

For Zion's Sake

Second Quarter 2019 Jewish Year 5779

The Missing Link in Christianity?



Christian Friends of Israel

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For Zion's Sake

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Shalom from Jerusalem!

The wisdom Solomon expressed in these six simple words "For everything there is a season" are really hitting home for me right now. As we have officially moved from spring to summer, I am grateful for the showers of rain which the Lord has brought upon our area today. It's the peaceful drops of rain and the rustle of the trees that causes me to want to curl up on the couch for a good nap, or better yet, just lay there in awe of what a wonderful God we serve. It's also a great time to set everything aside and have some good one on one with my Heavenly Father. Though today may be rainy in just a few short months the season will again change bringing colder weather followed by snow.

It is awesome how God has interlaced our existence with the need for seasons within the fibers of our universe. If you asked my husband, he would tell you that I very much enjoy the challenge of change as I tend to not only anticipate it but embrace it looking at change as just another adventure on our journey together with the Lord. Change, however, is not always fun! In fact, it can sometimes be gut wrenching while you're going through it. In fact, the loss of my husband's parents last year brought a season of change in our lives that had little joy, but nevertheless one we had to pass through just the same. During this difficult period Solomon's simple but wise words continued to resound in our heads "For everything there is a season."

Kevin and I have come to understand some simple yet foundational facts about the changes of seasons in our lives. Seasons are a part of God's design not only for our earthly environment but also for our life's journey. What a boring life we would lead if all of the roads on which we traveled through life looked the same. Some of the seasons and roads we walk may be flat and full of an over-abundance of favor but the next may be up-hill and rocky bringing loss, sadness or feelings of despair. In both situations we must all remember that our Heavenly Father still desires and expects to receive our praise and thanks.



For everything there is a season

It has taken time but we are now confident that God is leading us into a new season. We have faithfully worked in one capacity or another with Christian Friends of Israel since 2005. Our last five years in leadership positions in Jerusalem have been an adventure, very rewarding and a real dream come true. Sadly, however, the workload has caused much of our family life to become secondary to the work. After much prayer and contemplation, tears and frustration, discouragement and at times despair, Kevin and I have sought the Lord with all our hearts and know that now is the right time for change. It has come as a stark reality that work, rest, God, marriage and family have become unbalanced. While it has been a tremendous honor and great joy to serve by being in Israel, we know that now is the time the Lord would have us to return back home to the states.


We are comforted in knowing that God says in his word **'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'** **Exodus 33:14 NIV**, so we're assured we won't have to walk this new road alone. We have shared our decision with the CFI - Jerusalem board and staff explaining that we have built our 35 years of marriage on the principles of God first, then family followed by work. For us this formula has, however, become out of balance in recent years so at the end of September 2019, we will be officially stepping down from our current positions as International / Executive Director and Director of Media and Technology. It has been a privilege to work alongside my parents all these years and to run the race full out over the past five years in Jerusalem. As we have always said, CFI is 'God's ministry' not Ray and Sharon's or Kevin and Stacey's "It's God's" so we are confident He will take care of it as He always has.

Though this decision has not been easy, we will embrace this new season knowing that we must make this move in order to thrive and not just survive in the years ahead. God has not shown us His complete plans but we will continue to cling to him, thank him and listen for His still small voice.

We believe that God is the key to a life well lived, so we will continue to pray that he will open up new doors of opportunity for us. We would like to continue sharing about Israel and our Biblical responsibility to the Jewish people. We'd also embrace the opportunity to share about the past, present and future of Israel, our personal journey or how to find your calling. Right now, Christians and Jews are facing similar challenges from an increasingly secular world. Basic values which were once part of the norm can no longer be taken for

granted as they are under attack at the most fundamental levels. Extreme liberals are dominating the rhetoric as Christians once again remain silent out of fear of being ridiculed or even ostracized by family members, friends and/or co-workers. Sad but true, each of us should have learned by now that remaining silent doesn't change a thing. History has shown that God and family-oriented societies **Do Survive!** We must continue to keep our focus on Israel as she is currently leading by an example worth noting. Israelis, though imperfect, are in a much better place than they were 20 years ago. More than ever, they are returning to their biblical roots as well as their foundational and traditional values.

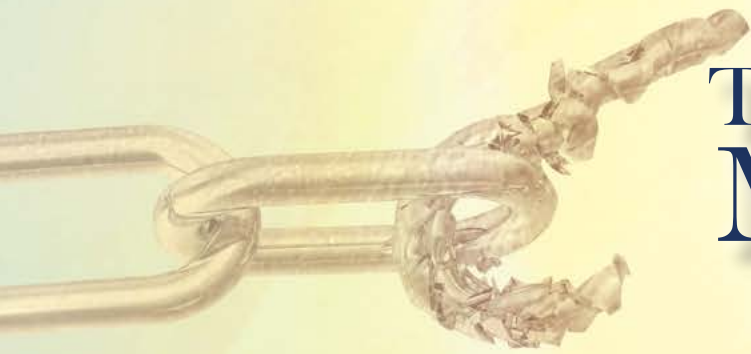
Kevin and I also believe that parents are an essential key to a healthy family structure so our generation must take responsibility for the world that we will leave to our children and grandchildren. Though our children may agree to disagree with us at times, our faith in the God of Israel has been woven within the fabric of our children's hearts and lives for decades. Kevin and I married young but our love has grown and matured over the years. What began as love at first sight soon became a working partnership as we raised our family, working many endless hours just to make ends meet. As time has passed and our three children have grown, we now anticipate the opportunity of spending more time with our six grandchildren--with the joy of knowing our seventh is due to arrive in January. Though the years come and go and the seasons of our lives change, we will continue to thank the Lord for every blessing He has bestowed upon our family.

I am blessed to have so many great things in my life – God, family and friends – I will continue to trust in the Lord, work hard and persevere through this next season of change. Though I may not know about the individual circumstances of your life and whether you're currently experiencing a difficult season or an easy one right now, I am confident in one thing - God is, always has been, and always will be true to His Word. So, let us not grow weary in doing what is good and right in His sight. Kevin and I pray God's richest blessing upon each of you knowing that no matter what the season, in the end, the best is yet to come! 

Blessings and Shalom,

Stacey Howard

Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem



The Missing Link in Christianity?

Sharon Sanders

Ben Rubin in his book, *What is Repentance?* sums it up. He writes, **"The Church is guilty of willingly choosing blindness toward the Jewish people. It pretends to exist without the 'natural olive tree. Without Israel there is no church.' It is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you."** (Romans 11:18).

It is a bona fide fact that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link," a figurative phrase coined around the 18th century. Christianity's root system requires strong, healthy growth to be developed. Staying attached to the part of the tree that attaches it to the ground--supporting from underground--helps retain the spiritual richness of its origin. Christendom may not be as strong as it looks in view of the fact that it has a missing link in its tenets of faith. The chain of faith was broken and then of course it became disconnected over the centuries. Followers of Jesus, need Israel because Israel is the root; we are only the branches. I do not believe Jesus ever wanted His Disciples to disconnect from His Brethren. We are indeed, in need of another reformation to ascend to our fullness. Israel needs revelation in order to come into her fullness.

The truth about our Hebraic foundations has been omitted from our Christian Education courses. Reality needs to be faced, and the error corrected. Conviction is good but we must accept all that God has shown us. Reading, and understanding all of Romans Chapters 9, 10 and 11 helps us to come to grips with what we are missing.

If someone bakes bread, but leaves out the flour, it is missing a main ingredient. Our salvific faith in Israel's Messiah, requires a highly valued component for validity to be the Savior of the world, His need to be born of Jewish stock (in the flesh). Without Israel, we have no bedrock understructure to support our claims. It was the Jewish Scriptures, aka the "Old" Testament or Torah/Tanach that predicted Messiah was to come. Israel is

the genesis and fountainhead of our faith because everything we have was given to us by the Jewish people. Basic knowledge reveals that Jesus in-the-flesh, was and will always be: a Jew. He reminds us about that in Revelation 22:16. He brought a Jewish message about the coming Kingdom to Israel, and His Jewish disciples revealed it to the world of non-Jews. Jesus made it clear His message was for Israel--to the Jews first.

This truth has been covered up with the cloaks of neglect for centuries. It seems many choose to believe "whatever they've been taught" rather than to gain insight. It is only when they really study that they realize something is missing. **"Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice babes, but in understanding be mature" (1 Corinthians 14:20, NASB)**. A large portion of churches are still trying to continue to ignore the missing link. For a Gentile woman to understand Him, He felt it important to tell her that **"...salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22)**. The Jewish people, and the monumentally important role they will play in the redemption of the world cannot be repudiated by playing it down. Because of this lack of understanding, many Christians are unable to comprehend the importance of the Israel of modern times. Until the link is reattached, the fullness of the Church will never be complete. Its abridged form of teaching diminishes the beautiful love story between the Almighty, a Chosen People, and the ultimate one new humanity that will emerge, once Messiah has returned to Jerusalem.

The revelation has been hidden for centuries. Think about it! How can we read Jewish Scriptures, believe in Jewish prophets, Jewish Psalmists and trust in a Jewish Messiah as Savior of our world, and not include His People? Christians have been victims of an insufficient Christian education program which includes our heritage in Israel. The Bible says we are to rejoice with Israel in that God's Word is being fulfilled as He said it would be. **"Rejoice ye Gentiles, with my people."**



“...hear the instruction of thy father,
and forsake not the law of thy mother:
for they shall be an ornament of grace
unto thy head, and chains about thy neck”

Proverbs 1:8, 9.

(Romans 15:10). Who are the “Gentiles” told to rejoice, if not Christians? We are the only ones who came out of the soil of Israel.

The task of taking this journey of understanding requires that we understand that the spirit of deception was firmly rooted in the heretical sermons of our forefathers. When it comes to realizing that much of the Church is believing a lie, called Replacement Theology, many are satisfied with turning a blind eye. By exposing this transgression, we can guide Christianity out of dangerous apostasy.

Christian replacement meant God broke His Everlasting Covenant with Israel, changed His Mind, and divorced His Chosen People, to marry another. That kind of thinking disregards the authenticity of the unchanging decrees in God’s word. Replacement Theology’s rotten fruit is proof that God’s promise of Genesis 12:3 has been taken lightly, and blood-soaked stains have been left on Christendom’s spiritual garments. Anyone, teaching or instructing Christians, must come to grips with this deadly “thorn” thrust into the side of our faith. We’ve got to get it out.

Not every church or denomination advocates Replacement Theology boldly, but at the core of many of our sermons, it is there. The exposure to the Church’s history with Israel, may shake some staunch, traditional beliefs. One of the world’s most renowned rabbis, Rabbi Daniel Boyarin, said it with precise clarity. He said, “sometimes investigations shake old certainties.”

The Jewish people are also learning how to relate to us, after centuries of our negative treatment. Many relationships have been developed, that have proven that true believers in Jesus, are indeed their best friends. What Christians do with the truth they learn could change history. Elie Weisel once stated,

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” We protest Replacement Theology, which was rarely challenged down through the centuries. We hope you will also.

As we reflect further on why Christianity ended up with a “missing link,” in the chain of faith, we must allow all evidence to stand under examination, and then come to a conclusion on how we should play our part in repairing the break. As we learn how allegory played a big part in the deception, our faith can heal.

One morning as I was enjoying my daily devotions, (*Word for Today* (UCB.co.uk), the following struck a chord in my heart. Based on Judges 3:31, “Shamgar...struck down six hundred Philistines with an ox-goad. He saved Israel...because the Israelites disobeyed God, they ended up enslaved to the Philistines who ruled them by fear and intimidation. But Shamgar refused to be intimidated. He decided to disrupt the status quo, and he did it with an ox-goad – a long stick used by farmers to prod animals. He refused to be what he could not do--keeping him from doing what he could...Shamgar grabbed his ox-goad and charged six hundred Philistine soldiers. The enemy probably chuckled at his makeshift weaponry until he started wielding it. Then the look in his eyes struck fear into their hearts...When God gives the go, it’s full steam ahead...whatever “ox-goad” God has given...it’s an all-out assault on the forces of darkness, by deciding to become “salt and light” where God has placed us. It’s more than pointing out the problems. It’s committing ourselves to be part of the solution...It’s deciding to take action and...instead of sitting on the sidelines...it’s using what God gave us...” In my opinion, it is time to take our “ox-goads” (in this case it will be our Bibles) and speak the truth in love. We can be the instruments of the Almighty, to help stamp out Christian anti-Semitism. (We must not allow anyone to persuade us there is no such thing). It may shock some to their

core, but the Church needs to read its history book, which I have labeled “The Christian Hall of Shame” as it pertains to its relationship toward Israel.

It’s sad that most churches hardly make room in the bulletin for any mention of Bible prophecy. It’s difficult to reinforce one’s faith when God’s Promises to Israel are coming to pass and then hardly get a mention. Both Israel, and the Church, are facing forces of evil which live in hope of seeing us wiped out. Together, we should be standing together stronger against the enemies of God.

Other than Judaism, and more than any other faith community, true Christianity is Jewish, in nature. We must do all we can to close the gap that exists today between Christians and Jews. When we form a connection, we need that sense of connection to fight our mutually avowed enemies.

Where to Start?

Christians need to begin by asking, “Why push away from entering into fullness, without the olive tree from which we grew?” Devastating theological errors developed over centuries, from misunderstood idioms, words taken out of context and time, plus a lack of knowledge of the original language of the Bible: Hebrew. Christians have been served from a menu of ecclesiastical sermons, penned by non-Jews raised with Western mindsets, rather than being served a complete meal, including drinking water from the wells of Jacob.

The “Way” (what the early followers of Jesus called themselves)--as an “offshoot” of Israel’s olive tree is hardly spoken about from pulpits. For two thousand years, Christianity has attempted to reach higher, without acknowledging her (Romans 11:25) Hebraic foundations, and devastating results ensued. We need to pull back the curtain of yesteryear, and observe what happened in the meeting hall of the Council of Nicaea, in 325 CE called by Emperor Constantine. The unconcern and coldness toward the Jewish nation stirred up anti-Semitism among intolerant, narrow-minded and biased people. Then it rubbed salt into the already festering wound of betrayal of them. Elie Wiesel so aptly said, “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.”

Christian missions are still bearing good fruit in hospital work, clothing and feeding the poor, but when teaching the Bible, who shares about Jesus’ human form being Jewish or about the nation from which He came? Learning about our foundations was some of the most exciting information I ever learned. My spirit jumped when I learned the truth.

We have to ask ourselves, “Where is Christianity going when we look at the condition of the Church in the United States and in Europe?” Our leaders must intensify prayer for what God has commanded us to pray: for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm

122:6). We need to teach the sheep to love that which God loves, with all of His Heart, the “apple of His eye.” (Zechariah 2:8). Jewish scholar, David Nekrutman reminds us, “You (Christians) have poked God in His Eye” by committing the cruelest of actions toward God’s Chosen People. Also we take too lightly God’s offer to bless, in Genesis 12:3, “I will bless those who bless My People” which is not a healthy practice. The fact that God loves the whole world, but Israel remains the very center of His Eye will never change. He stays focused on Israel, and the Land, “...from the beginning of the year until the end of each year.” (Deuteronomy 11:12).

When a church body totally ignores the Jewish Scriptures calling the Torah, the “Old” Testament, it is not only insulting to a Jewish person, but inappropriately termed. How can the infinite words of the Eternal God ever be termed “old”? Nowhere does it say in the Bible to disregard God’s Eternal Word spoken through the Jewish Scriptures! Again, the Council of Nicaea, was a major player in developing the “Old” Testament terminology, and that’s when the chain snapped.

I am concerned that when those responsible for teaching wrong doctrine in regard to Israel, arrive at Heaven’s doors, they may have to learn quickly why they may be locked out. Then it may be too late.

Everyone can make a difference in Jewish-Christian relations and help us repair the breach (Isaiah 58:12). Living in Israel for most of my life transformed and deepened my faith as well as taught me about a Jewish world I had never known. It is a responsibility for all Christians to make certain that once we learn to love as Jesus taught us, we will “never again” allow the chain that binds us together, to be broken. We must never separate from Israel again. “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...” (Isaiah 56:3).


Tangible things can be mislaid, but if something goes missing in my faith, I run with passion, as fast as I can, to find it. I say to every Christian reading this, “Run!” Run from heresy! Just like Jesus, our dear Rabbi Yaacov who worked with CFI so many years, was always teaching. He left us with the words “Educate, Educate, Educate!” Yaacov showed us a love for the Torah we had never before experienced. We showed him unconditional love, something he had never before seen. For centuries, churchgoers sat in the pews, repeating phrases as parrots, not even aware that what they were being taught was false doctrine. Too many went to their graves hating the Jewish people because they believed a lie. It’s hard to admit, but we must face the truth.

When Christianity took root around the world, its branches grew so quickly, they disconnected from their Hebraic roots. New congregations dropped their own roots, instead of

remaining connected to the mother root and ended up bearing bad fruit. Replacement Theology had found an incubator in which to thrive, and because of it, many Jewish people died. Having spent years with Holocaust survivors after they came to Israel, I often thought, “How would the Holocaust have turned out if Christian neighbors had answered the call for help from their Jewish neighbors, instead of being by-standers when the Nazis arrived at their doors? What if they had stepped in front of their Jewish friends and told the Nazis, “you cannot take them, if you do not take me!” Today’s good news is that God has raised up educated teachers who are qualified to expose the dangers of Replacement Theology that took us down the wrong path.

“Sometimes people hold core beliefs that are very strong. When they are presented with evidence that works against those beliefs, the new evidence will not be accepted. It can create a feeling that is extremely uncomfortable, called cognitive dissonance. And because it is so important to protect that core belief, they will rationalize, ignore and even deny anything that doesn’t fit with the core belief.”
(Frantz Fanon) We must be determined in our quest to bring the light of truth out of the darkness of centuries.

It is amazing to see how an eagerness to learn about Christianity’s foundational roots is not coming from seminaries and institutions, but from among ordinary people. In my travels to over fifty-five nations teaching the Church about Israel, in some places it was truly a startling revelation to hear that Jesus was a Jew. One Christian told a friend of mine, “Knowing the truth of this now, I have to empty out all the years of rubbish, and start all over again.” Dr. Michael S. Heiser, scholar of the Israel Bible Center Round Table Talk appropriately laid the truth in front of his students, when he said: “The proper context for interpreting the Bible is in the context of the Biblical writers—the context that produced the Bible. Every other context is alien to the Biblical writers and therefore, to the Bible. Yet there is a pervasive tendency in the believing Church to filter the Bible through creeds, confessions, and denominational preferences.”

Adam and Gila Milstein said, “We must turn the tragedies of the past into lessons for the future.” For those who are engaged in helping Christians find their “Missing Link” and are working toward the eradication of Replacement Theology, we need to continue to guard the Jewish people, and shield Israel on the wings of prayer. It is in our hands to make sure that the next generation of believers will seek the welfare of the Jewish people, and never again allow a disconnect. We cannot change history, but we can change the future, and no longer tolerate indifference. Let us know of your passion for truth, and we’ll be there to connect you to the missing link. 





Names and Numbers

“You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.” Psalm 71:20-21

20, 5, 50, 30, 70, 74. All these are just numbers that may mean nothing for one, and so much more for another. Twenty years of marriage, fifth birthday celebrations, 50 years’ service. In May we commemorated 74 years since the end of World War II in Europe - the Great Victory Day, and also Yom HaShoa – the Holocaust Remembrance Day. Yom HaShoa, for us, who are the witnesses of witnesses, is a day to remember the events we’ve been told in history books and personal testimonies. For the survivors of those horrible atrocities, it is a reminder of the deep pain of loss, the most grievous day in the entire year, when mind and heart cannot rest in peace, wondering and asking questions. What if? What would life be like, if only THAT had never happened? They try to recall the treasures of beloved mother’s faces and father’s kind smiles from before they were killed in the mass graves of the invaded Soviet Union or burned in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Today, we still have the privilege of standing together with these precious Holocaust Survivors, to gather together in Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, to show them that we care for their past in order to protect the future. We know their names and we know their stories. Once a year – together – we remember. This year the number of attendees shrank, the wreath laying ceremony was quicker, the list of names shorter. It is a tendency of the past years to ask ourselves, Will there be another Ceremony in 20-30 years? Will the 100 years anniversary become just a number, and will the names we know so well turn into statistics? Perhaps. But today is still today.

Her name was Magda. She was born on the first day of spring 1925. The Germans invaded Hungary in early 1944, and soon Pécs, the town where Magda happily grew up with her parents and one sister, was taken over and the ghetto was established. A few months later, on the 1st of July, Magda, with another 4000 Jews from Pécs, was sent to Auschwitz. Here, the first miracle of Magda’s survival took place. The notorious Doctor Mengele selected Magda for life in the overcrowded barracks with another two hundred ladies. So many unspoken memories from this time, Magda lived with long after liberation.

After a few months at Auschwitz, another miracle took place. The prisoners from Magda’s barrack were standing in roll call

when one soldier took two rows aside and sent them to work. Magda was one of those ten ladies. Upon return, she found the barrack empty. All the other prisoners whom they left that morning were burned in the gas chambers in order to make more space for newcomers.

After surviving labor camps and death marches, liberation finally came. Once released, Magda went back to Pécs. Her hope to find any family member was shattered. Only 50 people out of her town of 4000 survived, none of her own family among them. Over the years Magda rebuilt her life in the land of Israel where she came, together with her beloved husband, in October 1948. Enduring many hardships and working in kibbutz in Southern Israel, she was finally settled, planted by the hand of her God in her own land, and very proud of her offspring.

Magda’s life on this earth ended on Israel’s Independence Day this year. We will treasure all the precious memories, smiles and hugs we shared with her. We will tell her story so that she will remain a name, and not just a number added to the list of the dead.

The time with our dear Holocaust Survivors is running short. We as a team here in Jerusalem highly appreciate your faithful support and prayers. Thank you! Let’s share together in the privilege to stand with Israel and the Lord’s purposes for this land in the days to come, as well as responsibility to be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Olga Kopilova

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Mourning and Dancing

**"You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with
gladness." (Psalm 30:11)**

In Israel, for the Jewish people, this scripture comes alive with fulfillment every year as they commemorate Memorial Day and Independence Day. These two important holidays are so intertwined that they are observed one following the other. Each year at eve of the 4th of Iyyar (Israel abides by the Hebrew calendar for all its holidays) Memorial Day is remembered by a siren nationwide where all people and traffic comes to a halt for one minute in reverence for those who have given their lives defending this Nation. The next morning there is an additional siren as the nation once again comes to a complete standstill in respect for those whose blood paid the price for the free land everyone here is now enjoying. For 24 hours, ceremonies are held all over the country at cemeteries and key battle sites as individuals' stories are told and names are read.

This year is a very poignant one, as once again the enemies of Israel are rearing their ugly heads with over 700 rockets fired into Israel from Gaza by the terror regime Hamas. The weekend attacks preceding Memorial and Independence Days killed four Israelis and wounded countless more. This action once again forced the IDF to recall numerous Reserve forces into action, while active duty forces maintained their vigilant postures along the nation's borders.

If Memorial Day wasn't emotional enough, at nightfall – the eve of the 5th of Iyyar, a transition takes place with the ceremony of the lighting of 12 torches (each representing the 12 tribes of Israel) and flags around the country are brought back to full staff. Now is the time to rejoice!

"When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad."
(Psalm 126:1-3)

This transition is not an easy one for many who have lost parents, children and loved ones. But civil and religious leaders deemed Independence Day not just a national holiday, but one



of Biblical prophecy knowing the re-creation of Israel was a fulfillment of Scripture. **"Is a country born in one day?
Is a nation brought forth all at once?" (Isaiah 66:8)**

Only in Israel does Independence Day have such a significance. Only Israel – chosen by God Himself – has the promise of an eternal future. Let us rejoice and be glad with Her!

CFI and Project David's Shield continue to have favor with opportunities to encourage the brave defenders of Israel. During a recent visit with a unit along the Syrian border that had to extend their assignment due to the conflicts in the South preventing troop movements, we were honored to provide much needed tactical clothing for an elite unit serving in the Mt. Hermon area. Much encouraging conversation took place as we discussed how these warriors were in fact playing a vital role in the maintaining of Biblical prophecy.

Choosing to be a God follower comes at a price, with Israel and the Jewish people having paid that price over and over through persecution, anti-Semitism and terrorism. We are privileged to be commissioned and receive our Godly orders to stand along their side.

Adonai Elohim answers: "I am beckoning to the nations, raising my banner for the peoples. They will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders." (Isaiah 49:22)

Thank you for your enduring support of the efforts of the Israel Defense Forces and for making it possible for Project David's Shield to be a positive representation of the Christian Community from the Nations – as we continue representing Christian Friends of Israel.

Jim McKenzie

Project David's Shield
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Lifting Spirits by Reviving Lives

As Christians in the land of Israel, CFI – Jerusalem began the outreach of First Fruits as a desire to stand alongside the believers in the land, to help the household of faith. Since the beginning, when this outreach was birthed in the heart of Christian Friends of Israel co-founder Ray Sanders, so many have been lifted in spirit and with tangible help. Whether helping with the needs of the congregation as a whole, or simply for individuals in hopelessness, Christian Friends of Israel always strives to be there in times of desperation.

Even though so many try to maintain a balance of life, it is sometimes those members of the body that fall to the depths, that then rise to a place of great use for the Kingdom. Project First Fruits had the distinct honor of meeting Michael who is heading up a regular teaching program in his congregation. His story is one very often heard when the transforming power of God profoundly affects a personal life story. Out of the dark caverns of the world, Michael recently pressed through and completed a rehabilitation program, and is now using his past experiences to assist others in need of finding their road to triumph. He works to help those new to Israel adapt to the many changes in life associated with the move, and how to

“You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

**You shall increase my greatness,
and comfort me on every side.”**

Psalm 71:20-21

stay on the right path of fellowship and reliance on the Lord for the struggles of life. Along his journey, he found himself struggling financially, and Christian Friends of Israel was able to provide him with much needed food vouchers to help rebalance his budget and provide a helping hand of fellowship.

Whether they have been in Israel for years, or recently arrived, there are many in need with only part-time work available, limited resources, and families to provide for. Jonathan and his family had just recently moved to Israel and while serving full time meeting needs in their local congregation, found himself falling farther and farther behind in expenses versus income. Even after the help of family and friends, they found themselves struggling to keep things together. Christian Friends of Israel was so honored to spend time with this amazing family and be able to partner with them in their time of need, thanks to the generosity of so many just like you as Christians in the nations. Project First Fruits helped relieve some of the pressure of their financial burdens by providing essential food vouchers for the family, and taking care of their utility bills.

The looks of relief and hope on the faces of those we have the opportunity to help throughout Israel are a partial picture of the gratitude and thankfulness that we receive from everyone we are able to assist. Beyond the spoken thanks and hugs is the true heartfelt love expressed once they know that they are not alone and that there are true friends to help and stand beside them.

Thank you for continuing to allow us to be your extension of God’s love to the people of Israel as you give of your time and resources as Christians in the nations.

Kevin Howard

Project First Fruits
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Being a **Soul Anchor**

On the 4th and 5th of May 2019, over the course of two days alone, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Gaza fired a barrage of nearly 700 rockets at South and Central Israel, four Israelis were killed and more than 100 civilians were treated with injuries, trauma, anxiety and shock. Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted 240 rockets that were likely to hit a population center.

I contacted some of the civilians affected by rocket attack, to ask them how they and their families were. My heart was aching when I heard their replies. One civilian said, "Thank you for your love and concern. We are alright but still in fear and worry, hoping that with God's help we will be ok." And another civilian told me, "Thank you for your concern. We are older and do not think about ourselves, but it is very difficult when we see children trembling with fear." Praise God for making more connections for Project CUA to reach out to more communities right next to the Gaza border such as Kibbutz Nahal Oz.

The stress of living under the daily, round-the-clock threat of rocket attacks takes its toll on Israeli communities. PTSD and anxiety for adults and children are common. "How long O Lord must we endure the ongoing attack?" is their heart cry. Thank God for not neglecting the cries of the precious traumatized ones (Psalm 145:19b) by placing them in the heart of a caring sister, to show them God's love. Aside from financial support, this sister told people around her of the misery of the traumatized children, encouraging them to give stuffed animals and items that help them counter the anxieties, panic and trauma during the siren warnings of the incoming rocket attacks. A big "Thank You" again to this sister, as well as those who responded to her call!

He Who Promises Is Faithful

Although the majority of Israeli Jews believe in God, we discovered that most of them do not know His words and His great and precious promises for them. It is our great privilege to comfort the children as well as the adults we visited with the words of God, and show them how to apply them in their lives when they are afraid, for the promises of God are an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19). For example, Ms. Patricia who has been traumatized by the ongoing rocket attack was greatly touched when I was led by the Holy Spirit to share several scriptures with her. Praise the Lord that then she opened up her heart allowing us to minister to her more deeply.

Just like God's promise that Israel's total restoration is certain, despite rockets continually being rained down on Israel from Gaza, the promise of Isaiah 54:13 will certainly be fulfilled in the future. So we give thanks to God, for He who promises is faithful (Hebrews 10:23). And He certainly will do it.

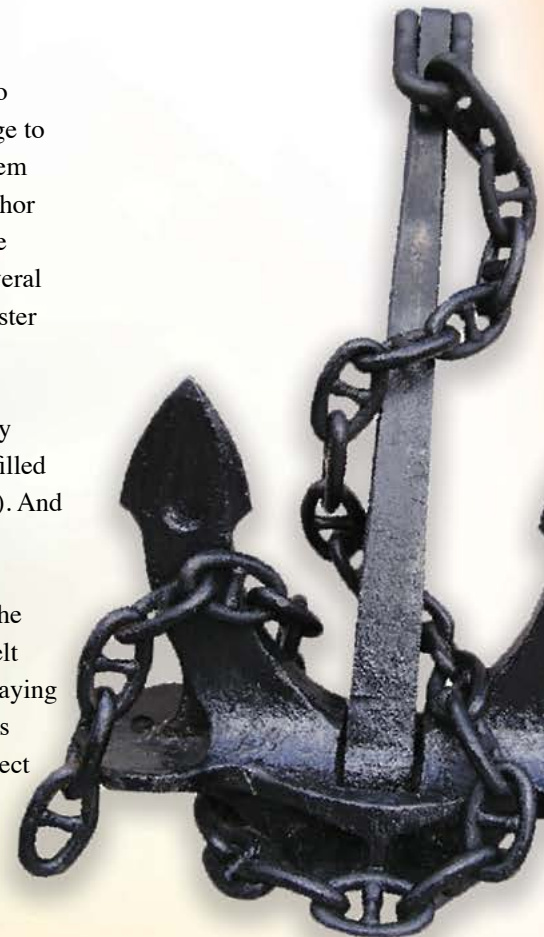
If any individual or any lady's group knows how to make quilts and would like to bless the traumatized rocket victims, it will be a great comfort, love and support to them. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have been sending financial support, and items, as well as praying for victims of rocket attacks. May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life (Psalm 23:6). To support this project, please send to CFI designating for Project "Communities Under Attack." Thank you.

Maggie Huang

Project Communities Under Attack
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**"All your children
will be taught by
the LORD, and
great will be
their peace."
(Isaiah 54:13)**





The Generation to Seek Him

Hope for the Future, embraces the present state of Ethiopian Jews. We felt steered to help change a generation through the expressions of education and training. Research reveals the Israeli careers in fields that guarantee future employment for the upcoming graduates. Hope for the Future has committed to helping the youth in the Ethiopian community find the keys to change their present economic life to a future that provides opportunities to be a part of the nation's startup scene for technology, promotion and a better quality of life.

We are happy to have several of our applicants this year express the desire to continue with higher education in fields such as Computer Technology, Accounting, Law, Engineering, and Medical Assistance. This confirmed the need, along with our vision, to see the next generation rise to a new standard of living. We interview every candidate that applies to make sure their request matches our guidelines, and have the passion to complete the task. Many Ethiopian women are marginalised trying to build a career alone with no help. For single women in Israel this is very important. There are statistics that show that Ethiopian Jews in Israel have some of the lowest amounts of income.

Hope for the Future has partnered to work with the Hadassah School of Accounting and the Hadassah School of Dental Assistance. Our clients take the initial steps to apply for the school and

to pay the fees needed. We then help them with other expenses. We have one special client that had experienced many trials along the way in her attempts to go to Hadassah School for Accounting. Unable to get the funding to attend university can be very discouraging but with her tenacity, she did not let this stop her.

What a blessing to see the students have the same desire and passion as their ancestors that walked across the desert to Sudan and then to Jerusalem, so they could have a better life. We have helped young families that refuse to give up. One of the families we helped told about the worst hardship of losing all financial stability due to the father's illness. Nachew cannot work while receiving dialysis every day. His wife took the initiative to apply for the Dental Assistance School to help her family. It was not easy working part time, but she put what little she earned together to pay for her registration and placement testing. It was very commendable for her to show her four younger daughters that even as you struggle with misfortune such as the illness of the Dad, God gives us the strength. Christian Friends of Israel reached out and gave a hand up to help pay for a semester of her tuition of 3,000 Shekels.

In order to see change many times it takes a change of mind. One of our clients came to us very much alone. Her profile was very different from most of

our clients, who have children and multiple family members to feed. Different yes, but well worthy of consideration. This young girl had been working very hard to complete law school. She had been struggling to work full-time and pay for a roof over her head with all the additional expenses that entails. God can take those foolish things to profound the wise. Her determination landed her in our office. Her finances showed great need and more integrity than I have ever seen. She really needed help, but because of her faith in God she refused to take out loans. We were able to help her with food vouchers as well as next semester's tuition and rent. For her this will give her a place to breathe as she finishes the race.

We are reminded of the five daughters of Zelohehad, Milcah, Tirzah, Noah and Hoglah, in the book of Numbers. These were women that spoke out for their inheritance in the Promised land. Because they stood to do what was right, they reversed the precedent of the time, so women could receive what was legally theirs. We pray for the same spirit of boldness and courage in the hearts and minds of Ethiopian women today: to reach for the stars and the promises of the Tanach.

Marcia Brunson

Project Hope for the Future
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Love Cures Heartaches

During the most difficult times in our lives, it is those closest to us that are the most affected by the situations that this world can place upon us. When families struggle to cope with daily life because of unexpected life altering experiences, most turn and ask “why is this happening to us?” Although people have limited means by which to control the world around them, the assurance that God is always available with unlimited resource is indeed a blessed hope.

Over the recent months, Streams of Blessing has helped numerous needs in Israel experienced by those who suddenly found themselves facing unexpected and seemingly impossible circumstances. We were so privileged to meet Tomer recently to see if we could be Christian friends that would stand beside him in his time of true need. A hard-working father of three children, Tomer’s daily life quickly changed when he suffered a serious work-related injury that placed him on 65% disability that rendered him unable to work. His injury required his wife to stay home and care for the children with only enough time available for her to work a minimal part-time job during the week.

**It always protects,
always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.**

1 Corinthians 13:7-8 (NIV)

With debts building, and the expenses of a family of five before them, Christian Friends of Israel stepped in to help. Assisting with all of the children’s school fees and paying a month of the rent forward, they were able to find a renewed peace and hope that true friends were with them in their struggles.

Soon after, we received a request for assistance from a family that had made Aliyah in 2013. Building a young family in a new country is of course a great challenge in itself, but they knew in their hearts that their decision to come to Israel to begin a new life was absolutely what they were to do. Within a year, Mr. Thompson was stricken with a severe personal injury, and although continuing to press through, their financial situation was severely affected. Although he was able to go back to work, even with the financial debt they faced, there seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Just recently though,

the company he worked for announced new budget cut-backs and he was let go. Due to the needs at home with five young children, his wife is also in a place of only being able to work part time and now their main income is gone. Standing strong with them in love as Christian Friends of Israel, we helped assist this precious family by paying off their utility bills and providing them with much needed food vouchers.

As needs change and flow for those in Israel, we greatly appreciate all of your time in prayer for these we’ve shared about, as well as so many more precious families. Your financial commitment to the work of Project Streams of Blessing reaches out as Christian love from the nations and make a life changing difference for so many in Israel. Thank you so much for your continued blessing of the nation of Israel and her people.

Stacey Howard

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Prevailing Prayer

The promises of God are both reliable and eternal. His word is above all others and can be counted on with absolute assurance. As Christians who truly believe the Word of God and His promises, it must be our highest priority to be in regular communication with the Lord to know His will and His purposes and plans. The Bible is filled with examples and references galore of the power of prayer. (1 Kings. 8:28, 1 Kings. 8:38, Nehemiah 1:6, James 5:13-18)

As you pray at all times, with all kinds of prayers and requests, in the Spirit, vigilantly and persistently, for all God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (CJB)

When it comes to praying for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem, (Psalm 122:6) the scriptures could not be clearer on the importance that God himself places on it. When it comes right down to it, prayer is in investment in the kingdom of God. It is an investment of our time and our will to plan and effectively pray for the things that God wants done. While the King of the Universe doesn't "technically" need us to be able to accomplish His goals, it is in that time of communication and relationship that we are given the opportunity to be a part of God's eternal purposes and plans. Spending time in earnest prayer to stand in the gap, and bringing not only our own thoughts and feelings to heaven, we must also be praying for God's perfect will to be accomplished. (Matthew 6:10)

Whether you are a part of a regular group that prays for Israel, or someone that devotes hours of your individual time in prayer, also know that it is the key that unlocks the spiritual heavenlies when the hearts and minds of believers focus in on the needs of others, and the promises that God has made in prayer. It has been said by many that the battle begins in prayer.



God's Word Remains True to the End

And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.

2 Samuel 7:28 (ESV)

Christian Friends of Israel, knows how vitally important the intercession of those in the nations is, in praying for the nation of Israel and her people. That's why the Wall of Prayer was established as the first priority of the ministry when it began. Not only finding those who will cover the nation as a whole, but having intercessors that will focus in on cities, towns, kibbutzim, and sudden times of tragedy and loss in the nation. While praying for the nation of Israel, so many continue to lift up those of us in the ministry as we press on, finding the wounded of heart, the poor, and the needy in the land. Please continue to pray for the staff in Jerusalem, as well as CFI representatives in nations all around the world.

We want you to know that as spiritual warriors of the kingdom of heaven, your calling and commitment are beyond measure, and the results of your investment of time, energy, and true yearning for the heart of God carry the ultimate in eternal reward. Thank you so much for your commitment to the work of the Lord in Jerusalem, and to the people and nation of Israel. Please know that we need each and every one of you so desperately to continue in your intercession and petitions before the Lord. It is the spiritual covering that provides safety, security, and peace during the most difficult of situations and for the times ahead. (Matthew 21:22)

Project Wall of Prayer
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As the prophetic timeline continues to move forward with each passing day, more than ever churches around the globe are awakening to the need to connect with Israel. Being aligned with the promises of God found in the holy scriptures means understanding the critical role that Israel plays and why believers need to understand what is truly happening in the land today.

As congregations link in to the Christian Friends of Israel – Churches for Israel network, they quickly realize that they are not only getting accurate information concerning Israel, but they are connecting to the blessing God has promised by supporting His plans and purposes for Israel. Each month multitudes of churches are blessing Israel as they stand together in unity around the connecting issue of the nation of Israel. Unified and concentrated prayer for the land and the people keeps a continuous flow of intercession to the heavenlies. Regular financial support for those most in need in the land, requiring a hand up out of the snares of life, provide regular assurance that Christians around the world are standing strong with the people of Israel.

Many congregations are holding weekly prayer meetings specifically for the needs in Israel and still others are having annual nights to honor Israel and spread the word of what God is doing in these end times. With so many issues that have divided the church over the centuries, it is amazing to see how God is restoring unity of thought and understanding when it comes to the foundational focus on the roots of the Christian faith and the need to stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters in the land.

Being part of a wave of the Spirit of the Lord is always inspirational and life changing, but it often comes with plenty of opposition as well. Reading the weekly headlines, one can quickly see that Israel is regularly a topic of discussion, and usually painted in a mostly negative light. That's why the time to stand boldly and proclaim that God has NOT forsaken His word or His promises to Israel is so vitally important today. As your congregation takes a stand, please let us know what you are doing to reach out and speak to your community, your region, and your nation. Stay connected to purposeful and accurate information about Israel and what's happening on the ground by becoming a Christian Friends of Israel – Church for Israel today. For more information email:

churches@cfijerusalem.org



Embellished with love and honor

Forgetting the Past and *Pressing Forward*

NEW IMMIGRANTS – Most of them or at least the majority we have contact with on a daily basis are from Africa, Latin-America, Russia and the Ukraine.

When it comes to understanding and interaction with Russian immigrants, when we see them coming into our Distribution Center, history and all they have gone through is written all over them. The majority of the scattered Jewish people—even after the war for Jerusalem during the Crusades (1095-1942) -- all settled, and expanded in the Former Soviet Union, Eurasia territories. In the Second World War and during the regime of Adolf Hitler taking over all of Europe, apart from the six million Jewish people killed in the different concentration camps not only by Germans but also Polish, British, Serbian, French, Austrian, Dutch and others-- 26.6 million Russians to be precise were killed. Some identified as Jews, many of them having been deployed as hostage soldiers in the front lines of war, flanking for the enemy's army. They were targeted and used to attack exploited cities with civilians or sink ships full of people including innocent children and women, as many were running for safety. Somehow the intervention of God to deliver His people through all this devasta-

tion, and the Victory of the Soviet Union over Germany in Belgrade in May 1945 that eliminated the Nazism movement, resulted in the releasing of many Jewish Holocaust survivors.

In their new beginning, empathy is one of the welcoming gifts we want to give away, to new immigrants here at Christian Friends of Israel. Many of them lost loved ones during those unimaginable events in the past. Somehow they found enough strength to survive, and it gave them a reason within their inner most being to acknowledge God. This led them to find the place where they were meant to abide, because they are people of Israel and they belong here. As an organization, it's a privilege to see their homecoming and we provide them with food and clothing four times during their first three years here until they are settled.

The Russian man pictured, came with his wife and it was their second week in Israel. He was so happy with everything we were doing for them. As an expression of gratitude, he brought in some clothing to contribute. Even though he stumbled as he was coming in, dropping some clothes on the floor, he was smiling all the time.





Smiles of Hope

“Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away”. Isaiah 51:11

As they finished their first visit to our Distribution Center, and as I tried to communicate several times with my few words of Russian and his broken English, I stood near the door to say: “Welcome to Israel and see you next visit!” He approached me and with his same smiling face, teary eyes and broken English, replied: “Thank you madam.” I’m sure they have a story to tell; but I don’t even dare to ask, because it’s not about the past they left behind, but the bright future that is ahead and how we can contribute, together with you all at a distance for this to happen.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all those who are destitute. Speak up and Judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31: 8.9).

I have seen many brought to tears during our time together, including myself. Needs and life experi-

ences come in different packages and according to our Master, how will we respond toward our neighbor’s heart? I hope that many more will join in this effort and not walk away in indifference.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). We have very little time and the Mission of God is not only about what we can do for them but also how we can be for them when they need us the most, regardless of politics, world view, cultural differences, or racial differences.

To you all supporting our ministry through your kind donations, thank you for standing with us, to do and to be the People of God who bring transformation and hope to these lives, that endures for eternity.

Karen Tohon
Project Open Gates
gates@cfijerusalem.org

Meet Open Gates Coordinator

KAREN TOHON



Youngest of four siblings, she was born in Guatemala City in a Christian home. After graduating from High school with a technical degree in Management Assistant, she was granted a scholarship for two years to get TOEFL degree at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. After returning home, she received a University degree in Business Management and Communications. Planning on moving to France to learn the language, God redirected her steps to start working as a humanitarian using her profession, with different non-profit international Christian and Secular organizations reaching out to locals in different countries around the world that gave her the opportunity to attend a six-month module in Scotland in regards to Anthropological Philosophy and an intense three months of Perspectives and Missionology in Panama City. Her assignments thus far have included: logistics management, assisting children releases and rescues in Middle East countries, coordinating International teams with different outreach approaches, initiate aid projects in Sudan and Kenya and other different services whenever or wherever the Father leads.

Considering herself since a little girl as a reserved introvert, non-public person and never intending to leave her home back in Guatemala, all ways have led her to experience God as a Father. She stands and holds the conviction in life that: *“with man things are impossible, but with God all things are possible”* (Matthew 19.26).



Celebrating *Treasured Moments*

It is interesting to serve different people that come to our CFI Bridal salon in Jerusalem. I want to share with you two stories about our precious clients.

Tasha and Eitan moved from Belarus to Israel in 2017. They came as new immigrants to our Distribution Center. Tasha was always very happy about the clothes that she received from us. Sometimes I met her in a shop where she used to work in Jerusalem. She learned that we have a bridal salon that serves all Israelis. It was “good news” for her. Although they had been officially married for seven years, she and her husband never had a real wedding. The reason was the lack of money.

Here in Israel they started to dream about a wedding party with a beautiful dress, good food and everything that goes together with it. Tasha wanted to have good pictures, too. She came to our Bridal salon one week before the celebration was to be held. We found some fine-looking dresses for her.

Usually Israeli brides don't choose a dress with a long train. They want something light and simple, in which they can dance freely for many hours. Tasha was different. She wanted to have great pictures. She chose a new, just arrived dress with a beautiful train. We also found an interesting suit for her husband. The trousers turned out to be too short, but the jacket and the vest looked good on him.

So, this couple had their wedding party by the Dead Sea with their friends, and we got some beautiful pictures as a reminder of that precious event.

Karina and Vladislav were married at the end of April 2019. Like many new immigrants, they first went to Cyprus to register their marriage and after that they had the wedding celebration with relatives and friends in Jerusalem.

Karina found a classical and well-fitting dress from our new arrivals. She had prayed about this need, and now she saw the hand of God giving her the right gown. Her mother came to approve her choice some days later. We invited her as well to come and choose something for the wedding. She came and found a beautiful red evening dress, which fit her perfectly.



An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

Proverbs 31:10-11 (ESV)

Also, Vladislav came to look for a suit for himself. He is older than Karina. God saved him from drugs some years ago and changed his life from being in a wheelchair to a stocky and strong Israeli man. By his own words, Karina is the best present that the Lord gave to him.

We worked hard to find a good suit for this man. Then we found it: a new tuxedo suit that made Vladislav a handsome and very responsible looking man. A dark red bow tie made the whole thing even better. In my eyes he was as a film star. We were happy.

Vladislav showed our perfect choice to his very young bride. To our surprise Karina wasn't happy at all. She may have seen tuxedos in films, but to have it on her groom in her own wedding was too strange an idea for her. This girl wanted her future husband to look like a young, modern man. Our perfect choice was rejected. Vladislav had to find himself a different suit.

In the end, the entire family was very thankful for your generosity and the help provided for their special day.

Tiina Karkkainen

Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfijerusalem.org



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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

Days of the Fall

Jonathan Spyer

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

Messiah's Gate

Gene Little

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

Practicing the Sabbath with Community

Daniel Goldstein

How does one make a weekly day of rest a reality in this fast-paced world? *Practicing the Sabbath with Community* has been written to answer this question. The author, Daniel Goldstein has been living in Israel for the past several years and has been living out the Sabbath in community. It is from this perspective that he provides an in-depth look at the traditional Jewish celebration of the Sabbath, accompanied with many practical insights for singles and families alike in order to restore a weekly day of rest that is fun and rejuvenating.

Bound for the Promised Land

Haya Benhayim

Bound for the Promised Land is the heart-warming story of an American Jewish couple and their immigration to Israel. Both are the seventh children of Eastern European Jewish immigrants to the U.S. Follow this remarkable couple as they journey from America to the land of Israel, from their arrival at the port of Haifa in 1963 through the '67 and '73 wars to their current life in Jerusalem. You won't want to miss their amazing story.

ISIS, Iran and Israel

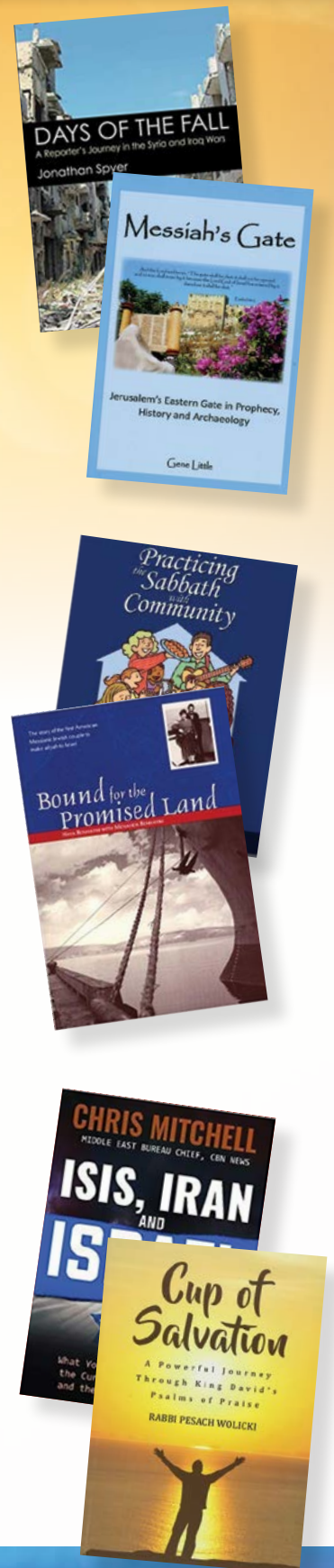
Chris Mitchell

What you need to know about the current Middle East crisis and the coming Middle East War. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns Iran is developing nuclear weapons not just to annihilate Israel but to destroy the West. U.S. Senator Tom Cotton tells us the Iran deal will lay nuclear trip wires throughout the Middle East, while a German reporter writes ISIS is planning a nuclear tsunami to fulfill its apocalyptic version of Islam.

Cup of Salvation

Rabbi Pesach Wolicki

A Powerful Journey Through King David's Psalms of Praise is a careful study of the original Hebrew text of Psalms 113-118, also known as the "Hallel", leading us on a journey of praise and worship for all that God does in our lives. The Psalms embody the prayers of Israel's worship and the great Hallel (Psalms 113-118) is particularly meaningful to the Jewish community. It is the praise given for the miraculous deliverance at Passover and now for the establishment of the State of Israel. It is meaningful for the Christian community because it is connected to the hymn sung at the Last Supper.



To purchase these great books and other resources visit www.cfijerusalem.org and click on Store.



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



CFI Sri Lanka

Pressing through the jungles of Sri Lanka, CFI – Sri Lanka Representative Mohan Weerakoon has been a vital source of knowledge, wisdom and blessing to those who have little other resources to hear about the things of God. Along with teaching the love and compassion of God to the multitudes of children in these very remote locations of his nation, Mohan also spreads the understanding of the importance of praying for Israel and understanding that as Christians we worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God of Israel. During his recent expeditions through the jungle areas, Mohan has added new security personnel to his staff. This security team is not on the lookout for terrorists or militias, but keeping a trained eye out for the many dangerous snakes found in the areas that he travels to. Please continue to lift up the vital ministry of Christian Friends of Israel in the nation of Sri Lanka, as Mohan presses through the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of the land to reach those in the most remote areas of the country.

Mohan Weerakoon
mohanwg@sltnet.lk



CFI Mexico

The reports from CFI–Mexico continue to be so encouraging and fruitful as Pastor Ruperto and his wife Sandra work diligently to expand the reach of Christian Friends of Israel in the Spanish-speaking nation. Each year, utilizing the talents of their amazing team in Mexico, they put together their annual celebration to honor the nation of Israel and the Jewish people to which they receive tremendous response. On their present agenda is a special conference in the city of Villahermosa, Tabasco, where they are expecting that at least fifteen new churches will become CFI Churches for Israel. Along with their tireless efforts for the nation of Israel through CFI, they continue to add fresh new content to their website – cfi-hispano.org which is designed for Spanish speakers in the nations to connect with the outreach projects of CFI Jerusalem and stay in touch with current happenings in Israel. Please keep our dear Christian friends in Mexico in your prayers.

Pastor Ruperto Romero
saky96@hotmail.com



CFI Brazil

In recent years, the Lord has opened wide the doors of the Spanish-speaking world for Christian Friends of Israel, as well as the wide-open door of provision from our dear Portuguese-speaking friends in the Nation of Brazil. Pastor Abeni Bastos and his wonderful wife Claudia have been paving new relationships and working hard to connect those in Brazil to Israel. Recently they promoted a tour group of 45 people to visit the Holocaust memorial, and Jewish immigration memorial, both which are housed in a large synagogue in the city of São Paulo. It was a true milestone in the lives of all who were in attendance. It's a special way that the Lord has given Christian Friends of Israel – Brazil to involve people from their local church as well as other churches that we have visited. They endeavor to get more closely involved with Israel and to know more about the history of the nation and people that they love and support so much.

Pastor Abeni Bastos
abenieclaudia@hotmail.com

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



CFI United Kingdom

In the UK, CFI has been very active in their work with media reports and Social Media. There is much uncertainty within the UK and concerns continue to grow within Jewish communities regarding anti-Semitism within UK politics, so Christians with a heart for Israel are praying and showing solidarity with the Jewish people. This has been done through Lobby Day at Westminster and events such as 'Helen's Story' – a special Holocaust exhibition.

Prayer is central to all they do and CFI UK has had many prayer conferences around the nation. They encourage Believers to line up with the Word of God regarding Israel, and persevere in prayer. 2019 has also been a very busy time with various Christian festivals - an ideal place to share. These events include 'Big Church Day Out', 'Refuel' and 'New Wine.' Approximately 74,000 Christians attended these events in 2018, yet roughly 80% know little about Israel or the ministry of CFI, therefore this is an essential place to be. There is much to come, including the CFI UK Annual Conference. Please continue to pray for our dear friends in the UK.

Jacob Vince
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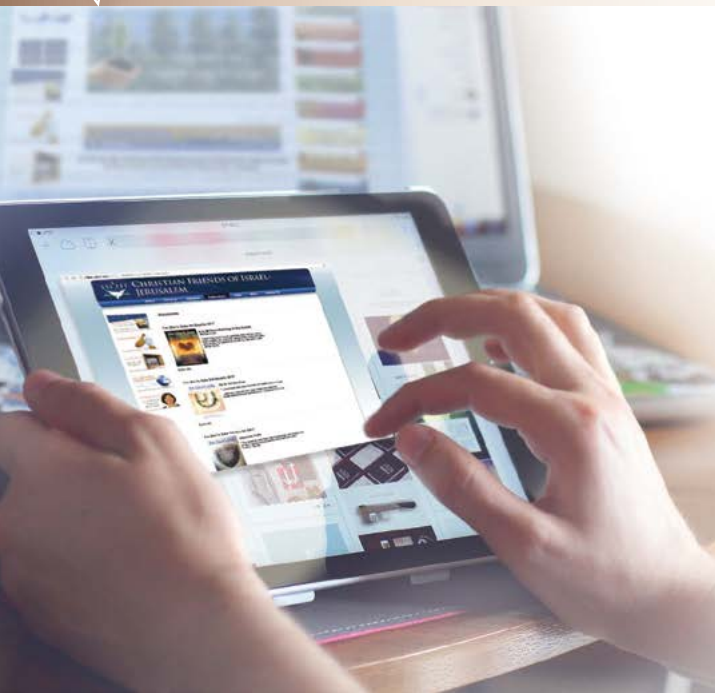


CFI India – Maharashtra

The pace continues to move fast in the nation of India, and Pastor Sonny Chandra and his son Pastor Nicky stay constantly busy with conferences, gatherings, and teaching on the feasts of Israel all year round. After meeting with Stacey and Kevin in Jerusalem during his March trip, Pastor Nicky went back to India where he is working with his father and teaching on the feast of Purim, followed by biblical teaching and celebrating the Feast of Passover. Connecting the importance of the feasts to Christianity, they moved right on to the celebrations of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Connecting churches to the importance of the Lord's feasts, and the roots of our faith as they relate to Israel is vital in combatting the replacement theology that is so evident in many denominational churches. Besides the feast celebrations, CFI – India Pune multiplied their efforts this year in hosting their May seminars in Goa, India. Right on the heels of the seminars, was a tremendous Shavuot celebration for the time of Pentecost. These times of teaching is are vital in bringing pastors from the region together for solid teaching on the church's responsibility to the nation of Israel and her people. Please continue to lift our dear brothers and sisters in India to the Lord in prayer as they press through for the kingdom of God.

Pastor Sonny Chandra
nirmalkchandra@gmail.com





Keeping up with the very latest

CFI – Jerusalem’s media team is constantly motivated to provide a vast array of media options that will keep you informed and up to date. Whether you like your updates, news or prayer points by post, by email, on the web, social media, radio or television, Christian Friends of Israel works hard daily to have something that will satisfy everyone’s particular needs. Want to know more about what’s happening in Israel from those who are on the ground in Israel? We travel throughout Israel and speak with those living through the daily challenges and triumphs here in the land where prophecy continues to meet modernity. The CFI Media Team provides numerous informative resources for viewing, listening 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. Find out more today by emailing: feedback@cfijerusalem.org

Stay connected and informed visit us on social media:



The Voice of Israel to the World

Finding information about Israel and the Middle East is as simple as tuning in to any world news network. Most of the time however, you hear slants and spins that usually portray Israel in the most negative of ways. As Christians, we need the resources available to know the truth about what is happening in Israel, especially as

it relates to scripture and biblical prophecy. That’s why multitudes across America are tuning in each week to get the very latest happenings concerning Israel on radio networks around the country. On stations coast-to-coast listeners tune in for current information on the Middle East as they connect to Israel weekly with clear, accurate, and biblically-balanced information. As the Voice of Israel to the world, **FrontPage Jerusalem** is excited to be your reliable connection to Israel and the Middle East region. If you can’t find us on your favorite station, send us an email at: feedback@cfijerusalem.org



Monthly updates for prayer

Bringing readers weekly headline stories, our **Israel News Digest** keeps you updated on the “big picture” stories concerning Israel and what the nation is dealing with. Each month, our **Watchman’s Prayer Letter** goes out to scores worldwide as fuel for purposeful intercessory prayer for the nation of Israel and the people here in the land. Our monthly **OnWatch Jerusalem** keeps prayer warriors in tune with the latest essentials for prayer as we continue to keep watch over Jerusalem and pray for her peace. Every other month, our **Wall of Prayer** letter highlights specific geographic areas of Israel in desperate need of focused prayer for strategic pinpointed intercessors to concentrate on.

Sign-up for our regular monthly newsletters today by emailing: listadm@cfijerusalem.org



Standing Together after Tragic Fires

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

A small community located a little more than 50 kilometers west of Jerusalem, nestled in the Ben Shemen forest, Mevo Modi'im had grown to about 250 residents since it was founded by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach in 1975. Due to the rash of wildfires in the area on Thursday, May 23rd this small but thriving community was almost completely destroyed by fire.

Mevo Modi'im was just one of several communities completely evacuated, as homeowners attempted to get out of the way of the raging flames. Forty of the fifty homes in the community were completely destroyed by the fire, according to local reports and firefighters worked into the evening attempting to get the blaze under control. With the cause of the fire remaining under investigation, differing opinions of extremely dry conditions, an intense spring heat wave, the Lag B'Omer holiday and even possible arson scenarios are all being considered.

As soon as word of the fires and the accompanying evacuations and destruction were heard by Christian Friends of Israel, our hearts and prayers immediately went out to the people most affected. Right away we began to find out how we could help, and what was needed most by those displaced who

lost everything. Having partnered in the efforts to assist the residents of Halamish during their fire devastations previously, we contacted our great friends at CJCUC and want to thank Executive Director David Nekrutman for his tremendous cooperation in meeting the direct needs of those on the ground.

As the need was instant and time was critical, Christian Friends of Israel provided immediate relief to the families affected with 12,000 shekels of food vouchers. Knowing that the Shavuot holiday was the very next week, we provided an additional 18,000 shekels worth of food voucher relief for the residents of the community. All of the funding we were able to provide was possible, because of the tremendous generosity of you in the nations that have provided the resources for our Emergency Aid Fund for Israel. The echoes of thanks from our Jewish friends not only for assisting them in a time of need, but also for the ability of Christian Friends of Israel to act so quickly and effectively in providing relief and partnering with our Jewish friends at the Center for Jewish and Christian Understanding and Cooperation was tremendous.

While Jewish organizations and communities helped find immediate housing accommodations and kept families

connected, it was an absolute privilege for us as Christians to quickly extend a hand of love, compassion and fellowship in a real and tangible way to this special community devastated by wildfire.

Our commitment to you as Christians in the nations is one of doing everything we can to always be ready to assist those in the nation of Israel at a moment's notice. Working with cooperative partners of like mind and spirit is also so crucial in building a true relationship in Jewish – Christian relations.

Please continue to help us provide for the members of this historic community in the Ben Shemen forest as well as any future needs that may arise in the weeks, months and years to come. The commitment of Christians around the world to stand strong with the people of Israel is absolutely a matter of prayer, information, study and understanding, but it is the touchable, tangible love and compassion of Christian friends that make a long lasting and true relationship possible as people helping people, while serving the One True God of Israel.

Emergency Aid Fund for Israel.
emergencyaid@cfijerusalem.org



Keeping the *Revelation Flowing*

The reviews from the participants are in and they have agreed that the 2019 Shavout Conference - Celebrating the Revelation was a tremendous success! While Shavout is known to many as the festival of First Fruits, and also considered the Feast of Pentecost, still others know it as the time of revelation to Moses on Mt. Sinai. This year's event was overflowing with incredible messages from outstanding speakers. We were simply overcome by the positive response and continued excitement that each new session brought, along with amazing praise and worship that filled our hearts and lifted our hands straight to heaven.

If you missed out on this amazing opportunity to be in Jerusalem for the 2019 Conference, you can still connect to this tremendous event by ordering your copy of the

session teaching today online at cfijerusalem.org. When you get to the home page, just click on the CD cover, then download your mp3 copy today. You can download individual sessions, or the entire conference.

For those of you that were just unable to join us this year, we invite you to attend our upcoming 2020 Celebration which will be held May 25, 26 and 27, 2020. Next year we will focus on the nation and people of Israel and the biblical future that God has in store for all of us. Christians from all around the world will be joining us in Jerusalem for this once in a lifetime event, so don't miss your opportunity to see what God has in store, and learn about everything we do here at Christian Friends of Israel, next year in Jerusalem!



Join us Next Year in Jerusalem May 25-27, 2020!

For more information email: events@cfijerusalem.org

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

Email us at:

feedback@cfijerusalem.org.

CFI Representative Nearest You