**in**



***Prayer Letter***

**Watchman’s**

# Christian Friends of Israel [prayer@cfijerusalem.org](mailto:prayer@cfijerusalem.org) [www.cfijerusalem.org](http://www.cfijerusalem.org/)

April 2021 /Jewish Year 5781

**BEING A FRIEND**

***“A friend shows his friendship at all times…” Proverbs 17:17 CJB.***

We are Christian Friends of Israel. Since ***‘Friends’*** is our middle name, we will briefly examine what God’s Word says about friends so that we can fulfill His purpose and live up to our name.

Abraham is referred to as God’s friend. *“The Lord said, ‘Shall I keep secret from Abraham (****My friend*** *and servant) what I am going to do…?’” (Genesis 18:17 AMP).* Despite waiting a long time for the fulfillment of God’s promise and being asked to make great sacrifices, Abraham was obedient to God. Because of their friendship, the Lord warned him of impending judgment involving his family and allowed Abraham to intercede for them. God has also given us the responsibility to intercede for Israel and for others. *“...I have set interces- sors on your walls who shall cry to God all day and all night for the fulfillment of his promises. Take no rest, all you who pray, and give God no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes her respected and admired throughout the earth” (Isaiah 62:6-7 TLB).* A true friend obeys God and guards others against attack.

Scriptures also tell us of Moses. *“The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a* ***friend****…” (Exodus 33:11 NIV).* Moses spent much time in God’s presence – listening and speaking. God listened to Moses and allowed him to express his complaints and frustrations. *“Remember this, my dear* ***friends****! Every- one must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19 GNT).* A true friend will be a good listener who is willing to hear the heart of another. How can we imitate God’s love and patience as we befriend Israel and others?

Serving in Israel gives CFI opportunities to befriend people around us; befriending can take on many forms. One staff member strengthened relationships with her neighbors when she befriended and rescued a neigh- borhood cat. The process of finding the owner and returning the pet cemented the bond with those in her building, especially with the cat's owner. Another friendship began when an international student was asked to translate during an Amharic worship service; that encounter blossomed into a friendship. CFI staff encouraged and uplifted the student until she completed her study and returned home.

Another scenario: before moving to Jerusalem, I met a Jewish couple from Israel who were performing in a musical group. After I came to Jerusalem, we kept in contact and visited one another’s homes. During the illness and passing of the wife’s father, the prayer ministry comforted her and CFI sponsored planting a tree in Israel in his memory. Acts of kindness can foster friendships. *“...when they were sick...I afflicted my soul with*

*fasting, my prayer kept returning to my heart. I went about mourning as though for my own* ***friend****...” (Psalm 35:13-14 TLV).* Your continued prayers and pro-Israel activities are also ways of befriending Israel; the oppor- tunities are endless.

Yeshua, Jesus, is the ultimate example of God extending friendship to mankind when Yeshua willingly offered His pure, sinless life to atone for the sins of the world. These are His words as He and the disciples walked to the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.* ***You are My friends if you do what I command you****” (John 15:12-14 TLV).* Being a friend of God means obeying Him and imitating Him – loving what He loves and giving of yourself as He directs. At Christian Friends of Israel, we are striving to do what the Lord Jesus would have expected us to do – to love His People and be their friends. Thank you for helping us represent Jesus in a way that brings Him glory.

**Befriending Israel with our Prayers**

* **Extol** the Master of the Universe for loving His creation enough to call us ‘friends’ and to allow us to be His heirs. ***“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”* Psalms 8:4 NIV. *“...we are children of God. And if children, also heirs – heirs of God and joint-heirs with Messiah…”* (Romans 8:16-17 TLV).**
* **Thank God for** hearing the cries and prayers of the righteous. As friends of Israel, we thank Him for the privilege of lifting up our voices on her behalf. ***“For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer…”* (1 Peter 3:12 TLV).**
* **Intercede for** government leaders to make decisions that align with God’s heart-even if they had not planned to do so. Let there be a change of heart. ***“A king’s heart is like streams of water in the Lord’s hand: He directs it wherever He chooses. All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord evalu- ates the motives”* (Proverbs 21:1-2 HCSB).**
* **Ask God** to give Israel divine strategies to deal with Iran, one of her adversaries. Iran has called for Israel to be wiped off the face of the Earth. (USA Today) ***”You are our victory, pushing back the enemy...I don’t trust in my weapons or in my strength to win me victory. But You rescue us from our foes…”* (Psalms 44:5-7 VOICE).** Also please pray for the estimated 8,300 Jews living in Iran, as well as the Iranian Believers. (Jewish Virtual Library) ***“But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory [and my honor], and the One who lifts my head”* (Psalm 3:3 AMP).**
* **Pray that** CFI and other Believers will always be true “friends” of Israel who represent Yeshua as He would want to be portrayed—as a sweet aroma. ***“We are a sweet smell of Christ that reaches up to God. ...”* (2 Corinthians 2:15 AMP).**

# Our Dear Friends of Israel,

Thank you for befriending Israel in many different ways: through your prayers, Bible teachings, seminars, relationship-building, financial gifts, lobbying, and various pro-Israel activities. Standing up for Israel is becoming less and less popular in the world. However, **when we stand with Israel, the God of Israel stands with us!** I am reminded of a Messianic Jewish song from several years ago, *No Weapon Formed Against You Shall Prosper* by Joel Chernoff. Please be encouraged to continue standing with Israel.



If you wish to have your photo included on our world map of those who are praying for Israel, please send a picture, along with your city and country, to prayer@ cfijerusalem.org. We will be happy to attach it to the prayer map.

In His Love,

## Linda D. McMurray

Wall of Prayer Supervisor