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#### THE MOST IMPACTFUL MOMENT SO FAR

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## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER UPDATE

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ZEALOUS ISRAEL PROJECT // SARAH YODER // PENNSYLVANIA, USA







## THOUGHTS ON SERVANTHOOD

One of my favorite experiences so far has been working on the floor at our Assistance Center in Jerusalem. The work we did was pretty simple and straightforward—pull different types of food off the shelf, grab the appropriate amount of each type and assemble the pieces into individual bags. Such a simple process that has an enormous impact on the community.

In October I was able to participate in delivering some of these bags of food to Holocaust survivors living in Pisgot Ze'ev, a community just north of Jerusalem. I was amazed at the outpouring of appreciation we received. At one of our last stops, a dear woman named Maya greeted us along with her little dog Mopsy. Maya insisted that we make

ourselves comfortable on her couch so she could serve us burekas (an Israeli pastry). We sat with her for a while, even though it was difficult to visit because of the language barrier (only one person in our group spoke enough Hebrew to talk with her). I was so moved when at the end she insisted we leave our dirty dishes for her to clean. She wanted to treat us with dignity and respect, even though it was evident she has a very difficult time getting around and cleaning our dishes would likely be a painful task (she was probably in her 90s). What a beautiful soul.

I'm so grateful to be a part of blessing the nation of Israel though Bridges for Peace. How amazing to be able to play such a small part and yet see an enormous effect!



## FAVORITE EXCURSION SO FAR

One of my favorite excursions has been our trip to the very southern tip of Israel. In November we spent a weekend camping in the Timna Valley, part of the Negev desert region. I was so looking forward to this trip because I knew that getting out of the hectic city life of Jerusalem and into the vast stillness of the desert would be refreshing. And wow, it really was a breath of fresh air (quite literally!!).

We spent much of the weekend hiking and exploring the mountainous desert around our campground. There is something so captivating about the desert! Even though it is dry and seemingly lifeless, the vast expanse of rolling hills and empty space provides an ideal setting for being



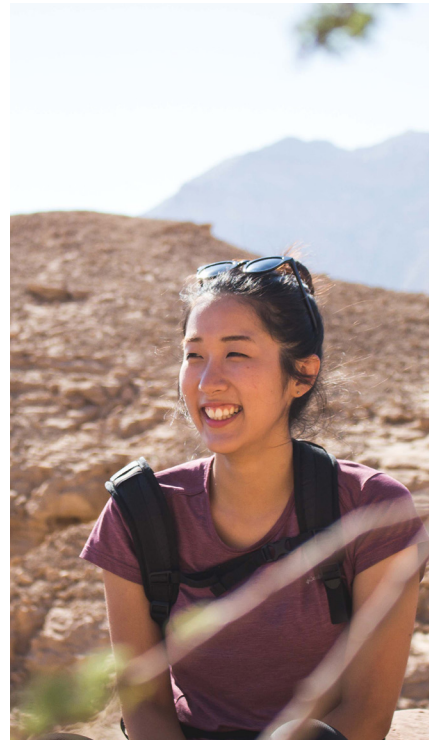


still and listening for God's voice. As I climbed the terrain I imagined Yeshua fasting in the desert for 40 days, wrestling with the burden of humanity. There are so many other examples in the Bible of times when God called His people into the desert to equip them for physical and spiritual battles. What a inspiring realization!

The campground we stayed at had a replica of the Tabernacle built to the exact specifications. It was amazing to walk through it and imagine the children of Israel camped in the desert around it as they moved through the desert on their way to Shiloh, where the tabernacle ultimately dwelt for 369 years.

Our weekend in the desert ended with something that's been on my bucket list for years—snorkeling in the Red Sea!!! Situated on a peninsula between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the Red Sea is home to one of the healthiest coral reefs in the world. It's truly incredible that just a few feet from the shore lies another world of brightly colored reefs and thousands of fish, some tiny and some large, all with intricate colors and designs. It reminded me of scenes from Finding Dory!! It was an absolutely dreamy experience!

It was such a fun weekend and I came back feeling refreshed and renewed, ready to dive back into our very busy schedule. I'm really beginning to feel so at home in my role in Bridges as a Publications Assistant. I love being a part of presenting positive education about the Land of Israel and its people, and I've learned so much about the political landscape in this region.





## THE MOST IMPACTFUL MOMENT SO FAR

It's difficult to narrow down my experiences to the single most impactful moment of my time here so far... there have been so many beautiful moments of intimacy with God, connection to His Land and His promises, and revelation of my identity in Him. So I'll share a few of the most impactful moments that come to mind.

On November 12, Israel began receiving heavy rocket fire from Gaza in the south. Dozens of communities (including Tel Aviv!) went into high alert, cancelling schools and non-essential businesses as rocket sirens blared. Life in Jerusalem went on as normal, yet there remained a constant tension as we waited for the rocket fire to subside.

During this time I was reminded of the peace that surpasses understanding, because even in the midst of the threat of rocket fire I felt no fear. Knowing that this is where God has called me I could confidently say to my family and friends back home that God is in control and we are safe. I think this peace was also influenced by the resilience of the people of Israel, who know full well the threat against their very existence, yet move forward with resolve to live in peace. In moments like this I am reminded that Jerusalem

is unlike any other city in the world, and that God truly is Israel's defender.

On a personal note, one of the most challenging and yet rewarding things I've had to do here has been sharing my testimony with the Zealous Team and the other young adults at Bridges for Peace. I was given the opportunity to do so during our camping excursion in Timna. Our weekend began with a time of worship, then under a canopy of a million stars I shared.

As I spent time preparing to share my testimony in the weeks leading up to it, I was faced with a lot of difficult memories and challenges that I was hesitant to share. Yet in that vulnerability there was so much beauty, and as I recounted the ways God has been faithful in my life I was so encouraged!! To be able to testify to His goodness in my life, the way that He has relentlessly pursued me with His unconditional love and enabled me to see dreams fulfilled in ways I never thought possible. The very fact that I am living here in Israel is proof of His goodness, and how incredible that I could share that here!!!



## THANK YOU!

I'm so grateful to be a part of the Bridges for Peace family that exists worldwide! Thank you for what you contribute to our National office in the US and for standing with us in prayer. From all of us here in Jerusalem, may you be richly blessed from Zion!

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