

For Zion's Sake

Second Quarter 2015 Jewish Year 5775

30 Years of Service The Master's Ministry

*"Not unto us, O Lord...but unto
thy name give glory..." –Psalm 115:1*



Christian Friends of Israel

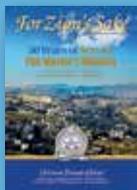
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For Zion's Sake

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Letter From Jerusalem

Ray Sanders

“Keep not thou silence, O God; hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel shall be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent; they are confederate against thee” Psalm 83:1-5.

The greatest threat to peace and security for Israel, the Middle East, Europe and the West is the nation of Iran possessing nuclear arms. To accomplish their long sought after goal the Iranian government practiced diplomatic duplicity. Saying one thing at the negotiating table while doing the exact opposite was not something of which to be ashamed, but rather a source of national pride. For that reason, former Iranian officials from across Tehran's foreign policy establishment openly spoke about it. With all the ongoing attention on Iran's nuclear ambitions, I would like to give some insight and background from a book by Dore Gold entitled, *The Rise of Nuclear Iran*.

The excerpts below provide valuable insight into the mindset of the Iranian government as they negotiate with the West regarding their goal of developing nuclear energy. It is important to remember the overall position of deception and deceit that dominates all engagement and discussions. Behind the smile and warm handshake is a sinister goal of eventually possessing nuclear weapons. It is imperative to always remember that Iran remains the number one exporter of terror in the world today and its influence is growing. Failure to effectively confront this menace would be to the detriment of all freedom-loving people.

“The repeated failures of the United States and its western allies to productively engage with Iran has been a remarkably consistent feature of their collective diplomacy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In that sense, the disappointing results of Europe's nuclear diplomacy with Iran from 2003 through 2006 should not have come as a surprise. **Iran never wanted to negotiate.** Far from desiring to reach a *modus vivendi* with its neighbors, the Iranian leadership has actively sought to export its Islamic Revolution with the aim of bringing ever larger parts of the Middle East under its hegemony. There was no way that a regime with such ambitions was going to concede the development of nuclear weapons that were so integral to the achievement of its goals...

“The dynamic of western officials misreading Iran and Iranian officials manipulating them is the heart of Tehran's success in repeatedly defying the United States and its allies. To understand how this happened, it is necessary to look back not only on the diplomatic assumptions prevailing in Washington or London, but also to delve into the tech-

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niques of persuasion adopted by the Iranians as well. There were four factors that worked to the benefit of the Iranians in their repeated diplomatic encounters with the West since 1979, that to this day will influence the outcome of any attempted engagement with Iran...

“The second reason Iran has been able to confound the West during each encounter revolves around different understandings of the diplomatic dance. Iranian negotiating strategy has been based on a long historical tradition that plays by very different rules than western diplomacy. As in a game of chess, Iranian tactics took into account not just the next move in a diplomatic struggle, but also several moves ahead...

Shiite Doctrine

“These tactics have been most prevalent in the Iranian clerical leadership’s use of the Shiite doctrine of *tagiya*, which historically allowed Shiite Muslims to deceive their Sunni adversaries in order to survive in a mostly Sunni Muslim world. The word *tagiya* is a derivative of the Arabic root word *waga*, which means to shield or to guard. It clearly evolved as a tactic for protecting the Shiite community from external dangers...

“The real dangers a nuclear Iran would pose are still not fully appreciated. Many assume that even if Iran crosses the nuclear threshold, its power could be deterred. Iran has successfully challenged the West by constructing a clandestine nuclear program from the late 1980s until 2002 and continuing to significantly advance its nuclear weapons program after it was revealed. Iran has expertly used diplomatic obfuscation to hide its real hostile intent and was able to draw Europe and eventually the United States into years of fruitless negotiations, which it knew how to brilliantly exploit.” The spread of radical Islam throughout the Middle East and South Asia by Iran is of major concern,

especially if Iran becomes nuclear. Such an outcome would result in a nuclear arms race that would have enormous repercussions for the region and beyond. Presently Iran has either direct or indirect influence in the following nations: Turkey, Lebanon, West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also beyond these nations, Iran is busy spreading its influence in South America and North Africa.

Iran’s Deception

Iran will continue to use deceit and deception to obtain her goal of being a possessor of nuclear weapons from which she can hold nations hostage to her demands. Meanwhile, it is important to remember what Sir Denis Wright, Britain’s ambassador to Iran in the 1970’s, once remarked: “The Iranians are a people who say the opposite of what they think and do the opposite of what they say.” All those involved in the current negotiations with Iran would do well to keep this perspective uppermost in their minds. The greatest weapon available to Christians is prayer, exposing the darkness and deception that surrounds negotiations with the Iranian government.

“Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter...For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion”
Isaiah 34:1,2,8.

From Zion,

**Ray Sanders Co-Founder / Director
Christian Friends of Israel, Jerusalem**

Important Announcement

“Transitions are never easy, but the vision of original founders becomes more obtainable when you know well the people who are transitioning into your positions. Sharon and I are very pleased to announce our new CFI Jerusalem Executive leadership whom we fully endorse. Stacey Howard, our beloved daughter, very gifted in administration, finance and organizational operations is filling my position as Executive Director/International Director. Stacey is an ordained minister with a tremendously tender heart for Israel and those individuals that are so profoundly touched by the ministry work we do here in Jerusalem.

I am now retiring, but the fond memories of the last thirty years will always remain close to my heart. As a couple who have worked closely as a team, Sharon and I pray and hope that all of our partners-in-ministry worldwide will receive Stacey and her husband Kevin at this time of transition as they concentrate on how to reach newer generations while serving the worldwide Body of Messiah and those who have been and remain, the pillars of CFI. As the first thirty-year chapter of CFI comes to a close, may the next thirty years bring expansion and growth, the bearing of more fruit (John 15:16) and the continuance of “changing history” for the sake of the One we follow and love: Yeshua.”

Ray Sanders, Co-Founder / Director / Christian Friends of Israel—Jerusalem



30 Years of Service The Master's Ministry

Elie Wiesel once wrote, "God loves stories." Come with us and pull back the curtain of CFI's history, glimpse the present and actively blaze a trail with us that surpasses the God-given tasks we have already fulfilled. A clarion call is, indeed, sounding to the next generation to moreover have the courage to fight for the Jewish people's right to their Land and own secure borders and to work to repair the damage done to them in the Name of the Cross for 20 centuries. CFI has received the blessing of God to maintain its world headquarters in Jerusalem and we continue in the passionate love and understanding for God's Chosen People: Israel. But earning trust takes time.

Our Beginnings

Everyone who has ever passed through the doors of CFI is part of its chronicles. God's Hand was felt strongly upon us from the beginning and the journey embarked upon could not have been accomplished without our founding members. In our first gathering together, Christian leaders came from France, the USA, and UK, plus some from Israel. Colonel Orde Dobbie, (the cousin of the well-known Christian Zionist Orde Wingate) was one of the key figures involved. Wingate was known to the Israeli Haganah as "Hayedid" (the friend).

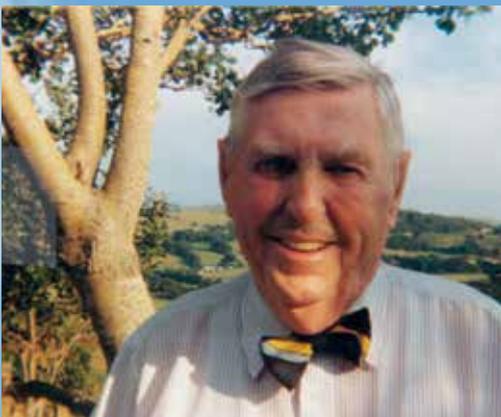
The advice of Lance Lambert, Dr. Derek Prince, Dr. David Bivin, Rev. Alfred Sawyer (then Rector of Christ Church-Jerusalem), Colonel and Mrs. Orde Dobbie, David Pileggi (present Rector of Christ Church) and Ray and Sharon Sanders completed the founding group. All were tremendously valuable in fine tuning our Principles, Aims and Objectives. We chose "A friend loveth at all times" (Proverbs 17:17) as our foundation Scripture for the ministry because we desired to build in the "spirit of Ruth" (Ruth 1:16).



(Left to Right) Ray Sanders, USA Derek White, UK
Barry Perez, USA Francois Celier, France

The purpose of Christian Friends of Israel is to focus our efforts on Christian reconciliation and friendship toward the Jewish people. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior of the world; however, our stand alongside Israel is unconditional. We educate the Church in the nations on its Jewish roots, work toward repairing the damage of Christian anti-Semitism by concentrating on being a blessing to them through our outreaches in Israel.

“Not unto us, O Lord...but unto thy name give glory...” –Psalm 115:1



Orde Dobbie, cousin of Orde Wingate

Our “motto” was “To Teach the Church and to Bless Israel.” A Jerusalem Board of Counsel was appointed and has been maintained since our inception. Among us was a Research Chemist, an ancestor of the original families of Pilgrims on the Mayflower and a former delegate of the President of the United States People-To-People Program. The vision continues to be Christian Friends of Israel in the proper sense—true friends who stand by their friends through thick and thin whatever happens. This is increasingly a challenge in today’s world and our task is not easier, but nevertheless, we have received God’s Call, and believe that Israel is God’s key to final world redemption. We want to see her come into her full destiny and also see the Church come to final maturity.

In giving thanks for the past we seek your prayers for the future that we may be kept by the guidance of God and be a channel of God’s loving grace toward the Jewish people. All of us had one fervent passion: a great love and respect for the Jewish people. The gravity of the hour was to enter the arena of pioneers, spearheading Spirit-led prophetic ministries for Zion. Together, we have raised the flag of Christian friendship in a golden era where our vision quickly caught everyone’s attention. Yearly CFI Shavuot conferences were held in Jerusalem and 2015 marks our 29th conference. The number of our International Representatives and offices has grown with 17 fulltime offices and approximately 12 start-up offices being formed.



Latrun, the place of our beginnings



Ray and Sharon Sanders. CFI’s first office, Anglican School



We ministered to the ones who made it home



Holocaust survivors

“The heart of CFI became the unconditional Love of God.”



Sharon with Holocaust survivors

Our journey began in mid-December 1985, at Latrun. It is the site of the Jesus Brothers Christian retreat center and site of an old Trappist monastery and Crusader Fortress located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on a strategic hilltop in the Ayalon Valley. That year, Israeli troops had just completed a phased withdrawal from Lebanon which created a new nine-mile-wide security zone in Southern Lebanon.

In the early days of building CFI in Israel, Ray and I travelled via Israeli Army escort, across the northern border (at Metulla) to Marjayoun, southern Lebanon, to assist a Christian dental clinic run by Beverly Timgren. Arrival and return was via a dirt road in an Israeli army jeep. Once back in Israel, we learned that Hizbullah had, that afternoon, planted a bomb on the very road we had travelled and ambushed Israeli soldiers. Such was the beginning of realizing that we would put our lives on the line a number of times living in Israel. By God’s Grace, we also survived a terrorist attack bombing in Tel Aviv and dodged metal bolts near Bethlehem thrown at our car by Palestinian youths using slingshots. We eventually learned how to cope with two Gulf Wars, Intifadas and the recent Gaza Conflict (where we stood behind the frontlines with Israel’s brave soldiers). It was a colossal assignment given by God.

The Starting Point of Our Journey

The Holocaust had only been 40 years earlier and the perplexed faces we were looking at were the last living witnesses of WWII. This unimaginable era of war and devastation had taken a huge toll on them and their families. Hardly a family in Israel had not been affected and they were still reeling from the shock that their “neighbors” (in “Christian” Europe) had failed them in their time of calamity. Therefore, the foundational Scripture of Proverbs 17:17 remains the platform on which we stand to proclaim our message: You shall never again be alone! “Why are you here?” they asked us. “What do you want? You did not want us in Europe, so why did you follow us here?” Then one day a Jewish man said, “You are 2000 years late, but thank God you’re here!” While we highly respected the Great Commission to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we also came to the stark realization that we faced a mammoth obstacle on the road of truth: Christian anti-Semitism. Healing and reconciliation was and is desperately needed in order for the Holy Spirit to do His Work.

Love Drives out Darkness

The hard historical facts stared us right in the face every day among the Jews. It was true, Christianity had persecuted the Jewish people with the longest hatred on record and we had to live with that history. Trust fell short and rightly so – could they trust us? Too many who called themselves Christians perpetrated savage attacks upon Jewish people. Martin Luther King once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” We had to wrap the ministry’s arm of unconditional love around this principle. Learning to “think” as Jewish people was also a key. We were the “strangers among them.” As we enrolled in our Hebrew language courses we saw the need for the healing of Jewish hearts and knew we had to be instruments of reconciliation for the Lord’s Sake.

Jesus had torn down the wall between us but the historical Church had put it back up. We’ve been dismantling that wall over the years. Things have changed. The walls are not so thick. The bricks are not so many, and therefore, we press on to “change history.” Our feet began to take us places where few Christians have the privilege to travel. The reconciliation and healing process is ongoing. We have watched leaders stumble and leave the Land; countless outstanding volunteers came and went, but by the grace of God, we remain. In the late 1980’s we were given Temporary Residency and in the year 2000 the State of Israel awarded us Permanent Residency as a couple. Today, CFI Jerusalem has been recognized by the Israeli Knesset and the Ministry of Interior, as well as other government offices.



Welcome to Israel



Unloading a container outside the DC

The Vision

In 1985-1986 outreach projects began to be written down as given by the Lord. In a vision, two words “healing balm” were indelibly inscribed upon our hearts and they would guide the vision. The heart of CFI came to be a grass roots ministry—not just handing out checks—but being with the people. Mercy was one of the preconditions one had to have to work at CFI as our team members “walked” countless times through the concentration camps with the survivors recalling their suffering - many still locked in the prisons of their memories. Powerful emotions had been restrained and many experiences buried within the soul until someone came they could trust to hear and retell their stories.

Healing Balm Needed

That was us, and in our medicinal bag was the healing balm they needed. We wept with those who wept and applied the oil and balm. The Lord was there with us and we never left a home in which God did not knit our hearts together



DC supplies clothes for men

as family—because many had lost theirs. CFI was among the very first to maintain a real working team that travelled the Land, going into the homes of survivors in some 50 cities. In January 1991, the Gates of Brass had flung open in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and floods of Russian immigrants come to Israel.

During 1996 CFI purchased its first property, a Distribution Center for new *olim* (immigrants) at No. 4 Moriah Street with the help of a very dear friend from Singapore. A second property was purchased in 2000 at No.2 Moriah Street. The DC was one of the first of its kind and since the doors opened, over 300,000 newcomers have been helped in their early days of settling into the Land. A great work in the UK, under Olive Grove Projects, founded by Eileen Alvis, has collected and shipped thousands of high quality garments to the Land of Israel for the CFI Distribution Center as well as H.E.L.P. International in Loveland, Colorado, where 20- and 40-foot containers come from the United States sent by Christians who love and wanted to bless Israel.

The generosity of Christian love has poured in continually from around the world. Finland led the way, then Germany, the United States, England and Singapore began sending container shipments and pallets to Moran Cargo at the Port of Ashdod. Over 200+ tons of high quality garments, bedding, bath and personal items have been and continue to be sent. Millions of dollars have been channeled through CFI to Israel through many different programs and projects which we maintain to reach people and touch their lives to “make a difference” for God.



Olim visiting the DC

“Over 300,000 newcomers have been helped at the DC.”



Receiving a gift bag



Kevin and Stacey Howard

“May the
Howards carry
the torch clearly
and boldly
for generations
to follow.”

Looking to the Future

The future undoubtedly holds great challenges but also wonderful new opportunities as we transition into new Executive leadership and we pass the baton to a younger generation at CFI–Jerusalem. It is with our blessing that Stacey Howard (our daughter) has been appointed as Executive Director/International Director of Christian Friends of Israel–Jerusalem. Her husband Kevin continues at her side giving professional oversight to all aspects of our Technology department initiatives.

● **A New Home:** Since the loss of our ministry headquarters building in May of 2014 through the unfortunate sale by various owners, we have been continuing our search for a new headquarters location for CFI in Jerusalem. As many of you are aware, rental and purchase prices are quite high in Israel and especially in Jerusalem. We continue to search for those individuals who would feel called by God to help invest with us in our new needs and endeavors.

● **The Rise of World Media:** A significant emphasis in CFI’s future is the new development of a powerful communication network around the world, including our own Jerusalem based studio operations overseen by

Kevin Howard. Through Kevin’s expertise we are able to create new and exciting formats to relay not only CFI’s message but real truth about events in Israel by bringing fresh and accurate information to multiple media formats on all global continents. A newly enhanced website is in the works and the entire future for CFI will become more media oriented to get the true word about Israel to those in the Church and elsewhere throughout the nations of the world.

● **Christian Educational Resources:** A further objective now growing is the development of Christian Resources in all forms for the Church worldwide. Christendom carries much historical baggage, along with a lack of understanding about the Jewish faith and connecting with Jewish people.

Many Christians have little to no understanding of how Israel fits into God’s plans and purposes. We are presently shifting gears to do more writing, speaking, teaching and publishing of Christian educational tools and materials. CFI Representatives in many countries will be uniquely qualified to bring these incredible new resources to the nations to understand more about the urgency of the hour in which we all live.

Teaching the Chinese Christians has been a great blessing



● **FocalPoint Television:** Israel is the Point of Focus for biblical prophecy relevant to the world in which we live today. FocalPoint TV is produced specifically for and sponsored by Christian Friends of Israel–Jerusalem. Be sure to join us for fresh new programs currently in productions with release dates scheduled for the Fall of 2015. Christian Friends of Israel is honored to sponsor this fresh and impactful show that delivers a positive, relevant and focused look on the many facets of Israel and her people. The global reach of television programming is without a doubt one of the greatest ways to bring the crucially important message of CFI in Jerusalem to the nations of the world. For more information please email: info@focalpointtv.com

● **International Travel:** International travel has always been a part of the ministry of CFI and continues on with even more zeal into the next generation. CFI welcomes your invitations from pastors and leaders in their nations for us to come and teach through expository teaching, a strong understanding of church history, as well as today's unfolding of biblical prophecy in the Land of Israel. Engage in the full understanding of the people of Israel from those that work and walk daily right in the heart of Jerusalem as we speak about Israel and the work of CFI worldwide.



Remembering those who survived the Holocaust

● **Meet and Connect:** As an enhancement to personal educational growth CFI is partnering with more tour groups and visitors to Jerusalem on their pilgrimages each year. Connecting with tour companies and helping our friends to include a one or two day addition of Christian education about Israel is part of our current program, along with full seminars and sessions for tour groups when possible. Teaching the Bible in context on location in Israel is an amazing experience for everyone. Include CFI on your next trip to Israel to learn how you can connect with Israelis in a real and personal way.

● **Short-Term Mission Teams:** CFI is calling for more churches to get involved in sponsoring regular trips for those who desire to live and assist others in Israel for a short period of time. Skilled professionals such as carpenters, plumbers, painters, handymen, project managers are needed as well as those who wish to simply come with a servant's heart and do whatever task is needed as unto the Lord.

● **Churches for Israel:** This unique program for pastors and church leaders has been specifically developed and comes with a special gift package for those who support the ministry of CFI on a regular monthly basis. Every pastor will want to receive the benefits of membership by joining the ongoing ministry efforts of CFI. [See page 16 for details.] Bring Israel to your congregation now more than ever by becoming a CFI Church for Israel today.

● **Intercession and Prayer for Israel: Online Publications:** CFI online publications such as Watchman's Prayer Letter, Israel News Digest, OnWatch topical newsletter, and IND Weekly reports, the Wall of Prayer Bulletin, and Emergency Prayer Alerts continue to fan out around the world through enormous demand. Watchman on the Wall Prayer Groups are encouraged to be mobilized to a greater degree than ever before.

Email info@cfijerusalem.org with your questions and comments.

Present Day Outreach Programs

● **Hope for the Future** – serves the Ethiopian Jewish community who many times struggle with complete absorption into the Land of Israel. Their needs are enormous and after-school programs and education of their children are of key importance to CFI.

● **First Fruits** – meets the needs of pastors and leaders in the Land. Standing behind those who have congregations with many needs has been a lifelong gift of CFI to the believing household of faith in Israel. Relationships with congregations go back to the first years of the ministry and we are encouraged to see the development of mature believers in the Land today.

● **Streams of Blessing** – is our ministry of the Lighthouse Distribution Center and serves the many new immigrants that come to us daily. This ministry supports the biggest Biblical miracle now taking place: *Aliyah* - The return of the Jews from the Diaspora to their Homeland of Israel.

● **CFI Bridal Salon** – is the only one of its kind in Israel, meeting the needs of hundreds of brides on their wedding day. Wedding gowns, veils, shoes, and jewelry along with clothing for grooms and extended families of the couples are outfitted for their special day. Thousands of beautiful gowns have been sent to us from around the world from Christians who sacrificially gave for a Jewish bride's special day.

● **Streams of Blessing** – serves the many needs of the elderly in Israel today including those who are war veterans from the Red Army, lonely widows and widowers, nursing homes and needy people. We also help Orthodox families with many children, where one or both of the parents may be handicapped or not able to work.

● **David's Shield** – serves thousands of Israeli soldiers through building relationships with army commanders and meeting many of the needs the government cannot. Today, Christian Friends of Israel helps more than 25 army battalions, including individual units.

● **Forsake Them Not** – is our continuing outreach to the thousands of survivors of the Holocaust who are still alive today. Visits in homes every week and special events for large gatherings of survivors are always a part of this ongoing work of love. Your continued prayers for this quickly aging group are always needed.

● **Under His Wings and Communities Under Attack** – is our ministry to the wounded and recovering from vicious attacks of terrorism. While we have helped countless people who have been suffering from rocket attacks in Sderot near Gaza, we now shift our focus and attention to those who need immediate help and support from attacks of terror on their loved ones throughout the land.

The State of Israel: CFI has been recognized by authorities in the Government as being one of the leading pro-Israel Christian Zionist organizations in Israel today. We are a charter member of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and are members of many other ministry boards. Letters of endorsement range from government Ambassadors, the Prime Minister's office, the Jewish Agency, Magen David Adom and other Israeli agencies and officials. Certificates and Awards are too numerous to name but what is really important is that the everyday people of Israel love Christian Friends of Israel. With God's help, we will continue from generation to generation proclaiming "...the Hand of the Lord has done this...." (Isaiah 41:20)

Our purpose can only be achieved through our partners in the nations around the world as we become their "hands and feet" of ministry here in Israel. The future is bright because we know who holds the future! In giving thanks for the past we seek your prayers for the future that all of us will remain open to the Guidance of God and to remain a channel for God's loving grace for the Jewish people from Christians around the world. God reveals Himself through the light in Christian lives and in remembering our past we will be guided into the future.

Won't you please become a true friend and partner today? Thank You.

The former General Zvi Givati and Ray Sanders hosting friends from around the world

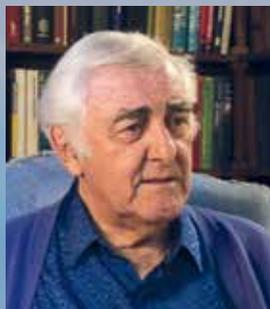


"The Hand of the Lord has done this"
(Isaiah 41:20).

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A Tribute to Lance Lambert 1931-2015

AS CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL, Lance Lambert



was a guiding light from the very first day we were formed, in December 1985. For 30 years he carved out quality time to meet with our leaders, on a regular basis. Lance, and Derek Prince, as well, were the key advisors to CFI until their passing on to be with the Lord. We weren't just another ministry to add to Lance's schedule—we were always welcome in his home. His advice and counsel during our early days was such a blessing from the Lord. We remember the times

his advice was exactly what we needed in those days. All of the Middle East Updates we produced together, went all around the world for many years, as well as video productions. The many ministry meetings held in his home, our sharing festival celebrations together, traveling to the Far East and ministering together are memories that will always remain. In the 29 years of CFI Conferences, Lance Lambert spoke as the plenary main speaker each and every year.

Our Lance Lambert Library is filled with timeless teachings by this man of God—first with the older cassette tapes, then video, presently CDs and DVDs—and, in the future, his voice will still resound around the world in the anointing he carried for prayer for Israel, and the Church and Israel. For years, countless people around the world have been his students. His witty sense of humor will long be remembered, as we shared many moments of laughter. He was there for us during the highs and also the lows of us all. At his memorial service on May 27th in Jerusalem, we are certain that the size of the gathering will be a testimony to how much we all loved Lance.

Lance's ability to be an international voice, speaking from Jerusalem, was ordained from a young age. His founding of Halford House in the UK brought him a solid, loyal team of intercessors who prayed for him and his ministry wherever he went. His love for Halford House never diminished, nor did his love for traveling. One of the last things he spoke to us about only two weeks before his passing, in his home, was "I'm ready to travel and...I will definitely speak at the CFI 30th Anniversary gathering in June." These were his hopes of recovering quickly, and being able to serve once again. His achievements in Bible scholarship and teaching is a long list—too numerous to mention. His favorite stories about his life with his pets that he dearly loved and cared for, and his jokes about his birds and their words to his guests, will remain in our hearts and memories.

Well done, good and faithful servant and goodbye for now—to the best friend and advisor that we could ever have had, for thirty unbroken years of insight and counsel. He loved CFI and we loved him. We thank God for giving him to us and to the world. His face always lit up when speaking about Israel, even though he had many other concerns. God has been with him his entire life, and now, God has carried him safely to heaven. We also thank God for giving him a long life of service for the Body in Israel and around the world and especially from Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem and our international offices abroad. We realize that we don't have words in our vocabulary adequate enough to describe our friend..."Lance." To God be the glory, and to Lance - we salute our dear friend!

**Christian Friends of Israel—Jerusalem
and Christian Friends of Israel around the world**



Lance Lambert speaking at CFI Conferences

**Lance Lambert with Derek Prince, Sharon
and Ray Sanders**



RESPONSIBILITY

“The IDF serviceman or woman will see themselves as active participants in the defense of the state, its citizens and residents. They will carry out their duties at all times with initiative, involvement and diligence with common sense and within the framework of their authority, while prepared to bear responsibility for their conduct.” (Excerpt from the IDF Code Of Ethics)

AT WAR OR PREPARING FOR WAR...

Each and every soldier of the Israel Defense Forces is an immediate and active participant in defending the right of the nation of Israel to exist. Since the inception of the modern State of Israel, the IDF has been strictly a defensive military – never on the offensive, or looking to gain territory.



Jim and Gary speaking to the IDF soldiers

Although being a conscripted military service of youth, the soldiers (the majority ranging in age from 18-21) carry quite a burden of responsibility – and we must say, from what we've witnessed, they perform exemplarily for such a young group of defenders. Even by the age of 20 a soldier can be ranked as a commander with a unit to be responsible for. Their ability to take initiative and make decisions based on quick-changing events shows the maturity level they reach in a short period of time.

PAYING ATTENTION TO DETAIL

IDF soldiers are insured of the necessity of their involvement from the very beginning during basic training when they tour the country to visit important religious sites and key battle areas from previous wars. Due to their understanding of the need to protect their people and their homeland—the one and only Jewish state—the diligence of these hard working men and women shines through with

a persistent effort as they take great care to pay attention to detail that their orders are explicitly carried out. Because the IDF soldiers are constantly in defense mode, they are able to form good, sound practical judgments that can only be obtained from experience. This common sense approach to all they do can be seen in every judgment call they make on the field.

They have learned to walk in the authority given them, acting on and enforcing orders to accomplish their mission. Yes, they carry a heavy burden of responsibility, but they have also proven to be accountable in their actions, morals and decisions. The men and women in the Israel Defense Forces conduct themselves with their heads held high, because they know their professional behavior on the field is above reproach in comparison to their enemies.

Recently, during a visit to southern Israel, we learned of many stories and details of the battles these warriors endured during last summer's operation "Protective Edge." An emerging theme is that the soldiers are experiencing a "Living War" - meaning that the war really doesn't end for them. There are sad memories of unimaginable sights of lost friends. There were numerous accounts and details of operational protocols followed which prevented death and destruction of fellow soldiers and Gazan civilians. With a seemingly never ending list of anti-Israel forces at every border, there is no rest in sight.

PLEASE PRAY FOR these brave soldiers who are physical guardians, and who have answered the call, and accepted the responsibility to defend the very existence of the State of Israel. Thank you for choosing to support the Israel Defense Forces, even if it's not the "politically correct" thing to do. Your prayers and financial support for Project David's Shield are greatly appreciated.

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



Presenting backpacks to grateful soldiers

“And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you... So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night” (Joshua 8:1,3 KJV).

*“Distributing to the
necessity of the saints...”*
(Romans 12:13).



Good relationships between brothers



Many needs come through our doors



A grateful believing family



Bringing encouragement

Relief to the Brethren

ENRICHING the brothers in the Land has been a part of CFI's vision since our inception in December, 1985. Churches have struggled, pastors have had needs and congregational members have been desperate for help over the years. Expressing our loving concern and care has brought much thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:11). When we help the brethren, we are not only supplying them with their immediate needs but the thanksgiving to the Lord is what really matters. God gives us all the ability to give from our wealth and we thank you for sharing your lives through partnering with our First Fruits department. First Fruits is being revamped this year during our transition. We are returning to the original vision of helping the Pastors with their needs, supplying small congregations with little income, and helping others with immediate needs for “feeding the sheep.” Sometimes it is a musical instrument needed in the congregations; other times, it is supplies and rent for meeting places.

There is a multitude of needs and CFI has met many of those needs, as someone said, “in a hard moment of our lives.” Others have said, “All praise and glory be to our Lord, whose ear is open to hear us and His Hand is not short to save us, Hallelujah!” Still others have written to say “thank you very much that you responded to our request...may the Lord be glorified through the work of your hands.” First Fruits also hopes to return to visiting pastors in their congregations, and holding mini-conferences in the Land with the pastors. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work in Israel today.

Through the Generosity of Our Supporters:

- First Fruits assisted a mother of three children by helping pay for the necessary fees to obtain her culinary license. This enables her to provide for her family. The father is unable to work because of a debilitating disease, but is believing the Lord for a healing touch.
- The First Fruits fund also helped a Pastor with a vehicle repair expense in order for him to transport congregants to weekly services. Also the vehicle is used during outreach to those in need within various communities in the Galilee.
- Blessing new immigrants with temporary rent payments as they settle in the Land of Israel is also a big help in their early days after arrival. The situation in the Ukraine has certainly presented CFI with many opportunities to be of assistance as the Lord encourages His People to come home! Finding work can sometimes take time, and our help should prove to be a seed planted into good ground.
- We recently also helped a cancer survivor with food during her time away from work. As we reach out to the Body, please keep them in your prayers!

By Ray Sanders, Co-Founder/Director



Project Streams of Blessing

Supporting the elderly and disadvantaged.
A ministry supporting the weak (Acts 20:35).



Love that heals

According to JDC-Israel Report, more than a million adults live with disabilities in Israel – 12,000 of whom live in institutions.

Touching Lives and Hearts

**“It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect...”
(Psalm 18:32-36, KJV).**

IN ISRAEL there are so many wonderful people to meet and lives to touch. Most have never met a real Christian and often we are the first ones they have really sat and talked with in the privacy of their homes. When someone here is alone and elderly, perhaps a widow or widower, we try not to let the important things be left undone. Has there ever been a goal you never reached? Good habits you never formed? Help you never gave? Kind things you thought about doing but never did? CFI teams here in Israel can be your hands and feet on the ground representing the love Christ gave you for the Jewish people. Through Streams of Blessing this is exactly what we do.

“Mother Teresa said, “The biggest disease today isn’t leprosy or cancer. It is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted – of being deserted and alone.’ As a result, she spent her life rescuing sick babies and giving dignity to the dying. Asked why she did it, she replied, ‘Because Jesus did it.’ What a great answer...” **(Word For Today).**

Giving Bread to the Hungry

THINK ABOUT IT How do you spend your free time or retirement years? Meet David, an 88-year-old man that doesn’t sit idly by and wait for people to come to him. Just the opposite, he goes to them and serves those in need. He lost many family members in Auschwitz during the Holocaust. David spent time himself in a working camp before being transferred to Mathausen-Gusen concentration camp prior to the end of WWII.

David came to Israel in 1945, fought in the Palmach, which was the elite fighting force of the Haganah, and served as a soldier in the Israeli War for Independence. He was a brave man and knew what he was fighting for. His years in Israel have been filled with service to help others. He worked as a Social Worker, followed by years of assisting the elderly in their homes. According to Breaking Israel News, nearly one in three Israelis are living in poverty.

As is evident by his years as a caretaker, David tells us of his continued desire to help fellow countrymen and women by developing relationships with local bread shop owners and collecting the unsold bread at the end of the day, six days a week. He delivers it to many elderly apartment complexes around the city. He is an extremely humble man and when we asked him if he needed any financial help, he said, “No, I have everything I need.” David is a doer of the Word and an example to us all.

In 2015 this outreach will expand into Jerusalem hostels and nursing homes, visiting widows with cancer and widowers, elderly war veterans from the FSU, participating in Victory Day events, holiday events for the elderly, and wherever disadvantaged people can be found. Thank you so much for helping us to touch the lives of those who have never felt our love. *“For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor...”* Psalm 109:31.

By **Sharon Sanders**, Streams of Blessing Coordinator

David helps the poor



Her new quilt reminds her of Momma’s Blanket



Trip to the Knesset-Israel's Parliament Building

*“Many are the plans
in the mind of
a man but, it is the
PURPOSE of the
LORD that will **STAND**”
Proverbs 19:21.*

The Purpose of God Will Stand

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE recently supported the efforts of the Bnei Brak Police Department; specifically, its branch located in the neighbourhood of Pardes Katz. The Department introduced a 32-week program, specifically geared to encouraging and motivating the Ethiopian teenagers attending WIZO Pardes Katz Afterschool Program toward a better future.

The Pardes Katz neighborhood of Bnei Brak is known for its criminal activity and the ensuing records are among the highest, in Israel. This neighborhood is highly populated with Ultra Orthodox Jews and only fifty Ethiopian Jewish families. Unfortunately, the Ethiopian Jews living in the area are often neglected and forgotten in many ways and the reason that many of the youth have fallen between the cracks.

For most of these young people living in the area, criminals are considered heroes and successful people, as they drive fancy vehicles and pretend to be rich. Residents are afraid and felons are also challenge for the police. The kids are easily drawn toward this lifestyle and even willing to be “soldiers,” street warriors or gang members, in order to get “easy money,” or a short cut to success. The situation is a warning-light for the local police department, as many Ethiopian youth are causing problems for their parents as well as communities surrounding Pardes Katz.

Program Addresses Needs for the Ethiopian Youth

The Police Chief designed and instituted a uniquely tailored preventive project, especially intended for and relevant to address the specific needs of the youth of the Ethiopian-Jewish community. The program’s scope created awareness and showed these prospective men and women of distinction the right path. According to the Police Department, this and other similar projects have been effective with good experience, in many different parts of the country. Likewise, a similar project was somewhat successful with the teens of the Ultra-Orthodox—and, the impetus or inspiration for the Police Department project, in the Ethiopian-Jewish community, in Bnei Brak.

The 32-week program, included field trips to museums such as Independence Hall, the site of the signing of Israel’s Declaration of Independence, in TelAviv—lectures and group participation relevant social and legal issues, civil service; lectures by representatives of the IDF’s elite and specialty units. Events were also planned so that parents could accompany their children on outings of significant importance for family. The culmination of this program ended with 15 graduates receiving certification of their accomplishment. Many dignitaries attended the graduation ceremony, including local municipality leaders, as well as Pnina Tamano-Shata, a Knesset Member from 2013-2015 of Ethiopian descent.

The Ethiopian community in the area is amazed that someone in authority cares about the well being of the whole family—particularly their children—showing them love and that there is a better way, to get money or “status” than that of “the criminals.” This project has also paved the way to close the gaps between “Police” and the community. The previous mind sets concerning governmental authority and the police have totally changed. We praise the Lord for the work He is doing in this community!

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

www.cfjjerusalem.org



Churches for Israel

Are You a Pastor? A Leader or Layman?

We cannot have a Biblical Church or Bride without Israel. Bible prophecy is imperative to know in the last days and one cannot learn about Bible prophecy without being taught about Israel. It is all about knowing God's plans and purposes for this beloved nation and how the Church fits into God's plan. Now is the time to identify your congregation as a church that stands with Israel and supports her through CFI.

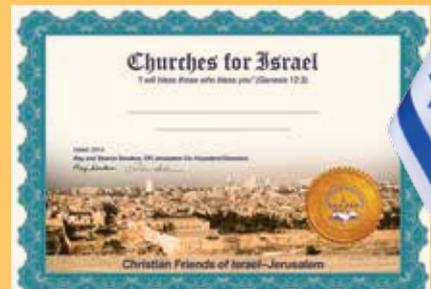


What CFI Churches for Israel Proclaim and Do:

- We believe that the Jewish people have a right to the Land of Israel as it is given to them by God Almighty.
- We maintain that she has a right to her own safe and secure borders.
- We promise to support Israel through Christian Friends of Israel on a monthly basis. (Genesis 12:3).
- We pledge to pray for the nation and people of Israel on a regular basis.
- We vow to have no anti-Semitism of any kind in our church.
- We affirm that we share in the Commonwealth of Israel through the Messiah Jesus.
- We will speak out on Israel's behalf when called upon to give an answer regarding the nation and people.
- We invite CFI Spokesmen and Representatives to visit our church.
- We acknowledge CFI to be in a unique position with headquarters in Jerusalem and will relate to CFI Jerusalem.
- We consider to undertake a CFI Bless Israel annual Conference (optional).

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

Become a "Church for Israel" and qualify to receive our Pastor's Stoll, Israeli flag, Churches for Israel Certificate and all online publications for prayer for Israel. Your monthly support helps us to represent your outreach to Israel.



New CFI Educational Resources

Training for the Kingdom

It is our continuing desire to help educate the Church in the nations on Israel as well as the Church in light of Bible Prophecy.

“There is absolutely nothing for Gentile believers to lose by reconnecting spiritually with Israel...The Church is in need of a realignment to its Jewish roots...as we come down to the end with the Lord’s return to establish David’s throne upon the earth. Is it not fully Jewish in its characteristics, and is His name not the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, coming back to a Jewish city and reigning from the Land of Israel? Let us in the Church remember our humble beginnings and not forget that the nations of believers are grafted into Israel as its Commonwealth.” (Daniel Juster, Tikkun International Ministries).

CFI Education Resource Development

Will you please take a moment to write us with topical questions that interest you and your community of faith? Many wish to know “How should Christians interpret what is happening in the Middle East in light of Bible Prophecy?” or, “What is the prophetic future for the leading nations of the world?” We are interested in your requests as we prepare study tools, resources and booklets for translation into various languages. Christian education in regard to Israel and the Church is a specialized subject, however it is also foundational to our Christian faith. Please write to: topics@cfijerusalem.org with your questions.

Our study resource literature and educational media are being developed now more than ever and will be made available through our representatives in the nations and our Online Bookstore on our website. Watch for new educational tools to equip believers in the world of Jewish Roots of our faith from the beginner to those who are advanced in learning, but have no practical on-the-ground experience with relationships with the Jewish people.

“I am bound to them...I honor their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their story. I will remember them.”
–Author Unknown

On your next trip to Israel, we invite you to spend a few days with CFI, and schedule into your itinerary a “time out” for God’s Study Time. Classes will be taught by CFI Co-Founder, Sharon Sanders, and other Bible teachers and scholars from within Israel.

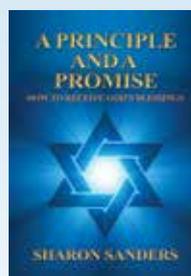
**ORDER
YOUR COPY
TODAY!**



TELL THE CHILDREN

By Sharon Sanders

Order your well illustrated children’s booklet at:
www.cfijerusalem.org



A PRINCIPLE AND A PROMISE

By Sharon Sanders

Pre-order your copy online at:
www.cfijerusalem.org

Soaking in the Presence of God



Vicki and Jim music ministry

DURING ISRAEL'S RECENT WAR with Hamas in Gaza, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired more than 3,300 rockets since the fighting began, mortar shells and rockets were raining down and sounds of outgoing Israeli artillery fire made it almost impossible to sleep at night. Children and adults living in south Israel spent nearly two months in bomb shelters. People living under constant rocket attack are tense. They always feel as if something could happen. Any loud sound makes people turn. It could be a rocket or a motorcycle, or a big truck.



Harp event

On the other hand, the news of tunnels leading to Israel dug by Hamas brought deep fear to the local civilians. Many civilians who live bordering Gaza were afraid to sleep, fearing that the terrorists might infiltrate into Israel through these tunnels. Indeed 10 terrorists from Gaza dressed in Israeli army uniforms popped out of the ground less than a mile (1.6 kilometers) away from the border. They killed four Israeli soldiers before an airstrike killed them, preventing them from moving deeper into the country.

Israeli soldiers have uncovered about 60 shafts leading into 28 underground tunnels, some as deep as 90 feet (30 meters). Shockingly, later the IDF officials confirmed that Hamas had planned to carry out a massive assault on this recent Rosh HaShana (Jewish New Year) by penetrating Israeli communities via tunnels under the border from the Gaza Strip, and then killing or kidnapping as many people as possible. Thank God that this evil plan of Hamas' was thwarted. Praise the Lord, ***"Indeed, He who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps"*** (Psalm 121:4, NLT).

Harp a Powerful Tool

Project Communities Under Attack (CUA) team made several trips to south Israel during the war, to visit the traumatized civilians. On one of our visits, our friends Jim and Vicki Tjarks from the States who are harpists were visiting Israel, and we were blessed to organize a harp event for a group of civilians in the south. The pure tones of the harp, known by the ancients and now recognized by modern scientists, are a powerful tool used to bring comfort, relaxation and peace.

In the Bible, Divine providence ordered the visit of David to Saul, over whom mercy still lingered. Saul was freed from the immediate pressure of fear and despondency (1 Samuel 16:15-23). While the harpist was playing, I saw that many residents present at the harp event were deeply touched. "I believe that the Spirit of God was moving, just as the Scripture of 2 Kings 3:15-18 which read, while the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came upon...." To them, the music was a means of healing. It brought the soothing properties to a place where there is a lot of anxiety, and brings back the sense of a true order, inward harmony and assurance.

On behalf of the civilians living in south Israel who have suffered tremendous physical or emotional injuries caused by the ongoing rocket attack, thank you for the supporters who gave to Project CUA. With your generous financial support, we were able to help meet various needs of the besieged civilians. During the harp event a lady told me that affected by the recent war, many residents whom she knew have become very ill and would appreciate our visit. On the other hand, every day the phone calls from residents living in south Israel asking for help are non-stop. Matthew 9:36 says when Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless. Thank you for considering supporting the ministry of CUA, to be an extension of the Love of Jesus for those who were harassed and helpless.

By **Maggie Huang**, Communities Under Attack Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org

A Call to Remember

designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 on November 1, 2005 during the 42nd plenary session. The designation came after a special session was held earlier that year on January 24, 2005 during which the United Nations General Assembly marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and the end of the Holocaust. Events are being held across Europe this year, to mark 70 years since the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. More than one million men, women and children lost their lives at the extermination camp before it was liberated on January 27, 1945.

The Forsake Them Not team was privileged to participate in a few Holocaust Remembrance Events in Jerusalem and in Rehovot. These events were organized by local committees of organizations of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors and those survivors who were able to attend, did so. Both towns' organizations invited local musicians and singers. Sad motives and lyrics full of pain filled the rooms, as testimony after testimony, historical facts, and self-written poetry was shared. All these once again showed a deep, deep pain that still dwells in so many hearts. We witnessed sad eyes, streaming tears, and evidence of many questions left unanswered. One of the survivors described this deadly silence to their questions as a judgment of the Almighty. A call to "Remember" sounded again, a call to do everything possible to prevent it happening again. *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds"* (Psalm 147:3).

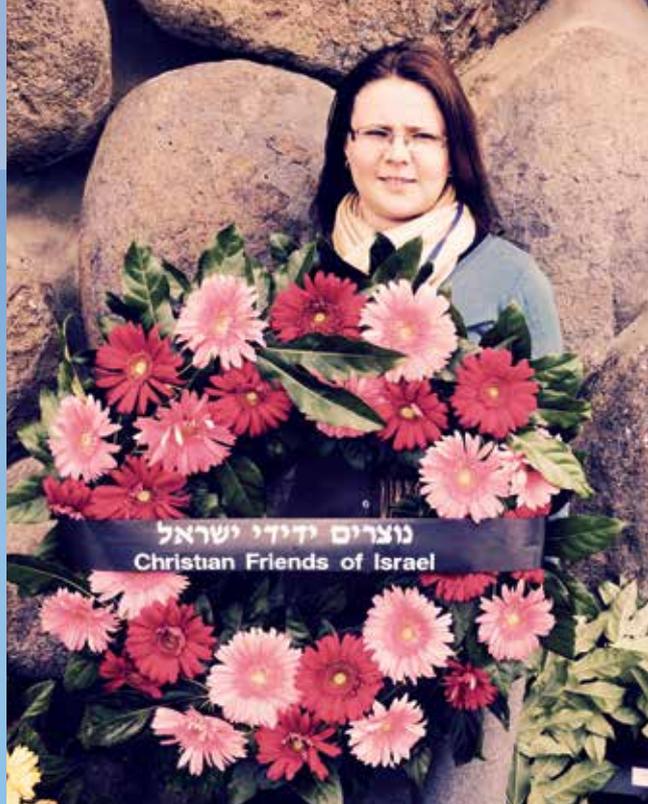
We would like to encourage you to continue to pray for the deep healing of the precious survivors, which can only come from the God of Israel. Thank you for your prayers, faithful support and love toward His people.

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

www.cfijerusalem.org



Yad Vashem - commemorating those who perished in the Holocaust



Annual CFI Holocaust event

"The proud have digged pits for me...they persecute me wrongfully...they almost consumed me upon the earth..."
Psalm 119:85-87.

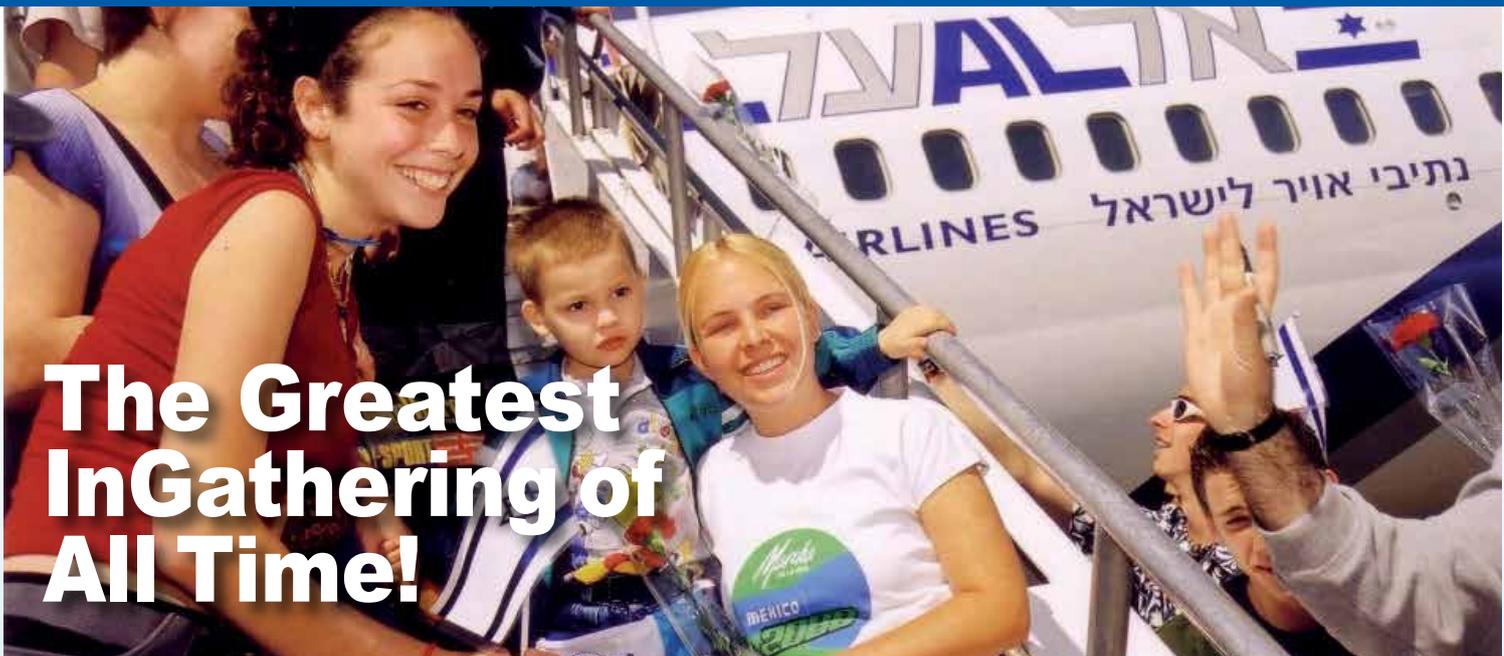
THE ASSOCIATION of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors' Annual General Assembly, was held at the end of 2014, and many Children of the Holocaust - survivors of the war - attended. This was held at Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem, to commemorate those who perished during the Holocaust and WWII. Over the last 12 years, CFI has built a strong relationship and friendship with the chairman of the Association, Gita Koifman. Through this connection, we are able to identify survivors who need help, and who are lonely or sick, and to visit them.

The Association of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors was founded in 1992 by a group of people from the former Soviet Union, as an independent, non-commercial and a non-party organization. The main aims of the Association are to protect rights and interests of former prisoners of Nazism, and to preserve memories about Holocaust victims and Jewish resistance. The Association is working on a voluntary basis. Activities of the Association are funded by the annual membership fees and donations from sponsors. In recent years, the activities of the various towns' organizations considerably increased, in the form of help to needy survivors, tours of museums around the country, and celebrations of significant events and feasts. Today, the Association includes 33 organizations in various towns and cities of Israel, with a total number of 3,500 members, who are mainly Russian-speaking survivors.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an international memorial day on January 27 each year, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. This date was

A Biblical Miracle Involving...



The miracle of *aliyah* continues to unfold

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

An old hymn written in 1890, by Charles H. Gabriel goes like this: “There’s a call comes ringing o’er the restless wave, “Send the light! Send the light!”...Let it shine from shore to shore!...Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound...and a Christ-like spirit everywhere be found, Send the light! Send the light! Let us not grow weary in the work of love, Let us gather jewels for a crown above. Send the light! Send the light!”

Every *aliyah* shipment sent across the oceans of this world rides on the waves of light. Each consignment brings with it, the light of God’s love from the nation sending their love to Israel! As the song above articulates, we must not grow weary in this work of love because we are making a difference! Darkness surrounds the nation of Israel today but each delivery sheds God’s Light into the lives of each new immigrant recipient. **“I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you...” (Isaiah 41:9 NIV).**

The Process of Clothing Consignments

The United Kingdom and United States are our largest shippers to the CFI Distribution Center at No. 2-4 Moriah Street. Dedicated men and women of God bring their goods (garments, bedding, bath and other items which fit the category of our license) to UK and US collection centers. Excitement escalates into Christian fellowship as everyone works together for one goal: to help stock the CFI DC with clothing and linen supplies for new immigrants in Israel today.

An atmosphere of prayer and camaraderie prevails, with sounds of the shofar at times, until everything is sorted, cleared and packed ready to load the precious cargo onto heavy duty transport trucks and lorries. Each 40’ truck filled to the brim with around 900-1000 boxes is then transported to the nearest shipping port where Bills of Lading are prepared for shipping the goods to Israel. Then the Israeli Port Authorities at the Port of Ashdod go to work to transfer the boxes onto another transport truck to deliver the load, within a few days, to the CFI Distribution Center.





CFI Distribution Center

During the early 1990's, because of the generosity of our supporters and partners in the nations, CFI was able to purchase the building that houses our present Distribution Center. Hundreds of thousands of new *olim* (immigrants) have come to our doors seeking help upon arrival. Attending language classes, trying to get a job, going to university or acquiring a specialized skill, along with elderly pensioners, survivors and Israelis from all walks of life come through our doors. Ethiopian newcomers, Orthodox families needing assistance and Lone Soldiers—all come. A four generation family came the other day, all leaving with a big smile and a huge thank you to Christians. Some have tears streaming down their faces when they say, "We came from those who hate us and it is so refreshing to have friends." **This happens because there are people in the nations who care about sending their light! You are directly involved with a ministry of healing and reconciliation that is repairing damage done for 2000 years of Christian anti-Semitism!**

China Sending Supplies of Blankets to the DC

A ministry in the Southern Negev wants to supply additional clothing, plus fresh produce from the area farmers who have had much of their produce turned away because of boycotts in Europe. We also work with the Joseph Project to receive additional blankets from the Far East. It takes everyone working together to make miracles happen. We want to thank every hard worker and supporter from the UK, USA and China for what they are doing to help us, because we are expecting a tidal wave of immigrants in 2015.

Just recently we helped over 75 immigrants in one morning! The Ukrainian Jews are arriving and soon the French Jews will no doubt come. More are certain to follow with the onslaught of severe anti-Semitism all across the globe. How blessed we are to offer a safe haven for those who have been oppressed and targeted just for being Jewish. Sometimes they can hardly believe their eyes that it is **Christians** who operate this much-loved Center and that we have a passionate love for them and their Land. Jesus taught us that "*inasmuch as you do it unto the least of My Brethren, you do it unto me*" (Matthew 25:40). The Lighthouse Distribution Center hears many stories of those fleeing from oppressed countries such as "In the Ukraine there are no shelters, no warning sirens, phone service is nil and food difficult to obtain." Here they are thankful for warning sirens, shelters, plenty of food and water and also give thanks for helpful and caring neighbors as reported by **Frank Nelson**. >>



Chinese people blessing Israel

Sending Shipments: Arrival at Collection Centers in Luton, UK, For information in the UK: Rob and Margaret Hearing. Olive Grove Projects: olivegrove@ntlworld.com

The End Result at the DC: Like clock-work, the stock room begins to fill up while boxes are stockpiled for distribution. Soon tens of thousands of new immigrants will be wearing clothing from the nations on the streets of Jerusalem and across the Land from Haifa to Beersheva. Groups all over Israel come in busloads to our DC.

12



10



11

Photo Stream

- 1-4. In Luton, UK volunteers sorting clothing and fold them into boxes.
5. Luton truck is filled, ready to be sent to the port of Ashdod, Israel.
- 6-7. Once papers are cleared, shipment arrives at the DC. Then CFI staff unload the boxes.
- 8-9. Immigrants browse through items assisted by CFI staff.
10. DC has many good quality clothes for men, women and children in all sizes plus gift baskets.
11. A bus load of immigrants arrives from Ashdod and spent the morning browsing through the many good quality items.



Russian and Ukrainian olim from Katzrin - Visit in January 2015

Never Before! A gripping story took place recently when Maria, an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor came to us. She had watched her home destroyed recently in Donetsk. Once again, everything was lost. Her grandson, an IDF veteran, brought her to receive clothing and gifts. Maria wept as she accepted a beautiful quilt, and lovely clothing. Her bed and bath bag included new bed sheets, a towel, electric kettle, cooking pan, Challah cover and candle holders for Shabbat. Her grandson translated her gratitude: *“All my life I have never received this joy and love from strangers.” It was the first experience of Christian love!*

No Longer Safe to Remain! Nelia was a teacher and historian who spent her entire life in Eastern Ukraine. She desperately held on to the life she loved, but it was no longer safe to remain. So thankful for the Gift Bag received and the clothing, she and her daughter, an IDF veteran, were deeply moved. So moved, that they immediately went to the accounting office and made a cash donation! Groups of young physicians, nurses and their families have come home to Israel, looking for a promising future in this beautiful nation – the Promised Land called Israel. Others find comfort in God’s Word pointing them to Him. Thank you for your continuing support of this amazing Distribution Center. (Frank Nelson)



Pajamas fit perfectly



All smiles for a coat

Olim from Brazil A very tall man visited with us in the DC Clothing Shop. It is difficult for him to find proper clothing; however, the LORD had already spoken to someone, somewhere in the United Kingdom or the United States because in our store, a fashionable winter coat fit him perfectly and since he had no coat at all, he was rejoicing with a huge smile when it was brought out. Also a pair of pajamas fitted him perfectly. We thank God we could bless him with the Word of God and he left us feeling very special.

By Rocio Fordham, Open Gates Coordinator

Help New Immigrants Coming to Israel Get a Strong Start!

Your donation to Open Gates will serve as a double blessing to the nation of Israel. Not only with the new olim (Immigrants) receive a Blessing Basket of brand new items to start their new life in the Land, but since those items are purchased from local Israeli merchants, your gift is also helping to sustain the local Israeli economy.

Won't you let the people of Israel know that Christians from all over the world love, care and support Israel and her people with your gift today?



Welcome Gift Basket

Dear Friends

YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT for CFI and the Jewish people keeps making the difference in the Land and the Israeli people can see that the real Christians are those who love them unconditionally. In past days, along with the many phone calls asking for an appointment to come and see our beautiful selection of wedding gowns, evening dresses and suits, I received a phone call from a journalist who wanted to interview me regarding our Bridal Salon.

Here's an excerpt from what she wrote:

"Known for its tastefully appointed showroom and large selection of accessories, the Christian Friends of Israel Bridal Salon serves Israeli-born Jews as well as new immigrants, and also provides the latter with wedding bands. "We believe it is God's plan to bring the Jewish people back to Israel, and we are here to bless and to help," said Patricia Cuervo, a Mexican volunteer at the salon. She cited a phrase from the Old Testament's Book of Jeremiah, which [predicts] "the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride" will ring in the streets of Jerusalem. Outfitting Jewish brides is "part of the restoration of Israel," she said. The word of mouth about our work has reached even the Israeli media!

Words of gratitude from an Israeli Bride:

"I can't find the words to thank you for the kindness, love, quality and affection with [which] you do your work. I personally felt very happy for the service you provided me and for coming to my wedding! I got my wedding attire of the best quality and in perfect condition, but the most important is that you serve us, the brides, with such professionalism and love. Thanks for the book of Psalms, the veil and all the other details that made my wedding an unforgettable moment. For sure I will recommend future brides to trust...you in this important moment of our lives. Warm greetings for you" Jana

Thank you to those who have sent their special wedding rings, jewelry and bridal veils. Many young couples have been especially touched by this deep Christian love and sacrifice. **Thank you also for your ongoing support of Christian Friends of Israel's Bridal Salon!**

By Patricia Cuervo, Bridal Salon Coordinator

www.cfijerusalem.org



Top: Israeli Bride at the CFI Bridal Salon

Middle: Signing of the "Ketubah," Jewish Marriage Certificate

Bottom: Bride and her parents wearing garments from our Bridal Salon



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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.CFIJERUSALEM.ORG



Volunteering in Israel

By Linda McKenzie / Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem

ROMANS 12:1,2: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Present your bodies a living sacrifice: Only as individuals do we know deep inside our level of commitment to the Lord. While we each fail (and that’s where grace kicks in), do we attempt, and is it our *heart intent*, to be a living sacrifice before the Lord? It’s all about the heart and obedience....**Renewing of your mind:** Are we teachable? Are we humble enough to accept that our thinking needs to change? The more we read God’s Word and are teachable by His Spirit, our minds will be renewed to HIS ways and HIS thoughts.

God’s Will for Our Lives

Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God: Do we believe this is possible? Andrew Wommack did a 40-session teaching on knowing God’s will for your life. He stated that many people may not fulfill God’s intended purpose for their life because they are afraid to step out - not knowing if it’s God’s will, or their own. According to Romans 12:1 & 2, if we make the choice to be a living sacrifice, and renew our minds, thus being conformed to God instead of the world – we can prove what God’s will is for us. To me that means I can *trust that the desires of my heart ARE from God*, if I am choosing to die to myself daily and am renewing my mind according to His Word.

All that said, one shouldn’t come to Israel to serve with a ministry, with their own agenda. Some people just want to come to Israel, and are looking for a way to get a visa. The purpose and heart intent needs to be to support the vision you are joining yourself to. No one should ever link up with a vision that they don’t share. They must believe in it, and participate in it, being a willing team member to

move forward in the goals of the vision. For my husband and I, the desire of our hearts was to serve the poor and needy. God began to put a love for Israel and the Jewish people in our hearts. The next step was to find a ministry with a vision to serve the poor and needy in Israel – and we found Christian Friends of Israel.

To volunteer at an organization such as CFI, not just in Israel, but in *Jerusalem*, is above and beyond the desires of my heart. I used to wonder, “What did we do to deserve this?” Then one day the Lord spoke in my heart, **“You were willing.”** It’s not easy living here, and it is certainly not for the faint of heart! Not only is it a foreign country, but a fairly new (modern Israel) one. In addition to that, Jerusalem is the spiritual center of the universe. Each and every day will have its challenges, and things you thought you dealt with in your life may just resurface for the final skimming of the dross. Jerusalem is a place of testing and refining. Is that a bad thing? NO! But it’s not always easy to walk out.

“...the desire of our hearts was to serve the poor and needy.”

Putting Hands to the Plow

So why sign up for this? It is *totally* satisfying. To wake up each morning knowing you are going to put your hand to the plow...to be a part of God’s prophecy being fulfilled before your very eyes in His Land of promise...to walk the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem...to see not just the history of the past, but the present fulfillments, and a glimpse of the future...to know you are playing a part in GOD’s plan of redemption...to see hearts and lives changed each day...to look into the hurting eyes of those seeking love and compassion, and to give it unconditionally, as we also have been given--all this is priceless and a gift from the Lord. I give thanks to God for allowing me the honor of being a part of His plans and purposes at CFI in the City of the King--Jerusalem.

www.cfijerusalem.org

Mrs. Jean Bell, wife of Dr. Ralph Bell (evangelist with Billy Graham) assisted in making the roses.

Christians Serving Israel



Carole Andersen with her team

COLORADO, USA

Located in the United States is "Christians Serving Israel" led by Carole Andersen and Jody Crider. They inspire many people in the Ft. Collins area to catch the vision of sending small groups to Jerusalem to serve with CFI short term. They serve annually for about one month and during that period with the relief and aid they bring with them, coupled with the joy of serving the Lord, much is accomplished. Everyone lends a helping hand, provides talents and abilities and uses their voluntary service as their action of "doing" which substantiates their faith. "...faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:26). Real faith is action!

During the year they help to organize and prepare shipments of 40' containers of high quality garments, linens, and bath items before they are packed and loaded. Once finished, transport trucks carry the goods to a US port to be shipped by sea to the Port of Ashdod in Israel. These shipments lessen the newcomer's burdens as they first arrive to begin to integrate into Israeli society. Together, both the USA and UK service arms are wrapped around the work going on at the CFI Distribution Center, keeping us stocked and supplied year around. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2 KJV).

H.E.L.P. International

From start to finish, the project of getting a shipment ready to send to Israel is a major community effort. Organized by H.E.L.P. International in Loveland, Colorado, Christians meet and pray over the garments at the collection center, fellowship together, inspect, sort and pack each garment. What a blessing for many it is to bless Israel through the CFI Distribution Center. Until the transport truck arrives, is loaded and departs Christian love has packed and loaded itself onto the vehicle with the garments. Upon arrival in Israel, many garments are the exact item being sought after by the new Jewish immigrants settling into their homeland. Thank God for both the United States and the United Kingdom's sacrificial work!

By Sharon Sanders



Send Clothing to:

H.E.L.P. International, Ft. Collins, Colorado.
Contact Jean Kaye: jeankaye@helpint.org

Shipping Costs for Receiving Container in Ashdod



You can assist in getting this container from the docks of the Port of Ashdod upon its arrival in Israel. Our port costs range from \$4000 to \$5000 US to receive the container and then to have it delivered to the Distribution Center.

If God would have you help with these expenses, earmark your gift to Open Gates as "Lighthouse DC Customs and Shipping."



It Was A Miracle

“Things are not yet as they should be, but it is coming.”

THE ABOVE WORDS were spoken by an Orthodox Rabbi who spoke at an historical event held on Israel’s Independence Day in Jerusalem, April 23, 2015, at the Hovevei Zion synagogue. Christian ministries and individuals were invited to participate and CFI was one of them. I was asked to read Psalm 114, a part of the Hallel read at this time in the Jewish synagogues.

This “Day of Praise” was in honor of the God of Israel that He should have brought Israel to this moment in time to celebrate her 67th birthday. David Nekrutman, an Orthodox Jew, along with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat, are spearheading an outreach to Christians from the nations. Their center, called The Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding & Cooperation in Efrat, Israel, is an extremely important advancement in the Jewish-Christian relationship world. It was an occasion to “praise God” together.

The Jewish people and Christians are changing. We are on a road called “courage” and taking one step at a time in getting to know one another better. The long standing gap between Jews and Christians is beginning to close and reflects a conspicuous difference in our approach to one another. Our approach to one another is not of one being “superior” to another, but looking at all the areas that we agree upon from the Bible. As was noted in the synagogue, “we still disagree on major differences, but we have many major issues we do agree on.

Who would give a reason for why we cannot come together to be stronger against the forces of Islam which seek to destroy both communities of faith?” Are we being asked to compromise our faith in Jesus? No, that will never happen. At the same time, we must realize that what *is* happening *is of God* and we are allowing God to work in His way between us, avoiding arguing, disagreements, despising one another and fighting. Again, I repeat, no one is compromising anything in each other’s stand, but capitalizing on both of our faiths’ desire to worship the One True God!

Representing the One We Love

The huge historical gap has caused a deficiency in both of our faith communities and it is we, the Christians, who are attached to the Jewish world through faith in Jesus. Many age-old perceptions are slowly dropping away as we see each other as we really are – people of faith. We are “Christians” and shall always be, but we are now being presented with an opportunity to represent the One we love the way we should have always done. It is not easy to reconnect that which was disconnected, and without humility on both of our parts, it would be futile to continue.

Upon arrival at the event, the atmosphere had a slight misgiving feel as no one knew what to expect and no one wanted anything to go wrong. What began with words being said ended with God being praised. Both of us as brothers yearn for a world of peace and it was an opportunity to help “repair the world” (*tikkun olam*) together. For those who have never lived in Israel and have never been invited to a synagogue, it was a miracle!

By Sharon Sanders



Christians and Jews in a synagogue



Ways in Which You Can Co-Labor from Home

- When reaching a milestone birthday, you can give back by blessing Israel
- Leaving a gift to CFI in a Will or Last Testament
- Investing in ministry needs in Jerusalem
- Becoming a monthly partner in ministry
- Automatic giving through monthly credit card transfer
- Raising funds for CFI work
 - Help pack boxes for shipments to Israel



Send your gift to:
CFI, PO Box 1813
Jerusalem 91015
ISRAEL

Together we can make an eternal difference... remember our work in your giving!

CFI in the Nations



Christian leaders from the UK

Advocacy for Israel – CFI UK

Christians across the UK have been signing a Declaration expressing appreciation of Israel, in the wake of growing anti-Semitism and extremism in the Middle East. This Declaration has been endorsed by Christian Friends of Israel (UK) and ICEJ, as well as by individual churches and prayer groups. It calls upon the spiritual leaders and elected representatives to work to combat anti-Semitism and extremism across the world and to strengthen cooperation between the UK and Israel. (From L-R: Event organizers Jeff Riches and Pastor Kemi Ilori; Or Nehustan (Shaliach to Leeds Jewish community), David Soakell (Christian Friends of Israel), Steven Jaffe (Board of Deputies consultant on grass roots engagement on Israel) and Simon Jackson (President, Leeds Jewish Representative Council). Contact **Jacob Vince**: info@cfi.org.uk

Love for Israel – CFI Switzerland

Chrétien Amis d'Israël Suisse (CFI Switzerland) consists of a new dynamic committee offering to the Swiss people good literature on Israel, CFI newsletters, teaching on Israel and our roots and more. They also have offered a CFI Keshet Course since last year. Our desire is to have more open doors in the churches, groups, youth groups, etc. We also belong to IWS which is an organization gathering all the different ministries in Switzerland working for Israel.

During the year CFI Switzerland gathers together all over Switzerland for special prayer times including repentance, and prophetic prayer. Being the dynamic couple they are, the Mathys have their ears and eyes open to serve where the Lord asks them to go. The last CFI General Assembly was powerful and many people were moved to tears. – *We heard that "this assembly was the best since ever!"* May the Lord GUIDE us for the future. Email CAISuisse@bleumail.ch

Jerusalem INVESTORS!

Could God be calling you to invest in
the City of the Great King
by partnering with CFI's work or our
future property location
in Jerusalem?

For more information please email:
invest@cfijerusalem.org

CFI Representative Nearest You