

For Zion's Sake

Third Quarter 2017 Jewish Year 5777/5778



*"...the Lord tells you that He will make you a house
....and your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you."*

2 Samuel 7:11-16



Christian Friends of Israel

PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 9101701 ISRAEL Tel: 972-2-6233778

Fax: 972-2-6233913 cfi@cfijerusalem.org www.cfijerusalem.org

For Zion's Sake

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MANAGING EDITOR / WRITER

Sharon Sanders

EDITOR

Coral Mings

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jennifer Paterniti

WRITERS

Patricia Cuervo, Rocio Fordham, Kevin Howard, Stacey Howard, Maggie Huang, Olga Kopilova, Jim McKenzie, and Tsehai Legesse-Mabari

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

Kevin Howard

EXECUTIVE / INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Stacey Howard



Shalom from Jerusalem!

Dear CFI International Friends and Family,

There is no greater blessing than that of new life, and it was with great joy that I was recently able to experience the birth of our 6th grandchild. What a monumental moment, and how exciting it is to see the Lord continuing to bless and expand our family! As I saw a new life enter this world, God again impressed upon me the "Father-like Love" He has for each of us. I can truly say that each of our children and grandchildren are indeed a true reward from Him.

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth" (Psalm 127:3-5, NIV).



Family - What a special treasure it is! We are all born into one, but if not properly taken care of and nurtured, or flip-pantly tossed aside for things deemed more important, the enemy can easily creep in. Satan will build walls, which will allow him the opportunity to divide and conquer that which God holds so dear. It is said that families are the very cells of humanity. From the moment God created mankind, creating a family was the first command that He gave to Adam and Eve:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them... God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it'" (Genesis 1:27-28, NIV).

Three of the essential elements of a strong family are God, marriage and procreation. In the Genesis account, we see first the relationship of God to man, followed by the relationship of man and woman, and then the command to create a family. After the fall, sin entered the world, but God gave provision for redemption. We know that redemption is found in our Lord Yeshua. How amazing that God's answer for all

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of mankind was to send His Son. He did not send us a special angel, or close friend but rather He gave of Himself and sent His family. Jesus showed us His love and devotion when he gave His life to save His brothers and sisters, the children of the Most High! Awaiting His return, we know that like a marriage, it will be for His Bride that our Messiah will soon return. This reflection of God's character provides a place where we as His children can experience, mature and learn to bestow unconditional love on others, especially our families.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV).

Jesus our Messiah, Himself, was born within the framework of an earthly family. “God in the flesh” submitted to an earthly mother and father in His youth. He was a product and model of the Jewish family, as well as the Jewish community, into which He was born. It was from their love and direction that He was nurtured and grew, in wisdom and virtue, finding favor with both God and men.

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52, NIV).

Today, our children need to know that God has a special purpose for placing them within a family. It is our responsibility to help our children and grandchildren understand the truth of Scripture and to lead them into a deeper appreciation of both their earthly family and the spiritual family God has given them. When our children come to an age when they begin asking about their familial and ancestral backgrounds, we must make it as important to share about the foundational heritage of our faith as well as our natural physical genealogy.

Long after we are gone and the world has changed in ways that we would not recognize, more than any earthly possession, it will be the deep love and understanding of the Word of God that will carry them during the dark days ahead. Just as we want to help them to understand their strong cultural and ethnic background, we must also make it a priority to share with them the Jewish roots of our Christian heritage that connect them to our Messiah. In light of their salvation and considering the scale of importance, teaching our children about their Jewish family heritage and their connection to the Messiah far outweighs the importance of our strong melting pot of cultural backgrounds.

A day is coming when ALL families of the earth will join together to worship our coming Messiah. Together with our brothers and sisters in Israel, we will be a family united, a family eternal. Jesus, our Messiah will bring us all into ONE family together. Our families must understand that the Messiah is Jewish and that His kingdom is to be set up in Jerusalem--the city established by the One True God of Israel.

In the days ahead, as men's hearts tend to wax colder, it is OUR responsibility to provide for our families a solid, unwavering foundation of faith if we expect our children to shine as beacons of light within their own families, as well as to those around them, as generations come and go. It is our responsibility to give them the proper tools for breaking down the walls of division built by the enemy both within and outside of Christian homes. The enemy's walls are meant to create a disconnect, to influence us and cause feelings of discord, detachment and disunity. In the book of Acts, we see how division quickly swept into the early Church, a united family was divided, and a great discon-

nect began that is still in need of repair today. We must teach the next generation how to tear those walls down, and bridge the gaps meant to separate us. We need to be actively building bridges that strengthen relationships between the Jewish and Gentile communities as well as between our own families of faith within the Church.

It truly is a part of each of our destinies to share the origins of our Christian faith so that if we someday depart this earth before Messiah's return, the foundation and structure of our faith in the God of Israel can live on in the generations that are to follow. For all people, and all nations must know who He is and what He has done for us all!

“Give Praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done” (Psalm 105:1, NIV).

Forever may we **ALL** stand strong in unity with the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, and may He bless our families with the love, joy, peace and good health that can only come from Him! ✨

In His Service,

Stacey Howard

Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem

Israel On the Rise

by Sharon Sanders



*"The Lord builds up Jerusalem...
I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy..."*

Psalm 147:2; Zechariah 1:16

My husband and I live on a "mountain around about Jerusalem. From our balcony we can look toward the Temple Mount and *envision* the Coming House of God that will be glorious and become a "...praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:7). Foreseeing this magnificent structure keeps our anticipation alive, **for what God has promised, He will deliver.**

"After the destruction of the Temple, two schools of faith survived: Rabbinical and Christian, both Jewish from the same family. For the first centuries, there had been one identity before two settled identities were formed. Now it is "we and them". How will these two communities ever prepare for unity before the King of Israel? Some Rabbis assert that the healing of the breach between Christians and Jews must take place before Messiah comes.

Thank God that "healing" is in initial stages between certain branches of Orthodox Judaism and Evangelical Christians. Christian Friends of Israel is engaged in some of these heart-to-heart discussions and interchanges, as where there is no cultivation of friendship there is no healing of the breach. For Christians with no "boots on the ground" experience, working among Jewish people takes time. Four mistakes Christendom makes on their journey with Israel is resisting what God is doing in Israel, *refusal* to accept that the Jewish people *are still* God's Chosen People, running with the flag when we should be sharing it and religiously confronting Israel in the wrong ways, such as compulsive pressure and damnation threats. We all long for the veil in regard to Yeshua, to be removed, but it cannot happen without unconditional love.

A cold splash of reality needs to awaken a sleepy Church to the reality that Israel *is* moving toward being a "light to the nations". For that to roll ahead uninterrupted, we need to assist in lighting her torch.

The shackles that once chained the Jewish people to banishment, are broken. In the freedom of a re-gathered nation, comparable to the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island's shores, Israel welcomes her Jewish immigrants yearning to breathe free (as Jews) to her own golden shores. Today's Golden Door of opportunity for the Jewish people, is wide open at the edge of her Mediterranean shores. Communist Iron Curtains and chains of oppression no longer need hold, once "wandering Jews". The way to "freedom" is through immigration to Israel, which has opened up for all of Hebrew origin.

An awakening, is *sorely* needed in the Church. It desperately needs an understanding, that Jerusalem was the place of Holy Worship for the Jewish people, and eventually will be again, for *all nations*. Pew warmers today need to “get on board” the Jewish train headed for Jerusalem. The early disciples of Jesus foresaw Jerusalem restored. As recorded in Acts 1:6. “...will you restore (will you give us back) *the Kingdom now* (in our day)?” Yeshua told them not to worry, nor lose sleep over it, but to get on with the work they had been given to do, to take the news of Messiah to the world. There is no doubt in my mind that we are living in the days when the Spirit *is returning* to Jerusalem. But we, as Christians, need to understand that He is not coming back to turn the Jewish nation into a “gentile Christian church”. The Holy Spirit will return the people to their own cultivated olive tree (Romans 11:24) after the revealing. The missing link in our faith (Israel) will be where the reuniting of the two “individual identities” takes place. For example, two new *FSU immigrants came to the CFI Distribution Center some years ago. They both arrived from different parts of the City. They were likely, on the same bus. Soon after their arrival, our staff heard a great eruption of emotion. While waiting to be served, these men had recognized each other. They were brothers and had been separated during the Holocaust. Reunion was instant. When Yeshua comes again, I believe the emotion of the moment will be both puzzling and sorrowful for Israel, but filled with *elation*. Israel will mourn deeply, but great joy will follow when they receive Him back home! With all due respect, Christians just need to allow the Spirit of God to work according to His Plan.

Our churches need to acknowledge Israel’s right to her God-given Land and to show appreciation for the great debt owed the Jewish people; however, to a great extent, Israel’s restoration just does not fit into much of Church theology. Many congregations are in a spiritual crisis and they wonder why. The lie of Replacement Theology, handed-down by our predecessors, is still being taught in many houses of worship and must be eradicated. Can you hear the voice of the *FSU-Former Soviet Union

old prophet Jeremiah thundering? “...*the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies*” (Jeremiah 16:19).

God loves Jerusalem and has stamped His Divine Monogram on its landscape. Israelis have learned that God put His Signature on the mountains around Jerusalem. The Hebrew letter *shin* (abbreviation for the name *El Shaddai*) appears over Jerusalem, as seen by satellite. Formed by the Kidron, Hinnom and Tyrepeoon valleys, it is as if the very gate of heaven is located here.



The Hebrew letter “Shin”

Prime Minister Netanyahu recently proclaimed: “Israel could not...negotiate over any aspect of Jerusalem, any more than Americans would negotiate over Washington, DC., Englishmen over London, or Frenchmen over Paris. Israel is prepared to offer the Arabs full and equal rights *in* Jerusalem, but no rights *over* Jerusalem.” It is the future location of “the throne of all ages”...and preparations appear to be well on the way to make it a reality.

In a sense, Jerusalem appears to be getting itself ready for something unparalleled. BAR magazine (Biblical Archeological Review), recently released a story entitled: “Jerusalem Unveiling Herself”. The City is revealing its original character. After years of being veiled, its stones are crying out to be put on display. City excavators are restoring ancient ruins--one layer at a time--and the pieces of the puzzle of what Jerusalem looked like originally are being put into place, creating a picture of her past. She is taking off her old garments and putting on her new face. Her wardrobe will be splendid--her new look will be stunning. Perhaps you have

gone into your child’s bedroom in the morning and shouted “Time to get up... no time for snoozing...you’ve got to catch the bus!” The Prophet Isaiah; likewise, shouted for the City to wake up as it lay snoozing in the dust bin of history. One day the old prophet shouted: “*WAKE UP, WAKE UP! O Zion! Clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothing.*” (Isaiah 52:1). Former Mayor Teddy Kolleck sounded the Reveille bugle call by restoring the City in the 1980s and 1990s. He said “I’m doing it for the Coming of Messiah!”

A few years back, City architects brought us blue prints of plans for the City. We were asked what we thought about some of their ideas. How did we feel about a cable car giving rides to pilgrims near the Temple Mount? How about a fast train taking one close to a rebuilt Temple?

On the table, new plans are being developed for a Metropolitan Beltway for the fast moving Jerusalem train; an internal landing strip and international airport east of the City; an upgrading of the Jerusalem-Gush Dan road, and upgrades to the roads in the eastern part of Jerusalem. The Royal City is further developing tourism and pilgrimage as all paths leading to the Temple Mount will be repaired and reconstructed, for the “heart of the world”. Others are waiting for the Israeli flag to be flown permanently over the Temple Mount! A grandmother in Israel recently wrote: “*I love the Land...with all of my heart...I believe with complete faith that the day will come when the entire world will see and recognize the God of our forefathers as the Only True God...may it be in our days*”. We just need to convince some of our Pastors. One Pastor in the Bible Belt of America recently admitted to personally worshipping Allah as he feels he is the same God as the God of Israel. He is deceived. Allah took over a former Pentecostal church nearby and church leaders blessed their Muslim neighbors in the name forbidden before God Almighty.

Israel’s President, Reuven Rivlin, recently said “Christians are our brothers” and we in Israel will do all we can to protect your freedom of worship...” A Hand that can’t be seen appears to be guiding City planners and government

officials. So, what is my point? **God is delivering what He has promised.**

Jewish scholars have been sensing the footsteps of Messiah for a few years now. We live in a milestone generation in which we have witnessed: the miracle of a nation born in a day; a people regathered from attempted annihilation; and a City given back to its rightful owners. Jerusalem, the place of Millennial worship is putting things in order. The spiritual change which has happened already to innumerable Jewish people who came from the graveyards of the nations, (former atheists, unbelievers, agnostics as well as Communist sympathizers), those who arrived on the shores of this Land with little spiritual interest have become different. Many are now believers in the One True God, attend synagogue, read the Scriptures, and some, the New Testament. As weird as it may sound, these people have responded to an "inner voice". Who are we to question God's ways?

Recently Israeli Commissioner of Police, Roni Alsheikh, announced to his Jerusalem City Police Unit: "*When the Messiah comes, everyone will want to approach Him, so it will get very crowded...God Willing, we will need to start preparing now for the security operation necessary for the arrival of Messiah.*" PM Netanyahu also said, "*All Embassies should relocate to Jerusalem the eternal capital of the Jewish people, and eventually the "capital of the world!"*" An interest in the Jewish Scriptures among youth demonstrates increasing spiritual tendencies. One thing that always puzzled me, was how in the world is God going to change this nation with all of its worldly ambitions, pursuits and sensual ways? However, God says, "*I WILL cleanse you from all your filthiness*" (**Ezekiel 36:25**). Even more stunning is that He is going to do it in ONE DAY! "*...and I will remove the iniquity of that Land in one day.*" (**Zechariah 3:9**). Moshe Feiglin, (Zehut International) recently hosted an international webinar, where discussions were held about "bringing back the strength and character (*chazak*) ...the soul...to the Holy City to cultivate spiritual development and ethical growth."

In one day in 1967, there was an overwhelming desire among Israelis to embrace what they held in their hands, the Western Wall, a sign of the beginning of national redemption. In 1992, the Jewish people confirmed again their devotion to Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Covenant was presented to the Israeli government. Part of the Covenant reads: "*...All the inhabitants of the world shall enter within the gates of Jerusalem. 'And it shall come to pass at the end of days, the Mountain of the House of the Lord will be well established at the peak of the mountains and will tower above the hills, and all the nations shall stream toward it' ... out of Jerusalem, a message of peace went forth, and shall yet go forth AGAIN to all the inhabitants of the earth. From this place we again take this vow: 'If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand lose its strength, may my tongue cleave to my palate if I do not remember you...'"*

One day the Torah will be the "law of the Land", in fact, the law of the entire world. But, it will come from the lips of Messiah, who we believe is Jesus, the living Torah and everyone will hear from Him. It is He who continually said "*It is Written*" "*don't you know what Torah says?*" *Haven't you read?*" His only Bible was the Jewish Scriptures! *There was no New Testament at His Time on earth.* Yeshua confirmed and upheld the Law; He just questioned the motivations of man's hearts and challenged them to take a look at the inside instead of the outside of the cup! When the Church can grasp what Torah is, that will be when she begins to enter into her "fullness". The Law of Moses was never for everyone. Within it were laws that applied to different groups of people such as Levites, Priests and High Priests--others only for men. As Christians, we remember that the ultimate temple is located in the person of Yeshua and in the lives of His followers. The word in Hebrew for nations is *amim*, which includes much more than the word for people (*am*); it means all people in all nations (*amim*) "all nations" will obey the Coming Messiah. How will God ever bring nations together when they are so hopelessly divided? We know it will be by His ultimate authority and the "rod of iron" by which He will rule.

Our prayers must be for those, in Christianity, who are listening to "ear-scratching sermons". Bible prophecy is proving God's Word is being fulfilled in Israel. Yes, it *is* a big concern knowing on which train much of the Church is travelling! We are living in a "time of darkness". However, with the glory of the nations diminishing, one nation is arising and shining! Israel. Heads of State will come to Jerusalem as the degree of brightness will be *extraordinary*. Pilgrims will swell the full chorus of visitors. Messiah will be the Center. He will join both Jew and Gentile at the hip and a Kingdom "on earth" will be born "in one day". (**Zechariah 2:11**).

Since the rebirth of Israel in 1948, prophecy has rapidly been fulfilled. Plans to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem are in place. Blueprints for its rebuilding have been drafted and approved. The Jewish Priesthood has been identified (through DNA testing) and other records. The selected Priests have not only been chosen, but are actively being trained for Temple service. Two obstacles stand in the way: the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa mosque. Some of you will say why get excited about a Jewish Temple? Anti-Christ will sit in it for a time. This is true, but we see the Jewish people have the Temple on their minds and hearts. Knowing this, we should be preparing *our own* hearts. I believe the Jewish people will be speechless when Messiah comes. It will be for them, like seeing Joseph, their brother, for the first time, since He left, but they will welcome Him with "Baruch Ha Ba". At the same time, I also believe that many redeemed from the nations, by the Blood of the Lamb, will be dumbfounded to see that *He is a Jew!*"

The mother of all battles has yet to be fought over the throne. Vying for Central Command of the World, (where Priests rule in the Name of the One True God) is a "competitor"--a counterfeit anti-Christ. Known as Lucifer, he knows the Torah and that "*it is written*" about the loss of the race he started--to gain all power, authority and control of the world.

One of the greatest miracles is that in 1869, Mark Twain, in his book, *Innocents Abroad* wrote what he saw on

a visit to the Land. He said, "Of all the lands that have dismal scenery...this was the prince. The hills are barren...unpicturesque...the valleys unsightly deserts... with a feeble vegetation that has an expression of being sorrowful and despondent." Fifty-nine years after Mark Twain's visit, a pilgrim from the Jinks family--a well known family of American pioneers--visited this Land. Mary Esther Jinks purchased a small olive wood Bible for a Maud Doris Hill, for Christmas 1928. Inside are original photos of how the Land looked at that time of Mark Twain's visit. The desolation was appalling. The little Bible was purchased along with other antique items and placed in a store I stumbled upon in Missouri, USA. That little Bible found its way back home: to Jerusalem and rests peacefully in our home.

Yes, as archeologists "shake off her dust", precious items of history, like a tiny bell from the hem of the garment of one of the High Priests come to the surface. This City, from which the Torah of God and the Gospel of Messiah went forth to the ends of the earth, has returned to the center of world attention. It has stirred the voices of merciless hatred coming out of mosques from Gaza to Paris. Ironically, we see a special nation developing and prospering as well as slowly turning toward God, while the world is trying to destroy what is happening and the "clash between kingdoms" continues.

The paradox is, that the more Israel's enemies try to destroy her God-given Destiny, the more she continues to rise. The pale and bent, feeble and frightened Jew of the Diaspora, has now become a brave warrior. The fallow and barren fields that lay in the dust of generations are now well-watered crops and lush gardens. Malarial swamps, long gone are now fertile fish farms. The once withered vines now bear luscious clusters of fruit. The fig tree blossoms and the desert blooms with joy and praise of God's blessing.


On June 7, 1967, Mordechai Gur proclaimed: "**The Temple Mount is in our Hands!**" as Jerusalem had, until 1967, been occupied by Jordan. In 1985-1986, my husband and I sat with

Jordanians in their Old City flat, around a meager table, eating together and speaking about our lives. It was the early days of CFI and we visited home after home. Jordanian, Armenian, Israeli Arab, Palestinian, institutions for blind Christian Arabs and Muslims. We met Egyptian friends, Lebanese, Jewish and Christian ex-pats. Merla Watson's well known song, "Awake O Israel" was prophetically timed. At the same time we were singing her songs, came the awakening of Christian hearts worldwide. Many heard the old prophet's shout "Wake Up, Wake Up". It was a mighty move of God and there was no stopping it. There are many Christian ministries for Israel in the world today for which we thank God; however, only a limited few were granted Israeli government legal approval to have their Headquarters in the Holy City. CFI is one of those few.

Along with new archeological discoveries in ancient Jerusalem, there are those concerned with the spiritual development of Israeli society. About six months ago, Israeli leaders put out a call to "*create a society that protects itself from things for which we pay a heavy price*". Hana Levi Julian, writer and reporter, disclosed the following: "This process of development in Israel, I believe, is God preparing His Chosen People to 'lead the way' for the nations of the world in the future - in not only technology, medicine and science, etc., but in morality which means we have to set principles into place concerning the distinction between right and wrong, good and bad behavior". The term "morality" includes ethics, morals, honesty, integrity, and justice, standards of behavior in principles of conduct, necessary to be a "light to the nations". Without a change of heart, of course, no nation can come or return to God; however, what other nation in the world do you know that is enacting legislation like this? Israel is in the lead.

When we arrived in 1985, no one wanted to speak about Jesus, because He represented persecution. Not long ago, the Israel Museum hosted an art exhibition entitled "Behold the Man" (displays by Jewish artists who had painted Jesus). The increasingly open attitude toward Yeshua is encouraging. One writer, Haim Be'er, said "*When we came home, He*

too was brought back"...*In Europe, it was difficult to engage with Jesus because of the pogroms and the Church's incitements, but once here, we decided to bring back the Prodigal Son. For us, He is taken down now from the cross and wrapped in a tallit.*" He also pointed out, "There is hardly any important Hebrew-language writer into whose worldview Jesus has not entered. "I recently met a Jewish Orthodox rabbi who is proposing to hold a rabbinical acquittal, a public retrial of Yeshua, in the presence of 10 of the important rabbis in Israel. He wants to see the rift healed so that Israel can "welcome Him back". As part of the raising of moral and ethical standards, the Knesset has been in the process of passing bills to outlaw gambling casinos and curtailing Internet pornography. Our task should not be to convert the Jews to another religion, but to provoke to a jealousy that reflects Christ. Remember, the Bible says, "*The abundance of the sea is converted to Israel*" (Isaiah 60:5). We, non-Jews, have been grafted into Israel, not Israel into us. (Romans 11:17). We have become a part of the Commonwealth of Israel, through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:12). We are never to separate from Israel, but to cling to her (Isaiah 56:3). We need to be her greatest witnesses by walking in holiness and righteousness which the Jewish people have seen little of from us. And so, when we look at Jerusalem, we must envision it as it will be, as we do from our Jerusalem balcony.

Be encouraged, things are *not* falling apart - they are falling *into* place. We need to: rise up, wake up and look up! We also need to keep building the bridge between the Jewish world and our own. Some of us crossed over the bridge years ago, but are calling for more of our brothers and sisters to join us. Won't you help bring the "*missing link*" into our faith again and be a part of the ushering in of the *fullness of the Church*? All is going to happen "by the Spirit". (Zechariah 4:6.) We just need to cooperate with God to bring the two Olive Trees together, that Zechariah saw, in order for the two "settled Identities" of the two surviving faiths, to be able to be as One. Just remember: **what God has promised He will deliver!** 



FULFILLING PROPHECY

“Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” Isaiah 43:19, NKJV.

Understanding Christian love and compassion

Spring – it is a time when everything comes back to life and life triumphs over death. It is a time of deliverance, when the God of Israel led His people out of Egypt, when Haman’s evil plot to eliminate all Jews was stopped. Spring is also the time when the State of Israel began its existence. **On May 14, 1948, we saw the prophetic word of the Lord come to pass. Now, however, some things come at a cost.** The birth of the Jewish Nation paid for its existence with much persecution of the Jewish people, especially during their centuries in exile, concentration camps and the gas chambers. In April, on Yom HaShoa – the Holocaust Memorial Day, we remembered all those who were brutally killed. Our hearts were filled with sadness and heaviness! Only a week after that came Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day) a celebration meant to be filled with joy and gladness.

The Association of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors that CFI has worked with and supported for many, many, years gathered together for their Spring meeting to celebrate life. The theme of the meeting was “Jewish Phenomenon” – how the desert becomes a flourishing forest. The seminar was a follow-up on over 1000 trees that were planted by the Holocaust Survivors in 2016 in the area of Kibbutz Ruhama in the Negev. These trees were planted in memory of the 1.5 million children who were murdered during the Holocaust. The organizers showed us how desolate the land of Israel looked just over 100 years ago compared to the beauty we all enjoy today. While we don’t despise the hard work and human effort to bring it to pass, we know – these actions are a fulfillment of many prophecies.

“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 (NKJV)

I had the privilege of addressing the audience, reading from the Bible and showing the fulfillment of prophecies in and through their lives. I would like to share with you a short version of my speech.

“It is a great joy to see you all here today. It is a joy to see you living in your own land, the Land your God gave you as an everlasting possession. You are living today to see what the prophet Isaiah said over 2500

years ago: “For the Lord shall comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:3, see also Isaiah 35:1-2; 41:18-20, NKJV). The Lord put the desire into the heart of the Chairman of the Association, as a prophetic act, to plant trees in the desert, as not only a memory of the fallen, but as a sign for a hope and the future for your Homeland. The Lord brought you back here to prosper you, and to never be uprooted again. As Christians, who are standing by you today, we only can say – we are here, and we love you, because your God loved you first, and He commanded us to do so. You are all concerned about the future, but we want to tell you – Israel will not be destroyed, not because of the strong army you have, but because of your God who is strong and mighty!”

The day was filled with the joy of coming together. Every day is like a miracle for our elderly friends and it is lived with much appreciation and happiness. It was a day to celebrate life!

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU
As the CFI Forsake Them Not Team,
we commit to continue to represent
your hands and feet on-the-ground in Israel.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with these Holocaust survivors. It is a privilege and honor to comfort and encourage them to live, and to bring love and support from you. We greatly appreciate your financial gifts and all your prayers for us, as a team here, and for the people of Israel. We continually let them know on your behalf – **they are not alone.**

Olga Kopilova
Project Forsake Them Not
ftn@cfijerusalem.org



Olga brings words of encouragement and love



God Given Borders

In the book of Numbers God told Moses to *“give this order to the people of Israel...for the eastern border mark your line from Hatzar-Enan to Sh’fam.....then the border goes down... and (again) down until it hits the slope east of Lake Kinneret. From there it goes down the Yarden River till it flows into the Dead Sea. These will be the borders of your land”* (Numbers 34:1, 10-12, CJB).

Project David's Shield continues to encourage warriors of the Israel Defense Forces, the Israeli Border Police and the Reserve Units who defend Israel's God-given borders. Recent visits to the southern border with Egypt allowed CFI to encourage the brave defenders of Israel and express our commitment to stand with them, to be able to speak about their mission to defend, and to be a Light to the Nations. As your representatives, it is a continuing and humbling privilege. Israeli Border Police representatives shared at the recent CFI Jerusalem Conference about the challenges they face and the means by which they must battle with the border enemies of Israel. **With your continued support, we are able to provide special equipment, as well as, items such as tactical gloves, knee pads and thermal wear for cold nights in the desert and mountain regions. Your support and help to David's Shield allows CFI to combat the evil of anti-Semitism.**

Hamas and other terror organizations operating in the Gaza strip, including Islamic State-affiliated groups, have fired 16 rockets into Israel this year, terrorizing the civilians of the Gaza border communities. Hamas has been building – not schools, hospitals, and homes – but their cross-border tunnel network. They've been taking advantage of the relative calm to keep expanding their underground terror infrastructure. The Judean/Samaritan border is prone to “lone wolf” attacks which are hard to predict and track. The threat has not left, but the methods to combat them are working. On the Lebanon northern border, Hezbollah and the Shiite terror groups control Lebanon's south and are preparing for attacks against Israel. Hezbollah's size and arsenal rivals that of a conventional army. Their 45,000 soldiers and over 100,000 missiles are embedded in civilian population centers, a violation of international law, Resolution 1701.

Lastly, from Israel's border with Egypt, ISIS' Sinai branch threatens Israel regularly through social media publications. They clash violently with Egyptian forces and in the past five years have fired rockets into southern Israel and targeted innocent Israeli civilians and IDF military forces. Units such as the Caracal Battalion are permanently stationed on the border and reserve units like Lotar Eilat are ready at a moment's notice to defend the local civilian population in Israel. ISIS and Hamas are in partnership in receiving training, aid, arms and medical care. If they only knew that God has decreed with a strong arm and clear order, that Israel's boundaries, are Biblical Boundaries, and no one can change this, no matter how hard they try. **Much prayer for the work of David's Shield among the IDF units and bases is continually needed. CFI's ongoing, and uninterrupted work to bless God's modern day army, defending the Land promised by Him, is priority.** CFI holds a long-term relationship with the IDF military commanders on many bases with one of the longest running Christian outreaches to Israel's armed forces, in Israel. **From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for partnering with us in this unique building of trusting relationships between Jew and Christian.**

Jim McKenzie

Project David's Shield
shield@cfjjerusalem.org



Border Police Commander speaking at CFI Conference



An Israeli Watchman



View from IDF Guard Post into Lebanon



Jim brings encouragement from the nations to IDF Officers



Stacey with very thankful parents

BEARING WITNESS OF HIS *Love*

“BELOVED, THOU DOEST FAITHFULLY WHATSOEVER THOU DOEST TO THE BRETHREN... WHICH HAVE BORN WITNESS OF THY CHARITY BEFORE THE CHURCH...”
3 JOHN 1:5-6

Sergey and Elaina had just immigrated to Israel a few years ago, and he was working at a very good job in the Jerusalem area. While the transition had been difficult, things were so much better than back in their country of Kazakhstan. Educated and speaking Russian, English and some Hebrew, Sergey quickly became very valuable at his job in the technology industry in Israel.

Having started a new family, they wanted to find a safe and happy learning place for their young daughter to learn and grow while they worked during the day. They found that wonderful place in a multi-cultural day school in the heart of Jerusalem at a reasonable cost for a young working family.

After finding her way and adjusting well to the other children in the day school, their daughter, young Anna, was well on her way to being a happy, busy and excited young toddler each day. Growing and learning were a regular part of everyday activity, and new friends were easy to find at every new turn of the school.

Suddenly and without warning, Sergey was told at the company he worked, that his services were no longer needed and his job would be lost. Not for anything wrong on his part, but the position he held was no longer needed. As months moved forward, no new job came available, and quickly Sergey and Elaina fell months behind in their payments for Anna's day school care.

An appeal came to our doors from the day school, knowing well that there were Christians in the land that truly cared about the struggles that so many young Israeli families face in their first years in Israel.

Understanding the situation and ready to meet the challenges faced by this young family, CFI's First Fruits Project was tremendously honored to be able to provide the school with payment for the months missed on Anna's billing and beyond



that provided for the months remaining this school year to insure her family had no new debt.

I cannot even begin to express the overwhelming gratitude this young couple gave us when they knew that Christians in the nations were there to stand alongside them in their time of desperate need. It is because of you in the nations that we have the privilege of helping our amazingly resilient brothers and sisters here in the land and without your generous and continued support, many other families would have their needs unmet.

Just recently, we were also able to provide the same assistance for young Daniel who attends the same school. He is the youngest in a family of eight children. Thank you for everything you do in showing your solidarity with the families of the nation of Israel.

Kevin Howard
Project First Fruits
fruits@cfjjerusalem.org

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”
1 John 3:17;
Deuteronomy 15:70





Home visits to traumatized rocket victims

*“He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might
He increaseth strength”
Isaiah 40:29*



Overlooking Gaza from distance

HE GIVES POWER TO THE FAINT

One day while visiting rocket victims in South Israel, I asked some of them what life is like living in a place under constant rocket attack, their responses saddened me deeply. These are a few responses:

“You feel a lot of stress and tension.”

“You worry a lot.”

“Your plans and daily activities are constantly being disrupted.”

“You feel a sense of hopelessness.”

“Despite all these, you have to keep going.”

“Why do they Stay?”

These victims know that most people feel that it’s not normal to want to continue to live near dangerous border areas, but they have no other choice. They stay because it is their part of Israel, their home. They cannot leave the town and go elsewhere. Israel’s enemies do not want a few cities, they want the entire nation.

Some of the victims told me, “I’m not leaving because if I leave my home now, these rockets are going to affect the next town.” It’s amazing how people there understand how the communities bordering Gaza have become a small-scale version of the entire Israel / Palestinian conflict. **Psalm 11:3** came to my mind while listening to what they said.

If The Foundations Are Destroyed

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (**Psalm 11:3, NAS**). Rocket attacks from Gaza began in 2001. Since then more than 18,959 rockets, missiles and mortars have been fired into the southern part of Israel.

*PTSD=Post Traumatic Stress Disorder



A community in South Israel bordering Gaza

Due to constant rocket attacks, many civilians in Southern Israel have been severely traumatized. As a result, they have spent huge amounts of money on treatments for *PTSD as well as other medical problems related to physical injuries that resulted from the ongoing rocket attacks. This has forced many of these victims to have to take out bank loans just to cover medical expenses.

For Such a Time as This

The Israeli civilians which the Project CUA team visits are continually overwhelmed by the love and support from Christians around the world. We can never express how thankful we are to God, and to you, for your support of this project. Thank you for co-laboring with the Communities Under Attack team.

The enemies of God still seek to annihilate the Jewish people and thwart God’s salvation plan for the whole human race. When Israel celebrates, they are reminded that Esther was willing to stand in the gap for her people through fasting and intercession. Through her obedience the evil plan to annihilate all of the Jewish people was overturned (Esther 9:1b). **Like Queen Esther we have come to Israel for such a time as this (Esther 4:14b) to stand in the gap for the traumatized rocket victims. Thank you, again for your continued financial support to help the rocket victims and the communities located on the front lines. The Lord bless you and your loved ones abundantly for your support and sacrifice.**

Maggie Huang

Project Communities Under Attack
cua@cfjjerusalem.org



ABANDONED *but not forgotten*



CFI remains a place of healing and comfort

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV*



Sheba and her sons continue on with your help

Throughout Israel, finding those in need is never a difficult challenge. In a nation filled with new immigrants however, it is the Jewish Ethiopian population that continues to struggle the most in adjusting to their new life here in God’s Promised Land. With a new language to learn, and additional education usually required, the strongest and most stable of families can struggle for years economically and emotionally.

While CFI has been assisting the Jewish Ethiopian community for decades, the heartbreaking circumstance of a mother of 2 young boys losing her husband is still very difficult to hear. In this very traditional culture, the husband is usually the main source of income for the family, while mom stays home to care for the children, maintains a safe a happy home, and occasionally finds work for extra income.

Early this spring, CFI was so grateful to meet Sheba, a very kind and gentle mother with a very tragic set of circumstances. Although her husband and she had made aliyah together, he suddenly abandoned her and their two children to go back to Ethiopia and found another life with someone else. She has not heard from him since, and now she is on her own to raise and care for 2 school age boys and all that entails. Being a traditional wife and mother, her skills with which to enter the workforce were very few, and as we all understand, the expenses of life continued to march forward as the months progressed.

With your tremendous support from the nations, we were privileged to tell Sheba that Christians from around the world were willing to stand with her in her time of need. Informing her that multitudes would be praying for her family was such an amazing comfort to her in such a dark hour of her life.

The encouragement and joy of knowing she was no longer alone in her struggles brought a momentary smile to her face, as we hugged her. We let her know that the God of Israel would never abandon her, and she had purpose for her life, in the land of her ancestors.

Along with Christian love and compassion, CFI was able to lift a large part of her financial burden, by providing for her rent for several months, as she put her life back on track. The financial gift was given along with much needed food vouchers to relieve the expense of months of food for her family.

Please know that it is your giving to the Lord for these precious people that we are able to represent you here in the Land of Israel, and we could never say “thank you” enough for your support of this much needed and important ministry to the people of Israel. May God bless each one of you tremendously as you continue to partner with us in providing true Christian love and support to the amazing Jewish Ethiopian community.

Tsehai Legesse-Marabi
Project Hope for the Future
hope@cfjjerusalem.org





Meeting Others, Where They Are

*"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way..."
(Isaiah 35:3, NIV; Hebrews 12:12).*

An old story goes like this: "Rain, sleet or snow, Bill was always barefoot. While attending college he had become a Christian. There was a well-dressed, middleclass church across the street from the campus that wanted to develop a ministry to the students. One day Bill decided to worship there. He walked into this church, wearing his blue jeans, tee shirt and of course, no shoes. No one said anything. Bill began walking down the aisle looking for a seat. The church was quite crowded, so as he got down to the front pew and realized that there were no seats, he just squatted on the carpet. Suddenly an elderly man began walking down the aisle toward the boy. The church became utterly silent. When the man reached Bill, with some difficulty he lowered himself and sat down next to Bill on the carpet. He and Bill worshipped together on the floor that Sunday." (*Word for Today* devotional). **As this man loved his brother as he was, so must we.** We must not point the finger, and if we do, we need to stand corrected. In Israel, among the Jewish people, we go where they are, we find them and "together" we find one another. That is what CFI ministry is all about. **So many Jewish people are just waiting to be visited --especially those living from day-to-day, who are just barely existing because of a lack of resources in their lives. You have the opportunity to help us in our unique work of ministering to individual needs, not just corporate check giving or institutional assistance. Thank you for your prayers for Streams of Blessing and for your faithful love gifts, which are such a blessing to so many.**

Despite Disadvantages

Miguel Bernoff, was cooking on one small electric burner with an old aluminum pot when CFI staff members, Rocio and Aaron visited him for the first time after he had visited CFI's Distribution Center as a new immigrant from South America. He has had two heart attacks since his arrival in Israel and spent time in a Rehabilitation Center in Ashdod, which was dismal and in poor condition with other inhabitants that were dangerous

to be around. Not knowing what to do and to whom to turn, Miguel picked up the telephone and called CFI. Would we please come to visit him again? He really was needing clothes as almost everything was stolen when he had been staying in rehabilitation. Thank God now he is in a better place, although most of the people living around him are poor. Four people often share a kitchen and a patio area. Because of your help, we purchased a new stove, mattress, and cooking utensils for him, gave him food vouchers and lots of understanding and compassion. Not long ago, he was on 22 different medications, but our visit to him was the best medicine he had received. Thank you for providing for those in need like Mr. Bernoff. Despite his disadvantages, his sweet spirit won our hearts! Loving the needy "as they are" God is able to strengthen the feeble hands and knees of many through our work.

Physically Weak from Age but Strong in Spirit

Feeble hands reach out in grateful thanks to say blessings upon those of you who make help possible for many who are aging and showing signs of loneliness. Barely able to get through the extremely hot summer days in the Middle Eastern heat, it was CFI's blessing to sponsor a Christian Arab, "silver-haired excursion" to a hot springs in Tiberias in the Galilee. Able to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, these very special men and women of faith, from Bethlehem, were treated with honor and respect as they gathered together with one another, for prayer and fellowship in the Galilee. Thank you to everyone who supports this ongoing work for those who are sometimes forgotten and isolated from daily social activities. It is such a blessing to represent Jesus to these people in a wonderful way and to call them our brothers and sisters in the Lord. God bless every giver.

Sharon Sanders

*Project Streams of Blessing
streams@cfjjerusalem.org*



Hot springs relief for the soul

**"...let us not
love in word,
neither in tongue:
but in deed
and in truth"
(1 John 3:18).**



Unconditional love reaches deep



Warm hearts helping feeble hands



Become a CFI Church for Israel Today!



Congregations around the world consider their members as family in the local body. Families from surrounding communities gather each week to hear messages about our Lord, and to spend time in fellowship one with another. Local pastors are responsible for weddings, baptisms, dedications and too often, funeral services. Yet through the years, members of the church find a connection to each other with shared experiences with lifelong members of the church, with visitors finding their way, and with the newest of children born to local families.

At CFI, we would like to extend an invitation to you to join OUR family here in Israel. To connect and find out regularly what God is doing here in the Promised Land. This is the land given to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--the land where our Messiah, Jesus was born, lived, died, resurrected, and *will return very soon.*

By becoming a CFI Church for Israel, you, and your congregation will be connected to the roots of your faith, and the people of Israel. With your regular support through prayer, advocacy, and financial help, we will keep you updated each month with fresh reports from Jerusalem concerning CFI Outreach projects, the latest events, and updates on how your church body can be effective where Israel is concerned.

Welcome to our family,
Stacey Howard

Find out more today by emailing:
churches@cfjjerusalem.org

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem with purpose

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
*“May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’
For the sake of the house of the LORD
our God, I will seek your prosperity...
Psalm 122:6-9*

Prayer changes things!

We know that we serve a God Who hears our voice when we call. When there is no one else to turn to, He is always there for us in our hour of greatest need. At CFI we have been asking you in the nations to “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” as commanded in Psalm 122 for decades, and there are multitudes of you in the nations that do that very thing.

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem, however, is not just for Israel and her people. Verse 8 reveals that there is an additional purpose for praying. “For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

When you pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem, you do so for those you love as well. God brings blessing to those who bless the nation of Israel. The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Genesis 12 understanding of “I will bless those who bless you” also applies to praying for the nation of Israel and her people.

I invite you to daily pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all of Israel if you are not already. And if you are, I encourage you to find others who will pray with you, and join the multitudes around the globe who pray for God’s chosen people – the Jewish nation.

To get regular “fuel” for prayer concerning Israel, and relating to what is happening on the ground here, join our Wall of Prayer online newsletter network today.

Find out more today by emailing:
prayer@cfjjerusalem.org

How Good and Pleasant it could be...

How interesting it must have been to be one of the brothers in the family of Jacob in the Bible. Two wives and two handmaidens comprised the combination of four mothers in the household of the twelve sons of Jacob listed in scripture, with of course their only sister, Dinah. The line of blessing came through the 12 tribes of Israel that began with Abraham in Genesis 12, and then moved forward through Isaac, and Jacob, whose name became Israel. At King David's point in time the tribes of Israel were indeed large families with many opportunities to find discord and division. However, in Psalm 133, the psalmist seems to fully understand the absolute importance of unity when he writes: *"Oh, how good, how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in harmony"* (CJB). What a powerful and world changing dynamic it is when all of the members are in unity and focused on the true goal of coming together for the plans and purposes of Almighty God.

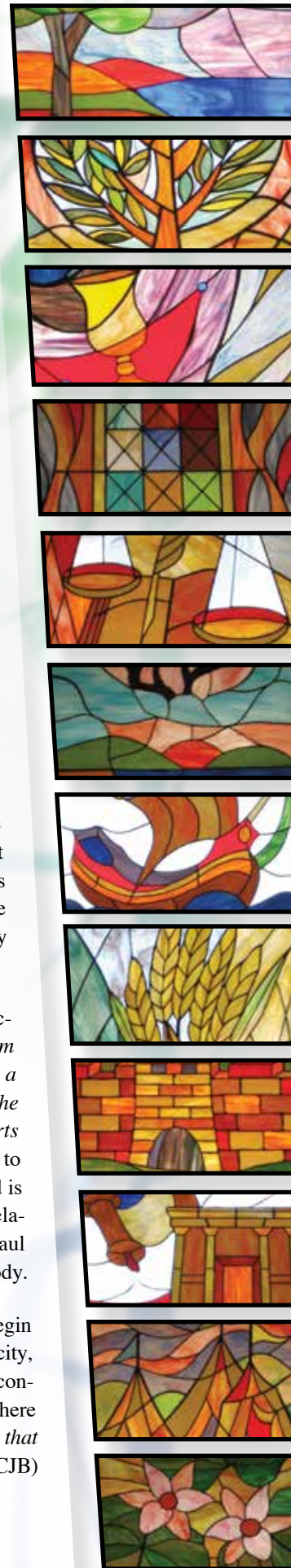
In looking at Jacob's family dynamics, it would be easy to surmise that there were many disagreements, arguments, and opportunities for division in such a diverse set of variables in his family. We, of course, read about the ultimate conflict among the brothers in the selling of Joseph to become a slave in Egypt. Yet, God turns the tragic brokenness of family relationship into a beautiful opportunity of reconciliation years later. It is also in that understanding of families divided, that we see the walls of division rise in the early assembly of believers in the book of Acts, as walls built up between Jews and Gentiles. The centuries to follow were absolutely devastating to that brotherhood relationship, as we see in history past and still continuing around us today. For decades, Christian Friends of Israel has been working hard to break down those walls of division. They have helped heal the deep wounds of the past, and helped reconcile the family relationship between Jews and Gentiles. The Lord has graciously placed His blessing upon those efforts.

As we forge ahead together with your help in the reconciliation of the relationship with our Jewish brothers and sisters, let us also be mindful of the need to continue to work on the relationship within our own Christian family. Is it any wonder that when our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world look at the Christian Church of today they see nothing more than thousands of splintered off divisions in the body of Christianity? Members and heads of congregations that won't spend time with "that denomination" around the corner, or wouldn't dare speak to the ones from "that Church". Perhaps the time of reconciliation includes truly taking a strong look within our own family, as we are repairing the damage of the past. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul gives us his understanding of unity within ourselves when he states that we are one body with many members. In the world today, it has become vitally important that we bear in mind that damage to one part of the body, does damage to the whole. We must remain vigilant to break down the walls of division between those within Christianity, if we are to truly be able to show our Jewish family we are capable of reconciliation with them. We need to show them that we are a community of faith that sincerely values unity.

Most interesting to me is Paul's explanation of the purposes of God in the design of the body and the connections within it. In verses 22 – 26 of 1 Corinthians he writes: *"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be less important turn out to be all the more necessary;... Indeed, God has put the body together in such a way that he gives greater dignity to the parts that lack it, so that there will be no disagreements within the body, but rather all the parts will be equally concerned for all the others. Thus if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; and if one part is honored, all the parts share its happiness"*(CJB). As we strive to reach out to the church worldwide and show them the truth of God's purposes for Israel, the eternal covenant that God is fulfilling with His people, and the origins of our faith as connected to our Jewish Messiah, we must be in relationships of unity within our own faith for them to even be willing to listen to the truth we present. For Paul states that God gives greater dignity to the parts that lack it, so there will be no disagreements within the body.

I challenge you to lay all of your relationships before the throne of God today, and ask Him where you can begin the demolition of past walls, and the bridging of the divides in your life's relationships. Perhaps it's in your city, your neighborhood, your church, or even your own family. As we reconcile one to another, we must always connect those repairs of life to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and His chosen people – Israel. And when there is unity among us all, it will be as the Psalmist says in verse 3 of Psalm 133 – *"It is like the dew of Hermon that settles on the mountains of Tziyon. For it was there that ADONAI ordained the blessing of everlasting life."* (CJB)

Kevin Howard





The Long Journey HOME



Young Adult Olim just made Aliyah



Open Gates Coordinator Rocio with Olim Siblings

Leaving Anti-Semitism Behind:

"For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause." (Isaiah 34:8, NIV)

Alexander, Galina, and their mother, arrived in Israel in March. Originally from Uzbekistan, their passports categorize them as "Yehudim" (Jewish, in Hebrew). The Uzbekistani regime had caused them many issues, such as making it difficult to find a job, go to college, and other discriminations.

It is also an Islamic country and very anti-Semitic. Galina had to work harder to obtain her college degree, as discrimination in the system did not make it easy for her.

Family Struggles: The family had some struggles during their Aliyah process in order to be free from the system. The Uzbekistani President, Mr. Karimov, died in September 2016. Some embassies were closed and officials were pulled out from the country. Alexander, Galina and their mother needed one last signature on their paperwork, but with the tense situation that the country was in, they had to wait several months until things were sorted out so they all could finally be a part of the Great Return to their homeland.

Stolen Luggage: The suitcase, with their personal belongings, was stolen at the Uzbek airport. By the time they arrived at the CFI Distribution Center, **the only clothes they had were those that they were wearing.** We are very grateful that, because of your generous donations, CFI provided this precious family with a Welcome Gift Bag containing new household items very much needed. We also always enclose God's Word, the Jewish Scriptures for their spiritual comfort. They also enjoyed their shopping spree in our Clothing Shop within the CFI Distribution Center. *Their hearts and their bags were full of gratitude and joy as they departed. Reconciliation continues between Christians and Jews at our Center.*

Amazed at Powerful Christian Love

"...and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2, NIV).

It Was a Miracle We Didn't Die: One of our home visits took us to a lovely couple, Lev and Fania, long time friends of CFI. Both in their 80s, married for 62 years, Lev is a survivor of the WWII Holocaust. He was nine years old when he and his parents and brother, were taken to a concentration camp in the Ukraine. His father and brother were killed but he and his mother survived. He told us that it was a real miracle they didn't die, because he watched as all around him were people, who were starving to death. He managed to escape a few times and went to the closest neighborhood to beg for a little bread and milk.

Not Many Helped Me: Not many offered to meet his needs; however, whatever he received he would take back to his mother. After the war ended he learned to be a hairdresser and was able to take care of his mother and buy food. Lev persevered and later, in life, Lev had the opportunity to study and go to college to become a geologist.

During the war Fania and her family managed to leave the Ukraine and find refuge in Uzbekistan where they stayed for three years. They then returned to Ukraine where she started college. That is where she met Lev. Many years later it was their children's aliyah that encouraged them to also come to Israel.

Lev and Fania were very grateful for the gifts they received during our visit. We blessed Fania with a lovely piece of jewelery, as well as fine clothing for both. Before departure, and a lovely time of fellowship, they showed us pictures of all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **Also, before we left, Lev said that he is in awe at the powerful love Christians have for the Jewish people that they would leave behind their home countries and family to help support them.** It is through visits like these that we are able to assure the Jewish people they are not alone. Not everyone takes the time that CFI spends on personal visits to the homes of the

Jewish people. *We, indeed, are your hands and feet in the Land today!*

Roza Speaks to Christians

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3, NIV).

Roza, a sweet 84-year-old lady lost her parents during World War II while she was still young. She and her family arrived in Israel in 1990. Not long after their arrival, Roza's granddaughter suffered a terrorist attack. Many lost their lives during the attack and her granddaughter sustained injuries that she will live with for the rest of her life. Roza was very happy that we visited her in her home and were able to bring a great selection of nice gifts for her. She wanted to pose for a photo with us. Roza and her family first visited the CFI Distribution Center in the early 90s and were well received by our staff of volunteers. She has such good memories from that special time in her life. **She asked us to please express her immense gratitude to Christian Friends of Israel and all the donors that support Israel.** She also asked us, please, not to forget what happened during the War. **Through all life's ups and downs, Roza continues to set her hope and trust in God.** We are glad we've been a part of her life.



Bringing love to homes



The bond of loving kindness

"Our Relatives Told Us About CFI"

"Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13).

"We really didn't grasp the idea of making Aliyah until we came to Israel to visit relatives and celebrated Pesach with them; then we knew it was time for our own Exodus! We came to CFI because our relatives had been before and they were telling us how kind and friendly you were with them at a time when they were unsure what the future would bring for them as they were just new in the Land." By word of mouth the LORD continues to spread the Word about how our newcomers can receive help at CFI.

Rocio Fordham
Project Open Gates
gates@cfijerusalem.org



A Nation of Matchmakers

“Abraham said to him... The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me...saying... you shall take a wife for my son from there” Genesis 24:6-7.

Taking a Wife

Many of us are familiar with the classic song, “Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make me a match” from the famous “Fiddler on the Roof” movie. The Jewish community today has come a long way since the movie, but the “Shidduch” (a system of matchmaking in which Jewish singles are introduced to one another in Orthodox Jewish communities for the purpose of marriage) is still very much alive in Jewish culture and tradition. The word “Shadchan” often refers to people who carry out matchmaking as a profession within the religious Jewish community, however, it can also be anyone who introduces two single Jews to one another, with the hope that they will become a couple. Centuries of experience and tradition have proven that a good match is most likely to be formed between people with similar outlooks, attitudes, beliefs and backgrounds. **We believe that God orders a good marriage and are thrilled to see so many happy couples coming into our remodeled Bridal Salon.**

The role of a matchmaker has definitely changed, however, ordinary people hold the belief that **matchmaking is a spiritual thing (from God)**, with spiritual rewards in this world and in the next. That is why Jewish people from all generations are always looking for opportunities to play the matchmaker with friends and relatives.

Over the last few months, a group of observant Jewish girlfriends came to visit us on several occasions. Each one came on different days for their appointments, but I soon discovered they were all related because they all played the matchmaker with each other. With highly successful results no less, they are all engaged and a couple of them will be getting married during the same week this summer. As a result of all these engagements, Hanna, Talia, Ronit and Linda--all friends--told each other about the CFI Bridal Salon. One by one, each of the brides to be had the opportunity to come and try on some beautiful wedding gowns. ***All of the weddings gowns have been donated with love from within the international Christian community. Thank you to those of you who have so graciously given***

items toward this ongoing project. We welcome your support and beautiful gowns (no older than two years).

One Couple At a Time

Another one of our stories is about Vincent and Linda, who had some friends in common and thought they’d try to play matchmakers. As a matter of fact, their friends were right and Vincent and Linda are now engaged. They came together for her second appointment at CFI and Vincent was thrilled to find out we had presents for the groom as well. Being a new immigrant, we were able to assist him through the CFI Distribution Center. **Along with his Groom’s Gift Bag, of new items from Project Open Gates, Vince was also able to go shopping in our Bridal Salon. He was given the opportunity to select beautiful wedding bands for both Linda and himself from a collection of rings which Christians from around the world have so graciously and lovingly donated. What a blessing this was for this young couple! Please accept this heartfelt “thank you” for your generosity and support of the CFI Bridal Salon. We are making a difference, one couple at a time!**

Patricia Cuervo
Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfijerusalem.org

Smiles appear, and relationships deepen as our CFI Bridal Coordinator assists with Planning Details



The Groom Went Shopping Also!



A Good Measure

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE:

Gifts may be sent by personal check payable to Christian Friends of Israel.

CFI
PO Box 1813
Jerusalem
9101701
ISRAEL.

For online donations visit:
www.cfjjerusalem.org
and click on "Contribute."



During the autumn months here in Israel, the preparations are made for the start of a new year on the Jewish calendar, Rosh Hashanah. Then there is the Lord's festival of Succoth – known as the feast of Tabernacles. A time of remembering the travels in the desert wilderness, as multitudes around the nation, and the world, have their meals in outdoor booths. Autumn is indeed a time of remembrance, of reflection, and of atonement, but it is also the time of harvesting the season's bounty throughout the land. A time of coming together as community and family to share in the abundance of the Lord's provision.

Give, and you will receive gifts — the full measure, compacted, shaken together and overflowing, will be put right in your lap. For the measure with which you measure out will be used to measure back to you!" Luke 6:38 (CJB)

At this amazing time as you celebrate and remember those in Israel, will you take the time to share in the abundance that the Lord has given you? While the time of harvest is indeed a bountiful time for many, the needs that we continue to meet here in the land still continue. As you have read throughout this publication, there remain so many whose lives need to be blessed here in Israel, from your gracious and abundant giving in the nations.

Please join us this season, in helping provide for the holidays ahead more than ever with your strong support in prayer and financial gifts that help us bless so many here in Israel. May God abundantly bless your measure of giving as you remain in covenant with His people here in the land of Israel.

Enjoy some *Fresh AIR*

Authentic Israeli Recipes

Originally adopted by kibbutzim, Israeli salad is served throughout Israel for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. The salad is meant to be colorful with a have a fine, uniform look.



ISRAELI SALAD

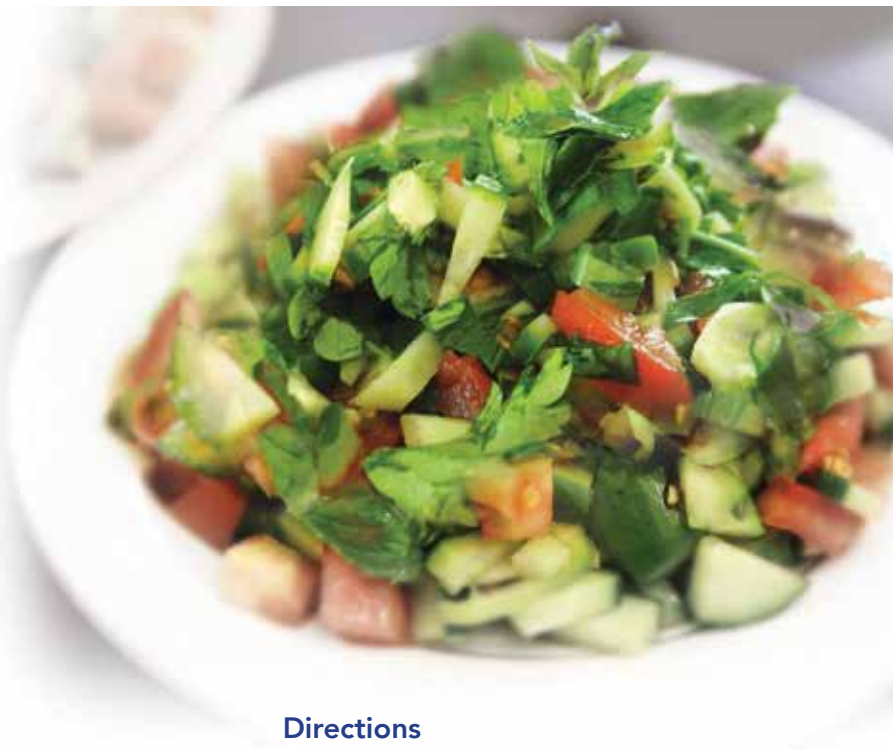
SERVES 2-4

Ingredients

- 3 Tomatoes - 1 lb. (Remove seeds)
- 3 Persian Cucumbers - 1lb. (Persian cucumbers are smaller than normal American cucumbers.)
- 1/2 cup Red Bell Pepper
- 1/4 cup Red Onion
- 2 tbsp. chopped Cilantro (or Parsley)
- 2 tbsp. of fresh Lemon Juice
- 2 tbsp. Olive Oil
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions

Toss cucumbers, tomatoes, onion, garlic, and cilantro together in a bowl. Sprinkle olive oil and lemon juice over the chopped salad and toss to coat; add with salt and pepper. This salad is traditionally served slightly chilled or at room temperature





CFI UK

CFI – Jerusalem is honored for the opportunity to be a part of the Annual CFI-UK Conference at Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne. Bible teacher Revd Willem Glashouwer, the president of Christians for Israel International, as well as the Executive director of Christians for Israel International will be speaking for the conference. Stacey and Kevin Howard will be speaking on the ongoing and expanding ministry work of Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem for the nation of Israel.

Special thanks to Jacob Vince – Chief Executive of CFI – UK for this great honor and opportunity to be a part of this tremendous annual event.

In conjunction with the Annual Conference that will be taking place September 22 and 23, Stacey and Kevin will be on a speaking tour throughout the UK from September 15-27 with special host David Soakell, CFI-UK Liaison Officer.

We would like to thank all of the wonderful host families that will be assisting and participating in this special tour entitled "Salt and Light in a Dark World".

Jacob Vince

CFI - UK

Contact: info@cfi.org.uk

09.22
23.17



CFI France

09.09.17

France Representatives André and Hélène Van Nieuwenhuysse are hosting a French speaking conference in Grenoble France on September 9th to inform and enlighten those in France of the true realities of Israel today. CFI – Jerusalem is truly honored for the invitation to have Stacey and Kevin speak on "Defending the Truth" about Israel as it applies to scripture and daily life in Israel. Thank you CFI – France!

Andre & Helene Van Nieuwenhuysse

CFI - France

Contact: contact.caifrance@gmail.com



CFI Switzerland

09.10.17

Switzerland Representatives Walter and Erika Mathys are hosting a very special one day conference in Switzerland on September 10th where French speaking Swiss connecting with Christian Friends of Israel will also hear from Stacey and Kevin about the realities of Israel first hand. Thank you CFI – Switzerland!

Walter & Erika Mathys

CFI - Switzerland

Contact: caisuisse@bluemail.ch



merci

Thank you to all of our French-speaking friends in Europe and around the world for everything you do in lifting the nation of Israel and the Jewish people in your prayers and continued support, while taking a bold stand for the God of Israel in your nations.



CFI America



12 Great Years of Commitment and Compassion

CFI – America is in Transition as Merlin & Margaret Hampton finish 12 years of service, commitment and compassion with Christian Friends of Israel. Along with CFI – America Treasurer and former CFI – Jerusalem volunteer Cary Jarrett.

An Excerpt from Margaret’s recent letter to those in America

“After much prayer and consideration due to family illness, we are unable to commit the time to CFI that we have had the honor of doing in the past. It was a difficult decision, but nonetheless, necessary. We will treasure in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives the twelve wonderful years that the Lord has allowed us to serve alongside Christian Friends of Israel-Jerusalem and in some small way be a part of Blessing God’s Chosen People through Christian Friends of Israel- America. It has been our joy and privilege to get to know so many of you and join together in love for God’s Chosen People. When God Calls, He equips, enables and provides! God Almighty has provided qualified and dedicated folks to serve! We are so very thankful to HIM for that!”

Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem Headquarters would like to thank Merlin and Margaret Hampton from the bottom of our hearts, for their continual friendship, their unwavering commitment and their hearts of true compassion and love for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. As well we thank Cary Jarrett for his many years of service and commitment to CFI in our Jerusalem accounting office, as the previous coordinator of Communities Under Attack, as well as his tremendous integrity as Treasurer of the CFI – America Board.

We say “Kol hakavod”. Well done and thank you for bringing glory to the kingdom of God and helping enable the ministry efforts of Christian Friends of Israel!

With this announcement of transition, please help us welcome Kay Schimpf as she assumes her new role with CFI – America and may we all pray the Lord’s greatest blessings on this new era for CFI - America.

Kay Schimpf

CFI - America

Contact: cfiamerica@gmail.com



Merlin & Margaret Hampton



Cary Jarrett

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11(NIV)



Kay Schimpf

Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem is continuing to expand the reach of this vital connection of Israel to the Nations with new and excited nations around the world.

Just this year, the nations of Spain, Brazil, Cuba, and Honduras have joined this powerful connection of spiritual renewal and understanding.

If the Lord has your nation’s commitment to Israel and the Jewish people on your heart, and you want to make a global difference as a CFI – International Representative in your country, email Stacey and find your nation’s connection to Israel today.

internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org

Jaqueline Lamb
CFI - Spain



Pastor Abeni Bastos
CFI - Brazil



Victor Manuel Amat Consuegra
CFI - Cuba



Pastor Milton Mascareno
CFI - Honduras





The 50-Year Celebration of a Reunified Jerusalem was a Great Success!

Any 50-year celebration is an amazing milestone in its own right, but this year's Jubilee Celebration in Jerusalem was a tremendous blessing for all in attendance. Packed with amazing messages from outstanding speakers, we were overwhelmed by the positive response and continued excitement that each new session brought, along with praise and worship that lifted our hearts and our hands straight to heaven.



If you missed this amazing opportunity this year to be in Jerusalem for the Jubilee Celebration, you can still connect to this great event by ordering your copy of the session teaching today online at cfijerusalem.org. Click on our Store, and look for the Audio tab, then download your mp3 copy today.



Christian Friends of Israel
invites you to celebrate

Israel's 70th Birthday
April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem



You are invited to attend the 2018 Celebration of the 70th Birthday of the rebirth of Israel as a nation.

Christians from around the world will be coming to Jerusalem to celebrate Israel's 70th year as a nation. Don't miss your chance to see everything we do here at Christian Friends of Israel, next year in Jerusalem!

2018 Conference Scheduled Speakers



Rick Ridings • Jonathan Spyer • David Nekrutman

Sharon Sanders • Danny Ayalon • Chris Mitchell

Contact: events@cfijerusalem.org Tel: +972 2- 623-3778
Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 9101701 Israel
Speakers subject to change.

FocalPoint

As we approach the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah, we are quite excited about the new year ahead here in Israel --the Jewish year 5778. With our new studio location secure in Jerusalem, and layout and construction plans progressing, Stacey and Kevin are pressing forward with the relaunch of FocalPoint Television that so many of you have been asking about and looking forward to. As plans are completed, the year ahead in 2018 will include fresh new interviews from inside Israel as well as experts around the world concerning scripture relevance and prophecy.

Please join us in prayer and support for this vital portion of ministry that combats the enormous anti-Israel, anti-Zionist, and anti-Semitic propaganda that has spread around the globe in so many media outlets today. Find out how you can participate in making a real difference for the world that your children and grandchildren are living in today. While past history can't be changed, we CAN change things today for a better future.

Find out more by emailing today:
feedback@cfijerusalem.org



FRONTPAGE Jerusalem

the voice of Israel to the world



brought to you by Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

Finding information on Israel and the Middle East is as simple as tuning in to any news outlet that handles world news. Most of the time however, you find slants and spins that paint Israel in the most negative of ways.

As Christians, we all need the resources to know the truth about what is happening in Israel, especially as it relates to scripture and prophecy. That's why Frontpage Jerusalem was developed just for you.

Bringing intriguing, informative, and scripture based interviews to millions across the world, Frontpage Jerusalem continues to be the Voice of Israel to the World. Each 30-minute program highlights a specific issue involving Israel and the Middle East. Experts in their field explain topics of significance that you need to know to find the real truth about what's happening on the ground here.

When you need to hear a true voice from Israel, you need to hear the latest on Frontpage Jerusalem.

**For more information on finding stations in your area,
email: feedback@cfijerusalem.org.
To listen online go to frontpagejerusalem.com**



Earl Cox



Kevin Howard



Ben Kinchlow





Christian Friends of Israel's 2018 Hebrew calendar now available at:
www.cfjjerusalem.org

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.



Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, Tumblr and more...



E-Newsletters: We currently provide the Wall of Prayer Newsletter electronically, along with our Watchman's Prayer Letter, Israel News Digest, and OnWatch. Sign-up at:

listadm@cfjjerusalem.org.

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

feedback@cfjjerusalem.org.

A GENERAL OF THE FAITH PASSES



David Davis was not only the Founder of Carmel Congregation (Kehilat HaCarmel) on Mt. Carmel in Israel, but also the House of Victory Men's Rehabilitation Center in Haifa.

Former CFI Board Member

For Christian Friends of Israel, we remember him as a former Board Member of our Jerusalem office and a great friend who spoke at numerous CFI Conferences over the years. His dramatic encounter with the Lord in New York City, where he was working as a professional actor on Broadway, off-Broadway and television, changed

his heart forever. His life story is chronicled in his book, *The Road to Carmel*. Many in Israel have said "see you later" (lehitraot, in Hebrew) to a dear friend who recently recalled before his death, "Didn't we have fun at all those CFI Conferences?" Our sympathies go to his precious wife, Karen, who herself, is a professional musician singing for the Lord. We thank God for David Davis' life, for being such a friend of this ministry, willing to give counsel, and to grace our lives with his unique life. He will be greatly missed, but we will meet again...

-CFI Jerusalem

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

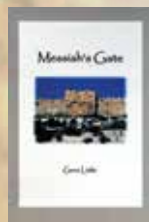
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ISIS, IRAN AND ISRAEL Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns Iran is developing nuclear weapons not just to annihilate Israel but to destroy the West. U.S. Senator Tom Cotton tells us the Iran deal will lay "nuclear trip wires" throughout the Middle East, while a German reporter writes ISIS is planning a "nuclear tsunami" to fulfill its apocalyptic version of Islam. *Chris Mitchell*



CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY A compilation of songs and poems originally set to music, which try to reflect something of the horror of The Holocaust and beyond. A royalty from the sale of this publication will aid survivors through CFI Jerusalem's "Forsake Them Not" Project. *David Soakell*



MESSIAH'S GATE Jerusalem's Eastern Gate stands as a vivid reminder of the Lord's return. A silent presence for centuries this gate faces the Mount of Olives and beckons all to gaze upon its sealed doorways. This is where the promised Messiah will enter. Will you be ready, when the Midnight cry comes? *Gene Little*

CFI Representative Nearest You