



September 2018 / Jewish Year 5779

## Repentance must Accompany Change



*High priest offering a sacrifice of a goat, as on the Day of Atonement from "Treasures of the Bible," 1894*

Israel just celebrated **Rosh Hashanah**, the celebration of the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays and is celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur. **Yom Kippur**, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for Jews around the world. It's a time where they focus specifically on atonement and repentance. They customarily observe this day with a 25-hour period of fasting and accelerated, exhaustive, intense and non-stop prayer spending much of that time in their local synagogues. Finally, **Sukkot**, which is a Biblical holiday, will bring to a close our celebrations here in the land of Israel during the month of September, known by many as the Feast of Tabernacles.

For this letter, I would like to focus on **Yom Kippur**. So, what is atonement? Atonement in three words is RECONCILIATION WITH GOD. Fasting and prayer are a means of atonement for the sin, impurities and all the junk in our lives that keeps us from having a close, deep and

profoundly intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. You might ask, why fast? In Judaism, fasting is when a person refrains from ALL food and drink, including water. This is usually an outward expression of sadness, grief, lamentation and darkness that one might feel after the loss of a spouse, a child or close family member. During this time of lamenting and pleading with the Lord to absolve and pardon them from all of the offenses they have made toward the God of Israel, they focus on how to move forward in a renewed and healthy partnership together.

So how can we as Christians apply this to our own lives? We can extend unconditional forgiveness and grace towards others. We can intentionally work toward the healing of damaged relationships. We must show love toward those that have hurt us even if they do not reciprocate. We can abstain from those things which our physical body craves as a way of showing the Lord we're serious about our relationship with him. And we can pray, pray, pray!

**FORGIVENESS:** *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13(NIV).*

**FASTING:** *"Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" 1 Corinthians 7:5(NIV).*

**PRAYER:** *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18(NIV).*

I truly hope and pray that during this very special time of the year, that we will consider our own lives, take into the account how we treat others and reassess our relationship and partnership with the God of Israel. In doing so, I would like to offer up some specific prayer needs in the land, for the people of Israel and the ongoing Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem ministry outreach projects.

## Praying for THE LAND AND HER PEOPLE

- **Pray daily** as we are commanded for ‘the Peace of Jerusalem’.
- **Pray for** those being led by the Holy Spirit to come home to the land of Israel that they would find ministries such as Christian Friends of Israel that are here to help ease the burden that comes with settling in a new land and home.
- **Continue praying for** the ongoing reconciliation between Christians and Jews and that the Lord will continue to open new avenues in which to repair and build bridges that have kept us separated for thousands of years.
- **Petition the Lord for** the continued protection of His People, in the areas close to Gaza as Hamas again stirs up riots, fires rocket and starts new arson fires in the region.
- **Pray for** the Northern border of Israel as Hezbollah continues to be aggressive and devise ways of invasion, as well as wisdom and safety as the IDF continues to plan ways to eradicate the open-ended Iranian occupation in Syria.
- **Please pray that** the water flowing down from the upper Jordan River which was recently found to be contaminated be totally purified of any and all dangerous bacteria.

## Praying for CFI – JERUSALEM

- **Please pray for** the complete healing and restoration of Sharon Sanders leg and that all her organs would function according to the will of God.
- **Pray that** the Christian Friends of Israel Board of Directors, Executive Leadership and staff have the wisdom of the Lord regarding the daily needs of the organization.
- **Pray that** the Lord will lay it upon the hearts of those in the nations to see the effectiveness of Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem and be lead to partner with us through their tangible support of the ongoing needs here IN ISRAEL.
- **Pray for** protection over the CFI - International Representatives as the enemy has been in full force trying to undermine the Lord’s will for their lives. Our members have experienced death, loss, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, broken bones as well as a sense of being overwhelmed. Please pray for strength, good health and that the attacks of the enemy would be thwarted from this day forward.

***“Then once again I fell prostrate before the Lord for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the Lord’s sight and so arousing his anger. I feared the anger and wrath of the Lord, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the Lord listened to me.” Deuteronomy 9:18-19(NIV)***

Please know that every week day, during our morning devotions, our staff pray fervently and faithfully for you in the nations as well. We pray that the church would find common ground and be unified as the Body of Believers is meant to be.

Blessings and Shalom from Jerusalem!

### **Stacey Howard**

Executive/International Director  
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem  
email: [prayer@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:prayer@cfijerusalem.org)

