

THE JOSHUA FUND®

report

What's Inside

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Power of the Word

BY JOEL C. ROSENBERG

As we gathered in Jerusalem, it was a time of war and rumors of war, uprisings and revolution. So why wasn't the 2013 Epicenter Conference focused on analyzing such issues? In the past, Epicenter Conferences have largely focused on the geopolitical threats facing Israel and her neighbors. We have examined those threats in light of Scripture — including Bible prophecy. And we have discussed how Christians can pray for, visit, support and in all ways bless the people of the Middle East.

This year, our theme was, "The Power of the Word." The reason is simple: Because as serious as these threats are, there is actually a far more serious crisis than the mere absence of geopolitical peace facing the people of the epicenter and all people on the Earth. That is, the absence of spiritual peace — the absence of peace with God.

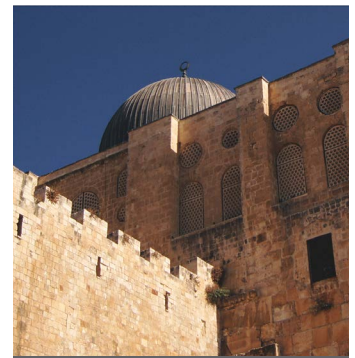
The Bible says Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The Bible says He is coming back one day to reign over the whole earth from the city of Jerusalem, and He will bring peace on the earth. But geopolitical peace is not Christ's first priority. In fact, the Bible tells us that in the last days God is going to shake all the nations of the earth. He will allow wars and revolutions

and other disasters to occur to get people's attention and draw them to their desperate need for Him. Thus, Christ's first mission is to call people to repentance and peace with God, and to give those who have peace with God a "peace which passeth all understanding" - Philippians 4:7.

"These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace," Jesus said in John 17:33. *"In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

This is good news. Christ offers true peace. Yet, tragically, most people in this world — and especially in this region — do not even know such peace is possible. Why? Because so many do not know the Lord God Almighty. They do not know His promises. Why? Because they have not read His Word. They have not heard His Word. And thus, they do not understand the power of the Word to change them, save them, heal them, comfort them, protect them, encourage them, and welcome them into the very presence of the God who loves them and gave Himself for them.

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Insights

FROM 2013
ISRAEL TOUR

It was an incredible blessing joining The Joshua Fund tour this summer. Not only was it inspiring visiting the locations Jesus and His disciples walked and ministered, it was equally wonderful seeing Him alive and powerful in the present, as He worked in and through those in our group.

The day of outreach left us amazed. Many of us were left with no other words than: “best day ever.” Serving elderly holocaust survivors, young mothers with their children, widows and widowers, was a once in a lifetime experience. We distributed household goods, along with hugs and smiles, which filled us with as much joy as it did those we had the opportunity to serve. Our hearts were knit together and the impression will always remain; I know we are committed to praying for those dear ones.

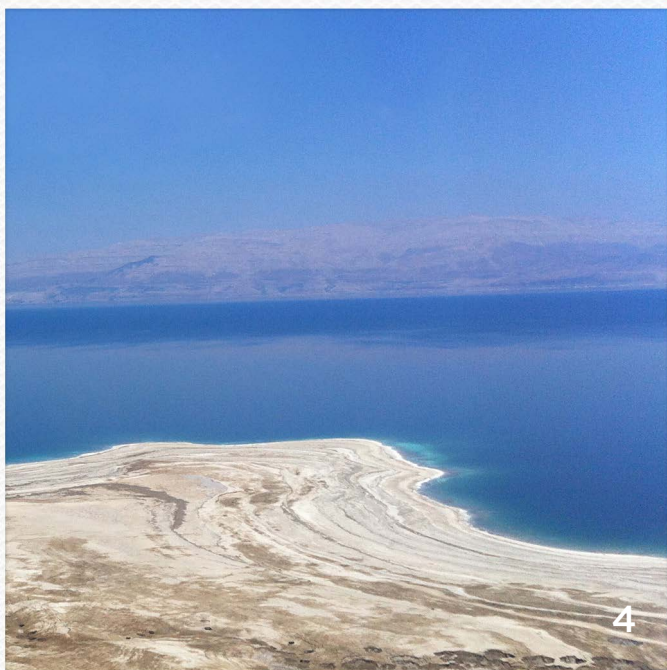
The fellowship in our group was a beautiful work of the Lord. He put us together to build up, encourage and exhort one another. Many were in ministry, and quite a few were about to embark on a new journey leaving their current jobs and beginning ministry full time. As we shared our testimonies, we were filled with joy reflecting on the work the Lord has done, what He is currently doing in our lives and where He will guide us in the future. Spending significant moments with other believers who were seeking the Lord, as well as discussing the Bible and how these significant passages would impact the upcoming opportunities in our lives, was very meaningful.

Our hearts are filled with excitement to stay in touch with new friends, to remain faithfully in prayer for Israel, and also to return to the Land one day.





“But nothing compares to the feeling, a feeling I will never forget, and cannot possibly describe, of being in the place that God choose as His, with the people He calls His and how that changed me forever.”



FIRST TIME VISITOR

As a first time visitor to the Land of Israel, I anticipated that I would feel joy in being in the Land that God loves, and expected to be overwhelmed that I would actually walk in places where my Lord, Jesus Christ, lived and walked and prayed and taught. What I was not prepared for was the feeling of actually being in this relatively small country that so powerfully captured my heart. Yes, I was on a tour with guides that were so generous with their knowledge of the history of the Land and daily we were treated to excellent biblical teaching that brought context to the many important sites we visited. Yes, we had an opportunity one day to serve some of the dear people that call this Land home, and yes, I did stand at the Western Wall, the Southern Steps and the Mount of Olives in the majestic city of Jerusalem. But nothing compares to the feeling, a feeling I will never forget, and cannot possibly describe, of being in the place that God choose as His, with the people He calls His and how that changed me forever.

There is a feeling inexpressible about this Land that has so deeply touched my heart. I can only convey the message to pray - pray for the beautiful Land of Israel, pray for all who reside within her borders and pray for God's peace to reign upon her. And if you ever have the chance to visit - Go. But know, whatever preconceived thoughts you have about what you might experience, there is no way to prepare for the way the Lord will touch and transform your heart.



Photos: (1) Boat ride on Sea of Galilee (2) Joel shares at The Valley of Tears (3) Beit She'an ruins (4) View of Dead Sea near Masada (5) City view of Jerusalem (6) Entrance to the Garden Tomb



A WALK THROUGH THE WAREHOUSE

Those who were part of the 2013 Holy Land Tour & Epicenter Conference had the opportunity to visit The Joshua Fund Warehouse. As we walked the aisles of tea and oatmeal, diapers and soap, we chatted about the people that would receive these gifts and how it might impact and bless their lives. Would they know there were people they had never met that cared about them, that prayed for them and prayed over these stacks and stacks of pallets piled high with goods? This ministry of The Joshua Fund, to serve the poor and needy in the Land of Israel, gives an opportunity to many who love the people in the Land, to participate in this work in both giving and in prayer.

We could hear the excitement of the tour participants over the 20 foot high stack of pallets, as they learned from the dedicated warehouse staff about the work of The Joshua Fund, and the many ways the Lord is moving to meet the needs of His people. A few of us took just a moment to walk the aisles, and to pray for the work and for those who would receive these goods. We prayed that these gifts, given in love and often in sacrifice from so many people around the world, would be a blessing and a hope and an encouragement to the people in the Land of Israel. To all of those who join us in this work, thank you for sharing in ministering to the people of Israel in a real and tangible way, through the Love of Jesus.



GIFTS PROVIDED ON SERVICE DAY

- Rolling market cart
- Drinking glass set
- Electric circulating 16" fan
- Mug with Bible verse
- Honey/chicken soup
- Brightly colored bath towels
- Body wash/shampoo
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Dishwashing liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Vegetable peeler
- Teflon frying pan
- Pillow

This is the greatest crisis of our time – the absolute disconnect between people and the Word of God. This is especially tragic among Jews and Arabs, who live in the lands where the Scriptures were given. Of the half billion-people that live in the very region where the Bible was written, only a relative handful have a copy of the Word of God, and much less read or believe it. Is it really so surprising there is no peace in the Middle East?

But here is a great and glorious truth: Two thousand years ago, a mere 12 uneducated men turned the world upside down because they had been with Jesus, because they knew the Word, they knew His power, and filled with The power of the Holy Spirit, they were not afraid to proclaim the Word to change men's lives because they had seen their own lives changed so radically.

Today, more and more people in the epicenter realize how desperate they are for the Word of God. And more and more believers are determined to give them God's Word.

This is why we focused this year's conference on the "Power of the Word." To remind ourselves of the power of the Word, and to recommit ourselves to being faithful members of the remnant the Lord wants to use to preach the Word, in season and out.

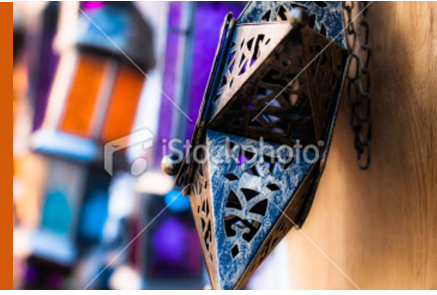
While we do not have the power of the world, access to the world's resources or positions of power, we do have the only means to help men make peace with God, and discover the "peace that passeth all understanding." There is tremendous, life-changing, leader-changing, nation-changing, world-changing power in the Word of God.

I hope you and I will discover it anew.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to watch or listen to the 2013 Epicenter Conference. Also available on iTunes or at www.epicenterconference.com.

FINDING THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD IN AN ARAB CITY



As people go about the routines of their daily life, a small shop in the heart of an Arab city serves as a place for people to gather. Those who serve in this tiny place of refuge follow the Lord with great fervor and boldness.

Several months ago a man stepped into the shop and after a few minutes of chatting, we invited him to sit with us and visit awhile. As he opened up about his past, he shared that he is an aircraft pilot in the army, who is currently on a year vacation because of many restless nights and heavy depression. He tearfully told us about his pain, that a few years ago he lost both his father and mother in a car accident. The pilot spoke of how deeply he misses them and the hopelessness of his soul. On that day we offered him a free copy of the New Testament and we promised to keep him in our prayers.

Just a few months ago, the pilot returned to see us. Delighted that he found his way back to the shop, he confided in us that he was hoping to continue our discussion. The pilot sat with us and said, "I came back to learn more about Jesus. I was so drawn to the way you loved and welcomed me eight months ago. I have read the New Testament

that you gave to me, and I am fed up with the lies in my religion. I decided to become a Christian, so please tell me everything about Christ." No one spoke to this man about the truth of Jesus Christ and the Gospel, no one evangelized this man, his eyes were opened by simply reading the Word of God. We joyfully shared the truth of Christ from our own lives, seeing the hunger for truth in this man's heart. We sat with the pilot for several meetings and arranged future meetings with him. Praise God with us, that the pilot is now being disciplined by a Christian brother. Please join us in praying for this man's life, that he would grow closer to the Lord and be used by God wherever his life leads him.

Join with us in prayer for the shops throughout the region, and for all those ministering faithfully in each location. These devoted workers sometimes face momentary troubles as they serve the Lord for His eternal glory!

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. — II Corinthians 4:17

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE NEIGHBORS

EGYPT

Violence continues to rack the nation as a new government is established. Pray for the security of our brothers and sisters sharing His Word in this ancient biblical land.

IRAQ

Over 1,000 people were recently killed in a one-month period alone in Iraq. Christians continue to leave Iraq seeking safety and security in other nations — please pray for wisdom that is needed for the church that is choosing to remain in Iraq during this tumultuous time.

JORDAN

Jordan remains the most moderate of all the neighboring nations. Pray that many will come out of the darkness into the light of the Lord.

LEBANON

Though the country has "religious freedom," prayer is needed for the small house churches that minister among the population.

SYRIA

The on-going conflict has taken the lives of a reported 110,000 people. Pray for peace and protection of the local churches ministering inside this war-ravaged country. Also for the ministries working in the neighboring nations among the many Syrian refugee families.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone and become part of our prayer team who pray knowledgeably, faithfully and consistently for Israel and her neighbors.



Two Israeli Ambulances Continue Life-Saving Work

When you are hurt or in need of medical assistance, the piercing wail of a siren can be the most comforting sound in the world. It means that help is coming and you are not alone. Two ambulances donated by The Joshua Fund continue to bring that life-affirming, expert medical care to injured Israelis, and to assist in this vital work which includes emergency medical, disaster relief, and blood bank services.

Magen David Adom (MDA) provides a rapid and skilled emergency medical response to Israel's 7.8 million people each year. This work is not a government funded effort but relies on donors to ensure dispatch centers are equipped with the latest communications technology, ambulances are stocked with cutting-edge lifesaving equipment, and paramedics have the most up-to-date training.

"We get visitors from all over the world who come to learn from Magen David Adom's abilities and experiences dealing with all kinds of natural disasters," says MDA's Project Manager Asi Dvilansky. "And we send our teams all over the world to learn from other nations' disasters, such as Haiti, Japan, and Turkey."

Through your generosity, 5,503 children and adults have received care from these two ambulances as they continue to minister aid and comfort to Jewish and Arab Israelis in any number of life threatening situations. Adult medical emergencies, car accidents, child medical emergencies along with assistance to women in labor are the largest percentage of emergencies in this crucial field. Thank you for partnering with us in this life-saving work.



Children and adults have received care from the two ambulances



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Partner with us in the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund to bless the people in the epicenter. Donate today online - it's easy, safe and secure.

All contributions are tax deductible in the USA. If The Joshua Fund is successful in raising our financial goal for a specific project for which you have designated your donations, all excess funds for that project will be applied to related projects or to the general fund of The Joshua Fund.

We are a member of the ECFA (Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability) which was founded in 1979. The ECFA provides accreditation to Christian non-profit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with the ECFA Standards pertaining to financial accountability, fund-raising and board governance.

