



The Karmel Society of Finland

“ For Bible and Israel”

The Karmel Society of Finland was founded in 1949.
The name means: *“God’s vineyard”*.

Principles of Our Activity

The Karmel Society emphasizes the central position of the land and people of Israel in salvation history past, present and future. The basis for our activities is our Biblical responsibility to support and pray for the people of Israel. The Society organizes evangelisation, teaching and proclaiming work in co-operation with local churches.

Knowing the land of Israel and the Jewish culture is considered to be important in order to understand the Bible and the Christian faith. The society aims to promote friendship and co-operation between Finns and Israelis as well as to convey correct information about Israel.

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Executive Manager Juha-Pekka Rissanen

I became interested in Israel and Judaism during my High school years. I made many kinds of trips to Israel before I started to work regularly (e.g. spent the summer of 1978 at a kibbutz, took part on a concert tour with the Logos choir in 1982, had a summer job in Jerusalem in 1986 and worked as a tour leader in 1988.)



During 1990-2002 I worked in many kinds of jobs in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. I served in The Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel and later on with The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission as well as a pastor in local congregations (Tel Aviv Emmanuel Church Congregation and Jerusalem Shalhevetjah Congregation) and as a manager of the Ebenezer Home in Haifa.

I worked as a pastor in Leppävaara Congregation in Espoo, Finland from the year 2003 to 2009. During those years I led a number of trips to Israel and was active in Israel friendship organizations. I feel that we as Christians have much to learn from our Jewish roots. Our western Christian heritage is originally based on Judaism.

I hope to be able to promote the interaction between the Jewish people and Christians and also strengthen the Israel friendship activities within the Karmel Society to support the Promised Land and its People in our challenging time.

Office

The Karmel office, located near Kaivopuisto Park, serves all our members and everybody who takes an interest in Israel. Our office is a workshop where we produce programs and brochures for big and small events. The office is Karmel’s administrative and financial center. The Karmelin Kamari, which means Karmel’s chamber or room, is a popular meeting point and a cafe for those whose heart beats for the Bible and Israel.



Virpi Väisänen, I’m in charge of the finances as well as for marketing and sales. I want to invite everybody to our tours to Israel and Europe, to our feasts and language courses, to our special theme evenings, and of course to our yearly Israel congress. *Welcome!*

Karmel's Preaching/Proclaiming Work

Events organized in various cities are hosted by *Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Erja Kalpio* and *Kerstin Mitts*.



Erja Kalpio, I am a pastor with a Master's Degree in Theology with youth counsellor training. I live in Sulkava and from there I visit different churches in order to teach and preach. I'm praying for the youth work to get started within Karmel. My view is to preach the complete revelation of God's plan for Salvation in the Bible, where Israel occupies a central position.

Kerstin Mitts, I am a nursing teacher. For the past 10 years I've been visiting the Swedish speaking churches in Finland and teaching about the Bible and Israel. My deepest calling is to proclaim the Word, to teach what stands written about Israel in the Bible and to intercede. I have visited Israel as a tour leader on prayer trips. I feel that right now is the time to pray both for Finland and Israel.



Our workers have supporting circles of their own. You can join in by contacting the relevant person directly or via our office. Once a month our supporters get a newsletter from the worker of their choice.

Our society has many volunteers whose input is vital for our activities. Our different events carry a stamp of Israel and the Bible.

The Hebrew Language and Jewish Culture

Our society organizes basic and advanced courses in Hebrew. There are also discussion groups. We have been publishing different kinds of literature, e.g. dictionaries Finnish-Hebrew and Hebrew-Finnish, and various studying materials.

People can become acquainted with the Jewish culture and Biblical feasts on our courses.

Special Israel Theme Evenings

Through our theme evenings we try to give as versatile a picture as possible of Israel. Lectures by specialists treat the land, people, culture and every day life in Israel. They speak about how it is to live there, how it is to celebrate the feasts there, how the children are raised there and how to earn one's living. The political and security issues of Israel are also addressed. Interesting visitors discuss Jewish life in the Diaspora and the aliyah of Jews and new immigrants to Israel. While all of these discussions are based on experience, they also include Biblical and prophetic elements.

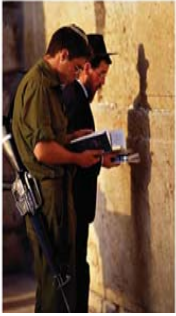
Evenings with Israeli Songs

We sing together Israeli songs and learn new ones. Our instructor is a music teacher *Maija-Liisa Sevilem*. Our music group is called '*Sarigim*' which means "branches of wine". The group often performs at our events and at Israel feasts.

Israel Congress

Our yearly main event is the Israel Congress. It is meant to be a refreshing oasis along the every day journey for the friends of Israel coming together from different corners of the country, and even from around the world. The lectures discuss different global issues from the point of view of Israel. We get fresh information about Israel and the Jewish way of life. Well measured and up-to-date information is available there. The invited lecturers are high-ranking specialists in their fields and important figures in public life. The Bible is considered the most important source book at these congresses. The word of God is the manna which sustains church members as they walk along the road. In songs and music the church finds its secret power. God inhabits the praises of His people Israel. There are always new, interesting and surprising things at our congresses.





Peace to Jerusalem

The Karmel Society of Finland is the local co-ordinator for the worldwide day of prayer. *"Let's wish peace to Jerusalem!"*. Come and join the prayer for Jerusalem.

Confirmation Classes in Israel

We organize yearly confirmation classes in Israel. The entire program covers a section at the home church and further studies and excursions in Israel. The confirmation class group comprises also group leaders, parents and a confirmation leader.



Exodus work

Our society is assisting the aliyah of the Russian Jews in co-operation with the Jewish Agency and the organization Neliapila, (Finnish for Four-leaf clover).



Planting Trees in Israel



The tree planting program aims to reintroduce forests into Israel which have been destroyed over the centuries. The Jewish National Fund 'Keren Kayemet' is responsible for the forestation program. All who participate in this fundraising receive a tree planting certificate.

Food Aid to Jerusalem

The destination for our food aid contributions, Neve Yaakov, is located in the northeast part of Jerusalem. This Food Aid Program serves those who need help, including immigrants, unemployed people, one parent families, lonely people and people with mental problems. The practical side of the work is run by the Netivyah Congregation.

Helping the Victims of Terror and War through The Natal Center

The conflict between Jews and Arabs has made a number of people pay an extremely high price both mentally and physically. The Natal Center organizes therapy for the victims and those close to them.





The Karmel Institute

The Karmel Institute will be a study center of the Karmel Society in Israel based in Yad Hashmona.



The institute will organize congresses, lectures, seminars, symposiums and different kinds of courses and events. Israeli and Finnish experts will be invited to speak. The study center will serve everybody who takes an interest in Israel and the Bible. The Karmel Institute will be a forum where Israelis and Finns can meet and build bridges. Our aim is to promote mutual knowledge and cultural exchange between Finland and Israel.



The Exotic Fruit Tree Garden - Exotigan

Jews from Yemen and Marocco founded Moshav Tsefalon in 1950 when they immigrated to Israel from the Diaspora. As part of a program to improve the quality of life and to beautify this small farming village, an exotic fruit tree garden was planted in 2007. The Karmel Society has contributed funds to enhance this unique garden and to make it accessible to visitors from Israel and abroad.



Tours to Israel

Tours to Israel enrich Bible study and one's spiritual life. As we travel and learn, Biblical events come alive for us. These trips often give insight even into one's own life. Each trip is planned around a certain theme. Tours to Israel provide up-to-date information about Israel and help in creating and cultivating connections to Israeli friends and partners. Travelling to Israel also brings great financial support to Israel. Karmel is promoting tourism to Israel by organizing tour leader training in cooperation with IGTO.



Tours to Other Destinations



We organize tours also to other Biblical countries and important centers in the Jewish world. Just to mention some: Krakow, Auschwitz, Budapest, Prague, St. Petersburg, Lithuania and Latvia.



Public Relations and Information

Membership letters

A membership or prayer letter is sent on average once a month to our members. They contain up-to-date information of our activities, plans and present situations.

Home page: www.suomenkarmelyhdistys.fi

- * News from Israel
- * Interesting tours to Israel and elsewhere
- * Info on courses, feasts and events organized by Karmel
- * Articles in our web shop

The Karmel magazine

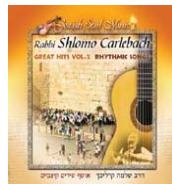
The Karmel magazine is published in 10 issues a year, two of them are double issues.



MINI SHOP

Our mini shop offers a versatile range of articles in Karmel office. Specialities available e.g.:

- * Spiritual literature
- * Hebrew dictionaries
- * Study materials
- * Music CD's
- * DVD's
- * Greeting cards
- * Judaica items
- * Dead Sea products



We welcome you to join the Karmel Society of Finland!

The motto of the Karmel Society of Finland is *"For the Bible and Israel"*. We believe that the Bible is the ultimate guideline for our faith and life, and that Israel is the chosen people of God. We want to pray for Israel and act in its best interest.

The membership of the Karmel Society is confirmed by our board. All the persons who regard the Bible as God's word and who await for the second coming of Jesus as well as for the renewal of Israel through Him are welcomed.

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you".



I WANT TO JOIN THE KARMEL SOCIETY OF FINLAND AS A MEMBER

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

wish to have newsletters via email

Phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Yearly membership ____ (20 €)

Permanent membership ____ (150 €)

Date and place: _____

Signature: _____