



# Dispatch From Jerusalem

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

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## ARTIST COLONIES of Israel

Ben Shemen • Old Jaffa • Ein Hod • Tsfat • Hutzot HaYotzer

# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

**Christians supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.**

It is our desire to see Christians and Jews working side by side for better understanding and a more secure Israel. Bridges for Peace seeks to be a ministry of hope and reconciliation. Through programs both in Israel and worldwide, we are giving Christians the opportunity to actively express their biblical responsibility before God to be faithful to Israel and the Jewish community. For too long Christians have been silent. For too long the Jewish community has had to fight its battles alone. It is time Christian individuals and congregations speak up for the people who gave us the Bible.

## We are committed to the following goals:

To encourage meaningful and supportive relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

To educate and equip Christians to identify with Israel, the Jewish people and the biblical/Hebraic foundations of our faith.

To bless Israel and the Jewish people in Israel and worldwide through practical assistance, volunteer service and prayer.

To communicate Christian perspectives to the attention of Israeli leaders and the Jewish community-at-large.

To counter anti-Semitism worldwide and support Israel's divine God-given right to exist in her God-given land.

## Dispatch from Jerusalem

The *Dispatch from Jerusalem* is Bridges for Peace's signature publication presenting positive news and perspectives from Israel to encourage understanding and support for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

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Join us in practical expressions to bless Israel by becoming an active bridge-builder and participating in fulfilling biblical prophecy through the following educational and humanitarian programs of Bridges for Peace.

**Publications:** The bimonthly *Dispatch from Jerusalem*, the monthly in-depth study of the Israel Teaching Letter and the weekly e-mailed Israel Current News Update with Prayer Focus. To subscribe, sign up on the front page of our website at [www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com)

**Chai (Life) Night Prayer and Study Groups:** A monthly intercessory prayer program for groups desiring to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6).

**Bridge-building Projects:** Promote better Christian-Jewish understanding and support for Israel at the local and regional levels around the world. Projects offered include Hebrew classes, film series, Israel awareness programs, speakers bureaus and study seminars.

**Bible Study Tours in Israel:** Bridges for Peace provides a variety of travel opportunities and lectures to help you or your tour group gain a deeper understanding of Israel. (See page 28 for current tours).

**Discovery Groups:** Groups have the opportunity to serve with us for a period of one to four days.

**Short-term Service:** A wonderful opportunity for Christians to build sincere relationships by volunteering to serve as short-term staff assisting Israel's poor.

**Operation Ezra Projects:** Through our food banks, food gifts are distributed to help Israel's needy.

**Project Rescue/Project Tikvah (Hope):** These programs help the poorest Jews in the countries of the Diaspora.

**ZEALOUS8:2:** This branch of Bridges for Peace aims at reaching and impacting the young adult generation (18-30) with the message of God's plan and purpose for the nation of Israel ([www.zealous82.com](http://www.zealous82.com)).

**For more information,** contact any of our national offices. We are also available to help you plan activities in your area. When you come to Israel, we would like to meet you or speak to your group. Please contact us in advance to visit our International Headquarters and Outreach Center in Jerusalem.

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*By Peter Fast*

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# Ukrainian Jews Arriving

Since the war started in Ukraine, Bridges for Peace has been at work partnering with Christians in Ukraine and the surrounding nations as well as Israeli governmental bodies. We have concentrated on rescuing Jewish people and helping fly them to Israel, providing food to those in need and helping fund an Israeli field hospital. We are still involved in all these endeavors, as the situation remains dire.

We have partnered with Keren HaYesod, a quasi-governmental organization, to help fly the Ukrainian Jews home. A few days ago, Sam Grundweg, world chairman of Keren HaYesod, called me and thanked me for our help, saying that together we are literally saving lives.

An Israeli field hospital in Ukraine



## THEY ARRIVE WITH NOTHING

These Ukrainian Jews arrive in Israel in a traumatized state. They often have nothing more than a small bag and the clothes on their back. They are women, children and older people. The men and teens are still in Ukraine, fighting a war that nobody wanted. Their faces reflect great weariness and emotional pain. None of these women know if or when they will become widows. Plane after plane lands at Ben Gurion Airport, and every flight is as I described. Now they are being sent to temporary homes in towns all across Israel.

We are getting requests for help from many places. The city of Karmiel just sent an urgent request for blankets, sheets, towels and computers (five to be shared by 300 people) so they can communicate with their loved ones. We immediately gave our complete inventory of blankets.

The city of Jerusalem has received thousands of new immigrants, and we are helping them as they enter apartments. We are providing blankets, pots and pans and other practical items as requested.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please stand with us to meet their basic needs. In three weeks, over 15,000 new immigrants have arrived, but Israel is expecting 100,000 within the next few months. In an average year, about 20,000 immigrants arrive. The Israeli system is not geared to receive 100,000.

We celebrated *Purim* (Feast of Esther) in Israel in March. During this holiday, the book of Esther is read and the deliverance of the Jews is celebrated. Today, another group of Jewish people are at risk in Ukraine and also in Russia. Queen Esther was raised up “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). We also have been raised up by God for this time. God has placed Bridges for Peace in the position to meet these needs. All we need is the funds to do these righteous, practical deeds. Join us today as we help rescue these Jewish refugees and help them get settled in Israel. Your gift to our Immigrant Welcome Gifts program will make it possible for us to say yes to the many requests we are receiving every day.

With a sad heart,  
Rebecca J. Brimmer  
International President and CEO



**All we need is the funds to do these righteous, practical deeds. Join us today as we help rescue these Jewish refugees and help them get settled in Israel.**

<https://www.bridgesforpeace.com/ukraine/>

We donated our entire inventory of blankets to the city of Karmiel.



# Israel

## Takes Part in World's Largest Naval Exercise

The Israeli Navy took part in the world's largest naval exercise in February, involving 60 international navies, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] announced.

In a statement, the IDF said the exercise was led by the United States Fifth Fleet and took place in the Red Sea, as well as in Bahrain's naval zone in the Gulf.

"During the exercise, the Israeli Navy's Underwater Missions Unit trained alongside its counterparts from the US Fifth Fleet. The exercise focused on naval search-and-rescue efforts and neutralizing naval mines. At the same time, an Israeli Navy missile ship and the 915th Fleet drilled rescue and medical emergency scenarios in the northern Red Sea and the Gulf of Eilat, alongside the Coast Guard of the US Fifth Fleet," the IDF said.

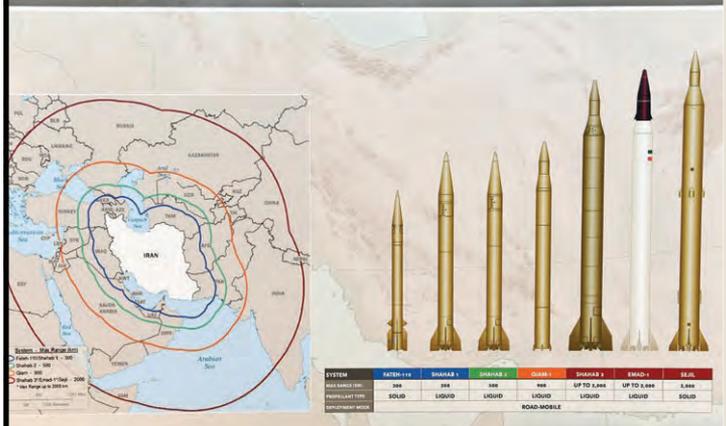
"The emergency and routine training scenarios demonstrate the strategic and operational cooperation with the US Fifth Fleet and is another expression of the expanding international cooperation of the Israeli Navy," it added.

Commander in chief of the Israeli Navy Vice Adm. David Saar Salama said: "The Israeli Navy's participation in the 'IMX' international naval exercise, led by the US Fifth Fleet, illustrates the growing relationship between our two fleets. This relationship is based on fortitude, shared learning and strategic cooperation. Our work with our American partners helps us to prevent terrorism in the naval arena while strengthening regional maritime security."

According to the Israeli Navy, since the IDF's transition to the US Military's Central Command (CENTCOM), a number of joint training and exercises have taken place.

Meetings have also been held between officers from the Israeli Navy, and US Fifth Fleet. Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Central Command; the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces, visited Israel three times in recent months, while Salama toured US Fifth Fleet headquarters earlier this year in Bahrain.

*Jewish News Syndicate*



## 'Iran's Missiles Are an Existential THREAT to the Whole Region'

A US general said in March that Iran possesses advanced missiles and poses the biggest threat to the region. During a Senate hearing, General Kenneth McKenzie explained that the Iranian missiles are still unable to reach Europe but noted that in the past five to seven years, Iran has invested many resources in its rocket program to increase its range and improve its accuracy.

"We have seen their capabilities in the attack on the American base in Ein al-Asad in Iraq back in January 2020, when the Iranian missiles hit with a great precision," he said.

McKenzie claimed that Iran continues to be the biggest threat to American interests and the security of the Middle East. "Iranian ballistics is an existential threat to the security of every country in the region, including our closest partners."

"The Iranian proxies are spread from Yemen through the Arabian Peninsula, across Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the very borders of Israel."

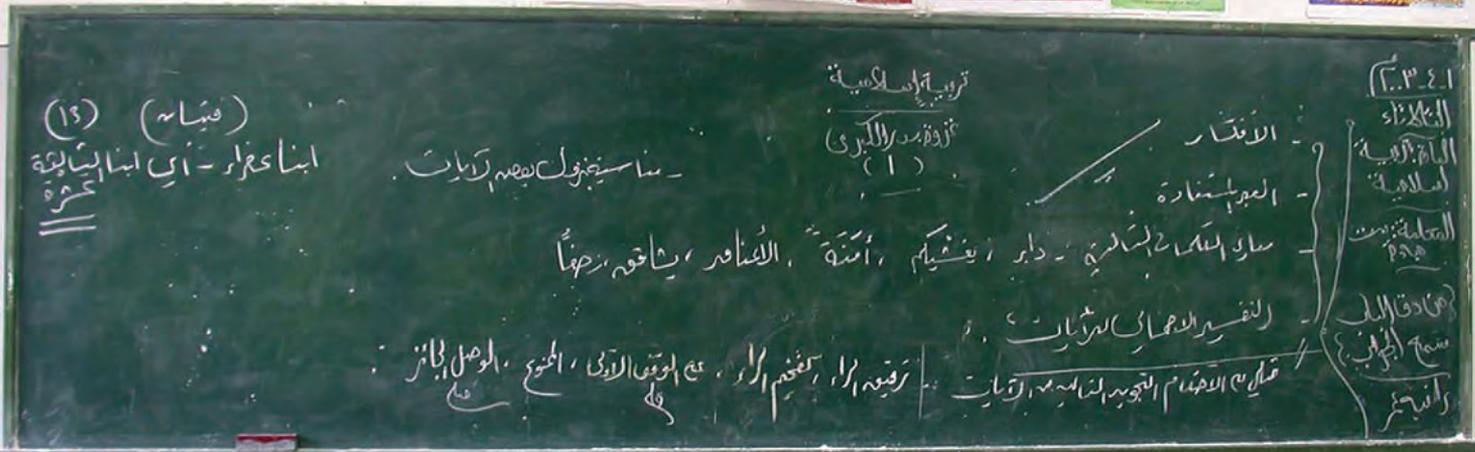
The American general emphasized to the Senate that Iran has also recently increased the attacks against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates through the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards unveiled new "smart submarines" that will be part of their maritime fighting organization. These submarines mark the beginning of a new era in Iran's deadly military capabilities.

Iranian news agency *Mehr* released the report and attached a picture of dozens of missiles under which it was written in Persian: "Death to Zionist," to highlight the target of these missiles.

It was also reported that the smart submarines had high maneuverability, increased speed up to 95 knots, and the ability to carry various missiles and rockets.

Itamar Eichner, *Ynetnews*



Posters of suicide bombers hang in a classroom in Tul Karem, Israel.

# Palestinian Curriculum Calls for **VIOLENCE** Anti-Jewish Incitement

**The Institute for Monitoring Peace** and Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se) has uncovered thousands of pages of new teaching material produced by the Palestinian Authority [PA] that directly calls for violence and promotes anti-Semitism, even after promising European Union donors it would implement changes.

IMPACT-se found that rather than publishing revised textbooks as promised, the PA reprinted last years' criticized textbooks for use in the current school year. In parallel, it produced thousands of pages of new material, roughly equivalent in size to all the textbooks in the curriculum. The new material contains content that has been determined as worse than current or previous Palestinian textbooks, with a greater number of lessons that directly incite violence and propagate overt anti-Semitism.

For example, the material demands that students die as martyrs to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and explains that those who die as martyrs killing infidels (Christians and Jews) will receive grace and be greatly rewarded.

IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff said the PA “seems to have gone to a great deal of effort to hoodwink its donors. Faced with a clear call by the EU for them to create new textbooks free of hate and anti-Semitism, the PA simply reprinted the old ones, then produced thousands of pages of new teaching material with content worse than the textbooks themselves.”

IMPACT-se presented its findings to representatives from the EU Commission, as well as to Parliament members in Brussels, who had no knowledge that the old textbooks were still being used in Palestinian and UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] schools, or that a set of new, hate-filled materials had been produced in 2021.

“The majority of the EU’s donation to the PA goes to its education sector, so one has to ask what the EU delegation to Ramallah actually knows about what goes on in PA schools,” said Sheff. “At a time when the PA is facing a major budget crisis, they’re doubling down on teaching the hate that donor nations said they could no longer tolerate.”

Israel Kasnett, *Jewish News Syndicate*

# Oldest Hebrew Text, **Including Name of God,** Unearthed at Mount Ebal?

Joshua's Altar on Mount Ebal





**In what could be** one of the most exciting archaeological discoveries to date, international scholars claim to have unearthed the earliest proto-alphabetic Hebrew text ever found in Israel: a 3,000-year-old folded lead amulet inscribed with, among other things, the word “cursed” and the Hebrew word YHWH, the Tetragrammaton name of God.

The location of the find? Mount Ebal, near biblical Shechem, the spot where Moses instructed the Levites to pronounce a list of 11 curses for disobeying the voice of the Lord and disregarding His commandments, upon which the Children of Israel were to agree with “Amen!” (Deut. 27:15–26). It is also the place where Joshua constructed an altar to the Lord following the battle against Ai and repeated the curses as originally instructed by Moses (Josh. 8:30).

The 0.78 sq. in. (2 sq. cm.) amulet was discovered last year when Dr. Scott Stripling, director of excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research at ancient Shiloh, led a team to sift through the earth discarded from excavations done in the Mount Ebal area some 30 years ago.

Scholars dated the amulet to 1200 BC. It is the first time an artifact inscribed with ancient Hebrew was unearthed at Joshua’s Altar, a noteworthy discovery in itself.

However, because the amulet was folded in half and the metal too flimsy to unfold, the letters inscribed were illegible. Stripling’s team approached researchers in Prague for help. Using tomographic scans, they managed to decipher the message.

Two epigraphers, Pieter Gert van der Veen of Johannes Gutenberg–Universität Mainz and Gershon Galil of the University of Haifa, then went to work on the text, determining the amulet to be a *defixio*, a curse tablet.

Stripling announced the findings during a press conference, hailing it as

the most significant discovery in biblical archaeology in recent years.

According to the conference, the ancient Hebrew inscription comprises 40 letters. An English translation yields 23 words, with the word “curse” appearing 10 times and the word YHWH twice: “Cursed, cursed, cursed—cursed by the God YHW. You will die cursed. Cursed you will surely die. Cursed by YHW—cursed, cursed, cursed.”

“I believe the amulet dates to the Late Bronze II age, or as early as 1400 BC,” Stripling told the *Jerusalem Post*. “This is older than any Hebrew script that has ever been published by at least 200 years.

“This is earlier than many skeptics believe the Bible existed,” he continued, “making this the earliest appearance of the word YHWH in Israel and it was found at a covenant site. The implications are enormous and will reverberate for many years to come.”

Perhaps chief among these implications is that the amulet dates from the covenant renewal ceremony described in Deuteronomy 27:15–26. Stripling believes this to be the case. Van der Veen concurs. “I think it is plausible that there is a connection,” the *Jerusalem Post* quoted him as saying. “The very fact that the amulet refers to ‘curse’ and Mount Ebal is referred to as where the curses were read out, I think clinches the connection between this amulet and the covenant renewal ceremony.”

While the find can certainly be described as monumental, experts are reserving their judgment. Stripling and his team still need to publish their find in a peer-reviewed academic journal and submit clear images and scans of the inscription for additional academics to comment.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*





# Lessons for *ISRAEL*

## From Ukraine

**As 150,000 Russian troops** amassed on Ukraine's borders at the start of the year, Western countries warned of an impending invasion. On February 24, the troops invaded, attacking from strategic points in Ukraine's north, east and south.

After failing to capture any major Ukrainian cities weeks into the "operation," Russia began scaling back its onslaught against Kyiv in early April. But the backtracking Russian forces left behind a grisly scene. In a suburb northwest of Kyiv, a mass grave was discovered, said to contain hundreds of corpses. Graphic photos show dead bodies scattered around the village, most with their hands tied behind their back. And the body count continues growing at the time of writing, as more Russian war crimes are reported every day. The Kremlin denies these reports and photos, however, insisting that no civilians are being targeted. Only when the last Russian tank has rolled back out of Ukraine and all the smoke has cleared will the world fully understand the atrocities that happened.

The globe watches on in horror at what is happening. Israel watches as well, learning valuable lessons of what happens when a nation is left largely alone to fend for itself—an all-too-familiar scenario for the Jewish state. In fact, the Israeli military reportedly set up teams to watch as the war in Ukraine unfolds, study the methods and learn how to apply lessons of Ukraine's outgunned and outmanned military warding off the Russians.

### **BUDAPEST AND NUKES**

Current media commentary resembles the Cold War era, voicing fears of a potential nuclear war. Russia has vaguely warned of using nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited a stash of nuclear weapons—at the time, the world's third-largest arsenal.

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In 1994, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which Ukraine surrendered its hand-me-down nuclear arsenal—and transferred it to Russia to be dismantled. Ukraine was then admitted to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a nonnuclear member. Under the memorandum, Kyiv sought assurance that Washington would intervene if Ukraine were invaded. Though the exact means of intervention were not clearly spelled out, a US diplomat who took part in the negotiations said it was understood that the US and UK would respond in a way that “would include lethal military assistance” if the treaty was violated.

- NPT nuclear members: China, France, Russia, UK, US
- Nuclear states not party to the NPT: India, Pakistan, North Korea—and Israel. The Jewish state reportedly possess an estimated 90 nuclear warheads and enough fissile material to produce another 200, although Jerusalem does not comment on its nuclear stockpile.

Russia violated the agreement in 2014 when it invaded Crimean Peninsula, and again in 2022 when it stormed into mainland Ukraine. Are the US and UK in violation for failing to provide “lethal” military assistance? Washington and London have both levied sanctions against the Kremlin and Russia’s top brass, and both have sent Ukraine weapons and funds to restock its dwindling self-defense arsenal. But both have offered little else besides “Good luck and best wishes” speeches.

No doubt Israel and other nations are taking note of this response—just as Israel watched the American exit from Afghanistan last year and out of Kurdish Syria a few years before that. When US forces exited northern Syria in 2019 under then-President Donald Trump, the local skies, which had been previously closed by the US and its allies, opened up for Turkish shelling of Kurds in the region. Thousands were slaughtered then, and the world is currently watching as a still-unknown number of Ukrainians are being slaughtered while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy implores the Western world to close the skies over Ukraine.

So what’s the answer when all your friends, who said they would stand by you, leave you alone to fend off a bully?

## NEVER BACK DOWN

You can try to reason with the bully—but if all else fails, convince the bully that it’s not worth messing with you. In a neighborhood where the strong preys on the weak, Israel has to prove to its neighbors that it’s not weak.

One way of doing that is preemptive strikes, or anticipatory self-defense, which is defined as “the entitlement to strike first when the danger posed is instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment

for deliberation,” Peter Scott Ford, a major in the US Air Force, wrote in 2004.

Scott described Israel’s decision to strike Iraq’s Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, slashing Saddam Hussein’s nuclear arsenal, which the dictator had threatened to launch at the Jewish state. After years of attempting to sway other countries to join Israel in pursuing diplomatic solutions, then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin decided to switch gears to the military solution, taking the matter into Israel’s own hands. Ford argues, however, that deterrence is only a short-term, immediate solution that does not always pan out in the long run. Iraq, for example, moved quickly to rebuild its nuclear stash after the strike, simply moving its operations further down the table, until the Gulf War.

“Deterrence can only be truly effective when used in concert with other strategies, such as reassurance,” Ford wrote. “It is an effective component but not a substitute for security policy. It does not solve the root causes of hostility and is good only as a measure to prevent attack.”

There are some cases where the aggressor has simply decided to attack, come what may. Putin, for example, set his sights on Kyiv, come sanctions, hell or high water. Israel again has similar experience with its terrorist neighbors in the Gaza Strip.

Last May in Operation Guardian of the Walls, terrorists in the enclave fired over 4,300 rockets toward Israel. Yes, Israeli top brass met with Egyptian mediators to negotiate a cease-fire. Nonetheless, while pursuing a diplomatic solution, Israel did not ignore the rockets exploding over its head. Israeli jets responded to each barrage, striking military and terror targets in Gaza with surgical precision, crippling the aggressors until they were more amenable at the negotiating table. It has happened time after time throughout Israel’s history, and it will no doubt happen again.

So what does a nation do in the face of an invasion and an attack on its sovereignty? Yes, try diplomacy. Try everything. But when all else fails, there is only one thing left to do: fight back. Just as Russia expected a swift operation in Ukraine but was surprised by the big resistance from the relatively small Ukrainian fighting force, so Israel’s enemies have learned to think twice about attacking the small but mighty Jewish state.



Kate Norman, *BFP Staff Writer*



# Vladimir Putin

## An Enigma

**At the writing** of this article, war rages in Ukraine, and Europe is witnessing atrocities unlike anything we have seen since World War II. Many fear we are teetering on the brink of World War III. All eyes are fixed on Vladimir Putin, Russia's enigmatic leader, wondering what his next move might be and praying for peace that only seems likely through divine intervention. His picture adorns nearly every magazine, newspaper and news site, while headlines like the recent "Is Vlad Mad or Bad" abound.

It's a question that many take very seriously. Is Putin actually suffering from mental illness, an aggressive narcissist, madness perhaps brought about by COVID-19? Or is he just plain evil, a victim of inner demons that won't let him stop until he has subdued the world? Or is it something else? Another headline suggests we have his past to blame: "How Vladimir Putin's Childhood is Affecting Us All." The article suggests that Putin is a victim of the effects of poverty and abuse in his early years that continue to inform his decisions today. Like Stalin, Hitler, Mao Zedong and Romania's Nicolae Ceaușescu before him, all brutalized as children, the pain of his past has so poisoned him that he likely will continue a campaign of brutality and violence throughout his life.

### Tough Beginnings

There is no doubt that Putin had a very difficult childhood. He was born in 1952 in post-war Leningrad, now called St. Petersburg, only eight years after the brutal siege of the city by the German army, which killed more than a million of its people. Though both of his parents survived the war, they were emotionally and physically traumatized by the time Vladimir came along. His father had been severely injured in battle and was unable to find gainful employment, while his mother had nearly died of starvation. His two older brothers were both dead, one of diphtheria in infancy during the war and the other of starvation shortly after. There was no joy in the Putin household. From birth, Vladimir knew nothing but hunger, grief, sadness and violence.

In his autobiography, he wrote of the ramshackle apartment with no hot water, bathtub or decent toilet facilities that the Putins shared with two other families and hordes of rats. He was small for his age and constantly bullied and humiliated by drunken thugs that were his neighbors. Eventually he studied martial arts and took up judo to defend himself. He learned early that fights were inevitable and winning was all that mattered.

By his own admission, however, there were some bright spots in his otherwise dismal existence. An Orthodox Jewish family who lived in the neighborhood extended much kindness to the young Russian, offering food when they could and a glimpse of a different kind of life. And there were other Jewish people who influenced him as well: his math teacher, with whom he maintained contact throughout the rest of her life, even after she had made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel); his judo instructor; and two of his best friends who were his training partners as he studied martial arts. Putin would never forget these relationships and the moments of sunshine they brought into his very dark life. These people were different than any others he had known, and Putin recognized it was because they were Jewish.

### Old Ties Remembered

Thanks to the support of that sixth grade math teacher, Putin began to realize his intellectual potential. With her ongoing encouragement, he excelled in high school, went on to become an officer in the KGB, and later held several high-level positions under then-President Boris Yeltsin. He would follow Yeltsin as the president of Russia, a society in which anti-Semitism was deeply ingrained.

At the end of World War II, Stalin had thrown open the doors of the Soviet Union and invited Jews fleeing Europe to find a home in his empire. Thousands did. However, with the rebirth of the nation of Israel and the onset of the Cold War, anti-Semitic tropes found their way into the narrative again and Soviet leadership began to view the Jewish population as a threat. Jews were viewed as a diaspora population loyal to a foreign state. Stalin's infamous purges were often openly anti-Jewish, and thousands of Jews were assassinated or imprisoned.

Putin, however, believed that Stalin's discrimination against Jews and the mass exodus of over a million Jews

after the fall of communism, ultimately hurt Russia. Today, under Putin's leadership, Russia is intolerant of homosexuals and Muslims, quashes any kind of political dissent and controls the media with an iron hand. Yet even his harshest critics are forced to admit that, unlike generations of leaders before him, Putin is not an anti-Semite.

Rabbi Baruch Gorin, a senior figure in Russia's Chabad community, says Putin is interested in a strong Russian Jewish community as a matter of Russian pride. Anti-Semitism is significantly less prevalent in today's Russia, largely due to the firm stand Russia's judiciary—under Putin's direction—has taken against the anti-Semitic intimidation that was once business as usual.

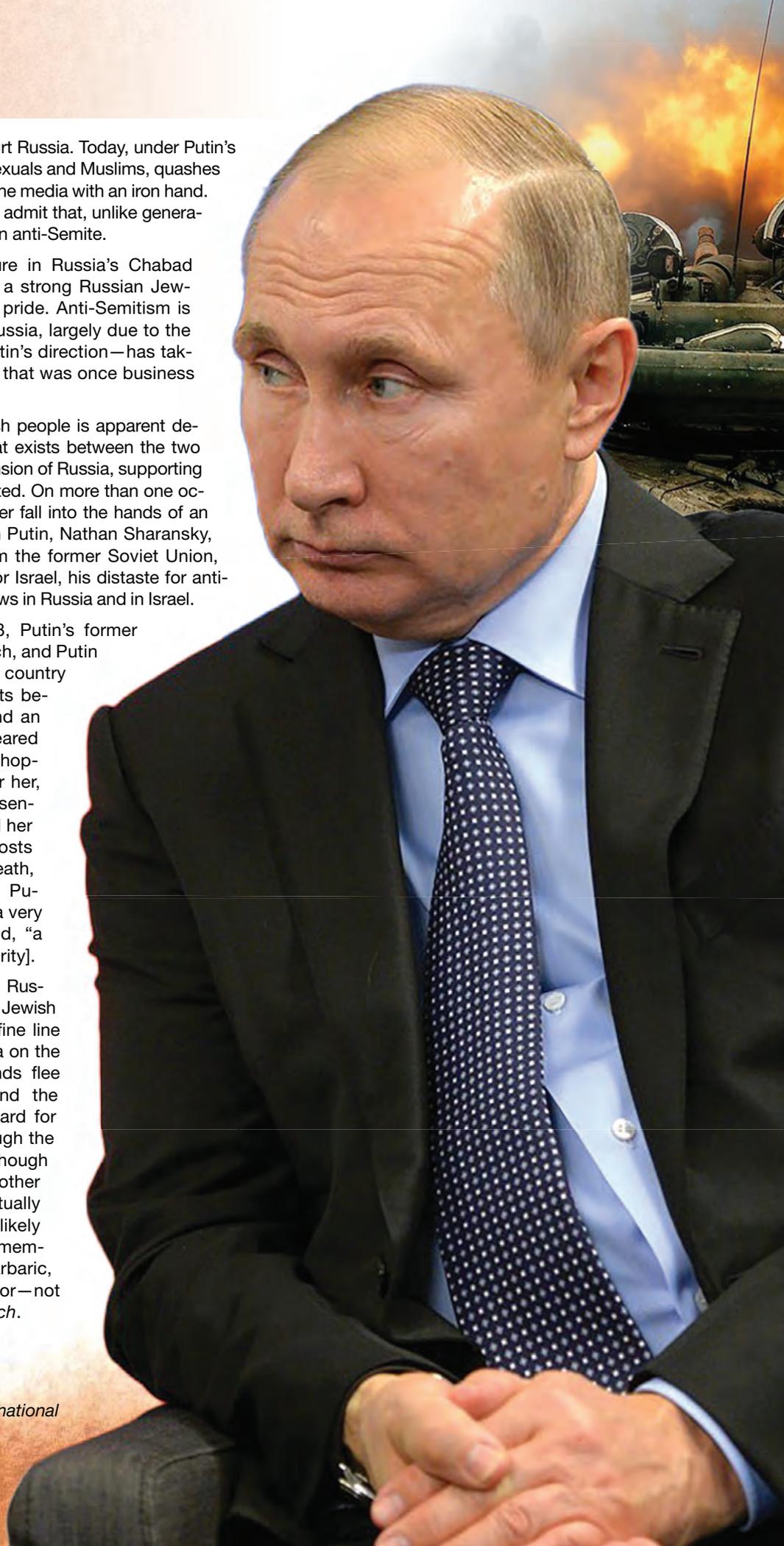
His affection for Israel and the Jewish people is apparent despite the complex geopolitical reality that exists between the two countries. He speaks of Israel as an extension of Russia, supporting and visiting "his" Jews who have emigrated. On more than one occasion, he has stated that Israel will never fall into the hands of an enemy "on his watch." After a visit with Putin, Nathan Sharansky, an Israeli politician who emigrated from the former Soviet Union, was impressed with Putin's sympathy for Israel, his distaste for anti-Semitism and his sincere fondness for Jews in Russia and in Israel.

After immigrating to Israel in 1973, Putin's former math teacher, Mina Berliner, kept in touch, and Putin even met with her when he visited the country in 2005. Shortly after that meeting, gifts began to arrive from her former pupil, and an employee of the Russian embassy appeared on her doorstep to take her apartment shopping. Putin purchased an apartment for her, where she lived until her death. A representative of the Russian embassy attended her funeral, and Russia covered all of the costs of her funeral and burial. Before her death, Mina commented in an interview that Putin's loyalty to her made her cry. "He is a very grateful and decent person," Mina said, "a *mensch* [someone with honor and integrity]."

Obviously, Israel's relationship with Russia is critical and complex. Currently, the Jewish state finds itself forced to walk a very fine line between the US on one side and Russia on the other. But as the bombs fall, thousands flee Ukraine seeking safety elsewhere, and the evidence of war crimes mounts, it's hard for the rest of the world to view Putin through the same lens as Berliner did. And even though Gorin maintains, "Whatever his many other sins, he's just not an anti-Semite. He actually cares about us," it seems increasingly likely that history will remember Putin as a barbaric, murderous dictator—not as Berliner's *mensch*.



Cheryl Hauer, *International Vice President*



# A Thousand Worlds SAVED

As rumors of an imminent invasion swirled, Jerusalem implored Israelis in Ukraine to flee the looming war for the safety of Israel. The appeal extended beyond Israeli nationals. Jerusalem offered citizenship and a homecoming to the land of their promise for every Ukrainian Jew. Some heeded the call. Many didn't.

When the Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine on February 24, an estimated 8,000 Israelis remained in the country. An additional 200,000-plus Ukrainian Jews also faced the invading army.

"We...will do everything to not leave any Israel or any Jew behind," Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said days into the war. "This is why there is a Jewish state."

And so, as the rockets fell and the death toll mounted, Israel launched the biggest rescue effort in the modern state's history, setting out to salvage Israelis, Ukrainian Jews and a few others from besieged cities, towns and villages and bring them safely home to Israel.



## TAKING CARE OF THEIR OWN

Amid the bedlam of firefights and shelling, closed Ukrainian skies, lines of fleeing refugees and overflowing border crossings, Israel organized buses to pick up its people from collection points in battle-scarred cities and ferry them under armed guard through the border. This entailed Israeli representatives on the ground arranging rescue trips and working with Israeli officials stationed on the border crossings to receive passengers and arrange the next leg of their journey to Israel.

An Israeli journalist leaving Ukraine on one of these rescue trips described his gratitude as he watched other refugee families on foot dragging their suitcases across the border crossing—as the Israelis and Jews made the trip on an armed bus. "Only one country was arranging buses for

free...and had its diplomats meet the buses to issue documents in the field," he said. "It is an incredible service, and a testament to the values...of Israel's people."

Israelis weren't the only ones who noticed. Marveling at the rescue trips and the Israeli consular support working day and night at the crossings to process their people, a Moroccan national who fled Ukraine with no help from his country told Israeli officials, "In war, no one can go there. And ambassadors of Israel go there and save their citizens...just your ambassadors go. Very, very good work."





## A HOMECOMING

During World War II, six million Jews perished because they had nowhere to flee. Today, hundreds of thousands of Jews are caught in the crosshairs of Europe's largest land battle in nearly eight decades. As the nation-state of the Jewish people, Israel will not let history repeat itself.

Under Israel's Law of Return, anyone with one Jewish grandparent is eligible for Israeli citizenship. This right applies to some 200,000 Ukrainians. To them, it represents the promise of a number to call for assistance, a seat on an Israeli rescue bus, a helping hand amid the chaos of overcrowded border crossings, a homecoming after bidding farewell to everything they held dear and a new beginning in Israel.

Eighty years ago, being Jewish was a death sentence. In decades past, being Jewish was a lightning rod for anti-Semitism, prompting many to hide their identity. Now, amid war, heartbreak and loss, it's a lifeline. "Every Jew knows we are waiting for him here, that the door to the State of Israel is always open," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said.

After one month of war, nearly 10,000 Ukrainian Jews have walked through that open door. The number will likely rise dramatically. An estimated 100,000 refugees are expected to make Israel their home by the end of the year, making it the largest wave of immigration since the 1990s, when more than a million Jews flocked to the country after the Soviet Union collapsed.

While it mourns the circumstances, Israel rejoices in the homecoming, launching an initiative dubbed Operation Returning Home to rescue Ukrainian Jews from the ravages of war, see them safely to Israel and then help them rebuild their lives in their new homeland. "This is...a moment for which we have been destined," Bennett vowed, "and for which the State of Israel was established."

The initiative entails the Jewish Agency's "Aliyah Express" program that significantly expedites the immigration process. It involves Israeli officials on border crossings issuing documents—sometimes hand-written in a makeshift office operating from the back of a van—to refugees who never considered *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) before the Russians came. And it means launching countless rescue operations to evacuate orphans, Holocaust survivors, the disabled, the wounded and the ill. As a rescue flight ferrying a woman with dementia, a double amputee and elderly survivors in need of medical treatment touched down at Ben Gurion Airport, the daughter of one of the survivors told the *Times of Israel*, "Only Israel comes and rescues people from all over the world."

## 'WE'LL HELP ANYONE'

Much to the chagrin of anti-Israel advocates pushing the narrative of a Jewish state offering preferential treatment to Jews while depriving Arabs of their basic human rights, Israel rescued hundreds of Arabs—its own citizens and a few from countries that do not recognize the Jewish state and are technically at war with Jerusalem.

Up to 2,500 Arab Israeli students were in Ukraine when the Russians invaded. To expedite their evacuation, Jerusalem dispatched its deputy consul in Turkey, Yara Shibli, a Bedouin and a native Arab speaker, to the border. An Orthodox rabbi personally helped 100 Arab Israelis across the border. And as Arab Israeli parents tearfully welcomed their children disembarking from Israeli flights at Ben Gurion Airport, popular Arab media personality Eman Kassem Slimani lauded the Jewish state's inclusive rescue efforts.

There's more. Thanks to Israel, a student from Gaza found his way home to the coastal enclave and a number of Moroccans escaped safely. A Syrian sent Israel a thank-you note for his safe return, and a student from Lebanon was offered a seat on an Israeli rescue bus.

A spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry later confirmed: "There are Lebanese, Syrian and Egyptian citizens on the Israeli bus... We'll help anyone who we can help...."

## TO SAVE A LIFE

The fate of Ukraine Jews is particularly close to Bridges for Peace's heart. We've partnered with Israeli organizations working on the front lines to rescue refugees and provide desperately needed relief amid the suffering. Thanks to contributions from Christians around the world, we've donated over US \$500,000 to humanitarian efforts during the first month of the war.

"Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world," the *Mishnah* (first postbiblical written recording of Jewish oral tradition) teaches.

Stop. Think about that for a moment. Imagine the thousands of lives, dreams and generations to come because of Israel's efforts—in partnership with international Christians. Imagine thousands of worlds saved.



Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief

# Harnessing Electricity From the Waves

**WHAT IF PRODUCING** clean, sustainable electricity was as simple as a day at the beach? Technically, it can be. A patented, smart and cost-efficient technology developed by Eco Wave Power, an innovative wave energy technology company based in Tel Aviv, extracts wave energy from ocean waves, converting the rising and falling motion of the waves into clean, green electricity.

The mechanics behind the technology function on a foundation of motion and hydraulics. Special floaters submerged in the sea or ocean and attached to man-made structures like breakwaters, piers and jetties move with the motion of the waves, which, in turn, move a piston that compresses biodegradable hydraulic fluid. The compressed fluid amasses in an accumulator located on land, which builds pressure. The release of that pressure turns a hydraulic motor, which then rotates a generator, producing clean

energy. The hydraulic fluid then flows back to a tank, and the entire process starts again with the next wave.

The Eco Wave Power wave energy converter was invented as a simple, zero-emission and inexpensive answer to the rising global demand for renewable and affordable electricity. It is more cost-effective than traditional energy generation methods using coal, oil or gas as well as renewable energy generation methods such as wind and solar. Since there is no adverse environmental impact, it also does its bit in the battle against climate change.

Israel's Ministry of Energy has hailed it as "pioneering technology," while the Solar Impulse Foundation called it an "efficient solution."

Just another way in which Israel serves as a light to the nations (Isa. 60:3).

By Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

## New Israeli Nanoparticle Fights Cancer on Two Fronts

**ISRAELI RESEARCHERS** at Tel Aviv University (TAU) successfully tested a nanoparticle that boosts the effectiveness of chemotherapy and immunotherapy in cancer treatment.

A combination of the two therapies to create chemo-immunotherapy is effective in targeting the cancer cells with chemotherapy while boosting the immune system to identify and target cancer cells with immunotherapy. But the treatment often casts too wide of a net, targeting the cancer cells as well as the healthy cells around them.

The new RNA-based nanoparticle, however, “is capable of operating in two different arenas,” Prof. Dan Peer, TAU’s vice president of research and development, told the *Times of Israel*.

The nanoparticle targets specific cells, increasing sensitivity of cancer cells to chemotherapy, Peer said, and also increasing the sensitivity of immune cells to cancer cells.

“Thus, with one precisely targeted nanoparticle, we provide two different treatments, at very different sites,” Peer added.

He said the research team tested the nanoparticle on both metastasized melanoma as well as a tumor and saw “positive effects” in both cases.

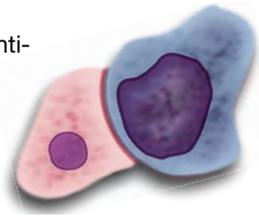
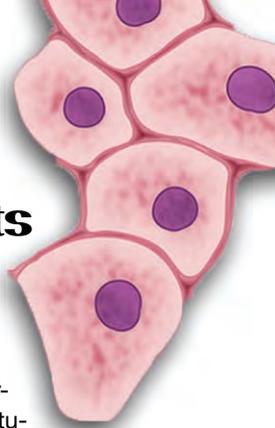
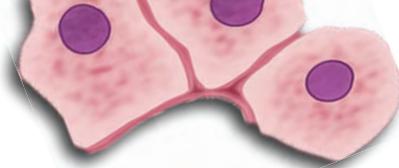
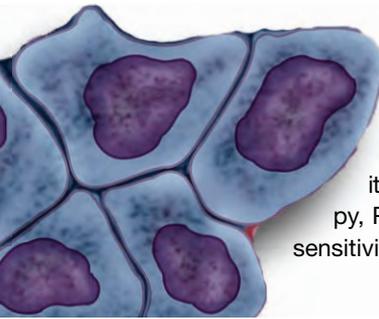
Peer led the research at TAU’s Laboratory of Precision Nanomedicine at the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research along with Dr. Seok-beom Yong, a post-doctoral researcher from South Korea.

So far the nanoparticle delivery system has been successfully tested on mice and has made progress in in vitro studies, according to a peer-review study published in *Advanced Materials*.

The next step is beginning human trials.

“Chemo-immunotherapy is the most promising anti-cancer strategy today, and this development could make it more viable,” Yong told the *Times of Israel*.

By Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*



## ISRAEL DEVELOPS METHOD TO EVALUATE EMERGING FLAT LENS TECHNOLOGIES

**PERHAPS YOU ARE WEARING** glasses while reading this or have a cell phone, binoculars or a virtual reality headset or telescope. All of them rely on high-quality lenses, which are bulky, expensive and heavy—especially when considering drones and satellites, where every gram counts.

However, that is all about to change. New, cheap, lightweight flat lenses—around a thousandth of the thickness of a human hair—will be making their move from research labs to our shops and homes. Currently, there are several kinds of flat-lens technologies available. However, the challenge is to know which version is best suited for the specific application for which it was designed.

This problem has been solved by Professor Uriel Levy, director of the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, together with postdoctoral student Dr. Jacob Engelberg. They established a standard method to compare flat-lens technologies and designs, and published their findings in the leading journal *Nature Photonics*.

New, flat lenses offer clear advantages over conventional lenses. With conventional lenses, the “stronger” the lens, the greater the curvature. Further, the larger the lens diameter, the thicker the lens. This has implications—in both weight and size—for products, such as consumer electronics, cellphones, VR headsets and drones.

The new flat lenses are incredibly thin, and as the name suggests, they are flat rather than curved. However,

there are different flat lenses designs and technologies on the market and few guidelines for which lens would be most appropriate for a given need.

Further, claims of success have been difficult to assess since there is no universally accepted method for comparison of these lenses. Moreover, with a simple method of production, based on those used to create silicon chips, these new lenses will be extremely cheap and readily available.

Drs. Engelberg and Levy stepped in to create a proper method of comparison. “Adopting the standardized characterization methods that we’ve proposed will help this field progress,” they shared.

Excerpt from a press release by Tali Aronsky, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*



# Artist Colonies of Israel

**MANY OF US ARE FAMILIAR** with the names of neighborhoods that originated from Christians establishing religious colonies in Israel. The American and German colonies are famous, among many others. Perhaps less well known is that scattered throughout Israel are another kind of colony: artistic colonies. An artists' colony is a community where artists work, create and even live together, drawing inspiration from their surroundings. Each of these artist communities has its own unique atmosphere where eccentricity is wholly embraced.

## *A UTOPIAN DREAM*

The founder and head of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, Boris Schatz, envisioned the creation of a utopia for artists in Israel. Bringing his vision to life through the Ben Shemen Artists' Colony in 1914, Schatz wanted to lure different artists to leave tumultuous city life for communal living, where they could find mutual inspiration and creativity. Comprised mostly of Jewish goldsmiths from Yemen, the Ben Shemen Artists' Colony was the realization of Schatz's dream. Unfortunately, the first artist colony was short-lived, but Schatz's vision lived on. Some 40 years after the failure of the first artists' colony, artist and architect Marcel Janco reinvigorated Schatz's vision in the 1950s with the establishment of the Old Jaffa and Ein Hod artist colonies. During the same period, a group of Israeli artists started the Tzfat Artists' Quarter in northern Israel. Each of these colonies and their artists still flourish to this day.

## *OLD JAFFA*

Known in the Bible as Joppa, the departure point of Jonah to Tarshish when fleeing the call of the Lord

to go to Nineveh, Jaffa is one of Israel's oldest ancient cities. Perched on a hilltop with a natural harbor, Jaffa has been a strategic prize for thousands of years. Today, it is still an active fishing port but also functions as a tourist hub with restaurants, boutique hotels and event halls. The winding alleyways, reminiscent of Jerusalem's Old City, are lined with historic stone buildings that host art galleries and bespoke artisans.

CeMMent Design Studio is the brainchild of Marit Meisler, a seasoned artist who was born and raised in Jaffa. Using concrete as her main creative medium, Meisler creates contemporary household objects and modern Judaica.

At the New Gate on the Jaffa Old City walls is the fashion house of Maskit, founded in 1954 by Ruth Dayan, the widow of the former chief of staff and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan (famous for his role in the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967). Maskit draws inspiration for its contemporary clothing line from traditional embroidery techniques and the landscapes and colors of Israel. Esteemed as a national treasure, the House of Maskit is a symbol of Israeli culture and art.

## *EIN HOD*

The second colony established by Marcel Janco was in Ein Hod, which sits on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean coast. While Old Jaffa and Tzfat have become production centers for popular Jewish art, Ein Hod has maintained Schatz's original vision as a true artist's utopia, where residents can create and thrive in a cooperative structure. In honor of the visionary who through persistence and dedication launched this community, the Janco-Dada Museum features the works of the founder, Marcel Janco. According to Ein Hod's website, communal life is managed by a general assembly and an executive committee, who also decide on new artists who take up residence in the colony.



What is unique about Ein Hod is that most of the art studios and galleries are situated in the artists' homes, giving visitors a unique glimpse into the lives and creative processes of the creators. This what makes Ein Hod so special. How often can you speak to an artist in their own home about a piece of work they have just created? From painters, potters and sculptors to writers, poets and playwrights, Ein Hod is a microcosm of Israel's artistic talents.



## TZFAT

Perhaps most well known as the “City of Kabbalah” (Judaism’s mystical tradition), Tzfat also played an important role in developing some of Israel’s most renowned artists and helping them achieve international recognition. Israeli painter Yitzhak Frenkel moved to Tzfat in 1934, 14 years before it was officially established as an artist colony—and was inspired by the ancient synagogues, quaint alleyways and the surrounding beauty of the mountains. Frenkel was inspired by the land of Israel after completing an artistic journey across the country, painting Israel from Tzfat to the Galilee and Jerusalem, then Tel Aviv and the Negev. North to south, Frenkel drew inspiration from the varied landscapes of the Promised Land. Tzfat’s Artists’ Quarter, dubbed the “Bohemian Center of Israel,” is where casual art enthusiasts and art aficionados are welcome to appreciate the world of art, beauty and eccentricity.

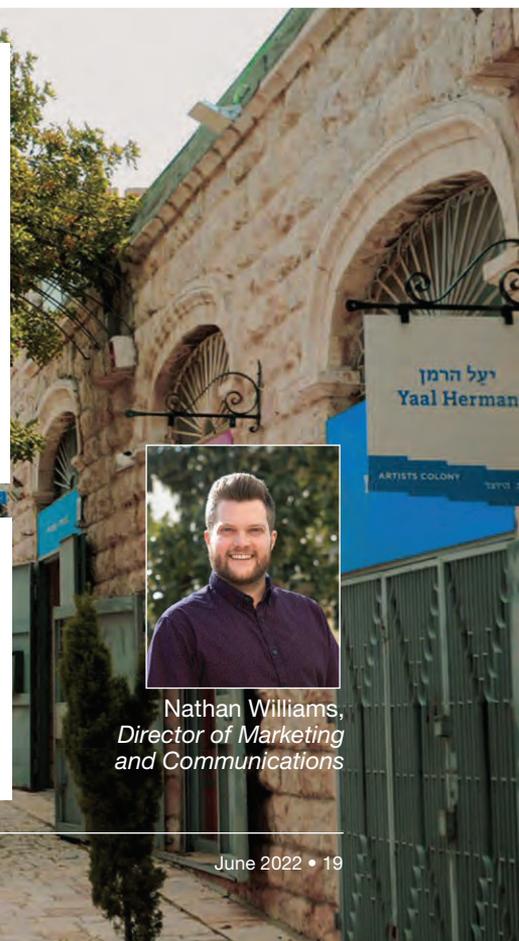
## HUTZOT HAYOTZER

During a time of great change, the Hutzot HaYotzer artist colony was established in Jerusalem. Following the Six Day War and the reunification of the city in 1967, there was a vast swath of no-man’s land between the Old City walls and the neighborhood of Yemin Moshe. Then Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek decided to rebuild the ruins at the northern end of the Gehenna valley and thus created a bustling arts and crafts center.

The website for Hutzot HaYotzer invites visitors to come and meet “the extraordinary cast of characters at the Artists’ Lane that will inspire your Israel journey.” The colony features varied artistic crafts, from silversmiths and sculptors to calligraphy and fiber arts. Workshops and galleries are open to visitors at no cost, and the artists are available in person to meet and welcome visitors.

## SEEING THE LAND THROUGH ARTISTS’ EYES

One cannot help but feel inspired traveling across a country steeped in ancient history. From the barren beauty of the Negev desert to the majestic mountains in the north, the landscapes of Israel are dramatic and inspiring. On your next trip to the Promised Land, be sure to stop in at one, or all, of Israel’s artist colonies. These are wonderful places to visit and journey into Israel’s creative and expressive side.



Nathan Williams,  
Director of Marketing  
and Communications

# Strength in Community



**This spring**, Bridges for Peace volunteers had the opportunity to visit Yad Mordechai in southern Israel. I was excited to go because I had read the illustrious history of this particular *kibbutz* (collective community) during the 1948 War of Independence. For five days, the heroic men and women of Yad Mordechai held off an Egyptian force far superior in numbers and weapons. This gave the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) time to prepare and successfully halt the Egyptian drive a little farther north, before it reached the city of Tel Aviv.

The battlefield at Yad Mordechai



Gadi, the beekeeper

I expected the tour to focus on the history of Yad Mordechai, but instead I came away from our visit most impressed by the presentation of Gadi, the beekeeper. His talk was fascinating as he illustrated just one component of the solid economic base of this modern, thriving community. It caused me to consider how the *kibbutz* model of communal living—so necessary at the beginning of the 20th century, when the Jews began returning to a desolate and often hostile land—is still relevant today.

## IN THE BEGINNING

In 1910, the land was still part of the Ottoman Turk Empire when a small group of young Jewish pioneers from Eastern Europe established Degania, Israel's first *kibbutz*, between the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. What they began was a type of agricultural community that is unique to Israel and was instrumental in the foundational years of the modern state.

The word *kibbutz* means “gathering,” although initially the movement used the term *kvutzah* or “group” for these settlements. The young men and women who left their home countries and returned to their ancient homeland to form these groups or gatherings faced many difficulties. They were not farmers; the land itself presented challenges, such

as the malarial swamps of the Hula Valley; and relationships with neighboring Arabs were challenging. Against all odds, the young pioneers persevered and began to restore the wilderness and wasteland (Isa. 35:1).

## BUILDING THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Contributions by the *kibbutzim* to the establishment of the modern State of Israel cannot be underestimated. During the years when the White Paper limited Jewish immigration to Palestine (1939–1948), many illegal immigrants managed to slip past the British with the help of *kibbutzniks* (members of a *kibbutz*) and were hidden on various *kibbutzim* until they could be integrated into Jewish society.

During the lead-up to the 1948 War of Independence, one of the most daring exploits took place under *Kibbutz Hill* near Rehovot. An ammunition factory roughly the size of a tennis court was built 25 feet (7.6 m.) under the *kibbutz* laundry, where 2.25 million bullets were produced before the war broke out. It was so secret that many *kibbutz* members were unaware of the factory, and it was 1973 before the story was told publicly.

There are many accounts of heroic actions that changed the course of the war, and there is not space in this article to do them justice. Although the approaching Syrian army managed to level the buildings of Degania, Jewish fighters had the last word as the Syrians were prevented from entering the Jordan Valley.



Equipment used to manufacture bullets in the underground facility

## ARE KIBBUTZIM STILL RELEVANT?

The number of Israelis who live on *kibbutzim* has never been high. In 1960, it was only 4% of the total population, dropping to 2.5% 50 years later. The challenges have been many, and at times it seemed as though this model of communal living was dying. The 1980s, for example, began a period of serious economic crisis for many of the nation's *kibbutzim* that lasted for over 20 years. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, more than 50,000 members left during this time.

Yet by 2005, Amnon Rubinstein wrote in the *Jerusalem Post*, “After years of crisis, reduced productivity and departing members, *kibbutzim* have experienced a noticeable turnaround.” Rubinstein attributes the reversal to a drastic change in management. He writes, “The *kibbutz*’s downturn was caused by its inability to cope with globalization and free-market forces. The *kibbutzim* stubbornly adhered to their ideology of total uncompromised equality. Today’s revolution does not discard this traditional ideology. Instead, it differentiates between economics and management on the one hand, and the community on the other.”

Today there are over 270 *kibbutzim* in Israel. They range in size from as few as 100 members to over 1,000. Most have privatized their holdings, and members may work off the premises. They have adapted to a market-based economy in ways that don’t compromise their commitment to care for their weaker members. In some cases, members pay, on a sliding scale, a percentage of their salary to the *kibbutz*, which levels out the incomes.

## WE NEED EACH OTHER

We began with a peek at Yad Mordechai and its thriving economy. Tova, our tour guide, told the group that the *kibbutz* had constructed 40 new homes, which it was opening up to new members. They received over 300 applications, many of them from children of *kibbutz* members who had left for greener pastures and now were seeking to come home.

In the end, we can say that we have been created for relationships with others, and when they are missing, we are diminished. There is strength in community, and the *kibbutz* model, while certainly not the only way to achieve community, is like a big family in the truest sense of the word.



Janet Aslin, *BFP Staff Writer*



Entrance to the underground ammunition factory hidden under laundry equipment



# WATER INNOVATION AND PEACE

**Have you ever** been truly, deeply thirsty? Were you in a place where you were able to find clean drinking water to quench your thirst? The reality of physical thirst is foreign to many people blessed to live in parts of the world where water is abundant. But, according to UNICEF and the World Health Organization, one-third of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water. For them, water is a scarce resource that is hard to obtain. Unless something significant changes, the World Bank estimates that by 2025, nearly 1.8 billion people will live in conditions of absolute water scarcity. That shortfall is expected to impact everything from the cost of food to geopolitics.

Israel's innovative water technologies are making a difference on many levels. Perhaps the most strategic difference of all could be peace. Water is becoming a major source of geopolitical strife. Indeed many experts believe that water—rather than oil—could become a main resource fought over in the coming decades.

In a recent *BBC* article entitled “How Water Shortages Are Brewing Wars,” Sandy Milne states, “Unprecedented levels of dam building and water extraction by nations on great rivers are leaving countries further downstream increasingly thirsty, increasing the risk of conflicts.” With global water use growing at more than twice the rate of population growth, there simply is not enough fresh water to go around. Major cities across the globe regularly ration their citizens' water use. In the last decade, water crises ranked in the top five of the World Economic Forum's list of Global Risks by Impact.

Potential major conflicts over access to water have sprung up across the globe in recent years. One example is the greater Tigris–Euphrates basin that stretches from Turkey into Syria, Iraq and Iran. To meet its own growing demands for water and electricity, Turkey is developing a massive infrastructure project that, when completed, will include 90 dams and 60 hydropower plants. Nations downstream are already feeling the impact with water flows down the ancient rivers cut by half.

Another imminent example is in Africa, where Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt all rely on the annual flow from the Blue Nile to maintain their economies. Ethiopia is pressing ahead with development of a massive dam that will significantly limit the flow of water to its neighbors downstream. And last year, Egypt and Sudan held a joint military exercise pointedly called “Guardians of the Nile.”

## WATER INNOVATIONS

The growing water scarcity continues to lead the world down a drought-stricken path to potential strife. Israel, meanwhile, is working to augment its paltry natural supply of fresh water to secure an ample reservoir of this scarce resource—even during times of drought—and share its know-how with the nations of the world.

The Jewish state’s water tech innovations over the past two decades are too numerous to cover fully in this short article. Below are some highlights of Israeli water technology that could stave off war in many parts of the globe.

**Recycling:** Israel is the world leader in water reclamation and reuse. The country currently recycles nearly 90% of all wastewater, mostly for use in agriculture irrigation. There is a completely separate national water grid for recycled water. When you visit Israel, watch for the almost ubiquitous pink or purple pipes that irrigate city parks and make the desert bloom through agriculture expansion. Reclaiming water that goes down the drain for useful purposes is one way to offset the lack of available water in dry parts of the globe.

**Purification:** SunDwater’s solar-powered distiller is a “green,” low-cost and low-maintenance system that converts dirty or salty water into drinkable water without any need for infrastructure or an external energy source. Under sunny conditions, the basic model produces 400 liters (105.7 gal.) of clean water per day.

Another major source of purification is the technology of desalination, by which salt water from the ocean is made usable for human consumption. Israel led the way in development of commercial-scale desalination.

**Extraction:** What happens if there simply isn’t water available to purify? Another Israeli leader in water innovation, Watergen, found a way to extract water out of thin air. Watergen has scalable models that produce anywhere from 20 to 9,000 liters (5 to 238 gal.) of clean water per day with no need for a water source other than the humidity in the air.

**Conservation:** When a precious resource like water is scarce, the need to conserve what is available is all the more heightened. The drip irrigation technology pioneered by Israeli

firm Netafim has received much well deserved publicity. Around 70% of global water use is for agricultural irrigation. Taking minimal amounts of water directly to the base of each plant saves tremendous amounts of water.

An even newer innovation sector in water conservation is the use of IT. For instance, Israeli company Aquarius Spectrum enables infrastructure managers to detect and prevent potential water leakage. And BwareIT has developed technology products to help monitor and track water consumption. If people are aware of how much water they use per day, it can help them to be more conscious of trying to save.

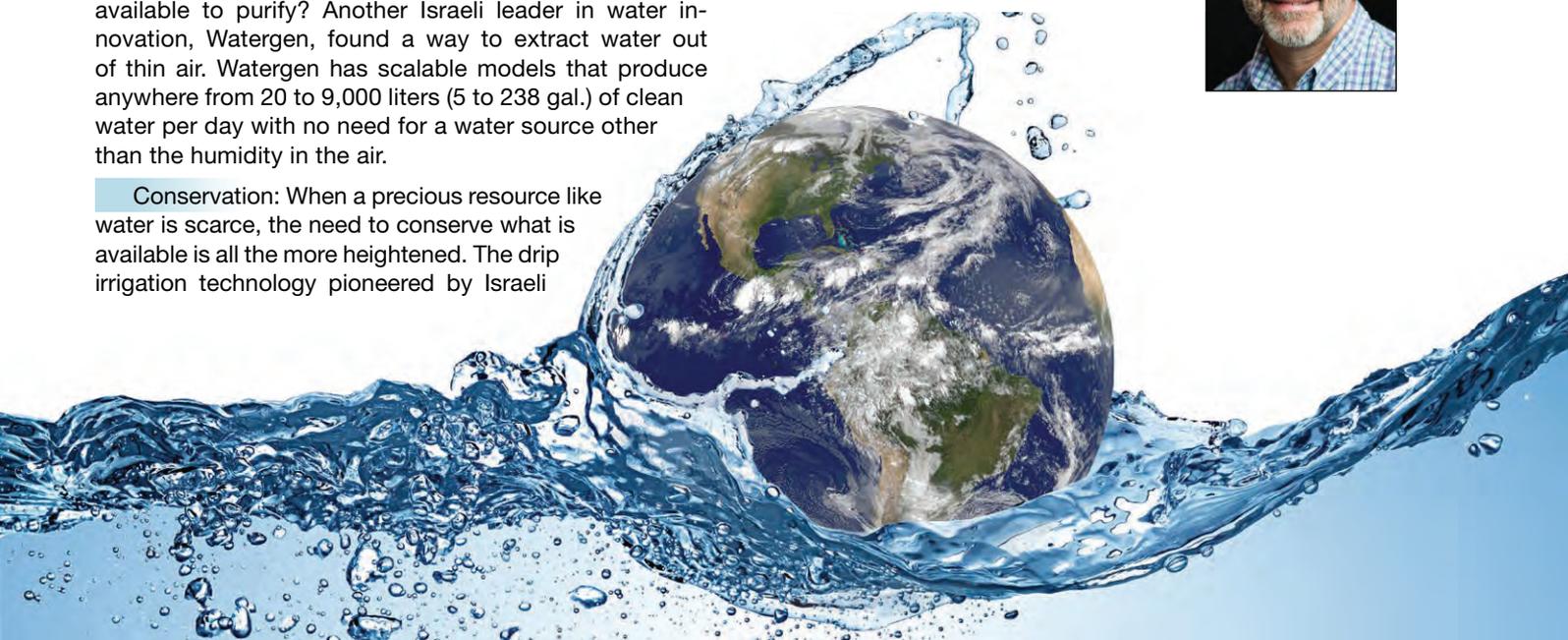
## FLOODING THE DRY GROUND

Israel is making a difference in water availability on a global scale. In 2015, India, the world’s second most populous country, signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel to increase cooperation in water management. That same year, the World Bank signed a cooperation agreement with Israel that would aid the transfer of water technology know-how to developing countries.

God promised in His Word to bless the world through the Jewish people. Isaiah 44:3 states, “*For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring.*”

Conflictual rhetoric over water access is increasing in many other parts of the world. If countries can creatively supply water and better manage its use, the strain on demand should diminish. As more and more countries consult with Israel regarding technologies to help solve their water shortages, we can only hope that conflict over this increasingly scarce resource will become less likely in the decades ahead.

Terry Mason, *Director of International Development*



# The Quirks of Israel

From the pen of Peter Fast, national director of Canada and the future CEO of Bridges for Peace International, comes the second installment of an exciting new series entitled the Quirks of Israel. Join Peter on a journey through the wonderfully peculiar culture, traditions, heritage and daily life of this singular nation as he unpacks, introduces and celebrates the quirky aspects that make Israel so wonderfully unique.

**The Land of Israel** is a delightful mix of ancient and modern. For those of us from relatively young countries like the United States and Canada, the term “old” often refers to something from a few centuries ago. We look at remnants from the founding of Nova Scotia in 1749, the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620 or the birth of the United States of America in 1776 with a sense of awe and reference. However, these countries, as they stand today, are not old.

Israel is different. In fact, Israel fits nicely into the category labeled “ancient world” alongside China, Egypt and Greece. In the Promised Land, you’ll see remnants dating back more than 4,000 years. For instance, there’s a tree in Gush Etzion, a community just outside Jerusalem, that began growing when Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492. The roots of the olive trees in what is speculated to be the Garden of Gethsemane are around 2,000 years old. Experts discovered 2,000-year-old dates and wheat at Masada near the Dead Sea, and when these were planted, the ancient seeds grew, yielding a crop. In 1947, they discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran in the Judean Wilderness, a library of thousands of parchments, including entire books of the Bible, some of them dating back to two centuries before Jesus (Yeshua). Everywhere you look in Israel, you see ancient ruins, a past preserved and protected. A number of years ago, the Jerusalem municipality tried to dig a new water line and unearthed the original Pool of Siloam, where the kings of Judah were anointed and where the water ceremony during the Feast of Tabernacles took place.

2,000-year-old building discovered near Yavne

## Ancient Treasures Everywhere

Picture this: There's a Jerusalem contractor ready to start on a routine job. He has the permits, the crew and the equipment. But as he starts digging, an unexpected discovery interrupts his work. He shakes his head in frustration as he sees his routine job become a lot more complex. You can almost hear him grumble: "Ugh, another ancient water cistern! Ugh, a pot full of ancient coins! Ugh, another ossuary with some guy's bones in it! Whose bones? Joseph Caiaphas? Whatever! Now I have to call the Israel Antiquities Authority."



And as this disheveled contractor watches the archaeologists jump up and down in excitement as they start mapping out the site, he can just imagine all the Bible scholars around the world oohing and aahing over his "discovery." He can just picture all the seminary and Bible college students reading about the find and reaching for their Bibles as they try to track the discovery. In his mind's eye, he sees the millions of interested Christians and Jews who will clasp their hands in relished amazement. There's global fanfare and front-page articles featuring the latest discovery in *Biblical Archaeology*, *Time Magazine* or *National Geographic*. All this, when all the contractor wanted to do was install a sewage pipe in a Jerusalem neighborhood.

## Onto the Contemporary

Alongside all the ancient, Israel also features the modern. Just over a century ago, Tel Aviv was nothing but sand dunes. Now it's a sprawling metropolis, with nearly a million people calling the bright lights and skyscrapers home. A short way north is Herzliya, Israel's "Silicone Valley," the nation's start-up hub featuring the latest high-tech and countless innovative businesses. A little bit further

north is Haifa, another sprawling metropolis and home to Israel's version of MIT, the Technion. Israel is the global leader in solar technology, home to more

start-up companies than anywhere in the world except for the US, boasts the most educated population per capita and has made even its sea water drinkable using distillation technology. Talk about cutting edge!

A century ago, the Land of Israel was rife with malaria-ridden swamps. It was quite depopulated compared to the amount of space available and the capacity the land could have held at the time. One hundred years ago, some 600,000 people—Jews and Arabs—populated the Land in the odd city as well as hundreds of communities and villages, many of which were considered third world by today's standards. Today, Israel's population tops 9 million and counting, as Jews from around the world continue to return to their ancient homeland. New immigrants from more than 70 countries now call Israel home. It is a modern-day miracle, a land that literally responded to a returned people. Is God part of this? Of course He is!

During the modern *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) movement that started in the 1880s and brought in waves of Jewish immigrants in the years before World War II, the *kibbutz* and *moshav* movements were launched. These collective communities of farmers and pioneers who immigrated from Europe and North Africa drained the swamps, cultivated and tilled the land, and removed rocks and boulders, harnessing a land that had been neglected for centuries of Turkish occupation. Thomas Clay Lowdermilk, a top ecologist specializing in global famines in the 1930s, marveled at the ingenuity of the Jewish pioneers and their dedication. He noted its tremendous impact on the entire region, even drawing waves of Arab immigrants who sought work and a better quality of life. Even Winston Churchill gave it his rubber stamp of approval.

With the swamps drained and fertile soil restored, the land responded and blossomed into what can only be described today as a modern Garden of Eden. Israeli farmers are even growing fruit orchards and vineyards in the Negev Desert. Over the course of a century, the Jewish National Fund has planted over 250 million trees. It has changed the ecosystem, and now hundreds of thousands of birds have readjusted their migratory patterns to fly over the Land of Israel. Here they catch their breath before continuing over the Himalayas,

as they had done before. The Land is flowing with milk and honey once again.



Scan the QR code to join Peter Fast for episode 2 of the video series the *Quirks of Israel*.

Peter Fast,  
National Director of Canada



# A Light and a Blessing

**Less than a month** after Russian tanks rolled across the Ukrainian border to unleash the worst land battle and the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, an Israeli delegation touched down in the war-torn country to open a 66-bed hospital staffed by more than 60 personnel. The Jewish state's facility was the first foreign field hospital to operate in Ukraine.

While a commendable feat, Israel's efforts to assist in Ukraine hardly come as a surprise. In fact, this is what those in the know have come to expect of the Israelis.

The Jewish nation is tiny. Its members amount to less than 1/1000th of the world's population, yet its contributions to humanity are astounding; its footprints of blessing, innovation and aid etched into the areas of mankind's greatest need.

Regardless of where catastrophe hits, the Jewish state is often the first on the front lines, flying thousands of miles

to bring doctors and nurses, rescue workers, medical supplies, equipment and more to devastated areas. The tiny country's huge heart of compassion and care is often most clearly visible in a nation far from home, helping a people who are not their own survive the rubble of their shattered lives.

So what's behind Israel's exemplary efforts to bless the nations? Perhaps the origin lies in an ancient promise given by God to the father of the people who would later be called Israel: *"Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him"* (Gen. 18:18). Perhaps it is part of the fulfillment of a prophecy God spoke into existence through the mouth of the biblical prophet Isaiah: *"I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles"* (42:6).



Israel has shipped aid to 140 countries, including: Africa, Argentina, Brazil, China, Columbia, Gaza, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Lithuania, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine

## THROUGHOUT THE AGES

*"I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation. If I were an atheist and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing nations...I should believe that chance had ordered the Jews to preserve and propagate to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme, intelligent, wise, almighty Sovereign of the universe, which I believe to be the great essential principle of all morality, and consequently of all civilization."*

—John Adams, second president of the US, in 1809

*"The moral teaching of the Jews and the practical example of their lives is incomparably higher than the moral teaching and the practical example set by (others)...Judaism, by adhering to the moral principles which it professes, occupies a higher position than... everything that comprises the goals of our society's aspirations."*

—Leo Tolstoy, Russian author in "What is a Jew?" published in 1891

*"If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race...Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of... and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers."*

—Mark Twain, American author of "Concerning the Jews," published in 1899

*"It is impossible for one who has studied at all the services of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity."*

—Warren G. Harding, 29th president of the US, in 1921

## BACK IN THE LAND

*"When a light bulb is screwed into its socket, light fills the entire room. When Israel takes its proper place and functions as it should, the entire world benefits..."*

—Aaron Eby in "Israel: Light for the Nations"

*"By these will the State be judged, by the moral character it imparts to its citizens, by the human values determining its inner and outward relations, and by its fidelity, in thought and act, to the supreme behest: 'and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Here is crystallized the eternal law of Judaism, and all the written ethics in the world can say no more."*

—David Ben-Gurion, first prime minister of Israel

*"Within a decade of Israel's founding, the government and its people demonstrated a deep commitment to engage in humanitarian relief efforts and international development programs. In 1958, Israel adopted an official humanitarian aid agenda as a principal element of the country's international cooperation efforts. Over the years, the country has extended international humanitarian aid assistance to more than 140 countries, even to those who do not maintain diplomatic relations with the Jewish state."*

—Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*"God chose Israel not because they were superior but because of what He could do through them for others."*

—Max Anders, creator and general editor of the Holman Bible Commentary

*"The long-standing biblical imperative to act as a 'light unto the nations' has guided the Jewish people for millennia. Regardless of their situation, Jews have held tightly to this dictum, and the state of Israel has exemplified this spirit—humbly using its resources and skills to help others, even those dedicated to Israel's destruction—in their times of greatest need."*

—James Sinkinson, president of Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME) in "How Israel Strives to Be a 'Light unto the Nations'"

*"'I have made you a light unto the nations, bringing salvation to the ends of the earth.' Today, 2,700 years after Isaiah spoke those prophetic words, Israel is becoming a rising power among the nations. And at long last, its light is shining across the continents, bringing hope and salvation to the ends of the earth."*

—Benjamin Netanyahu, former prime minister of Israel



Japan tsunami



Mexico earthquake



Haiti earthquake



Brazil dam burst

# TOURS

## Canada

### FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: EUROPE & ISRAEL TOUR

Date: November 6–22, 2022

Hosted by: **Rev. Peter Fast**

A tour to Europe and Israel. Come face-to-face with the Holocaust, visiting the Anne Frank House, Corrie ten Boom Museum, Auschwitz concentration camp and more. Then fly to Israel, where we will learn about the struggle for the Jewish state against all odds and see how our covenant-keeping God has restored His Land and people of Israel. Tour includes the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Israel.

*\*Option to extend Israel component.*

### EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

January 29–February 9, 2023

Hosted by: **Rev. Don & Victoria James**

Join us as we travel through Israel and experience firsthand the wonder and beauty of the Land of the Bible.

*\*Special rates for pastors and their spouses.*

## United States

### PASTORS STUDY TOUR

Date: January 23, 2023–  
February 2, 2023

Hosted by: **Randy Alonso**

Calling all pastors! We are happy to announce a wonderful and educational opportunity for you. This unique study tour will bring you up close and personal to the Land of the Bible. You will be enriched with knowledge and experience that will broaden the scope of your understanding and ministry. This opportunity is available to pastors and one companion, including a family member or a colleague.

For more details on tours, see contact information on page 2.

VOLUNTEER  
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### Administrative Assistant

The position requires someone skilled in administration and organization. Experience with Microsoft Office Suite will be helpful. (Long-term)

### Chinese Language Translator

Fluency in both English and Mandarin is essential to translate teaching resources into Chinese. Communication and administration skills are required. This volunteer position will be based in Israel. (Long-term)

### Graphic Designer

Creative skills in graphic design and desktop publishing with Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and WordPress experience preferred. Ability to maintain fast-paced deadline schedule to produce quality material. Position also includes administrative and logistical component. (Long-term)

### Home Repair Team

Position requires the ability to do general repairs and maintenance in BFP facilities as well as home repairs in the Jewish community. We are looking for people with general handyman skills. (Long-term)

### Journalist

Works in our news department, writing both hard and soft news stories for publication on our website as well as feature stories for the *Dispatch from Jerusalem*. English proficiency required. (Long-term)

### Proofreader

Position requires excellent command of English grammar and an eye for detail as you correct typographical errors and edit documents. Solid knowledge of Microsoft Word, including track changes, is crucial. (Long-term)

### Web Developer

Experienced WordPress web developer to provide front-end and back-end programming concepts and concerns, including security and structure. (Long-term)

*The pandemic has left us short-staffed and in need of both long- and short-term volunteers to fill the gap. Join our team of volunteers in Israel to make a difference in the lives of the Israeli people.*

For more information, visit  
[www.bridgesforpeace.com/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com/get-involved/volunteer)





# Shavuot Blintzes

**Nearly every biblical feast** in Israel comes with its own food-related traditions. Some holidays call for abstinence from a food group, while others command fasting altogether. Then there are those that invite you to indulge in special delicacies. *Shavuot* falls in the latter category. On the Feast of Weeks, Israelis dine on all kinds of dairy treats. Nobody can pinpoint the exact reason behind this tradition, but the ambiguity matters

little. For *Shavuot* dinner, tables groan under delectable quiches, mouth-watering salads, flaky cream pastries and cheese-stuffed blintzes.

The blintz came to Israel courtesy of Eastern Europe's Ashkenazi Jewry. It resembles a crepe-like pancake, which is folded around a creamy filling of sweet cheese, fried to golden perfection and served with a tart, fruity topping.

## Ingredients

### For the blintzes:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 egg
- 2 cups milk
- Butter or vegetable oil for frying

### For the filling:

- 16 oz. (450 g.) mascarpone
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- ¼ cup sugar

### For the topping:

- 2 apples
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. honey

## Directions

### For the topping:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C).
2. Core and cut the apples into bite-sized chunks and spread evenly on a baking tray.
3. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the butter and honey until the butter is melted.
4. Pour the butter and honey mixture over the apple chunks.
5. Roast for 40 minutes until golden brown.

### For the filling:

1. Combine all the filling ingredients to form a smooth, fluffy mixture.

### For the blintzes:

1. Blend the flour, egg and milk together to form a smooth batter.
2. Heat up a greased frying pan over medium heat until hot.
3. Pour approximately 1/4 cup of batter into the pan, tilting the pan in a circular motion until a thin layer of batter covers the entire bottom of the pan.
4. Cook for approximately 60 seconds until golden brown.
5. Using a spatula, flip the blintz and cook for another 60 seconds on the other side.
6. Slide the cooked blintz onto a plate and set aside.
7. Repeat with the remainder of the batter.

### To assemble:

1. Spoon 1 tsp. of filling onto the edge of a blintz and fold the blintz like an envelope around the filling.
2. Repeat, using the remaining blintzes and filling.
3. Heat up a greased frying pan over medium heat until hot, and fry the blintzes for 60 seconds on each side.
4. Serve warm, topped with roasted apples.

Serves 8

# Jewish Agency Expedites *Aliyah* from Ukraine

**In anticipation** of a massive wave of immigration from Ukraine, the Jewish Agency for Israel launched “Aliyah Express,” a program to expedite the immigration process resulting in thousands of Ukrainian Jewish refugees arriving in Israel.

Since Russia’s onslaught into the country, Jewish Ukrainian refugees began arriving in Israel—4,000 in the first month alone. That number is expected to dramatically increase, especially as the situation worsens. As such, the express program will significantly reduce the timeline for *aliyah* [immigration to Israel] eligibility checks, and with assistance from private donors and foundations, those fleeing the country will be able to board flights to Israel faster.

The Jewish Agency will also assist in absorbing immigrants when they arrive in Israel. Dozens of employees were recruited to assist the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration with housing new immigrants in hotels upon their arrival, as well as working with an emergency program to enroll young Ukrainians in Masa, a program co-founded by the Jewish Agency.

Following a request from the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency is also helping establish a situation room to coordinate organizations working on the ground in the region.



“The Jewish Agency continues to be at the forefront of *aliyah* mobilization efforts, in particular when it comes to Ukrainian refugees,” said its acting chairman and chairman of the World Zionist Organization Yaakov Haguel. “Combining our organization’s forces with other formidable bodies that facilitate *aliyah* will help resolve this emergency crisis facing Ukrainian Jewry. Now, they can be rescued and absorbed much faster so they can settle into their new home in Israel.”

At the onset of the Russian invasion, the Jewish Agency sprang into action and mobilized humanitarian and rescue operations in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Moldova. These facilities have housed more than 8,000 refugees so far.

“Seeing the Jewish world come together the way it has on behalf of Ukrainian Jewry is truly amazing,” said Amira Ahronoviz, CEO and director-general of the Jewish Agency. “Our operations are made possible by donations of tens of millions of dollars from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), Keren Hayesod and friends of Israel from around the world.”

Bridges for Peace is one of many Christian organizations who have also joined with the Jewish Agency and Keren HaYesod to help bring the Jewish people home to Israel.

*Jewish News Syndicate*

## Successful Testing of ‘Naval Iron Dome’

**Israel has completed** a series of live-fire tests of the naval version of its Iron Dome missile defense system, called “C-Dome,” according to the Israeli Defense Ministry.

The crew of the *INS Magen*, one of Israel’s new Sa’ar 6-class missile corvettes, led the tests, which simulated various advanced threat scenarios, including rockets, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. Development of “C-Dome” was led by the Israel Missile Defense Organization [IMDO] in Israel’s Defense Ministry. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz lauded the tests, calling them “unprecedented.”

“The systems that we are developing as part of Israel’s multitier missile defense array enable us to operate against Iranian proxies in the region and defend against their weapon systems, which are constantly being upgraded. We continue to be two steps ahead of them, and we will continue developing and upgrading our capabilities in order to maintain security superiority in the region and to defend the citizens and assets of the State of Israel,” he said, according to the statement.

IMDO Director Moshe Patel said, “Today we mark another historic milestone for the Iron Dome defense system—the completion of a series of successful offshore tests of the missile defense system onboard a naval vessel.”

The system had accurately identified rockets, cruise missiles and drones, he said, and intercepted them with “surgical precision.”

“The success of these tests further strengthens our confidence in our missile defense systems as well as the ability of the Israeli Navy to defend the maritime assets of the State of Israel,” said Patel.

*Jewish News Syndicate*



# Israel is the 9th Happiest Country in the World

**Israel is the ninth happiest** place in the world to live, according to this year's World Happiness Report.

The 158-page listing for 2022 sees Israel two spots higher than last year and five spots higher than in 2020, when it was ranked at No. 14.

Finland came in first for the fifth year in a row, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands. New Zealand was on the heels of Israel at No. 10.

The report largely focuses on the countries' management of the coronavirus pandemic and citizens' trust in their government and other institutions throughout the crisis.

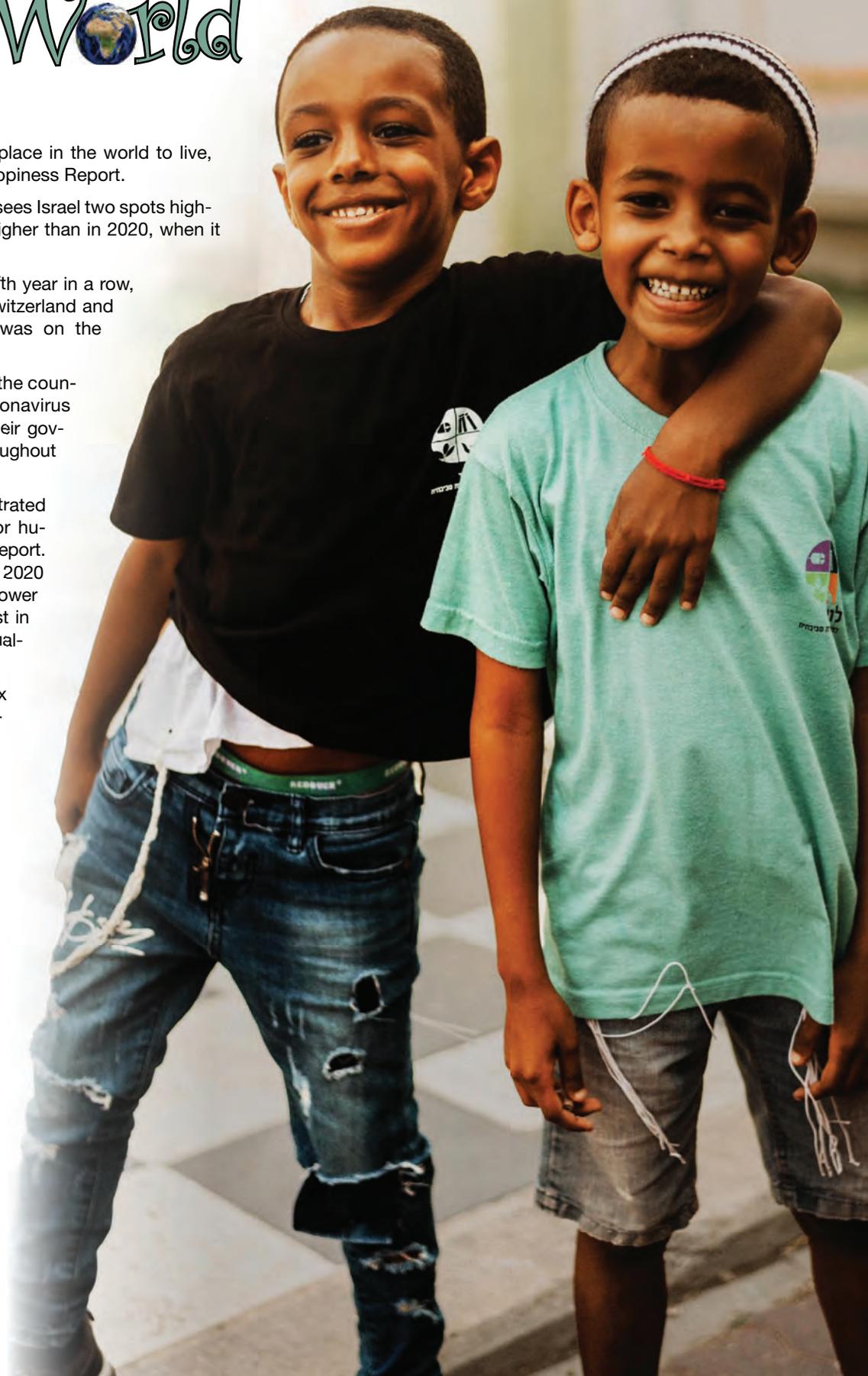
"COVID-19 has also demonstrated the crucial importance of trust for human well-being," noted the report. "Deaths from COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021 have been markedly lower in those countries with higher trust in public institutions and where inequality is lower."

For the first time, the index also evaluated the happiness content of printed text, including on social media, through the use of machine learning.

The report analyzes several factors to rank countries. These include a country's GDP, citizens' life expectancy, trust in institutions and perceptions of corruption, the ability for people to exert their freedoms, and the overall experience of balance and harmony.

This is the 10th anniversary of the report, a program of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It is written by a group of independent experts.

*Jewish News  
Syndicate*



# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:** Bring joy into the lives of people who have suffered so much. Partner with us to deliver food and supplies to Holocaust survivors to ensure their basic needs are met. More than providing food, we bring joy and companionship to these precious people, even including special birthday baskets as an extra treat for their special day.

**WIDOWS AND ORPHANS:** God is described as a champion of the *“fatherless and the widow”* in Deuteronomy 10:18, and He invites us in Isaiah 1:17 to partner with Him to *“defend the fatherless”* and *“plead for the widow.”* We help care for these people who are often unable to care for themselves. Help us provide food parcels to help make ends meet and put food on empty tables.

**FOOD:** You can help feed over 22,000 needy Israelis in 40 communities every month by supporting our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel.

**ADOPTION:** Sponsor an Israeli individual or family for one year and become personally connected by exchanging letters. Your gift will provide food, bus tickets, financial assistance for special needs and badly needed encouragement.

**FEED A CHILD:** Change the future for an impoverished Israeli child by providing hot lunches at school, birthday and holiday gifts, school books, a backpack filled with supplies and funds for special needs (sponsorship program). One-time gifts allow us to enhance the schools with computer labs, modern playgrounds, improved facilities and more.

**ADOPT AN ISRAELI TOWN:** Show compassion to needy families by supporting one of 20 Israeli towns that are experiencing severe economic hardship. We work with community officials across Israel to ensure that those in need are fed.

**PROJECT RESCUE:** We help the Jewish people of the Diaspora return to Israel. Your financial assistance helps pay for passports, visas, ground transportation, lodging and more. Thus far we have helped rescue over 83,000 people.

**PROJECT TIKVAH (HOPE):** Support the elderly and sick who cannot immigrate to Israel. Your gifts fund soup kitchens that provide hot, nutritious meals; heaters for the winter season for those living in unheated quarters; emergency medical assistance and more.

**IMMIGRANT WELCOME GIFTS:** Welcome new immigrants to Israel with a large gift package that includes a kitchen set of pans and utensils, blankets, school kits for children and

a 1-volume Hebrew–Russian or 2-volume Hebrew–Spanish edition of the Hebrew Scriptures.

**CRISIS ASSISTANCE FUND:** Your gifts enable us to respond quickly to crisis situations. These may include critical needs, such as bomb shelters, ambulances or help for emergency situations, such as terror-motivated arson attacks and more.

**HOME REPAIR:** Teams of skilled construction workers renovate homes of the poor and elderly in dire conditions, fixing leaky plumbing, replacing broken windows, painting, plastering, rewiring and installing cabinets.

**VICTIMS OF TERROR:** We deliver special cheer baskets to anyone touched by terrorism. Special needs, such as wheelchairs, food vouchers and financial assistance for medical bills are provided for those in long-term rehabilitation.

**DENTAL/MEDICAL AID:** Bring back smiles to the faces of the poor. Israeli health insurance does not cover dental care or special medical needs. This fund helps the needy cover those expenses.

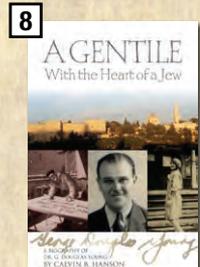
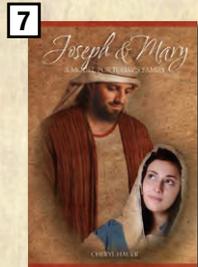
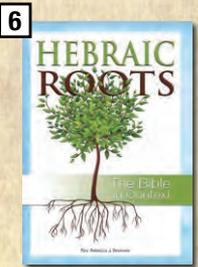
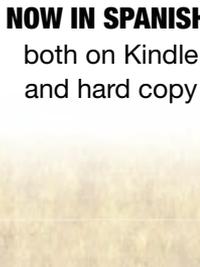
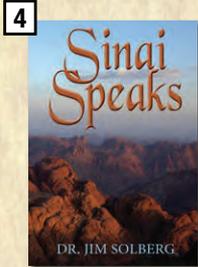
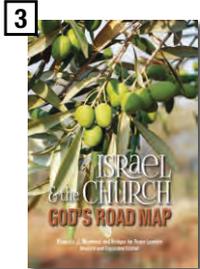
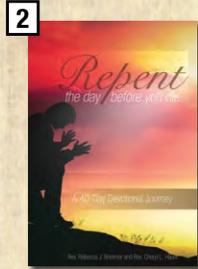
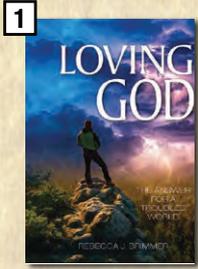


*Break forth into joy, sing together,  
you waste places of Jerusalem! For  
the LORD has comforted His people,  
He has redeemed Jerusalem.*

Isaiah 52:9



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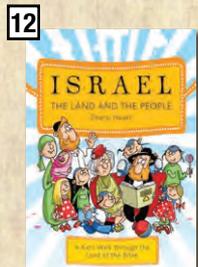
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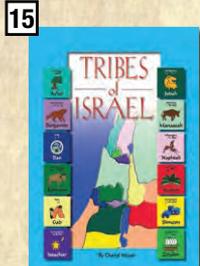
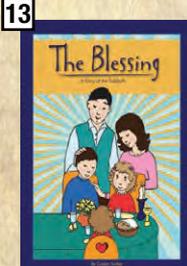
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