

DECEMBER 1, 2019  1 KISLEV 5780

## Picture This

Conservative numbers estimate that 5,000 churches are closing in North America each year.

We live in a post-Christian world. **The picture is grim when it comes to the future of the institutional church.** It seems like every other day we hear another survey reporting that people are leaving the church in droves. These same polls say that young people are less likely to share or carry forward the faith of their parents than any generation before.

It doesn't take professional polling or large national surveys to see it. Anyone paying attention can observe the trends. Yeshua predicted it:

*Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.* (Matthew 24:11–13)

There is much I could say about that verse, but I think you get the gist of it. The greatest commandment is to love God, and the second greatest is to love your neighbor, but in the last days, "the love of many will grow cold." The communities of Yeshua are in decline; biblical literacy and faith in Yeshua are in decline. Perhaps we are the generation experiencing the love of many growing cold? There are plenty of indications that this is the case. **However, as Yeshua's disciples, we cannot stay on the sidelines and do nothing. Together, we can do something to counter these trends.**

Over the past two years, FFOZ has taken significant steps of faith to respond to these challenges with the establishment of small Bible-learning communities all over the world. We could not have come this far in establishing the new global Torah Club without you. But there is much more work to be done.

## Now Picture This

**Every day your support of this kingdom work is bringing people back to the Bible.** Nearly every day, a new Torah Club forms somewhere in the world and every single day, someone new joins a club. Thanks to your faithful support of this ministry, people are returning to Bible study, faith, and community. Take a second and evaluate these two pictures.

**The photographs below depict a completely different trend. With God's help and your support, we are creating a new culture and a new way for people of faith to connect, practice discipleship, and grow in faith.** We are taking the gospel of the kingdom to all nations with Messianic Jewish teaching for Christians and Jews:

Adults enjoying community and studying through the new Torah Club.



Children studying the new Torah Clubhouse.

*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:37–38)*

As Yeshua said, the laborers are few, but every single day, we are increasing the harvest and affecting positive change for the kingdom.

### Envision This

First Fruits of Zion's annual budget depends on strong end-of-year tax-deductible donations. Last year around this time, I sent you a letter of appeal entitled, "Envision This." Back then I could only ask you to dream with me; this year, I'm able to show you pictures of Torah Clubs, the fruit of your support. In addition to establishing Torah Club communities around the world, First Fruits of Zion continues with all our mission efforts to bring Messianic Jewish teaching to Christians and Jews through the creation of books, periodicals, and study programs. Youth programs such as 12-21 and Camp Tzadi, audio and video teachings, and the Bram Center for Messianic Jewish Learning in the heart of Jerusalem round out our work for the kingdom.

Your support strengthens and sustains our mission. Friends, don't be dismayed or discouraged by current cultural trends. Find hope and joy in the good work we are doing together. Please invest in the kingdom by joining us for another year. Make First Fruits of Zion a part of your end-of-year tax-deductible giving.

In Messiah's service,

Boaz Michael  
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR  
FIRST FRUITS OF ZION  
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

P.S. Please consider giving a generous year-end donation securely online at [ffoz.org/donate](https://ffoz.org/donate). If you prefer, you may also donate using the enclosed response card or by calling our Administrative Care Team at **800-775-4807**.