



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)



Project Forsake Them Not

“Formerly I said to Zion, ‘Behold, here they are and to Jerusalem, I will give a messenger of good news.’ Isaiah 41:27

The month of July was a time for visits in Jerusalem. Because of the restrictions it has been a long time since we were able to visit some of our precious friends here. Almost all of them have been our contacts and friends for a many years. They have been part of all our events here in Jerusalem, which meant they were usually able to get more of our attention. In this sense visits were even more appreciated after a long time of loneliness and separation. It was wonderful to discover that those hardships that had been brought by the season had caused our friendships to grow even stronger!

I would like to introduce you to some of our special Holocaust survivor friends who live here in Jerusalem, the city of the Great King. Let us take a light train together and walk the streets to visit different neighbourhoods, and knock on their doors:

Rabbi Elyahu, who we have been in contact with since 2002, lives in a central religious neighbourhood in between Meah Shearim and Romema. He was born into an Orthodox Jewish family in Romania and survived the time of occupation as a young boy. All his family perished in the Holocaust but he never lost his faith in G-d because of this. After the war finished he came to Israel with the Zionist Youth Movement and went to study TORA in a Yeshiva. He then fulfilled the dream of his life to become a Rabbi, the spiritual leader for his people. Now Rabbi Elyahu shares his pain about the spiritual situation in the land.



In order to visit **Michael**, you have to go to the last stop of the light train in the Pisgat Zeev area. This faces Anathoth, the place where the prophet Jeremiah bought that famous field from his cousin Hanamel. Michael and his wife were so pleased to see us and for the fellowship we enjoyed together, talking about the past and the present. Michael is very bright thinking person who is usually very active and social but has had to spend almost all his time locked in his apartment. He delights to share all his memories.

Not far from Michael lives **Helena**. Helena is very caring woman who was saved by a righteous gentile lady. Helena's mother gave birth to her when their town was being bombed. The nurse in the hospital adopted Helena knowing she was a Jew. No one knew what happened to Helena's mom but then after the war she did find Helena. This was a very difficult time for Helena, getting used to a new mother, but then on every holiday she would go to spend with her "saviour". Helena cared for her mom until she passed away and also she cared for the



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lady who saved her. Helena made much effort to bring her to Israel and cared for her until she died. Now she is caring for her husband who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer. Helena was so touched to have a lovely break from her daily routine and to know that someone thinks and cares for her too.

These are just three of the thirty visits which were made in Jerusalem this month. Every one of the survivors expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to the people who make this work possible. Everyone was encouraged by the time of fellowship and the financial gifts, and the scriptures that were shared from the TANACH.

As a team here, we also want to join in these words of gratitude. Your prayers and your support is part of our reality here that allows us to be the hands and the feet of God's words of blessing for His people.

Olga Kopilova Project Supervisor



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Project Open Gates

Shalom uvracha mi Yerushalaim! Peace and blessing from Jerusalem!



The whole month of August Open Gates Distribution Center has been closed for visitors. After emptying the storage room from the boxes we started to empty our shopping area. It was unusual to see the racks without any clothes. At the same time we recognized how many hangers we have over here 😊 They seemed to fill every corner.

We visited the distribution center of Carmel congregation in Haifa and brought to them 32 boxes of clothing. On the same trip, it was our pleasure to know some workers from the “Aliyah Return Center,” in the Jordan Valley. Both organizations were already giving out items from the boxes that we shared with them in July. The feedback was very good. “It was a joy to open those boxes.” They said.

After emptying the rest of the shopping area from the adult’s clothes, our friends from Carmel Congregation came one more time to receive boxes from CFI. It was a blessing to give the donated items into good hands.

This month has been busy with practical work at our place. We also made home visits to two families and brought a great joy to their homes.

We believe that our work with new immigrants will continue, and that the project “Open Gates” will be a blessing for many people in the near future. We will be making needed renovations at the DC. After that, we will go forward with a plan.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time; also He has put eternity into man’s mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 (RSV)

Please, keep us in your prayers. We need God’s guidance in everything we do.

Tiina Danilevski Project Supervisor



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Project Bridal Salon

Shalom from the CFI Bridal Salon!



We have been serving different clients this month. Every individual has her own situation and a story behind it. Often we don't have time to talk very much because we are busy finding the perfect gowns and items for the coming celebration. However, I am aware of how unique and special every visitor is.

Yesterday afternoon there was a group of young people at our door. They came to look for a wedding dress. The wedding ceremony will take place in three weeks, but they were not worried at all. The young bride-to-be, Gefen, came in with another girl and a young man. She started to go through the racks. Very quickly she saw an interesting dress. It was the simplest and lightest dress we have. Gefen tried it on, and it fit her very well. She was so glad to find it. We also found a lovely head piece for her special day. Because the dress has been in our salon for a long time, we gave it to Gefen as a wedding gift. The whole group was touched. They left our place happy and thankful.

CFI Bridal Salon was a blessing to two fathers who needed a suit for the weddings of their children. Both of them found good-looking options for themselves. We found a new white shirt for the little brother of the groom. Now everyone was pleased!

One bride-to-be couldn't make the decision, so she took two dresses with her. Both of them were very puffy. Her future sisters-in-law were helping her to choose the best options and to carry them out from our building ☺ They wanted to make some alterations to the dresses at their own expense. We allow our clients to do that in every case.

A week ago there was a young girl, who was looking for an evening dress for her sister's wedding. She had two friends with her. They had fun choosing the best option. Almost every dress looked stunning on Tabea; she could be a model. Her final choice was a beautiful purple dress. A lovely necklace and a beautiful thin head piece made the outfit complete. Now Tabea is ready to go to the celebration.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. A lot of blessings from Jerusalem!

Tiina Danilevski Project Supervisor



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Project Under His Wings

Shalom Friends of Israel,

“In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul” (Psalm 94:19).

Marriage itself is not easy for married couples already, and other hardship in life add to the challenge of marriage. **Shaul** was married with 3 young boys. 2 years ago his wife heeded to the advice of her rabbi and decided to divorce Shaul who is traumatized by terror during his service in the IDF as well as Security Forces. Their boys came to stay with Shaul over weekend fortnightly, but recently his ex-wife informed him that she gave up her custodianship of their 3 boys as she endeavors to be married again, after she has divorced Shaul, to another religious man in her circle.



The 3 boys were thrilled to move to live with Shaul, as their mother isn't a good mother. It is a great joy to both the boys and Shaul, but also a challenge for him due to his trauma and financial difficulty. He said it is hard to be a father and mother at the same time. Shaul refrains to shed tears before his boys as he tries to be strong for them, instead he turned to God to cry before Him because of the hardship. He is unable to work due to trauma.

Shaul is very grateful to Project UHW and its supporters for coming alongside him to help him in his time of need – mentally, practically and spiritually. He told me that my first visit to him inspired him to paint, which is very helpful in his coping with trauma.



My heart went out to **Zion**, another former IDF warrior, also traumatized during his compulsory military service, during my visit to him in a trauma Rehab Center. He wept and was trembling when he told me about his situation and that he missed his wife and their children as he needs to stay in this Rehab Center. His wife is unable to work as she needs to take care of their 3 young children. I gave him a hug and shared with him some words that I felt led by God to comfort and encourage him. After our conversation, praise God that his entire countenance changed and he cordially thanked me for the precious Tanach he received (Psalm 94:19). To my surprise, at my departure he told the manager of the Rehab Center that now he has more faith to fight his trauma.

Please keep Shaul and Zion in your prayer for healing from trauma, and ask God to provide what they need. Our work will not be possible without your generous support. Thank you so much and bless you from CFI Jerusalem.

Maggie Huang Project Supervisor



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Project Communities Under Attack

Dear Friends of Israel,

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day“ (Psalm 119: 97).

Praise God and thank you so much for providing the funds through your financial support, which enables Project CUA to continue to reach out to Israeli civilians living near Gaza borders, and other areas in Southern Israel, who have been affected by the ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza.



Inon and his wife Hadar and their 3 children live in Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Inon was injured in his leg by a rocket attack, and also was traumatized. Along with financial help I also brought one Tanach to be given to Inon. He was overjoyed when he received it because he loves the Word of God (Psalm 119:97) and we had lots of discussion on the Scriptures. Hallelujah, the reading and sharing God's Word brought great joy to us! Inon has many gifts. He is part of a music group as well a great chef. However, affected by Covid he was not able to do performances with his team, therefore he has been unable to provide for his family financially which is

a great sorrow for him. He is thinking about other creative ways to generate income. He is raising financial support to enable him to use his culinary skill to be self-sufficient financially in the long term, which I would like to see happen. If God moves your heart to help Inon to make this goal a realization, please send your financial support to Project CUA of CFI designated for “start-up” for Inon Ben David, thank you.

Praise God, the visit to **Gili** (a former IDF soldier severely traumatized in the second Lebanese war) was similar to the visit to Inon, as Gili also loves to read the Word of God. He is now married with 2 small children aged 5 and 2.



Project CUA also sponsored a school in Southern Israel that organized Bar Mitzva and Bat Mitzva Birthday Events for their pupils who are poor and needy and whose parents were unable to do this for them.



Bar Mitzva and Bat Mitzva means ‘Sons and Daughter of Commandment’, it is a traditional Jewish Event for girls who reach the ages of 12 and 13 for boys, after the Bar/Bat Mitzva they are responsible for their own spiritual growth.

Thank you again for your support, God bless you and your loved ones.

Maggie Huang Project Supervisor



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Project Wall of Prayer

PRAYING ON SITE WITH INSIGHT

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” Isaiah 52:7.

The highlight event for the Wall of Prayer was a two-day prayer trip to northern Israel. Our goal was to visit an Israeli family and to worship and pray at several strategic locations including three significant mountains. It was an amazing experience of hearing and obeying the Lord everywhere we went. Each place was different, and God gave different strategies for each situation. Our four-member team originated from different countries: Maggie Huang from Taiwan, Enrique Marquez from Mexico, Leon Swart from South Africa, and me from the USA. During our planning time, we prayed, repented, and worshipped together to prepare our hearts for spiritual warfare. As we traveled, our warfare theme song became **“Hallelujah Ki Malach Eloheinu” (For our God reigns)** (<https://youtu.be/P757iH5yo2E>). Since we had not learned all the words, we repeatedly sang the main phrases in Hebrew which when translated say, *“Hallelujah, the Lord reigns! Hallelujah, Our God Reigns!”*

Our first stop was **Beit She’an National Park**. Except for a few construction workers, this massive place was totally empty – a stark contrast to how it was in centuries past. The amazing, well-preserved Roman architecture and the many fallen civilizations which were layered one upon another, reminded us of the brevity of life and the eternity of God. *Natural kingdoms rise and fall, but the Kingdom of God is everlasting!* David tells us in Psalm 9:17 that all the nations that forget God are doomed. We boldly proclaimed to the stones and pillars left standing to *“hear the Word of the Lord.”* We believe the word of God that was loudly declared into those rocks will echo in the spirits of visitors to these ancient ruins. May the visitors take heed.



Our visit with **Arik and Hani Lubovsky** was very moving. In his younger years, Arik was a blessing to many *‘olim’* (immigrants) in northern Israel. CFI assisted by donating needed items, and Arik delivered them to the new residents. He proudly displayed a certificate of honor from the State of Israel for his outstanding humanitarian service. CFI gave this couple a love gift, and Maggie warmed their hearts as she played Israeli music on her violin. It was a privilege to bless those who have been a blessing to so many others. Hani gave us enough breakfast pastries for the next day! As we said our closing prayer, she expressed a desire that today’s generation would also be willing to give of themselves to build up Israel. We say “Amen” to that prayer; so let it be.

Our first high place was **Mount Bental**, one of Israel’s strategic military strongholds in the Golan Heights. The Golan is a significant area stretching between the borders of Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria. No soldiers were visible, we were told that the IDF’s highly sophisticated intelligence system allows them to monitor the borders, and even hear our conversations. Mount Bental provided stunning views of Mount Hermon, the Golan, and the borders of Lebanon and Syria. There were many families there who enjoyed going inside the bunkers and seeing the old artillery. We learned that the *1973 Yom Kippur War* was fought



there when Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Day of Atonement, a time when most Jews were fasting. God miraculously gave Israel the victory with their small force of 160 tanks against Syria's 1,500 tanks. The Syrians eventually retreated, but not without inflicting heavy casualties on Israel. Today to remember the bloody battle, the lush valley between Mount Bental and Mount Hermon, is called the **Valley of Tears**. We proclaimed Psalm 84:6-7 over that valley which says, *"Passing through the Valley of Weeping (Baca), they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with blessings. They go from strength to strength..."* (AMP version). Understanding the great price that was paid to secure that land, we saw even more clearly why Israel must maintain possession of the territory that God designated for them. Praying toward the Syrian border, we proclaimed that God would expose the enemy. (Two days later, Israel struck a Hezbollah weapons cache in Syria.) Praying toward the Lebanon border, we boldly sang, **"Hallelujah Ki Malach Eloheinu."** After a few minutes we left walking in cadence to the song. Travelling toward our next location, we prayed for the IDF every time war planes flew overhead, which was often.



The next mountain we visited was **Mount Arbel**, a very steep mountain overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Dug into the slopes of Mount Arbel are caves which were hideouts for the Jews who fought against the Greeks and Romans. This mountain depicted a hiding place, a get-away. When we finally reached the top, the view was breathtaking! It was spacious, and we were alone, without distraction. It was here that we sang and worshipped freely with shofars and scarves. We took turns loudly proclaiming Psalm 90:1-2 over Israel and the world in several languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, and Hebrew. It reads, *"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God"* (ESV version). As we prayed and declared God's sovereignty over the world, we stood as representatives of the nations who will submit to His Lordship. There was a heavy presence of God (*kavod*) on that mountain. We stood in silence and awe of His glory.



Driving to our last high place, **Mount Carmel**, we asked the Lord to guide us to any divine appointments He might have for us. Upon arriving, we discovered that the entrance through the Carmelite Monastery was closed. We saw a couple and followed them toward another path. This path led to a very confined and uneven place with lots of trees, but we found a small space to view the magnificent Jezreel Valley. It is said that the great Battle of Armageddon will take place somewhere in this valley. We sat down with the Jewish couple, Yosi (Joseph) and Lily, and began conversing. He was born in Israel, and she made aliyah from Argentina. They asked where each of us were from and our reason for being in Israel. We explained to them that as Christians we had a love for God and His Chosen People. During our conversation, we told them that our purpose for being on Mount Carmel was to pray for the nation of Israel and its people. They gave us permission to pray blessings over them. We prayed in English, but when Enrique prayed over Lily in Spanish it deeply impacted her; she had tears in her eyes. As they left Yosi said, "This was not an accident; God had you meet us here today." I am expecting the Lord to continue speaking to them in dreams and visions.



Our plan was to be videoed reading aloud the story of Elijah and the contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. However, as soon as Yosi and Lily left, another couple came and sat down making it impossible to video that portion. The man, Dan, saw that we were about to read scripture and said, "Oh, I know you are going to read from the *additional book*." Maggie spoke to him in Hebrew and said, "No, we will be reading from your scriptures, the Tanakh, from 1 Kings 18:20-39." Dan found the scripture on his phone and followed along for the entire reading which ended with these words, "*The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!*" After Dan left, we sensed that we had completed what God sent us to do. We pray that Dan and many others will be not only hearers, but doers of God's word, and that their understanding will be enlightened. We felt like Paul who said, "*I planted the seed, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. So neither the planter nor the waterer is anything, only God who makes things grow*" (1 Corinthians 3:6-7 CJB). We pray that the seed of the word of God will grow in the lives of those who hear it.

To our dear supporters, we again say, "*Thank you*" for your prayers and contributions. You make these encounters possible. We are part of the same Body of Yeshua, and we cannot function without you. May the Lord fill you to overflowing because of your generosity in giving your time, effort, resources, and prayers for His kingdom. Shalom!

Linda McMurray Project Supervisor



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Project First Fruits

***“They asked only [one thing], that we remember the poor, the very thing I was also eager to do”
Galatians 2:10 (AMP).***

This month with the First Fruits project at CFI, we were able to assist believers in very different situations, thanks again to your prayers and generosity. With the help of a vibrant Messianic congregation in Kfar Saba, we met **Ilona** and young mother of six who migrated from Kazakhstan, only to suffer abuse, to her husband’s shame. We immediately distributed food vouchers to her, as we agree with her in prayer for one of the younger boys who must undergo surgery to remove shrapnel from his skull, due to stray bullet fired by her husband during a drunken “episode” in the home. This Russian speaking lady is a brand new believer in Messiah. Help us encourage her further as we dig deeper into her overall needs in her home.



Kfar Saba leaders



Nawal widow (Nazareth)

We became acquainted with 2 families in the north by Pastor Saba of Good Shepherd Baptist-Nazareth. First, we spoke with **Nawal** who has 2 adult children in the home that lost income due to COVID. The daughter was a paramedic, but her duties were connected with extracurricular school activities; for the last 18 months there have not been enough of those. Her son has day laborer skills, but is battling psoriasis/eczema on a level that to date has been barely treatable which has contributed to his low self-esteem due to physical appearance. We will assist with vouchers, rent support and utility support immediately.

The other family are the **Attas** one Egyptian male and one Samaritan female who endure feeling out of place even among Arab speaking believers; (“the south” vs. “the north”,) who are in reality Lebanese-Aramaic in descent and faith heritage. The oldest son will receive assistance from us to complete special education training. We pray for the success of the restaurant they just opened, which allowed us to partake of their excellent hospitality and cuisine that has a distinctive Egyptian flavor and which will allow them a niche in the north.

“So the helpless have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth” Job 5:16 (AMP).

The distinction I mention above is between Arabs and the Aramean or Maronite population that live close the Lebanese border in Jish, Meron and soon hopefully Baram again. Major Shadi Khalloul of the Aramean Society/Center educates regarding the distinct differences in these histories, especially with respect to relationship to Israel and Jews through a camp for young people held annually. CFI provided t-shirts and will provide reimbursement for the transportation that was necessary to bring these Aramean youths to the 4-day event where they get an honest historical perspective; which does not happen in



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many Arab-speaking schools in the land, even Christian. We will do what we can to bring other believers this same perspective by welcoming Shadi and his brother to CFI later this year for teaching and interviews.



We are building relationships! We are making His Name great because of your diligence and hearts for Israeli believers!

Kim Brunson Project Supervisor



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Project Hope For The Future

The new school year in Israel 2021 will begin as expected, which is the best news for many families and children wanting to see teachers and classmates again. After such an unforeseeable year of homeschool and zoom classrooms, many families in the Ethiopian community were walloped financially and unable to meet the financial needs of primary family care. The bigger picture is to meet the needs of a community with children by helping to purchase supplies for each student in every family! **Hope for the Future's** primary concern exhibits benevolent, well-thought-out acts to bring peace, which may seem impossible financially.

The families in Kiryat Gat are deficient regarding jobs, with single mothers who have no help in their homes and the head of household or husbands with low-paying jobs trying to support the entire family. We felt that it was vital the young students begin their school year with new book bags and essential supplies to do their schoolwork. We are continually thankful for our relationship with the community leader, Mr. Averham, who knows each family. He is such a blessing! They confidently reveal all their needs and family issues to him, which cuts down a lot of the red tape work for me.



Hope for the Future was able to help the students by gender and grade level. Hope for the Future made sure that each young person had a nice backpack with a great pencil holder, glue, pencils, and writing notebooks for their grade level. What a blessing it was to see the smiles on the faces of the young people and their parents. I think what may remain in my memory is the sight of one parent who was so delighted by the benevolence displayed that she kneeled in a posture of prayer to say thank you! That was a little too much, but I understand their culture and the African way of bowing low to extend respect. Acts of kindness can supersede our natural understanding; how families are impacted within communities, ultimately change society. Thanks to each one of you for being a world changer. We were able to 'love on' four families and fifteen children. With a small portion, we were able to move their mountain!

Marcia Brunson Project Coordinator



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