“And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line”…” (Amos 7:8).
Dear CFI International Friends and Family

Blessings from Jerusalem

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I write my very first director’s letter. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to my parents for helping me reach my goals. You have both been great mentors, coaches and examples of what it means to live a full life dedicated to the Lord.

Thank you to the Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem Board Members who are trusting that both Kevin and I (with the Lord at the helm) will carry this ministry well into the future. To my loving husband of 31 years—thank you for the adventure.

And finally, to the Lord, I say thank You for choosing me. I wake up every day feeling unworthy to fulfill such a call as this, but it is for You alone that I run this race so that at the end I might hear You say, “Well done my good and faithful servant—you have served Me well.”

It’s hard to believe that the year of 2015 has so quickly come to a close. Recently, I’ve been reflecting on the many challenges I’ve faced this past year. It’s only by God’s grace and faithfulness that I am encouraged to continue to be strong and courageous, fighting the good fight, resting assured that there are those of you in the nations who continue to stand with me on God’s Word and His promises. If not for your continued prayers and financial undergirding the many ministry projects of Christian Friends of Israel, which have been in existence for over 30 years now, would have come to an end years ago. Thank you!

“For God is not so unfair as to forget your work and the love you showed for him in your past service to his people—and in your present service too. However, we want each one of you to keep showing the same diligence right up to the end…” (Hebrews 6:10 CJB).

May all Praise and Glory be given to God as we continue to stand on His promises!

As a Christian Zionist organization Christian Friends of Israel strives to repair the damage done by the historical Church. We seek to be a tangible representation
of the Lord’s hands and feet as we travel throughout the land to the homes of Israelis, taking the love of God back to the people who first brought it to us. Christianity owes the Jewish people a great debt. Therefore, Jewish-Christian relations are one of our top priorities.

“They were pleased to do it, but the fact is that they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared with the Jews in spiritual matters, then the Gentiles clearly have a duty to help the Jews in material matters.” (Romans 15:27 CJB).

God promises to reward those who have been faithful in their generosity and diligent in their labors toward His people. Amen!

The International Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement – commonly referred to as BDS – has been rapidly growing since its origin back in 2005. The idea behind this campaign, without a doubt, is anti-Semitic with an undergrowing since its origin back in 2005. The idea behind this movement – commonly referred to as BDS – has been rapidly growing since its origin back in 2005. The question at hand is: will we again stand by in silence, in the safety of our own communities, while Israel and her people continue to live under the shadow of those who look to destroy her? Or…will we stand up for truth and righteousness, casting off the fear of those who think differently than we do and say, “I am going to stand shoulder to shoulder with God’s chosen people no matter what the cost!”

“For Tziyon’s sake I will not be silent, for Yerushalayim’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out brightly and her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication and all kings your glory. Then you will be called by a new name which Adonai himself will pronounce. You will be a glorious crown in the hand of Adonai, a royal diadem held by your God. You will no longer be spoken of as ‘Azuvah [Abandoned] or your land be spoken of as ‘Sh’mamah [Desolate]; rather, you will be called Heftzi-Vah [My-Delight-Is-In-Her] and your land Be’ulah [Married]. For Adonai delights in you….” (Isaiah 62:1-4 CJB).

It is my prayer that you will not remain silent, but that you will SHOUT from the mountaintops how illogical, deceptive, unwarranted and fabricated are the lies that are the basis of the initials: BDS.

In conclusion, let us focus our thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy as we read in Philippians 4:8. And thank you again for continuing to make CFI YOUR CHANNEL OF BLESSING – as we strive to make a difference in Israel - One Life at a Time!

Until next time – Blessings and Shalom,
Stacey Howard
Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

Taking a Look Back-in June 2015, Benjamin Netanyahu says boycott efforts recall Nazi Germany:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said recently that a Palestinian-led campaign to boycott Israeli goods was reminiscent of Nazi Germany’s campaign against Jews. “The attacks on the Jews were always preceded by the slander of the Jews. What was done to the Jewish people then is being done to the Jewish state now,” Netanyahu said. “In those days we could do nothing. Today we can speak our mind, hold our ground. We’re going to do both.” (i24News.tv)
“Yet, nearly six decades after the Holocaust concluded, anti-Semitism still exists as the scourge of the world.” – Eliot Engel

While anti-Semitism worldwide has continued to manifest for over the past six decades, it still remains an extremely shameful matter—the cursing of Israel. God clearly warned mankind against this mistake in His word. “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great...and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...” (Genesis 12:2-3). However, an even greater disgrace, is Christian anti-Semitism, in view of the fact that “…judgment must begin at the house of God…” (1 Peter 4:17). We who love the Lord Yeshua with all of our hearts, should know better than to participate in the violation of the above Scripture. While I do not claim to have all the answers, I am certain that there will be absolutely no anti-Semitism in the hearts of any person in God’s Coming Kingdom.

A Plumb Line Dividing Churches

Today, we see churches split over Israel. Lance Lambert taught that Israel would be a plumb line for the Church. “A plumb line is used for determining whether or not something is perfectly vertical, i.e., upright. Used since very ancient times, a plumb line consists merely of a line and a weight of some sort...Jesus would, most likely, have owned a set of various weights for His use in the building trade. The Word of God is a “plumb line” to determine how upright His people truly are...How upright they proclaim themselves to be, means nothing to God...What He said was wrong back then is just as wrong today because the Word of God is timeless...” (Wayne Blank).

What God saw in Israel which offended Him in the days of Amos (7:8), He also sees in the Church behavior today. In view of the fact that “…judgment begins at the House of God…” (1 Peter 4:17) the spiritual standard of measure will be similar to a measuring rod (or plumb line). Do we as followers of Yeshua exhibit Godly righteousness, acceptable to Him, in regard to His Chosen People in these last days? Israel will play a major part in God’s judgment of the nations (read Matthew 25:31-46).
Many churches today are involved in the boycotting, divesting and sanctioning of Israel as they continue to draw further away from her. The World Council of Churches, United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church, various Quaker bodies and the Anglican church in America and other nations support the movement of removing Jewish “occupiers” from their Land along with the Episcopal Church and the Mennonite Church. What is ludicrous is that Islamic hate for the Christian Cross is not spoken against.

Connecting the Dots

Part of our problem in the Church is a lack of understanding of Hebrew among our clergy. The Hebrew Scriptures (both Testaments) can truly be fully understood correctly only in their original Hebraic context. I quote some great Bible scholars who have tried to connect the dots for us by creating a picture for Christian clergy who have been unable to draw deeper from God’s Word. We will examine briefly, as an example, the Book of Revelation.

Dr. Alfred Edersheim, (The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah) identifies Revelation’s prophetic symbols as practices associated with the Jerusalem Temple and that its message is addressed mainly to Jewish people. Dr. David Stern (Jewish New Testament Commentary and Complete Jewish Bible) states, “…there are over 500 allusions to the Tanach (Hebrew Scriptures) from Exodus, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah (in Revelation).” And Dr. David Bivin (Director of the Jerusalem School for the Study of the Synoptic Gospels) says “Christian lack of knowledge of Jewish customs has led to misunderstanding Yeshua. Connecting the dots has not been easy in a gentle church with a lack of Bible scholars who know nothing about the original language of the Bible—Hebrew.

Christian Education Shortfall

Sadly, the shortage of Hebrew Roots professors in our seminaries and Bible colleges, has produced ordained clergy who prepare sermons with no knowledge of Jewish customs, traditions or Hebrew idioms of ancient Israel. This has led our pew-sitters into error as they leave the sanctuary of the church after incorrect interpretations of the Bible have been delivered. Do we wonder why we have so much Christian anti-Semitism? Sermons delivered using eisegesis—the reading into God’s Word something that is not meant, instead of utilizing exegesis, the pulling out from God’s Word the original intended meanings—are commonplace in Christianity. Using eisegesis we end up with a preacher imposing his interpretation on the text. The worldwide Church is in desperate need of Reformation and Jewish-Christian Education. New materials are needed in our halls of learning to avoid the historically repeated mistake of abusing Scripture regarding the Jewish people. Many wonderful shepherds have no idea they are doing this—it is simply the way they were taught in their Seminary classes.

The Chalice of Deception

Our churches today are also steeped in Replacement Theology and the general prejudice that God hates the Jews. Proclaiming Israel blind because of rejecting Jesus, they say God has cast away His People and that He no longer loves them. The Church now is the “New Israel” and the only beloved of God. While it may sound right, Christians today who aspire to be the New Israel are swallowing the same deadly toxin that spilled out of the Cup of Deception from which Christendom has been drinking for over 20 centuries.

It is historical fact that the highly venerated Martin Luther (leader of the Reformation of 1517) turned his back on the Jewish people after they refused his branch of Christianity. He then accused them of “poisoning the wells” of Christendom. In reality a poisonous tumor had attached itself to his teachings and ended up infecting the spiritual life of the entire Church in Europe, which then spread to other continents. For instance, many Christians in Germany attended local churches but also worked in Nazi death camps—which were built to extinguish the light of the entire Jewish race. Church leaders and hierarchal councils drank deeply from a cup of anti-Semitic poison. Sadly, today scores of Christians are sipping from the same vessel!

“In the archives of Christian history lies an unedited form of raw film footage, which has yet to be brought to the surface and played out at the final judgment. Any such replay of Christendom’s anti-Semitic history will reveal Church sponsored Crusades, Pogroms, massacres, exterminations, humiliations, segregations, separations, exclusions, superiority, arrogance, vexations, prejudice, and apathy toward the Jews...” and ashamedly, the longest religious hatred which brought on the Holocaust. Added to Christendom’s Hall of Shame are the “…false accusations, disgrace, forced conversions and baptisms, castigation by
Volumes of slanderous talk addressing the Jewish people came from the lips of Christendom’s forefathers who influenced Christian countries all over the world.

Church fathers, lies...all of this brought on a spiritual decline in Christendom. Ironically, however, at the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held in Amsterdam in 1948, it was stated that “anti-Semitism is sin against God and man.” It was made clear that “no Christian can have his relationship to God in order, unless his relationship to the Jews is right!” (William H. Heinrich, *In the Shame of Jesus*). To their disgrace, the World Council of Churches today has changed its stand. The chalice of deception has taken many church-goers to their grave arrogantly looking down on the Jewish people. It is a sad saga, but true, and once again Christian anti-Semitism has escalated into the heights of embarrassment and shame leaving our Jewish friends feeling as isolated as ever.

**Speeches by Church Forefathers**

Volumes of slanderous talk addressing the Jewish people came also from the lips of Christendom’s forefathers who influenced Christian communities all over the world. Sermons given by Church Fathers assisted in the spreading of lies about the Chosen People and damaged hearts—people ended up prejudiced against the Jewish people from drinking barrels of “tainted wine.”

**Epistle of Barnabas:** “Take heed to yourselves and be not like some...saying that the covenant is theirs as well as ours. It is ours, but they lost it completely just after Moses received it.”

“The custom of circumcising the flesh, handed down from Abraham, was given to you (Jews) as a distinguishing mark, to set you off from...us Christians...that you might suffer the afflictions that are now justly yours...and...God imposed upon you the observance of Shabbat as a mark.”

**Justin Martyr:** “The Jews...have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming this conspiracy against the Savior...”

**Origen:** “The synagogue is worse than a brothel...the temple of demons...the cavern of devils...I hate the Jews...”

**John Chrysostom:** “How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews)...”

**St. Augustine:** Known as “the meekest of Christian men, he said: “How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews) with your two-edged sword, so that there should be none to oppose your word!...”."

**Peter the Venerable:** “...I doubt whether a Jew can be really human...”

**Martin Luther:** Their synagogues should be set on fire...their homes should likewise be broken down...deprived of their prayer-books...their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach...next to the devil, a Christian has no more bitter and galling foe than a Jew....”

**John Calvin:** “...without measure...I hope...that they (the Jews) die in their misery without the pity of anyone.”

Jeremiah tells us of a day of soul searching and confession which will come, in the future, from the Gentiles to Israel. He saw that day and prayed “O Lord...the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies...things wherein there is no profit” (Jeremiah 16:19). Moffit translates, “nations will come from the extremity of the earth” and the Septuagint translates “nations from around the world will come to you” admitting they were deceived. And to think that the Lord counted us, non-Jews, worthy to bear His Name. **What has the Church done in the Lord’s eyes?**

**God Loves His Jewish People**

In no unspoken terms many Church leaders, in the past and still today, proclaim that God no longer loves His Chosen People and that He has broken His Everlasting Promises to Israel. God, however, seems to have spoken differently. “...I have loved you...” (Isaiah 43:4). “...Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love...” (Jeremiah 31:3). “...I said, I will never break my covenant with you” (Judges 2:1). “...concerning the election they (the Jews) are beloved...” (Romans 11:28). Our Jewish friends are asking “Are we still alone?” confused by the “mixed signals” being sent by large sections of Christianity, reminiscent of Church history. This causes all Christians to lose credibility in the eyes of the Jews. Once lost, such credibility is difficult to win back.” (Aviel Schneider, January 2013).
New Israel Theology

“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9). Greek scholars tell us that Jews were slandering Gentiles in the congregations. However, when we examine Scripture closer through Hebraic study, we see that some Gentiles were claiming to be the “New Israel” as do many today.

Why the Jew?

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” (Revelation 2:14). A teaching in the early congregations held to the spiritual deception of Balaam who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel by breaking God’s law through fornicating with foreign women and idol worship. Again, taking a closer look at history, the Church also put a stumbling block before the children of Israel by asking them to convert to another religion than what God established for them as a Chosen People. Jesus never asked His Jewish Disciples to join Christianity but only to follow Him. Historically, if they did they were told not to worship on the Shabbat, they were forbidden to circumcise their children, and they had to forsake all commandments which God gave them at Mt. Sinai. In essence, they could not remain Jewish, a huge mistake made by Christian missionaries. By ordering the Jews to disobey God’s laws, the Church cast a “stumbling block” before the Jewish people and were no better than Balaam. A person born a Jew should be allowed to remain a Jew if they follow Yeshua. Would one ask a Mexican to reject his culture and background or an African or European to do so? Why the Jew?

We are definitely in a colossal spiritual battle and multitudes are in a valley of decision today. They have a choice of whether to stand on the Lord’s side or not. The kingdoms of the earth are ruled by the evil one but they will soon become the kingdoms of our Lord and He shall reign forever and ever. The nations are angry with Israel, because the world has turned from following God’s laws. “...the nations were angry...” (Revelation 11:18). The devil will use nations, and church leaders, against Israel, to prevent God’s Kingdom from being re-established in Jerusalem. The end time battle is on and will be fierce. It may seem, at times, that Israel is defeated and all is lost but God will keep His Covenant, for He Himself will make Jerusalem “…a praise in the earth”(Isaiah 62:7).

Yes, Christian anti-Semitism still remains a scourge on the Church. We need to pray and speak truth (in love) to our own brethren. On one hand, anti-Semitism is driving the Jewish people home to Israel, but our task is to comfort Israel (Isaiah 40:1), bless Israel (Genesis 12:3), pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), function as a healing balm, (Jeremiah 30:17), provoke them to jealousy (Romans 11:14), continue to remove the stones of stumbling, (Isaiah 62:10) and keep preparing the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3). Most importantly, we need to be His Godly “witnesses” which He always expected of us.

When the Carpenter of Nazareth, made use of his tools, He would have needed a plumb line. Yeshua applies Israel as a plumb line to perfect His Followers. When Gentile Christians recognize Israel in God’s Plans and Purposes and make amends for historical wrongs done in His Name. To be a part of the Bride, there can be no anti-Semitism and no separation from Israel. “Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD has utterly separated me from His People...” (Isaiah 56:3). The true Bride will separate herself only from the “shame of the heathen” (Ezekiel 36:6,7) who have reproached God’s People (vs.15) as she cleanses herself from spot and wrinkle. Remember: in the true Church – there will be no trace of anti-Semitism!
We Don’t Have to Serve — We Get to Serve

“...comfort the faint hearted, uphold the weak...”
1 Thessalonians 5:14

BY PLACING OURSELVES in God’s service, in CFI outreaches, all Coordinators work hard and put much effort into preparation for our home visitations. Traveling by vehicle, we have to drive through sometimes hectic Israeli traffic, entering cities where we have never been and trying to locate an area, then streets, corners, looking for buildings and then searching for apartment numbers in order to reach our destination.

Even with modern GPS tracking systems, it sometimes can be challenging in Israel, but we have come to serve. We realize that because God raised up Christian Friends of Israel, we have the privilege of being allowed to live here and serve as taught by our Master. Streams of Blessing meets local Israelis at all different levels of society, from all backgrounds, experiences, and hardships.

We Love Serving Them

Many of our people are lonely and forgotten because of being elderly, especially widows and widowers. We love serving them. It was His way. Age makes no difference in Streams of Blessing nor does location. Wherever they are and if they need help, we will find them or they will make their way to us. Streams does not only help the poor and needy from many walks of life and ages but rabbis who help the poor sometimes come to us for help. Other rabbis have a home for children from broken families, still other rabbis who love to work with Christians, need help running their school. Sometimes social workers call us for particular problems the very poor have.

We work with government agencies who are helping newcomers. Perhaps a citizen has been without work and is sleeping in a car, a young mother wants to go to school which she never had the chance to do before so she can earn a living—all need our help. A multitude of Israelis from all backgrounds are coming to us. It is because of YOUR SUPPORT and PRAYERS that we can do so much.

Many Requests Come In

We have requests waiting for help for elderly in a day care center, camps for children with cancer, a youth village for youth at risk from deprived or distressed backgrounds, a mother with a sick child in hospital, Zaka rescue teams need our assistance, a rehabilitation ministry needs help, adults with disabilities, veterans, foster children from unstable home environments, single mother with children with debt, and children who have lost their mother or father to illness or tragic accidents.

One does not have to give, but everyone has the opportunity to give, in order for us not to have to serve, but we get to serve.

by Sharon Sanders, Project Streams of Blessing
“For I know what plans I have in mind for you,” says Adonai, “plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11-CJB).

Sense of Mission –

The IDF soldiers view their service in the IDF as a mission; they will be ready to give their all in order to defend the state, its citizens and residents. This is due to the fact that they are representatives of the IDF who act on the basis and in the framework of the authority given to them in accordance with IDF orders. (IDF Code of Ethics)

CFI continues to be granted the honor and privilege of supporting the mission of the Israel Defense Forces as they continue to put their lives on the line. We firmly believe that the mission of the physical guardians of Israel is the scriptural thing to do. God has called His people home, and as the world continues to show its disapproval of God’s ways, the IDF soldiers will continue to be on the front lines of protecting the Jewish state.

As Christian Friends of Israel, we are reminded by Paul that they are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises (Romans 9:4). As we provoke them to jealousy, and thank them for being a light to the nations – even as they master the art of war – we are witnesses to the fact that God has kept His promises. We encourage our Jewish friends with this spiritual message and stand in solidarity with them as they rely upon the God of Israel to deliver them yet again from the hands of their enemies.

Recently, during a visit with the Golani Brigade, we experienced encouragement given back to us from an IDF soldier who is completing his three-year commitment. He spoke of his appreciation for the prayers, resources and words of encouragement that we and other Christians have provided to him and his unit. To know that there are truly people in the world that look beyond the false reporting and recognize the righteous necessity of the mission of the IDF – is what motivates him. In other words, to know that his guiding principle, a message of God’s prophetic promises being fulfilled, is being heard by so many – is an inspiration and a motivation to him and his fellow warriors.

Your financial support allows us to represent you as we continue our God-given mission to inspire the IDF soldiers to stay strong, and to trust that their mission of protecting the State of Israel is right! The soldiers of the IDF say thank you!

by Jim McKenzie, Project David’s Shield

From a former IDF soldier: “…I remember that when I was in the army I received assistance from Christian Friends of Israel… it meant so much to me during my service. It would be such an honor and help… to receive aid and support from this fantastic organization in order to pass it on.”
Israel has been ravaged by a new wave of terrorism carried out by “lone wolf terrorists” since last October. It has proven to be very dangerous and deadly and also the worst kind of terrorism because it is so unpredictable.

UNLIKE organized terrorist attacks, which leave behind an intelligence trail that allows the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) to frequently monitor and disband Hamas and Islamic Jihad cells in Judea and Samaria, terrorists acting alone give no prior warning before attacking. Numerous Israelis have been killed in these attacks, including children. The following are some of the new forms of terror attacks carried out by “lone wolves.”

Vehicular Attacks: There were many incidents in which lone wolf terrorists rammed their cars into crowds of people waiting at light rail stations in Jerusalem, causing heart-rending fatal injuries. Among the victims was a three-month-old baby girl whose parents had tried so hard to have a child and finally she was born, only to be snatched away so cruelly.

Rock and Firebomb Terror Attacks: Rock throwing is often downplayed as an innocent provocation, but in fact rocks can seriously injure and even kill. The attacks happen daily and yet are often ignored by the mainstream media.

Stabbing Attacks: This form of terror attack happened on streets, in supermarkets, buses, checkpoints and has caused many deaths and injuries. Sadly the Jewish people in Israel do not even have the luxury of taking a rest on the bus when they are tired or unwell. That is the case of one 18-year-old new soldier stabbed to death as he slept on the bus on a sick leave, by a 16-year-old hatred-filled Palestinian youth.

Brutal Killings: The shocking terror attack that happened in the Har Nof Synagogue in Jerusalem in November 2014, caused four rabbis and a Druze policeman to be brutally killed and seven other worshippers injured.

Project Under His Wings in 2015, has made 43 home visits to terror victims and 41 visits to rocket victims totaling 84 home visits in locations all over Israel and in addition both projects organized several events. Travel to visit rocket victims is mainly in southern Israel in Ashkelon, Sderot, Netivot, Beersheva and kibbutzim bordering Gaza.

Together with you, Project UHW team had the privilege of visiting several terror survivors in hospitals who were injured by this new wave of terror attacks:

HERZL BITON was a bus driver who was severely injured by a lone wolf terrorist who boarded his bus near Tel Aviv. After the bus passed two stops and more passengers got on, the attacker took out a knife and began stabbing people, causing 13 persons to be injured. Herzl was praised as a hero, for if not for his brave and quick response toward the terrorist, this terror attack would have been much worse.

DANIEL PELAH is another terror survivor of this same attack who was also visited by Project UHW team at the hospital.

RABBI EITAN MOALMI was severely injured in his head and his left hand in the Har Nof Synagogue terror attack. He was in a coma for three days. His survival was a miracle. Though it will take a long time for his full recovery, praise the Lord that after a hospital and rehab center stay of several months, Rabbi Eitan has recently returned to his home.

We are so encouraged to see that in spite of severe damage and suffering, the terror survivors whom Project UHW team visited acknowledged and gave thanks to God’s protecting hands over them, saying, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.” (Psalm 118:17)

The victims and their families are deeply moved by the love and support of Christian visits. Thank you for allowing Project UHW to represent you to comfort the victims of terror attacks. May the God of Israel make you most blessed and to be a blessing forever. May He make you exceedingly glad with the joy of His presence. (Psalm 21:6)

by Maggie Huang,
Project Under His Wings

www.cfijerusalem.org
In 2015 the team has made 304 home visits in 29 different Israeli locations.

CFI STAFF was able to participate in celebrations which marked the 70th anniversary of a great victory in the cities of Lod, Netanya, Nahariya and Tel Aviv as honoured guests. The Great Victory Day or May 9, marks the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Soviet Union toward the end of the Second World War. In the former Soviet Union, this memorial event was celebrated to commemorate the Red Army’s victory over the Nazi forces. During the Soviet Union’s existence, May 9 was celebrated throughout the USSR and in the countries of the Eastern Bloc. The war became a topic of great importance in cinemas, literature, history lessons at school, the mass media, and the arts. The ritual of the celebration gradually obtained a distinctive character with a number of similar elements: ceremonial meetings, speeches, lectures, receptions and fireworks.

Holocaust Survivors all over Israel celebrated this day as it is still a very important day for them. In many towns people gathered together for festive celebrations in restaurants, which is very much a cultural tradition. For most of them it is a celebration of their second birthday, the liberation from the German oppression and deliverance from the fear of being killed at any moment. It was very important for leaders of the organizations of Concentration Camps and Ghetto Survivors in different towns, that CFI come and celebrate together with them. It was a very special time and we were very blessed by being able to attend these events. Over 90 home visits to mainly lonely and sick Holocaust Survivors have been made in the last four months.

We visited a lot of new people. After seeking their permission to visit them, these people were willing to open their doors to strangers and as they opened their doors, they also opened their hearts. It amazes me how eagerly many of the survivors agree to be visited, but often it comes with suspicion. We explain who we are, what we are doing in Israel and why we are visiting Holocaust survivors, quoting the command we believe the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gave to us - "Comfort, Comfort My people" (Isaiah 40). We are deeply touched when these elderly Jewish people open up to us, welcoming us into their homes. Most don’t want to let us go when the time comes for us to leave. They hold our hands with gratitude being so happy we came, when only an hour earlier they suspiciously asked, “What do you want from me?” ... We want to show them that they are not forgotten, that there are Christians around the world who love, care and support them. We hope to see a smile on their faces, or even to hear laughter. Very often they pour out their hearts to us just before we need to leave and standing at the door, we are happy to continue to stay and listen. It is a loving and caring word that melts the heart, when so much evil is around. It is a smile and the love that flows from our hearts—God’s love—that we give to these desperately lonely people. CFI does grassroots work that needs to be done among people.

God has called me to serve with CFI Jerusalem. It is because this work exists that the call can be fulfilled to serve His People in His Land and I, and other Coordinators here at CFI, do not take it lightly. We are so grateful to our partners that through your love, prayer and financial support this work is possible. Please continue to pray for these dear people.

by Olga Kopilova, Project Forsake Them Not

www.cfijerusalem.org
That They Might Have Hope

CFI purchases Computer Kiosks for Daystar Absorption Center Newcomers

Ayelet HaShachar, which means “Daystar,” is one among the many Absorption Centers located in the Northern part of Israel. This center is absorbing many Ethiopian-Jewish families, as they first come to the Land. It is a place where immigrants are taught the Hebrew language, receive awareness and exposure of new living styles, and different aspects of life that are waiting for them once they leave the absorption center. The Cultural Director of the Center is doing a wonderful job in impacting these immigrants’ lives and their children and has also designed many projects in order to promote the community.

KIOSKs are a huge blessing for new Ethiopian-Jewish immigrants coming to the Land. Many struggle in their desire to integrate among a well educated Israeli community who already enjoy a higher standard of life style. In the near future, the “Kiosk” computer stands are one of the major steps being taken to educate the new Ethiopian immigrants and it is presently being manufactured in Israel.

The Proposed Main Goal:

- To develop and encourage independence and self confidence
- To help and develop technological skills
- To provide accessibility and exposure to technology information, which enables them to highlight Internet usage as a source to get information while educating them on how this affects their daily lives. “The computer stand is a wonderful complementary aid especially to the adult generation in their comprehension of basic computer knowledge.”

Considering the importance of the skills provided to new Ethiopian immigrants (Olim) and the great impact it has in promoting integration as they leave the center, and start their life among their brothers in the Land, CFI – Jerusalem has already made it possible for the center to purchase its first “Kiosk” and helped a dream come true. We would like to purchase many more kiosks and are honored to be a part of this project. This blessing to the community would never be possible without your love gifts, donations and prayers. Thank you for your faithful commitments to CFI’s ministry work among new Ethiopian community in Israel today.

Above all we give all the Glory to the God of Israel who has kept His Promises for His People. He always shows that He has never failed them and will never do so. Praise be to Him as we trust Him to provide many more educational blessings for the new mature adult Ethiopian Olim whom He has and is bringing home to the Land of Israel. Amharic version of Psalm 31:14.

by Tsehai Legesse-Marabi, Project Hope for the Future

www.cfijerusalem.org
NO LONGER ABLE TO WORK

CFI was recently able to bless a couple who attend a local congregation. The father of three children has contracted a disabling disease and is no longer able to bring home wages to put food on the table or clothes on the children. The mother made the decision to study to be a chef in a school to learn a career in order to support their family. Project First Fruits sponsored her cost of culinary school.

Let us pray that she will be able to obtain a profession that will bring a huge blessing to her family and husband. Helping believers in the Land encourages them in their faith as they represent a standard of humility, integrity, hard work, and diligent study. CFI was pleased to be able to support this family because of the generous support of you in the nations.

HELPING A PASTOR RELOCATE:

A local pastor and a true shepherd recently found the building where his congregation meets suddenly under renovation by the owner and he was forced to relocate temporarily. The pastor personally absorbed all of the cost, which was quite an expense, in order to relocate. Project First Fruits assisted to cover the costs of his moving during this transitional time. Your generous support enables us to help those who carry such burdens.

“Honor all People.
Love the brotherhood…”
1Peter 2:17.

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”
1John 3:17.

by Kevin Howard, Project First Fruits

www.cfijerusalem.org
“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch” Isaiah 62:1.

June 15, 16, 17, 2016
Venue: Ramat Rachael
Jerusalem

The Conference ‘Opening Night’ will be on Wednesday, June 15th at 7 pm.
Thursday will be filled - morning to evening - with praise, worship, prayer, teaching and Middle East updates with lunch and dinner provided.
Friday we will have morning sessions followed by a lunch break and then an afternoon conference closing session. The evening will consist of organized Shabbat dinner experiences which will include a walk to the ‘Kotel’ to welcome in the Shabbat.
Shabbat dinners will be hosted by local Jewish families and arranged by Keshet Tours. Speakers to be announced.

Watch our website for updates!

Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813 Jerusalem 91015 Israel
Contact: events@cfijerusalem.org Tel: +972 2-623-3778

In Partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys
Contact: marnix@keshetjourneys.com Tel: +972 2-671-3518
Educational Resources

With the on-going challenge of Christians not understanding the relationship between the Bible and Israel, CFI does its best to bring relevant educational resources to teach the truth.

BATTLING WITH NAZI DEMONS:
Werner Oder presents his personal struggle as the son of a Nazi commander. Growing up, plagued by the demonic, he is desperate for hope. This book documents his story from anti-Semitism to Zionism, and is a reminder that the shadows of the Holocaust are still there.

A PRINCIPLE AND A PROMISE:
Sharon Sanders brings forward a fascinating discussion of God’s promise to Abraham, and the principles behind it. Learn about the God-given standard for mankind of being blessed from the primary source of life: the Bible. This book is now available for pre-order!

THE BEAUTY OF OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE:
Nathalie Blackham presents a concise and informative overview of the meanings inherent in the letters of the Hebrew language. With a vast depth of information presented in a concise and fascinating manner, this book is an essential for anyone fascinated by the language of the Bible.

DESTINATION JERUSALEM:
Chris Mitchell brings a spotlight to the ISIS terrorist state, how they began, and what they might be aiming for. With chillingly accurate information, and brutal honesty in the reporting, this book is invaluable for understanding the current Middle Eastern situation.

Tell the Children:
This is a pictorial, educational booklet for children. It is suitable for coloring. It is perfect for teaching the story of the Jewish people to the next generation.

Order Online at: www.cfijerusalem.org

CFI New Items for Sale

- Christian Friends of Israel T-shirt, Sizes, S, M, L
- CFI Logo Fabric Carrying Bag
- CFI Logo on metallic portable water container
- CFI Logo on beautiful pen
Before the outbreak of World War II, more than 3.3 million Jews lived in Poland, the largest Jewish population of Europe and second largest Jewish community in the world. Poland served as the center for Jewish culture and a diverse population of Jews from all over Europe sought refuge there, contributing to a wide variety of religious and cultural groups. Barely 11% of Poland’s Jews - 369,000 people survived the war. Today, approximately 3,200 Jews remain in Poland.

Fedir and Valentyna Korniichuk are originally from Dnepropetrovsk (south-central part of Ukraine). They have five children; all of them are grown married men and there is a total of 11 grandchildren. All of their children but one are already living in Israel. One of their sons came six years ago and he constantly encouraged his family to make aliya. Fedir and Valentyna, three of their sons and their families came just two months ago. They told us that their fifth son will be making aliya in two months. We praise the Lord for bringing the whole Korniichuk family to their Promised Land.

The Ingathering Begins From Poland

In the second week of May, Oleksii and Natalia, a lovely couple from Poland with a beautiful baby girl came to visit the DC. Oleksii’s grandmother came to Poland from Ukraine and lived in Warsaw where Oleksii grew up and met his wife. They now live in Netanya. Our longest serving member of staff doesn’t recall any other Olim family coming from Poland who has visited the DC. We praise the Lord for this!

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The Korniichuk Family

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“And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land.” (Ezekiel 37:21).

Olim with their Gift Baskets from the DC
“Aliyah is hard. Aliyah is the hardest thing I have ever done. Aliyah is probably the hardest thing I will ever do. Aliyah is also the most rewarding, inspiring, empowering thing I have ever done” (Ro Yeger, 8/4/15).

Little Isaac said that Miracles do Happen!

This is the story of a Jewish family who made aliya from Cuba two years ago. The family referred to in the article came to visit our Distribution Center and it was a blessing to spend time with them, support them in prayers and serve them as Olim.

The Israeli institution Beit Ha’Olem shares this touching story with us: “It has been over a year since we supported Isaac’s family. A sweet five-year-old child, he had a rare Lymphatic disease, the first case recorded in the country. At one point the boy fell into a coma, and his mother (a physician) and father (a mechanical engineer) who had fled from Cuba, left everything to be near their son. But one day, Isaac woke up! This was such an exciting story that it reached the newspapers. We will continue to support Isaac and his long rehabilitation process and the many difficulties that still lie ahead. Yet, little Isaac also reminded us that sometimes there are no coincidences, and that miracles do happen...!”

Isaac’s family visited the CFI Distribution Center recently and shared with us all the struggles they had been through. Isaac was having epileptic attacks and the doctors did not know what the cause was. His treatment wasn’t having any effect and his symptoms were getting worse. After being in a coma for several months, the doctors decided to intervene and Isaac was scheduled for brain surgery. Everything was prepared, but the chief doctor asked to wait and give a bit more time before operating. We believe that this was the Lord’s divine intervention as Isaac woke up from the coma soon after the doctor’s order. When Isaac woke up, his mom was with him and she couldn’t believe her eyes, so she ran to call the doctors and they told her not to be afraid, for her son was not sleeping anymore.

Isaac has made a lot of progress and he even seems to be more active than before. He has finished the therapy treatment for June. His immune system is very low and so there is a risk that he could be affected by any disease. Let us pray for God’s healing touch over Isaac’s life as well as for strength for his parents. A group of the DC staff visited them recently as we have established a friendship with this precious family.

We thank the Lord that He uses the CFI ministry to bless His people and without you, we wouldn’t be able to continue ministering to the Jewish people in Israel. Open Gates needs your support!

by Rocio Fordham, Project Open Gates

Days after Isaac woke up from the coma, he said to his parents: “Now, I am saved.” Praise the Lord for His miracle!

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16).
Showing God’s Kindness

It is our privilege to see God bringing back his People to the Land of Israel and to be a part in a significant way in the strengthening of the Israeli society through helping the settling of new Israeli families. May God continue blessing new wives and husbands and the children which may be born here. Thank you for being part of the CFI Ministry. Your help and generosity enables us to show His kindness among thousands of the People of Israel.

Thanks from a Joyous Bride

“Dear CFI, Thank you for the incredible work that you do! I was blessed to become an Israeli citizen this August as I moved to Jerusalem to join my family and fiancé in the Jewish homeland. But starting a life in a new country is very expensive, especially when planning a wedding! What a relief it was to discover the Christian Friends of Israel Bridal Salon where I was able to find a Wedding dress that made me feel like a Queen and at no cost!”

Patty, your Bridal Coordinator, was so warm and helpful and, even as I was overwhelmed with the selection, she guided me in choosing a beautiful dress, veil, shoes and even jewelry for this special day. Thank you for all that you do, and may you and your Christian supporters be showered with blessings of health, love, more love and success!

With gratitude, Amy

“Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor” Proverbs 21:21 ESV.
Plan Your Visit  
To Israel TODAY

The importance of visiting Christians working in the Land of Israel is imperative. Hearing first hand, experiencing what they go through, and seeing the results of reaching out to the Jewish people is immense. A Christian group can learn much through booking early a tour to visit the Christian Friends of Israel Distribution Center and Headquarters.

For more information please contact:  
events@cfijerusalem.org

“Dear brothers, what’s the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren’t proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing, and you say to him, “Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty,” and then don’t give him clothes or food, what good does that do...faith that doesn’t show itself by good works is no faith at all—it is dead and useless” (James 2:15-16).

www.cfijerusalem.org

“A career is something you do for yourself. The Call of the Master is something you do for God.”

Running With a Vision

“It is a privilege and honor to be part of the CFI team in Jerusalem.”

As the Human Resources Coordinator, I recruit and review potential applicants and serve the needs of staff and volunteers. I use my God-given talents to encourage, motivate and assist those serving here in the land. It’s a wonderful opportunity to challenge people to be the very best they can be for the kingdom. Being in Jerusalem at this time, is a true gift from God.

If you have a heart for Israel and a desire to serve, please visit our website today to find out more.

Is God calling you to fill one of the presently open positions with us?

- Outreach Coordinators  
- Administrative Assistants  
- Social Media Coordinator  
- Writers and Copy Editing  
- Media Production Personnel  
- Cooking and Shipping Personnel  
- Foreign Language Interpreters

Contact me at: personnel@cfijerusalem.org

Elizabeth Uys, Johannesburg, South Africa, Human Resources Coordinator

2016 FOURTH QUARTER FZS
Blessing Israel in Bulgaria

IN A RECENT festival in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria, Christian Friends of Israel–Bulgaria participated in a touching program for the people of Pazardzhik. CFI Jerusalem sent a Jerusalem Greeting to the participants and it was so well received that many people came to the CFI table to hear more on Israel and the Jewish people.

After the CFI presentation, all the people held hands and lifted up the People of Israel with the “Oseh Shalom” song to which all of the approximately 400 guests (including other European countries) readily responded. God touched many hearts during the festival and we give God all the glory for the wonderful work being done by our Representatives in Bulgaria. Contact: CFI Bulgaria cfi_bg@yahoo.com

CFI CANADA Opens New Channel to Jerusalem

CFI CANADA was recently victorious in receiving its new Charities status. The Canadian objectives will be to help Jerusalem headquarters relieve poverty in Israel through the many CFI Jerusalem outreach programs. We want to thank all of our past and present Canada support partners for all you do for Christian Friends of Israel and the Nation of Israel.

Canadian Donors mail donations in Canada to:
CFI Canada
RPO Newton
PO Box 88631 Surrey
BC V3W 0X1 CANADA
Contact Ken Smith at: revken.smith@telus.net

CFI USA at July Action Trade Show and Jerusalem Host in November

NOVEMBER 5-12, 2015 Hannele Pardain hosted CFI Jerusalem during Stacey and Kevin Howard’s USA visit to Charlotte, NC with the gracious and well planned co-ordination of transport, accommodation and meetings. There was also a very special trip to the inspiring Billy Graham Library and DPM Global Headquarters. A tremendous and heartfelt “Thank You” to CFI–USA for the amazing support of Jerusalem and all you do for Israel. Please contact CFI–USA at: cfiusa@cfi-usa.org

Mitka at conference in Bulgaria

Kevin, Stacey and Hannele at CFI–USA office in Charlotte, NC
Hannele at CFI booth
MUCH PRAISE to God for the successful 30th anniversary conference held at Kings Centre in Eastbourne. CFI’s CEO Jacob Vince, Dr. R. Kendall Soulen, and Rick Ridings spoke. Delegates from a wide range of age groups attended the packed conference hall. Thank God for the first 30 years!

The CFI UK office recently finished a two week period of meeting many of the nearly 10,000 Christians camped at the New Wine Festival. CFI’s beautiful booth in the market place drew many to our ongoing work in the UK and in Israel. This is only part of the many activities in which CFI UK participates during the year. Thank you to our British supporters.

CFI UK contact Jacob Vince at: info@cfi.org.uk
CFI Jerusalem Journey to the UK

IN THE TRADITIONAL manner of our British friends and the CFI UK office in Eastbourne, the recent journey by Sharon Sanders throughout much of the heart of this great nation was met with much enthusiasm and good response. Under the co-ordination of Jacob Vince, CEO of the CFI UK office and David Soakell, Church Liaison for the CFI UK office, Sharon traveled and spoke in Heathfield, Bournemouth, Old Woking, Luton, Blackheath, Preston, Dewsbury, Gateshead, Chirnside (Scottish Borders), Norwich and Brentwood.

Her message on “Israel and the Coming Kingdom: The Holy Spirit in the Land Today and the ministry of Christian Friends of Israel Jerusalem made for a heartwarming and inspiring experience at all the stops made, including churches, fellowships, project meetings and a conference at Emmanuel College, Gateshead.

Many thanks to the CFI UK leadership for their well-coordinated navigation throughout the Land to so many meetings with wonderful supporters. For further contact in the UK: info@cfi.org.uk

God faithfully orchestrated our Journey to the USA

ONE OF THE GREATEST joys we have is to be able to bring the true report of life in Israel to our friends in the nations. Our most recent tour of the United States in October and November was truly a marvelous experience. We were so richly blessed by the outpouring of encouragement and support that we received from everyone we met on our journey.

To our family of faithful partners in Colorado, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois and Missouri – we thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry efforts of Christian Friends of Israel- Jerusalem.

A very special thank you to all of our partnering Churches for Israel, the TCT Television Network, Watchman Broadcasting, and FM NewsTalk 97.1 - St. Louis, MO.

Shalom from Jerusalem
Stacey and Kevin Howard
We need your help so we can — in turn — help others

As your ministry in Jerusalem, we are your hands and feet on the ground in Israel. We have always relied on the Lord to touch the hearts of you, our donors, to bring the provision of support from the nations. Each step along the journey has consisted of building new outreaches, forging new friendships and dealing with new circumstances that are many times out of our control.

In the summer of 2012, Christian Friends of Israel received word that the building housing its headquarters in Jerusalem would be offered up for sale. In the months thereafter, the building came under new ownership and finally on May 31st, 2014, CFI had no option but to move out of its headquarters which was located near Zion Square.

Since then our ministry staff has worked - every day - out of our Lighthouse Distribution Center. While just more than 25% of the space of our previous headquarters, the Lighthouse Distribution Center has become a cozy place for our tightly-knit staff in Jerusalem. As we have the kind of caring individuals on our staff that focus on the Lord’s work more than the conditions of their surroundings, we are more appreciative than ever for those the Lord brings to Jerusalem to serve.

During this transition, we have stood on Isaiah 40:31 that “…they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength…” as we continue to pray daily that God will open a new door that will enable the ministry to again have separate headquarters. Until that time arrives, we’re asking you to consider helping us to improve our current bricks and mortar with some much needed renovation and layout change.

It is for this reason that we are appealing to you, our donors throughout the nations, to please consider giving ‘something special’ today towards this necessary redesign of our current location.

“My wisdom a house is built, it is made secure through understanding” Proverbs 24:3 (ISV).

Stacey Howard
Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem

Mail your gift today, or go online at www.cfijerusalem.org and click on “contribute”
Want to know more about what’s happening in Israel from those who are on the ground? The CFI Media Team provides many informative resources for viewing and reading. With our “boots on the ground” team based in Jerusalem, we have unparalleled opportunities to bring you “truth out of Zion” including relevant, up-to-date, and interesting insights that are easy to access. Learn more about our informative resources at: www.cfiJerusalem.org

**FocalPoint**

**Multi Media:**

**FocalPoint TV:** a monthly, 30-minute television program providing on-location video, combining informative interviews and relevant Israel updates.

For more information and an online archive of previous programs, go to: www.cfiJerusalem.org to find out more.

![Stacey and Kevin Howard](image)

**FrontPage Jerusalem:**

**The voice of Israel to the world:** a new project for CFI’s Media Team. Every week, on over 200 radio stations in North America and around the world you can listen in or download the program to get the latest 30-minute update from Jerusalem. You’ll hear news, informative teaching and interviews, bringing you closer to Israel and her people.

For more information go to: www.frontpagejerusalem.com

**Online Media:**

**Israel News Digest** – weekly and monthly editions

**Watchman’s Prayer Letter**

**OnWatch Newsletter**

**Wall of Prayer Newsletter**

**Print Media:**

**For Zion’s Sake** – a quarterly, full-color magazine is available upon request (and also as an online download). FZS is free with a gift of any amount.

**Social Media:**

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, Tumblr and more.....

**CFI Representative Nearest You**