



## Testimonials

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During my second year of college at the University of Florida, an antisemitic speaker came to my campus to spread hatred and lies against Israel and the Jewish people. I watched first-hand as the Jewish community on my campus grew increasingly hurt as this individual promoted his lecture and the belief that Jews are not equal in society. During this time, I was connected to CUFI on Campus and was provided with the opportunity to host Irving Roth, a Holocaust survivor who committed his legacy to fighting against the evil of antisemitism to prevent the Holocaust from ever occurring again.

At this time, I was hardly in any clubs on campus and had never imagined I would be given the opportunity to host a speaker with such an incredible testimony. I was also, admittedly, worried that I was not qualified to promote the event and fill a classroom for Irving's speech. I do believe, however, that there are moments in life where our weakness and inexperience is for the best. Within a week, I saw how God transformed this fear of not being able to fill a classroom into a fear of hoping my university's auditorium would be big enough to hold over 500 students who came out to hear Irving share his story of surviving one of the world's greatest tragedies and witness his determination toward ensuring the next generation will forever see a brighter tomorrow.

After hosting Irving with CUFI on Campus, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel across the Holy Land with other pro-Israel students from across the country as a Bonhoeffer Fellow. Throughout this fellowship, I found my greatest friends and discovered an everlasting love for Israel and her people. I witnessed how a democracy can exist in the heart of the Middle East, where Christians are invited to pray at some of the holiest sites tied to our faith. This trip encouraged me to continue remaining active as the chapter president of the CUFI on Campus chapter at my university, where I was able to work with other students to educate our community on the US-Israel relationship and raise money for organizations like Save A Child's Heart, which provides life-saving heart surgeries to children throughout the Middle East.

Without CUFI on Campus, I would not have discovered my love for Israel and my passion for standing with the Jewish people. Today, I am grateful to be able to work as the Digital Media Associate for Christians United for Israel, where I inform the organization's members about current events surrounding Israel and the broader Middle East online. The lessons I have learned as a student through CUFI on Campus have equipped me to not only understand the importance of this role each day but to understand the lasting impact it has on dispelling the anti-Israel narrative that continues to spread on our campuses and throughout our country by shedding light on the truth and believing in God's faithfulness.

- Taylor Roth

It's not an overstatement to say that CUFI on Campus changed my life. My first DC Summit redirected my path and CUFI helped shape me into the person I am today by strengthening my passion for God's word, instilling in me a heart for the Jewish people, providing me with likeminded peer and mentoring relationships, and giving me a platform to grow in my leadership skills which I have carried with me into my professional life.

- Corina Cater

As a Sophomore at a Christian university, I was taken back when the school opposed me hosting an event to educate other students about the Judeo roots found in the Biblical foundation of our faith. The staff felt it would be controversial and I didn't know how to respond. CUFI on Campus gave me the understanding of how to verbalize what I knew was true, and how to stand boldly but graciously for that truth regardless of circumstances. After attending the first CUFI on Campus trip to Israel, my heart was forever tied to the mission of CUFI. I didn't know where life would take me after I graduated, but I knew I had a responsibility to steward what I learned and would be aware and ready to confidently stand against injustice and anti-Semitism wherever and whenever I came across it in life. Today, I direct CUFI's Donor Engagement department. Being able to engage with CUFI's partners to ensure the revelation of Israel is imparted into future generations, is a great gift. Having received a scholarship all those years ago that changed the trajectory of my life, I fully understand how valuable the sacrifice is for the long-term destiny of young Christians. Every time the investment is made, during such a pivotal season in their lives, it is impressed into their hearts forever and will be returned and multiplied exponentially throughout their lifetime, and for generations after them.

- Hope Hernandez

CUFI on Campus greatly impacted my life and permanently changed it for the better.

I was first introduced to CUFI on Campus by my parents. I was always a supporter of Israel and had learned Hebrew prayers as a child. I was taught to pray for Israel and learn about the Jews. However, I was completely unaware of what was happening in Israel and the attacks that regularly occur.

As pastor (and secretary) of my church, my parents were invited to a CUFI Breakfast meeting hosted by CUFI National Western Coordinator, Randy Neal. New Mexico - my current home state - was a focus at the time since there wasn't a lot of traction. As a result, Randy and his team came to my small town and invited other local pastors to the meeting.

My parents were very interested and heard about the scholarship for campus. Through their insistence, I applied to the D.C. Summit scholarship and was blessed enough to receive it! The

CUFI D.C. Summit was an experience which lit something in me that had been dormant for a long time.

I remember walking into the brightly lit room with hundreds of other students in preparation for the first event. All were buzzing and talking excitedly. I'm more of a natural wallflower, so I stayed in my seat for most of the event and listened.

Jessica Marzucco, CUFI on Campus's Director, opened the event with a rallying speech. She spoke of our impact and what Israel was going through. She detailed our connection as Christians and that we were there for "such a time as this."

Besides being completely in awe of Jessica's speaking ability, I felt the Lord calling me to become more involved. The rest of the event was a blur as I learned more about Israel's plight and our responsibility to the Jews. I remember calling my mother each night and enthusiastically spilling out all of the information that was presented (I slept really well that week, I won't lie).

After that I went to the Summit every year I could and was accepted into the CUFI on Campus Bonhoeffer Scholarship to Israel. That was a life-changing experience.

Since then, I was given the amazing opportunity to speak at an Irving Roth event in my state, talk to my home church about CUFI, start a CUFI chapter at University of New Mexico, and actually become part of the staff at CUFI on Campus!

So, has CUFI on Campus changed my life? Absolutely. Without them, I would never have known the real truth of Israel and wouldn't have the enormous privilege of spreading that knowledge to other students. I am sincerely grateful to CUFI on Campus and thank God for them every day.

- Cherith Runyon

The thing that immediately came to mind when you asked me to write up a testimony about how CUFI on Campus impacted me was that CUFI on Campus trained, equipped, and empowered me as a student leader for the job I have now within CUFI on Campus. My 2 years at UC Davis were amazing but filled with a lot of sadness and heartache when it came to the topic of anti-Semitism. Davis was the guinea pig campus for SJP to push their divestment legislation for the first time in a consolidated and coordinated effort. And while we did hold them off for 2 years, it was exhausting and defeating emotionally to be in those divestment Senate hearings each semester one or two times a week – sometimes from 5 pm to 2 am. Luckily, I had Josh and Jessica to coach me on how to write speeches, coalition build with other organizations, prep for divestment hearings, and so much more. With their help, I felt like I did indeed have a voice and had a message to give to my campus. Even though those years were hard, looking back I wouldn't trade those years for anything because they built character, they helped me to know in detail every strategy and argument of SJP, and they trained me for the job I know have empowering students to pass IHRA on their campuses!

I remember always feeling so defeated as a student because I was always on the defensive side of every form of pro-Israel activism on my campus – and especially in Student Government in divestment hearings. But with IHRA, our side is now on the offensive! As a student in 2013-2014, I never could have imagined that the pro-Israel community could now have such a strong voice in SGA and pass such powerful legislation to protect the Jewish community and to stand up for Israel. It is incredible to see how many pieces of IHRA legislation have been passed in the US just this year. I think it is close to all the BDS pieces of legislation that SJP passed over the course of 7 years. In a way, helping these students pass IHRA is redeeming everything I went through as a college student and ensuring that others don't have to go through it as well.

- Lydia Yazzie

In 2008, I spent a month backpacking in Israel. I fell in love with the people of this amazing country, and as I visited place after place in Israel, I could sense their very real desire for peace—and the very real danger sometimes only kilometers away, or even in their own neighborhoods.

As a young Christian student focusing on history and politics, I returned to campus at Portland State University, in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. I was looking to learn more about this place and its role in the region. I was shocked to find that contrary to what I had seen with my own eyes, professors on my campus were presenting a biased and inflammatory false narrative about Israel. I began to write and speak about my own experience in Israel, and to push back on the misinformation that professors and outside activists were saying. I saw my friends in our small Jewish community become more and more intimidated as one anti-Israel speaker after another made the rounds on campus. Even an anti-Israel rap group that calls Israelis Nazis in their lyrics was invited to perform at a grade school just around the corner from my campus. I will never forget a young Jewish student pleading with the school board not to allow this group to call his Israeli mother a nazi in this grade school, nor will I forget the photo the principal took with the rap group, despite the Jewish community's pleas. I was doing my best to support the Jewish community and to speak up, but I was alone and unable to do anything of significance to help put an end to these activities in my own community.

Then I found CUFI on Campus.

With just one phone call, I had a whole world of support and resources to effectively share the truth of Israel on my campus. In addition to coaching me on several interviews on local news, CUFI arranged for me to speak about what was happening on my campus on national television. We hosted Irving Roth, a Holocaust Survivor, IDF General Bentzi Gruber, television host Erick Stakelbeck, and several events to educate Christian students on the importance of supporting Israel. CUFI made the difference between one voice trying to make a difference to an effective, supported, activist that was able to make a true difference on my campus, and educate students and faculty alike. Since then, I have had the privilege of working on the CUFI team as staff, first, through directing CUFI on Campus in 2013 and 2014, then by heading

up Israel Collective, CUFI's outreach to high profile leaders across the nation. Through working for CUFI, we have been enabled to reach thousands of key leaders and students—and millions more via social media. Today, because of the support of CUFI as a student, I can say my time and experience as a CUFI On Campus activist has touched millions of lives. I barely have words to describe my gratitude to CUFI, to Pastor and Mrs. Hagee, and Shari Dollinger, for the privilege of getting to keep doing this lifesaving, God-honoring work every day.

- Josh Ahrens

It wasn't until I went to Israel with CUFI on Campus in 2010 did I see and understand the importance of not only supporting Israel but educating my peers about Israel. I know I would not be here if it was not for the CUFI on Campus' staff's commitment. They ensured I had the right materials, resources, and training I needed to establish a chapter, recruit members, and hold events on my campus. Without CUFI, I know I would not have understood my Christian connection to Israel. I would not have been motivated to advocate and educate my fellow peers while I was a student. Today, I get to use my experience as a CUFI on Campus college student and the knowledge instilled in me by CUFI to help this upcoming generation be bold and courageous to speak up when they hear lies being spoken about Israel and the Jewish people.

- Laura Villanueva

I visited Israel in 2009 on my own. I grew up in a pro-Israel Christian home and my dream since I was a little girl was to visit the land of Israel. On that 2009 trip, my tour guide told me that if I really wanted to support Israel, I shouldn't stay there and work on a kibbutz, (I was toying with the idea) but to go to college and find out HOW to support Israel. Thanks, Ido Kanaan! Going to college was something God had been putting on my heart for the few years since I had graduated high school and I felt He was calling me to Regent University.

There at Regent, my RA Molly slid a CUFI on Campus mailer packet under my dorm room door. She said the office was going to throw it out, but she kept it because she, "Knew a girl who loves Israel." That mailer was the first time I'd heard of CUFI, I read that pamphlet cover to cover and saw CUFI offered a scholarship to the DC Summit. I spent hours filling out my application carefully and prayerfully. I remember I called my sister to pray with me that I would get accepted.

I knew I supported Israel, and I knew my reasons were valid, but beyond this, I felt powerless to make difference. Before CUFI on Campus, I was giving reports in public speaking class on Israel, I was writing papers on Israel, but I had no idea what to DO on my campus to make a difference.

When I found out my application was accepted, I was ecstatic! After that first Summit in 2010,

my life completely changed.

CUFI on Campus gave me the vocabulary, the tools, the call to action, the resources in the form of speakers, education, and opportunities to ACT! The CUFI on Campus chapter that I founded at Regent University began to rapidly grow, and thank God, it is still going strong over 10 years later with each new chapter president!

To this day I am 100% certain that that CUFI on Campus DC scholarship that I was given in 2010 was a divine appointment. I had been praying for years for God to show me “how to help Israel.”

Because a CUFI member cared enough about Israel and the Jewish people to give a random college student a CUFI scholarship, I’ve been able to not only educate my own campus when I was a college student, but now as staff, I am able to pour myself into building up countless student activists in their own work, to teach, to build the CUFI on Campus semester campaigns, the Nehemiah Generation small group studies, build new CUFI on Campus initiatives, build the Bonhoeffer Fellowship, and live out God’s call to love and support Israel and the Jewish people.

I thank God for that CUFI on Campus. Answer to prayer.

- Jessica Marzucco

When I was in high school, began to I hear fellow classmates make jokes about Jews and the Holocaust. As a shy and timid teenager who had never encountered antisemitism before, I was shocked and at a loss for words. The thought that my peers could make light of such a tragedy broke my heart. During my senior year, my parents told me about CUFI’s Washington DC Summit and that I could attend for almost free (if it wasn’t for the scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to afford it). That DC Summit in 2014 changed the course of my life. I had no idea there were so many young Christians who cared about Israel and the Jewish people as much as I did. This thing that made me odd was a thing I shared with thousands of like-minded individuals. The training I received from CUFI on Campus was something I could not keep to myself, so I started a CUFI chapter my freshman year of college. With my limited knowledge and my not so outgoing personality, I did what I could to be a voice for Israel on my campus. I don’t think I would have had the courage or motivation to do that if I wasn’t plugged into the CUFI on Campus community. I’ve spent about 1/3 of my life being involved with CUFI in some capacity— first as a student activist, then as an intern, and now as a regional coordinator. The way I’m able to have an informed conversation about Israel today at 24 is something I never thought I could do at 18. CUFI took a big, complicated, and intimidating issue and made it understandable for a shy girl who hardly knew anything about the Middle East. CUFI helped me find a cause bigger than myself and step outside of my comfort zone for the sake of G-d’s chosen people. And not only did I get information, I got to see Israel for myself. My heart is full of gratitude for the experiences CUFI has given me.

- Hannah Washington