

# *For Zion's Sake*

Third Quarter 2014 Jewish Year 5774

## **He Did Not Bow!**

*“And all the king’s servants, that were in the king’s gate, bowed...but Mordecai bowed not...” (Esther 3:2).*



*Christian Friends of Israel*

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# For Zion's Sake

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## Director's Letter



Ray Sanders, Executive Director

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*"And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, behold, thou art with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren"* (Genesis 16:10-12).

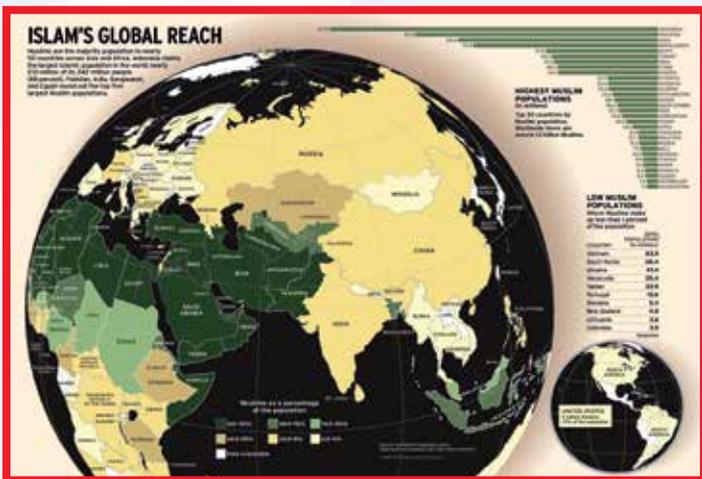
These prophetic words to Hagar continue to reverberate down through the corridors of time to this present day. We are witnessing the radicalization of Islam far beyond the Middle East with dire consequences for the Western world. Many are simply in denial, being unaware of the long-term goals of Islam—ultimate world domination. In order to crystallize these Islamic goals, I would like to quote from an article by Amir Taheri that recently appeared in the June 14th issue of *The New York Post*, entitled, "The Mad Dream of a Dead Empire That Unites Islamic Rebels."

This title seems a bit daunting but it is crucial to understand how the world today is viewed through Islamic eyes. "The revivalists divide the world into three sections. The first consists of the 57 Muslim-majority countries that form the Islamic Conference Organizations. They would form the core of the "dream caliphate."

"The next section covers countries and regions that were once, even if briefly, ruled by Muslims. These include Russia from Siberia to the Black Sea, including Crimea, Bulgaria, Romania, parts of Poland and Hungary, the Balkans, Greece and all the Mediterranean islands, parts of Italy, almost the whole of the Iberian Peninsula, and parts of Southwestern France. To those must be added northern India and China east of Lanzhou. This second segment would have to be recaptured for the caliphate as soon as possible.

"The third section consists of regions and countries that were never under Muslim rule. These include Japan, much of Indochina and more importantly, the whole of the American continent. The latter group of nations would be invited to pay a tribute to the revived Islamic caliphate in exchange for maintaining their independence pending the next round of *ghazavat* (religious warfare)."

When I first read this article I began asking myself, can this really become a reality? Can one religion really hope to dominate the world through death and destruction? I did not have to look far to receive my answer in the midst of a growing turbulent Middle East.



New Caliphate borders being defined by Islamic civil war

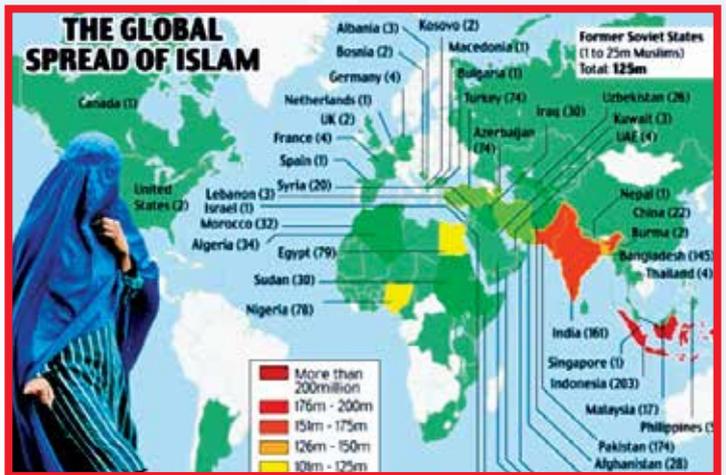
In a June 15th analysis article in *The Times of Israel* entitled, "Turmoil Blurring Mideast Borders," the authors provide helpful insights into recent developments that are reshaping historical borders which existed for nearly a century. These borders are now being defined by civil wars, sectarian bloodshed and leadership failures that threaten to rip apart the Middle East map.

In the decades since independence, Arab governments have held these constructs together, in part by imposing an autocratic hand, despite the sometimes combustible mix of peoples within their borders. But in recent history—particularly the three years of Arab Spring—turmoil has been unleashed with old allegiances and hatreds that run deep and cross borders. The animosity between Shiites and Sunnis, the rival branches of Islam, may run the deepest of all. The unrest is redefining Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya—nations born after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Already quasi-states are forming.

For the al-Qaeda breakaway group that overran parts of Iraq, the border between that country and Syria where it is also fighting, may as well not even have been there. The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, wants to establish a Shariah-ruled mini-state bridging both countries, in effect uniting a Sunni heartland across the center of the Mideast.

Other potential de facto states are easy to see on the horizon: a Kurdish one in Northeast Iraq, and perhaps another in Northeast Syria; a rump Syrian state (the remnant of a once larger state) based around Damascus, neighboring cities and the Mediterranean coast—the heartland of President Bashar Assad's minority Alawite sect; and a Shiite-dominated Iraq truncated to Baghdad and points south.

Fawaz Gerges, a professor at the London School of Economics, sees an ongoing, violent process to reshape government systems that have been unable to address sectarian and ethnic differences and provide for their publics. "The current order is in tatters," he said. "More and more and more people are coming to realize that the system as it is organized, as it is structured, is imploding." Gerges said the dissatisfaction over the current order is generating debate over what the new Mideast should look like.



For the Islamic State and other extremists, there should be a *caliph*—a ruler implementing Islamic law. Others want the Levant unified as it was under the Ottomans, but under Arab rule. Others dream of something resembling the European Union.

Creating federalist systems in the existing states has been touted as a cure. Effectively, it's a controlled decentralization: Give ethnically or religiously distinct regions enough autonomy to meet yearnings for self-identity while still being part of a cohesive state.

## Watch for New Time Zones

The Americans infused that idea into Iraq's post Saddam Hussein constitution, and some have called for it in Libya as well. "But there is also resistance among governments and some in the public who fear 'federalism' is a code word for dismembering their country."

The volatility of events in Israel, the Middle East and beyond is a clear indication we are rapidly moving into a new "time zone of world history." In all the death, destruction and turmoil, we must not take our eyes off the Lord's goal of end-time redemption for all of mankind. Let us encourage each other all the more as we await the soon coming of the Lord Jesus! ***"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1).***

Sincerely in His mercy,

*Ray Sanders*

Ray Sanders, Executive Director/International Director  
 Christian Friends of Israel—Jerusalem



By Sharon Sanders

# HE DID NOT BOW!

***“And all the king’s servants, that were in the king’s gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence...”*** (Esther 3:2).

***“It was in the days of Ahasuerus, a Persian king who governed over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India all the way to Ethiopia”*** (Esther 1:1). During the third year of his kingdom rule, Ahasuerus decided to make a display of his wealth to nobles and princes of the provinces under his jurisdiction.

I remember, as a child, our family lived in the American midwest prairie state of Illinois, a rich agricultural area consisting of fertile farmland. Most of the farms were “Scully leases,” which meant nearly all the farms, in our county, were owned by one wealthy land owner from the United Kingdom. My father, one of the tenant farmers, along with our family, were often invited to the land owner’s estate in nearby Lincoln, Illinois. The invitation was to view his stately mansion and his display of wealth. We always wore our finest clothing and viewed the myriads luscious flower gardens, manicured lawns, and elegant tables filled with the finest foods. It was a sight to behold.

It helps me to imagine the scene of splendor revealed to the eyes of the nobles in King Ahasuerus’ kingdom when they caught a glimpse of the king’s royal fortune. After the showcase display and banquet, Mordecai, the Jew, passed a message to the king of the devastating plot of two eunuchs (Bigthana and Teresh) whom he had overheard plotting to kill the monarch. After the king confronted the eunuchs, they were hung. King Ahasuerus then appointed Haman, the son of an Agagite, to be his Chief Advisor. (It is important to note here that an Agagite is a descendant of Agag, the king of the Amalekites, the greatest anti-Semite of the ancient world.) (1 Samuel 15:7,8,9,32,33).

## Mordecai’s Allegiance to God

One day the King granted Haman the honor of riding a royal horse through the streets of Shusan so that the people could see that he had been promoted. Of course, the custom was that the common people were expected to bow to this newly appointed lord of Ahasuerus’ kingdom. After investigating Haman’s history from reliable Jewish sources, I found that Haman had an idolatrous image embroidered on his garments, so that those who bowed to him...bowed also to the image. Everyone submitted to the bowing down of their heads to the king’s new advisor except one...one person stood out – Mordecai, the Jew.

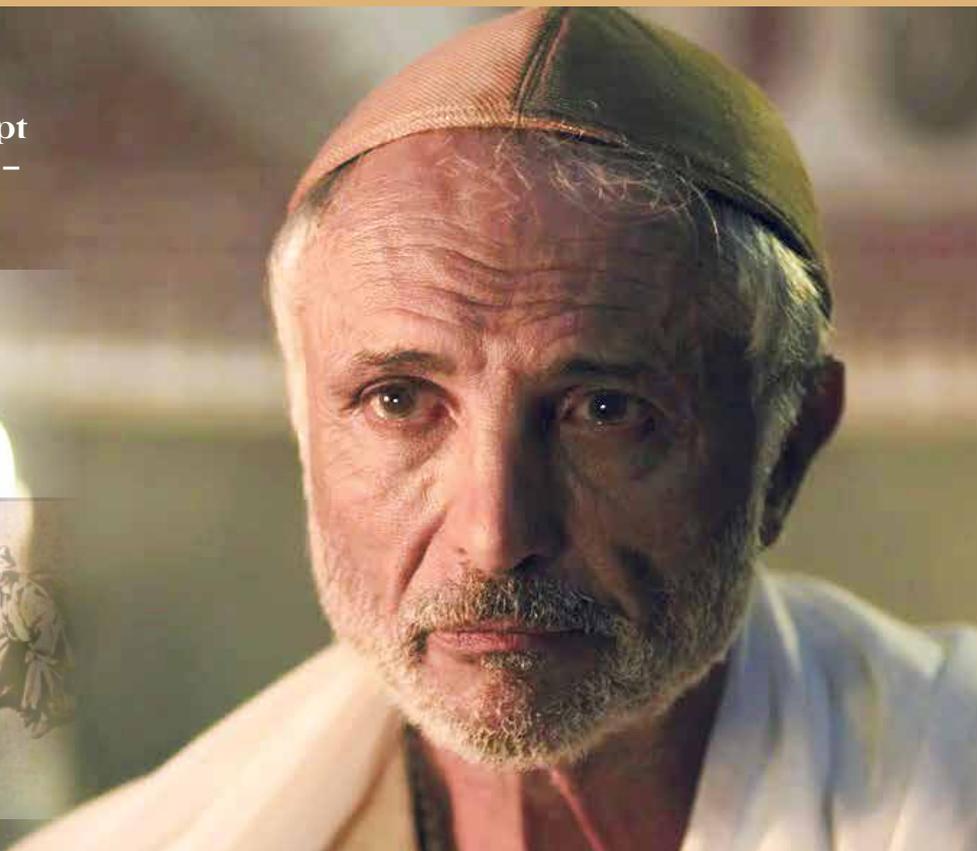
What happened next was typical of Haman. His distinctive character quality was one of violent anger. After returning to his chamber in the King’s court, Haman could not forget seeing this one man whom he passed standing upright. His personal rage at this defiance, drove him to plot to exterminate all of the Jews throughout the king’s domain. Haman was a known astrologer at that time and fixed the time of the massacre



Modern day Hamas announced on the internet during Operation Protective Shield “Do not agree to cease fire until they bow before us” (Kuwati Cleric Suwaidan) MEMRI YouTube Video, July 22, 2014.

“All bowed down their heads to the king’s new advisor except for one...one person stood out – Mordecai, the Jew.”

But Mordecai bowed not... by James Shaw Crompton (1853 – 1916)



of the Jews to a most auspicious day. Then he selected a thorn-tree in the king’s garden and, setting it up before his door, he said to himself, “Tomorrow, in the morning, at the time of the reading of the ‘Shema,’ I shall hang Mordecai” (*Jewish Encyclopedia, 1906*).

What a humiliating experience it must have been for Haman when his plans were exposed to the king. God brought to the mind of the king what Mordechai had done to save his life. He then ordered Haman to parade Mordechai through the streets while Mordechai sat upon the royal horse. Jewish sources again tell us that before Mordechai mounted the horse, Haman was compelled to bend forward, so that Mordechai might mount from his back onto the animal. This Biblical account reveals the principle that those who plot evil against the Jews, will eventually end up having the tables turned on themselves.

The ancient principle and a promise of Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless My People” surfaced and Haman was eventually hanged on the very gallows where he had hoped to finish off Mordecai. His unwillingness to bow to a man, whom he knew bowed to idolatrous gods, is admirable. His devotion to his personal religious convictions were clearly seen as unmoveable allegiance to God Almighty.

Christians in Iraq and Syria are being beheaded for their faith because they are not bowing to Islam (Revelation 20:4).

## Those Who Did Not Bow

Daniel was another Godly Jewish man who did not bow to King Nebuchadnezzar. He chose the fiery furnace rather than to bow down to the king’s statue in worship. He and two other God-fearing Jews are mentioned in the New Testament as those who stood alone “**not afraid of the King’s commandment**” (Hebrew 11:23, 24).

## Will Christians Today Bow?

There is a lesson to be learned for those who follow Jesus as Lord—for it is not the end—it is just the beginning—of the valley of decision for all of us. Will we bow to the spirit of anti-Semitism so prevalent in the world? Will we stand erect against bowing to another god (as Mordecai) or as August Landmesser when Hitler paraded before public rallies? During WWII any resistance to the Nazis was seen as treason. Many Christians yielded by going along with the evils of Nazism rather than to risk their lives for the Chosen Ones. **The courage of the few made the many look like cowards.** Why are Christians afraid of risking our lives for someone else? Didn’t our Master say we would be “**with Him**” if a life threatening situation arose? (2 Corinthians 5:8). The Bible says, “**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends**” (John 15:13).





## The Man Who Did Not Salute

“...a German, August Landmesser...did not salute to Hitler during a public rally in 1936. He overrode the anti-Semitism that swept throughout the country. He paid a price, but he stood alone...he did not bow. (<http://all-that-is-interesting.com/august-landmesser-no-salute-hitler>).



He did not bow

While it is obtrusive but widely found in today’s media world blatant anti-Semitism is rarely stood against. Perhaps the adage, “**It is better to be a fool for what is right than to be applauded by the crowd,**” should be more deeply ingrained in many of us. The worldwide swelling of anti-Semitic demonstrations in a number of nations have multiplied as the Jewish people are portrayed as metaphors of evil.

There is an imperative need to continue to educate the Church about the history of Christendom toward the Jewish people. An alarm bell continues to ring when we hear of our seminaries, theological institutes, and Bible schools teaching our future leaders with an obvious absence of a Hebraic root view of the Bible. It is the original language of the Scriptures! Pastoral institutions are, for the most part, espousing “Replacement Theology” which only produces a stronger emphasis of further disconnection from Israel. The halls of Christian education are in need of another reformation, of improvement from anti-Semitic doctrines and practices. We need to pray for this!

I was recently quite shocked to learn that Stalin, Lenin, and Hitler, in their early lives, had a connection to Christianity. They all attended **Christian seminaries**

(albeit if for short periods). Stalin was raised in the Georgian Orthodox Christian faith and attended Tiflis Spiritual Seminary in Tbilisi. Lenin was baptized and married in a Russian Orthodox church. Hitler was raised by a devout Catholic mother, and baptized as an infant. As far as we know, he still remains on the roll as a baptized convert to the Roman Catholic church. He even participated in the sacraments in later life. What an indictment on the “Church.”

**GOD IS AT WORK:** Israel today is moving closer to fulfilling their God-given destiny. I see glimpses of that future event with statements such as, “It’s our turn to lead.” That means we are coming closer to the Messianic era. After all, their very existence gives testimony to the Orchestrator of History who is moving the pieces of the end time prophetic puzzle into place. As in a chess game, there are a few pieces left on the board to be positioned. Our choice will be, “what role will each of us play in this unfolding scenario?” Will we be blockers? We must choose our responses carefully. For victory to happen, it will take courage. It will test our ability to face danger or uncertainty, even pain, without being overcome by fear. It will be the mark of an overcomer. Some will be required to set aside fear and display courageous actions for the good of the Jewish people. May the urgency of the hour galvanize us to swim against the tide, if necessary, of Judeophobia. It may take iron wills but we must not repeat the mistakes of yesterday’s “Christian” history!

When the Jewish people were, for the most part, abandoned by the nations during WWII, I wonder how many stopped to think about how Jesus must also have suffered the pain of rejection of His People. “**In all their affliction He was afflicted**” (Isaiah 63:9). Yeshua gave cautionary advance warning to New Testament students when He said “**Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these, My Brethren, you did it unto Me**” (Matthew 25:40). He was inferring that the level one treats His People, it would then be reciprocated by the measure of “as if you did it unto Me.” When the historical Church turned against the Jewish people they, in essence, turned their faces away from Jesus (Isaiah 63:9). However, a recent example of the same attitude of history was written in a letter to my husband. A pastor said “you know, Jesus *stopped being a Jew* on the Cross!” I wonder what He became. Did He convert at the last moment? Has this man of the cloth read the last words Jesus spoke in the Book of Revelation? “**I Jesus...am the root and the offspring of David...**” (Revelation 22:16)...a reminder in the New Testament, “don’t forget I am a Jew!”





The Triumph of Mordecai, from The Story of Esther, c. 1475

Haman's pride against the Jews was his downfall

## A Shield to the Jews

When Jewish neighbors came under the strong arm of the Nazis, too many Christians turned and walked away. The Jewish neighbors had hoped for and silently expected the followers of Jesus to act differently.

Upon arriving in Israel, in 1985, a Holocaust survivor pushed away from me saying, "Don't come near me. Your people pulled down the shades and closed the doors on my people...I don't want anything to do with you." It took her years to learn to trust me. Eventually, she saw I was not like the Christians she encountered during WWII. It took years of patience for her to see the difference. Then she began to see a true follower of Jesus.

"I once met a Swedish missionary who had worked in France...he told me that he had visited a prison near Marseilles...where the French Huguenots (Protestants of that time) had been imprisoned for their faith...the missionary told of one prisoner who had engraved in the stone of the dungeon one single word: resister...I believe that God is speaking those words to us...I pray that God...will put steel in your soul and give you a spiritual backbone if you don't already have one" (Derek Prince, Foundational Teaching, February 2003). Derek's words ring clear today. Our witness to the Jewish people must never be marred again!

An Orthodox Jewish friend from Efrat, said recently "My own involvement in Jewish-Christian relations began 13 years ago...the more I learn, the more I am amazed by...Christians who stand with the Jewish people and their Homeland State...(these Christian Zionists)...how is it that some Christians overcome such thoroughly ingrained thinking (of Christian anti-Semitism)...and yet they do. They are a gift to the Jewish people" (David Nekrutman). **"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the People of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"** (Hebrews 11:28).

In June, 2014, three Israeli Jewish boys were kidnapped and killed by Hamas extremists. Before realizing they had been murdered, the three mothers of the abducted boys traveled to the United Nations in Geneva to make a plea for their boys in light of the deafening silence

of the world against such an immoral act. The mothers, Rachel Frenkel, Iris Yifrach and Bat-Galim Shaer had expected that someone—even if only one person—would approach them to share in their pain and to condemn the heinous crime. No one shook their hands nor gave a word of comfort. One of the mothers said "...in Geneva there is not a single righteous person in the Sodom of the UN...the Human Rights Council is a mirror of the world." The mothers left the UN standing alone. CFI will be visiting those mothers soon showing our support during their time of sorrow.

## Standing Like "Mordecai"

Canada's Prime Minister, Mr. Stephen Harper, was inspired by the spirit of Mordecai and pledged Canada's ongoing support for the Jewish state. The supreme leader of Canada said no to abandonment and boycotts of the Jewish state. He has positioned his country for the blessing of God. What an example. **"Those who honor me, I will honor!"** (1 Samuel 2:30; Psalm 15:4).

In Bible history, the spirit of Mordecai inspired Esther (Hadassah) to courageously stand up in defense of her people by assuring her that the God of Israel would deliver His People, one way or another but she had been given an opportunity to fit the time frame. Likewise, we who follow Jesus, are now being given opportunities to stand and support the nation of Israel. **"...if you are silent at this time, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place...and who knows if you have come to the royal palace for such a time as this"** (Esther 4:14).

Mordecai displayed steel in his soul and spiritual backbone. He knew he could bow only to the Almighty. Will our convictions be strong enough to give our souls some steel? Is our spiritual backbone filled with moral fiber and muscle to witness to true Christian character? Will we stand upright when the world seems to be intent on pushing us down? Rabbi Eliezer Melamed recently was encouraged by some of the support coming in to Israel. He said, "...evangelical Christians stand like a brick wall in our defense, ranging from supporting the vision of the return to Zion, backing the settlement of the Land...and strengthening the State of Israel...they are Righteous Gentiles and should be more exalted than Cyrus."

While none of us desire exaltation of any kind, the question remains will today's Church be like Haman and betray the Jewish people as did the Church of history? We can stand together today and make a statement: **"We Will Not Bow!"** The once beautiful cherub who fell from heaven, (satan) must have stared cunningly and deceitfully into the face of Our Lord Jesus, when on the Mt. of Temptation, he said, **"...all these things I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me"** (Matthew 4:9). The answer of Yeshua to his demand to bow must be our response: **"...get away...it is written, thou shall worship the Lord Thy God, and Him only shall you serve"** (Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20; Matthew 4:10). The choice will, of course, remain ours.





Ray Sanders  
assisting  
with needs

## THE ROOT AND THE FRUIT

**THE HISTORY** of CFI's First Fruits Department is one with a distinctive beginning. As a family, tithing to the local church has always been a priority for the Sanders' family. All of our lives, we have enjoyed the pleasure of giving "back to God" whatever came into our hands...what a privilege to bless the Creator of the Universe for all He gives us daily.

It spurred us in the beginning of CFI to tithe on all "undesignated funds" to other ministries in the Land. We did this for many years for pastors who were having difficulties, to churches and congregations who were getting started and had needs, to fledgling ministries as they were just starting, giving believers in the Land a start in a new venture or career in their lives (many now flourishing in their businesses) and assisting those who had nowhere else to turn for help in their walk with God.

Finally, the needs became so great we opened up our "**First Fruits**" Department at CFI and today we still continue to minister to the needs of the Household of Faith in Israel today. Someone said "Tithing is not just a need of money but of priorities. God does not want your leftovers. He wants your "First Fruits" (Word for Today Devotional). It is also said, "If we are not 10% behind something, then how can we be 100%?"

### Cooperating With God

First Fruits partners with God to push His Kingdom forward, building His and not our Kingdom. Everything in life comes with a price tag, and being a believer has its trials here in the Middle East. **Investing today in the accounts of those who follow Jesus is a good investment to make.** We have shared value with them, God-given purposes and strength from God in covering those, in the Lord, with their problems. These are our brothers.

They became believers long before they came to CFI. Many are born in Israel, and others come from other nations; they are Orthodox Christians, Christian Arabs, Gentile pastors and congregations and Messianic Jewish.

You can help us pour into the lives of those God loves of the Household of Faith in Israel today. It is great to see the happiness on the faces of those who gave up all to come to Israel, as followers of Christ, and ran into a multitude of problems and trials. Often walking down the streets of Jerusalem, we are approached by someone who invariably says, "Thank you...for First Fruits, for CFI, who helped us so much when we really needed help." This is not flattery nor compliment, but it is God-given unity. Over twenty-five years of helping others to give glory to God is the legacy.

### How Do We Assist?

Some have no employment, are ill or suffer physically, have emergency needs, need transport, or assistance in paying overdue bills, congregational needs of pastors and leaders, congregations have needs, emotional therapy treatments for the abused, aid for single parent families, those who have suffered accidents, serious diseases, cancer treatment—all of God's children who love the Lord needing special loving care. Won't you prayerfully consider helping us to continue to fertilize the ground of believers so that the roots of their faith will bear more fruit? **Faith is the ROOT of salvation.** You can help a faith-filled believer, through your generosity and kindness, thus proving *your* FRUIT of salvation!

By **Ray Sanders**, Project First Fruits Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

# PURPOSE: PERFORMANCE + VICTORY

*"I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust!" Psalm 91: 2 (NKJV).*

**Tenacity of Purpose in Performing Missions and Drive to Victory – The IDF servicemen and women will fight and conduct themselves with courage in the face of all dangers and obstacles; They will persevere in their missions resolutely and thoughtfully even to the point of endangering their lives.**

**THE APRIL 10, 1948** decision by the Arab League to invade the new Jewish state a month later, was very much a rule changer in the eyes of the world pertaining to the modern history of international conflicts. But for Israel, with a pending Arab invasion, the re-established Jewish State was only reminded of the fact that some things never change. While most nations merely protect their borders, it was not new to the Jewish people that her enemies would deny the very existence of Israel and her people.

That same reminder that the IDF has a PURPOSE is still very evident today. The mission of the IDF is to be victorious in its daily pursuits. If not driven to perform successfully, then the IDF purpose would be in vain. Their tenacity, along with God's help, allows for the necessary courage to overcome dangers and obstacles placed in their way. Christian Friends of Israel and Project David's Shield strive to stand on the front lines with these brave warriors. We encourage them with our words of appreciation, gifts of love and a message of solidarity. After all, we couldn't be here and living with a sense of security without their efforts.

During a recent visit to an army base in Samaria, we were blessed to provide gifts of comfort to a unit specializing in both rescue efforts, and providing comfort assistance to victims of terrorism. We were allowed the privilege of expressing our support with inspirational dances performed by a Christian dance company. The effort and sacrifice the dancers exhibited was very much appreciated, and a time of mutual respect was very evident.

We also were privileged to hear how one of the soldiers made his decision to serve in the Israeli army as a lone soldier (a Jewish young man or woman who is a citizen from another country). He told us he had come to the realization that in his life he had been only a receiver - his family, edu-

**A recruit educates us and the dance group about the IDF code of ethics**



Jim McKenzie, David's Shield Coordinator, encouraging IDF soldiers

cation, society - and he felt compelled to give of himself to something that had PURPOSE - defending the one and only Jewish state of Israel. With passion and pride he shared with us his dedication to serve his people.

As we spent more time with them, a couple of the soldiers felt compelled to read to the group from the "IDF Code of Ethics" that each soldier carries in their pocket. As they shared with the group the high standard of values that the Israel Defense Forces adhere to, it was almost as if they felt they needed to defend themselves or convince the group that the job they perform is both moral and carried out with integrity. They sensed the sincerity of our support, and we assured them that not only do we agree with their mandate to protect the land of Israel and the Jewish people, but that we do our best to also **share the truth** of what is happening on the ground in Israel while world media is spreading lies and propaganda.

Recently the IDF responded to missile after missile barrage from HAMAS in Gaza. Providing comfort items to the troops on the front lines is an honor and a privilege for Project David's Shield. **If you would like to be a part of the practical support of these physical guardians of Israel, please mark your donation 'David's Shield.'** Because of the generous gifts given for the soldiers, we are able to not only deliver supplies they need, but also the encouragement they truly need. Thank you for your prayers for these brave men and women as they protect this Holy Land.

By **Jim McKenzie**, Project David's Shield Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

# On the Road to Death

***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).***

**IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE** for the Forsake Them Not team to visit Holocaust survivors in their home, and build close relationships with them. Boris is one of our older friends who agreed to share his heart-breaking story with us.

*“I was 11 years old when all the Jews from my small village of Sekureny [Ukraine], including my parents, three brothers and two sisters, were told to gather by the cemetery. We never returned to our homes because the long and exhausting march began, under the cruel command of German soldiers, in an unknown direction with many people from different towns and villages joining us along the way. We drank water from the rain pools and ate everything that we were able to find in the open fields during our stops. Those who were too weak to move forward or fell behind were shot! During one stop, my mother and middle brother fell ill with dysentery and were too weak to carry on. My older brother wanted to carry her on his back, but a guard hit him with a machine gun butt and commanded him to leave her alone. The same fate befell my brother Shalom. We were forced to leave him on the bank of the river Dniester.*

*In December, we arrived at a village near Vinnitsa. There we were all driven into an overcrowded stable, where people were sleeping on the earth floor without bedding. It was very cold and drafty. Five members of my family were still together and I slept next to my father. I tried to give him a sweet, but his jaws were closed. I had not realized that he had quietly passed away. Some men came later with a stretcher and took his body away.*

*We continued our sorrowful journey with snow beating on our faces and cold winter wind blowing through our thin clothes. At our next stop we were placed into one very narrow room with earth flooring. Many of us fell ill with typhus. My two sisters died suddenly and were buried in a mass grave. Until today, I never learned where the graves of my beloved family are. I survived, and needing to provide food for myself, walked through deep snow begging for a piece of bread. The living conditions were terrible – lice, dirt, lack of space and no water to wash yourself.*

*When the spring came, the peasants needed workers in their fields. An old man took me to his farm where he forced me to work very hard herding cows and working the fields. Sekureny was liberated in March 1944. My brother and I took a train and returned to our father’s house, but only the walls remained.”* Boris came to Israel in 1991. Today he is 84 years old, but is still very active in helping other survivors. His wife died last summer after being together for almost 60 years.

**Thank you for your financial gifts of love, sent to bless and encourage Holocaust Survivors in their twilight years.**

By **Olga Kopilova**, Forsake Them Not Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



Poppa and Boris (on right)



***“We drank water from the rain pools and ate everything that we were able to find....”***  
**Today he is 84 years old and helps survivors.**



The long and difficult journey



July 18, 2014, Jewish Telegraph, World News section (page 17).

# Admitting The Truth

**WHOEVER** the anti-Israel voice was who gave a statement to the Jewish Telegraph, I do not think he realized what he was admitting when his lips spoke the words, "Their God Changes the Path of Our Rockets in Mid-Air." In essence, this terrorist analyzed the recent war by recognizing miracles were happening over Israel and their Islamic belief was being challenged.

Perhaps another way to say what he said would be "the God of Israel, whom they (the Jews) worship is more powerful than the God of Islam because we've seen His Power at work.... He is so strong He can take our rockets and missiles we have produced to destroy Israel and send them 'off course' of our intended target." May he be a first fruit of many followers of Islam who begin to be set free from the evil deception of Islamic fanatical ideology.

## Many More Awaken to Truth

May they come to the full knowledge of the truth regarding the One True God...the God of the Jews. As Christians, we firmly believe that true peace will not come to the Middle East until the true Prince of Peace arrives to usher shalom in during His Reign in the Kingdom to come. However, the admission above which appeared in recent headlines... is a good starting place. May many more awaken to truth!

As a ministry of committed Christians from around the world on the CFI Staff, we have raised our voices for such a time as this for Israeli soldiers. Fighting a war they did not want to have to fight was not easy! Living in the midst of the conflict, realizing the situation on the ground, we echo Sara Rigler's words that the Jewish Army is an army formed not to fight with nations but to defend itself against its aggressors and those who wish to see her destruction. Eighteen thousand Israeli soldiers amassed on the border of Gaza the week of July 20th, waiting for an order to go in and locate and clear out multitudes of infiltration tunnels and launching pads built by Hamas terrorists.



IDF caring for a wounded soldier

**The Commander of Givati infantry, sent a letter to his soldiers (translated).**

*"Dear Officers and Fighters, It is a big honor that feel to our portion is to be and to serve in the unit of Givati... history chose us to be at the tip of the spear of fighting the terrorist Gaza enemy that provoked and taunted the God of Israel's battalions...(he uses words from the Biblical account of David fighting Goliath)...we accept upon ourselves the mission, as emissaries and from a place of total humility. We are willing to endanger ourselves and give up our lives for the sake of protecting our families and our nation and our heritage...I'm counting on you...that you will act in this spirit of Israeli warriors...I raise my eyes to the heavens and call out with you, "Shema Yisrael, Hashem Elokenu, Hashem Echad Hashem, the God of Israel..." we are standing to fight for Your Nation of Israel against an enemy that taunts Your Name...it should be that what it says in the Torah should be fulfilled by us: "Because God your Lord Who is going with you to fight for you against your enemies, to redeem you." And let us say, "Amen."*

*(Ofer Winter, Commander of Givati Division)*

The IDF is the only army which has employed efforts meant to minimize injury, including warning leaflets, phone calls, and non-lethal warning fire. While her enemies love death, the Israeli Army fights for life. They are a mighty army, they are strong because of GOD ALMIGHTY...He truly is the God who can change the course of rockets!  
**Even a terrorist cannot deny that truth!**

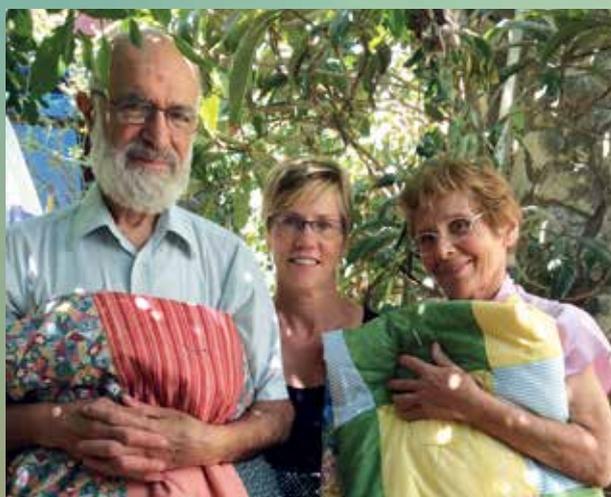
## A Story Behind Every Face



Bringing joy to lonely lives



Receiving a personal prayer shawl



Blankets of love made by Christians



WWII Russian War Veterans drop by CFI



At one time in his life he was needed

**STREAMS OF BLESSING** team members continually visit elderly Jewish people who have passed through horrible experiences in life. The stories they tell are powerful and touch the heart. Our goal is to develop deeper relationships and share our love for them.

### Gregory's Ordeal in Kazakhstan

Gregory told his story of being transported in cattle cars to Siberia where they lived in prison house conditions. He lived in a goat shed where he contracted typhus. He tenderly speaks of his 10th birthday when he received, for his present, a piece of white bread and an apple. His wife, Bella, recalled the anti-Semitism she experienced after working for a clinic for 7 years as a dentist. She was terminated for no other reason than being Jewish. They both told us "we were robbed of our identity – we didn't know who we were." They experienced what the prophet Isaiah had spoken thousands of years before. ***"But this is a people robbed and spoiled...they are hid in prison houses..."*** (Isaiah 42:22).

### Alexander Slept on a Trunk

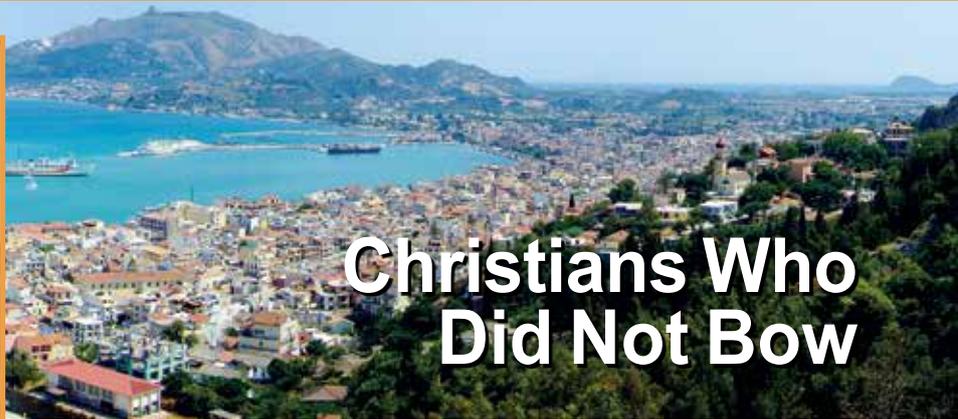
Alexander and his wife also told us how they endured their own unimaginable hardships. He tells of a wooden barracks they lived in...a 6 meter room housed a single bed and a desk, Alexander slept on a trunk...they lived hand to mouth. Once his food stamps were stolen from him...**Alexander wrote in his book, "The horrors of war experienced by a child do not disappear from memory, they are hiding somewhere in the darkest corners of your mind so that later, after many years they are recalled to mind at the most unexpected moment..."**

By Jackie Nelson, Streams of Blessing Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



Chaim Constantinidis with his wife



# Christians Who Did Not Bow

**CHAIM CONSTANTINIDIS** was 11 at the time...he is one of the few living members of the Greek island, Zakynthos' Jewish community to remember those days... he states:...we did not want to believe it. We couldn't believe that people could inflict so much suffering on other people. We had never harmed anyone...we realized that our time was coming. But even then we were so close and attached to the Christians that we were waiting for them to tell us what to do, to protect us...I will never forget those people who risked their lives to save us.

"In 1971, I went to visit unannounced. I knocked on the door. Sofia Saki opened; her husband Spyros had died. When she realized who I was she started sobbing. She wouldn't let me out of her arms...Zakynthos is the most beautiful place in the world...and you know what they call Zakynthos? The island of the just. In elementary school history classes children are taught how the Christians there saved 175 Jewish souls..." by Tassoula Eptakili, Holocaust Studies, Aish.com.

In the late spring of 1944...the mission of the SS squads was to round up all of the members of the Jewish community in the region of Zakynthos, ...and sail them to...

Patra, where they would be transferred onto trains for Auschwitz...Zakynthos' Metropolitan Bishop Chrysostomos and Mayor Lucas Carrer...were told they had 24 hours to submit a list with the names of all the Jews that lived on the island, together with details of their assets. Indeed, they returned with an envelope before the deadline expired, the SS commander opened the envelope but the paper within contained just two names: the bishop's and the mayor's.

**"If you harm these people," Chrysostomos said ...I will go with them and share their fate."**

The Nazi commander was stunned...meanwhile the bishop and the mayor informed the leader of the Jewish community, Moses Ganis, of the German plans, prompting a massive operation to hide the island's Jews in villages, farms and the homes of Christians. In the months that followed...no one betrayed them, no one confessed to knowing where they were hiding, and as a consequence not one single Jew of the 275 that lived on Zakynthos was deported to the concentration camps because they did not bow!

## STANDING NEAR THE BATTLEFIELD



During a Red Alert



With the soldiers waiting for their call up



## "THANK YOU FOR RISKING YOUR LIVES FOR US"

**July 22, 2014: CFI Responds to a Call from IDF:** During Operation Defensive Shield, an IDF Commander who knows us well made contact with CFI for needed items for frontline battle soldiers. A team from CFI immediately went into action to purchase and deliver the requested items. Libi Fund (who supplies the soldiers and also has a long term relationship with CFI of trust) granted clearance for our team to travel beyond the normal borders of safety. In the midst of rockets flying overhead, Iron Dome intercepts, and army helicopters flying around us, **we felt completely at peace!** We were "with them" and had conquered, through the Lord's Presence, the bowing to the fear from the terrorism of Hamas. We sang with the soldiers, talked about David and the Philistine giant, Goliath, and discussed together Psalm 91. It was a day in which we could say to the soldiers "you put your lives on the line for us." Their response to us was "We thank you for risking your own lives to help us!"



Building relationships



Suffering from Parkinson's and trauma of terrorism



Tragic moments are hard to forget

# Mending Wounded Souls

**"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and He delivers those whose spirit has been crushed" Psalm 34:18.**

**AMONG ALL THE FEASTS** and festivals of Israel, Purim is a beloved Jewish holiday, but sadly to the children living in South Israel, their Purim this year was stolen by rocket fire. **On our recent trip to South Israel to visit victims of rocket attacks right before Purim, we were admonished by the local civilians to keep our car windows open while driving so we could hear the siren warning in case there is an incoming rocket attack.** The news had just reported that Ashkelon and Ashdod were hit by Katusha rockets a few minutes before, in addition to 60 Qassam rockets that rained down on South Israel on the previous day by the radical Jihadists in Gaza.

One of the families Project CUA team visited during this trip is the Karachi family. The day before our visit, we spoke by telephone with Yuri – son of **Maya Kargachi**. Yuri is currently serving in the IDF near Gaza, and he told us that he had permission from his commander to come home to meet us, because his Russian-speaking parents only speak a little Hebrew. However, as we were waiting there, we were told that Yuri wasn't allowed to leave his post because of the intensive rocket attack from Gaza at that moment. But praise the Lord who sent us a sweet little angel — Maya's grandson named Daniel, who like many children in the south was afraid to go to the Purim party at school and thus served as our Russian translator.

Maya and her husband Michael made *Aliyah* to Israel with their two children in 2000 from Moldova in Eastern Europe. Their oldest son was killed at age 20 while serving in the Moldovan army. After moving to Israel Michael had a job, but now is unable to work because of work injuries that left him disabled. In his previous job he had to carry heavy furniture, and as a result, his back and disc were badly injured. He has been in pain from his head down to his feet and has to rely on crutches to walk.

## Invisible Damage

Maya was injured by a rocket attack in 2006 in which one of her coworkers was killed right before her eyes when they were working in a chicken-processing factory. Maya was hospitalized for four months, and has been suffering from post trauma and later even developed schizophrenia

and Parkinson's disease. A traumatic event has a devastating impact on physical, emotional and mental well-being. **Though there's a tendency to be overlooked, in fact trauma and emotional damage are more difficult to be healed than apparent physical injuries.** When she is awake, Maya sits trembling on the sofa, clutching a stuffed animal. We were told that at times Maya told her family she needed to go home when indeed she was already at home.

Due to Maya's trauma and Michael's disability the family has no income and relies on a meager disability allowance to live. CFI's Project "David's Shield" helped meet some additional needs when Maya and Michael couldn't afford to buy a bed for their son Yuri who is an IDF soldier. Maya has been in and out of the hospital many times (as long as two months) and has to be admitted to the hospital again when her situation worsens. The resulting medical expense is a continuing heavy burden for them as the rocket attacks have taken a devastating toll on their lives.

Please intercede for Maya, and others like her, that the traumatic and disturbing memories be erased by the Prince of Peace so this wounded soul can be made whole and rejoice again. **Please also lift up the financial needs** of Maya and Michael in prayer. Thank you, and may the Lord bless you abundantly.

By **Maggie Huang**, Communities Under Attack Coordinator

South Israel

# The Battle Is The LORD's

**Then the Spirit of the Lord came...and He said, "listen...do not be afraid nor dismayed... for the battle is not yours, but God's" 2 Chronicles 20:14-15.**

**THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS** toward His People who are facing opposition in a "theater of war" or on the battlefield is as true today as it was in the Book of 2 Chronicles. This scripture can also be applied to warfare in every area of life. As referenced in this portion of scripture, King Jehoshaphat of Judah faced and prevailed in battle over the people of Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir. King Jehoshaphat prayed to God, in verse 12, "**...we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us...but our eyes are upon You.**" And, in verses 14 and 15, "**The Spirit of the Lord came to Jehoshaphat and told him, 'do not be afraid nor dismayed...for the battle is not yours, but God's.'**"

Psalms 34:4 tells us that David, as he was fleeing from Saul's attempts to kill him—"**sought the Lord, and the LORD answered and delivered him, of all of his fears.**" 2 Kings 20:1-19 is the story of Hezekiah being granted 15 more years of life because he prayed and sought the Lord to heal him. Likewise, when we are facing uncertainty in the "theater of our lives," we can be assured that the same Defender of the People of Israel, in their times of war or conflict, is also available for us in our time of need regardless of the circumstances. When the tentacles of warfare, controversy or conflict appear in our lives, whether physical, spiritual or emotional, we can be assured that "**the battle is the LORD's.**"

**We visited a remarkable** 19 year old, who became a "fighter" even before beginning his military service. On October 21, 2012, his 18th birthday and a high school senior—Nathaniel found out that he had cancer. While working in a super market after school, Nathaniel first noticed a recurring and increasingly debilitating pain in his lower back and legs. After several months of physical therapy for what was thought to be strained muscles, he began multiple tests that ultimately showed that he had cancer. He endured an intense regimen of chemotherapy followed by hip replacement surgery, all the while experiencing excruciating pain with limited relief from morphine. The doctor's initial prognosis was that Nathaniel would not be able to walk for three years.... After surgery, and beginning the second round of chemotherapy, Nathaniel says that his "spirit" broke. However, after much determination in physical therapy seven days a week, while keeping Shabbat, for the most part, and physical therapy afterwards—he is now at home walking on crutches. **His doctors and physical therapist consider his progress a miracle.** He plans to "redo" his senior year.

**Victor or Victim?** It is a constant fight for Nathaniel to keep his spirits high, as his dream is to finish high school and to become an electronic's engineer. He is fluent in the Hebrew, English and Amharic languages. He is involved in a support group called Aharai, for young cancer survivors. This helps him to stay motivated and optimistic about his future. When he first entered the program, one of the Aharai counselors told him that his own brother was injured in combat—a bomb exploded under his knee. Although, he was told that he would never walk, the brother is walking. Nathaniel was inspired by the soldier's determination not to give up. In every circumstance that we face in life, we choose to be either a "victor" or a "victim."

We praise the Lord for Nathaniel's continued recovery. Thank you for your prayers for and support of unnamed Ethiopian warriors—male and female—who are prevailing over life's struggles. Please pray for protection and recovery of every Israeli, from the constant trauma they face daily because of the constant wrestling for identity and right to exist as a people. We praise the Lord, that by His Spirit, He will help the Jewish people, to "listen"—"be not afraid or dismayed" and be assured that their "battles...are God's."

By **Linda Edwards**, Hope for the Future Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

*Building a relationship with Nathaniel*

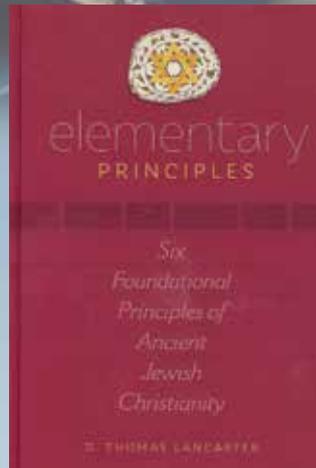


**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge...” Hosea 4:6.**

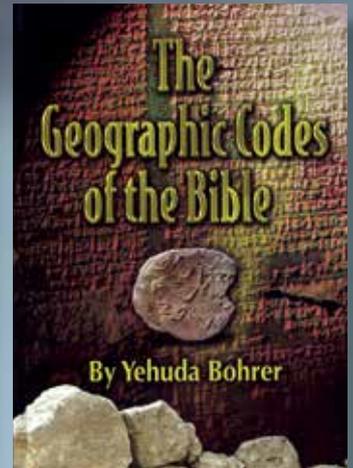
# Christian Education Corner

**IN THE DAYS OF HOSEA,** a lack of the knowledge of God was in the Land of Israel. There is a similar situation in the nations today, even among Christians. Many do not know God’s Word as they should for being “too busy” with work and market place responsibilities. Christians are commanded to study and **“...show themselves approved unto God...” (2 Timothy 2:15).** It is useless to spread the Gospel in the nations if there is no follow up through long term discipleship and teaching the followers of Jesus to study the Scriptures for deeper understanding.

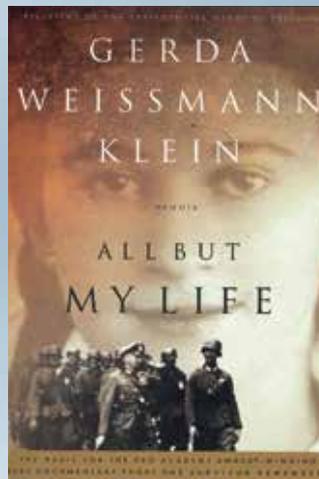
Rabbis, men of learned knowledge of the Word of God taught their disciples and were called Masters of the Scriptures. A part of Christian education must be a strong emphasis on learning and education for it has been said, “Today we are raising a Scripturally unenlightened generation...many are in error because they do not know the Scriptures” (Mark 12:24, NIV). Until our Bookstore and Library are in full operation again, in our contemplated move to a new ministry home, we encourage you to visit our CFI website at: [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) and order some of the recommended reading materials we offer. Also, we encourage you to check out the books we recommend written by friends whom we endorse. Go to the link below the book to order your copy. These reading materials will take you a step further in your educational studies.



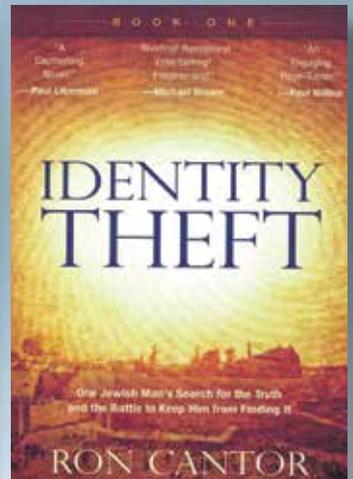
**Elementary Principles**  
[www.ffoz.org](http://www.ffoz.org)



**Geographic Codes**  
[hbohrer@inn.co.il](mailto:hbohrer@inn.co.il)



**All But My Life**  
[www.fsgbooks.com](http://www.fsgbooks.com)



**Identity Theft**  
[www.messiahmandate.org](http://www.messiahmandate.org)

# Christian Friends of Israel 30th Anniversary Conference and Tour

*"Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it..." (Jeremiah 3:17).*



## Bible Prophecy & The Coming Kingdom

**June 1,2,3,4 2015**

**A Personal Invitation**

**These Are the Days of Messiah!**

Your Hosts: Ray and Sharon Sanders



It is our honor to invite you to celebrate with Christian Friends of Israel, our 30th Anniversary in the Eternal Capital City of Israel, Jerusalem. This invitation is being extended around the world, in order to bring together our family in the nations, from the four corners of the earth. This year will be very important for the days in which we live, and will be "meat in due season" (Matt. 24:45, KJV), which you will be able to take back to your Nations. Study with us God's Word, as we educate ourselves in the times in which we live, and return with new vision and purpose for the prophetic days and years ahead.

Enjoy a beautiful hotel situated on one of the highest spots in Jerusalem, with a magnificent panoramic view of Mount Zion! Save the date now, for an unforgettable spring event in Jerusalem. You will be in the right place, at the right time! Tell your friends and register now for this significant event.

In His Precious Name,

Your Hosts, Ray and Sharon Sanders

**Meet the People Tour, June 5-11, 2015**

**"Make a tour of the Holy Scriptures by walking through the pages of the Bible on site"**



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In Partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys  
Contact: [racheli@keshetisrael.co.il](mailto:racheli@keshetisrael.co.il) Tel: +972 2-671-3518



## DISTRIBUTION CENTER LIGHT SHINES OUT

### JEWISH AGENCY SENDS IMMIGRANTS TO CFI

CFI’s unique Distribution Center, opened during the Gulf War in 1990, continues to serve the latest *Olim* (immigrants) from many countries. Once they arrive, they realize they have entered the doors of a safe haven of people who love and respect them. Over the past few months approximately 220 newcomers from the Ukraine have come to the Center...some from the Crimea and Odessa.

Many of the families that made *Aliyah* from Odessa heard about CFI’s Distribution Center from their local Jewish agency while they were still in the FSU. The Jewish Agency gives the CFI telephone number and address to the newcomers before they leave for Israel. One particular family from Uzbekistan was told by the Jewish Agency to make sure they came to us and to ask for a specific staff person by name!

### WARNING SIGNS ISSUED

In Odessa, Jewish people have been arriving in buses at the Jewish Agency to complete their *Aliyah* paperwork. It is assumed by many that a large *Aliyah* group from the Ukraine is yet to come. Our God-given assignment from the Lord, has not been to get them to Israel, but to help them once they are here in their resettlement to a new Land. So many of you who read this magazine have been faithful supporters and sustainers of the CFI Distribution Center since its opening during a difficult period for Israel. Just as the doors opened in the early 1990’s, so are the doors wide open to help the Jewish people as they now arrive home to Israel. They continue to come! Upehaval often precedes spiritual progress.

Your help is needed for **Project Open Gates** to supply household items, electrical appliances, bedding and bath, as well as **Welcome Baskets** and **financial aid** where needed. Your gift of love, for Israel’s ingathering, should be earmarked ‘**Open Gates.**’ Our lights will be shining toward all as they arrive out of the darkness of anti-Semitism and isolation. We are here to absorb the sorrow, listen to the experiences of their lives and to offer Christian love and support; thereby being witnesses of the light. *We are making a difference!*

We here at CFI, want to pursue a lifestyle that demonstrates God’s mercy to the Jewish people, as the Lord God of Israel has shown us mercy (Romans 11:11). He lives His Life through us and our good deeds. We are replacing the old road of Christian anti-Semitism with a new one, and as the ground thaws between Jews and Christians, the road construction continues. Our “repair crews,” our staff at the CFI DC, are repairing the breaches, filling up the holes and doing some major renovations on the road between God and His Jewish People (Isaiah



An immigrant family only 2 days in Israel with no relatives in the Land



Immigrant showing her new fur coat from the D.C.

62:10-11; Jeremiah 31:31). Won’t you help us as we work on this road construction? Help us shine our lights into the lives of those who are coming out of much darkness of the FSU.

**FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE:** “Turmoil and global anti-Semitism doubles *Aliyah* (immigration) to Israel. From around the world it is up fifty-five percent due largely to dramatic increases in immigration from France and Ukraine” (Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky).

Russia evokes Nazi horrors to bash the Ukraine as neo-Nazism rises in the Ukraine. A Kremlin-driven propaganda offensive, that uses World War II-era terms and imagery to rail against Ukraine’s fledgling government are using words like “Nazis,” “fascists” and “fritzes.” It is because of this recent uprising that Ukrainian Jews

are immigrating to Israel amid the growing unrest. The Jewish Agency is quoted as signing up to over 200 Jews wanting to return to Israel for May alone. Immigration from this troubled country is up 142%. "Jewish people must 'Register' was put on a flyer in the Ukraine which echoes the Babi Yar massacre during the Holocaust. The leaflets were written in Russian, marked with a Russian symbol...Jews were told to register and pay their fee (in April)...the leaflets were clearly part of a general effort to sow fear among the Ukrainian Jews.

On Sept. 28, 1941, notices were posted informing all the Jews of Kiev that they were to appear the following day, to a particular place with all their belongings. The next day, September 29, tens of thousands of Jews showed up at the designated location. They were marched to the forest, to the ravine known as Babi Yar. All were stripped of their belongings and their clothing, and then shot. By the following day, more than 34,000 Jews were murdered" (Lori Lowenthal Marcus, US correspondent for the Jewish Press).

## A GREAT INGATHERING

A lot more housing is going to be needed for the ingathering which is now in progress and shall continue. "At the current pace, *Aliyah* figures for 2014 could be among the highest seen in recent years, government agency says." – First few months mark a 32% increase from 2013, with some 7,000 immigrants relocating to Israel" (Israel Hayom, 6/15/14). Jews made *Aliyah* amid Ukraine airport battles, the Jewish Agency rescued six Jewish immigrants to Israel, despite Ukrainian and pro-Russian clashes at the Donetsk airport, (Ari Yashar, Aruz Sheva, 5/27/14). Chaos is indeed driving them home. Anxiety and fear is prevalent among the Jewish communities. I sometime wonder about the beautiful elderly Jewish people I met when I was traveling a few years ago in and out of the FSU...many of the sick and elderly will never be able to make it to an airport. We must pray for them.

## Coming Home

A recent plea from a prominent rabbi stated "...anti-Semitism is increasing at a murderous pace...» You, the People of Israel, living in all five parts of the world are called on...to rise and present yourselves, stand and awaken to enter into this covenant of building the Land of Israel, and do not leave even a soul outside... we will arise and go up to our true mother, the Land of Israel, and devote all our strength to her from now and forever to build up her walls and repair her ruins...let us be strong for the sake of our people and for the sake of the cities of our God...."



Alla recently made *Aliyah*. She came to the DC the next day!

**"And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isaiah 11:12).**

## I Thought They were Coming for Me!

The following story touched my heart and tells each of our readers the real situation the Jewish people now face in the Ukraine especially. I have quoted it from another ministry, Ebenezer Emergency Fund, that works with the Jewish people "in the FSU." Please hear the story which they have released: "...Josef confessed that seeing us on his doorstep had brought back memories of the Holocaust. He was a little boy when the Nazis came to his house and took his parents away...when we arrived, for a brief moment he tasted the fear he had known all those years ago and thought they (the anti-Semites) had come for him this time!" (*Ebenezer Emergency Fund website: (www.operation-exodus.org)*)

**\* NEWS FLASH \*** "Undeterred by the security situation in Israel, hundreds of French Jews are coming home and most of the new arrivals are families, and more than half are children!" **"The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarepath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negev"** (Obadiah 1:20).

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

# Our Bridal Salon

“...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him...” Matthew 6:8 ESV.

## They Found God's Love

Carmen came to Israel with her parents and her husband, Liester... right before making “*Aliyah*” this young couple had just a civil wedding in their country of origin, the tropical island of Cuba. Carmen and Liester soon found themselves in the difficult period of adjustment into the new culture and language, together with marital life. It was then when through friends at work, they discovered God's love and they decided to get married again, now in Israel.

They wanted to renew their vows and ask for God's blessing and guidance, but the expenses were high for these new “*Olim*” (Jewish Immigrants). Meanwhile, in another part of the world, Sandy went back home to the USA after visiting Israel and CFI Distribution Center. She felt the Lord was guiding her to donate her wedding ring to the Bridal Salon, and He was very specific. This ring was for a couple who would get married in December.



Patty blessed this couple with a wedding ring

## He Cares About Details

A week after I'd gotten the letter from Sandy explaining the details of her donation, Carmen, Liester, her family and friends came to the Bridal Salon. We talked for a little bit while they were trying on their attire. When they told me they would get married on December 25th I knew they were “the ones” about whom God spoke to Sandy. I said, “I think I have a surprise for you,” and explained about the ring. They jumped for joy and started hugging each other. They thought they could just afford plain silver bands, but God gave them much more than that!

Along with the wedding rings, **CFI Bridal Salon** provided the wedding dress, veil, shoes and all the accessories for the bride, dresses for the mother of the bride and bridesmaid, suits for the groom and the bride's father, and even the dresses for the flower girls! It was a beautiful and very touching celebration in a family, full of praise and thankfulness. God's wisdom and care in all the details of our lives is amazing! Thanks for being part of this ministry with your prayers, gifts and donations.



The best day of their lives

By **Patricia Cuervo**, Bridal Salon Coordinator

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)



Rocio and Patty at Carmen's wedding celebration



Age should never be a barrier: One can never be too young nor too old to serve the Lord

# SERVING GOD IN ISRAEL - A BLESSING

Do you have a calling to serve as a volunteer in Jerusalem? Are you an experienced writer with a solid foundation in scriptures relating to Israel, the Church, and the nations, and their role in Biblical end-time events? Do you have a professional skill or background in which you can contribute to this ongoing ministry in the Land?

We also welcome short term "hands on" service, **for several weeks or months**. Apply through our CFI HR Department. **Email: [helen@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:helen@cfijerusalem.org)**. Why not apply to spend your holidays with us!

**For more information on volunteering with CFI and other openings to serve here in Israel, visit our website [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) or write to us at: [personnel@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:personnel@cfijerusalem.org)**

## CFI BULLETIN BOARD

You may also invest in Christian service staff and workers from the nations through helping to provide for their lodging, food, transportation and insurance while serving in Israel with CFI. Designate your love offerings to: CFI Ministry Needs.

Assist us in producing more teaching materials for Christians. If you would like to invest in publishing of Christian Educational resources for the Church. For more information email: [sharon@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:sharon@cfijerusalem.org)

Check with your CFI Representative on the possibility of making charitable gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities and claim an income tax deduction. Also, please pray about including CFI Jerusalem in your Will where earthly assets left behind can go on bearing fruit.

A way to increase the efficiency of your offerings and love gifts to CFI plus save time and postage is to give online by going to the CFI website at: [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org). Pray about giving MONTHLY by contacting our Accounting Department. Personal cheques are always welcome. Please email: [accounting@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:accounting@cfijerusalem.org)

# They Held The Rope

*“Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket” (Acts 9:25).*

**WHEN PAUL** got into trouble with the religious in Damascus, some unnamed helpers, but true partners in his ministry, assisted him in the darkness of the night cover, in escaping from Damascus so that his work would go unhindered. They could not go with him and stayed behind but the key is: **they were with him**. He knew he was not alone but had friends who would cover for him and assist him in the call upon his life.

Recently read in a devotional (UCB UK Word for Today) something interesting was found and needed to be shared with everyone. It convicts us of how much more we have to do and we can do with what is available to each of us personally. “We tend to focus on sins of commission – the wrong we do. But what about sins of omission – the good we fail to do? In Jesus’ parables, when someone was condemned, it was often over a sin of omission.” (Word for Today)

One of the Church’s greatest sins of omission today is failure to care for the “apple of God’s eye” (Zechariah 12:2). The Church desires a deeper spiritual life but the deeper spiritual life cannot come without a recognition and appropriate actions toward God’s Chosen People.

When the historical Church refused to help the Jewish people, when they needed the Christians the most, Christians refused to help and in essence, they refused to help Jesus. He is so clear when He states: “...and He will answer,

*“...for I was hungered, and you gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and you took me not in: naked, and you clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and you visited me not...” (Matthew 25:42-46).*

The Jewish communities had expected more from Christians, during the Holocaust, and we let them down. Now we have the opportunities, through ministries like Christian Friends of Israel who are based in Jerusalem in the heart of the Jewish nation, to use us as a channel for blessings to flow to them. Over 25 years has made a huge difference in Jewish-Christians relationships and we are beginning to see that we are starting to find one another again...Israel needs us now. Will you help “hold the rope” so that CFI can go about its mission and calling with the strength and power behind your grip?

God bless each and every one of **our rope holders who hold the cords of love in their hands** which God has established through CFI and continue to bear us up. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

## Teach Us More About Israel!



### Spanish Youth Groups Visit CFI

The Biblical interest in Israel from Latin America is growing



**CFI Conference  
and Tour  
June 1-4, 2015  
Book now  
with your local  
CFI Representative**



CFI Jerusalem personally invites you to experience the 30th Anniversary Celebration Conference 2015. By God's Grace we will engage the best Christian and Jewish scholars in Israel as well as well known Bible scholars combined with the Tour of a Lifetime, unlike any you have ever experienced. **Start your planning now!**



Receiving FZS magazine



## Papua New Guinea

**400 Churches Will Come to Learn About Israel**

Above, Australia Representative Pastor Patrick Russell, is shown with Assembly of God Superintendent Pastor Ivan Lesley, who oversees 400 churches in the region. Papua New Guinea is a beautiful land of over 848 languages, but what is even more beautiful are the Christians who love Israel. Patrick recently spent a week in the northern township of Wewak (East Sepik River Province) teaching God's Word on God's covenant people. The pastors and regional leaders received the teaching with great enthusiasm.

Pray for over 840 different language groups of Papua New Guinea Christians that they will all come to hear and know about God's covenant people Israel. CFI has now become the East Sepik regional focus in missions. We welcome Papua New Guinea to the CFI world family of nations. We thank the Lord for Patrick's dedication!

For more information contact **Patrick Russell** at: [cfaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:cfaustralia@hotmail.com)

## They Stood In Yorkshire, UK

A fantastic show of support of standing with Israel along with the Jewish people of Yorkshire was held recently in the United Kingdom. David Soakell, Church Liaison for Christian Friends of Israel in the UK, spoke representing CFI. Jewish people at the event had no idea that Christians were standing with them in support of Israel. For information on this successful event please go to: <http://davidsoakell.com/fantastic-yorkshire-support-for-israel>.



David Soakell

## The Word of the Lord from Zion

**Sharon Sanders**, co-founder of CFI and son-in-law, **Kevin Howard**, CFI Technical Operations Director, will travel to the Far East for ministry and teaching this coming fall 2014.

### Ministry Schedule:

**Hong Kong** – October 9 – October 18

**Taiwan** – October 19 – October 26

**China** – October 27 – November 2

**Singapore** – November 3 – November 10

For Bookings contact: [sharon@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:sharon@cfijerusalem.org)

### Mexico: November 27 – December 4

For bookings contact: **Pastor Ruperto Badillo** at: [saky96@hotmail.com](mailto:saky96@hotmail.com)



# THEY STILL NEED US!



## Operation Protective Edge Continues YOU CAN STILL HELP:

Israel's soldiers are still monitoring the situation in Gaza. Jewish families in southern communities still come under occasional attack (at this writing). Our sources speak of Christians in Gaza who are caught in the net of Hamas' dominance. Pray with us about how we can help the Christians in Gaza. Also, we need to prepare to be able to help Israel in the next possible conflict which may come from the north where more tunnels have been built. The emotional trauma under which so many have endured from years of rocket attacks has taken a toll on everyone. It will be an ongoing situation in which CFI has continual calls for help for a long time. Thank you for being there for us.



Visit Our Website: [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)

**PLEASE PRAY HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!**

Wherever you stand our prayer is that you will stand with Israel

*"And Ruth said... "thy People shall be my People, and thy God my God..." Ruth 1:16*

## FocalPoint

CFI IS Reaching Around The Globe

### —Where Israel IS the Point of Focus

The goal of FocalPoint is to always bring you positive, relevant, and biblically balanced information from those who study about or live right in the land of Israel. As Kevin and I take some time away from the production of FocalPoint we want to say, "Thank you to all those over the last year and a half who have emailed us with your words of advice as well as encouragement."

We encourage you to stay connected with FocalPoint by visiting Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem's website at [cfijerusalem.org](http://cfijerusalem.org). Updates regarding upcoming shows will be posted on CFI's website as they become available.

We would like to invite you to join us in Jerusalem, in the spring of 2015, as Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem celebrates its 30th anniversary. Not only will there be a great conference, with rock-solid teaching, and a tremendous tour of the Land of Israel, but this could be your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Israel like you've always dreamed. "Until we meet again next time, remember to always turn your point of focus to Israel and the Middle East. "We look forward to seeing 'YOU' next year in Jerusalem!"

### Website

[www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org)  
click the FocalPoint Logo

### YouTube

FocalPointTV2013

### Facebook

Christian Friends of Israel—Jerusalem

### USA Contact

1-856-537-8812

### Email

 [info@focalpointtv.com](mailto:info@focalpointtv.com)

CFI Representative Nearest You