

KATULKA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

On January 30, 2026, I received a diagnosis that changed the course of my year: rectal cancer. I want to first apologize for the long silence — this news became the consuming focus of our family's life, and getting a newsletter out simply wasn't possible.

By God's kindness, the cancer was caught early, and our medical team has been exceptional. In late March, I began chemotherapy treatments aimed at shrinking the tumor so that surgeons can remove it.



Every doctor we have spoken with is genuinely optimistic, and we are grateful for the care we have received. I share this not to alarm you, but because you are my people, and you deserve to know.

What I want you to know more than anything, though, is what God has been doing in me. When I first heard the word "cancer," anxiety took up residence in my heart and soul. But over these past three months, His peace has slowly, steadily washed over me — not because the circumstances changed, but because He is the great Physician and I know He can heal this without effort. Yet I am beginning to understand that He is doing something far greater than physical healing. He is doing the deeper work of bringing me to the end of myself and into a fuller dependence on Him. That is a gift I did not ask for and did not expect, but I would not trade it.

And then there is the gift of people. Karen has been my rock — constantly and faithfully pointing me back to the Lord's arms when I've drifted toward fear. My kids, Olive, Cohen, Preston, and Levi, check in on me in ways that make me hold them all a little tighter. And you — friends from my neighborhood, from seminary, from ministry, from around the world — have covered me in prayer. I have learned something profound through this: even when I don't have the words to bring before the Lord myself, there is a blanket of prayer being offered on my behalf. That thought alone humbles me to tears. Thank you for not letting me walk through this alone.

NEW FOI MISSIONARIES FOI 2026

Every new missionary joining NAM is a step toward our 2035 vision of placing 100 missionaries on the field and engaging 500 volunteers worldwide. From the eastern provinces of Canada to the heartland of the United States, these servant-hearted men and women are opening doors to greater gospel influence among Jewish communities and local churches across North America. God is moving, and we are grateful to move with Him.

Diana Lind joins NAM from Minnesota with a demonstrated heart for Jewish ministry and a proven ability to connect with people in meaningful ways. Her skills in administration, discipleship, and Jewish Ministry engagement will strengthen our growing team. Diana will bring fresh energy to our volunteer pipelines, program development, and relational ministry work—exactly what we need as we scale toward our 2035 vision.



Naomi McGee joins NAM from Kansas City with a passionate heart for sharing the hope of Jesus with the Jewish people. Her journey through FOI Equip and Bridges has equipped her with a strong foundation in Jewish ministry, and she is now preparing for the Encounter Poland trip, where Holocaust education and evangelism come together. Naomi's love for Israel and the Jewish people makes her a wonderful addition to our team.



Josiah Michaelson joins NAM in West Michigan with Jewish ministry woven into his story from the very beginning—his parents are graduates of the Institute of Jewish Studies. A Bridges graduate and two-time ORIGINS Israel trip participant, Josiah brings missions training through Ethnos 360 and a lifetime of preparation to his new role. We are thrilled to have Josiah and his family serving with FOI.



Glen Deligdisch joins NAM in Charlotte, NC, bringing a deeply personal witness to Jewish ministry as a Jewish believer himself. A Bridges graduate and former Tikvah volunteer, Glen's journey with FOI has grown into a full commitment to serve his Jewish community and local churches. His desire for deeper involvement and his step of faith make him a truly welcomed addition to our team.



David Townsend joins NAM in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, bringing the gospel to Canada's easternmost provinces. A Bridges graduate and former pastor, David combines seasoned ministry experience with a deep heart for Israel and the Jewish people. His transition from pastoral ministry to Jewish outreach reflects a genuine calling, and we are excited to have him serving FOI in this unique and strategic region.



Darrell Bellaire joins NAM in Ontario, Canada, as a direct answer to prayer for missionary presence in this strategic province. A Bridges graduate and former Tikvah volunteer, Darrell has been steadily growing in his commitment to Jewish ministry and has now taken the step to serve with FOI full time. We are thrilled to see God's faithfulness in bringing Darrell to our team.





Vision Mexico 2026

One of the most exciting developments in North American Ministries this year is our expansion into Mexico.

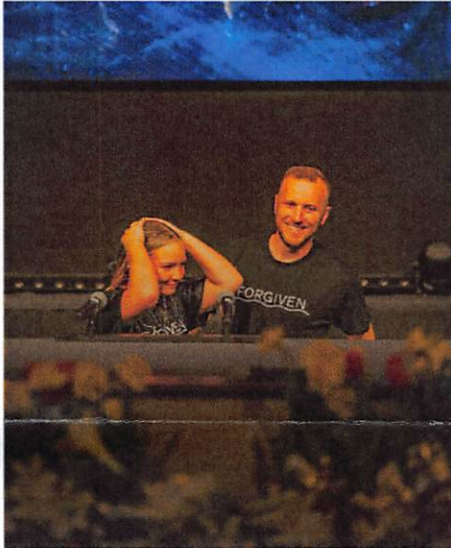
God has raised up a team with a genuine heart to reach the significant Jewish population in Mexico City and beyond, and the early results have been remarkable.

Rachel Wilson, who speaks fluent Spanish, has taken our discipleship resources and translated them – and the response from Spanish-speaking believers has been phenomenal. What began as a vision is quickly becoming a movement, and we believe the Lord is opening a door that only He could open.

Our goal is clear: plant an FOI Tikvah Volunteer in Mexico by the end of 2026.

Through the Tikvah volunteer model, we will be able to place discipleship resources directly into the hands of local churches across Mexico, equipping believers to understand and love the Jewish people through the lens of Scripture.

But we are believing for even more – that out of this volunteer network, God will raise up a future FOI missionary for Mexico. We are calling this Vision Mexico 2026, and I could not be more excited about what the Lord is doing. Please pray with us as we take these first historic steps into Spanish-speaking ministry.



Our oldest daughter, Olive, made one of the most meaningful decisions of her life this past spring—choosing to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Watching her walk through the waters of baptism on the very day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus was a moment Karen and I will never forget. Olive stood before our church family and boldly proclaimed her faith in Jesus and her desire to serve Him with her life. There was not a prouder set of parents in the room. Olive's testimony was a reminder that the greatest gift we can give our children is the gospel—and she has made it her own. We praise God!

Prayer Requests

Gospel Impact in Jewish Communities: Please pray that the Lord would open hearts among the Jewish people as we share the message of Jesus the Messiah with clarity, compassion, and boldness.

Strength, Joy, and Protection for My Family: As our ministry grows, so do the demands on our time and energy. Please pray for God's protection, unity, and joy in our home, and that Karen and I would lead our children well during this busy season.

Equipping the Next Generation: Pray for our interns, volunteers, and future missionaries—that they would be deeply rooted in Scripture and equipped to minister effectively in Jewish communities across North America.

Partner with Us

Would you prayerfully consider supporting our calling to reach the Jewish people with the gospel and educate believers about the Jewish roots of our faith in Jesus. Please click on the button above. We are thankful for all your prayers and support.

To Support by Check:

Make check payable to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, write Chris Katulka SU020 in the memo line, and mail it to FOIGM PO Box 908 Bellmawr, NJ 08099.

Online Support:

foi.org/katulka