

2021 YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORT

**BRIDGES
FOR PEACE**

A Word from BFP's International President and CEO

As I look back over 2021, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the Lord for His provision in the midst of difficult times. For the second year of pandemic, when so many suffer around the world, we experienced a blessed year. The generosity of Christians around the world caused us to exceed our worldwide budget by about 2%. This allowed us to continue to reach out with love to all the people on our programs.

In addition to our regular programs, we assisted 17 immigrant nurses with a specialized program to help them succeed in their Israeli licensing process. We provided homes for Holocaust survivors through our partnership with Keren HaYasod. We purchased a medicycle. We provided a *bar* and *bat mitzvah* (Jewish coming of age ceremony) celebration for orphaned children.

Our national teams were not able to travel and teach as normal, but found new and innovative ways to communicate with our Christian friends and partners. We praise the Lord for every way we reached out to the people of Israel and to the Church this year.

Yet at the same time, we have had sorrow and difficulty. Several of the team in Israel have had COVID, although none have had to be hospitalized. We continue to pray for Raquel, who heads our Spanish Resource Center. Her husband, Adolfo, passed away after a long fight against COVID.

We look forward with joy to the future of Bridges for Peace. I am spending time each week mentoring and being blessed by the heart of Peter Fast, who will become our CEO in June 2023. God has blessed us with a man of character in Peter. His energy, creativity and love for God and Israel will greatly bless us all. Happily, I will remain as the international president.

As we look forward to 2022, I do so with confidence that the God we serve will continue to be with us, to lead us and direct our steps as we seek after Him.

When the children of Israel stood on the shores of the sea with the Egyptians coming after them, Moses spoke these words: *"Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will perform for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever. The LORD will fight for you, while you keep silent"* (Exod. 14:13–14 NASB).

Then, after the victory, Moses shared these words, *"If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and listen to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer"* (Exod. 15:26).

My prayer for us all is that we will continue to walk in faith, seeking the Lord and following Him with our whole hearts.



OPERATION EZRA OUTREACH

Feed a Child

The Feed a Child program currently meets the needs of 350 children (210 in Beit Shemesh, 80 in Karmiel, 30 in Jerusalem and 30 in Kiryat Ekron) in 9 schools. During 2021, we also donated 25 tablets and 4 laptops to students in Dimona, gifted NIS 90,000 (US \$29,000) to establish a new science and technology classroom in Beit Shemesh, assisted a family who had a fire in their home with special gifts and helped two families purchase much-needed furniture. 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. Since the program's inception, we have helped 4,871 families and individuals. A total of 153 families and individuals are currently on the program—73 families in Karmiel and 25 families and 55 students in Jerusalem, while 1 family with more than 6 members receives food 4 times per month.

Cheer Basket

In 2021 we distributed 3,259 cheer baskets in the Land. The breakdown is as follows: 424 children and families on our programs, 544 Holocaust survivors on their birthdays, 464 at *Purim*, 19 to mothers of newborns, 16 to families sitting *shiva* (week-long mourning period), 118 welcome/cheer baskets and 1,674 *Rosh HaShanah* (Jewish New Year) baskets.

Immigrant Welcome Gifts

Since the inception of this program in 2002, we have served 32,829 families. During 2021, BFP welcomed 383 new immigrant families (138 who

came through Project Rescue) to Israel by distributing 814 blankets, 386 kitchen gift sets, 832 *Tanakh*s (Gen.–Mal.) and 241 school kits.

Project Rescue

Project Rescue helped 5,104 Jewish people immigrate to Israel between December 2020 and November 2021, bringing the total number we have helped "rescue" to 86,016.

Food Banks

Our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel purchased and distributed a total of 1,072,123 lbs. (487,329 kg.) of food, feeding an average of 23,820 people per month. Direct aid was given to 22 communities through our Adopt an Israeli Town program, and we assisted 54 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 Christian Arab families.

Home Repair

Since the inception of the program, 1,664 jobs have been completed.

Project Tikvah (Hope)

We provided food parcels, hot meals, heating and other much-needed items to destitute Jewish people in Ukraine and Siberia who cannot immigrate.

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 more than 22,000 email addresses. Our calendar, “A Year in the Life of Israel,” featured 13 vibrant, colorful scenes depicting the various feasts, events and landmarks throughout the course of an average 12-month period in the Jewish state. 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 continues to inform and educate visitors with its vibrancy and engaging content. In 2021, we saw 932,508 hits, which is down by 32.4% from last year. The 2021 figures reflect a return to more normal activity after record highs in 2020. We believe the 2020 figures can be attributed to increased online activity during the initial days of the coronavirus pandemic. We also implemented a new payment gateway so that users in the US, Canada and international have the option of donating by PayPal or Subsplash.

Social Media

The BFP Facebook page continues to be a platform where we 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 regular posts with pictures and images of the Holy Land. Now 9 years old, our Facebook page has reached 40,180 “likes,” and we are growing brand recognition and connecting with lovers of Israel from all over the world.

As far as Instagram is concerned, we completed the first full year with an average of four posts per week. The @bridgesforpeace account has grown to 700 followers, translating to an overall growth rate of 66% in 2021. We are looking forward to connecting more Christians to the work of BFP and Israel through our Instagram account in 2022.

Video

2021 was another 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 created 19 videos during 2021.

Group and Guest Relations

The COVID-19 restrictions once again curbed the usual steady stream of international guests and visitors to BFP. The Group and Guest Relations department hosted a total of 22 guests in 2021. Four groups with a total of 47 people participated in community service projects (Discovery Groups).

Zealous8:2

The 2021 Call to Zion tour—the 22nd Zealous would have hosted since it began 13 years ago—had to be cancelled due to COVID-10 restrictions. Since its inception, hundreds of lives have been directly and intentionally invested in through volunteer service, touring the Land and discipleship, and we are looking forward to hosting the tour again in 2022.

The sixth Zealous Israel Project started with 7 participants from 3 nations, namely Canada, Japan and the United States.

There have been 19 young adult volunteers (ages 35 and younger) serving at BFP in Israel during 2021, which is 45% of our staff.

International Development

International Development solidified several areas that provide long-term stability toward growth. During most of year two of the pandemic, our national offices around the world faced similar challenges to those in 2020. Late in the year, some of our national leaders and representatives were able to travel and speak to groups again. We are hopeful that the Institute of Israel Studies will once again be held here in Jerusalem in 2022. Efforts continued throughout the year to start a new language resource center. French, German and Chinese contacts were cultivated. Relationships with Chinese-speaking churches continue to grow. We prayerfully anticipate starting Chinese translation in the coming year.

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

