



# HOPE FOR ISRAEL

SEED OF ABRAHAM MINISTRIES, INC.

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

- Psalm 130:7



## IN THIS ISSUE **Watchmen on the Wall**

### W O R D F R O M M O R A N



#### *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 my service in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces), I lost a few good friends in a suicide bombing, which changed my life. During the remainder of my time in the army, a few more friends were killed in different incidences, which was something that was very hard for me to grasp, so much so that when an officer from my unit was killed in a car accident toward the end of my service, I could not bring myself to go to yet another funeral. Six months after I finished the army, another good friend was killed in an ambush in Southern Lebanon. This was a breaking point for me, and I knew I had to escape the reality of life in Israel that was so prevalent in the 1990s.

I found myself in the USA, and it was there that I also found Yeshua, my Messiah. Or to put it better, God took my heart of

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### HOPE FOR ISRAEL



925 N. Courtenay Parkway  
Suite 19  
Merritt Island, FL 32953  
321-449-8671

Visit our website at  
[www.hope4israel.org](http://www.hope4israel.org)

# W O R D F R O M M O R A N

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stone and gave me a heart of flesh through faith in His Son. God put His Word on my heart and I started an amazing journey of walking with Him and applying His Word to my daily life.

Sadly, many Israelis who leave Israel to travel the world decide not to come back. The reality is that many discover a life much easier and less stressful outside of Israel. The political arena, the non-stop security issues, the high cost of living and low wages (among other things) cause many in the Land to want to leave our country. However, in my case, from the time that I became a true follower of God, I knew that I could not follow Him and teach His Word while living outside the Land of Promise - Israel - especially knowing that my country is a fulfillment of prophecy!

*"Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD, "I shall gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I shall give you the land of Israel. When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. And I shall give them one heart and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God." Ezekiel 11:17-20*

After over 10 years living in the US, many did not believe that I would return home. I can still recall when a good friend of mine who left Israel many years ago and now lives in the States told me that he gave me six months until I would return back to the USA. After two years came and went, he gave up. My family and I just celebrated 12 years of being back in the Land!

What gave me the desire to leave "the good life" in the US and come back home to Israel? The answer is found in the verses above from Ezekiel and from many other Biblical references that speak about the regathering of God's people back to the Land of promise. It is something that was engraved on my heart that no one could take away.

In this edition of our newsletter you will find an article that was written by a young Jewish woman who left her home, family, friends, and comfort and moved to Israel to serve in the IDF. Just like her, there are many more who do the same. But for what reason? What is the drive? The answer is God. He is bringing His people back to the Land of Promise; He is giving many of us a new heart through faith in Yeshua the Messiah. Many of us are now walking in His ways and I personally believe that He is preparing the Land and its people for His ultimate return to rule from His Holy City, Jerusalem.

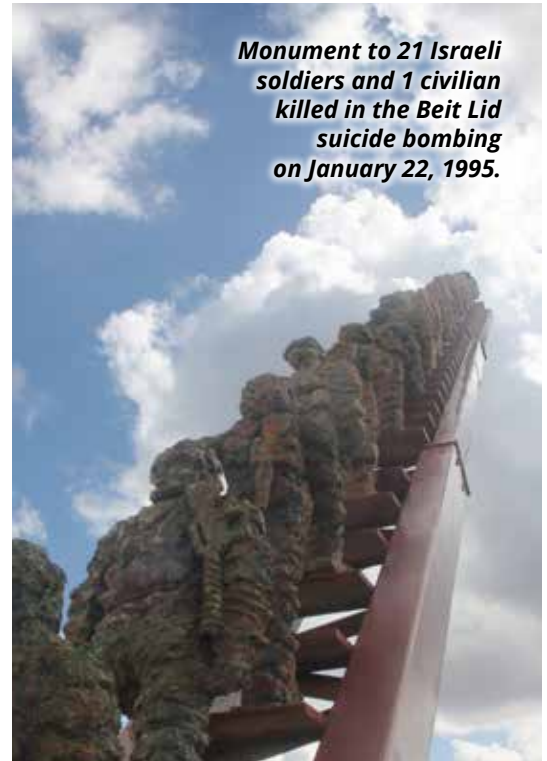
In closing, I would like to extend a personal invitation to join me in Israel this coming spring; together, we will explore this incredible land, get up close and personal with the Israeli people, explore the wondrous historical sites, and celebrate 20 years since the establishment of Hope for Israel ministries.

These are exciting times, indeed!

In His service

*Moran*

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**Monument to 21 Israeli soldiers and 1 civilian killed in the Beit Lid suicide bombing on January 22, 1995.**

## NEW PROJECT • NEW PROJECT • NEW PROJECT • NEW PROJECT • NEW PROJECT

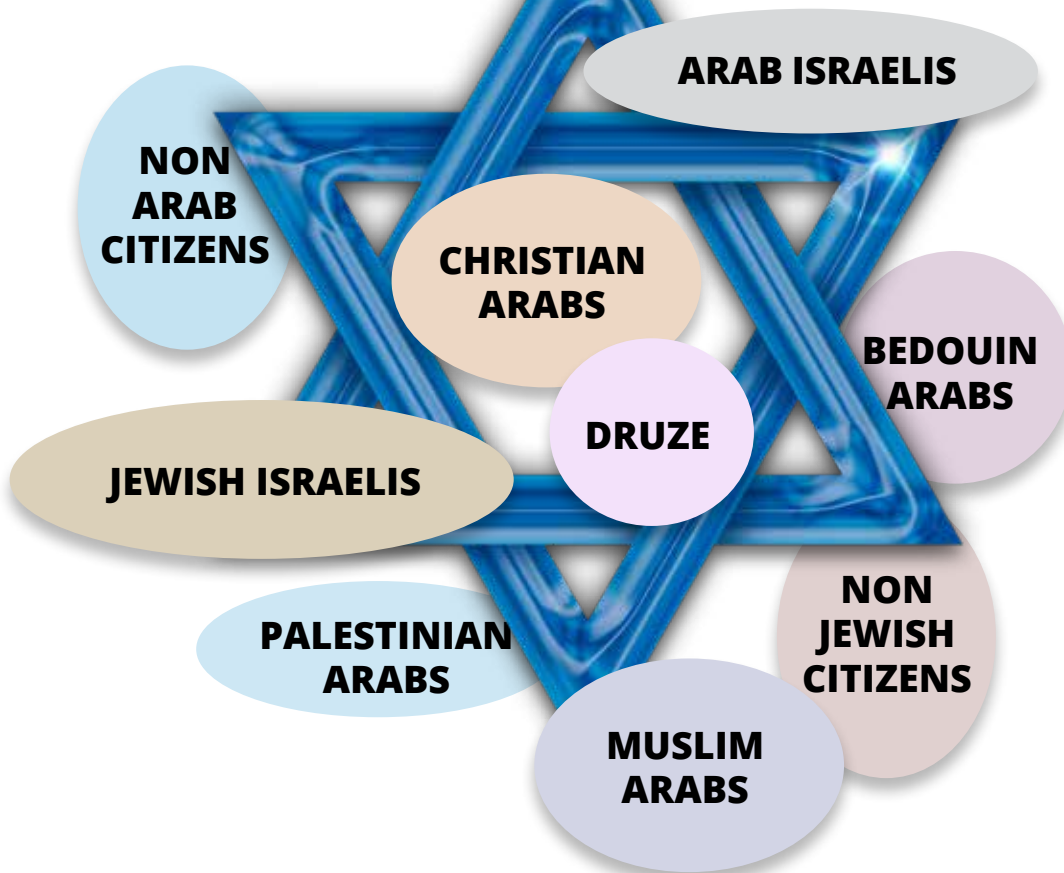
### *Adopt a Student*

We are excited to announce an amazing opportunity to help make a positive difference in the future generation! Adopt a college student in Israel, and help contribute to the future success in the life of a young Israeli believer. Contact us to find out more about how YOU can be a part of this exciting new project! Email us today at [info@hope4israel.org](mailto:info@hope4israel.org)



# An Invitation to Solidarity

by Netanel R.



## Israeli society is more diverse than many may know.

Nearly half of the people in Israel have at least one parent who was not born in Israel. This holds true, not only for Jewish Israelis, but also for many Arab-Israelis as well. I have enjoyed friendships with no small number of Arab-Israelis who have informed me that at least one of their parents immigrated to Israel. In fact, because of how many people in Arab towns are related to each other already, it's almost preferable to be safe and marry a foreigner than to marry in town and find out later that you're actually cousins!

All joking aside, the diversity is not merely limited to Arabs and Jews. Among the Arabs, there are Christians and Muslims. Among Muslim Arabs, there are Bedouin Arabs (having a more nomadic family in history) and Israeli-Arabs who have traditionally been sedentary (having at least one parent who has a long family history in the land of Israel). But Arabs and Muslims aside, there are also non-Arab and non-Jewish citizens of Israel who have equally strong ties to the Land such as the Druze.

Even among the Jews, however, there is a wide spectrum of Jews from a great diversity of expressions of Judaism. While they share certain traditions in common, such as the biblical feasts, they may have very different views on how they are to walk out their faith as Jews. Some Jews are also secular. On top of all of this diversity among those born in Israel, there are many Jews and Arabs living in other nations who have some connection to the Land and who seek to return to the Land.

Many Jews who were born outside of Israel choose to show their solidarity with the homeland by serving in the IDF. Some immigrate, and some simply serve as a way of staying connected with Israel even though they will return to the country in which they reside in order to continue enjoying the lifestyle offered there. About 2% of those serving in the IDF are "lone soldiers". You can read about the experience of one lone soldier who is very near and dear to us at Hope for Israel in what she wrote in this newsletter!

Jews from outside of Israel aren't the only ones standing in solidarity with Israel by joining the IDF. Many Arabs in Israel are saying "YES!" to serving their country against all of the political and societal pressures that discourage this. In fact, with all of the efforts, especially in Arab propaganda, to "trash talk" Israel, it may come as a surprise that fully 1% of Arab-Israelis choose to join the IDF. In fact, some of the highest-ranking officers in the IDF are Arabs.

An interesting yet little-known fact is that there is an entire unit in the military comprised of non-Jewish Israelis whose first language is Arabic! The name of this unit is "Yachsar". There are 500 soldiers in this unit alone from a variety of ethnic backgrounds (Christian, Muslim, Druze, and

Israeli-Arabs, both Bedouin and other). While the anti-Israel media shows pictures of Israeli soldiers "oppressing" Arabs in "occupied" territories, what they don't admit is that many of these soldiers are themselves Arabs who serve in the IDF. Arabs are also serving in other critical roles in the IDF such as the IDF's Iron Dome unit that is tasked with shooting down any rockets that pose a risk to Israeli citizens (namely those shot by Hamas from Gaza).

Many of these Arabs face threats from anti-Israel Arabs, and yet they serve anyway. One especially unique case was that of Muhammad Zoabi whose cousin served in the Knesset (the Israeli parliament). Although he had a cousin in a position of authority who could have pushed for legislation to protect people like him, she disowned him because of her anti-Israel agenda and he had to flee to the US for 5 months after being sheltered by a Jewish terror victim in Israel. Muhammad had to flee because he showed support for the IDF and for Jewish terror victims. He is now serving in the IDF, but Israel has had to go to great lengths to ensure his safety so that he could serve his country (Israel) boldly.

The reality is that anyone serving in the IDF is truly brave. Whether native-born Jewish Israeli, Arab-Israeli, or someone who was born in another country, all who join the IDF face certain consequences that are unpleasant. The risk of being killed by terrorists aside, there are legal and social ramifications to service in the IDF. In some countries, those who fought in the wars can be tried as war criminals because of their service in the IDF. For Arabs, serving their country can mean being ostracized from anti-Israel communities in which they grew up. For lone soldiers, it can mean being criticized the rest of their life for standing with a nation that is made out by the media to look like a monster.

For all who serve in the IDF, there is a strong bond that no attacks of the media or of anti-Israel communities can undermine. The IDF is a diverse yet unifying force in Israel and may likely even be the key to unlocking a much brighter tomorrow in which the Jews and Arabs of Israel link arms and say "NO!" to the anti-Israel hate of the past many decades and "YES!" to a nation, which has from its very beginning, warmly embraced all within her borders. 🇮🇱



# WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

One lone soldier's experience serving in the IDF

by J Leah

THE RHYTHM OF OUR STOMPING BOOTS WAS OFF BEAT. "One, two, one, two" I whispered, unsuccessfully attempting to steady the cadence of the 43 other soldiers marching in front of and behind me. Positioned in two parallel lines, we descended down a set of uneven cement steps towards a moonlit basketball court. A uniformed figure with her hands tucked behind her back, M-16 strapped tight to her side and eyes glaring in our direction, stood waiting. It was our third day of basic training in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and we were meeting our disciplinary sergeant.

She orders us to arrange into a new formation, declaring "end of time" less than a minute later. Unsuccessful in obeying her command, we quickly understand that her small stature and young face were no accurate tell of her authority over us. We drop to the rough concrete to do pushups, scramble to reform into two lines, and the cycle repeats. For hours. By the end of the night, our arms were shakier than our breathing. Organizing our battalion- 44 immigrants from 17 different countries- into a symmetrical formation was no simple task, especially when we all spoke the only common language between us, Hebrew, at a very basic level. We were all considered "lone soldiers," or immigrants who had moved to Israel without our families to serve in the Israeli Military.

It was at that particular moment I realized my life was no longer my own. It didn't matter that I was five years older than my commanders, had already graduated university, or that everything I ever held dear was over 6,400 miles away. The daily challenges of learning a new language, adapting to the middle-eastern culture and living on a tight budget were only the tip of the iceberg of obstacles. However, these difficulties couldn't be the focus. We all knew we were part of a greater mission.

Six weeks later, we no longer marched off beat. Parading in unison with fists clenched against our sides, our regal entrance commenced the swearing-in ceremonies of basic training. "Forward Face!" My glance traveled from the Israeli flag waving majestically over center stage to the beaming grins of my fellow lone soldiers. We did it. We had reached the first milestone during our army service.

We repeated: "I swear.... to even sacrifice my life, for the protection of the homeland and the liberty of Israel." With those words, I committed to serving the very apple of G-d's eye and the living proof of His unconditional faithfulness to the Jewish people. The voices of the crowd joined together with those of the soldiers to sing the national anthem of Israel, HaTikvah ("The Hope"). My heart filled with both sadness and pride as I thought back in time just 70 years. Those before us, including my great grandmother, grasped on to this "hope" of a homeland while singing almost the exact same anthem in the Holocaust death camps. Now, her great-granddaughter had the honor of protecting what didn't even exist back then.

While reflecting on my service, I ask myself "what kept me going?" What kept my eyes open during the exhausting guard duty shifts after full days of training? What kept my blistered feet walking during long marches with heavy equipment? What kept my heart calm through the endless rocket sirens and bomb shelter runs while serving as an officer less than ten miles from Gaza?

I began to realize that I was playing an active role in continuing the story of a nation that began with entrance into the Promised Land thousands of years ago. The torch that was lit with Moses and Joshua was handed off to modern-day leaders such as Eleazar Ben Yehuda and David Ben Gurion, and now it has been passed to Jews throughout the world. I am one of 5,500 currently active lone soldiers from the nations around the world who willingly leave families, friends, and all with which we are familiar, being deeply committed to serve as watchmen on the walls of our homeland. I am both humbled and grateful to have served in the army that watches over this nation, held even now in the palm of G-d's protective and mighty hand. 🇮🇱

*I swear....  
to even  
sacrifice  
my life,  
for the  
protection  
of the  
homeland  
and the  
liberty of  
Israel.*



# HFI TOURS

For information on these tours, please email us at [info@hope4israel.org](mailto:info@hope4israel.org)



## FINAL WORD

In order to accomplish the great work the Lord has for us, we do need your prayer and financial support. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Hope for Israel ministry. Please make all checks payable to Hope for Israel.