"Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything..."
Acts 3:21

Restoring the Jewishness of Jesus
Rediscovering Our Hebrew Lord
For Zion’s Sake
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Until Such a Time...

The world around us has changed so quickly. One virus germ turned into billions and left many nations gasping to understand “what happened?” Multitudes are attempting to internalize how helpless man really is and that ONLY GOD can determine the future of the planet. There are numerous interpretations of the times bombarding the internet and television, in particular, prophetic words and online sermons which sometimes can cause confusion as so many people are saying different things.

One thing we can all be confident about is what God says in His Word. It is there we see clearly that sometimes God needs to get the attention of the whole world at one time. Wherever you are, just turn your eyes toward Him, for He is the only answer for today and the future. The Sound of the Shofar is the sound of His Voice proclaiming there is but ONE GOD known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—(Exodus 3:6; Matthew 22:32).

Another positive outlook not to be overlooked is that many good people are doing great things to help others in need. Times like this offer special opportunities to be a blessing to the People of Israel even as we work with a skeleton crew in the ministry offices. Most of our staff are in their homes working from their computers until the lifting of regulations in Israel. Will you please remember us? We need your prayers to cover us during these days and most importantly, your faithful support.

Yes, our world has changed, but we move forward trusting in the Unchanging God of Israel and His Unchanging Word. We will continue to bring blessings from the Christian world to the “...apple of His eye...” (Zechariah 2:12). Until such a time the calamity has passed, we do what everyone else is being asked to do: remain in our homes which is actually what the Lord God told His People to do in times of calamity, pestilence or danger. “Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by” (Isaiah 26:20, NIV).

“The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knows them that trust in him” (Nahum 1:7).
Someone said recently “We live in confusing times... societies have shifted on its moral axis, and many are asking about faith as described in the Bible.” As we were anticipating a new Executive Director to be in place by the time of this issue of For Zion Sake came to you, we were looking forward to a joyful introduction. However, at this point in time, we still continue in faith searching. Until then, we have formed a new CFI Jerusalem Leadership Team which will work “together” on all matters of ministry.

“Habakkuk’s recorded plight is a blueprint for success—as with all Biblical lessons. Habakkuk saw the Vision, this is the first step. He could not begin to share the Vision until he first sought the Lord and received it. Then he began to make it known. He was instructed to write the vision down. This was done in order to make the Vision permanent, able to be passed on. Habakkuk is finally instructed to make the vision practical so that those who understand it, may run with it. CFI has adhered to the blueprint God gave.

With God’s help we shall endeavor to continue to be impactful as we serve in Jerusalem. The vision is worth protecting! To carry on with the Vision means to keep our hands to the plow which leads to progress. It has been said “We do not choose Jerusalem but rather Jerusalem chooses us.” It is one of the reasons why serving is such a privileged opportunity. We exist to be the face of the Lord Jesus this nation has never seen, to tear down walls and build relationships. We also are called to teach Christians around the world of God’s plans and purposes for Israel. We take God’s love back to the people who first brought it to us. We are “making a difference” and everyone who supports us is our partner.” (Jim McKenzie)

Understanding the vision of CFI, willing to commit long term, and be a truly “called” servant is the type of person needed to steer our ship on the high seas through “confusing times.” We decided in order not to make a mistake, to utilize our proven professional leadership team which we already have to form an Executive Management Team.

James (Jim) McKenzie has been in Administration with CFI Jerusalem, for nine years. His professional background is Avionics and Administrative Management. He understands the vision and intends to hold strong to it.

Jo Fernandez has a degree in Theology, Leadership Development, extensive studies in aviation and the Legal field as a Legal Assistant and Litigation.

Linda McKenzie has a Degree in Accounting and has been with CFI for over nine years.

Sharon Sanders is a Co-Founder of CFI Jerusalem, with her husband Ray. Her tenure with CFI brought knowledge of International ministry and relations, travel, teaching and vision. Her professional career in the legal field well as Christ for the Nations Bible college prepared her for many challenges of ministry.

Focusing on the Future

*It is an honor to work with such a professional team...” (Sharon Sanders)*
“The sands of time have hidden many an earthly treasure but none so valued, and of paramount importance, as the unearthing of the covered-up negligence and irrelevant lack of importance, by the Church, of the Jewishness of Jesus to our faith.”

-Sharon Sanders-

Among the sand dunes of history formed by forces of powerful winds of doctrine, is an imprint which the Messiah of Israel left on the world. Truth demands the re-discovery of His roots, and the story of His earthly life which should be given back to the world to remember Him for who He was and forever shall be: a Jew!

It is the responsibility of those who see Him as He is from the Scriptures, to share the centrality of His connection to Israel during the “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21). The real Jesus will bring into the light His true identity as He returns home to His People. What do I mean? Anyone can change a man’s name but not his birth certificate. In nearly every nation when a child is born, they are registered as to their nationality. Census logbooks (also long ago buried in the sands of time) would have recorded the time and date of Jesus’ birth. The truth about Yeshua (Jesus) and His Jewishness is not irrelevant nor unimportant as portrayed by the Church throughout the centuries. Whitewashing His ethnic background is nothing short of deception which has tarnished the credibility of Christianity in the Jewish world.

Christian history shrouded Jesus from His own people. Early portraits camouflaged His manhood and appearance. “The oldest known portrait of Jesus was found in Syria and dated to about 235 AD. He was already being depicted as a beardless man, dressed in the style of a philosopher, with close-cropped hair and wearing a tunic and pallium (a papal ecclesiastical church vestment of the Roman Catholic church such as a Pope would wear.” (Wikipedia.org)

His actual outer garment would have been a seamless robe, similar to the garments worn by a High Priest in ancient Israel.

Christians must internalize that Jesus is a Jew. Nothing will ever change that truth! Whether the cover-up was an actual attempt at burying the truth, or just an embarrassing ignorance, the evidence has been hidden from millions while submerged as if in a sandy covered burial tomb. Portrayed by the historical Church as insignificant today, Jesus’ Jewishness is “hard to understand” in some circles.

**A Minor Point?**

There is no doubt that anti-Semitic Church fathers suppressed what they felt to be a minor point in the Christian faith. They succeeded in causing a monumental error, as a result of wrong judgment. It was Christendom separating from its mother faith which brought about a parting of the ways between Judaism and Christianity which resulted in a watering down of the Lord’s role as the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world. “Christians stand between Christ and the Jews concealing the Savior’s true image from them.” (Nikolai Berdyaev) The sad Christian history of the distorted depiction of Jesus on the dockets of time show that the list of qualifications that should have been emphasized to prove that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, as prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures, was either not important to Church fathers or was considered a minor point.

How could this have happened when Scripture shows that Jesus was born into a Jewish world? (Matthew 1:1-25). After the passing of the first
Disciples, who were Jewish, Jesus began to be seen by Gentiles as a gentile God with blonde hair and blue eyes. His inner circle of Jews no longer on the earth, and the manhood of Yeshua was quickly hushed up and covered over with time. Thus, a portrayal of a “new” Jesus with little or no connection to the Jews was introduced to the world.

Christianity needs to be reminded that it was a Jewish world who birthed, raised, and honored Him with multitudes following Him when He was on earth. It was the Jewish people who placed their garments on the donkey under Him, signifying they were accepting His Authority and submitting to it. It was Jewish people who lay palm branches in a royal procession and accompanied Him into Jerusalem—are these minor points also?

“I am a Jew!”

It makes me very sad that the Gentiles to whom God opened the way of salvation through Jesus, to a certain extent slapped the Jewish people in the face and said “We will take your blessings, your Bible and your Jesus, but we don’t want you!” Watching from a distance, the Jewish Jesus became Jesus the “man of many faces.” In some lands, Jesus is portrayed as Chinese, Arayan, African and other nationalities when we are reminded several times in the Word of God about His Jewishness (Matthew 1:1; 9:27; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8; Revelation 5:5; 22:16). Nevertheless, many Christians who read the Bible, just do not want to believe what it says and in shock still say “My Jesus a Jew? Never!”

On Christmas Day, 2019, the Palestinian Authority held a Christmas party in Birzeit, north of Ramallah, during which time Jesus was presented and praised as a Palestinian guerilla fighter (Palestinian Television News, December 2019). One writer stated, “If Jesus was alive today, he’d be labelled a Jewish settler and barred from Bethlehem.” A New Zealand lawmaker recently stated that Jesus’ mother was a “Palestinian refugee.” Greek Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna not long ago blurted out that “Jesus was born in Palestine, not Paris, Washington or anywhere else. Jesus was Palestinian.” Again, these are attempts to erase any Jewish connection to the Jewish people which furthers the cause of anti-Semitism.

It is very interesting that Benjamin Netanyahu’s son, Yair, did not hesitate to affirm the Jewishness of Jesus when Islamic activist Linda Sarsour also started a Twitter storm claiming “Jesus was a Palestinian from Nazareth and is described in the Quran as being brown and copper skinned with wooly hair.” A sharp response came. The young Netanyahu tweeted back, saying “Are you stupid? On the cross above Jesus’ head was the sign ‘INRI’ – ‘Iesvs Nazarenvs Rex Iudaeorvm’ which means in Latin–Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews!” Yes, “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3) Jesus came from the Jewish tribe of Judah.

Miriam, His mother was a Jewess. Born under the Law (Galatians 4:4), His body was marked like that of all Jewish sons, fathers and husbands as He was circumcised on the eighth day, (Romans 15:8). He spoke Hebrew and Aramaic, both Semitic languages. His Disciples were all Jews. The Torah was preached in the synagogues and Jesus stood up to read about Himself from the scrolls. He taught Torah all His Life and “wore on His garments the fringes of Judaism ordered by the Law.” (Jacob Jocz, “The Jewish People and Jesus Christ”). The Godly Jew, Simeon, said “Now my eyes have seen thy salvation” (Luke 2:30). I know I am arguing in favor of something that is unpopular in the Church today…but it is time that truth raise its voice. Traditional teachings unfortunately can become so ingrained that many will not think for themselves nor allow the Bible to challenge their assumptions.

The Divine Privilege of Kings is the right to rule a Kingdom. Jesus will return to earth to rule His Father’s Kingdom from Israel’s eternal capital – Jerusalem. We must confront our thinking to accept Him for who He really is as He will not be establishing a worldwide Christian church on the Temple Mount. Should some of us resist reality, it could develop into following

“Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything...” Acts 3:21.
“another Jesus” snare about which everyone is clearly warned in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 11:4).

It is interesting that a number of prominent Rabbis stated recently “…Jesus strengthened the Torah of Moses majestically…and not one of our sages spoke out more emphatically concerning the immutability of the Torah.” (Orthodox Rabbinic statement, December 2015). Jules Isaac author of the compelling book “Jesus and Israel” wrote “There is no evidence whatsoever that Jesus ever left His people.” The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as the awaited Messiah of Israel. As Joseph was sold to gentiles in Egypt, the day came for a reunion with his brothers and family and so it will be with Jesus. In this time of the “restoration of all things” a great interest in Israel includes studying about Jesus. Paying closer attention are Israeli academics, artists, writers and religious scholars showing more positiveness than ever before.

As Joseph’s personal identity was hidden for a long time, so it has been with Jesus.“We are witnessing the undoing of 2,000 years of Jewish rejection and animosity towards Jesus, a miracle by any estimation.” (David Lazarus, Israel Today). Think about His Return. Would He arrive home as a non-Jewish Messiah or will He be both the King of the Jews and the Nations? I believe everyone at that time will see the real Jesus. “…and we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2), Aramaic Bible in Plain English).

The Lord is opening many eyes across this planet to Jesus, “…not as founder of the Christian Church, the first Christian or the first Catholic…in Britain He may quite possibly albeit subconsciously be seen as the first Anglican…certainly, many people perceive Jesus as a gentile, and blue-eyed English churchman…the majority of our western Christian culture casts Jesus into a non-Jewish mold. To the extent this is done, believers fail to understand Him and His Teachings…” (Dwight Pryor).

“If one attempts to de-Judaize Jesus by making Him into some sort of all-purpose human being, then one loses the Jesus of history…this is not to say that saving faith may be any the less real, but that our understanding of His Teachings will be weakened or distorted—and this can affect our theology…and the way we present Him to today’s world…in conclusion, an appreciation of the Jewishness of Jesus…is essential if we are to fully understand His claims for Himself, and the full impact of His Message.” (Jill Levin) Jesus considered the Jewish Scriptures (in scroll form at that time) to be His source of truth which always centered around the God of Israel. He recited the Jewish proclamation “Hear O Israel” (Mark 12:28-30). What Christians term the “Old” Testament is the only authoritative oracles from which Jesus quoted. If the Church looks down on the Jewish faith, they are actually being condescending and arrogant.

**Scripture Locks in His Identity**

Gentiles who believe in Jesus actually join (like Ruth) the community (or Commonwealth) of Israel. They do not replace them. “There is one body…one Lord, one faith…” (Ephesians 4:4-5). Through our faith in Him, gentiles are no longer aliens to the Kingdom (Commonwealth) or strangers to the Covenant(s) (Ephesians 2:12). Being grafted into Israel’s cultivated olive tree, which cultivation came from learning Torah, we reconnect to the “missing link” in our faith and strengthen our faith in Jesus. Yeshua did not become a gentile by translating His Name to Jesus. Some of the disciples had Greek names but they remained Jewish. Pat Robertson, Founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network recently proclaimed on television “My boss is a Jew!” Jan Markell of Olive Tree Ministries remarked “God’s blueprint for the restoration of Israel is the most referred to theme in the Bible…with that restoration we must not make Jesus into our image.”
I emphasize once more, one can change a man’s name, but not his ethnicity nor nationality. Jesus’ own identification with His Brethren, was “we Jews” (*John 4:22*). His desire to bring the Kingdom to earth was a great part of His Gospel Message. He would turn and say to His Followers, “Haven’t you read?... It is written...What did Moses say?” He was the Living Torah and was given a Jewish burial, laid in a Jewish tomb provided by a Jewish member of the Council (the Sanhedrin) who was a secret believer and did not take part in the trial.

What do we learn here? We need to ponder more on His Manhood. “His apostles and Jewish disciples came to know Yeshua first as a man, and only later as the risen Savior, the “Son of the Living God” (Dwight Pryor). The Scriptures secure His Identity. The sages of Israel bequeathed to Him a rich legacy of learning, they illuminated the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings...He was the Torah Incarnate...He is our Rabbi and Lord as well as Savior.

**Loving Him for Who He is**

As we grow in the *Imitatio Dei*, Latin, for imitating God’s character and actions, and as we are transformed into His image and likeness (not Him to our likeness) we also will grow in His knowledge and grace. Will the real Jesus stand? Christian history is anchored in the person of Jesus Christ; however, Jules Isaac says “The Christ of the Church...has often nothing in common with the Great Nazarene.” Jesus disagreed with the way the religious authorities added to the Words of God given at Mt. Sinai, but His Jewish upbringing was reflected in the washing of hands, paying the shekel and faithfully observing the Commandments of God. He remained a Jew to His last breath. Yes, truly the inclusion of the gentiles into the Commonwealth of Israel is one thing, but the inclusion of the gentiles at the expense of the Jews is another.

Without a doubt, the Church’s Hall of Shame displays a long corridor of centuries of stumbling blocks which it laid before the Jewish people on the road to Zion (spiritual pride, arrogance, apathy, indifference, hatred) to name a few. A walk through those historical hallways might make us cringe because former leaders tore out the anti-Semitic pages from our history books but every Jewish person knows well the transgressions committed against them.

Visualize for a moment, a Replacement Theologian standing at heaven’s doors being met by twenty-four elders (with Jewish faces), trying to enter heavenly gates (with the names of twelve tribes of Israel written above them) (*Revelation 21:12*). Picture a Replacement Theology teacher at the Gates of Heaven and Peter and Paul wearing a Jewish prayer shawl, perceiving Yeshua in His Jewishness and standing totally in shock thinking “Where am I?” What a dreadful thought.“The Church is being transported back, beyond Wittenberg and Geneva, Rome and Athens, all the way to Jerusalem, to recover the foundations of our faith” (Dwight Pryor, 2010).

Indeed, the sands of time did cover up the truth of Jesus’ nationhood buried beneath them for centuries, but the imprint which Messiah Jesus left on this world demands that He be given back to the world remembering Him and knowing Him for who He was, is and forever shall be: a Jew!

**By Sharon Sanders**

“Search the Torah...they testify of Me...” *John 5:39.*
In upcoming issues of For Zion Sake, we will share more in detail about the backgrounds, professions and areas of anointed ministry of our longtime friends. God willing, their teaching for the churches in the nations will focus on (a) Bible Prophecy and Israel, (b) Israel and the Church, (c) The Second Coming of Christ and (d) The Coming Kingdom on Earth. All of our Educators are independently supported.

Bookings have already begun. For more information, please email:

cfieducators@cfijerusalem.org

CFI Outreach Supervisors

Ambassadors Available to Travel

CFI has been blessed to have truly wholehearted, dedicated and hardworking supervisors for our special outreach programs. We felt it, therefore, appropriate to give opportunity for the nations to invite our Outreach Supervisors to come to the nations to share in depth about their ongoing work among the Jewish people (and also about the entire work of CFI). All have professional backgrounds but are volunteers with CFI Jerusalem. The Invitations have already begun and we are pleased to send them forth “from Jerusalem” to your country. Let us know if you are desiring our Jerusalem based staff to visit you and your nation.
My Story with Parkinson’s

“I share my story here, as perhaps I can encourage someone with the same illness. One can live with Parkinson with the right environment, and loving care.”

Up until I was 50 years old, I rarely, if ever, had been in a doctor’s office. I was in excellent health all of my life, except for a heart murmur which I had after High School which kept me out of the US Army. However, around the time I married my wife, Sharon, the doctor told me I no longer had a murmur. At the age of 50, we noticed a small tremor in my right hand. I went through some stressful years of living in Israel laying the foundations for an international ministry based in Jerusalem.

One of my biggest struggles was that I tended to worry. In the meantime, I believe the stress took its toll on my nervous system, as the rest of the reasons doctors give you for Parkinson’s, did not fit me. God finally delivered me and I am at peace today, Parkinson’s is still around, but not nearly what it could be, for having the disease for so long. People are amazed that I still rarely have a tremor. My facial expressions remain nearly the same as they did (according to my wife), and I can laugh. My blood tests, examinations, and immune system all seem to be functioning well.

God’s Healing Hand

I went through a time when I began to fall. I was still working at CFI until I could no longer make it without assistance. The day came when I fell a number of times, losing my balance, and I hurt myself quite badly, but each time I was healed by the Hand of God. I then decided, with the help of my wife and friends, to retire. This was very hard on me, because since college graduation, I have always worked. My wife and I had decided early on that if we did our best in the secular world, then after God called us to serve Him in Jerusalem, we would do our very, very best for Him. We believe CFI to be the personal possession of the Lord and we still work for His Glory.

Today, in 2020, I walk around our home and can get to the car. My wife, Sharon, put the wheelchair I was in away, into storage. God sent us a miracle. A former CFI Representative from Hungary made Aliyah to Israel. Being a believer made it much easier to employ her to come to us three days a week where she works with me in physical and motor therapy. Hungary is known for a special technique in which a certain therapy is given to rebuild brain cells damaged by Parkinson’s. After several months, I began to improve rapidly. I now can walk with a little “wand” my wife devised for me, and as it is put before my feet, my brain reads it as a line or step, and it tells me I can “step over” it. I have no problems walking up and down stairs, nor riding a bicycle exercise machine, but I still have problems walking on solid ground. My balance, through therapy, has improved greatly and I am not as fearful as I was after falling so many times. I have no dementia nor memory problems (praise God!). I do experience speech problems of which I pray God will help me with, as my volume is not very loud.

After 24 years, I still dress myself (with a little help from my wife), and I shower. I eat at the table, my hands are steady and strong, and I love to eat. My wife gives me essential vitamins to keep my immune system strong. When she plays the piano and sings in our home, I like it. I did not develop hobbies, as I worked most of my life, but I do like to read and keep up with world news, and enjoy a good classic movie with my wife, eating out with friends and enjoying the parties my wife hosts in our home.

Because of the love of God, and the faithfulness of the Lord in my life, I can see that His Hand is still upon me. My wife gives me her undivided attention and help, I live in my own home, and together, we praise the Lord for all He has done and how He has kept me. If you have Parkinson’s disease, or if you know of anyone who has, please forward them my story...give them hope, for hope is in God, and the Lord Jesus (Yeshua) our Savior. Please feel free to write to me at: Ray.Sanders700@gmail.com

In Him Always
Ray Sanders
CFI Executive Director, Emeritus
During the past year, the Israel Defense forces have been continually put to the test in many ways. Their enemies have tested their resolve, and pushed them to see how much they can get away with. They fired rockets targeting civilians from Hamas in Gaza, with several flare-ups involving hundreds of rockets in a matter of days. They launched kites and balloons carrying firebombs coming out of Gaza with the intent to cause damage to Israel’s crops and villages.

The Air Force has been kept busy stopping weapons in Syria from being transported to areas where they could be used against Israel – as enemies in the north attempted to move closer and closer to Israel’s border. There is continual unrest within Judea and Samaria, and many times the border police must intervene when intelligence proves attacks are imminent.

This is why our greatest mission in Project David’s Shield is to encourage the morale of those serving Israel. As Christians from the nations, it has an important impact on them to hear us affirming that they are not only doing the right thing – but the righteous thing. This is the homeland of the Jewish people. It is their military duty to protect and preserve it, as their forefather King David did.

CFI Support’s IDF Needs

CFI continues to provide practical needs such as backpacks, hats, jackets, t-shirts, and even doughnuts, but even more spiritually essential is our affirmation of their doing a great job. Taking these items of comfort, help and support to army bases allows us to look Israel’s soldiers in harm’s way, in the eye, and with sincerity from our hearts say, “Thank you for doing your job! You are appreciated!”

On recent visits with these brave defenders of Israel, they have expressed their desire to honor God, and His Promises, by literally being a modern day King David’s army. It is heartwarming to recognize this as a fulfillment of Scripture. Yes, serving in the IDF and in the manner in which the soldiers conduct themselves, is an opportunity for the continuance of their original call to be a Light to the Nations. It is a God thing! We thank you for choosing to financially support these important men and women. We ask you to please pray for inner strength and determination. Many fight this challenge every day, and they need our prayers to help them keep motivated. This is also a spiritual battle, and we can be warriors by their sides in this fight.

Jim McKenzie
Outreach Supervisor
Project David’s Shield
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The Holocaust is one of the most grieving events of human history! 75 years later historians and psychologists are still studying these events and asking themselves what could cause humans to commit such atrocities. New facts are still being exposed, some so sickening and chilling to the blood that no fiction book would ever dare to describe them. Six million innocent people, whose only crime was to be born Jewish, were annihilated by other humans. Six million people, of the firstborn of God, whom He chose to manifest His name and His nature among the peoples to the end of the earth, six million of His special possession.

Such hostility towards God’s chosen nation can only signify the world’s total hostility and rejection of God Himself. God’s heart grieves, and deeply aches for the loss and pain of His firstborn. God’s heart grieves for the condition of mankind, whom He created in His image for fellowship with their Creator. God’s heart grieves over one of the biggest tragedies of the human race. However, He will reconcile all things to Himself, and there will be no more pain, no more tears.

Rachel, an Auschwitz Survivor, tells us, “We, as prisoners suffered from cold in the winter and heat in the summer, hunger and dysentery. We were beaten. The Nazi guardians had awful ways of entertaining themselves. Often on Sundays, they would tie babies to the tops of high poles and use them as their targets in sharp shooting! I will never forget it!”

In 2019 CFI Project Forsake Them Not team: Participated in 13 Events with Survivors. Made 429 Home Visits and 95 trips.
In 2020 to date: Participated in 3 Events with Survivors. Made 89 Home Visits and 23 trips.

Rachel’s story is not uncommon. How and why did it happen? Should we not ask ourselves the question: Why is anti-Semitism on the rise today, and why is the Church silent about it? What is happening today to the image of God in men? Are we, the Body of Christ, reflecting that image, or are we hiding, once again, under the guise of fear and political correctness? The Lord is looking for a people who would be willing to be a watchmen, and a voice at any cost, who would say – Hineni – Here am I, Lord, send me!

The time of having precious Holocaust Survivors with us is running out. We as a team here in Jerusalem are very grateful for the privilege to bring comfort and support to these few remaining witnesses of such a dark moment of human history. Your continued prayers and financial support allows us to let them know that they are not alone in their struggles.

Olga Kopilova
Outreach Supervisor
Project Forsake Them Not
ftn@cfijerusalem.org
JOIN THE JERUSALEM FAMILY OF CFI:

How to know if you are being Called by God!

Too many people answer a need, but if you have a “call” from God, nothing will stop you from fulfilling it. Early in the 19th century, John Carston left his homeland to serve the Lord. Family and friends didn’t want him to go but he said “I see a Hand you cannot see, I hear a Voice you cannot hear.” If you are sensing God’s calling, you may be receiving a “call” from God!

-Dale Sanders, at work building relationships with Israelis-

Answer the Call to Service
Inquire Today: personnel@cfijerusalem.org

We work in harmony, partnership, unity and in alliance with the vision of CFI, assisting one another, to please the God we love and serve with all our hearts.

“...full of good works and charitable deeds...” (Acts 9:36).

The following Jerusalem Office positions now open are:

- Secretarial/Assistant
- Media Technical Support
- Media Graphics

JoyWalkers from Colorado under the direction of Liz Webb, Teams worked together to create a supply of CFI Podium Banners for International Representatives around the world. What a beautiful work they did!
God has Opened New Doors Widely

“...The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions....The seacoast shall become the possession of the remnant of the house of Judah” Obadiah 1:17-21, Zephaniah 2:5-7.

In Operation Protective Edge – Israel’s last war with Hamas in Gaza in August 2014, the suffering of Israeli civilians near Gaza borders was greater than Israelis living in other parts of the Land, due to being exposed to widespread and intense rocket fire. The rocket attacks caused several fatalities and severe trauma. And incendiary devices and terrorist tunnels are additional threats to Israeli communities bordering Gaza. After this war, God opened new doors widely for Project CUA to reach out to Israeli civilians in kibbutzim Nirim, Nahal Oz, Kerem Shalom as well as Moshav Shuva near Gaza borders, in addition to the civilians living in Sderot, Netivot, Beer Sheva, Ashkelon, Ashdod and even Central Israel to whom Project CUA has been visiting.

Three Second Run

Due to the proximities to Gaza borders, when civilians hear the siren warning of an incoming rocket, some of them only have three seconds to run to their safe rooms (similar to a bomb shelter). And is the most terrifying thing to a mother is not about concern for her own life, but what if her handicapped child is alone outside when a siren alarm of an in-coming rocket attack is sounded. And for civilians living in Moshav Shuva, they do not have safe rooms to protect them from rocket attacks.

Project CUA has been asked to help a family build a safe room, but it is very costly, so we need your help. To contribute to help them build a safe room, please designate your financial gift to Project CUA, thank you. Through God’s help and support from our donors, Project CUA has touched many lives of individual rocket victims, bringing them practical help together with comfort and encouragement from God’s words as well as His love reaching into each traumatized heart.

Building relationships with a family in Southern Israel

We also provided recent financial assistance for Kibbutz Nahal Oz to organize a two-day trip for all their kibbutz family members to be away from the hostile and stressful environment they have been in, to enjoy some time of relaxation and calm. Praise God that lives have been touched and changed after our visits. For example, Rotem, a single mom who sent me a text message asking me to pray for a personal need of hers (something she had never done in her life). On another note, during one trip I sensed the leading of the Holy Spirit to offer prayer, intercession and worship through my violin in every Kibbutz and Moshav near Gaza borders where Project CUA reaches – inviting the presence of God to the kibbutzim and Moshavim.

Hope in the Promises of God

Beginning from the Second Intifada in July 2001, constant rocket attacks intensified. After the Gaza disengagement was carried out, Israeli communities near Gaza have suffered ongoing constant attacks. The mistake of giving away Gaza – part of Israel’s God-given inheritance, has resulted in inexpressible suffering of her civilian communities. But thankfully, as Lamentation 3:21-22 states “yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope in His great mercy.” God promises that one day Gaza shall be restored to Israel as God has promised. Thank you for helping us to calm anxieties where we can by letting them know that Christian love cares and is surrounding them with prayer.

Maggie Huang
Outreach Supervisor
Project Communities Under Attack
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Standing Alongside Our Brothers

“How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” Psalm 133:1.

CFI’s First Fruits activity for this past quarter has been full of rewarding meetings for recipients of support from the nations. Our help to the believing faith community in Israel has touched many people from diverse communities! With generous help from those of you from the nations, we were able to help individual families with children and were able to make Hanukkah and Christmas week much more enjoyable for the Arab-Christian community. Because you gave, we co-sponsored an event in a church in Bethlehem for elderly members to help them commemorate the birth of Christ.

The Domari gypsy community “is descended from Indian immigrants we helped to provide after school activities for their children for Christmas and we have deepened our relationship with their community. This month, we also began supporting a believer completing her graduate study program in order to be more qualified to teach in the Israeli educational system. Since 2020 begun, we have identified many new ministries and individuals that will benefit greatly from your prayers and support. Thank you for standing by us as we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with followers of Jesus.

Mr. Kim Brunson
Outreach Supervisor
Project First Fruits
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The Importance of Supporters

When one finds a ministry they love supporting: hold on as long as possible. Your investment in that ministry helps to move the ministry forward and not stop what God has called them to do. As times change, make room in your budget for continuing to help them move into new areas of ministry challenges. It is not all about money.

You should have a sense of belonging sharing values, and identity. A sense of partnership gives you memories to think about in reflection. When that is present, you do not feel like another “number.” Don’t let them go, keep holding up their arms. Aaron and Hur never let Moses down, they stayed by him and weathered the storm with him and helped him to win the battle.

It is our job at CFI to articulate to you personally, relate to you as a faithful partner, welcome newcomers to the CFI family and to consider you standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us. Change is never easy, but CFI is making some new positive changes and focusing on our work in even stronger ways to align with the vision.

Our future impact upon the nation of Israel depends upon our supporters and prayer warriors. Will you help us further the ongoing work? CFI “makes it all possible” but we cannot do what we do---without you!

Letters from the Nations:
“CONTINUE TO BRING TRUTH”

“The last two articles have been powerful pleas for church leadership to embrace what is clear in Scripture: “Salvation is of the Jews”...the “Missing Link” was on the nose and I sent it to my leader...I pray you continue to bring truth to the fore with articles like this...again I am going to copy and submit them to leadership...we will come to CFI soon so my granddaughter can see the CFI work first hand...”.

Brenda, a former CFI'er, New Zealand

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Thank you- (i.e. Christian Friends of Israel, www.cfijerusalem.org).
Alexander Kalntirsky expressed to me on my visit to him and his wife, “I wish the world never had to know anything about war and nuclear irradiation. As I listened, he told me in detail, about his experience in the Chernobyl explosion of 1986 in the Ukraine.

**He Saved Many Lives**

After a ceaseless search for Jewish Chernobyl survivors, CFI finally found him in a neighborhood in Tel Aviv, with his wife Zhanetta. After a warm conversation he took a deep sip of his cup of tea, and began sharing from his heart: “Communism in the former Soviet Union taught us that appearances mattered, a reason why the government, then under President Mikhail Gorbachev, decided not to tell the world what had happened in Pripyat Northern Ukraine, when the Chernobyl power plants exploded.

The explosion sent large amounts of radioactive materials all over Belarus and across Europe. The Soviet authorities eventually evacuated the community to a 30-square-kilometer and yet 14 firefighters lost their lives due to the high level of radiation. It is estimated that there were around 4,000 casualties overall, some by instant death. I knew, as a Nuclear Engineer, about the explosion the very next day after it occurred, but it was not until May 15th, that I was assigned to put together a team to travel to Pripyat. Our mission was to build a protective layer around ground zero to keep smoke from expanding. In October, my team and I went back home in Moscow, some of us with internal hemorrhage issues, and some others with skin burns and deterioration that later on caused deaths and cancerous diagnoses.”

Born Jewish but raised up in USSR, Alexander also lost members of his family massacred in WWII. In 1992 Alexander and his family decided to make Aliyah to Israel. Language barriers and health problems made life difficult. For Alexander and Zhanetta, finances became their main issue. After meeting others who were involved in the disaster, they organized the Israeli Union of Chernobyl Disaster Liquidators of which Alexander is President.

Since then, 147 members have been standing in the gap to be heard, as there are still many victims suffering the consequences of the nuclear explosion. The Israeli government helps with a subsidiary amount, but the costs are high and they are in need of help. Christian Friends of Israel is honored to have found them and to be a voice on their behalf.

Our prayer and desire is to help them finish in their homeland, a place where bravery is acknowledged and victims are remembered. Many of them have various health and aging difficulties. In serving this special project we need your help! The needs are great! May God be glorified in every single life which we have the privilege to come across their path. Pray to God if He would help you help them so that we can represent the face of Jesus they have never seen before.

**Karen Tohon**  
*Outreach Supervisor*  
*Project Streams of Blessing*  
streams@cfijerusalem.org
Helping Jewish Ethiopians

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Listening to Broken Hearts

*Jesus said to them, they that are whole have no need of a physician; but they that are sick*” Luke 5:31.

The Ethiopian immigrants came in good faith to Israel, with the promise of golden streets (at least in their minds). Once here, they were very shocked at living conditions. Times have been hard for the Ethiopian Jewish community since arriving home.

Memories of hard paths have left an unwanted taste in many mouths. Many are over the age of 65 and spend most of their days alone. So many times, as is often the case with the elderly, too many have been forgotten. Voices are heard by those who take the time to listen, but more often than not, cries of despair fall on deaf ears.

**Elderly Isolation**

We have increasingly seen the results of elderly isolation yielding to apathy which has impacted the Ethiopian population with illness, mental depression, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s, high risk of falling and liver failure all effects brought on by lack of exercise and inadequate blood flow. Our efforts to help are only made possible by those who understand, as all pieces of an international woven fabric make up an overburdened Israel. The elderly wish to speak!

“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch” Isaiah 62:1.

CFI’s Hope for the Future continues to look at “what really matters” to improve the lives of a forgotten generation. This is one of the traditionally “left behind” populations. We have many stories to share. One is of a beautiful elderly woman living in Haifa all alone with no family, coping after the traumatic experience of losing a leg because from complications related to diabetes.

Another story is of an elderly couple in Ramat Gat experiencing hardship. Unable to work, the wife (and mother) takes care of her blind husband while unable to get special nurse services. She is also tasked with raising her grandson who has special needs.

Lastly, many households have fallen out of the working-class, and living in insecure and impoverished conditions. This month, CFI had an opportunity of hosting a “Buna” evening to honor the community elders with an evening of fellowship, eating Ethiopian food prepared by an Ethiopian volunteer which stimulated a positive environment where we could hear and accommodate the hearts of the elderly. We shared Ingera, red lentils, and bread—all traditionally Ethiopian food!

The younger generation is the future, but the older generation holds the history and the reasoning for coming to Israel. Cultural preservation is important for any of God’s people making Aliyah and living in Israel. The elderly need our help! Please consider supporting this important work!

**Marcia Brunson**

Outreach Supervisor
Project Hope for the Future
hope@cfjerusalem.org
The First Box

“...He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none...” Luke 3:11.

After Ray & Sharon’s trip to England in 1985-86 with CFI, my husband Peter and I were very excited. The ministry was just beginning and the outreach work was beginning to serve the poor in need in Israel. Under the title of “Doors of Hope,” I was amazed as the Lord had clearly spoken to us about being a Collection Center for high quality garments, bedding, and shoes.

A team of dedicated servants from the UK helped us to prepare the clothing and pack the boxes to be sent to Israel to most of whom were immigrating from the former Soviet Union. The Sander’s visited our home, and I shared what God had spoken to us and showed Ray and Sharon fully packed and sealed boxes just waiting to be sent. We knew God had joined us together.

In Due Course: 1000!

The first thing I did was to share about the vision with my milk lady who delivered our milk from the farm. As a Christian, she was thrilled when I told her about the new project, as she just had a big family clear-out of bedding and great clothing. She had then prayed and asked the Lord where there was a need and had them all boxed up and ready to go. One can only imagine our joy at this turn of events, as she also loved and stood with the Jewish people. Over time, she asked her customers on the rounds of delivery if they would like to donate. Peter, in the meanwhile made a weekly visit to the box factory for packs of boxes which we often were given when they knew it was to help others in Israel in need. I began making leaflets to send out to our mailing lists as we regularly brought in speakers on day seminars to hear teaching on Israel. We also had prayer groups praying for Israel since 1973. Other groups were thrilled to be involved to bless Israel and her people.

The Joy of Touching a Child’s Heart

In Israel, Tina Goldberg from Holland started to distribute the items, and each time we visited we would travel across Israel being a blessing to needy families. In time we had the opportunity to speak to other nations, and Australia

“Returning to their land of their fathers” (Genesis 48:21).

Aliyah arrivals in early 1990’s
and Finland were to quickly follow sending boxes. Boxes were everywhere in our home, friends stored them for us until a truck would come to take them to the shipping docks. By this time, we had 800 boxes in one shipment and our largest was 1,000 boxes.

**DC: A Hub of Active Work**

I said to the Lord in my prayers while packing often. “Lord, this is just a drop in the ocean sending boxes.” His answer was “When I bring all these drops together from the Nations, it will be a flood of love to my people.” Today the Distribution Center is a hive of activity with racks of beautiful clothing and garments from the nations, a Reception area and the Bridal Salon. CFI’s unique Welcome Center for new immigrants—it’s a heartbeat of Christian love for Israel. To God be the Glory.

- Beryl Hunter, UK

To Contact Open Gates
Email: gates@cfijerusalem.org
Thank you Germany for God’s Help Through you!

“As Supervisor of CFI’s unique Bridal Salon, God is always bringing us more Jewish people to be served. I see His Hand preparing our facilities and supply along with new vision in order for us to serve more of Israel than in the years prior to 2020.

In October 2019 our CFI Bridal Salon received a precious donation from Germany. One family decided to send us everything in the inventory from their boutique Bridal Salon. It took precious time to organize this shipment and to send to Jerusalem, but with God’s help and blessings, everything was accomplished. Finally, the beautiful treasures arrived. Inside were 171 gorgeous new wedding gowns. Now, every dress has its own name in order for future brides to select their own personal dress, (for example “Ribanna,” “Isadora,” “Franka,” “Rubina,” “Veronique” and so on). Now their choices are more personal and professional.

Our German friends also sent us a large supply of boleros, capes, hoop skirts, purses and other beautiful items to enrich our collection of fine jewelry and items from Christians in the nations. May God bless all the Christians who have taken a personal role in being suppliers for our special Bridal Salon in Jerusalem—the only one of its kind.

I thank God for the highest quality shoes and wedding slippers, even comfortable larger-size shoes. Sometimes these item can be difficult to find in local shops and very expensive for them to purchase. Hallelujah to the Lord! The arrival of larger dresses also is another reason to rejoice! With God’s help we have found suitable options for all. Thank God for His care! Thank you Germany, for responding to God’s leading to bless His People!

We need your ongoing prayers for our work. This is God’s ministry, and without Him we cannot do anything but with Him we can do all things. Pray for us and for additional financial help to keep us expanding and blessing in new ways and making a difference in many people’s lives here in Israel. May He touch all hearts being served by CFI. May the love of God and the One we follow (Yeshua) shine in us. Thank you for standing and partnering with us!

Tiina Karkkainen
Outreach Supervisor
Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfijerusalem.org

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” Hebrews 11:1.

Thus says Adonai: “Yet again in this place...there will be heard the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride” Jeremiah 33:10-11.
The Beauty of the Hebrew Language
Nathalie Blackham
Nathalie’s interest in Israel started in 1997 when she began to intensively study and investigate the Hebraic Roots of the Church. This led her to teach and explain the significance and wonders of the Hebrew letters by way of television and conferences. She is passionate about people discovering for themselves hidden secrets from this amazing language.

Small Beginnings
Dennis R. McLeod
This is the story of the journey that started when – unbeknown to Dennis – God took him as a fifteen-years-old and started training and equipping him for the future. Dennis suffered from verbal abuse as a child and being told he would never amount to anything. In this book Dennis shares how God used him to minister in several countries, as well as pastor a church in Hamilton, New Zealand.

My House Shall be a House of Prayer
Lance Lambert
There has never been a time when effective prayer and intercession could be more strategic, more necessary, and more essential than now. In relation to the return of the Lord and the events that would precede it, He told us emphatically to watch and pray, and to make supplication to Him. The sad fact is that the Church in the Western nations is by and large complacent; it is lukewarm and in a Laodicean condition. At this time of crisis and confusion, when even more than normal genuine intercession is required, the Church is impotent.

Appointment in Jerusalem
Derek & Lydia Prince
This is the riveting true story of a young schoolteacher and her courageous quest to know God’s will for her life. In Lydia Prince’s search for God and her life’s purpose, she is led to Jerusalem, where she learns the power of prayer and experiences many miracles of provision and protection.

Cup of Salvation
Rabbi Pesach Wolicki
A Powerful Journey Through King David’s Psalms of Praise is a careful study of the original Hebrew text of Psalms 113-118, also known as the “Hallel,” leading us on a journey of praise and worship for all that God does in our lives.

Tell the Children
Sharon Sanders
It is a simple picture storybook that teaches our children the history of God’s Chosen people—The Jews—and how they are to love them, treat them and place within them the Word of God “I will bless those who bless My People.” This book teaches Christian children to help combat anti-Semitism in this world.

To purchase these Inspiring Books and other Resources visit www.cfijerusalem.org and click on Store.
We have just experienced the Passover Seder in Israel recently. Each of us were asked by the government to celebrate in our own homes and not to go out to other places, as is the custom here in Israel. During this horrific plague which the earth is facing at the moment, Israel ranks no.1 in being the best place to be at this time. Please pray that breakthroughs to eradicate the virus, will be forthcoming from Israel for the world’s good.

Please keep CFI and its offices around the world in your prayers as we are mostly working from our homes until regulations are lifted on travel and social distancing. As we reflect on the times in which we live, Yeshua (Jesus) told us to “Watch” and to not to be deceived. As the blood of the Passover Lamb was put onto the doors of the homes of the Israelites, may the blood of the Lamb of God be on our homes and on the door posts of all of our hearts during this season of testing. Please remember us in your prayers and ongoing support.

- Love from the CFI Staff in Jerusalem -

For International Correspondence questions: Email: cfi@cfijerusalem.org
CFI–France

Testimony: A Sign of Support

Andre and Helene Van Nieuwenhyse have been wonderful long term Ambassadors for CFI France. Their office is in Alsace (North-East France) and an area where many Jews once lived. On December 3, 2019, a Jewish cemetery nearby was desecrated with a Hitler’s swastika on a large number of graves. Andre and Helene wrote to the Rabbi of Alsace to deplore this evil attack on the Jewish community letting them know CFI France was standing by their side.

The Rabbi’s response was “Your testimony is a sign of support for our entire community and we are grateful.” Anti-Semitism in France is growing fast. The 500,000 Jewish people in France feel more and more alone; therefore, many Jews in France are making Aliyah to Israel. Pray for CFI France as they continue their wonderful work in the name of Yeshua.

André et Hélène Van Nieuwenhyse
Contact: caifrance@gmail.com

CFI–Germany

Report

Our German office reports that many German Christians are so thankful for our clear teaching in For Zion Sake. Posting on Facebook with nearly 9,000 friends, the teachings have prompted many responses and activity as well as discussions.

Our German office receives lots of clicks and comments. Ewald and Amber Sutter, our Directors of CFI Germany are very pleased. They tell us “It does make us more aware of the responsibility and privilege we have as CFI Germany in passing out pure Biblical bread for all our readers.”

Amber Sutter
Contact: info@cfri.de

CFI–Uganda

Uganda Joins CFI Family!

Pastor Denis Wodulo is from eastern Uganda. He is 32 years old and has been married for 5 years to Caroline Kwamboka from Kenya. They have a 2 year old baby girl named Hellen. At the age of 13, Denis accepted Jesus as his personal savior, and then joined a spirit filled church in his village. He was eventually expelled by his own father and village for his belief in Jesus, but Denis realized the call of God over his life. Jesus had appeared to him several times in dreams and open visions.

He went back to school, to pursue his dream of becoming a Computer Technician and later joined a Bible School to become a missionary. For 10 years he served the unreached in Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and his home country Uganda. He worked to reach the unreached tribes in Ethiopia and the surrounding countries. Denis now plants churches in these areas and inspires believers to engage in prayer. He also has a small business and is active in charitable works as ways of inspiring self-propagating missions.

This year the Lord arranged a meeting with CFI leadership in the Galilee where he was asked to serve with Christian Friends of Israel as the Representative for Uganda. He believes the future is bright for his country. The nation has an abundance of love for Israel and it is a blessing for Denis to see how his Jewish Messiah, is bringing unity between nations like Uganda and other African countries. CFI is looking forward to a fruitful future of teaching about Israel to the nation of Uganda and beyond. Praise God for such a wonderful and dynamic young man.

Pastor Denis Wodulo
Contact: wodulodenis@gmail.com

For details on becoming a CFI Representative in your nation contact: internationalreps@cfjerusalem.org
Focus In and Filter Out the Noise  In today’s connected, tech savvy world, the daily technology can be a real blessing in helping us do more than ever before. However, that increase in connectivity has also created an over-abundance of sheer technology “noise” that is constantly dropping emails, texts, alerts, headlines and the like into our everyday lives. Finding ways to filter out the fake news, the nonsense, and never-ending advertisements is at best challenging, if at times seemingly impossible.

For those needing to connect to Israel in a real and tangible way to find out the true report of what’s really happening on the ground, we at Christian Friends of Israel have created a collection of concise, condensed and scripturally sound media outlets for you to engage with.

Providing readers with weekly headline stories, our Israel News Digest keeps you updated on the “big picture” stories of what Israel is doing and with what they are dealing. Each month, our Watchman’s Prayer Letter goes out to multitudes worldwide as fuel for intercessory prayer for the nation of Israel and the people here in the land. Raising the Bar brings teachings for the church in the nations with a Hebrew perspective to further enrich the knowledge of the word of God. Our Wall of Prayer letter highlights specific geographic areas of Israel in desperate need of prayer by intercessors.

Stay informed with the latest accurate information from Christian Friends of Israel–Jerusalem media sources, as you focus in on the real story of what’s happening in Israel and begin to tune out the noise and clutter from the secular media around us. Man’s words account for nothing compare to God’s Word, which always represents truth.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path..."
Psalm 119:105