

The Story of Gilgal



There is a hill in Gilgal, once part of an army outpost that is a lookout point all visitors flock to. It overlooks the sprawling local farms, the glorious hills of Gilead, the Jordan River and the area the tribes of Israel first traveled when they entered the land of Israel. The story of the Jordan Valley through the ages, from Biblical times up until its resettlement by the members of the Kibbutz, is a story of a dream, the story of true pioneering spirit. The people of Gilgal would like to make this hill a place where both local residents and tourists, can come and hear the Story of Gilgal. It will be a living memorial to those who have dreamed, built, persevered, and made the wilderness bloom in the center of the barren Jordan Valley.

Gilgal, a small kibbutz in the Jordan Valley established in 1973, is named after Biblical Gilgal, the place where the people of Israel first encamped after crossing the Jordan River under Joshua's leadership (Joshua 4). The Jordan Valley is the eastern border of Israel, and Jewish settlement in this area is not only biblically significant but it is strategically important as well, as a defense against intrusions from the east.

The political situation in Israel has affected the small communities in the Jordan Valley. Numerous communities have been infiltrated in the past, resulting in deaths and injuries. The proximity of this area to the Jordanian border creates a constantly heightened security alert situation.

There are 200 people living in Gilgal today, mostly young families with small children. Gilgal's major source of income is agriculture. They grow dates and grapes and have chicken farms and a dairy.

The entire project will cost more than \$200,000. Gilgal is turning to CFOIC Heartland to help with a small part of it. The Kibbutz would like to build a ramp and erect an overhang, which will lead up to the hill and where visitors can walk while hearing an explanation of the land and its remarkable people. When they reach the top, they can see why the members of the Kibbutz are resolute in their desire to hold onto the land and build it for generations to come.

Your contribution to this visionary project will help the people of Gilgal tell their story. A story of courage, steadfastness and faith. Your support will convey a strong message of support, interest and encouragement to the people of Gilgal.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$25,270

To participate in this project:

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