

BRIDGE BUILDERS



TOP ACTIVISTS IN CHRISTIAN-JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

Jews and Christians
Overcoming thousands of years of animosity
to engage with each other

Gidon Ariel, Editor

A joint project of
Root Source and Israel365

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Bridgebuilders: Top Activists in Christian-Jewish Engagement

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Gidon Ariel and some of the people mentioned in this book are available to speak at your church, fundraiser or special event.

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INTRODUCTION

Today, more and more Jews and Christians realize that we have much more in common than we had thought for thousands of years. Without whitewashing our differences, we have too many shared values, interests, and especially challenges to allow ourselves the luxury of continuing to remain divided.

Root Source and Israel365, activists in this space for close to a decade, recognized that engagement between pro-Israel Christians and Jews is not something to fear but to celebrate and support.

For this reason, we initiated **Bridgebuilders: Top Activists in Christian-Jewish Engagement**.

Root Source is a platform for Christians and Jews to engage with each other on a basis of mutual respect and studying Jewish texts together.

Israel365 connects Christians all over the world with Israel each day through news, Biblical inspiration and charitable initiatives.

It is our honor and privilege to present the 2020 list of **Bridgebuilders Top Activists in Christian-Jewish Engagement**.

This list comprises Jews and Christians, women and men, newcomers and veterans, clergy and laymen, residents of countries around the world, in fact, nothing brings them all together except for their belief in God, friendship, and the commandment to act on both!

We are grateful to the hundreds of people who made nominations this year, and we hope we will be able to include everyone who did not make the list this year in our 2021 Bridgebuilders list or subsequent years’.

We are especially grateful to **The Nathaniel Foundation** of Texas, USA, for their generous support of this project.

If you or someone you know deserves to be recognized as a Bridgebuilder, please nominate them! Send an email to Gidon Ariel gidon@root-source.com.

We would also like to invite you to contribute to the Bridgebuilders Fund. The Bridgebuilders fund, administered by Root Source, a 501c3 organization, supports initiatives which enable, encourage, and enrich relationships between pro-Israel Christians and Jews on a basis of mutual respect and love.

Thank you for all that you do for Israel, the Jewish people and Jewish-Christian relations.

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REVEREND ANTHONY ABMA

Return O' Israel
www.returnisrael.org

Peachland, BC, Canada

What is the main focus that you are doing today?

Educating and informing Christians of our God-given mandate to stand with and support the full and complete restoration of the Jewish people and nation in full and complete sovereignty over all their God-given lands as an integral component of the Redemption we all seek.

How long have you been doing that?

For several years, but more specifically through the launch of Return O' Israel in the beginning of 2019.

What are some of the successful related programs or projects that you have done this year and in past years?

- 1) Launch of a Petition: The Christian Declaration of Support for Jewish Sovereignty - translated into 10 languages; www.returnisrael.org/declaration.

- 2) Special Covid Support Project for the businesses and families in Judea and Samaria: <https://www.returnisrael.org/covid19>.
- 3) Funded and provided David Kiern free of charge with additional translations for subtitles of the award-winning film “I Am Israel”; (Russian and Portuguese, Chinese almost finished...).
- 4) Not really a “program” per se - but an achievement of what I believe and count as significant; sponsoring and co-attending the NRB in Nashville Feb 2020, with what by all accounts, was the 1st “Evangelical Muslim Sheikh” to ever have attended.

<https://www.returnisrael.org/post/muslim-sheikh-attends-christian-nrb-convention>.

I sponsored and accompanied Sheikh Al Tammi from Hebron who is “Pro-Jewish Sovereignty” as an Arab spokesperson from Israel and introduced him to the Christian Community present at the NRB for the following reasons;

- a) to prove to the larger Christian Community the reality and truth of another “side” to the issues in Israeli/Arab relations, that there are Arab Muslims who love and respect God’s people of “The Book”, and also Christians.
- b) to prove that there are Arabs in Israel who also realize the fact that the failed and unscriptural “2-State” program/solution is not going to bring peace in Israel.
- c) to be a voice among Christians that we cannot ignore either the Biblical Covenants of God with the Jewish people and the International Laws granting the re-establishment of the indigenous Jewish people’s ancestral homeland.

How did you get to where you are today?

It is all by God's grace, His blessing and divine leadership as I walked in faith in the unfolding vision of His plan for me - which was to be granted a little opportunity to share and speak these precious truths from the Bible.

What is your “testimony”?

My spiritual journey of 35+ years of Christian service and ministry has spanned approximately 40 countries. In seeking to be a vessel through which God's love and redemption could be communicated, I've come to an important spiritual truth regarding the common Redemption that Jews and Christians seek which culminates with the appearance of the long-awaited Messiah.

It is the scriptural truth that mandates Christian participation and support for the Jewish people and Nation – as this is a universal redemption for all believers in the One, True and Living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The biblical references personified in Rahab as she protected the Jewish spies; of Ruth's immense personal sacrifice enabling the Jewish restoration of Naomi and how she played an integral role in bringing forth the dynasty of a King; and of the incredible declaration of the Apostle Paul in Rom 9:3 where he stated “...I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:” are prime examples of what our Christian conduct with our Jewish Brothers and Sisters should be.

This understanding moved me to take a more active role in teaching Christians more clearly the Judaic roots of our Christian faith, but more importantly - that our faith must be accompanied by the action and “works” of love and support

for the Jewish people. My first public attempt to awaken Christians to our Biblical mandate of supporting the Jews in Israel who earnestly seek Biblical redemption, was the launch of Christians In Support of the Temple back in 2017/2018 (www.christiansfortemple.org).

The lack of interest and opposition caused me to adopt a softer and more palatable approach. That was to teach and help Christians to realize how important supporting “Jewish restoration” was. This led to an amazing connection and association with Yehudit Katsover and Nadia Matar of the Sovereignty / Ribonut Movement. Through this relationship, a vision was born to create a Christian “outlet” of being a virtual link and conduit of the Ribonut Movement into the larger Christian Community.

This was the founding vision for Return O’ Israel – Christians in Support of Jewish Sovereignty launched at the beginning of 2019. The mission being to build and enhance Christian / Jewish relations in a way that also conveys to the Christian Community how the Sovereignty Movement is an aspect of the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. In that context it is also an essential component of Christian Eschatology as it ultimately culminates in our common Redemption.

Return O’ Israel (ROI) is another conduit by which these truths and events in Israel, and especially Judea and Samaria, are being delivered into the homes and hearts of thousands of Christians around the world. Through ROI Christians are being educated and enlightened to our true, God-given responsibilities to our Jewish Brothers and Sisters in Eretz Yisrael.

What do you think God is doing with regard to Jewish-Christian relations?

There are many verses in the Bible that I believe clearly declare the intent and purpose of His divine will to bring Jews and Christians into a unity of faith, of understanding and love that will eradicate the misunderstandings and walls of division and contention that exist today.



DR. RIVKAH LAMBERT ADLER

Ten From The Nations
www.tenfromthenations.com

Efrat, Israel

What is the main focus that you are doing today?

Teaching Torah to current and former Christians.

How long have you been doing that?

Since 2014.

What are some of the successful related programs or projects that you have done this year and in past years?

- Torah School for the Nations.
- Ten From The Nations: Torah Awakening Among Non-Jews.

How did you get to where you are today?

Gidon Ariel started me on my path. I started by teaching about women in Tanach on Root Source. Then he helped me get a freelance position with Breaking Israel News. Then he recommended I write a book on the topic.

What is your “testimony”?

I suspect that Hashem picked me to enter this complex and exciting field of pursuit at this time for several reasons. I’m an English-speaking rabbi’s wife who came to Torah as an adult. I’m an adult educator by training and inclination.

I have no formal organization behind me, but I’ve been told by a rabbi I consulted that I have a shlichut - a Godly mission to teach Torah to anyone who is interested.

What do you think God is doing with regard to Jewish-Christian relations?

I believe God is bringing redemption closer each moment and that requires the Jews to step into our role as Light to the Nations. I also see that more and more Christians are open to learning about the Bible from Jews.



Today, more and more Jews and Christians realize that we have much more in common than we had thought for thousands of years. Without whitewashing our differences, we have too many shared values, interests, and especially challenges to allow ourselves the luxury of continuing to remain divided.

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