



THE JOSHUA FUND®

# report

## What's Inside

VOLUME 16

Spring 2014

# The Light of God's Love

BY JOEL C. ROSENBERG



*Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" Matthew 26:18*

**A**s the cooler, rainy season begins to wind down in Israel these days, spring approaches. And with spring comes the celebration of Passover in the Holy Land. Passover's commemoration of the Exodus (about 3,500 years ago) is the beginning of the Jewish festival year, for it marks

the beginning of Israel's national history. By placing their faith in God and obeying the command to cover their doorposts with the blood of lambs, the Jewish people were spared from God's punishment. That rescue and further safety from the pursuing Egyptian army as God parted the Red Sea's waters were defining events in Jewish life. In these events, the Lord of history was foreshadowing the coming Lamb who would be slain to rescue the world from sin.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus faced the cross and the obedient fulfillment of Isaiah 53, when "the punishment that brought us peace was on Him." However, before the pain, the betrayal, the crushing separation from His Father, Jesus first wanted to celebrate the Passover with his beloved disciples. With food, foot-washing, story-telling, prayer and song, Jesus and the twelve gathered like the whole nation of Israel was gathering.

Of course, Jesus left that Passover meal with his men and walked with them to their garden camping ground in order to pray as

He anticipated the arrest that was sure to come. He obeyed His Father's will and as a sheep is led to the slaughter, Jesus was obedient to the point of death on a cross. But the grave could not hold Him! These spring days, His resurrection is celebrated with joy and church bells ringing through the city of Jerusalem. People gather at the Garden Tomb at sunrise and all over the country to shout with song, "He is risen!"

At The Joshua Fund, we count it a privilege and joy to join in these celebrations with the Christians of the region! We exist to educate Christians around the world about God's love for Israel and her neighbors—calling followers of Jesus to "learn, pray, give and go." We are grateful stewards of the donations we receive to provide humanitarian relief and encourage pastors and Christian leaders in the Epicenter so they might endure and thrive. Since 2006, we've been able to see God's hand at work through the ministry He's given us.

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# RISING PERSECUTION THE OPPRESSED AMONG OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

*“And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God...now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”*  
Acts 7:59 & 8:1

Unlike Stephen, as stones were picked up and aimed at Brother Hisham (name changed for his protection) he was able to escape to safety. The religious leaders in his community not only consented to his death, but they ordered it. Hisham's devout Islamic parents had incurred the shame of their son leaving the only religion they had ever known. Following Jesus is a crime punishable by death and a degree of persecution viewed as the most honorable act to be carried out in this culture.

The Joshua Fund was alerted to the fact that Hisham's life was in immediate danger when a request came through another ministry partner for assistance with funding to help move Hisham and his family to a place of refuge. Because of the faithful giving of our supporters, The Joshua Fund shared in the privilege of helping Hisham and his family flee from a possible death sentence, and they now live in safety away from their homeland.

## THE NEIGHBORS

Just as the book of Acts states, “At that time a great persecution arose against the church . . .,” today Christians in neighboring nations surrounding Israel, such as Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, are still persecuted for their faith in Christ. However, through your prayers and financial gifts, The Joshua Fund is able to reach out to suffering saints throughout the Middle East.



**Just recently a Joshua Fund team returned from the region and had this first-hand report:**

“The brother was led to tears sharing his testimony. He had placed the Bible and the Koran side by side and intensely studied them both. He came to know that the Bible was the Truth, and Jesus appeared to him a couple of times in visions to confirm this revelation. The brother sought to be baptized, but there were absolutely no churches or Christians in his home town. He traveled to the larger city we were visiting and the team was so blessed to be able to assist the local pastor in baptizing this new brother. They actually set up a small kiddie pool in the hallway of the church just for the baptism, but it had to be kept semi-private, because it is very dangerous to baptize converts in this region of the world!”

Three of the five neighboring nations that The Joshua Fund focuses on in this region have been ranked among the top 25 on the World Persecution Watch List for 2014. Yet, even amidst the persecution and the scattering of the church, the Lord is expanding His kingdom.

We are grateful for your faithful partnership. Together with you, The Joshua Fund is able to bless both Israel and her neighbors throughout the Middle East by ministering to the oppressed and scattered among our brothers and sisters.



PRAY

# THE JOSIAH PROJECT

The Power of the Word of God to Bless a Nation

*"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105*

Because of your generous gifts, The Joshua Fund, along with our ministry partners, have commissioned an audio recording of the entire Old Testament (the whole of the Law and the Prophets) in Hebrew. We hope to be able to make this audio recording available to many in Israel during the coming year via a self-contained MP3 player. This audio recording will bring the critical words of the Lord to His people, so each Israeli can hear and discern the heart of the Lord for themselves.

During the past six years, The Joshua Fund team has met with ministry leaders throughout the Land of Israel, and one deep need has continued to surface. We have seen the burden many of these leaders carry for their people, and their desire that everyone in Israel would grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. The Joshua Fund and our Israeli brothers share a concern for bringing the Old Testament Scriptures back to the Jewish people in a real and meaningful

way. Recording the Scriptures in the MP3 format will make the hearing of God's Word and His many promises to the nation of Israel an important opportunity for many to be impacted by the Old Testament in a uniquely personal way.

God has been very explicit with the people of Israel throughout their history regarding the specific purposes and plans that He intends for them. Yet in our day, these timeless truths from the Lord are unheard by many Israelis, as well as many Jewish people around the globe. Though many are well aware of what Rabbis have spoken and written about the Scriptures down through the ages – they have not had the opportunity to listen to these purifying words from the Lord for themselves.

Working closely with partner ministries both in Israel and the US, the team was able to complete the painstakingly difficult recording portion of the project in December 2013. Several familiar local Israeli radio personalities shared the great task of narrating the 39 books contained in the Old Testament. The team is praying that these familiar voices will be a blessing in helping Israelis who



3 MINUTES THAT  
CAN CHANGE  
YOUR DAY...



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**/1/** Please join us in praying for the final completion details of the project, and for those who will receive the MP3s, that the Lord would powerfully minister to their hearts through His Word. Thank you for your diligent and fervent prayer that through this effort the Lord will reach many who are distant from His Scriptures.

**/2/** Join us in praying that as individuals become reacquainted with the Scriptures, that they can again become a people who “understand their

*times” through the words from the Law and the Prophets that God has given them. “. . . of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do . . .” I Chronicles 12:32*

**/3/** Please pray with us that many in the Land of Israel will come to know and recognize the Messiah.

listen to the recording to absorb the Scriptures. As the digital recordings undergo the final edits, please join us in praying for the completion of the project and for those who will receive an MP3, that the Lord would powerfully minister to their hearts through His Word.

As The Joshua Fund continues to pray for ways to truly bless Israel, we long to freely share the Word of God with the people of Israel and Hebrew-speaking Jewish people everywhere in the most accessible manner possible. Our specific hope and greatest desire for this project is that many in the land of Israel will once again hear the Word of God spoken in their presence. We believe that God can powerfully use the reading and hearing of His Word to once again bring revival to His people.

Check in each week on [joshuafund.com](http://joshuafund.com) for the latest encouragement video. We like to think of involvement in the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund in four categories: Learn, Pray, Give, and Go. Learn about the needs, pray for the needs, donate to meet the needs, and go share the needs with friends and family. These two — three minute encouragement videos will highlight a different area of service each week. We pray these video messages encourage you in your walk with the Lord. Please feel free to share the video link with your friends and family.

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## 2014 DONOR SURVEY

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please print clearly, detach and fold the completed survey, then mail in the provided envelope. We thank you for sharing your preferences and comments.

- 1. Would you prefer to receive your information from The Joshua Fund via email? If yes, please provide your name and preferred email address.**

Name:

Email:

☐ No, thank you.

- 2. What type of information would interest you?**

(Select all that apply)

☐ Current events

☐ Prayer requests

☐ Project updates

☐ Upcoming events

☐ Educational resources and cultural events

- 3. By what method do you want to receive our newsletter?**

☐ Email only

☐ US Mail only

☐ US Mail and Email

☐ I prefer not to receive the newsletter

- 4. How often would you appreciate hearing from us?**

(Please select one)

☐ Monthly via email

☐ At least 5-6 times a year

☐ 3 - 4 times a year

☐ At least once a year

☐ We love partnering with you, but no communication is necessary

- 5. If you would like to change the way you are receiving the receipt for your donation to The Joshua Fund, please make your selection from the following:**

☐ Electronic receipt via Email

☐ No change

☐ Paper receipt via US Mail

- 6. Is there any specific information you would like to receive that we are not yet providing?**

- 7. Additional comments?**

The above information relates to communication concerning The Joshua Fund, and is not generated by Joel C. Rosenberg's Blog or Flash Traffic communications. Any personal information provided to The Joshua Fund will be held confidential. Your information will not be shared or sold.



On behalf of The Joshua Fund's Board of Directors and staff, thank you so much for your ceaseless prayers and generous financial support. We count it a great privilege to work together to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus. As we seek to keep you up-to-date on the work of The Joshua Fund, would you take just a minute to give feedback on how we can communicate more effectively with you about the work of The Joshua Fund?

### 3 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE



#### Mail

Fill out the survey included in the newsletter, detach it and mail it back using the enclosed envelope.



#### Online

If you wish to fill out the survey electronically, please visit our website at [www.joshuafund.com/survey](http://www.joshuafund.com/survey).



#### Phone

Please contact Christine Colville at (703) 260-6344 weekly from 8:00am - 5:00pm EST.

If there is any additional information we can provide, questions we can answer, or prayer requests that you would like to share with us, please add your comments to the survey form or give us a call at (703) 860-0166.

Thank you so much for partnering with us as we seek to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus.

### CONTINUED FROM COVER

This year, as in the past, we have worked with our many partners to provide special Passover baskets to needy Israeli Jewish families. We've also helped provide Easter gifts for Arab Christians. With one in four people living below the poverty line in Israel, there are far too many people who need help with the basic necessities of life. These baskets included juice, chocolates, cookies and honey; always gifts appropriate to the recipient, such as matzot for the Jewish families. Ethiopian families, single mothers and many other struggling individuals were given a "cup of cold water" in the name of Jesus.

One group of people included in the distribution of holiday gifts were Holocaust survivors and their families. In the midst of joyful holidays, the spring in Israel also includes "Yom HaShoah" at the end of April. In Hebrew this means "Day of the Catastrophe" or "Day of the Calamity." Sirens wail for two minutes during the morning and people stop their cars along the side of the road and stand in honor of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. Poems are read. Special services are held to remember and to declare the intention to praise the Lord despite the mysteries and pains of such a horrific loss.

We, at The Joshua Fund, are tremendously honored to mark this time of remembrance by serving survivors and their families and educating a world that is too quick to forget what really happened to the Jewish people. We, as Christians, should step out in faith and care for Israel like too few did during the rise of the Nazis.

At the beginning of the Jewish prayers of remembrance and mourning we find the Lord speaking in Ezekiel 38:23 — *"Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."* This is our prayer at The Joshua Fund—that we might magnify the name of the Lord in the epicenter, that we might shine the light of His love into every dark and lonely place. Thank you for sharing that vision with us. May you shine His light into the dark places in your community too. May He be known in the nations.



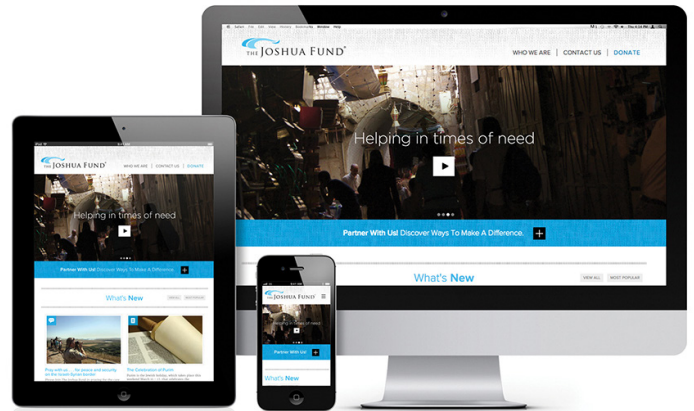
**"This is our prayer... that we might magnify the name of the Lord in the epicenter, that **we might shine the light of His love** into every dark and lonely place."**

NEW

# REDESIGNED RESPONSIVE

The all new responsive [joshuafund.com](http://joshuafund.com) is designed with you in mind.

Beginning January 1, 2014 The Joshua Fund launched a new responsive website: [joshuafund.com](http://joshuafund.com). Designed to help you view our website from your favorite electronic device, [joshuafund.com](http://joshuafund.com) is easily viewed no matter how large or small your display screen. Because of the responsive nature of the site, it displays content in a fluid and flexible manner directly to your device - whether mobile, netbook, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. The text should always be readable and images viewed with clarity, even on a mobile device.



We invite you to try it out and let us know what you think! We pray the site is a blessing to you as you read the latest news from the epicenter or prayer requests. Please sign up to receive additional information or partner with us as we bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR  
DONOR SURVEY OR PARTICIPATE ONLINE  
@ [JOSHUAFUND.COM/SURVEY](http://JOSHUAFUND.COM/SURVEY)



Phone	703.860.0166
Questions?	<a href="mailto:info@joshuafund.net">info@joshuafund.net</a>
Mailing address	P.O. Box 3468 McLean, VA 22103
Donation address	P.O. Box 2589 Monument, CO 80132
Website	<a href="http://joshuafund.com">joshuafund.com</a>

**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.

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