



HOPE FOR ISRAEL

SEED OF ABRAHAM MINISTRIES, INC.

*"O Israel
put your hope
in the LORD..."*

- Psalm 130:7



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Shalom from Jerusalem!

May the grace of our God strengthen you and give you peace in Messiah Yeshua until the day of His return. During the past few years we have seen a movement called "BDS" (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) gain momentum throughout the world as they work hard to spread all kind of lies about Israel. At the core of these lies is a desire to destroy the Jewish State, slowly but surely.

While I will be the first to say that Israel is far from perfect, and has a long way to go in treating all citizens fairly and equally, in no way would I agree with such statements as, "Israel is an apartheid State", "Israel is an oppressive occupying power", or "Israel illegally stole Arab land". The fact is that the Arab citizens and residents of Israel have far more rights and freedoms than those of our neighboring countries. Even in the "Palestinian territories", the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have been systematically

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oppressing and brutally torturing their own people; it is well documented that anyone who dares to raise a voice against Hamas or the PA suffers physical intimidation, prison time, and often torture.

Tragically, the fact is that movements such as BDS and its allies end up hurting those they are supposedly trying to help. When Israeli companies - where the majority of Arab people are employed - and their products are boycotted, often they have to layoff employees or even close altogether. This has been especially true in Judea & Samaria, where many Arab Palestinian workers, who earn a decent wage and enjoy employment rights, have lost their jobs as a direct result of the BDS boycotts. Clearly, this movement hurts more than it helps!

I have grown increasingly frustrated with BDS and its growing popularity. A couple of years ago,



I sat with a good friend and we were exploring ways in which we could combat the lies of the BDS movement. We came to the conclusion that the best way to do so is by showing the truth of the amazing work that Israelis are doing around the world to bless many. And so, Hope for Israel's video project "Beyond the Headlines" was born.

Once again, I am amazed at how our God takes a small seed and grows it into a huge blessing! When we launched our first video, I had no idea the impact it would have. Little did I know that simply by sending our Videographer around the world to capture the incredible work that Israelis are doing, and then producing short two-minute videos, that this would actually help those organizations grow. These organizations are working in different parts of the world and affecting change in many areas, from agriculture, clean water access and conservation, emergency medical treatment, to disaster relief. It's really an honor to help them expand their reach and help even more people.

I am honored that our ministry can be such a great instrument by which God can shine His light and bring much needed hope to so many people from around the world in the midst of this dark age. I am honored that we can overcome the lies spread about Israel by simply showing the truth of what Israelis are doing not only in Israel but around the world! Israel is absolutely fulfilling her call to be a light unto the nations, and we are blessed to be a small part of it.

Blessings from Jerusalem, *Moran*

N O W O N F A C E B O O K !

Beyond the Headlines
(@beyondtheheadlinesisrael)

*Be informed about Israeli innovation
that changes lives!*



Changing the World, One Innovation at a Time



Drip Irrigation

Changing the World...

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erhaps you've heard the term "Start-up Nation".

This name was given to Israel in the late 2000s by two authors who wrote a book with the same title, referring to the wonder of Israeli innovation and the economic miracle of the country. How could a nation, which was at that time, only 60 years old, make such incredible leaps and bounds in the realms of technology and agriculture, affecting the lives of millions of people throughout the world? While many credit this success to the ingenuity of the Jewish people, we'd like to offer another possibility: God's divine hand of provision.

True to His promise to bless the nations through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, the Holy One has given ample opportunity to Israel (and it could be argued, to Jewish people throughout the millennia) to profoundly influence the world for good. Taking difficult circumstances - especially in modern Israel's earliest days - and turning them into opportunities is one of Israel's specialties. Israel is proof over and over again that necessity really is the mother of invention!

But Israeli innovation doesn't just belong to the technology sector. The ways in which Israeli advancements have blessed the world on a humanitarian level are equally as important. Did you know that Israel is always one of the first countries to offer relief to any country that has suffered a natural disaster? While not always accepted (primarily Muslim countries have a history of rejecting help from the Jewish nation), Israel is eager and willing to extend its expertise in relief aid to all. In an ironic twist, it is because Israel has dealt with so many deadly terrorist attacks that this country is well seasoned in responding to other kinds of disasters.

The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) is the official vessel through which Israeli humanitarian aid and disaster relief come to other countries. Once the IDF is able to assess the situation on the ground, then other Israeli NGOs and nonprofit organizations are invited to help as well. It's an effective partnership that works efficiently to bring the best aid possible to disaster-struck zones. One such organization is IsraAid (www.israaid.org). This incredible NGO is a first-responder to humanitarian crises all over the world, but also establishes programs in these places that aid in longer-term recovery. IsraAid has an impressive team of specially trained doctors, and other

professional first-responders who are experts in this field. They currently host recovery programs in over 13 countries, most of which are supported by volunteer staffs.

While Israel is no stranger to war, a violent and tragic civil war has been raging across its northeastern border in Syria for over seven years, creating a humanitarian crisis the likes of which have not been seen for decades. While the fighting has remained on the Syrian side, the IDF could not turn a blind eye to the suffering of the Syrian civilians.

To that end, the IDF instituted a project called, "Operation Good Neighbor". This initiative exists to medically treat wounded Syrian civilians who may not otherwise receive the necessary care. A young American woman who volunteered with a Christian NGO (www.friendships.org) working in tandem with the IDF had this to say: *This summer, I had the privilege of volunteering with an NGO that was part of "Operation Good Neighbor." As part of the initiative, a field clinic was constructed on the Syrian border, where Syrian children and families could come to receive medical care and a loving respite from the chaos of the war. Each individual was sent home with food, clothing, and other humanitarian supplies. I was amazed to see the level of effort that the IDF devoted to the initiative. The IDF genuinely made it possible for the NGO to be able to run the camp by providing security and other necessary logistical support. During our last days, closing down the camp, the soldiers were visibly moved and reflected on how much the opportunity meant to them. In their eyes, this was not about helping our "enemies"; this was about helping fellow human beings who were in desperate need of love and care. It was a joy and honor to be part of such a special initiative.*

Not only has "Operation Good Neighbor" treated tens of thousands of wounded Syrians, but it has also done wonders in changing the perspective that young Syrians have of Israel - an "enemy" state. This could, perhaps, be one of the most promising prospects Israel will have to one day make peace with Syria.

You may be surprised that many of Israel's young men and women who finish their compulsory

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Changing the World...

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military service choose to continue serving in many underdeveloped countries. The Israeli NGO, "Heroes for Life" (<http://hfl.org.il/en/>), organizes thousands of these post-military youth to serve in various ways, such as teaching English and math, building or repairing dilapidated structures in a community, giving dance and music lessons, and instructing children in proper hygiene. The NGO's vision is to "turn Israel into a global superpower of charity in developing

countries..." and they are on their way to doing just that. In just three short years, this incredible initiative has positively affected the lives of thousands of children throughout the globe!

Affecting lives on a global scale is a lofty goal that many other Israeli organizations are successfully achieving. Innovation Africa (innoafrica.org) is bringing Israeli solar and water technologies to remote African villages, which provide access to clean water. The organization not only donates industrial-sized solar powered water pumps, but they also train local villagers to fix and maintain the pumps, providing a means of income for them. This gives the villagers a sense of ownership and participation in the project, which is one of the reasons this specific program has been so successful in creating long-term results!

When local people can partake in the success of a project, the results have proven to be all the

more effective. This has been particularly true in the case of Netafim (www.netafim.com/en/), an Israeli company that revolutionized agriculture irrigation in Israel first, and then throughout the world. Netafim is synonymous with "drip irrigation", which the company first utilized to make the Negev desert bloom. The incredible success of this agricultural technology then spread to other agricultural communities throughout Israel, and eventually to other parts of the world.

Netafim's irrigation technology saves 30%-70% water and makes plants grow 50% faster!

Netafim's drip irrigation technology has had profound effects in India, where farmers have successfully increased their crop output while dramatically decreasing water consumption. This has created a wonderful working relationship between Israel and India, while also empowering Indian farmers. These farmers have a renewed sense of hope that even in difficult conditions, their crops can thrive and they can continue to provide for their families. Who would have thought that such a small, yet effective agricultural invention could affect lives so profoundly?

Israeli organizations and companies continue to develop programs and products that bring blessing to the world. Our hope and prayer is that this will be but one way that Israel blesses the nations, and that ultimately, many will see the blessing of the God of Israel! 🌍



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FINAL WORD

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