPoint continues to be a strong voice to the world with its positive, relevant, and biblically balanced programming that counters much of the negative information being spread about the nation of Israel these days.

FocalPoint also continues to educate the church on the true roots of the Christian faith, while shining fresh light on the new and repaired relationships between the Christian and Jewish communities.

We want to thank each of our partners in ministry for their continued support of this vital and far-reaching program, and encourage each of you to help us add to that family of support by sharing your knowledge of this program with all of your friends and family.

Thank you very much for your positive feedback, your prayers, your financial support and for continuing to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

May God abundantly bless you as you help us continue His work in Israel.

Website

www.cfijerusalem.org
click the FocalPoint Logo

YouTube

FocalPointTV2013

Facebook

Christian Friends of Israel–Jerusalem

USA Contact

1-856-537-8812

Email

 info@focalpointtv.com



Stacey Howard
interviewing
Victor Kalisher
(Bible Society
in Jerusalem)

CFI Representative Nearest You

FocalPoint