

THE JOSHUA FUND®

report

INSIDE

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Spring 2015

Miracle on the Mountain

The Joshua Fund (TJF) has been ministering directly inside the neighboring nations of Israel. During the current conflicts within the region, we have been privileged to send in several TJF field teams to help encourage our ministry partners throughout the area. Thank you for helping us send in teams and praying while they travel into the countries of Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. (The massive ongoing war has prevented any ministry travels directly into Syria for some time.) This article is based on events that occurred during the most recent TJF trip into the Middle East...

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?"
Matthew 18:11-12



As the temperatures soared, hope faded and the desperation of a father reached its end. Fleeing in great panic with hundreds and perhaps thousands of other families, they escaped up the mountain to a place he knew that could not sustain all the inhabitants who would soon occupy its summit. His only concern was to feed his now famished baby. The barren mountain was unforgiving and claimed the lives of many of his people during these days. Most of them, children, were tragically taken by the painful death of dehydration. This father was terrified that his baby would soon face the same fate.

Then, from amidst the clouds of dust and the thickets that dotted the mountainside, a goat miraculously strayed into his path. This became his family's salvation. He couldn't explain where the animal had come from. He only knew that God had answered his prayers and saved his family.

Our Joshua Fund team recently knelt with this man and his friend, both of whom had been saved from the slaughter at Sinjar. The day our team arrived, the Lord moved upon his heart to surrender to the One who had sent the goat on the mountain and would become his true salvation. He knew Jesus had sought him out and used the most dreadful situations to reveal to him that the Son of Man had come to save the lost — himself.

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MESSAGE FROM
OUR FOUNDER

Joel C. Rosenberg

From the Founder and Chairman
JOEL C. ROSENBERG



DEAR FRIENDS,

Bible prophecy tells us the nations will abandon Israel in the last days. Sadly, we are seeing this come to pass. But Lynn and I believe this is precisely why it's time for Christians to come and visit the Holy Land – to show both Jews and Arabs that they are not alone, that followers of Jesus Christ truly love them with unconditional love and unwavering support.

If you have read my books or blogs you may be wondering, “Is this really a good time to tour Israel and Jordan, with all the troubles in the Middle East right now?” I understand these concerns. After all, life in the Epicenter is a conundrum. On the one hand, it is true that there are many who wish to do Israel harm. On the other hand, it is also true that our Lord is the God of Israel, and He is watching over the Land and her people and protecting us each and every day. That’s why the vast majority of people who visit the Holy Land never feel in danger but return home telling everyone they know what a wonderful, peaceful, fascinating and spiritually-inspiring time they had.

Lynn and I have been leading tours to the Epicenter for more than a decade, starting even before we founded The Joshua Fund. Over the years, we have seen thousands of people come to Jerusalem and Galilee and the Golan Heights and the shores of the Mediterranean and have life-changing experiences. Yes, some were initially anxious about coming, and sometimes their family and friends weren’t convinced it was a wise idea. But time after time, as people have prayed about making the journey, they have received confirmation from the Lord to come. And time after time, they have absolutely loved their visit through the Land and left deeply moved by walking with the Lord here.

This year, The Joshua Fund’s “Prayer and Vision Trip” will be held October 14-25. And for the first time, we are offering an optional extension to tour the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from October 25-29. We would so love for you to join us! Come walk where Jesus and the apostles and the prophets walked. Come meet local Jews and Arabs, including pastors and ministry leaders that are serving so faithfully in this region. Come learn about the prophecies and discover the future of this remarkable place for yourself! For more information about the trip, please review the brochure inside our newsletter or visit www.joshuafund.com.

As many of you know, Lynn and our four sons and I moved to Israel last August. We are thrilled to now be able to invite you to visit the Land and the people we so love. We certainly understand the challenges and threats first hand, but we also deeply believe that followers of Jesus Christ should, in fact, be coming to the Land at this time to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, to be involved in humanitarian relief work, and to discover what God is doing to advance His Kingdom as we see the Day of the Lord approaching. This is actually an amazing time to visit Israel, to pray here, to study the Scriptures here, to worship the Lord here, as well as to learn the history and explore the future of this remarkable place – the very center of God’s plans and purposes.

On behalf of Lynn and our family – and the entire Joshua Fund team – I encourage you to pray about joining us. If the Lord doesn’t give you peace about making the trip at this time, that’s fine. But as you seek the Lord, you may find, as many have, that His still small voice is saying, “Come and you will see....” (John 1:39)

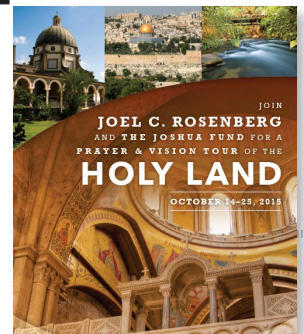
Yours to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus,

A handwritten signature of Joel C. Rosenberg in black ink.

Founder and Chairman
The Joshua Fund

2015 PRAYER
& VISION TOUR
October 14 -25, 2015 with optional
Jordan Extension October 25-29, 2015
See brochure for complete details

GO



A C H R I S T M A S

BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS YOUTH CONFERENCE

T O R E M E M B E R

For years, The Joshua Fund (TJF) has been encouraging and ministering with a dear group of brothers and sisters who faithfully bring the light of the Gospel to several larger cities as well as small Arab towns and villages throughout Northern Israel.

These treasured saints had on their hearts to encourage and help mature the young, Arab believers throughout the Northern Galilee by providing time to travel to Bethlehem and gather around God's Word during the Christmas season.

So last December, some 200 Arab youth and leaders came from 16 congregations throughout Northern Israel to hear the Word of God. From a wide variety of backgrounds (Baptist, Nazarene, Brethren and more) and from many different cities and villages in the Galilee, as well as Bethlehem and Ramallah in the West Bank, they came together to worship and praise the Lord, committing to learn more of Him and to grow deeper in their walk. Even before December's actual gathering, these young people embraced the idea with zeal, with an encouraging number being deeply involved in the planning of this youth gathering.

Most people in this region are alert to the Lord's birth in Bethlehem, so Christmas provides a unique moment of opportunity when people are more open to hearing and understanding the purpose and plan of Jesus' coming to earth. What was most thrilling was the heart and boldness displayed by these young people who planned to attend the event, each of whom prayed and sought to bring along an unbelieving friend! This included many from nominal or merely 'historic Christian' homes and backgrounds - as well as many from Muslim families and villages. This large, diverse group came together,

joining on a multi-bus trip into Bethlehem for a two-day conference — experiencing true times of refreshing from the Lord! Meeting with some of the local youth from Bethlehem as well, together they spent their time in worship, Bible study and prayer, as well as visiting a few key locations around Bethlehem.

For most of the Israeli Arab youth and adults attending, it was also the first time that they participated in a gathering that included their brothers and sisters from the West Bank. At first, the air was thick with uncertainty, much more than even the organizers had anticipated. One young man from Ramallah remarked that he expected the Israelis to think of themselves as being somehow 'better' than those living in the West Bank, while the Israeli youth shared concerns that those from the West Bank would be angry with them and that the unspoken political views would create a vast divide.

In demonstration of the grace of God, and through much prayer by the gathering's organizers, they were all thankfully proven wrong! There was a strong spiritual urging from the youth and an unexpected response from them in the number of commitments to Christ that were made. They witnessed new spiritual births and also saw the Lord identify and begin calling out future leaders to Himself.

Though this was also the first time some had been inside 'the wall' around Bethlehem, the gathering's clear purpose - to unite these young believers to see and worship Jesus as Redeemer - was a great testimony and critical focus for those who attended. Such a deep hunger for fellowship became evident that almost from the outset, this was clearly not going to remain merely 'an annual event.' Many of

200+



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PRAY

the young people requested, almost insisted, that further time together be made available - once a year was simply not enough!

One young Muslim woman who came at the invitation of a friend from her village said that she was surprised how many Muslims were attending and seeking. Many of the believing youth shared testimonies and gave thanks for what the Lord did in their lives and shared of the holy fire burning within them to make decisions to leave old gods and habits, recommitting themselves to the Lord and setting Him first in their lives.

One of the local ministers remarked, "We have witnessed special times of God's affirmation embodied in the tears of the youth and their commitment anew to God; we felt as if God were setting a firm foundation for the continuity of the building up and shaping in the life of this young generation. We believe a new generation is born - one that will make new history in this land."

“ We believe a new generation is born - one that will make new history in this land. ”

P R A Y E R

R E Q U E S T S

We so appreciate all your prayers and support and would ask you to continue to go before the Lord on behalf of our brothers and sisters from all over the Land of Israel.

/1/ Please ask the Lord to continue the work that he began in these young people's lives, specifically that they will be strong and continue to grow and share the love of Christ.

/2/ Please be in prayer for several other events in 2015, that the Lord would provide all that is needed and draw many to future events where they can hear the truth of His Word.



IMPACT REPORT

AUDIO BIBLES

The Word of God is reaching into the hearts of the lost in Israel and the Middle East by way of a compact audio Bible. Both the Old and New Testament come to life with a dramatized reading of Scripture. This valuable tool is able to clearly communicate God's love and truth to the lost and hurting. By God's grace, and working with ministry partners, The Joshua Fund has been able to place thousands of these Bibles into the hands of those hungry for hope and to bring comfort to the suffering and broken. Lives are transformed as many hear the good news of the Gospel. Some for the first time. Your partnership in this work helps to make this possible.

The Silence Was Broken

For years, The Joshua Fund (TJF) has been serving with a ministry partner that operates a Bible teaching radio program, broadcasting into the Epicenter five days a week.

Imagine the loneliness of an 80-year-old Arab man living in the West Bank. Perhaps he lives alone; perhaps his faithful attendance at the local Orthodox Church was also steeped in loneliness. What has he experienced in his life that has spanned eight decades? It is hard to even imagine all the changes that have occurred around him for these many tumultuous years in the region. Through all those years of faithful church attendance he had not come to know his Creator, his God and Savior Jesus Christ in a real and personal way. He had not known the One *"who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame..."* Hebrews 12:2b. He had not yet come to the understanding that he himself was that very "joy" set before Jesus, and perhaps had not realized his great worth to our Savior. This man was unaware that the long-awaited Savior, who lived and ministered and laid down His life a ransom for many over 2,000 years ago, was born a mere 25 miles from where he has been living his life. Then one day, the message of salvation, the Gospel, God's good news, finally made its way to the man's heart. God's relentless grace, your faithful prayers and encouraging support, along with the faithful believers who minister on the ground in the West Bank, are at work for the Lord's purposes.

The Joshua Fund has had the privilege over the last four years to be a partner in an Arabic language Bible teaching radio program which is broadcast into the West Bank. Each day, the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ are faithfully taught, line by line, verse by verse. This message of God's great love for the people of the region, along with the truth of His Gospel, reached this man and prayerfully many others. The Holy Spirit continues planting the Word of God through the simple vehicle of radio to listening ears in search of a Savior. They may be searching across the radio dial, perhaps hearing a pleasant voice, and then stopping and listening and hearing the truth of God's Word being taught. We may not know the truth of how many times this miracle occurs this side of heaven, and yet we have the privilege of sharing with you the story of a man in a quiet, private moment that came to faith in Jesus.

Would you join with heaven and with us in rejoicing over this man's coming to faith in Jesus Christ? We are deeply touched that the Lord would use all of us to reach into this life to bring salvation and blessing. Please keep this special man in your prayers, as a local brother will be discipling and helping this man to grow and know his Savior more each day and prayerfully bring many with him into the Kingdom.



THOUSANDS OF
BIBLE STICKS
DISTRIBUTED IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

CONTINUED FROM COVER

MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN - SAVING OF SINJAR

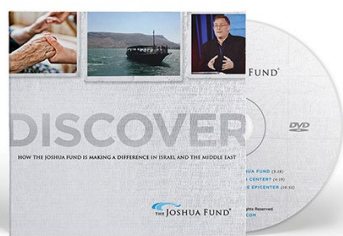
The enemy sought to destroy all who were of Yazidi descent. Still today, the black flag-waving radicals desire to erase and “purify” the land of any who do not conform to their strict ideology. Thousands of poorly armed Yazidis trudged the face of the 62-mile mountain range in the brutal August temperatures to wait out what appeared would be a certain genocide of their people group. A mixture or syncretic religion qualified them, and the Christians living in this remote corner of northwestern Iraq and Syria, for certain extermination.

Thankfully, the international community pushed back the masked terrorists and mass genocide was avoided, although reports still cite the loss of life to be in the hundreds. Entire ancient Christian villages have been abandoned, and even now the second largest city in all of Iraq is being occupied by those who call themselves “purists.”

Today, The Joshua Fund is partnering and praying with local Believers who are ministering to the needs of those who have fled their homes throughout Iraq and Syria. Those who have been displaced and driven from the comfort of their homesteads now find themselves in the arms of desperation and are truly lost. In a physical sense, food, clothing and other basic necessities are being provided, and the message that the Lord was communicating that day to His disciples in Matthew 18 is still being heard: that the Son of Man has come to save those lost and astray in the mountain.

Information Packet & DVD

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 our 2014 Donor Report, which 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. Call or email Christine to request The Joshua Fund Packet at (703) 260-6344 or christine@joshuafund.net.



PRAY

P R A Y E R R E Q U E S T S

We so appreciate all your prayers and support and would ask you to continue to go before the Lord on behalf of our brothers and sisters from all over the Middle East:

/1/ Ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit on the Yazidi people of Northern Iraq, especially for these two brothers who gave their lives to the Lord during our recent visit.

/2/ Pray for the TJF teams that are scheduled to be sent out into the region, for wisdom, protection, health and effectiveness.

/3/ The church in the Middle East is under great attack in certain regions – ask the Lord to send boldness to speak His Word to the body of Christ as his disciples did in Acts 4:29.



Phone	703.860.0166
Questions?	info@joshuafund.net
Mailing address	P.O. Box 3468 McLean, VA 22103
Donation address	P.O. Box 2589 Monument, CO 80132
Website	joshuafund.com

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 provides accreditation to Christian non-profit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with the ECFA Standards pertaining to financial accountability, fundraising and board governance.



Join the conversations.

