

THE JOSHUA FUND®

report

Our 10 Year Anniversary

BY JOEL & LYNN ROSENBERG

Almost ten years ago, on June 14, 2006, a small group of us gathered in our home to sign the paperwork and officially begin The Joshua Fund, to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus. We gathered there with a few trusted friends who had already been praying and serving together in the Epicenter for several years. As our first board was founded that night, we expectantly asked the Lord to use us in a new way to be a part of what He was doing.

It is amazing to look back and see God's faithfulness since then. Psalm 32:8 says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." And in Jeremiah 33:3 we read, "Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." God has graciously answered our prayers "more than we could ask for or imagine" over the years (Ephesians 3:20). And we can ask and imagine a lot! He has opened incredible doors of relationships and opportunities and He has provided the people and resources to walk through those doors together.

Joel had been writing books since 2001 and the novels were generating an ever-growing interest from American and Canadian Christians who wanted to invest their resources to bless Israel

and her neighbors. Joel would speak at a church or conference and people would persistently ask him how they could get involved in what God was doing in the Middle East. We began with two specific financial gifts given to us unexpectedly for the purpose of translating and freely distributing Joel's book *The Ezekiel Option*, which has a strong gospel message, into Hebrew and Russian.

As this fledgling organization began to plan its first projects, a war in southern Lebanon erupted. While Hezbollah and Israel fought in July and August of 2006, millions of civilians on both sides endured displacement and danger.

As we gathered several times at our home in that summer, it was clear that we should plan for a budget that would enable us to provide humanitarian relief, through believers, to those suffering in the region due to war, terror and economic hardships. It was first proposed that \$25,000 would be a good start. But one of the women spoke up and said, "I think we need to trust the Lord for a million dollars!" We all looked at one another, realizing none of us had a plan to raise money like that. But we sensed that she was right, that we needed to rely on God for things only He could do. And He was faithful.

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THE JOSHUA FUND 2015

PRAYER & VISION TOUR

IN THE FALL OF 2015, THE JOSHUA FUND HOSTED A PRAYER & VISION TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND. More than 180 participants toured the historical sites of this beautiful land from Mount Carmel to the Golan Heights, from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the Mount of Olives and the Old City of Jerusalem. Each tour participant's experience in walking where Jesus walked was as unique as each individual. Seeing the Bible come alive right before your eyes was an experience that is difficult to describe. You just have to go and experience the land for yourself.

Several aspects of the Prayer & Vision Tour are unique, such as studying the Scriptures with local Jewish and Arab pastors, experiencing praise and worship with a local congregation, visiting The Joshua Fund warehouse and participating in a special day of service to the needy in Israel. ▼



Of course, everyone appreciated traveling with our Founder and Chairman, Joel C. Rosenberg. His teaching from the Scriptures at various sites through the land, as well as informal "rolling press conferences" with Joel on the busses will be a highlight for all of us. ▲

TEACHING FROM JOEL C. ROSENBERG

Participants had the opportunity to learn firsthand how current Middle East events relate to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Joel; along with local Arab and Jewish pastors, taught from the Scriptures at sights such as The Garden Tomb, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, the Sea of Galilee and many more. As Joel taught at key locations, he also found time to answer questions about the future of the Epicenter on the busses and touring the sites.



SERVICE DAY

Participants on The Joshua Fund tour had the opportunity to join in a practical ministry project to bless the poor and needy. One day of the tour was reserved for this day of service to some of Israel's most neglected citizens. The Joshua Fund helps local congregations minister to these precious individuals throughout the year. Yet, for this one day, tour participants were invited to "step into the story" and share the love of Jesus with these special friends by distributing gifts such as useful household items.



TOUR PARTICIPANTS REFLECT ON THEIR DAY OF SERVICE

Truly being the hands and feet of Jesus in a simple way was such a blessing. I feel like now I know how to pray for individual people in this land in a very practical way. The other thing I loved was seeing the ministry I contribute to and read about in action. PAM / LYNDEN, WA

To see the blessing of the Land extended to the Ukrainian and Russian immigrants. Also, seeing the local pastor's connection with those we were ministering to. SLAYDEN / SPRING HILL, FL

My table passed out pillows. The happiness and surprise of the men and women to receive not only pillows but glass bowls, spoons, towels, kettles, was a gift to behold. Christ's love in action. When the Body of Christ serves together, there is great joy and true fellowship. KATHLEEN / SPRING HILL, FL

This was my first trip to Israel and I'm so glad it was with The Joshua Fund. God has put a love in my heart for the Jewish people and today was a touch of heaven on earth. Thank you Joshua Fund for the trip of a lifetime. KATHY / WADSWORTH, OH

Great day! A blessing for me to be a part of The Joshua Fund for one day. Each act of kindness can lead a person to Jesus Christ so keep up the good work. LOU / COTTONWOOD, AZ

To see the love, thankfulness for what was given, but also I felt they could feel the love of Jesus through us. JOAN / REESEVILLE, WI

We are prayerfully considering our next tour but have not yet fixed the dates. If you have an interest in traveling to Israel with us, please call (703) 260-6344 or email info@joshuafund.net to have your name added to the list. We will then contact you when the plans for the next tour are firm. We hope you will be able to join us, as we seek to bless Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus.

GIVE

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF *Syria*



We are watching the implosion of a modern Arab state, and the tragic reality is that the Arab Republic of Syria is unraveling. The civil war in Syria is approaching five years. Many world leaders have called this one of the worst humanitarian crises since the Second World War. Millions of Syrians who are fleeing for their lives have left the nation's geographic boundaries, while millions of others are internally displaced inside Syria, having fled from their homes and villages seeking safety within the nation. Thousands of refugees are flooding over the borders into Lebanon, Jordan and the surrounding nations. We know that you, our friends and prayer partners, care deeply about this situation and want to know how to pray. You are asking, "What is happening? Is there any hope? What is God doing?"

Following is a testimony of a Joshua Fund brother and ministry partner who leads an organization that is helping local Arab believers preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and live it out as they care for the practical and spiritual needs of refugees. He has just returned from the region and will share with us what is happening on the ground and how Christians are making an eternal difference in the lives of the refugees they serve.

These are desperate people. If you had the opportunity to sit with us in a tent as we have just done recently, you would have seen the desperation in their eyes. Picture, if you can, a walk down a dirt path into a tent home, which has a dirt floor or at best a rough concrete base. You would sit on the floor and perhaps think "sitting like this is uncomfortable" until you realize this is their life 24 hours a day. They are not allowed to work, their children are not allowed to go to school, and they are not allowed to do anything but wait. They did not leave Syria by their own will. They left because of the evil that is taking place in their country. ▲

On our recent trip to Syria, we walked those biblical streets and prayed with Syrian pastors. We met with youth pastors from Syria who were talking about how many young people are coming to Christ. One young man from Aleppo, with tears in his eyes said, "I've got young people back home that are depending on me." God is doing some wonderful things inside Syria. Please pray for the people of Syria during this difficult time, that they will be open to God's message of love and hope, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no word in the Koran or in the Sunni Muslim language for "love." They have no concept of "love."

When we go in to minister in the love of Jesus Christ, this is shocking to people from a Muslim background. All of a sudden they see people caring for them and providing food and a place for their kids to go to school and they are asking, "Why are you doing this?" This opens the door to respond, "Because the compassionate heart of Jesus Christ compels us, because we love all people because Jesus loves all people." They ask, "Who is this Jesus? What is love?" Then we have a chance to share, "Every month we will bring you food. Every month we will provide a school for your children, and we will come back every month on ▲





THE STORY OF *Hassan*

HASSAN, A 6-YEAR-OLD SYRIAN BOY, FLED WITH HIS MOTHER, 2 BROTHERS AND GRANDPARENTS TO A SAFE LOCATION. SADLY, HIS FATHER WAS A CASUALTY OF WAR.

Hassan's young life has been overshadowed by a harsh reality - he has lost his home, his father, his country and has come to a new country where life is vastly different. Living his childhood in a small tent with no electricity or water, surviving on very little food and being very cold in an area where winter temperatures can reach 2 degrees Fahrenheit. The difficult conditions are a threat to the family in many ways, one being the difficulty in fighting off sickness.

Hassan wanted to go to school in order to help his family financially as he is the oldest child. Our ministry partners that serve the displaced refugees in the Epicenter operate a school for refugee children that allows them to pursue an education and interact with other children. Hassan had never been in school before and was absent for almost a month when he became ill, but has now returned and is working hard to catch up on his work. Our ministry partners have changed the life of this family by providing them with monthly food and hygiene packages and education for Hassan.

Hassan's teacher asked him if he was happy at school and he said he said that he was very happy. He went on to say that he loves learning to read and write and wants to stay at school all day to play with the other students who have become like brothers and sisters to him. She also asked him if he knew Jesus Christ and Hassan replied that he had heard about Him at school and Jesus Christ was his friend.

Hassan wants to become a construction engineer when he grows up so that he can take care of his family and provide for them. Our ministry partner's mission as they faithfully serve the displaced people of the Middle East is to show the love of Jesus Christ to every child and let them know that they are loved and appreciated despite all the problems and difficulties they face.

a consistent basis. We love you as a person." They often respond, "But I am Muslim!" and we have the chance to share, "Yes, and God died for you!" Time and time again we see a sudden light bulb go on in their mind. We sit there with them and listen to their desperate stories. We recall times when we've sat on the floor in their tent and they begin to weep when you tell them about the love of Jesus. It's a new concept, but as we share, it begins to make sense to them.

In a conversation with one young woman, she asked, "Tell me about this Jesus, because he seems much better than my God." This is a wide open door to share the Gospel. I can't tell you that she came to Christ, but I can tell you that she took a Bible, and she asked our team to pray for her and we will follow up with her. Sadly, it's the desperation that is driving these wonderful people to look for Jesus Christ. We hear that they see Him in dreams and in visions as God opens the door in a wonderful way for us to reach a people group that normally, from a human viewpoint, we would never be able to reach.

PRAY

/1/ Please pray for the people that we serve and the nation of Syria, that they will be open to the Gospel.

/2/ Please pray that our team will be strong and physically able to continue the work. This refugee crisis is not going to end anytime soon. The best estimates are that it will be 20 years before Syria will be livable again and the displaced people will be able to move back.

/3/ Please pray that we can minister in this crisis as Jesus would, loving and serving the people with God's power and help.

/4/ Rejoice with us for all the people who are coming to Jesus Christ in the Epicenter.

CARING FOR THE SHEPHERDS

“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.” - HEBREWS 6:10

Your loving and continued prayer and support for the ministry in the Epicenter often brings significant, though unseen dividends in the lives of some of the local pastors, shepherds and ministry workers. Our field teams travel the countryside in Israel and throughout the Epicenter observing all that the Lord is doing, listening carefully for the ways the Lord may ask The Joshua Fund to help, to assist, to supplement Kingdom work that is taking place, or to perhaps help initiate ministry efforts that aren't being pursued or cultivated at the moment. In these travels we have the tremendous privilege of walking alongside those saints the Lord has called to evangelize, disciple, shepherd, teach, train and send forth among their countrymen, in their own language. During these critical times of connection, we frequently get to hear and share the needs and wounds of many faithful laborers. Sometimes a willing ear from afar is just what's needed to enable a ministry worker to share their concerns, hurts and struggles.

During last fall's 'Preach The Word/ Shepherd The Flock' teaching conferences in Israel, I had just such a poignant moment with one of the local shepherds. A quiet man simply asked for prayer for a crushing need in his life. As I was able to convey this brother's great and pressing agony before our Father, I was as deeply

blessed as he was. I recognized the Father's love for him in a great way at that moment, that He had cared enough for this brother to enable our faith to be expressed together in prayer.

Each of us can so easily lose sight of those on our path as we pursue the 'goal'. I love that Jesus' ministry is always marked by teaching and touching. It's never just sharing the Word, never only message content to be conveyed, or the project that should be our focus, rather those the Father places along the way who we can bless, encourage and strengthen for Him as we take time to listen, to invest, to share. When we stay attentive to these opportunities, the 'goals' we viewed afar off are so often added by our Father!

I was very impacted by the Lord's kindness in arranging for this moment with my brother last year...and just a few weeks ago felt a nudge from the Lord to send a brief note of encouragement to this dear shepherd. I was so blessed to hear back very shortly as to how timely this word was for my friend. He had just ended a terribly difficult day of struggle, and the fact that the Lord sent refreshment and encouragement from afar meant a great deal to him on that weary evening. Just a few reminders from the Word as to our Father's ever-seeing care lifted my friend.

To all our friends who pray and partner with us, thank you for enabling us to be there often enough and long enough to be useful to the Lord in extending these kinds of meaningful, yet rarely visible moments. Please rejoice with us that the Lord's kindness is extended through us in this way on a regular basis. On my last trip into Israel, two of us had an extended time of connecting with this dear brother. We talked and he wept. We understood and were able to comfort and console. Your prayer and gifts made that possible, and have helped encourage our brother to stay faithful to his calling, continuing to teach God's Word and to share of Messiah throughout what can still be a dry and weary Land. We haven't 'solved' his problems, and our praying hasn't yet visibly changed the immediate circumstances he faces... "But God" has moved on our hearts to comfort him in his trials, to visibly remind him that he is loved, and that his labor and love for the lost never goes unseen by the King of the Harvest.

Thank you again for walking and praying with us in this special and vital ministry role the Lord has provided.

BY JEREMY GRAFMAN

Director of Special Projects

“ In just those first 3 months of The Joshua Fund’s existence, God taught us and shaped us in ways that we have clung to for 10 years. First, begin every endeavor prayerfully. Second, ask the Lord to build a team. Third, humbly and quietly strengthen the Church as they serve their neighbors and love their enemies. Fourth, rely on the Lord to provide for your every need. And fifth, expect the Lord to surprise you. How humbling and thrilling to realize day by day that God’s plans are higher and greater than our plans. ”



JOEL & LYNN
ROSENBERG

We sought the Lord to see how we might help bring the hope of Christ to people in distress. In what became the hallmark of our approach, we found trusted and experienced believers in the region whom we could invest in, pray for and encourage. The Lord has a remnant of His church even in the most difficult places and we need to be a part of strengthening what remains (Revelation 3:2). He is building His church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

By God’s grace we were able to supply followers of Christ caught in the conflict with practical resources which they could use to serve their neighbors. We also sought to educate and mobilize the church in North America towards prayer for the region. We wanted people to know that there is actually so much good news in the Middle East. There are unknown heroes who every day endure the challenges and yet stand strong in the Lord as His light in the darkness. Despite the sorrows and fears in this complicated and unstable part of the world, “we who have taken refuge...have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:18-19).

In just those first 3 months of The Joshua Fund’s existence, God taught us and shaped us in ways that we have clung to for 10 years. First, begin every endeavor prayerfully. Second, ask the Lord to build a team. In studying the gospels, the book of Acts and the epistles of the New Testament, it is unmistakably clear that Jesus modelled teamwork in His calling and leading the disciples in the Holy Land. We see that Paul and Barnabus worked with a very close team of believers as they travelled around the Mediterranean nations together. Third, humbly and quietly strengthen the Church as they serve their neighbors and love their enemies. This is not the ministry of any person or group of people, it belongs to the Lord. We should never, ever try to “make a name for ourselves” but only lift up His name. Fourth, rely on the Lord to provide for your every need. In faith, we have

seen the Lord flood The Joshua Fund with partners in this effort without our even seeking them out! He has not only provided financially, but with His abundant grace in navigating the many “landmines” of ministry in a complex environment. He has sent gifted and servant-minded staff to join us as He has expanded this ministry. From our humble beginnings, The Joshua Fund now has a staff team that spans ten time zones! And fifth, expect the Lord to surprise you. How humbling and thrilling to realize day by day that God’s plans are higher and greater than our plans. We don’t know when a war will break out, but He does. We don’t know when a door of opportunity to serve will swing open, but He does. Sometimes, the smallest and most humble of endeavors on our part as His children are the most valued by Him.

Some of our favorite parts of the New Testament are the list of names at the end of Paul’s epistles. These people who are basically unknown were so dear to Paul, they had supported his ministry in prayer and in finances and in rooting him on in the faith. In the letter to the Romans alone, in chapter 16, they are called: fellow workers, beloved, hard workers, approved in Christ, kinsman, brothers, sisters, chosen in the Lord, helpers, saints and servants. This is how we see the whole Joshua Fund team that God has raised up, from donors to staff to members of our board to the partners in the field.

As we move forward into the myriad of unknowns in the next ten years, let’s keep clinging to what we know. God is faithful. He deeply loves Israel and her neighbors more than we ever could.

May He alone be glorified!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you!

On behalf of The Joshua Fund team, thank you for your partnership. Your prayers and gifts make possible the many encouraging stories – and the changed lives – that you read about in our newsletters.

Like many ministries, The Joshua Fund is completing its annual audit at this time. As we reflect on our activities in 2015, we are reminded of God's faithfulness in providing everything we need (Philippians 4:19) to carry out the work He has called us to. While there always seems to be more than we can do, God always provides for all that we should do. We thank God for you, our partners, and are amazed and grateful for your faithful prayers and financial gifts.

Your generous gifts are being used to encourage pastors, to care for the needy and vulnerable and to equip congregations to more effectively share the love of Christ Jesus and to educate believers around the world about God's love and future plans for Israel.

Thanks again for joining us in blessing Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus!

Tim Lugbill
Executive Director
The Joshua Fund

THE JOSHUA FUND INFORMATION PACKET & DVD AVAILABLE

Call (703) 260-6344 or email
christine@joshuafund.net



It was reported in the 2015 Donor Report that a boy from Gaza was scheduled to receive heart transplant surgery. We are grateful to God to report that the operation was not necessary. The funds will be reallocated for other ministry projects. The 2015 Donor Report is available on our website.



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Partner with us in the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund to bless 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.

