



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

A WORD FROM JOEL C. ROSENBERG



THE POWER OF UNITY

How are we doing in the Epicenter?

.....

I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

— John 17:23

Of the many vital matters upon our Savior's heart in His final prayer on His final night with the men He loved most in the world was the unity of the Church. Clearly the topic was important to Christ — both for evangelism and for our own deep, deep joy.

God is making the unity of His Church in the Epicenter a major priority. As the Founder and Chairman of The Joshua Fund, I have the great joy of spending time with Jewish and Arab pastors and ministry leaders here in the Land. He is healing old

wounds. He is building new bridges of friendship, dialogue and prayer.

Our Joshua Fund staff — gifted pastors, specially trained for this very work — spend even more time with such leaders. And every year, we also host conferences and retreats for hundreds of pastors and ministry leaders and their wives throughout the Epicenter. We get to sit and listen to them and pray with them and drink a lot of coffee and eat a lot of baklava with them. And we see signs of hope — we really do.

As a new immigrant to Israel, I ask Evangelicals in the West and around the world to get to know and love and stand in unity with both Messianic Jewish believers and those in the Palestinian Church, to understand their unique challenges and to be faithful in praying for them and financially supporting them.

Brothers and sisters, there is something so beautiful, so powerful about Biblical unity.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity." — Psalm 133:1

THANK YOU for supporting The Joshua Fund's work to bless Israel and her Neighbors in the name of Jesus.

FOLLOWING JESUS IN GAZA

JEREMY GRAFMAN
Director of Special Projects

With any conflict in the Epicenter, innocence or the mere “lack of participation” is not in itself a guarantee of safety.

The recent scenes of intense violence on Israel’s border with Gaza compel us to pray not only for the peace of Jerusalem — but also for the safety of the many innocent victims.

Among the victims are those in the Christian community. Gaza has a small Christian minority — mostly from a traditional, Greek Orthodox background.

And we are also aware of a very small number of born again, evangelical believers living in Gaza — some of whom have only recently come to saving faith in Jesus. This was possible in part through effective, Spirit-led media outreach efforts from ministry partners of The Joshua Fund.

These precious brothers and sisters, who take the name of Jesus as we do, live daily under the oppressive shadow of the Hamas regime. They are in frequent danger as Israeli retaliation targets militants who intentionally weave themselves into the fabric of the rest of Gaza’s citizens.

One of our Arab Christian ministry partners asked for prayer for his sister, who still lives in Gaza. He recalled a recent phone conversation with her in which he could hear the fear in her voice as airstrikes were hitting close to her home.

For all of these faithful brothers and sisters, following Jesus entails continual, intense pressure and danger as their lives are caught in the ongoing crossfire. The threat of persecution, violence and death is very real.

PRAY

Will you please keep this particular young lady — and others like her close to your heart and uppermost in your mind? Commit to joining us in prayer for this remnant whenever you hear news of another wave of violence sweeping over Gaza and Israel.



SIGNS OF HOPE

PRAISE REPORTS

As we continue to pray for Jewish and Arab believers in Israel to be “perfected in unity,” please join us in giving praise for what we’re seeing in the field:

- We see more and more Jewish and Arab pastors reaching out to one another to break bread and build friendships and meet together for prayer.
- We see some even inviting one another to preach in each other’s pulpits and speak at each other’s conferences.
- We see Jewish and Arab believers — lay people — studying the Word and praying and worshiping together.
- We’re seeing groups of Israeli and Palestinian pastors developing joint documents emphasizing the importance of working together to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It’s not enough, but it’s progress. It’s a sign the Lord is at work to build His Church and ready His bride for His return. And for this we can — and should — rejoice!

PRAY



EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

The Joshua Fund continues its commitment to provide training and encouragement opportunities for Jewish and Arab ministry leaders, workers and their wives through annual retreats. Now in its seventh year, these dual gatherings (one in the West Bank, one in Israel) are centered on the Word of God, worship and fellowship. They are aimed at exhorting and strengthening leaders to effectively teach and passionately reach out to the lost. This year we'll continue in the Book of Acts – a wonderful encouragement to the entire Body that the Lord is indeed able to complete the work He has called each of them to!

Ask that these retreats provide significant blessing to the local Body of Christ.



SENDING THE CHURCH

The Joshua Fund team has been praying, watching, and seeking to help fan a flame for missions that has long been flickering among the churches in Israel. Due to safety concerns, we are unable to share all the details, but we praise God for activity that happened this past summer where believers from Israel traveled into Jordan, Uganda, India and elsewhere to share the Gospel. We are extremely encouraged to see the Lord generating a sense of responsibility and calling among local believers to actively take the Gospel beyond their borders.

Ask that the passion for missions would increase and produce good fruit.

TREATED WITH LOVE

Young Muslim Man Meets Jesus Through His People

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:35

These words of Jesus serve as both an exhortation and a conviction to every believer. Do those around us know that we are His disciples because of the love we show to one another?

The following is a short story from a Joshua Fund ministry partner of how that love is shining forth from His disciples in the Middle East.

Jonathan (name changed for security) is a young Syrian man, born into a strict Muslim family, where the picture of God was distorted, portrayed as an angry God who only wants to punish people.

When the young man was kidnapped by extremists, he was forced to dig trenches. As he observed how they tortured and mistreated those they had kidnapped, he began to change his views about Islam and to ask bigger questions about God.

After escaping from the extremists, the young man found a job in a Muslim region of the country, but was treated badly there. So, he moved to a Christian region, where he noticed a difference in the way he was treated. He saw that Christians, in general, were more willing to forgive, and to show love to him.

It was then that he talked with one of the ministry partners of The Joshua Fund, who prayed for him. The young man was so touched that he started to cry. Our partner gave him the Word of God and invited him to a Bible Study. He immediately joined and gave his life to Jesus.

Now he is reading the Bible every day and has asked to be baptized. He is not afraid of his family and his wife's family, both of whom are Muslims and threatening him for becoming a Christian.

PRAY

Pray for ministry partners of The Joshua Fund like the one above – Christian relief organizations working among Syrian refugees.

LEARN

PRAY GOD'S WORD

2018 Epicenter Prayer Summit Highlight: Anne Graham Lotz

The Epicenter Conference that took place this past July in Jerusalem continues to impact believers as they experience the messages posted online at epicenterconference.com and on the free Epicenter Conference App.

Keynote speaker Anne Graham Lotz focused on the prayer Daniel prayed over the nation of Israel. Here's an excerpt from Anne's message on Daniel 9:3-19:

Pray God's Word back to Him. That's not presumption. You're not going to offend Him. He loves to be held to His Word.

Daniel prayed under compulsion. He saw the problems and matched them with the promises. Is that one reason in prayer you dry up after five minutes? It takes some work to open your Bible and read the Scripture and find a promise to go with whatever it is that you're asking God to do. I'm guilty of just telling God what I want Him to do without finding His Word and praying it through and basing that prayer on what He said.



God, You said, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14)." God, if we stopped pointing our finger at everybody else . . . we turn from our wicked ways, you said you would hear our prayer. You said you would forgive our sin. You said you would heal our land.

That's a promise. And that's my challenge to you: to pray effectively, to pray powerfully, because we pray under compulsion — matching the problems that we face with the promises.

A NOTE FROM JOEL

Many of you are aware that our dear friend Anne has recently begun a journey for cancer treatment. Please join me and my family in prayerful response to Anne's request: "Please continue to pray for my healing, and that I will not miss what cancer can do for me."



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GIVE

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



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