

# For Zion's Sake

Third Quarter 2018 Jewish Year 5778

STEPPING UP  
to the  
CHALLENGE

Israel at  
70

*"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:6 NIV*



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## Dear CFI Friends and Family,

It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through 2018. I still have to pinch myself as a reminder of the great gift the Lord bestowed upon my husband and me as we have been allowed to live alongside the Israeli people these past four years. How blessed all of us are that have been given such an opportunity!

Since 1989 – four years after establishing Christian Friends of Israel as an organization - the destruction of the Berlin Wall brought an influx of Russian/Jewish immigrants to the nation of Israel; and so, CFI Project Open Gates was born. Project Open Gates has welcomed through its doors approximately 300,000 Jews from all different walks of life. When these individuals enter our doors we are able to share with them from the Jewish Scriptures about God's plan and purpose for them, pray for their needs, and solidify our unconditional love for them. We provide gently used clothing in our Distribution Center. We have given out dried soup mixes, food vouchers and gift bags which contain new items such as Shabbat candle holders, challah covers, pots and pans, bath towels, bed sheets, electric kettles, and so on. Just as importantly, our project team coordinators go into the homes of Holocaust survivors with whom we have developed long-lasting friendships. Unfortunately, these survivors are now beginning to pass away at a rapid rate. We are also intimately involved

in the lives of struggling Ethiopian Jews, widows and widowers. We visit terror attack victims in hospitals providing them with the love, comfort and respect that they deserve as well as survivors in their homes, many of whom live in cities that are under constant threat of rocket attacks. Our team assures them that they are not alone. We assist believers, congregations, and pastors in the land who find themselves in financial hardship as well as show support for the Israeli military, which we believe is of equal importance, by providing those that serve with clothing items such as fleece jackets, knee pads, hats and gloves.

An example of a family CFI was able to help this past quarter is Ms. Levine, a young, single mother of two who was unable to find other assistance in the land. We were able to provide her and her children with 12000 NIS worth of assistance over the last few months. We helped with rent, utilities, childcare and food. As she feels a sense of relief it is our prayer that when she lays her head on her pillow at night she'll remember

how Christians from around the world were able to give her some much needed help, and that she and her family are not alone in a world where there is so much animosity toward her people. If she were writing this letter there is no doubt she would express her deepest appreciation to each of you for your love and support.

Friends, I value this opportunity each quarter to personally thank you for your continued love, prayers and support for this ministry. Since words cannot always express a person's thanks for such generosity, the Lord promises in His Word to thank you for blessing His people, by blessing you, in turn.

Finally, it is important for you to know that CFI has been a recognized Israeli Non-Profit organization for decades. Every year, Israel's Ministry of Amutot has awarded us with a Certificate of Good Standing. Without this earned certificate the Israeli government would not allow CFI - Jerusalem to continue operating in the land.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,"

*Hebrews 10:24 NIV*

I have presented you with challenges before and this quarter I would also like to challenge you to share about CFI-Jerusalem and what we are doing in Israel with someone within your nation. Whether you are a pastor, marketplace worker, or stay at home mom, only God knows how your one voice can make a difference--so allow Him to use you! It is when people begin to understand the connection between God, Israel and the Jewish people that the foundations of their faith are strengthened to new levels. Won't you take the challenge and try to influence someone within your sphere? Plant a seed of hope in someone's heart by sharing from your own personal testimony how God has made a difference in your life since you decided to stand with Israel. Thank you! 🇮🇱

God bless you and Shalom-Shalom,  
*Stacey Howard*

Executive / International Director  
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem

# STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

## Israel at Seventy: Becoming A Standard for the Nations

by Sharon Sanders

**The LORD said to me, “I have a greater task for you, my servant. Not only will you restore to greatness the people of Israel who have survived, but I will also make you a light to the nations--so that all the world may be saved”** (Isaiah 49:6, Good News Translation). **“...to be My salvation to the ends of the earth”** (Holman Christian Standard Bible). **“...so you can bring my deliverance to the remote regions of the earth”** (NET Bible). **“...that you may bring salvation to the farthest part of the earth”** (New Heart English Bible). **“...so that you would save people all over the world”** (GOD’S WORD translation).

By choosing Israel, God has entrusted one nation with an unparalleled, and enormous, responsibility--to be a brilliant and shining lamp to the nations. The defining moment will be when she clearly moves into being an example, spiritually, as a country. I believe it has begun. It’s sad, as Israel’s calling to be a **“light to the nations”** has all but been ignored and removed from Christian education, in our seminaries and preparatory schools.

After living in Israel over thirty years, I can tell everyone, the Jews are anything but blind, and unspiritual. I hate to shock anyone, but, it has been said here, “We wait for Messiah...and if it is Jesus, we will accept Him, but not the religion attached to Him, and we will know Him, without the help of anyone, but God.” The Bible says it was the Lord’s doing to blind “in part” (Mark 10:11-12) and for this reason, we Christians need to practice humility. If it was part of His Plan to hide the face of Jesus, then it will be His Plan to bring it to an end. As the God of *all flesh*, God has “saved many people”, through Jesus, in order for Jew and Gentile to become one in worshiping the One True God.

Out of Jerusalem, will be carried a “torch of truth” blazing to the four winds (Isaiah 2:3). The greatest breaking news ever to hit the press will be broadcast to the

world. Torah will be elevated in the light of what Messiah accomplished, and says. All flesh will be able to drink from the wells of Jacob, learning God’s Ways. When Jesus spoke about Himself, or was making a point, He referred exclusively to the Jewish Scriptures. “It is Written”... “haven’t you read?”... “don’t you know?” He was the living example of Torah. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our church leaders would begin to expound in sermons, imparting the Hebrew meaning of words?

It has been said

“...the possession of great power  
...implies great responsibility.”

The City of God is stepping up to her former beauty. She is dressing herself with new garments of glory, as new buildings are being constructed. She is revealing herself as she once was, coming out from under the rubble of centuries. There is an ancient song of joy being sung within her gates. As a Jewish bride in preparation for the greatest event of her life, she, and her people, are rejoicing in their resurrection, from the graveyards of history.

The Jewish people are stepping up and becoming a strong nation. It was “dry bones” in the valley of death, that were commanded to listen to the Words of the Lord. As the bones responded and stood, sinews grew, along with muscle. Never mind the age of the bones. God gave them all breath, and the power to receive life. A huge miracle took place! When the Jewish people returned to Eretz Israel, emerging from the death camps, they were predominantly an atheistic nation, who fought “religion.” People openly confessed that they didn’t believe in God. After all, who could believe in God when so many died in the Holocaust? If that was God, they didn’t want anything

to do with Him. I was privileged to serve and minister to the “dry bones,” not yet certain of their identity, in God. Many came with Communistic mindsets. One Russian-Jewish immigrant told me that it was not until he came to Israel that he realized he had been lied to through Soviet ideology. It was in the Land that he began to awaken, and his thinking became clearer. God’s people had returned, but were so spiritually dried up, their spirits were broken, and they were weak, it took time to clear the fog. That’s just the way it was.

But, strength (*chazak*) returned with them. Memories came back. The newcomers recalled how Mama lit Shabbat candles, baked matza at Pesach, how they were taught the *Shema*, and that **“God is One.”** It was the memories that sustained them. “6.5 million ‘Dry Bones’ of Ezekiel 36 now live here. A ‘dead’ land and people came back to life, and the resurrection process continues. Approximately 1000 new ‘Dry Bones’ come back to Israel every month...” (David Silver) The dry bones are here again and living!

Through prophetic-pioneer ministries (such as CFI), and the love of Christians, hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives have been changed. When immigrants come to CFI for clothing and assistance, they meet genuine Christians. When they receive the Scriptures, they can read about their ancestors, and the meaning of life arises in many hearts. From the time of return, Babylon begins to fade, and a new spirit emerges. New “Israelis” learn how Shabbat is celebrated, in Israel. Elderly men, who have never had a bar-mitzvah, can read for the first time, the Jewish Scriptures. When Pesach arrives, bread is taken out of the stores, and replaced with matza. When Shavuot comes, study times are posted. By the time the Feast of Booths rolls around, the sound of hammers and shofars, are in the air. Slowly, the ways of God are being taught. In Judea and Samaria neighbor-

hood community get-togethers study Torah. For the Temple Mount to become a **“Mountain of Holiness”** (Jeremiah 21:33) it will take a change of heart, to dislodge old ways but the Jewish nation is continuing in a “return to life,” a process of bringing back that which had disappeared.

Author, Morris Adler, wrote, “One day the center of influence will shift from a priestly class that inherited religious position and privilege, to teachers and expounders.” Numerous Christians in the Land are attending an Orthodox Bible study in the Israeli Knesset. Lois Tverberg’s book, *Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus*, proves how a Jewish perspective can transform Biblical understanding. Kenneth Bailey, author of *The Cross and the Prodigal*, says, “The Bible is an Eastern book. We see it through the colored glasses of Western culture. Much is lost. What lies between the lines is of deep significance.” When discovering the Bible from a Jewish perspective, it is as if a Bridal Canopy is being spread over nations.

For centuries, Christianity taught that the improperly termed, “Old” Testament represented “dry” too. The present interest is part of the **“restoration of all things”** (Acts 3:21). The whole Counsel of God will function as the basic authority in the life of the Kingdom age. It will command the respect of authority, and loyalty, from all nations. I believe that God will

continue to be remarkably involved in this nation’s spiritual growth. Why else would **“...ten men, from the nations, take hold (clutch) the skirt of a Jew (likely a prayer shawl) and say “We have heard that GOD is with you” (Zechariah 8:23).**

Christianity has “carried the torch” of the gospel of Jesus to the world ever since the Jewish Apostles passed away. Gentile Christendom then ran ahead of Judaism, and left its Hebraic nature in the dustbins of history. Now is a time of putting things in order, a time of *“chassidut.”* Israel’s sages teach that *“chassidut”* precedes the coming of Messiah. They say that preparations for a revelation must precede the revelation as many believe we are living in the time, prior to Messiah.

It may be difficult to believe, but as many churches struggle, many synagogues are overflowing. As Christians, we like to say we are the “Torchbearers,” and while this is true, we must come to grips with an embarrassing fact: our forefathers embraced a heretical lie, regarding God’s Chosen people. (Jeremiah 16:19). The serious offences committed, and the transgressions which resulted from centuries of abuse to the Jewish people by Christianity, requires reparation. Replacement teachings, and Christian anti-Semitism, have resulted in a distressing distrust of Christians, which should make us sick at heart. It is no small matter. Many who live and work in Israel, are involved in the repair-

ing being accomplished here today. *Zion is being restored.*

Yes, our light was blurred to the Chosen Ones. It was the priests of Roman Catholicism who lined up Jewish people during WWII and gave the command to firing squads, **“Fire in the Holy Name of Jesus!”** At the same time, Protestant and Catholic leaders told the Jews, **“Be baptized or die!”** How, in God’s Name, could they have done this? They did. As bodies of Jewish people were being torn apart, photos of Christ were hung at the end of torture tables. The last thing a suffering Jewish person saw, while being mutilated, was a portrait of Jesus. It was a satanic darkness that came from so-called “Christians.” Recently, in a Bible study in the Knesset, someone asked forgiveness for improper feelings toward the Jewish people. I watched the faces of Rabbis present, as they nodded their heads, in a forgiving moment. Arrogance has been a real problem in the Church. We must not be ashamed of the Gospel, but we should be ashamed of what our people did, in the Name of the Lord! Where are our tears?

Some Christian leaders find it unacceptable to learn from Jewish Bible Scholars. They say with pride, and with eyes seeing red, “how could *they (the Jews)* teach *us (Christians)* anything? They don’t have Jesus!” I can truthfully reply, that I have been taught about the Jewishness of Jesus, by Jewish scholars, far more than I



ever was taught from my Sunday School teachers. If Christians could experience the depth of understanding that many Jewish scholars have, they might join the Pastor who sadly told us, “I’ve been preaching for over 25 years and I can’t hold a candle to the Jews, compared to the knowledge they have of the Bible!” The Jewish people have been terribly misjudged, and presumed spiritually dead.

Israel is already standing in the gateway, of a new era. The “rise of excellence” in Israel surpasses 195 countries, a foretaste of the messianic kingdom to come, where Israel will lead the nations. An Israeli field medical clinic in the north attending to the wounds of enemies, has been described as the “best in the world”. All fits into preparation for future kingdom service in helping others.

Israel has also created a mini-world within her borders. If someone wants to experience an African Safari, you don’t need to go to Africa. If you want to snow ski, you don’t have to travel to Switzerland. If you want to see one of the Wonders of the World, visit Jerusalem. Israel is building her own amusement park, based upon family adventures reflecting Jewish and universal values. Splash Mountain will have a Biblical theme to show six work days and a “calm zone” after a drop...signifying the Day of rest. Jacob’s Ladder tells the story of the Jewish people.

Israel’s military, technically, is unmatched. A sign that God continues to empower His Nation. (Jeremiah 51:20). Israel’s defense training is based upon many military moves from the Bible. “David’s Sling” is an anti-missile shield. In 2012, “Pillar of Cloud” was chosen because the cloud stood to absorb the arrows of the Egyptians. It is interesting that “...all Gateways to the New Jerusalem are made of pearls. A pearl is caused by irritation within an oyster. It is the product of something going wrong within the shell.” (Derek Prince) The change of heart to Israel will not come by “might nor power,” nor by conversion from one religion to another. Messiah is the answer. He will bring Israel’s feet up to the step above to accept the challenge of her calling.

In 1985, there were few drugs here, but they began to trickle in, through Lebanon. Wine was sold, but little Vodka. With the arrival of immigrants from the graveyards of the world, many came wearing the grave clothes. “A terrible struggle between the God-Nature and the Man-Nature must ensue. All of us must master the flesh...” (Benjamin Rubin). If one wants to find out where they are in their spiritual growth, come to Israel to work. It is here that “everything you thought you had dealt with will come to the surface.” It’s where the dross rises.

From the dust and ashes of 2000 years, it has been said she has arisen as the only nation in the world resurrected from the dead. Her miraculous story continues to unfold. In this 70th year of Israel’s birthday, the number 70 has a sacred connection. There were seventy elders, *seventy* languages, nations, and seventy members of Jacob’s family were in Egypt. Scholars say that Mordechai knew all seventy languages, a precondition for sitting on the council of the Great Sanhedrin. (Bigthana and Teresh spoke in their native tongue, Tarsian, and assumed that Mordechai couldn’t understand a word.) Why else would they have discussed such an incriminating matter, near him? (See Esther 2:21-23)

Israel’s government recently gave the nod to hold on to a day of rest. Pharaoh asked Aaron and Moses, “*Why do you take the people from their work? You make them rest from their labors!*” (Genesis 5). The Knesset is working on a ban on cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes, gambling, Internet pornography, and human trafficking throughout the country. It seems they are embarked on a clean-up mode. A new Israel Bible Bloc has been formed in the Knesset, consisting of Jews and Christians, and founded by an Israeli. Christian medics are working with the Israeli army in being a good neighbor to Israel’s enemies. A new “Israel Bible” has been released which includes God’s prophetic word for Israel. Israelis are traveling to Africa and India, drilling for water, teaching agriculture, and disaster relief techniques as well as sending experts in agriculture, hydrology, regional planning, public health, engineering, community services, medicine and scores of other fields outside Israel. What other

country is so clearly in the forefront of “*nations helping nations*”?

A kingdom is on its way that could make King David blush. Sandra Teplinsky explains “a shift has begun...the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem appears to have facilitated a strengthening of the governance of God in this city...” It’s been said, Kings rule by decree and God’s decision certainly has the full force of His Voice behind it. Jerusalem will be the “*throne of the Lord*” (Jeremiah 3:17). When President Donald Trump declared Jerusalem the Capital of Israel, he was as like a man dropping a flag at the beginning of a big race. That move signaled a highly competitive contest, among Islamic nations, in the struggle to win the Crown Jewel: Jerusalem. Desperate forces are gathering strength to wage a final war to snuff out her destined light.

As Israel strengthens her moral commitment to God, God’s blessings will flow even more. May she turn her gaze toward the Eastern sky, and her prayers at the Western Wall be realized. As the sound of the Ancient Shofar, in the Galilee, has been revived, and the “spotted sheep” of Jacob, have found their way home, may Messiah’s Welcome come speedily. May the pause Israel encountered on the day of the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, be reactivated, and the cry, “Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” be heard around the world.

If Mrs. Ann Graham Lotz is correct, that her father, Billy Graham, died on the same day Jewish scribes recorded the death of Moses, a new morning has broken through, and dawned. May the sparkle of this light grow brighter, as Israel rises to step up to her challenge in this New Day. Martin Haueter, a Swiss brother, left behind a message, before he passed: “**...live in the anticipation and in the brilliance of the first rays of God’s New Day.**” It is to this vision, that we commit ourselves: the call for Israel to step up to her spiritual challenge. What better time to wish her the best, than on her 70th birthday, as she rises to be a standard to all nations! 🇮🇱



“Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring...He is the father of us all.” Romans 4:16 (NIV)

A life spent learning to obey God is like a journey. In Genesis 12 God told Abraham to leave his family and his familiar surroundings and move to a new land. Hebrews 11:8 says, “*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*” It was a test of faith and obedience for a 75-year-old man. Abraham did what he was told and it was accounted as righteousness by God. “**Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness**” (Genesis 15:6). By faith Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

### Love in Action

Recently Project UHW team and CFI volunteers had the privilege of joining the civilians in Kiryat Arba, a village near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, to run a Marathon. The marathon followed the ways of the Patriarchs, in memory of a terror victim named Avraham Asher Hasnof. We wanted to show our love and support to the people of Israel in their losses and sorrow caused by terror attacks.

Avraham was working in Otniel Yeshiva. One day on his way to see a doctor, he was ambushed and attacked by Palestinians. Unable to go forward, he got out of his vehicle to remove the rocks blocking the road, and he was murdered. They used a huge truck to attack him and reversed again to run over his entire body.

His passing is a great loss to his family as well as to those whose lives were touched by him. Every Shabbat Avraham would make preparations to teach more than 100 children Biblical lessons, and had been providing accommodations for soldiers who had no place to go.

### Race the Ways of the Patriarchs

It was very moving to run this race, while racing the ways of the patriarchs during the Marathon, the Biblical accounts of the



Love and Support in Action

patriarchs were also racing in my mind. The patriarchs of the Jewish people demonstrated an enduring faith, as their descendants have--to whom God promises to give the Land of Israel.

Avraham’s family was deeply touched by our love and support through actions. After the Marathon, they invited us to their home, and told us that we are always welcome in their home. It is because of you – the supporters of this project, the UHW team is able to continue doing what we do, to reach out to victims and families of the deceased victims of terror attack with the love of our Lord Yeshua. Your prayers and financial support to project UHW for victims of terror attack are deeply appreciated. Thank you. The Lord bless you from Zion.

**Maggie Huang**  
Project Under His Wings  
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CFI Team with the family of Avraham Hasnof



# Ethiopians Aging in Zion

**I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. Psalm 119:147**

The elderly Ethiopian population in Jerusalem contains sources for rich history, culture and tradition. However many Ethiopians over 75 experience being marginalized by great proportions. We can anticipate that by 2050, the elderly Ethiopian population will increase by 50%. Fathers once revered for their wisdom and knowledge in Ethiopia are relegated to live in seclusion for days with no social life. This population exists as the **“silent generation.”** Silent generation because the older generation of Ethiopians speak Amharic, unlike the Hebrew-speaking younger generation. They have not been able to apprehend Hebrew as quickly or in most cases not at all.

**“Let your face shine on your servants;”**  
**Psalm 31:16a.**

The Hope for the Future project has worked with many of the older clients especially those living in Bnei Brak. We had the opportunity to sit and spend time with a couple experiencing health difficulties this month. Mhft Avraham and his wife wore the typical weariness of age and trauma. Mhft was hospitalized for removal of half of his kidneys and cancer. His wife Meherat is recovering from a stroke. As they sorted through bags of bills and documents to provide information for me, their faces lit up as they came across pictures and documents from their past. They began sharing stories they were proud of and some amazing pictures. It was a different world in Gondor where Mhft was elected as the chairperson at the counsels in Ethiopia, then later arrested for secretly approving Ethiopian immigrants to cross the **Lesser Angereb** river to immigrate. This could only be done under cover of night. Mhft was arrested and tortured for two years. We asked why he did not just leave with everyone else and he mentioned he didn't want to

leave his blind mother. His wife could not travel either as she was very weak. What heroic stories he had to tell! Thankful for the reward Mhft received for the patience and longsuffering he endured, we found out that even so, he was beaten up but not beaten down. He also received an award as a “Honored prisoner of Zion in Israel.” Hope for the Future knows that this is a generation that **“will not be forgotten.”**

**“I am not forgotten by them as though I were dead”**  
**Psalm 31:12.**

Stories are held dormant inside the frail frames of many elderly in this community. While they are viewed as old and religious, inside are the real stories of the struggles, their endurance and their heart to return to Israel. Hope for the Future sees the need for people like this couple to have a voice and remember to enjoy social activities. We do this by giving them a chance to meet others in groups with which to form a sense of community and stimulate recreation. Hope for the Future encourages you to pray for this **silent generation** in Israel. With support and vision we hope to identify others with illnesses and depression and be able to reach out to create recreational activities and to give “hands up”, stirring hope and shining the light of our heavenly Father through our efforts. We seek to warm many etched faces and fill tender hearts.

**“But I trust in you Lord; I say, “You are my God”**  
**Psalm 31:14.**

**Marcia Brunson**  
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## Steadfast Love in Times of Trouble

So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

*Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)*

The joy and fulfillment that children bring to a family is beyond measure. Especially here in Israel, it is so tremendous to see the young Jewish families thrive with each new blessed child. Life in Israel, however, for those who have recently immigrated can be challenging for these new families, as they struggle with all of the changes involved in starting over in a new country. Even with all of the joy and excitement of finally being in their ancestral homeland, many are barely making it month to month and any small setback can be quite a hardship on the entire family.

Recently we had the honor of meeting an amazing family that had made Aliyah in 2015. Rachel and her husband were a typical hard-working Jewish family with two beautiful girls. In order to make ends meet, both parents were working on their new careers in Israel and doing well. Then Rachel learned she was expecting their third child. As the pregnancy advanced into the later stages, complications began to arise and Rachel was told that for the safety of herself and the unborn child, she would have to be placed on complete bed rest for the duration of her pregnancy. This unexpected challenge placed this dear

family in a position of Rachel being unable to work or care for the family's two small children. The situation added new medical assistance costs

and extra child care expenses--all combining into a terrible financial burden for the family.

Christian Friends of Israel had the privilege of standing beside this precious family and assisting them in paying their rent and food expenses until the new baby safely arrived. Rachel and her family were not able to express how completely grateful they were, for the extended lifeline that you as Christians in the nations were able to provide at the time of their most desperate need. Thank you so much for your continued giving and support for the precious families in Israel that need Christian friends to stand alongside them and let them know that we love and care about them as we all come together--children of the Most High!

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# The Re-Planting of the Lord

As a team here in Jerusalem, we have an incredible privilege to meet precious Holocaust Survivors. They are the last witnesses of horrible atrocities of the Nazi regime, we reach out to them bringing them comfort and the love of God. We are also trying to be their voices to the world, by sharing their stories of hearts still full of inexpressible pain. We are grateful for the opportunities to sit at their feet and share their burdens and joys. Each life is so precious and such a miracle of divine deliverance.

Raya, an 88-year-old Holocaust Survivor and a very precious friend, is a very soft and loving lady. She has two children, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and she is very proud of it. Her eyes sparkle when she speaks about them and when showing us pictures. Despite her rapidly deteriorating health, she is full of life and joy. She wants to live and see the children grow. But she also shared that there is no single day when she doesn't think of the horrible days of the Holocaust and its consequences.

Raya was born in Ukraine, and had a wonderful family – parents and two brothers. When the war started, her father was called to the front, while the rest of the family was placed in a fenced-in ghetto, with no food or other necessities. Sometimes Raya's mother managed to escape through the holes in the fence to get some food from local farmers. Partisans also worked hard to help Jewish people survive.

Raya still remembers the fear she experienced because of the guards and policemen, who were extremely cruel. As children, they were not allowed to play outside and most of the time were hiding inside. On one sunny spring day, Raya decided to slip under the porch of their house to get some sun and fresh air. Unfortunately she was noticed by a guard and was beaten till almost dead. We saw the scars on her hands and feet, and we felt her still bleeding heart.

In May 1942, the entire ghetto was rounded up and 1600 Jews were led to the slaughter in the forest, where the mass graves were already prepared. It was a cold and rainy day. Some Jews tried to resist and a fight broke out. Raya's mother used that confusion and pushed Raya into the bushes, urging her to run for her life. Some 200 people managed to run away, but being chased by dogs, most were caught and killed. Only three people, including Raya, managed to survive. She hid in a swamp,

and was in freezing water for the entire day and night, the dogs barked being aware of her presence in the area but couldn't find her. After everything calmed down, Raya ran to a Ukrainian lady – a family friend, for help, but the lady betrayed her and called the police. Raya managed to escape once again. At just 11 years old, Raya hid in the forest for three months, where hungry wolves often surrounded her. She survived by climbing trees and often spent the nights up there.

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me...,  
To console those who mourn in Zion,  
to give them beauty for ashes,  
the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
that they may be called trees of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."  
(Isaiah 61:1a, 3)*



Spending precious time with Raya



Even though she was very afraid of people, she would sometimes go to the villages begging for food. It was very dangerous for her because she looked very Jewish. One time, she sat down at the gates of one peasant's home in total exhaustion when a man saw her. He took her in, and adopted her as his daughter, risking the lives of his entire family. They hid Raya in their home until liberation, and Raya continued to live with them until her father came back from the war and found her in 1946. This humble couple - Perto and Maria, became Raya's parents till the end of their lives, and their names are written down in the Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. There is still one thing that deeply grieves Raya's heart today – she cannot remember her mother's face, because of the shock she experienced on that day of mass killing. She never had a chance to look back into her mother's loving eyes again.

As I was working on this article, the sad news reached us again – two other precious survivor friends had just passed away. This reminds us daily, that time is short and limited for these witnesses to be with us. It burdens our hearts, but we know – this burden is also His.

We would like to encourage you to pray for comfort for the remaining Survivors. Let us all be faithful servants in the fields He called us to.

Thank you for all your prayers, love and financial support for His beloved people.

**Olga Kopilova**  
*Project Forsake Them Not*  
[ftn@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:ftn@cfjjerusalem.org)



## Fighting fire with...

Since March 30th, thousands of Palestinians have gathered along the Israel-Gaza security fence in order to participate in what they call the "Great Return March." The violent riots have included some newly created tactics including flying arson kites to burn Israeli fields, hurling and planting explosives in order to hurt Israelis, and burning tires to create a smokescreen under which the rioters could infiltrate Israel and carry out terror attacks.

The violence escalated on May 14th, the anniversary of the day that the State of Israel was established, which Palestinians call the "Nakba" or the day of "catastrophe." The day included more violent riots and infiltration attempts. IDF soldiers did what was necessary to fulfill their mission of defending and protecting Israeli civilians, and responded to the violent threats with non-lethal riot dispersal means and live fire in accordance with the rules of engagement.

Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)-- both terrorist organizations based in the Gaza Strip--began launching rockets at Israel on May 28. In less than 24 hours, more than 100 rockets were launched at Israel, endangering the lives of thousands of civilians. One of the rockets hit a kindergarten and another hit a civilian home.

"Quiet will be met with quiet, but terror will be met with a firm response," said IDF Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus.

Project David's Shield continues to seek opportunities to encourage the brave soldiers defending the borders of Israel. There never seems to be any amount of time that could be considered "peacetime" for these soldiers. However, peace is and always has been the hope of all Israeli citizens and especially those defending the Nation.

While the world waits for Peace, it continually reminds Israel that she has enemies. Therefore, Christian Friends of Israel shall, as representing those from the Nations, continue to bless Israel and its God given mandate to this Land through acts of practical support and words that encourage, reminding of hope and God-spoken promises.



The defenders of this Land not only face physical threats, but also the incessant various forms of anti-Semitism. I can assure from first-hand accounts, and from the numerous relationships and friendships that have been formed, these soldiers are always seeking to save lives, and to act militarily in the most humane way possible. One of the first choices that was laid before the Jewish people was the simple choice of life or death.

*"I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants, loving Adonai your God, paying attention to what he says and clinging to him — for that is the purpose of your life! On this depends the length of time you will live in the land Adonai swore he would give to your ancestors  
Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov."  
Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (CJB)*

The Lord made very clear the *right* choice – that of life. We encourage our Jewish friends to continue promoting this absolute truth. There are many in the world, unfortunately, who choose death and the curses.

Recently we were privileged to visit a special forces unit on patrol in Samaria near the city of Shechem, which is modern day Nablus. As we were overlooking the city and noticing that the tomb of Joseph was just in the distance, we were heartened to know that the significance of the site was a reminder to the soldiers of their history and consequently a reminder of their future. We provided new backpacks to this unit – spent a few hours with them discussing our solidarity and the plan of God concerning them and hopefully provoking a sense of jealousy to be always seeking God's perfect will for themselves.

I would encourage all from the nations to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to continue supporting our efforts to be an encourager and provider of practical help to the brave defenders of Israel.

**Jim McKenzie**  
*Project David's Shield*  
[shield@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:shield@cfjjerusalem.org)



## Comforting the BROKENHEARTED

The LORD is close to  
the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are  
crushed in spirit.

*Psalm 34:18 (NIV)*

As Christian Friends of Israel it is our greatest privilege to come alongside our Israeli friends in times of their deepest despair and biggest need. Living in Israel is such a blessing for those of us from the nations as we embrace the entire family of the nation of Israel, most of whom have come from the four corners of the world.

As too many of us know firsthand, one of the darkest and most difficult times in our life is the loss of a spouse. So many years of established relationship and deep love between a husband and wife, create a deep and lasting wound when an unexpected death tears apart the union of any couple. Just recently Hannah lost her husband of many decades without any warning whatsoever. Having made Aliyah in the 1990's, the hard working couple had established a new life for themselves and Hannah's husband had always taken care of their finances. Now widowed and alone, Hannah has just become a new pensioner and is now faced with the challenges of coping with running the finances of her household herself. Adding to the tremendous burden of the loss of her husband, she is now experiencing health issues of her own.

When Hannah reached out to Christian Friends of Israel for comfort and assistance, we were happy to be able to extend the love and compassion of Christians around the world to her and just hug her and let her know we would be there to help in her biggest time of need. CFI was able to immediately assist her with her monthly utilities, and will continue to follow up with the ongoing needs she may have in the days to come. In spite of the hardship and loss, she continues to stay faithful to her congregation and keeps looking to the God of Israel for all her needs.

**Kevin Howard**  
Project First Fruits  
[fruits@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:fruits@cfjjerusalem.org)

# GAZA TERRORIST ARSON FIRES

Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress  
against those who are attacking me. Psalm 59:1 (NIV)

The summer months can be very hot and extremely dry in the Negev region of Southern Israel, where the farmers in the Israeli communities near the Gaza border work tirelessly to bring in the grain crops for the people in the land.

This summer however, has been one of the worst on record for those communities as the so-called "Peaceful Protests" of Arab Palestinians in Gaza have been using balloons, kites and even live falcons to deliver "Molotov cocktail" incendiary devices into the dry fields to set them ablaze and bring as much destruction and hardship on Israel as they possibly can.

The pictures speak loudly to the damage caused by the arson fires that Israeli communities are dealing with. Since the Gaza terrorists began their arson campaign, over 250 fires have been started in Israel, while thousands of acres of crops, trees, and fields have been destroyed--with some reporting as many as 65,000 acres destroyed.

Now more than ever, the people of Israel need Christians in the nations to stand with them in their response against these arson terrorists, to rebuild the land and stand alongside those farmers and communities that have suffered so much loss.

Please reach out and help today from your part of the world and stand as Christian Friends of Israel by helping to provide the much-needed support for those most affected by the arson fires from Gaza.

**Emergency Aid Fund for Israel**  
[www.cfjjerusalem.org](http://www.cfjjerusalem.org)



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## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

“For the LORD has chosen Zion;  
He has desired it for His dwelling place.”

*Psalm 132:13 (NKJV)*

The moving of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018 is by all accounts monumental to say the least. The move prompted other nations around the world to take notice and begin to rethink their own positions concerning the nation of Israel. Just after the US Embassy move, the nation of Guatemala followed suit. No doubt, many more will move in the near future, as well as the nations of the world beginning to make political decisions that have true biblical significance for these nations.

Marking this historic moment in time, Christian Friends of Israel was honored to participate in the numerous celebrations and special events in the weeks surrounding May 14th. Our biggest honor however, was to represent each of you as the multitudes of Christians around the globe that stand strong with the nation of Israel and her people at this significant milestone in history and the prophetic future.

While the people of nations coming up to Jerusalem over the decades has been quite prophetic indeed, placing a nation's embassy in Jerusalem has profound significance and literal impact on Scripture. The Embassy move signifies that the United States and Guatemala have embarked on a literal fulfillment of nations “coming up” to Jerusalem.

May the God of Israel receive all of the glory for what is done in His land as He continues to fulfill his covenant and promise to the city where He has placed His name. Jerusalem.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
‘May those who love you be secure.’”

*Psalm 122:6 (NIV)*



Singing of Hatikva



Time with Deputy Minister Michael Oren



Honoring Ambassador David Friedman



Entrance to US Embassy – Jerusalem



Guatemalan Embassy location in Jerusalem



Enjoying history with Danny Ayalon



Congratulating the Guatemalan President



Celebrating with Michele Bachmann

## Celebrating Israel at 70

Every hour of every day, each week of every month and every year tremendous things happen in Jerusalem as prophecy continues to unfold. This year was no exception as Israel celebrated its 70th birthday, and Christian Friends of Israel celebrated with the nation at the beautiful Hotel Yehuda in Jerusalem. More than 20 nations were represented from six continents in celebration of this truly prophetic time in history. World-class speakers engaged the audience in decades of history, current events and the promises of Israel's bright future ahead as she steps into her role in Isaiah 49:6. He says, “It is not enough for you to be My Servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, that you may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Attendees just could not get enough of the current and fresh information about Israel from speakers like Dr. Anat Berko, Jonathan Spyer, CBN's Chris Mitchell, and Rick Ridings of Succat Hallel. The event was even more special this year with the added sessions of our friends Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Michael Freund and a special Hallel service with David Nekrutman and Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, as Jews and Christians came together in real unity just before our closing banquet dinner. This year's excursions to celebrate with Israeli's in downtown Jerusalem, and a BBQ in the park created memories that will last a lifetime.

For those of you that simply were not able to attend this historical event in Jerusalem, you don't need to feel left out. Each and every session was recorded for you so you could feel like you were right there with us. To get your copy of any session or the entire event, simply go to our online store at [cfijerusalem.org](http://cfijerusalem.org) and download your own personal copy. The sessions were recorded in English as usual, but we also have everything available in French, Spanish and Chinese.

We want to thank all of you who were able to attend this year, and ask that you keep your eyes on God's time clock: *Jerusalem*, as things continue to unfold in His prophetic timeline. For those of you we missed this year, we hope to see you

“Next Year in Jerusalem!”



Visit [cfijerusalem.org](http://cfijerusalem.org) and click on “Store” to download your copy of conference sessions.

## Save the Dates 2019

**Christian Friends of Israel hopes to see you next year in Jerusalem in 2019! Mark your calendars for June 3-5, 2019 as Christians from around the world join us at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center during our Annual Shavout Conference. Tours from the nations are being organized now, and your opportunity to join us to experience the life changing CFI Outreach projects “first-hand” is currently being prepared.**

**Don't miss out on this amazing experience, at the time of Pentecost in the Holy City of the Great King, here in Jerusalem. It is a city like no other, and a nation reborn at the hand of Almighty God.**

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



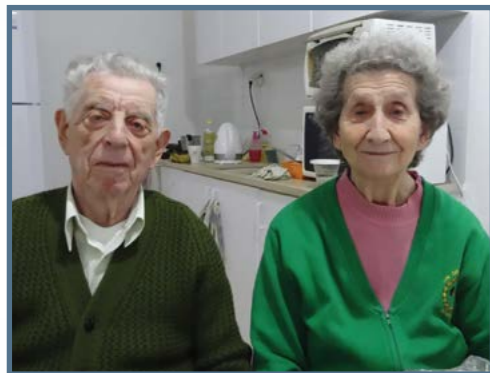




# Hearts finally home in Israel

## Miracles in Israel!

Arkadi Puhovizkiy was born November 7, 1923, in a little town in Belorussia. His parents had three children and Arkadi was the oldest. He remembers his home as a warm and friendly place. Their father loved his wife a lot. The mother of Arkadi was a very beautiful woman and people called her “beautiful Dina.” Arkadi went to school and finished all classes and some courses in a pedagogical institute, while from the age of seven, he was also working in their household taking care of the cows.



For the LORD will not abandon His people,  
Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

*Psalm 94:14 (NASB)*

When he was 17 years old, the war began on June 22, 1941. He was visiting his cousin in the capital of Belorussia, when two days later, Minsk was bombed and burned down. The next week the German army came and took over the city. A part of the Jewish population evacuated from Belorussia, but many of them didn't understand they should evacuate. They didn't believe that Nazis would kill them. Also the family of Arkadi stayed in their home town. He himself came back from Minsk and joined his family.

On the 4th of July, the Germans came and took over that area. Nazis started to rob Jewish homes, which were marked with a yellow star. They organized a peat factory where the Jews, men and women, were forced to work without salary. They also forced them to go by foot 12 kilometers to dig and collect the peat for the factory. Policemen watched that everybody was working and Arkadi was one of the workers. That factory became a ghetto, where they lived under control without freedom to go out and meet their families.

After six months they were sent to their homes. The plan was to shoot the Jewish population and everybody knew that it would happen sooner or later. When the policemen started to assemble the

Jews, Arkadi climbed up to the attic of their house with his mother and sister. When it became dark he jumped down into the snow and ran away to the forest and there he spent six days. From some people who lived in little cottages he received some food, and one of them, a Polish Christian, told him how to find partisans of the Red Army, that were settling in the forest in that area. So, Arkadi became a partisan.

After ten months' service in the forest he crossed the Front and joined the Soviet Army. It wasn't his decision to take such a risk. They just didn't want to have any Jews among the partisans anymore. Arkadi served two years as a combat medic in the Soviet Army. The other members of his family were caught and killed.

After the war Arkadi became a director of an evening school. He was then 23 years old. Later he started to work in the bank of the Soviet Union. He got married, and with his wife, Raisa, lived in a Belorussian city for over 42 years. They had two children. In 1995, Arkadi and Raisa immigrated to Israel. Both of them were already pensioners.

The reason to make Aliyah was very serious. Their 37-year-old daughter had a brain tumor. The family understood

that in Belorussia they couldn't get the help that they needed. They were told by relatives that they can make miracles in Israel. So, very quickly they packed their things and came. And they got their miracle in a hospital in Jerusalem! The operation went 18 hours, but ended successfully. The daughter's life was saved! Their son with his family moved to Israel in the same year. Life in the Land hasn't been easy. Every member of the family has been working hard, but they have found their places in Israeli society. Also our pensioners, Arkadi and Raisa, worked 11 years in Israel before they got “too old.” They are grateful to God and to the state of Israel for the miracle and the great help that they have received here.

As pensioners Arkadi and Raisa are able to come to the CFI Distribution Center where they can get clothing and bedding for themselves. We have also visited their home in Jerusalem. Arkadi is thankful to Christian Friends of Israel not only for the material help, but also for the spiritual support that has strengthened his faith in the God of his fathers.

**Tiina Karkkainen**  
*Project Open Gates*  
[gates@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:gates@cfjjerusalem.org)

## The Call in their Hearts

Over the past few months, I have been blessed to be part of the Open Gates ministry with CFI. I had the privilege of serving new Olim and aiding them in their transition in arriving to the land of Israel. There are people arriving from different locations all across the globe, each with their corresponding personalities and stories. Gana is from Odessa, Ukraine and learned about Israel growing up in school. Once the idea was planted in her heart, it grew over many months until she decided to move here as a young adult. She is now serving in the Israeli army. Then there are Deborah, Ilan, and Danel from Brazil. It was in Deborah's heart to move here, and she convinced her friends Ilan and Danel to come with her. They all recently arrived and are living in an absorption center. They heard about CFI online and were blessed by the clothing and kitchen items for their new living quarters. Just weeks before these young people: Gana from Ukraine; and Deborah, Ilan, and Danel from Brazil were living in opposite hemispheres. They had different experiences growing up, spoke different languages, and lived in very different cultures. After responding to the call in their hearts to live in the land of Israel as Jewish people,



**Tender Hearts from Brazil**

they arrived in this small, Middle East country found on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Here, they will experience many new things: foods, languages, and cultures from all over the world combining into one unique people. It is truly a miracle of God, and being in a position to help these beautiful people has been such a joy!

An integral part of that joy has been working with the CFI team, which also represents a variety of cultures and languages. They kindly welcomed and befriended me, and taught me how to perform my tasks with the Open Gates project. How touching it is to see the body of Messiah in action to love and care for these people! It has truly been a unique season.

**Emma Kiser**  
*Project Open Gates*  
[gates@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:gates@cfjjerusalem.org)



Shipment of Love from Help International



The Joy of serving in Israel

## Thank you H.E.L.P. International!

CFI – Jerusalem says “Thank you so much” for the tremendous efforts of Jean Kaye & Don Wilson, and their volunteer staff, for their decades of faithful love for the new immigrants arriving in Israel. Their recent shipment of 1,580 boxes of quality used clothing will meet the needs of new immigrants across the land of Israel. May God's richest blessings be yours according to His promises.

For more information on clothing donations:

**Email: [info@helpint.org](mailto:info@helpint.org)**



[www.helpinternational.info](http://www.helpinternational.info)



# GOD'S perfect timing for *Love*

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

*Psalm 139:16*



Nataly and Slava met many years ago in the neighborhood where they both grew up in Israel. Their families are from the former Soviet Union. Nataly and Slava spent just a few times together with friends but then lost contact; they never thought they would get married one day.

But God is full of surprises, and after nine years they met again and started spending time together and soon they fell in love.

One day, Nataly and her mother were cleaning and clearing up the closets at home when they found an old small notebook with Nataly's list of contacts' phone numbers. It was a long list with only one name in big letters and underlined: "Slava, from Neveh David", the neighborhood they lived in.

Mother and daughter were speechless, how could Slava's name be highlighted among so many other names, when they were not even close friends back then?!

Nataly and her mother realized that this union was decided from above 10 years ago, Nataly and Slava have a joined destiny together.

We are very happy to be part of this love story; this is their thank you note.

**Patricia Cuervo**  
*Project Bridal Salon*  
[bridal@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:bridal@cfjjerusalem.org)

*"We are 30-years-old and decided to get married and start a family in Israel, but due to some particularities in Israel's law we had to travel abroad to have a civil ceremony in Prague, after that we came back to Israel to have a ceremony with family and friends.*

*As you understand, weddings are very expensive in Israel and there are a lot of unplanned expenses. We were very exhausted and tired of it and did not find anything we liked for a cheap price.*

*But after a long search for a beautiful and inexpensive wedding dress and suit we realized that there's no such thing, we were ready to buy the simple white dress we could afford. But at the last moment a friend of my family told us that there is a bridal salon in Jerusalem that does not take money only a symbolic deposit and there is a huge selection of special and gorgeous dresses. We decided to give it a try and drove from Haifa to see if we could find something special.*

*It was a great surprise, when we arrived; a very professional and smiling team welcomed us and did their best to help us.*

*Thank you very much to the donors and the amazing staff of the bridal salon you made our heart smile and our wedding was an unforgettable day!*

*It's been a wonderful gift from God to get to know you and this organization, you bless many couples!*

*Blessings,  
Nataly and Slava*



## WORKING with **HEART**

Christian Friends of Israel was very privileged to have a tremendous group of Royal Rangers extend their strong arms and helping hands on their visit to Israel from the nation of Germany. This outstanding group rolled up their sleeves and went right to work helping us at our Distribution Center with bringing our patio garden to a new level of clean and organized.

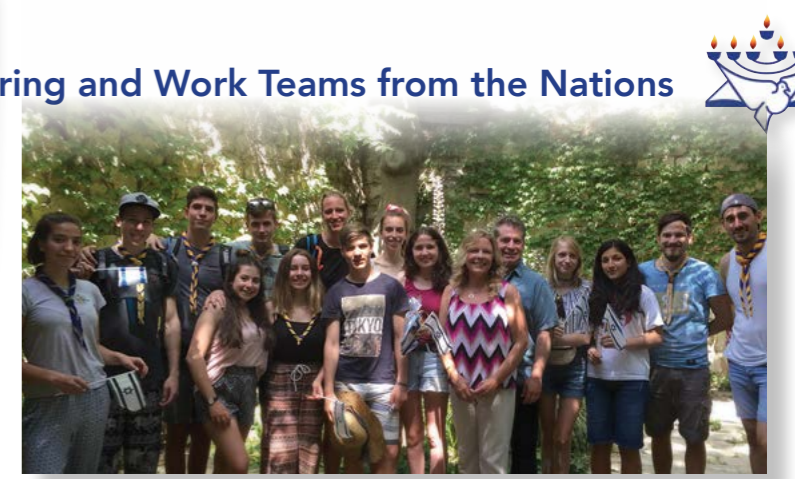
Along with the help at the DC, the group split up into small units and went with us into the communities that we serve, to help on a one-to-one basis. A dear elderly couple that had just moved in order to downsize their lives needed to have the final moving of their personal belongs, the arranging of their furniture, and some freshly painted railings on their open patio and stairs, and the team did not disappoint.

CFI's technical department was delighted to enlist the "techies" of the group to refurbish and ready a batch of our older pc's that we were giving to the Hope for the Future sponsored after-school program in Tel Aviv. Not only did the team build newly refurbished pc's from scratch, but could hardly wait to assemble the systems that were to be hand delivered to the young Jewish Ethiopians that would be receiving them. For years now CFI - Jerusalem has been refurbishing our old computer equipment as a donation to this and other communities, in an effort to help with their Hebrew skills, educational progression, and daily communication needs.

What an honor to host such a tremendous group of young people so eager to help and stand beside the most needy of those in Israel with true Christian love and assistance. One of their desires when getting ready to return to Germany was to encourage others in the nations to find the time to fulfill the same rewarding partnership with CFI - Jerusalem as volunteer work teams making a real difference on the ground here in Israel. We hope to hear from so many more of you in the nations soon, on how YOU would like to make a lasting impact on Israel as a Christian from the nations.

**We say "Kol HaKavod" (Well done) to our amazing Royal Ranger friends in Germany!**

For More information or to schedule your groups time with us email:  
[events@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:events@cfjjerusalem.org)



*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward."*

*Colossians 3:23-24*






## CFI USA

After attending the 2018 Conference and celebration of Israel's 70th birthday in Jerusalem, Hannele Pardain had no sooner returned home to the United States when she was off to represent Christian Friends of Israel in the area's first Messianic Faith Conference in May 2018 in South Carolina, USA. The event was organized by multiple Israel ministries in order to celebrate Israel's 70th year, impart prophetic teaching from God's Word and encourage the region's local congregations to stand with Israel and the Jewish nation. Please continue in prayer and support of CFI-USA as new needs continue in outreach projects in Jerusalem and all-around Israel in these amazing times of prophetic fulfillment in which we live.

*Hannele Pardain*  
 Contact: [cfiusa@cfi-usa.org](mailto:cfiusa@cfi-usa.org)



## CFI Honduras

Honduras is on fire for Israel and has been receiving CFI teachings with much excitement and joy from CFI International Spanish Director Ruth Carlson and her husband John. Honduras is so hungry for the Living God of Israel and all His Word offers, including the Hebrew Roots of our Christian Faith. Hondurans really understand the blessings that come with blessing Israel. This is an awakening of the Central American Nations. Recently pastors from three different regions met at a conference, embracing the CFI outreach projects in the land of Israel. They are becoming part of the Churches for Israel network and are committing themselves and their congregations to pray for Israel and support Israel in any way they can. Many high-ranking government officials in Honduras are also involved and excited about this tremendous effort and the work of the Lord.

*Pastor Milton Mascareño*  
 Contact: [CFImundohispano@hotmail.com](mailto:CFImundohispano@hotmail.com)



## CFI Brazil

After a lengthy process of documentation and adjustments to Brazilian law, Christian Friends of Israel – Brazil is a fully registered legal entity in the nation of Brazil. Congratulations go out to Pastor Abeni Bastos for his tremendous determination and courage in completing the process and allowing the Lord to move CFI – Brazil to a new level. In his opening meeting at the official CFI – Brazil offices, he was met by 28 Christian Leaders from different cities throughout Brazil, coming from multiple denominations, all being committed to work together in unity to bless the nation Israel and pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. Well done Pastor Bastos and let us all praise God for the Brazilian Church as they position themselves as true Christian friends of Israel! May the Lord's blessing be upon "Amigos Cristãos de Israel – Brasil" - (ACI - Brasil)

*Pastor Abeni Bastos*  
 Contact: [abenieclaudia@hotmail.com](mailto:abenieclaudia@hotmail.com)



For as the earth brings forth its bud,  
 As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,  
 So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.  
 Isaiah 61:11



Christian Friends of Israel is so honored to call each and every representative we have in over 30 nations around the world part of our CFI Family. The call of God placed on these individuals to be a support in prayer, solidarity, and financial assistance to the nation of Israel is unparalleled. The unity of spirit and the heart of compassion that each has for their own nation to be part of the covenants of God to His people, and the need for Christians around the world to understand their biblical heritage is truly a fulfillment of Scripture. So we say, "Thank You" from the depth of our souls for all you do for the kingdom of the Most High God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the God of Israel.

For information on becoming a CFI – Representative in your nation contact:  
[internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org)

**When preparing your love offerings for those most in need IN ISRAEL, please remember to specify that your gift is for CFI-JERUSALEM.**



## CFI Sri Lanka

Mohan Weerakoon continues to share the gospel of the kingdom to those in the jungles of Sri Lanka as he connects so many to the nation of Israel and shares the covenant of God with His chosen people. Reaching out to the youngest and most vulnerable in the nation, Mohan continues to raise up a new generation of believers that have a strong understanding of Israel and its connection in their faith. In a land too long influenced by Islam, CFI-Sri Lanka has been a beacon of light to those in need of hearing the message of the God of Israel and what He is doing in these last days about the nation of Israel. "Please continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. Consider it an investment into the lives of tomorrow's leaders!"

*Mohan Weerakoon*  
 Contact: [mohanwg@slt.net.lk](mailto:mohanwg@slt.net.lk)




## CFI India, Pune

Pastor Sonny Chandra ministers in the sprawling city of Pune, in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, India. He just cannot have enough meetings to tell the people of his nation about the love he has for Israel and the Jewish people. Along with celebrating the feasts of the Lord throughout the year, he is also continuing to educate congregations on their Biblical connections and Biblical obligations to God's word in relation to Israel. The God of Israel continues to bless the efforts of our dear friends in India as they continue to intercede for Israel and put their faith into action by increasing their reach and their teaching. Please continue to uplift our dear Christian Friends of Israel throughout the nation of India, in prayer.

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





## PRAY *without* CEASING

This year has been so relevant to Christians around the world with Israel turning 70 years old as a nation, that the command of God to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem is in the forefront now more than ever. All eyes turned toward Jerusalem as the United States officially moved its embassy there in May, and it is still in the spotlight of the world stage. Hamas has ramped up its efforts to try to set Israel's crops ablaze near Gaza, and begun once again to fire rockets randomly at the Israeli towns nearby. As you can see, there is still much to pray for concerning the nation of Israel and the peace of Jerusalem.

Christian Friends of Israel recently took our staff to visit the Temple Mount location in the old city of Jerusalem. When we entered the Temple Mount with our Jewish guide, our team was surrounded by approximately 15 armed Israeli Police as we embarked on our tour. One would naturally think that the reason for so much security presence would be for the safety and protection of the 20 or so members of our staff for our tour. The truth however is painfully quite the contrary. The armed police were there to insure that our Jewish guide in NO WAY was praying or allowing us to pray on the Temple Mount grounds. Amazing the lengths that the Israeli's will go to keep their word, and allow the "status quo" to continue on the Temple Mount.

"nor give Him any rest until  
He establishes Jerusalem  
and makes her the praise  
of the earth."

Isaiah 62:7 NIV

## STAND TOGETHER

It is written in Scripture that we are to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and throughout the world, there are so many individuals that are so faithful to do just that. As they say, there is strength in numbers, and when many stand together in unity for the nation of Israel there is an even greater voice heard.

The word tells us that where two or more are gathered together, He is in the midst of them. That's why it's so important that congregations come together as a body of believers in unity to support and pray for the nation of Israel. As churches around the world set their focus on supporting the nation of Israel through advocacy, regular prayer gatherings, and financial support, the God of Israel will be in their midst and bring blessings to their congregations.

Pastors and their congregations around the globe have already joined together in support of Israel and the Jewish people and we believe it's making a real difference. Now is your opportunity as one standing with God for the nation of Israel to begin to impact those congregations within your communities to join with so many others. Reach out to a congregation near you and tell them how they can become a CFI - Jerusalem Church for Israel. Tell them they can begin a new chapter of blessing and find truth in understanding God's word concerning Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem!

[churches@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:churches@cfjjerusalem.org)

"And let us consider  
how we may spur one another  
on toward love and good deeds,  
...encouraging one another  
—and all the more as you  
see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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

### Beauty of the Hebrew Language

Nathalie Blackham

In this book, Nathalie Blackham takes us on an exciting journey as she shares the spiritual secrets and rich insights God has shown her from the Hebrew language, specifically the Hebrew alphabet. She is not alone in her discoveries. Just as Nathalie writes, this is a worldwide movement. It is one of the signs of the end times that we are living on the thresholds of kingdom of God in the earth when Jesus returns to rule and reign out from Jerusalem. Then "the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

### My House Shall be a house of Prayer

Lance Lambert

"If we consider the Lord's description of the end of the age with a sober and sound mind, we have to recognize that in all probability we are at the beginning of this period. If that is true, then there has never been a time when effective prayer and intercession could be more strategic, more necessary and more essential than now." – Lance Lambert

### Days of the Fall

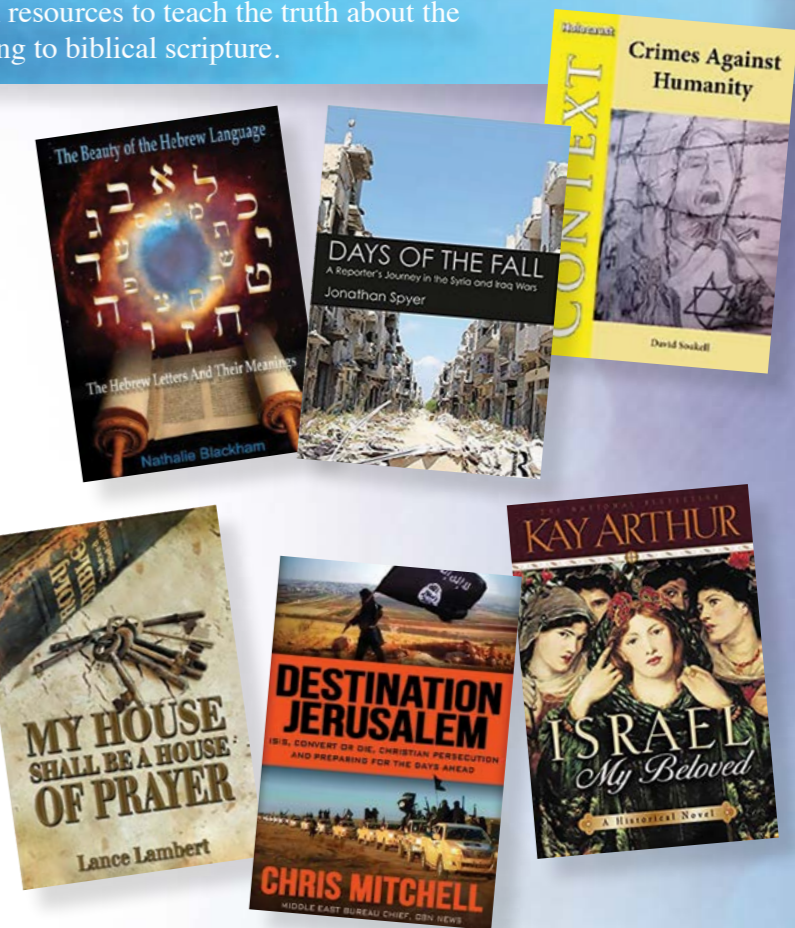
Jonathan Spyer

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

### Crimes against Humanity

David Soakell

This booklet is a compilation of poetry and reflections, plus Holocaust Survivor's testimony to the ongoing impact that those momentous events still continue to have, so many years later, in the lives of countless thousands today. All proceeds are being donated to Project Forsake Them Not.



### Destination Jerusalem

Chris Mitchell

ISIS stunned the world with its Islamic blitzkrieg that swept through Syria and northern Iraq and declared an Islamic caliphate for the first time in nearly one hundred years. Once again, Christians bore the brunt of this menace. These militants forced tens of thousands of Christians to flee their ancient homes and gave them four grisly choices: pay the Islamic tax for infidels, leave, convert, or die by the sword. landed on the front lines of these conflicts. In Destination Jerusalem, CBN News Middle East Bureau Chief Chris Mitchell brings you firsthand accounts of the men, women, and children caught in these fiery trials.

### Israel My Beloved

Kay Arthur

is just past dawn in the life of Israel. Rich with promise, the young nation anticipates a golden future. Yet in their confidence, the Chosen Ones recklessly pursue a path that leads away from their nation's venerated past. And thus begins the nightmare... As Israel's sons and daughters are scattered across the globe, pursued by ruthless Grecian and Roman conquerors, bloodthirsty Crusaders with sharp swords and empty hearts, and terrifying leaders of Hitler's Third Reich, the threads of the once-proud nation continue to fray. Yet amazingly, another garment of hope and peace is being tightly woven together - never to be undone.

To purchase these great books and other resources visit [www.cfjjerusalem.org](http://www.cfjjerusalem.org) and click on Store.



Earl Cox



Ben Kinchlow



Kevin Howard

Radio Stations around the globe continue to receive fresh, first-hand information from Israel each week on FrontPage Jerusalem, and their listeners continue to say what a blessing it is. Airing on hundreds of radio stations across America and broadcast international online as well as stations around the world, FrontPage Jerusalem brings listeners the very latest on political and social issues, the latest technology breakthroughs, and heartwarming personal interviews straight from Israel.

Even with the tremendous reach, we still get regular requests on how listeners just like you can tune in each week for the most current information. If you or someone you know is still trying to listen in your area, just send us a brief message at [feedback@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfjjerusalem.org) and we will help you find a station in your part of the world, or help you to listen when you want online.

Join Co-Hosts, Earl Cox, Ben Kinchlow, and Kevin Howard each week as they highlight a truly inspiring and informative discussion on what is really going in the nation of Israel today. Keep up on the weekly happenings around the Middle East as well with regular analysis of the region and the topics most important to those living right in Israel.

To listen online go to:  
[frontpagejerusalem.com](http://frontpagejerusalem.com)

For more information on finding stations in your area, email:  
[feedback@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:feedback@cfjjerusalem.org)



Each week more and more intercessors are subscribing to the Christian Friends of Israel online newsletters to have current, relevant, and biblical fuel for their churches, prayer groups and individual prayer closets as they are serious about praying for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem. Throughout the month, we deliver important points of prayer and connection to the land of Israel, as well as insight into the fulfillment of prophecy in the days in which we live.

As a lover of the God of Israel and the nation that is the apple of His eye, it's so important that you keep current on the needs within the nation to keep

those in your circle of connectivity on track with what God is doing today in Israel. Not a day goes by in Israel without someone saying, "Look what God is doing with His people Israel. His word is true and His promises everlasting! He will never forsake His people."

If you know someone that is looking for serious points of prayer, and insight on the latest happenings in Israel to be delivered straight to their email during the month, be sure and send them to [listadmin@cfjjerusalem.org](mailto:listadmin@cfjjerusalem.org) and they can start receiving important and informative information about Jerusalem and the nation of Israel.

**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](mailto:feedback@cfjjerusalem.org).

## CFI Representative Nearest You