

For Zion's Sake

Second Quarter 2016 Jewish Year 5776

NATIONS WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES



*"... You have been weighed in the balances,
and found wanting" (Daniel 5:27).*



Christian Friends of Israel

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For Zion's Sake

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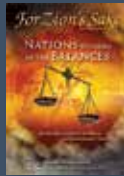
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Blessings From Jerusalem

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Dear CFI Family and Friends,

Hello from Jerusalem!

It is with joy and honor that I continue to have this God-given opportunity to serve here in the land of Israel. The weather has been unseasonably cool with gentle winds into late spring, which have been happily received. The summer months bring along with them temperatures reaching 38C/100F degrees and beyond, which can become a bit overwhelming without air conditioning to combat the stillness in the air. As a staff, however, we continue to count our blessings and choose to continue to praise the God of Israel both in the good times and not so good.

"Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress" (Psalm 48:1-3 NIV).

Sadly, an increase in violence began again in September 2015, leaving Israelis throughout the land on a heightened alert as "lone wolf" knifing attacks by radical Islamic Palestinians were widespread. It has been reported by the Israeli Shin Bet Security Agency that statistics show there were twenty-eight people killed in terror attacks in Israel in 2015, which denotes the deadliest year for terrorism since 2008. This year of 2016 has proven to be no different. Eight Israelis thus far, ranging from the ages of 18 to 38, have needlessly had their lives ended much too soon. One must also take into account that these figures do not include the hundreds injured by attacks that will now live the rest of their lives with both physical and emotional injuries.

"When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror. Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labor. You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind. As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever" (Psalm 48:4-8 NIV).



Please pray! The Word of God is full of examples of how prayer has healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, raised the dead to life and how with prayer and supplication—time after time—Israel’s enemies were held back from causing them harm. If we will pray, on behalf of God’s people, He promises to hear our petitions. His instructions are clear: *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels’*” (Psalm 122:6-7 NIV). Even though you may not be here in the land, your voice can help. Thank you ahead of time for not forgetting those of us here in the land of Israel, both Jew and Gentile, as we continue to try to live in peace in the midst of surrounding nations, who wish nothing less than the annihilation of this nation called Israel.

“Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness. Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments” (Psalm 48:9-11 NIV).

Since the beginning of time God has had a perfect plan for all of mankind, which includes a land He chose to set apart for His Chosen People. If you’re not sure my statement is correct then read Deuteronomy 7:7-9 (ESV). *“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because **the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.**”* No matter how you read this scripture, no matter if you believe it or not, the bottom line is that God’s promises to His Chosen People are forever, and always will be *irrevocable*.

The 21st Century has brought with it the deadly re-emergence of anti-Semitism. Quoting Abraham H. Foxman, “The combination of Jew hatred and the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction by hostile governments makes the (current) threat of this anti-Semitism the greatest since the Holocaust.” The fact that the State of Israel exists is a miracle, but since its conception it has brought with it hostility from all corners of the earth. The enemy

**“If the Arabs put down their weapons today,
there would be no more violence.
If the Jews put down their weapons today,
there would be no more Israel.”**

Benjamin Netanyahu

of our souls is obviously not happy because he knows his time is drawing to an end. He knows that there have been **no other people on this earth** who have ever accomplished what the Jewish people have, with God’s guidance, by rebuilding their national homeland after 2,500 years. *It is unequivocally God!*

“Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, and view her citadels that you may tell of them to the next generation. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end” (Psalm 48:12-14 NIV).

There has been a fascination with the Jewish People well before Israel’s modern-day existence, due to the eternal role they played in history. We should consider it a privilege as believers in the One True God of Israel to stand **unconditionally** alongside God’s chosen people.

Thank you for your continued support, and may the Lord continue to use each of us in ways that are always pleasing to Him.

Sincerely yours--and His,

Stacey Howard

**Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem**

NATIONS WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES

by Sharon Sanders

“There are times in history where nations find themselves falling short when standing at crossroad decisions.”

(Anonymous)

Elijah’s challenge to Israel on Mt. Carmel was, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21, NIV). “Both Moses and Joshua, in their farewell discourses picture the people as standing between two alternative courses of action...Moses phrases the choice as one between obedience and disobedience...”Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15, NIV). (Dictionary of Biblical Imagery).

People write to me believing their nations need a warning sound. “If it should sound, are we ‘listening’ or are we, as Solomon states, the Bride asleep on her bed!” (Beryl Hunter). Who *is* sounding the alarm bell and, if so, is it loud enough?”

Nations, around the world, are currently involved in either standing against or with Israel. Few weeks pass where the news does not show a display of pompous statements, bold threats or outright lies toward the Jewish nation from various international leaders. Both secular and spiritual leaders are seemingly choosing to either stand against or for, the one miracle nation on earth that God has resurrected from the dustbins of history: Israel. Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook once stated that “anyone who refuses to recognize the State of Israel does not recognize HaShem’s rule over what takes place in the world (of nations).” Rabbi Kook also said “Redemption comes slowly in gradual stages, little by little...HaShem will appear in more and more light” (Tzvi Fishman). This is our hope and prayer every day.

Israel has recently celebrated its 68th Independence Day and the whole of the country was replete with blue and white flags flying in the wind. Yes, Israel has a glorious future promised to her by God, but do the nations really comprehend this?

Pinchas Landau, a renowned expert on global matters in the nations and Israel, wrote recently in the Jerusalem Post, “...the degree of deterioration and the rate of decline (in the nations) are way beyond anything imaginable back in 2003...I urge readers to prepare themselves for the future...” (www.lpinchaslandau.com).

*“...You have been weighed
in the balances,
and found wanting”.*

(Daniel 5:27)

מִנָּה מִנָּה תֵּקֵל וּפְרָסִין

Pinchas Landau's words confirmed the sense I've had, for some time, about the nations being headed straight into a collision course, with a Divine and Eternal Covenant, which God made with His People. This places each nation in a precarious posture of heavy responsibility, as its decisions made regarding Israel, can either damage or destroy that nation's relationship with the Chosen People and with the God of the Jews. The upshot is that negative ramifications follow our nations, when our nations no longer make an effort to acknowledge God or what He is doing among the nations (and among His People in their Land). Many spend their time despising and cursing Israel through BDS movements, anti-Semitic public statements, divestment actions and pulpit ranting, *as though God has cast the nation off*. When will the nations admit that they cannot break God's Divine Covenant with Israel (made at the time of the smoking oven and a burning torch, that passed between the pieces, (Genesis 15:8-21) and confirmed many times over throughout the Scriptures. Moreover, the strength of God's covenant is so powerful that God clearly proclaims that if anyone (from anywhere) can measure Heaven and the foundations of the Earth, **then** He would cast them off. (**Jeremiah 31:35-37; 33:23-26**) This is a very solid and binding agreement with the Chosen People. Dare our nations meddle with this promise to Israel?

I am concerned, and perhaps you are also, if our nations are paying any attention to what God might be doing in the spiritual realm. It seems that many are not. I see some nations becoming like "Ichabod" as they blindly depart from the Living God, and His Commandments and *definitely do not see* how Genesis 12:3 fits into their modern day agendas. Many nations are in serious trouble. Liberal agendas have produced chaos and confusion completely oblivious to end-time blueprints that God laid out for all of mankind in regard to Israel. They do not see that it is God's breath that has brought Israel to life and that it is God who has placed His People in their Land with all of His Heart. "*I will place my breath in you and you will live; I will give you rest in your own land. Then you will know that I am the LORD—I have spoken and I will act, declares the Lord*" (Ezekiel 37:14, NET).

In so many of our nations, the peg driven into once firm foundations has come away from the original base from which each was established. (**Isaiah 22:25**). Some nations are on the edge of disaster, and they hang in midair (as did Absalom when his hair got caught in the tree... *but the mule kept on going*). (2 Samuel 18:9). To be in these types of uncertain situations places the nations as if they were "hanging in the balance". Much has been eroded in our beautiful countries. We can blame it on television, Hollywood movies, Internet and a host of other possible reasons but ultimately, it is clear from God's Word that it is *sin* that is ruling far too strongly in too many places...and a departure from the fear of God. We know that any nation that humbles itself and turns from its wicked ways, God will come and heal the Land. (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). However, I have wondered for some time where our spiritual leaders are and why *nationwide prayer* and repentance has not been called for--it "seems" as if few are paying attention to the calls and only return to trying to work out their own problems with their own solutions.

World summits, political forums, G-20 nations, the United Nations and other governmental conferences try to solve the problems of the world--but it isn't working. Real solutions for the problems are left "hanging." "...no one knows if (their nations) will continue to exist in the future and if so, what will happen to [them]. (*Cambridge Dictionary*).

Daniel interprets the king's hour of visitation when "*...the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lamp stand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*" (Daniel 5:5). The inscription on the wall was "*...Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin*" (vs. 25). The interpretation came through Daniel and the sky fell. "*...you have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting...your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians*" (Daniel 5:26-28). You have..."not measured up" (NLT), you are "found deficient" (NAS), your rule is "found lacking" (NET). The words written by God's Hand were "...in Aramaic..." according to Vol. 10, No. 2, *Jewish History* and in many ways we should be able to see God's handwriting on the wall for our beloved

nations. How sad it is, if you are like me--I love the country I was born in, but I can see how it has pulled away from its Biblical foundations, with liberal institutions, left-leaning media, violence, sexually immoral movies, pornography, sex changes, destruction of the God-given family unit, television, misuse of the Internet, the discounting of the institution of marriage, alternative lifestyles, drug use and so much more--*all when weighed on God's Scales are found wanting*. There is hardly a nation anywhere today that does not deal with these issues.

Someone once said "...we have been believing in our own genius, interpreting our own words, according to our own perspective and trust, in our own intelligence, our own imagination and ethics"...confirming most nations do not bring God into their meetings and speeches. **Only one nation has.**

Through the lips of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, I believe God spoke to the entire arena of the United Nations and plainly laid out His Word on the matter before them, which dealt with the treatment of Israel. *But was anyone paying attention? Were they blind to the "hand-writing on the wall" and the message being given to them?* I encourage you to listen to those messages on the Internet, which brought 45 seconds of deafening silence to the delegates of the United Nations in October, 2015 and before in September 2014. As Nebuchadnezzar had to learn the hard way, it will be the same with our nations. While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven that his kingdom had departed from him "...until you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he chooses" (Daniel 4:31-32).

The only way out was for the king to lift his head to God and then his senses returned (vs. 34); likewise, the Ruler of Heaven and Earth may be challenging our nations to turn to Him. There may be no returning to

former glories until there is a humbling. As painful as it may be, we will have to be the voices that counsel and help turn our nations toward Him once again. **It will take prayer, commitment and action on our parts...no more remaining silent but letting our voices arise.**



The despising of Israel means regarding lightly Israel's God, who is also the God of the Nations. Leaders throw "Daniel" into the lion's den over and over again when they mock God's appointed leader, Prime Minister Netanyahu.

We need a Daniel today to speak to our governments, our churches and spiritual institutions to encourage them to choose the right way. Kingdoms of this world really need to remember it was God who gave them their nation and/or kingdom. Among the gods of prosperity, materialism, sex, atheism, freedom of speech and the right to live "my way" rules, we need a voice. We also need to pray that humble leadership will rise up who know that it is God who holds the nations' breath in His Hands. Is

it too late? Never. Humbleness and repentance is what He desires. Some of us will have to lead the way, even if we are also mocked.

With revolutions and uprisings in many nations today (violence, hatred and uncontrollable anger) there is little peace on the earth. May God help the remnant of true believers, who follow Jesus, to embrace courage even if it means laying down our lives. We *must* sound the alarm bell until we all wake up to the global threat of radical Islam which is challenging the Word of the Living God and His plans and purposes for the nation of Israel and for the followers of Jesus.

I think of the way we often complain at the smallest inconveniences in our lives, while multitudes of Christians in the Middle East die daily, leaving a strong testimony, giving their lives over to martyrdom rather than to deny the Lord...I am ashamed of the deafening silence coming from a lukewarm Church which makes us shallow as God's witnesses. The disciples of Jesus "*turned the world upside down*" (Acts 17:6). Joel Richardson of World Net Daily news states, "The early followers of Jesus were ready to leave all for the Master...where is our boldness, energy and passion placed each day? Global radical Islam is bigger than we think. We need to be ready to "die with our boots on".

The boycotting, belittling, berating, condemning and castigation of Israel *will* be dealt with by God in the day of the Lord's vengeance. It surely is time for the nations to put their ear to the ground and listen to God's warning in **Isaiah 34:1-2, 8**. There will be a day of revenge from God for the hostile way the nations have treated Zion. "*For the Lord has planned a day of revenge, a time when He will repay Edom for her hostility toward Zion*" (Isaiah 34:8). While Edom is particularly mentioned, we know that **Genesis 12:3** tells us everyone will receive "*blessing or cursing*" from God in their treatment of the

Jews. Jesus tells us When He comes, His Judgment will be according to the way His Brethren have been treated. (**Matthew 25:31-46**). Since there was no Church at the time of His message and the Jewish people were the only people who called each other “brethren”...it is pretty easy to understand the meat of His Message about Israel.

We need to pray for mercy and for positive change. We need to prepare our “*arks of safety*” which are ONLY in the Lord. No matter what happens we will be safe in the “*shadow of the Almighty*” (Psalm 91). We must stand for what is right and stand *for* Israel! Whoever is found fearing the Lord and meditating on His Name will be made into His Jewels and He *will* spare them in that day. (**Daniel 6:16; Malachi 3:17**). We must speak when necessary (**Isaiah 62:1**) and not wait for Islam to come to our door. Any indifference will only bolster evil.

Islam’s obsession is the genocide of the Jewish people. Who can ignore the speakers at the University of London Student Union who recently sponsored a panel for the destruction of Israel as a final solution to anti-Semitism? (The Algameiner E-paper). UNESCO’s recent resolution of hate against Israel and Islam’s call in Ramallah to invade Israel are other examples. Those who bring charges against God’s Chosen People will pay a high price. Thank God for the USA’s Iowa Governor who went against the flow and signed an Anti-Boycott Israel bill. Others have recently followed in a positive vein. Thank God the Methodist Church voted to withdraw from the Anti-Israel Coalition; a Texas Governor recently stood up for Israel; Zionists ambushed a BDS Flash Mob in London and a Miami Beach Pastor recently stood bravely before a crowd and obliterated every BDS supporter. We can make our voices heard.

It took years of work and intense labor, supported by many of you who pray for and love this ministry for

change to come about, but we believe we have chosen the right approach to Israel. His Love. Instead of running *from* us, Jewish people are reaching *out to us*! Having applied His Healing Balm over the past 25-30 years, now we are truly looked upon as their friends and they believe they are not alone! We cannot afford to let them down again.

Jewish people are out saving lives around the world, when here in their own country, they fight for survival. When massive earthquakes take place, and buildings collapse, Israel responds to help; when Syrian soldiers need help they cross the border to get help from Israeli medics who save their lives. Israel is also turning seawater into energy and teaching other countries how to survive.

Derek Prince always said “*We owe the Jewish people a great debt.*” It is time that we return the kindness of God shown to us, through Israel, through our work among them, and in public displays of standing with them.

Quietly, some alliances of Islamic nations are being formed -- such as Jordan’s cooperation with Israel and even the Far East is calling for building relationships.

I personally believe the spirit behind radical Islam is aware that the Jews are coming dangerously (for them) close to prevailing over “*a Kingdom that will have no end*” (Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:33). The bottom line is the throne in the City of Jerusalem. The greatest mother of all battles may lie just beyond the next corner.

In the meantime, Israel’s population has increased ten-fold (**Jeremiah 33:22**) from 806,000 to 8,522,000 citizens in 68 years. It is one of the happiest nations on earth and definitely the most beautiful. God is performing His Word.

Yes! Our nations *are* at a fork in the road and it is a defining moment. This can either be a “shining hour” - or *demise* for nations. A consider-

able number are responding exactly how God said they would in the latter times – *abandoning Israel in favor of Islam*. (**Zechariah 12:3**). As we listen for the Midnight Call of the Master (**Matthew 24:6**) we really need to make an effort to hear...and become the blessing to Israel we were always called to be. It is all about declaring to the world: “**This is where we stand.**” Churchill described the Jewish people as “*beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has appeared in the world*” (Colonel Richard Kemp, British Army 1977-2006.)

The dry bones of Ezekiel resurrection took place. Now the Spirit is entering into many lives. Today *even secular* Jewish people are saying, “We believe in God and keep the Sabbath.” (JewishPress.com). God is at work among His People and as Christian Friends of Israel, we need your prayers and financial support to continue our work of preparing the way of the Lord.

I close with a solemn declaration to the nations of the world made many years ago by King Darius (**Daniel 6:26-27**):

“To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell on the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever, His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed. And His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders In Heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

May we all have ears to hear. ■



*“For the rendering of this service does more than supply the wants of God’s people; it results in a wealth of thanksgiving to God.”
(2 Corinthians 9:12)*



STANDING IN THE GAP

As children go through their adolescent years on the way to adulthood, often times some lose their way along the path of life, even when they are the children of pastors and ministers who raise their children in the fear of the Lord in loving homes. Such was the case for the son of one such family of believers in the Land. Though attending his congregation as a youth, our dear friend “K” found the pull of the world so strong that the lifestyle of gambling, gangs and drugs, slowly but steadily, wrapped a negative sinful lifestyle around him and pulled him far from the Lord’s path. But as all believers know, the path of life is not easy and it is the Lord alone that is our Shepherd. **It is only by His voice, that we can find our true way back home.**

The word of God promises: *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)*. So it was, in the life of our dear friend “K”. Just a few years back, the call of the Lord came upon him and he remembered the voice of the Lord, and through many miraculous circumstances, repented from his old lifestyle, turned his back on the drugs, darkness, and emptiness of the world’s lifestyle and once again returned to the fold.

Now a recovered drug addict, “K” has begun to help and minister to those in the same bondage from which the Lord has freed him. He is presently working in a rehabilitation center in Netanya, helping those who have lost hope in this life.

He shares with those there, that although he lived a long time in the darkness of drugs and criminal activity, the

Lord never gave up on him. Finally during the lowest point of not wanting to even live anymore, the Lord met him at his moment of greatest need. He now serves the Lord by ministering to those lost in the same darkness of despair. Along with ministering to those in rehab, “K” also keeps a regular job in a local factory to help take care of his bills.

Just last year, he found the woman of his dreams and they were happily married right here in Israel. Due to citizenship regulations in Israel, his marriage to his wife meant that the official marriage certificate needed to be from outside the country and the expense of obtaining it was quite beyond their financial reach.

Not wanting to be found in error with his congregation or the eyes of the Lord, he sought the help of Christian Friends of Israel to find a way to formalize his new marriage to his wonderful new bride. Project First Fruits was honored to be able to assist them with such a noble and wonderful opportunity to stand in unity with this young couple in the faith.

With so much coming against the traditional biblical understanding of marriage between a man and woman these days, it was a privilege to **stand in the gap** for this new couple, who have such a profound and strong witness, and who serve and worship the Lord God of Israel. **Your support of First Fruits means that many more lives in the household of faith can be encouraged in Israel today and for the bright future ahead.**

Kevin Howard
Project First Fruits



How Long O Lord?

“How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save?”
(Habakkuk 1:2)

Wherever we are in our nations, let us think about what God’s Chosen People have to go through to survive daily in “their” Land. Sadly, since September 13, 2015, 34 people (two were non-Jews) have been killed in terrorist attacks and 411 people (including 4 Palestinians) injured in a wave of terror attacks. There have been 211 stabbing attacks (including 66 attempted attacks), 83 shootings, and 42 vehicle (ramming) attacks as of March 27, 2016 according to the statistics of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

“How Long O Lord must this evil continue?” A questioning glance met our eyes when Rahamim Cohen asked the above question before we visited his brother Tzvika in the hospital. His brother nearly died on February 26, 2016, by the hand of a Palestinian youth working *in the same mall*. Rahamim had felt his own blow of terrorism when he was stabbed 15 times by a Palestinian riding in his taxi, which left him in a pool of blood. The terror attack on Tzvika shook Israelis as the terrorist working at the same mall, and had even shared coffee with Tzvika two days before the attack. As Tzvika had opened a door for his co-worker in the mall, an ax was pulled from his pocket, and he began to brutally hack Tzvika’s head from behind even after Tzvika fell on the floor. **Rahamim asked the whole country to pray for Tzvika** who is still in a coma fighting for his life. Rahamim’s question is not an easy one. We told him that honestly we do not know the answer, but God says *“...vengeance is Mine...and recompense”* (Deuteronomy 32:35, ASV).

The Project UHW team works continually to reach out and touch the personal lives of terror victims and families of the deceased victims (soon after any terror attack happens) and as soon as it is reported in the news. **Please pray for the healing and speedy recoveries of the terror victims and thank you for considering supporting this important ministry of CFI.**

In the new wave of terror attacks, carried out in various forms, and happening daily in many cities throughout Israel, Damascus Gate, Gush Etzion Junction, Hebron and Samaria were the most vulnerable spots. Security forces and IDF soldiers have been the easy targets. Israelis have

been injured on buses, while driving, walking on streets, waiting for the light-rail train, shopping at grocery stores or even when they are at home. Take a moment to think about how our Jewish friends have to live...especially, when they are innocent victims and have done no wrong to anyone.

The Brainwashing of Children:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6). Unfortunately instead of being trained in a Biblical setting while growing up, the children in the Muslim world have been *abusively brainwashed*, fed with lies and hatred toward Jewish people since birth. Every day Palestinian children are poisoned by Palestinian Authority propaganda in their education, cartoons and television programs...with incitement and encouragement to murder Jews. Social media has been used as the platform calling for terror attacks.

Years ago a Palestinian psychologist conducted a study among Palestinian children ages 6-11, and the most astonishing fact presented was that more than 50% of the children dream of becoming a suicide bomber and wearing a suicide belt rather than playing or studying as normal children. That psychologist stated then that, by about the year 2012, a very murderous generation will come of age, full of hatred and ready to die in suicide missions. It is being proven true in this new wave of terror attacks by children as young as 10 years of age. **Let us intercede to God for the Palestinian children and youths, that in God’s Mercy, many of them will be delivered from the lies and hatred against Jewish people, and be given a revelation about the God of Israel and His Son Yeshua. Many have been set free from hatred when Yeshua touches their hearts. Thank you for helping us to bring untold blessings to multitudes of hurting people.**

“For the hurt of...My People I am hurt...I am mourning” (Jeremiah 8:21).

Maggie Huang
Project Under His Wings





"I did this for all of you and for the Israeli people. Perhaps my life was shorter than the ordinary but I enjoyed every single moment." (Sgt. Nadav Raimond)
(These were the parting words of an Israeli soldier.)



Expressing Christian Love

GOD'S VALUED WORK FOR THE IDF

One of the honored aspects of serving with CFI and being able to reach out to the IDF soldiers, is the God-given opportunity to spend time on army bases with them. In one encounter I learned about a unique feature within the IDF - **the Lone Soldier**. In the IDF, a lone soldier (Hebrew: בודד חייל, *Hayal Boded*) is defined as a military service person without immediate family in Israel. Mordi has founded a Lone Soldier center in Jerusalem, and CFI has helped, on occasion, with practical assistance. I asked Mordi if as a former IDF Lone soldier, he had a message for Christians in the nations. I discovered during my time with him a disquieting revelation. As he reflected on his answer, to give to each of you, he said with a firmly held belief:

There is a reason we are called the Israel Defense forces... the world...loves denying history and seeing it repeat itself. Whether it's...governments...or people just not being interested in truth, it has led us again and again to wars, to death, and to evil. I feel like there's one nation in the world (Israel) that since its beginning, has been trying to help make this world a better place. To say that there's never been evil among us is not true and we are not saying that. The teachings of the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) are pure, they are our instruction manual for how the world is supposed to be...whether it's laws or loving your neighbor, nearly everything is about doing good. And the army, the IDF in itself, is a very moral body. It does specifically what needs to be done to protect, to keep people safe, and sometimes to help our enemies...the IDF is an important role model for the world to see, to make the world a better place."

I encouraged him and I saw he wanted to say more... and then came a very startling and thought provoking statement. *"Letting your enemies live, just so you can call yourself moral, is ultimately killing yourself, which is immoral."* This statement opened my eyes to what the Jewish People are truly confronted with. There is no other army in the world where people from other countries will volunteer to serve in another country's army, and noting that we had talked about the IDF being a family, I asked one more question: "Why is the IDF so unique and why should our supporters recognize and defend it? Again, with certainty and sincerity, he answered: *"One of*

the things a lone soldier accomplishes in their service... adding more soldiers to the IDF, and adds morale. Lone soldiers will often come in with a tremendously higher enthusiasm than an Israeli soldier...Israeli soldiers...have no choice, and have to do mandatory service...a volunteer is in no way obligated... their eagerness in training and operations is often much higher and helps build army team spirit."



He's My Friend

I then replied *"...you said that there is no other army in the world that has volunteers coming to join from other nations...it happens that we do have one more: ISIS. ISIS is an example of evil. There are people that will do anything to side with evil, and there are people who will do anything to side with good. I feel that people who come to the Israel army, to serve and volunteer...and are given over to do the right thing, will do anything to see it is accomplished...even lose their lives..."*

I found this encounter to be one of the most constructive I have experienced. My friendship continues with Mordi, but it further indicates the need for Christians from the nations to stand on the side of God and His Word, and to be a *doer* of what we are reminded of in Romans 11:11 - to provoke to jealousy. The Jewish people are tasked with many things and the initial God-given task was and is to be a ... *"light to the Nations..."* (Isaiah 49:6). I am happy to report *"it is happening here in Israel"*.

Thank you for your continued prayers and words of encouragement. Your support has helped us to purchase fleece jackets, thermal wear, knee pads, and summer shirts as well as other equipment. Helping the IDF puts actions to our words and helps us to build relationships all over the nation.

Jim McKenzie
Project David's Shield



“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed”.
(Proverbs 19:17).

**“Alone we can do so little,
 Together we can do so much.”**

(Helen Keller).

Wherever one travels, even in the most prosperous of nations, you find the underprivileged. People who are disadvantaged, disabled, homebound, without employment and cannot work. Sometimes there are single parents who have very little income and in Israel, elderly people often live on small pensions and have to decide whether to buy food or medicine, with what is left at the end of the month. Israel, according to a report issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in 2016, Israel ranks as the country with the highest rates of poverty. Approximately 21 percent of Israelis live under the poverty-line.

Requests for help and assistance come to us not only to help individuals and families but also those who have been severely damaged emotionally from trauma. While few live on the street, there are nonetheless, great needs in their lives and the smallest gift of help will bring the joy back into their lives that someone...Christians... have remembered their struggles. Streams of Blessing exists to help institutions, schools, needy Jewish communities in areas under stress and of course, especially, the elderly on pensions who have suffered in some way during their lifetime, with their own story to tell us. Thank you for laboring alongside of us, as your brothers and sisters in Christ, to be the hands and feet who take God’s Love to those who live modestly, lack the comfort of modern homes and often feel “forgotten”. Sometimes people cry when they have no shoes. That is the time when we need to meet someone who has no feet (there are a number here in Israel). We can never give up caring for those who need help and for the poor, disadvantaged and sometimes homebound. Our level of responsibility the Master gave to us is to “...help those who are in need of sustaining...”. (The Weekly eDrash, ffoz.isarel. office@ffoz.org). When we love the people God loves, we do not have a choice. “The things we take for granted, someone else is praying for.” (Coolinsmart.com) **Thank you from the depth of our hearts for your faithful support of our work!**

Sharon Sanders
Project Streams of Blessing



Sharon With Rabbi's mother, a survivor



Sponsoring Excursion for elderly Christian Arab Women From Bethlehem

CFI helps sponsor 400 children with Zalman School Hot Lunch Program. CFI was honored to Light the Torch at the Independence Day celebration for fallen soldiers who had graduated from the school.





Love is Giving, not Getting

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?...let us not love in word...but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:17-18). What wonderful opportunities CFI has in Israel to bring God’s blessings and love to the Ethiopian Jewish community.

Ethiopia was known in the Bible as the Land of Cush. It is known today as a Land of Contrasts. Many have been searched out by God and brought home to Israel in various government airlifts over the years. We recently quoted Rachel Mangoli, Manager of an Ethiopian Jewish community program about our help with after school programs. She reminded us that for the past nine years CFI has been giving young people opportunities that they otherwise would have missed. Covering salaries for the Program Director and purchasing their first desktop computer was

an experience the school will never forget. Just as in all of our outreach projects, CFI continues to build lasting relationships with the Ethiopian Jewish communities across the land, who acknowledge that CFI has “made a difference” in their lives. Our testimony of righteousness and caring has spoken like a thunderbolt when often they had no one else to whom they could turn.



Through generous donations from CFI they have been able to receive

ongoing school supplies, dental care and laptop computers as well as provide English lessons, which help supplement the children’s learning experiences. CFI has also purchased school uniforms and sport shoes for children that desire to play athletics in school throughout the year.

The Pardes Katz neighborhoods, in Beni Brak can be very difficult for families due to high crime rates, and drugs, which are easily procured. At times the community has been made to feel inferior, not because of hatred, but because of a lack of understanding this special community. Israel is beginning to see the value of its Ethiopian Jewish immigrants and is adjusting programs and opportunities to give everyone an opportunity to learn and succeed in life. Community leaders have been gracious to share with us how they see our support changing lives of very needy children every day. The children know that as Christians, we care. With CFI’s help this after school program has



CFI Representatives visit the Ethiopian Jewish After School Program

been able to sustain itself, preventing many children from getting involved in crime on the streets. Jesus was a doer of the word. He performed miracles and signs and wonders when He walked the Land. Following in His Footsteps, we have become “doers” of the Word.

The after school program is designed to see children all the way through high school. We are seeing children that before, may have required “special education” get high marks during their examinations. We have also seen these young, challenged children overcome some of the greatest odds. After graduating from high school and going through military service many have chosen to continue their education, becoming directors, business administrators, bookkeepers and so on. Over the past three years we have also had the opportunity to reach out to parents who desire to learn Hebrew, English and mathematics. They are coming to the center every day studying with volunteers.

During this last Pessach (Passover) CFI was able to provide Food Vouchers for over 130 individuals. Pessach is one of the most special holidays celebrated every year; however, not everyone can celebrate as they should be able to because most Ethiopian-Jewish families have extended family members making it very difficult financially during the holiday seasons. It’s because of your faithfulness and benevolent gifts that we are able to reach out to these needy families and help them celebrate this holiday with their families with joy and honor. Thanks to those who are supporting the CFI Hope for the Future project.

A closing word from Rachel: “We want to continue to promote and strength the Ethiopian community at our center. Thanks to CFI and God we’re able to provide this much needed community outreach every day. I want to thank CFI for their significant contributions over the years. This dream could have never become a reality without CFI. God bless CFI and all the donors.” For this, we praise the Lord above for His Faithfulness through you, our supporters!

Tsehail Legesse-Marabi
Project Hope for the Future



A CALL TO REMEMBER

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you” (Deuteronomy 32:7).

Imagine you are allowed only one bag for all of your possessions. A soldier holding a rifle orders you to quickly board a cattle car. The door locks and the train pulls out slowly. You have no idea where you are going or when the train will stop.



CFI's Project Forsake Them Not Coordinator Olga with Survivor



Home Visits are so Important to Survivors

Remembrance is part of the Jewish faith. More and more the Holocaust survivors in Israel are awakening to the necessity of speaking out about the Holocaust and sharing their horrendous experiences. Their hope is that the world would learn from the past and that such a terrible thing could never happen again.

In March there was a meeting of the Association of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors in the area of Kibbutz Ruhama in the Negev. Many Holocaust Survivors gathered there to begin what will become a grove of over 1,000 trees to be planted in memory of the 1.5 million children who were murdered during the Holocaust. *“So many children were murdered, our brothers and sisters, schoolmates, friends, and our parents, who were only 19, 20, 21.... We had a responsibility to live our lives as best we could. Get married and give life to the coming generations. We did it for ourselves, and also for them. Today it is a time to immortalize their lives and memories here, in the land of Israel. By doing this we are investing in the building and prosperity of our beautiful country.”*

“Many Jews attempted to flee Germany before WWII actually began. From 6 - 15 July 1938 representatives from 32 countries met at the resort town of Evian-les-Bains in France, at the request of the U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, to discuss the issue of Jewish immigration from Nazi Germany. It was the hope of many that the countries represented could find a way to open their doors, to allow more than their usual quotas of immigrants into their countries. Instead, every country but one refused to allow more immigration. The Dominican Republic was the only exception. Hitler took the failure of Evian as a clear signal that the world did not care about the Jews in Europe. But today we are living in the Jewish State of Israel and we have the best army to defend us from our enemies. We only pray now for peace.”

The ceremony and all the addresses were deeply moving. The memories of the past rose up again. Six million Jews were shot, drowned, buried alive, and burned in the gas chambers. Murdered in the concentration camps and ghettos, died from hunger and cold....Among them, there were



“As long as I live in the hearts of those who love me, I shall never die.”
(A Holocaust survivor)



1.5 million children. It is impossible to forget this. But, very soon new trees will shoot up and serve as a reminder of this tragedy. These trees will become a symbol of life for the coming generations. The day was very emotional, many tears were shed. But, it was also full of hope.

The Lord has called us to watch and pray. Let us stand together in unity as we stand together with Israel in such a time as this. Let us not take the Holocaust lightly, but may it always be a “call to remember” what humanity, without justice and love, did to the Jewish people. Let us be diligent and watchful to what is happening in the world today.

Thank you so very much for generously showing your support with all your prayers and donations for God’s special possession, His People. Increasingly, the Jewish people are recognizing and appreciating God’s love being expressed through us and our actions, which speak louder than words of support during their golden years. Without you all we would not be able to fulfill what the Lord has commanded us to do - to comfort and bless His People Israel.

Olga Kopilova
Project Forsake Them Not

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Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 9101701 Israel

The GREAT *Disconnect*

“The foreigner who has given his allegiance to the Lord must not say, ‘The Lord will keep me separate from His People for ever’ (Isaiah 56:3, NEB). Also “Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, the Lord hath utterly separated me from His People...” (KJV).

When the chain of brotherhood was broken between Jews and Christians, a link was lost. That “missing link” was Israel. Ever since the Church Fathers tore us away from anything to do with Israel or anything “Jewish”, they yielded us up to the sin of separation, which the Lord was so specific about through the lips of Isaiah. This disconnect brought about indifference toward the Jews, through arrogance and pride, and thus the loss of respect for God’s Chosen People has plagued the historical church for over 2000 years. When it walked away from its elder brother, it withdrew its support and allegiance so thoroughly, that when I traveled and asked congregations, on every continent, **“What God do we serve?”** silence condemned the Church. All of a sudden, a question has been asked that “we” cannot answer because when we disconnected from Israel, we totally forgot about “God—being Israel’s---God”. The answer eventually comes when someone raises a hand and shyly answers...the “God of Israel?” We say He’s “Our God” or just “God” but He specifically identifies Himself throughout the Bible as “the God of Israel” many, many times. The “missing link” had weakened our response.

When the Gentile followers of Jesus walked away from their root system, many lost the mettle of character, and when the Jewish people needed us the most, many again walked away, turned the head and truly forgot the meaning of *“love your neighbor”*. Matthew and Mark were clear about these words of Jesus and the true meaning behind them. The Jewish people, even today, ask why are we not standing with them? The Church worldwide is full of BDS’ers and those who cry “sanctions against Israel!”

When God was angry with Israel, He chastised them, but He never gave the Gentile

**“To link together that which has been disconnected for so long is not easy”
-Sharon Sanders-**

followers of Jesus the authority to punish His Hebrew children. In fact, just the opposite. We were supposed to be a blessing according to Genesis 12:3, and He would take care of their discipline. It is amazing that during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. as the Romans invaded the City carrying Jewish people away, and the people fell into the hands of the enemy, the Bible tells us what God saw. It was almost identical to what He beheld during the 1st Temple destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BCE. They (the Jewish people) *“..fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her...”* (Lamentations 1:7). She collapsed as **“...there was for her no comforter...”** (Ecclesiastes 4:1 NAB). Through her long exile in the nations, Israel was found with few (Gentiles) who helped her. *“...there is none to deliver...”* (Psalm 7:2); **“...no eye had pity enough upon you to do any of these things out of compassion for you...”** (Ezekiel 16:5, AAT); *“...they fell down, and there was no one to help...”* (Psalm 107:12, KJV); **“They wandered in the wilderness...they found no city to dwell in”** (Psalm 107:4).

This is why CFI’s work in the Land of Israel, among the Jewish people, and our work in the nations, is so important to God. We must never be *“found wanting”* when it comes to blessing, praying for, helping, serving, protecting, and speaking up for – the Jewish people. We were never meant to be disconnected from Israel, so let us labor to represent the Master the way we always should have done, and be a tool in the Hands of God, to put the “missing link” back into our chain of brotherhood. Hopefully, we’ll never be separated again.

by Sharon Sanders



GOD CONTINUES THE GATHERING



*“There is hope
for your future
says the Lord,
and your children
shall come back to
their own country”
(Jeremiah 31:16-17, NEB).*

The sorrow and hardships that so many of the descendants of the Children of Israel have been through have been addressed by the Lord in His returning Israel’s sons and daughters--the descendants of those who were dispersed from Jerusalem—to their own borders. Even though far from perfect (as are all of those of us who follow Christ), they are still God’s Chosen and we, who have salvation through Jesus, can say we are “God’s Chosen, blessing God’s Chosen.” Our eyes are so blessed to see this generation of Jewish people returning to their Homeland. We have the privilege of ministering God’s Love to them, the freedom to speak to them about God’s Word, the opportunity to be “repairers of the breach” (Isaiah 58:12), and to demonstrate through the love we carry in our hearts, through righteous deeds and acts, that we truly are followers of Jesus, and we “do care”. We have the honor of blessing them as Christian friends who are standing with them and their nation. Often a lack of understanding who we really are becomes so brilliantly bright and crystal clear to them, that we indeed, are their friends and that “friends love at all times” (Proverbs 17:17). In the end, it will prove to be what the Lord Himself always wanted us to be to His Chosen People.

Your generous support to “Open Gates” will help so many just like these.

Clothed in Love

For our staff, it is a privilege and delight to share in the joy of helping all the new immigrants who come to us. Let’s together, visit some of those who have come this quarter (a few among many) and hear from their hearts what your garments, prayers and support mean to them as new arrivals.

Lev & Ella

Lev & Ella are from Moscow. Having elderly parents in Israel, they had visited before and were waiting for Lev’s retirement from military service. They are thrilled to be HOME in their Promised Land. Ella was so happy she was in tears of joy during their whole visit to us. Their granddaughter is soon to be married, in Israel, and they needed clothing fit for a wedding. Ella’s new blue dress is perfect for the wedding and they

both had fun picking out their new garments for this special occasion. Their joy was full.

Vitali and Tatiana

Tatiana and her husband: She told us, “I had a good job and had many friends: but I was not happy. Now I do not have a job and I don’t have a house but my family is here and I am very happy.” The whole family lives in Israel, including his grandmother who is a 90-year-old survivor. When they departed, they wrote a note to us **“We are leaving this center with a feeling of friendship and a hand upon our shoulders.”** God bless them in their new Land.

Mirra, Sofya and Desiree

All three young ladies, now in Israel with employment, were so happy to receive their gift bags. They listened to the story of how CFI began and how thousands of Christian Zionists

around the world stand with their people and pray and support this work of aliyah. They enjoyed their “shopping spree” - had a lot of fun choosing their garments. What a difference this day made in their lives.

Nina

Twenty-two years ago CFI reached out to a family of new immigrants and made such a difference that a beautiful relationship continues to this day. As our Lighthouse team made their way to 80 year old Nina’s home we were warmly welcomed. Having immigrated in 1994, the whole family was told about CFI and frequently visited the CFI Distribution Center and Bridal Salon. Buying special clothing for weddings and occasions can be expensive for those living on limited budgets. Before our team departed, she looked at her watch and said, “I will have to leave for my job as a caregiver in a nearby



Lev & Ella Trying on
Their Dream Clothes



Vitali and Tatiana
A Hand On Their Shoulders



Elizabetha
She loves the DC



Nina 80 and still working

apartment.” She loves working and tries to support herself as long as her strength allows. May the Lord empower her with strength well beyond her years.

Elizabetha

Another home visit took our team to a sweet Russian immigrant recuperating from a broken arm after suffering a fall. Having immigrated in 1997 her family all now live in Israel. She was so pleased with the work at the CFI Distribution Center. Let us pray for Elizabetha and her daughter.

Denys and Darya

Denys and Darya are expecting their first child (a boy) in September. They came to the DC hoping to find their dream clothes for their little one. Our beautiful ready-made baby packages with brand-new clothing broke out many smiles. We bless this couple on the upcoming birth of their first child.

Our Down's Syndrome Baby Boy

Born in Jerusalem with Down's Syndrome, to an older father and younger mother, this little one has faced many challenges that have threatened his life. He had a very weak heart, and needed surgery right after birth. CFI was able to help this family with their bills and the family loves to be with us. Thank God for this special little child.

Jack Guerrero

Jack is a very enthusiastic person with many goals since his arrival in Israel. Having been born in Venezuela, he found life very hard there with frequent robberies, kidnappings,

stray bullets and crime, often unpunished, was discouraging. Making aliyah in January 2016, he said “I have come to Israel, the Holy Land, with a suitcase full of hope, asking God every day that the Venezuelan people may open their eyes and realize that they have lost their culture and values, the sensitivity for the pain and tragedy of others, and giving a hand to the needy.” Pray that Jack find this Holy Land an example to other countries around the world and that Israel will rise up and be the “light to the nations”. He left saying, “I [will] keep you in my prayers.”

“Megindultunk”

Ferenc and Mercedes live in the south of Israel and had heard that we freely give God's Word (the Hebrew Scriptures) and wanted a Bible in Hebrew-Hungarian. Having made aliyah in 2015 from Hungary, they are now making progress with their Hebrew. We opened the Bible and tried to read the first word “*megindultunk*” - which means, “we turned together, we started moving, we began our journey, we made our way up.” Very prophetic especially since as Christians and Jews, we are beginning to move together, making our way together.

Alegrina, Jose & Hannah

Another expectant couple to receive clothing for their expected bundle of joy. Jose is from Guatemala and Hannah is from the United States. Hannah had chosen her wedding dress from our CFI Bridal Salon when they were married. Now she had come to share blessings. Praise

God for strong believers in the Almighty God of Israel who are trusting Him with their future. A strong bond of love has developed between us and this family and we thank God for the blessings our time together brought us.

Stories too numerous to tell abound at the Distribution Center: stories of weddings, brit ceremonies for baby boys, young husbands shopping for their wives and many others of Israel's newcomers – all coming for either the first time or returning because they could not forget the love of the Lord God they received in our Center. God is bringing us together in a unique way – all we have to do is let God do it all *His* Way. Thanks be for His Wisdom!

Rocio Fordham

Project Open Gates



A Very Special Lady

Lilya Schlykar arrived in Israel 25 years ago as a new immigrant and never left us. She has served faithfully in our Open Gates Center for 24 years. Congratulations to a faithful servant deserving of praise!



BRINGING IN THE *Bride*

*“Kings’ daughters are among Your noble ladies; at Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir”
(Psalm 45:9).*

CFI Bridal Salon, located near the city center in Jerusalem is considered a wedding dress “*g’mach*” in Hebrew, or religious charity. Many Jewish brides wear the beautiful gowns sent to us from all over the world, enabling us to be a part of the fulfillment of ancient Biblical prophecies regarding the reestablishment of the Jewish people in this Land. Also, as Gentiles Christians, we fulfill one of the highest, and most appreciated forms of help in the Jewish world. We praise the Lord that we are able to bless many brides from all around Israel, from various religious and cultural backgrounds and be effective witnesses of the One we follow.

An important charity referred to in Jewish literature is *Hachnasat Kallah*, translated as “*bringing in the bride*”. A principle of the authoritative code of Jewish law (Shulchan Aruch) rules that the giving away of poor brides is one of the highest forms of *tzeddakah* (charity). The *mitzvah* (commandment) of *hachnasat kallah* is a positive commandment, a result of loving your neighbor as yourself.

According to Jewish sages, there is no greater *tzedakah* than to be able to participate in helping to “bring in the bride”. **A special thank you to those who are supporting our Bridal Salon with some of the most beautiful gowns from the nations and also financially supporting the costs of operation of this unique outreach.** Through this project CFI staff often are invited to the weddings where we can bond and build relationships.

Thank you once again for your prayers and continued support.

Patricia Cuervo
Project Bridal Salon

“Thank you so much for your services. I first came to the center as an “olah hadasha” (Jewish new immigrant) and returned as a bride.” Thank you!
Ashley

“Thank you so much for helping me. I was thrilled you could share in our wedding...I don’t have any family in Israel, so it was nice to make family and new friends to share this day. The wedding felt like a small town coming together in this big Holy City.”
Elisheva



DAY OF *Praise*

A Once-In-A-Lifetime Day: A day rarely experienced in the history of Israel took place in May near the city of Efrat. The Orthodox community intricately involved in this significant event is a global initiative set forth by the CJUC (Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation). Its Chancellor and Founder, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and David Nekrutman, the Executive Director, were present to pave the way for the combined service of Bible-believing Jews and Christians to praise the God of Israel together through the reading of the Psalms and singing of His Praises. This group knows that the Kingdom of God is coming to this earth. Jesus taught us as Christians "...*Thy Kingdom Come...on Earth...*" (Matthew 6:10). Our precious Jewish friends are doing their part in preparing the world for the Coming Kingdom when "...*all nations will come up to Jerusalem...*" (Isaiah 2:3).



"We can't have the end times without the nations!"
-David Nekrutman-

There was a special energy to the day as we danced before the

Lord together both confirming our faith in the One True God of Israel and in His Holy Word. A change is taking place and CFI was privileged, along with a select few other Christian ministries, to play a small part in these "small beginnings" before Messiah returns to reign as King. With much work still to be done in the Jewish and Christian worlds in understanding each other and how we will fit together one day...we forge ahead...because we cannot enter the end times without beginning to understand one another!

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE 2016



CFI's Executive Director, Stacey Howard, along with Tanya Lukomskaya, CFI Team member attending this year's memorial event

*"For the dead and the living,
we must bear witness."
(Elie Wiesel)*

Ever since CFI was established (1985) this ministry has been bearing witness through our work with Holocaust survivors, and sharing the pain of the shameful events during WWII, which stole the lives of six million of God's Chosen People. CFI was one of the very first Christian ministries to work with these living witnesses. Yom HaZikaron l'Shoah ve-l'G'vurah (Ho-locast Remembrance Day) is also known as Yom HaShoah. It is observed every year as a national memorial day at Yad VaShem, Israel's Holocaust memorial site, inaugurated in 1953. Righteous Gentiles who helped save Jewish lives have been recognized in a honored section of Yad VaShem known as the Garden of the Righteous Among the nations.

Each year CFI's Forsake Them Not Team members, along with CFI leadership, Israeli officials, Holocaust survivors and others, attend the event to honor the survivors. It is always a great privilege to be part of this official event, and meet with more Holocaust survivors and friends who are visited on a daily basis. Sharing in their suffering, we again and again, continue our ministry of healing and reconciliation to multitudes whose candle still has not gone out. They are alive to experience the love of Christians; something most never knew existed during the Holocaust. **Thank you for allowing us to represent you to these precious survivors. We have seen the healing of many hearts in our work among them.**



Christian Development Sessions



CFI Switzerland

Switzerland understands more about CFI

“Don’t just see the sights, let us teach your group their responsibility to Israel before they leave for home”

Contact: cfi@cfjjerusalem.org



CFI Switzerland

Moments of Realization and Reflection



CFI Netherlands

Beyond replacement theology, now what?



A new book has been published by CFI Netherlands, written by Dr. Bob van Dijk, about the confusion that exists in churches about replacement theology or the supersession doctrine, that they say no longer to believe or teach. But do they really and what is the alternative? Bob van Dijk delves extensively into replacement theology.

Language: Dutch

Contact: info@cfi-nederland.nl

The Set Time Is Now

“You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.”

(Psalm 102:13, NIV)



CFI Pune Celebration



CFI India

CFI Pune, India, recently held a ceremony for the elder of the church’s grandson, Rahul, 12 years old, in a similar fashion as an Israeli bar mitzvah. As they looked into the Holy Scriptures and read about the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the book of Luke (2:42), the account is given of his 12th year. With that in mind, the ceremony for young Rahul was held in the spirit of Christ at the Chapel of Bible Center, Salisbury Park, Pune. Local Pastors were present and the final blessings were said by the founder of New Life Fellowship. Young Rahul shared about his salvation, baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit as he read from the Shabbat Torah readings, preached a 10-minute message and then, received his first Communion. There was much rejoicing and even a genuine Israeli-type dinner. For the first time, a Christian family in Pune, India, was able to bless their grandson at his first Communion with a Bar Mitzvah type of ceremony because of the family’s love for Israel.

Contact: zion_india@yahoo.com



CFI UK

David Soakell, CFI UK Liaison Officer and Media Correspondent, along with his wife, Julia, are exceptionally busy advocates for Israel in the UK. Recently, David spoke in Sunderland, Norfolk. Their travels then took them on to Perth, Scotland, meeting with CFI Scottish representatives. After a brief trip to Israel accompanied by Representative Chris Walker, the busy couple returned to the United Kingdom to participate in the Christian Resources Exhibition, at ExCel, in London. Over 300 booths are presented to help equip churches and ministries, giving CFI UK the cutting edge of continuing with its excellent coverage of Education, Aid and Advocacy for Israel through their active offices in Eastbourne.

Contact: info@cfi.org.uk



David and Julie Soakell



CFI Australia

Australia Carrying the Banner

Patrick Russell has served as Australian Director for Christian Friends of Israel since July 2008. The last eight years have seen a rise in the ministry's profile and effectiveness throughout the nation and also into the neighboring nation of Papua New Guinea, as well as all of the churches and denominations it can reach. CFI Australia focuses on two main ministry goals, (1) to share the Word of the Lord concerning Israel and its prophetic significance past, present and future and (2) raise awareness and financial support for CFI's work in Israel through its many and varied projects.

Australian Churches, as with churches all over the world, are not immune to false teachings such as Replacement Theology, thus, a main focus has been teaching God's word concerning Israel and why the church needs to understand God's plans and purposes for her. Through CFI's ongoing teaching ministry, we also stress the need for Christians to speak up on behalf of Israel and declare God's truth, to counter the spread of lies and hatred toward the Jewish people. Each month CFI Australia provides our supporters



Australian supporters of Israel are very generous, resulting in over one million dollars to bless God's covenant people. **Australian supporters of Israel put their finance where God's heart is and that is in blessing Israel.**

Information Packs, including a Watchman's Prayer Letter, Pastor's Preach, news snippets and other information to help equip the saints for the work of the ministry in blessing Israel. Visiting churches and Israel prayer groups is such an encouragement for CFI Australia to be able to join together and partner with like-minded saints in blessing the Jewish people. **God has been so faithful to Christian Friends of Israel Australia and we look forward to seeing His amazing grace and provision in the future in all we do for His covenant people.**

Contact: cfaustralia@hotmail.com



CFI Australia National Conference

"Israel and World Events Pointing to the Second Coming of Christ"

September 30 - October 2, 2016

Speakers:

William Koenig - White House Correspondent

Kevin Howard - CFI Jerusalem Director of Technology



CFI Mexico

CFI Mexico Representative, Pastor Ruperto Badillo Romero, traveled to many cities visiting congregations speaking about the work of CFI. Prayer for Israel and CFI are a regular part of these meetings. In March, April and May, in the State of Veracruz, he spoke in Coatepec, Cardel, Paso de Ovejas, Cordoba, Acayucan, Nanchital and Coatzacoalcos as well as Tabasco, Paraiso and Villahermosa. In each place, a special Invitation to attend the 2017 CFI Conference and Tour in Jerusalem was extended with powerful response from the congregations. Mexico's hope is to have more people than ever coming to Jerusalem. Well done, Mexico – welcome to Jerusalem! Pastor Romero's favorite Scripture is *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"* (John 3:17). **Contact: saky96@hotmail.com**



BRINGING THE WORD OF TRUTH FROM JERUSALEM TO YOUR NATION!



Stacey and Kevin Howard, Directors of CFI - Jerusalem are planning now for their 2017 speaking tour itineraries. If your Church or group needs a firsthand report on what's really happening on the ground in Israel, then email us right away. Learn how current events in Israel and the Middle East Region are shaping the last days in line with God's prophetic time clock. You'll also get fresh updates on CFI - Jerusalem project activity dealing with the real needs of so many facing so much need in the land.

Dates are booking up fast, so don't delay. We absolutely love hearing from you. Email your dates and locations today!

Contact: events@cfijerusalem.org

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

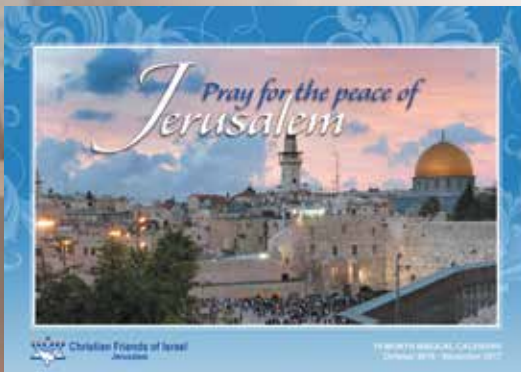
CFI constantly strives to bring relevant educational resources to teach the truth about the relationship between Israel and the Church according to biblical scripture.

“NEW” CFI Jerusalem Calendar

Receive your **FREE** copy of this brand new CFI - Jerusalem 15 month Calendar today.

Simply add the words “FREE CALENDAR” to your gift of \$120 USD or more along with your name, mailing address and email. This unique 15 month calendar will keep you up to date with the new Jewish year, lunar cycles and weekly Shabbat.

Produced and printed in Israel, your gift will both bring help to those in need, as well as support the local Jerusalem economy.



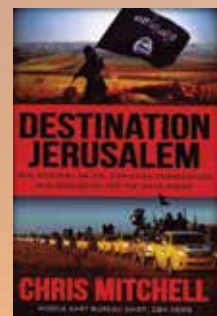
A Principle and a Promise

Sharon Sanders brings forward a fascinating discussion of God's promise to Abraham, and the principles behind it. Learn about the God-given standard for mankind being blessed from the primary source of life: the Bible. This book is now available for pre-order!



ISIS, Iran and Israel

What You Need to Know about the Current Mideast Crisis and the Coming Mideast War by Chris Mitchell.



Destination Jerusalem

by Chris Mitchell. Middle East Bureau Chief, CBN News. ISIS, Convert or Die, Christian Persecution and Preparing for the Days Ahead.

Order Online at: www.cfijerusalem.org



FrontPage Jerusalem Radio

FrontPage Jerusalem Radio continues to be the Voice of Israel to the World for those in America listening each week on 200 plus stations around the country. Also listening online are multitudes in the nations around the globe. Bringing listeners the very latest in current information on Israel and the Middle East, FrontPage Jerusalem is a must hear for those wanting clear, accurate, and biblically-balanced information on Israel in the days in which we live. For more information go to:

www.frontpagejerusalem.com



Earl Cox



Ben Kinchlow



Kevin Howard



Want to know more about what's happening in Israel from those who are on the ground? The CFI Media Team provides many informative resources for viewing and reading. We have unparalleled opportunities to bring you "truth out of Zion" including relevant, up-to-date, and interesting insights that are easy to access.

Learn at: www.cfijerusalem.org

Online Media:

Israel News Digest, Watchman's Prayer Letter, OnWatch Newsletter and Wall of Prayer Newsletter.

Social Media:

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, Tumblr and more...



FocalPoint TV

Bringing viewers around the world 30 minutes of positive, relevant, and biblically based information about Israel and the Middle East, FocalPoint has been an absolute must see for Christian television viewers around the world.

We are continually asked when FocalPoint will be in production again, and with gladness we are happy to say the Lord has moved on our behalf and we are hopeful that FocalPoint Television will go back into full production in the Fall of 2016 in some newly acquired space.

We humbly ask that you would please continue to keep our media team in your prayers as we endeavor more than ever to bring you a solid true report out of Israel and the Middle East.

www.cfijerusalem.org





CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

Jerusalem Conference and Tours

In Partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys



PASTORS & LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL TOUR

January 31 - February 7, 2017

This **ECONOMICAL** experience of Israel is through a specially designed, very unique, CFI Land of the Bible intensive!

- Explore the Outreach projects of CFI
- Walk where Jesus walked
- Relive history by visiting the Biblical Heartland of Judea & Samaria
- Discover archaeological gems at the ancient City of David
- Commemorate the heroic battle atop the Herodian fortress of Masada
- Meet with Israeli Soldiers protecting the border with Lebanon
- Experience the rich Jewish tradition with a Shabbat dinner experience
- Float in the mineral rich Dead Sea
- Meet an Israeli policymaker and learn about Israel's political challenges and triumphs



Email: events@cfijerusalem.org

For more information: www.cfijerusalem.org, then click the Pastors and Leadership banner



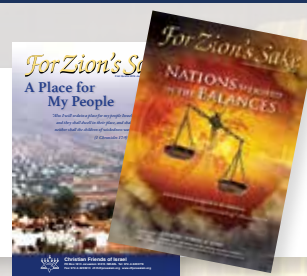
Feedback Corner

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

Send your comments on *For Zion's Sake* to feedback@cfijerusalem.org. We're waiting to hear from YOU! Blessings from Jerusalem!

Print Media:

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



CFI Representative Nearest You