

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry Inc.

GLOBAL REPORT

Fall 2021

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Raising Up a New Generation of Young Israeli Believers

Zvi Kalisher's grandson continues family legacy in Jerusalem today.

The first siren we heard in Jerusalem turned on while we were in a youth meeting. We immediately went to the stairway where it is more sheltered than the church facility. The feeling was that we were in the middle of a mini civil war...there were fires, riots, and chaos. —Danny Kalisher, Jerusalem

The eyes of the world were fixed on Israel this past May as missiles from Gaza rained down on Israel's most populated regions. The now iconic images of Israel's Iron Dome defense system intercepting hundreds of missiles were viewed by millions worldwide. Reports of riots and violence between religious groups that once lived together peacefully were suddenly the headline of every mass media outlet. What most Western media outlets did not reveal was the catastrophic impact it had on Israel. Life for many Israelis was thrown into turmoil, now forced to endure a newfound uncertainty.

And yet, serving and ministering faithfully and quietly to Israelis during this heart-wrenching conflict was our newest FOI Field

Representative, Danny Kalisher. Alongside his wife, Rivka, and their four young children, Danny is discipling the next generation of young Israeli believers through difficult times.

Faithful supporter, I am proud to introduce to you a third-generation Kalisher who has a clear calling to continue the important work of The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry in Jerusalem.

As you read about his impact in Israel, would you prayerfully consider how you can give today to Danny Kalisher and his huge heart for investing in the next generation of young Israeli believers?



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THREE GENERATIONS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY

Danny is the third generation of Kalishers serving as an FOI Field Representative in Jerusalem. Danny's grandfather Zvi Kalisher immigrated to Israel in 1948 as an 18-year-old Holocaust survivor and came to faith in the Messiah, Yeshua. He devoted his life to Jesus through decades of faithful witness among Jewish people in Jerusalem and he raised his family to know, love, and serve Jesus.

Zvi's son, Meno, came to know Jesus as his Savior at just 17 years old. Facing persecution for being a Jewish believer in Jesus in the Holy Land, Meno began to study the Old Testament for himself. He became passionate about sharing the truth with other young Israelis. Meno started a fruitful Bible study that quickly became a tight-knit Christian community. Within two and a half years the young congregation of believers outgrew their humble beginnings and formally founded the Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption in the heart of Jerusalem. At just 29 years old, Meno, along with his wife and growing family, started pastoring this thriving yet persecuted church. Today, the church has grown substantially, as has its cultural and generational diversity. Danny, now 29 years old himself, is strategically and creatively meeting the ever-changing needs as he ministers to teens and their families in the church.

DANNY'S UNIQUE CALL

Danny's early years were lived as a conflicted pastor's kid who didn't yet believe the gospel his father and grandfather believed. "I behaved well among the people in church, at home, and in front of teachers. But with my friends I was doing whatever I wanted."

God used answered prayers and prophecy in Scripture to get a hold of Danny's life. Following lessons at a youth event he asked

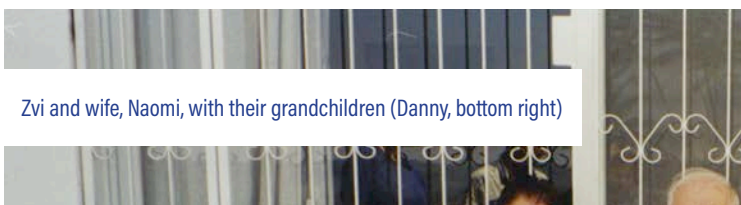
his dad, Meno, to teach him Daniel 9. While his dad taught him how Daniel precisely wrote about Jesus 500 years before He came, Danny's spiritual eyes were opened.

"The Word of God became alive to me," he said. "It was no longer just stories I grew up on but the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18)."

*"If God is real,"
Danny concluded,
"then I must take a stand."*

In July 2014, after finishing his army service, Danny dove head first into ministry at Jerusalem Assembly, serving and discipling children and teenagers. Along the way, he completed two degrees in theology and education, married his partner in ministry, Rivka, and together had four children Yoav (5), Adiel (4), Moriyah (2), and Yotam (5 mo.).

Having come to faith as a rebellious teenager, Danny is uniquely equipped to come alongside the teens in Jerusalem in a personal and profound way.



Zvi and wife, Naomi, with their grandchildren (Danny, bottom right)



Danny and Rivka





Danny leads Bible study.

“I had my share of mistakes, and now I want to be there for the young teenagers and help them come to Jesus and live their lives for Him. When I was 15, I told my dad I wanted to serve God as a youth leader. Now it is a dream that came true.”

JERUSALEM'S SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

In Jerusalem, Christians number only around 13,000 people compared to nearly 600,000 Jews and a little over 300,000 Muslims. Danny’s work in Jerusalem faces resistance and persecution from competing religious groups, including Orthodox Jews.

Today, people from all over the world attend Jerusalem Assembly. Every Shabbat, the service is translated into eight different languages. Danny works with a diverse group of teens, many of which are immigrants to Israel, and don’t yet speak Hebrew. These youth not only face the normal growing pains of navigating their teen years but also the hurdle of adapting to a foreign land. They face difficulty at school academically and socially. At home their families face economic adversity and difficulty securing employment. This has been particularly true during the pandemic. Danny and his team of youth leaders devote countless hours of support to these special teens and their families.

CARING FOR TEENS WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Danny leads a weekly youth group in studying the Bible and learning how to apply it to their lives. They pray together, talk about sensitive topics, and discuss what it means to follow Jesus. Danny organizes events for Jewish holidays and special youth camps that create much-needed space where teenagers can escape their everyday environment and venture into the outdoors together. Here the teens enjoy an extended amount of time together that leads to deep friendships—“We do our best to accompany our youth during their army service, because it is such a challenging time. Which is why the friendships they make



Fun times with Israeli youth

become so important for accountability and encouragement when needed most.”

For Danny and his team of youth leaders, discipleship is at the heart of all they do. He and his team seek to be a relatable and reliable source of comfort and hope to teens by pointing them to Jesus. Danny and Rivka minister to troubled teens in crisis by willingly opening their hearts and home to young people in need day and night.

SERVING IN THE FOI FAMILY

“My greatest joy in the ministry I do with FOI is that I serve among family. As long as I can remember, FOI has been family, and I feel that same way now. I know that people are praying for me, supporting what I do here in the church in Jerusalem. I love our teenagers and am eager to be here for them. My joy is at its peak when I see the youth following Jesus and obeying Him in baptism.”



Danny and Rivka with their four children (left to right) Moriyah, Yoav, Adiel, Yotam

With a growing ministry and passion for Christ, it is our privilege to formally welcome Danny, Rivka, and their children into the International Ministries family of FOI.

It's because of generous FOI supporters that Danny can faithfully live out God's calling both in the ministry of the church and his family. Your support enables Rivka to homeschool and care for their children while speaking the truth of Yeshua over them daily.

Thanks to your faithful giving, "I don't have to worry if I can put bread on the table," Danny says, "and I can minister to teens and families at the church wholeheartedly on a daily basis."

INVEST IN A NEW GENERATION OF ISRAELI TEENAGERS TODAY

Your support and generosity propels Danny forward and motivates his diligence with the work God has given him, as it has with his father and grandfather. Would you consider becoming a member of the "ground force" in the spiritual battle that continues to rage on in the lives of young Israelis? Your prayer and

financial support will increase Danny's ability to reach many more families who desperately need the hope of the Messiah.

Please pray with us for Danny, Rivka, and their children as they minister on the front lines to those living under the cloud of both spiritual and military attack. Pray they will find their ultimate hope and identity in the Messiah and claim Him as Danny did at 15 years old. Your generosity will make a difference both now and throughout eternity.

Would you please make a generous gift today to help reach young Israeli believers?

Mike Stallard



Mike Stallard
Director of International Ministries

If God has spoken to you about providing much-needed support for the ministry of Danny Kalisher, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc, PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit foi.org/global-report to donate online.