

For Zion's Sake

Ministry and Teaching Magazine in Prophetic Times
Third Quarter 2021 Jewish Year 5782

Reversing the Curse of Christian Antisemitism (The Great Omission)

*"Nor will I let you hear the taunts of the
nations anymore, Nor bear the reproach
of the peoples..." (Ezekiel 36:15)*



Christian Friends of Israel

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For Zion's Sake

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Shalom from Jerusalem

Dearest Christian Friends Around the World:



"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the countries and return you to your own soil" (Ezekiel 36:24).

The world is passing through a very difficult time in the history of the world.

It is my personal opinion

that the church needs to be teaching the importance of preparation. A right relationship with Israel as the Chosen nation is significantly important to God as the judgment of nations is just ahead upon His Return (Matthew 25:31-46). The importance of Israel as a nation, recognizing it's prophetic calling in the future, praying for Israel and supporting the building of personal relationships with the people of Israel is significant for the church. Every pulpit needs to include Israel in their prayer and support.

Clearing the Obstacles on the Path

CFI works to represent the Lord Yeshua the way He should always have been represented throughout history. Those of us who work and serve in the Land have been picking up the pieces of 2000 years of Israel bashing and spiritual pride towards the Jewish people. We work diligently to clear the path on the King's Highway to Zion, clearing away obstacles on the path such as Replacement Theology. This dangerous theology has been devastating to Israel as well as the church.

Over the past couple of months we have learned of Christians in the Land using deceitful tactics in Jewish communities such as pretending and lying. The newspapers have carried these stories. CFI does not work in deceitful ways and never will. We aim to represent the Lord Yeshua the way He should always have been represented throughout history. We do not take part in unethical schemes. As believers in Yeshua, we state we are Christian friends and we take the healing balm of the unconditional love of God into places where few Christian feet ever get



Pray for Israel

to go. Your help to us in repairing the damage done by historical Christendom has a value that we cannot count. Without each of you, we would not exist nor be able to prepare the way of the Lord. We pray that our fruit will remain for many years. Every Christian needs to be viewing our Bibles through the lens of the prophetic future just ahead. If your church does not teach the prophetic Word including Israel and the church, ask “why?” As we enter the final stages of history as we know it, we must know what is happening in Israel to be prepared. I was quite moved as I read brother Jonathan Cahn’s report that “the polls reveal two dynamics at work in the church. The first is generational...one generation going out and the other replacing it...every age group suffered a double digit decline...drop in church attendance caused by Covid 10 and the massive lockdown of churches...a great falling away seems to be taking place...we are going from religious freedom to persecution...” (The Decline of the Church, Jonahan Cahn, October 2021). Now is the time to spiritually prepare. I know I find myself reflecting a lot through prayer on what is just ahead of us all.

His Voice will Resound from Zion

Some are asking if we are going back to life as we knew it before the Corona plague. I feel very certain that we will not. Therefore, we need to adjust our thinking even if the future is veiled a bit because Israel plays a key part in world redemption. Hatred

around the world for Israel is at an all-time high—we must do our part to stop any form of antisemitism. The coming Kingdom to this World will make Jerusalem the capital of the world. The spirit of darkness is moving quickly to upset the plan of God. It does not want God’s Kingdom to be established in Jerusalem. The battle has increased in these end times. Will you help us carry on? We need to do it shoulder-to-shoulder together for His Glory.

-Sharon Sanders-

Jerusalem will be the capital of the world



*"Nor will I let you hear the taunts of
the nations
anymore, Nor bear the reproach
of the peoples..." (Ezekiel 36:15)*



Reversing the Curse of Christian Antisemitism (The Great Omission)



**“In the beginning the church was a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Christ (Messiah). Then the church moved to Greece, where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. Next, it moved to Europe, where it became a culture and, finally, it moved to America, where it became an enterprise.”
(Rev. Richard C. Halverson, Chaplain of the US Senate, 1916-1995)**

To the God of Israel, beginnings are significant. God tells us He created the heavens and the earth so that we would know more about the power and glory of His Supreme Being. Our faith had a foundational establishment, and its origin begins and ends in Jerusalem. All of us had a beginning. We advanced in life from somewhere, i.e., farms, villages, towns, cities, communities, and capitals. Returning to our roots gives us a spiritual perspective of our lives, where we have been, how we developed, and where we are today. Most of us do not omit our childhood beginnings. Then why do we not want to remember and include our spiritual foundations?

King of the Jews

Often, the big picture about our spiritual walk with God and understanding the context of the Bible comes into better focus when we find our roots. Returning home to our foundations is not about changing religion; it is all about relationship with the One True God and the command to be in right relationships with His Chosen People (Genesis 12:3). A Savior came out of Israel for the Gentiles, and His title in the New Testament is “King of the Jews” (John 19:3). He belonged to a distinct and separate people. That means Yeshua grew up as a Jew and remained a Jew all of His Life. The last words He spoke that were recorded in the Newer Testament were, “I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto

you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16). He never left the Land of Israel nor His People while on earth. Yeshua has changed a Christian’s life forever. Certainly, the forsaking of former lifestyles and pagan culture we once partook of is the best thing that ever happened. The Lord now sits on the throne of our hearts, and we listen to His Voice when He speaks.

As Reverend Halverson so astutely stated: what the church started as (a sect of Biblical Judaism) and what the church has ended up being (a separate faith and religion) is totally different than the way Yeshua taught. We are in the era of the “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21). There is a lot of work yet to do to clear the highway and prepare it for the Coming of the Lord to Jerusalem. Will His road be ready for His Coronation day? It depends on how hard we work.

Replacement Theology: The Culprit

“There is no doubt that the Christians carry a heavy sin regarding the people of Israel” (Nicolai Berdyaev). The road to Zion is still scattered with obstacles such as spiritual pride, arrogance, antisemitism, and betrayal on behalf of Christendom. Since arrival in Israel, the ministry of CFI has been picking up the pieces of broken relationships toward God’s Chosen People. Over 20 centuries of religious bigotry



*“A life lesson from the garden:
If you want good fruit,
pay attention to the roots.”*

Dwight Pryor

mixed with prejudice and hatred produced a poison which spread throughout Christianity. The early days of brotherhood were plagued with an ecclesiastical sickness among the institutional church in which bloodshed plagued many who called themselves “Christian.” It pains me to think that false teachings, such as Replacement Theology, caused so much mistrust and misunderstandings between Jewish people and Christians that paved its way onto a separate road out of Jerusalem. It laid its own brick road, which led to a disconnected religion strange to what the Lord Jesus taught His disciples. As we attempt to repair the damage done to the Savior’s name in Israel today, we have a great opportunity now to reverse the curse of division among some 45,000 denominations in Christianity. Many issues divide Christians, such as how one is baptized, how communion is served, and on which day to worship. We need to be unified as one on the issue of Israel since the God we serve is the God of Israel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is not divided. He is One. There will be no division of the one new man (humanity) to come in God’s Kingdom. It is time to work toward oneness. I do not speak of ecumenicalism or all-inclusiveness; I speak about being One spirit in the Lord and loving His Jewish people!

Why so many Divisions?

During Jesus’ ministry, He prayed that His future followers would exhibit a special kind of unity that would be a testimony to the world. *“I appeal to you, brothers by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment”* (1 Corinthians 1:10). So what happened? Rather than unity, harmony, and cooperation, Christians are often known for their squabbles and divisions. Even when they appear to get along, they divide up into hundreds of different groups, churches, and denominations. For those who are not Christians, it seems confusing. Why can’t they agree on anything? Why are there sometimes

four different churches on the same street? Even for believers, the question arises: why are there so many Christian denominations? (StartingPoint.com).

Religious blind spots formed many mindsets, which developed over the centuries. When religion itself exploded into being, instead of following the Jewish Messiah and letting the Judaism of Jesus form the basis for His followers, the gospel train quickly ran off track and subsequently off course. The track had divided into two different routes and quickly brought about a terrible disaster. Events involving Medieval times, the Nicene Creed, and the Reformation deviated from the Didache, the original constitution of the Disciples of Yeshua. Few of our people are taught this today because our pastors are not educated to know that the “missing link in Christianity is Israelology” (Dr. Arnold Fructenbam).

A return and restoration towards Israel is definitely in order as we move through the prophetic future. The rise of Jerusalem is on the future horizon as it will one day host all nations to come and sit at the feet of the Messiah. Only one city is destined to become *“the throne of the Lord”* (Jeremiah 3:17), not Washington, London, Paris, Buenos Aires, or anywhere else. The destiny belongs to Jerusalem.

As a church we need to set our watch posts toward Jerusalem. Daniel did when he went to prayer. I see God, Creator of the Universe, today fulfilling His Promises to the Patriarchs of Israel. One of the greatest gifts we need now more than ever is discernment as it is going to get more difficult in the world before it gets better. We need to read and study the prophetic word and know about the days in which we live. The *“sons of Issachar”* (1Chronicles 12:32) anticipated, focused on, and observed what was happening around them. We cannot afford to make the same mistakes our ancestors did in stating they were the “new Israel” and that God had forsaken His Beloved people and nation. This would be Replacement Theology.

Lightening will one day flash out of the east (Jerusalem) and will fill the sky to the western horizon *“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man”* (Matthew 24:27, The Complete Jewish Study Bible). Before this event happens there is definitely coming a falling away from truth in the coming days and it is happening right before our eyes today. It is folly (as many have done) to separate from Israel. *“He crouches, he lies down like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to rouse him? Blessed are those who bless you and cursed are those who curse you”* (Numbers 24:9). It may be that Israel is not where she should be spiritually; however, the promises of God still stand and have not been removed from the people He chose to love.

Join in Reversing the Curse

On the near horizon is coming an apostate one-world church who will have nothing to do with Israel. Without a doubt, Jerusalem is going to remain at the center of importance to God, the core, the heart and headquarters of the Living God. Yeshua (Jesus) will break through the clouds over Jerusalem one day and arrive to set up His Father’s Kingdom. In our last For Zion Sake, I reported that Dr. David Stern, a very revered scholar of the Bible who translated the Jewish New Testament Commentary and the Complete Jewish Study Bible, wrote: *“There is no Christian Messiah. He is either Jewish or He is not the Messiah.”* Do we understand Dr. Stern’s statement? Let us awaken to our beginnings and return home to our roots and the home of Jesus. Join the movement to reverse the curse!

Looking to the Prophetic Future

We must learn and come to grips with the fact that in the coming Kingdom of God in which Yeshua will reign, there will be absolutely no antisemitism. If we take a walk back through history with Reverend Halverson and view the first century of early Christianity, we will indeed see a brotherhood of believers trusting in the Lord Yeshua that often attended the local synagogues (as there were no churches at that time). Men, women, and children focused on the Lord and what He did for them at the cross by shedding His blood. After the disciples of Yeshua died, more and more gentile leadership came into being. As the gospel spread to Greece, it took on new ideas and ways of thinking, including Hellenistic thoughts, and the national character and culture of Greece, especially ancient Greece. Many studied and imitated ancient Greek culture. The Hellenistic period spans the period of Mediter-

ranean history between the death of Alexander the Great (323BC), the emergence of the Roman Empire as signified by the Battle of Actium (31 BC), and the conquest of Ptolemaic Egypt the following year (Wikipedia). Following the arrival of the Good News about the Messiah in Rome, it developed into ritualistic and nobility-orientated form of paganism. It then moved on to Europe, where it developed into a refinement of European nobility and customs. Lastly, it progressed to the new world of the Americas, where it enlarged, spread, and often developed into a business program in pursuit of affluence and comfort. If we have “ears to hear” (spoken about throughout the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke), we learn that this is not a generic statement of “everybody, listen up,” but that Jesus is calling for people to take careful heed not to be deceived. We know that from Matthew 24-25, He is asking us to discern the times and not to become deceived. He indeed, will judge nations on how they treated His Brethren, the Jewish people. We know, that in context and time He spoke this, and there was no “church,” at the time and the only people group who called one another “brethren” were the Jews.

I have asked many times, “What bride gets married to a groom and doesn’t get to know the groom’s family?” If the church of Yeshua stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish people, the strength and power we would have together would bring many who live in disunity and division into the light of God’s Love to forgive, get over the offences, and come together for the sake of God’s Holy Name. May the great omission of Israel by the church be turned truly into the great commission of embracing the God of Israel, the Messiah of Israel (Yeshua) and the beginning of reversing the curse of Christian antisemitism in these prophetic times. This would truly be for the church a great beginning.

-Sharon Sanders-



God Forbid We Let You Down!

To Our Jewish Friends,

Never have I written a letter such as this one but I could not shake the responsibility I have to write to you in every Jewish community around the world and in Israel. If I don't write now on behalf of Christian Friends of Israel and our Representative offices around the world, how will you ever know that there are multitudes around the world who are standing by you at this terrifying time of antisemitism among the arena of nations around the world who are throwing you to the lions.

My husband and I have lived through every Intifada, Gulf War, Desert Storm and other conflicts with you in Israel since 1985. During the Gulf War when many Jewish people did leave and go abroad, our dearest friend Rabbi Yaacov Youlus said "I wrote two words about you during the war in my diary." I answered "What were they?" He said "They stayed." Staying power I suppose means one has to resist going where it might be safer but we never had one thought of leaving your country in which we have come as Christians under the wings of the Almighty.

We Want to be a Godly Witness

After what I read recently about alleged Christians being deceitful in an Orthodox community in Jerusalem, I was appalled but what I have just learned about a long time evangelical figurehead and the irresponsible actions and shameful way he has represented your genuine Christian friends is more than shameful, it is disgraceful. We are not taught from the Scriptures to behave this way and I can assure you we never will. I also can assure you that we have no political aspirations but only genuine Godly people every day somewhere in the world praying for the government leadership in a respectful way whoever they are. It is the business of the State of Israel, not a Christian leader, to tell you how to run your affairs.

As Jews and Christians, we are both standing at a juncture in history and the choices we make are going to define the rest of our lives. These are defining moments for everyone on earth from every nation and background. As a Christian friend of Israel I unapologetically state that Israel is the ancient homeland of the Jewish people and you have every right to your own borders! We have an obligation to join your efforts in how we can better portray Israel's image throughout the world. When people around the world become victims of lies, it is not easy to undo their thinking but we must try.

For us it is not difficult, we have lived among you for so long and from personal testimony, we have come to love the people of Israel and are dedicated to your welfare. We must speak up and I for one will request that all of our Representatives from America, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA to use whatever means they have to speak, teach and reach Christian communities in their nations with the truth about Israel. It will mean venturing into the unknown but we will rely on God to go ahead of us. Also, we will do all we can to protect your people in these nations from danger and as in the case of the UK and France, we have safe houses and well thought through plans in case you need us. There are gaps still to be filled but we are working behind the scenes. We will not retreat from our commitment to teach against Replacement Theology and to eradicate antisemitism in our sphere of community outreach. We pledge to make your concerns our concerns as we have been a part of setting into motion a process of deep healing from centuries of wrong accusations against you. We can and should continue to work together to repair God's world and bring new life out of the death and destruction of the past intolerant history.

We are ambassadors of reconciliation and unconditional love—we do not have hidden agendas based upon demands and threats. I have said before to my Jewish friends that we are standing together as friends on a path called Courage, but my words will not be enough. It will take much harder work.

Continuing to Blaze the Trail

I've had some great teachers, all Jewish, who had faith in me that I should not give up but continue to trail blaze, venturing into the unknown. I may not see the finished picture. I know we as an international organization will not retreat from our commitment to seek your good and will do all within our power to stop anything that would harm you or your people.

My Jewish friends believe in me. I believe in them. We must together be history changers and reunite what belongs together and not let people who have wrong motivations divide us. We are on a journey with you. You gave us everything we possess—we must walk together. May any sparks we are able to ignite turn the dross of the past into gold as we leave a trail behind us to eradicate antisemitism and anything anti-Jewish in the Christian world. You must know who your real friends are, and if we fail

in demonstrating and you doubt us, please tell us how we can improve.

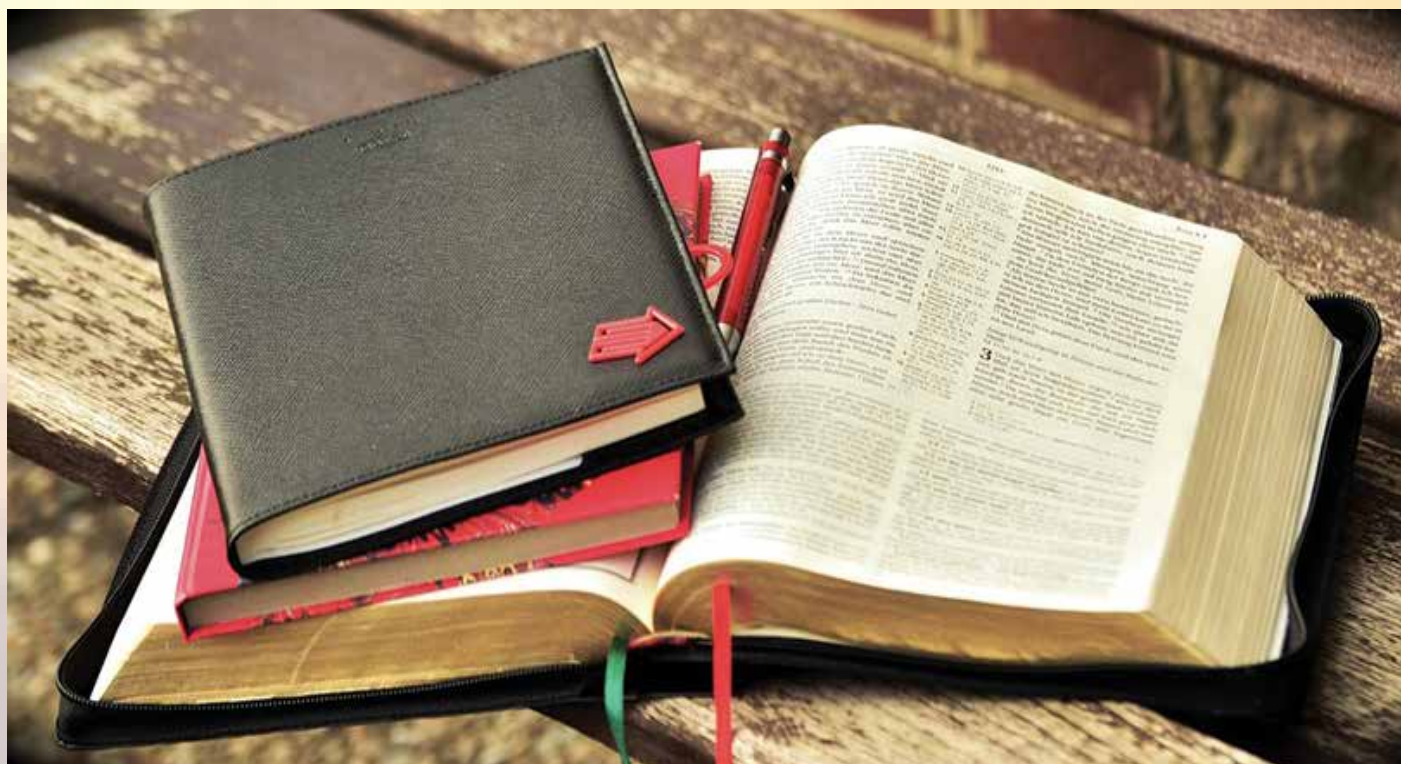
Whatever background we are from, we all owe our entire spiritual inheritance, as Christians, to one nation—that nation is Israel. This is a historical fact. If there never had been a nation of Israel most of Christianity would disappear. We owe you a great debt.

There is a dark cloud hanging over the earth at this time, but the sun will shine again and Jerusalem will stand where she has always stood. On her soil we hope to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers who can receive strength from our strength.

We are also sensing opposition as well as you, but not to the degree you are at the moment. I suppose it is because we are the two peoples of the Good Book who are the witnesses in the earth today for the One True and Almighty God. But my biggest fear is not Hamas, Hezbollah, nor any other source of antisemitism, but that evangelical Christians might let you down, and that terrifies me.

Sincerely,

– **Sharon Sanders**–



“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’” (Matthew 19:4) (Jesus taught from the Jewish Scriptures, they are not old, they are living words).



Standing shoulder to shoulder

The primary mission of project David's Shield is to show solidarity with the mission of the Israel Defense Forces.

Jim McKenzie with an entire base of IDF soldiers



Removing Barriers

“Caring sincerely for their welfare.” (Philippians 2:20)

“If your people go out to fight their enemies, no matter by which way you send them, and they pray to you toward the city you chose and the house I built for your name; then, from heaven, hear their prayer and plea, and uphold their cause.” (2 Chronicles 6:34-35)

What is the Mission of the IDF?

The purpose of the IDF is to protect the existence of the state of Israel, its independence, and the security of its citizens and residents. Israel as a nation has sacrificed its men and women in its struggle to protect its people and country. They have, over the years, developed a unique ability to stand together in the most difficult of moments. More than any other nation on earth, Israel is incredibly able to realize the concept of mutual togetherness.

As a result of the sad opportunity from the effects of war, widows and orphans of fallen soldiers are forced to grasp the painful reality of this never-ending war of existence. The shadow of mourning and loss, the common factor connecting them to each other, is an excellent opportunity for relationships.

CFI's David Shield project had a recent unique honor to serve an organization that exists solely due to the effects of war – The foundation for the families of Fallen Paratroopers. CFI gifted them with catered food for a reunion event of over 300 widows and orphans. These events are critical to the well-being and unity that is necessary for Israel to endure. *“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness” (Psalm 30:11).*

Every Israeli knows someone who served in the army, has most likely served themselves, and most certainly has lost family members or friends. The bereaved families never forget. They grieve for the young men and women killed in wars. Still, future generations are anxious to serve and fight to defend their very existence.

A total of 23,928 men and women have died defending the land of Israel. Annually, on Memorial Day, the country stops to contemplate all that it has sacrificed. Then the next day, on Independence



Friends Forever

Day, a realizing occurs that ‘we earned our independence by virtue of sacrifice.’ The juxtaposition of the two days enhances their significance.

As Christians, we have a Biblical obligation to pray for the Jewish people and Israel’s security. More significantly, we have the mandate to believe God when He says that *“He remembers His covenant forever... the covenant which He made with Abraham...and confirmed it to Jacob...to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, ‘To you, I will give the land of Canaan.’”* Moreover, *the land which I gave to Avraham and Yitz’chak I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you”* (Genesis 35:12).

Did God reject His people? By no means! His call is irrevocable. *“I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin”* (Romans 11:1).

Exhibiting Solidarity with the IDF

CFI Jerusalem Project David’s Shield exhibits solidarity in two ways.

First, we build relationships and trust of individual Brigade and Unit Commanders. We share with them that we are Bible-believing Christians from the Nations and that the restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is in accordance with promises contained in the Hebrew scriptures.

We also acknowledge and that Israel’s enemies, as history has shown countless times, are poised to attack in full force at any time in Israel’s never-ending war of existence.

We agree that Israel needs a Defense Force – a modern-day King David’s army! God has given His title deed to Israel, and it needs to be defended by physical guardians – the soldiers of the IDF. Secondly, we strive to provide items and equipment to soldiers as an expression of our support. The items help to show soldiers that we care, and we love them for what



It’s great! Thank you for being our friends!

they accomplish. The items allow us to meet with the soldiers, look them in the eyes and tell them that they’re doing the right thing.

Not only is it right – God says it’s righteous!

CFI Jerusalem and Project David’s Shield will continue to encourage the brave soldiers and those defending this Nation. With God’s help and yours, we will remove the barriers that remain between us and be an integral part of God’s plan to restore the Jewish people. Our love and identification with Israel and the Jewish people will continue to drive us on our journey with them through the coming days and into time without end. We shall remain at our posts, holding the ground for the Nation throughout the world. I have been humbled and privileged to represent the Nations as the Supervisor for this significant project. Thank you for the honor.

Jim McKenzie

Project David’s Shield Supervisor
shield@cfijerusalem.org

Note: Jim McKenzie has returned to the USA. He and Linda will be greatly missed. Please pray for a proper replacement. Presently we are recruiting for a male with military background.



Tommie and Robbie with welcome gift bag



Nicolene and Enrique enjoying their birthday celebration



Valerie celebrated her birthday at CFI headquarters



Linda and Jim served CFI faithfully for nearly 11 years

Perseverance!

NO, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I HAVE NOT ACHIEVED IT, BUT I FOCUS ON THIS ONE THING: FORGETTING THE PAST AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD...
PHILIPPIANS 3:13 NLT



Welcome to CFI!

Many of you know how difficult it is to leave your country and adopt a new country. It has taken over a year to receive some of our staff and volunteers to CFI.

Pastors Robbie and Tommie Coleman are here with us since the first week of August. PTL! It has been since April 2021 starting their entry papers. It has not been an easy road with all the new requirements. We welcome them to CFI. Robbie will be helping with International Development and Tommie with Christian Education. Both are also acting CFI Chaplains for our staff. It took perseverance to get here!

CFI Birthdays

Every month (if there are birthdays), we celebrate our staff birthdays. **Enrique** is from Mexico and **Nicolene** is from South Africa. CFI staff love to celebrate with cake, ice cream, music, games and gifts. Blessings to our birthday people. It's not easy being away from home when there's a special celebration. It takes perseverance!

Valerie 81 Years Young Birthday Party! CFI Events, hosted an 81st birthday party for Valerie who donates to CFI, receives help from CFI and is a blessing to many in

the Land. Valarie invited about twenty of her own friends to help celebrate her special day and others showed up from the community. She has endured many struggles throughout her life and we celebrated her endurance and perseverance!

Thank You!

Jim and Linda: Thank you for serving 11 years. The McKenzies have moved on to a new journey of their lives, to the United States for direction. We have deeply appreciated all of their sacrifices, hard work and skills they have given to CFI Jerusalem over the years. We love them and will miss them very much. Blessings to Jim and Linda in their endeavors. May God guide and direct their paths. It will take perseverance!

CFI Postings

- Cook
- Outreach Project Coordinator
- Administrative Assistants (2)
- Accounting Assistant (immediate)
- Multi-Media
- Maintenance Manager with Trade Skills
- Bi-Lingual Translators

Email: personnel@cfijerusalem.org
Norene Fritz
CFI Personnel Coordinator



Jim visiting with Mr. Joubran who often receives prayer

God Leads and Guides the Faithful in Heart

Linda McMurray and Jim McKenzie visited Mr. Joubran, who has been connected to CFI for many years. He is a kind, elderly gentleman who has maintained a good relationship with Jim and calls the office almost daily to see how everyone is doing. Mr. Joubran often receives prayer and encouragement over the phone through the Wall of Prayer department. He is recuperating from recent heart surgery and requested financial help for food.

An Excellent Example of Kindness

We went to deliver food vouchers to Mr. Joubran, but it provided an opportunity for Jim to say goodbye to him before returning to the US. It was touching to see friends reminisce over the past and give parting words to one another. He is an Arab and has lived in this country all his life. He used to work in an Embassy before 1948. He has maintained a good relationship with both Jews and Christians. What an excellent example of kindness! It is Mr. Joubran's custom to give a sweet treat to the staff whenever CFI blesses him. This time was no different; he sent delicious chocolates to the office as a way of saying, "Thank you for your friendship, CFI."

Project Streams of Blessing Supervisor
streams@cfijerusalem.org

A Blessing to Many Olim

Our visit with Arik Lubovsky and his wife Hani was very moving. Arik was a blessing to many 'Olim' (immigrants) in northern Israel in his younger years. CFI assisted by donating needed items, and Arik delivered them to the new residents. He proudly displayed a certificate of honor from the State of Israel for his outstanding humanitarian service.

CFI gave this couple a love gift, and Maggie warmed their hearts as she played Israeli music on her violin. It was a privilege to bless those who have been a blessing to so many others. Hani gave us enough breakfast pastries for the next day! As we said our closing prayer, she expressed a desire that today's generation would also be willing to give of themselves to build up Israel. We say "Amen" to that prayer, so let it be.



Arik has helped many Olim through CFI

Watching Over God's Sheep

“And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city...” (Acts 15:36)

One Sunday, Stefan, my translator, translated for me during a visit to the **Ciuriuc**, a Romanian family who live near Tel Aviv. The husband and wife completed *Aliyah* and have been quite fruitful in the land with nine children from 16 years to 1-year-old! We gifted them with food vouchers on our first visit and promised to consider other needs for the family. Prior to praying before we returned home, the family surprised us with three worship songs: one in Hebrew and two in Romanian, with the father leading on the accordion! This especially blessed Stefan, a pianist and worship leader in his own right.

Northern Israel

Three Sundays later, I visited Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Nazareth led by **Afif and Mimi Saba**. The guest speaker was also a Nazareth Arabic native who had migrated to Toronto and was back to see his family and Pastor Afif, his childhood friend. Over a meal, Michael, our Arab translator for First Fruits, and I were able to share the history and purpose of Christian Friends of Israel with this couple. We look forward to interacting with them further regarding their ministry and assisting them in supporting their flock and for those within it that might have dire needs in the Body in Nazareth.

Traveling to Kfar Kanna

Following our meal with the Sabas, Michael and I were able to travel to the home of the **Abdallah family** of Kfar Kanna. (This is the biblical town of Cana, where Yeshua performed the “wine from water” miracle at the wedding of John 2). Nabil is a tour guide and businessman who has been buffeted by COVID economically. He also battles diabetes and a heart condition, which has been aggravated by some of his financial worries. He and his wife have one daughter in school in Italy and four other children at home. Your generous support from the nations has provided needed food for the household, and we are able to consider assisting Mrs. Abdallah with bus driver training in order for her to secure her next place in the workforce for the family’s benefit while Nabil waits for tourism to Israel to resume. We prayed for Nabil, who told us that he had immediate relief from pain from a fall prior to our visit. We also prayed with the daughter in Milan (via phone), striving to be the best student while separated from her family. As this man shared the integrity of his heart for his family, it was evident to us that the Father will restore this believer’s prominence and good fortune for His own glory! We are pleased to play a part in that restoration.

Kim Brunson

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Ciuriuc Romanian family

“So then, while we [as individual believers] have the opportunity, let us do good to all people [not only being helpful, but also doing that which promotes their spiritual well-being], and especially to those of the household of faith (born-again believers).”

Galatians 6:10



Pastor and family Saba from Nazareth



Christian Arab Abdallah family



I Will Go Wherever You Go!

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.” (Ruth 1:16-17)

We are familiar with these words of Ruth the Moabite who, was grafted into the commonwealth of Israel and became the grandmother of King David and entered the lineage of Messiah. “What a privilege,” we might say. But, what a price to consider.

Operation Guardian of the Walls broke out on May 10.

We always pray and listen as to where we should travel and whom we shall visit. Accordingly, our trip to Ashkelon was arranged for April 27 and scheduled for May 11, with Nicolene, a CFI volunteer. Heavy rocket fire on southern Israel, especially Ashkelon, started late on May 10 and lasted for the entire night but calmed down by morning. At that point, we didn’t know if there would be another attack. We prayed, and after the confirmation of total peace, we left the office.

I want to share with you Nicolene’s account of that day. “I was so excited to accompany Olga in visiting Holocaust survivors. Anatoly served us juice and cake. Helena, his wife, mentioned that the rockets were scheduled for 10 am. By 10:10, the sirens went off. Anatoly spoke to Helena, nudging her to come to the passageway. Once the rockets stopped, we continued our conversation and eventually said our good-byes. While in the car, looking for an address, the sirens went off again. Not sure what to do, Olga called me to take shelter under an apartment block. I could see the rockets circling in the air, going like popcorn, as the Iron Dome hit them. It was SO loud. You could feel the intensity in the air. We were outside, exposed.

We stood behind a thin pillar, as close as possible to each other, praying out loud. As soon as it stopped, we looked for cover. Olga found a place at the staircase. As the sirens echoed, we huddled, keeping low. The sirens and rockets became louder and more intense. After 40 minutes, we prayed, felt released, ran to the car, and drove off. Waiting at a crossing, sirens went off again. What now? Where to go? Finally, we made our way to the last survivor. He had the TV on; on the news was a car hit by a rocket. Reality sets in; it could have been us. The sirens went off again. We took shelter in his safe room. A little while later, Olga had an urgency that we should leave immediately. No sooner did we leave Ashkelon when the rockets came raining down. What a mighty God we serve. God held our lives in the palm of His hand, and no one could snatch us out of it.”

It was a pleasure having Nicolene with me, perhaps divine timing for us to experience the difficult reality of living in a war zone. Our hearts grow more tender towards our Survivors as we live out the good and bad days alongside them. Like Ruth, we stay wherever they are, wherever they go, in difficulty and victory. We want to express our deepest gratitude for all your prayers, love and support, and your constant stand with us.

Olga Kopilova

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Ethiopia had difficulty educating the children because of many variables. In 1892, Emperor Menelik II began the modernization and secularization of Ethiopian education. Before then, the families and the religious structure were responsible for educating their children. From 1905 on, Ethiopians began to associate secular education with national progress. The Elite started to discuss the need for Universal education and literacy.

Dreams Deferred Coming to Pass in Israel

The late Empress Zewditu Memlik, in 1921, declared openly, “Those of you who are leaders of parishes in rural as well as urban areas, with responsibilities in the churches, must teach their children to read and write.” However, Ethiopia’s education system foundations were structure by external influences. To compensate for Ethiopia’s lack of qualified personnel, Ethiopia’s imperial government imported teachers, administrators, and education advisors from countries like France and Egypt. It also invited foreign private schools to build a more modern education system in the early 20th century. French was the language of instruction at many Ethiopian schools until 1935.

In 1904, an Ashkenazim native of Poland took Ethiopia to heart. During that time, he traveled eleven times to the land and studied the beliefs and customs of Beta Israel. Dr. Jacques Faitlovitch (1881-1955) wanted to make the Ethiopian children aware of their potential. “I see that young people today are not always aware of the opportunities in their lives. It’s hard to define the doors open to you when you are so focused on your poverty and helping your family.”

The common thread that ran through all aspects of the program on their behalf brought them closer to other Jewish communities. To this end, Faitlovitch sought to raise their education standards and created a Western-educated elite capable of interacting with their Jewish counterparts. Faitlovitch worked on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry until he died in 1955. Moving along the road where we stand and peer into the future, we have seen this group of Ethiopians working hard to change their stigma as a community in need with an attitude of complacency. The ongoing need has raised the bar from the “dream deferred” of the former generation of Ethiopians to “dream again” in this generation!

One of the Students Under Dr. Faitlovitch Remembers

“The eldest of five children of Bogale Birru and Beletu Reda, was raised in a family of farmers and goat and cattle herders. He showed an early aptitude for language and education. With the help of Dr. Jacob (Jacques) Faitlovitch and Professor Tamrat Emmanuel, he completed his primary studies, and at the age of 12, and was one of several young people selected to study abroad. After attending elementary school in Jerusalem for four years, he spent two years in high school in Frankfurt, Germany. He attended the University of Heidelberg for two years and completed his international studies at the Asher Institute for Jewish Education in Lausanne, Switzerland and the Alliance Francaise Universelle in Paris. After returning to Addis Ababa in 1932, he taught in the teacher training and boarding school opened there by Dr. Faitlovitch, eventually becoming its principal.”

Creating a Paradigm shift in Identity!

Many of today’s younger people of the Ethiopian culture wish not to repeat what they have seen in their grandparents: unable to get decent jobs and unable to speak the country’s Hebrew language. Yet, there is the desire to hold on to some of their cultural food and Amharic language. This generation is active to help reduce discrimination by addressing the educational needs and to identify opportunities for advancement in technology, business, and career in media and government.

We can be Godly role models each time we give ourselves to prayer, to donate, to visit the community, or to build opportunities for students to learn. We set a standard and raise the bar when we help another become who God has created them to be!



Training in process



Marcia giving hope to a child to dream again



Learning is so important

NEW!

Development of CFI's Ongoing Work to Assist Ethiopian Jewry in Israel Today

When Ethiopian Jewry began to arrive in Israel during the 1990's CFI was one of the first Christian ministries to reach out to the new arrivals. We were stationed across the street from the Absorption Center in Mevasseret Zion. It was very convenient for us to make our visits and to talk with the community leaders to see what was most needed at the time. Our outreach program was entitled "Together Again" as many families had been left behind in Ethiopia and the release of family members to come to Israel was bringing people together once again. It was marvelous times to see the commitment and the love for the nation they came back to. It was inspiring and uplifting.

As we reached out to many new immigrants from different nations of the world through our Distribution Center, few Ethiopian visitors came to us because they are a quiet people and their demeanor is one of humbleness and modesty. Many have progressed in wonderful ways of modern education and technical skills as well as advancement in the IDF and other Israeli corporations and security jobs; however, many still need to be given the opportunity to learn modern technological skills and specific skills such as in sewing and tailoring. CFI aims to help them and give them an opportunity to have free education sponsored by Christian love from around the world. God knows the plans He has for them and we are so pleased to be there to bring joy into their lives. Perhaps more than any other immigrants, they are a deep spiritual and inspirational people and their vision of Jerusalem deep within their souls before arrival, was to see the Jerusalem of their dreams. And even though times have been very rough for them in many ways, most will stand by their nation and homeland and are a people to whom we can enjoy bringing hope. With the new plans along with the every day requests for help and assistance with a multitude of needs, we continue to reach out to this special people group who have obeyed God by coming home.

Our Hope for the Future department and our new Learning Center written about in this issue of For Zion Sake is very busy every day as we work toward giving the best ways to assist, teach, educate, and help Ethiopian Jewish communities with their dream and for many, assisting in individual families with the needs they and their children have today. **Thank you to everyone who sees the importance of this outreach and work among one of Israel's communities in the great "ingathering" still taking place today. God bless you for your prayers and supports.**

Marcia Brunson

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Baby Adele was born prematurely



Maggie visits with Adele and her mother

Celebrating God's Miracles

Recently when I was in Sderot near Gaza to visit rocket attack victims, one woman unexpectedly ran to me extremely happy and gave me a big hug. I was overjoyed and greatly encouraged by this surprise. When she told me about their miracle, I realized how important the work of Project Communities Under Attack (CUA) is to her and her family, as well as other Israeli civilians affected by rocket attacks, whose lives were profoundly touched by Project CUA.

The Story of Adele

Dvora (grandmother of Adele) said Adele was born in early 2013 at the end of the fifth month of her mother's pregnancy and weighed only 640 grams (see picture 1). Baby Adele was 4 months in the hospital after birth, and the doctors gave her a very low chance to live because her lungs had not yet developed and she had Cystic Fibrosis. She was connected to many medical devices and treatments and continued to require oxygen almost until the age

Adele and her two older brothers



of one year. Her motor development was also difficult. Adele has received a lot of medical and parental care. Despite the ordeal, she survived—a miracle from God! Psalm 139 verse 16 says, ***“Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.”***

She was six months old when we visited. Her grandmother Dvora told me that they are forever grateful to Project CUA of CFI for being there for them and all the other rocket victims at a most difficult time. Praise God that today Adele is seven years old. She is still undergoing treatments and tests at the Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, and under the supervision of a specialist in the preterm lung section at Hadassah Mount Scopus Hospital in Jerusalem. But thank God she is alive and is a very sweet and brilliant girl. Adele is a reminder of God's miracles and lovingkindness. We celebrate this Miracle with Dvora and her family.

Thank you – our supporters, for your support of Project CUA. Together, we have been making a profound difference in the lives of Israeli civilians suffering from constant rocket attacks from Gaza. May you be as encouraged as I am by this Miracle of Adele's life and of Project CUA.

Maggie Huang

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JERUSALEM FOREST WILDFIRE

Israel's summer heat with low humidity presses the Israel Fire and Rescue agency to the highest alert. One spark can cause devastating damage, especially among parched forests and underbrush. Jerusalem has not had a drop of rain since early April and may not have rain until November. After four months of dry heat, conditions contributed to the Beit Meir Fire that began August 16, second in magnitude to the 2010 Mount Carmel fire.

CFI Surveyed the Fire

The day began as a typically hot summer day, not expectant of rain-producing clouds. However, massive orange and black apocalyptic clouds rose above the blue Jerusalem sky that will not soon be forgotten. The sun appeared as a vast red glowing ball from behind the billowing, angry clouds. Driving along towards Jerusalem, we noticed the expressions on people's faces of both fear and wonder. They lined the streets, capturing the phenomenon on their cell phones. Our wonderment of the sudden appearance was concluded as the smell of smoke filled the air. Although the fire began nine miles from the City Centre, the smoke lingered and caused concern for several days.

"Chanoch Zoref, a JNF forester, said that 'after 35 years in the mountain area, this is the second-largest fire I have seen here, the strong wind created a storm of fire, and the flames reached many tens of meters. The intensity of the fire and the speed of the spread of the fire, I do not remember such sights'" (Aryeh Savir, jewishpress.com). Nearly 6,000 acres were scorched, and 10,000 animals were lost (Wikipedia.org).

Scorched land
Fire cloud over Jerusalem



CFI was on the Ground to Assess the Needs

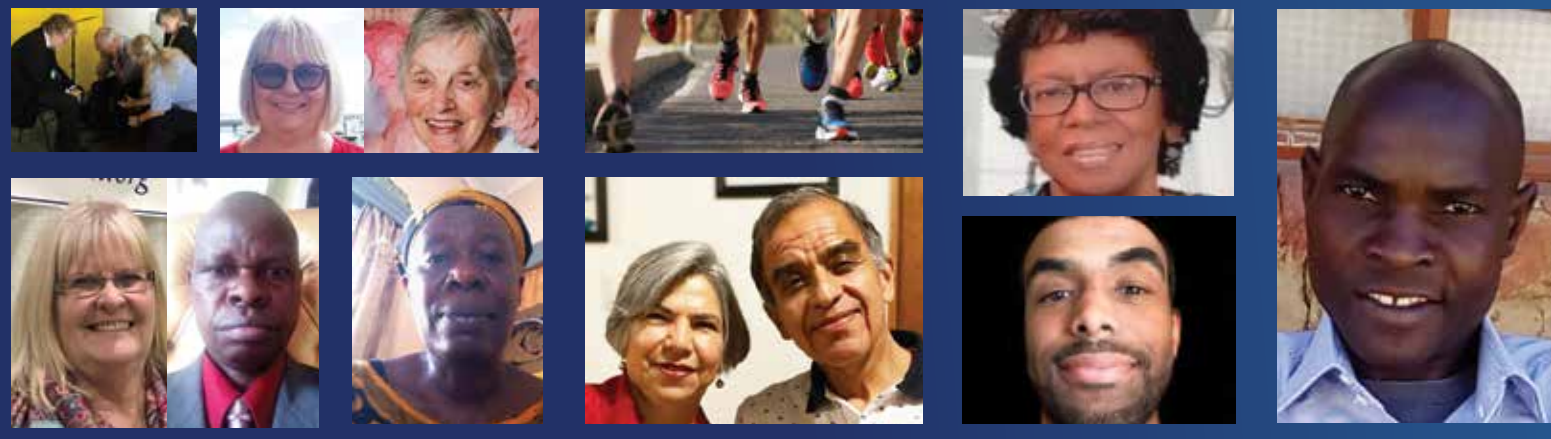
Those closest to the fire had a different response. Christian Friends of Israel sent in a team to investigate the area and assess the needs after the fire was contained. Several locals were glad to tell us of their experience. "I was very afraid. I saw the fire coming. I live alone, so I called my son, who told me to come there quickly." An elderly couple we spoke with did not feel worried but knew all would be o.k. CFI has received calls for help. Plans for responding to the needs are being made.

Our hearts go out to all who experienced the loss of their property. The destruction included the Harari Harp workshop, Metzuda winery, and several homes in the Ramat Raziel area. Micha Harari of King David Harps pulled water hoses from his home across the street from the harp workshop to try to save their harp creations. Everything in the shop turned to ashes, including his wife's medical clinic (israelnationalnews.com). The cause of the fire is under investigation but is leaning toward arson. According to satellite images, at precisely 3 p.m., in separate locations that were several miles apart (Beit Meir, Sho'eva, Ramat Raziel, and Givat Ye'arem), arsonists may have ignited the Judean hills. "In this particular blaze, for instance, we were able to locate three separate areas where fires broke out, calculate the distance between them, see which way they were headed, and conclude that the chances that they started naturally are close to nil." (israelnationalnews.com)

God, Himself, is Israel's restitution. He restores and protects her. ***"For I, says the LORD, will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst"*** (Zechariah 2:5, NKJV). Those who lost will rebuild. However, it takes decades for a natural forest to recover. The forests are the "green lungs" of Israel, as named by the Jewish National Fund (jpost.com) who have coordinated the planting of 350 million trees since 1901. Our job is to pray for Israel and be active in participating in what God is doing in the Land, and help protect the precious resources. CFI Emergency Fund helped a number of families who had property damage to be able to rebuild.

—Tommie Coleman—

For helping Israel in Emergencies, please donate to: Israel Emergency Fund



◆ WALL OF PRAYER *Israel Watch Prayer Network*

Encircling Israel in Prayer from the Nations

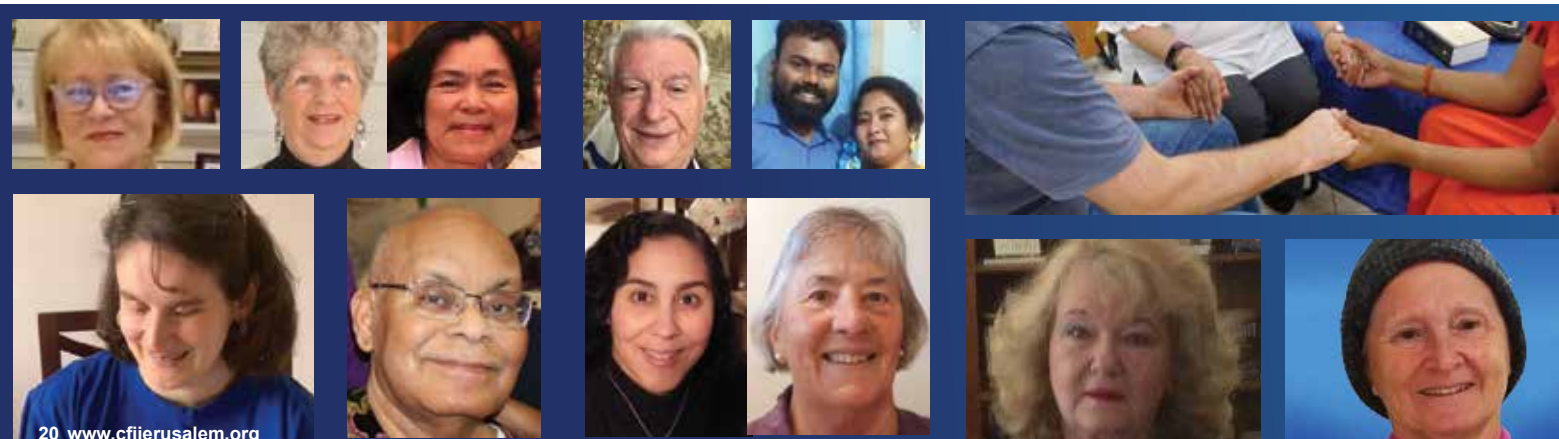
“Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

When you hear the word “surrounded,” what image comes to mind; one of impending danger, or one of protection? It really depends on who or what is surrounding you and the amount of strength or power they possess. If you are surrounded by mighty enemies, you will probably feel intimidated if you do not know the resources you have available to withstand them. The account of Elisha and his servant found in 2 Kings 6:15-17 is an example of such a situation. When the servant awakened in the morning and saw that the city was encircled by armies with horses and chariots who were preparing to attack them, he panicked and asked Elisha what they should do. Elisha told him not to fear because they had allies that the servant could not see. Elisha prayed saying, “Lord, please, open his eyes that he may see.” The Lord opened the servant’s spiritual eyes. Suddenly, he saw a heavenly army in the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding them. From the servant’s viewpoint, initially the situation looked threatening. However, once his spiritual eyes were opened, he realized who was actually surrounding them, Adonai T’zavot, the Lord of Armies! The enemies had no power to

harm them because the Lord was encircling them and would fight the battle on their behalf. God did fight for them, and they were victorious against their enemy.

Michael W. Smith sings a song to the Lord, entitled, “Surrounded (Fight my Battles).” A portion of the lyrics say, “It may look like I’m surrounded, but I’m surrounded by You” (<https://youtu.be/YB184oZxnJ4>). In Hebrews chapter 11, the Apostle Paul reminded the Jewish believers that they were surrounded by victorious testimonies written in scripture about the heroes of faith such as, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel. He did not mention every hero by name, but described their triumph in the face of enormous obstacles. In chapter 12, Paul continued with an allegory in which he compared the believers to marathon runners who must persevere despite hardship, pain, and fatigue. They were to do so by focusing on the finish line, the goal—Yeshua (Jesus). The scriptural heroes that he mentioned in chapter 11 symbolized the surrounding audience who were

Prayer growing around the World





Interceding Christians for Israel

cheering the runners on to the finish line. It was as though they were yelling, “Keep on going! Don’t stop! It was by God’s power that we finished the race. You can finish, also!”

The truth of Paul’s admonition still stands today. As runners in this marathon of life, we are uplifted and refreshed by prayers and words of encouragement from those encircling us. In Proverbs 11:25, God promised to bless those who bless others. *“Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed”* (CEB version). We can all play a role in surrounding and encouraging others. In order to complete our race, we must look to God for power and endurance. He surrounds and fortifies us by girding our loins with His strength. Psalm 18:31-33 says, *“For who is God, but the Lord? Or who is a rock, except our God, the God who encircles me with strength?... He makes my feet like hinds’ feet [able to stand firmly and tread safely on paths of testing and trouble]”* (AMP version). In Psalms 125:2, God promised to surround Israel and those who have been grafted in, *“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever”* (AMP version).

We are very grateful for those who have joined the Israel Watch Prayer Network and are encircling Israel with your prayers. We see your faces on our world map surrounding Israel with prayer from every direction: from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. We, at CFI, are strengthened and encouraged to persevere in the race

as we look at your photos, pray for your countries, hear reports of prayer sessions in your nations, and pray together on-line and by phone. Some of you meet to pray for us and with us on a weekly basis. We are overwhelmed by your love. May God reward you abundantly!

Your continued commitment to prayer has a great impact on the nation of Israel and the world. James 5:16 reminds us, *“the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”* (CJB version). I still remember the look of amazement on the face of an Orthodox Jewish rabbi who asked about the photos of the people on the international map in our office. When I explained that these were people who loved and prayed for Israel. He asked the question, “Are these all Christians?” “Yes,” I replied. “These are only a few of them. You may not realize it, but there are Christians all across the world who are praying for you.” He left saying, “Now I understand what the Wall of Prayer is.”

Thank you, our dear supporters, for your prayers and generous gifts which make it possible for us to travel to various locations in Israel to pray with and for the people and the land. The Lord sees your generosity; may He open the windows of heaven for you and pour down blessings upon you without measure.

Linda D. McMurray
 Wall of Prayer Coordinator
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God’s modern Prayer Army



The Church & Israel



Pastor Robbie Coleman CFI Chaplain and International Church Liaison

Replacement Theology is Wrong

Any attempt to transform the church into the “new Israel” is Replacement Theology. It is an attempt to replace Israel with the church. Since about 400 AD, Bible teachers have commonly used “Israel” as a synonym for the church (Prince, *Israel and the Church*, p.13). This doctrine led the church against the design of God.

The church is encouraged to learn from Israel's history. “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition” (I Cor. 10:11). Therefore, we are encouraged to learn from Israel's sins and predetermined consequences—not eradicate her from scriptures as though the church is God's final order. Some teach that Israel must become part of the church to fit the New Testament model of the Kingdom of God. However, if Israel left her identity given to her by God, as described in the book of Exodus, she would need to forsake the very nature of her calling. *“If you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own treasure from among all peoples” (Exodus 19:5, TJB).*

Often those within the church require a Jewish person to assimilate into the customs of a local church. Jews attend a synagogue or a temple on Shabbat, keep Feast Days, wear their kippah and Tzitzit, and, yes, study the Torah Portion. Why would we require a Jewish person to neglect those practices that make them remarkably Jewish?

Israel will Experience a Renewal

Most of those reading this article grew up within a Gentile church setting. As much as we love the church, there are some things we may have misunderstood. Paul says, *“All Israel will be saved”*

(Romans 11:26). This does not infer that every Jewish person will become Christian, but rather that national Israel will experience a renewal before the Messianic Kingdom begins. We must also understand that the Messianic Kingdom will be governed from Jerusalem. It will not be a universal church, but rather “The Kingdom of God” during the Millennial Reign with observances of the Feasts of the Lord. *“They shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my Sabbaths” (Ezekiel 44:24, KJV).*

God has not turned his back on His people, but He has allowed a temporary, partial hardening: *“...a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved” (Romans: 25-26).* God is preparing the prodigal son for dinner at the table while the older son struggles, even to jealousy. Romans 10:19 says, *“I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”*

One could ask when Israel will take their seat at the table? **Romans 11:25,** *“I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”* Only God knows what and when that fullness is. “Fullness,” in Greek, means “that which has been filled; a ship ... as it is filled with sailors, rowers, and soldiers” (Strong's Concordance). Something new is happening. Many Jewish people today pray a prayer for the Gentiles to accept Geula (Final Redemption). I was amazed to learn about Geula from a prominent Jewish teacher who understands the Gentiles' important part in welcoming the soon to arrive Messianic Kingdom, or Final Redemption.

We often pray for the Jewish redemption while they are praying for our redemption. They want us to have full redemption so the Messiah will come. Now you may find that odd; however, this may be God's way of making the two groups become one. (Adler, *Worldwide Awakening to the Final Redemption*, israel365news.com)

While we rejoice in the New Covenant, we realize the original Covenant is eternal. ***“The law which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void” (Galatians 3:17).***

The perfect will of God never has to be rescinded. Both Israel and the church have unanswered questions since the Kingdom of God is yet to be fully revealed. Many Christian Gentiles have struggled to understand how Jews fit in this Kingdom, whereas the Jews struggle to see how Gentiles are included. Paul, the Jewish Rabbi, called the Gentile inclusion a mystery. “This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).

When we pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” we believe for a total redemption for both the redeemed prodigal and his elder brother. This Kingdom has existed from the beginning. ***“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations” (Psalm 145:13).***

Jews by Nature

The DNA of Jews is referenced in Galatians 2:15: “We who are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles.” Paul rebukes Peter for “blending in.” World-systems have often required Jews to “blend in,” while God has determined that their very DNA is designed to walk upright before the Lord. Many governments have called upon Jews to integrate into the church system as well as their political allegiance. When refused, the Jewish people were harshly persecuted or killed.

Peter, Barnabas, and other Jews felt a need to act like non-Jews in order to fit into the Gentile church world (Galatians 2:11-14). Paul asserts, in verse 15, that by natural instinct, Jews have a conscience that challenges sin. In verse 16, Paul interjects that the Jews needed faith to be justified even with that strong lineage.

Many people realize how much has been given to us by the descendants of Abraham. The Israelites gave us these gifts: adoption, glory, covenants, law, temple, promises, and Christ (Romans 9:4).

The Church's Beginning and End

We can point to the birth of the church in the book of Acts through Jewish Apostles and believers who remained Jewish in worship until Gentile leadership introduced bias (Justin Martyr, “Dialogue with Trypho the Jew”). Most evangelicals teach that the church makes a complete exit from the earth, as explained in the book of Revelation, that ends the Gentile dispensation. Thus, we see the church's beginning and its end.

Israel had its beginning as a people group when God renamed Jacob (Genesis 32:28). Notice that there is not an end to Israel; ***“They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever” (Ezekiel 37:25). “I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end...” (Jeremiah 30:11).***

The fact is that the Kingdom is much larger than the church and larger than Israel. We will be joined to the Messiah, with true faith, to a united destiny in the eternal Kingdom of God when ***“...he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:33).***

—Robbie Coleman—



**The Messianic Kingdom
will be governed
from Jerusalem**

Pastoral Higher Education

In a structure as above, if a keystone is removed, it could collapse. Christianity functions worldwide with a keystone missing in teaching congregations. This keystone has been a missing link for centuries and a missing link causes a disconnect.

Jesus is our cornerstone which symbolizes a firm foundation; nevertheless, a considerable number of gentile forefathers weakened our infrastructure. Unfortunately, through the heretical teaching of Replacement Theology, tares were sown among the wheat and leaven has ruined nearly a whole lump of believers around the world. It remains embedded in the loaf of wheat until (to be waved before the Lord on His Day) until presently.

During these prophetic days, we can do something about this terrible arrow lodged in the heart of what we believe, but we cannot do it without the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us as we teach disciples about Jesus. It is all about discipleship, and as leaders, it is mandatory and required that we get past the flawed theologies—beginning with Replacement Theology. Then we can tackle other issues in which the church continues to attack the Jewish people unceasingly. Right now at this time, I have never experienced a time when the Jewish people want Christian friends to build relationships and friendship with to tear down the walls, to build bridges, and learn what we are all about. This is not an evangelistic course—this is a learning process, which you need to be in step with the Spirit in these prophetic times. If you turn away and say, “I have no need,” Israel means nothing to me,” you will be making one of the biggest mistakes of your career. At the end of our teaching and discussions, if you still feel you want nothing to do with Israel as the people God chose to carry His Name forever, and the City of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel, as His Land and City where His Name would be continually, you are free to dismiss what I will share; however, you may want to prepare yourself to come to the table

and dine on more “meat” than you have received in awhile. Please consider joining our Youtube channel for pastors. I am prepared as a consequence of my experience of living in Israel for 35 years, plus my relationships and studies with Orthodox Jewish rabbis, scholars and friends, and knowing how we, as Christians, think—I would hope to bring a blessing to the Church.

Register and Sign-Up to Learn More

We turn to you to ask if you are inclined to let the Bible challenge some of your historical teaching. If so, please register and sign up for an opportunity to learn from a veteran sister in the Lord to teach all she has learned. I have to admit few Christian feet have walked where I’ve gone, and honestly, less than few have had deep relationships, which we’ve built with Orthodox Jews. The Christian world does not know the Jewish world—only misrepresentation and fabrication about what they heard. The Jewish world does not know the real Christian world other than what they have experienced over time. It is time to challenge age old mindsets and to learn the true story of our imperative relationship together with Israel when the Lord returns.

I would ask that you pray for an open heart, a heart willing to learn and be flexible, because it may surprise you what the Jewish world is truly like. Those who work here and are veterans and citizens of Israel give you a taste of the relationships with Jewish people in the Land while we work with them. You may receive a complete surprise to what you have been taught over the years.

One thing is assured, we cannot turn to a seminary or Christian university today to teach Israelology and why it is a keystone to our faith. Few, if any, professors in the classrooms know how to teach scripturally about Israel –what they know is what they hear from the news media who have lied for years. If you wish to be in step with what the Holy Spirit of God is going to be doing in the days, months and years ahead of us—then you are going

to want to come back to your foundational roots, and come with willing hearts to learn. If you listen and are teachable, you will never be the same and you will never preach the same because you will be in step with the Lord Jesus and what He is doing. You will want to say, “I never knew that! Why didn’t someone tell me before? I’ve been preaching for years but never realized this!”

Seeing Bible Prophecy Clearly

These are days of preparation. We are preparing in Israel for the Coming of Messiah (Jesus), learning about His People and Land and the role they play in the Second Coming. We need to see Bible prophecy that is taking place, and learn the role of true believers along with the Jewish people. Bring with you, please, a case for new glasses. We will be putting on our new ones, which will help us to see the Bible as it was written, to whom it was written, the context it was written, who Jesus was, what Christianity is, and what the nation of Israel means to every true believer in preparation for the Coming Kingdom to earth. Jesus warned us not to be deceived. I can promise you that what you will learn is Bible—absolute truth—and there is no deception involved. It is God’s Timing to reveal some of the misunderstood and hidden passages that need explanation and put into proper context from the Hebrew context, the language to which the Bible was given to us originally. Most pastors use eisegesis instead of exegesis in preaching and teaching. We either “read into” a passage and make it fit our message or we “pull from and take out” of the original scrolls and translations given to us. We will learn about “exegesis” together.

Please join us in learning what you did not receive in Seminary, Bible College, or your place of training for ministry. We will tell you why you did not learn the truth and do our best to answer questions you may always have wanted to ask but didn’t know to whom to go. If you are speaking for Israel, or would like to learn how to teach about Israel, please join us.

- Help us align the Body in unity worldwide with God’s Word regarding the Church and Israel. This will bring unification and solidarity that is desperately needed. We need to help eradicate the broken and divisive state of the church. God is a God of Unity, not division.


- We have a great responsibility and we are called for such a time as this. Our Jewish friends want to build friendships with us, now is our time.

- Many Jewish scholars and brethren are waiting for Christians to awaken to the foundations of their faith and to acknowledge the mistakes made through the centuries in regard to the Jewish people.

Read Carefully:

“O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit” (Jeremiah 16:19).

Sharon Sanders is a Co-Founder of Christian Friends of Israel (CFI), an international Christian ministry with headquarters in Jerusalem since December, 1985. It is known as one of the pioneer Christian ministries in the Land. She and her husband, Ray, have lived thirty-five years in Israel constructing Christian Friends of Israel from the first foundational stone and up. She studied the Bible with an Orthodox Rabbi for 18 years. She took a seat and learned under some of the best teachers in the world including Dr. Derek Prince, Rev. Lance Lambert, Dr. Freda Lindsay and Bible scholars in Jerusalem, both Christian and Jewish. She studied courses in conjunction with Hebrew University, and became an ordained minister with Christ for the Nations Bible College in Dallas, Texas. Ray and Sharon travelled to over 50 nations to teach the congregations and pastors about the Church’s Responsibility to Israel and about the prophetic Word from our Hebraic foundations—seldom delivered from our pulpits.



**The battle for bible accuracy
in the church cannot be
fought in the flesh; it must
be fought with Truth!**

New!

Operation Start Up!

Stepping into a New Season

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-10)



Large and small name brand appliances will be given

CFI is now in a new generation of outreach to Israel and the Jewish people. Our objectives have always been to tear down the walls, which Christianity built historically between the church and Israel. I once was asked by a Jewish man, “I read where Jesus tore down the wall between us, but you Christians put it back up again!” I was very horrified at this thought because it is entirely true. My immediate thoughts were, “how can we ever rectify this, repair damage done to the Jewish heart and mind and restore what once began in the same city of Jerusalem and stayed together for the first centuries of time. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the only two Jewish sects that remain were Orthodox Judaism and the Judaism of Jesus, which became known as “Christianity” through time.

CFI building Relationships since 1985

Since the inception of CFI in December 1985, we have been building relationships, alliances between Jews and Christians, and bonding in many new ways that have never been done before the founding of the Jewish state. We have been among the pioneer ministries loving Israel with unconditional and unquestioning, unreserved, and unqualified love. Why? Because Jesus loved all of us before we knew Him. He demonstrated His Love for us while we were yet



Planning stages of the store

sinner (Romans 5:8). Some would say we compromise. No way. Both sowers and reapers received the same reward (Ephesians 6:8). Someone has to prepare the ground for building, construction, planting, starting anything new.

From January 1990 until October 2021 (this year), the CFI Distribution Center has touched many Jewish lives through providing the highest quality garments from around the world. It was wonderful to see Israelis wearing the clothing sent from the nations. Our guest books reflect their inner thoughts and feelings toward us and they told their neighbors, friends, and everyone they see. Doors began to open for home visits and deep long-lasting relationships. We wish we had time to talk about all of the wonderful bonding that has been done over the years. Healing began from the hurt caused by those of the Christian faith. Still, we are working on the healing process as we speak. Jewish people have reflected just what our love and healing balm has meant to them over the years, and now realize their best friends in the whole world are Evangelical Christians (Zionists) who believe in them, their Land, and People. However, it is time for a “new season” of helping the people to make Israel their home and bless them with Christian love. Our shining hour is now. Let us show you our new *Olim* (Immigrant Store) and new Learning Center (for Ethiopian Jewry). Come and see what God has started once again!

We are determined to represent Him in the right way



Planning a New Store for New Immigrants

Pastor Robbie Coleman and Jo Fernandez seen installing beautiful wooden shelving for the new small appliance shop where our friends who are newcomers can come and select new small and large appliances, which they are in need of as new immigrants. We hope to have many new stories to share with our partners in ministry around the world of our new opportunity to “make a difference” in Jewish-Christian relations. God is the supplier. God is the visionary. God is in our work. Will you join us and become a provider for our shelves to always remain filled.

Pastor Jentezen Franklin of Free Chapel church, Gainesville, Georgia has very graciously supplied the entire stock of our new store to overflowing with new items needed for Israel’s returning families. Please pray about helping us. Our new project outreach comes under the umbrella of Open Gates and designated gifts may be given to: **Operation Start Up/Olim. May the Lord God of Israel raise up lovers of Zion all over the world to help us build a new season of giving from the heart of Christians who follow the Lord Jesus.**



Pastor Jentezen Franklin

◆ For Ethiopian Jewry **HOPE RESOURCE CENTER** *New!*

Operation “Start Up” Learning Center For Ethiopian Jewry

Stepping into a New Season for Israel’s Ethiopian Jewry

In the late 1980’s after our arrival and the beginning of CFI, we began an outreach to Ethiopian Jewry coming home to the Land that they had wanted to see for centuries. We lived across the street from the Mevasseret Zion Absorption Center and we visited quite often to observe the needs these beautiful people had. It was then that we realized the conditions they met upon their arrival. Many families at that time were separated as all did not make it to Israel on the various flight operations.

We called our program “**Together Again,**” when they finally met one another—in Israel in time. These people are very gentle and kind-hearted, not gregarious in the way they come to receive. However, we have built many relationships with absorption center personnel, social workers, community leaders, and of course, with the people themselves. We must keep working to help them receive comparable help and assistance to make a living in Israel. First, educational opportunities are needed, and then, teachers to help them learn modern technological equipment for the younger generation, and as well as appliances such as new sewing machines for the older generation to be able to make beautiful garments, and crafts, which can be sold to put bread on the table for all their families. **Will you help us?**



Will you join us in their journey to the Promised Land?

“For I know the plans I have for you said the Lord...” (Jeremiah 29:11)



The Learning Center is furnished with brand new sewing machines

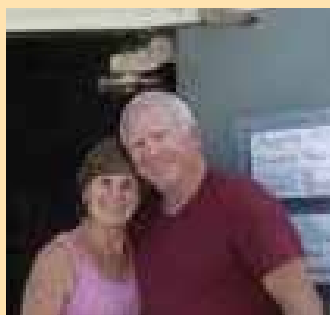


New computers have been purchased and installed for classes in learning

Join with us in “their journey”

New ideas and creativity are helping us to reach out with Christian love and caring hearts. “We want to reach whole communities to make a difference. We have stepped outside the box with our inspiration from the Lord to assist communities in Israel. We are so excited to launch this vision from God that will inject new energy, hands-on possibilities, and hope into many hearts. Of course, we will give God all the glory. You will have a part to play in our new Operation Start Up Learning Center.

Once again, our dear friend, Pastor Jentezen Franklin, has sponsored this new store and will continue to help us along throughout the year. We are expecting great things from these two new Start Up projects. We wish to thank him for having confidence in our work. **Thank you Pastor Franklin, for without you these two new Start Ups for the People of Israel would never have been made possible.**



Don and Jean-Kaye Wilson, Founders of H.E.L.P. International, Loveland Colorado

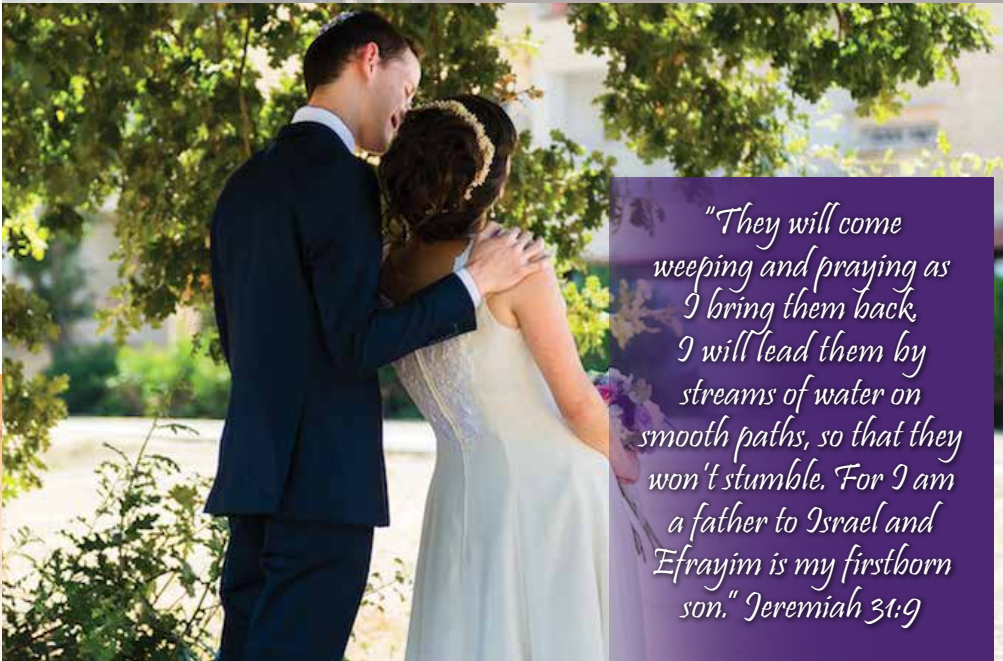
Don and Jean Kaye Wilson, from H.E.L.P. International, in Loveland, Colorado, has been such a friend to Christian Friends of Israel ever since our founding days. Helping others around the world, the Wilson’s have always had a

portion of their warehouse marked “Israel” (CFI). For years they have send tons of high quality garments from the United States (along with Olive Grove Projects, Luton, England), which we have reported in previous magazines. Jean-Kaye Wilson has also played a paramount part in the forming of the new Ethiopian Learning Center. Funds for this project have helped us to purchase the computers and the sewing machines to be able to provide our dear friends who wish to sign up to learn. Our center will be a place to tackle computer illiteracy, career complacency, and to offer a reinforced curriculum for IT learning, business classes, and to continue reinforcing skill in sewing and tailoring. As we sow seeds of the love of God, please pray about helping us as our dear long time friends, the Wilsons, in H.E.L.P. International.

Our purchase of accessible appliances, material for a computer center, power computer cart, laptops, sewing machines, software packet, overhead projector and screen, and the rest of the material for building these two new outreach centers for CFI could not have been made possible without Pastor Jentezen Franklin and H.E.L.P. International. We are indebted and thank all of our supporters across the world for your precious help in carrying the new vision to continue to repair the damage done for centuries by followers of Christianity.

-Sharon Sanders-

Finding their Destiny in the Land



"They will come weeping and praying as I bring them back, I will lead them by streams of water on smooth paths, so that they won't stumble. For I am a father to Israel and Ephraim is my firstborn son." Jeremiah 31:9

Hadassah (name is changed)

grew up in a Jewish home in the USA. They kept the main traditions without being very religious. The family was doing well, and by the words of Hadassah, she was quite spoiled from her childhood. Later God started to call this young woman and opened her eyes to see the plan for His nation. Hadassah understood that God was calling her to Israel. Making *Aliyah* was not an easy thing to do for her. Hadassah had visited Israel only once a long time ago. She did not really know the environment where she was moving. She had to leave her comfort zone, her family, and many things that were dear to her heart.

God was making a Way

After following the call of God and coming to Israel, she met an interesting young man who was also a new immigrant from the States. Yossi (name is changed) and Hadassah "clicked" very

quickly and started to date. Yossi proposed to his chosen one in the Old City of Jerusalem. They started to plan their wedding. It was not easy to do because of the corona restrictions that were changing all the time. Also, financially it was a challenge to organize a celebration. Hadassah lost her job at that time and started to seek a new one. Despite all of the difficulties, God was making a way. Awesome friends of Yossie and Hadassah did a marvelous job by taking care of a lot of things without any cost.

About three weeks before the wedding, Hadassah came to the CFI Bridal Salon in need of the gown for the most special day of her life. We found a light and beautiful dress that fit her perfectly and a lovely veil. Hadassah also chose a necklace from our collection to complete the outfit. She was surprised about the blessing and the help from Christian Friends of

Israel that day. "How is it possible that there are places like this?" she thought in her mind.

The wedding took place in May 2021 in the Old City of Jerusalem. It was the time when hundreds of rockets were fired daily from Gaza. Hadassah was a bit nervous because people were coming to the celebration from different cities of Israel. Some of their guests did not come because of the danger. Also, in the Old City, there was a wave of violence at that time. No one from the family members of the Bride or the Groom could join the wedding. Both Hadassah and Yossi are the first among their relatives who moved to Israel, and the traveling from the States was too complicated at that moment. But God was there to bless this brand-new family. About seventy friends and witnesses from Israel were rejoicing with Hadassah and Yossi about the covenant they made in love. Hadassah is grateful to God for His love and care shown to her in so many ways, which includes a new job. Also Yossi changed his job. This young family is starting to find their destiny in Israel.

CFI Bridal Salon is open to serve more and more future couples, which the Lord is bringing to the promised Land. We can be a huge blessing to them and to many other people who need a beautiful gown for any reason. Thank you for supporting us!

Tiina Danilevski

Project Bridal Salon Supervisor
bridal@cfijerusalem.org

Will you Help us Give the Love of God That Should Always Have Been Given?



Kim helping a grateful Israeli

CFI is a Pioneer Christian Ministry and is a Legally Registered Ministry with its Headquarters in Jerusalem

- ✓ We were here when terror broke out during the first Intifada
- ✓ We were here when the first Ethiopian airlifts made it home
- ✓ We maintain the only Christian Bridal Salon in Jerusalem
- ✓ We have supported and stood by congregations across the Land
- ✓ We have established relationships with IDF leaders on bases across Israel

Who are You Supporting? An exciting Ministry of Relationship Builders Tearing Down Walls

Please Pray about Giving

Donate to: www.cfijerusalem.org

Notes from Our Partners-in-Ministry

“All the facets of the ministry of CFI are amazing – from the beautifully practical to the unfailing spiritual love of the Father to all those who come across your path. Thank you for showing more and more of His fullness.” H&CV – USA

“To be part of the work under God is a high calling and a great privilege and blessing to all of us over the years. Yes, as many said, it has shaped our lives.” BH – UK



SPOTLIGHT ON CFI GERMANY

Understanding the Significance of ISRAEL

I am excited to report that even though we had heavy lockdowns and no events last year, the amount of donations rose by about one third – 2020 was the record high in donation income and donation transfers to Israel for CFI Germany ever – we praise you Jesus, for this blessing!

It was so encouraging for me because I could see with my own eyes that there are many people out there, in this nation, who have understood the significance of Israel and who have chosen to be obedient and generous in their financial giving and prayerful support! That is part of the fruit of your and our labor over the years and a clear sign that God is working. Yes, on the one hand we see all the churches that don't support Israel, but then, let us not forget those who do. We have also seen a steady increase in our facebook followers which has now reached over 10,000 friends.

In November CFI-Germany will be a participator at the 4th Church-Israel-Conference hosted by the Christian Forum for Israel (CFFI), a cooperation of several pro-Israel Christian Ministries in the land. I am on the board of CFFI and have the privilege to be in the planning committee and will be leading worship with my husband as one of the music groups. The conference will be streamed, but we hope this will be the last time we can't have people actually present.

Over the summer, some of the restrictions installed because of the pandemic have been lifted here in Germany. We praise God for this breather! In the last school year, the children spent 7 months at home doing home-schooling, which has caused tremendous difficulties for many families and children. I think it was especially hard on the children, because they go through so much development in their social skills during their growing up years. Many children had or have emotional issues, mine included. It was wonderful to see that just being "back to normal" and back to school for the last 8 weeks before the summer vacation helped them greatly in regaining their emotional equilibrium. Now, our children are Christians and are growing up in a Christian home where we are always talking and



Ewald and Amber Sutter

praying with them and we were able to successfully work through these difficult times together with the Lord's help. But what about those who don't know Jesus or have God-fearing parents, or just one parent who is constantly at work? My heart breaks for them. Lord, please have mercy on our nation and all the nations who are dealing with this. May you use this time of crisis to draw people to you, in the name of Jesus!



Hail storm and strong wind

As more flooding and heavier storms than Germany has ever seen are sweeping the nation, God is more and more strongly laying it on His children's heart to pray for our nation, to pray for our family, friends, neighbors, cities. My greatest prayer lately is: "Holy Spirit, please orchestrate divine meetings and give me the right words at the right time that will lead them closer to you. And for our government and nation, help them to take a clear stand for You, God, and not against You, for Your people and not against them, for Your moral code and not against it." We pray for the new government that will be formed in the next month or so. Angela Merkel will not be running, so an era is coming to an end with her retirement. May the next leader of this nation have the heart of a lion, a lion that bows to Jesus. Blessings to all of you from Germany in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Ewald and Amber Sutter
info@cfri.de

Be sure to Join Us for the CFI 2022 Shavuot Online Teaching Event from Jerusalem



CFI Headquarters **THE LOVE of RUTH**

June 4, 2022

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

RUTH 1:16

Register Now! For our Shavuot Teaching Event

Time will be Announced
Register Online
through your
CFI National Representative Office

Topics

- Sharon Sanders to speak about Bible Prophecy and Israel's Role in the End Times
- Jerusalem Worship and Prayer for Shavuot Celebration
- Top Israeli Archeologists will explain the newest Biblical Finds in Israel
- Reading of the Word for Shavuot
- A well-known Rabbi will explain how Biblical Prophecy is happening nearly every day

**Don't miss this
exciting time together!**



Please make sure you contact the CFI Representative nearest you!

Stay connected and informed by visiting us on social media: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram. You can find us on our new YouTube channel as CFI Jerusalem, and visit our website at: www.cfijerusalem.org

