For Zion’s Sake
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Second Quarter 2022 Jewish Year 5782

There’s a Rabbi at the Head of the Church

“And he is the head of the body... in everything he might have the supremacy.”
Colossians 1:18

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Shalom from Jerusalem

To Christian Friends of Israel in the Nations

ANNOUNCING WITH GREAT JOY!

It is with joy and pleasure that Ray and I announce the appointment of a new International Executive for Christian Friends of Israel–Jerusalem. Our thirty-seven years of service to the Lord and the privilege God gave us to raise up CFI Jerusalem and around the world are not coming to an abrupt halt. We have learned that one day’s go to grab hold of the future. Also, with this announcement comes our full blessing to all of our Representatives in the nations and our supporters around the world that the Hall’s need your full support now and in the coming days. Thank you for pledging your continuing support and faith in these two young people to lead CFI Jerusalem and to go on to do even mightier works for Him!

In His Love and Service,
Ray and Sharon Sanders
Co-Founders, CFI Jerusalem

It is an honor for me to introduce you to Tristan and Galya Hall, who bring with them three little girls who are excited about living in Israel. For the Halls, it will be a lifetime journey they are beginning with Christian Friends of Israel. Tristan is busy learning how things work at CFI Jerusalem and how best to get the work done in ways he is skilled. I believe he is groomed for this position and comes with well-rounded administrative work experience and excellent qualifications. Both Tristan and Galya are trained to work among the Jewish people. They have worked for Jewish organizations, and their hearts never left Jerusalem after short-term services in their earlier years. Galya served at CFI Jerusalem with me in Streams of Blessing and will make an excellent Spokeswoman both in Christian and Jewish communities. Welcome to our CFI Jerusalem Headquarters, Mr. and Mrs. Tristan Hall and family!
When asked about his return, Yeshua taught us to look at the fig tree, for “when its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near” (Matthew 24:32). Herein lies an inexorable link between the restoration of Israel and Yeshua’s return. The two events are connected. At various times in the scriptures, figs and fig trees have been used to symbolize Israel in different ways (such as in Jeremiah 24; Hosea 9:10, and elsewhere). Whereas in Matthew 21:19-20, we saw the fig tree shrivel up and die under the weight of a curse arising from its own barrenness (the day after Yeshua and his disciples had been at Bethpage, literally meaning the House of the Unripe Figs). Now, in Matthew 24, we hear Yeshua speaking about a future time in which the fig tree would again put forth its tender shoots and buds. There are undoubtedly many interlinked facets to the restoration of Israel encompassing people, land, language, the capital city of Jerusalem, and within it, the temple, and ultimately, the relationship with the God of Israel.

LOOK UP

Looking to Israel as a prophetic timepiece and speaking of all the signs of His coming and the end of the age that He had described, Yeshua said, “when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the door!” (v.33). When next year’s Independence Day arrives, it will be 75 years since the re-birth of Israel as a nation. In that time, it has grown from a fledgling population in the region of 700,000, including many Holocaust Survivors, to an estimated 9 million or so today. During the past 74 years, many old waste places and desolate settlements have been rebuilt. Populous cities, such as Beit Shemesh, Beer-sheva, and many others, have become vibrant (see Isaiah 58:12; 61:4). Through this metamorphosis, Israel has risen to become an affluent, first-world nation with an influence far beyond its small size. The Hebrew language has been revived. The land yields a bountiful harvest of many crops. A spiritual awakening has been ignited, which continues apace today. Now, attention is increasingly focused within certain Jewish religious groups on establishing a third temple. Yes, the fig tree has indeed been putting forth her green and tender shoots, and she continues to do so. Although not one of us knows the day or the hour of our Messiah’s return, we see these things taking place and know that it is near, even at the door. Yet, tragically, there remain many, many of our brethren in the faith who lack understanding of where we stand in God’s prophetic calendar. Too many are not looking to the fig tree as Yeshua instructed, and many are not even looking up in expectation of our Beloved’s imminent return (Luke 21:28). The love of many has grown cold; too many are falling away. Much of the church is in deep spiritual slumber, blindness, and deception. When his followers were falling asleep, Yeshua urged us to “watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation” (Mark 14:38). He promised that the Spirit of Truth would “guide you into all truth” and “show you things to come” (John 16:13). However, without the Spirit of Truth, some will be like the five virgins

AWAKE,
You Who Sleep! Ephesians 5:14

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who awoke only to realize they had no oil in their lamps, leaving them unprepared, in darkness, and in great danger.

**THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL**

Nevertheless, there remains a short time to awaken those sleeping in the Body of Messiah. For some, a gentle whisper may suffice. Others may need to be shaken. Never has it been more essential for us to discern the times we are living in, and come into correct alignment with Israel, the Bible, and God. With good reason, when referring to Israel in Romans 11:25, Paul described it as a “mystery,” and mysteries require revelations to be understood. However, we can be thankful that the Spirit of Truth will lead us into all truth. Even now, He is drawing many who are caught in a fog of confusion and deception into a place of understanding, clarity, and revelation.

**THE GREAT END-TIME ALIYAH**

At this hour, we have received a revelation of the mystery of Israel and have the responsibility to share it with others: “what you hear in the ear, preach from the housetops” (Matthew 10:27). A world-changing event that we should all be excited to share concerns the fulfillment in modern times of Jeremiah 23:7-8: “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.” This scripture started to be fulfilled by a trickle of Jewish people returning to their ancestral homelands in the nineteenth century but increased exponentially in the twentieth century and continues today. As it states in Psalm 107:3 and Isaiah 43:5-6, the referenced return was from an exile to all the four corners of the world—north, south, east, and west. To be clear, such a regathering from the four corners has never taken place until its fulfillment in modern times. The homecoming to Israel, or Aliyah from the Babylonian exile, beginning in the sixth century BC, witnessed a return from the east, not from the four corners of the earth. As for returning from the west, as Israel’s western seaboard was the Mediterranean Sea, returning from the west may have sounded strange within the ears of those alive when the prophecy was written, when the known world did not extend to the Americas. Now, however, its meaning has been revealed. Now, it is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Last year, in November 2021, a long-awaited and large-scale Aliyah of an estimated 3,000 members of the ancient Beta Israel Jewish community of Ethiopia was approved by the Israeli authorities, demonstrating again that the outworking of this prophecy is continuing in our day. We are living in perilous yet exciting times.

**LACK OF KNOWLEDGE—A DOORWAY OF DECEPTION**

And yet, how often is this mighty modern miracle of Israel’s ongoing regathering preached from the pulpits of mainstream churches, let alone preached from housetops? How might the Lord feel about vast numbers of those who claim to follow Him, completely ignoring the wonder of His fulfillment of these awe-inspiring prophecies? Or worse, condemning it and being found to fight against God. Ambivalence continues to be one of our most significant obstacles, at least as great as opposition. I remember a conversation with a lady at a Christian camp some years ago. I was operating a stall providing news and literature about the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy in Israel. Returning a leaflet she had glanced at, the lady asked vaguely what it was all about. I explained...
that we had come to inform people about some notable developments in Israel, which directly fulfilled many Biblical predictions. Bluntly, she said that she wasn’t interested in Israel. Incredulous, I asked if she was aware that the name ‘Israel’ is mentioned over 2,000 times in the Bible and asked (I thought, rhetorically) whether this might suggest that Israel was significant to God and that He might be trying to teach us something through it. She responded in the negative. She couldn’t understand why there was all this fuss about Israel and didn’t think Israel was any more significant than any other country in the world. She wandered away to listen to the next preacher at the camp. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” the Lord said through the prophet Hosea (4:6). The problem with a lack of knowledge of the truth is that it opens the door for deception. In this increasingly dystopian age, we need to believe and cling to every word that comes from the mouth of God, recorded for us in the Bible. Otherwise, we are in danger of falling prey to those who would distort the Word of God to advance their own agendas. In the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, wasn’t it Satan himself who said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1). In so saying, it twisted what God had actually said. And it is still happening.

FOR ZION’S SAKE

Today, we must remain rooted in the scriptures, knowing them, believing them, and acting upon them. As Israel comes under relentless attack in the media, social media, and even in churches and seminaries, we must wield the influence that the Lord has given us, however great or humble, to take a stand for the truth of God’s Word. For if our brothers and sisters in the faith have been deceived about God’s plans and purposes for Israel, in what other matters might they be primed for deception? Isaiah 62:1 declares, “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a burning torch.” Let’s seek the Holy Spirit afresh to show us how to do this practically in our own lives. For some of us, it may be through joining the spiritual battle by gathering with others in intercessory prayer or even starting our own prayer group or network, whether physical or virtual. For others, it may be delivering a message to their church or group. Some will be called to share on social media platforms. Others may be led to engage in a leading conversation with their pastors, family members, friends, or colleagues, sharing God’s heart for Israel. God will show us how to do it. Yes, we may lose friends along the way and be criticized or even ostracized. Israel has always been a dividing line. But as we refuse to be silent, we will push back the darkness and the lies by one conversation, social media post, or prayer at a time. In so doing, we will gain a harvest as the knowledge of the truth proliferates, as people wake up and come into right standing, even with God. We declare, “Awake, you who sleep!” (Ephesians 5:14). As we do so, in this age of fear, let us meditate on (Proverb 28:1), “The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.”

Tristan Hall
“AND HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY... IN EVERYTHING HE MIGHT HAVE THE SUPREMACY.” COLOSSIANS 1:18
Jesus Christ is the most famous Jew of all time, but is today remembered as a Christian. Surprisingly, the Jewish community has accepted this distortion of history, and tends to regard Jesus as an apostate. How odd that the Jews would accept a Christian version of one of their brethren rather than seeking to discover the man entombed beneath the myth.  

(Rabbi Shmuely Boteach)

“Jesus Christ had to become like His brothers in every respect, so that He could become a Co-hen Hagadol” in the service of God, making a kapparah for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17, Complete Jewish Study Bible). Rabbi Boteach spoke the truth! The “distortion of history” has disguised the Savior we love to be a “Christian,” rather than a “Rabbi.” The church created its own “Christian” version of Him. May we open our hearts to counter the misrepresentation to avoid anyone following “another Jesus.” May all who believe move to a deeper maturity with our Lord and not be afraid to accept that there really is a Rabbi at the head of the Body—in spite of the fact that He never established a separate religion. Let us determine what happened.

THE MISSING LINK

The gentle forefathers of the faith influenced millions of people but could never back up their opinions; however, they managed to create a belief system without God’s Chosen People: Israel. The Jewish people gave us all we possess. How can we ignore Israel? Israel is the missing link and key to what lies ahead for the world. A poison called Replacement Theology all but destroyed the roots of our faith. Many Replacement Theology teachers (Constantine, Origen, Ignatius, Polycarp, and Papias, were antisemitic and created a “mixture” by using scripture to indoctrinate followers of Christ. They instructed their followers to accept a set of beliefs with no criticism allowed. They schooled through their viewpoints and a methodology called eisegesis (reading into the Word to make it fit the teacher’s theology). Their one-sided opinions created an uncritical ideology. No one could question what they taught with anti-Jewish statements and abandon us to an opinionated view of the very people we are to bless (Genesis 12:3). We need to return to our authentic forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In the Newer Testament (Mark 12:29), Yeshua taught us the Jewish confession of faith from the Torah in Deuteronomy 6:4. “The first of all the commandments is ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.’” He also taught us again in Mark 12:30-31 from (Deuteronomy 6:5) to “… love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment…there is none other commandment greater.” He never turned to a Christian commentary to teach; there was none. Yeshua taught that all the Jewish Scriptures depend on the above two commandments (Matthew 22:40).

Could there be a Christian Messiah? In his book Behold the Man!, Dwight Pryor says, “There is no Christian Messiah! He is either Jewish or He is not the Messiah.” Derek White (CFI UK) wrote a book-
Jesus said to His disciples, “follow me!”

Let entitled “The Jewishness of Jesus.” He stated, “Too many have created in their own minds a gentile Jesus, and in so doing have distorted His teachings and at the same time made Him foreign to His own Jewish people today.” Dr. David Bivin produced a booklet entitled “Jesus, the Rabbi: Was He Orthodox?” He explained that He was not a Christian cleric. Two billion people claim to follow Him and do not know a Jew died for them. We all share an obligation to discover the man entombed beneath the myth— and uncover the historical delusion of a “Christian” Jesus. Our wholeness and maturity will depend upon our integrity to admit that our Christian education did not provide us with knowledge about the Lord’s heritage; thus, some could end up unintentionally serving “another Jesus” (2 Corinthians 11:14). If believers think for one moment that Jesus converted and became a Christian, they are already misled.

We must be set free from historical concepts. I once saw a brochure entitled “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?” It portrayed a Catholic Jesus, a Protestant, and a Jewish one. With all due respect, Yeshua points out in the Newer Testament that He holds onto His identity as a Jew. Historical Christianity removed almost all His Jewishness. His character as an established teacher of the Torah and His authenticity as a Rabbi is somehow viewed today by the Christian world as a Jesus from any other nation than Israel.

Rev. Dan Delzell of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Papillion, Nebraska, USA, said in a recent article in the Christian Post: “The Jewish Messiah did not start a new religion! His name is actually ‘Yeshua,’ and He was born in Bethlehem as prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures (Micah 5:2).” He confirmed that “the authors of the New Testament were Jewish, the Bible is a Jewish book, and the gospel message is a Jewish message, not a gentile one.”

**FOLLOW ME!**

It bears repeating that Christianity became a non-Jewish movement, which Yeshua did not establish. He said, “Follow Me!” What then transpired? On March 25, 2014, Dr. Richard Halversen addressed the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America and eloquently and correctly said what happened. “In the beginning, the (Yeshua followers) were a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Lord. Then the church emerged and moved to Greece, where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. Next, it moved to Europe where it became a culture, and, finally, to America where it became an enterprise.”

Brothers Pryor, White, Bivin, Delzell, and Halversen, as well as others, attempted to bring to light the church’s separation from its Hebraic beginnings when faith was simply “fellowship in the Lord.” It is as though closed books explaining our faith were buried in the backyard cemeteries of our churches for centuries and only recently discovered.

Yeshua, walking ahead of His disciples near the Sea of Galilee, called out, “Follow Me!” In Matthew 4:19, it is recorded that He said, “Come, Follow Me,” and again in Matthew 9, He told Matthew the tax collector, “Follow Me” In Hebrew, “follow me” is “Lech Ahari.” He imparted to them how to follow Torah His Way. Torah (improperly termed “Old”
Testament) has been presented to Christians as something terrible as coming under “law” or “strict rules.” It is, in fact, God’s instructions on how to live lives of holiness and righteousness. Yeshua merely explained the difference between tradition and how God wants the Jewish scriptures to be taught. Why is this paramount to us? Because it safeguards us from being deceived by any other gospel than a Jewish one that was delivered to us for the future. As the end-times become intense, we will understand.

**LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE**

“Nimrod wanted a New World Order that did not have a God in it” (Israel 365 News). This is what we face. When a One World Government plotting a world without God arises, we better know to which kingdom we belong. Jerusalem is the city chosen by God to see the Messiah first. Our hope must be in Him alone. The approaching years will reveal a man-of-lies who will arise and claim that He is God. He will demand worship by all nations. Out of fear, many will yield to the wrong voice—ending up following a false messiah who will attempt to steal the Eternal Throne from God. We cannot follow a stranger. We need to hear the voice of Rabbi Yeshua saying, “Follow Me!”—and not be beguiled by the voices of imposters.

As a Rabbi, He was bound to the Torah. In fact, the Bible tells us He was the Torah living in a human being form (Psalm 119:1-2). Do not be ashamed that He was a Rabbi—it was planned by God. This is why Yeshua said again and again to the rabbis, “Haven’t you read” (Matthew 9:4). “You don’t know the Scriptures…” (Matthew 22:29). “You don’t understand these things” (John 3:10). He taught the same words that will “go forth from Zion” (Micah 4:2; Isaiah 2:3) to the entire world in the Coming Kingdom to Israel. The Torah will be delivered from Mt. Zion. At that precious time, all divisions will end, all disputes will be settled, and all questions about who Yeshua is will be resolved! It will be an exceptional day to be present when the delivery of the greatest message of all time, from the lips of the Greatest Rabbi, will be given—it will be breathtaking. It will happen in no other city on earth but Jerusalem—as it is the “City of God” (2 Chronicles 6:6; Psalm 46 and 48).

I believe everyone who follows Yeshua needs to keep prodding the soil until they discover His Jewishness, and then some of His teachings and harder sayings will be better understood. Christians know little about His manhood. This knowledge has been hidden for centuries.

I grew up on a farm in the Midwest of America, in Illinois, the prairie state. The ground needed cultivating before the grain was harvested. When my dad cultivated, he had to remove the weeds from the topsoil to expect a good crop. In like manner, the church needs to remove the weeds from its soil, which grew out of centuries of Replacement Theology. To revive
our communities of faith, we have to understand what happened through the ages and get rid of Christian antisemitism. “If Christians were Christians, there would be no antisemitism. Jesus was a Jew. There is nothing that the ordinary Christian dislikes to remember as this awkward historical fact” (John Holmes). This antisemitic history is why Christian Friends of Israel has many stumbling blocks to clear away on the road to Zion.

Perhaps someone reading this teaching still believes the Lord couldn’t have been a rabbi. Clearly, He could not have been a preacher, and there was no church! He wasn’t an Imam because He taught the Torah! He also wasn’t a Gentile because He said, “We Jews;” “You Samaritans... worship what you do not know; we (ourselves personally) worship what we do know, for salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). Dearly beloved, we cannot have salvation without the Jews! So why do we pretend we do not need them? I believe those serious with the Lord will seek their Lord and know what family they are joining. I’ve always maintained, “What bride gets married to a groom and doesn’t get to know His family?”

**HIS NAME MEANS SALVATION**

Yeshua is called Jesus in many different languages around the world. We must remember that a birth certificate can never be changed. It is the only name that means salvation. Nothing will ever change His real name, and we should not be ashamed to use it. We know Yeshua’s appearance was in the tradition of the elders. Isaiah 50:6 tells us that they plucked out the beard of the Messiah. He had a reputation as a rabbi, as mentioned in Mark 14:45; John 1:38, Mark 9:5, and John 20:16. Nicodemus in John 3:2, called Him “Teacher.” He was the only rabbi who ever provided the perfect sacrifice as the sinless Son of God (2 Corinthians 5:21; John 8:58; Colossians 1:19-20). Even though He was much more than a rabbi—He was a rabbi!

He was born to a Jewish mother. His lineage was traced to the ancient forefathers by descent, and He lived a truly Jewish life. He was born in Judah, taught in Jerusalem, and ministered throughout Israel. He kept the Torah perfectly. He “filled it full,” as Dwight Pryor taught. When He disagreed with the religious, He did not castigate anyone for following Torah, but He explained and clarified it. He was indeed, for all time, on the cross pronounced “King of the Jews.” While there is a ton of antisemitic cargo to pack up and remove from our Christian halls of learning, we need to be correct in instructing students of this generation. They are following a Jew and a Jew died for them (Hebrew 10:5). If someone follows “another Jesus,” the chances of following another leader who will arise in challenging economic times ahead is much higher than the believer who is listening to the voice of Jesus—as the apostate church of the future will separate totally from Israel (Isaiah 56:3). He is unquestionably the only sovereign ruler of our lives. “He who is the blessed and only Potentate” (1 Timothy 6:15). If we know nothing but that “He is Jesus,” some might end up following another messiah other than One who was crucified and raised for their salvation! “If someone comes and ...proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed ... you put up with it readily enough” (2 Corinthians 11:14, ESV). This verse explains how easy it is to be deceived. In other words, mankind too quickly grabs hold of error.

Yeshua reminds all in Revelation 22 that He is a Jew! He confirmed that He was a child of Israel, a Hebrew. “I am the root and offspring of David...I belong to the line and family of David, I am both David’s root and his descendant, of David’s race…” (Tay, Knox, 20th Century NT, American Standard). His royal lineage in Matthew 1:6 is revealed as the blind men cried out, “Son of David, have mercy on us” (Matthew 9:27). Timothy reminds us that Jesus is of the seed of David (2 Timothy 2:8). In Revelation 5:5, one of the elders said, “…do not weep, behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed…” (Revelation 5:5). Why then do churches often shrug off this subject as not important? The child born in Isaiah 9:6 was born in Bethlehem and to
the Jewish people. He will reign upon the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7). When He said to be “born again,” it is an exclusively Jewish concept.

Jesus’ garments would have included the Jewish prayer shawl of His time, which the woman with the issue of blood touched for healing. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to her. His appearance had to be Jewish, as when He stood before the Samaritan woman, she recognized Him as a Jew. She said, “You Jews...” (John 4:9). His perspective on the coming Kingdom is Hebraic. His followers had the Temple on their minds and asked Him in Acts 1:6, “Will you at this time restore the kingdom?” He responded it was only a matter of time, and the Kingdom would return to a redeemed Israel. Our “fullness” will be realized when the “missing link” (Israel) is retrieved into our faith.

HE TAUGHT AS A RABBI

However, it is already very late. The church did divert—it took a wrong turn on the road to Zion and got lost in the swamp and marsh of anti-Israel and antisemitic positions toward our Jewish brothers. Jesus told us to build on the rock (Matthew 7:24-26). Much of today’s sermons border on sinking sand. In time, sand washes away. We need to anchor our lives on His teachings, which came from the Torah and are never to be moved. Jesus never taught in a church. He never taught from a Bible. He never became a Christian. Jesus carried out His mission to die as the “lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

In conclusion, let us remember that a day will come when a man arises declaring, “Follow Me!” The one coming is the anti-Christ, and he will be a counterfeit. We need to anchor our souls in the Lord God of Israel and His Messiah-Son. His words stand forever. “The grass withers and the flowers fade away, but the Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

There is a growing problem in the apostate church. Broadly, some are sinking in the sea, all the while shouting, “I’ve found the truth! Follow me!” Luther was an example; he thought he was following the truth when, with his antisemitic writings, he provided a religious defense for Nazism. Julius Streicher, Nazi Party leader, cited Luther’s book The Jews and their Lies as part of his defense at the Nuremberg Trials, declaring, “Martin Luther would very probably sit in my place in the defendants’ dock today if this book had been taken into consideration by the prosecution.”

Arrogantly, in some churches today pastors say, “What can the Jews teach us?” I can vouch from living years among religious Bible-believing Jewish people—they are not dead! God said, “My Spirit will remain with you” (Haggai 2:5). Let’s be good Samaritans and help the family of the Rabbi whenever they need us. I smiled when I read in Israel Today the following, “The Good Samaritan parable could well apply to organizations today such as Christian Friends of Israel who are busy dressing the wounds of the injured victim on the roadside while many religious people walk by on the other side” (Charles Gardner). We engage daily in repairing the damage done by the church to the name of Yeshua. We endeavor to represent Him to His People the way He should have always been represented.

Therefore, let’s remind ourselves that Yeshua said, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16). We must continue to dig deeper and discover more about our Lord’s manhood, whom Rabbi Shmuel Boteach said, who “is entombed beneath the myth” of being a Christian.

–Sharon Sanders–
Warm greetings to all For Zion’s Sake readers from myself and my wife, Galya! It is an honor and a joy to be able to contribute to this magazine that I have long admired, which has so faithfully been sharing about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in this Land through the hands of many Christian friends for over three decades. We are most grateful to Ray and Sharon, the CFI Jerusalem Board, the International Representatives, and you all for allowing us the privilege of entering this remarkable work. For Galya, it’s more of a homecoming, as she previously worked at CFI Jerusalem for several years, but wherever we have roamed since those times, the call to this place, these people, have never left us.

**CALLED BACK TO JERUSALEM**

In furtherance of this call, for the past couple of years, the Lord has had us living in Cape Town, close to the tip of Africa, having ventured there from the northern reaches of the Scottish Highlands. Believe me, there were times when both places felt like the very ends of the earth! And from such places as these, He now returns us to this, the navel of the world, with the absolute privilege to serve Him here again. Unexpectedly, all the “honeymoon” feelings from when I moved here years ago for the first time have come flooding back. I never want them to end. Sharon tells me she still has to pinch herself some days, that she is really here and active in this work. What an inspiration from someone who has not grown weary of doing good.

You who are reading this, praying for and supporting this ministry, and sharing about the Lord’s prophetic plans for Israel within your worlds are also very much a part of this work together with us. For that, I thank you.

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’ Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!” Psalm 122:1-2
Encouraging those who struggle within the Land

STREAMS OF BLESSING

ENCOURAGING

The Downcast

“We are healing and hugging her several times. I felt the love of the Spirit flow through us and trusted she felt Abba’s love.”

We also visited Edward and Elena, an elderly couple. As we walked into their home, there was such a feeling of warmth and light. Only Edward was home and very gracious and kind, sitting us down and giving us coffee, natural honey, and chocolate. There was a little language barrier, but we managed to communicate about his time in the Land and met his wife and children. Suddenly he got a call and found out he had tested positive for COVID, leading us to have to quarantine for a week. The brief moments of encouragement we shared with him were worth the time in isolation.

On our follow-up visit, Elena revealed her hardships with her husband and his mental decline adding to the difficulties. We were able to encourage her through God’s Word and felt the love of the Father for her as we hugged and talked. We ended the visit with a gift for her and her husband: two beautiful quilts as a means of encouragement. May the Holy Spirit continue to minister to both her and her husband as the God of Israel faithfully drew them to return to His Land and their Messiah as He promises.

Thank you to all our supporters for enabling Project Streams of Blessing to touch many lives. We welcome QUILTS to give to the Jewish homes we visit. The Lord bless all of you.

Project Streams of Blessing
stream@cfijerusalem.org

On the path of life, sometimes people are struck by tragedies or hardships that weigh them down. Thankfully and together with our supporters, Project Streams of Blessing was able to help uphold people whose souls are downcast (Psalm 42:5a).

On behalf of Project Streams of Blessing, we travelled to the Pisgat Ze’ev neighborhood in Jerusalem to visit Kochi, a middle-aged widow with a 13-year-old son. Kochi lost her husband a little over a year ago to COVID and is not doing well physically, mentally, or financially. Kochi’s neighbor makes her meals for Shabbat and Pesach, and a sister helps her keep her house clean. She has asthma, which makes breathing difficult, plus the grief also affects her breathing. In addition, her asthma medication is costly.

Her husband was a Rabbi, and she was familiar with the Tanach but seemed distant from knowledge of God’s love for her. Her parents and two of her other children have also passed. She feels very alone and only survives for her young son. We talked for a short time and, as Brooke has had two sisters pass, related with her. She was very grateful for the Shabbat flow- ers Brooke brought, especially since her husband would bring them in the past. I felt to share Psalm 91 with her, particularly the verse about being in God’s shadow and him being our refuge. She read it to us and agreed with it. We prayed for her healing and hugged her several times. I felt the love of the Spirit flow through us and trusted she felt Abba’s love.

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Visiting Edward at his home

Visiting Elena and Bringing Comfort
If you missed the CFI Shavuot Conference this year, you may watch it online at your own convenience. See the links on the right, you won’t want to miss.

“Your teaching on your CFI Conference was beyond marvelous! It should be used in a library somewhere to teach folks the truth of what you were saying!” (MW – Canada)

“Thank you Rick Ridings…and Ray and Sharon of CFI and all the forerunners like Lance Lambert and Derek Prince who have gone before to plough the soil and plant the seeds, to teach and to show God’s plan for Israel and the gentiles and how they can work together to fulfill His prophecies for Israel…”. (SD – United States)

Click on the links to the right of this page on your computer and share the teachings with others.
From the north in Haifa to south Eilat, it has been our great pleasure at Christian Friends of Israel to begin earnest distribution of Derek Prince titles to ministry leaders in the land. We have been able to gift Messianic Jews, Arab Christians, Russian, Ethiopian and Spanish speaking believers to name just a few! We are beginning to receive feedback from local leaders of the initial seven titles, which have been most useful. Our feedback encourages us to offer Derek Prince’s reading material in additional languages to increase the ministerial impact.

Some highlights come to mind which includes pastors receiving additional copies of Derek’s literature for weekly ladies’ Bible studies, the CFI Jerusalem utilizing Derek’s materials for staff devotions, a discipleship program for battered wives using Derek’s literature, and a hotel in Eilat (stewarded by an international congregation) is utilizing Derek’s rich teachings. They will take the teachings back to the nations upon return to their countries.

Carrying Derek Prince’s Legacy to the Next Generation

Very soon we will be providing Arabic, which is growing swiftly throughout the Middle East from secular and previously Islamic practitioners, and within Israel, becoming more intentional within traditional Orthodox circles regarding digging into the scriptures, and perhaps, operating their faith in a manner resembling more of the Protestant expressions of faith in the earth. We will continue to work alongside DPM Ministries to help cement Derek Prince’s legacy to this next generation.

Mr. Kim Brunson,
First Fruits Project Supervisor / DPM Coordinator
dpm@cfijerusalem.org / www.cfijerusalem.org

Pastor Receiving His Books
Our newest outreach is not only to Israeli soldiers but to farmers in the Biblical heartland who are obeying God by working and tilling the Land. As God plants them in their fields, as He promised to do—they plow and make the Land fruitful with harvests of the Lord. Helping these young pioneers, we are so blessed by meeting such lovely people and assisting those who are in need.

Seeking Israel’s Welfare

On our hearts is to bring a blessing from the Christians in the nations to those possessing the Land according to the Bible. Our store house in Jerusalem has been delivering large appliances to the pioneers of Israel who are giving their lives to please the Lord God of Israel in farming and agriculture. I came from the farmland of the USA so we decided that we would start stepping across the stones towards reaching out in brotherly love, and thanks to those following God’s holy commands.

On the next page, you will see some of our work in delivering appliances (in trucks) across the rugged roads where few travel. Sitting like a beautiful dove in her nest are young married couples with small children who are in great need. They are willing to farm and diligently labor to make the Land blossom and bloom, while also raising sheep as in ancient times.

Working together, we have a part in what is happening in the Land of Israel today prophetically. It is a perfect springboard for relationship building, preliminary steps toward reconciliation, bridging the gaps and creating a bond of brotherhood. We are meeting the most beautiful people, fathers, mothers, children, babies, young married couples, elders of the community, and rabbis.

Our work has just begun!
The hardworking farmer must be the first to partake of the crops. Will you help us encourage them, tear down the walls and bring a blessing of God’s Love to them? Driving through bushes, rocky roads, and alongside barbed wire fences into the heart of the ancient mountains of Israel was an experience which only the serious need to attempt. God met us as we made new relationships!

A Morning Rain on God’s Land

Our greatest joy in which we applaud the LORD is that we have been able to supply electrical lighting as our first blessing to the farmers. A small plot of Land to cultivate with a big heart. Two young Israelis (Nadav and Bat El and little girl) bravely sleep at night now with lighting in a temporary home. What JOY we were able to bring as Christians that love Israel the way God wants us to love.

YOUR gifts for our new project STEPPING STONES, will help us to provide more lighting for these brave men and women who desire to fulfill God’s Word! It will also allow us to aid lone soldiers fighting for the beloved nation of Israel, and new opportunities, which we are thrilled to tell you all about. Thank you for praying about helping us!

Sharon Sanders,
Stepping Stones Project Coordinator
www.cfijerusalem.org

“...but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the Lord...”. Isaiah 62:9

As God brings his people home and as young couples desire to farm the ground which He has given to them, please pray about helping us to install security lighting around their little farms to help protect them from intruders.
Salomon has such a giant smile when he sees Rachel Mangoli, a friend of the community. If it were not for her, how would he be able to have the things he possesses now? In unexpected places, we are grateful for the many unknown people who rose to the occasion to make a difference in the lives of Ethiopian immigrants. Can we speculate it started by loving the Lord and reading the Holy verses? Life chapters for people of Ethiopian descent are as much of a contest as many of the harrowing stories told about Jewry survivors worldwide. Diaspora difficulties for all Jewish people are common and are constantly being challenged at one level or another.

Mending Hearts
Salomon’s family is typical of the Ethiopian people, reserved and mild-tempered. You can see the heart behind the wide almond-shaped eyes and the years of uncertainty and suppression. Many Ethiopian newcomers that came to Israel have a common compulsion to isolate themselves as they silently attempt to heal from post-traumatic stress. The pressures and trauma that many have felt from the time of leaving Sudan have been tremendous. Disappointments on the way to Israel and discouragement since arriving have left many seriously troubled. Due to the pervasive community conditions, they were forced to undertake residence in Israel. We have noted that many elderly Ethiopians are sick and weak.

A Chance of Return
Many of these stories are kept from young ones like Salomon because the parents still cannot bear the pain of their past. In comparison, we see another group of Ethiopians given a right to reunite with family today; those left behind in Africa finally have a chance to return. Many Ethiopian Jews are given the name “Falash Mura,” the Beta Israel community that could not immigrate to Israel earlier. Unlike those who left Ethiopia searching for economic opportunities or better living conditions, we noted that many are coming because of the war between those in Tigray and those of the Amharic-speaking community. Israel has chosen to keep a restrictive policy on accepting refugees into the land because they are suspicious of the Ethiopians’ true Jewish status.

“\textit{A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.}”
\textit{Proverb 17:17 (KJV)}

Truly, we will accomplish our purpose by adequately pursuing ways to affect our community. Salomon will be entering college this next school year; he has become a very studious young man. Due to misdiagnosed vertigo, his mother has been unable to work for years because she had fallen, and even Salomon’s father is unable to work. Salomon can still smile! He is not afraid of his future; with the help of great tutorial programs, English teachers, and support, this young man can laugh at danger because Hope for the Future stood behind with everything that gave him Hope.
Responding with Relief Funds to Rocket Targeted Areas

COMMUNITIES UNDER ATTACK

Maggie Huang
Outreach Supervisor
Project Communities Under Attack
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Beauty for Ashes

Last year, shortly after the intense barrage of rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza in May, Project CUA had the privilege to reach out to several Israelis affected by this round of rocket attacks. This attack included a mother who mourned for her five-year-old son, Ido, who was killed on the 12th of May 2021 by rocket fire. Around 4,360 rockets were fired toward Israel from Gaza between May 10-18, causing property damage, several deaths, many injuries, and hundreds of Israelis being taken to hospitals for shock or trauma treatment. Ido’s mother, Shani, his seven-year-old sister, aunt, and cousin were injured by projectiles in the same rocket explosion.

Ido’s death was devastating to his parents. Ido (photo 1) was a brilliant child whose parents never ceased to be fascinated by him, and they could not wait to see what he would be like when he grew up! They lamented that now they will never know.

We mourned with Shani in her deep sorrow and significant loss. She had recently been released from the hospital and stayed at her parents’ home while we visited. Shani told me international journalists contacted her for an interview in which she had the opportunity to counter the lies and propaganda of Palestinians that have spread all over the world against Israel. She said she hoped that Ido did not die in vain. Our visit deeply touched Shani. She asked me to convey her gratitude to all our supporters, saying that your love, comfort, and support is not taken for granted (Isaiah 40:1). Shani asked me not to show her picture due to the sensitivity of the nature of her job.

Amazing Miracle
Recently after I returned to Israel from visiting my family abroad, whom I had not seen for two years hindered by Covid 19, the title of one article I read caught my attention that says:

“Boy is born on Independence Day, one year after his brother was killed by Gaza rocket” (www.timesofisrael.com/boy-is-born-on-independence-day-1-year-after-brother-killed-by-gaza-rocket/).

I was delighted to confirm that the mother is indeed Shani. Praise God for blessing her and her husband, Asaph, with a new baby boy. What is even more amazing is that the article stated that the Brit Milah (circumcision of a male Jewish baby on the eighth day) of the baby is the 12th of May, the exact date his brother, Ido, was killed one year prior by rocket fire. It is an amazing miracle! I contacted Shani to congratulate her and her husband on the birth of their new baby boy and asked her if we could have the privilege to attend their baby’s Brit Milah. Shani said it would be their great honor to have us as their guests (Photo 2).

The Brit Milah was very moving, as expected. Traditionally, the baby’s name is announced at his Birt Milah. All the guests burst into great joy with the baby’s name – Ori (meaning God is my Light). Psalm 27 says, “The LORD is my Light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Be of Good Courage
God lifted the heads of Shani and Asaph above their enemies by turning their ashes to beauty, and mourning to dancing (Isaiah 61:3; Psalm 30:11). Thank you to all our supporters for your generous financial support, enabling us to touch the lives of Israelis suffering ongoing rocket attacks.

Maggie Huang
Outreach Supervisor
Project Communities Under Attack
CUA@cfijerusalem.org
Global Prayer For Israel

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

"MAY THEY BE SECURE WHO LOVE YOU! PEACE BE WITHIN YOUR WALLS AND SECURITY WITHIN YOUR TOWERS!" Psalm 122:6-7 (ESV)
The International Wall of Prayer is pleased to announce the launching of the **Pacific Region Prayer Team**, an extension of our Israel Watch prayer network.

**Unified Supporters of Israel**

It was refreshing to meet and pray online with people who support Israel from the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, and Hawaii. The initiation of regional prayer groups has resolved the problem of people praying together in different time zones. The new Pacific team meets the second Friday evening of each month with worship and prayer. What an excellent way to begin Shabbat! Our CFI representatives from the Pacific area are supportive of the Israel Watch prayer efforts: Patrick Russel of CFI Australia, Tony Dalaka of CFI Papua New Guinea, and Dennis McLeod of CFI New Zealand. The Pacific Region prayer team consisted of both male and female intercessors ranging from young adults to senior citizens. While we were interceding online, a church in Papua New Guinea prayed for Israel and the nations. Patrick Russell commented on the prayer session, “It was a joy to be a part of the Pacific Region prayer meeting, and I look forward to furthering meetings.” I believe God was pleased with the worship and prayers from these islands and coastal nations. They fulfilled the words of Isaiah, which says, “Exalt the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea. From the ends of the earth, we hear singing: ‘Glory to the Righteous One’” (24:14-16). Isaiah 42 reveals the role of the Messiah from Israel, who will establish righteousness and enlightenment for those in spiritual darkness. This chapter says Israel is to be a light to the nations and a demonstration to the world of God’s way of life. As Christians, our calling is to pray for Israel, reminding her of who she is and how great God is in her midst. It is our privilege to love, honor, and know the God of Israel. We are motivated to pray for His Chosen People as we align with Him.

**Coastlands Hope in God**

The Lord spoke to Israel, saying, “Pay attention to Me, My people, and listen to Me, My nation; for instruction will come from Me, and My justice for a light to the nations. I will bring it about quickly. My righteousness is near, My salvation appears, and My arms will bring justice to the nations. The coastlands will put their hope in Me, and they will look to My strength” (Isaiah 51:4-6 HCSB).

To you Pacific Region prayer warriors, the Lord foretold you would live on the islands long before your birth. You are some of those in the coastlands whom He said would put their hope in Him. God created you to worship and praise His name. He has called you to encourage others to worship the God of Israel and align with His Chosen People. At the end of the age, there will be those who are forced to bow before Him, but you are honoring Him willingly. In doing so, you will be incredibly blessed!

**Linking Prayer Groups**

The goal of the International Wall of Prayer is to link countries in prayer for the nation of Israel. This linking will enable nations to participate globally in intercession that reaches God’s throne. After our first Pacific Region prayer meeting, Lisé Afele of New Zealand observed and commented, “Tonight was the beginning of something special for the Pacific Region in the prayer connection to Jerusalem.” We agree with her statement and trust God that the Pacific Region prayer warriors will grow together as a team as we strategically battle in prayer for Israel and the nations.

**Thank God for Mature Prayer Warriors**

**Papau New Guinea Prayer Leadership**

To our partners and supporters, we thank you for your ongoing prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts. It is a joy to connect with you globally as we uplift Israel, the apple of God’s eye.

**Linda D. McMurray**  
Wall of Prayer Coordinator  
prayer@cfijerusalem.org
The Church of England’s recent service of repentance for historic Anti-Semitism, held at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on May 8th, the 800th anniversary of the Synod of Oxford of 1222, is to be strongly welcomed. The laws passed at that Synod sparked a chain reaction of hatred which culminated in 1290 with the expulsion of Jews from England. The passing of close to a millennium between the synod and the repentance is regrettable but should not be allowed to dilute the significance of this meaningful act of repentance by a major church denomination.

The Gift of Repentance

Much time has passed, but it is still not too late to repent of the sin of hatred of the Jewish people and of Israel, indeed of the sins of spiritual arrogance and spiritual pride. Speaking of Israel, the Apostle Paul warned the gentile believers, “Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either” (Romans 11:20b–21). Coming events cast their shadows before them, and in making this warning, it was as if Paul foresaw the millennia of diabolical Christian antisemitism that were to come. What a pity so many have not paid heed to his words. It isn’t only the grievous historical events that we ought to reflect upon – travesties such as the Crusades, the English Expulsion of the Jews, the Spanish Inquisition, the Russian Pogroms, the Holocaust instigated by Nazi Germany. Paul’s words also speak to the waxing trend of Christian anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism that is proliferating now. What of the many Israel-loathing slurs spouted in more recent times by no less than the revered Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu? Or the dossier of antisemitic calumny dished out by Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer. The former has now passed. As to the latter, it was also in May of this year that Rev. Sizer, currently suspended from his duties, faced a Church of England disciplinary tribunal at an ecclesiastical court in London following a complaint lodged by the Jewish Board of Deputies. The outcome of that tribunal has yet to be announced, but it can only be hoped that he will be permanently relieved of his duties.

The Church of England is not alone in the sad part it played in Christian Anti-Semitism, nor in its attempts to heal the wounds it inflicted on the Jewish community through public gestures of apology and repentance before God. In 1945, the Stuttgart Declaration of Guilt was made by the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany. In 1965, the Roman Catholic Church publicly distanced itself from its historic role in fostering anti-Judaism through the Nostra Aetate document, following the three year Vatican II Convocation. In 1983 on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s birth, the Lutheran World Federation issued a joint statement with the Jewish community, which was furthered in 1994 and 1998 when the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America condemned Martin Luther’s Anti-Semitic tract of 1543, On the Jews and their Lies. Such positions of contrition were echoed in a statement issued by the Protestant Church in the Netherlands in 2016. Regrettably, these are by no means the only Christian denominations that have cultivated legacies of hatred against Jews over many years. Is it not high time for other Christian denominations, institutions and seminaries to humble themselves in a spirit of repentance and publicly apologize, as the Church of England has most recently done? There is so little time left, but it’s not too late to repent.

Tristan Hall
Our recent First Fruits activity remains dynamic, active, and effective thanks to those of you in the nations who have collaborated with us in prayer and financial support. We were able to repeat food voucher support for our dear friends at Immanuel Church in Haifa for 20 Arab Christian-believing families. We were able to do this just after Pesach for this community in Northern Israel. Our gracious host was Elizabeth Attieh, the wife of Pastor Najeeb, who was on a retreat ministering to a youth group from Ris hon LeZion during the Passover holiday week. One of CFI radio show’s former guests, Byron Stinson, was visiting Jerusalem from the USA and accompanied me and our Educational department volunteer, Brooke, to the ministry compound. While we enjoyed Elizabeth’s typical Armenian/Arabian hospitality, we were able to repeat support for Abigail S., who is awaiting more stable employment in the Land since her Aliyah process from South Africa. Our friends at Aliyah Return Center near Tiberias referred her to us.

In the week following, my wife Marcia, the HFF project supervisor, and I traveled to Eilat with our Media department producer/editor, Leon, and his wife, Nicolene, International Representative Coordinator, to fellowship with a local congregation and hostel staff. We were able to provide Derek Prince literature which we are distributing in the Land to pastoral leaders. One of those leaders is Marco, a guide at the Tabernacle model at Timna National Park, whose Biblical and historical teaching was a highlight of our excursion. While there, we filmed and recorded a CFI Insights episode that will be released later on Youtube.

We were able to return to Haifa and visit acclaimed Polish-Israeli artist Gedalyah Winapel. We continued our financial support for his purchase of an electric scooter, which allows him to maintain his chemotherapy treatments more readily and economically. He shared his latest drawings with us and, along with his gracious wife, presented Sara and me (our Polish-speaking media photographer) with gift cups with his artistic design. They repeated their testimonies and the story of their romance as a young couple.

Please continue to assist us in traveling the land and supporting believers in order for us to be able to share with you about the manifestation of faith in God in their lives.

Kim Brunson, Outreach Supervisor Project First Fruits / fruits@cfijerusalem.org

“Our Creator and His Creation Special People in the Body with Needs

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Kim Brunson, Outreach Supervisor Project First Fruits / fruits@cfijerusalem.org
“Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season, convince...with all longsuffering and teaching.” 2 Timothy 4:2

The first-century church is the model for Christendom in showing how Jews and Christians worshipped together. Some believe that all Jews rejected Jesus, but that is not true. In the book Israel, Land of God’s Promise, Murray Dixon wrote, “There were over 50,000 Jewish Christians in Jerusalem at the council” (page 75). The Bible says, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who believed” (Acts 21:20). “Many thousands” means myrias in Greek and can mean “an innumerable multitude” (Strong’s Concordance). There were divisions in the early church between Jews and Gentiles but not based on ethnicity. For example, the day we call “the birthday of the Church” (Pentecost) was an all Jewish event not because God showed partiality but that the scripture would be fulfilled, “...to the Jew first...” (Romans 1:16). God planned that the Jews receive it to share it. The invitation to join this new assembly was extended to Gentiles about 11 years later through Peter to Cornelius in Jaffa.

On the Day of Pentecost (Shavuot, Feast of Weeks), Acts 2:7 is very clear that all those speaking were Galilean Jews. In the same chapter and verse 5, Luke clarifies that the ones in the area to witness this outpouring were also Jewish from every nation. In verses 9-11, we are told that international Jews were present. There was only one reference to Gentiles, and they were called Proselytes (Gentiles that had converted to Judaism).

Witnessing the Outpouring
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WITNESSING THE OUTPOURING
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One might ask why a Gentile would convert to Judaism? Before the conversion of Cornelius, the only way a non-Jew could be included in temple service or feast day activities was to become circumcised and convert to Biblical Judaism. This conversion was not to Rabbinical Judaism but Biblical Judaism, which was the only God-approved covenant. This will help you understand why there was such an up-roar later in Acts 15:1. Some religious Jews believed that the only way a person could be saved was by converting to Judaism. Pastor James concluded in verse 19 that the Gentiles did not need to convert to Judaism but simply turn to the Lord and follow a few regulations to fellowship with their Jewish brethren.

This significant relationship, however, did not last long. When Rome invaded Jerusalem, those known as believers in Yeshua, followers of The Way, or Nazarenes, remembered the earlier words from Jesus: “When you see Jerusalem surrounded, flee to the mountain” (Luke 20:21-22). The believers fled to the mountains of Pella in Jordan while the Orthodox Judeans remained in Jerusalem. Those who fled to the mountains rejoiced that they were saved, while those who remained in Jerusalem felt deserted, becoming a significant offense between Jews and Christians. In 80 c.e. at Yavne, Rabbis and sages declared that Jews who followed the teachings of Jesus were “heretics” and were not allowed to participate in Jewish worship or synagogues (Separation, Synagogue, and the Church, https://www.facinghistory.org).
leave the gift and go to them. Many Christian ministries are doing that today and restoring their relationship with Jews. According to Gordon Lindsay, the great healing revival in America began in 1947 and continued through 1958. During these years, church buildings could not hold the crowds and obvious miracles of healing were the norm. During these years, America became the first major nation to recognize the new state of Israel by President Truman. We enjoyed those blessings until we started scaling back our support by demanding Israel give up the Sinai and Gaza in 1958. The body of Christ has not witnessed the favor of God since that time. Very soon after those days, we banned the Bible and prayer from our schools, allowed the murder of babies, and now, we endorse same-sex marriage.

I wonder what would happen if each church left their gifts at the altar until they made it right and then asked the Jewish people to forgive for the terrible past left behind in our faith. Perhaps it is with a bended knee before God that forgiveness will arrive quickly to heal.

Robbie Coleman
International Development Director

For booking Robbie in your Church email: tommie@cfijerusalem.org
Over the next months, I will be working with experts and accomplished scholars and speakers to assist me to construct an authentic Christian Education Department, which will supply the best scholarly literature, information, books, and other needed items for Christians in their churches and Sunday Schools. Both Jewish and Christian scholars will be invited to participate if their material has no trace of Replacement Theology and contributes to bringing Christians and churches back to their Hebraic foundations in learning.

Your prayers are extremely important as we seek to be a legitimate source of education for our people in the nations. Your prayers are important at this time. Your support financially will help us to provide the best of the best of teaching and literature being made available to you wherever you are living. You may mark your love gift with “Education.” Thank you for standing with us, Sharon Sanders.

New! International Development Director

Pastor Robbie Coleman has been appointed as the new CFI Jerusalem International Development Director. He pastored for over 30 years in the Assemblies of God churches. He has a Masters of Ministry Leadership Degree from Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida. He has taught Church Ministries for Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, Texas, USA. You can hear Robbie online at our CFI Conference links given in this magazine. Pray for Robbie as he sets his calendar to speak in your area this year.
Along with the restoration of Israel back to their homeland, God is restoring the Hebrew language, restoring the waste places, restoring the Jewishness of Jesus and restoring those who follow Him by visiting Israel and feeling they have “come home” and to spiritually connect with the nation that gave them everything they possess.

We owe a great debt to the Jewish people

Our gift is to present a recognized and truly indepth CFI Resource Center for Nations around the world. It will be stocked with the best books and literature from the world’s greatest Jewish and Christian scholars. The subject?

Israel and the Church

You will not want to miss out on this very important timing for the best superior Teaching of its kind to help you return “home” where we began. Will you please pray about supporting our new Education Center in the heart of Jerusalem.

We need your help!

Thank you for your prayers for launching of our Jewish-Christian Resource Center online bookstore. We will engage only the best renowned scholars and sages of Israel, and Christian Bible teachers. THIS LITERATURE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU ONLINE. EVEN ONE ORDER WILL ENHANCE YOUR LIFE AND LIBRARY. For more information please contact: sharon@cfijerusalem.org
CFI Personnel announces the arrival of its newest member Sherry Wasonga, from Kenya who is our new Human Resources Administrator. Sherry loves people, Human Resources, Israel, and above all, the Lord! Her favorite quote is, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together...” (African Proverb). CFI is excited to welcome Sherry. Our Neomi Giron has moved into CFI outreach and we wish her well.

Human Resource Projects

We would also like to announce the arrival of Brooke Kempton from the United States. Brooke serves as a Staff Assistant and in Administrative duties. Her favorite quote is, “God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called” (Steven Furtick). We would also like to welcome back Enrique Marquez from Mexico who will serve in our Operations department and fill a huge area of need. He shares with us his heart. “I like to serve, collaborate, and support the staff with what I can. I like to be in Israel and serve. I love Israel, I love the Jews, and a Bible verse I like is “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thessalonians 5:18). Also from Mexico is Arely, our cook! We are blessed to have this young lady step into this position and we are already reaping the benefits as we eat her tasty meals. Praise the Lord who brings willing hearts and hands to the Land.

Please pray for special blessings and protection for them and their work as they strive to walk well before our Father God.

Is God Calling you to Serve in Jerusalem?
Immediate Staff Positions Available

- Executive Administrative Assistant
- Operations & Facilities Manager
- Bookkeeper/Accountant
- First Fruits Coordinator
- Streams of Blessing Coordinator

Please contact Sherry at: personnel@cfijerusalem.org
Executive Administrative Assistant
This quarter has been active and exciting for our project Operation Start-Up. When this project began, our goal was to provide new appliances to the new Olim. We concentrated on the 17 absorption centers throughout Israel in the first phase. Most centers are in the extreme north or south so getting appliances to them was a logistical problem.

The Jewish Agency, which directs the affairs of each center, was so excited that the new immigrants would get new items and offered to charter a bus to bring the new Olim to us. We did not know that many of these were ready to graduate into more permanent housing. In some cases, they were only waiting for necessary items such as those we were providing.

Operation L’Chaim

A few months into Operation Start-Up, the Russia/Ukraine war began. Israel now has more pressure and more opportunities to help. Since February 24, over 13,000 have been airlifted from Ukraine. We are expecting 20,000 more from all over Europe as well. These people began coming to our center with only the clothes they were wearing.

We then developed a new program called L’Chaim, an emergency care package that meets their immediate needs until they get permanent housing. Most are placed in short-term lodging and do not have room to store items, so only the basics are given. Since our initial meeting with the first group at a hotel, word has saturated Jerusalem.

Healing the Wounds of War: Helping to Mend Hearts

One issue we were unprepared for was the dynamics of Russians and Ukrainians sitting side by side. Outside our doors, they have feelings against each other, but all is forgiven inside Christian Friends of Israel’s Outreach Center. God is using us to mend hearts and give hope. As I often enter our center’s front door, I notice groups and wonder why the younger men are not included. The men from 18-60 must stay in Ukraine and defend their country. The mothers will tell us they hope their husbands come soon. Even before the war began, CFI Representative from the USA, Hannele Pardain, wrote and asked, “What can we do to be prepared?” She was correct in her discernment and concern of that which God had placed in her heart. A generous offering followed as actions spoke louder than words. Thanks to CFI USA, our other CFI office and many of you, we have been able to offer a multitude of resources that have made a difference in many Jewish lives. “To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”

New Course of Action

Our program is changing its course. Many of those we helped are getting into their apartments, so we promised to continue to walk them through this challenging time. Their needs have been for small items, but now they need refrigerators, stoves, and washing machines. To get these items from the stores to us and from us to the Olim, we pray for a vehicle that will make it possible.

Robbie Coleman
Special Project Coordinator
These words are so true for the many Survivors of the horrible attempt in WWII to annihilate the Jewish population. It is a privilege for us as a team here to be witnesses of God’s intervention in the lives of our friends and to walk alongside them, even to their last days.

**Yakov, our friend, is one of the examples**

Yakov was born into a religious family in southern Russia. As soon as the war started, the new power showed its ugly head. The Jews needed to register with the local police station and were ordered to wear bands with the Star of David on their hands. Yakov remembered how his mother, crying bitterly, sewed bandages, and his father drew the stars with ink. Yakov kept one of those bandages until his last days.

Soon after the Germans entered the village, the Jews were taken to the forest and ordered to dig a deep pit. Understanding what the pit was for, Yakov’s father made the decision to flee, but the family was betrayed, badly beaten, and returned to a small ghetto. The struggle for survival began – hunger, cold, hard labor, and sickness. Once, while Yakov was home alone, a gas van stopped next to their house, and Yakov, shaking with fear, managed to escape and hide in a stack of hay. His family’s survival was also possible because of the help and protection of the village leader, Gregory Dashko.

Yakov never forgot it.

Our last visit with Yakov was very special but very sad. Just recently, he turned 92, and the condition of his health deteriorated rapidly. For many years we were welcomed to his wife, Vera, and Yakov’s home as close family members, and we will never forget how Yakov played his keyboard and sang songs in Yiddish for us. This time we found Yakov on his deathbed, but he still recognized us and immediately brightened up! We left our gift and a card with scriptures and soon departed. Yakov passed away two days later.

When we visited Vera a month later, we found Yakov’s picture and our card next to it. Vera told us Yakov held the card in his hands and read it repeatedly until his last breath. The words in the card were from Psalm 84:4-7: “Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.”

It was a privilege to see Yakov and bring some joy and comfort to his last days.

Thank you for all your love toward the Lord and His people and for your continued effort in supporting the work, which is so dear to His heart. May the Lord’s name be glorified as we do not lose heart and run our race with thanksgiving and joy.

Olga Kopilova
Outreach Supervisor
Project Forsake Them Not
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“I will accept you as a SWEET AROMA when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles.” Ezekiel 20:41

Here at CFI UK, we are always keen to encourage prayer on all fronts for Israel, CFI Jerusalem, and the Jewish people generally, but we have found great opportunities and blessings through Zoom technology during Covid and especially this year. In mid-January, we had the pleasure of hosting a CFI UK Focus event on Zoom, based on the Hope for the Future Project from the CFI Jerusalem office, with Marcia Brunson, project coordinator, who was joined by her husband, Kim.

Grasping the Needs via Zoom

This meeting was an excellent opportunity to help CFI supporters grasp the unique needs of the Ethiopian people who have made Aliyah to Israel and to see the great work done by Marcia and others with divinely orchestrated developments over the last few years. Over the years, we knew that education, well-paid jobs, and assimilation were crucial needs. To hear about educational centers, new role models in the Ethiopian communities within the government, and the army were all so powerful. The UK supporters loved ‘meeting’ and appreciated the deep insights so they could pray more specifically. Some of our intercessors are in their 90s and love to join us on Zoom with great success.

On the success of this first event, we planned to do another update this same way and were so pleased that Sharon Sanders was also delighted with this new venture. It became increasingly obvious that the Lord wanted us to make the next CFI UK focus on the new Emergency Parcel Project, Operation L’Chaim (To Life), working with Ukrainian Jews in light of the war with Russia.

David and I had previously worked with Tiina at the Jerusalem Distribution Center and were keen to hear from Pastor Robbie Coleman on managing the new facilities on Moriah Street. The details shared by the team spoke to the hearts of our dear intercessors, and they too were blessed to hear and see the many images of new visitors, shared stories, and happy faces leaving with essential goods to help them settle in a new Land. CFI continually works with God to fulfill His Word about returning His People to their Homeland.

It was also great to see Tristan and Maggie on the Zoom call and be joined by supporters in Scotland, England, and several of our CFI International Representatives, including those from Poland and Canada. We look forward to developing these events and sharing them with other English-speaking CFI offices in the future. From the UK, we send our love and blessings to you across the nations these days that the prophets of old would have loved to see: the fulfilling of prophecies and the restoration of Israel.

Blessings from David and Julia Soakell
CFI UK Church Liaisons & Prayer Encouragers
During these last few months, CFI has been busy helping the new immigrants who have made Aliyah from unusual and extreme conditions. The war in Ukraine has displaced thousands of families and individuals from their cities and homes. Those, however, who have Jewish roots have a special blessing during this time. They have a place where they can become citizens of a new country right away, and that is Israel! Most Ukrainian Olim received help through synagogues, the Jewish Agency, and Christians throughout their journey to Israel. CFI had the privilege to help hundreds of these immigrants just after arriving. We hear their touching stories firsthand. Everyone leaving Ukraine has had near-death experiences. They had to evacuate quickly from their towns and cities and endured difficulties in traveling to escape. Many of them are still in shock.

The first few weeks a family or individual is in Israel, the government houses them in hotels until something more permanent can be acquired. These hotels are within walking distance of our Distribution Center here in Jerusalem. Most of our store visitors come to us on their own, hearing about us from their friends. First, we give them emergency care packages with items such as a towel, a pillow, fleece blanket, soup, toiletries, and more. Later, they come to us by appointment to choose new supplies for their new homes.

**Quotes from our Guest Book:**

“My deep gratitude for all the help we are provided here in Israel. We feel truly supported during this drastic time of war. With your help, we can start a new life in a new place after leaving everything behind in Ukraine. Some of us came here only with one suitcase. Thank you for everything you have done for us.” *Yulia R.*

**Even A Teddy Bear Can Bring a Smile**
“My sincere and appreciation to the organization Christian Friends of Israel. The team works very hard to support new immigrants from Ukraine during the terrible war. My great thanks for a lovely gift and warm words, which I heard from two professional and devoted women working here.” Fayina I.

**Touching Stories**

With so many new immigrants, we often have multiple appointments at once and miss talking with each of them as we would like. Everyone has so much to tell, especially those from Kharkov and Mariupol. God’s protection over these people is evident as so many evacuated from their homes just moments before they were struck by rockets. Those in Ukraine who volunteer to assist with an evacuation are genuinely the real heroes because of the extent to which they risk their own lives to save others. At ten o’clock one morning, just after the war began, one couple from Kharkov was called and asked if they wanted to leave their city. They answered “no” because they did not want to leave their home and lose their property. Two hours later, everything changed. A rocket hit their building, but God protected them. They happened to be together in a small room where neither was hurt. After the attack, they returned the phone call. The local synagogue organized for them to escape the city with nothing but a couple of bags and their documents. Now they are safe in Israel, starting a new life.

Despite the tragedy, God has greater plans and purposes for a specific time and season. Let us pray together that the Word of the Lord becomes true in its fullness. We, Christians, are called to bless Israel. It is a wonderful opportunity to show love to the needy families and change history representing the LORD the way He would have always expected us to do. We are His Light for new immigrants.

**Tiina Danilevski**
*Outreach Supervisor / Project Open Gates*
*gates@cfijerusalem.org*

> “And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into THEIR LAND”
> (Ezekiel 34:13)
While brides-to-be shop in our CFI Bridal Salon, they are excited to share their love stories and hopes for their life as a couple. We can clearly see the Hand of God and how He arranges things for His plans and purposes. Here is another beautiful love story to share:

**GOD: The Heavenly Matchmaker**

Jonathan grew up in a local congregation in Jerusalem, where he and his father took active roles. In 2014, his friends invited him to a young adult barbecue event. At that time, Sarah was volunteering with a prayer ministry in Jerusalem. She was invited to the same event. Sarah caught Jonathan’s eye, but she did not notice him. Hoping to meet her again, he attended the young adults’ group that put on the event but discovered that Sarah was serving elsewhere. He prayed to God: “Please, make it happen that I will meet her on the street somewhere.”

One month later… it happened. They suddenly met on the street and went together for coffee. Becoming friends, they exchanged each other’s phone numbers. However, Sarah moved on to serve the Lord in another country within the Middle East and Cyprus. She visited Israel quite often, so Jonathan wanted to go deeper into their relationship. Taking notice of their significant differences, Sarah was only comfortable keeping their relationship as just friends.

Jonathan brought his questions to the Lord, and God began to speak to Sarah. Sarah started to have thoughts and dreams about Jonathan. There was even a dream where they were married. She began to understand that God’s will was directing her.

After six years of a long-distance relationship, they communicated mainly through WhatsApp. Their relationship became too difficult through long distance, and they decided to break up. This April (2022), Sarah revisited Israel. Again, they met together, and at the beginning of May, Jonathan proposed to Sarah during their hiking trip on the Golan Heights by giving her a beautiful engagement ring. Sarah came to our CFI Bridal Salon. We enjoyed selecting the perfect wedding gown and sharing our love stories. The bride is the queen of the wedding day and should have the most beautiful dress.

**Beginning a New Chapter**

They hope their celebration and future marriage will be a symbol of peace and union between the countries of the Middle East. This couple is open to serving the Lord wherever He wants them to be in this new chapter. May God direct their steps in His will and use them for His glory. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

Thank you for your prayers and for supporting this special project of CFI.

**Tiina Danilevski**  
Outreach Supervisor  
Project Bridal Salon  
bridal@cfijerusalem.org
Thank you Dear Friends of Israel, at the very beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, as CFI Poland, we have set up two units able to support war Refugees in Rzeszow and in Przemysl, right after crossing the Polish border. The main goal of those two private units was to receive Refugees, give them first aid support, and then send them back on their way. Some of the refugees had their own plans to find their families in Western Europe; some decided to catch a flight to the USA, or go south of Europe. Thanks to constant contact with the Israeli Embassy in Poland and Sochnut Organization with a Jewish Agency, we were able to fly those ready for Aliyah to Israel.

Later, we started to collaborate with a bigger unit in the south of Poland (near Krakow) as well as with the Jewish Community and Refugee Camp in Poznan to have the ability to relocate those who had no plans for the future and needed a place to stay for a longer time. We are grateful for unconditional support of our CFI office in Jerusalem, and we keep on praying for further ability to serve God according to His will in this difficult time while He is gathering His People in the Land. Please, keep us in your prayers. May God provide in His Peace.

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Saluting Papau New Guinea
Pastor Tony Dakala is a leader of leaders in the South Pacific Islands. His love for Israel and his commitment to Christian Friends of Israel is to be praised and commended. Pastor carries the torch in Papau New Guinea for God’s beloved city: Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. He is very deeply appreciated for all of his work he is doing to establish CFI in many places. Please pray for him.

Contact: Pastor Philip Tony Dalaka
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Hearts of the Saints being Refreshed

“...the hearts of the saints, have been refreshed by you, brother.”
Philemon 1:7
India Prayer Ministry Keeps Growing

CFI Maharashtra, India, is centralized in a city called Pune, about 200 km southeast of Mumbai—close to the western coast of India. We are under the accountability of CFI India Director, Rev. Ephraim Smith. The relationship between Israel and the Church is the center point of all our prayer services. Over the years, there has been a marked change in attitudes towards Israel due to our seminars, teachings, and online (Zoom) prayer. Pastors who are part of the CFI Maharashtra, India group are Pastor Joseph Pawar (Loni), Pastor Vinod Jadhav (Daund), Pastor Rajesh Nand (Miraj), Pastor Sanjay Alhat (Pune), Pastor Shyam Kate (Pune), and Pastor James D’Souza (Mumbai)—all senior Pastors active in our events.

CFI India leadership are wonderful men of Good. The local WhatsApp group consists of 250 leaders. CFI India conducts prayer cells, weekly church gatherings and on other occasions use the opportunity to spread CFI teachings about Israel. In all gatherings teaching is only the tool that works. Interpretation into two languages or three languages. India has 29 states with CFI Coordinators in 19 states and a circulatory reach of over 50,000 people who are hungry to know more about Israel. Congratulations to Reverend Ephraim Smith (on left) for the consistent and faithful service he has maintained through the years.

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Email: zion_india@yahoo.com
Pastor Sonny Chandra in Maharashtra
Email: nirmalkchandra@gmail.com
CFI Switzerland

CFI Kesher Course Broadens Its Reach

When a Pastor from Togo, West Africa, contacted the CFI Swiss office after receiving a vision and a call from the Lord to learn more about Israel and the Jewish people, the Kesher course, “Deepening the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith,” was sent to him. Almost immediately, he began forming small prayer groups for Israel, began teaching about Israel, experienced miracles, and did everything he could to set up this course in his country. With success, he gathered approximately twenty-five pastors and leaders. The Swiss team responded positively to this great challenge that had to be done with Zoom, and organized well with valuable teachers. With several logistical challenges that had to be solved, the course began in May.

The enthusiasm of our African brothers and sisters is remarkable, and the blessing that comes from it is excellent. It is lovely to see this door open to the French-speaking world, which needs to return to its roots. Thank you to our faithful Pastor who responded to the Lord through his obedience encouraging his people to follow Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel. The course up until now has been in Switzerland, but our Swiss team saw that 4,000+ kilometers and cultural differences are obstacles to the message’s relevance. We praise God for His Wonderful ways in which He brings us together in Him.

Contact: Walter & Erika Mathys
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CFI Australia

Speaking Forth God’s Plans

The word from our CFI Representative in Australia, Mr. Patrick Russell is that he is very busy taking meetings, and that the Spirit of the Lord is directing and leading him as he speaks about God’s Plan for Israel and the Church joining Bible prophecy. Praise God for Australian Christians who are standing with Israel.

Contact: Patrick Russell
E-mail: cfiaustralia@hotmail.com
Our situation today: Envision as a volunteer working to spread the love of God to others. You have needy communities with new immigrants, farmers who have few funds, and newly married couples beginning a life together on a farm living in a makeshift trailer, wondering if anyone cares. They wait for CFI to deliver much needed supplies.

Delivering small appliances and home-ware items to help newcomers set up house, running all the outreach projects, delivering relief parcels for incoming Ukrainian refugees, being a distributor for Derek Prince teaching materials for the congregations in the believing community, constantly picking up stock and bulk orders, delivery of large appliances such as freezers, furniture, and much more is difficult without a transport vehicle. Without a suitable vehicle in the coming months, it will be impossible to meet all the demands.

We make this need known as an urgent need here in Jerusalem. Thank you for praying about helping us. Please go to our website at:

www.cfijerusalem.org
The Intercession for Israel at the Open Door Conference Hall in Alsace, France, was organized recently by CFI France in one of the largest evangelical churches in France. A guest from Israel, Pastor Tony Sperandeo, spoke about the importance of standing alongside Israel and his work with Ukrainian Jewish refugees in his Hamaayan congregation in Kfar Saba. Every month, and since the Covid-19 pandemic, CFI France hosts times of intercession with Zoom for Israel and the Church in France. This event brings together subscribers from France, Switzerland, and Belgium. The Wall of Prayer: Worship is key to the prayer power going up for Israel. The CFI booth at an Israel meeting in Montbéliard made many contacts where God can spread the work of CFI in France. To Him goes all the glory!

Contact: Andre Van Nieuwenhuyse
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“You have a very passionate, informative style of writing, which brings forth your message in an easily understandable manner. You have presented many important and unique discernments about God’s promises and blessings, and…will allow readers to stay connected and intrigued and open to the positive message that you have from the Lord! We really appreciate how your diction was rooted in and saturated in the Word.” Trilogy Publishing Company www.triology.tv/a-principle-and-a-promise

“…Reinhard Bonke was an evangelist…to Africa…one morning God spoke and said “Pray and bless Israel and her people”…several times this pressure…came back…so he simply said to God: “I don’t understand you Lord, you know very well that it is not my call, my call is only Africa”…then he obeyed and began to bless Israel and his people, and regularly and faithfully. He told later that from that moment on, his ministry in Africa skyrocketed.” Francois Foisil, France

Foreign Languages: for translating Sharon’s new book in your language, apply for an ISBN number from your country For information contact: education@cfijerusalem.org
For information on bulk orders please contact: education@cfijerusalem.org

Sharon with her new book The Principle and a Promise

Sharon Sanders brings not only the scriptures to life but also shares intimate details of how she has walked out the principle, and teaches you how you can also.

Come with her in this adventure and encounter a fresh perspective of being such a blessing to God’s Chosen People.