

THE JOSHUA FUND®

## report

## The Cost Of Following Christ In The Epicenter

For most western believers in Jesus Christ, we do not walk in fear to exercise our faith. In Sunday morning church services, mid-week studies and maybe in a small group, it is quite possible that the majority of people are other like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. We are free to attend church and to read our Bibles when and where we choose. We don't have to look over our shoulders or fear for our lives. You might say that being a believer in the West is easy, acceptable even.

For those followers of Jesus in the Epicenter or Middle East, there is a far greater price to pay. A loss of their home, their income, their family members, they may even pay with their own life. And yet a dichotomy exists, that although those who come to Christ in the Epicenter potentially face very serious risks, they are often bold in sharing their faith with their friends and family.

As The Joshua Fund ministry teams serve our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, we are privileged to meet those who suffer on the frontlines of faith. As we share some of their stories, we pray you are encouraged as we see the hope only our Lord can bring in the midst of unspeakable difficulties and trials.

"Her eyes, rimmed red, had the look of a woman who had cried far too many tears. The Syrian widow looked down at her lap, twisting her napkin as she shared her story. After her family was robbed of all their money and valuables, her husband was then brutally murdered by extremists. Her heart ached with a pain so deep from the loss. Although it had happened six months earlier, the image of his body riddled with bullet holes laying on their couch was now permanently etched in her mind. Her children were traumatized, seeing things that no one should ever have to see. All because they are followers of Jesus. This young Christian woman and her four children now live in a safer place, yet husbandless, fatherless and homeless. But not hopeless."

Spring 2017

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2017 EPICENTER  
CONFERENCE

October 6-7

**Epicenter**

noun Epi-cen-ter \ E-pi- , sen-ter \

A Joshua Fund term, coined by Founder and Chairman Joel C. Rosenberg, describing Israel and five of her neighboring countries where The Joshua Fund ministers: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

**Examples:** epicenter in a sentence: There is a cost of following Christ in the **Epicenter**.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SPRING | 2017



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I want to cordially invite you to join my wife Lynn and me and The Joshua Fund team on next year's "Prayer and Vision Tour" of Israel. The dates are July 3-15, 2018. Would you prayerfully consider coming with us?

As co-founders of The Joshua Fund just over ten years ago, Lynn and I find great joy in bringing Christians to the Holy Land, sharing their excitement in walking where Jesus walked, learning what Scripture says about God's love and plan for Israel, understanding the challenges facing people in the Epicenter today and showering unconditional love and support for the people of Israel – Jews, Arabs and Palestinians alike.

If you have never been to the Holy Land, it is hard to describe what a profound spiritual impact such a journey can have on you and your family. You may have heard others say God's Word seemed to "come alive" in a new way, as they traveled from the shores of Galilee to the Mount of Olives and into the streets of Jerusalem. Well, it's true, and I have no doubt our 2018 Israel trip will provide an unforgettable experience for you and your family and intensify your desire to study God's Word and walk more closely with Jesus Christ.

The 2018 Prayer and Vision Tour will also feature a very special Epicenter Prayer Summit, a one-evening and one-day gathering focused on preaching the Gospel to all people in the Land. Keynote speakers for the Prayer Summit include Anne Graham Lotz, Dr. Ronnie Floyd and me. We will be joined by local Jewish and Arab ministry leaders, who will explain what they see the Lord doing in the Land from their unique vantage points on the frontlines and share real-time prayer requests for their ministries and for unity among the body of believers here.

This tour will provide a wonderful opportunity to deepen your understanding of how powerfully the Lord is moving here. And this tour is like no other. You will visit The Joshua Fund's warehouse and participate in a practical ministry project to bless the poor and needy. You will hear from and pray for local pastors and ministry leaders. And we can learn together about the future of Israel and her neighbors as I teach at key locations throughout Israel.

Please consider joining us on our tour or custom-designing a tour that would be perfect for your congregation by contacting Inspiration Cruises & Tours through the Israel Tours section of [joshufund.com](http://joshufund.com) or by phone at 800.247.1899. We pray that many congregations will take this opportunity to visit Israel and join us in Jerusalem for the Epicenter Prayer Summit.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel C. Rosenberg".

**JOEL C. ROSENBERG**

*Founder and Chairman  
The Joshua Fund*

GO





# 2018 ISRAEL TOUR & PRAYER SUMMIT

## 3 WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

1

### LEAD A GROUP ON YOUR OWN TOUR

We invite pastors and ministry leaders to create your own customized tour to the Holy Land with our travel coordinator, Inspiration Cruises & Tours. As part of your itinerary, plan to join Joel C. Rosenberg in Jerusalem for the Epicenter Prayer Summit beginning the evening of Wednesday, July 11 and all day Thursday, July 12, 2018. Come and be a part of what God is doing in Israel today.

2

Experiencing the Land of Israel is transformational—even more so when it's shared by a close-knit group of believers. Consider joining us for The Joshua Fund's next **Prayer & Vision Tour of Israel with Joel C. Rosenberg which will take place July 3 – 15, 2018.** The tour also includes the Epicenter Prayer Summit beginning on the evening of Wednesday, July 11 and all day Thursday, July 12, 2018. Visit the Israel Tours page on [joshuafund.com](http://joshuafund.com) or call 800.247.1899 for additional information.

3

### ATTEND THE EPICENTER PRAYER SUMMIT

Pastors and leaders arranging your own tours to the Holy Land with your travel coordinators are welcome to join Joel C. Rosenberg and The Joshua Fund at the Epicenter Prayer Summit on the evening of Wednesday, July 11 and all day Thursday, July 12, 2018. Tickets for the Summit will be available on the Israel Tours page on [JoshuaFund.com](http://JoshuaFund.com). We pray that many congregations will take this opportunity to visit Israel and join us for the Prayer Summit as we gather to pray for the nation of Israel.



# FRUIT OF THE KINGDOM

BY JEREMY GRAFMAN

*Director of Special Projects*

We are overjoyed to be able to share with you some truly lasting Kingdom fruit that's being borne through an Israeli ministry called "Lech L'cha." This phrase is a Hebrew command that means literally to 'go' or 'go forth.' These words were God's direction to Abram to depart from Ur of the Chaldees and begin seeking Him in the Land of promise He would show to him, leaving behind a pagan wilderness and walking into a life of true blessing with the living God.

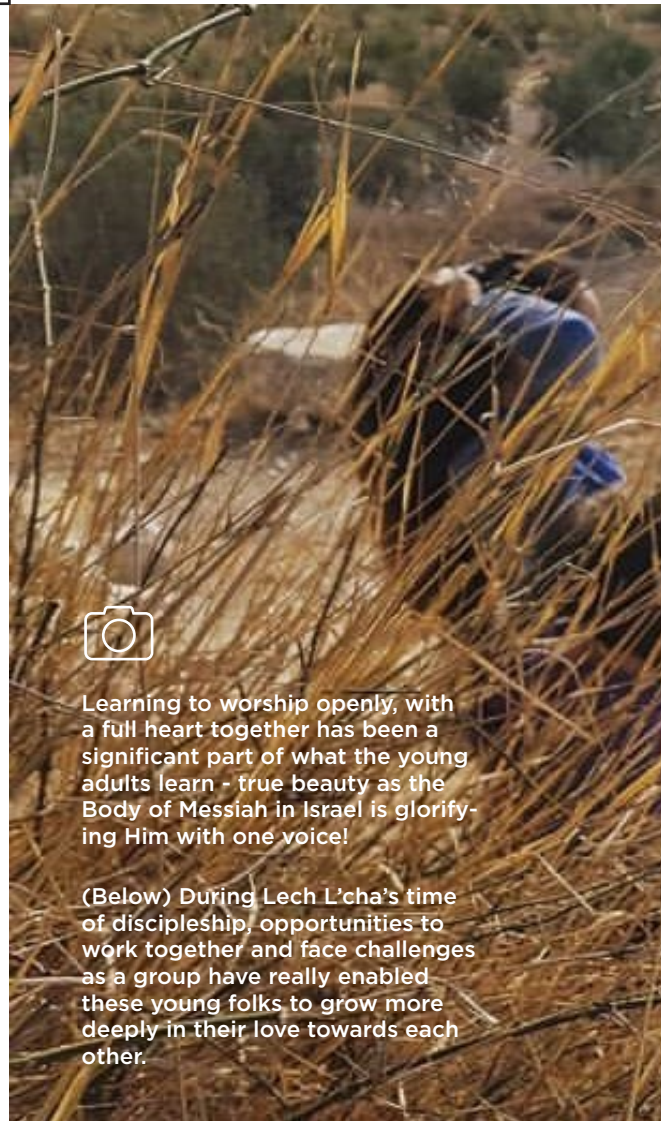
A dearly loved group of friends forms the Lech L'cha team of ministry laborers, and collectively they have been investing quietly in Israeli youth for more than 15 years. The approach enables a very small, intimate group of young believing Israelis, typically not more than 12, to spend 3 months, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week living, learning and walking with the team that is committed to helping them find the Lord in deeper ways. The team's time with these young believers is spent in discipling, teaching, praying, sharing and investing in their budding faith. By helping them understand the larger body of believers in Israel, they encourage these young believers to reach out with the Gospel and to endeavor to spend lives in service to the Master.

We can't envision anything that could help you catch a more profound glimpse into the powerful work being done beyond sharing testimonies from some of the graduates of the discipleship classes over the last several years. As you read these personal accounts of how young folks are learning to meet the Lord in a deeper and more meaningful way, it might help illustrate how crucial this work is by envisioning one of your own children, or perhaps a dear grandchild being in this same place of need, and then being met by faithful, Spirit-filled



Learning to worship openly, with a full heart together has been a significant part of what the young adults learn - true beauty as the Body of Messiah in Israel is glorifying Him with one voice!

(Below) During Lech L'cha's time of discipleship, opportunities to work together and face challenges as a group have really enabled these young folks to grow more deeply in their love towards each other.







brothers and sisters who are sharing their lives away to ensure that God is known to them. That's the overflowing heart of joy and thanksgiving The Joshua Fund team has in seeing this fruitful effort continuing – we're so privileged to be able to stand alongside praying, helping and encouraging this vital ministry!

*"During this time away I could start learning and understanding the basic principles of our faith like 'sin' or 'holiness.' Learning them made me admire God's wisdom. Today I feel like I am in a place where I can start directing others to this truth."*

“FROM THIS PERIOD  
IN LECH L'CHA I AM  
TAKING WITH ME THE  
PASSION TO KNOW  
HIM. PRAISE THE  
LORD THAT HE PUT  
THIS DESIRE IN MY  
HEART TO KNOW HIM.”

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





## FRUIT OF THE KINGDOM CONTINUED

*"One thing I've learned in Lech L'cha is how to discern the will of God. I've seen how God often shows us only the next step we should take, what to do now. I realized it's not our place to figure out the future, but simply to focus on the present and doing God's will, and that the peace comes as a result of doing the will of God right now. I find that we are not the central focus of our story – our ultimate testimony is Yeshua (Jesus). I've realized that God made no mistakes in how He created me. God decides to use these vessels for His service, not ours. We must trust His promises, and not our own desires. Even when we receive something we didn't want, and something we think is bad – God is still good."*

*"Before coming to this ministry program I'd never opened the Bible out of my own will. I knew nothing about the Bible, and I felt that I was being forced to believe at home. I thought I was an okay believer. I came to Lech L'cha to understand why people believe. And I got it! I was absolutely shocked from God and it just caused me to want to know more..."*

*"God completely changed me and the way I think. I came to this time of discipleship with a lot of doubts, and God has changed the way I look at Him. God has touched the bottom of my heart. It is amazing to know that God loves you no matter what, and He*

*doesn't need anything from me. And it is encouraging to be in a place where I submit myself to and my thoughts and my plans to Him."*

*"I feel that before Lech L'cha I was like a hollow tree that didn't have roots. I had good wishes and faith but I didn't invest in anything. I wasn't rooted. And I was very confused. During my time here I understood something about my relationship with God and about His greatness, and all this is because of people that were with me in the program."*

*"We had three months to get to know the Lord better; three months which He used to prepare us to be sent out. God did – and continues – to work in us, and He has taught me so much. I feel that He's prepared me not to stay, but to go out and show others what I received here – 'Go forth!'"*

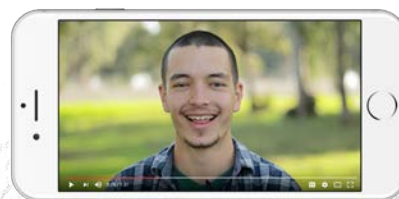
For the added blessing of being able to actually see the young people you are praying for and have helped to directly encourage – we would encourage you to view a video the Lech L'cha team just made of their most recent class of young disciples – rejoice with us!



## TEAM MEMBERS SHARE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

Scan the QR code to watch a video about the impact of being a part of the recent Lech L'cha class.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8o7n\\_7mEfA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8o7n_7mEfA)





# Looking Ahead: 2017 Epicenter Conference

October 6 - 7 @ Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

In The Joshua Fund's 2016 Donor Report, our goal was to express how faithful the Lord has been to this ministry over our first ten years of existence – and to help you step into the story of what God has been doing not only in Israel, but also in her neighboring countries.

We hope that report was a blessing to you, but we realize we were only able to give you a small taste of what is happening in the region, including the lives being changed, the congregations being strengthened, the pastors being encouraged and thousands of needy people being fed. The Joshua Fund is grateful for God's grace – and your fervent prayer and generous financial support – that has allowed us to play a small part in His work in the Epicenter.

In addition to our work in Israel and her neighbors, The Joshua Fund hosts Epicenter Conferences to educate Christians in North America and around the world about God's love for Israel and to prompt them to pray for Israel and her neighbors.

The next Epicenter Conference is set to take place October 6-7, 2017, in Costa Mesa, California. This may be your best opportunity yet to step into the story and hear first-hand about what God is doing in the Land!

At the conference, The Joshua Fund Founder and Chairman Joel C. Rosenberg will be conducting discussions and interviews with Jewish, Arab and Palestinian leaders. These are like-minded partners with whom The Joshua Fund has been working closely for years, and they will report from the frontlines on how the Gospel is advancing and is uniquely being shared.

Additionally, Joel has spoken to several of our partners in the neighboring countries, and while it is not safe nor helpful for us to bring them to Southern California, he will share several stories of how Jesus is revealing Himself to men and women, boys and girls in the midst of some of the most horrible circumstances.

Would you prayerfully consider joining us October 6-7 in Costa Mesa, California? I have no doubt that you'll be encouraged by our time together. For more information, simply go to [Epicenterconference.com](http://Epicenterconference.com) or call (703) 860-0166.

**TIM LUGBILL**

*Executive Director*



For additional information visit  
[epicenterconference.com](http://epicenterconference.com) or call  
(703) 860-0166.



**DID YOU MISS THE  
2016 DONOR REPORT?**

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or scan the QR code

To request your free copy, please  
call (703) 860-0166 or email [info@joshuafund.net](mailto:info@joshuafund.net)  
and discover the many ways God was faithful in 2016.

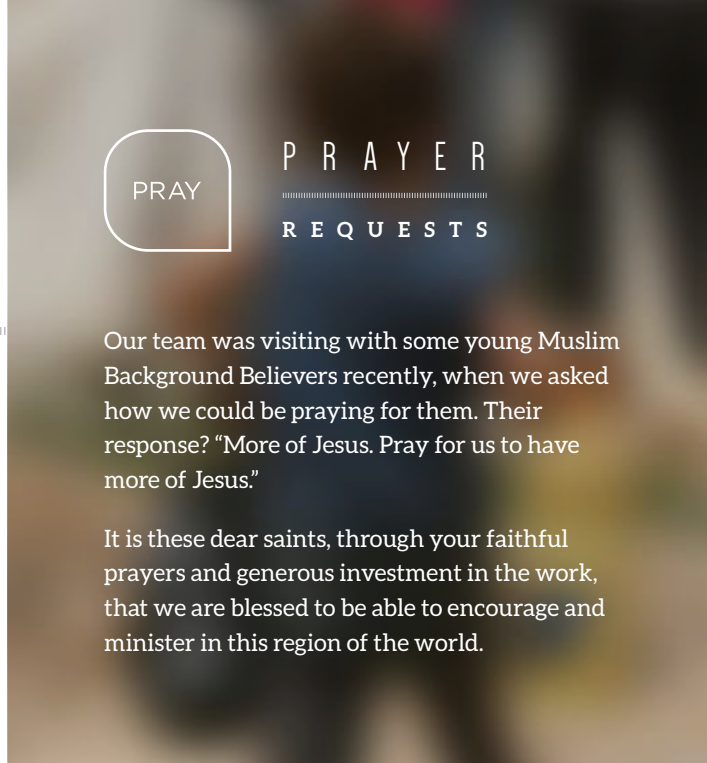


## THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST IN THE EPICENTER

CONTINUED FROM COVER

"An Egyptian Pastor with a great love for the people in a poor area of town with no church begins to reach out to this community. He gives up his position at a well-established church, losing his income, in order to shepherd these people he is called to tend. A small fellowship flourishes even as the sound of the call to prayer echoes into the building from the mosque across the street. His smile and laughter are infectious as he gives all of himself. He feeds this flock well from the depths of his heart and his time in the Word. One Sunday evening, after delivering his weekly message, he is visiting with his parishioners when a gunman enters and shoots him to death. In a moment, his time on this earth is over. This servant of the Lord is now resting with His Savior."

"After losing both his parents, his brother and his two sisters in an ISIS attack, a man runs for his life. His home, his farm and his factory are destroyed. His livelihood is gone. Once quite wealthy, in the blink of an eye, he is now penniless. Today, he lives as a refugee in a country not his own. But, instead of growing bitter,



PRAY

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

Our team was visiting with some young Muslim Background Believers recently, when we asked how we could be praying for them. Their response? "More of Jesus. Pray for us to have more of Jesus."

It is these dear saints, through your faithful prayers and generous investment in the work, that we are blessed to be able to encourage and minister in this region of the world.

it is in this broken state that the love of Christ touches his heart. One day he stands up among the congregation of his new church and declares, 'thank you Lord for ISIS. Even though I have lost everything, yet through them, I will spend my eternity with you.'"



## DO YOU HAVE A HEART TO SHARE ABOUT THE WORK THE LORD IS DOING THROUGH THE JOSHUA FUND?

Call or text (703) 860-0166 or email [info@joshuafund.net](mailto:info@joshuafund.net) to request your free copy of The Joshua Fund Packet and discover ways you can partner with us.



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 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.

