

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Stories from the Field features testimonies and articles from The Joshua Fund's staff and ministry partners about our ongoing work of blessing Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus

📍 | THE NEIGHBORS

THE WORD OF GOD REVIVING HEARTS

**am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD,
according to your Word. – Psalm 119:107**

In the last five years, The Joshua Fund has been enormously instrumental in the exciting mission of delivering more than 40,000 Bibles into Israel and the Middle East. This includes print copies as well as portable audio Bibles, which are mini MP3 players recorded in several primary local languages - including the most widely spoken ones, Hebrew and Arabic.

We continue to work alongside trusted ministry partners to supply the Word of God throughout the Middle East. Just in 2017 alone, we assisted in the distribution of over 7,000 Bibles through local churches, mission workers and ministries that are laboring for the Lord inside the Epicenter countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

One of our ministry partners works tirelessly among the mass of refugees displaced from their nations due to the continued regional wars in the last two decades. Due to security concerns, their ministry name and exact location must be withheld, however, the incredible spiritual impact of these Bibles is clear.

This is their/our story:

"The majority of people we serve from Syrian, Bedouin and Gypsy backgrounds are from very rural areas. Most of them don't even know how to read and write. They readily admit this during our conversations, and it is also evident because...

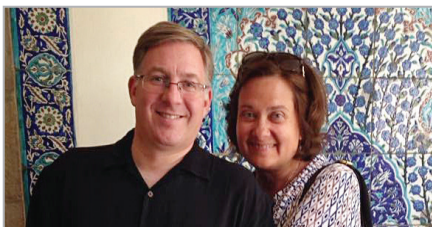
PG. 3 ►

2 **INSIDE:
GOD SPEAKS
THROUGH THE
BIBLE**



5 **GOD'S WORD:
THE ULTIMATE
BLESSING**

7 **SPECIAL
PROJECTS:
UPDATE**



A WORD FROM LYNN ROSENBERG

Co-Founder of The Joshua Fund

📍 | ISRAEL & HER NEIGHBORS

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE

As you read about the exciting ways that God is using us together to spread His Word in the Epicenter, would you pray for the men and women who are workmen and teachers of the Word? God's Word is being applied through the proclamation of the gospel by evangelists, by Bible college professors, through preaching in congregations, through biblical counselling helping to strengthen marriages, in conferences to prepare young people and soldiers to walk in a worthy manner and in the discipleship of men, women and children in the churches across the nations.

First, pray that people teach God's Word accurately and point people towards the truth and grace found in Jesus. Paul explains in his letter to the church of Corinth, that: "According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

Secondly, pray that people will teach God's Word with humility as the only authority rather than the traditions of men. In chapter 4 of 1st Corinthians, Paul explains that people should not take pride in following personalities or favor one person over another. Instead, he counsels them not to put men above the Word of God by teaching them to follow "nothing beyond what is written" (verse 6).

As God builds His church in the Epicenter, using His beautiful people in a myriad of different contexts, let's join our brothers and sisters in prayer. Let's ask Him to enable His people to build well upon Jesus, the Word of God, who came in glory, full of truth and grace (John 1:14).

"God speaks through the Bible. It is the major tool of communication by which He addresses individuals today. Biblical preaching, therefore, must not be equated with 'the old, old story of Jesus and His love' as though it were retelling history about better times when God was alive and well. Nor is preaching merely a rehash of ideas about God - orthodox, but removed from life. Through the preaching of the Scriptures, God encounters men and women to bring them salvation (2 Timothy 3:15) and to richness and ripeness of Christian character (vv.16-17). Something fills us with awe when God confronts individuals through preaching and seizes them by the soul."

Biblical Preaching, Robinson, Haddon W.; Baker Academic

PRAY

Let's pray together for God to "seize people by the soul" all across the Epicenter! Thank you for being a key part in getting God's Word out into the harvest fields!

they don't follow up with their children's education. When they come to receive the food portions, they use their fingerprint to sign instead of writing their names. However, in this shame and honor culture, they have a great desire to teach their kids since they never had the chance to.

In addition, it is a long-held tradition for Arabs to narrate stories to each other. They sit together and tell stories, and are familiar with learning through hearing.

As a person from a Muslim Shia background, I still remember how my grandma used to tell my brother and me stories from history. Even though she never knew how to read, she memorized the narratives. In our culture, people prefer to listen and watch than to read. This is why the audio Bible sticks are so very important. The people can listen to the Bible instead of reading. That way they will be able to know what's in the Bible.

When it comes to Iraqi or Syrian Christians, they are mostly Syriac, Assyrian and Chaldean [in background] so Arabic is their second language, which makes it easier for them to listen than to read. Even for the Gypsies, Arabic is their second language. We discovered through our assessments that the majority of people come from rural areas where they have no schools to attend, so the audio Bibles are a good tool.

It is a very practical and portable tool that the recipient can carry and use anywhere. The people who are receiving the Bible sticks are the blind, the people who don't know how to read or write, and people who don't have the habit of reading. Since they run on batteries, they are very useful, as most people don't have electricity in their tents. These audio Bible sticks are very meaningful and are better for distribution than even the written Bibles."

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE JOSHUA FUND HAS BEEN ENORMOUSLY INSTRUMENTAL IN THE EXCITING MISSION OF DELIVERING MORE THAN 40,000 BIBLES INTO ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

GIVE

Thanks to your generous support, The Joshua Fund has been blessed to take part in bringing the Word of God to revive the hearts of afflicted people in the Epicenter.



6 SHORT STORIES FROM THE FIELD OF HOW THE WORD OF GOD IS REVIVING AFFLICTED LIVES.



1

"After our team had completed the distribution of different food materials, we also distributed an audio holy gospel to many of the Muslim men and women and told them, "this is the holy Bible, and it is a gift to you." At the end, these families gave thanks to the church because they came to help them. In their home country, they had to expel Christians, and now the Christians are the ones giving them help."

2

"We thank the Lord God because He allowed us this opportunity through your support for us to get to these families who have lost hope and promise in everything. We pray in Jesus' name that these families know the Lord's love and that God alone is able to cure their hearts."

3

"After talking to a Muslim man about reading the Bible, the man complained he couldn't see well, and it was too tiresome to read. Our friend then offered him an audio Bible. He was thrilled at the idea. Later he came back to our friend and shared that he was very sorry but he no longer had the audio Bible. When his son had come home, he asked his father about what the MP3 was. When he told him it was the Bible, the son asked to listen to it. And now he won't give it back. Our friend gladly gave him another."

4

"It was awesome to see the excitement of one young man when we gave him a New Testament in his language. It was his first time ever holding a Bible in his hands! We passed out many Bibles in Turkish, Arabic and Farsi and had the opportunity to share with many people. Please pray that these people would read and believe their new Bibles and that others would be able to reach out to them. We are hoping to take more outreach trips to this area, because we realize the Lord is bringing people there from many difficult countries, and there is currently a window of opportunity."



1,000+

AUDIO BIBLES
DISTRIBUTED
THROUGHOUT
THE MIDDLE
EAST IN 2017



5

"We gave our ministry partner 10 audio Bibles, which she received with joy. When we arrived at her village, she instantly began to give them away. One was to a family member, who is paralyzed from the waist down, and another to a bed-ridden woman. She asked us, 'How did you know to bring such a gift?'"

6

"Our friend has personally baptized about 800 Muslim Background Believers (MBBs). Recently one brother came to him wanting to be baptized. He shared his story of how he fled his homeland due to the war and fighting and went to a neighboring country. But, due to the deep hatred between the people groups, he was afraid. After just a few days there, he began his very long grueling journey to Europe in hopes of finding a safe haven inside. The trip took him several weeks and was a miraculous story of survival.

While he had been in the neighboring country, he ended up in an apartment with other refugees. There he was visited a couple of times by teams distributing food, clothes and other basic hygiene items. In addition, he was given an audio Bible on a small MP3 player. When it was time for him to leave to make his trek to Europe, he took this small player with him. Day and night as he walked and made his way to each border he listened to this player. After hearing the Bible so often and being enlightened to the Scriptures, he has now left Islam to follow Jesus as Lord!"



TIM LUGBILL

Executive Director

GOD'S WORD: THE ULTIMATE BLESSING FOR ISRAEL & HER NEIGHBORS

Thanks in large part to the faithful prayers and generous donations of our partners, The Joshua Fund (TJF) has a number of opportunities each year to invest directly into the lives of local ministry leaders. We host retreats for pastors, as well as conferences for pastors/ministry leaders and their spouses, where they can take a break from their hectic schedules, rest, spend additional time in prayer, re-connect with their spouse and more.

What do nearly all of these events share in common? Discussing the latest Middle East Peace Plan? The Civil War in Syria? Political or economic issues making an impact in the Middle East? No. It's studying and seeking to apply the Word of God. Just like many of us in North America, these ministry leaders' schedules are completely filled with meetings and activities. The economic challenges and the relatively small numbers of believers in many congregations often make it impossible to support a full-time pastor, let alone a youth pastor, a church secretary or an assistant pastor.

While we strive to find ways to help these leaders on numerous fronts, our goal is to help them spend time in the Scriptures, to gain insight and practical help from others who teach the Scriptures, and to obtain Bible study materials to help them understand and teach the Scriptures.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial investment in TJF, and for playing such an important role in sharing God's Word – not only with pastors and ministry leaders – but with people throughout the Epicenter! May God richly bless you!

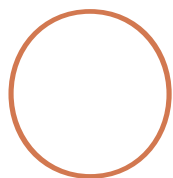


READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

SCRIPTURES IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

JEREMY GRAFMAN

Director of Special Projects



owning an easy-to-understand translation of the Scriptures in your own language is something most followers of Jesus simply take for granted. As born again believers, we're each indebted to the Jewish people for having preserved the Word of God throughout the ages (Romans 3:1,2) Yet contrary to what we might expect, for the typical Messianic believer (Jewish follower of Jesus) in Israel today - portions of the Hebrew Scriptures can be extremely difficult to understand. Though Hebrew is the original language of the Old Testament, because of the development and evolution of the modern Hebrew language, the Hebrew Bible that Messianic believers hold in their laps is often more difficult for them to understand than the works of Shakespeare or Chaucer would be for a modern English speaker. How odd this situation, that many Jews today would be more comfortable reading God's Word in English than in their native tongue? This unique challenge has hampered the pursuit of biblical literacy, as well as personal transformation and maturity among Hebrew speaking congregations.

For unbelieving Israelis and Jews across the globe, the fact is that they could complete an entire rigorous Torah education without actually understanding much of what it is they are reading or memorizing! For Messianic believers who come out of this background, or for those coming from a secular background where they may have had limited exposure to the Scriptures, confronting the unfamiliar, sometimes incomprehensible Hebrew of the Old Testament presents a very real challenge.

With this need in view, The Joshua Fund has enabled a vital 'Annotated Hebrew Bible' project. Your generous gifts and prayer have fostered The Israeli Bible Society's development of a version of the full Bible in Hebrew. Now these Old Testament Masoretic texts are being illuminated - providing full explanation of difficult, unfamiliar words, idioms and phrases in Modern Hebrew. This allows believers and unbelievers alike to access the original, ancient Hebrew language while ensuring a deeper understanding of its meaning. Local believers will now be able to obtain these insights without first having to resort to outside, scholarly sources or dictionaries in order to simply read and fully comprehend a passage.

Imagine how challenging congregational ministry in the United States would be if the only version of the Bible available to us was written in Old English. Encouraging the flock to read and study the Word on their own, reaching and retaining the young people in the Body, explaining the Scriptures clearly to non-believers, leading a Bible study... all of these efforts would be significantly more challenging. Although the Jews are considered "the People of the Book" among the nations, the ironic reality is that they are often less equipped to study and understand their own Scriptures. We trust that the Annotated Hebrew Bible Project will be a powerful tool, both to instruct and edify the Messianic believers in their congregations, and also provide a means of outreach, placing the Hebrew Scriptures into the hands, and hopefully the hearts, of those who may never have been able to truly comprehend them.

One of our core convictions at The Joshua Fund is that God's Word, His self-revelation, is the primary tool He uses to unleash His power and transformation in our lives. When we give His Word its proper place and opportunity, the Word of God, illuminated by His Holy Spirit, will accomplish the work for which He has sent it.

A quick survey of the lives and testimonies of Messianic believers reveals a constantly recurring theme - they first met their Messiah face to face in His Word, through the reading of the Old and New Covenants.

We remain confident that whatever we can do to advance this goal of making God's Word readily available, accessible and plainly understood, will surely have a transforming effect on all who sit before it!



READ NEHEMIAH 8:8



ISRAEL TOUR & PRAYER SUMMIT 2018

Have you Walked Where Jesus Walked?

Join Joel C. Rosenberg and The Joshua Fund for a Prayer and Vision Tour of Israel from July 3-15, 2018 and the Epicenter® Prayer Summit, which will be held July 11-12, 2018. You will learn firsthand how current Middle East events relate to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and see the Bible come to life as you visit ancient sites where Jesus taught and ministered, including the Garden Tomb, Garden of Gethsemane, the Sea of Galilee and many more. Joel will teach the Scriptures and be available to answer your questions about the future of the Epicenter. You will have the opportunity to participate in a day of service to the needy as well as spend an unforgettable time in prayer for the people of Israel at the Prayer Summit. Keynote speakers at the Summit include Joel C. Rosenberg, Anne Graham Lotz and Dr. Ronnie Floyd. Please prayerfully consider joining us in the Land of Israel.

To learn more, visit joshuafund.com/go/israel-tours



WHAT IS THE JOSHUA FUND?

The Joshua Fund One Sheet

Do you have a heart to share with your friends, family or church about the work the Lord is doing through The Joshua Fund to bless Israel and Her Neighbors in the name of Jesus? Download the electronic version of this new resource that describes the work of the ministry in a brief, easy to understand format. Call to request additional copies or download it online today.

To learn more, visit joshuafund.com/tjfoneshet



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.

