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*For Zion’s Sake*

**Ministry and Teaching Magazine for Prophetic Times**

**First Quarter 2025 Jewish Year 5785**

**The Only Bible Jesus Read**

**Christian Friends of Israel**

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**Shalom from Jerusalem**

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.  Isaiah 35:10

For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Jeremiah 31:11

**I thank God Most High** for the recent redemption of numerous hostages from the jaws of death, from the fowler’s snare.  These precious souls are now back within the arms of those they love, where the process of healing can only now even begin to begin. Ransomed by Israel, for a very, very high price comprising very exacting terms, their tears have finally now turned from sorrow into joy.  What a picture. Isn’t this the very thing that God has done for each of us spiritually? It is what He is doing and will do for Israel. We were lost, we were forlorn, we were torn away from the land of the living, but God has revived us. I am reminded of the precious promises at the beginning of Hosea 6:

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.  After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Please continue to pray for the hostages still remaining.  Our team are continuing to give support and comfort to terror victims and their families wherever we can. We have been standing in particular alongside the Braslavski family, but Tammy’s precious son Rom was sadly not on the recently published hostage list. Hope falters. Many are still desperate for their loved ones. Yet we must continue to hope all things (1 Cor 13:7). Thank you deeply for continuing to stand in prayer and in hope!

***In His service***

***Tristan Hall***

***International Executive Director***

***“Our help comes from The Lord…” Psalm 121:1***

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**FEATURE**

***“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8***

**The Only Bible**

**JESUS READ**

**The only Bible that** Jesus would have schooled others from were Torah scrolls from which He stood up and read in the synagogues. There were simply no other means of understanding the Words of The Almighty at the time. There were no printing presses nor forms of printing works. The hand of the Jewish scribes meticulously penned the God-breathed words given by the Spirit of the Living God in Hebrew to holy Jewish men. Derek Prince taught us; we owe a great debt to the Jews for preserving God’s sacred words for all to read. With this great gift to mankind – it is heartbreaking to hear that some Christians still suggest that we need to  “toss the “Old” Testament in the dustbin of religious literature as “outdated.” Let us give our attention to the inspiring words of Godly Christians who walked in wisdom and understanding in relation to the Bible. **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

**Charles Spurgeon**

**“People read the view of their denominations … they read the view of their leader … but the Divine fountainhead from which all revelation wells up – this is too often left out … read books, by all means … but especially the parchments …”**

This great Minister of God was not afraid to speak truth. Standing on his bedrock faith, Spurgeon explains that most church attendees read the opinions of their religious orders in mainstream Christendom and lived by them. He also deemed it necessary to express his view that the Jewish Scriptures were often incorrectly omitted from Sunday sermons, meetings, and Bible studies. Using his authority in the Word, he said, “**read the parchments**… often termed “*irrelevant.*” As an influential Victorian preacher of his day, Spurgeon taught that the words of the Torah (the Bible of Jesus) was and is the “**fountainhead**” (the spring) from which flows all revelation, prophecy and understanding of God’s plan for all humanity. The Torah and Tanach (Genesis to Deuteronomy and through to Malachi) once called “*parchments*” or “*scrolls*” were the origin from which our faith emerged and from which many were fed from the early days of Jesus. To Jerusalem scholars, it is not surprising that there were translation errors found in different interpretations of scripture – as the ordinary translator would have interpreted a word the best way they could understand from their time and culture using vernacular familiar to them but when the Master taught in the synagogues, He held up a scroll and interpreted it with full revelation. It raises a question of “why” does the original biblical expression of faith in Jesus (from the Writings of His Jewish Apostles, a/k/a to us as the New Testament) often get put on the shelf as “outdated”? It is a fitting question everyone should be able to ask. Could it be that we just do not realize that the original Words of God which are unchanging are not to be termed  “Old”? D. Thomas Lancaster, Director of Education at First Fruits of Zion in Jerusalem says “… *Torah is the foundation upon which all subsequent Biblical revelation is built.*” It appears Spurgeon and Lancaster hold the same view.

***Legendary preacher Leonard Ravenhill said – “the world out there is not waiting for a new definition of Christianity; it is waiting for a new demonstration of Christianity.”***

Christendom’s teachings impacted a lot of people over the centuries but at the same time it often demonstrated a separation from the Jewish Torah which Jesus loved. As we who work at CFI in Jerusalem “*repairing the breach*” **(Isaiah 58:12)** brought about through separation from the Jewish people and their scriptures, it behooves us to work at reconnecting that split which Jesus never authorized. If He were here with us today on the earth, He might just pick up a Torah scroll and read from **Isaiah 56:3.** “*Do not let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say, ‘The LORD will never let me be part of His People…”.***(Isaiah 56:3)**As followers of Jesus, we are forbidden to part from the words from which He and His Disciples delivered to us. In our search to change to a new demonstration of Christianity which Leonard Ravenhill was looking for–our question might go something like this: “When Jesus, the Living Word, the Torah – God’s Voice to mankind that was never changed, why would Christian pulpits take it lightly?

I remember well having meetings with a former General in the IDF General Shimon Erem who founded the Israel Christian Nexus Alliance for Jerusalem. He told me “I lectured to a Christian Catholic University and told them “I read the words of Jesus and found He tore down the wall between us – but you – you Christians put it back up!” He explained how their jaws dropped–but he told the truth and truth is what matters.  The flames of the candles of our hearts need to shine the truth with our spheres of influence to *encourage* believers to study the “*whole counsel of God*.” **(Psalm 33:11)** Replacement Theology says the Torah has been replaced by the coming of Jesus. But God says: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”***(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**Isaiah, Peter and Timothy would all have been holding a Torah scroll at the time they wrote for future generations.

**Torah: a Permanently Sworn Oath**

Let us remember that the power and authority behind the Words of God are God Himself. In the Torah God swore by Himself that what He had declared in His Word He would fulfill. He also emphasizes that not one word will pass away until all is fulfilled. **(Matthew 5:18)** Further God also said that whoever takes it (Torah) *lightly,*i.e., we dismiss or play it down we end up being the least esteemed (regarded as small) in His Kingdom. **(Matthew 5:19**) In my childhood, I attended church camps. Early at dawn a bugle would sound for all of us to “wake up.” It seems to me that we need someone to arouse and activate within us the desire to fill ourselves full of the beauty of the Jewish Scriptures and to gather our friends together who love the LORD and say, “let’s study the Torah in my home!” Someone once told me of a Pastor who informed his congregant that the Old Testament is no longer applicable, and that he only need to read the New Testament. With hardly a thought, the Torah was dismissed as ancient and outdated. **(**[**www.foi.org**](http://www.foi.org/), Friends of Israel). This is the tip of the iceberg. Speaking of icebergs, it appears that many in the church have hit an iceberg when it comes to Israel. It is shocking to our Israeli friends. In meetings between Jews and Christians in Israel truth surfaced. Christians were not able to hold a candle to Israel’s avid scholars. Torah ***is***the fountainhead and foundation of the faith of Jesus. The Torah ***must*** remain ***our*** fountainhead.

One day the Torah will go forth from Jerusalem to the entire world. (**Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2)**Jewish sages tell us “… Messiah will elucidate the words of the Torah … and He will correct (human) errors in its interpretation.” (First Fruits of Zion) I believe many people’s erroneous perceptions about the “Old” Testament will be *shattered* at that time. When Jesus returns in His Second Coming, we are told that “*out of His Mouth will come a razor-sharp sword and that He will “strike down” the nations with it.***(Psalm 2:9)**TheWord of God (the Torah) is “*alive*” and it is sharper than a two edged sword. (**Hebrews 4:12)** Like a fierce weapon of the Spirit, it will penetrate and dive deep into the human spirit discerning the hidden secret places of the heart. We also learn that in righteousness the Lord will pass judgment and go to battle. The rider on the white horse in Revelation was THE WORD OF GOD which eventually became flesh **(John 1:14)** and as a human God came as a Jew. The written and declared WORD became embodied in Jesus linking hearts to the One True God. *“The conclusion of the matter is that the controversy that Jesus had with His religious friends was to “show how best to observe the Torah, but none, it is argued, about whether to observe it*….” (Jewish Gospels, Rabbi Daniel Boyarin)

**Jesus Did Not Start a New Religion**

What a joy it is to learn about where our faith originated. The early believers would have never considered staring a “new religion.” In actual fact, a Jewish rabbi asked me one day “Why didn’t the Christians follow the Judaism of Jesus?” At the time, I had no answer. Today I know. Replacement Theology played a monumental part in removing Torah from our vocabulary. Torah scholars and Rabbis from Israel and abroad were reported to have said “… *he (Jesus) strengthened the Torah of Moses majestically… and not one of our sages spoke out more emphatically concerning the immutability of the Torah.”* (Israel Today, January 2020) In 1960, Norman Cousins, former editor of the Saturday Review, wrote, “*There is every reason for Judaism to lose its reluctance toward Jesus. His own towering spiritual presence is a projection of Judaism, not a repudiation of it.”* To sum up what the great Christian men of God said above, a dear friend who we knew well said “*God says when I achieve my purposes (which came from the Torah) in the earth; it will involve the people of Israel, the Jewish descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*.” (Dwight Pryor). The Church cannot afford not to promote the Torah. I totally agree with the rabbis. **“… no one has ever established the only Bible Jesus ever read from, more than the Master Himself.**God bless you our beautiful Christian friends of Israel!

**–Sharon Sanders–**

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**TEACHING**

***Signs in the Bible all mean something ... pointing to the Messiah***

**The Sign of 3**

**3 Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.  3 Matriarchs – Sarah, Rebeccah and Rachel, struggling to conceive.  3 Heavenly visitors to the tent of Abraham & Sarah, with a message of a son of promise. 3 kingly gifts by the night visitors to the stable of Messiah at His birth.  3 days and 3 nights for Jonah in the belly of a great fish. 3 days and 3 nights for Messiah in the heart of the earth before a glorious resurrection to life anew. What’s in a number? Why does it matter? Nothing is for nothing when it comes to the Word of God – everything has meaning.**

As we approach Passover, it is a good time to meditate upon what Yeshua (Jesus) meant when He said, *‘“A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.’* Matthew 16:4. Earlier, Yeshua explicitly stated in Matthew 12:40 that *‘“as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”’*

Many have tried to brush away this very precise (though for some, perhaps inconvenient) reference to *3 days and 3 nights*, seeking to palm it off as merely a Jewish idiom of the era, and tantamount to really any amount of time from 3 full days and nights, right down to just one day with a few minutes on the evenings either side. Would our Lord have been so precise in the words He selected, if the meaning of those words were so imprecise? Surely, He did not engage in sloppy speech about so solemn a subject; resorting to idioms containing words that did not align with their meanings. Remember Numbers 23:19. There surely was a Jewish idiom of ‘3 days’ which generally referred to today, tomorrow and the day following (but not necessarily a full 72-hour period) and this can broadly be compared to the English idiom of ‘a few days’; a rather vague timespan. However, in referring to specifically to 3 days and 3 nights, Yeshua went beyond the idiom used in common parlance. Bearing in mind His literal death and literal resurrection, it is specious to simply claim it was an allegory or figure of speech, as some do. This is the usual riposte wherever problematic passages are encountered. Many also claimed that the restoration and regathering of Israel in the latter days was allegorical, until the prophecies were literally fulfilled. God is able. Indeed, the number 3 is imbued with great significance throughout the scriptures, to point us towards our Messiah. The period of time therefore reflects the meaning attached to that symbolism.

The traditions of Christendom have taught us that Yeshua was crucified on ‘Good Friday’ and that He was resurrected on ‘Easter Sunday.’ Yet, even if Christ had been crucified at dawn on Friday, the period of time from Friday to very early Sunday morning could never be 3 days and 3 nights. If the Sunday is accepted as the third day, and partial days counted as full days, at the very best this timeframe might yield 3 days and 2 nights. This is problematic because it is a whole night less than Yeshua stipulated. There is simply no way possible to make it fit other than attempt to change the meaning of what He said – a dangerous pathway.

Again, why does it matter? Is this line of enquiry merely raking over pedantic contentions? Are we not to judge each other regarding a feast day and just celebrate every day as unto the Lord? Yes, this matters, because the reputation and authority of the Word of God have been called into question by some over these passages, and it is important to gain clarity in order that the words of Yeshua can be shown to have been truly fulfilled. Here are some points to consider:

**Misunderstanding Shabbat and the Passover week:**  Many Christians have assumed that the reference to the *Preparation Day* e.g. in John 19:42 refers to a Friday as being the day before the regular weekly Sabbath on a Saturday. However, during the Passover week, there is an extra Sabbath / solemn assembly that often falls mid-week, being the Feast of Unleavened Bread.  According to Leviticus 23:4-7, the Passover meal always falls at twilight on the 14th of Nissan, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the next day on 15 Nissan (and like all the other high holidays, it would begin at sundown). Hence the *Preparation Day*mentioned at various places during Yeshua’s final hours did not necessarily fall on a Friday. It was a day of preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when no work could be done. John 19:31 agrees that this was indeed a high holiday, not just a regular Sabbath.

**Misunderstanding night and day:** In God’s order of time, a ‘day’ i.e., a 24-hour period begins at sundown and ends the following sundown, hence *‘the evening and the morning were the first day.’*Genesis 1:5b. This has been the Jewish understanding of time across aeons. Therefore, when it said in John 20:1 and also in the Synoptic gospels that Yeshua was found by the women to have arisen from the tomb early on the first day of the week, this did not necessarily mean He arose at daybreak on the Sunday – it could have been some hours prior, as the first day of the week was deemed to have begun at sundown on the Saturday.

**Misunderstanding the orders of time**: In Jerusalem at the time of the first disciples, two forms of time were in usage. Jewish time reckoned the hours from sunrise, around 6am, whereas Roman time calculated hours from midnight. Therefore, the *sixth hour*mentioned in John 19:14, when Pontius Pilate presented Yeshua to the people, would have been about 12 noon by Jewish time about 6am by Roman time. There are several good incidences within the gospels that indicate that the Synoptic gospels used the Jewish reckoning of time, whereas John, compiling his gospel some years later under the waxing Roman empire, used Roman time. Thus, the accounts can be harmonized together without contradiction.

Counting back from a resurrection somewhere in the night from late Saturday to early Sunday, 3 nights backward brings us to at least mid/late afternoon on Thursday, with the resurrection being on / during the third day i.e., the Sunday. For some who are proponents of a full 3 days and 3 nights, this understanding leads them back even further to twilight on Wednesday. It all depends on whether one counts partial days and nights amongst the 3 days and 3 nights or maintains full days and nights. Hosea 6:1-2 is also pertinent. In such a brief article as this, it is better to avoid undue dogmatism. Rather, this is only a starting point; an encouragement to search the scriptures and grapple with all the wonderful keys woven into the texts. Proverbs 25:2*: ‘It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.’*Yet as we study, we must not place our church traditions and so-called ‘founding fathers’ above the words of Yeshua who left His generation the abiding sign of Jonah. It is a symbol of three that retains its significance for our generation today, both in Israel and worldwide.*‘” Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”’*Matthew 24:35 (prefer the American standard to be consistent)

**Tristan Hall**

***International Executive Director***

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**COMMUNITIES UNDER ATTACK***Relief Funds for Rocket Attacks*

**Repairing Broken Homes and Hearts**

**As Coordinator** of CFI outreach program ‘Communities under Attack, CFI helps people in Israel who have been under rocket fire or terrorist attacks. Many have severe physical damage, but also emotional trauma. We do everything we can to help them, both physically and spiritually. We comfort, help people return to their homes, pray for them, and try to represent Jesus in the right way to His people. It is a true honor to represent Him in His country through Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem.

I came here with my wife and four sons to work for CFI arriving in September 2024. I like to meet people, to encourage and to serve. I cannot describe how much satisfaction this gives to my heart. I truly believe that Gods heart is longing for His people to comfort and that is what I am trying to do. It is already a miracle that so many people from all over the world are united inside CFI with the same love for the Jewish Messiah and the God of Israel. That is what I like the most inside CFI. God is making one flock from His children from the nations and His Chosen People – Israel.

My most unforgettable moment was on a visit to Kibbutz Hazerim where we met with survivors from Kibbutz Beeri. Listening to heartbreaking stories first hand. Every visit I make to communities who were under attack makes a huge impact on me. Recently, CFI helped a family to return to their houses in Metulah, that is on the northern border of Lebanon. **They were hugging me after seeing that I repaired there roof. Daily, I experience a lot of tears and gratefulness. I am a blessed man to work for CFI!**

**Gerrit Van Vliet**

*Outreach Coordinator*

*Project Communities Under Attack*

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**STREAMS OF BLESSING***Ministry to the Destitute*

**Turning to CFI for Help**

Praise the Lord He is good and merciful. It was David’s great desire to praise the Lord and to glorify His name forevermore, because his mercy was great toward him and he delivered his soul from the lowest hell, from the hand of King Saul. God’s mercy is also great toward us. He has delivered us from hell, from our problems and our distresses. He never lets us down, but He cares for us and helps us.

**A Great Testimony**

His parents divorced when he was three years old, and he grew up and was educated in monasteries in the area of Jerusalem. Later on, he was drafted into the army and served in the war between Israel and Lebanon. During his service, he experienced difficult traumatic events and was diagnosed with PTSD. He married and had three children. However, throughout the years, he found it difficult to get out of the drug cycle. After his resulting divorce, he worked in woodworking and roofing. Following a period of hospitalization, he was better able to maintain stability, working and supporting his children. Since 2023, he has been working at Beit Hased, a rehabilitation therapy hostel designed for the treatment of released prisoners. God did remarkable things in his life and gave him a new, fulfilled life. He urgently needed dental treatment which he could not afford, and he was very grateful when CFI stepped in to help with this. He even started working with us at CFI recently.

L., his wife, and their four-year-old child were in a difficult financial situation. Two years ago, they immigrated to Israel from Russia, hoping for a good life here. However, shortly after arriving, L. suddenly fell ill with a rare disease and became an invalid. He could no longer work and pay his rent. When he turned to us, we helped him pay his rent and prayed for him. He was extremely grateful to us. Over time, his health improved, and he began to learn a trade. When his wife started working, she suddenly broke her toe and could not continue working. Now they were having great difficulty paying their rent and turned to us in their distress. I visited them and gave them a check for their rent. They were both very grateful, showed great hospitality, and invited me to visit them again when I came to Ashdod. We enjoyed a special time of fellowship.

Many people turn to us with financial problems, and we are thankful to have the opportunity to help them. Thank you so much for your prayers and donations which enable us to help many people. I want to praise the Lord and glorify His name because His mercy is great toward us. May He always be with you, to help you in everything you do, and bless you abundantly!

**Viktoria Muller**

*Outreach Coordinator*

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**FIRST FRUITS***Bearing Up the Household of Faith*

**Bringing Good News**

**“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” Psalms 37:3**

**In January 2025** Rudy and Sharon Friesen transported hundreds of Derek Prince’s teaching materials to Arabic speaking congregations in Nazareth and Haifa congregations. Our pastors have many contacts with Arab Christian leaders in Israel, Judea and Samaria, and Gaza. These ministries aim to bring Jews and Arabs together in true peace. Delivering over 360 teaching books in Arabic (a few in English), they found that “deliverance” is an important teaching for both the Arab and Jewish communities.

**Former Drug Addicts**

Former Drug Addicts found a new way of life. Visiting a local Pastor, CFI First Fruits Coordinator CFI staff delivered about 150 books, one being a Self-Study Bible Course by Derek Prince. The leader reported to us that Derek Prince’s books are very well received. Local traditional congregations are growing in their deeper understanding of the Bible through the teachings provided by Derek Prince Ministries.

From different walks of life the peoples (Arab and Jew) of the Land gave their lives to the Lord God of Israel and often they come from the Arabic world. The demand for supplying materials is growing rapidly and it is a joy to assist many to become disciples or *Taalib* in Arabic. In addition, many leaders are former anti-Bible proponents from various backgrounds.

**A Voice Being Heard in Arabic**

CFI First Fruits department has distributed 588 books to various congregations (and about 6,037 titles) of different teachings. Dr. Derek Prince, who once lived in Jerusalem  taught **Genesis 12:3** and the blessings that follow those who love the Jewish people. He was also a good friend of CFI and was an Advisor from the beginning of the ministry. His Voice “lives on.” God is opening many doors to feed Arabic flocks in the correct way of life and love. Praise the God of Israel.

**Rudy and Sharon Friesen**

*Outreach Supervisors*

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**FORSAKE THEM NOT***Bringing Our Comfort to Survivors*

**This Must** **Never Happen Again!**

***“And you shall put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod, as memorial stones of the sons of Israel. For Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.”*Exodus 28:12**

**There are many** events during the year which Christian Friends of Israel attend alongside of survivors or victims of WW II who remain alive. Fewer than 80 years have passed since the tragic events that ravaged the European Jewish community during the Second World War. Yet today, we witness the ominous resurgence of antisemitism, not only in Europe but across the globe. This hatred brings with it the peril of inhumane devastation, as evidenced by the events of October 7, 2023 – now often described as the “one-day Holocaust.” It is almost inconceivable that such horrors could recur – yet they are. Each year, **the Association of Camp and Ghetto Survivors** in Israel gathers to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Marking the liberation of Auschwitz, it serves as a poignant reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust a meeting took place at the Community Club in Holon, Israel. Not a single participant stayed behind (in spite of the distance they had to travel.) For every survivor, this gathering is a cherished opportunity to come together, light candles, and honor the memory of those lost. United, they proclaim: **This must never happen again.**

This year, Yitai, the grandson of a Holocaust survivor, had the solemn honor of lighting a candle in memory of four of his friends. They had accompanied him to the Nova Festival, but tragically, only Yitai survived. He bore witness to the horrific execution that unfolded that day. By lighting the candle, he not only remembered his friends but also carried their stories forward. The FTN team frin CFI (Christian Friends of Israel) was present, honoring the memory of those who perished and demonstrating their unwavering support. **Our presence served as a powerful reminder that the fight against antisemitism – requires collective action.** That is why we are deeply grateful for our friends around the world who support our work here in Israel. By coming together, whether through prayer or action – we renew our commitment to ensuring such atrocities are never repeated. As survivors and their descendants continue to share their stories, we are reminded that memory and empathy are responsibilities we all share. In the end, the message is clear – it must not happen again!**Thank you for your support of our survivors! God bless each giver led by the Lord.**

**Tanja Shoshani, *Outreach Coordinator***

***Project Forsake Them Not;***[***ftn@cfijerusalem.org***](mailto:ftn@cfijerusalem.org)

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**STEPPING STONES**

**Shepherding Flocks in the Heartland**

***“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”  (*Isaiah 66:1)**

The WhatsApp call came to ask if CFI could help provide large refrigerators to a shepherd (and farmer) on his farm in Judea-Samaria. The sheep, now beginning to deliver, are in the calving season. It Is important to have the right appliances to keep proper food fresh for the mother and little baby lambs being born.**You can help the shepherds by prayerfully supporting our new work to equip pioneers which is part of our relationship building in the Land of Israel.  Most importantly, we must care for these baby sheep as a mother does for her children. Designation: Stepping Stones/Sheep**

***Thank you for Supporting***

***our Pioneer Farmers***

***Project Stepping Stones***

*(a subproject of David’s Shield)*

*Sharon Sanders/Project Coordinator*

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**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE***Assistance to the poor*

**Ethiopian Citizens Learn In**

**Educational/Workshops**

**These past few** **months** have been very exciting due to the amount of progress that has been made within the Hope for the Future project! We have been working with Ethiopian immigrants and have begun teaching English classes. In the next few weeks we will begin sewing classes, with ladies who were eager to sign up. We also have a waiting list for the next session. These immigrants have inquired about our assistance in creating a sound studio for young adults. In addition, we will be helping to create a Youth Activity Center.

The sound studio will be a place where young adults (and others) can come and record their music, making it available for others in their community. It will provide an opportunity for members of all ages to record other projects, for example interviewing those who have made *Aliyah* and sharing those interviews with others still waiting in Ethiopia to do the same. As for the Youth Activity Center, the plan is to have a place where young people can come after school for help with homework, to play games, and just a safe place to be together and avoid getting into trouble. We were able to assist with putting on a Relationship Seminar for their Young Adults, and that was well attended. The number of Home visits also continues to increase, with more individuals reaching out to us for financial assistance from various parts of the country. We have seen an increase recently in the number of single moms needing help with things such as paying for the utilities, requesting food vouchers, asking for furniture, and even needing help with home repairs.

One of these women we visited is a mother of 7 children, the oldest of whom is currently serving in the IDF, and the youngest is still under the age of one. They live in a 2-bedroom apartment and have many material needs; however, this mom never complained and had a smile on her face during our entire visit, expressing her gratitude for whatever we might be able to do for her. **It is a great privilege to be here in the Land of Israel and to serve the Chosen People!**

**Monica Ruby**

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**WALL OF PRAYER***Praying for Israel*

***Redeeming* The Ransomed**

**Through Prayer**

***“Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story – those he redeemed from the hand of the foe; my heart is ready.”*Psalm 107:2**

We rejoice with the returnees that have been delivered from their captivity through the polarizing Israel-Hamas 42-day ceasefire in Gaza. Though many struggled with the realities of seeing almost 2,000 convicted terrorists (among them murderers), all Israel shed tears of joy at seeing the first group of hostages enter Israeli territory back into the arms of their families.

**God does Hear our Prayers**

On Day 471, three hostages were returned, Emily Damari, Doron Steinbreicher, and Romi Gonen. Our Wall of Prayer team has been in unceasing prayer for their return since that dark Shabbat on October 7, 2023. We have now facilitated over 100 prayer meetings over the past 400+ days since they were first kidnapped. We have continued to remain connected with the family of Rom Braslavski and in continual support of the efforts of the volunteers that support the families at Tel Aviv’s Hostage Square with consistent visits and prayer. We rejoiced with our CFI intercessors in our Zoom meetings knowing God answered the global cry of our hearts.

The road ahead is still a long one that needs our prayers and intercession. The freed hostages have been delivered out of their *physical captivity*, but we know their emotional and spiritual redemption is a journey they will be navigating in the days ahead. It will not be easy as they begin to process what they have just experienced and begin telling their stories of what they endured. Pray for their healing and for encounters with the Redeemer of Israel. There are still 59 hostages that will remain in Gaza after the completion of Phase 1, including Rom Braslavski – they all need our prayers. Artists like shown here are shining light into the darkness in creative ways. He collected missile fragments that have been launched toward Israel. We know our Redeemer, Jesus, ransomed the world with His own incomparable and precious blood. For us who believe and have claimed this freedom, let us continue to stand in the gap for God’s beloved and cherished Israel. Pray for Israel’s enemies, that they would turn from their hatred and sin, and call on the name of the God of Israel.

**Suzie Georges**

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**DAVID’s SHIELD***Supporting Brave Soldiers in Israel*

***IDF SOLDIERS:***

***IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER***

*David’s Shield* started 2025 distributing warm quality coats for a special unit for soldiers in Gaza since the war began. We provided these brave warriors with winter coats with uniform emblems. Because we were not allowed to enter Gaza, the soldiers visited CFI. We enjoyed talking with them. CFI presented the soldiers with the Jewish scriptures and letters from believers in South Africa. They also accepted verses from the Tanach with cards and special prayers. Later their officer texted me, saying “Thank you” many times.

***“I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased.” Zechariah 10:8***

A couple from Brazil who have triplets serving in the IDF, came by to visit at the CFI Open Gates store. Seeing that they were comfortable with us, they began to share photos of their family. They said that their young girls needed clothes as well as rain coats. It was a very special time God ordained for them and for us.

CFI is now preparing army approved helmets and clothing for an Artillery Battalion who has been serving since the Yom Kippur War whose orders are to move to Gaza in the beginning of February.

***Repairing Damage by Christendom***

We provide very high-quality warm jackets for the IDF soldiers during these cold winter days and nights when they are protecting the nation of Israel. CFI also purchased throat warmers, vests and helmets which is needed for a special unit. A gracious and thankful expression was on their faces as they received God’s Love from the nations. It is because of YOUR HELP TO US, we can continue to touch countless lives with comfort, love and healing lives, repairing the damage of many centuries done by institutionalized Christendom. *We are pleased to be YOUR “hands and feet” in Israel today.*

***Soldier Share With Us***

“From the very first day that the IDF was there, we were there for the citizens. We are needed and we will do what is necessary until the very end, we must win at all cost.” **(Daniel)**

“We have to fight evil, the more we hesitate, the more we pay a big price, GOD wants us to inherit this Land, and our Bible tells us many times, “go ahead and inherit the Land I am giving to you … to the People of Israel.” **(Ezra Y. (Israeli)**

**Lyailya Telgarina,***Outreach Coordinator*

*Project David’s Shield;*[*shield@cfijerusalem.org*](mailto:shield@cfijerusalem.org)

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**HUMAN RESOURCES***Working Together*

**Our Service for Jerusalem**

***“Your People shall be volunteers in the day of Your Power…”***

***Psalm 110:3, 6***

In context GOD is speaking to His Chosen People but we are a chosen people also wanting to bless the chosen people whom we stand shoulder-to-shoulder beside. Thank you for making our giving of our lives to seek the welfare of the Children of Israel as the LORD has commanded possible.

**A Place for You!**

lShort term servicelUsing your professional skills for God lTouching lives in IsraellHelping supply our needslWorking alongside the people of Israel lWork remotely lMany more opportunitieslLong term service

**Positions Available in Jerusalem**

Choose Jerusalem as your next step to attain your goals in reaching the lost and the hurting, it will change your life. God will lead you all the way in every situation. Contact us if you would like to volunteer relevant skills or work remotely from your home. **For more information regarding any of these positions we would love to hear from you.**

[***personnel@cfijerusalem.org***](mailto:personnel@cfijerusalem.org)

lAssistants to International

   Executive Director

lStreams of Blessing Assistant

lDavid’s Shield Coordinator

lSecretarial

lFinance Director

lAdministration Manager

lDomestic/Cooking Assistant

lGraphic Designer/Media Assistant

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**OPEN GATES***Assisting New Immigrants*

***Gathered One by One***

**CFI welcomes Jewish Olim from Chile, Portugal, Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil**

**Since the beginning** of the New Year, CFI’s Open Gates (Distribution Center) doors have been receiving new Jewish immigrants from Spanish speaking countries such as Chile, Portuguese, Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil. And the Word of the Lord ***says, “But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants…”.*(Psalm 1:2)**Coming home from the nations is a Biblical command and Israel is their safe haven from the world anti-Semitism and hatred.

The Spanish speaking Jews, most of them young, are **grateful to the God of Israel for bringing them home to Israel.**They are pleased and amazed that believers who follow Jesus, welcome support and help to establish them in their own Land. Most of them do not speak any other language but Spanish; however, the Lord has brought to us Spanish speaking staff who speak Spanish. For this we are very grateful to God.

**Monica** (of Hope for the Future outreach project) reads to them verses from the Jewish scriptures (Tanach in Spanish and Paula, assisting in Open Gates explains who CFI is and what we are doing. She also assists the immigrants in choosing the best gifts that are available in our Open Gates store as well as translates our conversations. It is good as **we at CFI work as a team of the Most High – right in Jerusalem where we serve His chosen nation for His purposes and for His Glory!**

A new immigrant, **Daniela**, from Argentina shared with me that her whole family immigrated to Israel a long time ago. She was the only one to remain in Argentina. She told me that she finally decided to make*Aliyah* and reunited with her family. We welcomed her at CFI and the Land, and she saw with her own eyes that she did the right thing by coming “home.” She hugged me continually and told me that she is willing to come to help us when needed. **Building relationships is such a wonderful work that we have been given to do.**

Every day in my work at CFI I fellowship with many new immigrants on the phone and those who come through our doors. It is so encouraging that Jewish people are returning home from the entire world and that they find their way to our Distribution Center. For certain Bible prophecy is coming to pass as it takes place before our eyes. **God bless each and every one who reads about our work and prays about helping us** to remain in this beautiful Land to bring blessings to the Jewish people in order for us to represent the LORD in the right way!

**Lyailya Telgarina,***Outreach Coordinator*

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**BRIDAL SALON***Planning Weddings*

**Born To Be His**

**Worshippers Together**

***“Thank you from the very bottom of my heart for your hospitality and for making my wedding season so special and memorable. Your team is so kind and caring, and I am still in disbelief that such a wonderful place such as CFI Bridal Salon exists!” -Tehilah***

**Tehilah was born in the U.S.A**. From her early years she became aware of her Jewish identity. Her parents believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and taught their children the ways of the Lord. Jewish traditions were part of their life. After finishing High School, Tehilah studied languages and foreign relations. She was offered an opportunity to visit Israel ten years ago. The small voice of God was speaking to her, and she obeyed. When she arrived in Israel, Tehilah experienced something very special. She understood that this is her Land. She felt that she belonged here, and that these were her people.

After a couple of years Tehilah moved to Israel as a student, and she did further university studies. At the same time, she became a true worshipper of God by serving Him in different places. One of her teachers became a friend of Tehilah. The same lady also had many contacts in the Negev. There were young people who became close to her heart like her own children. One of them was Boaz. While praying for him, this “mother” got a thought that Tehilah and Boaz would be a great match. She asked if Boaz would be interested to meet a young lady from Jerusalem, and asked Tehilah if she was interested in meeting “someone nice.” He was interested and agreed to travel to have a cup of coffee with this girl. Tehilah did not know what to expect. But these two worshippers met, and Tehilah was impressed by the humbleness of this young man. While sharing things they felt a real connection between each other. Boaz was so blessed that he kept coming to Jerusalem every week to visit with her. After seven months he proposed.

Tehilah sought out our Bridal salon with her best friend. She had prayed that there would be a beautiful dress for her at our place. God answered and blessed the appointment richly. We found two gorgeous dresses … a veil and other accessories for our bride to be. Both gowns were a perfect fit. She did not need to make any alterations to them. Boaz received a suit from CFI. The wedding celebration took place in 2024.

Now Boaz and Tehilah want to worship together as a family. May the Lord bless them and keep them close to Himself all the days to come.

***“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.”* Psalm 34:1-3**

**Tiina Danilevski,***Outreach Coordinator*

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**Page 22-23**

**CFI JERUSALEM–WELCOME TO OUR FRIENDS WORLDWIDE**

**“***Great  is  the  Lord,  and greatly  to  be  praised ...”  (Psalm  48:10)*

**CFI GREECE**

**For Zion’s Sake Prophetic Teaching magazine introduction in the beautiful**

**nation of Greece. Watch for more information in our next edition of ‘For Zion’s Sake.’**

**CFI ITALY**

**Opening of New Doors**

I’m also pleased to announce that we just recently had the privilege of appointing new representatives for CFI in Italy. We welcome Doreen and Giuseppe Cipolla to our family of friends worldwide. We have been praying that the Lord would open doors for us in new nations and new language groups to share this message we carry further afield, about the Lord’s love and faithfulness to Israel, and we are grateful to Him to see Him opening the doors!

Doreen and her husband Giuseppe (known as Pino) are busy making preparations to open a new Christian retreat/ guest house in the Tuscany region of Italy, and sharing the message of God’s plans and purposes for Israel both at the house ministry and to the regions surrounding are part of the vision that the Lord has been imparting to Doreen and Pino. We are excited to be with them on this journey. Special thanks to Amber Sutter, who played a pivotal role in bringing this to birth.

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**CFI CANADA**

**CFI Canada at Mississauga Feast**

**The Nation of Canada Moves Forward**

CFI Canada Representative, Elaine Newman and her husband participated in the 2024 Mission Fest GTA in Mississauga recently. With distribution of CFI’s much loved “*For Zion’s Sake”* prophetic teaching magazine, teaching materials, 2025 Calendars, and Sharon Sander’s new book “A Principle and a Promise”  many visited our booth. Surrounded by Christian love, fellowship and worship, CFI listened to testimonies and stood in allegiance with the Land of Israel, the Jewish people, and Arab Christian believers--in the midst of war and much antisemitism.

More information on CFI Canada in the next issue of FZS**.**

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**CFI NEW ZEALAND**

**Israel Lives in Their Hearts**

New Zealand friends displayed flags of Israel and Dennis McCleod, CFI Representative in New Zealand led in the moderating and prayers. Mr. McCleod led the way for hearts to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish people. A group of young Christian friends of Israel also made their stand with the Jewish flag. Praise God He has His remnant in all nations who will receive the blessing of standing firm with Israel. The people of Israel live in the hearts of many New Zealand Christians. Recently, the rally was held in a major city where CFI Representative, Dennis McCleod led the vanguard.

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**CFI FRANCE**

**With WIZO – Mulhouse**

Before the holidays, Christian Friends of Israel France from the Mulhouse region (in Alsace, in the north-east of France) responded to the invitation sent by its President, Ms. Manuele Amar, at a brunch organized by WIZO-Mulhouse. What a joy to meet our Jewish friends!

The mission of WIZO which was created in 1920 (well before the declaration of independence of the Jewish state in 1948). It was created by Zionist Jewish women first in England for the rebirth of a sovereign Jewish state on it’s ancestral land. Its mission is to work for the protection and education of children (more than 165 nurseries in Israel) and the protection and promotion of women.The WIZO (Women International Zionist Organization) has a presence in 38 countries on five continents. Since 7 October, its members have been very active in working for the release of the hostages (among others: every Friday ‘gathering at the Trocadero in Paris’), also for the support of widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action, and traumatized children!

At the end of a delicious meal prepared with love for local Wizans, Christians offered  several Hebrew songs which were taken up with emotion by the audience!

Christian friends of France attending, we were able to express our unconditional support for the people of Israel and the diaspora and make this verse from Proverbs 17 :17, chosen by CFI Jerusalem, our own again: «  ***The friend loves at all times, and in misfortune he shows*** ***himself a brother. »***

**André & Hélène – Betty, Rachel - Henri & Christine – Marcel & Sylvie......**

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**Christian Friends of Israel-USA *Presents***

**Hosted by CFI–USA *Hannele  Pardain***

**40th Anniversary Event**

**CHARLOTTE, NC**

**May 29, 30, 31, 2025**

***Join us***

**At the beautiful Renaissance South Park Hotel, Charlotte, NC**

**A Night to Honor the God of Israel and**

**The Master’s Ministry**

**CFI–USA** and **CFI–Jerusalem** invite our USA family, friends and supporters to our unique and once-in-a lifetime 2025 event including a Gala Banquet with timely prophetic and inspirational teaching from Jerusalem. A time to God for our world-wide outreach and service to Israel. We welcome new supporters, pastors, and churches for a rewarding time.

For former CFI’ers, this event of renewing friendships with lifelong friends and leaders will be special and rewarding. Our visionary leaders are shaping the future, strengthening relationships with Israel and leaving a lasting impact on the world. We hope to see you there!

**Receive a Great Jerusalem Blessing and Israel Digital Diorama scheduled Jerusalem Teachers ... www.cfi-usa.org/conferences**

**Wherever you are from in the United States, you are Invited to attend. It is easy to REGISTER, and we encourage you to do so today!**

**CFI Conference Speakers coming to you from Jerusalem**

**Registration / room reservation info: https://cfi-usa.org/conferences**

**Email: cfiusa@cfi-usa.org Phone: (+1) 704-544-9110**

**Go to CFI–USA to register today! Book Early. Space is Limited.**

**On becoming a CFI Representative contact:**[**internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org**](mailto:internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org)

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