

BRIDGES FOR PEACE

2016 YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORT

2016 was an important year for our ministry. Not only were we able to bless the Jewish people in significant ways, we also acknowledged a number of anniversaries throughout the year. Our Adoption Program celebrated its 20th year having helped 4,250 families since its inception in 1996. Project Rescue, also celebrating 20 years, has helped over 58,000 new immigrants make *aliyah* while Project Tikvah has continued for that same length of time, helping Jewish people in Ukraine who are unable to go to Israel because of age, illness or inability to make such an adjustment. We are grateful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for His blessings on Bridges for Peace!



OPERATION EZRA OUTREACH

Feed a Child

Feed a Child Program currently meets the needs of 400 children (210 in Beit Shemesh, 80 in Karmiel, 80 in Jerusalem and 30 in Kiryat Ekron) in ten schools. We celebrated our 10-year anniversary in 2016!

Adoption Program

The Adoption Program provides a much-needed safety net for new immigrants who are struggling to become fluent in Hebrew and established in Israel. Each month we averaged 210 participants—110 families in Karmiel and 55 families and 45 students in Jerusalem.

Cheer Baskets

In 2016, we gave out 1,933 baskets in the Land! Here is the breakdown: 709 to children and families on our programs, 899 to Holocaust survivors on their birthdays, 245 at Purim, 35 to mothers of newborns, 12 to families sitting shiva and 33 special baskets.

Food Banks

Our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel purchased and distributed a total of 1,210,046 pounds (550,021 kg) of food, feeding an average of 22,140 people per month. Direct aid was given to 18 communities through our Adopt an Israeli Town Program, and we assisted 49 organizations that distribute food to the needy in communities all over Israel, as well as six Christian Arab organizations.

Karmiel Food Storage Facility

In 2016, between the two assistance centers and the bulk storage facility, we had an average of 264.244 US tons (240.222 metric tons) of food on hand at any given time. Of that amount, 194.906 US tons (177.188 metric tons) were specifically designated as bulk storage, kept in readiness for times of crisis—enough to supply five months of food for the 22,140 people to whom we are committed. Careful attention is taken to rotate the food so that our bulk stores do not reach an expiration date.

Immigrant Welcome Gifts

Bridges for Peace distributed 1,529 blankets, 802 kitchen gifts and 1,245 Bibles welcoming new immigrant families to Israel. We also blessed children from the Feed a Child, Adoption and Adopt a Town programs with 1,434 pencil cases and 521 backpacks.

Home Repair

Our team of home repair experts renovated 160 homes, bringing the overall total since the program's beginning to 1,193. Volunteers who work in Home Repair have a unique opportunity to bless the Jewish people.

Project Rescue

Project Rescue helped 4,733 Jewish people immigrate to Israel in 2016, bringing the total number of Jewish people we have helped "rescue" to 58,982.

Project Tikvah (Hope)

We sent US \$179,200 to western Ukraine and Siberia to support soup kitchens and provide heaters, medicine, clothing and other needs for destitute Jewish people who cannot immigrate.



MULTIMEDIA EDUCATION

Publications

The bimonthly *Dispatch* was distributed to 18,000 subscribers and the monthly *Israel Teaching Letter* to 22,000 subscribers. On average, our weekly Israel Prayer Update was emailed to 18,500 subscribers. In addition, we published our eighth calendar.

Web

In June our new website went “live” and has been receiving positive reviews for its new look. During the month of December, the site had 15,893 unique users with 44,580 page views. The Spanish website was also redesigned, using the template from the BFP international site.

Facebook

The Bridges for Peace Facebook page is one of the primary ways we communicate our vision and commitment to stand with Israel. Now five years old, we have grown to 28,124 “likes” and are connecting with lovers of Israel from all over the world.

Video

The BFP Video Department continues to play an active role by producing videos and photographs that enable us to “tell the story” of Bridges for Peace and its role in supporting Israel and building relationships.

Group and Guest Relations

Ten groups with a total of 163 members participated in community service projects arranged by Bridges for Peace in 2016. In addition we gave informational tours of our facilities to another 80 groups (643 people) and hosted two Land of the Bible meals (64 guests), connecting them with the work of Bridges for Peace here in Israel.

Zealous8:2

The 2016 Zealous “Call to Zion” tour was the largest ever! Members of the first Zealous Israel Project (Z-1) joined the 10 incoming “Z-2” participants as well as 10 other young adults to spend 12 days in the Land. Tour participants returned to their home countries as strong advocates for Israel. The “Zealous Israel Project” continued for the second year with 10 participants arriving from the US, Canada, Japan and South Africa.

Zealous continues to expand its influence in social networking. Facebook has moved from 10,895 “likes” in January 2016 to 11,450 likes a year later. We are also active on Instagram and Twitter with 87 followers each.

Education around the World

The year 2016 was a busy one for our national offices. Our international president and CEO Rebecca Brimmer traveled to South Africa, UK, Canada, US and Japan, bringing a timely message direct from Israel. Our international development director Cheryl Hauer visited the US, Canada and the UK. In addition, she was able to bring the BFP message to the church in Russia, speaking to Christians who had never before heard of the importance of Christian support for Israel.

Staff

As of the end of the year, we had 57 volunteers from eight different countries serving in Israel, in addition to eight paid Israeli staff. An average of eight volunteers worked in Karmiel.

Relationship-building Efforts

A highlight of the year was the 20th anniversary celebration of our Japanese office. Rebecca Brimmer joined with our team in Japan, acknowledging their remarkable accomplishments in the past two decades. In 1996, our worldwide income was USD \$1.4 million, we had four national offices and one assistance center. Today, we have two widely recognized centers in Israel, eight national offices and an annual income of over USD \$9 million. Japan has become our second largest office, overseeing 500 Chai prayer groups and accounting for 20% of our worldwide income. Japanese donors have given trucks, bomb shelters, smart boards and projectors for a school in Jerusalem, and an ambulance.

Our relationships with the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, Israel Allies Foundation, Shavei Israel and the Center for Jewish Christian Dialogue and Cooperation continued to strengthen in 2016.

It was indeed a banner year in many ways. As Israel faces increasing international pressure and threats on every side, Christian support becomes increasingly critical. The work of every person involved in Bridges for Peace anywhere in the world contributes to our goal of bringing Jews and Christians together for a secure Israel. Thank you for your support, prayer and advocacy. Without you, none of this would be possible. May God bless you richly in the coming year.

Blessings from Jerusalem
Rebecca J. Brimmer
International President and CEO

