

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL - CANADA

Paul and Margaret Collins of Victoria, BC, travelled to Jerusalem in 1990. Paul worked as Administrator at the CFI Distribution Centre, and Margaret at the CFI Head Office. It was at this time that the USSR dissolved, and many Russian Jews returned to Israel. This was Paul and Margaret's first time in Israel, and they witnessed many miracles. Returning in 1994 to British Columbia, they started CFI-Canada. They travelled back and forth to Israel for 25 years, working with the Shavuot celebrations and meetings, and Paul was a Sar-El volunteer in the Israeli Defence Force.

In 2014, Paul and Margaret handed the reigns to Reverend Ken and Ilene Smith who had graduated from EPOC in Southern Ontario. Ilene was born, and raised in Michigan, USA. They had four sons, and pastored a number of churches across Canada including St. Gregor, Man., Lloydminster, AB., Hay River, NWT, Castegar, BC, plus many others before settling in the Lower Mainland at Surrey, BC.. Rev. Ken led many tours to Israel, then passed the torch to Rev. Dennis & Ewa Spenst.

Rev. Dennis and Ewa Spenst were busy with other ministries and handed the CFI-Canada Ministry to Elaine Newman of Lloydminster, SK. in November of 2020.

Steve & Elaine Newman have travelled to Israel on tours with 100 Huntley St. Founders David and Norma Jean Mainse, and with Joe Amaral, of First Century Foundations. Steve is a truckdriver, and farmer/rancher, who has driven long-haul to Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. He now operates T-1 Transport

Inc. in Lloydminster, Alberta. Steve and Elaine have five children, and fourteen grandchildren.

At Mission Fest Alberta, Edmonton in 2014, Elaine prayed about working with a missions group, and met Rev. Kenneth & Ilene Smith of Christian Friends of Israel. She began volunteering as the Saskatchewan/Manitoba Rep., and then became the Western Canadian Rep.. In 2020, after Rev. Ken Smith had stepped down, and Rev, Dennis Spenst was busy with other ministries, Elaine became the Canadian Director. “ I have been able to visit so many churches across Canada, and distribute “For Zion’s Sake” magazines. It was a privilege to go to Niagara Falls, to the ‘Celebrate Israel 70th Anniversary Gathering’, and to travel to Vancouver for Mission Fest BC, also Mission Fest GTA in Mississauga, ON. We have also attended the CFI Conference and Tour in Jerusalem, several times. I feel at home in Israel. Israel is truly a miracle of God, and a great nation!”