

# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

## YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORT 2019

### A Word from BFP's International President and CEO

At the end of each year we compile statistics showing our activity for the past 12 months. You will find the facts and figures related to our projects and programs for 2019 in the report to follow. However, statistics are often unable to communicate the difference our work has made to bless, uplift, comfort and encourage the people of Israel. Figures cannot convey the hug from a frail, lonely Holocaust survivor, the smile from a little girl, the giggles as she opens her birthday present from a Christian she has never met, the gratitude in the eyes of an immigrant couple receiving household items for their empty apartment and the amazement of an elderly couple after we repaired their moldy, dilapidated apartment. Behind every statistic is a real person with hopes, fears, needs and emotions.

Bridges for Peace's ministry goes well beyond handing out food parcels to the hungry, stocking bare cupboards with much-needed basics and restoring ramshackle, run-down rooms into an inviting home. What we do touches hearts and changes lives on a daily basis. By partnering with God as He brings the Jewish people home, we are offering encouragement and showing Christian love, often to those who have never experienced it before. I rejoice to see the impact we are having and the respect that our work has received from Israeli leaders. In addition to blessing and serving the Jewish people, our ministry also focuses on sharing the truth with the Christian world. Our educational programs and advocacy initiatives help



to bring understanding about God's love for Israel, current events and Bible prophecy. We do it all for the glory of our King, the God of Israel.

As we look back on 2019—on all the figures, facts, statistics and more importantly, at the testimonies of hearts touched and lives changed—we know that we are able to pour out these blessings because of the commitment of thousands of Christians around the world partnering with us. My heart is full of thanks to God and to our partners worldwide. Together we are changing the face of Jewish-Christian relations.

## 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 10 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. Since the program's inception, we have helped 4,571 families and individuals. A total of 145 families and individuals are currently on the program—74 families in Karmiel and 40 families and 31 students in Jerusalem.

### Cheer Basket

In 2019 we distributed 1,256 cheer baskets in the Land. The breakdown is as follows: 444 children and families on our programs, 421 Holocaust survivors on their birthdays, 250 at *Purim* (Feast of Esther), 23 to mothers of newborns, 14 to families sitting *shiva* (week-long mourning period) and 104 welcome/cheer baskets.

### Immigrant Welcome Gifts

Since the inception of this program in 2002, we have served 32,049 families. During 2019, Bridges for Peace welcomed 598 new immigrant families (187 who came through Project Rescue) to Israel by distributing 1,005 blankets, 598 kitchen gift sets, 597 Bibles and 342 school kits.

### Project Rescue

Project Rescue helped 6,482 Jewish people immigrate to Israel in 2019, bringing the total number we have helped "rescue" to 75,927.

### Food Banks

Our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel purchased and distributed a total of 899,201lbs (407,871 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 Christian Arab families.

### Home Repair

Since the inception of the program, 1,648 jobs have been completed. During 2019, the team focused on moving the Bridges for Peace offices and renovating the new office space to suit our needs.

### Project Tikvah (Hope)

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

## 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 24,000 email addresses. Our eleventh calendar, “The Land from Above,” featured 13 vibrant, colorful aerial 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 2019 we saw yet another rise in readership with almost 300,000 hits more than last year. The Russian landing page was created, offering information on volunteering and Zealous. It also features each month’s Teaching Letter and BFP in Action. During the last 6 months of 2018, the Korean website averaged 60 page views per month. During the first 6 months of 2019, the average increased to 104 views per month.

### 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.



### Video

2019 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 72 videos during 2019.

### Group and Guest Relations

The Group and Guest Relations Department hosted a total of 1,561 visitors in 2019. Out of that number, 44 groups with a total of 309 people participated in community service projects (Discovery Group), and one group totaling 18 people participated in an interactive event (Land of the Bible Experience).

### Zealous8:2

The 2019 Call to Zion tour was the 21st Zealous has hosted since it began 12 years ago. Since its inception, approximately 400 lives have been directly and intentionally invested in through volunteer service, touring the Land and discipleship. Tour participants shared their testimonies of how the tour has impacted and strengthened their faith. At the end of the tour they returned to their home countries challenged in their walk with God and as stronger advocates for Israel.

The Zealous Israel Project is now in its 5th year with 11 participants from 5 nations: Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

There have been almost 26 young adult volunteers (ages 35 and younger) serving at BFP in Israel this year, which is 49% of our staff.

### International Development

International Development solidified several areas that provide long-term stability toward growth. A new set of Russian pages are now available on the Bridges for Peace website. The new national director in Canada, Peter Fast, started his tenure at the end of June 2019. Our coordinator of the Spanish Language Resource Center ended her 22 years of service at the end of the year and we praise the Lord for providing a new coordinator.

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

