



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

CFI Projects

Monthly Reports

for

International

Representatives

Dear CFI International Representative Family,

Thank you for your continued support of the Outreach efforts of Christian Friends of Israel. We continue to strive to encourage those in need and to offer practical assistance during times of struggle. It's during these times when relationships can be formed which please God and allow us to show Compassion to those who need it the most and have possibly never experienced it before.

During this time of global pandemic, we continue to offer assistance as we are able, and we know each passing day may allow for additional hardships, but we also know the God whom we serve. He is more than able to protect, and provide and heal. We are willing to represent Him to the people of Israel.

Please receive the CFI Outreach electronic updates as a reminder of the impact each of you have in the lives of so many. We are grateful to represent those of you in the Nations - to those in the Land of Israel.

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Bridal Salon

Greetings from CFI Bridal Salon!

We have had interesting clients over here this month. Both wedding gowns and evening dresses have been tried on and taken in our Salon. Two mothers of brides came and found excellent outfits for themselves. Both of them were worried when they came in, because they had not yet found suitable dresses for the coming weddings. Mothers of brides and grooms should look good, when they come to the chupa with their daughters and sons, at the beginning of the Jewish wedding ceremony.

It was a joy to show them our renewed collection of evening dresses. We have a lot of gowns here at the moment - both big and small sizes. I found very good items while sorting the boxes that we got from USA and UK. We have become "rich" during the last months.

Thank you very much for your participation, dear givers!



One bride to be was in a very difficult situation. She had ordered a wedding dress by mail, but it never appeared. The celebration was supposed to be in a week. This lady called us in tears. We made an appointment with her as soon as we could. She came in with her mother and started to seek and try on different options. Many dresses looked gorgeous on her. I understood that she wanted to look like a queen on her special day. It took hours, but finally we

found the best dress. A lovely veil made the outfit perfect. Also the mother found a very beautiful evening dress and a bolero for herself. We gave both of them suitable shoes as a gift from CFI. This family was so relieved and happy when they went home. I myself was little tired, but also very glad that we again were a huge blessing for somebody who needed our help and care.

Every week there are different clients coming in. Everybody has their own story and situation. Today I got a phone call from a lady, who is expecting a baby and will be married in December. I promised that we will find something for her. This is not the first time in CFI's history that we served a pregnant bride to be. May the Lord be present at that specific appointment next week.

"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful" Ps. 116:5.

Thank you for supporting us with your prayers and donations!

Tiina Danilevski Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Under His Wings

Shalom Friends of Israel,

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope” (Lamentation 3:21).

Shalom. Project UHW visited a bereaved father named **Momi** whose daughter was killed just few months before being discharged from her army service. Since then Momi has been in deep depression as he felt his only hope (that his daughter, who was his favourite child would take care of him when he is old) was lost. He lost his business and career because the depression.

I prayed and asked the Lord to give me words to comfort him. I felt led to share with him some scriptures, especially Lamentation 3:20-23 & Isaiah 61:1-3 during the visit, and also to minister to him with my violin music. Momi opened the Bible and read the scriptures attentively. I was surprise that he even sang along when I was playing several Israeli songs for him, as he loves music and singing. Please lift up Momi in prayer that his hope will be truly be restored and that he be set free from depression; he said he will read the Bible.



Ronen is another person whom I visited. He was injured and also traumatised during his service in the anti-terrorism unit, during one operation when a Hamas operative opened fire on them and in the exchange of fire, a new sergeant was killed. Ronen approached the shaft of the elevator where the terrorist was hiding and threw the grenade. The death of Ronen's friend and the very fact that he eliminated the terrorist caused him severe post-trauma. Since then he has not been able to work a regular job but just works part time.

His wife left him and separated him from his children, which made it even more difficult for him and his mental state. He is in a difficult situation mentally and financially. His wife also demands alimony, for which he has nothing to give, to their two small children.

Like most of the Israelis growing up in a Kibbutz or Moshav, God is basically absent from Ronen's mind. But interestingly during the visit, his boss joined us briefly as we were using his boss' facility in his work place, during which his boss and I had some very interesting conversations. Praying that the conversations with his boss and the Tanach which Ronen received will inspire him to read the Bible.

Thank you so much for your support to Project UHW and bless you from CFI Jerusalem.

Maggie Huang Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Communities Under Attack

Dear Friends of Israel,

*"...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"
(Proverbs 18:24b).*

A suspected arson, resulting in huge fire broke out in a forest close to Jerusalem on August 15, causing more than 2,000 residents from the surrounding Moshavim be evacuated. The fire continued to burn for 3 days until it was finally extinguished. Over 17,000 dunams of forest were gutted by fire which also caused immense damage to civilian properties.



With God's help, plus great efforts made, praise God that Project CUA was able to reach out to several Israeli families affected by the recent fire attack. Among the forest trees in the Jerusalem Mountains lies an international treasure - a workshop that produces harps by hand. **Shoshana** and **Micah Harrari** have spent the last 40 years building this unique life's work, and their workshop was totally burnt to the ground by this fire. They were deeply moved by CUA of CFI for reaching out to them to provide help for rebuilding their harp workshop.

At Yitshak's some properties were also severely damaged by this fire. One of them was just built 6 months ago and he had to take a huge loan to rebuild it, as the government has not provided any help, and all the insurance companies want is to pay as little as possible in compensation. He and other civilians said they had been working so hard to get established but now they were pushed 10 years backwards. It is frustrating!



Chantal is a single mom with 3 teenaged children, one just finished army service and the other two are in the army. She burst into tears when having to cope with this crisis alone, (also other civilians) saying the Israeli government, nor anyone else came alongside her to provide help except us – Christians who are not even Israelis! Proverbs 18:24b. Chantal sent me a message after the visit, saying: *"Thank you for coming; and for your comforting words and practical help. I appreciate your support and all that you are doing for us and my people. God bless all of you and thank you."*

Thank you our supporters, our work will not be possible without your generous support. The Lord bless you.

Maggie Huang Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Wall of Prayer

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

“To provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord to display his beauty” Isaiah 61:3 TLV.

Amid the August 2021 summer heat, wildfires raged outside Jerusalem in the Judean Hills for three days before the blaze was finally contained. The fires destroyed about 5,000 acres of land, and thousands of residents in the area had to evacuate. Despite widespread damage to property and vegetation, thankfully, no one lost their lives.



In October, we visited some residents of Ramat Raziel, a *moshav* in the suburbs of Jerusalem. A *moshav* is a cooperative settlement of small individual farms. These families showed us the extensive fire damage to their beautiful homes, gardens, and fruit trees. They shared their stories about escaping the blaze with only 5 minutes to gather pets and essential items. The higher altitude and gusty winds caused the flames to sweep across roads and race up hillsides. The fire leaped over some houses and touched down on others. Both of the families we visited were older couples who had lived at that residence for many decades. They had to evacuate the premises for two weeks until there were no traces of burning embers left. It had been two months since the incident, and each household was in a different stage of reconstruction. The process of rebuilding requires time, effort, and resources.

Restoration (*shecum*) has been a constant theme among Jewish people since ancient times. Scripture is full of accounts of the children of Israel returning to rebuild their homes after enemy conquests or various disasters. Many Israelis still possess that same mindset because of God's promises for ultimate restoration. Both these families are the children of Holocaust survivors who also had a spirit of resiliency. We saw decorations on their blackened, barren trees that had once been fruitful, bringing simple beauty into a scene of ashes and destruction.

One family has teenaged grandchildren who visit them every Shabbat. These artistic grandchildren had painted bright designs on the bare, charred olive trees and had hung colorful objects on the branches



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

that would sway in the breeze. They had also displayed some beautiful artwork on their grandparents' bomb shelter (*mamad*). Thankfully, the fire did not come near the bomb shelter. That is an example of giving beauty for ashes! They found a way to bring joy into a difficult situation. Instead of lamenting the necessity of a bomb shelter, they decorated it.



At another home, they had cleared the ashes and debris, replanted greenery, and begun watering. They decorated the remains of a large blackened tree next to the house with hanging flowerpots as a sign of restoration and new life. We spoke Isaiah 61:3 over the tree stump that it would again bring forth new life although it had been burned. This tree stump is a symbol of the nation of Israel; the people who remain will be like a stump that will sprout again. Israel will become what God said it would be – a light to the nations!

It was a pleasure to offer financial assistance and encouragement to these families in the midst of rebuilding. They were surprised that Christians from other nations would care about their circumstances enough to give their resources and prayers to uplift them. To our faithful supporters and prayer warriors, thank you for making encounters like this possible. God will indeed bless you.

"Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together, and running over, it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you" Luke 6:38.

Linda McMurray Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Forsake Them Not

“All these things are for your benefit. As grace increases to benefit more and more people it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God’s glory” 2 Corinthians 4:15.

Recently in visiting the homes of survivors we noticed more expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Not only that the message of love and care from the Christians around the world touches Holocaust survivors hearts, changes their emotion and brings a lot of positivity to their homes; it is also showing the way out, through the beautiful words of thankfulness and kind gestures. There are more kind and warm responses from the Survivors and their families addressed towards the CFI team here and around the world. During the visits everyone would like to emphasise in different ways how this time is valued and appreciated and asks us to carry the message of gratitude to everyone who is involved in this work. Here is a letter from the Head of The Association of Ghetto and Camp survivors:

*“I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you for your close cooperation with us over the years. As the head of the Association of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors, I have known and cooperated / worked with the International Organization Christian Friends of Israel for over 20 years, and despite this, I never cease to appreciate and admire the work of your department.
Holocaust Survivors - old and sick people, dearly appreciate your home visits, how you listen and record their stories. They treasure warm relationships, attention, solidarity and material support, as well as preserving the memory of the Holocaust.
I ask you to convey gratitude from the Holocaust Survivors and from me personally, to all kind people who are able to perceive other people’s suffering as their own, and how wonderful it is that such people are still among us! We wish you health and success in your noble work. May kindness and generosity return to you a hundredfold.*

With deep respect, Gita Koifman”



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

As a team here, we are so ever grateful for the work the Lord entrusted us to do and for the grace of the Almighty to see it through. We are grateful for every Holocaust Survivor that we are able to visit and for every person, whose prayers and financial support, help to make it possible.



Thank you for 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.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

Olga Kopilova Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Open Gates

Shalom from Jerusalem!



This month has been busy with different things. It has been a big work to empty our place from the items that we won't need anymore and to give them into good hands. The rooms are renewed. The new items are already coming in and filling the empty shelves. Our project is almost ready to have it's new start.

We pray and hope that new immigrants will be blessed and touched by the love of Christians through our project. Please, pray for us that we could make the right decisions in this hour of change. Pray that we could be the face of Yeshua for everybody who will come in. Without prayer support we can't make it. It is a huge privilege to meet Jewish people who have just arrived and

who are starting their new life in the Land. We want to welcome and encourage them by giving some new items for their households. But more than that we want them to experience something from Heaven here at our place. Only God by His Holy Spirit can do it.

I believe next month I can share with you some stories of our precious future visitors. They will come by an appointment and we will have an opportunity to talk with them and listen to their Aliyah experiences.

The weather is changing in Israel. The season of rains is just about to begin. The word "rain" here, symbolizes God's blessings. After a dry summer nature will become alive and fresh again. May the project "Open Gates" also receive rains from Heaven. May our work be meaningful and fruitful for the Kingdom of God.



"For He draws up the drops of water, He distils His mist in rain which the skies pour down, and drop upon man abundantly" Job 36: 27-28.

Thank you for being with us, dear friends. May the Lord bless each and every one of you!

Tiina Danilevski Project Supervisor



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

Project Hope For The Future

Shalom from Jerusalem!

Yrfu Indalamaw, is an exceptional Ethiopian woman born in the Gojjam province of Ethiopia. Like many young Ethiopians, she dreamt of being able to live in the land of Israel. She would listen intently to all of the folktales and dreams of a city of gold, which many Ethiopians had risked their lives for, by secretly trekking across the Sudan desert in search of a home call Jerusalem.

That same young girl would be married (probably arranged) to another Jewish Ethiopian that made it possible for her to leave everything and move with their three daughters in tow, searching for a life in the homeland Jerusalem. Like many immigrants that arrived in the land, there is a governmental process through the Jewish Agency to first assimilate in an absorption center for at least two years. Yrfu and her family went through the same process by the Jewish Agency to live in Kiryat Gat, a religious community at Shoshana Atsmoat absorption center in Kiryat Gat instead of two years it became five.



Unable to find work, her husband fell to the demise of faith and unemployment, domestic violence against her wife, and lack of self-esteem. A shame factor for many African men unable to take care of his family Yrfu and the additional two children making it five girls at this point in a two-bedroom apartment, he swallowed deeper in despair.

A dream deferred...

Inevitably their marriage ended in a divorce, and he returned to Ethiopia; the once-upon-a-time dream ended Yrfu is very soft-spoken, and she only spoke Amharic and could not learn Hebrew, probably due to the stress and trauma of raising her children under the circumstances. She came to Hope for the future because she needed help desperately. She expressed that her children needed clothing, and she needed help with preexisting utility bills. The first time she met Yrfu, she asked for clothing, considering most Ethiopians have never come into the center. She also stated she was trying to move her children from the absorption center; she said through translation, "I am trying to move my children out of the absorption center, the absorption center is not a great place to grow up, and a lot of the kids who do are not such successful people."



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים

We got a chance to do a home visit in the absorption center; it was horrible that she had no real stove, a piece of a refrigerator, and the cabinets had no hinges or doors on them. However, she still served the traditional coffee and smiled. Her girls were also timid, which made one think immediately about the conditions they faced, Yrfu feared for them to be all they could be.

Beginning a new start!

Yrfu was able to move; she used everything she had, and the bank even put a penalty on her to give the remaining money after a loan was improved before she could move in. It nearly destroyed her chances, but she pulled through. Hope for the future helped her with what resources we had. These are the kind of stories that makes a difference; there are many Yrfu in Israel who are struggling to raise their children alone while working hard to help their children get a career or the confidence to pursue more.

Going for the Goal!

Our Hope Resource Center will thrive on making a difference in the lives of the Ethiopian community, family, and students that once dreamed a better life was possible in the Land of the Living word.

Marcia Brunson Project Coordinator



Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
נוצרים ידידי ישראל-ירושלים