

CANADIAN
Communiqué

FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc. Vol. 14.3 Spring 2017





A NOTE FROM STEVE

This issue of the *Communiqué* focuses on messaging. I'm not talking about texting—the type of messaging we use on our smartphones. The messaging I'm talking about concerns God's message to people. We call it good news. In Canada, The Friends of Israel is focused on our Mission statement, which contains the phrase communicating [or messaging] biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah. We are interested in messaging—sharing God's eternal truth—with everyone we meet. Larry Mitchell provides us with a wonderful how-to example. Larry wanted to help his friend Paul by answering Paul's questions about biblical prophecy. As a result, on his own, Paul embraced God's message of hope through the Person of Jesus.

John and Dorothy McKim message

their love for Israel and the Jewish people by volunteering at a museum and synagogue. And their message is loud and clear, for how else can we explain all the invitations they receive to attend Bar Mitzvahs and circumcisions? The McKims' love bridges a cultural divide and enables them to explain Christianity to their friends, as well as its relationship to biblical Judaism.

John Plantz tells us that, just as diamonds need to be evaluated by their context, so, too, do the Scriptures. We need to immerse ourselves in God's Word because we don't know when God will use us to message other people, whoever they are.

Richard Toviah provides an ordered, detailed compilation of God messaging us regarding our need for Him in our individual lives. Though these verses



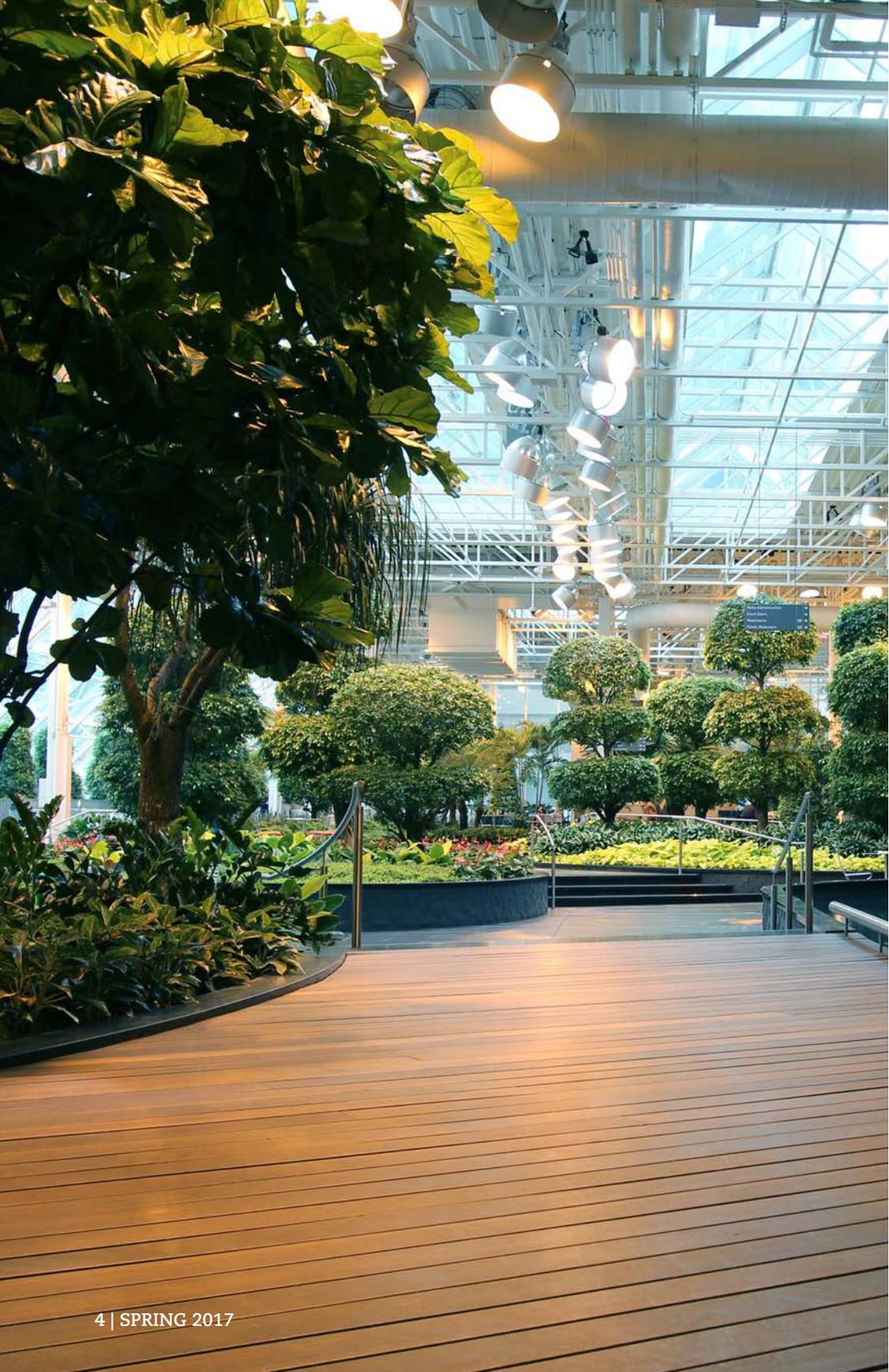
were all in my Jewish Bible in 1975, not all of them were familiar to me. Yet after reading them then and speaking with several people who, like me, were interested in God's message, I realized I lacked a personal relationship with the Almighty.

As you read these articles, please bear in mind we are all in the business of messaging. Our goal is to message God's love to everyone we meet. Take to heart these short examples in the *Communiqué* and allow them to encourage you to share God's unfailing and redeeming love.

If you would like to read Steve Herzig's full testimony, you can have it sent to your email. Simply go to gofoi.org/steveherzig and sign up.

Steve Herzig is the director of FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.





MY FRIEND PAUL

I met Paul several years ago in the Devonian Gardens. He came from a Ukrainian-Jewish family that had converted to Roman Catholicism when they immigrated to Canada. He told me he was an agnostic and had no interest in talking about the Bible.

It didn't take long for me to learn Paul was obsessed with conspiracy theories. He believed secret, elite societies were working to destroy our liberties and bring in the New World Order. His fascination with these theories became a natural springboard to talk about Bible prophecy. Paul was surprised to learn the books of Daniel and Revelation teach about Satan's conspiracy to rule the world through a counterfeit messiah, the Antichrist, who will merge all nations into a one-world government.

That first talk opened the door to many talks. Paul made it clear he did not want the Bible crammed down his throat. I didn't blame him, which is why we never teach God's Word

that way. But he asked me to explain what the Bible said about the last days. Often these unofficial Bible studies lasted more than an hour. Paul's interest in Scripture would have put most Bible-believing Christians to shame. As our study would come to an end, he would thank me for not preaching at him.

This went on for several years. Then one day, out of the blue, Paul telephoned me, announcing he had received Jesus as his Messiah.

I had several years to minister to him. He never joined a church, but on more than one occasion I observed Paul sharing his faith with others. There was no doubt he loved the Lord.

Paul had Type 2 diabetes. He did not take proper care of his medical condition, and I wasn't surprised when the hospital called me, telling me Paul had been admitted and wanted me to visit. I learned one of his feet had become gangrenous, and unless he let the doctors amputate it, he had only a few days

to live. I continued to visit him in the hospital. His death came much quicker than the doctors anticipated. He died of a heart attack in the middle of the night.

Before he died, I was able to locate his brother Ben. They had not been close, but Ben visited Paul the evening before Paul passed away, and I believe their relationship was restored. I helped Ben clean Paul's apartment afterward, and the family asked me to conduct the memorial service. I shared how Paul had come to know the Lord and explained that I will see my friend again in heaven.

I had visited Paul shortly before he passed away. His last words to me were, "I just wish Jesus would take me to heaven." Jesus, ever faithful and merciful, granted him the desire of his heart.

Larry Mitchell
is the Calgary,
Alberta, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



BUILDING BRIDGES

Over the years we have become friends with a number of Israeli immigrants in our community. Some we met because we volunteer at the Jewish museum and synagogue.

We try to help them any way we can, and they have reciprocated by inviting us to Bar Mitzvahs, circumcisions, and many special events at the synagogue. They've even invited us into their homes, as we invite them into ours or to go out to eat or meet for coffee somewhere.

We do not hide the fact that we are Bible-believing Christians because we feel it's important to be honest—which has prompted our friends to ask questions that

lead to wonderful times of discussion and dialogue. Questions such as "What is your viewpoint on Abraham and Isaac?" from Genesis 22 or "You cannot know God—He is transcendent." In discussing these issues, we share what we believe.

We have been delighted to learn that many of our friends are reading the articles we put on Facebook that explain what we as Christians believe from the Bible. One family now refers to me as "Chief Rabbi." Another woman commented, "We know you are Christian folk and we do have our differences, but we consider you a part of our synagogue family."

When we invited

friends from the Jewish community to a celebration of Israel's birthday, 40 people came, along with three members of the Jewish Council. Later, when one of our family members became seriously ill, some asked me if they could pray at their Sabbath service the *Refuah Shleimah* (complete recovery prayer). That was very special to us. These friendships are built on trust and respect, and these people are extremely dear to us.

John McKim is the Saint John, New Brunswick, field representative for FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.





CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING

On our February 2017 *Up to Jerusalem* tour we visited the Caprice diamond showroom in Tiberias, Israel. Our guide explained the four C's of a diamond: cut, color, clarity, and carat. Then he added, "Context is everything." Two diamonds of equal carat weight can have very different prices based on cut, color, and clarity. If you focus on one of the C's without considering all of them, you miss the diamond's true worth.

Just as a diamond needs to be evaluated by its context, reading and interpreting the Bible need to be evaluated in context, as well. When reading the Scriptures, we have four factors to consider: historical setting, literal meaning, original audience, and understanding the then and now. With help from the Holy Spirit, we must examine all of these aspects to understand fully what God wants us to see in His Word.

To share the gospel with our friends, we need to study the Scriptures carefully ourselves. We also need an accurate understanding of the culture we are reaching out to in order to share the gospel effectively.

Second Timothy 3:15–17 says, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ [Messiah] Jesus. All

Scripture [content] is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine [concepts], for reproof, for correction [context], for instruction [context] in righteousness [characteristics]: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

When we consider the historical setting, literal meaning, and original audience, we can see the context as it relates to the culture of that day. Jesus clearly used context to explain things like the sower and the seed (Mt. 13:1–9), the condition of the hypocrites' hearts by pointing to a white-washed sepulcher (23:27–28), the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11–18), and the Light of the world (8:12).

Only by examining these four factors can we understand what Scripture meant then and how we can apply it now. Our job as believers in Jesus is never finished. We must learn, then tell! And we can do that job better by seeing that context is everything!

John Plantz is
the Winnipeg,
Manitoba,
Church Ministries
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



TWO TESTAMENTS ONE HIGHWAY

Did you know God's plan of salvation is the same in the Hebrew Scriptures as it is in the New Testament? I have taught these Scriptures to people everywhere—from Scottsdale, Arizona, to the streets of New York and Chicago. God's Word makes it clear that everyone is a sinner; good deeds cannot remove sin; and eternal life comes only through faith in God's Son (Prov. 30:4).

1) All Have Sinned Before God:

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

2) The Consequence for Sin Is Death:

Genesis 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Psalms 2:10–12

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be

instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Who Is the Son?

3) Atonement Through the Messiah:

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Daniel 9:26

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.

Isaiah 53:4–5

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 48:16

Come near to Me, hear this: I have not

ENTS, TO HEAVEN

spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.

Isaiah 48:17

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God.

Isaiah 52:10

The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

4) Eternal Life Given by the Messiah:

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Isaiah 53:10-12

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see

His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

Become familiar with these and other verses, if you wish to share your faith. If nothing else, learn to share how God worked in your life when you placed your faith in Jesus.

5) Is God Calling? Here Is a Response:

Admit you are a sinner and need to repent.

Admit you deserve the punishment of death for your sins, as we all do.

Place your trust in Messiah Jesus, who shed His blood to provide everlasting life and atonement through His death and resurrection.

Confess in your heart and believe by faith, calling on the name of the Lord for salvation in prayer, inviting the Lord Yeshua to come into your life.

Richard Toviah
is the Winnipeg,
Manitoba, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



A MINUTE WITH MENO

Every school holiday that gives the children more than a week off is when we conduct a camp for the church youth group. Camp usually involves up to 70 people, including youth and leaders.

This winter we camped in Wadi Zeelim, four kilometers north of Masada. On the first evening, we set up camp—tents, electric generator, chemical toilets, hand-washing facilities, and the big fellowship tent.

Anyone looking from afar would have thought it was a military encampment. As we finished, a stormy wind tore through our campsite, ripping apart three tents. Anything that wasn't hooked tightly to the ground was gone with the wind. The kids learned the desert is not merely sand and sun. It can be a treacherous place. Thank God, we came with spare parts and extra tents, just in case.

What was on our agenda?

1. Bible teaching
2. Desert trips

3. Fellowship

The teaching topic was the life of Elijah. We went through the book of 1 Kings and learned the lessons God is teaching us through that great prophet.

Each day we had two main lessons of about an hour each and a morning devotional from the book of Proverbs (the chapters set as the day of the month).

During the day, we walked in the desert, usually to a spring somewhere within the dry land. It's amazing to see how much water resides in a desert. The youngsters got a taste of God's grace to those living in such arid conditions—animals included.

These trips involve much walking, sometimes on narrow paths where the margin of mistake is zero. In such places, all the guides lead each child by the hand to make sure that all are safe.

You may wonder why we bring chemical toilets, along with the unique accessories to wash our

hands?

Actually, we rented three toilet cabinets that a company transported to our campsite. Some of our young people prefer privacy, and we honor that request. Some would not come on the trip if we did not provide a way to maintain proper hygiene. We want to make it easier for all to participate. When they know the price we pay to make it easier for them, they are sure we love them.

When the kids come back from the desert walking trip, a hot dinner is waiting for them. Our volunteers prepare a hot, tasty meal, and the kids finish everything in no time.

The evening then is dedicated to the Bible lesson and games.

People often ask me what the cost is for each child to attend such a camp. The answer: Zero! The church pays the bill.

Each family gives to the church according to its economic ability and its spiritual maturity. The rest is paid by the church. In this way all

the children can enjoy the outings, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

Why?

1. The youth activities play an important role in the children's decision to follow God. Many times when we hear their testimonies, they involve a lesson or a ministry that is related to the camps. Though God is the one who saves, salvation comes from hearing the

gospel and accepting it in faith. During the camps, the youngsters get a big dose of teaching and Christian testimony from their guides.

2. It costs 100 times more to bring a wayward child back to the church than to keep him or her in the church.

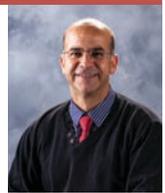
We do not print money, we simply see how God is faithful to His Word and to His children.

Right now we have no

details on how the last camp changed anyone's life. We may know more later. Now we merely plant seeds. Only God can give the increase.

Blessings,
Meno

Meno Kalisher
is the pastor
of Jerusalem
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THE BOOK OF DANIEL

God's Revelation for Our Times



27th annual Winnipeg Prophecy Conference
Hosted by The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry

All seemed lost for the Jewish people. They were exiled to a foreign land, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Temple lay in ruins. Yet even in one of Israel's darkest moments, God raised up a prophet—Daniel—to give His people hope and to model how a servant of the Lord can live righteously in a wicked world. Join us as we study the book of Daniel and apply its truths to our lives.

September 28-30, 2017

9:00 am–9:00 pm

Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre
1808 Wellington Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0G3

For more information, visit foi.org/events
or call 1-888-664-2584 or 905-457-6830



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