“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 49:6 NIV
Dear CFI Friends and Family,

It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through 2018. I still have to pinch myself as a reminder of the great gift the Lord bestowed upon my husband and me as we have been allowed to live alongside the Israeli people these past four years. How blessed all of us are that have been given such an opportunity!

Since 1989 – four years after establishing Christian Friends of Israel as an organization – the destruction of the Berlin Wall brought an influx of Russian/Jewish immigrants to the nation of Israel; and so, CFI Project Open Gates was born. Project Open Gates has welcomed through its doors approximately 300,000 Jews from all different walks of life. When these individuals enter our doors we are able to share with them from the Jewish Scriptures about God’s plan and purpose for them, pray for their needs, and solidify our unconditional love for them. We entered our doors we are able to share with them from the Jewish Scriptures about God’s plan and purpose for them, pray for their needs, and solidify our unconditional love for them. We

An example of a family CFI was able to help this past quarter is Ms. Levine, a young, single mother of two who was unable to find other assistance in the land. We were able to provide her and her children with 12000 NIS worth of assistance over the last few months. We helped with rent, utilities, childcare and food. As she feels a sense of relief it is our prayer that when she lays her head on her pillow at night she’ll remember how Christians from around the world were able to give her some much needed help, and that she and her family are not alone in a world where there is so much animosity toward her people. If she were writing this letter there is no doubt she would express her deepest appreciation to each of you for your love and support.

Friends, I value this opportunity each quarter to personally thank you for your continued love, prayers and support for this ministry. Since words cannot always express a person’s thanks for such generosity, the Lord promises in His Word to thank you for blessing His people, by blessing you, in turn. Finally, it is important for you to know that CFI has been a recognized Israeli Non-Profit organization for decades. Every year, Israel’s Ministry of Ammut has awarded us with a Certificate of Good Standing. Without this earned certificate the Israeli government would not allow CFI - Jerusalem to continue operating in the land.

I have presented you with challenges before and this quarter I would also like to challenge you to share about CFI - Jerusalem and what we are doing in Israel with someone within your nation. Whether you are a pastor, marketplace worker, or stay at home mom, only God knows how your one voice can make a difference—so allow Him to use you! It is when people begin to understand the connection between God, Israel and the Jewish people that the foundations of their faith are strengthened to new levels. Won’t you take the challenge and try to influence someone within your sphere? Plant a seed of hope in someone’s heart by sharing from your own personal testimony how God has made a difference in your life since you decided to stand with Israel. Thank you!

God bless you and Shalom-Shalom,
Stacy Howard

Executive / International Director
Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem
The LORD said to me, “I have a greater task for you, my servant. Not only will you restore to greatness the people of Israel who have survived, but I will also make you a light to the nations—so that all the world may be saved” (Isaiah 49:6, Good News Translation). “...to be My salvation to the ends of the earth” (Holman Christian Standard Bible). “...you can bring my deliverance to the remote regions of the earth” (NET Bible). “...that you may bring salvation to the farthest part of the earth” (New Heart English Bible). “...so that you would save all the people over the world’ (GOD’S WORD translation).

By choosing Israel, God has entrusted one nation with an unparalleled, and enormous, responsibility—to be a brilliant and shining lamp to the nations. The defining moment will be when she clearly moves into being an example, spiritually, as a country. I believe he has begun. It’s sad, as Israel is destined to be a “light to the nations” but all has been ignored and removed from Christian education, in our seminaries and preparatory schools.

After living in Israel over thirty years, I can tell everyone, the Jews are anything but blind, and unintentional. I hate to shock anyone, but, it has been said here, “We want for Messiah...and if it is Jesus, we will accept Him, but we will not be attached to Him, and we will know Him, without the help of anyone, but God.” The Bible says it was the Lord’s doing to blind “in part” (Mark 10:11-12) and for this reason, we Christians need to practice humility. If it was part of His Plan to hide the face of Jesus, then it will be His Plan to bring it to an end. As the God of all flesh, God has “saved many people”, through Jesus, in order for Jews and Gentile to become one in worshiping the One True God.

Out of Jerusalem, will be carried a “torch of truth” (Proverbs 4:18). “The bones grew, with new garments of glory, as new buildings are being constructed. She is revealing herself as she once was, coming out from under the rubble of centuries. There is an ancient song of joy being sung within her gates. As a Jewish bride in preparation for the greatest event of her life, she, and her people, are rejoicing in their resurrection, from the graveyards of history.

The Jewish people are stepping up and becoming a strong nation. It was “dry bones” in the valley of death, that were brought back to life, and a new spirit emerges. New “Israels” learn how Shabbat is celebrated, in Israel. Elderly men, who have never had a bar-mitzvah, can read the Bible from a Jewish perspective, it is as if a Bridal Canopy is being spread over nations.

For centuries, Christianity taught that the improperly termed, “Old Testament” represented “dry” oil. The present interest is part of the “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21). The whole Counsel of God will function as the basic authority in the life of the Kingdom age. It will command the respect of authority, and loyalty, from all nations. I believe that God will continue to be remarkably involved in this nation’s spiritual growth. Why else would “...ten men, from the nations, take hold (clutch) the skirt of a Jew (likely a prayer shawl) and say “We have heard that GOD is with you” (Zechariah 8:23).

Christianity has “carried the torch” of the gospel of Jesus to the world ever since the Jewish Apostles passed away. Gentile Christendom then ran ahead of Judaism, and left its Hebraic nature in the dustbins of history. Now is a time of putting things in order, in a time of “chassidut.” Israel’s sages teach that “chassidut” precedes the coming of Messiah. They say that preparations for a revelation must precede the revelation as many believe we are living in the time, prior to Messiah.

It may be difficult to believe, but as many churches struggle, many synagogues are overflowing. As Christians, we like to say we are the “Torchebearers,” and while this is true, we must come to grips with an embarrassing fact: our forefathers embraced a heretical lie, regarding God’s Chosen people. (Jeremiah 16:19). The serious offences committed, and the transgressions which resulted from centuries of abuse to the Jewish people by Christianity, requires repentation. Replacement teachings, and Christian anti-Semitism, have resulted in a distressing distrust of Christians, which should make us sick at heart. It is no small matter. Many who live and work in Israel, are involved in the repairing being accomplished here today. Zion is being restored.

Yes, our light was blurted to the Chosen Ones. It was the prunts of Roman Catholicism who lined up Jewish people during WWII and gave the command to firing squads, “Fire in the Holy Name of Jesus!” At the same time, Protestant and Catholic leaders told the Jews, “Be baptized or die!” How, in God’s Name, could they have done this? They did. As bodies of Jewish people were being torn apart, photos of Christ were hung at the end of torture tables. The last thing a suffering Jewish person saw, while being mutilated, was a portrait of Jesus. It was a satanic darkness that came from so-called “Christians.” Recently, in a Bible study in the Knesset, someone asked forgiveness for improper feelings toward the Jewish people. I watched the faces of Rabbis present, as they nodded their heads, in a forgiving moment. Arrogance has been a real problem in the Church. We must not be ashamed of the Gospel, but we should be ashamed of what our people did, in the Name of the Lord! Where are our tears?

Some Christian leaders find it unacceptable to learn from Jewish Bible Scholars. They say with pride, and with eyes see- ing red, “how could they (the Jews) teach us (Christians) anything? They don’t have Jesus!” I can truthfully reply, that I have been taught about the Jewishness of Jesus, by Jewish scholars, far more than I...
ever was taught from my Sunday School teachers. If Christians could experience the depth of understanding that many Jewish scholars have, they might join the Pastor who sadly told us, “I’ve been preaching for over 25 years and I can’t hold a candle to the Jews, compared to the knowledge they have of the Bible!” The Jewish people have been terribly misjudged, and presumed spiritually dead.

Israel is already standing in the gateway, of a new era. The “rise of excellence” in Israel surpasses 195 countries, a foretaste of the messianic kingdom to come, where Israel will lead the nations. An Israeli field medical clinic in the north attending to the wounds of enemies, has been described as the “best in the world”. All fits into preparation for future kingdom service in helping others.

Israel has also created a mini-world within her borders. If someone wants to experience an African Safari, you don’t need to go to Africa. If you want to snow ski, you don’t have to travel to Switzerland. If you want to see one of the Wonders of the World, visit Jerusalem. Israel is building her own amusement park, based upon family adventures reflecting Jewish and universal values.

Splash Mountain will have a Biblical theme to show six work days and a “calm zone” after a drop...signifying the Day of Rest. Jacob’s Ladder tells the story of the Jewish people.

Israel’s military, technically, is unprepared. Why else would they have discussed the need to hold on to a day of rest. Pharaoh asked Aaron and Moses, “Why do you take the people from their work? You make them rest from their labor!” (Genesis 5). The Knesset is working on a ban on cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes, gambling, Internet pornography, and human trafficking throughout the country. It seems they are embarked on a clean-up mode. A new Israel Bible Bloc has been formed in the Knesset, consisting of Jews and Christians, and founded by an Israeli. Christian medics are working with the Israeli army in being a good neighbor to Israel’s enemies. A new “Israel Bible” has been released which includes God’s prophetic word for Israel. Israelis are trafficking to Africa and India, drilling for water, teaching agriculture, and disaster relief techniques as well as sending experts in agriculture, hydrology, regional planning, public health, engineering, community services, medicine and scores of other fields outside Israel. What other country is so clearly in the forefront of “nations helping nations”?

A kingdom is on its way that could make King David blush. Sandra Teplinsky explains “a shift has begun...the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem appears to have facilitated a strengthening of the governance of God in this city...” It’s been said, Kings rule by decree and God’s decision certainly has the full force of His Voice behind it. Jerusalem will be the “throne of the Lord” (Jeremiah 3:17). When President Donald Trump declared Jerusalem the Capital of Israel, he was as if he was “spotting a flag at the beginning of a big race. That move signaled a highly competitive contest, among Islamic nations, in the struggle to win the Crown Jewel: Jerusalem. Desperate forces are gathering strength to wage a final war to snuff out her destined light.

As Israel strengthens her moral commitment to God, God’s blessings will flow even more. May she turn her gaze toward the Eastern sky, and her prayers at the Western Wall be realized. As the sound of the Ancient Shofar, in the Galeilee, has been heard, and the spotted sheep of the Ancient Shofar, in the Galilee, has been revived, and the “spotted sheep” of Western Wall be realized. As the sound of the Ancient Shofar, in the Galeilee, has been heard, and the spotted sheep of Israel, he was as like a man dropping a stone into the water. (Jeremiah 3:17).

For the first time since the destruction of the Temple, the people of Israel have heard the sound of Shofar blowing at the Western Wall. May this sound be a signal that the people of Israel have turned to the Lord. May the sound be a signal that the people of Israel have renewed their commitment to God, and are ready to live a life of faith and obedience. May the sound be a signal that the people of Israel have found their way home, may Messiah’s Welcome come speedily. May the pause Israel encountered on the day of the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, be reactivated, and the cry, “Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” be heard around the world.

If Mrs. Ann Graham Lotz is correct, her father, Billy Graham, died on the same day Jewish scribes recorded the death of Moses, a new morning has broken through, and dawned. May the sparkle of this light grow brighter, as Israel rises to step up to her challenge in this New Day. Martin Hauster, a Swiss brother, left behind a message, before he passed: “I live in the anticipation and in the brilliance of the first rays of God’s New Day.” It is to this vision that we commit ourselves: the call for Israel to step up to her spiritual challenge. What better time to wish her the best, than on her 70th birthday, as she rises to be a standard to all nations?

Race the Ways of the Patriarchs

It was very moving to run this race, while racing the ways of the patriarchs during the Marathon, the Biblical accounts of the patriachs were also racing in my mind. The patriarchs of the Jewish people demonstrated an enduring faith, as their descendants have—to whom God promises to give the Land of Israel. Avraham’s family was deeply touched by our love and support through actions. After the Marathon, they invited us to their home, and told us that we are always welcome in their home. It is because of you—the supporters of this project, the UHW team—is able to continue doing what we do, to reach out to victims and families of the deceased victims of terror attack with the love of our Lord Yeshua. Your prayers and financial support to project UHW for victims of terror attack are deeply appreciated. Thank you. The Lord bless you from Zion.

Maggie Huang
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The elderly Ethiopian population in Jerusalem contains sources for rich history, culture and tradition. However many Ethiopians over 75 experience being marginalized by great proportions. We can anticipate that by 2050, the elderly Ethiopian population will increase by 50%. Fathers once revered for their wisdom and knowledge in Ethiopia are relegated to live in seclusion for days with no social life. This population exists as the “silent generation.” Silent generation because the older generation of Ethiopians speak Amharic, unlike the Hebrew-speaking younger generation. They have not been able to apprehend Hebrew as quickly or in most cases not at all.

“Let your face shine on your servants;”
Psalm 31:16a.

The Hope for the Future project has worked with many of the older clients especially those living in Bnei Brak. We had the opportunity to sit and spend time with a couple experiencing health difficulties this month. Mhft Avraham and his wife wore the typical weariness of age and trauma. Mhft was hospitalized for removal of half of his kidneys and cancer. His wife Meherat is recovering from a stroke. As they sorted through bags of bills and documents to provide information for me, their faces lit up as they came across pictures and documents from their past. They began sharing stories they were proud of and some amazing pictures. It was a different world in Gondor where Mhft was elected as the chairperson at the counsels in Ethiopia, then later arrested for secretly approving Ethiopian immigrants to cross the river to immigrate. This could only be done under cover of night. Mhft was arrested and tortured for two years. We asked why he did not just leave his blind mother. His wife could not travel either as she was very weak. What heroic stories he had to tell! Thankful for the reward Mhft received for the patience and longsuffering he endured, we found out that even so, he was beaten up but not beaten down. He also received an award as a “Honored prisoner of Zion in Israel.” Hope for the Future knows that this is a generation that “will not be forgotten.”

“I am not forgotten by them as though I were dead”
Psalm 31:12.

Stories are held dormant inside the frail frames of many elderly in this community. While they are viewed as old and religious, inside are the real stories of the struggles, their endurance and their heart to return to Israel. Hope for the Future sees the need for people like this couple to have a voice and remember to enjoy social activities. We do this by giving them a chance to meet others in groups with which to form a sense of community and stimulate recreation. Hope for the Future encourages you to pray for this silent generation in Israel. With support and vision we hope to identify others with illnesses and depression and be able to reach out to create recreational activities and to give “hands up”, stirring hope and shining the light of our heavenly Father through our efforts. We seek to warm many etched faces and fill tender hearts.

“But I trust in you Lord; I say, “You are my God”
Psalm 31:14.

Marcia Brunson
Project Hope for the Future
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Steadfast Love in Times of Trouble

The joy and fulfillment that children bring to a family is beyond measure. Especially here in Israel, it is so tremendous to see the young Jewish families thrive with each new blessed child. Life in Israel, however, for those who have recently immigrated can be challenging for these new families, as they struggle with all of the changes involved in starting over in a new country. Even with all of the joy and excitement of finally being in their ancestral homeland, many are barely making it month to month and any small setback can be quite a hardship on the entire family.

Recently we had the honor of meeting an amazing family that had made Aliyah in 2015. Rachel and her husband were a typical hard-working Jewish family with two beautiful girls. In order to make ends meet, both parents were working on their new careers in Israel and doing well. Then Rachel learned she was expecting their third child. As the pregnancy advanced into the later stages, complications began to arise and Rachel was told that for the safety of herself and the unborn child, she would have to be placed on complete bed rest for the duration of her pregnancy. This unexpected challenge placed this dear family in a position Rachel being unable to work or care for the family’s two small children. The situation added new medical assistance costs and extra child care expenses--all combining into a terrible financial burden for the family.

Christian Friends of Israel had the privilege of standing beside this precious family and assisting them in paying their rent and food expenses until the new baby safely arrived. Rachel and her family were not able to express how completely grateful they were, for the extended lifeline that you as Christians in the nations were able to provide at the time of their most desperate need. Thank you so much for your continued giving and support for the precious families in Israel that need Christian friends to stand alongside them and let them know that we love and care about them as we all come together--children of the Most High!

Stacey Howard
Project Streams of Blessing
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Psalm 31:16a.
The Re-Planting of the Lord

As a team here in Jerusalem, we have an incredible privilege to meet precious Holocaust Survivors. They are the last witnesses of horrible atrocities of the Nazi regime, we reach out to them bringing them comfort and the love of God. We are also trying to be their voices to the world, by sharing their stories of hearts still full of inexpressible pain. We are grateful for the opportunities to sit at their feet and share their burdens and joys. Each life is so precious and such a miracle of divine deliverance.

Raya, an 88-year-old Holocaust Survivor and a very precious friend, is a very soft and loving lady. She has two children, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and she is very proud of it. Her eyes sparkle when she speaks about them and when showing us pictures. Despite her rapidly deteriorating health, she is full of life and joy. She wants to live and see the children grow. But she also shared that there is no single day when she doesn’t think of the horrible days of the Holocaust and its consequences.

Raya was born in Ukraine, and had a wonderful family – parents and two brothers. When the war started, her father was called to the front, while the rest of the family was placed in a fenced-in ghetto, with no food or other necessities. Sometimes Raya’s mother managed to escape through the holes in the fence to get some food from local farmers. Partisans also worked hard to help Jewish people survive.

Raya still remembers the fear she experienced because of the guards and policemen, who were extremely cruel. As children, they were not allowed to play outside and most of the time were hiding inside. On one sunny spring day, Raya decided to slip under the porch of their house to get some sun and fresh air. Unfortunately she was noticed by a guard and was beaten till almost dead. We saw the scars on her hands and feet, and we felt her still bleeding heart.

In May 1942, the entire ghetto was rounded up and 1600 Jews were led to the slaughter in the forest, where the mass graves were already prepared. It was a cold and rainy day. Some Jews tried to resist and a fight broke out. Raya’s mother used that chance to escape while a man saw her. He took her in, and adopted her as his daughter, risking the lives of his entire family. They hid Raya in their home until liberation, and Raya continued to live with them until her father came back from the war and found her in 1946. This humble couple - Porto and Maria, became Raya’s parents till the end of their lives, and their names are written down in the Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. There is still one thing that deeply grieves Raya’s heart today – she cannot remember her mother’s face, because of the shock she experienced on that day of mass killing. She never had a chance to look back into her mother’s loving eyes again.

As I was working on this article, the sad news reached us again – two other precious survivor friends had just passed away. This reminds us daily, that time is short and limited for these witnesses to be with us. It burdens our hearts, but we know – this burden is also His.

We would like to encourage you to pray for comfort for the remaining Survivors. Let us all be faithful servants in the fields He called us to.

Thank you for all your prayers, love and financial support for His beloved people.

Olga Kopilova
Project Forsake Them Not
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The Re-Planting of the Lord

The Re-Planting of the Lord

The Re-Planting of the Lord

Fighting fire with…

Since March 30th, thousands of Palestinians have gathered along the Israel-Gaza security fence in order to participate in what they call the “Great Return March.” The violent riots have included some newly created tactics including flying arson kites to burn Israeli fields, hurling and planting explosives in order to hurt Israelis, and burning tires to create a smoke screen under which the rioters could infiltrate Israel and carry out terror attacks.

The violence escalated on May 14th, the anniversary of the day that the State of Israel was established, which Palestinians call the “Nakba” or the day of “catastrophe.” The day included more violent riots and infiltration attempts. IDF soldiers did what was necessary to fulfill their mission of defending and protecting Israeli civilians, and responded to the violent threats with non-lethal riot dispersal means and live fire in accordance with the rules of engagement.

Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)—both terrorist organizations based in the Gaza Strip—began launching rockets at Israel on May 28. In less than 24 hours, more than 100 rockets were launched at Israel, endangering the lives of thousands of civilians. One of the rockets hit a kindergarten and another hit a civilian home.

“Quiet will be met with quiet, but terror will be met with a firm response,” said IDF Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus.

Project David’s Shield continues to seek opportunities to encourage the brave soldiers defending the borders of Israel. There never seems to be any amount of time that could be considered “peace time” for these soldiers. However, peace is and always has been the hope of all Israeli citizens and especially those defending the Nation.

While the world waits for Peace, it continually reminds Israel that she has enemies. Therefore, Christian Friends of Israel shall, as representing those from the Nations, continue to bless Israel and its God given mandate to this Land through acts of practical support and words that encourage, reminding of hope and God-spoken promises.

The Lord made very clear the right choice – that of life. We encourage our Jewish friends to continue promoting this absolute truth. There are many in the world, unfortunately, who choose death and the curses.

Recently we were privileged to visit a special forces unit on patrol in Samaria near the city of Shechem, which is modern day Nablus. As we were overlooking the city and noticing that the tomb of Joseph was just in the distance, we were heartened to know that the significance of the site was a reminder to the soldiers of their history and consequently a reminder of their future. We provided new backpacks to this unit – spent a few hours with them discussing our solidarity and the plan of God concerning them and hopefully provoking a sense of jealousy to be always seeking God’s perfect will for themselves.

I would encourage all from the nations to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to continue supporting our efforts to be an encourager and provider of practical help to the brave defenders of Israel.

Jim McKenzie
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The summer months can be very hot and extremely dry in the Negev region of Southern Israel, where the farmers in the Israeli communities near the Gaza border work tirelessly to bring in the grain crops for the people in the land. This summer however, has been one of the worst on record for those communities as the so-called “Peaceful Protests” of Arab Palestinians in Gaza have been using balloons, kites and even live falcons to deliver “Molotov cocktail” incendiary devices into the dry fields to set them ablaze and bring as much destruction and hardship on Israel as they possibly can. The pictures speak loudly to the damage caused by the arson fires that Israeli communities are dealing with. Since the Gaza terrorists began their arson campaign, over 250 fires have been started in Israel, while thousands of acres of crops, trees, and fields have been destroyed—with some reporting as many as 65,000 acres destroyed.

Now more than ever, the people of Israel need Christians in the nations to stand with them in their response against these arson terrorists, to rebuild the land and stand alongside those farmers and communities that have suffered so much loss. Please reach out and help today from your part of the world and stand as Christian Friends of Israel by helping to provide the much-needed support for those most affected by the arson fires from Gaza.

Emergency Aid Fund for Israel
www.cfijerusalem.org

As Christian Friends of Israel it is our greatest privilege to come alongside our Israeli friends in times of their deepest despair and biggest need. Living in Israel is such a blessing for those of us from the nations as we embrace the entire family of the nation of Israel, most of whom have come from the four corners of the world. As too many of us know firsthand, one of the darkest and most difficult times in our life is the loss of a spouse. So many years of established relationship and deep love between a husband and wife, create a deep and lasting wound when an unexpected death tears apart the union of any couple. Just recently Hannah lost her husband of many decades without any warning whatsoever. Having made Aliyah in the 1990’s, the hard working couple had established a new life for themselves and Hannah’s husband had always taken care of their finances. Now widowed and alone, Hannah has just become a new pensioner and is now faced with the challenges of coping with running the finances of her household herself. Adding to the tremendous burden of the loss of her husband, she is now experiencing health issues of her own.

When Hannah reached out to Christian Friends of Israel for comfort and assistance, we were happy to be able to extend the love and compassion of Christians around the world to her and just hug her and let her know we would be there to help in her biggest time of need. CFI was able to immediately assist her with her monthly utilities, and will continue to follow up with the ongoing needs she may have in the days to come. In spite of the hardship and loss, she continues to stay faithful to her congregation and keeps looking to the God of Israel for all her needs.

Kevin Howard
Project First Fruits
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The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18 (NIV)
The Embassy is now in Jerusalem

History in the Making

“For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place.”
Psalm 132:13 (NIRV)

The moving of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018 is by all accounts monumental to say the least. The move prompted other nations around the world to take notice and begin to rethink their own positions concerning the nation of Israel. Just after the US Embassy move, the nation of Guatemala followed suit. No doubt, many more will move in the near future, as well as the nations of the world beginning to make political decisions that have true biblical significance for these nations.

Marking this historic moment in time, Christian Friends of Israel was honored to participate in the numerous celebrations and special events in the weeks surrounding May 14th. Our biggest honor however, was to represent each of you as the multitudes of Christians around the globe that stand strong with the nation of Israel and her people at this significant milestone in history and the prophetic future.

While the people of nations coming up to Jerusalem over the decades has been quite prophetic indeed, placing a nation’s embassy in Jerusalem has profound significance and literal impact on Scripture. The Embassy move signifies that the United States and Guatemala have embarked on a literal fulfillment of nations “coming up” to Jerusalem.

May the God of Israel receive all of the glory for what is done in His land as He continues to fulfill his covenant and promise to the city where He has placed His name. Jerusalem.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure.”
Psalm 122:6 (NIV)

Celebrating Israel at

Every hour of day, each week of month and every year tremendous things happen in Jerusalem as prophecy continues to unfold. This year was no exception as Israel celebrated its 70th birthday, and Christian Friends of Israel celebrated with the nation at the beautiful Hotel Yehuda in Jerusalem. More than 20 nations were represented from six continents in celebration of this truly prophetic time in history. World-class speakers engaged the audience in decades of history, current events and the promises of Israel’s bright future ahead as she steps into her role in Isaiah 49:6. He says, “It is not enough for you to be My Servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, that you may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Attendees just could not get enough of the current and fresh information about Israel from speakers like Dr. Anat Berko, Jonathan Spyer, CBN’s Chris Mitchell, and Rick Ridings of Succat Hallel. The event was even more special this year with the added sessions of our friends Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Michael Freund and a special Hallel service with David Nekrutman and Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, as Jews and Christians came together in real unity just before our closing banquet dinner. This year’s excursions to celebrate with Israeli’s in downtown Jerusalem, and a BBQ in the park created memories that will last a lifetime.

For those of you that simply were not able to attend this historical event in Jerusalem, you don’t need to feel left out. Each and every session was recorded for you so you could feel like you were right there with us. To get your copy of any session or the entire event, simply go to our online store at cfijerusalem.org and download your own personal copy. The sessions were recorded in English as usual, but we also have everything available in French, Spanish and Chinese.

We want to thank all of you who were able to attend this year, and ask that you keep your eyes on God’s time clock: Jerusalem, as things continue to unfold in His prophetic timeline. For those of you we missed this year, we hope to see you “Next Year in Jerusalem!”
Miracles in Israel!

Arkadi Puhovizkiy was born November 7, 1923, in a little town in Belorussia. His parents had three children and Arkadi was the oldest. He remembers his home as a warm and friendly place. Their father loved his wife a lot. The mother of Arkadi was a very beautiful woman and people called her “beautiful Dina.” Arkadi went to school and finished all classes and some courses in a pedagogical institute, while from the age of seven, he was also working in their household taking care of the cows.

When he was 17 years old, the war began on June 22, 1941. He was visiting his cousin in the capital of Belorussia, when two days later, Minsk was bombed and burned down. The next week the German army came and took over the city. A part of the Jewish population evacuated from Belorussia, but many of them didn’t understand they should evacuate. They didn’t believe that Nazis would kill them. Also the family of Arkadi stayed in their home town. He himself came back from Minsk and joined his family.

On the 4th of July, the Germans came and took over that area. Nazis started to rob Jewish homes, which were marked with a yellow star. They organized a peat factory where the Jews, men and women, were forced to work without salary. They also forced them to go by foot 12 kilometers to dig and collect the peat for the factory. Policemen watched that everybody was working and Arkadi was one of the workers. That factory became a ghetto, where they lived under control without freedom to go out and meet their families.

After six months they were sent to their homes. The plan was to shoot the Jewish population and everybody knew that it would happen sooner or later. When the policemen started to assemble the Jews, Arkadi climbed up to the attic of their house with his mother and sister. When it became dark he jumped down into the snow and ran away to the forest and there he spent six days. From some people who lived in little cottages he received some food, and one of them, a Polish Christian, told him how to find partisans of the Red Army, that were settling in the forest in that area. So, Arkadi became a partisan.

After ten months’ service in the forest he crossed the Front and joined the Soviet Army. It wasn’t his decision to take such a risk. They just didn’t want to have any Jews among the partisans anymore. Arkadi served two years as a combat medic in the Soviet Army. The other members of his family were caught and killed.

After the war Arkadi became a director of an evening school. He was then 23 years old. Later he started to work in the bank of the Soviet Union. He got married, and with his wife, Raisa, lived in a Belorussian city for over 42 years. They had two children. In 1995, Arkadi and Raisa immigrated to Israel. Both of them were already pensioners.

The reason to make Aliyah was very serious. Their 37-year-old daughter had a brain tumor. The family understood that it was impossible to live in Belorussia they couldn’t get the help that they needed. They were told by relatives that they can make miracles in Israel. So, very quickly they packed their things and came. And they got their miracle in a hospital in Jerusalem! The operation went 18 hours, but ended successfully. The daughter’s life was saved! Their son with his family moved to Israel in the same year. Life in the Land hasn’t been easy. Every member of the family has been working hard, but they have found their places in Israeli society. Also our pensioners, Arkadi and Raisa, worked 11 years in Israel before they got “too old.” They are grateful to God and to the state of Israel for the miracle and the great help that they have received here.

As pensioners Arkadi and Raisa are able to come to the CFI Distribution Center where they can get clothing and bedding for themselves. We have also visited their home in Jerusalem. Arkadi is thankful to Christian Friends of Israel not only for the material help, but also for the spiritual support that has strengthened his faith in the God of his fathers.

Tiina Karkkainen
Project Open Gates
gates@cfijerusalem.org

Thank you H.E.L.P. International!

CFI – Jerusalem says “Thank you so much” for the tremendous efforts of Jean Kaye & Don Wilson, and their volunteer staff, for their decades of faithful love for the new immigrants arriving in Israel. Their recent shipment of 1,580 boxes of quality used clothing will meet the needs of new immigrants across the land of Israel. May God’s richest blessings be yours according to His promises.

For more information on clothing donations:
Email: info@helpint.org

The Call in their Hearts

Over the past few months, I have been blessed to be part of the Open Gates ministry with CFI. I had the privilege of serving new Olim and aiding them in their transition in arriving to the land of Israel. There are people arriving from different locations all across the globe, each with their corresponding personalities and stories. Gana is from Odessa, Ukraine and learned about Israel growing up in school. Once the idea was planted in her heart, it grew over many months until she decided to move here as a young adult. She is now serving in the Israeli army. Then there are Deborah, Ilan, and Daniel from Brazil. It was in Deborah’s heart to move here, and she convinced her friends Ilan and Daniel to come with her. They all recently arrived and are living in an absorption center. They heard about CFI online and were blessed by the clothing and kitchen items for their new living quarters. Just weeks before these young people: Gana from Ukraine; and Deborah, Ilan, and Daniel from Brazil were living in opposite hemispheres. They had different experiences growing up, spoke different languages, and lived in very different cultures. After responding to the call in their hearts to live in the land of Israel as Jewish people,

For the LORD will not abandon His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. Psalm 94:14 (NASB)
Nataly and Slava met many years ago in the neighborhood where they both grew up in Israel. Their families are from the former Soviet Union. Nataly and Slava spent just a few times together with friends but then lost contact; they never thought they would get married one day.

But God is full of surprises, and after nine years they met again and started spending time together and soon they fell in love.

One day, Nataly and her mother were cleaning and clearing up the closets at home when they found an old small notebook with Nataly’s list of contacts’ phone numbers. It was a long list with only one name in big letters and underlined: “Slava, from Neveh David”, the neighborhood they lived in.

Mother and daughter were speechless, how could Slava’s name be highlighted among so many other names, when they were not even close friends back then?!

Nataly and her mother realized that this union was decided from above 10 years ago, Nataly and Slava have a joined destiny together.

We are very happy to be part of this love story; this is their thank you note.

Patricia Cuervo
Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfijerusalem.org

"We are 30-years old and decided to get married and start a family in Israel. But due to some particularities in Israel’s law, we had to travel abroad to have a civil ceremony in Prague. After that, we came back to Israel to have a ceremony with family and friends.

As you understand, weddings are very expensive in Israel, and there are a lot of unplanned expenses. We were very exhausted and tired of it and did not find anything we liked for a cheap price.

But after a long search for a beautiful and inexpensive wedding dress and suit, we realized that there’s no such thing. We were ready to buy the simple white dress we could afford. But then, at the last moment a friend of my family told us that there is a bridal salon in Jerusalem that does not take money only a symbolic deposit and there is a huge selection of special and gorgeous dresses. We decided to give it a try and drove from Haifa to see if we could find something special.

It was a great surprise; when we arrived, a very professional and smiling team welcomed us and did their best to help us.

Thank you very much to the donors and the amazing staff of the bridal salon you made our heart smile and our wedding was an unforgettable day!

Blessings,
Nataly and Slava

Christian Friends of Israel was very privileged to have a tremendous group of Royal Rangers extend their strong arms and helping hands on their visit to Israel from the nation of Germany. This outstanding group rolled up their sleeves and went right to work helping us at our Distribution Center with bringing our patio garden to a new level of clean and organized.

Along with the help at the DC, the group split up into small units and went with us into the communities that we serve, to help on a one-to-one basis. A dear elderly couple that had just moved in order to downsize their lives needed to have the final moving of their personal belongings, the arranging of their furniture, and some freshly painted railings on their open patio and stairs, and the team did not disappoint.

CFI’s technical department was delighted to enlist the “techies” of the group to refurbish and ready a batch of our older pc’s that we were giving to the Hope for the Future sponsored after-school program in Tel Aviv. Not only did the team build newly refurbished pc’s from scratch, but could hardly wait to assemble the systems that were to be hand delivered to the young Jewish Ethiopians that would be receiving them. For years now CFI – Jerusalem has been refurbishing our old computer equipment as a donation to this and other communities, in an effort to help with their Hebrew skills, educational progression, and daily communication needs.

What an honor to host such a tremendous group of young people so eager to help and stand beside the most needy of those in Israel with true Christian love and assistance. One of their desires when getting ready to return to Germany was to encourage others in the nations to find the time to fulfill the same rewarding partnership with CFI – Jerusalem as volunteer work teams making a real difference on the ground here in Israel.

We hope to hear from so many more of you in the nations soon, on how YOU would like to make a lasting impact on Israel as a Christian from the nations.

We say “Kol HaKavod” (Well done) to our amazing Royal Ranger friends in Germany!

For More information or to schedule your groups time with us email: events@cfijerusalem.org
Christian Friends of Israel is so honored to call each and every representative we have in over 30 nations around the world part of our CFI Family. The call of God placed on these individuals to be a support in prayer, solidarity, and financial assistance to the nation of Israel is unparalleled. The unity of spirit and the heart of compassion that each has for their own nation to be part of the covenants of God to His people, and the need for Christians around the world to understand their biblical heritage is truly a fulfillment of Scripture. So we say, “Thank You” from the depth of our souls for all you do for the kingdom of the Most High God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the God of Israel.

For information on becoming a CFI - Representative in your nation contact: internationalreps@cfijerusalem.org

When preparing your love offerings for those most in need IN ISRAEL, please remember to specify that your gift is for CFI-JERUSALEM.

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**CFI USA**

After attending the 2018 Conference and celebration of Israel’s 70th birthday in Jerusalem, Hannele Pardain had no sooner returned home to the United States when she was off to represent Christian Friends of Israel in the area’s first Messianic Faith Conference in May 2018 in South Carolina, USA. The event was organized by multiple Israel ministries in order to celebrate Israel’s 70th year, impart prophetic teaching from God’s Word and encourage the region’s local congregations to stand with Israel and the Jewish nation. Please continue in prayer and support of CFI-USA as new needs continue in outreach projects in Jerusalem and all-around Israel in these amazing times of prophetic fulfillment in which we live.

Hannele Pardain  
Contact: cfiusa@cfi-usa.org

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**CFI Honduras**

Honduras is on fire for Israel and has been receiving CFI teachings with much excitement and joy from CFI International Spanish Director Ruth Carlson and her husband John. Honduras is so hungry for the Living God of Israel and all His Word offers, including the Hebrew Roots of our Christian Faith. Hondurans really understand the blessings that come with blessing Israel. This is an awakening of the Central American Nations. Recently pastors from three different regions met at a conference, embracing the CFI outreach projects in the land of Israel. They are becoming part of the Churches for Israel network and are committing themselves and their congregations to pray for Israel and support Israel in any way they can. Many high-ranking government officials in Honduras are also involved and excited about this tremendous effort and the work of the Lord.

Pastor Milton Mascareño  
Contact: CFImundohispano@hotmail.com

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**CFI Brazil**

After a lengthy process of documentation and adjustments to Brazilian law, Christian Friends of Israel – Brazil is a fully registered legal entity in the nation of Brazil. Congratulations go out to Pastor Abeni Bastos for his tremendous determination and courage in completing the process and allowing the Lord to move CFI – Brazil to a new level. In his opening meeting at the official CFI – Brazil offices, he was met by 28 Christian Leaders from different cities throughout Brazil, coming from multiple denominations, all being committed to work together in unity to bless the nation Israel and pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. Well done Pastor Bastos and let us all praise God for the Brazilian Church as they position themselves as true Christian friends of Israel! May the Lord’s blessing be upon “Amigos Cristãos de Israel – Brasil” - (ACI - Brasil)

Pastor Abeni Bastos  
Contact: abenieclaudia@hotmail.com

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**CFI Sri Lanka**

Mohan Weerakoon continues to share the gospel of the kingdom to those in the jungles of Sri Lanka as he connects so many to the nation of Israel and shares the covenant of God with His chosen people. Reaching out to the youngest and most vulnerable in the nation, Mohan continues to raise up a new generation of believers that have a strong understanding of Israel and its connection in their faith. In a land too long influenced by Islam, CFI-Sri Lanka has been a beacon of light to those in need of hearing the message of the God of Israel and what He is doing in these last days about the nation of Israel. "Please continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. Consider it an investment into the lives of tomorrow’s leaders!

Mohan Weerakoon  
Contact: mohanw@sltnet.lk

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**CFI India, Pune**

Pastor Sonny Chandra ministers in the sprawling city of Pune, in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, India. He just cannot have enough meetings to tell the people of his nation about the love he has for Israel and the Jewish people. Along with celebrating the feasts of the Lord throughout the year, he is also continuing to educate congregations on their Biblical connections and Biblical obligations to God’s word in relation to Israel. The God of Israel continues to bless the efforts of our dear friends in India as they continue to intercede for Israel and put their faith into action by increasing their reach and their teaching. Please continue to uplift our dear Christian Friends of Israel throughout the nation of India, in prayer.

Sonny Chandra  
Contact: zion_india@yahoo.com
This year has been so relevant to Christians around the world with Israel turning 70 years old as a nation, that the command of God to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem is in the forefront now more than ever. All eyes turned toward Jerusalem as the United States officially moved its embassy there in May, and it is still in the spotlight of the world stage. Hamas has ramped up its efforts to try to set Israel’s crops ablaze near Gaza, and begun once again to fire rockets randomly at the Israeli towns nearby. As you can see, there is still much to pray for concerning the nation of Israel and the peace of Jerusalem.

Christian Friends of Israel recently took our staff to visit the Temple Mount location in the old city of Jerusalem. When we entered the Temple Mount with our Jewish guide, our team was surrounded by approximately 15 armed Israeli Police as we embarked on our tour. One would naturally think that the reason for so much security presence would be for the safety and protection of the 20 or so members of our staff for our tour. The truth however is painfully quite the contrary. The armed police were there to insure that our Jewish guide in NO WAY was praying or allowing us to pray on the Temple Mount grounds. Amazing the lengths that the Israeli’s will go to keep their word, and allow the “status quo” to continue on the Temple Mount.

**Pray without Ceasing**

It is written in Scripture that we are to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and throughout the world, there are so many individuals that are so faithful to do just that. As they say, there is strength in numbers, and when many stand together in unity for the nation of Israel there is an even greater voice heard. Christian Friends of Israel recently took our staff to visit the Temple Mount location in the old city of Jerusalem. When we entered the Temple Mount with our Jewish guide, our team was surrounded by approximately 15 armed Israeli Police as we embarked on our tour. One would naturally think that the reason for so much security presence would be for the safety and protection of the 20 or so members of our staff for our tour. The truth however is painfully quite the contrary. The armed police were there to insure that our Jewish guide in NO WAY was praying or allowing us to pray on the Temple Mount grounds. Amazing the lengths that the Israeli’s will go to keep their word, and allow the “status quo” to continue on the Temple Mount.

Pastors and their congregations around the globe have already joined together in support of Israel and the Jewish people and we believe it’s making a real difference. Now is your opportunity as one standing with God for the nation of Israel to begin to impact those congregations within your communities to join with so many others. Reach out to a congregation near you and tell them how you can become a CFI – Jerusalem Church for Israel. Tell them they can begin a new chapter of blessing and find truth in understanding God’s word concerning Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem.

churches@cfijerusalem.org

**Beauty of the Hebrew Language**

*Nathalie Blackham*

In this book, Nathalie Blackham takes us on an exciting journey as she shares the spiritual secrets and rich insights God has shown her from the Hebrew language, specifically the Hebrew alphabet. She is not alone in her discoveries. Just as Nathalie writes, this is a worldwide movement. It is one of the signs of the end times that we are living on the thresholds of kingdom of God in the earth when Jesus returns to rule and reign out from Jerusalem. Then “the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:3)

**My House Shall be a House of Prayer**

*Lance Lambert*

“If we consider the Lord’s description of the end of the age with a sober and sound mind, we have to recognize that in all probability we are at the beginning of this period. If that is true, then there has never been a time when effective prayer and intercession could be more strategic, more necessary and more essential than now.” – Lance Lambert

**Days of the Fall**

*Jonathan Spyer*

Over five years, Jonathan Spyer reported from the depths of the wars, spending time in Aleppo, Baghdad, Damascus, Mosul, Idlib, Hasaka and other frontline areas. He witnessed some of the most dramatic events of the. The book depicts these events, and seeks to place them within a broader framework. The book also notes that this confused space has now become an arena for proxy conflict between regional and global powers.

**Crimes against Humanity**

*David Soakell*

This booklet is a compilation of poetry and reflections, plus Holocaust Survivor’s testimony to the ongoing impact that those momentous events still continue to have, so many years later, in the lives of countless thousands today. All proceeds are being donated to Project Forsake Them Not.

**Destination Jerusalem**

*Chris Mitchell*

ISIS stunned the world with its Islamic blitzkrieg that swept through Syria and northern Iraq and declared an Islamic caliphate for the first time in nearly one hundred years. Once again, Christians bore the brunt of this menace. These militants forced tens of thousands of Christians to flee their ancient homes and gave them four grisly choices: pay the Islamic tax for infidels, leave, convert, or die by the sword. landed on the front lines of these conflicts. In Destination Jerusalem, CBN News Middle East Bureau Chief Chris Mitchell brings you firsthand accounts of the men, women, and children caught in these fiery trials.

**Israel My Beloved**

*Kay Arthur*

is just past dawn in the life of Israel. Rich with promise, the young nation anticipates a golden future. Yet in their confidence, the Chosen Ones recklessly pursue a path that leads away from their nation’s venerated past. And thus begins the nightmare... As Israel’s sons and daughters are scattered across the globe, pursued by ruthless Grecian and Roman conquerors, Bloodthirsty Crusaders with sharp swords and empty hearts, and terrifying leaders of Hitler’s Third Reich, the threads of the once-prized nation continue to fray. Yet amazingly, another garment of hope and peace is being tightly woven together - never to be undone.

To purchase these great books and other resources visit [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org) and click on Store.
Radio Stations around the globe continue to receive fresh, first-hand information from Israel each week on FrontPage Jerusalem, and their listeners continue to say what a blessing it is. Airing on hundreds of radio stations across America and broadcast internationally online as well as stations around the world, FrontPage Jerusalem brings listeners the very latest on political and social issues, the latest technology breakthroughs, and heartwarming personal interviews straight from Israel.

Even with the tremendous reach, we still get regular requests on how listeners just like you can tune in each week for the most current information. If you or someone you know is still trying to listen in your area, just send us a brief message at feedback@cfijerusalem.org and we will help you find a station in your part of the world, or help you to listen when you want online.

Join Co-Hosts, Earl Cox, Ben Kinchlow, and Kevin Howard each week as they highlight a truly inspiring and informative discussion on what is really going in the nation of Israel today. Keep up on the weekly happenings around the Middle East as well with regular analysis of the region and the topics most important to those living right in Israel.

Each week more and more intercessors are subscribing to the Christian Friends of Israel online newsletters to have current, relevant, and biblical fuel for their churches, prayer groups and individual prayer closets as they are serious about praying for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem. Throughout the month, we deliver important points of prayer and connection to the land of Israel, as well as insight into the fulfillment of prophecy in the days in which we live.

As a lover of the God of Israel and the nation that is the apple of His eye, it’s so important that you keep current on the needs within the nation to keep those in your circle of connectivity on track with what God is doing today in Israel. Not a day goes by in Israel without someone saying, “Look what God is doing with His people Israel. His word is true and His promises everlasting! He will never forsake His people.”

If you know someone that is looking for serious points of prayer, and insight on the latest happenings in Israel to be delivered straight to their email during the month, be sure and send them to listadmin@cfijerusalem.org and they can start receiving important and informative information about Jerusalem and the nation of Israel.

Feedback Corner We would like to hear from you! If you think this magazine is a blessing, let us know. If you’ve got the next great thing that we need to talk about, we need to hear from you! Do you like the layout, but not the content, or vice versa...? Give us your input!

Email us at: feedback@cfijerusalem.org.