

BRIDGES FOR PEACE

2018 YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORT

A Word from BFP International President and CEO

2018 was a momentous year in Israel. We rejoiced on the 70th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. The United States and subsequently a few other nations (with others still considering) decided to move their embassies to Jerusalem. I was honored to be invited to the Foreign Ministry for a VIP-studded event celebrating the embassy relocation. I have never seen such joy on the faces of Israelis. When the United States—one of the major super powers—moved their embassy, it was understood as validation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, but also of the right of Israel as a sovereign state to determine its own capital and destiny.

It was also a difficult year, with rioting in the Gaza Strip that reached unprecedented levels. From March 2018 to the present, that rioting has become a normal event. We had a terrible day when hundreds of rockets were launched into civilian centers from the Gaza Strip. This was followed by a fragile cease-fire, which continues to be violated with sporadic missile fire. A new innovation was terror kites and balloons with incendiary devices attached. These simple weapons scorched southern Israel, affecting communities, nature reserves and farmland.

Through all the joy and sorrow, Bridges for Peace was there to minister God's love in practical ways, offering words of comfort and telling Israel's story to the Christian world. We were



able to give several firefighting trailers as one example of our “boots on the ground” approach to our ministry. On the day when hundreds of rockets were flying into Israel, our team was delivering food in the afflicted zone. We continue to minister to children, Holocaust survivors, immigrants, Israelis in crisis, college students, the elderly and the needy every day. It is our joy to show God's love and mercy to the Jewish people as He is bringing them home to Israel in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. It is our pledge to continue to be His representatives in the land of Israel.

OPERATION EZRA OUTREACH

Feed a Child

The 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're now in our second decade of bringing hope to Israeli children!

Adoption Program

The Adoption program provides a much-needed safety net for new immigrants who are struggling to become fluent in Hebrew and establish themselves in Israel. Throughout 2018 we averaged nearly 200 participants per month—90 families in Karmiel and 46 families and 40 students in Jerusalem.

Cheer Baskets

In 2018 we distributed 1,448 cheer baskets in the Land. The breakdown is as follows: 438 children and families on our programs, 477 Holocaust survivors on their birthdays, 245 at *Purim* (Feast of Esther), 22 to mothers of newborns, 10 to families sitting *shiva* (weeklong mourning period) and 256 special baskets.

Immigrant Welcome Gifts

Bridges for Peace welcomed new immigrant families to Israel by distributing 2,185 blankets, 1,014 kitchen gifts and 1,561 Bibles. We also blessed children from the Feed a Child, Adoption and Adopt an Israeli Town programs with 1,738 pencil cases and 495 backpacks.

Project Rescue

Project Rescue helped 4,703 Jewish people immigrate to Israel in 2018, bringing the total number we have helped “rescue” to 63,685.

Food Banks

Our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel purchased and distributed a total of 1,165,370 pounds (529,714 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. In addition to regular support, we give special gifts at Christmas to Arab Christian families.

Karmiel Food Storage Facility

In 2018, between the two assistance centers and the bulk storage facility, we had an average of 278,890 US tons (253,529 metric tons) of food on hand at any given time. Of that amount, 211,160 US tons (191,197 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. We pay close attention to rotate the food so that our bulk stores do not reach an expiration date.

Home Repair

Our team of home repair experts renovated 174 homes, bringing the overall total since the program's inception to 1,380. Volunteers who work in Home Repair have a unique opportunity to bless the Jewish people.

Project Tikvah (Hope)

We provided heaters, medicine, clothing and other much-needed items to destitute Jewish people in Ukraine and Siberia who cannot immigrate.

MULTIMEDIA EDUCATION

Publications

The bimonthly *Dispatch from Jerusalem* continues to spread the news of Israel and our work here to readers around the world. Links to the e-Dispatch, the monthly Israel Teaching Letter and the weekly Israel Prayer Update are sent to nearly 20,000 email addresses. Our tenth calendar, "Beautiful Israel," featured 13 vibrant, colorful scenes from the Holy Land. Our publications team works passionately to share the truth about Israel and educate the worldwide Church about the importance of standing with Israel and the Jewish people.

Web

The BFP website attracts new visitors each day with its vibrancy and engaging content. In 2018 we saw yet another rise in readership with a 30% increase in sessions and an 80% increase in page views, creating a 38% increase in pages viewed per session. The bounce rate also dropped by 92%. What makes this increasingly remarkable is that in 2018, 86% of those who visited our site were first-timers, meaning word is spreading to new people.

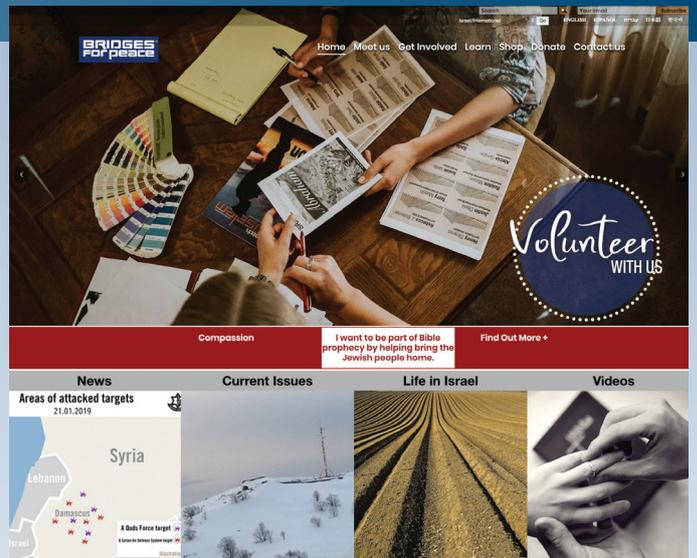
Our Korean site, using the same template as our international site, was completed in June. Please share it with others who would benefit from the Korean resources. The direct link is <https://www.bridgesforpeace.com/kr/>. We now have Bridges for Peace resources online in five different languages: English, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.

Facebook

The Bridges for Peace Facebook page continues to be a platform where we can interact with our global audience and supporters in a meaningful and personal way. We share our daily news stories to let people know what's really happening in Israel as well as weekly "Shabbat Shalom" posts with pictures and images of the Holy Land. Now seven years old, our Facebook page has reached 32,018 "likes," and we are growing brand recognition and connecting with lovers of Israel from all over the world.



Photos by bridgesforpeace.com



Video

2018 was a year of excellence for our video department. The video team creates meaningful content to draw in audiences around the world and get them excited about Israel and our work here. Our team consistently increases the quality of our content and has switched to making shorter videos in order to communicate the vision of Bridges for Peace in a concise, effective manner. The Bridges for Peace YouTube channel was updated in 2018 to be more user-friendly and interactive for our audience.

Group and Guest Relations

The Group and Guest Relations Department hosted a total of 1,165 visitors in 2018. Out of that number, 19 groups with a total of 361 people participated in community service projects (Discovery Groups), and two groups totaling 63 people participated in an interactive event (Land of the Bible Experience).

Zealous8:2

The 2018 Call to Zion tour was the 20th Zealous has hosted since it began 11 years ago. It also had the most participants of any tour, as 42 members from both the second and third Zealous Israel Projects (Z2 and Z3) joined to help make this our best tour ever. Most of the tour participants personally shared how inspiring and life-changing their experience had been. Everyone returned to their home countries as stronger advocates for Israel, challenged in their walk with God.

The Zealous Israel Project is now in its fourth year with 10 participants from Australia, Japan, Russia, South Africa and the United States. Having five nations represented is the most we've had in the ZProject!

There have been almost 40 young adult volunteers (ages 35 and younger) serving Bridges in Israel this year, which is more than any year before.

International Development

Terry Mason completed his first year as Director of International Development. He traveled to all six of the national offices that he oversees to better understand their contexts, providing encouragement and training to the office teams and representative networks.

The new national director in Australia, Matthew Chivers, has completed his transition into his new role.

Blessings from Jerusalem,
Rebecca J. Brimmer
International President and CEO