

For Zion's Sake

First Quarter 2021 Jewish Year 5781
CFI Ministry and Teaching Magazine

“FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM
HEAVEN AGAINST ALL...WHO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH
IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS” ROMANS 1:18.



NO SEAL OF APPROVAL

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For Zion's Sake

A Quarterly Publication / Printed in Jerusalem

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Seeking Truth



Communicating God's truth to other nations of the world from Jerusalem is quite a task. To be in line with facts and the reality of a matter takes much study. The Bible tells us that truth "*will set us free*" (John 8:32). We are to be truth seekers. Our love for all of you who read our magazine and who are supporters of our ongoing work for the Lord in Israel, causes us to seek truth all the more concerning the Voice of God's Words in the entire Bible. This way, we can indeed be set free to carry out our walk with Him as Jesus truly expects us to live.

We never mean to bring condemnation—only freedom to discover truths hidden for centuries by the sands of time. God is now prophetically restoring Israel, and He also wants the Church to return "home" to her spiritual foundations. We will be part of a new humanity when the Lord comes to join a redeemed Israel in worshiping the One True God. Our King: Jesus will bring truth from His Father's word not yet understood by many. It will be a day when traditions, religious works, ecclesiastical and religious opinions/rules will bow to the King of Kings and His Father's will for humanity. Won't it be a wonderful day? The Spirit of God searches everything (1 Corinthians 2:10). Walking through life on earth basing our faith on assumptions won't work when that day arrives. That does not mean everything that pops up must be searched out, but the things that matter to the Lord need to be confirmed. Israel is essential to God, and we want to be in harmony and unity with God's desires. Lots of love to each and every one of you from many nations. Loving God is looking for His Seal of Approval in whatever we do.

-Sharon Sanders-

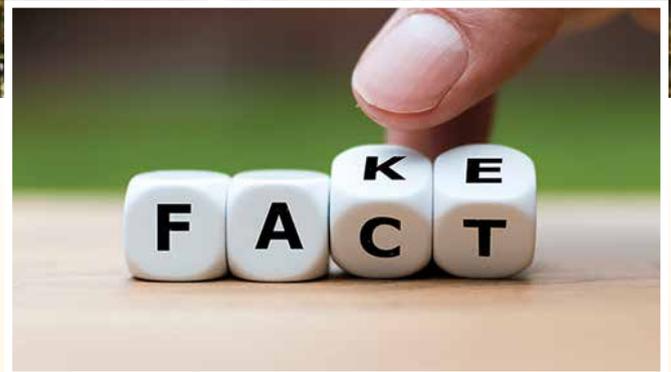
Fact or Fiction?

Considering the times and circumstances in which we live, it has become apparent that a battle within humanity has ensued. Likely, the events unfolding in the world today have not been foretold even in the wildest of fiction novels. The narratives and media reports highlight that what once was defined is now difficult to discern as fact or fiction. Things once defined as right are now wrong, and things defined as just are now unjust. Should we be found not aligning our thoughts and actions with the so-called mainstream, then some sort of attack, censorship, or cancel culture action is sure to follow us. Fundamental human rights are compromised. There is an expectation of conformity to society's new expectations – or actually of those governing societies. The question to ponder is who is the definer of things right or wrong, of things just and unjust, of fact or fiction?

The answer, without a doubt, is God's Word. God defined all things, and He is the absolute authority. In a perfect scenario, this realization would end the conversation; however, humanity does not always choose wisely. ***“The law of the Lord is perfect (flawless), restoring and refreshing the soul; The statutes of the Lord are reliable and trustworthy, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7 - AMP). “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth” (Psalm 119:142 - AMP).***

In this post-modern culture steeped in relativism, subjective truth, and now “alternative facts,” it can be extremely challenging to remain grounded in Scripture's reality and to fight for that truth, which is currently, without hesitation or apology, challenged. God's truth is not a problem that needs to be solved. It doesn't require man's intervention to verify, solidify or confirm. God's truth is the way it was, is, and always will be. God never changes. God's truth is the very foundation for the entirety of humanity and society. It is the basis for justice, and realizing that God is Righteous, we know that true justice will ultimately be served. God has defined all things, and no amount of science 'fiction' can alter these facts.

God is, however, still seeking for and instructing all to fear Him in sincerity and truth. As just in the days of



old, Joshua's lesson shows us that the choice between the ways of the one true God and the ways of the gods of man were on display. God continues to implore us and our households to choose Him and His ways – and not the ways of the world. ***“Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; remove the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the [Euphrates] River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14-15 AMP).***

What we are experiencing is nothing new to the Jewish People. To the Jew first... The goal of anti-Semitism has always been to ironically 'cancel' out voices who have chosen to serve the Lord. Anti-Semitism has consistently promoted the world's ways, a secularization of society, and a Godless society. Anti-Semitism represents a movement and thought process which would rather that God cease to exist. This age-old narrative is now being promoted and legislated, and condoned for all mankind right before our very eyes. This result produces only chaos - which is seemingly on display around the world for not only the Jewish People, but all those who have chosen to serve the Lord. God's People, both Jew and Gentile, have the same choice: to choose this day whom we will serve. Imitating the Lord as His disciples means discovering and understanding His values, His priorities, His goals, and His purposes and applying them. These results should be on display - as both a witness and agreement with The definer of all things. It is not God who brings confusion and chaos - but His adversaries... God's truth and the law are foundational, and on this, we will stand – and stand with the Jewish People.

Jim McKenzie
Director of Operations

SEAL OF APPROVAL



Ecclesiastical Seal

Where is it? Jesus Would Never have Accepted Today's Church Separation from Israel

(The Seal of King Messiah)

“In searching for truth today, it is neither tradition nor denominations that should be foremost in our lives as followers of Yeshua (Jesus) but is rather what the King of Kings says about a matter that should be priority. We are looking at some historical church practices and ground rules set down by Christendom centuries ago, which began with a religious hierarchy who today some call our forefathers. I speak here not of the apostolic Jerusalem Council or the Apostles but others listed in the archives of historical information who took posturing and built a giant anti-Israel religious establishment that ended up severing itself from our true forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Scriptures tell us that **“It is the...honor of kings to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2)**. I believe this major subject is a matter of seriousness to God. It is my sincere prayer that no one reads this as condemnation in a personal way, as I do not offer it as a criticism, but a man or woman of God will determine if a matter lines up with Scripture. Everything writ-

“Truth is available only to those who have the courage to question whatever they have been taught.”
(Anonymous)

ten from our CFI ministry offices is written with the utmost respect and deep love for every brother or sister in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

It is of extreme importance and a glory to God to look at the truth. For gaining understanding, we turn out attention and review to the Torah scrolls from which the prophets of Israel learned and from which Yeshua taught. On this matter of no

seal of approval, the Word of God clearly speaks: **“Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people...” (Isaiah 56:3).**

In other words, the gentile who is not of the Jewish people, but belongs to the God and King of Israel, should never even think, let alone say, that God has disconnected them in all aspects from His People: Israel! When one does this, it puts the person in direct contrast to the Word of the Lord as given in **Romans 11:24**. We who follow Jesus are “grafted into” the



“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all... who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18).

true Israel of God and uprooted (from pagan ways). We become implanted into another Body, a redeemed Israel. We have had an operation on our hearts as we embraced the God of Israel through Jesus. We have been allowed to join the Commonwealth of Israel without becoming Jewish (**Ephesians 2:12**). If we can accept such a thing, it appears that the powers-that-were took it upon themselves to separate the Church from Israel without any royal seal of approval from the King (Jesus).

To divide Israel and the Church would seem to oppose God's Will as He is a God of unity and not division. In what ways did the neglect of Israel ever enter Christian hearts? By believing in Replacement Theology, Supersessionism, and Dominionism which is quietly deceptive. The blessing of God would have never been on such a stand that has caused the greatest breach of brotherhood ever seen by mankind. The mark of the Lord's stamp of approval seems to be missing. This means that centuries of Christians down through time went to their graves without the understanding of the role that the Jewish people would play in world redemption in the latter days. Many missed opportunities to rejoice with God's People (**Romans 15:10**). Our generation has been blessed to behold the return of the Jewish people to their homeland—the

prophetic word has been jumping off the pages of the Bible every day since 1948. God has brought His Chosen People home for a purpose, and that is being revealed in the universe at this time. The greatest miracle of all is to come when the rise of Israel is a true **“light to the nations” (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 52:10; 60:3; John 8:12)**. Our prayers help confirm the promises God has made to Israel from His Word as He works to fulfill it!

Ruth the Moabite is an excellent example to us of embracing and then holding on to something in which she believed. When one cleaves, they adhere firmly and closely with loyalty and unwavering hope. Even as in marriage, **“...what God has joined together, let no man separate” (Mark 10:9)**. It is clear God brought followers of Jesus into an understanding of biblical Judaism the way the Master taught it—the voice of God's Words from the Torah. Early believers never left Israel and never thought of separation from God's People.

I read recently “World Council of Churches Makes War on Israel,” which report portrayed Israelis as demons and said that the world would seek blood from people who support Israel in its fight against the Palestinians. (Dexter Van Zile, Research Fellow for

Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting, (CAMERA), Alegeminer blog). We realize that the World Council of Churches is deceived and following a wrong path; however, many Christians worldwide are standing up today and believing that the Church needs a reformation from centuries of wrong teachings, which produces an error as in the above article. The Bible tells us that there will come a time when the gentile nations will say we have inherited, in succession from our predecessors, dishonest teachings. **“...the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies...” (Jeremiah 16:19).**

We just all need to be alert and responsible in what we believe about Israel.

What is a Seal of Approval?

A seal is an endorsement or approval of something. Without it, all is meaningless. God the Father placed His seal of approval on His only begotten Son (**John 6:27**). Aren't we glad that we have that assurance from God?



Hebrew Seal

Perhaps the subject of seals may not seem to be of great importance to some. Still, in truth and actuality, nothing in heaven or on earth takes place without God's permission. Everything requires God's approval. God is the beginning and end of everything. He is the final Authority. As a matter of fact, all things are held together by His power (**John 1:3-4**). After God decrees and seals a matter, it stands forever. No one can change the King's decree after it has been established. He decreed we stand with Israel in Genesis 12:3 and Isaiah 56:3. **“Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying the LORD hath utterly separated me from His People...” (Isaiah 56:3).**

In the Book of Esther, King Xerxes gave a ruling against Haman because of his attack on the Jews.

Haman's estate was given to Esther, and a new decree was written and sealed with the King's signet ring (**Esther 8:7-10**). In the Book of Revelation, the Seven Seals of God are the seven symbolic seals that secure the scroll that John on Patmos saw in an apocalyptic vision. “The use of a seal by men was quite common before the Christian era, and functionaries of the Church adopted the habit. In one of St. Augustine's letters, he used a seal. Later ecclesiastical synods required that letters under the bishop's seal should be given to priests...the custom of bishops possessing seals may be assumed to have been pretty general. We thank God that the seal of the Holy Spirit is an identifying factor of our possession of salvation. He could not be the seal of our salvation if He is not received at the moment of salvation. He is our guaranteed seal.” (Jeanie Shephard)

At different junctures in time, Church authorities and often power-structured government leaders adopted their own doctrines, dogmas, and beliefs. Some constitutions were mutually agreed-upon principles and structures that governed their affairs. Bylaws were subordinate rules adopted by churches to augment a constitution. The question that lies directly in front of us is where we obtain a record of the Lord giving His Stamp of Approval (His Seal of Consent and Blessing) for anyone who follows Jesus to separate ourselves and totally disconnect from the Nation and People from which Jesus was born?

My heart is full of love for every brother and sister in the Body of believers around the world. I feel this burden to share truth without condemnation to make us think about God's desires and not man's. Accountability will eventually fall to shepherds who will have to give an explanation. Who will respond from ecclesiastical groups who made themselves “heads of the Church?” How will they answer, “why did you separate from My People?” A separate religion developed over the centuries completely unlinked from its mother foundation set down by the Jewish apostles. “If you had told Peter, Paul, or any of the early Christians that they had switched religion, they would have looked at you as if you were crazy. They were Jewish; they stayed Jewish; they believed in Israel's Messiah, and they taught gentiles about the Holy Scriptures of the Jews. If that is not Jewish, then what is? However, as the centuries passed by, there was a gradual process that separated the Jews who followed the Pharisee version of Judaism and the Jews and gentiles who followed the Nazarene or Christian version of Judaism...the groups of people who believed in Jesus...were just another couple of branches....” (Tuvia Pollack)

It appears that the Church has dropped their own roots instead of staying attached to the Hebraic ones. Our King clearly stated, **“Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22)**. If the Lord Jesus establishes His Father’s Doctrine in **John 4:22**, then it is true! When God declares a thing, He establishes it (**Job 22:28**). But the present separation ends up being a denial of God’s intended purposes for mankind before He sets up His Kingdom on earth. As we continue to learn from Ruth’s example, she joined the House of Israel and the community and came under the Wings of the God of Israel— as we have done through Jesus. She not only joined the community but stated, **“I will worship your God, I will live where you live, I will go where you go, and your people will be my people” (Ruth 1:16)**. She included in her declaration the Jewish people! So must we.

God would have had to have approved a separation before it could be valid. Consequently, the Church built the Church without Israel. It doesn’t make sense to take an ax to our roots! It doesn’t matter if all the world is called “the Church,” if God did not approve something, it is not approved. The opposite of approval is disapproval. As I write this, I am not condemning anyone but asking a question. Why did the Church do this? Is God’s intended purpose for the Church being denied by an apostate Church? It doesn’t seem like the “fruit” which we are asked to bear is coming forth from a great deal of Replacement churches around the world. Again, there is no condemnation but only questions. If the Church is the “Bride” of Christ, then what Bride gets married without the Groom’s family being present and their consent and approval to share in the joy? How can you be betrothed to someone and not know their background, culture, homeland, family, and relatives and embrace them? It would be hard to begin a marriage with a rift between the Bride and the Bride Groom’s relatives!

I believe we live in times when we have to ask ourselves these questions. I kindly ask that no one see this as a rebuke but written from pure love—truth has a right to surface and ask where the seal of Our King Jesus is on the attitude that God is finished with the Jews and are no longer a Chosen People? Will the King sanction a marriage if the Bride is anti-Semitic or prideful and arrogant towards her Groom’s family? Will someone ask who gave the green-light and permission to do this? I naturally believe a true Bride will be connected with the Groom’s family.

Reasoning against the Law

I totally understand our argument and agree that the religious leaders of Jesus’ day were wrong in condemning Jesus; on the other hand, Jesus rebuked

Peter for wanting to stop His Crucifixion. Someone had to do it, and only the High Priest and religious of Israel were allowed to slay the sacrificial lamb. Jesus was very popular among the common people of Israel; they loved Him. How could they not? He healed, delivered, saved, taught, and made people whole again. If the Jewish people would have crowned Jesus King back then, where would the Gentiles be today? He had to die for all of us. The Pharisees said to one another, **“...look, the whole world has gone after Him!” (John 12:19)**. What world? The Jewish world. They were looking all around them in Jerusalem. If Jesus had allowed the people to crown Him King at the time of His entry into Jerusalem, many names would have been left out of the Book of Life. It had to happen. He conquered death! When Jesus walked into the Temple courtyard, a non-Jew could not enter the Temple as there was a sign outside that said, “Non-Jews not welcome on pain of death.” But Jesus conquered death, walked out of the grave. Yes, God so loved the world; He wrapped Himself in the flesh and came to live among us and to die for us (**John 3:16**).

It is true Israel does not yet see Him. But we need to let God be God, and in His timing, He will come to reveal Himself as He is. Justice and holiness demand God has a plan for the Jewish people. They are the **“apple of His Eye” (Zechariah 2:8)**. We all have to make choices in this life. Our aim must be to please God and not a man even if we are unpopular (**Isaiah 56:4**). By the way, God allowed Israel to separate from the pagan nations (**Leviticus 19:34**). Still, non-Jews were never to separate from Israel. (**Ezra 6:21, 9:12; Exodus 29:33; Galatians 1:15; Nehemiah 9:2; Genesis 12:3; Matthew 19:6; Ephesians 2:14; Numbers 15:14-16; Leviticus 20:26; Isaiah 56:3; 2 Samuel 20:1**). The Lord has been building an “ecclesia,” an “assembly” of his called out ones—followers who would never separate from His Nation, Israel (**Isaiah 56:3**). Even if a remnant, let us who see God’s plans and purposes for Israel stay attached to our spiritual forefathers, the Prophets, and Apostle’s teachings and never stray away.

His seal of approval to separate is missing. Let us love one another and work together in unity to search the Scriptures to at least look at and allow Scripture to guide us, just as our former brothers, the Bereans.

-Sharon Sanders-



CFI: Your Gateway to Israel

**“...Go...where there is no path and leave a trail.”
–Ralph Waldo Emerson**

I was called the other day to speak to about 300 young Israeli businessmen and women from many paths of life about Christians, why we support Israel, the ways we do this, the ongoing CFI work, and how we can work together. Twenty-five to thirty years ago, this would never have happened. CFI is a pioneer ministry in the Land of Israel (since December 1985). It has plowed ground, broken up fallow land, softened the soil, and planted for years. When CFI began, we were one of the very first to explore and trail blaze in the Land of Israel. When we started, there were few relationships between Jewish people and Christians (rightly so, with the 2000 years of mistreatment and replacement theologies spread against them by the historical Church). Today countless walls have been torn down to prepare the Way for the Lord’s Kingdom to Come to earth – right here in Zion. There must be pioneers in any vision God gives. Also, dedicated teams of people are a necessity to make any transformation real. Thank God for Senior Leadership and Godly teams called by God to be here. To maintain the vision of being anchors of strength to keep us planted firmly in the soil upon which Jesus walked.

Then there is the rest of the story...

God has given each of you as our prayer warriors and supporters worldwide, the call to supply us continually with the tools and seed to be a prophetic plow for the Christian world today. It is because God gave us “you,” faithful partners in this ministry alongside us who physically serve on the front lines. To all of our new supporters reading this, we need “you” to hunker down with us in prayer for the coming years, and you can help us get down to our work each day through your financial support. We here cannot do anything without you! Thank you for letting us be the Gateway to Israel for you and your home and family. We are honored to serve! We hope always to represent Jesus the way the Church should always have done for centuries!

The Heart of CFI is People!



Comforting Tamara



Strengthening Orel



Ministering to Suzan

The Valley of Achor for a Door of Hope

“And there I will...make the Valley of Achor a door of hope” (Hosea 2:15a).

I have had several sleepless nights after I visit victims of terror attacks. I cannot stop thinking about the resulting, far-reaching consequences and magnitude of their suffering.

The trauma, which many terror survivors have been suffering is genuine. Many have seen psychiatrists for years but have not made progress. What they receive from their psychiatrists is more and more medications that do not help them, and more medications mean more side effects. For relief, some of them started to turn to all kinds of things - cannabis, drugs, hypnosis, eastern religion, and other forms of mysticism. Sadly, these not only are broken cisterns that cannot hold water (**Jeremiah 2:13**) but also through them, they are opening themselves up to demonic influences. Their situations seem hopeless. But thankfully, with God involved, the hopelessness can be turned to hope, in the way He has revealed in **Hosea 2:15**.

The Valley of Achor is where a sad story took place, mentioned in Book of Joshua chapter 7. In this place - The Valley of Achor, situated northwest of Jericho on the northern border of the tribe of Judah - the Israelites executed Achan and his household. Achan had caused all the Israelites to be defeated at Ai because he took the accursed things God prohibited the Israelites to take. Hence, the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel. Achor means “trouble,” “affliction,” or “taboo,” and implies a severe kind of trouble.

Divine Reversal

In my visits to traumatized Israelis, some turn to anything but the One who can help them. On every visit, I spend time pointing them to God and His Word to

prepare their hearts to return to Him and receive healing from Him. Because of these seemingly hopeless situations, God says through the Prophet Hosea that, “...*behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. And there I will ... make the Valley of Achor a door of hope” (Hosea 2:14-15a)*. When communion with God is restored, there is hope for the future. The troubles of the past are reversed and replaced with blessings: “*Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me” (Isaiah 65:10)*.

Thank you, supporters, of Project Under His Wings. With your help and support, together we are preparing the hearts of terror survivors and families of deceased victims to experience the Divine Reversal – Valley of Achor, the scene of trouble, to a Door of Hope (Joshua 7:25 & Hosea 2:15a). **To financially support this project close to God’s heart, please designate your financial gift to Project UHW ~ CFI Jerusalem Outreach Project reaching terror victims. Thank you, and God bless.**

Maggie Huang

Outreach Supervisor
Project Under His Wings
wings@cfijerusalem.org

Presenting Motti’s Certificate of Honor to him



Coming In and Going Out

“Blessed will you be when you come in and blessed will you be when you go out” (Deuteronomy 28:6).

Coming In: Kim and Marcia Brunson experienced this process. Kim is the Supervisor for CFI Jerusalem’s First Fruits project and Marcia is the Supervisor for our Hope for the Future project. Family emergencies called them ‘out’ to the United States, and just before Christmas, ‘coming back in’ to Israel. “We have learned to trust God and not doubt our calling through all the restrictions and challenging times with emergencies. We have learned not to react to situations, speculate or assume what is said, and put our goals and determinations into action. Coming off the plane into Israel, we were escorted by the IDF to a hotel outside Tel-Aviv. It ended up being a very nice experience; the soldiers were compassionate and helpful in explaining the process. They were amazing. The Lord knows how to give us the shalom we need.”

Going Out: Karen Tohon is from Guatemala; she ended her service with CFI as Project Supervisor for Streams of Blessing in the middle of January. She loved meeting with the people, representing CFI, and helping to meet their needs. Karen’s theme scripture was **Isaiah 40:1**, “*Comfort, comfort my people!*” says your God. With Streams of Blessing, Karen served the needs of those in despair, the ill, giving aid to single mothers, and much more. “Suppose we stay focused and faithful with the few that He entrusts under our care. In that case, He will intervene and, once again, demonstrate His mighty power to finish the purpose He has in mind. It was a privilege to comfort, help and love Israel and my people as well.” Karen, thank you for being a part of CFI. May you go with the blessings of the Lord.

CFI Ministry Posting



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- Bilingual Translators: English/Russian, Amharic or Hebrew
- Accounting

Please Pray for our Volunteers to lift each other, to express love, patience and endurance and for the Lord to watch over loved ones in their home countries.

Pray about joining our staff and volunteering with CFI Jerusalem.

For details email: personnel@cfijerusalem.org



Marcia and Kim Brunson



Karen Tohon



Norene Fritz
CFI Personnel Coordinator

Continuing to Stand...

Unit 669 training in the Kinneret (Credit: Amit Agronov)



Swearing in ceremony of Golani soldiers injured in ramming attack. (Credit: Lev Arpishkin)



Exercise by the IAF's Airborne Combat Rescue And Evacuation Unit 669 (credit: Amit Agronov/Israel Air Force)

“Don't be afraid, for I am with you; don't be distressed, for I am your God. I give you strength, I give you help, I support you with my victorious right hand. All those who were angry with you will be disgraced, put to shame; those who fought against you will be destroyed, brought to nothing” (Isaiah 41:10-11 CJB).

The vision of the CFI Jerusalem project David's Shield is to express our Christian solidarity with the IDF's vision and mission. We stand with the defenders and express our gratitude and encouragement to them. **We love to tell them that they are on the side of God, and His calling on them to be Guardians of this Land called Israel is, in fact, a righteous calling.** God has established the Nation, and just as King David, the IDF is up to the task. During the past year, we strove to advance the CFI vision as much as possible when personal interaction and visits were limited. However, through trusting relationships, we were afforded numerous opportunities to encourage and provide needed items of comfort and, in some cases, tactical equipment. **We are equipped to accomplish what we are called to do – as are the Israel Defense Forces.**

One such valued encouragement note which I shared with many of the defenders came from a supporter in England who writes;

Dear Defenders of the Land,

You are the focus of my greatest admiration and awe. When I think of all of you defending the Land of Israel, I feel as if I am looking through the prism of history, seeing great heroes and mighty warriors from ancient days. May you all be like King David's mighty men! YOUR HERITAGE IS AWESOME! You are walking in the footsteps of warriors from long ago. These warriors did great exploits because they trusted in the Almighty and Honored His Name. My constant prayer for you all is that you will know the protection of the Almighty and TRUST in HIS POWER to guide you and to give you supernatural abilities to thwart your enemies. You are all so precious to the Lord - may you be blessed in all you do to protect Israel. I expect it is difficult to pray sometimes, so I stand in the gap with you.

Thank you for the honor to convey such heartfelt sentiments from all of you to the brave defenders of Israel and for the support of Christian friends of Israel from the Nations.

Preliminary battalion exercise of the Search and Rescue Brigade. (Credit: Tamar Shem Tov)

Commando Brigade's Egoz Unit training. (Credit: Yoav Klein)

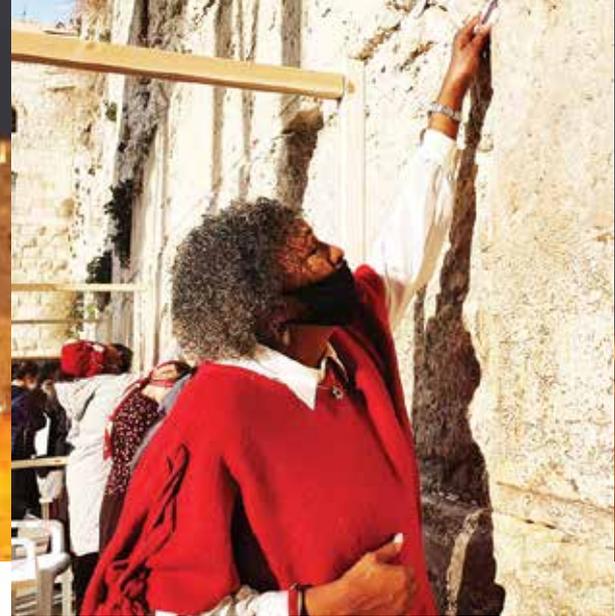


Jim McKenzie
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Project David's Shield
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Repairers and Restorers

“...you will restore the foundations laid long ago; you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live” (Isaiah 58:12).

God instructed Isaiah to proclaim to the Jews that their external worship, prayer, and fasting, contradicted their selfish motives and disobedience to God. Isaiah declared that when they aligned their intentions and actions with God’s heart, He would answer their prayers. When they focused on blessing others, they too would be blessed. Only then would they rebuild the walls of protection and be called **Repairers and Restorers**.



Linda praying at the Western Wall

place stones in gaps of the prayer wall and apply the mortar of faith for reinforcement. Some representatives reported weekly gatherings in their nations where they intercede for Israel. Whether they meet virtually or in person, “the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (**James 5:16**). The call to **‘Restore the Wall’** stirred other representatives to sponsor special prayer sessions in their countries to fortify Israel and buffer her from attack.

Repairs can mean that there is dust, but the result outweighs the inconvenience. While restoring the prayer wall, we faced the challenge of language barriers. If praying in English hindered people, we encouraged them to pray in their native tongue to express their hearts freely. Our petitions are unto God who understands all languages. Recently a gentleman prayed in Portuguese. Later, he joyfully announced that a lady who had prayed after him in English had said almost verbatim what he had prayed! The lady did not know Portuguese. God confirmed that He heard our prayers and enabled us to understand what we prayed as we strengthened the Wall of Prayer together.

We must be like the repairers of Nehemiah’s time. **“Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building...” (Nehemiah 4:18).** Prepare for prayer battles—even while we are restoring the wall. CFI is sounding the shofar for laborers to come alongside this global network of intercessors as we pray for Israel. To join these Repairers and Restorers, please contact us at **prayer@cfijerusalem.org**. Feel free to send your photo, city, and country to include on our world map those who are praying for Israel. God promised to bless those who bless His people! PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITATION!



Restoring prayer walls around Israel

CFI’s Wall of Prayer department is repairing and restoring spiritual prayer walls around Israel. As we align our motives and actions with God’s heart, we, too, can be the repairers that He intended. When CFI issued the clarion call to strengthen prayer surrounding Israel, prayer warriors from several continents responded. The new world map in our Prayer Department displays photos of a few of our global prayer team members. They faithfully cry out to God on behalf of Israel. They are like the first-century believers. **“All these with one mind were continuing together in prayer...” (Acts 1:14).**

In November, renovations began in one section of our Wall of Prayer. CFI International Representatives began gathering for monthly Israel Watch online prayer meetings. Through their intercession for Israel, they

Linda D. McMurray
prayer@cfijerusalem.org

The Shadow of His Wings

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord” (Psalm 118:17).

“I can rest now, knowing you got back home safely. I will live now with wonderful memories of our visit today. Good night, Olenka.”

I received this text from Raisa after a visit. She always calls me Olenka, a soft nickname for Olga, exactly what my grandma used to call me. Raisa knows her life is a miracle and always gives thanks to God, who loves her, and she loves Him in return.

A few weeks later, Raisa texted me again: *“Olenka, it is my 85th birthday today, and it’s my mother’s and grandmother’s memorial day. Please tell people how God saved from sure death a child who couldn’t save herself. Let unbelievers hear and believe in the power of God. The Lord God Almighty is with us. All my love and hugs.”*



Sweet reunion, Olga and Raisa

It is a true privilege to share with you Raisa’s heartbreaking, but wonderful story.

She says, “I was only five when the war started. I remember air raids and bombings, but I wasn’t afraid. I was only a child and didn’t know what war was. My father was called up to the front line, so I, along with my mother and elderly grandmother, tried to evacuate to a safer place on foot. Unfortunately, it was too late, and when we got back to the village, our house was now occupied by the Germans, and my mother was forced into hard labor.

Then my birthday came. The police arrived at 10 am before we had our breakfast and took us to the police station, where I noticed one man in a blue suit. He was big and carefully observed everybody. We all were counted and sent to an overcrowded cell. Slowly people were disappearing. Finally, only 10 or 15 of us remained. Then they came and took us to the abandoned garden where many dead bodies lay scattered in the snow. Ordered to lie down and my mother holding my hand, the guard said, ‘Target the head,’ and the shootings followed. I was not

even injured. Perhaps my hat with the fur edge saved me, but blood covered me. I tried to speak to my mother and grandmother, turning their faces to me with my hands, but there was no answer. I said, “Well if you don’t respond, I need to go.” I got up and ran toward the lights, sinking in deep snow. Nobody wanted to let me in their homes. Finally, I pushed open the last door and saw the man in the blue suit from the police station! He let me in. His name was Pavel, and I owe him my life.”

It was a real privilege to sit at Raisa’s feet, to listen to her heart, and to be her voice to those who are willing to listen. Thank you so very much for helping us reach out to the burdened hearts and bring God’s comfort and love to those who need it so much during these difficult times.

Olga Kopilova
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Project Forsake Them Not
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Raisa and her mother

After the war



Rock of Hope (Tzur Israel) **GIVES HOPE!**

**“Be Strong and
of Good Courage”
(Deuteronomy 31:6).**



The Jewish prophet, Isaiah, told his people that while they were pursuing righteousness and seeking the Lord God, they should look to the rock (and quarry) from which they were cut (hewn).

That would have been Abraham, their father, and Sarah. This would have helped them to stay on the right road. They were to listen and to hear the voice of God. I myself must recall that I came from the heartland of America, the prairie state of Illinois, from a tiny little town called Hartsburg, Illinois, of which few people have heard of its existence. It is essential that we all “remember” from where we have arisen spiritually. What is the foundation upon which we can firmly rest? Christianity was not born in a vacuum of disconnection. It arose connected to Israel’s soil, the Land of the Bible, and the Jewish people.

Christian Humanism

Ray and I were listening recently to a favorite night radio program (Bill Pearce, Nightsounds.com), and Mr. Pearce gave the following information, which caused me to pause and think. He said, “If we look way back at when Christianity began (it began as a sect of Judaism and was supposed to be the Judaism of Jesus) but then departed from its mother faith. Christian humanism developed because it strayed away from the rock from which hewn from the starting point until our present position. He then said, “Christianity went to Greece where it became a philosophy. Christianity then went to Rome and became an institution. Clearly, it went to the East and became a concept, and finally, it came to America, and it became a corporation.”

A rock is naturally solid. It is the earth’s outer layer, and the entire crust of the earth is rock. Just as children, rocks can grow taller, heavier, and stronger through soil and water changes; however, it often takes thousands of years, just like a crust of bread, a hard outer layer forms. I believe in many ways Christians have grown quite hard

on the outside toward the Jewish people instead of being soft on the inside because all we possess came from them. It is not right. God is the King of the Universe, and Yeshua (for Christians) is King of Kings. God is our Creator. We have to continually go back to our Maker and Creator for help daily and deliverance from ungodly attitudes toward His Chosen People. Just like the Chief Cupbearer of Pharaoh, who forgot to remember Joseph (the interpreter of his dreams) with kindness, much of the Church has failed to thank Israel. We have forgotten to remember! Our faith was carved, fashioned, and modeled by the Rock of Ages, and God has engraved Israel on His Palms. **“Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me” (Isaiah 49:16).** As Derek Prince always said, “We owe a great debt to Israel.” For they should be loved and cherished as the rock of Torah from which Our Messiah came has also been given to us.

As children look to their parents for guidance, we need to look to our supporting backbone, the Torah (the Jewish Scriptures), to back up and support what we read from the New Testament. Many of the idioms of Jesus, His expressions, parables, and His Teachings’ Foundation came directly from the Torah. Torah is the unchanging “voice” of God behind the words. **“And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them anymore” (Hebrews 12:19).** The words of the Torah are immutable; they never change, just like God never changes. Jesus taught Torah! We need to see this; nothing He taught did come from it. We need to see that He was teaching the Torah in light of His Father and not from man’s traditions. It is quite simple – hold onto the Rock from which you are hewn: the anchor, the source of protection and security from which the New Testament is cut! We indeed have a foundation that is secure and as solid as a rock!

- Sharon Sanders -

God's Appointments to Touch Lives



Karen providing equipment for the youth club in Efrat



An Israeli teen at the youth club in Efrat

"If I raise my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from Adonai, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip — your guardian is not asleep. No, the guardian of Israel never slumbers or sleeps" (Psalm 121:1-4).

As Christians who have received from God a love for Israel and the Jewish people, we want to bless them in the Name of the Lord. We invest within the Land of Israel to bring comfort and support to the lives who have aligned themselves with the promises of God. We represent Jesus how He should have always been represented throughout history, but unfortunately, was not portrayed. It means we must go many places throughout the Land, and sometimes it is "to the hills."

CFI Jerusalem project Streams of Blessing receives many requests to participate with identified, legitimate needs. One such privilege has afforded us to support the work of an organization in Efrat by providing much-needed equipment to furnish a youth club.

Youth-at-risk is a problem hardly limited to the State of Israel. What is unique to Israel is that at-risk behaviors among teenagers are exacerbated by the large numbers of new immigrant families experiencing difficulty acclimating to a new language and society. The Efrat Department of Social Services operates a high school youth club for teens experiencing emotional and adaptive problems related to family, social peer groups, school performance, or substance abuse. The club provides a warm, safe and caring environment where these teens can receive professional guidance, interventions, referral services, and other appropriate support. Unfortunately, with so many people coming from the nations, often the baggage of life in the nations arrives with them. It takes time to correct the behaviors.

Through God's appointments, we accept invitations to build relationships and tear down the erected barriers, which have historically prevented support and expressions of solidarity and love to the Jewish People.

We know where our help comes from - it comes from the Lord!

Karen Tohon

Outreach Supervisor
Project Streams of Blessing
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Experiencing God's Loving Care



Michael's mother

The Lord Provides: The One Who Rescues

Michael and his mother are Belgian Jews of Moroccan Jewish descent residing in Netanya. His mother has suffered from a heart condition. We received notice of her passing right before this article went to print. We expressed your generosity by way of food vouchers and rent support for the family. Michael had a loss of employment due to a back injury in an auto accident.

Before *Aliyah*, his mother ran two restaurants in Brussels that she closed one day a week to feed the poor in her community, so it was fitting that her household reaps the Lord's care through you as she had extended during her years as a business owner. Although not a CFI practice, he was so grateful that he wanted to pledge to contribute to CFI personally once returning to work. He is not accustomed to being a recipient of benevolent assistance!

"Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal" Isaiah 26:4.



Yosef's tools

Helping Business to Get Started-Up

Yosef of Rishon LeZion needed industrial tool supplies to work at his own business more efficiently in the community. With CFI's help, he was able to obtain the essential items required to get started. Our investment empowered a head of household who has suffered a loss due to injury, COVID, and spiritual warfare while getting his family back on track to be entirely self-sufficient.

He and his wife have delightful, faith-filled daughters in the home, and keeping them secure and encouraged will pay dividends for a member of the household of faith in Israel in the coming years. CFI has for years invested in the believing community to help with start-up businesses. "And other seed fell into good soil, and as the plants grew and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times [as much as had been sown]" (Mark 4:8 AMP).

Establishing a Peaceful Home of Need

In Be'er Sheva, CFI provided supplies to the gardening vendor of a new women's sheltered house. This peaceful and quiet garden will not only have aesthetic value but will serve as part of the inner emotional healing that many of the women residing in the home need, following spousal abandonment or physical abuse situations. Spiritual warfare is intense here, and many need to obtain additional training to enhance the quality of life for her and her children to heal from emotional trauma.

I want to show appreciation for extending our support to diverse cultures or denominations and geographically within the entire land of Israel. Jerusalem is central to the land and the faith of Jews and Christians, but the believers in other cities are also in need and essential to Father God!

Please continue to partner with us to display God's hospitable nature and heart. CFI always positions itself to be of service to its population – because the Bible tells us to do so for His Glory.

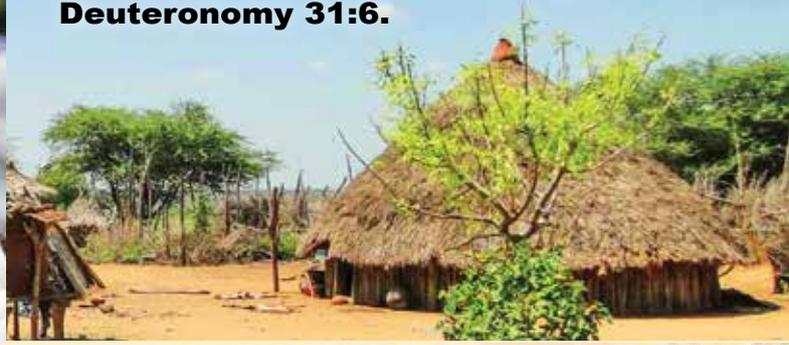
Mr. Kim Brunson
Outreach Supervisor
Project First Fruits
fruits@cfijerusalem.org

Aviv Miniature Garden





**“Be strong and of good courage”
Deuteronomy 31:6.**



Extending Arms of Hope

The new year 2021 brings new hope and encouragement for the Ethiopian Falasha Mura, who are accepted for immigration to Israel. Since 2015, only 2000 of the 14,000 plus individuals met the immigration policy criteria of having a family that has already completed the Aliyah process to the land.

We celebrate with Operation Tzur Yisrael (Rock of Israel)! Much effort has been expended to prepare the immigrants in Ethiopia to process strategies to help strengthen them to know what to expect and how to assimilate. While the integration process is challenging, the Absorption Centers do their best to receive arrivals and transition them into society. Still, it remains true that ultimately, the individual immigrant will have to take responsibility to do their part. **“Seek the Lord and His strength; seek his presence continually!” 1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV).**

Welcoming the New Olim

Three hundred Ethiopians were welcomed into Israel this past late December, joining the 219 that entered the country in early December and a group that arrived this past June. Integrations Minister Prina TaMano Shata welcomed the new Olim and quoted, “such joy to begin 2021 this way.” PM Netanyahu stated that this is “such a pure scene of Zionism.” This gives *Hope for the Future* an excellent opportunity to pull up our sleeves to support this community to help them through this integration process. In this way, we are seeing and sharing in the fulfillment of prophecy for this land.

As CFI Jerusalem’s *Hope for the Future* project peers into this next year of uncertainty, we know our hands are placed on the plow to be more vital friends of Israel. And to come alongside a vision “encouraging excellence” among students of Ethiopian origin, helping to close any gaps in economic or education for this new generation. Looking at the bigger picture, we see the need for updated computer labs in absorption centers, tutorial science and math labs, mentorship for girls and boys, English labs, and cultural appreciation workshops.

Becoming the solutionist is our way! Soleman, one of our young kids at Pardes Katz in Bnei Brak, has been a part of the tutorial program since 2017. He has a beautiful smile, along with a heart willing to learn, was recently accepted into a high-level science program. Soleman, a student that could not write the alphabet at nine years of age! Rachel volunteer tutors work with each child, and special tutorial services cost extra. It took exceptional help to get him where he is today. *Hope for the Future* was an integral part of his success through financial gifts from our supporters. We see the hope of the vision, and we believe we are investing in the next Ethiopian MK, doctor, technical scientist, or lawyer, as we address their needs now. In advance, thank you for your continued support in this new year as we link arms across the continent to make a difference in the Ethiopian community.

Marcia Brunson

Outreach Supervisor
Project Hope for the Future
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Resources Publications

Keeping You Informed

Located in the heart of Jerusalem, our dedicated Media Team is always working to bring you the latest from the Holy Land. Our hope is for the Truth to flow forth from Zion, to keep the body of Messiah amongst the nations informed and connected to Israel.

Our Media Team streams are in the forms of monthly publications such as *Watchman's Prayer Letter* which go out to multitudes worldwide, providing the necessary fuel for intercessory prayer pertaining to Israel and her people.



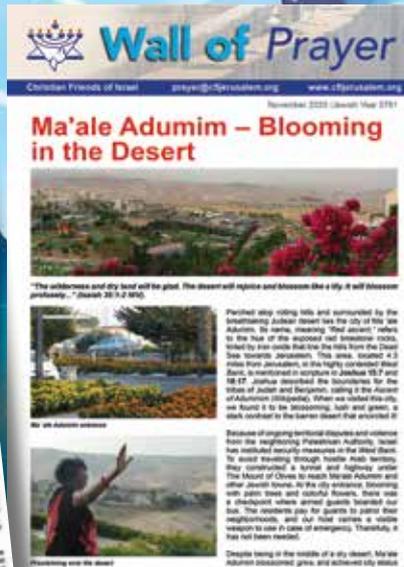
**Gates of Jerusalem
Biblical Calendar**

2020-2021

**"Our feet are standing within
your gates O' Jerusalem"
Psalm 122:2.**

To order please go to: www.cfijerusalem.org/Order/Products/Calendar

**Sign Up for our monthly
newsletter email:
media@cfijerusalem.org**



Raising the Bar brings teachings to the Church in the nations with a Hebrew perspective.

Our Wall of Prayer Letter highlights geographic areas of Israel that need intercessory prayer.

CFI News Insights brings a Biblical perspective to today's headlines.

Please join us by subscribing to our channels and publications. You can actively participate by encouraging your friends, family and especially your church to do the same. These publications are distributed on **YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and CFI website, www.cfijerusalem.org**. Please be sure to visit.

CFI Media Department



Thank you for the Clothing!

“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Despite the difficulties of a global pandemic, and along with the imposed operating restrictions, CFI project Open Gates continues to be a blessing to new immigrants and needy people.

We were finally able to receive a container full of high-quality used clothing from H.E.L.P. International. The new shipment enables us to provide for many individuals and families beginning their new life in the Land of Israel but may be struggling with income opportunities. As Christians from the Nations, it is beautiful that we can show love by giving practical help to different households.

Tatiana came to Israel with a unique program for young adults in January 2020. Due to the corona situation, she decided to become a citizen of Israel once the program ended. Tatiana had not brought all of her clothing to Israel, as she planned to make *Aliyah* from Brazil in the future. She was now in need. She doesn't have any relatives in the Land; however, new friends from the language school told her about the CFI Jerusalem Distribution Center. Tatiana has visited us twice already and was very happy to receive useful items. She is finishing the Hebrew course and looking for employment. Her parents are so glad about her bold decision to move to the Land as

she decided to make *Aliyah*. There are more employment opportunities in Israel, and Tatiana explains, “The best thing in Israel is safety! I can walk outside in the evening without any fear, and I don't need to be afraid here.” May the Lord bless this young lady with His safety and grace.

Lena was born in Russia and was aware of her Jewish roots since childhood. Her family wasn't religious, but they kept some traditions; eating unleavened bread during the Passover and fried donuts and potato pancakes during the feast of Chanukah. After grade six, Lena wanted to attend the Jewish school in her home city, Kazan. It was interesting for her to get more knowledge about the Jewish faith and traditions. She also had an opportunity to study Hebrew in an excellent school. Until November 2017, she lived a quiet average life with her husband and daughter. Suddenly, her husband, Dima, who doesn't have any Jewish roots, decided they would move to Israel. Lena was ready, and in January 2018, they received permission to move. Three months later, they started their new life in Be'er Sheva. “The first months, it felt like a vacation,” Lena explains. “New and interesting people from different countries around you! We were staying in a special center for immigrants and studied Hebrew together.” Even more, exciting

Open Gates Department

was the news that Lena became pregnant one week after moving to Israel. They had desired to have more children for years.

Lena has visited our Distribution Center four times. “You have been a great help to our family.” She says. “We haven't had to buy too many clothes for ourselves during these first years in the Land, and for our baby, we bought only 2-3 items. Other things we got from you...

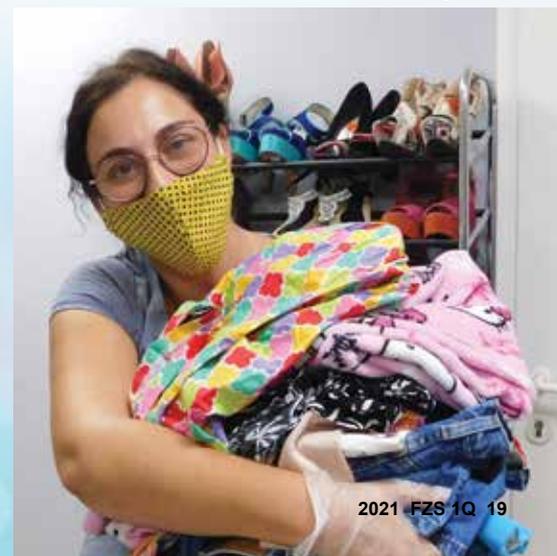
...Thank you very much for the clothes.”

Lena and her family live in Netanya, where she works while her husband is taking care of their little son. Their daughter is still missing her grandparents and the previous homeland, as sometimes it's more difficult for a child to make *Aliyah* than the parents. May the Lord guide her path and bless this precious family!

Despite the difficulties of a global pandemic, and along with the imposed operating restrictions, CFI project Open Gates continues to be a blessing to new immigrants and needy people.

Tiina Danilevski
Outreach Supervisor
Project Open Gates
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Lena with an armful of blessings



BRIDAL SALON

God's Continued Faithfulness



Lara and Doron
Lara with the perfect wedding dress



"Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the Land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:3-4).

In Jerusalem, the CFI Bridal Salon has been serving brides and grooms from different backgrounds since the early 1990s with so many beautiful stories to share. Although it's currently challenging to plan weddings here in Israel, we are always ready to give beautiful wedding gowns to those fulfilling God's promises to dwell in the Land of Israel. **Let us pray that many Israelis will be blessed to begin new families this year.**

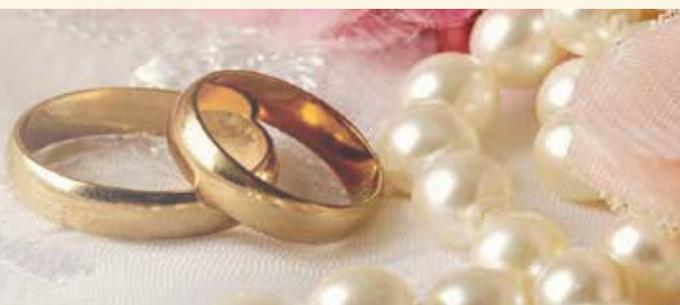
Lara's Story

One such beautiful story is from Lara, who, at 18 years old, moved from Kazakhstan to Israel. In 1995, after living on a kibbutz working and learning Hebrew, she learned of an opportunity to study music. Thanks to the previous studies, she enrolled in the Academy of Music in Jerusalem. Later on, she got married, and God blessed the young family with a baby girl. Eventually, Lara's husband desired to work abroad and left Israel without his family. Through this loss and tragedy, Lara found faith in the God of Israel. Her parents had already moved to the Land and were a great help for their daughter and granddaughter. God blessed Lara with a good job and was willing to serve the Lord and grew in her faith. Years passed. Lara prayed for a Godly husband. When her daughter was 16, Lara turned a new page in her life. She met Doron in her Kehila, and they got to know each other. Soon Lara understood that they mean to be more than friends.

Doron was born in Texas, USA, making *Aliyah* as a young man in 1992. He had a good education and worked in the Land. Doron prayed about God's will for his life, and while waiting on the Lord and wanting to be sure, Doron finally found the one that the Lord had prepared for him. He did not wait long to ask for Lara's hand. She agreed, and they started to plan the wedding. One morning, Lara visited the CFI Bridal Salon. She quickly found a beautiful dress and jewels for herself sent to us from Christian in the nations. She also invited me to their wedding. It was a great pleasure to join the Chupa-ceremony in the Old City of Jerusalem. Lara was a shining bride, and Doron was the happiest groom ever. It was a very beautiful celebration, and it glorified the Lord of Israel in many hearts that evening.

Tiina Danilevski

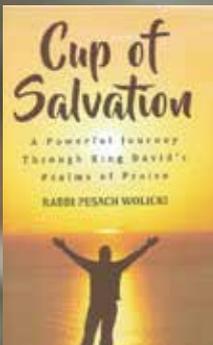
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EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

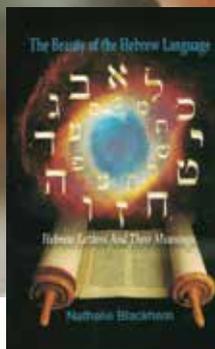
These Educational Resources reveal the truth about the relationship between Israel and the Church according to biblical scripture.

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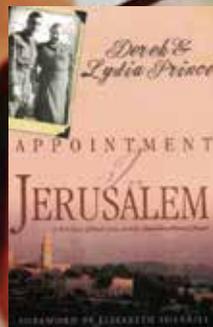
Cup of Salvation **Rabbi Pesach Wolicki**

A powerful journey through King David's Psalms of Praise is a careful study of the original Hebrew text of Psalms 113-118, also known as the "Hallel," leading us on a journey of praise and worship for all that God does in our lives.



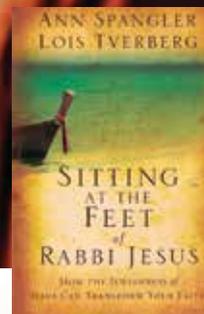
Beauty of the Hebrew Language **Nathalie Blackham**

Nathalie's interest in Israel started in 1997 when she began to intensively study and investigate the Hebraic Roots of the Church. This led her to teach and explain the significance and wonders of the Hebrew letters by way of television and conferences.



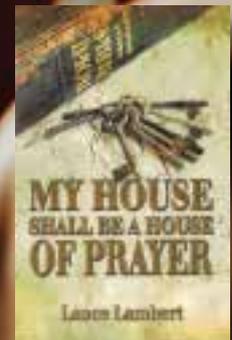
Appointment in Jerusalem **Derek & Lydia Prince**

This is the riveting true story of a young school-teacher and her courageous quest to know God's will for her life. In Lydia Prince's search for God and her life's purpose, she is led to Jerusalem, where she learns the power of prayer and experiences many miracles of provision and protection.



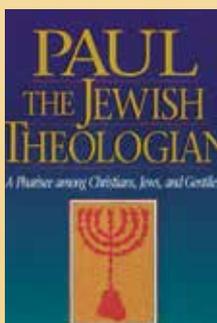
Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus **Ann Spangler & Lois Tverberg**

It is 30 AD. And you are studying with the greatest Rabbi of all time. What would it be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples?



My House Shall be a House of Prayer **Lance Lambert**

There has never been a time when effective prayer and intercession could be more strategic, more necessary, and more essential than now. In relation to the return of the Lord and the events that would precede it, He told us emphatically to watch and pray, and to make supplication to Him.



Paul the Jewish Theologian **Brad H. Young**

Reveals Saul of Tarsus as a man who, though rejected in the synagogue, never truly left Judaism. Author Young disagrees with long held notions that Hellenism was the context with most influenced Paul's communications of the Gospel. This skewed notion has led to widely divergent interpretations of Paul's writings.

To purchase these Inspiring Books and other Resources visit www.cfjjerusalem.org or return the inserted Order Form.

The Shuk During Covid: Shut Down But Not Shut Out!



“We are hard pressed in every way, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not in despair” (2 Corinthians 4:8).

The Jerusalem marketplace (“shuk” in Hebrew) is a much different place these days. There are fewer shops that are opening up at the moment. I have felt like the whole atmosphere is changing, and there is something sad about it now. Perhaps because I have built relationships with some of the shopkeepers, I realize they must be out of work again. For some merchants, it is their only income for the whole family.

However, one meat shop that has remained open seems to continue to do well. It is a family-run shop. The parents, with their teenage son, run the shop. When I asked the son about it and commented about the high quality of the product they carried, he did not hesitate to tell me it was all because of his mom and dad. In the mornings, it is usually the three of them working. In the afternoons, it is typically the son and another young man who help him. Whatever time I stop by, they recognize me and are always happy to see me. And although we can't show each other our smiles (because of the culture) I am learning to smile with my eyes and my voice.

It is said that “Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life.” My shoes are made for walking, and when I walk, I pray, and when I pray, things happen. Please keep the “Shuk” people in your prayers; they need to be back at their workplaces. God bless you for praying for them and me as I reach out and touch those in Jerusalem’s “shuk.”

Lee Williams

Head Chef

CFI Jerusalem Volunteer



Will you Help us Give the Love of God? That should always have been Given.



...we were here as the very first Christians to make home visits to Holocaust survivors.

...we were one of the first ministries to establish outreach to the IDF bases building strong ties.

...we were here when terror struck in the south of Israel and were among the first on the ground to begin building relationships.

...we were here to welcome over 1/4 million Russian immigrants' home.

...we are among a special group of relationship building with Orthodox Jewish rabbis'.

...we maintain the only Christian Bridal Salon in Jerusalem.

...we were here when Ethiopian Jews lived in early absorption centers and caravans.

...we have been here to help Pastors and congregations in the Land along with believers in need.

...we have been here for the poor and the needy from many walks of life.

...we came to bind up the Wounds and to Heal the Brokenhearted.

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One of Israel's Pioneer Christian Ministries

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..." (Isaiah 61:1).



Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast” (John 21:12).

In my morning devotional the summons by Jesus to His Disciples at the Sea of Galilee one morning after His Resurrection means a lot to my soul as I remembered how He began to question Simon Peter (Shimon Petra, his real Hebrew name), if he loved Him. Three times he asked the same question to Peter and I'm sure Peter was beginning to wonder why he was being approached by the Master three times; however, I believe this account of that morning's breakfast by the sea was to tell us exactly what Jesus meant by his response to Simon Peter “Feed My lambs...Tend My Sheep...Feed My sheep” (John 21:15, 17-18).

Prophetic Times in History

These intertwining and related Scriptures are attaching themselves as He emphasizes and underlines the importance of spiritual leadership and the responsibilities it carries along with it. *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods”* (Matthew 24:45-47). This conversation was made to draw their attention to the shepherds' voice at prophetic times in history.

The key here is to see that Jesus is inviting them to breakfast to “eat” food. Then he articulates in his teaching them the importance of spiritual “food”... feeding the lambs, tending to the sheep. In Matthew, He spoke about the serving of food. “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?” The servant who was serving food at the right

time would be rewarded. I wonder where the voices of leaders are in the west and Europe and around the world? Those suffering persecution in China, Hong Kong, and several Middle Eastern countries today are the ones speaking out. Today I was sent a headline written by Jan Markell, a reputable Christian leader, speaking about “The Pulpits Are Silent.” I believe we are called at CFI Jerusalem to provide prophetic teachings to our wonderful friends and supporters in the nations at “such a time as this.”

When there is a lament of sound Biblical teaching in the middle of a time of prophecy like no other and a future ahead that needs prayer and understanding, especially when it comes to Israel and the Church, we will continue to provide what God supplies us with for food in “due season” for you. While we do not have all of the answers, we know that God is restoring His People, restoring all things, and building a Highway to Zion. The followers of Jesus need to understand the “rock from which they are carved” and that the Lord never permitted us to separate from His Chosen People and that spiritual understanding (food for our souls) is now more critical than ever. Let's hear the words of the Master, Jesus, calling us to “come to breakfast” with Him and to learn all about the Church's responsibility to Israel during these precarious times and perhaps, even the “beginning of sorrows.” The food is ready for consumption from the Word of God, and all who come hungry will receive their portion where they will no longer be hungry for teaching. Once you have partaken, please pass it on and “feed other sheep.” God bless all of you.

- Sharon Sanders -



CFI Jerusalem

Nicolene, CFI International Representative Assistant Ready to Serve!

It is a privilege to write to you from Jerusalem. As the International Department is lifting off the ground, it also had a facelift with a gift we received from America, this beautiful gigantic map of the world.

When I look over the map, seeing all the countries represented, there is such a stirring in my heart. I see from Canada, United States, Mexico, Brazil, Netherlands, Great Britain, Poland, Germany, France, Switzerland, India, Taiwan, Bulgaria, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Belgium, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Australia, Papua New Guinea, all the way to New Zealand, etc. This scripture comes to mind; ***“So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone”*** Ezekiel 37:7. Together with these countries and godly appointed Representatives, the message is going out to Israel and the believing world. Bible prophecy is being fulfilled in front of our very eyes. The coming Kingdom of God is at hand. These bones are coming together and making a rattling sound, proclaiming the work of God.

An awakening is occurring on the earth to those who have ears to hear. We want to enhance our resource center to continue educating Christians on Israel’s role in helping the church return to its biblical foundation. We cannot accomplish this without every Representative and each one of you. CFI possesses timeless, valuable teaching from Sharon and Ray Sanders, who have served Israel and her people. And also from some of the most outstanding Bible scholars of our time: Derek Prince, Lance Lambert, and Dwight Pryor. These teachings have and are still breathing



Nicolene Swartz

life into these rattling bones... ***“Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD’”*** Ezekiel 37:4-6.

What a privilege it is for me to be alive and to work with these representatives! We embrace the stirrings/rattling of Gods’ heart to infiltrate our being and to be a voice in the wilderness, preparing a way for our soon coming King.



CFI Poland

New CFI Poland Representative Spreads the Word about Israel!

When CFI UK's "Light in the Darkness" project/event on YouTube was introduced to us, we immediately sent it to our CFI Representatives around the world. The first to respond to spread the word about



Krzysztof Koc

it was our new Representative Krzysztof Koc from Poland. He started right to work on Poland's list of contacts as he locates Polish people who speak English. However, he took it a step further and translated it into the native Polish language.

After the event featured, Krzysztof had this feedback; "We found this material very important and meaningful. We were touched so much yesterday that we stayed online with our Church till late at night." Great job! Thank you. Krzysztof also had requests from Jewish Communities to receive the event that he translated.

His schedule is full as he deepens his knowledge about Israel through a recommended Bible study in Jerusalem. He is so excited about his new role and his studies; he forgets to sleep!

Contact: Krzysztof Koc

Email: krzysztof.koc@gmail.com

A big thanks goes to Rev. Ken & Ilene Smith for their years of service to CFI-Canada as Canadian Directors.

"It is my honor to have been appointed by CFI Jerusalem to oversee the continued work of Christian Friends of Israel throughout Canada. We have much potential to reach our Canadian brothers and sisters with teachings from CFI Jerusalem; to partner with a pioneer ministry in Jerusalem as they continue to tear down walls, build relationships and Prepare the Way for the Lord in Israel. We are searching for prayer partners here, CFI magazine Distributors, spreading the teachings of our Co-Founder in Jerusalem in regard to Israel and the Church and much more. Please feel free to contact me at:"

Contact: Elaine Newman

Email: enewman210656@gmail.com



CFI New Zealand

Feasts Have a Role in Christianity

Twenty-eight years ago, The McLeod's left New Zealand to serve in Israel at CFI. On returning home, I soon learned that there was not much information coming out of the Church to help the Biblical student researching Israel.



Dennis McLeod at the Holocaust Memorial in Hamilton, New Zealand

As I was still representing Christian Friends of Israel and having lived and worked in the Land, it became apparent the Feasts had a role in our understanding of our salvation and how we should behave as Believers and followers of Yeshua. I was surprised how they spoke about the final ingathering with the return of the Lord. From there, my booklet, *Our Lost Heritage*, was written. I have now opened a YouTube channel for teaching our Hebraic roots. The teachings found in this booklet have been used from YWAM outreaches out of Norway to prison Ministries here in New Zealand. It has been translated into several languages. Now I pray it can help in many other areas to teach of the beauty of the Word of God and prepare us for the awesome day of the Lord, the Lord's return.

Contact: Dennis McLeod

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CFI Canada

Reinforcing Our Canadian Friends

CFI Canada is spanning the five provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and the Yukon Territory.



Elaine Newman

Welcome Elaine Newman, CFI Jerusalem Representative in Canada! Elaine has represented Rev. Smith in Jerusalem during CFI conferences and is familiar with the vision of CFI.



CFI UK

Light in the Darkness - CFI UK Holocaust Memorial Event 2021

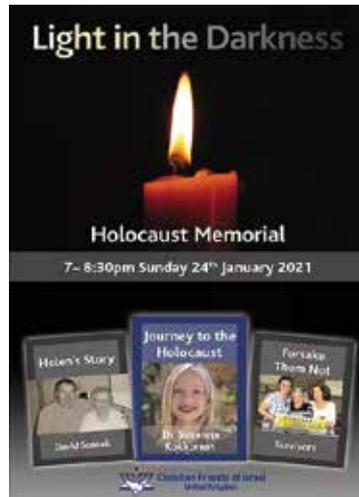
On Sunday 24th January 2021, CFI UK hosted a special Holocaust Memorial event called **'Light in the Darkness.'**

In normal circumstances, we would have had our CFI UK Regional Links and Church Links putting on venue-based HMD services in various places within the UK, however,

Covid-19 forced us to plan ahead and to do a Memorial event on YouTube. As part of the intro, CFI UK's David Soakell stated, "In an age when anti-Semitism is as high today as it was in the 1930s, the importance of remembrance has never been greater.

The need for education on Nazi persecution and the Holocaust is vital. Why? Because the lack of knowledge increases intolerance; the lack of knowledge increases anti-Semitism, and the lack of knowledge increases Holocaust denial." Following this, CFI UK's chief executive Jacob Vince welcomed everyone and stated, "May we remember and learn together both now and, in every generation, and so work to ensure that anti-Semitism in all its forms dies its overdue death and is replaced by the light of life and hope."

The Keynote speaker was Dr. Susanna Kokkonen. Susanna, who holds a PhD in Holocaust Studies from the Hebrew University Jerusalem, worked at Yad Vashem in Israel for over ten years. Her talk explored the events leading up to the Holocaust; events during it, and the memories following that tragic time in history. Susanna ended her talk regarding 'our responsibility' to this issue today. Speaking about IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance), Dr. Kokkonen stated, "Social justice and human rights are values that we believe in, these are things that are very important, and after Auschwitz Birkenau,



have to define us, and have to define how we feel about certain things, but sadly, very often **"Social justice and human rights"** are used against the only democracy in the Middle East [Israel]. What this has come to mean is that in the international arena, Israel is routinely accused of human rights violations whilst its neighbors and other countries around the world are ignored. This is very, very hypocritical. It shows a double standard, and this too is part of the definition by IHRA, it is anti-Semitic."

Also screened, was a film from our CFI Jerusalem office. Project co-ordinator of 'Forsake Them Not,' Olga Kopilova, shared her experience of how she has the privileged position of coming alongside precious Holocaust survivors. As a team, they are blessed that they can bring love, comfort, and gifts. Olga shared, "Over the years, we build deep friendship, relationship of trust, we build the bridges, and now when we come, we come to our families, we don't just come to visit friends, we come to visit our relatives and we receive this way from their side as well." Speaking on how Olga and CFI Jerusalem receive phone calls from these survivors, she stated that often, they express their gratitude: "One lady said, 'The birthday card you sent me with words of prayer in it, brought the presence of God into my day and in my life.' The prayer included Psalm 139... it is what we need today to let them know that the God of Israel - their Abba - loves them. He knows them by name, he wants to hear what their hearts want to share with him... When they hear from us an announcement that we will be coming soon to visit them, they rejoice, they have something to look forward to. They count days... they see the love of God. Many of them are saying, 'you point us to God. Your prayers mean so much to us' and when we leave, they have something good to dwell on. They remember every word. They remember our prayers... How can we comprehend the pain and the sorrows of their hearts? But we can bring the comfort and love of God into their homes."

Other Areas of the Memorial Event

In other areas of the Memorial event, we showed film, music, art, and poetry as we remembered and enabled many to learn more about this tragic time in history – one of which nobody should forget. We asked the question, "How can we teach the youth, lessons of the Holocaust?" We then showed one important area of the work of the Holocaust Education



Listening to a Holocaust message



Football Academy youngsters visit Auschwitz

Trust as Football Academy youngsters from Norwich City FC, Manchester City FC and Middlesbrough FC were inspired by Holocaust survivors sharing their stories as the youngsters visited Auschwitz. Their response and appreciation were clear to see. Carys Dalton, the Youth Player Care Manager for Norwich City stated, "There's only so much that you can learn from a textbook or from film being able to see it has really enhanced their understanding I think and help them to understand the severity of it." Harvey – a young Norwich City youth player stated: "I think it's a one in a lifetime opportunity, and to be given that, I feel very privileged to be here to see how things were during the Holocaust." Do pray for the younger generation regarding this difficult issue.

Continuing the theme of involving the younger generation, Felicity Day, age 14, read a poem taken from 'Crimes Against Humanity,' a compilation of songs and poems written by David Soakell. The poem, called 'Dear Kitty' was a tribute to Anne Frank. David shared an edited version of 'Helen's Story' – a Holocaust Survivor who was a dear friend of David and Julia Soakell. Following this, A film was also shown of Ilana Yahav – a Sand Artist. When we asked Ilana if we could use her short film, she wrote, "I feel blessed that you chose my art as a part of the Holocaust memorial. It would be my great honor!" Ilana states, "To draw in sand the most horrific period in Jewish history is a privilege mixed with great pain. I stand over my table of sand with trembling hands, my heart beating heavily, knowing as I have known all my life, that I was there with them always in my heart and in my soul."

The Holocaust is one of the most grievous events of human history. Six million innocent Jews, whose only crime was to be born Jewish, were annihilated by other humans. God's heart grieves, and deeply aches for the loss and pain of his firstborn. God's heart grieves over one of the biggest tragedies of the human race. The Christian Friends of Israel UK Holocaust Memorial event was hopefully a poignant reminder of the importance to remember, and we felt it not only honoured the lives of the six million Jews who perished, but also honoured those survivors who are still alive. Before the final film was shown, we allowed time for every-

one to pause and reflect as CFI UK's Julia Soakell lit the memorial candles. Six candles were lit, one for each of the six million Jews murdered. A seventh candle was also lit, thereby linking up to the ancient menorah symbolism, but also for the non-Jews who perished in the Shoah/Holocaust. As each candle was lit, Julia prayed. From the ashes of the Holocaust, the Nation of Israel was reborn, and the final short film showed a complete contrast to the opening version of Hatikvah, illustrating the theme 'Light overcoming the darkness,' with beautiful scenes from Israel, and the Israeli national anthem was sung by Israeli opera singer Keren Hadar – who later commented via email of how moved she was by viewing the event. It was shown with permission of CBN Films, as indeed all the non-CFI films had received the owner's permission – which was an answer to prayer in itself (all music in the CFI films was licenced to CFI through David Soakell). View the event by going to <https://www.youtube.com/CFIUK>

David Soakell (CFI UK Liaison Officer & Media Correspondent)

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Reflection and prayer- Julia



CFI Representative Nearest You