



# BRIDGES FOR PEACE IN ACTION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## A WORD FROM THE BFP INTERNATIONAL CEO



**2023 WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY** as an extraordinary year for Bridges for Peace with the depth and intensity of our work finding new avenues and reaching new heights. It was only possible because of Christians who love, pray and stand with Israel and the Jewish people.

It has been a year of pain, division, strength and unity for Israel, and through it all, we remained steadfast in our calling from God to provide for Israel's needy and build relationships between Christians and Jews. It is a holy calling into which God has drawn hundreds of thousands of Christians worldwide to love what He loves and stand on His promises.

From January to October, we remained committed to growing our fingerprints of care in Israel. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of food fed some of the 20% of Israelis who live below the poverty line in a practical expression of unconditional love. Through our Feed a Child program, we continued to transform the lives of hundreds of children from impoverished families. We marveled at playing a role in the fulfillment of prophecy as we helped Jewish people from the Diaspora return to the land of their promise through Project Rescue—and then welcomed them home with gifts and helped them thrive in their new homeland through our Adoption program.

Then October 7 happened... Hours after rocket sirens screamed through Jerusalem, proclaiming the horror of a much fiercer, much more evil attack in the south, our team assembled in the office to rally Christians in the nations in support and prayer for Israel. Hours after that, a team headed south to some of the hardest hit areas, our vans crammed with humanitarian aid for those who have been hiding in bomb shelters for days.

As war loomed, our volunteers' home countries called on its citizens to evacuate. Yet all of us remained. Our love for the God of Israel and the people of Israel go beyond emotion into action. We weren't there during the Crusades, forcible expulsions, Spanish Inquisition, pogroms, Holocaust or wars of Israel's infancy. But we're here now. And we won't let the Jewish people face another crisis alone.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world agree with us. Thanks to faithful Christian donors like you who gave so generously of your finances and prayers, we were able to meet a deluge of needs. In fact, the four weeks after October 7 marked the highest financial month from international donations in Bridges for Peace's existence, with 2023 drawing to a close as our highest financial year from international donations in our history.

As the war continues to rage and anti-Semitism threaten like a tidal wave, 2024 promises to be another challenging year for Israel—and another opportunity for us to show Christian love and support in practical ways. Thank you for boldly partnering with us as we counter the evil and show the Jewish community in Israel and around the world that they are not alone! Thank you for partnering with us in 2024 to help push back the darkness with light.

Blessings from Jerusalem,  
Rev. Peter Fast  
International CEO

# WHAT WE'LL REMEMBER FROM 2023



Passing the baton to Peter Fast as new International CEO

Walking alongside Israel through October 7 and its aftermath



International Christians rallying around a traumatized nation, opening their hearts to give generously, making this the year with the highest donation income in our history



# THE DARKEST DAY SINCE THE HOLOCAUST

Nearly **US \$2 million** invested to help Israel push back the darkness

**6** new bomb shelters to two communities in Hamas's crosshairs

**2** new intensive care ambulance to Magen David Adom

**1,000s** of bags of non-perishables to hardest hit communities who remained huddled in bomb shelters

**2,144** school kits to children from displaced families so that they could return to class in their places of refuge

**150** shabbat dinners in hotels for displaced families

**1,300 pounds (590 kg.)** of emergency medical supplies airlifted from the UK

**3,658** meals for emergency first responders

**US \$45,000** invested in survivors' long-term emotional healing, sponsoring ongoing counselling

**100s** of washing machines, stoves and refrigerators for families who have to rebuild their homes

**Tons** of medical aid, food, protective gear, clothing and toys to displaced families

**Computers and printers** to municipal centers to track murdered victims and print death certificates

**Offering a shoulder** for countless survivors recounting their stories, sitting *shiva*, attending funerals and comforting grieving families





# ALIYAH: COMING HOME



Helped **109,376** Jewish people from the Diaspora come home to date



Welcomed them with **1,110** much-needed gifts for their new homes



Offer a safety net of monthly food and transport to **98** families and individuals as they establish new lives, find jobs and learn Hebrew





# COMPASSION AND CARE



**2,995** cheer baskets to celebrate the birthdays of impoverished children and Holocaust survivors, comfort families sitting *shiva* and congratulate parents following a birth



**680** special holiday gifts to Holocaust survivors, providing everything they need to celebrate the feast



Food, warmth, medicine and love to **100s** of destitute Jewish people in the former Soviet Union who cannot immigrate



**17** repair projects, including fixing up dilapidated apartments for Holocaust survivors to enable them to live in comfort and dignity







## BUILDING ISRAEL'S FUTURE



Feed nearly **25,000** needy Israelis from our Food Bank monthly



Supplied **340** impoverished children with prescribed text books, school essentials and daily meals



Come alongside **23** struggling communities, many of them on the Gaza border



Enable **55** Jewish and **6** Arab organizations to distribute food in communities







# TELLING ISRAEL'S STORY

## WHY?

- Israel = billboard to the nations that God exists

## WHAT?

- International Christians has a crucial role to play
- Join in the fulfilment of prophecy
- The importance of Christians standing with Israel
- Israel's prominent role in these days
- Good news from Zion
- Objective news from journalists on the ground to dispel anti-Israel bias
- Sounding a rallying call to prayer
- Bible-based teaching

## HOW?

- *Dispatch from Jerusalem* published bimonthly (hard copy & via e-Dispatch)
- Monthly Israel Teaching Letter
- Weekly Israel Prayer Update
- Daily news stories
- Video clips and reels
- Social media
- Birth of a dedicated Social Media department
- Exponential growth in followers, friends, reach, interaction and exposure on Facebook and Instagram
- Going live on TikTok
- Enable tour groups to serve Israel through community outreach projects
- Welcome international visitors
- Institute of Israel Studies, a two-week on-site seminar with teachings by Jewish and Christian experts, fieldtrips and hands-on experience immerses participants in the regional reality and equips them with everything they need to advocate for Israel with confidence





# INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION



**10** Christian young adults joined our Call to Zion in Israel for 12 days of compassion, adventure and revelation



**7** Christian young adults participated in the Zealous Israel Project in Jerusalem for 11 months of servant-based discipleship to be mentored in the footsteps of Jesus





# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

Christians supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world

## WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

- To encourage meaningful and supportive relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.
- To educate and equip Christians to identify with Israel, the Jewish people and the biblical/Hebraic foundations of our Christian faith.
- To bless Israel and the Jewish people in Israel and worldwide, through practical assistance, volunteer service and prayer.
- To communicate Christian perspectives to the attention of Israeli leaders and the Jewish community-at-large.
- To counter anti-Semitism worldwide and support Israel's divine God-given right to exist in her God-given land.

## NATIONAL OFFICES:

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