

CANADIAN *Communiqué*

FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.

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A NOTE FROM STEVE

FOI Gospel Ministry exists because of the faithful prayers and gifts from friends like you. That is why we have started an Advancement ministry in Canada.

Advancement ministry is designed to let us thank you personally for collaborating with us to communicate biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah while fostering solidarity with the Jewish people.

We are excited to announce the appointment of Steve Weir to our Advancement department.

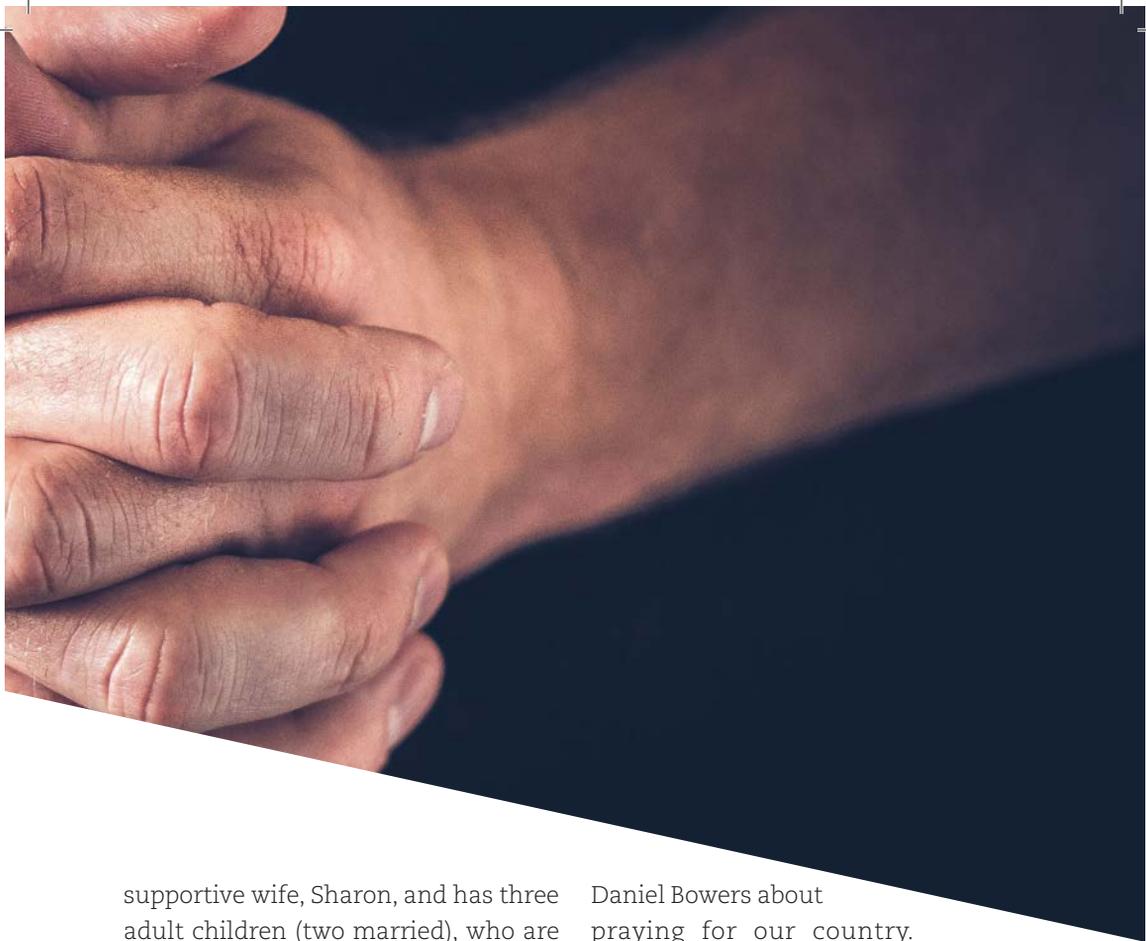
Steve will be reaching out to you, our constituency, through email, phone calls, and personal visits to share what the Lord is doing through FOI Gospel Ministry. He will relate happenings you don't read about on the pages of *Israel My Glory* magazine or the *Canadian*

Communiqué. He will tell you about upcoming initiatives at FOI and ask you to come alongside us and prayerfully consider supporting these projects.

Our desire in bringing Steve onboard is to get to know you better. The more you know about FOI Gospel Ministry and what we are doing, the more likely you are to draw closer to us. And together, we can accomplish much on behalf of our Saviour.

Born in Ontario as the youngest of five children, Steve was raised in a very loving Christian home. After seminary he pastored in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario over a 15-year period. He then spent seven years as a financial advisor and the past five years working in Advancement in the Christian non-profit sector.

He is married (30+ years) to his very



supportive wife, Sharon, and has three adult children (two married), who are all serving the Lord.

He will endeavour to minister to you, our dear friends, who support FOI Gospel Ministry through your prayers and gifts. He welcomes the opportunity to have a cup of tea or coffee with you and share the message of our ministry throughout Canada.

You can reach Steve through our Brampton office or email him at sweir@foi.org. He is ready to be of service to you.

This issue of the *Canadian Communiqué* focuses on prayer. Both Judaism and Christianity highly value prayer. Each of our workers will take a look at different aspects of prayer. We'll start with the big picture; John Plantz will talk about praying for Israel and

Daniel Bowers about praying for our country.

Richard Toviaah will encourage us to pray for our co-labourers in Christ; and Larry Mitchell, on praying for our neighbours. John McKim and Robert Gottselig will consider those close to home, praying for our families, children, and grandchildren.

Our *Communiqués* are now online at foi.org/canada. There we have a special video you can view: Bruce Scott's "Israel at 70," a message he shared at our Winnipeg Prophecy Conference. We hope it blesses you as it has us.



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



How to Pray

The Hebrew Scriptures give us many forms of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, confession, petition, intercession, commitment, forgiveness, confidence, and even benediction. Many of these prayers are addressed to the God of Israel on behalf of Israel. I love the prayer reminder in Psalm 122:6, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” This is the only prayer in the Bible that promises a blessing to the one praying.

King David had many prayers in the Scriptures. In 1 Chronicles 29:10–18, he begins his prayer by acknowledging his God. “Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel, our father, forever and ever.” This is always a good way to start a prayer. He continues in verse 11, “The LORD

is great, powerful, glorious, victorious, and majestic and He is exalted over all,” saying that the Lord is sovereign in all things and worthy to be prayed to because He is faithful and powerful to answer prayer. David concludes by reminding the people of Israel in verse 18, “O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the heart of thy people and prepare their heart unto thee.”

David reminds the people of Israel to remember the lineage they have come from, the covenant that is everlasting, the promise of the seed (Messiah), and lastly, the good news that comes through the Jewish people that would bless the world (Gen. 12:3, 22:18, Gal.

ay for Israel

3:8).

God unites with Israel by calling Himself the Holy One, the Mighty One, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. He has a unique love for this nation. So as we pray, let us also love and unite ourselves with the nation of Israel.

God promises to never abandon the nation Israel (Jer. 31:31–37). May we be like the angels in Revelation 7:11–12, as they are before the throne, and worship God with them saying, “Amen, blessing, and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.” They say this as they witness God’s angels sealing the 144,000 Jewish people

from the 12 tribes of Israel.

Six ways you can pray for Israel:

1. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
2. Pray for the people of Israel to acknowledge their God.
3. Pray for the government of Israel.
4. Pray for their security.
5. Pray for the world to know God’s promise to Israel (Ps. 105:5–11).
6. Pray for Israel’s enemies, that their eyes be opened, so as not to be cursed (Zech. 12:1–4).

by John Plantz,
a Winnipeg,
Manitoba,
Church Ministries
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.





How to Pray for Your COUNTRY

As Christians, our walk with the Lord can sometimes seem like we are doing a balancing act on the end of a needle. This is especially true when it comes to how we relate to our own federal, provincial, and local governments.

Sometimes it's hard to act and react like a Christian, especially when our own government appears to have declared war on our values and beliefs. It can be hard at times to extend grace to the same group of people who appear to no longer see us as friends, but as the enemy. And yet, I believe that extending grace and praying for our federal, provincial, and local governments is exactly what the Bible tells us that we are to do. In Ezekiel 22:30, the Lord says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

More than ever before,

we need men and women who will stand in the gap for God and for the things of God. Standing in the gap can mean many things to different people. In regards to Canada, we can all stand in the gap through prayer. Below is a short Bible study you can do in the quiet of your own home concerning our relationship with our federal, provincial, and local governments.

As Christians, we are commanded to submit ourselves to those in authority over us. One valuable way to submit is to pray for those in authority over us. We may not like the government that is presently in power, but that is really not our concern. Once they have been placed in power, it becomes God's concern.

Does the Bible tell us what our responsibility as Christians is to those who hold governmental authority over us? See the following passages of Scripture and you decide for yourself: 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:7; Romans

13:1; Jeremiah 29:7; and 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Need a scriptural reason to pray for our governmental leaders? Here are five reasons from the Word of God: Psalm 2:10-11; Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 21:1; Job 12:23-25; Proverbs 2:1-8.

I believe it is our responsibility as Christians to lift our leaders up in prayer, regardless of whether or not we like their political agendas. No government is faultless when they are in power. No government can meet the social needs and requirements of its people 100 percent of the time. There will always be governments who are hostile to our Canadian values and beliefs. I believe that our job as Christians is not to openly judge our government leaders but to privately stand in the gap and pray for them.

by Daniel Bowers, a Winnipeg, Manitoba, field representative for FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.





HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR C

During my 18 years of serving in full time ministry, I've been encouraged beyond measure when individuals would tell me that they pray for me at their weekly Bible studies. I remember meeting mature women of faith and hearing how they were upholding my family and me in prayer. What price or value can anyone put on the power of prayer? Pastors and teachers quickly learn how vulnerable and finite we really are as they serve in ministry. Even the apostle Paul had that sense when he wrote, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile, praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for

which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak" (Col. 4:2-4).

Revivals of years past held by great men of faith would give credit to the ones who continued in steadfast prayer for lost souls, that they be open to the gospel, and for the leading of the power of the Holy Spirit. Pastor and theologian A.W. Tozer wrote in *The Set of the Sail*, "In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we have a long list of benefits which faith brings to its possessors: justification, deliverance, fruitfulness, endurance, victory over enemies, courage, strength and even resurrection from the dead. And everything that is attributed to faith might with equal truth be



CO-LABOURERS IN CHRIST

attributed to prayer, for faith and true prayer are like two sides of the same coin. They are inseparable.”

For 2,000 years, so-called Christians have committed much evil against the Jewish people. We are also constantly going against the stream of anti-Semitic sentiment by the world, fighting against principalities and powers in high places that desire destruction for Israel and the Jewish people. Paul warns us of the war we are facing here on Earth. He gives careful instruction on how to enter battle effectively by putting on the whole armour of God. Let us pray this daily for ourselves and our co-labourers in Christ.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:18–20).

by Richard Toviah,
a Winnipeg,
Manitoba, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.





HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS

In Luke 10:25–29, a lawyer and Jesus have a conversation. The lawyer asks Jesus, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answers his question with a question, “What is written in the law? How readest thou?” The lawyer answers, “You shall love God with all your heart, and love your neighbour as yourself.” Jesus replied, “Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.” The lawyer, wishing to justify himself asks, “And who is my neighbour?”

This became a springboard for Jesus to tell the story of the good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30–37). When Jesus spoke these words, people probably knew who their neighbours were. In Jesus’ day, most people lived their entire lives in small, crowded villages. But things in the 20th century have changed that drastically. The automobile has produced a society that has antiquated the concept of a “hometown.”

I left my hometown as soon as I graduated. Only a handful from my graduating class remain there today. I moved to Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Fort McMurray before settling down in Airdrie. I know most of my neighbours on our side of the street. We have been neighbours for many years. But almost everyone commutes to work and so we really don’t know each other on a personal level. If I met some of them on the street, I might not even recognize them! Every morning, I travel to a mall five minutes from my home. I buy a coffee at Tim Hortons then get my daily exercise by trekking the corridors. I have become good friends with many of my co-hikers and vendors. I would consider them more to be my neighbours than those living next to our home.

Recently I did a search for any biblical command on praying for our neighbours. The Bible tells us

to love our neighbours, to look out for them, to treat them fairly. But there are no commands to pray for them. Most of my neighbours, whether on the street or in the mall, are lost. So we have an obligation to pray for their salvation, following the exhortation of Jesus. “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Mt. 9:36–37).

Dr. J. Vernon McGee wrote: “An old bishop in the Methodist church in Georgia years ago said, ‘When a man prays for a corn crop, the Lord expects him to say amen with a hoe.’ I have always believed that you should not pray about anything unless you are also willing to do it yourself.”

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





PRAYER AND THE FAMILY

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning (Lam. 3:22–23).

It was a day like any other to begin with. Our daughter Alison drove our youngest grandson, Micah, to school. Caleb, our oldest grandson, went to work. We (John and Dorothy) were into the first week of vacation when we received a phone call from Alison and Mike (our daughter and son-in-law). They asked if we were sitting down.

It was the phone call no one wants to hear. Mike told us he had gone for blood work that morning due to some shortness of breath and other symptoms he had been experiencing. That same day he was called into his doctor's office, and informed he had acute myeloid leukemia.

The question is: How do you pray in a time like this? The song "The God of the Mountain" puts it this way: "Life is easy when you're up on the mountain, but then things change when you are down in the valley and that's when faith is really put to the test." Mike said, "John, we have to be faithful to God in the bad times as well as the good times." He didn't know then what the outcome would be. We began a prayer chain. Believers from all over the world told us they would indeed hold our family up in prayer for this situation and as a family,

we have surely experienced the power of that prayer. Our dear friends from two Jewish congregations called us to tell us they were praying for Michael for a *Refuah Shleimah*, a full recovery. Also, an Israeli tour guide inserted a prayer into the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

As a family, we have exchanged Scripture verses and hymns with one another. During those long days at the hospital, Alison and Mike read those verses and played the hymns and songs, finding great encouragement from them, and the assurances of prayer from God's dear people.

Although it was Michael who had the leukemia, we as a family have traveled the journey with him, for when one hurts, we all hurt, when one rejoices we all rejoice (Rom. 12:15).

Michael came through the aggressive chemo and his brother was a 100 percent match for his stem cell transplant. He is now well on the road to recovery and told us, "Once again we are humbled at God's goodness and care. We are overwhelmed with an overflowing heart, and thankful God answered prayer."

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





How to Pray CHILDREN & ————— for Your GRANDCHILDREN

As the years pass on in these last days, our world is becoming more and more anti-Christian and the fight for the souls of this nation and our children is at the forefront of the battle. I recently attended a lecture at our local university where Liberation Theology was presented front and center. The speaker presented a stunning misrepresentation of history and Scripture. In the end the true message of why Jesus came and died was unrecognizable due to the allegorical interpretation of God's Word. If you combine this ever-growing twisted theology with evolution being taught in our schools as fact, it should be no surprise to us the situation we're in today. Almost daily I am being reminded that Satan is alive and well (1 Pet. 5:8) and if we're not careful, the chances of losing our children and grandchildren to the enemy are great. So knowing these things, how can we pray for them?

Well, first off, in order for us to be able to pray for our children and grandchildren, we ourselves must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and we need to be walking a Spirit-filled life. Spending time in prayer and God's Word daily enables us as parents and grandparents to allow the Holy Spirit to help us know and pray for our children's needs. Then with God's help, we can

begin to train them up in His ways (Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim. 3:15) and teach them His Word in every situation in life (Dt. 6:5-8).

Praying for their salvation is one of the most important things we can pray for. Of course, also praying for their growth, knowledge, and love for the Lord; their choice of friends, school or future spouse, etc., are equally important. We also need to be praying God will help us in our efforts to teach them to defend their faith, so they can stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11).

Lastly, as we are involved in our children's lives, our actions and walk with the Lord are being watched and displayed before them. We need to be a living testament that God indeed is real to us and worth living for. For those whose children are not walking with the Lord, I would like to encourage you to never give up! As long as they have breath God can still draw them unto Himself. We just need to be faithful, keep sharing with them God's Word and earnestly continue to seek God with our prayers (Jas. 5:16; 1 Th. 5:17).

*by Rob Gottselig,
the Regina,
Saskatchewan,
field representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.*





On the Air With Chris Katulka

Are you worried about paying bills or having enough for groceries this month or maybe about where your kids are, and whether or not they are following the Lord? I totally understand and so did Jesus! Jesus spoke right into the worries and anxieties we have to deal with on a daily basis.

Jesus told His disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t there more to life than food and more to the body than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky: They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you more valuable than they are?” (Mt. 6:24–25).

Maintaining necessities like food, shelter, and clothing can seriously bring about worry and anxiety. Maybe you’ve been there. Yet Jesus tells us not to worry. In the Gospel of Luke, He tells

us not to be anxious for even the necessities of life (12:22). How do we reconcile what Jesus is saying to real-life scenarios? Let’s be honest; it’s one thing to read about it or hear about it in church, but it’s another thing to live through it.

Worry is the opposite of trust. Worry is the opposite of faith. Instead of allowing negative thinking to drag you into the pit of despair, I want to challenge you! Take a step of faith to trust in God. He’s the God of the “how much more.” Look at the birds of the air and the flowers in the field and know that your heavenly Father cares for them. How much more will He provide for His children.



Chris Katulka is the host of The Friends of Israel Today radio program.

Editor’s note: This is an excerpt from a Friends of Israel Today radio program Chris taught on a serious problem many Christians struggle with, anxiety and worry. To hear the episode in its entirety, go to www.foiradio.org.

A MINUTE WITH MENO

We want to share an excerpt from the writings of Meno Kalisher's father, the late Zvi Kalisher. Zvi, a Holocaust survivor, was a faithful worker with The Friends of Israel until he was called Home in 2014.

For a long time a leader of a large synagogue in my neighbourhood would not even look at me because of my faith in Jesus, but when members of his synagogue told him I often make repairs to their homes for free, he gradually changed his attitude. We have since become good friends. I met him recently and found he wanted my help. I was happy to do the work he requested. When I was finished, he asked, "Zvi, have you lost your head, believing in this man Jesus?"

Because we were in his synagogue, I pointed to the extensive library and said, "Can you show me even one copy of the Bible here?" He answered, "Most of the books are prayer books. Other rabbis and I are trying to compose a new prayer. Could you offer any help in composing the new prayer?" I replied, "If you want to know how to pray, you must ask God directly for His help. All of the poems and prayers in the world will not help you. If they do not come from your heart, they are nothing more than what King Solomon called 'vanity' in Ecclesiastes 1:2."

The rabbi was listening intently, and then he asked, "How do you pray?"

I opened my Bible to Psalm 25 and read, "To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. I trust in You; Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. For You are the God of my salvation" (vv. 1-2, 4-5). I told him, "These are the words of King David. He knew all the sins he had committed against God, and so he prayed, 'Do not cast me away

from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me' [Ps. 51:11]. The Holy Spirit was very important to David. David uttered all these words, not because he was a great poet, but because he was a great sinner."

The rabbi asked, "How do believers in Jesus pray?" I replied, "We pray what is on our hearts at any given time, in any given situation. This ability comes through the Holy Spirit of God as people place their faith in the Lord Jesus. This is what God wants from His children. He said in Ezekiel 36:26, 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take [your] heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.'" The rabbi was surprised I read from the Bible because he was sure believers in Jesus did not use the Bible. He said, "I have learned much today, but the distance between us is still very great." I said, "You must not try to bridge the distance between you and me, but between yourself and God. As it is written in Isaiah 53, He was bruised for our sins and crushed for our iniquities, and because of all He has done for us, we must come to Him in the way He has directed in His Word."

The rabbi and I parted on a very friendly basis that day. I trust the Lord to do a work in this man's heart.

Zvi Kalisher, Israel—1995

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





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