



Watchman's Prayer Letter



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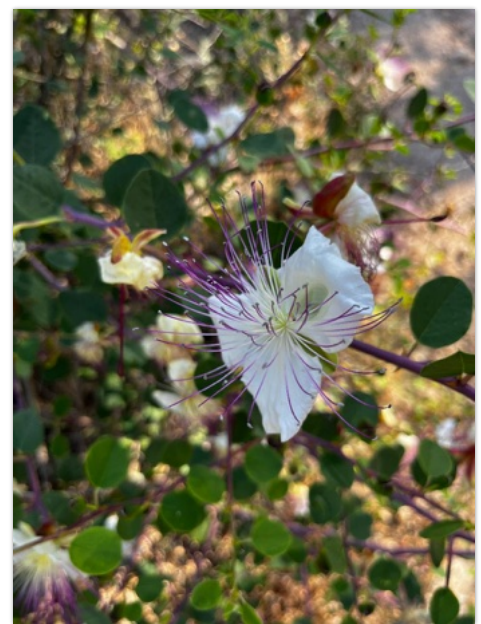
Greetings from Jerusalem, where summer has finally arrived after an unusually long winter. The land is still wonderfully green after late-season rainfall, and we even experienced spots of rain in May—something almost unheard of here. Beautiful flowers are still blooming across the landscape, bringing colour and beauty to the hills and valleys around us.

Fixing Our Eyes on Yeshua

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

Over the past few months, we have faced unexpected challenges that have felt unrelenting and at times almost overwhelming, but the Lord has been teaching us afresh what it means to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

The war with Iran and the uncertainty surrounding it have weighed heavily on the nation. In a country that has endured conflict after conflict and trauma after trauma, the nearly two months of war were difficult for many people. Israelis are remarkably resilient, yet beneath that resilience there is also deep weariness and pain. Almost everyone knows someone who has been killed, injured, displaced, or is currently serving in the military. Many husbands, fathers, and sons are still away from home.



Following several weeks of a fragile ceasefire, we recently experienced another brief return to hostilities. The situation remains uncertain, and each morning we wake up not knowing exactly what the day will bring. Will there be peace? Will there be sirens? Will plans continue as normal, or will everything change in a moment?

Just as we at CFI were beginning to breathe again with news of the ceasefire, our dear friend and colleague Julia, the project coordinator for Streams of Blessings, passed away suddenly. Her loss has been deeply felt by all who knew and loved her, and we continue to grieve.

Adding to these challenges has been the growing hostility towards Israel and towards those who stand with the Jewish people. As a ministry, we are regularly criticised by those who oppose Israel, and we have also been saddened to see increasing anti-Jewish sentiment appearing in some Christian circles. In an age of social media, misinformation spreads quickly, and many people form strong opinions without understanding the complexities of the situation or the realities faced by those living here. At times, these attacks and accusations have been very discouraging, but we are reminded not to fear, but to remain faithful to the Lord, to speak the truth in love, and to continue standing with those He has called us to serve.

During this season, I have especially treasured my morning walks in the Jerusalem hills. As I walk and talk with the Lord, surrounded by birdsong, wildflowers, and the beauty of the land, I am reminded to lift my eyes above life's challenges and focus on Him. In His presence, I find again the peace that "surpasses all understanding"



(Philippians 4:7). The birds still sing, the flowers still bloom, and creation continues to point to its Creator. As Psalm 19 declares, "the heavens declare the glory of God." In a world filled with uncertainty, creation reminds us that God is still on the throne and in control.

In Mark chapter 4, the disciples found themselves in a violent storm. The wind and waves threatened to overwhelm them, yet Yeshua was with them in the boat. When He spoke, the storm became calm. The disciples were amazed and asked, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him?"

Like the disciples, we can easily become focused on the waves and the storm rather than on the One who is with us in the storm. If we focus only on the news, the conflicts, the losses, and the uncertainties around us, it is easy to become overwhelmed. But when our eyes remain fixed on Yeshua, we can truly find that peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

The sudden loss of Julia has reminded us how fragile and fleeting life is. Throughout Scripture, we are encouraged to view our lives from an eternal perspective. We are "sojourners and foreigners in this world" (1 Peter 2:11), merely passing through, and it is not our final home. While we grieve and experience the realities of living in a broken world, our hope is anchored in Messiah Yeshua, His eternal promises, and the home that awaits us in heaven, the "place the Father has prepared for us" (John 14:2-3). Keeping a heavenly perspective does not remove our struggles, but it reminds us that today's challenges are temporary while God's kingdom is eternal. Every difficulty becomes another opportunity to trust Him, and every uncertainty reminds us that our future is secure in His hands.



As an organisation, we are learning again what it means to trust Him day by day. We are grateful for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and partnership. Thank you for standing with us. The One who commands the wind and the waves is still on the throne. He remains faithful, sovereign, and worthy of our trust.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for those in positions of authority, including President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, for wisdom and discernment (James 1:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Cry out to the Lord for dreams, visions, and life-changing encounters with the living God for people throughout the Middle East, including those in positions of authority, just as Saul encountered the risen Lord on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19; Joel 2:28).
- Pray for believers throughout the Middle East to keep their eyes fixed on Yeshua and to run the race with perseverance, whatever challenges they may face (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- Lift up all those who are grieving in Zion, those suffering from PTSD and weary from war, to encounter the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- Intercede for CFI, its staff, volunteers, and ministry partners, asking Abba to surround us with His favour as with a shield and guard us physically, spiritually, and emotionally (Psalm 5:12; Psalm 91).
- Pray that truth would prevail over misinformation, hatred, and division, and that many people would have hearts open to understanding God's purposes for Israel, the Jewish and Arab peoples (John 8:32; Ephesians 4:15).
- Stand with us in prayer against the rise of antisemitism around the world and ask the Lord to open eyes to recognise and reject prejudice, hatred, and falsehood wherever it appears (Isaiah 60:1-2).
- Pray for wisdom, courage, and grace for believers who publicly support Israel and the Jewish people, that they would respond with truth, humility, and the love of Messiah even when criticised or misunderstood (Colossians 4:5-6).

May the Lord strengthen all of us and help us to "set our minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2) and to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Him.

With love and blessings from Jerusalem, Paula