

# For Zion's Sake

Third Quarter 2016 Jewish Year 5777

## A Call For Reformation

*"To every thing  
there is a season..."*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Christian Friends of Israel**

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# For Zion's Sake

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Stacey Howard

# Blessings From Jerusalem

Dear CFI Family and Friends,

Hello. I bring you greetings from The City of Our Great King!

As the hours, days and years of 'all our lives' seem to be so quickly speeding by, I believe it is good from time to time to reflect on some past history. It gives us a better perspective on why we are where we are today, and where we're headed in the future.

*"They forgot what he had done, his wonders which he had shown them"* (Psalm 78:11 CJB).

In the few minutes we have together, I am hoping to set right some of the calculated malice and deliberate discrepancies of our time. While political doublespeak and cultural bias fight to unseat a place gained only through great struggle and trial, it is our challenge to continually uphold truth; the truth of historical events and the truth of what God is doing in our lifetime despite the Prince of Darkness's attempts to manipulate reality.

At this past summer's Christian Friends of Israel Annual Conference, a word came during one of the sessions. It was simply this: What our enemy thinks is his victory will be transformed into Yeshua's triumph. "My dead shall live, these bones shall rise," a reminder of Ezekiel's prophecy of the complete restoration of the house of Israel.

*"Then he said to me, 'Human being! These bones are the whole house of Israel; and they are saying, 'Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.' Therefore prophesy; say to them that ADONAI ELOHIM says, 'My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am ADONAI— when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people! I will put my Spirit in you; and you will be alive. Then I will place you in your own land; and you will know that I, ADONAI, have spoken, and that I have done it,' says ADONAI"* (Ezekiel 37:11-14 CJB).

What fear, discouragement, and indignation those who founded this tiny nation must have felt back in 1948 as they began to rise above the persecution, the ashes, and the dry bones of the Holocaust, to a land where every neighbor desired their complete destruction. Yet, those

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who fought in those days stood on God's promise, that He would restore them to their God-given land and "never again" would they be scattered among the nations. Many of those who fought for Israel's independence were survivors of the death camps; people who had literally been brought out of what was intended as their grave, to the land of Israel. Individuals who had for a time no hope but death, lived to see hope restored in the land, which is their ancestral right.

Before the Jewish people began to be restored to the land of Israel, it was a land that no one desired. It was a place of swamps and desert, where nothing flourished and no agriculture thrived. Considering the state of the land of Israel during the above mentioned time period, I'd like to take a moment to make right a historical fact which the enemy has used to cause much confusion within people's minds - both believers and unbelievers alike. Palestine - place or fiction? It was in the 2nd century of the 1st millennium when a third large-scale revolt took place between the Jews and the Roman Empire - Rome was ruling the land of Israel at the time. History books refer to this uprising as the Bar Kokhba revolt. During his reign the Roman emperor Hadrian, who ruled over the land at the time, maliciously decided to change the name of the then Judaea Province. The area included Judea, Samaria and Idumea, as well as other parts of the kingdom of Israel that had been taken from the Jews of old. It was Roman emperor Hadrian who systematically changed the name of the Judaea Province to "Syria Palaestina". So, the current buzz word "Palestine" was not established by a people group known as Palestinians. It was a name coined by a Roman emperor who had a vendetta against the God of Israel whose plan is to establish and set apart this land as His Kingdom. For the sake of generations to come this plan to re-write history will only work if 'we' buy into Satan's lie that there is a people group known as Palestinians who have lost their homeland 'Palestine' to the Jews. Are there Arabs living in Israel today? Of course! And for most, no matter what our ethnicity or religion we all co-inhabit in PEACE. For the sake of time, let's go back to Ezekiel and read how God plans to restore His people to the land of Israel.

*ADONAI ELOHIM says, "Because they say to you, 'Land, you devour people and make your nations childless,' therefore you will no longer devour people, and you will not make your nations childless anymore," says ADONAI ELOHIM. "I will not permit the nations to shame you, or the peoples to reproach you any longer; and you will no more cause your nations to stumble," says ADONAI ELOHIM*" (Ezekiel 36:13-15 CJB).

While the people themselves were restored out of the ashes and dry bones of the Holocaust fires, the land was renewed with them. Here at CFI, we hear many heart-wrenching stories from Holocaust survivors--one person from a family or only two from an entire city's population who survived, and were restored to Israel. But at the same time

we also hear more uplifting stories from those survivors who did more than survive--they flourished, married and had children and now, grandchildren living in the land. What greater attempt to make a nation childless, than the destruction of families in the Holocaust? But, when God brings restoration, the weakest become strong.

*"The smallest will grow to a thousand; the weakest will become a mighty nation. I, ADONAI, when the right time comes, will quickly bring it about"* (Isaiah 60:22 CJB).

**On April 19th, 2018**, Israel will be celebrating its 70th Birthday of Independence. What more perfect time is there to witness, remember and celebrate this modern-day miracle foretold by the prophets of old? Won't you meet us here in Jerusalem and join us in carrying out the following words from the prophet Isaiah?

*"Many peoples will go and say, 'Come, let's go up to the mountain of ADONAI, to the house of the God of Ya'akov! He will teach us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths.' For out of Tziyon will go forth Torah, the word of ADONAI from Yerushalayim"* (Isaiah 2:3 CJB).

**I hope to see you there!!!**

In closing, Christian Friends of Israel staff is praising God for answered prayer. After more than two years of waiting the Lord has opened up an opportunity to rent some much needed office space. Its location is very close to our Distribution Center. I encourage anyone making a trip to Israel to stop by and visit us here in Jerusalem. There is no better way to understand what we do here in the land than for you to see it for yourselves.

Thank you for your continued prayers, as well as your tangible and financial donations. We are honored to continue to represent and be an extension of 'you' here in the nation of Israel. I challenge you to use Shabbat to get into the Word of God and read up on your history because we are at a cross-road in time. Excuses for a lack of education or lukewarm standing regarding the nation of Israel and its people will not hold up with the God of Israel.

Sending you Love, Shalom, and Blessings from Jerusalem,

*Stacey Howard*

Executive / International Director  
Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

**Don't miss out on our upcoming January 2017 Pastor and Leaders Tour as well as our May 2017 Conference and Tour where we'll be celebrating the 50th year of the Reunification of Jerusalem!**

**I hope to see you....."Next Year in Jerusalem!"**

# We Can Not ERASE the past

If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does not He who weighs the heart perceive it?' (Proverbs 24:12) "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

*"This dream has haunted me for decades. There are some things time does not erase...facing the past is the only way forward...God help us Christians who did nothing to intervene."* (A Christian witness)

**FACING THE PAST:** "Years ago, my husband and I stood in front of Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany, in front of the door where Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses "with hammer strokes which echoed throughout all of Europe" (Luther Memorial of Saxony-Anhalt). This act of defiance against the Catholic Church became the symbol of the Reformation of October, 1517. The movement brought reform from abuses caused by the Roman Catholic Church and ended in the establishment of many Protestant/Reformed churches. Mark Batterson, *Christian Post* columnist, author of the book, *Primal: A Quest for the Lost Soul of Christianity* was part of a group of Christian leaders that gathered in Wittenberg, Germany, in 2008, to discuss the state of Christianity. The question came up: "Do we need another Reformation?" His short answer was "yes". It was obvious then, as it is today, that the "Church" veered off the Biblical pathway. Its treatment of the Jewish people was tragic and should not be justified nor forgotten. I never thought I would call myself a reformer, but reform is definitely in order.

## Sing A Little Louder

A recently produced short film clip on You-Tube entitled: *Sing A Little Louder* left me shocked all over again. I had known about the betrayal, but watching the film drove the sadness and embarrassment of the transgression home again. When my husband and I arrived in Israel in 1985, a few German Christians living in Israel, shared with us that when the Jewish people were herded to Auschwitz in cattle cars, instead of going to their aid, their churches "**just sang louder**". It is hard to believe, but factual. Understandably, a number of those still living, are haunted by the memories of those years. As the cries of the Jewish people from the cattle cars were drowned out by "hymns to God", each Christian distanced themselves from the reality of "...cattle cars stuffed with human cargo that became rolling death wagons" (Aish.com) right out their back door! Researcher, Penny Lea, says "**G-d forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians, yet did nothing to intervene.**"

Unfortunately, many Christians today still ignore the plight of the Jewish people. How many stand up for Israel's right for secure borders and the welfare

"I found myself in anger, I cried out in despair.  
 I prayed, "L-rd let them hear me! Let just one person care!"  
 I raised my voice to heaven as the train kept moving on,  
 as we passed behind the church yard! I could hear the worship songs.  
 I cried out all the louder to the Christians there inside,  
 but they raised the chorus louder not hearing me outside.  
 I knew they heard the whistle and the clacking of the tracks.  
 They knew that I was going to die and still they turned their backs.  
 I said "Father in heaven how can Your people be so very hard of  
 hearing to the cry of one like me?"  
 I shouted, "Please have mercy! Just a prayer before I die!"  
 They raised their hands to Heaven but the blood was dripping down.  
 The blood of all the innocent their voices tried to drown.  
 They have devotions daily, they function in My Name,  
 and they never even realized it was I upon that train."

of the Jewish nation today? The number is relatively small in relation to the mass numbers of Christians who "turned their head away" from their Jewish neighbors in many villages and cities in Europe. To some extent today, many are practicing the same error again—turning a blind eye to Israel's restoration.

**MOMENT OF TRUTH:** Everyone of the worshippers believed in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, as recited in the Nicene Creed, every Sunday morning. However, when the test came during the crisis, most distanced themselves from the death trains. A cattle car journey, to Auschwitz, lasted three to four days. Every Sunday right "on time" it passed a number of churches. All the congregations could hear the sound of the wheels, the whistle blowing *and then...* the singing began...as if they thought they were offering worship songs to God! No one ran to offer help.

The same practice of being stone deaf to Israel's plight against terror, has permeated too many modern-day churches, as Israel faces huge Islamic nations threatening their day-to-day existence. The film mentioned, was produced to bring attention to the plight of persecuted Christians as many brothers and sisters are dying in Iraq, Syria and Iran; however, I shall not forget the evocative question one pastor wrote to me. He said, "*I wonder sometimes whether the Christian Church is experiencing persecution in so many places because they are reaping what they sowed to the Jewish people during 20 centuries of ignoring the plight of the Jewish people.*" I am not saying he is correct, but his question troubles me. As my friend, General

Shimon Erem, a decorated Israeli General once told me, "I once proclaimed in a Catholic university assembly, "the Church ended up "defying Jesus" and His words of "*love thy neighbor*" (Mark 12:31). He said "the mouths dropped open", shock set into the students listening, but they soon learned what they had never before been told."

Sadly, when much of the Church laid aside the Old Testament, and proclaimed we are only a "New Testament" church, the disconnect from Israel really took hold. Jesus taught only from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Torah) but the Church forefathers said it was "old" and no longer relevant. They quickly saw themselves as the "New Israel" and the pointing of the finger began: "*You Jews killed Christ!*" While much revelation has come into Christianity over the past one-quarter century, how long must we wait for a heartfelt sorrow and repentant Church to emerge who will address its wrongdoing against the Jewish people? The cords of Christian anti-Semitism have kept the "Church" bound up too long. Yes...it *was* Christian communities who betrayed the Jewish people, in so many places, when they needed our help so desperately. Those who **did** help, names we know, have been greatly honored by the Jewish people, on the Avenue of the Righteous and in Jerusalem at the Yad VaShem Holocaust Memorial. These are those who kept a true Christian witness, but sadly, so few.

#### **Statement of Repentance and Contrition**

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter, never gave up telling the devastating account of the Holocaust before he died. In one passage of his book, *Night*, he summed up his feelings upon arrival in Auschwitz.

**“Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky...Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.”**

Even though the historical Church missed the mark, especially when the cattle cars passed their churches... we dare not miss our opportunities today to be a blessing. Currently, Replacement Theology still sits proudly in many pews and some choirs hum the songs of the BDS movement, with loud and odious tunes. May our Christian clergy be willing to make a **Statement of Repentance** publicly to the Jewish people. Martin Niemoller did. As a Protestant pastor, Niemoller opposed the Nazis. In his book, *Of Guilt and Hope*, he wrote: “Thus, whenever I chance to meet a Jew known to me...as a Christian, I cannot but tell him: **‘Dear Friend, I stand in front of you, but we cannot get together, for there is guilt between us. I have sinned and my people have sinned against thy people and against thyself.’**” Our brother, Niemoller, humbled himself, and reached out with *the healing balm of Christ’s unconditional love* to preserve his conscience before God. Rabbi Ari Enkin once said “...the same source of pain *can* also be the source for cure.” After living in Israel, over thirty years, the only true way to approach the Jewish people, in order to bring about healing and restoration to the injuries that were caused by people of our faith, is through unconditional love.

We have to remember that when wrong is committed, *someone* has to bear the consequences. Today’s church trend is toward non-offensive sermons and it could be that this message will upset some; however, a day of reckoning for Christian anti-Semitic wrongdoing, is coming. Harmful rhetoric from Christian church pulpits and General Assemblies, will have to be answered. Jesus made it clear regarding His future judgment of the nations. (Matthew 25:31-46). At that time, there will be an assessment of how humanity dealt with the treatment of His brothers, the Jews. Perhaps it will be only then, for some, that they really grasp what the Christian “Church” has done?

Some will say, “I didn’t have anything to do with how the Jews were treated!” or “It wasn’t true Christians who turned on the Jews!” Still others will state, “We are tired of hearing about what happened to the Jews, just leave the subject alone!” But I think it is time we face the past and verbally

express our guilty actions as Brother Niemoller did! **Many of us long for spiritual revival.** I believe true reconciliation with our Jewish brethren is important. Without a reformed movement within the true Body of Christ across the world, of sincere sorrow and remorse for past wrongs committed to the Jewish people, it is very distressing to think we can represent Christ in a proper way to them.

“After 1945, the silence of Church leadership and the widespread complicity of ‘ordinary Christians’ compelled leaders of churches to address issues of guilt and complicity during the Holocaust (a process that *still is not finished*) ...The population of Germany in 1933 was around 60 million. Almost all Germans were Christian, belonging either to the Roman Catholic or Protestant churches... anti-Jewish Nazi ideology converged with anti-Semitism that was historically widespread throughout Europe at the time and had deep roots in Christian history...” (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum). Did the Christians in the past not know their conduct was wrong? Were there no feelings of guilt? Did no one confessing Christ know they were betraying the Jews when they cooperated with the Nazis? Could so many forget the teachings of Jesus? “*...love thy neighbor...*” (Mark 12:31) Some even watched as the Jews dug their own graves and clapped their hands when they were shot!” We must ask ourselves today, how can *any* true follower of Jesus ever stand and look a Jewish person in the eye without being ashamed of the past? The name of Jesus was tarnished and our work must repair the damage.

The “Church” has held a bloodstained record which involves the Crusades, Pogroms, Inquisitions and the Holocaust. How can we be certain the “Church” will not be tested again? If repentance does not take place, it “*could*” happen all over again. A change of heart from Christians all over the world must be seen by the Chosen People in order for Christianity to regain its credibility. Reformation in the Church is desperately needed and *a change of heart is in order.*

No true believer can sweep under the rug the breach of brotherhood and shameful actions committed toward our Jewish brothers. We must clean deep--below the surface. Rabbi Yitzhak, an Orthodox Jewish friend, wrote me a note not long ago and signed it, “Your Brother Yitzhak”. In early Christianity, the terminology “brethren” was used only among the Jewish people. It was not a term used by gentiles as there was no religious institution called the “Church”. We have to face the past as it *was* those who confessed Christ as Lord that violated the trust between brothers. Shaul (Paul) ordered Titus to “**set in order the things that are lacking**” (**Titus 1:5**) in the congregation of Crete. We would do well to continue to set in order our meetings

where repentance and remorse come forth and are prayed through--for the apathy shown while six million *died*.

Never say “we’ve done enough.” While we cannot repent for the individual sin of others, in the faith, **we can** work toward changing history in our lifetimes. We must work toward reconnecting to the Jewish people, and forsaking apathetic attitudes toward Israel today. **We can** advocate for Israel and shake off passivity!

Jewish people normally see all Christians, whatever branch of Christianity we adhere to, as a part of “them” (those who betrayed them.) We may argue that “those” Christians were not “born-again”, but it does not change the facts of history that great disloyalty was perpetrated **in the Name of Christ**. The injury inflicted upon the soul of the Jewish people, must continue to be healed and **we can** give *the healing balm* of God’s Love to them. Now is the time of our opportunity.

I have always held the position that if we are ever to be living examples of Christ, then the brazen arrogance of in-the-face statements to the Jewish people such as, “*You are blind!*” or “*Why can’t you see Jesus?*” or still yet, “*It’s sad you cannot see our Jesus!*” are lacking in wisdom and understanding. However, humbly acknowledging to them that what was done to them in the past, was wrong in the eyes of the Almighty, and telling them that we will never leave them again is a first step in setting things “in order”--things **we all can do** or they will never even hear our voice.

According to Dr. Brad Young, “...Although Jesus was Jewish, His theology is sometimes treated as if He were Christian...Jesus never attended a church. He never celebrated Christmas. He never wore new clothes on Easter Sunday. His cultural orientation was rooted deeply in the faith experience of His People...His theology was Jewish to the core. **The tragic history of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity makes it extremely difficult to hear His forceful voice...**As Christians we have been taught wrong prejudices about Jews and Judaism. Hatred of the Jewish people has erected a barrier, separating Jesus from His theology...” We would do well to heed Dr. Young’s **cry for reform** among all who follow Jesus (whether we call ourselves disciples, followers, the Bride or part of the Church or independent from it). Trust must be rebuilt and we need to consider the repair work still unfinished.

Silence should no longer be an option. Penny Lea clearly stated: “As...Christians, we have become so comfortable in our lovely buildings and padded pews. We have beautiful fellowship halls for our many banquets. We have the latest sound equipment for our praise and worship...we gather together each week and shut ourselves inside our buildings. We raise our voices

as loud as we can, all in the name of God.” I wonder if our songs still do not sometimes drown out the cries and ignore the tears of mothers, fathers and innocent young Israeli children, whose families in Israel are being torn apart nearly every day, through terror attacks. Committed in the name of Allah, the dagger of Islamic ideology, is plunged into the Jewish heart and kills...and yet... the Jewish people go on saving lives of even the most wicked terrorists--in order to *preserve life*. Because our ancestors raised the knife of betrayal to God’s Chosen People, when we were needed, it is time we rise up to seek our brother Jacob’s welfare.

Perhaps Reformation *will* come once **we catch the burden** to pray for Israel, **when we act** upon the stirring in our hearts to visit Israel and **educate ourselves** about God’s Chosen People. May the possibility of **lovingly speaking with our Pastor** about God’s plans and purposes for the Jewish people stir him to learn more, and working to mobilize **our churches** to pray and **support ministries like CFI** bring untold blessings to many believers. **Volunteering short or long term in Israel and advocating for Israel** will help us leave a good witness. Also, when the Holy Spirit moves us to speak to the Jewish people about how deeply sorrowful it makes us to learn about the actions of the historical, and sometimes present, rages against Israel, more healing will come. We should be moving to “change history” and build relationships that have never before existed. Every Christian carries this obligatory responsibility.

Recently *Arutz Sheva* reported that the “Catholic pope gave the ‘sign of peace’ to the grand imam of Cairo, who has yet been unwilling to denounce ISIS...this message of reconciliation comes during the Al-Sisi government” reign. If the Pope has reached out his hand to Islam, should we not – followers of Christ – reach out our hands to Israel and the Jewish people in true reconciliation and peace between brothers?

We *must* continue to repair the damage of history! One of the first questions we were asked when we moved to Israel in 1985 was, “Why are you any different than the rest of your people? Why should you love us...you follow Christ too?” Our generation can still change history and perhaps we shall see Reformation come. When God looks at the record books, He may say “Look! It is recorded in the books! **This is what you did for My People. Well done!**” **I believe we must face the past and produce acts of repentance, showing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives toward Israel, and accept the lessons learned! Facing our past is the only way forward to Reformation!** ■

by Sharon Sanders



Providing therapy for the body



Traumatized children learning to ride

***“Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man; preserve me from the violent man...” (Psalm 140:2).***

## They Never Forget Us

Desperate to win world sympathy by any means, Hamas has always been happy to use Palestinian innocents as human shields — and the more casualties, the better. A report by Amnesty International in 2015 concluded that Hamas rockets in the 2014 summer war killed more Gazans than Israelis who were tracking the terrorists down. Psalm 140:2 mentioned above is probably not only the prayer of the Israeli civilians under constant rocket attack, but also the innocent Palestinians living in Gaza.

In the last 15 years, more than 12,000 rockets have struck southern Israel, affecting more than two million Israelis. During Operation Protective Edge beginning in July 2014, there were more than 1000 rocket attacks affecting many Jewish people. Although rocket attacks from Gaza did not injure many Israeli civilians in southern Israel physically, the rockets have caused *unspeakable trauma, misery, hardship and financial difficulties for Israeli civilians*. Trauma is a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a severely distressing event. It is often the result of an overwhelming amount of stress that exceeds one’s ability to cope, and is even more difficult to be cured than physical injuries; however, God’s Love and Compassion along with His Mercy is a great “healing balm” to the many that we visit. They never forget us and tell others about our visits.

With your help and support, aside from the regular home visits, with financial and practical assistances, Project CUA also arranged special events to help the traumatized adults and children affected by the ongoing rocket attacks. Earlier this year the CUA team made arrangement to take civilians in South Israel affected by constant rocket attacks, to a place for hot springs relaxation and relief. The civilians were so grateful to be able to be away from the hostile environment they have been in, for some moments of relief. *“Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble.* (Hebrews 12:12, NSB).



God’s Creatures Help Ease Trauma

## God’s Creatures Help with Therapy

It is wonderful to help the sun shine in the hearts of children, as they are among the most vulnerable age groups to adversity. Daily exposure to rocket attacks on children living in South Israel makes them a generation filled with stress and anxiety. During summer vacation Project CUA brought traumatized children and their families on a trip for horse therapy, integrating with arts and crafts.

**It blessed our hearts to see the children smile.**

**The rocket victims and their families are deeply moved by Christian visits and various means to help them. They feel they are not alone nor forgotten when they hear that Christians from the nations are standing with them and are there for them through various actions. A Big Thank You for your prayer and financial support given to Project CUA. Without your help, we are unable to provide the above-mentioned assistance to victims of rocket attack.** To financially support this project, please pray about your love gift to CFI for Project Communities Under Attack. *The Lord bless you from Zion.*

**Maggie Huang**

*Project Communities Under Attack*



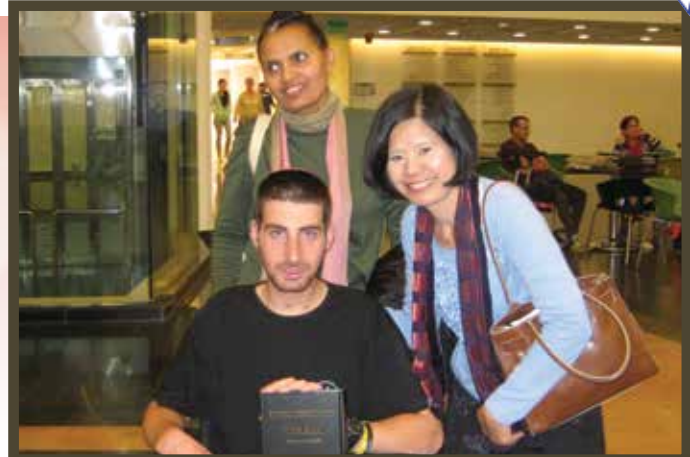


## Visiting the Bereaved:

While the Bible gives us instructions on what to do when people are hurting, part of the above passage clearly states we are to “look after” the people” and to “visit” them. That is exactly what Project Under His Wings does each week. While Project “Streams of Blessings” team was visiting Otniel community, to bring financial help to sponsor civilians for a trip to the north for emotional and physical rest, the news of the shocking terror attack on Rabbi Miki Mark’s family car was reported. This horrendous shooting terror attack caused the death of Rabbi Miki on the spot, and critically wounded his wife, moderately wounded their teenage daughter in her stomach, and their teenage son was also lightly injured. Otniel, is a Jewish community in the southern Judean Mountains, south of Hebron. This community has been ravaged by sorrow and grief, one time after another. **CFI has reached out to Otniel and established wonderful relationships with the members of the community.** The CFI team visited the grieving family members of Dafna Meir, a beloved mother of six, murdered by a brain-washed 17-year-old Palestinian teenager, at the front door of her home this past January.

**Project Under His Wings** team also went to visit the children of Rabbi Miki Mark living in Otniel *shortly after the terror attack happened.*

Our project has been on the ground, reaching out to many terror victims and their families, as soon as possible, after terror attacks are reported by the news. One of our goals is to form and build deeper relationships and show Christian support and Godly actions to the victims and their families. God gives us the words by which to



*“...I was sick and you looked after me  
...and you came to visit me”  
(Matthew 25:36, NIV).*

comfort, encourage and help practically during these sad, grieving times. Mrs. Hava Mark lost consciousness as she was seriously injured in her head and upper body parts by gunshot. *The doctor said it is a miracle that she survives.* **Please pray for the recovery of Mrs. Mark.** She has regained consciousness, but to date, is still in critical condition. **The children of the Mark family were deeply moved by Christians coming to visit, showing their love and support. Thank you all for your ongoing support for this important relationship-building project. The Jewish people are finally realizing that the followers of Jesus are some of their best friends.** It is all a part of their healing from the grieving process during times like this, in which we are heavily involved. Because of your support, every week our team is **on the road serving the People of Israel with God’s love. We continue to change history!**

**Maggie Huang**  
*Project Under His Wings*



UHW Team Visiting Family of Rabbi Miki Mark



## Providing Hope and Help to Ethiopian Jews

### Christian Friends of Israel Service Team Opportunities

On an early September morning a visiting team of volunteers from the USA accompanied CFI's Aaron Nowels on a much needed renovation of an apartment in the City of Rehovot just south of Tel Aviv.

Equipped with multiple tools, primer, paint, and remodeling supplies the team brought more than just physical help, they also brought the love of Christians-- like you in the nations--to this much deserving Ethiopian Jewish family. We were able to partner with a local community leader who connected us with a young man from North Carolina. Together they were able to bring both joy and hope to a family without the means to complete these much needed repairs on their own.

While sanding down the walls and trim in two very small bathrooms, smiles were bountifully present, although at times hidden behind protective masks. In one day the team was able to sand down the trim in almost the entire apartment, make small patch repairs where needed, scrub the entire kitchen top to bottom and apply primer before day's end.

Finishing up by mid-afternoon the group had the opportunity to have a lunch which had been specially prepared just for them. They expressed that this was a very special time of sharing and bonding.

The family that received the blessing of a freshly painted apartment not only found new Christian friends in Israel, but they also know that they are not alone. They can now assure others that there are those in the nations who do care and will continue to support and pray for those in similar circumstances.

God Bless each of you for all you do, in continuing to support CFI project Hope for the Future and for remembering the Jewish Ethiopian Community in Israel.

### Tsehai Legess-Mabari

*Project Hope For The Future*

*“Here is a poor man whose cry the Eternal heard, and helped him out of all his troubles”.*  
(Psalm 34:6, Mof)



Practically Working out Servanthood



They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love



Godly Teamwork Affects Lives





*You haven't lived today until you've done something for someone who can never repay you".  
(Author of Pilgrim's Progress)*

*"...let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Hearing and not doing is mentioned in Ezekiel 33 - "...they hear thy words, but they will not do them..." (Ezekiel 33:31).*

We at CFI focus on helping others so that others will know we are genuine followers of Jesus by our love. We have been given the opportunity in Israel, to impact the lives of many Jewish people. When CFI began in 1985, so few Israeli lives had been inspired by Christian action. In the early 1990s, when the floodgates of opportunity flung wide open, God made it possible for a few Christians to be able to begin to repair the damage done in Jesus' name to His Chosen People. We slowly began to meet the needs of Jewish community members from every walk of life in the Land. CFI's Maggie Huang recently stepped in to help Sharon Sanders with a special visit to an extraordinary person.

It is because of the hard work of Christian volunteers from many nations--who work alongside CFI's leadership--that good things happen, in the Name of the Lord and for His Glory. It also is the result of faithful supporters, individuals and churches, who love Jesus, who make our work possible. Every quarter we bring you stories from all of our outreach projects, how we are being received and how lives are being changed, because of Christian love and compassion. It is God's Work and we are a privileged few... to be His Hands and Feet here in the Land.

## CFI Visits Mother of Slain Teenager "I've Never Met a Christian!"

Rachel Frankel is one of the mothers who lost a son in June 2014 when Naftali, 16, Eyal, 16 and Gilad, 19, respectively, were kidnapped by Hamas when they were hitchhiking home for Shabbat near Gush Etzion. Even though time has passed, the pain of losing a son goes on. It was during a short-term service period of time recently, that leaders of the Christians Serving Israel team, Mrs. Carole Andersen and Jody Crider of Ft. Collins, Colorado, while serving on the CFI service team, paid a visit to Mrs. Rachel Frankel. They delivered three handmade quilts from Colorado on their visit, one quilt for each mother was given to Mrs. Frankel. "As to what allows the mothers to be so positive...the women repeatedly told me that the support that they received from Jews the world over and the unity among our people throughout the days of the search gave them such comfort and incredible hope during their most trying times." (Randall P. Lieberman, S. Florida Sun-Sentinel). The most amazing statement Mrs. Frankel spoke to Mrs. Andersen and Crider was the fact that Christians had sent condolences and support to the mothers during their time of grieving and yet...she said "I have never met a Christian before today!" This amazing visit was God-ordained and let us pray that the love and compassion left behind will "make a difference" in Jewish-Christian relations that will last a long time.

**Sharon Sanders**

*Project Streams of Blessing*



# Two From A Family

*“I will take you, one from the town and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion” (Jeremiah 3:14b).*

In September 2016, the Remembrance Ceremony of the 75th Anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre took place in Kiev, Ukraine. Babi Yar is a massive ravine on the outskirts of Kiev where the

The Nazis shouted: “Just walk straight ahead!”.

Germans perpetrated the most infamous mass executions of Jews during World War II.

On 19 September 1941, the German army captured Kiev. A week later the German authorities posted a sign announcing a supposed “resettlement” of the city’s Jews: The Burial Pit of Thousands

“All Yids (Jews) of the city of Kiev and its vicinity must appear on Monday, September 29, by 8 o’clock in the morning at the corner of Mel’nikova and Dorohozhytska streets. Bring documents, money and valuables, and also warm clothing, linen, etc. Any Yids who do not follow this order and are found elsewhere will be shot. Any civilians who enter the dwellings left by Yids and appropriate the things in them will be shot.”

On 29 and 30 September 1941, a special team of German SS troops and local collaborators murdered 33,771 Jewish civilians after taking them to the ravine. Thousands of Jewish people, with the pathetic belongings they carried, were herded into barbed-wire areas at the top of the ravine. They were stripped of their clothes and beaten, then led down the side of the ravine, ordered to lie down, while each were shot in the back of the head. Twenty-nine Jewish people survived, and only one, Michael Sidko, a dear, close friend of CFI, is still alive and lives in Israel today.

His heartbreaking story begins when Michael was 6 years old, the time when the war started. Michael’s parents, with their four children, were put on a train deeper into Russia. Michael’s older brother remembered that he had not let out the pigeons he had in the attic of their house, so he jumped off the train and ran back home. Minutes later the train started to move, so Michael’s mother, with her three other children, jumped out of the moving train. Michael’s father left on the train without them. When orders came for all Jews to gather near a cemetery, many people persuaded Michael’s mother not to join in the gathering, to spare her children, who did not look Jewish.

*“.. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky...”.*

(Eli Wiesel)

On 30th September one of the neighbors, also a yard keeper, came to their apartment with two policemen. Because of this betrayal, Michael’s mother and the children were taken to the gathering place. All streets were cordoned off and there was no way to escape. On that cold autumn day, with a strong wind and even snow, all the people were lined up with barriers in front of them.

They were stripped of their clothes and led to a mass grave to be killed. During the selection process, Michael and his older brother Grisha, with a few others, were chosen for medical experiments. Their mother, four-month-old baby brother, and four-year-old sister, were taken to their grave. Michael remembers clearly the moment of everlasting separation...and hearing his mother shouting her last words: **“Grisha, keep Michael safe.....”** They were killed in front of their eyes.

After Babi Yar, Michael was in several concentration camps, where brutal medical experiments were made on him. His brother Grisha was able to rescue him in the summer of 1943. Michael has experienced a lot of betrayal and brutality, and counts his life a gift and a miracle.



Mass graves where the Jews were Shot

On behalf of all the Jewish people we visit, the CFI Holocaust team wishes to say THANK YOU for not forgetting these precious ones! We always remind our Holocaust Survivors that we are only the hands and feet of all other Christians around the world who love them, pray for them and support them. **They also want us to tell YOU that they are very moved by your acts of kindness and your gifts, and they are always visibly moved by your love for them. The Lord’s Invisible Hands massage broken hearts, still carrying unpleasant and painful memories, which are hard to forget. This is why God sends us!**

**Olga Kopilova**  
*Project Forsake Them Not*





# The IDF Gideon Strategy

*“And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me’”*

**Judges 7:2.**

In the Bible’s recorded history, we learn of Gideon and his military success. A small elite force, against overwhelming odds, won a decisive victory over a Midianite army, with an enormous numerical disadvantage. In light of future challenges, and changes, in the enemy’s characteristics, the IDF has adopted a “Gideon” Biblical strategy which will allow them to remain operational between “conventional” wars. Israel’s IDF is truly a modern-day Gideon story.

In recent years, the State of Israel has learned that the “threat environment” and its characteristics have changed from its historical record. Adding to the enemy countries bordering Israel with all of their conventional threats, are now sub-conventional threats, such as terror organizations using underground capabilities, high trajectory fire from distant enemies, and cyber threats. With defense budgets rising in order to combat the advanced warfare of its enemies, Israel has had to reduce its Defense Forces in recent years.

The numerical disadvantage continues to expand. But just as God instructed Gideon – he believed against all odds, he prevailed and the mighty Midianite army fled. Modern day Israel has been experiencing the same scenario since its birth in 1948. In each war fought, they should have been utterly defeated due to innumerable disadvantages. **However, God shows Himself strong as the Protector of this Land.**

Recently, as the CFI David’s Shield Coordinator, I was honored to attend a formal Graduation ceremony of an Elite Unit. These warriors had just completed their initial eight months of training and were heading to their first operational assignment. CFI provided the soldiers with tactical shlukers (water carriers) and DriFit hats for use in the summer heat. Along with gifting these items of comfort, I had an opportunity to express our support for the combat duties they train for and perform.

Every day Israeli soldiers defend the tiny state of Israel against an enemy that is almost countless in number. **They are required to have confidence in their plans,**

“...I awoke at dawn...and proceeded to drive my oldest son to the Tel Hashomer military base, where he underwent his induction into the Israel Defense Forces...Hearing your firstborn child’s name called, and then watching him board a bus that will take him off to basic training is about as ...intense a stimulus as one can possibly imagine...Then he boarded the steps to the bus, sat down, and threw me a wave as the engine started and the bus pulled out...Every liberty we take for granted and every right that we cherish, is thanks in large part to those who stand in our defense.”

**- A soldier’s father-**

**even when it appears the odds are against them, just as Gideon surely felt the apparent disadvantage. Yet, in all of this we are able to witness their support for life while deterring and detecting the plans of the enemies.**

The soldiers of the IDF are men and boys “who give their blood so that the Jewish people can come back to life in their natural homeland” (Itamar Segal, IDF Rabbi in the Paratroopers Brigade). Here is how he describes serving in Gaza during the last war: “It was hot and exhausting... after long sleepless nights. Our backs burned with pain from the combination of sweat, sand, and the heavy protective gear that was stuck to our bodies day and night. The wives and children we left behind added to the challenge of staying alert, concentrated, and focused on our mission, with great belief in the justice of our path, for the goal we had been sent to fight for...As a rabbi, I tried to lift the soldiers’ spirits, strengthening them in the storm of battle.” **Joining the troops in harm’s way is never easy and much prayer and support is needed for these brave men.**

**CFI’s David Shield has been actively supporting the IDF since 1989. Your prayers and support are the backbone of the favor CFI has with the Israeli Defense Forces today. Thank you for standing with Israel’s Guardians and warriors for this beloved Land. One of the greatest joys of my job, is to tell the soldiers that Christian supporters are the ones God is using to help support them in their often life-threatening situations. I love presenting your gifts to the soldiers each time I visit bases and units. Their joy is to know that you love and care for them. This encourages the soldiers, whatever age they may be. The soldiers salute you!**

**Jim McKenzie**

*Project David’s Shield*





*“The King will reply,  
‘Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the **least** of these  
**brothers** and **sisters** of **mine**,  
you did for me.’”*

Matthew 25:40

## *Shining the Light of God's Love*

Project First Fruits is designed to assist the Household of Faith in Israel and is one of the projects that was always near and dear to my father's heart (Ray Sanders, CFI co-founder).

Recently, because of your generous support, CFI was honored to be able to provide financial assistance, as well as much needed clothing from our Distribution Center, to a ministry that provides encouragement, care and is a “Safe Haven” to those that have found themselves on the streets with nowhere else to turn. Your donations both tangible and financial are helping to bring people out of the bondage of abuse, dependency and immorality. These needy and hurting people are the ones that much of today's society overlooks. Yet it was Yeshua, himself, who ministered to the sinful, the unclean, the unhealthy, the tax collectors, beggars, lepers and prostitutes. Who are we not to allow the love of Yeshua to shine through us in these days?

Matthew 25:40 says, *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

By assisting and partnering with those that are helping to pull the despairing from the streets of Tel Aviv, as well as throughout the land of Israel, Christian Friends of Israel is able to show how Christians in the nations desire to continue showing love and support for ALL of Israel.

Thank you for continuing to pray for, support and reach out to the nation of Israel with the love of our Lord! I have to believe that reaching out to those who some might deem unworthy, must truly put a smile on our Heavenly Father's face.

**Stacey Howard**  
*Project First Fruits*



*Come join the*  
**Jerusalem Jubilee**  
**50 year Anniversary**  
*of the Reunification of Jerusalem in 1967*  
**May 22-25, 2017**

*“The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem....” Joel 3:16 (NKJV)*

**4 nights and 3 full days of Conference**

- Special visit to the Bible Lands Museum
- Special Jerusalem Day Celebration at the Kotel

**Scheduled Speakers to include:**



**Sharon Sanders**  
 Co-Founder of Christian Friends of Israel



**Dr. Mordecai Kedar**  
 Israeli Scholar of Arabic Literature – Bar Ilan University



**Danny Ayalon**  
 Former Israeli Ambassador to the USA



**Dr. Brad Young**  
 Professor of Biblical Literature at Oral Roberts University



**Chris Mitchell**  
 Middle East Bureau Chief of CBN News



**Lisa Miara**  
 Founder of the Springs of Hope Foundation



**David Nekrutman**  
 Executive Director of CJCUC



**Rick Ridings**  
 Co-Founder of Succat Hallel

**Worship with:**

- 4 nights of Worship with Joshua Aarons
- Morning Worship with Amber and Ewald Sutter



**Joshua Aarons**



**Amber & Ewald Sutter**

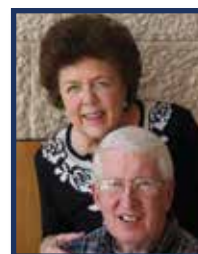


**Your hosts, Stacey and Kevin Howard**

You are invited to come up to Jerusalem for dynamic teaching from world-renowned speakers and scholars. Learn about the significance of the 50th anniversary Jubilee of Jerusalem and how prophecy is being fulfilled right before the eyes of the world today in these last days.

Hear firsthand information about the daily battles confronting the nation of Israel from worldwide anti-Israel propaganda, changing geopolitical dynamics, and the ongoing terrorism and persecution of Jews as well as Christians by radical Islamic Ideology.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to see and hear scriptural prophecy in the heart of Jerusalem, the city of the great and soon coming King!!



Opening night Celebration with CFI Co-Founders Ray and Sharon Sanders!

Go to [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) to book your custom Pre or Post conference tour to meet the people of Israel and experience CFI ministry visits on site with our teams!

**In Partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys**

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Our Gates Are

# Open!

*“Open the gates  
that the righteous nation may enter,  
the nation that keeps faith”  
(Isaiah 26:2, NIV).*

The gates of the Former Soviet Union remain open, as well as the doors of other nations, who have given exit visas to Jewish people wishing to leave. Many are leaving because of anti-Semitism and another great Exodus may loom over the horizon. CFI's Distribution Center gates, opened in January 1991, remain open because of the faithfulness of supporters who give, collect and pack large shipments of high quality clothing for olim entering the Land of Israel, as well as supplying financial help to give them the best Welcome Home possible. As Scripture indicates, Israel will be a wholly righteous nation where all who enter her gates will be righteous and all will walk in faith. Immigrants love receiving Bibles (Jewish Scriptures/Tanach) as we present them in Russian-Hebrew, Spanish-Hebrew, French-Hebrew, English-Hebrew, Hebrew only, Portuguese-Hebrew, Hungarian-Hebrew, and Yiddish-Hebrew languages. These Bibles are provided to us by Comfort Israel from the Netherlands. Our guests also love the Book of Psalms in Hebrew.

Our faith has been put into action, for twenty-five years, by being here for them upon their arrival. Hundreds of thousands of new olim have experienced Christian love for the first time in their lives. Hundreds of tons of high quality garments have been lovingly collected, packed and sent from the nations. Multitudes of lives have been changed toward the traditional stereotypes of Christians and the restoration work of healing between Christians and Jews has made a tremendous difference. Our re-connection is coming together because God is in it!

*“I will bring them back...I will whistle for them and gather them...” (Zechariah 10:8).* New immigrants come home for a variety of reasons (a) because the Spirit of the Lord moves them, (b) some don't really know why but point upwards, (c) others just sensed it was time...perhaps hearing a distant whistle of some sort in their spirit. Still others realize Israel is their homeland, and return because of family who arrived beforehand. Thank you to all who pack beautiful garments and send them to Israel in the shipments. A salute to everyone who contributes funds for the ongoing work at the Distribution Center and for supplying all of our needs for the outreach projects.

## Faith and Actions Work Together at CFI

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? ...suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes...If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm...’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? (James 2:14-24, NIV).*

## Immigrants from Around the Globe

This past year CFI served new immigrants from the Ukraine, Russia, Brazil, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Cuba, USA, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Hungary, UK, Georgia, Mexico, Moldova, Peru, Colombia, Portugal, Spain, S. Africa, India, Uruguay, Italy, Venezuela, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, France, Poland, Australia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Honduras and Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Germany, Lithuania and Romania. Among them were Ethiopians, pensioners, poor and needy, and students. We also saw a 78% increase in new olim served. High quality garments increased by 54%. We also give Welcome Bags, bed and bath parcels and kitchen items (i.e., bed linens, bath and face towels, challah bread covers, candle holders and Shabbat packages, electric food mixers, kettles, cooking pans and pots, and student vouchers for school). Almost daily we hear testimonies of Jews from the Ukraine who are practically fleeing and leaving everything behind to find a safer life in Israel. We also continue with home visits to the disabled and those who are unable to come to the CFI Distribution Center due to age or health issues.

## A Surge in Aliyah

The Wiesenthal Center recently reported that Europe, which is in a crisis, has warned the one million Jewish communities that they face an uncertain future. Pray that more of the Jewish people will see the writing on the wall and make the right decision to return home. In July, 223 American Jewish people made aliyah with their destination being Jerusalem. Praise God that the new immigrants, who are fulfilling God's Word, are proving the truth of His Word to Israel and the world, in these latter times.





## Please Meet Our Visitors

**My Name is Viktor** A sweet 70-year-old man, from Mariupol, Ukraine, came to us. He lives with his son and his four grandchildren. Viktor told us they are an ultra-Orthodox family, who are not merely religious, but truly have a close relationship with the Lord. We were so happy to be able to assist with needed clothing, well-suited to their religious neighborhood. Years ago they would never have accepted our help.



We explained to Viktor that we are Christian Zionists and what we have been called to do. Viktor shared that he has experienced this love for Zion from Christians in the Ukraine. He had a good friend, a Pastor, he was a Godly man and his testimony and devotion for God made a powerful impact on Viktor's life. When the situation in Mariupol became unbearable and dangerous...a Christian ministry in Ukraine helped Viktor move to a different city, from where he was able to make aliyah. Praise the Lord Almighty that he is safe now in his Home Land!

### Meet Julio Cesar & Irene

A new family from Peru, who had only been in Israel for two months came to us. Their toddler enjoyed the new toys we gave him. As we spoke to them in their native language, said, "We live where very few speak Spanish...It will push us to learn Hebrew."



### A Family from Tashkent

An entire Jewish family (approximately 50 family members) from Tashkent, Uzbekistan are now living in Ramla, Israel. One day, four newly arrived families came to our DC. They were descendants of a Jewish grandmother, unable to make it to Israel, before her passing. She celebrated the Lord's Feasts while alive and encouraged the younger generations to continue to celebrate their Jewish Biblical traditions and to make aliyah. Some of the younger ones wanted to come to Israel so their children could return to their Jewish roots.

**Airton, Terezinha and Julia** Nine months ago, this family from Sao Paulo, Brazil, came to Israel. Though the family did not suffer anti-Semitism in Brazil, their reason for making aliyah was the country's bad economy, which was affecting everyone. Their radiant smiles showed their happiness to be in their new Land. They loved receiving their new Portuguese-Hebrew Scriptures!

**Meet Leah Gamboa** Leah visited us before. One of her daughters was married a year ago and the entire family chose beautiful evening gowns from the Bridal Salon. This time Leah brought her friend Marina, who was born in Chile but emigrated to Argentina. This was the time for Marina to return to her Promised Land!



The Gamboas are a family of six. In the mid-1970's, during Pinochet's dictatorship, Juan went to the Chilean Chancellery to obtain paperwork needed for their aliyah process. When the officer in charge learned that he was a Jew, he stopped him, insulted him and was going to arrest him. A phone call distracted him and a different officer released Juan and told him not to return. Their daughter was once stoned by a student at school. The family was afraid for their safety and decided to move to an island in southern Chile, where they lived for 20 years. Leah told us about Colonia Dignidad, a place founded by immigrant Germans in the mid-1950s, used as a concentration camp. Many of their fellow Jews were killed there. One of Juan's relatives was arrested in Portugal, brought to Lima, Peru and tortured. He finally died from his horrendous wounds; this was done in the name of Jesus by the Catholic Church. The incident is recorded in the Chilean Jewish history books. Leah said that she and her family have experienced anti-Semitism from Catholics, but not from evangelical Christians. Evangelical Christians have always supported them and encouraged them to come to Israel.

Leah was very touched and grateful for the help received from the CFI Lighthouse; she said that from the moment the family decided to 'come up to Israel' God blessed them tremendously.

Maya has been living in the Land almost two years. During WWII, Maya's fraternal grandfather chose to stay in Odessa, and sadly, he was arrested by the Nazis, and taken to a ghetto in the same city. He later died there. Maya's maternal grandmother, her mother, and her sister, were all evacuated to Southern Russia. Her sister died in 1945 from illness. Most of the Jews from Odessa moved to Southern Russia, managing to survive, despite extreme poverty and food shortages. Toward the end of Maya's visit with us, Maya expressed her gratitude for the Ministry, and said that this was the first time she had ever received assistance from Christians. She shared how, living in Israel now, she has begun to acknowledge God, and learning to have more patience with others. She said that though she is not religious, she knows that something in her inner being is changing!

Thank you so much for your financial and practical help for our shipments!

**Rocio Fordham**

*Project Open Gates*

# The Crime of Indifference

*“Don’t excuse yourself by saying, “Look, we didn’t know.” For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.”*  
(Proverbs 24:12, NLT).

**“The opposite of love is not hate,  
it’s indifference.**

**The opposite of beauty is not ugliness,  
it’s indifference.**

**The opposite of sacred is not profane,  
it’s indifference.**

**The opposite of life is not death,  
it’s indifference”.**

(Elie Wiesel, (1928-2016).

One of the greatest transgressions of Christianity is a lack of interest, a lack of concern, and blindness to the relevance of Israel and the Jewish people. These are nothing but alternate names for “indifference.” Apathy and disregard for our brethren, the Jews, has led to an enormous chasm between Judaism and Christianity, something of which Jesus (Yeshua) would have never approved. I believe He would have considered these traits as a hardening of the Christian heart toward His People, or a lukewarm attitude (Revelation 3:15, 16). I cringe when I see mainline traditional churches so anti-Israel that they teach their followers to separate from Israel. He taught us Torah (the Jewish Scriptures) as recorded in the New Testament, Isaiah was adamant, **“Neither the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD has utterly separated me from His People...”** (Isaiah 56:3, KJV).

What can Christian indifference say about us to God and to man? A few wise men have said *“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.”* (Albert Einstein). *“Love me or hate me, but spare me your indifference.”* (John Galsworthy). *“Love will find a way, indifference will find an excuse.”* (Anonymous). *“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”* (Martin Luther King) So much of Christianity has--and still does today--stand on the sidelines cheering on BDS movements and those who propagate Replacement Theology. What an offense in the face of Israel’s God whom we follow. Instead of castigating and pulling away, it is time we lead the race, not stand on the sidelines, blatantly indifferent. Instead, we must take the torch of courage, and show the way for the rest of the world. Our banner should read **“As long as there is an Israel, we stand with her!”**

Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat from Lithuania, knew he had to do the right thing when Jewish people needed help. In order to save as many people as he could, he said, “I may have to disobey my government, but if I do not, I will disobey God.” The Soviet Union occupied sovereign Lithuania in 1940. Many Jewish refugees from Poland, as well as Lithuanian Jews, tried to acquire exit visas. Chiune-Sempo Sugihara, a Vice-Consul who worked for the Empire of Japan in Lithuania, risked his life for the Jewish people. Aware that applicants were in danger of being killed if they stayed behind, Sugihara decided to grant visas on his own. He ignored the requirements and issued thousands of visas, in violation of orders. In 1985, Israel named him to the Righteous Among the Nations. He was a remarkable man, and if I am correct, Jesus is watching for earnest followers who will show no indifference to Israel. If we love the way the Lord loves, then indifference must go!



Chiune Sugihara

by Sharon Sanders



## A ROSE Among the Thorns

*“As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters, as the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons...”* (Song of Solomon 2:2,3).

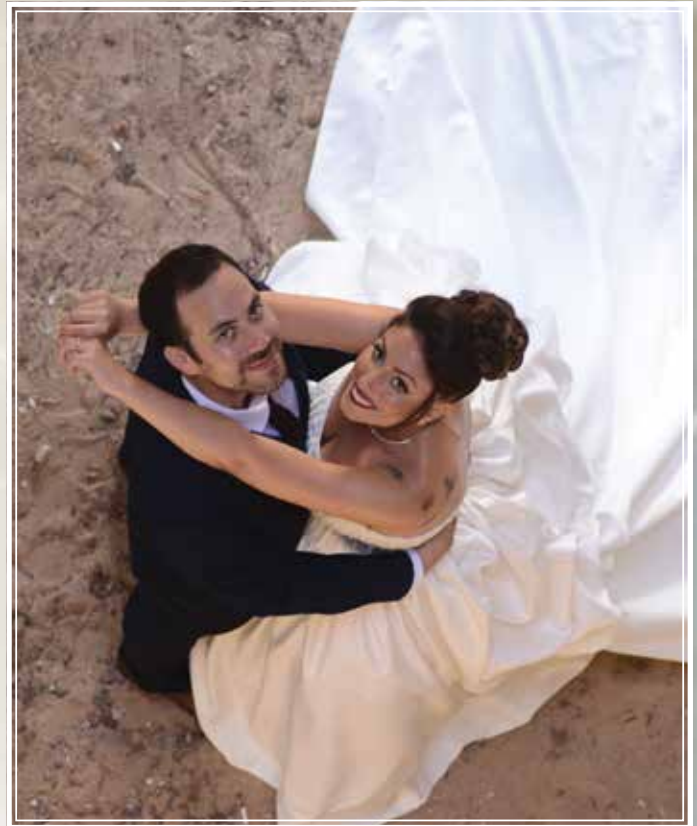
This is how Danielle described her encounter with CFI’s Bridal Salon, *“keshoshana bein hachochim”* (in Hebrew, “like a rose among the thorns”). As we know, a rose is a flower that has sharp thorns on its stems. When one finds “a rose among the thorns,” they find a soft flower among sharp thorns.

The term can be used to mean anything nice found among not-so-nice things. In the Song of Solomon, we see it referring to the daughters and sons of Israel who are in love. Danielle, one of our beautiful Brides, is a young Israeli young woman who has dreamed her whole life about her wedding day. The wedding of her dreams would be unforgettable and, of course, she must be wearing a very special dress. By the time she found her perfect match, and got engaged, she and her fiancé realized how costly weddings are in Israel and especially because they had just finished college, they had many expenses and a limited budget. But sometimes God has a way with dreams, making them come true in unexpected ways. A friend recommended Danielle call the CFI Bridal Salon to make an appointment to try on Bridal gowns. **From the moment she came in, she was ecstatic to see the beautiful selection of dresses donated by Christians who love and support Israel.**

Thanks to your generosity as CFI supporters, we were able to help Danielle fulfill her dreams. Her blessing was to receive two amazing wedding dresses to wear, one for the ceremony and one for a special dance with her husband. As they start a new life together as a couple and also professionally, they have big dreams and we feel privileged to have played such an important role on their special day. ***CFI became her rose among the thorns!***

***We thank God and you for your love gifts to a ministry that has brought much joy to brides, grooms and whole families.***

**Patricia Cuervo**  
Project Bridal Salon



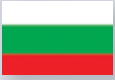
Wedding Gowns from Christians Bless Israeli Brides



Under God’s Chuppah of Commitment



Jubilee Festival



### CFI Bulgaria

#### CFI Bulgaria Celebrates

Recently this summer, CFI-Bulgaria participated in the 7th, Jubilee Festival “Israel My Beloved” in the town of Pazardzhik, Bulgaria. The festival gathered close to 1000 participants and audience, comprising both Christians and Jews who celebrated Israel together and worshiped the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

CFI representative for Bulgaria, Mitka Atanasova read an address from CFI-Jerusalem, sent specifically to greet and bless the delegates. She updated the audience on the current events in Israel and the urgent need for Christians to pray and intercede for Israel like never before. Mitka closed with a prayer, based on Numbers 24:5, sung in Hebrew and Bulgarian, **which brought everyone to their feet to bless the Land and people of Israel.**

For all three days of the Festival, CFI-Bulgaria had a booth for distributing CFI-Jerusalem’s publications in Bulgarian and English, reaching out to both Christians and Jews, coming from different nations, e.g., the USA, Germany, England, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the Ukraine, Poland, Greece, and of course, Israel and Bulgaria. Kol Ha Kavod to our wonderful family of CFI in Bulgaria!

Contact: [cfi\\_bg@yahoo.com](mailto:cfi_bg@yahoo.com)



CFI Bulgaria Team



CFI Netherlands Team



### CFI Netherlands

#### CFI Netherlands Making Connections

A wonderful event was recently held in the Netherlands sponsored and organized by CFI Representatives, Kyre and Grace van Opstal. A stirring testimony by Catherine Frese was shared along with teaching and sharing by the Opstals. CFI Netherlands is pleased to announce the KESHERCOURSE, an educational tool that every church in every nation should have in their Christian Education Departments. The Kesher Course is available for all CFI offices and nations throughout the world today. Contact: Kyre Van Opstal, PO Box 8217, 3301 CE Dordrecht, The Netherlands,

Contact: [cfi.nederland@gmail.com](mailto:cfi.nederland@gmail.com)



Ruth Carlson with Cuban Churches for Israel



### CFI Cuba

#### CFI – Cuba is one of our newest Representatives.

Congratulations to Pastor Victor Almat Consuegra for his tremendous efforts.....

About 25 pastors have now received “Churches for Israel” Certification in the Bayamo, Cuba area and are committed to pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem on a Daily Basis. As these dear pastors pray for Israel, won’t you in the nations continue to pray that God’s blessing will be on the people of Cuba as they seek the Lord God of Israel.

Contact: [norma.romero@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:norma.romero@infomed.sld.cu)



Training Sessions



Learning about Jewish Roots



## CFI Switzerland

### CFI Switzerland Multiplying

Eric Bergier reports from CFI Switzerland on the wonderful response to the CFI Keshet Course which is now in full implementation thanks to the hard work of the CFI Netherlands Representative, Mr. Kyre Van Oopstal and his wife Grace. Meetings in homes are held in Switzerland, Belgium and extensively in Holland. The teacher of the Keshet Course trains another person to be able, in turn, to teach others. A Hebrew shop and thematic meetings are being set up for the continuation of the course and the training of potential new teachers. Now is the time to sign up for the newly translated Keshet Course!

**Contact:** [caisuisse@bluemail.ch](mailto:caisuisse@bluemail.ch)



## CFI India

### CFI India Educates

CFI-India National Chairman, Rev. Dr. Ephraim Smith Mindi travelled to Vizag, India, preaching the Word of the Lord about the Feasts of the Lord. Over 25 Pastors and 225 people attended this gathering. Also CFI Maharashtra has conducted 22 CFI Seminars in Pune, Lonavala, Kolhapur, Surat, Daund, Baramati and other places over the past 24 months. Also CFI Pune is active in teaching sessions in the church services in many places. In July, the Daund Pastors Association, Church of Christ, Daund, held a full day seminar "The Church and Israel" where almost 400 people attended with participants from Baramati, Kedgaon, Pune, Sririgonda, Ahmednagar and Daund. CFI Maharashtra heads up chapters of CFI with a core team that works hard at sharing God's Word about Israel. A CFI Seminar at Mumbai will be held 5 September 2016 with other upcoming events celebrating the fall feasts. May God bless CFI India and all of the chapters and team members with many blessings from Zion!

**Contact:** [zion\\_india@yahoo.com](mailto:zion_india@yahoo.com)



Bread of Life Visitors



## CFI Taiwan

### CFI Taiwan Visits and Serves Israel

Bread of Life Church Christians from Taiwan recently spent time with CFI at our Distribution Center learning about our work. They put their faith into action and helped us restock the shopping area and helped us prepare heart decorations for an upcoming event for widows and widowers. Thank God for Bread of Life and our wonderful supporters in Taiwan!

**Contact:** [cftaiwan13@gmail.com](mailto:cftaiwan13@gmail.com)

CFI Jerusalem is recruiting for new Representatives around the world. Check out our Representatives list to see the nations who have stepped up to the call to "stand with Israel". If your nation is not listed, please email us for more information.



# FRONTPAGE

Jerusalem the voice of Israel to the world



brought to you by Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

## FrontPage Jerusalem Radio

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

[www.frontpagejerusalem.com](http://www.frontpagejerusalem.com)



Earl Cox



Ben Kinchlow



Kevin Howard

CFI – Jerusalem’s media team constantly strives to provide a variety of media options that will keep you informed. Whether you like your updates, news or prayer points by post, by email, on the web, social media, radio or Television, CFI – Jerusalem works hard to have something that will satisfy everyone’s particular needs.

If you have a great new outlet that we need to know about, or you’re a media distributor, we welcome your honest desire to help us expand our media outreach to the nations. You can always reach us by emailing [feedback@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfijerusalem.org). God bless!

## FocalPoint

It is with sincere and very thankful hearts that we say “thank you” for your ongoing prayers as we put our efforts into the new production of FocalPoint Television.

We need your vital support as we continue to finalize production locations, equipment and additional essential staff. There are those in the nations that continue to ask about our productions still in the making. Please be assured that our devotion at CFI – Jerusalem to FocalPoint TV has not changed. There are so many of you around the world needing to receive our positive, relevant and biblically based information about Israel and the Middle East. We are currently working on this outstanding



programming - so that it will reach out to each of your homes whether by television, Internet or on your cellphone. You can count on its arrival to you in the very near future. Please remember that past FocalPoint programming has valuable information still relevant today, and past shows can be viewed on YouTube by searching FocalPoint TV or by going to [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org). Go to our site today and click on the Focal-Point Logo where you will still find these timeless and relevant shows.

## Stay Connected and Up to Date



### Online Media:

Israel News Digest, Watchman’s Prayer Letter, OnWatch News-letter and Wall of Prayer Newsletter.

### Social Media:

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



# CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

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email: [events@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:events@cfjjerusalem.org)



Bringing "ON THE GROUND - HONEST TRUTH" to the Nations!

*"...and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."* Matthew 28:20 (CJB)

As well as being Christian Friends of Israel's Director of Technology, Kevin Howard is also an Ordained Minister who's reputation as a credible and sought out speaker on Israel continues to expand. For nearly 2 years, he's taught and enlightened audiences in America, Mexico, Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Kevin has the ability to explore a vast array of challenging topics which are meant to educate, engage and challenge - the Church - worldwide. Whatever the subject matter explored, he delivers an impactful message with not only truth and relevance but with conviction, passion and a usual splash of real life humor. Currently, he and Stacey are both planning their 2017 worldwide engagements.

Dates are filling fast, so if your group needs a relevant and first-hand report on what's really happening in Israel, please drop them an email now. They also love to share about how the current events in Israel and the Middle East Region are shaping the last days, in line with God's prophetic time clock, as well as how Christian Friends of Israel's "hands on projects" are meeting the real life needs of people in Jerusalem and throughout the land of Israel, with special ways that you can get involved as well.



To schedule an event, speaking engagement, tour or special project, simply submit your request to our amazing and responsive events coordinator at [events@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:events@cfjjerusalem.org). Be sure to include your country, possible dates and topic ideas that will help us to be better prepared when we connect with you. Thank you!

## CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL JERUSALEM CONFERENCE AND TOURS



Come join us in celebrating  
Israel's 70th Birthday!  
**April 16-19, 2018**

In Partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys



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Tel: +972 2- 623-3778

Keshet Contact:

[marnix@keshetjourneys.com](mailto:marnix@keshetjourneys.com)  
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ONLY!  
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## The NEW CFI Jerusalem Calendar

has been created to help you connect the Biblical calendar to the usual Western calendar that so many of us use. The design contains 15 beautiful and inspiring scenes from Jerusalem – the City of the Great King. Each month highlights the weekly Shabbats, New Moon and the Biblical festivals that occur during that time period. Furthermore, each picture is connected with a prophetic Scripture to remind you of God’s promises, and encourage you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Covering 15 months, from **October 2016 to December 2017**, this beautifully illustrated calendar will provide a touch of inspiration, encouragement, and connection between you and God’s promises for His city Jerusalem. Best of all, it will remind you of God’s appointed times, and His prophetic words about Jerusalem in these days.

Produced and printed in Israel, by purchasing yours today for only **\$18 USD** including shipping, you will not only bring help to those in need, but also be providing much needed support to the local Jerusalem economy. Send your check or money order with the enclosed form, or go online to [www.cfjjerusalem.org](http://www.cfjjerusalem.org).

Order Online at: [www.cfjjerusalem.org](http://www.cfjjerusalem.org)



## We are URGED to Pray for Others

*Do nothing out of rivalry or vanity; but, in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves — look out for each other’s interests and not just for your own. Philippians 2:3-4(CJB)*

*Dear Friends - I hope you and your families are doing well serving God in the place where He planted you. I hope that your hearts are full of God’s Peace and Joy. Last night we had a great time praying for you, your families and ministries. This picture has each one of you in it. I want say that it is an honor to see what God is doing through your lives. Keep fighting the battle - never give up. We are always here for you! Blessings - Samuel Brum, Missions Pastor (Resurrection Fellowship)*

Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem would like to personally thank the prayer team at Resurrection Fellowship for their nev-

er-ending faithfulness. For many years you have gone to the Throne of God on behalf of CFI – J, its projects, volunteers and leadership. You are invaluable! And thank you, to all the other churches and individuals throughout the nations who are continually supporting us through prayer. None of us can fight the spiritual battles that face each of us and our ministries alone every day – *For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. Ephesians 6:12 (CJB)*



### Feedback Corner

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

Send your comments on *For Zion’s Sake* to [feedback@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfjjerusalem.org). We’re waiting to hear from YOU! Blessings from Jerusalem!

### Print Media:

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



### CFI Representative Nearest You