

For Zion's Sake

Third Quarter 2010 Jewish Year 5770

If the Tree Falls— So Will the Branches

"Boast not against the branches. But if you boast, you bear not the root, but the root you...". (Romans 11:18)



Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem

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“My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war” (Psalm 120:6-7).



Ray Sanders

Shalom from Jerusalem,

Israel's Northern Border

Despite all the talk of peace coming eventually to the Middle East, the evidence seems to be to the contrary. In a recent Palestinian TV re-broadcast, a “documentary” film declared that all of Israel is “occupied Palestine.” In one excerpt by the Palestinian Media Watch, the narrator asserts, “The West

Bank and Gaza have another section in Palestine which is the Palestinian coast that spreads along the sea from... Ashkelon in the south, until Haifa, in the Carmel Mountains. Haifa is a well-known Palestinian port. [Haifa] enjoyed a high status among Arabs and Palestinians, especially before it fell to occupation [Israel] in 1948.

“To its north, we find Acre. East of Acre, we reach a city with history and importance, the city of Tiberias, near a famous lake, the Sea of Galilee. Jaffa, an ancient coastal city, is the bride of the sea, and Palestine’s gateway to the world.” The PMW also reported that PATV aired a sermon by the PA’s Mufti Sheikh Muhammad Hussein: “The Jews, the enemies of Allah and His Messenger...! Enemies of humanity in general and of Palestinians in particular! The Prophet says: ‘You shall fight the Jews and kill them...’” This is the “peace partner” with whom Barack Hussein Obama expects Israel to make peace! The ultimate goal of Israel’s enemies has been and always will be her entire annihilation. Should the US President or any other leaders endorse this goal, they will be on a collision course with the God of Israel.

There have been reports of a potential war this summer being initiated by Hizbullah with the support of Syria and probably the involvement of Hamas. Since the Lebanon War of 2006, Hizbullah has been rearming and is now believed to have over 40,000 rockets and missiles in its armory. The IDF is in a very difficult position as they try to prevent rockets and missiles from landing on civilian population centers. Failure to achieve this objective could well result in chaos and panic among the Israeli population.

All the more frightening is the possibility of chemical and biological weapons being used by Syria as it is known she does possess a large supply of these weapons. Israel’s only recourse would potentially be a limited nuclear strike on Damascus as prophesied in Isaiah 17:1. Of course, all of this is speculative, but we know in time these prophecies are certain to come to pass.

“a Palestinian State” is no more than a trap being set to lure Israel.”

Another issue that remains high priority in the discussions surrounding attempts to reach a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is the division of Jerusalem and the relinquishing of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria. Again, Scripture speaks a severe warning to any who enter into such plans against the Lord’s will. His warning is found in Joel 3:2 and Zechariah 12:2-3. Every time Israel withdrew from territory, her enemies took possession and used the area from which to attack Israel. This was true following the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000 and from Gaza in August, 2005. The results would be the same following a withdrawal from Judea and Samaria; only this time it would be the very heartland of Israel from which rocket and missile attacks could be launched. The implications for Israel’s security and safety would be enormous. Such a “state” would not be economically viable and would continue to rely upon support from foreign nations and governments.

If Prime Minister Netanyahu fails to “go along with the plan” the repercussions for Israel would be great, leading to more isolation and demonization within the community of nations. In many ways, I suspect the mantra of a “Palestinian state” is no more than a trap being set (like a Trojan Horse) to lure Israel into believing such a move would provide her with the long sought after acceptance by her enemies agreeing to her need for assurance of safety and security. It is in circumstances and situations like these that I am reminded of the many promises to Israel and the Jewish people found in God’s Word.

“Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall become plunder. And all who prey upon you I will make a prey. For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, because they called you an outcast saying: “this is Zion; no one seeks her” (Jeremiah 30:16-17).

May the Lord’s Promises for His People be our solid foundation.

Sincerely in His service,

Ray Sanders
Executive–International Director



If the Tree Falls— So Will the *Branches*

“If the Jewish element of those roots is upturned and Israel is lost, then we are lost too.” (Jose Maria Aznar).

When John the Baptist walked the dusty roads of the wasteland of Judea he cried, *“I am a voice crying in the wilderness...”* He was declaring a message and articulated well his claim. Recently a brave, fearless Hispanic statesman born in Madrid, Spain, spoke to the world on behalf of the Jewish state. Verbalizing truth is not a simple matter in the world at large, but former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar understands it and put into words his principled view in a published article in the British newspaper, *The Times*, on 17 June 2010. The headlines were: ***“If Israel Goes Down, We All Go Down.”*** Standing for Israel may not be popular today, but I applaud a man who has the backbone to state his convictions in a way that the world media cannot ignore. ***“Israel (as he said) is our first line of defense in a turbulent region and if something would ever happen to her, God forbid, it would affect the entire world!”***

A Significant Day

On the morning of June 1, 2010, the day CFI began its 25th anniversary celebration in Jerusalem, a flotilla (a ship convoy) included a ship with 663 anti-Zionist “humanitarians,” who in actuality were nothing but Turkish armed Islamic extremists, hiding on the ship. The ship had been warned by Israeli naval security that they were entering a blockaded area and that they were to change their course. When the ship commanders refused Israel’s orders, Israeli commandos carrying paint ball rifles, boarded the ship of thugs who immediately began to attack them. After taking a beating and being thrown overboard, one young commando almost lost his life and nine Turkish “activists” were killed as they tried to kill the Israelis. Anti-Israeli propaganda was immediately sent out over the air waves through the world media, and the world again condemned Israel, which was the goal. Key pro-Israel ministries including CFI, were called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office to hear the explanation of the situation and were asked for our help to get out the truth. We hope that this article will help to show why we as Christian friends of the Jewish State must speak up for the truth like a true friend of Israel! By the time the conference opened

BY SHARON SANDERS
Director of Ministry and Teaching



“Israel faces a campaign of delegitimization through international law and diplomacy...”

Turkey's flotilla defying Israel's blockade



in the morning sessions, we were all concerned about a major naval confrontation. We listened while Danny Ayalon, Deputy Foreign Minister for the State of Israel, and other Israeli dignitaries talked about the situation Israel found itself in. They attempted to piece together what happened and praised the support of Israel's true friends in the nations.

Jose Maria Aznar boldly stated: "...no state... would have sponsored and organized a flotilla whose sole purpose was to create an impossible situation for Israel: making it choose between giving up its security policy and the naval blockade... Uniquely in the West, it is the only democracy whose very existence has been questioned since its inception... [when] it was attacked by its neighbors using the conventional weapons of war. Then it faced terrorism, culminating in wave after wave of suicide attacks. Now... it faces a campaign of delegitimization through international law and diplomacy... It is easy to blame Israel for all the evils in the Middle East. Some even act and talk as if a new understanding with the Muslim world could be achieved if only we were prepared to sacrifice the Jewish state on the altar. This would be folly... To abandon Israel to its fate, at this moment of all moments, would merely serve to illustrate how far we have sunk and how inexorable our decline now appears... Israel's strength is our strength and Israel's weakness is our weakness... What binds us, however, is our unyielding support for Israel's right to exist and to defend itself... Israel is a fundamental part of the West. The West is what it is, thanks to its Judeo-Christian

Neighboring countries at war with Israel never ends



roots. **If the Jewish element of those roots is upturned and Israel is lost, then we are lost too. Whether we like it or not, our fate is inextricably intertwined.**" (Full text available online) <http://209.157.64.200/focus/f-news/1095782/posts>

Israel is in All of Us

Another voice is the Dutch Member of Parliament, Geert Wilders who states very clearly the truth in regard to the Jewish State and has said, "...all is not well in the world... We might be in the **final stages of the Islamization of Europe...** a threat to America and the sheer survival of the West... In every European city there are plans to build super-mosques that will dwarf every church in the region.

Clearly, the signal is: "We rule." This young Dutch member of Parliament also stated in 2008 in Jerusalem: "Perhaps a few of you may be new to Jerusalem, yet, Jerusalem is not new to any of you. We all carry Jerusalem in our blood, in our genes. We all live and breathe Jerusalem. We talk Jerusalem, we even dream Jerusalem. Simply, because the values of ancient Israel have become the values of the West. We are all Israel, and Israel is in all of us." Geert Wilders also stated, "Thanks to Israeli parents who send their children to the army and lay awake at night, parents in Europe and America can sleep well and dream, unaware of the dan-



Conflicts in every direction

gers looming." We have to admit, both men are statesmen (Aznar and Wilders) and not "religious" voices being raised. My question is, "Where are the *Christian* voices?"

I asked that question a few years ago concerning what the Church allowed to happen during WWII to the Jewish people. Yes, there were the rescuers, but their numbers were too few. Our voices were not raised in a chorus of protest. Today Jewish people are fleeing France in record numbers and coming to Israel. Europe is in the worst wave of anti-Semitism since WWII. The world has accepted the lies of Islam and sees Israel as an aggressor. There are not enough voices to oppose the powerful and virulent pronouncements being made about the "Zionist enemy." Israel is simply a bone in the throat of Islam – a political/religious system intent on swallowing the entire Middle East and then the world. Their eventual goal for world domination, basically stated, is if they can defeat Israel, they can defeat anyone.

A Film Christians must Watch!

A film has been produced entitled, "With God On Our Side." It is a film with a biased point of view against Israel, looking at the theology of Christian Zionism, which teaches that because the Jews are God's Chosen People, they have a Divine right to a homeland in Israel. The film offers ordinary Christians an alternative to promoting "peace and reconciliation" for Jews and Palestinians. It states that Christians who love Israel disregard human rights and give unilateral support to a secular state...and elevates Israel while using the Bible as justification. It is a provocative film which twists the truth. Be on the look-out if it comes across your path.

We need to fall on our faces before the throne of *HaShem* (The Name); rend our hearts and not our garments. We need to do all within our power to take the message to the Gentile Church not to boast against the trunk or root (and natural branches). Let us speak of the faithful Covenant Keeping God we serve, that He will not break His Covenant with Israel nor with the Church, because if the tree could fall then God's Covenant could be broken with Israel. We, the Church, then would have nothing to attach ourselves to as branches and we would also fall. Thank God He is an Unchanging and Faithful God... *the keeper of His Olive Tree.*

The Inevitable Coming War

The blunt truth about what Israel faces is that the tiny nation is virtually surrounded by well-armed Iranian proxies: Hizbullah and Syria in the north, the Iranian proxy Hamas in the South, the Palestinian Authority militia in the west, the possibility of a Turkish military offensive against Israel and a 1.3 million pro-Iran Israeli Arab Community. If all of these forces were ordered by Iran to unite against Israel, Israel would be forced to resort to firepower it's always hoped NOT to have to use.

The nations are now in a confrontation with God Almighty (Chuck Cohen, July 2010 Special Prayer Alert). God has promised to restore Israel and He is doing it for His Glory (Ezekiel 36:22). Hear the words of the Lord: "...*I will plant them in this land assuredly with My whole heart and with My*

whole soul" (Jeremiah 32:41). The nations are poking God in the eye by being contentious and striking the "apple of His eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10). The Church is boasting against the branches by separating from Israel, by condemning, judging and by divesting. The coming war(s) will require much inquiring of the Lord by Christians who call upon His Name on behalf of the Jewish people. We must be found "without ax in hand," but instead, as loving watchmen, caretakers of God's Olive tree.

Where Are the Christian Voices?

Israel's right to exist should be a part of our sermons. Prayer for Israel should be a normal part of our activities. What Israel goes through we should be also passing through in the spirit of prayer. Along with the anti-Israel reactions and condemnation and also riots, rallies, and anti-Semitic attacks (like the one in Germany where young Israeli dancers were attacked during a performance), the Church has raised its voice also. However, it is to their shame, as headlines immediately popped up on my computer screen such as: Presbyterians End US Aid to Israel; Methodists Vote to Boycott Israel; Calls for Obama to Cut All Aid to Israel; Boycott Divestment and Sanctions from Australian Churches; Church Relief Network Condemns Flotilla Attack; Christians and Muslims Condemn Israel Ship Attack, etc.

I could go on, but as a Christian who loves and stands with the Jewish nation, it is extremely embarrassing—to say the least. Most Gentile believers are fed a steady diet of Replacement Theology from the pulpit. But we must remember that we are wild olive branches who have been grafted into a rich and natural root. Television is of course the most successful medium of manipulation ever known. Its news bulletins can put a spin on stories to suit those who are anti-Israel. Control of mass media has led to a lot of misinformation and lies. Deliberate propaganda against the Jewish state has been going on to alter people's opinions about the Jews. People have blindly believed what they were told, and now nations hang in the balance because of the stand they have taken against Israel.

"We should be loving watchmen for, and caretakers of God's Olive tree."



David's Shield - Karakal Battalion

Not long ago in Israel an explosive device, which was later blown up in a controlled detonation by sappers, was discovered by members of the Karakal Battalion on a routine patrol in the Negev. The Karakal division is one of the most well-known combat positions for women in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In this particular brigade both genders go through a difficult four months of basic training where they must endure a grueling workout. This includes the use of camouflage paints and various firearms.

Israel, which has recruited women since its establishment in 1948, is the only country worldwide that recruits women by law to compulsory service. Initially, women were limited to administrative and support positions and were not allowed to serve in combat or in war zones. However all of that was changed in the year 2000 when the Military Service Law was revised, stating that "women's right to serve in any role in the IDF is equal to the right of men."

As you can imagine female combat soldiers face many challenges in the IDF. The IDF deals with these challenges in various ways; for example they provide privacy and co-habitation with barracks separation and dress code. In terms of stress fractures, women experience a higher frequency of stress fractures than men. The occurrence of stress fractures varies according to the needs and size of the individual female soldier. They are taught what is best for their diet and are encouraged to eat the right foods for their bones as well as making them aware of their own physical limitations.

Not long ago we had the opportunity to visit this unit in the Negev, not far from Eilat, Israel's southernmost city. Upon our visit we were challenged to find the women who were hiding in the mountains before us. Honestly, we couldn't see them--they were so well concealed. When they were given the "green light" they surfaced from their hide out and then we could make them out only by the weapons they were carrying.

These young ladies, along with Bedouin scouts and anti-terrorists units, guard and protect the southern border of Israel where there is no fence. They cover an area more than 6000 square kilometers in size, from the southern part of the Dead Sea, along the borders of Jordan, Egypt and Gaza. The majority of combat units in Israel rotate around the nation, however these soldiers stay in the

"Enlarge the place of your tent; stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your pegs" (Isaiah 54:2).

desert as they become experts in detecting any new changes in the terrain of the Negev.

Now that **summer is here** we are receiving requests from the army units for t-shirts, camel bags, backpacks and hats! We know we can count on you to help us bless the Israeli Army as you continue to support the *David's Shield Project*—Thank you!

Increase of Lone Soldiers

In the past six months we have been having a hard time keeping up with the requests from Lone Soldiers! Who are these lone soldiers? They are young men and women who have immigrated by themselves to Israel and joined the army to do their part to protect the State of Israel and to ensure the future of the Jewish people.

There are close to 6,000 of these soldiers, half of them are from countries like the United States, Canada, Russia, Argentina, Brazil, Europe, etc., and the other half are lone soldiers from Israel who come from an ultra orthodox Jewish background. These youths have been excommunicated from their families because they chose to join the army. The young men have come to realize that if they are ever going to get a "real job" in Israeli society it would be pertinent for them to join the army.

The army does what they can to help these lone soldiers; however there are times when these soldiers are in a financial bind. That's where we have been able to step in and meet these soldiers personally and help them in their financial difficulties. **Thank YOU** for making it all possible! May the Lord continue to enlarge *Project David's Shield* as we touch the lives of the soldiers—one life at a time.



By Karen Lewis
David's Shield Coordinator



Shelter under construction



Every household gets its own bomb shelter

Luba is a Holocaust survivor



Surviving in Sderot

"Now is the time to favor Zion...."
(Psalm 102:13)

Last week we went to visit survivors of the Holocaust in Sderot. In many publications we read about the Kassam rockets that for the last eight years were fired on this small town near the Gaza Strip. Last year the Forsake Them Not project team started to visit survivors in the city. Our kickoff was an outing for all the contacts to a kibbutz in the hills around Jerusalem.

Jews Have a Safe Place

Luba, one of the survivors, told us about this wonderful day and the blessing it was for her to be out of Sderot. Luba does not understand why there is no place on the earth where she and her dear ones can live safely and in peace. She experienced wartime in one of the most horrible ghettos in Minsk, where she grew up. The Jews in the ghetto lived under dreadful circumstances. After the Germans reduced the ghetto in range and number, they destroyed it by fire in the end with all the Jews inside. Luba was one of the few able to escape. Now she lives in Sderot.

When there is a rocket attack she has to find shelter in the bathroom. Luba told us about a recent Kassam rocket that landed in the garden of her Ethiopian neighbor. After the sirens stopped she opened her front door and looked outside. Luba saw her neighbor with her child in her arms who had died in the attack. Luba walked over to her and emergency services quickly came in with first aid assistance. Luba asks us: "Where can I and my fam-

ily live safely in this world? Please ask your friends in the nations this question." And we ask with her: what are our choices concerning the right of existence of the Jewish nation – a nation where they can live in peace?

A Visit Means So Much

Luba thanked us for visiting her and so many other survivors in Israel. It means so much to them that there are still people in this world who care about them. We as a team are thankful to represent you as supporters of our visits to these wonderful survivors of the Holocaust. A blessing for all the citizens of Sderot—and especially the survivors—is that every household gets its own bomb shelter. There are already bomb shelters in the street and all the bus stops have one, but in some weeks to come, all the houses and apartments will have one of their own. Luba shows us the new shelter—now she does not have to sit in the bathroom during an attack!

"I am holding you by your right hand, I the Lord your God. And I say to you do not be afraid. I am here to help you...I am the Lord, your Redeemer. I am the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 41:13, 14b:)



**By Jacob van der Wal
Forsake Them Not Coordinator**



Shelter construction

Please pray about supporting the Holocaust survivors who returned to Zion. In only a few years the last survivors of the Holocaust will be gone. The *Forsake Them Not* team wants to visit as many as we are able, before that happens. **We need your ongoing support for these precious people.**



Vered visits with survivor in her home



Raisa's bad legs



Sharon comforts Raisa

Touching Lives

his white lab jacket and drew “ugly things” around it. Raisa’s husband wanted to be in Israel, and sadly, shortly after their move here, her husband died of cancer leaving her with a small family to raise on her own. Nina, Raisa’s daughter lives with her and is working but works only 20 hours a week, which is not enough to cover all of the expenses of Raisa’s medication, travel to and from the hospital for radiation therapy and other expenses. Raisa suffers from cancer of the liver. Pray for her healing.

She Saw Nothing Good

Raisa said she has no good memories from these difficult times. She said, “I saw nothing that was good!” The day her husband died, her brother who was still in Russia also died. This was very hard for her to cope with. Raisa said her husband was a beautiful Christian man and had a heart of gold. Sharon looked at Raisa and said, “So those eyes have really only ever seen hardship and hatred.” “Yes!” Raisa responded. Raisa said that her greatest need is to provide for her prescription medicines, which are very expensive. When we asked her daughter Nina what she thought was the greatest need, she responded: I am so blessed that you actually...cared enough to come and visit us. This means so much to us.” At CFI we know the saying well, “To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world.” **Thank you to everyone who partners with us in this ongoing important work!**

Raisa is from Moldova. She was not in a concentration camp nor was she in a ghetto, but along with many other Jewish people Raisa has many terrible memories of her early years. When Germany took over her town of Moldova, all of the Jews were forced into cattle cars and taken by train, first to Kazakhstan and then on to Siberia. Raisa’s grandmother froze on the train and her body was thrown off before the family could even say goodbye. At the work camp, Raisa’s mother and all of the other women were forced to dig trenches in frozen ground. If they did not dig fast enough they were beaten with rifles. The children, without any tools, had to dig with their bare hands which caused open sores and constant bleeding.

Shortly after their return to Moldova, Raisa’s mother, who had suffered much under the severe conditions at the work camp, died! Raisa’s father, who had been serving in the army, disappeared in the war. The Jews found that anti-Semitism was still very strong in their town of Moldova and Raisa remembers the pain of the verbal abuse and the many times their home was vandalized.

Later in life, Raisa’s son who was in medical school, also suffered from anti-Semitism. Some of the other students drew a large Star of David on

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed...” (Deuteronomy. 15:11)

Bet Elazraki Orphanage

“Home to Over 200 Children!”

“Home is where the heart is!” Founded in Netanya in 1969, Bet Elazraki was established to give a home to young children, sons and daughters of Holocaust survivors—too traumatized to raise them. Many of these children are classified as “children at risk.” Sent by the authorities, the children find the support and comfort they need to grow in a family atmosphere.

On our visit Yehudah told us “Our hope is that children who come to this home will never have children who would come back to a home like this.” Bet Elazraki has a dedicated professional staff and they are never alone. The children range from 1½ years old to 22 years. If you would like to help with support for school supplies, backpacks, bed linens for the children, know this: The guardians of the Home teach them that anything they are given must never be taken for granted. Bet Elazraki is “breaking the cycle” of distress, violence and poverty. They want to see the children grow up and have warm and loving homes of their own. **WE CAN HELP THEM!**



Children from the Bet Elazraki Orphanage in after school program



**By Vered-Faye Wicks
Last Shall Be
First Coordinator**

Helping "Hands"

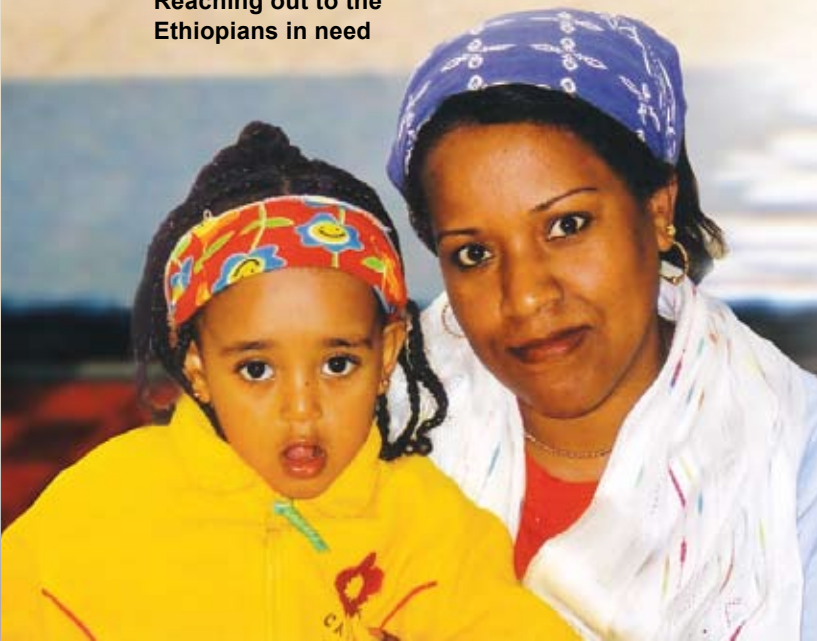
"He who gives to the poor will lack nothing..." (Proverbs 28:27a)

Gennet is separated from her husband and she struggles to provide a home for her three young daughters. She came to Israel in 1982 via the Sudan. Gennet had polio while she was in Sudan waiting to come to Israel. The polio has left her with a limp and weakness so she is not able to work. To help with her limp, she wears special shoes and they are falling apart. She told us that she would have to take them to be repaired again. She really needs a new pair, but she can't afford them.

It is difficult to get a divorce in Israel if the husband won't agree. The court has ordered Gennet's husband to stay in the country until the youngest child is eighteen, but he is not helping her financially. Gennet says that he is making trouble for her. She feels that he is trying to make life so hard for her that she will go back to Ethiopia so he can leave. Because of his interference, their nine-year-old daughter has been sent to boarding school. This is very hard for Gennet. There were tears in her eyes as she told us about making a trip every Tuesday to visit her daughter at the school.

In spite of her problems, Gennet has a sweet smile. She and the children lived in a battered women's shelter for eight months and she has recently rented a small one-bedroom furnished apartment. Rent in Jerusalem is very high and to pay her monthly rent takes all that Gennet receives from the government each month. All of her family are still back in Ethiopia so they are not here to give her support. There is one Jewish family who has befriended her and the girls. They spend the holidays with this family. Gennet says that this helps her to feel like she has family here. She wants so much to hold her family together and provide for her girls.

Reaching out to the Ethiopians in need



Haneet is a divorced mother with a young six-year-old son. She came to Israel by herself seventeen years ago when she was 22 years old. Haneet works cleaning five hours a day and earns about 660 USD per month. She receives no government welfare or help from her ex-husband. She lives in a depressed neighborhood because that is what she can afford. She is concerned about the problems there and how they will affect her son so she keeps him in the house to avoid any bad influence from the neighborhood kids.

Haneet's son was born with a narrow airway which makes it difficult for him to breathe. He has had several surgeries to correct this condition, but still needs many medications and an oxygen mask to be kept in the house in case he has problems. Haneet and her son live in a very small one-bedroom apartment. Haneet has divided the kitchen-salon area so that her son can have his own room, but she is afraid to let him sleep there by himself in case he has problems breathing in the night, and she doesn't hear him in time. Haneet's family is back in Ethiopia and it is very hard for her to be apart from them. She feels very lonely and misses their support. She would like to have someone who would like to not only help her, but who would also write to her, like family.



By Donna Roberts
Hope for the Future Coordinator

Ongoing NEEDS

- Prayers for successful integration of the Ethiopians
- Financial help for families
- Adoption of Ethiopian families
- Scholarship funds to help young Ethiopians study
- Work teams to paint and repair Ethiopian homes
- Support for after-school programs
- Help to purchase school supplies and backpacks

If God should lay it on your heart to adopt an **Ethiopian family**, please contact Donna at CFI, P.O. Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, Israel or e-mail her at donna@cfjjerusalem.org and she will send you the details. If He lays it on your heart to donate items or to support **Project Hope for the Future** financially, send these items to: Project Hope for the Future at the CFI address above. Thank you for letting us be your hands and feet to minister to the Ethiopian immigrants!



25th Anniversary Celebration: “The Final Restoration of all Things” Reflections and Perspective

On the 31st of May a wonderful conference celebration was held in the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem, dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of Christian Friends of Israel, founded in 1985. It was a great encouragement to meet people from so many nations, and those who came received an unforgettable experience. Many people commented, “You could actually feel the presence of the Lord at this conference” – which was absolutely true and due in part to CFI organizers and numerous volunteers. Conference organizers incorporated into the conference not only Christian speakers but also Israeli government officials and leaders to give Christians from the nations an exposure to and better understanding of Jewish people. Israeli government officials were invited, such as the Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Birkat, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Danny Ayalon, Israel Air Force Spokesperson Lt. Col. Danny Schneideman Deputy Minister of Tourism Rafi Ben Hur, former Mayor of Shiloh David Rubin, Director for the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation David Nekrutman, and Founder and Chairman of Shavei Israel, Michael Freund. Other invited speakers included well respected international Christian leaders and teachers such as Lance Lambert, Rick Ridings, Dr. Marvin Wilson, Geoffrey Smith, and Reuven Ross.



Nir Birkat
 Mayor of Jerusalem

We were pleased to host the Honorable Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Birkat, who came to encourage Christians in attendance to stand with Israel. Lt Col. Danny Schneideman presented an inside look at the Israel Air Force, which was very informative. It was thrilling to hear a firsthand strategic overview, and about the heritage of the Israeli Air Force.





One amazing message was, “Will We Remain Silent or Can We Make a Difference?” presented by former CFI UK Director, broadcaster and leader of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, Geoffrey Smith. With all his passion and love for truth and justice, he spoke about the importance of media that can change the world’s opinion in one second. (Being Jewish it was bliss for me to hear the expression of full support and love toward Israel from non-Israeli speakers.) The conference started the same day a Gaza-bound protest flotilla with “peace activists” on board sponsored by extremists was trying to break the blockade of Gaza. As these events were happening, the official Israeli position concerning these events was being given to all in attendance. It was great to see sincere support and understanding from guests from more than 40 nations.

David Nekrutman presented a wonderful lecture entitled, “A Long Overdue Conversation: Come Let Us Reason Together.” The first sight of David was when he came out on the platform and loudly shouted “Hallelujah!” As Executive Director for the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation in Efrata, he shared his thoughts about building a bridge between Jews and Christians. People really enjoyed his very thought provoking message and the comfortable atmosphere in which he immersed them. While the rest of the world is submerged in violence and fighting, we can change the world by our love, help, and of course by our words. Because only through relational communication, and by unconditional love (and not by force) can we reach people’s hearts, come to understanding and bring peace between Jews and Christians.

The conference sowed the seeds of advancing change that adds value to the relationship between the Judeo-Christian faiths. As our friend Rabbi Yaakov Youlus always says, “We are making history!” It is so true, and it was amazing to see its fulfillment underway at this unforgettable conference.

“For more information on upcoming CFI Conferences please go to: www.cfijerusalem.org”

Photo Credits: Yulia Kutishchev
and Vern Lefler



Yulia Kutishchev
Media Coordinator



Her Power To Continue Was *Prayer*



Parents with baby

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2).

Alona is 40-year-old Russian lady who immigrated to Israel many years ago. In the year 2000 she had a terrible car accident, in which her knees were injured and the doctors told her that she would have to be in a wheelchair. But after praying, God healed Alona’s knees—there was no other explanation for her recovery! Later, Alona’s husband was shaken by a big change in their lives. It was at that time that he started drinking, smoking, he stopped praying and, in general, he stopped taking care of the family. During all those years Alona gave all of her salary to her husband, who was supposed to pay the bills—the rent, the utilities, and make the payments for their son’s school.

“He stopped taking care of the family.”



Bringing encouragement in their walk with God

Finally, he was offered a high-paying job, and decided to move on with his life, to leave his family, and start his life over from the beginning. All this happened about a month ago. Alona was left alone with a 15-year-old son and many bills and debts that her husband never paid. Her water bills weren’t paid for more than six months and the water company was going to cut off the water supply. In addition, she discovered that the payments for her son’s school were never made, so he couldn’t continue studying! Then, to make matters worse, the Bank notified her that they were going to sue her for the overdraft in the

account and confiscate all of her property. All of the grief and troubles came on her in the space of just a few days. The only thing that strengthened her and gave her the power to continue was prayer and the words of this psalm: **“Those who know the Lord trust him. He will not leave those who come to him”** (Psalm 9:10).

A Place To Turn

She heard about CFI and came to ask for help. She was very embarrassed to be asking, and to be sharing her troubles with someone else, but she felt that she didn’t have a choice. CFI was privileged to be able to help Alona with her great needs—because of the generous support received from the Nations. Alona is a strong woman of God whose trust and hope is in the Almighty. Please pray for her that God will supply all her needs.



**By Ray Sanders
First Fruits Coordinator**



At the scene of the Netanya suicide bombing



Gloria is grateful for a listening ear

Gloria's Nightmare

Gloria and her son were both injured in a terror attack in December 2001 near the Shopping Mall entrance in Netanya. She and her son were biding time before going to a routine doctor's appointment and decided to go to the Mall. They were sitting on the benches outside the Mall, each making a phone call, when both saw right in front of them a number of police officers approaching a man walking toward the entrance of the Mall with a huge backpack and an expression that looked "different" than all others. Both Doron and Gloria knew it was a terrorist. In that split second before the bomb was detonated, Doron made the decision not to "run quickly away" to save himself, but to stay with his Mom and "die" with her.

A Miracle from Elohim

After the blast all Gloria could think of was: Where is Doron? Meanwhile, Doron had been airlifted by helicopter to the hospital where he was listed in critical condition. Operations went on all day and night to try to save Doron's life. His internal organs were all damaged—especially his lungs, liver and kidneys. Shrapnel was lodged two centimeters from his heart and several pieces near his lungs, with extensive internal bleeding. Doron's condition became worse, and at least once he was even declared dead. Rabbis who were at his bedside started to pray. At 8:00 am the next morning Doron opened his eyes and began talking!! Gloria exclaimed: "A miracle... a miracle from Elohim [God]!"

Eight years have passed since then and we have visited Gloria and her family again. There is a saying: "time heals all wounds," but the wounds of this family are still

as real as eight years before. Since the attack Gloria has had to undergo seven operations. She needed bone transplants, but her body rejected the implanted bones. The week after our visit she had to go again to the hospital for further treatment. The same afternoon we visited, Doron had to undergo an operation. The doctors tried to remove some pieces of shrapnel that are still in his lungs. Gloria's husband left, because he was unable to cope with all the suffering his family is going through.

Gloria only asks for help if she is in dire financial need and does not know how to make ends meet. Today she cried out for help. She is not able to work because of her arm injuries. Doron still has to undergo psychological treatment. It took a split second to detonate a deadly bomb. Because of that "split second" two healthy people have to suffer a lifetime...

"...I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

Many terror attack victims are in the same situation, but thanks to our supporters who stand beside us in reaching out to this group of Jewish people from every walk of life, CFI is able to continue the good work of *Under His Wings*.



By Helene Iedema
Director of Outreach

In the Sight of the Nations

"I will accept you as fragrant incense when I bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will show myself holy among you in the sight of the nations." (Ezekiel 20:41)

Without doubt the restoration of the State of Israel and the *aliyah* of the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth to the Land of their forefathers brings great glory to the God of Israel, as He is showing Himself holy in the sight of the nations.

As it has been said before, despite all the dangers and hostility of the surrounding nations that aim at her annihilation, *Israel is the safest place on earth for the Jewish people*. For now, it may seem so only for the Jewish people from countries where they are persecuted like Yemen, Iran, France, etc., but with the fast rise in anti-Semitism things may change very quickly. Recently we welcomed in the Distribution Center two girls who have made *aliyah* from Iran and who were relieved to have safely arrived HOME. Many of the Jewish people who make *aliyah* from Iran have to do it secretly through Turkey for fear of the authorities in Iran.

In the light of the deteriorating relations between Turkey and Israel and the threat from Iran, let us pray that ALL Jewish people will be able to get out of the radical Islamic republic before it is too late!

Some of the Jewish women who make *aliyah* from Iran wear the traditional Muslim head covering even on the pictures of their *teudat oleh* – the new immigrant Israeli ID document, as they have to wear it till they cross the border. The two Jewish girls from Iran were so touched by what Christians do for them that they offered to update our flyers in Farsi (Persian) that we gave them.

Let us continue to pray fervently for the gathering of ALL the Jewish people from ALL the countries where they have been scattered!

It has been a real honor and privilege for me in the past five years to report to you from CFI's Distribution Center in Jerusalem about God's sons and daughters whom He is bringing back

HOME from the four corners of the earth and the difference that EACH ONE OF YOU makes in their lives. Every financial gift, every garment and blessing you send to the Distribution Center touches the hearts of the new *olim*, as they hear (sometimes for the first time in their lives) about Christians in the nations who truly love them, pray for them and desire to bless them!

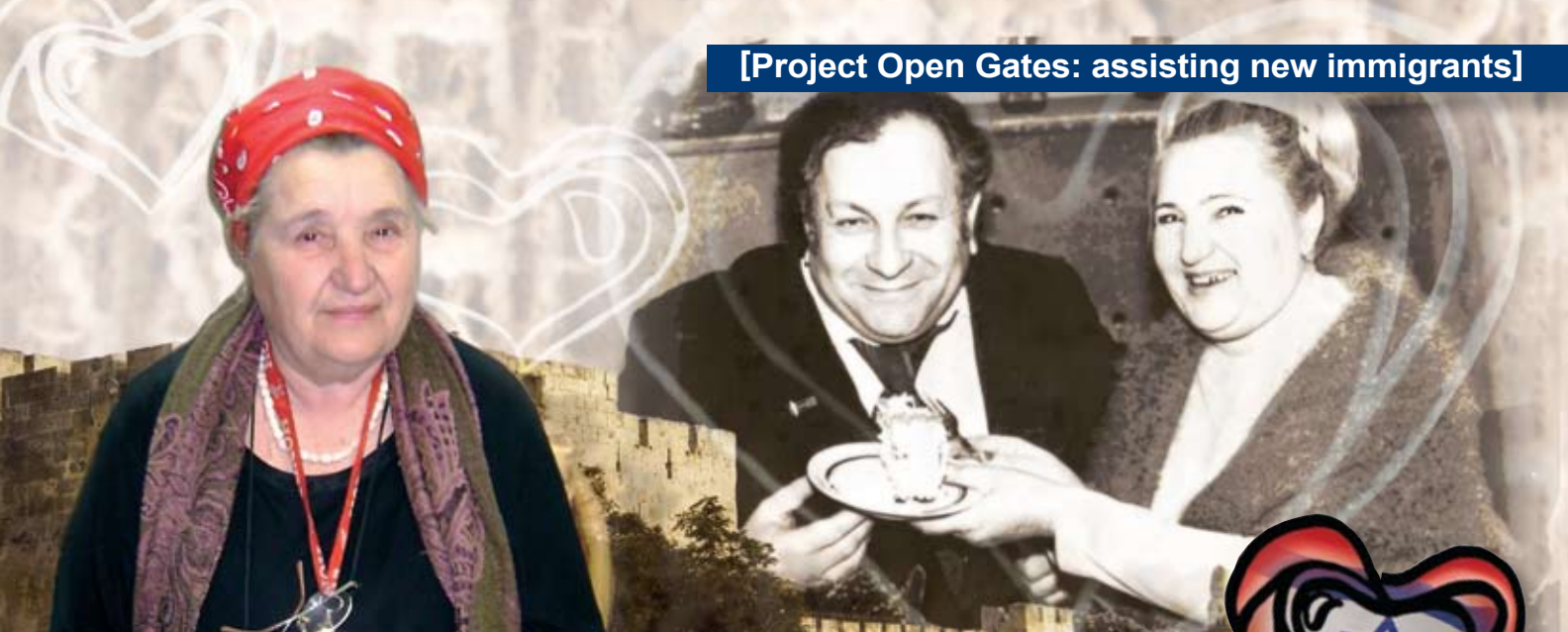
God's word says in Ecclesiastes 3 that **"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."** It is not without sadness in my heart that I have to let you know that my season in Israel has come to an end. I will be returning to Bulgaria in July, but, as with every one of us who loves God's people, Israel and the Jewish people will forever remain in my heart. I thank the Lord for this most blessed time of my life and that for all of us - His children - the best is YET to come! We know for sure that this is so for His Chosen People, as we know that *"He who promised is faithful!"* (Hebrews 10:23)

"Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst. Do not fear, Zion, the LORD your God in your midst; the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing... Behold, at that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes," says the LORD (Zephaniah 3:14-20).



Shalom u'Vrachot,
(Peace and Blessings)

– **Gergana Petrova, Bulgaria**



Zion in Her Heart

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion” (Isaiah 8:18).

Miriam Tarnovih made *aliyah* from Uzbekistan in 2008 at the age of 72. Prior to that she had been to Israel several times visiting relatives, but her most memorable trip was in 2004. She was still living in Uzbekistan and hearing the news about the many terror attacks that were happening in Israel at that time. She wanted to help Israel in some way and applied to Sar El - the volunteer program of the Israeli Army. She was told that the age limit was up to 65 years, but because she was fit and looked young for her age she was accepted in the program. She had to explain to the authorities in Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan has a Muslim government, and the majority of the population is Muslim) the purpose of her visit in Israel, but of course she couldn't tell them exactly what she was going to do. She just told them she wanted to visit the Holy Land.

So at the age of 68 Miriam served in the IDF as a volunteer for a couple of months. She lived in a dormitory in Tel Aviv together with several more dozen volunteers from all over the world. Every day army buses came to take them to the base where they helped in different ways, including assembling weapon parts. There she met Jewish volunteers from all over the world. Miriam was particularly impressed with the servant heart of one of Baron de Rothschild's granddaughters. Despite her being wealthy she worked together with the rest of the volunteers and some of her duties included even cleaning toilets! (*Baron de Rothschild was a wealthy Jewish philanthropist who helped many Jewish people settle the Land even before the restoration of the State of Israel in 1948*).

Miriam has three children – two daughters and one son and all her children have also volunteered in the IDF although they haven't made *aliyah* yet. She is hoping they will join her in Israel soon. After her husband died Miriam

immigrated to Israel – the Land of her forefathers that she had dreamed about for years. In the beginning of 2009 Israel had to launch the operation “Cast Lead” in Gaza against “Hamas” terrorists. Miriam again called the army and offered to volunteer and help if she can. This time her offer was declined because she was already 73 and not in such good health, but she carries Zion in her heart.

Miriam has been to the Distribution Center several times and received help as a new immigrant from Open Gates. Recently she turned to us for financial help. Since she made *aliyah* she has had a number of health issues and is currently taking a lot of medicines for several of her medical problems. **With the pension she receives she is finding it hard to pay rent, bills and her expensive medicines.** Thanks to generous donations of Christians in the nations we will be able to help her through project “Doors of Hope” paying her rent for several months and some food vouchers so that she can save up some money and buy the necessary medicines.

Although her health is failing she is still young at heart and is extremely happy to be in the Land of Israel. After she made *aliyah* she even wanted to work and be of use to Israel with her skills (Miriam is a speech therapist by profession – an educational specialist dealing with children with disabilities). Sadly, because of her age, this proved impossible. She is still very active though and is very busy studying Hebrew at an *ulpan*. Please pray for Miriam's health and for her children to make *aliyah*!

“...the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it” (Isaiah 14:32).

– Gergana Petrova, Bulgaria

“I AM YOUNG AND STRONG!”



Georgiy and his parents at the D.C.

The boy you see in this picture is five and a half years old and his name is Georgiy. His parents made *aliyah* from the town of Lvov, Western Ukraine, an area in the former Soviet Union that is notorious for its high rate of anti-Semitism.

From the very first moment that Georgiy entered Open Gates he didn't stop talking and asking us questions! He was fascinated with the many toys we had and while his mom and dad were choosing clothes for him and themselves, he kept himself (and us) busy, playing with different animal species – lions, tigers, penguins, ducks, etc. He especially liked the bears! All our staff were amazed at how smart Georgiy was for his age! He can already read (in Russian) and said he was sure that he will quickly learn to read in Hebrew too!

*“The glory of young men is their strength...”
(Proverbs 20:29)
Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”
(Psalm 127:3)*

From the Oldest Nation to the Youngest Nation



Gergana and her parents



Rashka's niece

Bulgaria is the oldest nation on the European continent. Israel is the youngest in the Middle East. We were especially blessed during recent days in the Distribution Center to welcome several Bulgarian Jews - new immigrants! The young girl Gergana (yes, same name as mine!) had made *aliyah* 5 years ago and in the first days of June her parents joined her in *Eretz Israel*. Gergana has been to the Distribution Center, and served in the IDF, and just a few days after her parents Seraphima and George arrived in the Land she brought them to us, telling them they would meet “a lot of wonderful people and will receive very nice gifts.” Well, they were not disappointed indeed and left with full bags--all because of the generosity of Christians from the Nations.”

(Nissim in 1948), but they said they came to ask us how Rashka's niece can make *aliyah*! We do work with new immigrants but there is a process and much paperwork is involved. Gergana's parents who had made *aliyah* just the week before were able to explain everything to them in detail and give them very good advice! What a Divine appointment this was and how we all enjoyed meeting each other! We thank the Lord for the continued miracles that happen every week at the CFI Distribution Center!

– **Gergana Petrova, Bulgaria**

As they left us, two more Bulgarian Jews walked in! Nissim and his relative Rashka had made *aliyah* many years ago



Little Georgiy is very agile too, despite the fact that he is handicapped. He cannot walk; he can only crawl because his legs are permanently dislocated from birth. So in order for him to move from one place to another he has to either crawl on all fours or wait for his parents to carry him. But what an amazing spirit and desire for life Georgiy has! He will not let his infirmity stop him, and is strong as a lion! He was all over the place and even wanted to go up the stairs that lead to the second floor because we had put there some toys and he wanted to play with them. He kept asking if they toys were really "WITHOUT MONEY" and had a hard time choosing from the big variety we have – thanks to you, our supporters, in the nations! One of our staff told him to be careful because it is dangerous going up the stairs and he can fall, and even we, adult people, have fallen sometimes, but Georgiy replied: "Yes, but you are not so young anymore; while I AM YOUNG AND STRONG!!!"

"And the remnant of Jacob shall be... like a young lion..." (Micah 5:8)

Georgiy's dad Stanislav said that one of the main reasons for the family to make aliyah was the surgery that Georgiy will have in a few months. The doctors are very optimistic and gave the family much hope that Georgiy will be able to walk normally after the surgery.

Please keep this family in your prayers! We were able to bless them with a new immigrants' blessing basket, a lot of clothing for them all, food vouchers and of course toys for Georgiy! Please pray that Georgiy's surgery will be successful and that he will come to know Jehovah Rophe (The Lord who heals) who is full of compassion for his people!

"For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted" (Isaiah 49:13)

– **Gergana Petrova, Bulgaria**



Georgiy's legs dislocated from birth



Ukraine, Belarus & Russia...in one room!

"Be strong and very courageous, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go..." (Joshua 1:6, 8)



"He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock, my Savior'" (Psalm 89:26)

The State of Israel tries to encourage the *aliyah* of the Jewish people from all over the world in various ways. It has special programs for Jewish youth who make *aliyah* without (or before) their parents. Some of these programs are *Na'aleh*, *Selah* and others. Most of the young Jewish people that we have welcomed in the Distribution Center over the past year or two, (when the numbers of Jewish youth making *aliyah* considerably increased, reaching almost half the number of the total new *olim* in 2009) have come to Israel through one of these programs. Usually they stay in one of the absorption centers around the country.

The three boys that came together to Open Gates one day at the end of March, though, looked just too young to have come to a foreign country without their parents! They looked like 14-15 year olds! One of them had made *aliyah* from the Ukraine, another from Belarus and the third one had come from Russia. They said the three of them were sharing a room in the absorption center in Beersheva (in the south of Israel) while studying Hebrew. When I took their *teudat oleh* IDs (a special document that proves they are new immigrants) to register them and prepared to call

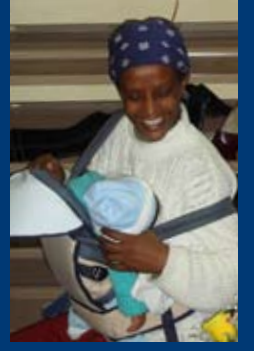
out their names to invite them to come in for their gifts, it **turned out all three of them were called Artyom!**

It was very difficult to find clothing for the three Artyoms because they were approximately the same height and size and we didn't have so much "small for men" size clothing. It was touching to see how when we brought an item they would decide between themselves who will have it and then the next item will go to the other and so on. We were happy to bless them. Each also received their own set of pots, pans and bedding. **They were very encouraged and grateful for everything they received from the Nations!**

Please pray for their absorption in Israel. In a few years they will join the army...and while they have their parents back in the countries they came from, for the next several years (until their parents join them, if they choose to) the three Artyoms will be in Israel alone. **May the God of Israel be their Father and may He protect them in all their ways!**

– **Gergana Petrova, Bulgaria**

Eyewitness to History



Since the fall of the Iron Curtain in the FSU and immediately after the Gulf War in 1991, the CFI Distribution Center (one of the first of its kind in Israel's history) has witnessed over one-quarter million Russian (and other) new immigrants from oppressed lands around the world receive assistance and help. During an immigrant's early months and years of learning the language and adjusting to a new life in Israel, this Center has been a model for institutions in Israel. It has given Jewish people the opportunity to see first-hand genuine Christians who love their People and welcomed them home with God's love. The "sons of strangers" helped to build up their lives, make them stronger and bring to them the blessings of Gentile nations (Isaiah 60:3). Its doors have welcomed many newcomers - individuals and groups. It has been a unique establishment for over 20 years. From birth to old age, the People of Israel have been dressed in the best of garments. Our supporters supplied the clothing the people have worn on the streets of Jerusalem through large clothing shipments and

hundreds of tons of garments. We've been busy fulfilling God's commands towards His Chosen People.

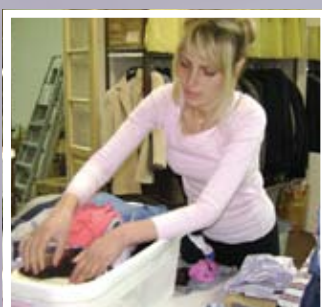
Presently in Transition

CFI's present Distribution Center needs major adjustments; therefore, from September 1, 2010, until further notice the sending and receiving of shipments will be placed on hold. Financial support for the ongoing work of the projects in Israel will continued. To operate efficiently in the future repairs, renovation and electrical work would be needed which option will need additional finances to accomplish. Recently our unique Bridal Salon was temporarily closed because of a "legal" problem with the floor structure. Also dedicated leadership/staff from the DC have had to return home (i.e., visa situation or health/insurance problems). Please pray with us and our Board in Jerusalem that we will hear from the Lord in His Purposes on the next step for the ministry outreach at the CFI Distribution Center. We need an ever expanding and up-to-date vision for those

HOPE to Single Mothers

Today, when the world economy goes from bad to worse, it is very difficult for single parents with large families to make ends meet. Many single moms turn to "Doors of Hope" for help with clothing and finances. All of them want to provide a bright future for their children. These mothers have to cope with all the hardships that come across the way of their families. With one child it's not really that difficult, but most mothers who ask us for help have more than two children. We noticed that many of them are sad and worried, but happy that at the CFI D.C. they find beautiful quality garments for their children.

Many times people who come to us tell us that we, the Christians, are doing good deeds by helping the needy in the Land. Because of CFI's Distribution Center they no longer have to worry about what their children or they will wear. We always tell them that all the blessings come from Christians from all over the world. We get the blessing of receiving on behalf of all of our suppliers and supporters.



Single mothers turn to CFI for help

Our Prayer Needs



who made aliyah from the former Soviet Union at the beginning of our work which is very different than newcomers who will come from the west and other countries. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have ministered and shared with us during the first 25 years of the ministry work. We claim I Samuel 7:12 and Philipians 1:3 as our supportive Scriptures at this time. Please pray with us for the establishment of a new CFI Distribution and Supply Depot for the next wave of incoming immigrants. There is still a lot of damage to be undone from the past historical mistakes made by Gentile Christendom and we cannot stop now!



– **Ray & Sharon Sanders,**
Jerusalem

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understand-
ing; in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3: 5-6

- *Praise God for His Plans! Romans 8:28*
- *Intercede for aliyah needs*
- *Please pray for new DC Staff*
- *Please pray for a new Bridal Department!*

Anna is a single mother with four kids. Her situation is very desperate. She had an accident at work and because of that she couldn't work for a while. The money that she gets from the government is not enough to pay all the bills and to buy food for her children, all of them under 18 years old. She told us that now she doesn't have to spend money on clothing and she was very pleased with all the clothes that she received from Doors of Hope. She told us also that there are days when she has no food to give to her children. I asked her what she does then. When she told me my heart broke. She said: "When I have no food in the house and the kids are asking me for something to eat I try to put them to bed and help them fall asleep, so that they will not feel hungry..."

Galina has three children. As a single mother she has to be both a mom and a dad in the house. The clothes that she receives from us are a real blessing for her because this helps her to save some money. The children were very enthusiastic when they had to look for clothes for themselves. The little boy, who is 5 years old, said "YES" to his

mom every time she would show him a shirt or pants or some other item. He liked all the clothes and he wanted them all!

Maryia is a single mother who tries to raise her two young girls. She is a seamstress by profession. She makes very nice evening gowns--even wedding dresses. She showed us a photo album with all the dresses that she had made. All the gowns were very pretty.

Please pray that the God of Israel - Adonai Yireh – the God who provides – will provide for the needs of these and many other single mothers we serve daily in project "Doors of Hope".



– **Iosif and Anita Morari,**
Romania

*"Those who hope
in Me will not be
disappointed."
(Isaiah 49:23)*



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- Distribution Center Manager • Accounts Receivable
- Mail Room Clerk • Data Information Logistics
- Bridal Salon Coordinator • HQ Cook Assistant
- Doors of Hope Assistant • Accounts Payable
- Doors of Hope Coordinator • Open Gates Coordinator
- Finance Coordinator Assistant • Conference Coordinator

For more information and to apply go to www.cfijerusalem.org click on join the CFI Team. We encourage Singles and men/women/couples with Clergy Ordinations. If you have never been to Israel or worked in the Land – now is "your time" to apply!

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