

THE JOSHUA FUND®

report

Respite from the Front Lines

Unfortunately, we've heard far too much recently about rockets and war in Gaza - soldiers, terrorists and fighting have filled our minds, our TVs and our computer screens. Israel continues to find itself on the frontline of seemingly insurmountable obstacles to simple peace and security, and the tragic consequences being felt in Gaza are real and are deeply grieving. However, there exists another critical frontline battle in the Epicenter that doesn't garner any international attention - the ongoing Gospel ministry among the Jewish and Arab believers in Jesus who live in Israel - as well as Arab followers in the West Bank - these brothers and sisters remain foremost in our hearts and minds. Many wonderful congregations led by Jewish and Arab pastors have also

been consistently enduring the rigors of battle. Of course, they don't "wrestle against flesh and blood"; theirs isn't a physical battle between people of different backgrounds. They contend for something far more important: victory in the age-old spiritual battle "against the forces of evil in heavenly places" (*Ephesians 6:12*).

These many Joshua Fund partners in Israel and the West Bank know that the true answer for peace in the Middle East is never to be found through political means, shuttle diplomacy or in temporary ceasefires. They recognize that the true source of peace for their Jewish and Arab neighbors only comes through knowing the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, in a real and personal way - this joyful Gospel truth is the primary weapon of their warfare. God is the One who has broken down the middle wall of division between people groups, and has reconciled us to one another in the person of Jesus through the cross of Calvary. These pastors tirelessly "fight this good fight of faith" (*1 Timothy 6:12*) on a daily basis - knowing Him and making Him known throughout the land of Israel and in the West Bank.

We know that with much conflict can also come weariness and exhaustion - so for the last six years The Lord has given us the privilege to provide these faithful Jewish and Arab shepherds serving the Lord in Israel an opportunity for a reprieve from the battle. (We provide other opportunities for the men laboring for Jesus in the West Bank).

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From the Founder and Chairman
JOEL C. ROSENBERG



September 2014

DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings from Israel! Lynn and I are writing to share with you some significant changes in our lives that we are excited about and for which we would be deeply grateful for your prayers.

First, our family has moved to Israel. For the last several years, we have sensed God calling us to immigrate to the land of Israel and follow the path of our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Earlier this year, the State of Israel granted us citizenship. We are now dual citizens of the United States and Israel.

Having moved here in mid-August with our four sons, we are beginning the process of intensive Hebrew study. We know it's going to be very challenging to assimilate into a different culture – and to become fluent in a new language – but we're eager to get started. Lord willing, I will continue to write books from here, write email and blog updates, and do media interviews, and I plan to return to the States for book tours, board meetings, and speaking events. We would deeply appreciate your prayers for wisdom and discernment, for courage and strength, and patience and joy through the many challenges that lie ahead. We trust the Lord will show us how in some small way we can serve Him in a Land still so in need of His grace and peace.

Second, we are excited about changes taking place at The Joshua Fund (TJF). Last December, I stepped down as President and CEO of TJF, anticipating our move to Israel and seeking to devote more time to my writing/speaking responsibilities. The board was very supportive of that decision, and the Lord has provided a solid, competent and experienced leadership team to guide the ministry on a day-to-day basis.

Rest assured, Lynn and I plan to stay fully engaged with the organization as founders and Board members, and I have recently accepted the Board's appointment as TJF Chairman. In this capacity, I plan to continue: 1) mobilizing Christians around the world to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus; 2) participating in key TJF events (prayer and vision trips, Epicenter Conferences, pastors' conferences/retreats, etc.); and 3) promoting the work and heart of TJF internationally.

On behalf of TJF's Board, staff and our ministry partners, thank you for praying with us and for providing your generous financial support to advance God's work and display His love in the Epicenter.

Sincerely,

JOEL C. ROSENBERG

Founder and Chairman
The Joshua Fund

LEARN

MY GOD, MY REFUGE & MY FORTRESS

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

Psalm 91:1-4

So many of the Christians in the Epicenter have been caught up in the swift movement of ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria), which raced from Syria into north central Iraq earlier this summer. One couple that was actively involved in a church found themselves in this dangerous situation. As rumors swirled that ISIS was preparing to invade their town, the couple began to pray, trusting that God would guide them to safety and cover them with His protection, should they need to leave their home quickly.

The ISIS invasion took place so swiftly that there was little time to plan an escape. Now it was time to go. The couple gathered their bags and their children and loaded them into a vehicle that had been purchased just weeks before with donations from The Joshua Fund. They raced to another area of the town to pick up a family friend with whom they had been in contact and who had no other means of escape. While not a believer, this person had been seeking answers from the Lord. And answers came quickly. The church family picked her up and raced through the streets to get out of town. As they were fleeing, they found a man running from the town, stopped and invited him to join them. He was a soldier who had left the checkpoint where he had been stationed. To stay in town would have been a certain death for him as many troops had abandoned their posts.

PRAY

PRAYER

REQUESTS

/1/ Pray that the Lord gives abundant wisdom and protection to all the believers in the Middle East who are suffering in war.

/2/ Praise God for His provision for those who have lost their homes and possessions and ask that He would continue to show Himself strong on their behalf.



The journey to safety took over 10 hours, as they became part of a mass exodus of people fleeing for their lives from ISIS. When the family finally reached safety, they were greeted by fellow believers who had been praying and preparing for not only their arrival, but for the arrival of many other believers from the same town. One year earlier, TJF had provided money for a local church in Iraq to acquire more space. While the church had used the larger facility for several events and functions, God had His own plans in mind. This larger space would be used to feed and give shelter to more than 20 families who had to leave their homes during the dark of night to escape ISIS.

So often in the midst of the trials and tribulations that unfold before us, the Lord has already made provisions for everything that we need moment by moment. The Lord has used your prayers and generous donations to provide help and security to many believers throughout the Epicenter.

The Lord says "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him". Psalm 91:15

/3/ Pray for the salvation of those in the Middle East who do not know the Lord Jesus. Pray that persecuted believers in the Epicenter would have courage to share Christ's love with others.

GO

DISCOVER

The Joshua Fund Information Packet

Do you have a heart to share with your church or group of friends about the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund? We have created The Joshua Fund Packet just for you. The Packet includes a DVD with messages from Founder and Chairman, Joel C. Rosenberg, sharing his heart for the founding of The Joshua Fund in 2006, and other short video messages about the work the Lord is doing in the Epicenter. Other materials included in the Packet are a recent newsletter, a brochure and 2013 Donor Report that will provide you with tools to share your heart about the work the Lord is doing to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus.

PACKET REQUEST



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THANK YOU

Donor Survey Participants

We at The Joshua Fund wish to say thank you to all who participated in the survey from the Spring 2014 Newsletter. Thank you for taking time to let us know your communication preferences and share your comments on ways we can better serve you in this area. We are especially grateful for all of your kind and heartfelt notes of prayer for the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus. We appreciate your patience as we continue the process of implementing your preference changes, updating your personal information and incorporating, when possible, your comments into our communications plans. We are grateful for you and your partnership with us in this work and are blessed by your love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Again this year The Joshua Fund hosted more than 25 of these shepherds and ministry workers for a time to 'come away' to a lovely, secluded spot. During this five-day retreat, we give them time to relax, and center our gathering around sharing the Word of God together.

Over the years this has proven to be an incredibly fruitful time of refreshment and encouragement for these dear brothers. Together we're blessed to spend time walking through the Word of God as a group - hearing each man's heart, as well as enjoying quality times of fellowship and meaningful prayer for one another's needs. The men consistently have departed for home from this sanctuary feeling refreshed and rejuvenated – ready once again for the work of the ministry back in the Land.

Here are a few of their unsolicited comments following this year's time together.

"The blessing that we encountered is hard to put in words. Personally I left so encouraged, challenged, and inspired by the study of James but also strengthened from the candid and deep sharing of everyone present."

"Personally, I was deeply moved and encouraged by the retreat, far beyond what I thought or imagined. It was genuinely a life-changing experience and made me realize how much we need to do things like this. The Book of James has found a special place in my heart, and I can't help but draw from its wisdom on a daily basis. A special thanks to The Joshua Fund."

"I thank God for each and every one of you and for the opportunity to be together as one body and learn together from the Word of God. I was touched by how we learned the Word together and from each other sharing our hearts and weaknesses in openness and transparency which built the trust more between us all from different backgrounds."

The Joshua Fund team finds it hard to fully express just how grateful we are to you, our donors and prayer warriors - for providing a time for these Jewish and Arab pastors and leaders in Israel to experience this kind of meaningful encouragement, fellowship and refreshment.

The Joshua Fund team finds it hard to fully express just how grateful we are to you, our donors and prayer warriors - for providing a time for these Jewish and Arab pastors and leaders in Israel to experience this kind of meaningful encouragement, fellowship and refreshment. Through your prayer and support, these men are being equipped and girded up for the battle so that they "do not grow weary in well doing" (*Galatians 6:9*) and keep fighting the good fight of faith in the land of Israel.



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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.

