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# The Joshua Fund

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*Annual Report*



# Letter from the President



Dear Friend,

You and I are living at an extraordinary moment. What a year 2009 was—filled with good news, and bad.

First, the bad news. The year began with war. After Hamas accelerated the firing of rockets, missiles and mortars at the innocent civilians that live in southern Israel, the government of Israel hit back. They launched “Operation Cast Lead” to crush the terrorist group in Gaza. Innocent Jews and Arabs were caught in the crossfire between Hamas and Israel. Hundreds died. Thousands were injured. Damage to homes, schools and businesses was extensive.

What’s more, unless the Lord intervenes, there is a real chance that another horrific war could break out in the Mideast in the not-too-distant future.

In August of 2009, my wife and I held a dinner in our home for Ambassador Dore Gold, a long-time friend and senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Joining us were members of The Joshua Fund staff and several Christian journalists. It was a sobering discussion. Ambassador Gold

explained that a careful reading of the latest IAEA report indicated that Iran now had enough uranium that we knew of to produce at least two nuclear bombs. He offered little hope that diplomacy or sanctions would be effective, but stressed that Israeli leaders are “exhausting every option short of war” to stop Iran from getting the Bomb.

Soon after that dinner, came these two headlines:

- “Report Says Iran Has Data to Make a Nuclear Bomb”  
**(New York Times, 10/3/09)**
- “Clock ticking for Iran as Israel appears ready for strike”  
**(Haaretz, 9/12/09)**

The Iran threat to Israel is not the only danger, however. The government of Syria and the terrorist movement in southern Lebanon known as Hezbollah are also rapidly building up their supplies of offensive weapons.

The Joshua Fund team is praying for peace. But if war does come, the whole region could go up in flames and millions of innocent people could be caught in the crossfire.

Now, the good news—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob loves His chosen people, and their neighbors and their enemies. What’s more, He wants to use His faithful followers to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus.

In Matthew 24, Jesus tells us to “be ready” for wars and rumors of war in the last days. In Matthew 25, the Lord tells us some of the ways we can be ready for traumatic times, and His return – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoners, caring for the suffering, and sowing the seeds of God’s Word. By God’s grace, and with your help, The Joshua Fund is doing just that.

In keeping with the “Operation Epicenter” goals laid out in our 2008 Annual Report, here are some ways your help and prayers made a difference in 2009:

### **TJF RENTED A WAREHOUSE IN ISRAEL**

In October, the Lord gave us an amazing facility in Israel after several years of prayer. This is a dramatic step forward. It will enable us to purchase food and other relief supplies in bulk at lower prices, distribute more to those in need, stockpile more for the future, & train and utilize volunteers.



# Letter from the President



## **TJF HAS HELPED STOCKPILE 400 TONS OF FOOD**

In late 2007, TJF made a commitment to help one of our allies stockpile 400 tons of food and relief supplies in a warehouse in northern Israel by the end of 2010. In light of the growing regional threats, TJF decided to fulfill our commitment by the end of 2009 instead – one year ahead of schedule. In 2009, therefore, we doubled the amount of food we helped this ally purchase so they could care for more families when war comes.

## **TJF OPENED OR EXPANDED 4 FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTERS IN ISRAEL**

In 2009, we helped Jews and Christians in Israel open three food distribution facilities, as well as expand a fourth center that was already operating. Two are located in the north, near Lebanon. Two others are located in the south, near Gaza. Through these centers, we're helping to distribute 20-30 tons of food and other relief supplies each month to the poor and needy. We hope to expand this in 2010.

## **TJF PURCHASED VEHICLES TO DISTRIBUTE AID**

TJF has helped our allies in Israel purchase vans and trucks so they can better deliver food and other relief supplies to the needy.

## **TJF RECRUITED MORE STAFF**

As the needs in the region have grown, so has The Joshua Fund. At the end of 2009, we have five full time staff members to help with the vision the Lord has given.

## **TJF RAISED MORE FUNDS**

By God's grace, donations to the ministry have grown steadily in recent years, despite a severe recession. We are so thankful to God for the bountiful provisions over the years.

## **TJF BECAME A MEMBER OF ECFA**

I am pleased to report that the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) announced in September 2009 the accreditation of The Joshua Fund. ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship, including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance and ethical fund-raising. "We are pleased to include in our membership a ministry committed to assisting the poor and needy in Israel in the name of Jesus Christ," said Dan Busby, president of ECFA, in a press release.

The challenge is that we do not know when the next war will break out or whether it will be a prophetic war or just a



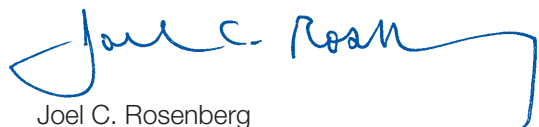
cataclysmic geopolitical conflict. Either way, we need to be ready.

*Pray for peace, but prepare for war.*

That was our motto in 2008, and it will remain so going forward. In this annual report, you will learn what we are doing, what a blessing you have been to this ministry so far, and how you can do even more to help going forward.

On behalf of The Joshua Fund's board of directors, staff, and allies, thank you so much for your love, your prayers, your trust, and your encouragement. This is not our ministry. It is the Lord's, and we are grateful to be able to serve alongside you in this critical hour.

Yours for blessing Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus,



Joel C. Rosenberg  
Founder and President, The Joshua Fund



# Educational Mission



The following is a snapshot of how The Joshua Fund is fulfilling its mission to educate Christians in North America and around the world about God's love and plan for the people of the epicenter:

## HUNDREDS JOIN PRAYER & VISION TRIP TO ISRAEL

Nearly 300 evangelical Christians from all across the U.S. and Canada (and some from other countries) joined The Joshua Fund team for a "Prayer & Vision Trip" to Israel in November 2009. This was the seventh "Prayer & Vision Trip" into the Middle East organized by TJF for lay people, pastors and business leaders since the organization's inception.

- Israeli Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon addressed the group, briefing them on the threats facing the Jewish State and the importance of Israelis and evangelical Christians working together.
- The trip included a "Jerusalem Prayer Summit," where there was a two-day conference of Bible teaching and extended prayer for Israel and her neighbors.
- The trip also funded seven humanitarian relief outreaches in Israel. Tour participants were able to participate in six of these projects, distributing food, cooking supplies,

pots & pans, and/or other relief supplies to Israeli citizens living in poverty and officially on the government welfare rolls.

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*Dear Joel,*

*Wow. What a trip. What a blessing. What a learning experience. What an incredible way to experience the living God. Thank you for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime. This trip to Israel with the Joshua Fund has changed us forever . . . . We have returned to the U.S. with a need to do more . . . .*

*I was on bus 6. The time we spent [doing one of the humanitarian relief projects] was incredible. I felt like we were participating in an historic event. Something so simple yet so profound . . . . We look forward to participating in more Joshua Fund events. Thank you again. We feel so blessed to have been with you on this trip.*

**—email from an American businessman  
who went on TJF's November 2009 tour to Israel**

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*Dear Joel,*

*My husband and I were moved by not only the organization but the love shown for the people of Israel. We feel The Joshua Fund is on the right track and plan to offer support! Would LOVE to go on the next trip! Thank you for providing us this opportunity with an extraordinary "tour"! A life-changing experience!*

**—email from an American homemaker  
who went on TJF's November 2009 tour to Israel**

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### **THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN "EPICENTER CONFERENCE"**

Nearly 7,000 evangelical Christians attended the "2009 Epicenter Conference" held at Cox Arena on the campus of San Diego State University. The speakers reached more than 20,000 people in 55 countries through a gavel to gavel webcast of the conference.

- Speakers at the 2009 conference included Lt.-General (retired) Jerry Boykin, Calvary Chapel founder Pastor



# Educational Mission



Chuck Smith, Horizon Fellowship Pastor Mike MacIntosh, Joshua Fund's Pastoral Advisor Dr. T.E. Koshy, former PLO terrorist Tass Saada, Israeli Pastor David Ortiz and his family, Israel's Barzilai Medical Center Director of Public Affairs Lea Malul, and The Joshua Fund's founder Joel C. Rosenberg.

- The keynote address of the conference, "State of the Epicenter," was broadcast twice by C-SPAN television.
- This was the second annual conference. The first was held at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem in April 2008.

## **HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN "NATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING"**

On September 11, 2009, Joshua Fund founder Joel C. Rosenberg held a "National Town Hall Meeting on the Threat of Radical Islam and the Church's Response." It aired live or tape delayed on five Christian TV networks or stations, and 750 Christian radio outlets. More than 650 church congregations across the country signed up for the live webcast. Despite some technical difficulties, an estimated 265,000 people around the world watched or listened.

- The event was held at Calvary Chapel Philadelphia. Joining Joel were Lt.-General (ret.) Jerry Boykin, Iranian Pastor Hormoz Shariat, evangelical author and Mideast expert Pastor Tom Doyle and Christian radio host Janet Parshall.
- The guests spent much of the two hours talking about how to touch Israel and her neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ in real and practical ways.
- The Joshua Fund did not organize or finance the event, but it was designed to advance TJF's goals. A video explaining the work of The Joshua Fund and how viewers could get involved was shown.

## **MILLIONS LEARN ABOUT THE JOSHUA FUND THROUGH THE MEDIA**

Founder Joel C. Rosenberg was interviewed on numerous radio and television programs through 2009 about events and trends in the Middle East. On many of these, he was able to explain the biblical perspective on Israel and her neighbors and describe the work of TJF. Joel also uses email alerts, weblogs, Facebook, books, videos and other media to teach people about the work of TJF, mobilize people to "learn, pray, give and



go” to God’s work in the epicenter, and to actually encourage people in the epicenter. All told, we estimate that more than eight million people were exposed to TJF’s message in 2009.

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*Dear Joel,*

*I just finished reading the Flash Traffic [email] you’ve sent today. Being held here in Sderot since this morning under marshal law, it was one of the good things that I enjoyed today and your report was excellent. I also join you in prayer that the leaders here will have wisdom and courage . . . We are under fire, but we know that He will protect us.*

**—email from an Israeli friend  
of The Joshua Fund in Sderot during the Gaza war**

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# Charitable Mission



The following is a snapshot of how The Joshua Fund is fulfilling its charitable mission. In 2009, working closely with local governments, Jewish and Arab organizations, and trusted evangelical Christian allies, The Joshua Fund:

- Helped purchase food and toiletries for 450 elderly residents and needy families in the Israeli town of Sderot when the Gaza war ("Operation Cast Lead") erupted.

- Helped several hundred low-income Israelis evacuate the war zone in Sderot and temporarily relocate to safer Israeli towns in the north, where TJF paid for their accommodations and food.
- Helped Israel's Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon purchase two neonatal incubators for their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit during the Gaza war, and has continued to help the hospital purchase important medical equipment since then.
- Helped provide holiday care packages of food and cooking supplies to 400 needy Israeli families during Passover.
- Helped finance projects in Israel to care for elderly Holocaust survivors, homeless women, unwed mothers, and prisoners.
- Helped purchase approximately 3,800 backpacks for needy Israeli children. Both Jewish and Arab children received these bags, including some who are blind or deaf. For the older children, each backpack contained school supplies such as a pencil holder, scissors,

crayons, notebooks, a pencil sharpener, glue-stick, Scotch Tape, eraser, pencils, a pen, notebook covers, a calculator, and a set of geometry rulers.

- Helped provide housing assistance for those coming back to Israel
- Provided blankets for the needy in Israel
- Provided clothing, materials and supplies for Israelis in need.
- Provided food to feed thousands of Israelis living under the poverty line.
- Helped finance urgently needed heart surgeries and follow-up care for 10 desperately sick Arab and Kurdish children. The surgeries were performed by Jewish doctors in Israel. The children's cases were vetted by an evangelical Christian organization in Jerusalem, who also helped transport them to Israel, house them, and care for them and their families during their medical treatment and initial recovery.



## Charitable Mission



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Dear Joel,

*We have just returned from the project in Sderot. It went very well. . . . We received from the Mayor of Sderot the names and address of about 150 elderly people in Sderot who can not leave their homes. Many of them suffer from health problems and all of them suffer from poverty. Through the generous donation of the Joshua Fund we were able to give a hot meal to each individual, together with a brand-new down blanket . . . .*

*We heard a lot of hearty 'thank you's' in Russian and the tears and smiles on the faces of the recipients clearly expressed their appreciation regardless of language limitations . . . . As we were going from home to home it was hard to ignore the Israeli fighter jets flying over our heads and the artillery fire in the background. It is inconceivable to me what must be going through the mind of an elderly new immigrant who does not speak Hebrew, lives in abject poverty and listens all day to the sound of war about a mile from his/her house (not to mention the Kassam rockets which frequently fall in the vicinity) . . . .*

*We want to thank you so much for helping us bring a ray of light and encouragement into the darkness and fear of the residents of Sderot today."*

**—email from an Israeli**

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- Helped finance the “Back To Jerusalem” conference run by Arab Christians in Israel and the West Bank. After the 3-day teaching conference was completed in Jerusalem, each of the several hundred attendees (including a team of 15 volunteers led by a TJF staff member) then participated in a week-long outreach in Arab towns, including Bethlehem and Nazareth. During this time, they distributed more than 25,000 packets of materials, which included copies of the New Testament and other Christian literature. A medical team sent by The Joshua Fund also led a free medical clinic in Bethlehem.
- Helped Iraqi followers of Jesus Christ launch the first officially licensed Christian radio station in the history of Iraq. This included helping them secure permission from the Prime Minister of Kurdistan, build and equip studios, hire staff, and produce original Bible programs. The Joshua Fund also helped upgrade their antenna. The station’s signal can now be heard by upwards of two million Muslims in northern Iraq.



# Charitable Mission



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*Dear Joshua Fund team,*

*We once again wish to express our great appreciation for your 2009 Joshua Fund Grant designated to bless many desperate Israeli families. Not only does this grant provide food for the needy, but it is given with Christian love . . . Those we help come to us for the food, but when they leave, they talk about the LOVE.*

*Bet-el (“daughter of God”) and her five children receive food from us. Here are her words of thanks:*

I did not sleep last night trying to think of what I wanted to say to you when I come in. I want you to know that I don't have any family at home, no mom, dad, uncle, grandma, grandpa . . . it's just me and my five children. When I come in here I feel that you are my family. Everyone is always so nice, and I can feel the love coming from each of you. I believe that this is a holy work you are doing here, and that the Lord has brought you here to help families like mine who are too weak to help themselves. I never feel humiliated when I come to pick up the food, as you make me feel loved and cared for. I can even see love in the way the food is prepared; it is so nicely packed and good quality. My children notice it when I bring it home. If there weren't people like you in the world, the end of the world would come much sooner. You are all a great blessing to me and my children. Even though it might have seemed a small gift to you, it is a huge help to us. Thank you. I can't just turn around and leave, I have to walk out each time backward [a reference to the Jewish practice of backing out from the Western Wall in respect for the place and for God].

**—letter from director of an Israeli humanitarian relief partner**

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- Financed the production and distribution of 300,000 copies of the Damascus film on DVD. This ground-breaking docudrama tells the story of Saul's dramatic conversion to Christ on the road to Damascus and his transformation into the apostle who wrote nearly half of the New Testament. The film was produced by Arab Christians on location in Syria to reach their Muslim and nominal Christian neighbors with the gospel. The DVDs financed by TJF were distributed in Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, and Lebanon.
- Helped an Iraqi Christian organization dedicated to evangelism and discipleship complete the construction of a new ministry training center in northern Iraq. Lord willing, TJF staff and allies will lead a pastors' conference at the facility in 2010.

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*“And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it to Me.” —Matt. 25:40*







# The JOSHUA FUND

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