After the Attacks

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Rescuing Jews from rising anti-Semitism in France

Bringing help and hope to people with cerebral palsy

Eating pizza with Israel Defense Forces troops

The Fellowship *hosts a special event to help Israel’s victims of terror heal.*
Reflections from the Rabbi

This time last year, Israel was on edge. One by one, terrorists attacked Israelis going about their everyday lives. They rammed cars into crowds of pedestrians. They hurled large stones at passing cars full of families on their way to the store. They pulled out knives and attacked people on buses, as Maya, a 25-year-old student in Jerusalem, knows all too well. You can read her harrowing story on page 5.

The Fellowship rushed in to help these victims, offering grants to them and their families to help with all the costs involved with recovering. We equipped first responders with backpacks filled with essential supplies. And recently we hosted an event for victims of terror attacks and their families to show our unwavering support and to learn how we can do even more to help. It was a moving evening I won’t soon forget. Read more about it on page 4.

The Jewish community in France understands what it means to be on edge. The rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout Europe has hit their country hard, leading to a series of terror attacks at Jewish community centers, a kosher supermarket, synagogues, and Jewish schools.

The increased threat has prompted many in the French Jewish community to make aliya (immigrate to Israel), and we at The Fellowship have been happy to bring these people to their spiritual homeland. Meet some of the families and individuals who have escaped France on Fellowship Freedom Flights on page 8.

In the face of all these threats, I am especially moved by the unwavering kindness of our staff and volunteers (see page 20), the thoughtful gestures of everyday Israelis in support of the Israel Defense Forces (page 22), and the growing support for Israel from new communities in the U.S. (see page 16). I am also moved by your faithful support, Fellowship friends. In these times of trial and testing, it means more than you will ever know.

Shalom!

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein
Founder and President
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Rabbi Eckstein finished a two-week Brazil trip in June, and he is thrilled by the outpouring of love and support he received from our Christian friends belonging to the many churches he visited around the country. He spoke about The Fellowship's mission to build bridges between Christians and Jews and the lifesaving projects we sponsor to help Jews in Israel and around the world.

Thank you for your prayers and support during Rabbi Eckstein’s trip. We are happy to welcome him back home and feel thankful for his safe and successful visit.

Heartfelt Thanks from a Brand-New Israeli

I’m a new olah (immigrant) from Odessa, Ukraine. I have a family, a husband and two children. We made aliya to Israel in August 2015. All the olim flew to Israel in a chartered flight from Kiev.

The Fellowship helped us with the absorption process in Israel. The help was significant. We received monetary grants from The Fellowship.

Irina Genin and many other Fellowship volunteers helped us fill out forms and solve important problems once in Israel.

We thank The Fellowship for organizing activities for the children in the olim house, where they dance, swim, paint, learn Hebrew and English, and more.

We have a psychologist who helps us get resettled properly in Israel. We’ve made friends in Israel.

We recommend that Jews everywhere make aliya through The Fellowship and we tell them that Israel is a country with a big heart!
Moved in Morocco

In March, Rabbi Eckstein had the honor of celebrating the festive Jewish holiday of Purim with Morocco’s ancient Jewish community. Once numbering some 250,000 people, the Jewish community has now dwindled to just over 2,000. Rabbi Eckstein was saddened to see this shrinking Jewish community. The Fellowship is working to provide assistance to those still remaining in Morocco who need our help, part of our commitment to Jewish communities around the world. We also provide aliyah (immigration to Israel) for those who are able to come.

Fighting Fire with Fire

As a panelist at the Jerusalem Post Annual Conference on May 22, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein discussed the future of the Jewish people and the war against the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement.

Rabbi Eckstein and other speakers emphasized that Jews and pro-Israel advocates need to go on the offensive to “fight fire with fire” or, in other words, to boycott the boycotters.

“We can’t do it alone,” Rabbi Eckstein told the conference attendees. “The way to fight the BDS movement long term is to build strategic alliances and friendships.”

In addition to calling upon Jewish communities around the world to take a more active role against BDS, Rabbi Eckstein also encouraged them to contribute to programs that help the needy elderly, particularly Holocaust survivors, who deserve to live out the rest of their lives in dignity and comfort.

Welcome, Baby Esther!

We recently received this moving letter from the head of Tikva, a children’s home in Odessa, Ukraine, that The Fellowship has supported for years:

Dear All,

At 9:15 this morning in Odessa a little girl was born. Her mother has expressed no interest in caring or looking after this precious baby.

So as of now she is a Tikva baby. On her birth certificate I registered her as Esther, a biblical name. We gave her this name to remind us of the miracle of Purim (Queen Esther helped save the Jews in the book of Esther), and the miracle that she has you and us to ensure she has a happy and healthy life.

Today is both a sad and happy day. I am overwhelmed by how fortunate we are to be able to save this child together and saddened by the fact that Esther has to join an orphanage on the first day of her life.

Thank you for helping, saving, supporting, and ensuring that Esther is safe. Were it not for Tikva and The Fellowship’s donors, none of this could have happened.

Refael Kruskal, CEO of Tikva Children’s Home
This spring, The Fellowship hosted an event for victims of terror attacks and their families to show our unwavering support and to learn how we can do more.

When someone is injured in a terror attack, the damage is widespread. Family members must often leave everything and change their lives in order to be with the victims. This often means missing work for days or weeks on end. For this reason, The Fellowship provides a $1,000 grant to these families, to help with the many accompanying expenses and to show how much The Fellowship and our donors care.

On May 9, 2016, The Fellowship held an emotional event to honor victims of terror attacks and their families. And with the wave of terror attacks that began in the fall of 2015, there were many victims to invite. If there was one common thread among the attendees, it was their gratitude to The Fellowship and our caring supporters.

Rabbi Eckstein began the program, speaking to the audience about why The Fellowship decided to pursue this project. “When the wave of terror began, we decided to help individual citizens and their families,” he said, “not just organizations.”

Speaking to the victims and their families, he said, “The fact that you continue to live, to love, to marry, and to participate in Israeli society makes you heroes. Sometimes the inclination after a terror attack, and then another and then another, is to despair. You’re heroes in that you don’t despair and you hold onto life. You continue living.

“We invited you here for two reasons. First, to hear from you how we can help even more. Secondly, simply to tell you that we love and appreciate you. For us, giving money is almost symbolic because the money doesn’t solve the pain. We give it because we want to tell you we care about you. As it’s written in Psalm 91:15, ‘I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.’”

Then, before the floor was turned over to the survivors, Rabbi Eckstein spoke of The Fellowship’s donors, who make our care possible. “There are millions of supporters who love Israel and who stand with us,” he said. “They give from the little that they have in order to guarantee the strength and existence of Israel and the Jewish people. They want to show us that we’re not alone.”

Then Rabbi Eckstein stepped aside to let those being honored – the terror victims and their loved ones – speak.
Surviving Terror and Finding Healing

Like many other Jerusalem residents, Maya, a 25-year-old student from Jerusalem, tried to continue living her daily life even though a wave of terror was spreading throughout Israel. News reports told stories of Israelis walking through Jerusalem, riding public transportation, or grocery shopping – then, all of a sudden, they found themselves in the path of a Palestinian terrorist carrying a knife or a bomb.

Maya explained that when the wave of terror started, she began carrying a small first-aid kit with her when she would leave the house. One day during this fearful time she grabbed her kit and left for work. It was a hot day and she had wanted to wear open shoes, but she wore regular shoes so she would be able to run in the event of a terror attack.

While finding a seat on the bus that morning, she didn’t sit until she had checked for the most secure seat to protect herself from an attack, a practice that had become a daily habit since the attacks escalated. She sat in the rear of the bus near one of the doors.

Four minutes into her ride she saw a man standing in the front of the bus with a weapon, shouting, “Don’t move!” At first she thought it might be someone from the Israeli security forces who had spotted something suspicious. But then he began shooting everywhere.

She ducked next to the seat and prayed for her life. At the same time, in a moment of despair, she also waited to get shot, thinking, *Maybe this whole thing will end quickly.*

The terrorist passed her and she looked at the door, thinking about how she might escape. She didn’t realize that it was quiet because he had run out of bullets. Then she saw a second terrorist lifting his knife and shouting “*Allahu Akbar*” (“God is great” in Arabic).

Figuring she had nothing to lose, she decided to get up and run. If she stayed where she was, she would die; if she ran, she might live. She ran about two yards and felt what she thought was a fist hit her shoulder. She soon realized that she had been stabbed, but the adrenaline was flowing, and she felt no pain. She managed to run from the bus.

A police car brought her to a hospital, where doctors stitched up her wound. The knife had penetrated about

Maya, a 25-year-old student from Jerusalem, survived a terror attack. Here she holds the shell casing of a bullet that just missed her.
Maya was eight inches deep. However, she was so shaken by the attack, she still didn’t fully understand what she had experienced. She went for a CT scan, and the doctors found a hole in her lung. While she was still physically and emotionally weak from the trauma of the attack, they also told Maya she would need an operation immediately or her life would be in danger. Thankfully, the operation was successful, but she had to stay in the hospital for six days to recover.

While her body may have healed, Maya’s mind still needs time to recover from the trauma of the attack. She is struggling to live her life. She is frightened by every child who jumps in front of her on the street. She no longer rides on buses. Sometimes she just wants people to understand what she’s going through. Although she has returned to work and school, her life has changed completely.

She was also involved in the court proceedings against one of the terrorists. That meant having to see the man who tried to kill her – the same terrorist who killed three people during the attack on Maya’s bus.

But Maya is a fighter. Although she was a terror victim, she thinks of herself as a survivor. The attack is impossible to forget, but she believes that she needs to continue on with her life. Every day she feels a little bit stronger.

Moving Encouragement to Choose Life

Dafna Meir, a mother of four, was stabbed to death in front of her children as she tried to fight off a terrorist who entered her home in Otniel, Israel. Her husband, Natan, spoke at the Fellowship event about coping with the loss of his wife and continuing her legacy.

He said that 25 years ago a soldier named Arik was kidnapped and murdered. During this time, Dafna was in the same 10th grade class as Arik’s brother Hananel. Two months after the murder, when Hananel was grief-stricken, Dafna told him that he had every legitimate reason to fall apart emotionally, but that he also had the freedom to choose life, rather than giving in to despair. She said it was his choice whether he wanted to continue living or to remain behind.

Natan said that Dafna was a straightforward woman who spoke from her heart. She never hesitated to tell the truth, even if the truth hurt, and she had similar conversations with others who lost loved ones because of terror.

Hananel visited during the shiva – the seven-day period of mourning after a death for Jews – and told Natan that Dafna’s words raised him up from the sadness and hopelessness he felt after his brother’s death.

Hananel said those words from Dafna remain with him: There is the good and the bad; we must choose life.

In honor of Dafna, Natan and his children get out of bed every day – even on the days they don’t want to. It’s a privilege and obligation to choose life, he said.

Natan ended his talk by thanking those at the event, saying, “Thanks for making it a little easier for us to choose life.”
Supporting Families of Terror Victims

Ofer Cohen, father of Hadar, a 19-year-old border policewoman who was killed in Jerusalem as she fought off three terrorists armed with guns and knives, spoke next.

For many years, the week surrounding Israel Memorial Day has been a time of sadness and introspection for Ofer. During that time, he thinks about the fate of those who have fallen during Israel’s many wars. However, he never thought that he would be the father of a daughter who would give her life for Israel’s security.

His daughter Hadar was a special young woman who loved life. She served in an Israel Border Police unit and felt very proud to be protecting Israel and her people. When terrorists came to kill innocent people near the walls of Jerusalem’s Old City, Israel’s Border Police responded. They were met with live fire from the terrorists. Hadar neutralized one of the terrorists, but was killed by a third terrorist who surprised them.

Ofer spoke of his great pride for his daughter, who fell while protecting the lives of others. He also spoke of his great appreciation for the warmth the Israeli public has shown him, as well as for the assistance provided to his family by The Fellowship. He recently found out that four different families chose to name their daughters Hadar in honor of his daughter’s memory, and this brings him hope and comfort.

“The Fellowship gives us a platform to deal with this difficult life situation, as many of us have both physical and psychological wounds,” he said. “There’s no consolation for the gaping wound of the loss of our daughter. It’s true that she’s an Israeli hero, but she is our little girl who will never return home.” Thanks to The Fellowship, though, Ofer and his family will not have to bear their burden alone.

Dr. Avi Rivkind is head of the Trauma Unit at Hadassah Medical Center, a hospital supported by The Fellowship. Having treated too many terror victims, Dr. Rivkind spoke of the importance of The Fellowship’s help to those wounded, as well as victims’ families. “The Fellowship doesn’t just give $1,000 to the victims of terror and their families,” he said. “You also make it possible to build the places that treat the wounded. Because of your support we’re able to provide the best treatment in the world.”

The final speaker of the evening was Captain Ziv Shilon, an IDF soldier who lost his arm during a mission on the Gaza border. Ziv told his emotional and inspiring story of coping with the injury, his rehabilitation, and the devotion to duty above all. In spite of all of the physical disabilities and challenges, he decided to move on. After two years he began running marathons and is now training for Ironman Triathlons. Ziv has chosen life and has gotten married. His first daughter was born seven months ago. In closing, this real life Israeli hero said that even if there are challenges in life, we can conquer the big challenges if we deal with the small daily challenges. With that, the evening came to a close as everyone stood to sing Israel’s national anthem, “Hatikvah” (The Hope).
It’s been tough for the Jewish community in France over the past several years. Attacks have become common – on soldiers guarding a Jewish community center in Nice, on a kosher supermarket in Paris, outside a synagogue in Marseille, at a Jewish school in Toulouse. The French government has increased security outside Jewish buildings, and Jewish leaders have advised students not to wear kippahs outside of class. According to the non-profit organization Jewish Community Security Service, there were 808 reported anti-Semitic incidents in France in 2015, nearly double the number from two years before.

Understandably, many in the French Jewish community have fled. The Israeli government reports that 7,469 French people made aliyah (immigrated to Israel) in 2015, up nearly a thousand from the previous year, and up nearly 4,500 from a decade ago. The French have been the largest group immigrating to Israel over the past two years, surpassing even Russians and Ukrainians.

“What we are witnessing, in my opinion, is a whole shift in history,” says Rabbi Eckstein, who traveled to France as the attacks became more frequent to help establish Fellowship Freedom Flights from there. “Now we’re seeing waves from Western Europe, which we never thought we’d see – France, Belgium, and I predict there will be others.”

As The Fellowship’s Freedom Flights are now underway from France, the stories of some of the first olim (immigrants) we’ve flown to Israel from France underscore why this effort is so important.
Mikael, 32, and his wife, Johana, 28, along with their 3-year-old twins, Eyal and Lital, and their 4-month-old, Neria, all made aliyah thanks to The Fellowship. Originally from Paris, France, they are so excited to begin a new life in Israel.

Mikael and his wife always wanted to make aliyah, but they also didn’t want to leave their friends, their jobs, or the place where they were born. But then they started noticing a lot of problems in France.

“Anti-Semitism has become very prevalent,” Mikael says. “When there’s a problem related to anti-Semitism, we don’t even want to go to the police because we don’t feel they’ll do anything to solve it. It’s completely different here in Israel. Coming here is like a family reunion for me. I felt alone when we were in France. I’m proud to finally be Israeli.”

Mikael wonders if part of the reason why anti-Semitism has grown in Paris is because of the prevalence of radical Islam. He explains, “Of course there is good and bad among all people, but the situation is becoming very difficult. What can I say? All Jews really need to come to Israel so we can strengthen our country.”

Still, the move was not without its sacrifices. “My whole family is already living in Israel, so I’m happy,” says Mikael. “If there’s one thing that makes me sad, it’s the fact that Johana’s family is still in France. She’s a very strong woman for agreeing to leave them all behind and come to Israel. Luckily, she does have one sister who also lives in Israel. Still, there were a lot of tears before we left.”

When asked about what their hope is for their children, Mikael answers, “We hope they’ll grow up as God-fearing, Torah (Bible)-observant Jews.”

He feels blessed to live in the Jewish homeland and strongly believes it is the true home for all Jews. “I hope that eventually all the Jewish people will live here and dance with the Messiah when he comes,” Mikael says. “Thank you to The Fellowship, thank you to Israel, thank you to God.”

“I never felt at home in France,” says Charlotte, a young, successful pharmacist who had been living in Lyon. “In recent years, I feared for my safety and rarely went to a synagogue for services or to Jewish Community Centers for holiday events.”

Charlotte decided that she could no longer live in a country where her heritage and identity are looked upon negatively. Yet she did not speak any Hebrew or know how she would transfer her career to a new country, and she worried about securing housing and medical insurance in Israel.

“When I met Yael, the Fellowship representative in France, she assured me that The Fellowship would be there to assist and guide me through every step of aliyah. This is why I am here in Israel. It’s because of The Fellowship and the extensive help it provides to newly arrived immigrants,” Charlotte explains.

Charlotte has been in Israel less than a week, yet she is confident that with The Fellowship’s assistance she will manage to create a new life in the Holy Land. She attended
our First Steps seminar for new olim, where she heard lectures about job placement, education, health care, and many other topics.

“I found The Fellowship’s seminar to be very informative and helpful, but most of all, it is the personalized assistance with experts in the field of career placement that is most useful to me. I know that The Fellowship is intimately involved to ensure that we, the new French olim, succeed in Israel,” she explains.

“The Fellowship understands the difficulty we face as new olim, and is providing us with the best possible help to ease our transition into Israeli society and to ensure our success. I cannot thank The Fellowship enough for enabling me to realize my dream to live here in the land of Israel!”

“Jews were never much liked in French society,” Rabbi Eliyahu says, “but since the Holocaust we were tolerated, as it became politically incorrect to be outwardly anti-Semitic.”

Rabbi Eliyahu and his wife, Suzan (pictured above), were both born in France; they have seven children and 15 grandchildren. Three of their children made aliyah about three years ago, and their other children are making plans to move to the Holy Land now.

Rabbi Eliyahu is a rabbi in the southern city of Nice, where he and his wife have lived for the past 20 years. There are around 20,000 Jews in Nice, but many of them are planning to move to Israel.

“We always wanted to make aliyah,” Suzan explains. “But to leave your job and the country where you were raised and educated, and to start from scratch in a place where you can’t even order a pizza or fill out a form at the bank because you can’t speak the language, is extremely difficult,” she continues.

Although their dream of making aliyah preceded the current wave of discrimination and threats toward Jews, the surge in anti-Semitism definitely played a role in their decision to leave France. “I refused to walk in the streets without a kippah, so I became a target for harassment on the streets of Nice,” Rabbi Eliyahu explains. “My grandchildren, who also wear kippahs, are not allowed to play outdoors and rarely go to a park or walk to a friend’s house.”

Despite the suffocating situation in France, all of the complexities of uprooting their lives seemed overwhelming. But that changed once they met with Yael, the Fellowship representative in charge of French aliyah.

“The Fellowship helps each new oleh (individual immigrant) financially by providing them with airfare and a grant to help them get started in Israel,” Yael explains. “We also offer First Steps seminars, which provide information regarding health care, education, housing options, and job counseling for new olim.”

Eliyahu and Suzan are living in their daughter’s apartment in Israel for the time being until they find a home of their own. They are both participating in a Fellowship-funded ulpan (Hebrew language course) for the next six months, and are hoping to reestablish their lives in Israel once they are able to speak Hebrew more fluently.

“I feel like I have been resurrected since coming to Israel,” Suzan says. “I can finally be who I am, a Jew, who is proud of her heritage and passionate about her faith. I could not hold my head proudly as a Jew in France, and now that I am home in Israel, thanks to The Fellowship, I will never again bow my head in shame in the face of anti-Semitism and discrimination.”
End of Summer Specials

In *Holy Days of Israel*, Rabbi Eckstein offers teachings on the five most important holy days of the Jewish calendar.

H.D. $19.95 **NOW $5.49**
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(plus $3.25 shipping)

In *Holy Songs of Israel*, Rabbi Eckstein explores the Psalms which have provided comfort and encouragement to all for many centuries – includes accompanying CD.

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This is why *The Fellowship* is especially proud of our work assisting children and adults in the FSU who live with physical and mental challenges. Cerebral palsy (CP), caused by damage to the part of the brain that controls muscle movements, affects body mobility, muscle coordination, and balance. Most people with CP are born with it, and the struggle of caring for someone with CP usually impacts the entire family. Many parents of children with CP wind up divorcing due to the added pressure, often leaving a single mother to care for the child and provide the expensive therapies, medications, and equipment required.

*The Fellowship* is privileged to come alongside these families to offer much-needed assistance and the reassurance that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

**“The Fellowship Is Our Anchor”**

Tatiana was 29 and Valery 55 when they met and decided to marry. They devoted their lives to each other and eagerly awaited the day they would become parents.

However, the years went by and a child was nowhere in sight. The couple consulted the best doctors and tried every type of treatment until finally, after 11 years of anticipation, Valerian was born.

Tatiana’s pregnancy was normal and nothing indicated any possible danger to her baby. But during the birth process, Valerian was severely hurt – and was later diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Today Valerian is 10 years old. He suffers from many disabilities and cannot walk or even sit by himself. However, he is extremely bright.

Tatiana is now 50 and Valery 76. All their dreams changed once Valerian was born. Since his birth, their only concern has been his well-being and future. Both parents are dedicated to improving his health and providing him the best education possible.
How *The Fellowship* is bringing help and hope to people with cerebral palsy.

The parents are now both pensioners and rely on the small governmental allowance to survive and to support their son.

Thankfully, they also have *The Fellowship* for support. We provide food packages every month, clothing twice a year, and financial assistance when emergencies arise.

“We can hardly afford the expensive medication and ongoing rehabilitation treatments our beloved son requires,” Valery says. “When the freezing winters come, we wonder how we can buy him warm clothing. And when the Jewish holidays come, we wonder how we will celebrate according to biblical tradition.”

Valery continues, “*The Fellowship* provides us with the answer, helping us solve both problems. They are our anchor; we can rely upon them in this sometimes-difficult world. What a relief to know there are people who care and help!”

**Living Life to the Fullest**

Born with severe cerebral palsy, Alexander, 47, cannot control his arms and legs. He cannot walk, and it is extremely difficult for him to talk. Producing just one word takes energy and effort, and the sounds that come out are difficult to understand. Alexander’s mother seems to be the only one who can understand him, serving as both his translator and confidant.

Despite his difficulty communicating through speech, Alexander expresses himself through writing.

“Alexander writes poems and creates quizzes, often on biblical topics,” his mother explains. “He finds the biblical root of popular fairy tales and likes to explain the scriptural underpinning of the plots.”

In Alexander’s poems, which his mother is happy to share with visitors, he expresses his experience living with a severe handicap and what it’s like to feel lonely because of his illness.

Indeed, Alexander still recalls the day, nearly five years ago, when his mother hired two strong men to help him leave their second-floor apartment, which had been his home for the past seven years. The two men helped Alexander down two flights of stairs and walked him around for 15 minutes before bringing him back home.

That was the last time Alexander left the small apartment. The building has no elevator and his mother cannot carry her son down the stairs. When they moved into their apartment, his mother had to enlarge the doorways so that Alexander could maneuver his wheelchair into the bathroom. They were unable to widen the kitchen door, so Alexander is limited to the tiny bedroom he shares with his mother, the bathroom, and the small balcony.

However, Alexander engages the outside world through the internet. Using his talents, he even designed a device to combine the television and internet, so he can use the television remote to surf the web.

Alexander is able to press the TV remote buttons with his nose. While it is painful to watch how hard it is for Alexander to perform even this small task, dipping his head down and trying not to hit the wrong key, the ability to use the internet has opened up a new world for Alexander.

Alexander joined Russia’s *Odnoklassniki*, which is a social network service for classmates and old friends. Although he never went to school (a tutor taught him at home through sixth grade, and after that he studied on his own), Alexander has made a number of virtual friends he keeps in touch with via the website.

Alexander’s computer savvy comes in part from his mother, who worked as a computer programmer in the 1970s, but she is the first to admit that his talent and understanding of modern technology far surpass hers.

“He continues to design new technological devices to make my life easier and to make himself as independent as possible. With his phone and internet connection, he can stay alone for hours,” Alexander’s mother explains.
The Fellowship helps Alexander by providing him with a bank card to purchase food. Last year, The Fellowship loaned Alexander medical equipment and provided him with emergency funds for medicine to help him overcome a severe illness.

Alexander knows he can rely on The Fellowship and our supportive donors when he falls ill or cannot purchase basic necessities. Alexander and his mother feel so blessed by The Fellowship’s generosity.

Special Help for a Family with Special Needs

When Yulia, now 12, was first born, many tried to convince her mother to abandon her. When the doctors who delivered Yulia saw that she had severe cerebral palsy – so severe that, to this day, Yulia cannot hold her head up on her own, let alone walk or talk – they advised her mother to put her up for adoption.

Even the grandparents tried to convince their daughter to give up her child. But Yulia’s mother was determined to care for her new baby. “How would I eat, sleep, and enjoy my life knowing that my poor, sick child was somewhere with strangers?” she explains. “How could I enjoy life knowing that my own child is suffering somewhere without me?”

So Yulia came home, where she was warmly embraced by her mother, her father, and her maternal grandparents, with whom the family lived. Once her mother made the decision to keep Yulia, the maternal grandparents instantly began to love the new baby as well. Today, they play a huge role in Yulia’s life by helping their daughter care for Yulia during the night. Now that the mother has two more young children, nights are especially challenging, as all the kids demand attention.

Even with all the help, Yulia’s situation is difficult. Although she is now 12, she is as small as a five year old. She likely will never speak or walk on her own.

In addition to the challenges involved in raising Yulia, the family also lives in poverty. The gas heating system in their home is old and weak, and the family always freezes in the winter months, wearing layers to keep warm. Their only source of income is Yulia’s disability pension and her father’s meager salary. Most of their income goes to providing Yulia with expensive medical and rehabilitative care.

With so many medical bills, the family feels very blessed to know they are not alone. The Fellowship provides Yulia with a bank card, which she can use to purchase both medicine and food, significantly easing the family’s financial strain. Last winter, The Fellowship bought Yulia a new winter jacket to help her stay warm and hopefully remain healthy through the winter months.

For Yulia’s mother, anything that brings a smile to her daughter’s face is the greatest gift in the world. They thank The Fellowship for being a part of their family and for the assistance that allows Yulia to smile – and her parents to breathe a sigh of relief.

Learn more about The Fellowship’s Isaiah 58 program and how you can help provide winter assistance, food, other essentials, and security assistance to needy Jews in the FSU at ifcj.org/Givelsaiah.
Lord, Hear My Prayer!

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

– Jeremiah 33:3

We can learn even more about prayer from the leading authority – the Bible! The Fellowship is pleased to offer a new study on the power of prayer: The Work of the Heart – Ten Biblical Lessons on the Power of Prayer. To order your free copy of this study, call 800-486-8844! Or go online to ifcj.org/prayerbook to download a digital copy and discover invaluable teachings about the power of prayer through the examination of 10 biblical people.

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Every year we take the prayer requests of Fellowship friends like you to the Western Wall, or Kotel, in Jerusalem. This time is sacred to us, as we know from the Bible and our personal experiences that God hears and answers our prayers. We also believe that prayer is not just submitting our requests, but coming closer to God so that we can better ourselves and partner with Him to minister to the world.

And if you haven’t already sent in your prayer request, please allow us the honor of praying for you at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the last remnant of the Holy Temple! You can use the reply slip we have provided to send in the prayers on your heart today.
A Natural Partnership

Since launching our new African-American outreach program in 2015, *The Fellowship* has been working to strengthen the ties between this community and the Jewish people, making for a strong partnership in faith and understanding.

“What we’re trying to do is deepen their bonds with Israel and the Jewish people so they have a better understanding of what’s going on there and so they can identify more and stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people,” says Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein.

“African Americans are the Jewish people’s natural partners,” says Yael Eckstein, senior vice president of *The Fellowship*. “They know what it means to be suffering and reach freedom, to be slaves and come to enjoy the full benefits of American peoplehood. We have not had positive ties throughout the years because no one ever put an effort into creating those ties.”

These sponsored trips to the Holy Land are a great place to start building a strong relationship, connecting these Christians to their roots in Israel.

“As we interpret the scriptures, we identify with the people of Israel as...
How a tour of Israel fostered new bonds between the African-American church, The Fellowship, and the Jewish state.

God’s chosen people, and therefore we understand that those who bless Israel receive blessings and those who curse Israel are really fighting against our culture and faith,” says A.W. Mays, an African-American Christian leader from Austin, Texas, who was part of the tour.

A Journey through Israel

The tour included visits to some of the Holy Land’s most famous biblical sites, including the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, the Garden Tomb, the Mount of Olives, and the Via Dolorosa.

They even visited the Yardenit baptismal site along the Jordan River in the Galilee, where several members of the group were baptized while the others looked on and sang.

“I know what I felt in that moment, to just be there, to be a part of it,” said tour participant Pastor William Watson. “It was enriching, after having talked about it and preached about it, to actually be able to participate in what I’ve talked about.”

Seeing The Fellowship in Action

The group also had the opportunity to visit some of The Fellowship’s projects in Israel, and they learned...
about the impact we have among Jews every day. One project, Pantry Packers, a Fellowship-sponsored organization that packages food for the needy elderly and families throughout Israel and relies on volunteers to box the food for delivery, opened the group’s eyes to the realities of poverty and hunger in the Holy Land.

They packaged bags of rice and chickpeas – and the satisfaction of their work was palpable both during and following their time of service. In fact, the volunteer sessions usually only last an hour, but the NBCA group stayed one hour longer.

They also visited the Fellowship Ethiopian Spiritual Center in Netanya, where they learned how important the house is for Israel’s Ethiopian community. And Fellowship staff member Zehava Tesfay spoke about the Fellowship-supported Azimut project for the members of the Ethiopian community.

They also learned about the history of Ethiopian aliyah and The Fellowship’s aid to this population. The group heard from Micha Feldman, a popular figure and speaker in the Ethiopian Jewish community, and one of the chief architects of “Operation Solomon,” a covert Israeli operation in May 1991 that succeeded in bringing 14,000 Ethiopian Jews out of Addis Ababa in one weekend.

Another meaningful visit was to the Gal Pre-Army Leadership program in Akko, where The Fellowship provides scholarships to 42 students in the program. A former graduate and three members of the Ethiopian community told how the program is helping them to prepare for meaningful service in the Israel Defense Forces.

Visiting the holy sites and being able to get a glimpse of The Fellowship’s ministry in Israel left a lasting impression on all of the NBCA members. “I’m not the same,” said Pastor William Watson. “Hopefully, I’ll never be the same for what the trip has allowed us to experience.”

Closing the Journey with Shabbat

While the delegation was in Israel, they enjoyed a Shabbat (Sabbath) meal hosted by Fellowship writer Yonit Rothchild and her family. She felt very excited to celebrate a Shabbat meal with a roomful of Christian pastors.

“After sharing the customs and traditions that we observe every Friday night, we went around the room and gave the pastors a chance to share what had touched them the most that week,” she said. “Each individual spoke about another aspect of Israel, but there was one common thread – almost everyone acknowledged that this trip had opened their eyes to the fact that the things that unite us as Christians and Jews are far greater than those that divide us.”

She says she felt the spirit of camaraderie in the room as they all realized that we aren’t that different after all. “As we sang and danced together, I could feel God smiling down on us as we joined together in unity and love for His glory.”

Building Lasting Bonds

Rabbi Eckstein explains why visiting the Holy Land in person is so important to building relationships with the African-American community. “They get to see the real Israel, not the Israel portrayed often by the media and the attacks against her in the United Nations and around the world. At a time when we Jews are feeling alone and alienated, we have a need for friends, for alliances,” Eckstein said.

The Fellowship looks forward to creating more support for Israel within the African-American church community, and we feel so grateful for the love, support, and gratitude displayed by the members of the NBCA. And in return, all of the members feel blessed to have visited the Holy Land and will always carry these memories with them.
TRANSFORMING MYTHS INTO GIFTS

You’ve thought about leaving a greater legacy of your love for Israel and the Jewish people but have yet to put plans in place—perhaps because you didn’t think it was practical or possible.

Don’t be deterred by myths and misunderstandings about charitable giving. Here are some of the more common ones, and what you can do about them.

You Can Bless Israel in Ways You Never Imagined

MYTH: Only wealthy people leave estate gifts.
FACT: The greatest number of legacy gifts made to The Fellowship come from supporters of ordinary means. And gifts designated from a last will and testament or trust are especially suitable for people who need to keep assets on hand now for personal and family needs.

If you’ve ever said, “I wish I could do more,” a planned, future gift is an ideal way to do just that, without impacting your current financial situation.

MYTH: I have to choose between family and charity.
FACT: A charitable bequest is not an either/or proposition. You can provide for your loved ones while also supporting ministries you love, like The Fellowship. You can often save money by designating certain tax-burdened assets to charity while leaving other, tax-free property to family members.

Or, you can designate a “residual” gift to charity only after specific gifts to loved ones have been satisfied.

MYTH: I’ve already completed my estate plan and it’s too much trouble or too expensive to add a charitable beneficiary.
FACT: It’s easy to update a will with a short and simple codicil (addendum). Or, you can make a beneficiary designation on a bank account, retirement plan, or life insurance policy, without even making any changes to your will.

Learn more! Call today for our free Building a Legacy guide. And if you have specific questions about leaving a legacy, our friendly and knowledgeable estate planning staff is available to help you.
Larisa and Vladimir have soldiered on, despite many tragedies, to build a life of love – for each other and for the suffering clients of The Fellowship for whom Larisa serves as a homecare worker.

Larisa learned about loss early in life. As a child, she became sick one day in school, and her worried mother, rushing to get her, was hit by a car and killed. Larisa’s grandmother took her to her home in Georgia, in the former Soviet Union. But when she realized she couldn’t care for a young child, Larisa was sent back to Ukraine to live in a home for abandoned children.

That’s where she first met Vladimir, who had also lost his mother in a car accident. The two immediately became friends and were inseparable for years. But when it came time to leave the children’s home, Larisa and Vladimir went their separate ways: Larisa married and Vladimir joined the navy.

That’s where she first met Vladimir, who had also lost his mother in a car accident. The two immediately became friends and were inseparable for years. But when it came time to leave the children’s home, Larisa and Vladimir went their separate ways: Larisa married and Vladimir joined the navy.

When Larisa and Vladimir next saw each other, six years had passed. Larisa was divorced and Vladimir had ended his stint in the navy. It wasn’t long before they renewed their strong friendship by remembering their days in the children’s home. The two have been inseparable ever since.

Now, their lives are so entwined that Larisa’s homecare clients are as used to seeing Vladimir in their homes as they are Larisa. Since his retirement from his work as a submarine engineer, Vladimir has dedicated his life to helping Larisa’s clients by making small home repairs. Both enjoy doing all they can to improve the lives of those they care for.

Larisa and Vladimir have both grown especially close to one of Larisa’s clients. She’s an older woman who was so withdrawn when Larisa first started working with her that she rarely spoke, except to throw insults at her visitors. Slowly, Larisa and Vladimir won her over.

She now smiles and jokes with them, and she has allowed Vladimir to clean her apartment – he is the first person she trusted to remove the piles of trash she had accumulated over the years. Vladimir cleared out the heaps of garbage and also fixed her oven, fridge, ventilation fan, and clogged pipes.

Vladimir performs similar acts of kindness for all
of Larisa’s four homecare clients. He fixes things in their apartments and allows them to live with greater dignity.

When Larisa broke her leg a few years ago and was in bed for two months, Vladimir – who was, incidentally, suffering from a broken arm – took over Larisa’s work for her. He visited her clients, bringing them cleaning products and doing their laundry for them.

Together, they make a great team and truly change the lives of those they help. For Larisa and Vladimir, kindness is a way of life.

**The Care Needed to Keep Going**

At first glance, Alla, 74, and Olga seem like sisters. By the warm way they greet each other and the care in Olga’s voice as she inquires after Alla’s health, it’s clear they have a close relationship.

In reality, Alla and Olga first met last year, when Olga became Alla’s *Fellowship* homecare worker. Alla suffers from cerebral palsy, which has kept her homebound for the past eight years, as has her increasingly failing eyesight. For Alla, Olga has been a lifesaver.

“Olga is a priceless gift. She is my only motivation to get up in the morning,” says Alla. “With Olga here, I am not scared of dying. I know that she will take care of me.”

Alla worked for years as a pharmacist and cultivated a circle of friends. But since her parents passed away, Alla’s life has grown increasingly difficult because they were the ones who cared for her.

Alla still lives in the single room she shared with her parents, part of a larger, communal apartment. Living in a communal apartment is difficult. Alla must coordinate repairs with her neighbors, and so many necessary repairs haven’t been made. And Alla struggles to maneuver in their crowded shared kitchen with her cumbersome crutches.

Thankfully, Alla has Olga to help her with food preparation. Olga goes beyond simply preparing food in Alla’s crowded kitchen. “Whenever I cook anything at home for my family, I cook extra for Alla and my other *Fellowship* clients,” Olga explains. “How could I eat such tasty food knowing that my elderly friends have nothing?”

Olga’s dedication extends far beyond the three days she spends with Alla each week. She constantly thinks of ways she can help Alla and her other clients, and includes her whole family in this mission. Recently, Olga and her husband found a used chandelier online, and they ordered and installed it in Alla’s room, lighting up her home and her spirits.

Alla is convinced that without Olga, she would have passed away months ago. She cannot afford to pay for private homecare; her pension is far too small, and she has no relatives to help her.

In addition to caring for her material needs, Olga’s presence also keeps Alla’s mind sharp and gives her hope. “This homecare assistance is so huge that I can’t find the right words for it,” says Alla. “Olga’s care holds me up and keeps me going.”
How an unlikely pizza party underscored the fact that we’re all family in Israel.

Celebrating with those who serve

By Yonit Rothchild

Yonit’s son with IDF soldiers
In Israel there is a strong recognition that the soldiers who faithfully serve us are our boys and our girls. We watch over them as if they are our own daughters and our sons. Because in a very real sense, they are.

Since the escalation of violence erupted in Israel last fall, many more soldiers have been stationed in our area, and the local residents haven’t stopped bringing them food, warm clothing, and smiles. It is our tradition to show them our gratitude – our thanks for putting their lives on the line in service to our country.

So when we recently celebrated my son’s bar mitzvah, we wanted to add another element to the celebration aside from the focus on Bible study and prayer. We took our extended family, many of whom were visiting from the United States, to a nearby area where soldiers are stationed and threw a pizza party.

The Junction of Good and Evil

The place where we had the celebration is in and of itself a lesson in Israeli resilience to evil and commitment to good. We went to the Oz V’Gaon forest about 15 minutes south of Jerusalem. Oz means “strength” and Gaon is an acronym for the three Jewish teens who were kidnapped and murdered in the summer of 2014 – Gilad, Ayal, and Naftali.

As a response to the horrific killings, local Jews decided to cultivate and dedicate this forest to the boys’ memory to be used for good things. It already has been furnished with donated picnic tables and swing sets for children. A local synagogue has hosted many prayer services and joyful life events there. Work is constantly being done to beautify and enhance the area, mostly by volunteers making use of local donations. Moreover, the forest is on a hill, the highest point in this area, making it a strategic point for our soldiers since here they can more easily spot and stop would-be terrorists – and they have.

In addition, the forest is located right off the “Gush Junction,” a place my friend has dubbed “the junction of good and evil” because so many terrorist attacks have sadly taken place there, and yet so much goodness abounds. At that same junction is the pina chama, meaning “cozy corner,” a space created after the murder of two local residents during the Second Intifada, which started in 2000 and lasted until 2005.

It is a place where civilians volunteer to make and serve our soldiers cakes, soups, and hot drinks at no cost to the soldiers. This junction has also seen prayer services and even a makeshift Bible study center in memory of those who have perished. It is also the place where American teenager Ezra Schwartz, whose mother grew up around the corner from me, was killed late last year as he was on his way to volunteer in the Oz V’Gaon forest.
Loving Our Neighbors

When we entered Oz V’Gaon that day, all I felt was serenity. The soft breeze seemed to welcome us among the lines of Israeli flags waving proudly at us. The children immediately headed to the swing sets, and the adults spoke with the soldiers, thanking them, listening to their stories, and connecting with the young men stationed there, whom we often forget are sons, brothers, and husbands.

The Israeli army provides the very basic necessities for our soldiers. It’s up to us to provide them with the little things that often make them more comfortable and their service more bearable – a pair of gloves, a hat for the winter, and treats like pizza. I know from friends who have sons or husbands serving in the army that the conditions are tough. They worry for their loved ones and pray that they are ok.

I think of Leviticus 19:18, which instructs us to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Wouldn’t I want someone to take care of my relatives? My son? My husband? Wouldn’t I want someone to care about and show kindness to me? This is why we brought pizza to people we had never met and celebrated our family milestone with soldiers we didn’t know.

We are all family here in Israel. If one of us is suffering, we all suffer. If one of us is hungry, we feel the need to feed him.

As we watched the soldiers on that evening in the Oz V’Gaon forest gratefully enjoy our humble gift of pizza and fries, we felt blessed to be able to bless this great group – which in just a few short years, my own son will be joining, too. I pray that someone will extend the same kindness to him as we did to those soldiers on that day – and I have not a single doubt in my mind that more than one person will.

We are all family here in Israel. If one of us is suffering, we all suffer. If one of us is hungry, we feel the need to feed him.

Author Yonit Rothchild and her family at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

What Is a Bar Mitzvah?

When a Jewish boy turns 13, according to Jewish law he is no longer a minor and is now responsible to fulfill all of the Torah’s commandments. This milestone is marked with a synagogue ceremony welcoming the bar mitzvah boy (the ceremony for girls is called bat mitzvah) to Jewish adulthood. This is when Jewish boys first wear tefillin, the black leather boxes containing parchments inscribed with portions of the Torah that get strapped to the head and arms.

Also, it is often customary for the boy to deliver a speech, chant a portion of the Torah in synagogue, be feted with a big party, and choose a mitzvah (good deed) project.

Author Yonit Rothchild and her family at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.
When you give an Honor or Memorial Gift to The Fellowship, you are giving two gifts: one to the person being honored or remembered, and another to needy Jewish people who are being helped in life-changing ways. Your gift will bless Israel by supporting The Fellowship’s On Wings of Eagles, Isaiah 58, or Guardians of Israel program. Please use the form below to honor or remember someone you care about. Honor gifts are perfect for birthdays, graduations, weddings, holiday gifts, remembrances, and anything you want to show someone special you care about them.

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MORE NAMES IN NEXT ISSUE

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In the Jewish Oral Tradition, it is written: “The world stands on three pillars: Torah (Bible study), work, and acts of kindness.” We can easily understand what the sages meant when they referred to studying God’s Word and serving others as essentials. But what did they mean by “work”?

They weren’t referring to going to a workplace or being out in a field to earn our sustenance. What they were referring to is what Judaism calls “work of the heart” – the Jewish definition of prayer.

When you think about it, defining prayer as heart-based work is profoundly different than the typical definition of prayer. The word “prayer” originates from a Latin word that means “to beg” or “to entreat.” And for many people, that is their understanding of prayer. When we pray, we ask God for what we want and hope that He obliges.

However, when we change the definition of prayer to “work we do in our hearts,” the act of praying changes entirely. It is primarily an act that transforms who we are, not what God does.

Three Components to Jewish Prayer

It’s not that Judaism doesn’t see asking God for our needs as an essential part of prayer. On the contrary. There are three main components that make up Jewish prayer – praise, gratitude, and requests. However, all three aspects have to be viewed in the proper context.

We don’t praise God because He needs our compliments. We don’t thank God because He needs our gratitude. And we don’t make requests because God doesn’t know what we need. Rather, we do all of these things in order to change our hearts – to increase our awareness of God, to be more grateful for His blessings, and to become ever cognizant of the Source of all things.

Jewish prayer is first and foremost about communing with God. The fact that we might get our requests met immediately is a byproduct of that connection.
of the Heart

of prayer can teach us all about its power in our life.

Perhaps this is why the first prayer recorded in the Bible goes seemingly unanswered. It teaches us that God is not the proverbial “genie in a bottle,” and that prayer is about more than getting immediate results.

The first recorded prayer in the Bible is Abraham’s prayer for the wicked people of Sodom. When God told Abraham that He planned on destroying the city, Abraham prayed that the people might be saved. However, Abraham didn’t get his prayer request answered, and the people of Sodom were destroyed even though Abraham prayed fervently for their salvation.

The Purpose of Our Prayers

The Jewish sages grapple with why the very first prayer is one that doesn’t – on the surface – succeed. Wouldn’t it have been more inspirational if the first prayer was one that moved mountains and resulted in miracles?

Amazingly, the sages explain that Abraham’s prayers for Sodom were a key force hundreds of years later when the children of Israel were on the brink of utter destruction. They had been slaves in Egypt for centuries. The sages teach that spiritually speaking, on a scale of one to 50, with 50 being the lowest spiritual level possible, the Israelites were at level 49. Had they sunk just one more level into total spiritual desolation, they would not have merited salvation – ever!

Miraculously, God saved the Israelites before they reached that low. And amazingly, the sages explain that Abraham’s prayers for Sodom, hundreds of years previously, were the determining factor behind God’s miraculous salvation. Abraham’s fervent prayer that God save the wicked majority for the sake of a few righteous was answered – exactly when it was needed the most.

As we learn from this first biblical prayer, sometimes the prayers that seem to go unheeded actually have the greatest impact. God answers every prayer in exactly the right way at exactly the right time, often in ways we might not realize at first.

How do you know you are home?
Let me tell you a story.
Growing up in New Jersey, every Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (which generally falls in September), my mother would buy exotic fruits called pomegranates. In those days, pomegranates were rare in our grocery stores, but the local markets would bring them in just for the Jewish community. We have an ancient custom of eating pomegranates on the New Year and saying a special prayer that our “merits should be many like the seeds of pomegranates.”

And that would be it. I would not see another pomegranate until the next year.

Holy Foods
The Holy Land is described in Deuteronomy 8:8 as “a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey...” These are known as the seven species of the land – wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates (which become date honey). Since childhood, I had sung a Hebrew song about these holy foods. But they remained mostly words on a page to me. I barely encountered some of those fruits, let alone saw them growing wild.

That is, until my family and I made aliya (immigrated to Israel). One of my first memories when we moved to our town just south of Jerusalem was looking out at the hills of Judea and seeing vineyards and olive orchards. The hills made me dizzy with their beauty, mystery, and majesty.

I realized then that my life would never be the same. I had exchanged a suburban life in Miami where I had moved after I married, with its view of houses and buildings, for a life in the true Bible Belt – where the stories of the Bible unfolded and traces of our history remain among these hills.

Yet, there was more. As we passed by the houses of our new town, I could see many of the seven species growing and thriving on virtually every property. Fig trees, grapevines, olive trees, date trees, and pomegranate trees were everywhere. I had never seen anything like it in my life. I was literally living in the midst of the foods from my childhood song!

Spiritually in Sync
It was August when we came to Israel. As I dragged my three tired and hungry children to the bank where we needed to open our Israeli bank account, the friend who drove us there said, “Don’t worry, there is food there.” What she meant was that lining the bank’s parking lot were fig trees, and figs become ripe in August. We literally ate off the fruit of the land. My kids devoured the figs, which were sweet like honey.

When we finally went to see the house we would be renting, I immediately noticed the pomegranate tree in the garden. When I expressed my joy at having the tree on our property, the Israeli landlord said, “Yes, you will have wonderful pomegranates just in time for Rosh Hashanah.”

That’s when I knew I was truly home. As pomegranates are indigenous to the land of Israel, eating them on the New Year isn’t just a random custom. It was born out of the natural occurrence of pomegranates beginning to blossom in the spring and reaching full maturity in early autumn.

When the land you are living on is completely in sync with your Holy Days, customs, and cherished traditions, you know you are home.
SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES

For years, The Fellowship has helped Israel’s Druze community, a religious minority known for their faithful service in the Israel Defense Forces. When several of Israel’s Druze leaders traveled to Jordan to meet with Druze Syrian refugees who had fled there, Rabbi Eckstein went with them, bringing financial support to help the refugees through this time of crisis. Rabbi Eckstein also offered words of encouragement as well as a playful fist bump to this young refugee, who seemed grateful for the unlikely but friendly visitor.
Let us pray for you
at the Western Wall
in Jerusalem!

Soon we will be taking the prayers of our Fellowship friends to this holy site in Jerusalem. Please send in your prayer request slip by October 14th so that we can honor you by including you in this sacred tradition.

And thank you for your continued prayers for the citizens and leaders of Israel, and for Jewish people in need around the world.

“*The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.*”

PSALM 6:9

Send us your special prayers in the enclosed envelope, call us at 800-249-9003 or go to ifcj.org/prayerwall today!
We trust you will enjoy this 2016 fall issue of THE JOURNEY MAGAZINE. This complimentary publication is sent to faithful Fellowship partners like you to increase your understanding of the spiritual bonds between Christians and Jews and the common biblical roots we share in our love and care for Israel and her people. Shalom!

Mr. TJH Fall/August 2016
6404 International Pkwy
Suite 2020
Plano, Texas 75093

Account# DMX1608XCEXXX 9999

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I’m excited for you to read about the latest Fellowship happenings in this issue of The Journey Magazine. You’ll learn about the special event we recently hosted in Israel for victims of terror attacks and their families to show our unwavering support. We’re also rescuing members of France’s Jewish community, who are experiencing a rising tide of anti-Semitism, by moving them to Israel.

And people with cerebral palsy in Russia, where those with special needs are often just hidden away, have the caring assistance they need, thanks to your support. In fact, none of this work would be possible without you. It is a pleasure to share these inspiring stories with you – and it’s an even greater pleasure to partner with you to make them a reality.

With gratitude and prayers for shalom, peace,

Rabbi Eckstein

Yes, Rabbi Eckstein! Please pray for my requests at the Western Wall in Jerusalem!

Please pray for: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

(Please do not detach. Return this entire page to Rabbi Eckstein in the envelope provided before October 14. Thank you!) ACCT# PRAY16

My Prayerful Gift for Needy Jews in Israel and Around the World!

Yes! Rabbi Eckstein, I want to continue to stand together with The Fellowship as we provide security, rescue, food, comfort, and hope to Israel and Her people around the world! Please use my gift of

☐ $XXX ☐ $YYY ☐ $ZZZ ☐ $__________ for

☐ Where Needed Most ☐ On Wings of Eagles ☐ Isaiah 58 ☐ Guardians of Israel

☐ I have included my check in the enclosed envelope.
☐ I have included my credit card information below.
☐ I want to become a monthly Fellow of The Fellowship partner.

Account# DMX1608XCEXXX 9999

Please Place a Single or Monthly Donation on My Credit Card:

☐ This single gift in the amount of $ ________________

☐ Please make this a monthly gift of $ ________________

Account No. __________________________________________

Exp. Date / Phone (________) ____________________________

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER ☐ OTHER

Print your name as it appears on your card

Authorized signature

Thank you! Your IFCJ gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
TO PROVIDE RESCUE AND COMPASSIONATE CARE

Rabbi Yechezkel Eckstein
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS
P.O. Box 96105
Washington, D.C. 20090-6105
The International Fellowship of Christians & Jews, Inc. was incorporated on May 16, 1983, in the state of Illinois. Your gift is much appreciated and deductible as a charitable contribution as allowed by law. A copy of the latest financial report may be obtained by writing to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 4300, Chicago, IL 60602-2584; phone: 312-641-7200. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: FLORIDA—A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration CH8924. GEORGIA—A full and fair description of the programs of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and our financial statement summary are available upon request at the office and phone number indicated above. MARYLAND—For the cost of copies and postage, Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. MISSISSIPPI—The official registration and financial information of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. NEW JERSEY—INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charfrm.htm. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. NEW YORK—Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. NORTH CAROLINA—FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. PENNSYLVANIA—The official registration and financial information of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. VIRGINIA—Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. WASHINGTON—Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483. WEST VIRGINIA—Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration with any of these state agencies does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by any state.
Dear Mr. August 2016 Journey,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to The Fellowship in response to our fall issue of The Journey Magazine. I trust that the stories in each issue encourage you by showing all that your faithful care provides for those in need.

Thanks to your generosity, we hosted a special event in Israel for terror victims and their families, continuing our support of these who have been through so much. You've also funded Fellowship Freedom Flights from France, rescuing members of their Jewish community from rising anti-Semitism. And, thanks to you, people with cerebral palsy in Russia, where those with special needs are so often just hidden away, have the caring assistance they need.

Generous friends like you are truly blessing needy Jewish families, children, and elderly people around the world. Thank you for your faithful support.

With prayers for shalom, peace,

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein
Founder and President