

September 2017

Dear Friend of Israel,

I just finished reading a novel by Daniel Silva. I have read his books for years and they are great spy novels, perfect for light summer vacation reading. **They follow a fictional hero named Gabriel Allon who is a master-spy for the Israeli Mossad. He always comes near to death and disaster but always comes through. The various technological capacities of the Mossad are described as nearly supernatural in their ability to decode the enemy's communications and find terrorists that have eluded other spy organizations. And the Mossad is always portrayed as far smarter and more effective than the spy agencies of the most advanced countries in the world – the US, the UK, France and Germany.**

While I enjoyed the book as pure entertainment, when I finished it **I began to wonder how it is that our small country has attained such an amazing reputation for ingenuity and success. We are not even 70 years old and we began our existence as a modern state under the most adverse circumstances possible. No real army, 4 old airplanes, a handful of used Czech guns. Ben-Gurion was urged by many friends not to declare a state because everyone assumed it would not survive the onslaught of five Arab armies. And yet, we survived. And in recent years we have thrived.**

For the first 19 years of our existence we barely survived. Millions of Jewish refugees arrived at our doors with nothing but the clothes on their backs. There was no housing and little food. But somehow we began to grow a country. And then we were attacked again, just 50 years ago. And we won, in just 6 days. **That war is often considered a watershed event – the point at which Israel went from being David to Goliath. And David is always the more popular.** Many ascribe the proliferation of boycotts and anti-Israel propaganda to that switch. But something else happened in June 1967. We proved we could rise above incredible odds and win. **And despite the many challenges that face us each and every day, we are still winning. We are thriving, building and growing.**

But we dare not become arrogant. **“And you say to yourselves: ‘My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me.’ Remember that it is the Lord your G-d who gives you the power to get wealth in fulfillment of the covenant that He made on oath with your fathers”** (Deuteronomy 8:17-18) Yes, G-d is fulfilling His covenant with us before our very eyes. **Thank G-d, we are living in this generation to witness it.**

Sincerely,



Sondra Oster Baras
Director, Israel Office

P.S. With this letter I attach information regarding our upcoming tour to Israel next March. I want to urge you to consider joining us. There is no better way to witness what G-d is doing in Israel today. You have stood with us, the people of the covenant for years. This is your opportunity to meet us face to face and express your appreciation to the G-d of Israel for what you are witnessing.