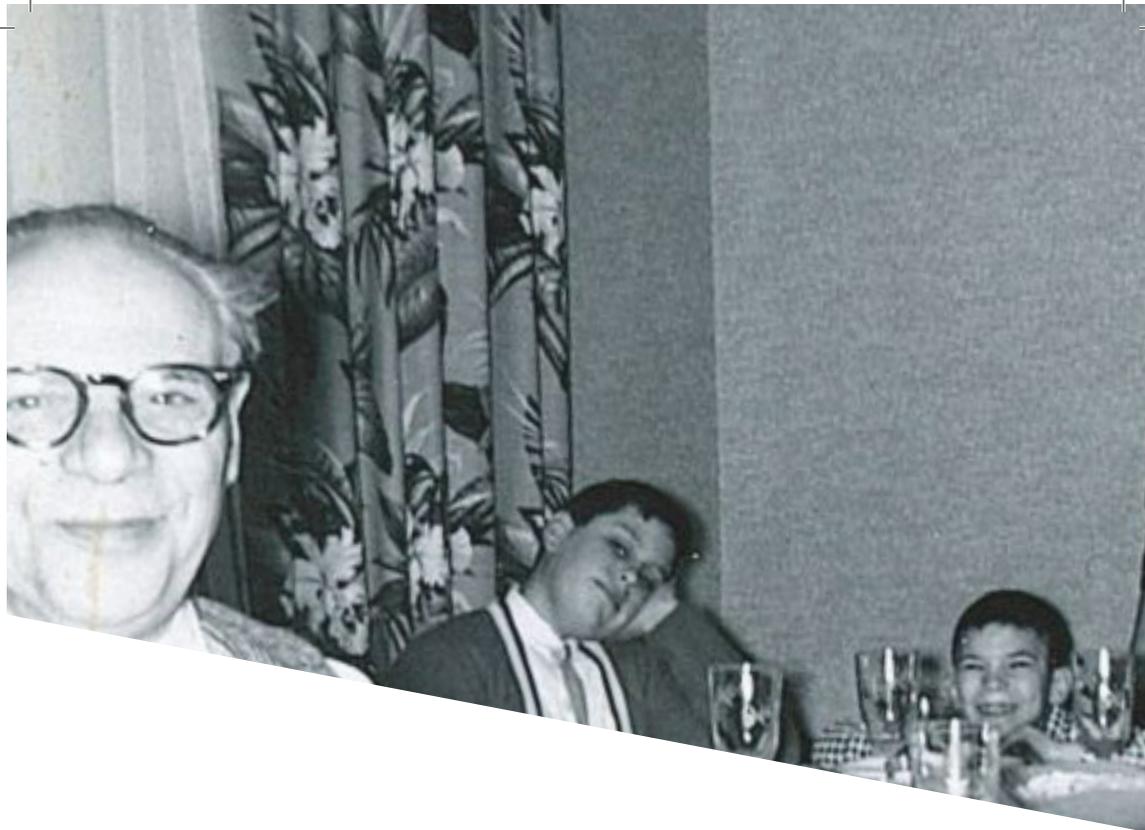


CANADIAN *Communiqué*

FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc. Vol. 17.1 Spring 2019





A NOTE FROM STEVE

Enough of winter already! You're probably feeling the same way I feel about now. Don't thoughts of spring warm your heart and put a smile on your face? Spring brings blooming flowers, sunny skies, and, of course, warmer weather. For the Jewish people, spring means Passover and celebration of the seder—the ritual dinner—service. I am blessed to have warm memories of my family seders growing up (one of which is pictured above). My memories include great food and wonderful family time, as well as a time of spiritual renewal by remembering God's redeeming hand for our people. After becoming a believer and follower of Christ, I realized what

a solid foundation Passover is to the reality that Jesus is the Lamb of God who saves those who believe and trust in Him.

This issue of the *Communiqué* is really special. Each article focuses on Passover. Larry Mitchell begins by telling the Passover narrative. He has a unique way of using Scripture to communicate the story. John McKim takes us directly into the homes of Canadian-Israeli Jews who freely share their memories of this annual feast. Rob Gottselig gets very specific, listing and explaining the elements of the seder. "Jesus and the Passover," by Dan Bowers examines the significance of Passover to the church



today. John Plantz shares the details of his first Passover seder, which lasted eight hours. Richard Toviaah explains why Easter and Passover are not always celebrated at the same time. In addition, Steve Weir, our new Ministry Advancement representative, shares his heart. Finally, Chris Katulka provides another “On the Air” piece.

You are invited to be a part of “Table Talk With Dr. Dan,” a free, weekly, online Bible study. Be sure to check out the insert included in your *Communiqué* for information.

Our Canadian staff is busy every year presenting Passover demonstrations in churches and homes as a means to better

understand the gospel. If you are interested in hosting a demonstration or meal, call our Canadian office to line up a speaker.

A number of years ago my family and I filmed a video to help believers see how the Passover is fulfilled in Christ. The DVD *Christ in the Passover* is available for purchase through our online store at store.foi.org or call our Canadian office to order by phone.



Steve Herzig is the director of FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.



The Story of Passover

Like birds flying about, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it (Isa. 31:5).

God revealed to Abraham that his descendants would be afflicted for more than 400 years.

Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions” (Gen. 15:13–14).

The oppression the Jewish people endured was severe.

So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made

their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor (Ex. 1:13–14).

The children of Israel cried out to the Lord for deliverance, and God heard their prayers. He would send Moses to free His people.

So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive” (Ex. 1:22).

Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord, and God sent 10 plagues to judge Egypt.

Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which



the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt (Ex. 3:9–10).

The last plague was the killing of the firstborn. God would send the angel of death to every home to smite the firstborn. The Lord promised He would pass over every home that was sprinkled with the blood of the lamb, protecting His people from the angel of death.

And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go” (Ex. 5:2).

Israel was saved from the destroyer when God saw the blood of the lamb. Prophetically it painted a picture of the

Messiah, our Passover Lamb.

For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you (Ex. 12:23).

For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 5:7).

*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 Jn. 1:7).*

by Larry Mitchell,
the Calgary,
Alberta, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



THE PASSOVER FROM A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

A LOOK INTO JEWISH HOMES ON PASSOVER



The Feast of Passover, (Hebrew, *Pesach*), holds great significance to the majority of Jewish people all over the world celebrating their freedom as a nation. My wife and I interviewed three Israeli families for their personal recollections.

Two families consider themselves religious and one non-religious. Many similarities appeared with the two religious families:

1. Much preparation, as in spring cleaning the home several weeks beforehand.
2. Pots, pans, and dishes were boiled to make them *kosher* (fit, clean).
3. Lots of activity in the kitchen making ready a sumptuous meal.
4. Purchase of new clothing bought

specifically for the holiday to wear to synagogue.

5. Setting of the table with the best dishes, to host family and extended family members: generally a large crowd.

The eldest family member—often a grandfather—would preside, and read from the *Haggadah* (the story of the deliverance from Egyptian bondage) the journey across the Red Sea and through the wilderness, led by Moses. In the absence of a grandfather, the father of the family would read and thus teach the children what Passover means.

We have celebrated Passover in a religiously observant home and a non-religious home. In the non-religious, it was very low key and

only lasted about 15-20 minutes, with a very brief reading and a nice, though certainly not fancy meal. In the observant home, the entire evening from start to finish lasted for several hours, with an abundance of food.

These memories and recollections are very wonderful and meaningful to a Jewish person. Yet from a Christian perspective, we see the spiritual significance of Messiah being the true Passover Lamb; as the apostle Paul said, “Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7). Pray we would be sensitive to God’s leading to share that message.

by John McKim,
the Saint
John, New
Brunswick, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



Elements of the Seder Plate

The original Passover was simple, as there were only three elements on the table; the Passover lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread. Over the years and since the destruction of the second Temple in AD 70, other elements have been added. Today there are typically six elements on the seder plate, along with a bowl of salt water, a cup that will be filled four times with red wine or grape juice, Elijah's cup, and a three-pocket bag for the matzoh. Each element on the seder plate has deep meaning to the Jewish people as well as to Christians who understand the significance. Let's briefly examine them.

Shank bone: Symbolic of the Passover lamb (Ex 12:5, 6, 46). Reminds believers that Jesus is our Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7; Jn. 19:36).

Unleavened bread (matzoh): Symbolic of what the Israelites ate as they left Egypt in haste. Today, three matzohs are placed in the three pockets of the matzoh bag. The middle one is taken out and broken (Mt. 26:26) and half of it, called the Afikomen, is wrapped in a white cloth. It is then hidden away (Mt. 27:59–60) for the children to find later and to receive a reward. One meaning of Afikomen, the only Greek word in the seder service, is "he came." For Christians, we know leaven resembles sin (1 Cor. 5:7) and as matzoh is without leaven, so Jesus was without sin (1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22).

Bitter herbs (maror): Strong horse-radish brings tears and symbolizes the Jewish people's bitter slavery in Egypt. The prophet Zechariah tells us of another time when there will be deep, bitter sorrow, as His Chosen People will look upon Him (Messiah Jesus) whom they have pierced (Zech 12:10).

Parsley (karpas): Symbolic of the hyssop used by the Israelites to apply the blood of the Passover lamb to their doorposts and lintel. A strong reminder that the shed blood of Messiah, the Passover lamb, must be applied to one's heart (Rom. 10:9–10).

Charoset: A mixture of chopped apples, nuts, and cinnamon. It is brown in color, reminding them of the mortar that was mixed for the Egyptians; and sweet to the taste, reminding them of the sweetness of freedom when they were redeemed out of



bondage in Egypt.

Roasted egg: Symbolic of the burning and destruction of the Temple. The believer looks forward to when Messiah Jesus will rule from His throne, in the future Millennial Temple (Isa. 9:7).

by Rob Gottselig,
the Regina,
Saskatchewan,
field representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.



Jesus in the Passover

Passover commemorates the act of God passing over the houses of the children of Israel when He took the firstborn of man and beast in Egypt.

Luke 22 shows us why Passover is important to us as Christians today. However, it is in Exodus 12 that we find one of the greatest pictures of the price of redemption that can be found

anywhere in the Old Testament.

Jesus and His disciples, along with all of Israel, were doing what had been done since Israel was delivered out of slavery in Egypt. Yet, from the beginning of the Passover remembrance, visions of the coming Messiah are seen.

The key event of the Passover celebration is the seder, a dinner during which

the story of the Passover itself is told. As Christians, our observance of the Lord's Supper is a brief re-enactment of that last Passover seder that Christ Jesus had with His disciples.

God gave precise instructions for the Passover ceremony which was to become an everlasting ordinance in Israel. Every piece of instruction provided in Exodus 12 had a symbolic meaning which related to Christ Jesus and God's plan of redemption for mankind.

- A lamb was to be taken to the house of their father (Ex. 12:3).
- If the household was too small, they were to join with their neighbours (Ex. 12:4).
- Sharing the Passover meal illustrates the obligation we have as Christians to share the gospel of Christ with others (Acts 1:8; Mt. 5:15,16).
- The lamb had to be one year old and without blemish (Ex. 12:5).
- The law later expressly forbade any blemished animals for sacrifice (Lev. 22:20–25). This provision typifies the Lamb of God, who is “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners” (Heb. 7:26), and who is the “lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:19). The “whole assembly,” or all of Israel was to partake of this rite.
- The lamb was to be killed in the evening of the 14th day of the month (Ex. 12:6).
- The lamb was to be slain, its blood caught in a basin (Ex. 12:22).
- The Jewish people were then commanded to take the blood of the lamb and strike or sprinkle

it on the two sideposts of the door and on the upper doorpost (Ex. 12:7).

- This command of sprinkling the blood of the lamb on the doorpost is illustrative of Christ, God's Lamb, who redeemed man through His shed blood.

As that old gospel hymn says, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”

- The Passover meal was to be eaten with “bitter herbs” or vegetables (Ex. 12:8). This is a type or picture of the bitterness of Israel's slavery in Egypt. Jewish tradition says that chicory, endive, wild lettuces, and nettles were included in this. For me personally, it also pictures the bitterness of sin that once controlled my life, but from which the shed blood of Christ Jesus cleansed me.
- The Passover lamb was to be eaten in its entirety (Ex. 12:8–10). This symbolizes the total Person of Christ, our Passover, who was offered for sin (Isa. 53:1–5): not only our sin, but the sin of the entire world (Jn. 1:29). It also illustrates the unity of God's people. The lamb was to be totally and completely consumed the night of the paschal feast. This symbolizes the total Person of Christ who is the one Offering for sin.

by Daniel Bowers,
a Winnipeg,
Manitoba, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.





My first Passover experience was in Gilat, Israel, while I was studying archeology there. The service was in Hebrew and only eight hours long! I did not understand much, but later, when considering the Messianic aspects of Passover, my heart echoed what so many have said after their first seder —*Amazing! I can't believe how clearly it depicts the saving work of Jesus Christ the Messiah!*

Here are five reasons the biblical account of Passover is so important for us today:

1. Given for our learning (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10: 6, 11).
2. Rich in symbolism, as seen in its connection to the Ten Commandments, which God introduces with “I am the LORD thy God which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, out of the

house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20: 2, 3). Exodus 12:2 says, “This month [of Passover] shall be unto you the beginning of months.” The importance God designates to this season shows it to be of highest priority.

3. A time for families (Ex. 13:8–14). A teaching tool for future generations.
4. A time of remembrance (Ex. 12:14).
5. It points to the promised Messiah. “For even Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7). For believers in Messiah, Passover depicts well our pre-Christian state in “Egypt’s bondage” and our utter dependence on God for salvation. When the lamb’s blood

Passover

A BLESSED HOPE

was shed it offered life, but unless applied it was of no benefit. Just so, we must appropriate the Messiah's sacrifice for us personally for redemption to take place.

Just as the Hebrew children were called out of Egypt, so the Lord calls us, "Come ye out from among them [the world] and be ye separate...and I will be a Father unto you" (2 Cor. 6:17, 18).

God wants us to know HIM. Through Israel's deliverance God clearly reveals His omnipotence. Through the plagues He is seen as a dispenser of justice and in Deuteronomy 7:8 reveals Himself as a God of love and keeper of promises. His divine protection and sustenance was seen as He delivered the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt.

At the Passover, Jesus instructed His

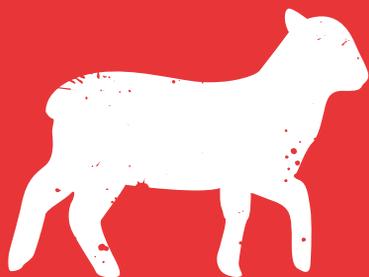
followers to remember that the bread was His body and the wine His blood and to partake unto eternal life (Jn. 6:53-54).

At that Last Supper (Mt. 26:29), Jesus also directed the focus to the future marriage supper of the Lamb spoken of in Revelation 21:3, where He reiterates His words from Exodus 6:7 before the very first Passover, "He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

Passover, a blessed hope, is ours.

*by John Plantz,
a Winnipeg,
Manitoba,
Church Ministries
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.*





WHY PASSOVER AND EASTER DON'T ALWAYS COINCIDE

Jewish feasts are based on the Jewish calendar, which is very different from the Western calendar. It's not a straight-forward lunar calendar, but every time there is a new moon it indicates a new Jewish month or *Rosh Hodesh*, which means "head of the month." Passover is always on the 15th day of Nisan—when the moon is full. Exodus 12:2 says, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Passover (Hebrew, *Pesach*), the holiday, commemorates the Hebrews' exodus from slavery in Egypt.

Relations between the rabbinic Jewish community and the Western Church had deteriorated significantly in subsequent centuries after Pentecost. Church leaders at the Council of Nicea (AD 325) determined to make a deliberate break with the people of Israel. A separate festival would be celebrated on the first new moon after the spring equinox (March 21 on the Gregorian calendar). The English word *Easter* comes from *Eostre*, a goddess associated with

springtime. Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the paschal full moon that occurs on or after the equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. The holiday can occur anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

It was a sad time for the culture of the early church. In time, the church became predominantly non-Jewish. An increasingly anti-Semitic tendency was reflected in the theological writings of the early church. Jewish people were depicted as wicked and abandoned by God. When this final separation of Easter from Passover occurred, the focus was on the resurrection alone, rather than on the death and resurrection of the Passover Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

by Richard Toviah,
a Winnipeg,
Manitoba, field
representative
for FOI Gospel
Ministry, Inc.





On the Air With Chris Katulka

Passover is one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. Families and friends gather together to retell how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. For 400 years the Israelites were away from the land God promised them. God never forgot His people. He didn't have a moment of "Oh my, I forgot all about the Israelites! I can't believe I left them in Egypt!" When it says "God remembered," this is a way of saying He was attentive to what was happening. God raised up Moses to counter the hard heart of Pharaoh, who refused to let the Israelites go; and through a series of 10 plagues, God delivered the Israelites from slavery into freedom.

That last plague was the most significant. If Pharaoh wouldn't release the Israelites from bondage and slavery, all the firstborn of the land of Egypt would die. Israelites were commanded

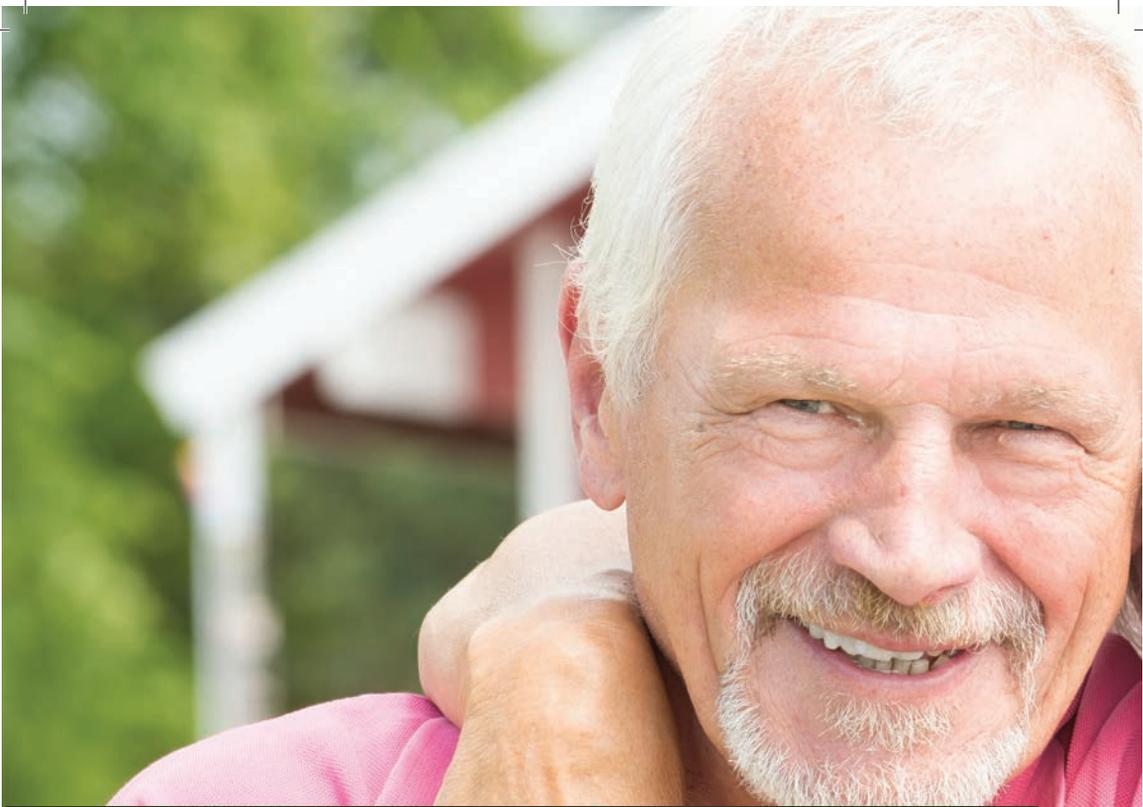
by God to take the blood of a lamb and smear it on the doorposts and lintel of the house as a sign for the angel of the Lord to pass over the house and people who are in it. That's where the name Passover comes from. The blood was a sign for the Lord that the Israelites took a step of faith to follow Him, to trust Him, to apply the blood of the lamb to their doorposts.

The Israelites' faith to mark their homes with the blood of the lamb saved them from the judgment coming on Egypt. God passed over them, delivering them from His wrath, and released them from slavery into freedom. God didn't forget His Chosen People.

Chris Katulka is the host of The Friends of Israel Today radio program.



Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a Friends of Israel Today radio program. To hear the episode in its entirety, go to www.foiradio.org.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

PLANNED GIVING

Solomon in Ecclesiastes laments, *Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity (Eccl. 2:18-19, NASB).*

In essence Solomon is saying, “You work hard for all your wealth and when your time on Earth is up you can’t take it with you. And worse, you leave it behind to people that are not worthy of your wealth, don’t deserve it, squander it, or use it for things that you would not approve of.”

This is the reality of those who do not plan their legacy; it is left to the government, to family members that either don’t need it, abuse it, or squander it.

But, there is a better way called Planned Giving. You can put plans in place that:

- express your love and values;
- convey love and nurture to your loved ones;
- and, leave a legacy that is pleasing to God, by providing funds to His work, instead of the government.

Taking the time now to learn and then put in place the best ways you can express your love and values and secure a legacy for God’s work, is one



of the most important decisions you could make. As long as you are of sound mind, it is never too late to make a difference for yourself, your family, and the Lord's work.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to this kind of planning. It requires some basic knowledge of the tools available to your unique situation, such as:

- naming a charity like The Friends of Israel in your will;
- transferring stocks and bonds as a whole, saving on Capital Gains tax;
- charitable Gift Annuities that pay you over your lifetime while supporting FOI;
- endowment funds and trust

funds that establish support over many years.

Most often it is a combination of a few of these tools that make up the best plan for any individual. As Ministry Advancement representative for FOI Gospel Ministry, I can help you establish a legacy for both your loved ones and for the advancement of the gospel. You can call me at 705-928-3971; or email me at sweir@foi.org.

by Steve Weir,
the Ministry
Advancement
representative for FOI
Gospel Ministry, Inc.





FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc.

PO Box 428 STN A, Brampton, ON L6V 2L4

OFFICE 888-664-2584 • 905-457-6830 • FAX: 905-457-6547
www.foicanada.org

FOI Gospel Ministry, Inc. is authorized by CRA to issue official donation receipts.
COPYRIGHT FOI GOSPEL MINISTRY, INC. REPRINT WITH PERMISSION ONLY