Salvation Is of the Jews

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22, KJV
For Zion’s Sake
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To Our Christian Friends in the Nations:

“Let the wise listen and add to their learning…” (Proverbs 1:5, NIV). This issue of For Zion’s Sake is all about standing on God’s Word. As we lean on the words of Jesus, we must include them all and not “pick and choose.” When He spoke the words “salvation” is of His People (the Jewish people), the words are as rock solid in teaching us as “Father, forgive them…” (Luke 23:34). Sometimes we have to challenge our own thinking and let the Word of God test us. We are living in days when we need to make certain that what we are reading from our Bibles, we are understanding correctly in context, time and meaning. It is because we are devoted to our work that we stay devoted to bringing God’s Word forward in regard to His Beloved Israel, and to absorbing all of its truths.

For This Moment in Transition

We fly with the eagles because we believe God has called CFI for “a prophetic time such as this.” Life in Jerusalem is an ongoing adventure that never stops inspiring and energizing our spirits. Seasons come. Seasons go. Generations come. Generations go. Everything changes, except God’s Eternal Word. To all of our faithful and eternal friends and partners in ministry, the ongoing work of Christian Friends of Israel (CFI) is carrying the Lord’s original vision and at the same time preparing to move on into the future. James (Jim) McKenzie and I have been keeping the ministry on course and preparing for new leadership. CFI is experiencing a revival and resurgence of new inspiration in its ministry outreaches, and development of Jewish-Christian relations in Israel.

Jim and I were asked to lead the ministry of CFI, while the search began for a new Executive Director to step into the role of our beloved daughter, Stacey, and her husband, Kevin who have returned to the United States. As Stacey so gracefully stated in the last issue of For Zion’s Sake, her heart took the two of them back to the US to be nearer to their three children who are now beginning to raise families of their own. Stacey has a double portion of a mother’s heart for which we are deeply grateful and recognize in her. To know that our family will be well cared for long after the Lord calls us home, is a comforting thought. Stacey will be managing CFI America from the CFI America office in Illinois. Email cfiamerica@gmail.com or call (618) 651-6561 for inquiries.
For The Time Being

“...and who knows but that you have come...for such a time as this?”
Esther 4:14, NIV

Jim and I are enjoying taking the ministry forward until God has our new leader in place. It is our prayer that in the next issue of *For Zion’s Sake*, we will be able to introduce a man who has been groomed for this position in CFI. Our staff from a number of nations thanks you for praying for them and for us, and the Howards, as we all move forward.

**Prayer is the key.** Before he passed on, Derek Prince, one of our long time advisors said, “Living in Jerusalem is like walking uphill against a headwind!” Derek knew the spiritual warfare that comes with living and working here. And so, we continue on during this transition.

It is a time to build stronger and even more solid than ever before, as we await the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. May we all work together, as partners-in-ministry, for the Glory of God and for His Name alone.

*We love each of you.*

Serving the Lord Together as Partners,

*Serving the Lord Together as Partners,*

Sharon Sanders
Co-Founder Jerusalem

James (Jim) McKenzie
Operations Director

Sharon Sanders
Co-Founder Jerusalem
Franz Rosenzweig said that “When we Christians do not walk together with the Jews, we are in danger of regressing to the paganism from which we emerged... assimilation to the idolatry of culture and nation are constant temptations for Christians”. (Richard J. Neuhause, Editor-in-Chief, First Things, 2001).

Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) became an influential theologian. He said “...Christianity is Judaism for the gentiles”. Wow. Think about that. He claimed it is likely that what Jesus said in John 4:22, few thinkers in Christianity have digested. He felt the stumbling block lies in the fact that too many Christians cannot come to terms with the Jewishness of Jesus. “My Jesus a Jew? Never!” (the voice of a Protestant Christian). September 2019 brought a shocking headline to the world. An Orthodox Christian priest in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was forced to resign his profession because he asked his congregants to “pray for Israel” and reminded the congregation that “Jesus was a Jew.” (Israel Breaking News) “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?”, the title of a brochure given to me years ago made people think. Who was, and is Jesus as far as His physical descent is concerned? Was He Catholic, Protestant or a Jew? In the next issue of For Zion’s Sake, we will examine the facts and ascertain who He was, and is, and forever will be, as we trace His Human ancestry (Romans 9:5, JNT).

The first red-letter New Testament ever to be published was in 1899, originating with Louis Klopsch who was a supporter of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and a man who desired to get the Bible into the hands of more people. Derek Prince, with his Bible in hand, always taught that the Church owed the Jewish people a great debt. Abraham was called to be a Father to many nations (Romans 4:17, JNT). God told Israel “…what great nation has laws and rules as perfect as are those teachings that I set before you this day?” (Deuteronomy 4:8, Israel Bible). Shaul (Paul) in his desire for Israel to awaken to Messiah, says, Moses received the “living oracles” (Acts 7:38, KJV); Paul also noted in Romans 3:1 (JNT) “What advantage has the Jew?...much in every way!” The oracles were not only given to them, but also the Torah was of the Spirit of God according to Romans 7:14 (JNT); all the families of the earth were blessed by the Jewish people (Acts 3:25, KJV); and “they (the Jews) were made God’s Children…” (Romans 9:4, JNT). They were His Sovereign Choice, not depending upon what they did, or didn’t do, but God who does the calling” (Romans 1:11, JNT). Even if the Jews were unfaithful, it did not cancel God’s faithfulness, just as Christians fail, and have been unfaithful, in many ways. We were not entrusted with the work God gave to the Jews. “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world” (Romans 10:18). It was the Jews who first brought the Word of God regarding Messiah and the Coming Kingdom to us.

The name Yeshua is the Lord’s Hebrew name. It precisely means “salvation.” When He proclaimed “salvation is of the Jews,” He expressed the relationship between a particular people, and deliverance from death. His position was clear. He recognized that the woman at the well needed to know the truth. His voice of authority made her think twice about salvific deliverance coming from a definite point of origin. She just needed to know the facts and then she went into her village and proclaimed them.
Many Christians have grasped that if we had no Jewish people, we would have no Scriptures, no Prophets, Psalmists, Apostles, Messiah, no understanding of blood sacrifice and no Jesus! Jesus transparently said without shame, “I am a Jew!” showing that He did not lean toward giving up His identity with His people. The red letter words of Jesus in Revelation 22:16 He affirms “I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David...”. Then Revelation 5:5 backs those words again with the settling of the matter from the Jewish elders “...Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David...”. What a day of reckoning is coming, when Israel’s enemies bow low to the feet of the King of the Jews! (Matthew 27:37) Shaul (Paul) also reminds us in Romans 1:3 of his Jewish brother, Jesus “...concerning...Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.” Then Shaul brings to our attention his own Jewish background. “...for I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin...” (Romans 11:1). Finally, Timothy the son of Eunice, reminds us, “Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead...” (2 Timothy 2:8).

While studying Jeremiah 23 there was a striking epiphany behind the Prophet’s words as I understood Jeremiah was admonishing the Jewish leaders of his time. We likewise need to share lovingly with our own spiritual leaders that the people (sheep) need closer tending to, spiritually, and that in these accelerated days of prophecy, that “meat in due season” (Matthew 24:45) must be served from our pulpits. In other words, finest teachings drawn from the wells of Jacob, need to be given to thirsty congregants. A day is approaching in Jerusalem, when the King returns, that He will host a royal banquet, in His Father’s Honor, for which the nations are invited to come and worship the One True God. “The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine” (Isaiah 25:6, NAS). If God will not serve anything but the very best for His Children, why would we not also?

Deception in churches is rampant and there is a need to prepare the sheep for what lies ahead, which would mean incorporating prophetic messages from the Bible. “The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season” (Psalm 145:15). Where there are services devoid of Bible Prophecy, the Second Coming, the Church’s Responsibility to Israel, the Jewishness of Jesus and the Coming Kingdom to earth, there is spiritual emptiness on people’s plates. People from all nations are now coming up to Jerusalem to raise the bar on their Biblical understanding of the latter days simply because it has been left out in their churches.

Our churches need to work toward the restoration of Israel in every possible way and rejoice with God’s People that His Eternal Words are coming to pass before our eyes. “And again He saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with His People” Romans 15:10 (KJV). CFI answered the call, many years ago, to offer Hebraic understanding to our readers as one arm of the ministry. By focusing more fully on the Lord, we peer deeper into why Jesus said “Salvation is of the Jews.” His visitor at the well was a woman from Samaria. Since Samaritans did not follow the Torah, and veered off the spiritual path, He clearly desired her to know the truth. From His Jewish vantage point of knowing Torah, plus being the Living Torah—the Word made flesh, He clearly articulated His pronouncement. Pastor Chuck Swindoll said, “Jesus never lied. He could not lie.” Amen. Can we welcome all of His Words and gain further understanding from the red letters? If anyone reading this article draws back repulsively, it might mean the difference between life and death—due to the fact that there will be absolutely no anti-Semitism in God’s Coming Kingdom on earth.

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22, KJV
Shocked, as the woman was that a Jewish man spoke to her, and recognizing His dark hair, eyes, beard and typical prayer shawl, she blurted out, “You, a Jew want to speak with me?” It was shortly after entering into their conversation that Jesus made known to her what we are looking into. He could have proclaimed “Salvation is of Me.” But, He chose the words “of the Jews.” Why? I believe He was speaking to the hearts of all generations that were to come. As God’s Son, He already knew that future Gentile followers would forget He was a Jew, persecute His People (Matthew 25:40), separate from and betray His Jewish brethren. This generation of Israel bashers and Christian anti-Semites need to realize that redemption has a lot to do with the Jewish people and that we should never forget the message Jesus gave the woman. He is the way to the Father, but Father God is the God of the Hebrews, and will be for all nations in the Coming Kingdom.

Dr. Yaakov Geller, Professor at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life, and Dr. Eli Lyzorken-Eisenberg, President of the Israel Center Bible Studies program, assists us in learning a bit more about the Samaritans. They settled in the hills of Ephraim and had brought their pagan practices with them. They had accepted parts of the Torah, but did not integrate into the Jewish people, living as a separate group. The Samaritans did not believe in the sanctity of Jerusalem; instead, they believed only in Mt. Gerizim. They claimed to be the true Israel. Does this sound like anyone we know? God forbid that the Church take on the characteristics of Samaritanism, but it is out there! They also opposed worship of Israel’s God in Jerusalem. The God of Israel is not separable from the people of Israel...it follows logically then, that to be in relationship with Him is to be in relationship with His People. Because of Jesus, we share in the richness of their olive tree, but we do not replace it.

For those who have never thought about this red letter statement of the Lord, it is critical to listen to what He is saying. If anyone is thinking, “this idea goes against the grain of what I’ve been taught” or “it is difficult to accept” because it conflicts with previous assumptions held all our lives, you will need to stand against the grain of unchallenged belief systems. Some may feel like they are rubbing up against a piece of lumber and got some splinters, for not agreeing with what the establishment has spoken about the Jewish people. It is our prayer that you will allow the Word of God to present the challenge—and not be fearful to go against the flow, or the grain of long-held creeds or dogmas.

Had Jesus never spoken these words in John 4:22, some of us might create our own Jesus to fit our culture, background and liking. Others may feel God finished with the Jews. In China, I remember seeing the face of Jesus painted as Chinese, in Africa, black, and in America and Europe, He appeared Aryan. Protestant Christians see Him today as the Good Shepherd with a Gentile face--especially around Christmas time (a babe lying in a manger, with blond hair and blue eyes). Catholic Christians visualize Him as an iconic figure on the Cross, His human identity hijacked. Centuries ago, men took it upon themselves, with no authority from God, to throw out the Jewishness of the Lord, His family background and His People. Jesus was sitting there to remind the Samaritan woman, and all who would read the story generations later, to not forget the Jewish people and that they are linked with something significant: Salvation.

Those afraid of our Hebraic foundations make a major mistake. Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus ever teach or practice anything that wasn’t from the Torah. He simply interpreted it differently than the religious leaders at that time. It makes one sad that most churches never give a second thought about caring for the Jewish peo-
ple. They have no idea what they are missing and some do not even know who they worship. I asked around the world in many places, "What God do we worship?" Few gave an answer as they never thought about it before! While we do not worship the Jewish people, we do worship the God of the Jewish people, as He clearly identifies Himself. (Isaiah 43:3). "What ye worship ye do not know, we worship what we do know..." are His words to the Samaritan woman (John 4:22).

Dr. Eyzenberg also teaches that the understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures, and the New Testament, are clouded by centuries of western misunderstanding. If someone says they can be saved without the foundation the Lord laid down (John 4:22) then they are saying they can be saved independently of His teachings. One cannot deny truth, and accept truth at the same time. By learning to understand the meanings behind the words that the Prophets and Apostles, as well as what Jesus spoke, understanding can grow and knowledge can increase into new dimensions. As layers of translation are uncovered, the Hebrew text that supports a Biblical passage, often feels like drinking refreshing water from a pure well. One pastor asked “I’ve been preaching for twenty-five years, why didn’t I know this before?” It is time we believe all of the red letter words of Jesus, not just “some”. We need to allow the Bible to challenge us. The meat of the Word needs to be thundered from pulpits to awaken our people. If the Church is to reach her fullness, it must awaken toward Israel. If Israel is to reach her fullness, she must awaken to the King, not change religions. Finding the missing link of Israel in our faith will bring us into a deeper understanding of what Yeshua did for us, how He fulfilled Scripture and the Torah on every point. This link has been buried for centuries in the graveyards of our churches.

Shaul (Paul) clearly states that if we are proud against the Jewish people, who cannot see Him, we are to be reminded that we are not the pillars of faith for the Jewish people, they are the pillars of faith for us. Let’s get that right. (Romans 11:18). Then he says the unthinkable (so we do not preach about it), "For if God not spare the natural branches (Israel) take heed lest He also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His Goodness: (toward them: Israel) otherwise thou shalt be cut off” (Romans 11:21-22, NIV). The next time you hear someone say “Why do you want to study about the Jews? They are the last people I care about!” Tell them: “Go read the red letter words of Jesus and come back and we’ll talk.”

The Lord will one day be Israel’s vindicator when He judges the nations for their disrespectful treatment of His People. His Father’s ideals and values for which the rebuilt City of Jerusalem will be established, will be known around the world. When kings hold a banquet, there are always seating arrangements, and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob just may likely be at the Head Table. (Matthew 8:11). Now is the time to understand, and remember, “Salvation is of the Jews!” The Church should no longer deny His Words, for they came from Him. We need to realize, once and for all, that to go on to spiritual maturity, we need them!

By Sharon Sanders

"If we are going to find our seat at the banquet table to be held in Jerusalem when The Lord returns, we will truly want to get to know Jesus, and His Family. The more we comprehend the Torah Scrolls, which He taught from, the more we come to treasure and to understand Him."

-Sharon Sanders-
CFI Project David’s Shield is honored to express gratitude and appreciation to the brave defenders of Israel. God has spoken; “Be strong, be bold, don’t be afraid or frightened of them, for Adonai your God is going with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6, CJB) On my visits to the army bases, I remind them that God is for them, and who can stand against them? No one.

Send Your Letters! I encourage everyone who supports David’s Shield through CFI, to allow us to express your words of encouragement, as Christians from the nations. Please send your Letter of Appreciation to the email address below and I will share your words directly with the soldiers. We want to be certain that Israel’s heroes feel our love and support and we can do it together. I look forward to hearing from some of you.

“This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” (2 Chronicles 20:15, NIV)

Christian Friends of Israel has played a major role in Christian support of the IDF. While not supplying any army with any kind of weapons, we have been able to serve over 25 IDF army bases building strong relationships with individual Base Commanders and soldiers who serve on the front lines. From specific head gear, essential knee pads, undergarments, warm jackets, boots, shoes, and thousands of items, David’s Shield has much favor with the armed forces of Israel and has a good name among the leadership.

Prayer Request: “Please keep Jim in your prayers as he continues to be the face few Israeli soldiers have seen from the Christian world who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them. CFI is proud (in the Lord) of each Outreach Coordinator with years of experience in their field of service, and Jim McKenzie, is CFI’s IDF man on the home front. IDF soldiers can fall into enemy hands and are often beaten, stabbed or treated inhumanely in encounters with the enemy. In October of 2000 Vadim Nurzhitz and Yossi Avrahami, mistakenly drove through an Israeli checkpoint and entered the PA controlled city of Ramallah. Overrun by an angry mob of Arab Palestinians, they were beaten, stabbed, eyes were gouged out, and were disemboweled. CFI visited Vadim Nurzhitz’s widow, pregnant with their first child. We listened to the last phone call she made to her husband right before his murder. God made it possible to assist in her comfort through prayer, financial, and practical help. 19 years later, Israel’s soldiers still face the same horrific violence and hostilities. Your help sent to David’s Shield continues to touch one army base at a time. – Sharon Sanders –

Thank you for the privilege of encouraging THE BRAVE DEFENDERS of Israel as they stand guard on behalf of the Jewish people and their nation. We also ask you to consider writing a Letter of Appreciation for the soldiers.

Jim McKenzie
Project David’s Shield
shield@cfijerusalem.org
Relieving Other’s Burdens

“It has been such a blessing over the years to have been a help to many Christian individuals and congregations, fellowships in the Land, helping to get believers started in their own businesses, and to help in many emergency situations. Because we believed in the tithe, many in the Land have benefited from the tithe of our ministry to them. Thank you for helping us to be the strength needed for so many in tough times.” –Sharon Sanders

Shouldering Our Responsibility to the Household of Faith: CFI’s First Fruits Project which you have so generously sown into on a consistent basis, as partners-in-ministry, was recently able to defray a portion of an event’s costs incurred by believing African participants who wished to take part in holiday activities in the Holy Land.

The generosity of our supporters from the nations makes it possible at CFI to assist with many needs and desires. We cannot stress our gratitude enough, nor can we overstate the value of your continuing in providing financial support to our servanthood call within Israel.

Your support has been especially timely in another blessing for the community of faith in Israel where a believing husband was battling a particularly vicious form of cancer. Both, husband and wife, had dedicated their lives to relieving burdens of others, specifically with respect to health. CFI was able to be a substantial blessing to the couple, prior to the Lord calling the husband home. Until this past summer, the couple was able to sustain their day to day expenses as much as they could. However, the disease caused our brother to be bedridden and it placed his wife in the position of daily direct care. Because of your faithfulness, this couple before His Home Going found their High Holidays bearable as your compassionate giving allowed CFI to cover their housing and nutritional expenses. You made a difference by reinforcing their belief that the God they serve is faithful! These are only a few examples of the way First Fruits is being used to bring blessings to the Body. “ADONAI, show us mercy; we have waited for you. Be their arm every morning, and our salvation in time of trouble.” (Isaiah 33:2)

As First Fruits Project Coordinator, I am elated to be used by the Lord, to facilitate your generosity for the Community of Faith in tangible and practical ways. This project thanks you for your support!

Kim Brunson
Project First Fruits
fruits@cfijerusalem.org

“…you were buried along with Him by being immersed; and in union with Him, you were also raised up along with Him by God’s faithfulness…” (Colossians 2:12, CJB)
"Yet weak as they are, they have this promise made by God especially to them. “A bruised reed He will not break…” (Isaiah 42:3)

Major trauma, severe physical injury and psychological trauma, (a type of damage to the mind that occurs as a result of a severely distressing event) is very hard to get rid of. Traumatic injuries and sudden wounds caused by an external force, can only be healed by God, through prayer. Please join me in this battle for lives.

In 2 Samuel 23:8-38 (also in 1 Chronicles 11:10-47) it talks about David’s Mighty Warriors (also known as David’s Mighty Men or the Gibborim; Hebrew: (Ha-Gibbōrîm) who fought with King David to protect Israel from the harms of her enemies. The Bible says these mighty men were fearless warriors. They were extraordinarily strong, courageous and unflinchingly brave, they took their stand,… defended it, and struck down the enemies and the Lord saved them by a great victory (1 Chronicles 11:14). Thankfully God also has given modern day Israel mighty male and female soldiers who have thwarted many evil plans of terror attacks. These Gibborim have risked their lives to guard or enter Palestinian territories to patrol, collect intelligence, arrest and combat terrorists. During their missions, they were confronted with riots, violence and undergoing bombings and shootings as well as various types of terror attacks. Many of them having near death experiences while carrying out their missions. These men and women are great heroes behind the scenes. The soldier I visited here, is not now a soldier on the battlefield so he does not qualify for “David’s Shield”, but I was blessed to bring a blessing to this warrior for God and His Land.

Many are being exposed to more and more, post trauma, when carrying out their missions in order to protect Israel and her civilians. Many of them were severely traumatized to the point of being unable to function, feeling as weak as a bruised reed or a smoldering wick. Praise God that a bruised reed He truly will not break. Instead, He is close to the broken hearted, and one way that He uses to help bind up their wounds is through Project UHW.

With your help Project UHW is there for these courageous servicemen and women during their time of great difficulties and frailty. Aside from reaching out to Israeli civilians injured by terror attack, this project also has come alongside great multitudes of security forces and IDF soldiers who were injured and/or traumatized while performing their tasks to protect this country and her residents.

Thank you for being an important instrument in God’s hand through your prayer and financial support, you enable Project Under His Wings to go on ministering to these brave Israelis during their hardships and struggles. To financially support Project Under His Wings, CFI’s outreach project to terror victims, please direct your financial gift to CFI designated to Project Under His Wings. We thank God and You.

In His Service Together,

Maggie Huang
Project Under His Wings
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Project Under His Wings
Comforting Victims of Terror
Bruised Reeds
Post Trauma Victims Injured by Terror Attacks

Trauma on Israel roads
Maggie taking His Love
As we visit, lives change
“How precious is your steadfast love, Oh God!”
(Psalm 36:7a)

Hope for the Future has born much fruit in the lives of Ethiopian families over many years. We have experienced mixed emotions as each story plays out, concluding with unique results for everyone. There can be bittersweet results that come with involvement in this project. The happiest scenario is to see families embrace new perspectives with lives changed, to ultimately progress in successful ways. This is accomplished when they can conform to the model of Israeli survival and maintain a sustainable livelihood. Many families entering Israel from Ethiopia discover this fact early on, and some take longer to achieve a survival footing. The primary jolting obstacles of survival may take longer to overcome.

Once a family arrives in Israel and finds help within the agencies of the absorption centers, ideally the next step within a two-year period would be to relocate and assimilate into society. The people who come to us are all very unique, and each Ethiopian family has endured much persecution and the stories we hear are about continual despair and struggles. **Hope for the Future** has the grace of hands-on relationships. Most of the elders that shoulder responsibility for families in the community at large are able to get in touch with us on behalf of families that seem invisible—without the confidence to reach out for help. **Thanks be to God that we strive to be personable and available in order to make a difference and to pray for the change that results in better outcomes for this community.**

One young single mother of five girls is a client referred last year by a community elder. Initially, she came unable to speak Hebrew or English, only Amharic. Her husband returned to Ethiopia leaving her to raise her five girls alone. Her main salary as cleaning personnel did not give her enough to live on. **She lives in a one-bedroom apartment with her five girls.** Her desire was to find an affordable home so that she could leave the absorption center. **Hope for the Future** visited her neglected and run down apartment at the absorption center, and assessed her need. We were able to help her with food and clothing for her children. We also helped to offset some of the stress of her financial responsibilities.

In Israel, many of the Ethiopian families fall deeply into debt because they are constantly taking out loans. Our involvement and support to this single mother gave her the confidence to stay the course. During this time, she landed in the hospital because of the use of deadly cleaning chemicals that affected the nerves in her hand. She is now unable to work. This did not hinder Yarntif and with unrestrained tenacity she continued to stay the course! We celebrate with her today as she has moved into a three-room apartment that she is buying! Not everyone has solitary focus facing such hardship. We only hope this will be a testimony to other single mothers like Yarntif. With your support and prayers, CFI was able to purchase a refrigerator and much needed washing machine for her. We know that she is not completely “out of the woods,” but this mother who stayed the course has half the battle won! **Thank God, that she can trust Him and along with our support, she knows all things are possible!**

Marcia Brunson
*Project Hope for the Future*  
*hope@cfijerusalem.org*
"...I will lead them to streams of water..." (Jeremiah 31:8)

A few years ago Jacob’s sheep came home. After three years of high-level negotiations between Israeli and Canadian governments, 119 heritage sheep, which trace their lineage back 5,000 years to the Middle East, began arriving in Israel. It is the first time that the breed, called Jacob’s sheep, has been represented in Israel since biblical times.

“The first sheep arrived on the Jewish calendar day that Noah came out of the ark, the 28th of Heshvan,” said Jenna Lewinsky. “As a Jewish person I am so connected to the land, but to see the whole project connecting — it’s going to stay with me for the rest of my life.” Jenna Lewinsky immigrated to Israel just three weeks before the first flight of sheep came on their own baa-liyah. “I will pass through all thy flock today, removing from thence every speckled and spotted one, and every dark one among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and of such shall be my hire, ” (Genesis 30:32).

According to Jenna, the sheep have not been found in Israel for thousands of years.

A Shepherdess’ Heart Cry in Efrat

Jenna said YES to the calling, and with endurance she has been caring for this priceless flock. She has been living in tough conditions, in a tent, through a very cold winter and scorching hot summer, with no electricity, no running water, toilets, etc. She is basically alone but has the oversight of a Rabbi in Efrat. CFI was able to assist with the purchase of a container which will convert into her home. Rabbi Schmil rejoiced when he heard we will help her. With tears of joy they thanked Christians for responding to the call for help.

In His Service Together,

Karen Tohon
Project Streams of Blessing
streams@cfijerusalem.org

New Outreach to Chernobyl Survivors

Watch for testimony of how Streams of Blessing will be helping Jewish Chernobyl survivors who survived the explosion of the Ukrainian Nuclear Reactor in 1986. Alexander Kalanstirsky was breathless when he told us “I wish the world never knew anything about war and nuclear irradiation.” It is just “too hard to talk about!”.
Sunset Years For the Last Living Witnesses
May We Be with Them Until the End

“The Mighty One, God the Lord, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down.”
(Psalm 50:1)

We all were once adorable, beautiful little babies, capturing the attention of others with our infectious laughter and funny mimics. Like the sun coming out of its chambers in the early morning hours, so is a baby to the world. So we also should look at the elderly; people in their sunset years whose glory is in the fruit of their lives and in the inheritance of their children. Sunsets are beautiful, but there is also a sadness in the light of a sinking sun. In the precious lives of aging Holocaust survivors, as a CFI team in Israel, we have had the privilege of serving countless survivors for years, and we see sunsets on a daily basis. Many faces and smiles we have watched are suddenly fading away, sinking down behind the horizon. Their memories failing, their strength not so strong, but we are still holding their hands, looking into their tender eyes, some still shining with an astonishing brightness, like Rosa. These are the final years.

Rosa was born in Ukraine in 1933. Her Jewish parents were born under Communism. As educated people, they were well known in their town. Rosa’s father was called back to the Red Army, before war broke out. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union, he telegraphed his wife to leave immediately. Rosa’s mother failed and for the next three and a half years their lives turned into a nightmare which Rosa remembers even today. After betrayals and miraculous escapes, as well as difficult times in the ghetto’s killing raids, Rosa’s mother and her two children were able to escape. A local priest issued them false documents with Russian identities; he also gave them crosses to wear. Thank God that a Christian risked his life to save them. Some Christians were sent to prison. Joel Rosenberg, in his new book, The Auschwitz Escape, wrote “The question shouldn’t be “Why are you, a Christian, here in a death camp, condemned for trying to save Jews?” The real question is “Why aren’t all the Christians here?”

Rosa’s little brother Michail, was blond. His good looks and boldness in approaching the German soldiers for food saved their lives several times. Rosa still remembers a lady who stood up for them when they were stopped on the street by police suspecting they were Jews. Once again, we thank God for those who blessed the Children of Israel during the years of the Holocaust.

Rosa knows that she has a Good God, who will come to her rescue again. The words of Psalm 23, which we read together with her, comforted her weary soul. Thank you so very much for making it possible for us, through your generous support and uplifting prayers, to visit and to bring God’s love, joy and comfort to these dear Holocaust Survivors in their sunset years. As there is still time to reach out to these precious people, “Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).

In His Service Gladly,

Olga Kopilova
Project Forsake Them Not
ftn@cfijerusalem.org
Christian Friends of Israel

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem

It is time for the Anna’s and Simeon’s to arise! If you are young, or older, God is re-establishing Prayer for Israel around the world. CFI leads in prayer fuel from our online publications, and Facebook prayer points. Email: prayer@cfijerusalem.org

Churches for Israel

Dear Pastors, now is the time to secure your connection to Israel with your Church. Be sure to let us know that you would like to support Israel each month through Christian Friends of Israel. We will send you a Jerusalem Certificate to display on your wall for all to see that your church stands with Israel in practical and prayerful ways. This will assure your people you are on a path of blessing.
Email: lise@cfijerusalem.org

Among Friends

“Among Friends is a community in the making of people that are willing to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, Jews and Christians, in friendship, to form teams that can do things that sanctify the Name of God”. (Bob O’Dell) When we come together we will make our friendship stronger. Getting to the root of our problems is not easy, but open hearts and minds are going to accomplish much.

Ways You Can Get Involved…

• Engage your Tour Groups to visit our Jerusalem Headquarters to receive Educational Teaching on Israel and the Church and learn about our outreaches. Email: events@cfijerusalem.org

• Become a Distributor of For Zion’s Sake magazine to share with others. Email: cfi@cfijerusalem.org

• Utilize Social Media and Internet by forwarding our Free on-line publications and prayer/newsletters to others. Get the Word out!

• Support our ongoing work through website donations, wire transfers, postal mail, local Representatives, Face-book. For questions email: accounting@cfijerusalem.org.

• Get Involved! Write to us how you would like to spend time with us: personnel@cfijerusalem.org

• Distribute the Prayer Bulletins to others to mobilize more Prayer for Israel. Email: prayer@cfijerusalem.org
A great part of reconciliation is that an offending party asks forgiveness of God (and of the person or people they offended). The historical Church has been an offending party towards God’s Chosen People for centuries. Recently, Swedish Christians were given the opportunity to humble themselves before the Lord to repent of sins against the Jewish people. Lars Enarson, is the founder and president of Watchman International (thewatchman.org) and a good friend. Sweden, like many other nations, has moved far away from God. For revival and restoration to come, our churches everywhere need to respectfully admit the shame which we should feel for the atrocities that Christendom perpetrated against the Jewish people over the centuries. If your church has done so, we hope you will encourage other churches to do the same. Before our fullness comes, we must repent for what was done in the Name of Jesus to the Lord’s Brethren, the Jews. The Hall of Shame belongs to the “Church” of history and needs to repent. Your prayers are valuable. For more information on how to organize a gathering such as this, you may write to us. Also, be sure to order the new book “The List” which is most likely the most comprehensive book on Christianity’s history toward the Jewish people ever printed. You may inquire at: info@9-av.com. CFI will soon have this book online.

Sharon Sanders
“Maybe God Almighty wants the Jews to leave America and move to Israel...if the Jews do not get (to Israel)....persecutions will repeat itself in America as well as Europe”. (Victor Mordecai)
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Well remembered, is the day two brothers walked into the Distribution Center and for the first time in forty years recognized each other, both thinking they had been killed in the concentration camps. Just weeks ago, two survivor cousins left many in tears when they watched their emotional reunion in a private meeting in Jerusalem (not at our DC). It reminded us of the special encounters that have taken place over the years in our House of Blessing sponsored by Christians in the Nations. Thank you for your support of this Welcome Center still hosting Jewish people of every age and walk of life in the Jewish world. It all happens because of your prayers, and support for our work!


May the Lord bring more and more of these precious immigrants to the Lord’s Distribution Center. CFI makes this all possible, but YOU make it happen! Your financial support for Open Gates is welcomed!

“They have lifted me up! ...in the Ukraine I had already died.”

It is always a joy to receive new immigrants. One is Nikolay. He moved to Israel in August 2018. I asked him to share his Aliyah-story with us.

Nikolay was born in Moldovia in 1963. His grandmother and mother were Jewish, but no one paid attention. From time to time, if a dispute took place, and someone called Nikolay’s mother a Jew, he suspected his mother was Jewish. When Nikolay was 33, he moved to the Ukraine. He worked as a musician for seven years, then as a taxi driver and finally became a professional welder. Nikolay remembers that he always felt special toward the Jewish people. There was an interest toward Jewishness in his heart. He just didn’t know why. His cousin moved to Israel at the age of 19.

For many years Nikolay tried to contact him without success. After many years they found each other through the Internet. Nikolay learned about his Jewishness. He began to have problems with his health. His condition got so bad that his life was in danger. His cousin told him about the good medical care in Israel and encouraged Nikolay to make Aliyah. “I wanted to live.” Nikolay says. “I didn’t believe that they would give me citizenship, but I went to the Sachnut (Jewish Agency) and started to collect the needed papers and documents.” During those two and a half years Nikolay had two heart attacks. He had to make a trip to Moscow to get one document. At that time there was war already going on in Ukraine. It was very complicated to get anything from Russia. During that time the desire to move to Israel got stronger and stronger in his heart. Finally, in July 2018, Nikolay travelled to the Israeli Embassy in Ukraine with all of the needed documents. In his physical body, he felt half dead. He had little strength, but he went with no expectations or hope. To his great surprise they took the papers and said to him: “Have a pleasant Aliyah to Israel!” He was shocked. His heart was overwhelmed. He was so happy that he forgot all the pain and illnesses that he had at that moment. In one month Nikolay was in Israel. During the first year his condition got better. “They have lifted me up!” he says. “I have a good Doctor and good nursing in Israel. In the Ukraine I had already died.” He has had one operation in Israel. Nikolay is thankful for all the medical treatment and help that he gets. Christian organizations have helped him too. There are difficulties, but Israel is the homeland for every Jewish person. Nikolay believes that the Lord is his Helper in every situation.

Warm greetings from Jerusalem! Please remember us in your prayers, and thank you for your support! - CFI Open Gates Team

Tiina Karkkainen
Project Open Gates
gates@cfijerusalem.org

Everyone is Welcome!

For shipments to be sent to us, please inform us first by emailing us at:
gates@cfijerusalem.org

HIGH QUALITY GARMENTS
FOR IMMIGRANTS
“Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; His Love endures forever.”
Jeremiah 33:10-11

Many congregations in Israel know about our willingness to help brides and grooms. We take care of the Jewish Orthodox, secular, Christians, Jewish believers and even those from abroad who sometimes marry in Israel, for a memorable wedding day. Everyone is welcome to view some of the most beautiful gowns from the nations of the world. Curiously, many come to observe what they have heard about from person-to-person. Once they behold the beauty of our unique CFI Bridal Salon, I am happy to tell you that only a few “brides to be” didn’t find their wedding dress at our salon. Often I hear thankful prayers when “the best dress” is found. Or the girls comment: “This is an answer to my prayers! God is so good!” I share with you herewith a few photos of these beautiful people who have been clients in our Bridal Salon. I also want to say “Thank you!” to everyone, who is supporting this beautiful ministry. God is using us all as an answer to prayer for His children in Israel. We welcome the best gowns on earth to arrive in Jerusalem for the Glory of God!

Tiina Karkkainen
Project Bridal Salon
bridal@cfijerusalem.org

To our German Friends, thank you for the recent arrival of the shipment of beautiful and breathtaking wedding gowns. You touched our hearts!
Tell the Children
Sharon Sanders
It is a simple picture storybook that teaches our children the history of God’s Chosen people – The Jews – and how they are to love them, treat them and place within them the Word of God “I will bless those who bless My People.” This book teaches Christian children to help combat anti-Semitism in this world.

Sitting At the Feet of Rabbi Jesus
Ann Spangler / Lois Tverberg
It is 30 AD. You are studying with the greatest Rabbi of all time. What would it be like to journey back to the First century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of His Jewish disciples? How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you live?

Appointment in Jerusalem
Derek & Lydia Prince
This is the riveting true story of a young schoolteacher and her courageous quest to know God’s will for her life. In Lydia Prince’s search for God and her life’s purpose, she is led to Jerusalem, where she learns the power of prayer and experiences many miracles of provision and protection.

Listening to the Language of the Bible
Lois Tverberg with Bruce Okkema
The Bible speaks in words and phrases that come from a very different culture, place and time. Sometimes its Hebraic ideas and imagery sound foreign to our ears, but when we enter the minds of its ancient authors, we discover great new depth and meaning. Come with us as we learn from the Bible’s rich phrases and imagery, and gain new insight on its words for our lives.

My House Shall Be A House of Prayer
Lance Lambert
There has never been a time when effective prayer and intercession could be more strategic, more necessary, and more essential than now. In relation to the return of the Lord and the events that would precede it, He told us emphatically to watch and pray, and to make supplication to Him. The sad fact is that the Church in the Western nations is by and large complacent; it is lukewarm and in a Laodicean condition. At this time of crisis and confusion, when even more than normal genuine intercession is required, the Church seems impotent.

The Beauty of the Hebrew Language
Nathalie Blackham
Nathalie’s interest in Israel started in 1997 when she began to intensively study and investigate the Hebraic Roots of the Church. This led her to teach and explain the significance and wonders of the Hebrew letters by way of television and conferences. She is passionate about people discovering for themselves hidden secrets from this amazing language.

Paul the Jewish Theologian
Brad H. Young
Reveals Saul of Tarsus as a man who, though rejected in the synagogue, never truly left Judaism. Author Young disagrees with long-held notions that Hellenism was the context which most influenced Paul’s communication of the Gospel. This skewed notion has led to widely divergent interpretations of Paul’s writings. Only in rightly aligning Paul as rooted in his Jewishness and training as a Pharisee can he be correctly interpreted. Young asserts that Paul’s view of the Torah was always positive, and he separates Jesus’ mission among the Jews from Paul’s call to the Gentiles.

“I very much appreciate For Zion’s Sake magazine and use it for reference purposes at meetings I conduct.” (D.P. UK)
CFI Registered Sheep Nations

Around the world CFI’s Family of Nations continues to grow. As we raise the bar on education of the Church, in regard to Israel, Bible Prophecy, and the Coming Kingdom, we make it possible for the nations to be blessed. Support of our numerous outreaches and prayer for us, is imperative. Kindly remain in touch with your local CFI Representative in your nation through the CFI Website, Facebook and Social Media which we provide. Wire transfers, and checks by Post are an excellent way to bless God’s People. May the Lord bless every individual and household, and each CFI Representative for their commitment to our ongoing ministry work based in Israel. Praying that all of you and your families will have a good New Year filled with God’s abundant blessings and goodness!

WELCOME Papua New Guinea!

CFI Papua New Guinea

CFI’s newest family from the nations is from the South Pacific islands: Papua New Guinea known for its coral reefs and beauty. It is in the eastern part of the world’s second largest island and known as the world’s most diverse country with more than 700 native tongues. Pastor Philip Tony Dalaka is the Pastor of PNG’s largest church: Cornerstone Gateway Church in Port Moresby. He recently journeyed to Jerusalem with nine members of his newly formed CFI Board of Leadership. The board consists of leaders from nine other churches in PNG. One of the goals is to travel to the other islands such as Fiji, Palau, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Easter Island, Kiribati, Hawaii and Samoa, French Polynesia, Niue, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Tonga to take the message of the gospel and teachings about Israel. God has blessed us with Pastor Dalaka from PNG and also our very much loved Pastor Patrick Russell who is CFI Australia’s Director/Representative. We welcome the Pacific Islands into the family of CFI and pray God’s blessings upon each endeavor to take the Good News of the Coming Kingdom (which Jesus taught us about) to many and to spread the love for Israel in the beautiful islands that are waiting for the messages. May God bless every effort. Please keep them in your prayers.

Pastor Philip Tony Dalaka
P.O. Box 6832, Bokoko
Port Moresby NCD 0121
(Papua New Guinea)
Contact: cfipng@gmail.com
**CFI United Kingdom**

It’s been a busy year at CFI in the UK: teaching on our Hebraic roots and standing with the Jewish communities. This year has been fruitful in many Christian festival events. We were visited by Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev at our UK Head Office. David and Julia Soakell, UK Liaison Officers visited the Jerusalem office for updates on CFI Projects which our supporters pray for and support in the UK. A very great blessing to be able to share with our supporters. CFI UK’s Director, Jacob Vince led a tour to Israel and an Israel Study Tour for Ministers. CFI’s UK Annual Conference with Dr Calvin L Smith of Kings Evangelical Divinity School and Jonathan Farrell from StandWithUsUK, was well attended. We are very grateful to all of our prayer warriors and supporters.

Jacob Vince
info@cfi.org.uk

**CFI India**

Pastor Ephraim Smith is a faithful servant of God who conducted a CFI Conference recently with many Coordinators attending. We thank God for the work going forward in India by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church, for Israel, through CFI. May the Lord God of Israel stir the hearts of many more in India to come alongside the family of nations standing with Israel.

Dr. Smith Ephraim
zion_india@yahoo.com

**CFI South Africa**

One of CFI’s most beautiful, and important presentations to a nation, is in Port Elizabeth, S. Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Michael (and Pam) Holloway are CFI Jerusalem’s Representatives in this important nation. The beauty of the Lord can be seen in their presentation of Jerusalem’s spirit in their shop, and of CFI. A big thank you to the Holloways!

Michael and Pam Holloway
cfisa@telkomsa.net

**CFI Guatemala**

Karen, CFI’s Streams of Blessing Coordinator met with Guatemalan Ambassador Mr. Mario Bucaro. The Guatemalan embassy is already here in Jerusalem and moved two days after the U.S embassy moved last year. CFI is searching for a Guatemala Representative.

Contact: karen@cfijerusalem.org

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Representing CFI UK Office, David & Julia Soakell UK Liaison Officers Visiting CFI Jerusalem

CFI India National Representative, Ephraim Smith with leaders at CFI India Conference

CFI South African Representatives, Michael and Pam Holloway South Africa! Welcome! Visit our unique Essence of Israel & CFI Office
Welcome!
You Are Warmly Invited
to take part in Learning the Bible from a Hebrew Perspective!

Take your Christian education higher. Send your tour group home with a new revelation of the Church’s Responsibility to Israel, giving your group a deeper dimension of Israel and the Church will bring blessings for everyone. Just think! You can take home an extra degree of Bible understanding from Jerusalem which most likely not be taught anywhere, even if enrolled in Bible college. Prayerfully consider contacting us about a date and time for your group to visit CFI. A deeper understanding of the prophetic times in which we live is necessary to prepare for the days ahead. Our teachings are built around Bible Prophecy, Israel and the Church, The Second Coming and The Coming Kingdom, all relevant teachings for today.

Teach others by Distributing For Zion’s Sake electronically and through postal bulk mail!

“I am going to my friend with this brilliant article because trying to defend Israel exhausts me. You have done a grand job...”. (I.D. USA)

“Thank you for For Zion’s Sake, it is an excellent magazine, the sort of magazine one wants to read”. (A.G. USA)

“We love receiving your magazine, such an encouragement...thank you for all you are doing”. (P.R. UK)

“I wish to express my appreciation for the latest edition of For Zion’s Sake...I always pass my copies of this publication onto other members of my church”. (L. F. UK)
35th Anniversary Year Giving

Christian Friends of Israel “makes it possible” to bring a blessing to the Jewish people and to make a difference. As Jewish-Christian relations continue to grow, we are able to assist in difficult situations often presented to us. You make it possible for us to make our goals achievable in repairing damage done to the Jewish people. As we do this for His Name, thank you for giving generously to our ongoing work.

**Tax Deductions:** CFI Jerusalem issues official receipts. For tax deductible receipts, donors may receive tax deductions by sending your donation to your nearest CFI Representative. Please read the instructions inside the front cover of this magazine.

**Legacies & Wills:** By leaving a gift to CFI in your Will, your compassion and love lives on. It helps us to reach more people – because lives are changed when we show we care, they are transformed when they know they are loved, and healed, when they know it is from Christians.

For further information email: accounting@cfijerusalem.org

Personal checks may be sent to:

**CFI, PO Box 1813**
**Jerusalem, 9101701**
**ISRAEL**

For online donations visit: www.cfijerusalem.org and click on “Contribute.”

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**Doors of Opportunity**

*Step Out in Faith and Join us!*

“When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.”

(Alexander Graham Bell)

**APPLY NOW FOR OPEN POSITIONS**

Media Graphics, Web Designer & Technology, Facilities Maintenance, Administrative

Learn about our CFI Benefit Package for Long Term Volunteers in Israel.

Write to: personnel@cfijerusalem.org

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**Quilts**

While summers in Israel can be delightfully warm the winters can be desperately frigid. At the moment, Under His Wings and Streams of Blessing outreach projects are in need of warm quilts to distribute to the people of Israel. In America they can be purchased for around $25 and sent to H.E.L.P. International in Colorado for transfer to Israel in our shipments from the USA. For more information for Quilts for Outreach email: cfi@cfijerusalem.org. For quilts from the United Kingdom, to be sent on UK shipments, email: olivegrove@intlworld.com.

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“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill
CHRISTIAN FRIENDS of ISRAEL
CONFERENCE 2020

Uncovering HEBREW NUGGETS

35TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
May 25, 26, 27, 2020

A FEAST OF GOD’S WORD
“Meat in Due Season”
(Matthew 24:45)

Speakers will be announced in our next edition of For Zion’s Sake.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
Contact:
events@cfijerusalem.org

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visit us on social media.

CFI Representative Nearest You

Sign-up to subscribe to our newsletters today by emailing:
listadm@cfijerusalem.org