

For Zion's Sake

Ministry and Teaching Magazine for Prophetic Times
Second Quarter 2025 Jewish Year 5785



Faith in Jesus in the Early Centuries before Christianity

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For Zion's Sake

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Shalom *from* Jerusalem



Tristan Hall

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount

“I WILL FIRMLY PLANT THEM IN THEIR OWN LAND, NEVER AGAIN TO BE UPROOTED FROM THE LAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN THEM,’ SAYS THE LORD YOUR GOD.” AMOS 9 : 15

IT BRINGS ME JOY to report to you that many of the displaced households from various kibbutzim and villages both from the war-torn areas of northern and southern Israel are continuing the process of leaving temporary accommodations and either moving back home, or else moving into interim homes whilst they await the repair and/or rebuilding of their permanent homes. Life in a hotel may at first hearing sound decadent, but the cold, hard reality is very different, with many people having felt as though their lives were in limbo and indefinitely on hold until they could at least get themselves into interim homes, where they can do basic things such as cook themselves a meal, have a few friends or family members over to visit, store some personal belongings, hang a painting on the wall or have the freedom to have a pet. Every house is not a home, and a hotel or guest house room is not a home – it’s an impersonal passing place. Having somewhere to call home will be an important step for many individuals and families in their ongoing journey towards healing and moving forwards in their lives.

CFI was so pleased to have helped the Kibbutz Be’eri residents when they moved into their interim homes several months ago, and we are now delighted to have the opportunity to assist the residents of the small town of Shlomi which lies in the far north-west of Israel, above Nahariya, and close to the Lebanese border. The Municipality of Shlomi has turned to CFI to help them in the resettlement of some of their residents back into their permanent homes in the town, having been outside the area in temporary abodes for a year plus. Many of the homes were damaged (or destroyed) by Hezbollah rockets and have had to be repaired/rebuilt; consequently so many personal belongings were also damaged or destroyed. Through your generosity and with God’s help, we are purchasing all manner of new electrical home appliances for 65 families at a cost of approx. \$55,000. At the beginning of this process, the name they used to describe us was the *bonei Tzlavnim* – the sons of the Crusaders – a sad memory of one of the bloodiest periods of Christian history, the stain and hurt of which has apparently clung indelibly within folk memories – until now. Now, we have a precious chance to overwrite the pain of the past, and bring healing and reconciliation in the name that previously brought so much hurt. None of this would be possible without your prayers and your gifts of love in action. For these, we are eternally grateful.

Sincerely in His work,

Tristan Hall
CFI International Executive Director



Consider Partnering with Us!

“In ancient Israel everyone was included...the half shekel of silver was required to give and it solved the problem...the rich could not give more, and the poor could not give less but all were equal in the half shekel donation.”

(Rabbi Pesach Wolieki)

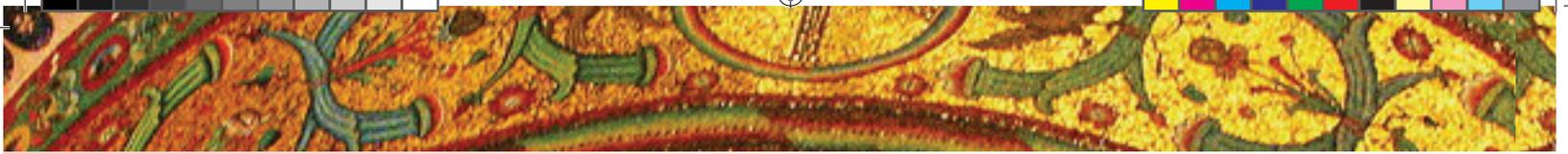
Without this valuable contributions of each precious person there would have been no Tabernacle (likewise ministry today). CFI could not stand without you. So each quarter we prepare this magazine in Jerusalem to reach you in your home wherever you live in order for you to be able to “hold in your hand” and imagine what work here in Israel is like. CFI has an extremely active outreach ministry in Israel and our magazine only begins to tell the whole story of all our staff is involved on a weekly basis. Thank you to everyone of you who give to this ministry for you are truly helping us to bless the “apple of God’s Eye.” (Zechariah 2:8) **Your giving is so important to our work in Israel.**

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“To learn about the faith in Jesus, we must first learn about the faith of Jesus” –Sharon Sanders –

Faith in Jesus

in the Early Centuries before Christianity



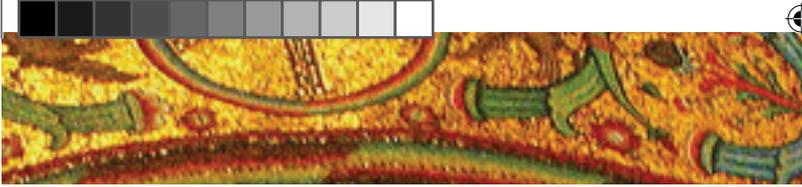
“O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee (Israel) from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.” Jeremiah 16:19

While traveling the world, my husband and I were at times almost in unbelief at what we were hearing from congregations in different places on different continents. On our ministry journeys, we obtained a bird’s eye view of what the individual Christian’s understanding of Jesus and His People was in different cultures. It soon became clear that most Christians had formed a Jesus from their own imaginations ... or a picture in their minds. Rather than shepherds teaching about His manhood, His childhood education, Jewish culture and beliefs, it does not seem to be too important, and centuries of ignorance developed. As a result, “Jesus became whatever they wanted Him to be for the intended audience in whatever era and culture they lived in.” (Dr. Tom Bradford, Torah Class) When we spoke about the Jewishness of Jesus, some of our precious Christian brothers and sisters came to us in tears, some in shock, and others could hardly believe their belief was in a Jew! This is how we discovered the

confusion in the church of who Jesus really was – as if a surprise – something they really had not thought about before or never had been told. We were amazed as we had not expected to encounter this cluelessness of the One and Only Redeemer of our souls.

It was not until we learned about the apostolic warnings in the Writings of the Apostles (New Testament) of “not to follow another Jesus” (2 Corinthians 11:4) other than the One they (the Jewish Disciples) taught us, we developed a loving concern for all to know the truth. The entire Bible is centered around and based upon Israel, Jesus, and His People. As serious students of God’s Word, we must take time to ask questions and not be fearful to study Jewish and Christian history to find answers to our queries. If what we learn shows us we have erred, or about things we did not know, we can talk to the Lord God about it, admit we did not realize certain things we had come to believe or perhaps apa-





thy towards His Manhood which did not line up with the Word of God. We just pray, humbly ask for forgiveness and move forward. We can then seek to learn about our foundational teachings with an open heart. Many today, in this generation, are eager to learn about our “Missing Link” which will show us if we are standing on bedrock or not. We must build on the foundation of the (Jewish) apostles and (Jewish) prophets and from which they taught – from the Torah. **(Ephesians 2:20-22)** There is never a time when it is acceptable to God to be separated from the faith of Jesus. If our house is built on sand it will fall; however, Jesus told us that the home of a wise man is built on solid ground. *“He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”* **(Luke 6:48)** We cannot just have faith in Jesus. We must know who Jesus is and to know Him we learn about where His beliefs originated. The foundation of our faith is without a doubt, of Jewish origins and the Jewish Scriptures.

Correcting Unbiblical Wrong Teaching

It all began when a Jewish orthodox friend named Moshe, popped his head into our CFI ministry door asking me “Sharon! Why didn’t the Christians follow the Judaism of Jesus?” Then he left me – as I was unable to respond to his question. I had no answer at that time. Now I know. As I am accountable to God to share truth with you in order that we may help others we love to discover how some wrong doctrines have emerged in our churches, I believe Jesus will open up a journey of understanding about just how deception slipped in to centuries of places of worship and was not noticed. First, we have to realize there was no religion called Christianity when Jesus was on earth. He did not create a new religion nor faith other than what He taught. The Bible never tells us that He was the founder of a new religion. The cover photo of our magazine was graciously permitted for our use by the Nahum-Goldman Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv to help you understand what took place in church history. The photo depicts Chrysostom, a church father waving his arms in a state of hysterical upset at believers in Jesus who were worshipping in Jewish synagogues for centuries where the faith of Jesus was taught and from where His teachings emerged. The synagogue was His root source.

We’ve chosen just two examples of how church fathers took many into error. One such person was Chrysostom, labeled “golden mouth” because of his ability to teach elaborate oratory. As we dive deep into deeper waters of church history we will gain a better understanding of his erratic behavior in Antioch, an anti-Semitic city in the fourth century. Chrysostom protested strongly for believers to separate themselves from anything Jewish. They must find another place to worship other than with Jews. In other words they were saying, **“We will take your Messiah and faith but you Jews – we don’t want you!”** Until today Chrysostom is “listed as a saint in the



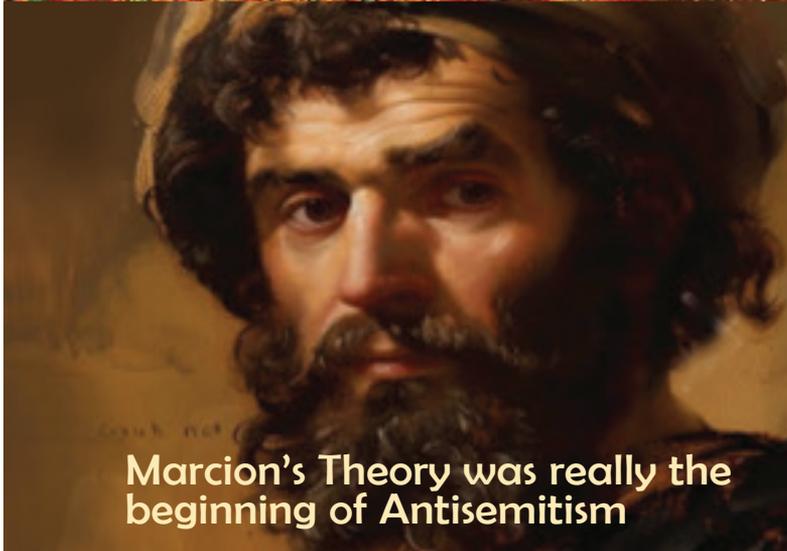
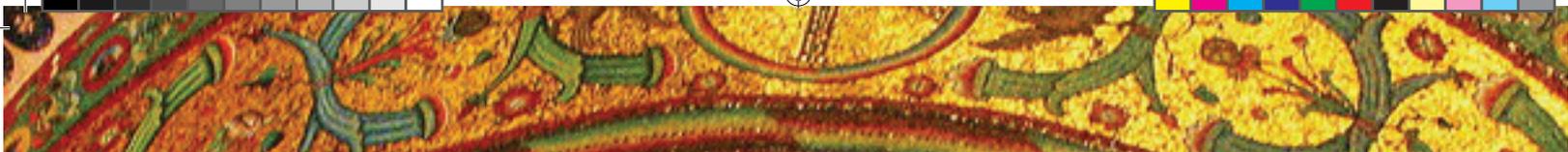
The Samaritan woman was corrected by Yeshua of her erroneous thinking

Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches as well as in some others” **(Wikipedia)**. Chrysostom’s last words were *“Glory to God for everything!”* **(Orthodox Observer News, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 11/12/20)** I conclude this short history lesson about Chrysostom now knowing the answer to the question my Jewish friend asked me in our early years of living in Israel. I rest my faith in Jesus founded on Biblical Judaism and the Sacred Scriptures from the early days before Christianity developed. A church father separated believers from having anything to do with the Jewish people which is in defiance of **Isaiah 56:3**.

It is a perfect time for this generation seeking truth to rejoice in truth in order to clear the road to Zion – which highway we are commanded to clear for God’s Chosen People to walk without stumbling over debris on the road from centuries of wrong doing to the Jewish people. We need to fulfill the role of the church to Israel to prepare the Way of the Lord. **“And it shall be said, “Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people’s way. (Isaiah 57:14)**

It want to encourage pilgrimages to Israel. Bringing a tour to see the Land and meet the peoples will help us to understand Jewish people and their God-given role to the world. Those who love the Lord are part of the Bride, but we are not The Bride, we join a redeemed Israel to be that Bride when He returns. Woodrow Wilson said, *“The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it.”* While I realize the strength of the downward stream, I believe it is waiting to be purified to make right our relationship with God’s Chosen People: Israel. I know the Jewish people are waiting for it. This is why CFI Jerusalem staff diligently work to repair the breach in the walls **(Isaiah 58:12)** which Jesus had torn down between us – walls which got put back up after He went to Heaven. Our work is challenging but it is holy, and we love sharing with you what we have learned from living in the camp of Israel and educating ourselves.





Marcion's Theory was really the beginning of Antisemitism

We bring to your attention another church father, Marcion (ca. 90–150 C.E.), a man who in the 2nd century became an important symbol for breaking with the understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures. He did so by not only pushing aside the Jewish people from their own writings, but laying aside Israel's Creator as well. There are many facets concerning Marcion and his "take" on Israel which bear revealing, but chief among them are these – he was the first known Christian to gather and edit ten of Paul's writings, along with doing the same to the Good News of Luke (Paul's companion) and compiling them into a canon of texts. With these texts, he created a new theology. For Marcion, the Torah was something from the "God of the Jews – a supposedly mean, spiteful and confused Deity who Hebrew scripture spoke of and who belonged only to them. Marcion then, as the accuser, claimed this cruel Creator God was lax in his watching over Israel. He allowed them to become slaves in Egypt, and He called for the annihilation of the Canaanites, thereby causing confusion. *"I create good, and I create evil"...*" (**Isaiah 45:7-8**) Other attributes Marcion culled together in his writing called "Antithesis" (or contradictions). Through these writings Marcion secured his place in religious history by proclaiming the theme which has become the siren-call for all who have embraced Replacement Theology. In his mind, this was to create a full complete separation; the one had absolutely nothing to do with the other. He had seen another "God" in the pages of his Bible, a God of nothing but pure love, who sent his own "Jesus" to save everyone else, but the Jewish people. He championed this new Deity who knew nothing but love, i.e. no justice, righteousness or discipline, a Hellenized, undefined "love" that removed itself squarely from the texts of the Bible. (Footnote: 1, 2) To followers of Yeshua even then (140-150 C.E.), this would have been heresy. Yet an unexpected thing occurred, with Marcion's new theology catching on like wild-fire among the gentile nations, and Marcionites subsequently popping-up around the Mediterranean (Footnote 3), his writings, labeled "Evangelion" (Luke) and "Apostolikon"... in what is considered the real beginnings of the Replacement Theology still preached today – a theology which removes Israel from her God-given place in His plan for mankind's

salvation, and replaces her with the church. Anything that removes Israel from where YHVH planted her is clearly misaligned not only with Scripture, but the Father's heart.

Jesus taught us the "Oneness" of God in the Shema (Hear O Israel) recorded in **Mark 12:29-31**. Because we love our people in the church, we search the scriptures and *"find out what is acceptable to the Lord"* (**Ephesians 5:10**) and humbly expose works of darkness. (**Ephesians 4:11, 25**).

Thank you to all who have written to us in Jerusalem and thanked us for sharing these profound truths. It is this generation that is realizing that we have inherited some well-covered wrong beliefs. (**Jeremiah 16:19**) Abraham was saved by faith and to know the faith of Jesus and Abraham is highly essential to salvation. We must keep in mind it was Jesus Himself who corrected the woman at the well and helped her to see one important aspect He thought important she learn, that "salvation is of the Jews." (**John 4:22**)

The greatest step we can take in personal growth is that we might *"know Him."* (**Philippians 3:10**) We must remember when learning about our faith *in* Jesus, we should first learn about the faith of Jesus. Rejoice! Now is a time "to learn" *"... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak ..."*. (**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**)

Note: Thank you to our Contributing Researcher-Writer, Steve Ruby for his contribution to this article.

–Steve Ruby–
–Sharon Sanders–

1. "A History of the Synoptic Problem" – David L. Dungan
2. "Marcion – The Gospel of the Alien God" – Adolf Harnack
3. "Constantine's Bible" – David L. Dungan

Learning about Israel helps the Christian believer to better understand the Teachings of Jesus



Giving Changes Lives

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

2 Corinthians 9:9

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SEVEN WEEKS



Numbers & Meanings in

SHAVUOT

SHAVUOT MEANS 'WEEKS' in Hebrew and is the name given in the Hebrew scriptures for the Feast of Weeks that begin after Passover (Leviticus 23). **We must remember** that these are not so much only Jewish Feasts, as they are God's *moedim*, God's appointed times as laid out the Tanakh. They are imbued with meaning relevant to the whole world. The root of the word *Shavuot* also means 'sevens' and it speaks of a period of counting seven weeks / 49 days (i.e. 7 x 7, a *week of weeks*), with the 50th day being the culmination, the sacred assembly of the feast. Hence, in Greek, the festival is known as Pentecost, meaning *fiftieth* (loosely equated to Whitsun). The numbers are not random; each has its own symbolism as the Lord uses many different elements to communicate the special layers of meanings for us to discover.

GIFT OF HARVEST - PHYSICAL NOURISHMENT

On one level, Shavuot is a harvest festival, linked in time to the waiving of the sheaves presented to the Lord at the Feast of Firstfruits, marking the beginning of the count per Leviticus 23:15. Throughout, the *S'firat haOmer* or counting of the omer takes place each day. An *omer* refers to a sheaf of barley, broadly a tenth of an ephah; a weight measurement of grain. Significantly, wheat and

barley are listed as the first two of the seven species of Israel in Deuteronomy 8:8. This is because in Israel, the grain harvest always came first, broadly from March to June, which is also why the Book of Ruth is traditionally read at Shavuot, with its setting within the spring harvest.

GIFT OF THE WORD OF GOD - SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Yet on a deeper level, through the counting of the days of the omer, Jewish people again retrace their journey from the Red Sea, through the wilderness, all the way to Mount Sinai. Then on that wonderful 50th day, they remember with thanks God's gift of the Torah to Moses, because of which the Israelites would never be the same again and through which they received their call to become a holy nation.

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - SPIRITUAL WATER & UNCTION

Still another layer of meaning emerged as the feast rippled through the time of the Book of Acts, where at the beginning of the second chapter, God's outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the early believers is gloriously described. We are told this took place *'when the day of*

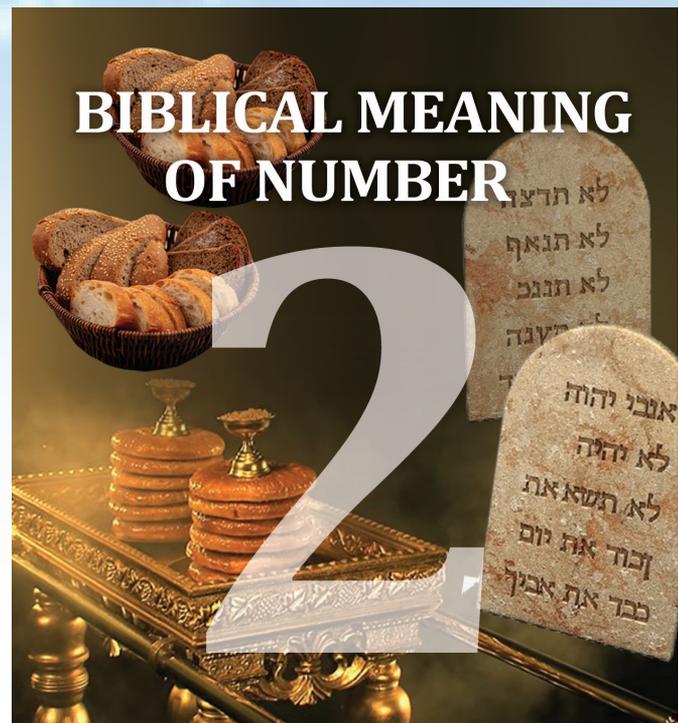
Pentecost had fully come, which is to say, upon the 50th since Yeshua's resurrection. This was no happenstance. The number 50 also strongly alludes to the Year of Jubilee of Leviticus 25, being a time of longed-for emancipation; of liberty from debt, labour and bondage. How entirely apropos, since these outcomes speak so well of the work of the Holy Spirit, for *"the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* 2 Corinthians 3:17.

What mercy the Lord had foreordained to pour out upon us! Remember that the disciples at this point had been apart from Yeshua for ten days, since it is known from Acts 1:3 that His ascension to heaven took place on the 40th day after His appearing following His resurrection. Thus, His earthly ministry was bookended by two periods of 40 days, the first in the wilderness when He was tempted, and the last, upon His return in His resurrected body, having conquered sin and death. There is an echo of the two supernatural 40 day fasts of Moses, albeit both of his took place on Mount Sinai, back-to-back (Deuteronomy 9:9,18).

Yeshua's very last words to His disciples before His ascension in Acts 1:8 were, *"you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Further detail of this promise is given in Luke 24:49: *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."* Indeed, the disciples did tarry in Jerusalem and were still there *'with one accord in one place'* when Pentecost came (Acts 1:1). This also observed the scripture which established Shavuot as one of the three annual pilgrimage festivals when representatives of every household had to ascend to Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). Interestingly, in Acts 2:5, we are told *'there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.'* Many languages groups were subsequently listed, including a specific mention of proselytes (i.e. of non-Jewish extraction) and in a sense, these people were representatives of all the nations of the world, having ascended to Jerusalem to be present at the appointed time.

JEW & GENTILE

At the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, connected by Peter to certain promises in Joel (2:28-32), we are told in Acts 2:41 that about 3,000 souls were added to the number of the early believers. There is a parallel with the theme of harvest, in the sense that these people symbolized a spring harvest of believers, responding to the spring rain of the Holy Spirit. Taking this a step further, it's important to remember that in Israel, there were two harvests in the agricultural year: the spring harvest and the fall harvest, the latter taking place in the autumn around the time of the Feast of Tabernacles (Succot). There continue to be early and latter rains (Deuteronomy 11:14; Joel 2:23-24 etc.) These are literal rains experienced in Israel, yet there is a sense wherein they are also spiritual rains of the Holy Spirit, as alluded to in Isaiah 44:3 and elsewhere. The number two is significant: Two sets of two



tablets of stone, given at Mount Sinai, about which more could be said. Two rains, and two harvests, corresponding with two visitations of Yeshua to earth. Interestingly, two harvests are referred to in Revelation 14:14-20, with the firstfruits harvest redolent of the grain harvest, often interpreted as a harvest of the righteous, followed by a latter fruit (grape) harvest, unto judgement.

Of course the theme of the two elements of the bread (grain) and wine (grapes) repeat throughout the Scriptures, seen at first in the offering brought out by Melchizedek in Genesis 14:18, reinforced again through the offerings of the Tabernacle, with its 12 showbread loaves in two rows, and jugs and goblets for the drink offering of wine (Exodus 25:29-30), and continue through to Yeshua's sacrifice symbolised in the communion meal (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). At the Feast of Firstfruits, the prelude to Shavuot, two lambs and two loaves of bread were held and presented as a wave offering to the Lord (Leviticus 23:20). It is often understood that the two loaves represent two types of firstfruits – the Jew and the Gentile, also signified by the two different types of grain harvest mentioned amongst Israel's 7 species – the wheat and the barley. On the subject of loaves, it is also pertinent that across Yeshua's two miracles of feeding the crowds, He makes use of 12 loaves in total, connoting the showbread (5 in the first miracle, in Matthew 14:13-21 performed in a Jewish area, and 7 in the second miracle in Matthew 15:34 performed in a Gentile area). Whether we are Jew or Gentile, we can be eternally thankful that God has endued us with His Holy Spirit, and for Yeshua's words when He said in John 10:16: *"other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."*

Tristan Hall
CFI International Executive Director

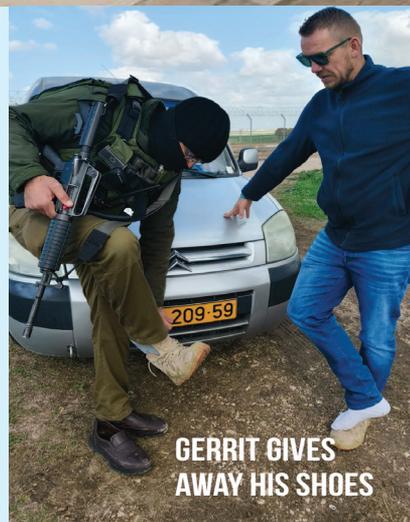
A Nation Before God EVEN IN WAR

“LET HIM LABOR, WORKING WITH HIS HANDS WHAT IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM WHO HAS NEED.” EPHESIANS 4:28



GERRIT PUTTING IN NEW FLOOR

BRINGING BLESSINGS to Shlomi, Shtula, Menara, Metula, Kiryat Shmona and representing Yeshua in the right way is our goal as we work to repair not only shattered homes and broken lives but to repair the damage of centuries of wrong teachings about Israel. Our hearts shine with His Love as we labor to build Jewish-Christian relations. The flowers here are blooming and the birds are singing of God's love for Israel despite the ongoing war around us – we continually experience God's presence. **Our CFI outreach ministries are busier than ever.** Lately I have been spending a lot of time at the border of Israel and Lebanon. There are so many people in need that we are short of hands to offer our services. **Please plan a short-term mission to help us with “boots on the ground” service. Contact us for further information how you can serve short-term.**



GERRIT GIVES AWAY HIS SHOES



HOME REPAIRS FOR TERROR VICTIMS

These brothers are amazing! Observe the commitment they bring to CFI!

Helping Rocket Attack Victims

One community we serviced suffered a rocket attack in the north. The building needed renovation and we were available. We are now in the final phase of helping to repair twenty (20) family homes in Shlomi and other places requesting our help. We repaired a home in Metula which needed help cleaning up the destruction done. **It was a beautiful confirmation from God that our work is bearing fruit as the owner decided God wanted her to return after all.** Kibbutz Beerli sent us photos of the animals that returned to the petting zoo on the grounds. After helping the survivors prepare and clean the cages for the return of the animals, in a beautiful practical way, we made a difference ... **representing the Lord in the right way!**

We also completed our **Project Iron Doors** for Kibbutz Zikim, located at the northern border of Gaza. From the terrible day of the infiltration many people are afraid to return to their homes. In many Kibbutzim terrorists broke through the wooden doors and easily entered the homes and murdered many Israelis. We saw the need for iron doors which would give them more safety. We, as Chris-

tian Friends of Israel decided to donate a number of iron doors to Kibbutz Zikim and after organizing a work day, we entered the kibbutz with eighteen (18) volunteers ready to go to work replacing the old doors with new iron doors. With 18 people from different nations we worked also in an avocado field and helped milk cows in the cow barn. After many hours of hard work, we visited the recipients of the new doors who were very touched by our donation and service we brought. Among our blessings were plenty of hugs, a big meal for all of the workers and we continue to build lasting friendships and relationships which are tearing down the walls of separation between us. Our work here is all about building relationships! **We must stand firm and put our hope and faith in the Messiah Yeshua and the God of Israel. Biblical Ruth once said to Neomi: Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God. This is our hearts.**

Gerrit Van Vliet
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WRITE US TODAY ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEER SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS

Supplying the Word

THE WORD OF GOD is no stranger in the Holy Land but sometimes good teachers are hard to find in congregations that are established here. Recently our First Fruits Coordinator, Rudy Friesen and wife, Sharon, attended a women's ministry event which CFI helped to sponsor in coordination with the local pastor. The women came together, many believers for years, and CFI was able to distribute over 1000 Derek Prince teaching materials and books for personal growth at no cost to those in attendance. Many testified of how the teaching materials were greatly loved by so many and how the teaching helped them. Assisting in this way was a pleasure and a joy to see so many hungry for the Word of God. Indeed, we all owe so much to the Jewish people for giving us the Word of God, the Prophets, the Psalmists, the Apostles and the forefathers of faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Above all, we are grateful they gave us Jesus. A harvest of righteousness for those who love Israel.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." **2 Corinthians 9:10 ESV**

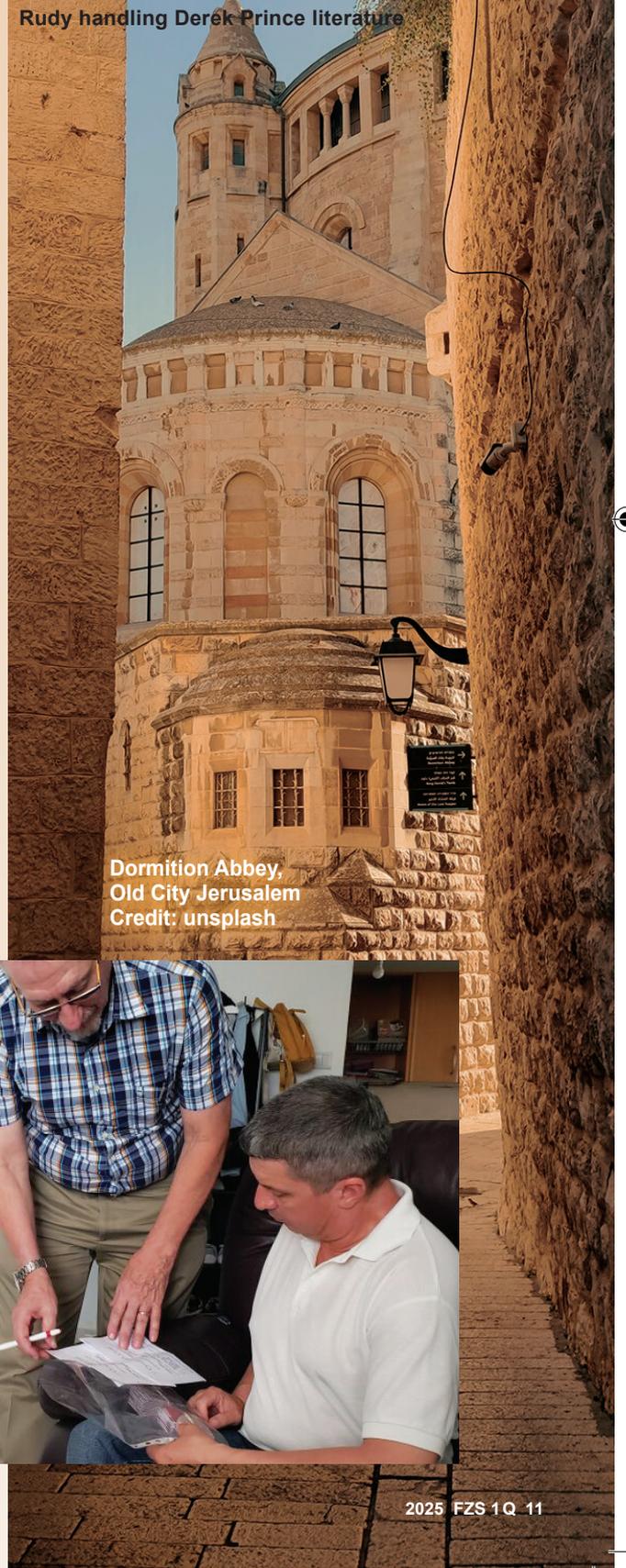
CFI Giving Rent and Food Vouchers

CFI First Fruits continues to assist believers with Food Vouchers, and often someone needs help with rent. Financial hardship continues to be an issue here in Israel and when people come for help, we are here to try to help. Requests for assistance continue to come in on a regular basis. With the war presently going on, more needs are only going to rise.

We appreciate your prayers and financial assistance to bring blessings to those who love the God of Israel. Without your help, we could not make a difference but God goes before us every day as we try to stay faithful to our calling. May the Lord bless every giver. **Thank you for not forgetting our brothers and sisters in need in Israel.**



Rudy handling Derek Prince literature



Dormition Abbey,
Old City Jerusalem
Credit: unsplash



Rudy and Sharon Friesen
Outreach Supervisors
Project First Fruits
fruits@cfijerusalem.org



Caring for One Another: Jew or Gentile in God's World





Love of God touches broken hearts

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1: 27

God loves widows and orphans. He is a Father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is to visit orphans and widows in their distress. It pleases God when we care for orphans and widows in their time of need and offer them help. *“Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.”* What we do for widows in their distress, we do to represent the real Jesus. Among other visits, recently we visited a poor widow near Jerusalem. **She lives alone** in a small apartment, with a very limited income and no ability to work. It is difficult for her to afford rent, food, and other necessities. She also struggles with health issues. During our visit, we gave her financial help to cover her rent. She was overjoyed to see us and deeply grateful for the support. We spent a wonderful time together, and she warmly invited us to visit her again. **We are making a difference by tearing down the walls between Jews and Christians.**

“A FATHER OF THE FATHERLESS, A DEFENDER OF WIDOWS, IS GOD IN HIS HOLY HABITATION.” PSALM 68:5

Since Oct. 7th, many Israeli women have suddenly become widows, forced to cope with their world being turned upside down. Joelle lost her husband unexpect-

edly and struggled to find support. She tried to join a support group but found none for women her age without children at home. She then started her own group with two other widows she met on Facebook. It grew, adding meetings, language-based groups, and even a podcast. Together with another Israeli woman, she founded the Eckstein Project, later renamed Aleph Alumunut, to help widows feel less alone. Their goal is to ensure that every new widow knows where to turn for comfort and support. This month, Joelle turned to us and we gave her financial support for her wonderful work. **She was deeply moved and grateful for the help. Many others in need also turn to us, seeking assistance. Thank you for your financial help to meet so many needs.**

“LEARN TO DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE, REBUKE THE OPPRESSOR; DEFEND THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW.” ISAIAH 1:17

Thank you for all your prayers and donations, which allow us to help widows and many other Israelis from all walks of life, in need. May the Father of the fatherless and the defender of widows bless you abundantly and guide you from the Land of God’s Chosen People: Israel.

Viktoria Muller, Outreach Coordinator
Project Streams of Blessing; streams@cfijerusalem.org

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Sharon Sander's Book Presented to Rhodes Leaders

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Bulk mailings are 100% free for you! CFI is happy to make this investment into spreading the important message we carry about God's faithfulness to Israel and what is happening here today.

“HEAR MY VOICE ... GIVE EAR, AND HEAR MY VOICE; HEARKEN, AND HEAR MY SPEECH.” ISAIAH 28: 23

Forty Years of Honoring WWII Survivors



Tanya gives a listening ear

During our recent visit, our friend Kristina shared a book written by her friend, a renowned historian. She passed it on to us with a heartfelt request to help share her story: “Eighty years after my liberation, I never imagined that the horrors of the Holocaust would be repeated. Yet, after October 7, 2023, all I see is the resurgence of antisemitism. I can no longer give lectures, but here is my story – perhaps you can help me share it.”

Kristina spoke with deep emotion as she recounted her past: “I was born on May 9, 1930, in Katowice. My family was from Kraków, where my parents’ ancestors had lived for many generations. I had a younger brother, Zbigniew Wohlfeiler, who was four years my junior. When the war began, we were living in Katowice due to my father’s job. At the outbreak of war, we returned to Kraków to stay with my grandparents.

Before the Podgórze Ghetto was established in 1941, we had to move from village to village near Kraków – Łagiewniki, Rząska, and Zabierzów. When the ghetto was liquidated in March 1943, we were deported to the Płaszów camp. My father was transferred to an ammunition factory in Mielec and later moved between various camps. In 1944, he unfortunately perished in Flossenbürg from exhaustion and starvation.

At the Płaszów camp, I worked as an assistant to the pharmacist, Helena Anisfeld-Kleinberger. During October 1944, my mother, Zuzanna, my grandmother, Cecilia, and I were sent to Brännlitz, to Oskar Schindler’s camp.

Covering this dear Holocaust survivor with love



14 www.cfjerusalem.org

We all survived until liberation. At the time, I was 15, my mother was 33, and my grandmother was 56. However, in Płaszów, our documents had been altered – mine to make me appear two years older, and my grandmother’s four years younger – in the hope of increasing our chances of survival.

My 10-year-old brother, Zbyszek, was on Schindler’s list and arrived at Brännlitz. However, during Schindler’s absence, the SS commander sent him to Auschwitz along with other young boys. In January 1945, Zbyszek was forced on a death march to Mauthausen. The British Army later liberated the camp, and he was taken to England before eventually settling in Israel.

Schindler took Great Care of us

At Brännlitz, the three of us worked in the factory, assisting in ammunition production. We were treated with greater dignity than most other prisoners. Oskar Schindler and his wife, Emilie, took great care of us. Despite the small food portions, they were provided regularly, and we were never humiliated. My uncle, engineer Henryk Wohlfeiler (position 477 on Schindler’s list), shared his food with me, which was a great help.

We hardly noticed the presence of the SS, as Schindler ensured we were separated from them – an act that likely saved our lives.” We now carry out Kristina’s request and share her story with you, our faithful friends and supporters. You share in this labor of love, standing alongside God’s chosen people. **On behalf of our FTN team and the Holocaust survivors whose voices deserve to be heard, we thank you.**

Tanya Lukomskaya
Outreach Coordinator
Project Forsake Them Not
ftn@cfjerusalem.org



“AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,
EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.”

MATTHEW 28:20

An Enduring Witness

them and standing guard in prayer for Rom's deliverance from Gaza, "Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt..." (Exodus 12:42, NIV).

Rabbi saved many Bulgarian Jews

Forging ahead in prayer, we were privileged to be part of the prayer covering for an unprecedented event at Yad Mordechai of a lecture by Pastor Avi Mizrachi & daughter Devorah, about Chief Rabbi Daniel Ben Zion, a Bulgarian rabbi who came to faith in Yeshua before the Holocaust. Many people from the kibbutz came to hear this harrowing story about a courageous man who played a part in helping to save the entire population of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from being carted off to their demise in concentration camps. I was honored to tour the kibbutz and later meet some of the Rabbi Ben Zion descendants.

My bomb shelter made for an unlikely place to start a friendship with my neighbor Ilan, an Iranian Jew. In our ensuing hallway encounters, I learned Ilan has dedicated the last 50 years to helping Jews in Iran make *Aliyah*. Once in Israel, Ilan supports hundreds of these Iranian Jewish families during the holidays to purchase food. As you stand with Israel, lo, He is also with you until even to the end of the age.

Suzie Georges
Outreach Coordinator
Project Wall of Prayer
prayer@cfijerusalem.org



2025 FZS 1 Q 15



Maya Angelou has been quoted with an adage, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." As we go about praying for the Land of Israel and encountering those blessed to live in the Land of Promise, it is an honor to steward relationships and the sacred cause of praying for Israel's redemption. There is an enduring witness of prayer flowing from heaven over Israel from Jesus, and with your support of the Wall of Prayer, you join in the outworking of His intercession from wherever you are in the world.

Over the last year and a half, we have watched Israel go through various stages of trauma unlike anything the world has seen since the time of the Holocaust. A vigorous fight for the sake of Zion ensued after October 7th, both on and off the battlefield in Israel. With abiding prayers, we stood by Berta and her family as they went through a season of wilderness wandering in hotels displaced like tens of thousands of other Israelis. Together with our Communities Under Attack project, we visited Berta in her new home in Sderot after many months, prayerfully ushering her crossover into a new season of restoration and praying the same for this Gaza envelope city that has known so much terror.

When we met the Braslavski family over a year ago, there were no smiles as the family endured the reality of having their precious Rom, only nineteen at the time he was kidnapped, still captive in the dungeons of Gaza. We thank God that a year and a half later, a sign of life for him emerged from Sasha Trufanov, one of the freed hostages who saw Rom while in captivity as of March 2025. The family remains full of hope that he will come home, and like the God of Israel, we have not stopped visiting

Love Letters

Lifting Spirits of IDF Warriors



To Israel with Love Letters from the Nations

DAVID'S SHIELD TEAM from CFI made a follow up visit with an Artillery Battalion in the North of Israel close to the border with Lebanon. Located in a "nowhere" zone, we could hardly locate them because they need to be invisible. For security reasons, we were not allowed to take pictures. We gave away hundreds of letters and cards from South Africa believers and presents for officers and soldiers such as Power Banks, special knives, and other items of need. After showing us around the base, we blessed them and told them about CFI and our donors from the nations and all about God's love to them, our love and prayers that are always with them. It was a very fruitful and joyful time together, and the Holy Spirit was present. It was awesome! They read the letters immediately and were so appreciative and very grateful!

Our CFI men talked to a religious officer. He was very respectful and listened and asked very good questions and in the end he invited our brothers to visit him at his home. We would like to get them additional games, and tennis items, for relaxation is truly needed during their free time as there are no tennis rackets in Lebanon. We also met new battalion officers who will come to this base in the future. An officer, our connection with the battalion, visited our office when he came home for one day. We talked for hours, built a friendship and of course spoke about God and the Bible. After showing him around



Receiving the Hebrew bible

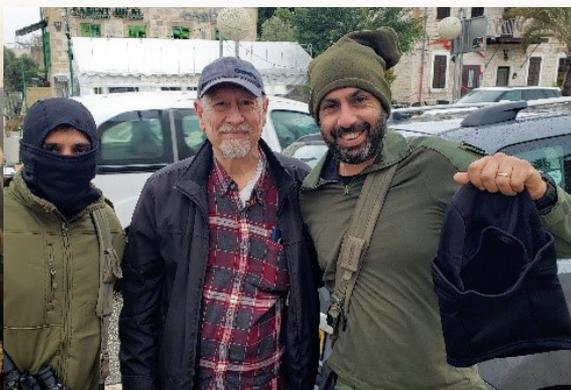


IDF Base presents CFI with a Banner

the CFI *Aliyah* Distribution Center, I showed him around the office and our volunteers were glad to meet him. They blessed him and thanked him for his service in the army and for protecting all of us in the nation of Israel.

Lyailya Telgarina
Outreach Coordinator
Project David's Shield
shield@cfijerusalem.org

Building friendships with one another



Young Israeli Farmers Need Support

AS WE EXPAND our giving into the agricultural areas of Israel, it is an eye opener as to all of the needs which farmers need to keep their flocks and to harvest the grain from the fields of Israel. "... those who harvest the grain and eat it with praises to Adonai..." (Isaiah 62:9).

The Bible tells us that hardworking farmers must be the first to partake of the crops. Young farmers and families have a small piece of ground to raise their children and be obedient to the Torah to possess the Land of Israel as commanded to do in the Bible ... and some of their needs are great. We have so far installed lighting for a farm for security reasons to protect the family and the animals in the fields of Samaria (**Obadiah 4:19**) along with recently purchasing two refrigerators for a sheep farmer whose sheep were lambing and he needed to keep food fresh in refrigerators for the newborn baby lambs. It is because of your giving we are able to do these acts of solidarity with God's Chosen People and to continue to tear down the walls of apathy shown



Lights are needed to keep the farms secure and safe and also fridges for baby animal food

over centuries to the Jewish people. Help to continue with our work in the Judea-Samaria region of fields and harvesting. Please earmark your gift for: **Stepping Stones**. May your harvest of blessing be recorded in God's Book of Names as a true "friend of Israel."

Project Stepping Stones
(a subproject of **David's Shield**)
Sharon Sanders/Project Coordinator



A PRINCIPLE AND A PROMISE

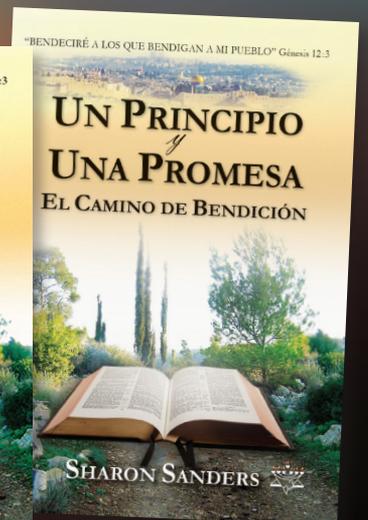
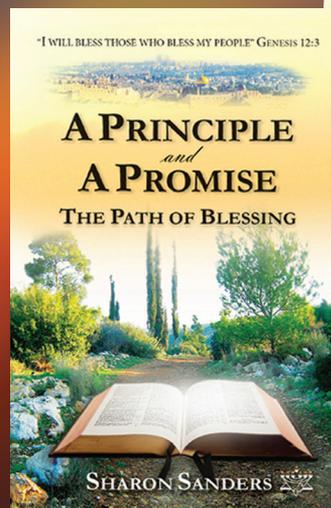
BY SHARON SANDERS

"Shalom. I ordered 50 of your books yesterday that I am going to give away with a plea to Pastors! I am praying for God to guide me to the right men!!" V.B. - USA

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Assisting with finances

Making pillowcases

Kiryat Gad visit

Sewing classes

Monica and Tiina visits Yahalom

A Time to Sew... and a Time to Construct

“A right time to mend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak.”
(Ecclesiastes 3 : 7)

The year 2025 has set in motion various new projects really taking wings!

From a faithful supporter and partner-in-ministry from the USA, funds were raised for a Sound Studio that was installed in a local fellowship we saw needing a huge blessing! Housed in a new location, we measured the space needed and are continuing to move forward to assist this precious community in Israel. The request for assistance opened the door for provision for young people to showcase their musical talents, to make videos for family members still in Ethiopia, helping to prepare them for eventually coming to live in Israel and to encourage Aliyah. Future plans are to establish a Youth Center where teens and pre-teens can come and gather during the week for help with homework, playing games, enjoying fellowship, and a safe place for hanging out, eliminating the temptation to take to “the streets.” God is so faithful to supply all of our needs and we thank all of you who support us in this very needy project.

Recently restarting our sewing classes, there are now new Ethiopian ladies participating in this new class, which has its own translator and is a big help to us. ***She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; Her clothing is silk and purple.*** (Proverbs 31:22) Recently, as CFI, we were able to begin teaching English with the

help of a short-term volunteer who was skilled in the area needed. After processing numerous applications, single moms in Kiryat Gat, as well as a dad who was struggling to keep up with utilities and other experiences were aided from the Ethiopian Jewish community. Even though our English classes are presently on hold because of scheduling conflicts and with a few adjustments we will again offer classes in the near future with the hope of enlarging our student classes.

Earlier on we had an older woman with health challenges who had requested help with repairs on her home. God sent us a new staff person, named Elias, who has all the skills necessary to perform much-needed repairs. Yahalom now has new tiles at her front door, a new window; a new faucet and other new items that were addressed as well. *She even made us a special meal, including “injera,” a special Ethiopian bread! Once again, we are building relationships everywhere we go in CFI and the walls are “tumbling down.”*

We’ve even been asked to help with seminars and workshops to address various issues, such as budgeting, parenting, relationships, anger management, etc. So, we would appreciate your prayers.

Monica Ruby, Outreach Coordinator
Project Hope for the Future; hope@cfijerusalem.org



Comforting victims of terror UNDER HIS WINGS ◆

Sharing Their Pain in the Midst of **EXPLOSIONS**

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. Isaiah 40:1 “They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated.” Isaiah 61: 4

WITH OVER 30 YEARS of experience supporting survivors of terror, trauma, and abuse around the world – *I am deeply honored to be serving in Israel during this pivotal time.* For nearly 18 months, Israelis have endured relentless trauma: terrorist attacks, surging anti-Semitism, the ongoing hostage crisis, and a constant onslaught of rockets from seven different countries. The Survivors of October 7th are struggling to recover from unspeakable atrocities. Formerly thriving communities in the kibbutzim along the Gaza border now resemble ghost towns, with families scattered and schools still closed. Some of the most resilient Israelis have admitted to us that this war has been the final straw, and they do not know how they will go on.

And yet, amidst the devastation, **there is hope.** In Hostage Square, we met Eli, a young Orthodox artist who had crafted a menorah from rocket fragments. “**I just did what Jewish people are good at – taking darkness and turning it into light.**” These profound words capture the resilience of the Jewish people, determined to transform darkness into light and to overcome hatred with love. *And it so poignantly illustrates what our Lord – the Light of the world - also does in our lives.*

Over the past few months, we have offered terror survivors not only a listening ear, but also practical assistance, and financial support. In Sderot, we spent time with an elderly couple as they shared their story, even as explosions echoed above us, and then sang and danced together, helping replace horrific memories with joyful ones. At Hostage Square, Menashe, the uncle of one of the hostages, Elkana, kidnapped from the Nova Festival, thanked us for listening and caring. My colleague Tanja has walked alongside other Nova survivors and also coordinated architects and workers to rebuild damaged homes in the kibbutzim near Gaza.

The road to recovery will be very long, but we are here to bring the Lord’s comfort and hope to His precious people. Your support allows us to do this vital work. Please continue to pray for traumatized survivors to experience the Lord’s healing and restoration. Thank you for standing with us in prayer and financial support.

Paula O’Keefe, Outreach Supervisor
Project Under His Wings; wings@cfjjerusalem.org

You Help Us to Fulfill Bible Prophecy

Representing the Lord in the Right Way through Demonstrations of Love

The above admonition reminds us that religion usually produces white noise, or nonstop empty words which is useless noise – without giving evidence that our faith is real. Our work speaks much louder in Israel than a thousand words.



Amazing Moments (in CFI's Aliyah Store)

“Save us, LORD
our God, and
gather us from
the nations.”
(Psalm 106 : 47)

“How can we sing the
songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?
May my tongue cling
to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember
you, if I do not consider
Jerusalem
my highest joy.”
Psalm 137: 4,5

Welcoming them home

jr.co.il

SPRING IN ISRAEL began with a very cold front and the rain slowed down the immigrants from traveling to our Aliyah Store; however, once the weather warmed, we welcomed many families: there were 26 families, 120 new immigrants providing them all with new needed items which were purchased at our stores.

New immigrant families from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Georgia visited us from the city of Rishon Lezion, accompanied by the Director of a government agency. They had many spiritual questions which they asked us such as who is CFI, why do we do what we do, why and who is God and many questions related to God. They were very pleased and grateful for the attention, care, gifts, and the Jewish Scriptures: a Tanach. They were especially happy to receive their Holy books, as most had never read the Tanach and were not even aware that they were God's Chosen People. We continued to build our relationship over refreshments.

A Note from New Immigrants

“Thank you very much for your care and such a generous gift. Laiyla is a very friendly and kind woman. We were glad to meet her, and at the same time, we explored Jerusalem – a beautiful city. Once again, thank you very much; we finally came out of our shell.”

A Month of Surprises

March is a spring month and we are so happy to share our lives with new immigrants. They often come to us with families and friends. One wonderful day, we were visited by 18 families, representing 31 family members. Our ministry van delivered gas stoves to two families, single mothers from Ukraine and Belarus. In total, 14 families received blessings from the Lord and His people that day. Two families were deaf and mute. Everyone was pleasantly surprised by our desire and generosity to welcome them to the Land of Israel. They expressed their gratitude in our guest book. The surprises this month have been endless.

We were visited by a young immigrant from South Africa. He said that when his friends told him that there was an organization that welcomed new immigrants and let them choose gifts and receive a Tanach, he did not believe it. It was something he could not believe but as he lis-

tened to me, he only believed when he received the gift (which you our supporters provided him) – did he smile. He thanked us, and asked again why we were doing this and we explained.

Then there came a family from Russia. After sitting down with us, the mother shared her life story about her daughter's passing along with their grandson who is now with his father back in Russia. I suggested they pray and I prayed with them and then presented them with the Jewish scriptures: a Tanach. As the mother was leaving, she asked if we had a book of prayer. I showed her the Book of Psalms and explained how we all can pray to the God of Heaven. These are only a few of the amazing stories from this month. **We, at CFI, are so thankful for your support of Open Gates. God bless you abundantly in every area of your life.**

Lyailya Telgarina, Outreach Coordinator
Project Open Gates; gates@cfijerusalem.org

CFI Store has been busy this spring



"I have found the one whom my soul loves."
(Song of Solomon 3:4)

Mother and daughter walking down the aisle

Entering Heaven's Plan: *A Daughter of Zion*

NOW IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL God's plan for Victoria's life was actualized. Born in Ukraine, she grew up knowing nothing about her Jewish roots. During the horrible time of the Holocaust, her great-grandmother had burned all the documents that proved their Jewish identity. The truth was kept as a great secret. Despite the ignorance of her roots, Victoria wanted to be connected with Israel.

In 2012 Victoria's father died and soon after the family secret was revealed. In 2014 Victoria heard about a possibility to work as a Care Giver in Israel and applied for a visa. She worked for about 5 months taking care of an Alzheimer patient 24/7 with very little time for rest. It was so overwhelming that she never wanted to come back to the Land.

After a while Victoria understood that Israel indeed was not such a bad country to live in. She prayed: "Dear God, if you are not against it, I would like to live in Israel." However, they did not have any documents to prove her Jewish background. She prayed again "Father, help me!" Victoria continued her prayers understanding that God is her Father. Then a miracle happened: Among old magazines, which were meant to be used as kindling for an oven in their village, Victoria found the marriage certificate of her great-grandmother. The paper tumbled down before her eyes. With this document she had the necessary evidence in her hands. Six months later she made *Aliyah*. Life was not easy, but God helped this daughter of Abraham in many ways. She dated a few young men but did not feel peace. She dreamed her father stopped the dating.

During the summer of 2024 Victoria met Andrey. Consequently, she went to Germany due to a pending attack by Iran. She was there for three months but did not get permission to stay and work. She had a comfortable place to live and was working by taking care of an elderly couple. It was a temptation for her to remain where she was. Simultaneously, she had communication with Andrey. He expressed interest in Victoria and after praying, he decided to be straightforward, called her and asked her to consider returning to Israel. Victoria received clear confirmations from God and came back to Israel and soon after Andrey proposed to her. In December 2024 they were married. CFI's Bridal Salon provided Victoria with a beautiful wedding dress and other accessories. Many times, we are invited to the weddings we assist with, we were invited to the wedding and enjoyed watching "our" Bride walk down the aisle on her wedding day. Later we received this lovely note:

DEAR CFI: "Shalom to you! Sincerely I want to thank you for my amazing wedding dress! It exceeded all my expectations – elegant, delicate, fits perfectly and emphasizes the image of the bride. Every detail of it was thought out with love. Thanks to you our wedding day became even more special. **Thank you for helping on such an important day for us! May God bless you and reward you a hundredfold.**"

With love and respect, Victoria

Tiina Danilevski, Outreach Coordinator
Project Bridal Salon; bridal@cfijerusalem.org

CFI Jerusalem – Welcome to Christian Friends Worldwide

“God calls many of His most valued workers from the unknown multitude.” Luke 14:23



Grace Tabernacle Ministries, Cape Town, South Africa Hosts CFI Leaders

Reunion of Friends



Tristan sharing about the Ministry of CFI in Cape Town

CFI Executive / International Director, **Tristan Hall**, was recently given the Sunday morning service message about Israel and the Church and speaking CFI. After prayer for Tristan and Galya, so many were encouraged to continuing praying and getting to know CFI Jerusalem and God's heart for Israel.

For booking Tristan Hall in your church:
email: tristan@cfijerusalem.org

1. CFI's Executive/International Director and Media Director, Galya Hall spoke recently with good friends in South Africa from the Zionist Federation in Cape Town. All were deeply moved by the work CFI is doing in Israel. (Left) The Executive Director, Honorary Life President and past Chairman.

2. Galya Hall with members of WIZO in Cape Town, South Africa. Great friends of the current President of WIZO South Africa.

3. Galya Hall with the Director of WIZO Cape Town, South Africa and other WIZO members. A round table discussion about CFI was held with much interaction and questions about our work in Israel.

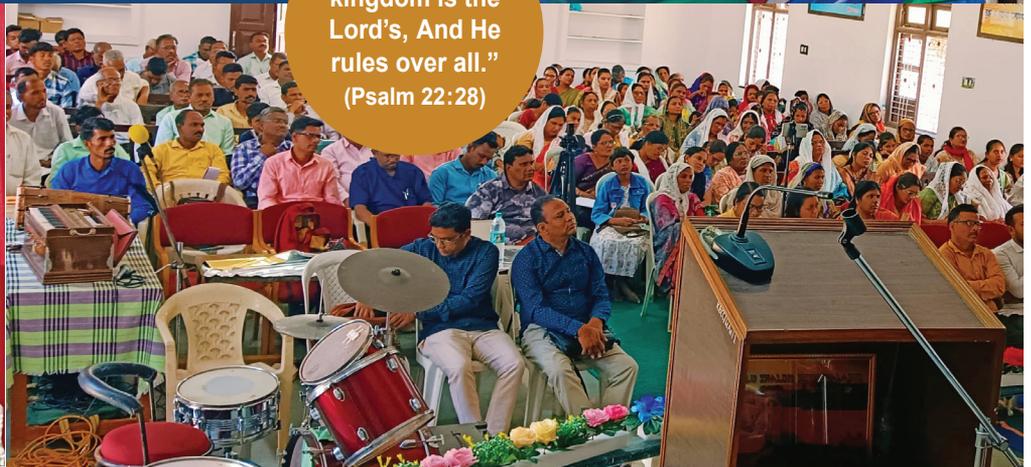


“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord.”
(Psalm 22:27)



Tristan Hall with Adam Kepkey, a key Christian leader in Cape Town, South Africa.

What a whirlwind and joyful time with so many from the Jewish and Christian communities was enjoyed.



“For the kingdom is the Lord’s, And He rules over all.”
(Psalm 22:28)

Pastor Sonny Chandra with Pastor Pawar speaking to a large crowd

CFI Expanding its reach for Israel in India

The recent CFI Seminar that was held in Amravati (700 kilometers from city of Pune) on 22nd March 2025. Over 210 people attended this, including about 30 Pastors. Pastor Nicky Chandra and associate Pastor Yoseph Pawar conducted this Seminar. Not only was the response very encouraging, but additionally they have requested for a next level teaching as soon as we can do so. Pastor Sonny.

Pastor Sonny Chandra, Maharashtra Email: nirmalkchandra@gmail.com

News and Views MEDIA ♦

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“God calls many of His most valued workers from the unknown multitude.” (Luke 14:23)

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