

# For Zion's Sake

Third Quarter 2012 Jewish Year 5772

## THE SCROLL OF

# Ruth

*"...your people will be my people, and your God will be my God..." (Ruth 1:16).*

Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem



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

...we y  
you.  
...will go,  
...will live; Y  
...ple, and y  
...od." Where y  
...here I will be bu  
...do this to me, an  
...anything but dea  
...you and me.. When  
...Ruth was deterined to  
...r, she stopped trying to  
...ade her." The two of them  
...they came to Bethlehem.  
...tered Bethlehem, the whole  
...was excited about their arriva  
...the local women exclaimed."C



# For Zion's Sake

A Quarterly Publication / Printed in Israel



MANAGING DIRECTOR/WRITER: Sharon Sanders

EDITOR: Coral Mings

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Marita Brokenshaw

LOCAL MEDIA DEPARTMENT MANAGER: Michael Fordham

DIRECTOR OF VIDEO AND ONLINE TECHNOLOGY: Kevin Howard

MEDIA COORDINATOR/PHOTOGRAPHER: Yulia Kutishchev

STAFF WRITERS: Robbie Coleman, Tommie Coleman, Maggie Huang, Helene Iedema, Karen Lewis, Kevin Howard, Stacey Howard, Gordon Milmine, Jenny Milmine, Ruth Rishton, Letitia Warin, Ray Sanders

FRONT COVER: Yuliya Kutichshev

**For Zion's Sake** is published by Christian Friends of Israel's Jerusalem Office, free of charge to supporters. All articles may be quoted with proper attribution. If you wish to help distribute CFI's quarterly publications, please contact us: [cfi@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:cfi@cfijerusalem.org) or by mail at the address below. It is our desire that as many Christians as possible who love Israel will be able to receive this publication. You can help us distribute literature to your church and friends.

**How You Can Give:** Contributions and love gifts for the ongoing ministry and outreaches may be sent by personal check payable to Christian Friends of Israel. We accept checks in these currencies: US dollars, Canadian dollars, British pounds, Euros, New Israeli shekels and Swiss francs. Australian dollars must be remitted in US currency checks. Please mail checks to the following address: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.

**Automatic Deposits:** Wire Transfer Information: Israel Discount Bank, 11 Ben Yehuda Street (Main Branch #060), Acct. No. 772-658, Account Name: Christian Friends of Israel, SWIFT code: IDBLILITJLM, SWIFT output: FIN 103. STP Single customer credit transfer. Please include any designation in "Remittance Information". IBAN for USD IL81011060000002772657, IBAN for EURO IL62011060000004772654, IBAN for GBP IL26011060000003772650. Please add US \$20 or equivalent in foreign currency to cover direct deposit bank fees or instruct your bank to charge you with all related fees both in Israel or abroad.

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

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

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

Mail to: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.

## Director's Letter



Ray Sanders

### Shalom from Jerusalem

*Dear Friends of Israel,*

*"For behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah, says the Lord. And I will cause them to return to the land I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it" (Jeremiah 30:3).*

The prophetic ingathering of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland is a momentous event that continues to unfold. Since the late 1980's, the Jewish people of the former Soviet Union, have followed their ancestors' deep desire to make the modern state of Israel their homeland. To date, more than one million Russian immigrants have moved to Israel, changing the cultural mix of this nation. As Christian Friends of Israel, we have been privileged to welcome more than 300,000 of these immigrants to our Distribution Center in Jerusalem, and they are still coming for assistance to establish their new home in Israel.

### Legal Status of Judea and Samaria

The following article by Steven Plaut appeared in the July 12th edition of the *Jerusalem Post*. I have elected to quote this article as it contains details on the legal status of Judea and Samaria and its implication to the state of Israel.

"A recent fascinating development in Israel was the release of the report of a government commission whose assignment has been to define the legal status of the 'occupied territories' for purposes of government policy. The commission was headed by Edmond Levy, an interesting former Supreme Court justice and one of the only ones who is not a judicial activist leftist. Basically, the report says that the West Bank—Judea and Samaria—are not occupied territories at all but, at most, disputed territories, something like the US-Canadian border during parts of North American history. As such, there is no reason why Israel cannot build there and even seize land under eminent domain. There is nothing in international law that makes settlements 'illegal.' And they should thus be proclaimed by Israel to be completely legal. Whether or not Israel builds settlements becomes a matter of Israeli interests and policy, not legal obstacles.



Jewish Settlements

## Here in brief, is the case for Jewish settlements in the West Bank:

- **It is in Israel's acute national interest to prevent the West Bank** from serving as a terrorist base, from which rockets, mortars and possibly weapons of mass destruction would be launched at Israel. Life in Israel would be impossible with the West Bank serving as a Palestinian state, basically a clone of Hamas in Gaza. It is thus crucial to do everything to prevent that from happening.
- **Every accord or 'deal'** that provides for any sort of Palestinian state or sovereignty or entity operating outside Israeli control in the West Bank will produce the scenario of the previous point, mass terrorist aggression from 'Palestine,' making life in Israel impossible. It does not matter what would be written in any accord or treaty.
- **Israel would be prevented from taking serious action** against terrorist aggression from this 'Palestine' by international pressure and sanctions, and the Israeli Left would rally the world against Israeli 'aggression' in all such cases.
- **The only way effectively to prevent** the conversion of the West Bank into a Hamas terror base is by maintaining a significant Jewish population there. This effectively prevents international pressure from producing the conversion of the West Bank into a second Hamas terror base, and effectively prevents endlessly-appeasing and cowardly Israeli governments from capitulating to those pressures. (Imagine what Olmert would have done without the settlements. Since most of the settlers are actually in Jerusalem suburbs, their presence there also prevents any capitulations by Israel to pressures regarding relinquishing Jerusalem.)
- **While there are other moral and historic arguments** for why Israel and Jews have the right to live in the West Bank, the only real purpose of 'settlements' is to prevent the emergence of any 'Palestinian state.' No other rationalization or justification is needed. There are no alternative effective ways to prevent the conversion of the West Bank into Hamas.
- **West Bank settlements are no obstacle** at all for the economic development of the Palestinian population centers there, nor to forms of limited autonomy, which should be the most that Israel is willing to concede to the Palestinians. (And even they are not an entitlement.)"

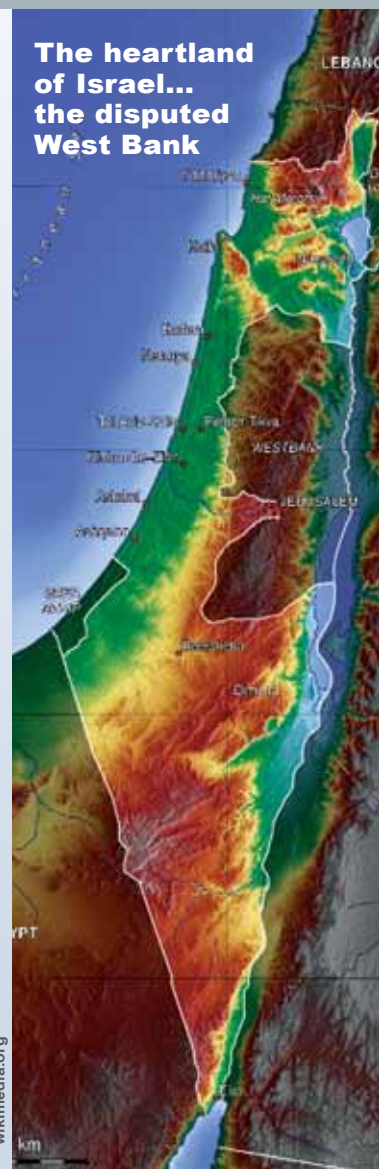
What this article makes very clear is the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria, the very heartland of Israel, would place hundreds of thousands of Israelis in harm's way. They would be susceptible to rocket and mortar attacks any time of the day or night. The nation could be literally held hostage by this terrorist state and would continuously be in a virtual state of war. Such a reality would be unthinkable and totally unacceptable by Israel. It is now up to the government of Israel to take a legal decision on how to proceed with an official status of Judea and Samaria. What is certain is that this matter is far from being resolved in the near future. Both sides of this momentous issue have historically entrenched positions that are unbending. What is at stake is the security and well-being of Israel both now and into the foreseeable future.

Sincerely in the Lord's service,

*Ray Sanders*

Ray Sanders, Executive/International Director

**The heartland of Israel... the disputed West Bank**



wikimedia.org

**"Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul" (Jeremiah 32:41).**



BY SHARON SANDERS

# THE SCROLL OF

# Ruth

**The Scroll of Ruth is a written record** in the Jewish Scriptures concerning an extraordinary non-Jewish woman filled with kindness and mercy toward an Israelite woman. The account tells her story, in the distinctive form of a hidden allegory, as a perfect illustration of Israel and the Church. The Bible contains many symbolic images; however, none as clear as in this beautiful story of Ruth. *Clearly revealed is a spiritual and moral message behind the characters.* This Biblical narrative has profound and relevant significance for the Church today. It is my fervent hope, though many of us have heard the story before and count it familiar, that many Christians will still take the story to heart as God has joined one to another (Jew and Christian) through His Word and Son.

Shaul [Paul] tells us that what we learn in the Torah/Tanach (Old Testament) are there as examples for us (1 Corinthians 10:6). We are to learn from them and to inquire as to the meaning for our lives. Rabbi Yaakov Youlus used to say to me “Words are meaningless unless you know the meaning behind the words.” It is imperative we see a parallel between Naomi (Israel) and Ruth (the gentile Church). Let’s begin walking the dusty path together with the two women as we put our feet into the imprints of a gentile woman who came out of a detestable pagan religion to follow the God of Israel.

## When the Judges Ruled

*“Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled...”* (Ruth 1:1).

It was not a spiritually wise decision that Elimelech made to take his Jewish family to live in a pagan nation, Moab. People did “what was right in their own eyes” during those days (Judges 21:25) but God had given a Land for His People – Israel. Elimelech (meaning “*My God is King*”) betrayed his name. He put his own desires before God’s and left the Land during a famine. In Genesis Rabbah 28 (a Jewish commentary) we read: “Our rabbis taught that it is not permitted to go forth from the Land of Israel to a foreign country...they belonged in a Land that God had set aside for them.” Judges 6:3-4 records a severe food shortage in Israel caused by Midianites who came, stole Israel’s food supply, and destroyed what they could not carry off. We see Naomi (which means “*Pleasant*”) not wanting to hinder Elimelech’s desire to leave...pack their belongings, and with their sons, Mahlon (“*sickly*”) and Chilion (“*wasting*



away”) made the long, hot journey outside of Israel. “Sickly” and “Wasting Away” died, also disobeying God by marrying Moabite women. After Elimelech passed away, leaving Naomi a widow, she loses her two biological sons and now remains alone with two non-Jewish women in her life. She decided to return home to the land of God’s choice for her people, after she heard rain had come. She turned to her two daughter in laws and says, “I’m going home to my country...you two stay in your own country and among your own people.” They walked alongside Naomi as she headed back home on the dusty path. Then they stopped.

“...and Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, **‘Go, return each to her mother’s house: the Lord deal kindly with you as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me’**” (Ruth 1:8). In ancient Israel, burial practices were a sacred tradition...the mourning that accompanies the death of a loved one is a reflection not of sorrow, but of great value placed on the individual’s life. Ancient Jewish practices concerning the dead instructed that the individual be buried, and not cremated, a law still in observance today. Cremation is believed to be a punishment reserved for idols, criminals and enemies. The early Christian Church also rejected cremation, because it was associated with Greek and Roman pagan beliefs. Ordinary Israelites had to be properly buried, according to religious law. For instance, burial had to take place within 24 hours of death (Deuteronomy 21:23), because of climate factors...the deceased body was washed and anointed with various oils and spices. The body was then wrapped in unique linen cloths that contained spices and placed on a stone shelf that was carved into the bedrock wall of a tomb. It must have been extremely hard for Naomi not to be able to bury her husband and two sons in an Israelite cemetery in Israel. Obviously, the women helped as much as they could and Naomi commended the women for their care of her dead. If only the Church had dealt more kindly with the Jewish people as they were dying cruelly at the hands of the evil Nazi regime.

**“Orpah kissed her mother in law: but Ruth clung to her...”**  
(Ruth 1:14).

## Your Sister in Law Has Gone Back

**“...Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave...and she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and...her gods: return thou after thy sister in law”** (Ruth 1:14,15).

After considering Naomi’s suggestion, Orpah, (“stiffnecked”) kissed Naomi, and turned and walked away into the dust bin of history, never to be heard of again. What information we do have tells us she married into the family of the Philistines. She made a choice and that decision affected her life. Orpah, **like so much of gentile historical Christendom, walked away from Naomi** (Israel) and the Church retains until today their own doctrines and dogmas entirely disconnected from the Jewish people. Completely leaving out the “missing link” in their faith, they have and are forfeiting many spiritual blessings and rich teachings that come with knowing our Hebraic roots....just as Orpah forfeited her blessings. In the dark times of the future, I believe that for Christians clinging to Naomi (Israel) there will be light on our paths, rain on our fields, protection and security from harm and danger because having decided not to go back to our own Moab, we will have chosen to stand at Israel’s side.



Orpah departing

## Thy People Shall Be My People

**“...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me”** (Ruth 1:16,17).

Ruth’s name means “friendship.” Her oath of loyalty to Naomi was similar to a marriage commitment. Here is a non-Jewish woman who believes in the God of Israel and will not let go of His People, no matter how different they seem to her. God spoke to her heart that with this people would come blessings. Two figures linked together by ties of loyalty and love *should have been the Church’s legacy*. I’m sure Ruth “counted the cost” as she knew life in Israel would not be easy. She embarked on the greatest step of faith in her life. Keeping her vow to Naomi, she worked hard in the fields, gleaning and winning favor with one called Boaz (meaning “Strength is in Him”). She caught his eye and he watched her as the word spread quickly about a former Moabitess, turned Israeli, who served Naomi and worked diligently for her to provide for their living. *When we met our Boaz, (symbolic of Yeshua) we married into the House of Israel*. What Bride marries and does not get to know the Groom’s family? Unfortunately much of the Church divorced herself from Israel before the marriage was ever consummated.







## THE SCROLL OF *Ruth*

### It Has Been Fully Shown Me

*“And Boaz answered...it hath fully been shewed me, all that thou has done unto thy mother in law...and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore”* (Ruth 2:11).

Ruth continued to glean in the fields to have food for the winter. Love and commitment to Naomi brought the blessings. Ruth had captured Boaz’s heart. “Strength is in Him” quickly claimed his bride...Ruth had brought life back to Naomi, which resulted in unfathomable good will and tokens of appreciation. Is this not the calling of the true Church: to touch mercifully and kindly the “apple of God’s eye”? (Zechariah 2:8; Genesis 12:3) Ruth, whose name appears a total of 13 times shows that she exhibited Bridal characteristics. The number 13 speaks of Love. She gleaned to the end of the barley and wheat harvest (for the sake of her mother-in-law.) The true Bride of Yeshua will also work to help Naomi (Israel) in the end times. It will be “fully shown” (to the Lord) all that was done for Israel at the appropriate time.

### The Lord Recompense Thy Work

*“The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel under whose wings thou art come to trust”* (Ruth 2:12).

“Even to the present day, when a Jew marries a woman, he throws the skirt or end of his talith [prayer shawl] over her, to signify that he has taken her under his protection.” (Clarke) We who follow Yeshua and love Israel have acknowledged that we have no other God but the One True God of Israel, the Holy and Righteous One, the God of Glory and of Jerusalem. Therefore it is as if His Wings are spread over us in a marriage covenant together. Since the 14th century it has been customary to have a Rabbi perform a ceremony under a huppah, representing symbolically the future home of the couple. (Ha-Siddur Ha-Shalem). With our good deeds toward Israel in the Master’s Name, our future home will either be the earthly Jerusalem or the heavenly one. He will be our Huppah as we willingly come under His Talith.

### All My People Know You

*“And he said ...thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning...all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman”* (Ruth 3:10-11).

The Jewish people of Bethlehem blessed the union of Boaz and Ruth for they knew Ruth was a virtuous woman with impeccable character who loved the nation. This was a real honor for a non-Jew living among them. Through Naomi, Ruth gained standing forever as a follower of the One True God. Ruth also found favor with

her Kinsman-Redeemer just as those of us following Yeshua and clinging to our Hebraic roots will captivate the heart of our Kinsman-Redeemer-Messiah. Through Ruth’s friendship, Naomi’s nature changed from bitter to pleasant, just as we are seeing Jewish attitudes transformed among us.

Much of Israel knows CFI across the Land (as well as other wonderful ministries) who have proven to be Naomi’s (Israel’s) best friends. We are continuing to undo damage done in our Redeemer’s Name—through acts of kindness, mercy and loyalty to the Jewish nation. Ruth was a “hayil” woman, a woman of moral strength, integrity and virtue. The Lord is cleansing the spots on the wedding garment of the True Bride—spots from an anti-Semitic Christian past toward Naomi’s people—we must establish trust and prove that our lives match Ruth’s. Instead of sending “mixed signals” to the Jewish people about our loyalty, let’s make sure all the people know us by His Love — as we represent Him.

### Better than Seven Sons

*“..for thy daughter in law...which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him”* (Ruth 4:15).

To have someone say a gentile woman is greater than seven Jewish sons...is an extremely tributary remark. Homage such as this mark of praise for Ruth meant “she gave her all.” **Can we as followers of Yeshua (Jesus) who wish to attain the high mark of the Bride, do any less?** We need the same mercy and kindness shown to the Jewish people as God showed to us. (Romans 11). The “goel” (“Kinsman-Redeemer”) Boaz, married Ruth to safeguard the posterity of Elimelech’s family. When Ruth lay at Boaz’s feet it was understood in that day that she would play the role of a humble servant—to be ready for any command.

The approach of gentiles grafted into the Lord’s People needs to be in a similar manner. After 2,000 years of shameful acts in the name of the Messiah Jesus, our attitude toward Israel needs to be one also of humble servant hearts. Ruth wisely received the counsel of her mother-in-law on how to approach Boaz. We thank God for His counsel on the approach we take to Israel today. As Obed (“worshipper” or “server”) came forth from their union, so will blessings arise upon the nations with our marriage union to Yeshua (our Boaz) which includes His People.

A new day has dawned and a new chapter is being written in the book of Jewish-Christian relations. Genuine trust and mutual love is developing as Christians humbly serve, pray for and reach out to Israel to be a *true witness* of His Love. Walking on this road together is not an easy thing because of the many potholes in the road caused by erosive actions by the Church. Having all lived in our own worlds for so long — it is truly a remarkable journey of understanding we are taking together. **Thank you to everyone, wherever you are, who is a part of this great movement of God.** Let us continue to join arms with Naomi and walk alongside her with the same moral fiber as the woman from Moab—and to love Israel in *the Spirit of Ruth*.





## Where are the Comforters?

**“WE WHO LIVED** in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” (Viktor Frankl)

Ruth of Moab truly knew how to comfort Naomi of Bethlehem, but how many Christians from the nations understand how to bring Consolation to Israel today? If the true Consolation of Israel is the Lord and He lives in our hearts, should we not be seeking like Ruth and seek the well being and contributing to the welfare of Israel? Should we not be showing His True Face instead of covering His Face with shame such as church clergy did in the Portugese inquisition when they read God’s word as a curse over the Jewish people before killing them because they would not convert to Catholicism? Is our calling any different from that of Ruth?

### God Seeks Comforters

I find it interesting that throughout the Bible God was *always looking for comforters* for His People. Surely, down through the corridors of time, there were those who had heard how God had saved His People, Israel, by bringing them out of Egypt and parted the Red Sea to deliver them from Pharaoh’s army. Even though He scattered them, He promised they would return again to their own Land. The nations should be able to see this has taken place. This is Part I of a current study that I am undertaking on *the comforters*. However, as Ernest Hemingway once said, “There are some things which cannot be learned quickly, and time, which is all we have, must be paid heavily for their acquiring.” I took the time to learn why God directed His Eyes toward watching for “intercessors” and “com-

forters quite frequently.” This reality struck me as if I had discovered something dear to God’s Heart and it ignited a fire within to examine His Word to find out “why.” Here are a few Scriptures (among many others I found) to inspire us on this particularly significant topic.

**“There is none to plead your cause, that you may be bound up: you have no healing medicines. All your lovers have forgotten you...”** (Jeremiah 30:13,14). **“Is there no balm in Gilead...why then is not the health of the daughter of My People recovered?”** (Jeremiah 8:22). **“So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter”** (Ecclesiastes 4:1). Are Christians who follow Jesus not supposed to be like a mother who shields Israel from harm? Why weren’t more comforters found during the Pogroms, Crusades, Inquisitions and Holocaust? What about today? There are many oppressing Israel from all sides.

**“...she had no comforter. O Lord, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself”** (Lamentations 1:9). Jerusalem was in ruins because of the disobedience of her children but no comforter could be found for her. Jerusalem has again become the center of world conflict. Who is willing to comfort Zion today?

### For These Things I Weep

**“For these things I weep...mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me...Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her...”** (Lamentations 1:16,17). I remember seeing a photo of a Jewish woman being raped during the Holocaust with her hands outspread for someone—anyone who would come to her rescue...no one did. Are we sure we are standing up for the Jewish people today in the assaults verbally and physically being committed against her? When you really search for something you will do everything you can to find it. Likewise, whatever God searches for, it must be valuable and cherished — most likely highly prized. This specific people called “comforters” seem to have been in short supply throughout the centuries. I believe what we are going to discover is a “treasury of overlooked Scriptural gems” showing the importance of these people. Could you be one of them?

End Part 1  
by Sharon Sanders





# Ethiopian Jews— Are They Jewish?

**THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN** a controversy in Israel as to whether or not the Ethiopian Jews are really Jews. The Ethiopian Jews can trace their heritage back farther than most European Jews can. It is questionable whether the Ethiopian Jews rate of intermarriage and adoption of Ethiopian customs is any greater than the Ashkenazy rate of intermarriage and adoption of European customs. As you may know, the pressures of assimilation over the years have caused many Jews to abandon strict observance of Jewish law.

Generally, the Ethiopian Jews are very religious, pray for the Messiah to come and they regard their rescue and arrival in Israel as fulfillment of prophecy. Their primary identity is Jewish—not Ethiopian or African. As a result they have been very vulnerable to the pressures of their society to assimilate in Ethiopia.

Today the Ethiopian Jews in Israel practice a strict form of Biblical Judaism as they recognize the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Because they were cut off from the majority of Jews over the centuries they never developed rabbinical Judaism, such as the Talmud or the oral law. The Rabbinate in Israel feels that it is important for the Kesim (Ethiopian Jewish priests) to become educated as rabbis and to teach the Ethiopian community religious practices that are in line with mainstream Judaism.

The challenges of the Ethiopian immigration to Israel have been great, socially and economically, not only for Israel, but also the Ethiopian Jews. When they arrive they must learn a new language and adjust from a primitive way of life to the very modern hi-tech Israeli society. As a whole, Ethiopian Jews feel that they are home in Israel, with hopes of making a new life for themselves, and most importantly, future generations.

What an opportunity and a privilege it has been for us to help this Jewish Ethiopian community through the Hope for the Future Project! At the moment we are in need of a new coordinator for this project, so if the Lord is tugging at your heart, please prayerfully consider a ministry with this people group! For information, please visit the website: [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) and click on “Volunteering.”

By **Helene Iedema**, Director of Outreach



Children are a blessing from God



Ethiopian children happy to be in Israel

*“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory” (Isaiah 43:5-7).*



# Dancing with the IDF



***“Again I will build you and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice” (Jeremiah 31:4).***

**H**as the Lord ever lead you in an unexpected direction? It happened to me when recently about a year ago, a church from Colorado asked if they could bring their dance team to perform for the IDF. The more I prayed about the dance team, the more excited I became. I made some inquiries with our contacts on the IDF bases and everywhere I turned, there was a “green light” and the dream became a reality this past summer!

### **Testimony of Dance Leader Melissa from Colorado:**

“We looked forward to our trip to Israel for months. We prayed and prepared dances in hopes that our visit would be an expression of love for the nation of Israel and for the Israeli people.

“I was most excited to visit the soldiers on several army bases. I had been warned by Karen that the soldiers had very basic accommodations and that we might be dancing on gravel. When we arrived at the first base and met our host, my heart was full of love for these soldiers I had never met before. They were so willing to talk with us and genuinely happy to have us there.

“When we danced for the soldiers I could see that they did receive our dancing as an expression of love and that it did minister to their hearts. We enjoyed having them join us during two of our dances...and wow can those guys dance! We had so much fun together.”

The response from the soldiers was unexpected for all of us. What a picture of our future together as Jew and Gentile dance together in the New Jerusalem! The following day we visited a base near the Gaza border. Unfortunately they weren't able to dance for this unit because a few hours before our arrival a terrorist had penetrated into Israel shoot-



Colorado dance team dancing for the IDF soldiers

ing at the local Israeli farmers. Melissa commented, “On one base...most of the soldiers had to leave for an important mission just before our arrival. The moment we got off the bus we could feel the heaviness in the atmosphere. They had lost one of their soldiers less than a week before because of a terrorist and were still grieving his death. The visit to this base impacted me more than any other experience in Israel. My heart was so stirred to pray for these young men and women who daily serve their country and enter into danger. I felt the Father heart of God for the soldiers and all of Israel in a deep and powerful way that has not left me. My family and I are forever changed by our experiences in Israel and our time on the army bases. We already long to return!”

This is the reality of the lives of the soldiers we minister to in Israel. There are visits when we can take time out to fellowship with them and then there have been times when Israel's security is at risk and all we can do is drop off the gifts. I believe both types of visits are a success as they both say, “We are here for you, we care about you and we love you!” **Once again thank you all for your prayers and support for Israeli soldiers!**

By Karen Lewis, David's Shield Coordinator



# Project Under His Wings

Comforting terror victims

## Faith That Triumphs!

**THE FIRST TIME WE SAW LEAH SABAN**, we were deeply impressed by the strong faith she has in God. Her story reminds us of the brave individuals who risked their lives running into the danger of the Twin Towers at Ground Zero, to rescue victims of the 9/11 terror attack in New York.

On December 9, 2001, Leah, 18 years old, worked for a Jewish organization in Jerusalem helping people in need. Upon hearing the first explosion she immediately started to run toward the bombsite to see what she could do to help. She was stopped by police and was told not to continue in the direction she was headed, but to go around another way. But the other direction changed Leah's life forever, for it led this beautiful young girl—on her urgent mission to help victims—directly into the second explosion from which she was severely injured by the metal screws inside the bombs.

The pain of the sharp projectiles flying through the air and piercing her body was masked by the extreme terror that wracked her mind as she realized that she might burn to death. Her dress was on fire, but she could not get her blistering hands and arms to rip the burning fabric from her body. Thank God that at that critical moment, an anonymous man came to her rescue and screamed to a nearby ambulance driver to rush her to the hospital.

### The Pain Continues

She underwent surgeries, therapies and recuperation needed for someone with such injuries, and thankfully the injuries on her face do not need surgery, after continuously applying therapeutic creams. Nevertheless, she has suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that still needs therapy today, and she also has been unable to work. Her family has been helping her financially since the attack, and is now in deep debt. Leah's huge medical expenses—expenses of therapy and therapeutic creams that she needs—are not covered by National Insurance.

Through the therapeutic treatment, Leah has been making progress in overcoming the PTSD, and moving on to re-start her new life. Nevertheless, she is facing one challenge. Recently she was asked to move out of her housing, because she and her family are unable to pay her rent. Now she has no place to stay and desperately needs financial help to pay the rent (about US\$720/month). Although she has severely suffered pain, trauma and hardship, people who intended to comfort her were comforted instead by her attitude toward her tribulation. She said, "I know that everything that happened is allowed by God, and I am thankful that He let me stay alive!" *"Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light"* (Micah 7:8).

If the Lord touches your heart to help this heroic young lady restart her new life, **please designate your financial gift: Project Under His Wings (for Leah Saban).**

By **Maggie Huang**, Under His Wings Coordinator



Leah's ordeal in hospital



Recovering from burns



Helene and Maggie with Leah in the middle

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)





# She Gave Not of Wealth— But of Poverty



CFI volunteers mending a broken desk

Two hearts together as one

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS SUFFER** daily from many worries and fears, but because of your support, CFI was able to help Maria. When we visited Maria she welcomed us warmly, although with obvious fear because the previous weekend, 204 rockets had been fired into southern Israel. These attacks understandably frightened her, to the point where she was not sleeping, and when she rested, she kept all her clothes on. The associated sounds brought back memories of the Holocaust, which increased her anxiety. Another worry for Maria was the presence of mold spreading over the walls and ceilings of two of her bedrooms. A very wet winter had contributed to the problem, and at her age she was distressed and worried about how to remedy a bad situation. We suggested she send us quotes for the cost of repairs and painting.

A few weeks later we heard about the intended arrival of a group of volunteers from Colorado who were coming to Israel to serve at CFI wherever needed. Maria's problem was first on our list. Simon, Craig, Allison, Elisa and Vicka spent a day in Maria's apartment working to rectify the problem. For them it was a privilege to serve a lady who had suffered so severely. Here are some comments:

**Craig:** "I was impressed by the meal Maria prepared for us. We brought our lunch so as not to impose on her.... Maria had told us that buying groceries was difficult. She would go to the market only to return without buying much due to rising costs. Although she knew we had our own food she proceeded to lay out a wonderful meal. Maria is such a wonderful giving person who gave, not out of her wealth, but out of her poverty."

**Simon:** "It was a great privilege to meet Maria, be her guest, be able to help her in some practical ways, and experience her gratefulness. As we drank coffee together we listened to her story with tears in our eyes because of the things she had experienced in her youth. Although you read such stories, it is very different when you hear it from the person that experienced those atrocities."

**Elisa Lane:** "First... I could not stop the tears from flowing several times.... when we were helping renovate Maria's home. Later we sat around the table and Maria shared her story. It was a precious and unforgettable time together. I also had a special time with Maria in her kitchen. She showed me how to make her wonderful Russian potatoes, and we were able to have a few moments, where she spoke blessings to me, and I was able to speak blessings to her, in Hebrew as well. I think that we were both blessed that day!"

**Thank you for your generous gifts.** It is because of them that we were able to go on your behalf to bring comfort and love to Maria and many other lonely survivors.



CFI volunteers sharing a meal with Maria in Kiryat Gat

*Shalom my Dear Christians,*  
I, Maria Gertz, am a Holocaust survivor, and I live in Kiryat Gat. I would like to express my gratitude for help that I got from you in a renovation of my apartment. I was visited by very kind, sincere people, who painted ... I wish a lot of health and happiness for them and their families. Especially I thank Vicka the translator. She helped me with translation and she worked hard with others. **May God bless her and her family with health.** Thank you very much.

Lots of success in your work,  
**kiss you all, with love,**

*Maria from Kiryat Gat*

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

By Jenny Milmine, Forsake Them Not Coordinator



# Churches for Israel

**MANY FUNDAMENTALISTS** feel a mandate to come to Israel and share the gospel light. I have come here to learn. Oh don't misunderstand me, I am as evangelical and loving Jesus as much as ever, but when it comes to understanding the Old Testament, I don't hold a candle to some Bible believing Orthodox Jewish scholars.

**Now, where does that leave us, the Church?** We must realize these are the latter days and believe that the Word of the Lord will go forth to the nations from Jerusalem. Next, we must take the Genesis 12:3 promise very literally and start blessing Israel. I was in a congregation recently when the pastor announced that a church in Africa had sent over \$50,000 to that congregation here in Israel. It sounds like the New Testament all over again when the church of Macedonia sent help to the Jerusalem church. CFI has a new ministry called "**Churches for Israel.**" One of the goals of this ministry is to help churches worldwide identify with Israel. We are doing this through tours, material distribution, involving volunteers, reaching out to the Holocaust survivors, helping the IDF soldiers and much more. Please allow CFI to help connect you to Israel in a deeper way. It should first be through a prayer commitment; then, a corporate proclamation of blessing Israel and ongoing financial support. We know that if we work with what God loves, He will undergird us...and He has!

Recently, while I was in the States, a Haitian pastor was there that operates an orphanage in Haiti. He lives on a very limited budget. When he heard that I was there to represent Israel, he gave me \$50. I felt selfish taking his money. I knew he could help feed children in Haiti for that amount. When I was reluctant to take it, he begged me, "Oh I have wanted to do something for Israel for many years, but I did not know who to give it to." Wow, I was humbled. Out of that meeting I felt the Lord tell me to visit Haiti and receive an offering for Israel. Hopefully, hundreds of Haitian churches will become a "Church for Israel."

## Our Objectives

Each new **Church for Israel** will receive a beautifully designed CHURCHES FOR ISRAEL (CFI) Certificate, an Israeli flag, CFI pin, and a "*Principle and A Promise*" book. Each year an award will go to the **Outstanding Church for Israel**. Help us show our Jewish friends how many of us are willing to TAKE A STAND with them. It is indeed the time God is drawing a plumb line between the Bride and ordinary church go-ers. Join with us in:

- Mobilizing more prayer for Israel
- Providing new Christian educational resources about Israel
- Encouraging every church to be in right relationship to Israel
- Raising financial support for Israel Projects and Outreach
- Promoting Christian pilgrimage to Israel through CFI
- Bringing the Church blessings and encouragement

All Representatives may participate in this program also, so be sure to email me for additional details to institute this program in your country. Email: [robbie@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:robbie@cfijerusalem.org).

**From Cameroon Church:** "We want to inform you that today that as the Israeli flag was exhibited in our church could one ever think that people would give so generously, in fact, we had a very good donation this Sunday to send to CFI."

By **Robbie Coleman**, Churches for Israel Coordinator

**Respond Now!**

Please email:  
[robbie@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:robbie@cfijerusalem.org)







**“They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do” (Galatians 2:10).**

## Touching Hearts

**AS CHRISTIANS WHO LOVE** the Jewish people we do our service in His Name. Our work is done as evidence of our salvation. Those in the Church who choose to divest from, instead of investing in, Israel, are living in houses without foundations if they turn away from this present golden opportunity to bring blessing to the Jewish people which lifts up His Name. *“Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even Our Father...establish you in every good...work”* (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

Because CFI is careful to use funds for legitimate needs, our Streams of Blessing team visits homes and organizations and those making a request for assistance. One such visit was to a young couple’s home in Ashdod. In their mid-thirties, they have six children; three of them have special needs. Their story is much like the many couples who come to us. They have unexpected emergencies while bringing in less than their expenses. In this couple’s case, loss of work, increase in food costs and electricity rates, costs of special schools and hearing devices make for an even greater challenge to survive. Finding themselves behind in all of their bills and feeling hopeless, they turned to CFI. **Our home visits are priceless to us.** *“When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,...I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them”* (Isaiah 41:17).

It is the Hand of God that took us recently into the home of an Orthodox Jewish family. This couple welcomed us and was so appreciative of the blankets we took to the children that were sent from the US and the financial gift which would buy food for the week. They will need additional help. More Orthodox are turning to us for help. This is a miracle. Together, we enter doors no man could open. Praise YHWH Yireh (literally, *“the Lord who will see to it,”* Genesis 22:14). Thank you for blessing us with finances that enable us to further spread the love of the One who provides all we need.

By **Tommie Coleman**, Streams of Blessings Coordinator

## Events for the Elderly

In May we held two special events at CFI for elderly veterans of WWII from the former Soviet Union. These, once young men and women, fought against the Nazi regime and many still carry the emotional and physical scars. The hall at CFI was filled with Jewish people. There was singing on our program, reading from God’s Word, and many hugs and smiles as the “walls continue to tumble down.” Someone has to do it and we (with your help) have been called *“for such a time as this”* Esther 4:14). It is because of your generosity that the needy and elderly are helped. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We have seen that *“faith by itself is not enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is...useless.”* (James 2:15-17). A new chapter has begun in Israel as we find Jewish people sharing their hearts wanting to work with us...some even preaching to us instead of we to them and more than that - even an 87-year-old Jewish man living out the rest of his life for one purpose: to bring Jews and Christians together. **A new day is dawning. Will you be a part?**



**Giving hope to the next generation**



**Being there for the weary**



**Remembering the elderly**



# A Simple Kiss



A farewell kiss

**AS I READ THROUGH THE FIRST CHAPTER** of the story of Ruth I contemplated Naomi's question to her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. She didn't ask, "Why won't you come with me?" but, "Why **WOULD** you come with me?" I believe Naomi wanted the girls to ponder why they really might want to continue on with her to Bethlehem. Orpah wept but simply kissed Naomi and turned away. Ruth, on the other hand, clung to Naomi pleading, "Don't urge me to leave you.... Where you go I will go....Your people will be my people.... Your God my God." As I pondered what might have been going on at the time, in these three women's minds it started me thinking about that kiss. "When is a kiss really just a kiss?"

In different cultures a kiss can mean different things, but according to Fausset's Bible Dictionary a kiss was, and is, a customary greeting in the Middle East. It is meant to show respect or affection. I'm not sure that Orpah was showing Naomi respect, or affection, by kissing her before she left. I believe she was sending a mixed message. Look at Judas. He identified Jesus to the soldiers with a kiss and that kiss eventually led to the Lord's crucifixion. To the observer, Judas' kiss might have appeared to be an act of friendship, but in fact turned out to be the kiss of death. **How hypocritical it is to show someone that false sense of love; yet the Church tends to treat each other with this beguiling type of affection without batting an eye!**

## A Holy Kiss

The Church and the "Holy Kiss" - The "holy kiss" is meant to show love, charity and peace; it was an action shown between Christian brothers, and sisters, in the Early Church. In Romans 16:16 and at the Lord's Supper, this kiss was passed throughout the congregation, men kissing the men, women kissing the women. You will find this same kind of gesture referred to in 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; Acts 20:37; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14, and so on.

A kiss does not necessarily have the same meaning in all cultures but, throughout the Scriptures, Paul and Peter drew upon this formal greeting that was already commonly being used. Among Christians, however, this would not have been a mere formality. It would have been a gesture that truly reflected brotherhood and spiritual oneness with those who were unified in Christ. When Christians greeted "one another with a holy kiss" there would have been no improper informality, slander or scandal to be inferred. It would have been a demonstration of pure, godly affection.

In the days set before us it is crucial to be able to tell the difference between our friends and our enemies. If someone kissed you with a "holy kiss" today, what would be the real message behind their gesture? What if the kiss was coming from you?! We all have a choice: we can send a message of sincere love and peace—no strings attached—or that of betrayal. Friend or enemy—which are we?

In conclusion, paralleling the story of Ruth, as things in Israel and around the world worsen, will we cling to Israel like Ruth did to Naomi? Will we say, "**No matter what - your people are my people and Your God is my God**"? Or will we kiss Israel, thank her for her God, and turn our back on her when we disagree with the way history is playing out? Our kiss - Naomi's love or Orpah's betrayal? It's time to choose! "*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses*" (Proverbs 27:6).



Orpah turned away

By **Stacey Howard**,  
Director of Administration  
North American Development Division





# The Seed is in the Fruit

By Ray Sanders, First Fruits Coordinator

***“Therefore, brethren, we were comforted...for what thanks can we render to God again for you...night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face...and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another...” (1Thessalonians 3:7,9,10,12).***

**THE FOLLOWING PROPHETIC WORD** was given to us and the words were no doubt written by someone who was in touch with God. It seemed appropriate to share it. “The Lord spoke one thing in my spirit...He woke me up with a sentence: **‘The seed is in the fruit’** with the unspoken understanding that life is in the seed, not the fruit. I have always placed importance on the fruit...but was feeling [that] the fruit serves to protect the seed.

The next day, my grandson was playing a game on his ipod...and the game asked this question: ‘What protects the seed?’ That was a confirmation to me and an answer for which I was looking. The scientific answer was that the fruit protects the seed. It is about protecting the life within that will continue for generations until He comes. Fruit can also be rotten inside and no one knows it. That is why we must have the Holy Spirit residing inside purifying us continually. **I pray all the good seeds CFI has planted the past 27 years will continue sprouting. I am amazed at the quality of work done...I am in such awe and so very thankful.** Most of all, I am thankful for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (Anonymous)

“I thank you on behalf of myself and my wife...thank you for the cost of medicines we received...a great relief for this family because I have not full work and she is currently unemployed...thank you for your assistance...extended to us at the difficult time that befell us...the assistance...came as a ray of light...the Almighty will make recompense to all those faithfully helping...we wish to express our highest esteem for the generosity of those who contributed to assisting and supporting us.” T. Z. (a First Fruits recipient)

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

## Help in Time of Great Need!

**ELISAVETA WAS BORN IN THE UKRAINE** in 1924. In 1941 her family was evacuated to Kyrgyzstan. They lived there until 1943 and then they moved to Mishkino, Siberia. After the war ended in 1945, her family moved back to Nizhyn and Elisaveta went to a Pedagogical university. She taught Russian language and literature in schools all of her life. She met her husband after the war, and they were married after only one week. Her husband was a Russian military officer and later became a General. He travelled a lot, so their family moved many times from city to city, and country to country. Then after 30 years of marriage, her husband died, while carrying out a military assignment. Elisaveta has two children, a son and a daughter. They came to faith in Tashkent.

In 2000, Elisaveta and her daughter and family made *aliyah* to Israel from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. **They have moved seven times** since their arrival. Elisaveta has many health problems and because of this she has spent most of her years in Israel going from hospital to hospital and doctor to doctor. This year brought financial difficulties and they had problems paying the rent on their apartment. The son of Svetlana, the daughter, used to help pay some of the bills, but left for studies abroad. As pensioners, they could not pay the debt and no one else was able to help them.

**One day their Pastor recommended they turn to Christian Friends of Israel.** They did. She was so happy to share her story with everyone and said, *“I thank you to all who support First Fruits, helping the Household of Faith in Israel today.”*





Bringing Real  
Life Stories...

# FOCALPOINT: ISRAEL

**MORE THAN EVER**, Christians around the world are looking for positive, relevant, and Biblically-based information about what is going on in Israel and the Middle East. CFI-Jerusalem has seen the need and responded with a brand new 30-minute program called, "FocalPoint" that is scheduled to begin release later this year! Already, people from nations around the globe are asking, "Where can I find FocalPoint in my area, and how can I help you bring this vital information to Christians everywhere?"

## FocalPoint

It is our prayer that FocalPoint will be at the top of many viewers' lists of new programs to stay informed about the multitude of issues surrounding Israel and the Middle East. FocalPoint is sure to be just what Christians are looking for in these days in which we live. Designed to bring exceptional analysis from scholars and teachers that have devoted years of study to Israel and the region, this new 30-minute program will cover the topics that people want to know about.

You will hear from knowledgeable experts on Christian-Jewish relations, Israeli policies, Biblical History, and the very latest in medical and technological advances happening right in Israel. During the quick-paced, magazine style 30-minute programs, FocalPoint hosts, Stacey and Kevin Howard will bring you the real life stories of fascinat-

ing people in Israel. They will also present interviews that you've been waiting to see from Israel, as well as around the globe, with the added talent of Geoffrey Smith, Dan Tracy, and Sam Hailes. Beyond that, Ray and Sharon Sanders, as well as the CFI Project Coordinators will bring you the very latest on what is happening with CFI's nine projects right in the Land.

We know that you won't want to miss a single edition of the wonderful new programs that will be headed your way later this year. Just as many are already asking where they can find this exciting new program in their area, others are in prayer, and giving financial support to this new effort from CFI. As the Lord places it upon your heart to become more involved in helping to bring this vital information to Christians all over the world, please take a moment to go online at [www.cfjjerusalem.org](http://www.cfjjerusalem.org) to find out more and to add your gift of support by clicking on "Contribute," then "FocalPoint TV."

We still have a ways to go to reach our goal to finish the studio and get on the air. Once we are ready to air we will inform you of the stations where you can find our program. Thank you for your prayers and support to help us bring truthful, relevant and Biblically-based information about Israel to Christians around the world. *God bless you!*

By **Kevin Howard**,  
Director Technical Operations

A view of the studio



The process taking shape



Kevin and Stacey Howard







**"...Save us, O God of our salvation; gather us together..."**  
**(1 Chronicles 16:35).**

# It's Time to Come Home!

## According to ADL (Anti Defamation League) Survey:

**Ten European Countries find Anti-Semitism at disturbingly high levels:** As with previous surveys, data from this latest 2012 European tracking poll indicates that significant percentages of European respondents continue to believe in some of the most pernicious anti-Semitic stereotypes.

## The overall comparison data is available:

**France:** The overall level of anti-Semitism increased to 24 % of the population, up from 20 % in 2009.

**Hungary:** The level rose to 63 % compared with 47 % in 2009.

**Poland:** The number remained unchanged, with 48 % showing deep-seated anti-Semitic attitudes.

**Spain:** 53 % of the population, compared to 48 % in 2009.

**United Kingdom:** Anti-Semitic attitudes jumped to 17% of the population, compared to 10% in 2009.

To visit the survey results please go to [http://www.adl.org/Anti\\_semitism/adl\\_anti-semitism\\_presentation\\_february\\_2012.pdf](http://www.adl.org/Anti_semitism/adl_anti-semitism_presentation_february_2012.pdf).

## Encouraging facts of recent Aliyah:

In the years 2002-2011 Israel repatriated a total of nearly 67,000 newcomers from the former Soviet Union: 60 % are young people, and 28 % have academic degrees. The Russian Jewish immigrants are still the largest group of new citizens. In the years 2002-2011, those who came from the former Soviet Union accounted for 32 % (66,949 people) of the total number of immigrants (209,727). Second place is occupied by immigrants from English-speaking countries - 13 % (27,008 people).

"After thousands of years of wanderings and persecution many of our brothers and sisters have forgotten where they came from and where they are meant to be. Yet, thankfully, HaShem declares that He is aware of the pitfalls and dangers of exile. He understands why His people will become like sheep wandering in the wrong pastures. He then declares in Ezekiel 34:12-13 that He will ultimately bring them home...we have begun to witness that deliverance of the wandering flock in our days. The numbers still grow, but the direction of the unfolding of this prophecy is both clear and very moving." (Moshe Kempinski, editor of the *Jerusalem Insights* weekly email journal). We believe many will feel the call and beckoning and act upon this prompting in the near future. Thank God we have many, once in the Land, coming to our doors where the light of God shines.

By **Ruth Rishton**, DC *Lighthouse* Manager



Waiting to welcome our arrivals



Highest quality garments from the nations



A grand welcome for our guests



# Bienvenido a Israel Aliyah!



Far left: Gordon and Sergey become friends  
Top middle: Garments from the nations  
Top right: Many Jewish immigrants arrive early in the morning  
Bottom middle: Bringing joy to children  
Right: Something for teenagers

## SOUTH AMERICAN JEWS GET A BIG WELCOME AT THE D.C.



**IN SOUTH AMERICA** the Jewish community is aging and decreasing in size as a result of immigration mainly to Israel, a high intermarriage rate, and a rejection of Jewish values by some in the younger generations. Until recently, religious belief and practice rigidly followed the Orthodox tradition. Since the 1970s the Conservative and Reformed traditions have been accepted.

Jews have been the frequent target of anti-Semitism, which has often been supported by right-wing political movements and governments, and recently has been adopted by some left-wing organizations that support the Palestinian cause in the Middle East. According to the Council of the Immigrant Association in Israel, since Israel's establishment, more than 102,850 Jews have immigrated to Israel from South America. According to Wikipedia, South America has a total population of 290,800 Jews.

In the 1999–2002 Argentine political and economic crisis that caused a run on the banks, wiped out billions of dollars in deposits and ruined Argentina's middle class, most of the country's estimated 200,000 Jews were directly affected. Some 4,400 chose to start again and move to Israel, where they saw new opportunities. One quarter of the Jewish community has already made *aliyah*, and for those who remain in Argentina, Israel helps to keep the community together and strong. In Venezuela, growing anti-Semitism

in the country resulted in Jews leaving for Israel in the hundreds. By November 2010, more than half of Venezuela's 20,000-strong Jewish community had left the country. Since October 2011, the Distribution Center of Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem has had 85 people come for assistance as new immigrants from South American countries. Many more are expected in the years to come.

### CFI is Making a Difference

Your support to help these new immigrants to settle in Israel is appreciated. For many this is a difficult adjustment and knowing that people from the nations care about them in practical ways is such a blessing. Thank you for helping the new immigrants through the Open Gates Project at the Lighthouse Distribution Center. It is truly an eye-opener for them to see so many Christians who see the promises of their return in the Bible. Our presence, in their Land, is helping us turn the pages of a new chapter in Jewish-Christian relations. In this period of development and reconciliation between us, it is bringing hope to those who often feel that because they are Jewish they are despised by everyone. Truly we can say together "Dios Los Bendiga" (God bless you!) in Spanish!

*"In everything I have given you an example of how, by working hard like this, you must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Yeshua himself, 'There is more happiness in giving than in receiving'"* (Acts 20:35).

By **Gordon Milmine**, Open Gates Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



# Bridal Salon

**WORD-OF-MOUTH IS SPREADING** far and wide all over Israel about the generosity of Christians who are partnering with Israel and demonstrating their support through practical means such as the CFI Bridal Salon. Just how far this word has spread is clearly evident. The Bridal Salon has never ceased to be a buzz with activity and the amount of men's suits that we have been loaning out has also been increasing. Grooms, groomsmen, friends and family have been coming in, trying on and suiting up for the special day. Some of these visitors have never owned a suit, let alone worn one, so the transformation from the "walking into the dressing room" to "walking out a new man," has been a delight to all who have gathered, cameras ready. In all, we have loaned out over 120 men's and women's garments and had well over 230 Israelis visit from the north to the south of Israel in only 10 short months!

## From their Heart to Yours

One such visit from the North occurred in mid June, when the Bridal Salon was blessed by a group of gorgeous young ladies visiting from the Galilee region. Words of gratitude and smiles of delight were mixed with excited squeals and laughter wafting up the hallways and resonating through the offices, causing a stir of excitement that flooded the DC. Their visit occurred on a Friday morning, at the end of a very busy week, but the blessing that walked into our lives as these lovely Israelis walked into the salon finished the week off on a high note! I don't know who was more blessed, them or me! The following is what they wrote of their experience and their thanks, straight from their heart to yours...

*"We recently had the pleasure of visiting the CFI Bridal Salon in Jerusalem with a young lady from our youth group from the north, who will be getting married later this year. Wedding dress shopping in Israel is extremely expensive, and we were faced with a serious budget challenge, as well as the bride being in the army with very limited time off to shop for a dress...."*

*Some friends of ours had recommended the CFI Bridal Salon as an option, so after scheduling an appointment...we traveled from Tiberias to Jerusalem—the bride, the bride's sister, two bridesmaids-to-be, and myself. I truly didn't know what to expect. Upon entering, we were very impressed with the fact that the salon looks like a salon. A lot of time and love has gone into making it a beautiful place for a bride-to-be to pamper herself and have the time to begin to explore all of the different options.*

*Speaking of options...what an amazing selection. I think it was even greater than a regular salon! We had the luxury of a few hours for the bride and her bridesmaids to try the dress on, play with shoes, jewelry, hair-pieces, etc. In our experience in the Salon, we found the staff extremely professional, warm, helpful, and caring in the whole process—not just a friendly person to let us in and show us around—but someone who really understood and could offer helpful advice. All in all it was a true blessing and a lot of joy that we experienced. So we wanted to say on behalf of the bride and our experience, thank you to all the friends of CFI who take the time, effort, money and energy to get these dresses to Israel. They are truly blessing the people here. Blessings on you all, Angela."*

By **Letitia Warin**, Bridal Salon Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



Joy made possible by  
Christian love



Thank you from the Jewish  
brides from the Galilee!



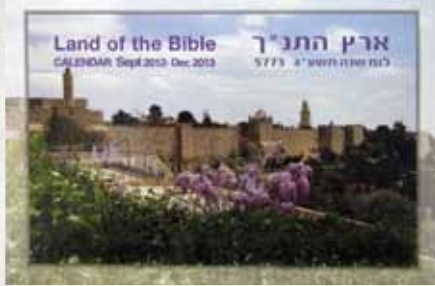
Thanks to all who donated  
gowns in last shipments





# CFI STORE ONLINE

[www.cfijerusalem.org/shop](http://www.cfijerusalem.org/shop)



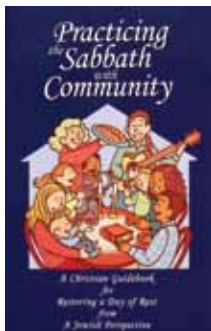
## LAND OF THE BIBLE CALENDAR

By Alon Calendars

"This Hebrew/English 16 month calendar features pictures from all over Israel."

**US \$12.00**

## BOOKS



### PRACTICING THE SABBATH WITH COMMUNITY

By Daniel Goldstein

Explore how the Sabbath is typically lived out by the Jewish people and learn the hidden meanings behind many of the traditions incorporated in the practice of the Sabbath.

**US \$11.00** (156 Pages)

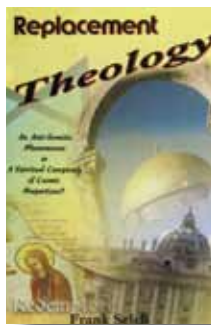


### MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER

By Lance Lambert

"If we consider the Lord's description of the end of the age with a sober and sound mind, we have to recognize that in all probability we are at the beginning of this period."

**US \$15.00** (249 Pages)

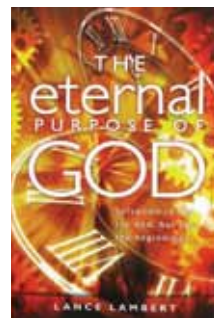


### REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

By Frank Selch

"Not only does Frank Selch reject the idea that the Church has replaced Israel in this book, he also suggests that such a view point is helpful in the world-wide spread of Islam."

**US \$12.00** (120 Pages)



### THE ETERNAL PURPOSES OF GOD

By Lance Lambert

"This passionate book will point you to a fresh and exciting understanding of what it truly means to be a Christian."

**US \$16.00** (205 Pages)



### JOY IN THE NIGHT

By Ruth Razal

Ruth uses both vocals and instrumentals to praise God in eight songs.

**US \$13.00** (CD)



### O ISRAEL

By Son, Wind, & Reign

"They have put together 13 tracks of beautiful German praise music."

**US \$13.00** (CD)



### BLESSING CURSE OR CO-INCIDENCE VOL 1

By HaTikvah Films

"In spite of Man's attempts to destroy the world, God plans on saving it and Israel is central to this purpose. This two-hour DVD has 9 chapters and has Bible study notes."

**US \$25.00** (DVD)

Visit us online for these and more great resources.



# Meet General Zvi Givati

## A Veteran Israeli On Skype



Zvi in former years as Prison Chief



General Zvi Givati online now

**MY NAME IS ZVI GIVATI.** I am a retired General of the Ministry of Police. I was born in Jerusalem from where I am now sending you all of my love and best regards. For years, because of personal reasons, I had no contact with Christians...I tried to keep my distance as much as I could. I met a couple from Denmark years ago who invited me to Denmark. I did not want to go as it was in a church. However, I did go and saw a sign inside the church "Israel You Are Not Alone." Since then I have traveled the world and have spoken in churches, on television and radio and home meetings.

It was the first time I ever heard of Christian friends of Israel. Then I met Ray and Sharon Sanders, co-founders of CFI-Jerusalem. I know for a fact that Ray, before he came to Israel, wore an Israeli flag on his jacket. They are devoted to my country and I have worked with them for many years. I will be more than happy if some of you reading this magazine will have contact with me through Skype. My Skype address is at the bottom of this page. I can speak about the miracles that have happened in my country. I am 86 years young and have participated in most of the wars. My stories are many.

I remember when we had nothing but some ammunition and only one small airplane but we won the war because of the blessing of G-d. I can speak to you about the *aliyah*, the wars, the miracles and the main troubles we experience here. As I write this letter I feel I am speaking to wonderful friends. I have the feeling we are sitting together in the same room. Please think about Israel. Come to visit. You will have great days in your life. Come and stay and pray with us. God bless you and I hope to hear from some of you! My Skype name is **ZVIGIVATI.CFI**.

**Call: Mon/Tues/Wed-1:00-4:00 p.m. Check local time with Israel.**

## Featured Volunteer Opportunity—Head Cook Needed

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT** about using your gift and love for the art of cooking to serve the Lord and His people, in the land of the Bible, in Israel or rather, Jerusalem?

CFI-Jerusalem provides its paid and volunteer staff with a hot meal at lunch, during the work week, at both of its locations in Jerusalem. We are currently in need of a **Head Cook** and **Assistant Cook** at our Headquarters building, located in the heart of Jerusalem.

**The right candidates must have a definite call to Israel** and the heart of a servant. They must love to cook, and be willing to do so on a long-term basis or at least for one year. Living in Jerusalem is physically and spiritually demanding as are the demands of these two positions.

We are looking for individuals with a spirit of excellence committed to staying the course and finishing their assignment. **For a list and a brief job description of these and other volunteer opportunities, please go to our website, at [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org).**



Cooks preparing food



Visiting the sick





# Uganda Honors Israel's Independence



Pastor John Gudo


**THE 64TH ISRAEL** Independence Dinner was organized by Christian Friends of Israel Uganda. This took place at one of the most popular hotels in the city center of Kampala – The Grand Imperial Hotel, Sasa Hall, on 20th May 2012. The guest of honor was His Excellence, Gil Haskel, the Ambassador of Israel to East Africa. The representative of the Uganda government was the Hon. Okello Oryem, Minister of Foreign Affairs/Internal Affairs.

Also notably present were: the Deputy Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Yaki Lopez, the wife of the ambassador of Israel, and the wife of the Ugandan Prime Minister. The function commenced with the national anthems of Uganda and Israel respectively. Pastor Laban Jjumba (the regional coordinator of Intercessors for Africa) gave the opening remarks. He expressed how very grateful Ugandans are to Israel, God's people, who gave us the Bible and the principles of God. Songs of worship to the God of Israel were sung by a group from Uganda and from the Republic of South Sudan.



Building relationships

There was visible excitement from the audience, and more particularly from the Jewish community, as one sister sang in both Hebrew and English: "O ISRAEL, WE LOVE YOU." Minister of State for Foreign Affairs addressed the audience speaking of the relationship of the government of Uganda with Israel in agriculture, construction and medical fields. H.E. the Ambassador thanked CFI for the invitation and emphasized the friendship of Israel and Uganda as not any less than the friendship of Uganda to Israel. He appreciated the hard work being done by CFI in Uganda and commented that this implied the height at which this relationship has reached in this season...and that as change takes place, Israel will need support from people like CFI and others to stand with them.

For events email John Gudo at: [psalms122v6@hotmail.com](mailto:psalms122v6@hotmail.com)  **CFI Uganda**



Mitka Atanasova and husband with Rabbi Samuel and wife Rivka Benun (both 91 years old) standing in the Plovdiv synagogue.

## Bulgaria Bulletin

**RECENTLY** a terror attack took place in Bourgas, Bulgaria. Around 30 people were wounded. Five Israelis were among the victims. CFI Bulgaria took action in their community and visited the hospital immediately to try to visit the wounded. CFI Bulgaria responded and watched and prayed as the victims passed by in wheelchairs, some on beds, others were able to walk on their own. Israel's Magen David Adom and soldiers were present at the hospital. Many Christians gave blood. CFI Bulgaria also, together with the European Coalition for Israel wrote to His Excellency, the Israeli Ambassador in Bulgaria, condemning the attack and extending their readiness to help in any way possible.

CFI Bulgaria also called upon all the Protestant churches in Bulgaria to stand in prayer for the victims and their families and the people of Israel and made an urgent appeal for churches and pastors to pray. They also sent letters of condolences to all of the Jewish Community centers in Bulgaria. CFI Bulgaria is thankful for the development and growth it sees among the Bulgarian Protestant communities in Bulgaria.



At the scene of the bus bombing

Contact Mitka at: [cfi\\_bg@yahoo.com](mailto:cfi_bg@yahoo.com)  **CFI Bulgaria**






Far left: CFI-USA Board of Directors Mark DeVito, Jeanette Alongi, Jack Alongi, Brian Cockfield and Hannele Pardain

Right: Hannele Pardain planting a kiwi tree at the Lebanese border in 2011

## CFI in the Nations...East Coast

**CFI-USA** is located on the East Coast of the United States, in the great state of North Carolina. This year, 2012, marks twenty years in the ministry of comforting Israel, His people. We began with the *aliyah* from the former Soviet Union, saw immigrants arriving from all corners of the world and now we witness the Indian Bnei Menashe returning home. Assistance to underprivileged and needy immigrants and other groups has been possible only because of dedicated friends in the U.S. We thank the Lord for you all and look forward to providing prayer and financial support to Israel for years to come. CFI-USA hosts annual Israel tours. We warmly welcome you to join us in April 2013 and experience a tree planting at the Israel-Lebanon border as a witness to God's promises to bring the Jewish people back to the land of their fathers. They will never be uprooted again!

Our ministry is a non-profit and publicly funded organization with 501(C) (3) status and the IRS registration number is 65-0307706. Monetary contributions to CFI-USA are tax-deductible. The ministry is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which is an umbrella organization for qualifying U.S. churches and non-profits.

Contact CFI-USA at: [cfiusa@cfi-usa.org](mailto:cfiusa@cfi-usa.org) or [www.cfi-usa.org](http://www.cfi-usa.org)  **CFI USA**



## Experience the People of the Land 2013 Meet the People Tour/Shavuot



May 14-22, 2013

Price: \$1,299

- Lovely Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem
- Join with Israel during Shavuot
- Tour the south of Israel off the beaten path

Fountain of Tears, Neot Kedumim Biblical Gardens, Latrun Army Memorial, visit Christians in Bethlehem, Center for Jewish-Christian Relations, and much, much more.

### • Key speakers at Shavuot Conference

Once again we offer you the opportunity to "come up to Jerusalem" when it will be ablaze with beautiful colors and green fields. May is a beautiful time of the year to make the "spiritual trip of a lifetime" and to drink in deeply the rich and in depth stirring messages during the CFI conference.

All messages, both by Christian and Jewish leaders, will be timely and inspirational preparing us for what lies ahead (for Israel, the Church and the World).

Includes: Hotels, luxury motor coach, tips.

Full conference.

Two meals daily, entrance fees.

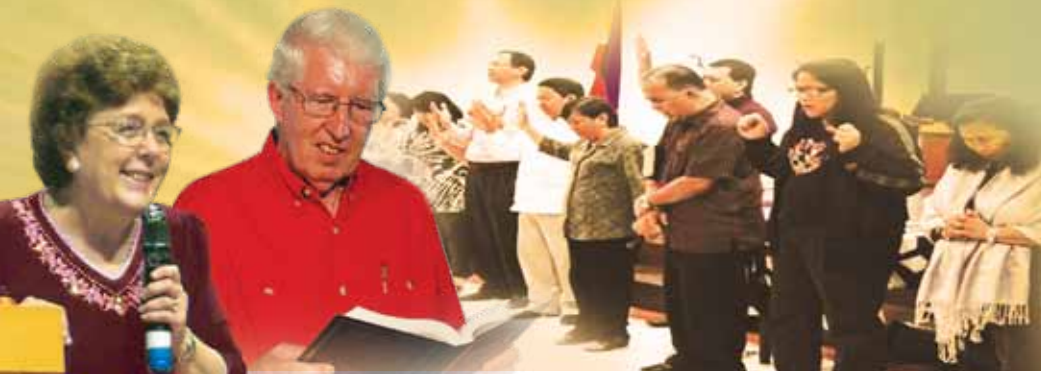
(Group leaders please contact: [robbie@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:robbie@cfijerusalem.org) for special incentives). Plan your trip now!

For more information email: [tours@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:tours@cfijerusalem.org)





## Far East Upcoming Tour 2012 "A Time of Awakening"



## October—November 2012

A CFI Conference as well as meetings will be held in: Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai and Beijing.

For booking the Sanders in Hong Kong, please contact: [mmteddy@yahoo.com](mailto:mmteddy@yahoo.com). In Singapore: [babygoh@aipac.com](mailto:babygoh@aipac.com).

Sharon Sanders, Director of Ministry and Teaching and is also Co-founder of CFI—Jerusalem will be speaking on a number of Church and Israel topics and related teachings. Watch for details.



## Heart of Israel Tour

Nov. 28–Dec. 7, 2012  
\$1,277 US

Robbie Coleman

**WE HAVE DESIGNED A TOUR PACKAGE** just for you. This trip will focus on all the major Biblical sites at a very affordable price because we want you to experience the trip of a lifetime. I have pastored for over 30 years, but I tell you I have seen more lives changed in a one week visit to the home of our Lord than many years sitting in a pew. Our tour includes 8 nights in a 4 star hotel, entrance fees, luxury coach, breakfast and dinner, taxes and tips. Email Robbie today at: [tours@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:tours@cfijerusalem.org)

**FROM THE JUNGLES OF SRI LANKA:** CFI's Sri Lanka Representative has been travelling to all the Islands sharing about CFI and teaching the Biblical commands on Israel and the Church. Mohan Weerakoon's latest message: "I have just returned from the jungles after a CFI teaching session. It was the first time anybody from this island heard about Israel. The poorest of the poor collected a love offering for Israel and I am sending it to you now." For more information email: [mohanwg@sltnet.lk](mailto:mohanwg@sltnet.lk)

**ROVING AMBASSADORS:** Mr. and Mrs. Peter (Beryl) Hunter from Wigan, UK, are available to travel and speak about the work of CFI-Jerusalem, in countries where CFI does not yet have a representative. Please see our website: [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) to check the listing of countries where we are represented. They will be available for teaching and for sharing about the ongoing outreach project work in Jerusalem through an amazing Power Point presentation from April-August 2013. At this time they are in the process of arranging speaking engagements in Argentina and Brazil from April until May 2013. If anyone has contacts in these nations, please email: [lifeline.wigan2@btinternet.com](mailto:lifeline.wigan2@btinternet.com).

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** If you change your address, please notify us promptly, giving us both your old and your new address. E-mail: [cfi@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:cfi@cfijerusalem.org) or write to the CFI address below. Send all communication relating to *For Zion's Sake* to: CFI, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.



## CFI NEWS



CFI International Representative & board meeting



CFI International Representatives gather on headquarter steps



Peter and Beryl Hunter from the UK

## CFI Representative Nearest You