

June 2017

Dear Friend of Israel,

I just returned from a short trip to the USA, visiting supporters and speaking to both Christian and Jewish groups in as far-away places as St. Louis, Seattle and Florida. **It was a great trip and, as always, reminded me how lucky we are in Israel to have such loyal and wonderful friends around the world.** I met an incredible young woman who single-handedly mounted a facebook campaign to put up billboards declaring support for Israel in major cities. I met another woman who has been leading a Bible Study for years, teaching the dozens of people who attend each week about Israel. Everyone, in their own way, demonstrated their love for Israel, doing whatever they can to spread the word among their followers.

While in the US, much of the discussion focused on the new American president and while we all remain optimistic regarding his relationship to Israel, with each passing day more questions arise. Upon my return to Israel, the headlines focused on Trump's positive meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and his new commitment to a Two-State solution. A very different tune to the language he used and the atmosphere he created when Netanyahu visited him just after he took office.

As I write this letter, we are looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and the liberation of Judea and Samaria. And President Donald Trump is about to land in Israel in the middle of the celebrations. As you read this letter, you will already know how that visit went. **I hope and pray that Trump will be inspired by Jerusalem,** that he will connect with our three-thousand year history in the Land, and that he will share the passion for Israel that has nurtured his Jewish son-in-law since childhood. **If he understands our attachment to this land, if he can grasp the fact that our beginnings are in Judea and Samaria, in Shechem, Hebron and Jerusalem, then perhaps he will understand that we can never leave this land.**

But at the end of the day, it is not President Trump who will determine the future of Israel. Only two partners really make a difference in that final settlement – the People of Israel and the G-d of Israel. If we, the People of Israel, remain steadfast in our commitment and in our faith, then surely G-d will bless us as He has for these past 50 years. And you, our Christian friends, who share our strong faith in the truth of G-d's word – your support and your prayers can truly make the difference.

Sincerely,



Sondra Oster Baras
Director, Israel Office

P.S. I look forward to seeing you the next time I come to the USA. My schedule for July is on the back of this letter. CFOIC will have a booth again this year at the Faith and Freedom conference in Washington DC June 8-10, and at the NACC in Kansas City June 27-29. We'd love to see you if you are attending either one of these conferences!

P.P.S. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and the return to Judea and Samaria we want to offer you a complimentary copy of Israel's Story in Maps booklet. See the enclosed flyer for more information on how to order your copy today! Bulk orders are also welcome.