



"Building *Torah-based* Messianic Judaism *in Israel*"

2016 END-OF-THE-YEAR UPDATE

Two miracles have happened in the past four months with our work here in Israel. First, the Bram Center (the Jerusalem-based ministry of First Fruits of Zion) is now a legally recognized non-profit organization in Israel. Second, God is adding uniquely qualified individuals to our small staff for this work—we're now established to do even greater things here in the Land.

I want to thank each of you who have been with us thus far in prayer and support. We're in a time of miracles. Now we need one more miracle: the remaining financing to complete the purchase of the facility that the Bram Center currently rents. We have an opportunity to be securely and permanently established here in Jerusalem and we need your help.

Our work has never been about acquiring buildings or physical assets. It has always been about our mission to communicate the message of Yeshua as the Messiah within his proper Jewish context. So, let me explain why it is important for us to own our facility.

We bring a controversial message that is very unpopular in Israel. Our Messianic appeal for Yeshua in his own land, among his people, motivates powerful challengers who reject our message and mission. Renting a facility and depending on landlords who are potentially subject to pressure and coercion from opponents of our message leaves us in a vulnerable and tenuous position. So long as we are merely tenants, our future remains uncertain. Ownership of the facility removes those insecurities and grants us every legal right to provide a physical place for Messianic Judaism in the heart of Jerusalem.

Stepping forward in faith in August, we signed a purchase agreement, fully trusting God to work through you and others. Thanks be to God, thus far we've raised a little more than half of the purchase price—we have a remaining need of \$340,000. This is a matter of urgency because we need to close on the property by the end of December. I have confidence in the work that God is doing here with the center, and I have faith that he will provide for our need.



MEMORIAL, HONOR, AND RECOGNITION GIVING: We will tastefully list all donors on a plaque placed near the Torah in the Bram Center in Jerusalem.

SEE THE ENCLOSED BROCHURE AND REPLY CARD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Please prayerfully consider joining us in the good work we are doing here in Jerusalem by contributing toward this need. Israel needs to see Yeshua in his Jewishness—they need to see him in an authentic Messianic Jewish context.

Would you give a one-time gift toward this need? If each of you receiving this letter were to contribute a one-time gift (as you are able) I am confident this transformational need will be met.

We believe that HaShem opened this door, and we felt led to walk through it. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and thank you for all that you have already done through your friendship, prayer, and support.

As a recognition of our collective efforts to make this a reality—we will be tastefully placing the names of all contributors on a plaque in the Bram Center in Jerusalem. Please join with us in making this place a permanent reality.

Shalom from Jerusalem,



Boaz Michael
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
FIRST FRUITS OF ZION
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
boaz@ffoz.org

PS: First Fruits of Zion is an IRS-recognized, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Every contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law in the United States.



The Bram Center
MESSIANIC JEWISH LEARNING

“Building *Torah-based* Messianic Judaism *in Israel*”

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds ...
Extol the LORD, Jerusalem; praise your God in Zion.

PSALM 147



It helps me in my study

I would like to thank you for your efforts to bring Torah knowledge to our people and the nations, and I very much appreciate the books you are giving me, they help in my study. – *Orthodox Rabbi (Name withheld), Jerusalem.*

The whole community

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union make up the largest percentage of Yeshua believers in the land. They are also the most neglected and uneducated in terms of faith. The Bram Center is providing support for these disciples through active Russian Torah studies. – *Victor Blum, Jerusalem.*

No better place

The City Tower is in the very middle of the heart of Jerusalem. There is no place better for the disciples of Yeshua to be located. The Netivyah offices were in the same building for 15 years. The Bram Center in this place will be a major blessing for the body of Yeshua in Jerusalem. I bless Boaz and his staff and urge brothers from the world over to help with this important need. We stand with these brothers who have proven to have a fine and trustworthy track record. – *Joseph Shulam, Jerusalem.*

Support and identity

The Bram Center has come and been established at a critical juncture in my life. The vast majority of Yeshua followers here identify as evangelicals. It makes it hard to find a place of connection. Currently, the Bram Center is my single source of learning and connection with other Jewish disciples. The Bram Center has served as a place of support and identity for me—in spiritual and practical ways. As a young disciple and student at university this place is where I am centered and gain strength. – *Y. S., Jerusalem.*

Giving up on faith

Having grown up as a Jewish follower of Yeshua here in Israel I've struggled with how I fit into the Jewish landscape of the land. Many of my friends have reconciled these discrepancies by giving up on faith to become secular. The Bram Center has been a source of learning and encouragement for me to connect with other Jewish believers who are working through these issues, maintaining faith, and maturing in our understanding of Jewish life as devout followers of Messiah Yeshua. – *A.B., Jerusalem.*

Rooted in the Land

I have found the Messianic Jewish movement in Israel to be inconsistent and extremely diverse. I have come to value what I am learning through The Bram Center because it is rooted in the land and also connects within the culture, heritage, and tradition of our people to build our identity as a Yeshua community in Israel. – *Noach B., Jerusalem.*

No longer relevant

I was moved by how God is using The Bram Center in big ways in such a short period of time. One afternoon, for example, several Israelis began showing up for one-on-one study times. One of the Israelis is an Orthodox rabbi who does not yet believe in Yeshua. This man has been attending Bram Center activities for some time now. He has found The Bram Center to be a place where he can learn about Yeshua in an environment that affirms Judaism and can engage him on a level that he can relate to. That night I wondered, where would this rabbi have gone to learn about Yeshua before The Bram Center existed? I am glad to say that question is no longer relevant! – *Yerachmiel Chayim*

An active place

My wife (Martha) and I have been in Israel since 1979 pioneering Messianic Judaism and the Jewish understanding of Jesus with our lives and through my Bible translations and theological books such as The Jewish New Testament and The Complete Jewish Bible. Having moved into a new phase of life, I was honored to dedicate my complete reference library (4K books) to the Bram Center. It is an active place of learning and dialog and will carry on my life's work developing Messianic Judaism. It will continue to challenge the conventional view of Jesus within Judaism and be there for the next generation. We are so pleased with what we see happening in the Bram Center. We know they are good stewards and doing effective work. – *Dr. David H. Stern, Jerusalem.*

A wide impact

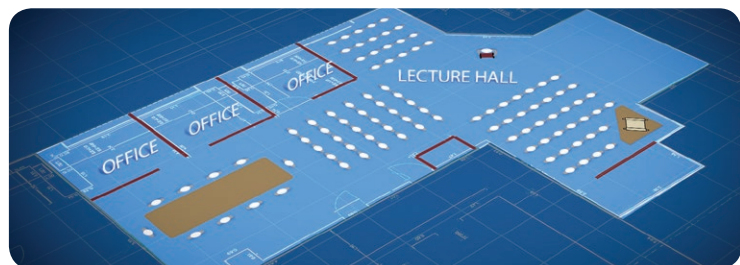
Our congregation in Jerusalem, which is one of the oldest Messianic congregations in the land, tries to highlight the references to the Messiah in the weekly Torah portion, and specifically what the rabbis have written about him. I couldn't do this without the Shadows of the Messiah commentaries [obtained through the Bram Center], which summarize the Messianic references from a wide variety of rabbinic literature. These commentaries are a key part of my preparation for teaching the Torah portion. Unfortunately, not everyone can read English well enough to digest the commentaries, and even if they can, they have to translate the commentaries and locate the rabbinic sources, which is not easy for people unfamiliar with rabbinic literature. If this material was in Hebrew, it would have a wider impact in Israel and it could also be used to help start dialogue between Messianic and Orthodox Jews. – *Adam Focht, Precept Ministries, Jerusalem.*

Donate online: thebramcenter.org

We're All Part of a Miracle

God is rebuilding Jerusalem—we want to be a part of it and help to spiritually build it as well. We want to restore Yeshua back to his people. It is a miracle to exist as an openly Messianic Jewish Learning Center in the heart of Jerusalem. God has opened this door—now we are asking that you walk through it in faith with us.

The Bram Center is working toward being a public voice for Messiah in Jerusalem. We are here in the heart of Jerusalem on the front lines with three key points of focus: Yeshua faith, Messianic Judaism, and the land of Israel. We disciple through lectures, courses, training, and one-on-one engagement. We are supporting the Yeshua-believing community by equipping them for the work of the kingdom, and we are engaged in the defense of the Messiah with the people of Israel. For our witness in Jerusalem to be secure, strong, and stable, we need to purchase our own facility. The Bram Center is already established and functioning, and all monthly expenses are already covered by the ministry of First Fruits of Zion through our generous *FFOZ Friends*, but we need help to make this the permanent home for our ministry. With God's help all things are possible.



The combined space lecture setting. See complete video / design online at: thebramcenter.org.

Our Space in Jerusalem

We are appealing to God to make the Bram Center into a “hub for the community of faith,” a hub of learning, and a hub for the light and testimony of Messiah in the heart of Jerusalem. The Bram Center is being established to provide the following services:

- Daily prayer and one-on-one studies.
- Classes in Hebrew, English, Russian, and Amharic.
- Education, discipleship, and mentorship.
- Dialogue and engagement with the broader community.
- Annual conferences and training seminars.
- David H. Stern Library.
- Translation center for development of Hebrew resources.
- A meeting space for other Messianic Jewish ministries.



The Need & Information

- Remaining financial need: \$244,000.*
- All contributions are 100% US tax-deductible.
- Secure location with 24-hr. building security.
- Centrally located on Ben Yehuda and King George Street.
- Monthly expenses of the center are covered by FFOZ.
- To schedule a conference call to discuss this capital campaign and additional details please contact Ryan Lambert at: ryan.lambert@ffoz.org.



0%

\$451,000 Completed

- \$150,000** deposit made July 1, 2016.
 - \$290,000 raised through *FFOZ Friends* since August 1, 2016.
- ** Funds from donations at the close of 2015 for the Bram Center; used to make initial down payment.



100%

\$244,000 Needed*

- Urgently needed to complete the purchase by December 31, 2016 (* Amount needed as of November 2016. Weekly updated total at thebramcenter.org).
- Memorial, honor, and recognition giving: All donors will be listed on a plaque placed near the Torah in the Bram Center in Jerusalem (If desired).



The Bram Center

MESSIANIC JEWISH LEARNING

“What we see today in the Holy Land are for us signs of the times. These signs, even though dark and threatening, are bright and full of promise. The signs that Messiah’s return may be near, very near. We believe that God has sent us for this very reason to Israel. We have to serve him here as his tools, as channels for his will, his wisdom, his power. We also are signs of the times, pointing to Messiah in an era far away from Messiah. Therein lies our calling, the assignment of the Messianic Jewish community—the huge task of a small community.”

– Abram (Bram) Poljak, 1948

Donate online: thebramcenter.org

To schedule a Skype call to discuss funding write: ryan.lambert@ffoz.org

Send contributions to: **First Fruits of Zion, 4022 Tracks Rd., Marshfield, MO 65706**



YES! I want to be a part of the good work of the Bram Center in Jerusalem.

I would like to make a contribution to sow into the Bram Center, a home for Messianic Judaism in Jerusalem:

- One-time contribution** **Recurring donation**
- \$100** **\$250** **\$500** **\$1,000** **\$2,500**
- Other amount: \$**

Please clearly fill out the information below or online at thebramcenter.org. Additionally you are welcome to call 800-775-4807 to donate or if you have questions.

NAME

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY STATE / ZIP

COUNTRY

PHONE

EMAIL

DONATION INFORMATION

- Check Enclosed.** Please make check out to "FIRST FRUITS OF ZION"
- Credit Card** **Debit Card** **Please use my Credit Card on file**
- Card Type:** **Visa** **MasterCard** **Amex** **Discover**

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE / **CSC**

MM (MONTH) YY (YEAR) 3-DIGIT CODE ON CARD BACK

NAME ON CARD

Your contributions are tax-deductible. First Fruits of Zion is an IRS-recognized, not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Every contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. 100% of your contribution goes directly to the establishment of the Bram Center in Jerusalem. Giving statement sent at year-end listing total giving and tax deduction.

Memorial, honor, and recognition giving:

We will tastefully list all donors on a plaque placed near the Torah in the Bram Center in Jerusalem.



I am contributing to the Bram Center and would like my gift to honor one of the following:

Given in the Name of:

.....

LIST PERSON'S NAME ONLY

Given in the Memory of:

.....

LIST PERSON'S NAME ONLY

Given by the Name(s) or Family of:

.....

LIST PERSON'S NAME(S) OR FAMILY NAME ONLY

Donate securely online at
thebramcenter.org