

CANADIAN *Communiqué*

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A view of the
Dead Sea.



A NOTE FROM STEVE

“No place like it in the world.” That is what I often hear from folks who have traveled to Israel with FOI. I could not agree more.

I first visited Israel in 1982. Convinced it would be my only trip, my goal was to swim in every body of water I could. I swam in the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and the Dead Sea. It was indeed a trip of a lifetime, but by God’s grace I have visited Israel at least 25 times since that trip.

This issue of the *Canadian Communiqué* provides an inside look at the unique Land of Israel. It is the Land where Jesus was born, died, and rose again. It is the Land of the only democratic nation in the entire Middle East. And it is the Land God chose to give to the Jewish people—the people whom He loves and whom we should also love.

As this issue arrives in your mailbox, our first FOI Canada *Up to Jerusalem* tour is probably touring the Land of Israel. So, if you’re not on that trip, grab a cup of coffee, sit back, relax, and take a short tour of Israel with us.

Larry Mitchell will walk you around the Sea of Galilee, the place where much of Jesus’ ministry took place. John McKim will tell you about the wonders of modern Israel, which many call the “Silicon Valley” of the Middle East because of its advanced technological innovation. John Plantz will inform you about Israel’s capital, Jerusalem, the “city of peace.” Finally, Richard Toviah will share how visiting Israel impacted the lives of two young adults from Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia who participated in FOI’s ORIGINS trip.

We have already begun planning our



2018 FOI Canada *Up to Jerusalem* trip, and we would love for you to join us. Our tour provides a unique blend of visiting the sites of ancient Israel while also experiencing the beauty, comfort, and taste of modern Israel. Our guides are second to none, and our staff members are experienced travelers to Israel.

And—for the first time ever—we are offering two free trips to Israel! Through our **Canada2Israel contest**, we will select two winners to send on our 2018 FOI Canada *Up to Jerusalem* trip for free. To enter, write a 650-word essay on why you love Israel and the Jewish people. The contest ends July 1, 2017.

There is no place in the world like

Israel. Whether you are Jewish, Christian, or both, answer the call of your heart to visit the only place the Lord Himself called “the Holy Land” (Zech. 2:12).

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



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A boat on the
Sea of Galilee.

Walking Where



Jesus Walked

The Galilee is a mountainous region in northern Israel near the Sea of Galilee, also called Lake Kinneret, Israel's largest body of fresh water. The lake is pear-shaped and extends 21 kilometres from north to south and 11 kilometres from east to west.

During the time of Jesus, many Jewish people despised the region of Galilee because of its many Gentile inhabitants. They viewed its citizens as uneducated and backward. Such contempt is evident in the Pharisees' rebuke of Nicodemus in the Gospel of John: "Are you also from Galilee? Search, and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee" (Jn. 7:52).

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a city in Galilee that is only a few kilometres from the Sea of Galilee. There, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell

her she would give birth to Jesus (Lk. 1:26). Jesus grew up, worked, and went to the synagogue in Nazareth (2:39–40; 4:16).

Jesus eventually moved to another city in Galilee called Capernaum, which became His home during His ministry years (Mt. 4:13). There, He healed a Roman officer's servant and the apostle Peter's mother-in-law (8:5–15). He preached the Sermon on the Mount in a natural amphitheater just west of the city (chaps. 5–7).

Most of Jesus' recorded miracles took place in Galilee. He changed water into wine (Jn. 2:1–12). He fed 5,000 people supernaturally by multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish and later performed the same miracle for 4,000 (6:1–14; Mt. 15:32–39). He walked upon water on the Sea of Galilee and calmed the storm (Mt. 14:22–33).

And He healed many who were sick and demon possessed (4:23–25).

I encourage you to visit the region of Galilee on our 2018 FOI Canada trip to Israel. We will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, visit the recreated Nazareth village to see how people lived during the time of Jesus, see Capernaum, and stop by the Jordan River to see where Jesus was baptized.

I believe visiting the Holy Land will change your life forever and make your reading of the Bible all the richer. Why not prayerfully consider joining us for our "down to Galilee" trip on our *Up to Jerusalem* tour to Israel?

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



JERUSALEM

The joy of the whole earth



Of all the places I've visited in the world, the city of Jerusalem stands out the most. It is the eternal capital of Israel, the Land God gave to the Jewish people for an everlasting possession. Scripture calls it "the city of the great King" and "the joy of the whole earth" (Ps. 48:2).

I first traveled to Jerusalem in 1992, but my desire to visit Israel began long before then. It started when I was in fifth grade during geography class. The teacher pointed out countries on a map and told us a little bit about each one. I noticed the word *Israel* in a body of water and asked about it. The country was so small even the name of it could not fit on the map's land plot. The teacher told

me, "Israel is a country, but you don't need to know anything about it."

I went home that day and told my mom, "Someday I am going to Israel!"

I have now been to Israel 20 times. Our 2017 FOI Canada tour will be my 21st trip.

Jerusalem is special to God. In Ezekiel 5:5, God said "This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her." In 2 Kings 21:4, He said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." Jesus also expressed His love for Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37).

Jerusalem has 4,000 years of recorded history. The Bible first mentions the city when it refers to Melchizedek as the "king of Salem" (Gen. 14:18). Soon



after, Scripture gives the account of Abraham's offering of Isaac on Mount Moriah, not far from where Jesus later fulfilled the prophetic picture through His sacrificial death.

God commanded the Jewish people to observe Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. When Jesus celebrated Passover in Jerusalem with His disciples, He explained that the unleavened bread and wine symbolized His body and blood that He would soon shed on the cross for their sins.

Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected in Jerusalem. After His resurrection, He told His disciples to preach the gospel throughout the world, starting in Jerusalem. Then He ascended from

Jerusalem into heaven.

Jesus will likewise return to the city of Jerusalem at His Second Coming, where He will finally judge the nations that seek to destroy Israel. Until that time, Jerusalem will remain the subject of international dispute and disdain. But those of us who love God and love the city He loves will continue to support the Jewish nation. Won't you consider joining us on our 2018 trip *Up to Jerusalem?*

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



MOVING FORWARD

Most travelers to the Holy Land anticipate visiting Israel's ancient biblical sites, but few anticipate the wonders they will discover in modern Israel. From Mount Herzl, to Yad Vashem, to the Silicon Valley's hub of Israeli innovations—modern Israel has much to offer.

Mount Herzl, or *Har ha-Zikaron* (Mount of Remembrance), is a site of major national significance for Israel. Located on the west side of Jerusalem, it is home to Israel's National Civil Cemetery, where many of Israel's deceased national leaders are buried; the National Military Cemetery, the main burial ground for the Israel Defence Forces; the National Garden; and many museums and education centres such as the Herzl Museum, Yad Vashem, and the Zionism Studies Centre.

Yad Vashem is Israel's official memorial

museum to the 6 million Jews who were slaughtered in the Holocaust. Located on the western slope of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, it offers the world's ultimate source for Holocaust education, documentation, and research.

Technological innovations. Although one of the smallest nations in the world, Israel is leading the way in scientific and technological innovation. Silicon Valley (Hebrew, Silicon Wadi), located in the country's coastal plain, houses much of the nation's high-tech industries. The following highlight a few of Israel's recent groundbreaking inventions:

ReWalk. In 2011, Israeli Amit Goffer invented ReWalk, a device that allows paraplegics to walk again. ReWalk's battery-powered exoskeleton system uses motion-sensing technology to power motorized legs

to create natural walking movements for the paraplegic.

Video Synopsis. Hebrew University of Jerusalem Prof. Shmuel Peleg developed a new video technology called Video Synopsis, now marketed by BriefCam. Video Synopsis, according to Briefcam.com, "summarizes hours of events into a 'brief' to extract maximum value from video for safety, security and productivity." Investigators of the Boston Marathon bombing used this technology to help identify the terrorists.

I encourage you to come on our 2018 FOI Canada tour to see modern Israel while also soaking in the rich biblical history of ancient Israel.

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



WHILE LOOKING BACK

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Alisha and Andrew (with his wife Erin, center) visit Jerusalem on ORIGINS.



A NEW GENERATION'S LOVE

ORIGINS (Our Resolve Is Giving Israel Never-ending Support) is a life-changing trip through FOI where young adults go to Israel to serve the Jewish people. Recently, Andrew Gottselig from Regina, Saskatchewan, and Alisha Ardern from Halifax, Nova Scotia, shared with me their experiences on the trip.

What is ORIGINS?

Andrew: Young, passionate servants of Christ ages 18 to 28 traveling to Israel to serve the Jewish people in a hospital. Along the way, they experience and discover the amazing Holy Land.

Alisha: Young adults who love the people of Israel spend two weeks working side by side with Israelis at Kaplan Medical Centre in Rehovot.

What has been your involvement and experience with ORIGINS?

Andrew: My time with ORIGINS created lifelong friendships. We showed the love of Christ to these folks day in day out. It was an incredible and humbling opportunity.

Alisha: We cleaned walls, stairwells, floors, storage rooms, and many other areas. It was such an amazing

experience to walk down the hallways of the hospital and see people's joy to know we were serving and supporting them in such a way.

Can you share your main highlights from the trip?

Andrew: For me, it was the relationships I built with various Jewish people throughout the trip. It was also amazing to see the Land that our Lord Jesus walked in.

Alisha: There were many great memories on the trip. We attended services on Shabbat (Sabbath) with local believers and heard three different languages all worshipping the one true God. We were welcomed on Friday night (Shabbat) into the homes of people who work in the hospital, and we were able to explain why we wanted to come to Israel and



**Andrew and Erin
with a Kaplan
Medical Centre
employee.**

show how much we love and support God's people.

mentally, physically, and spiritually, but it is totally worth it!

Who can participate in ORIGINS?

Andrew: Anyone ages 18 to 28 who is passionate about serving Jesus and His people. It is an amazing experience. It is a great way to become grounded in your faith and experience the most important Land in the world—where

How can anyone get involved?

Andrew: Contact FOI. Just as our Lord Jesus came to Earth to serve us, so we must serve others. This trip is a great application in that regard. My experience there was amazing and something I will remember for a very long time.

Alisha cleans a
stairwell at Kaplan
Medical Centre.**



If you are older than 28, don't fret. FOI has another program just for you called Hesed. To find out more information about our service trips to Israel, go online to foi.org/tours; or call our office at 1-888-664-2584.

everything began and where everything will finish.

Alisha: Any young adult who has a desire to serve God and His people would love this trip. It will totally take you out of your comfort zone and challenge you

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



A MINUTE WITH MENO

Director's Note: We are excited to add "A Minute With Meno" in the Canadian Communiqué. Meno Kalisher is the son of the late Zvi Kalisher, Holocaust survivor and longtime contributor to Israel My Glory. Meno is the featured speaker this year at the FOI Winnipeg Prophecy Conference. He will provide a fresh, boots-on-the-ground perspective of ministry in Israel. One minute is a short time, but one minute with Meno will provide a full blessing.

I am often asked, "How do you reach Jewish people with the gospel in Israel since there is so much opposition to your ministry?" You are correct in that Jewish people openly oppose the idea that Jesus is the Messiah. Family and friends ridicule anyone who believes in Jesus.

In fact, believers in Jesus can be fired from their jobs. Women are harassed in the marketplace, and children face opposition in school. If we tried to reach Jewish people one-on-one by witnessing in the streets, we would receive great opposition.

Technology has opened a great avenue for us to impact the lives of Jewish people in Israel and throughout the world. On YouTube and Facebook, we touch thousands of lives instantly. Here is an example of how we do it: In a recent 90-second video clip, we explained that the New Testament is not what the rabbis

say about it, but it actually contains hundreds of God's promises to Israel. We offered the New Testament free of charge to anyone who would ask for one.

Within only two weeks, 127,000 people watched the video clip, and more than a hundred people ordered copies of the New Testament. Most Jewish people are afraid to order the New Testament and receive it in their mailboxes; so we offer an online option for people to read it on our website from their computers, smartphones, or tablets.

It costs our church five cents for every person who views the video, and so far our budget has covered the expense. We praise God so many people are viewing it. Some email or call us and want to meet with us to discuss it. Others send us questions, and we answer online. Still others request free literature that we advertise on the website.

During the two weeks of Passover in spring 2016, I launched another evangelistic video on YouTube. That short video reached more than 170,000 viewers. A few viewers ordered copies of the New Testament, and many more are reading the material we put on our Yeshua website (Hebrew website).

We are currently working on a set of video clips that will feature Jesus as the Messiah. It demands much of our time, effort, manpower, and wisdom to put videos together in a way that will get Israelis to watch and respond. Please pray for these projects. In so doing, you will take part in this evangelistic outreach, and our fruit will be your fruit too.

Meno Kalisher is the pastor of Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption in Jerusalem, Israel





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