



UP *to* ZION

A journey of hope and reconciliation between
Christians and Jews, bringing praise and
offerings to Jerusalem

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UP to ZION is a bi-monthly publication of
Bridges for Peace – USA
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A Move of Prayer

By Jim Solberg
BFP-USA National Director

As our friends and donors, you deserve to know where we are focused, so this month I want to share with you the growing move of prayer within Bridges for Peace. The foundation of our ministry work has always been our prayer network, which we call by the Hebrew name "Chai", Hebrew for Life. Since its early days, Bridges has had a network of Chai groups across the country. In Cheryl Hauer's article this month, she will give you the latest news on that crucial part of our BFP family, our plans for expansion, and our invitation for you to join. In my article this month, I'd like to share with you an update on several other areas related to prayer:

At the direction of our board of directors, our offices in the USA spend 30 minutes each day in prayer, praise, and devotion as part of our work day. This is a blessing to each of us involved, and everyone on the staff has the opportunity to take a turn at leading the daily devotions. Each day we pray specifically for one of our BFP-USA staff or board members, and one of our BFP International staff or board members. We are now adding a third category to that daily prayer list, and that is one of our partner or supporting ministries or churches, such as the International Ministerial

Fellowship. Some of our reps, donors, and friends across the country have requested this list and join us in praying for these individuals each day. If you'd like to join with us also, please send an email to postmaster@bfpusa.org and ask for a copy of the monthly prayer list.



Each Monday is set aside for prayer for our donors' specific

requests. Anytime you contact a BFP-USA staff member with a prayer request, it is faithfully recorded, and each Friday a list from that week is prepared and distributed to our staff. During our Monday devotion time we take that list and pray specifically for the requests you have shared with us. So, each specific prayer request gets prayed for at least three times: first when you contact us, and then on Monday in our Minneapolis office and in our Tulsa office. The information you share with us is treated as confidential, so the list only mentions first names, and is only distributed to our staff. If you have a particular need or thanksgiving that you'd like us to pray about, please send an email to postmaster@bfpusa.org, call our 800 number (800-566-1998), or simply write a note and send to our office. Most people simply write their prayer request on the form when they send in their monthly donation.

We are also blessed with a number of dedicated intercessors across the country, who pray for us individually, or as a staff team. One such group meets in our Minneapolis office each Wednesday, but others pray from places across the country. It is a blessing to me when one of these prayer warriors contacts me. In addition, both the International board, and the board of BFP-USA has directed that each of our senior staff take a few days during the year away from the office for focused prayer and renewal. All five of our BFP-USA senior staff have individually done this already in 2005. Finally, our staff meetings, senior team meetings, area coordinator meetings, and board meetings are bathed in prayer before, during and after. We believe that as we stay on our knees, we will stay in the Lord's will for our lives and for this ministry.

Now, here are several areas where we would particularly ask for your prayers:

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I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you, I will curse.
Genesis 12:3

Pray for Israel

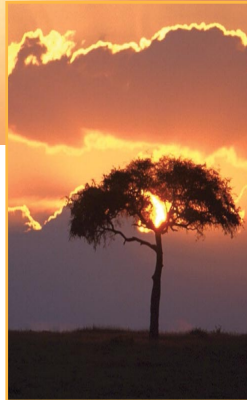
By Cheryl Hauer
Deputy National Director

At Bridges for Peace, we believe that there is nothing more important to our work than the prayers of those who love the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. For over 20 years, our Israel prayer groups have faithfully stood in the gap as Israel has gone through periods of peace and plenty as well as times of conflict and hardship. We call them "Chai" groups, pronounced with that clearing-your-throat sound, because in Hebrew, chai means life. We believe that the prayers of the faithful will help restore life to a nation and people beleaguered by centuries of persecution and opposition.

Bridges for Peace began as an idea in the mind of Dr. G. Douglas Young as a means to help Christians understand their biblical heritage, biblical connection to the land of Israel and biblical mandate to support the Jewish people. It has since become one of the major pro-Israel organizations in the world, building relationships between Christians and Jews all over the globe in addition to helping to feed and support thousands of Jewish people who have returned to the land of Israel. Dr. Young's vision of an organization helping to build relationships through education has expanded to include humanitarian projects that feed thousands of people every month through our food distribution center in Jerusalem and provide a dozen other Israel outreach programs through which the love of Christians can be shown to God's chosen people.


We believe that prayer has been the key component in bringing Bridges for Peace from Dr. Young's idea to a thriving international organization. Many of you have prayed for BFP since its inception, and we want to acknowledge the invaluable contribution you have made to the work of this ministry.

And now I'd like you to imagine for a moment what we might look like in five years or ten years if you continue to intercede. Our 70 tons of food a month is barely scratching the surface of the need in Israel today. There are burgeoning



opportunities to assist victims of terror. We are uncertain when the door may close again on the Jewish people remaining in the former Soviet Union.

And there are critical needs for educational materials and programs right here in the United States to help pastors and churches recognize their responsibility to love and support the nation and people of Israel. Your continued prayer will help Bridges for Peace expand to meet these needs and more.

I'd like to ask you to consider starting a Bridges for Peace prayer group, a Chai group, in your church or community. Some of our groups are quite large with 40 participants while some are made up of the same 3 people who have been praying together for Israel for 15 years. Size doesn't matter. What matters is your commitment to give Him no rest until He has made Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Your responsibilities as a Chai leader are really minimal, just making sure your meetings are approved if they are in your church, letting people know about this wonderful opportunity to be a recipient of Genesis 12:3, making the coffee and then being there to watch the Holy Spirit move on the hearts of those who, like you, love the land and the people of the Bible. We'll send you a kit to help you get started, resources throughout the year for special prayer campaigns and a weekly prayer update to help you and your group pray intelligently. And we'll connect you with other Chai leaders around the country who have the same burden for Israel that God has placed in your heart. For Bridges for Peace to be the organization that God wants it to be in these last days, we need resources, direction, protection, vision...and the only way that we'll get them is through the dedicated of prayer of people like you. Call us for more information at 800-566-1998. 

March of the Living - 2005 continued from p. 4

30 Holocaust survivors with their grandchildren, now serving in the Israel Defense Forces, to enhance the connection between the Holocaust and Israel's resurrection.

The host, Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka, greeted the attendants with "Shalom to all" in Hebrew. He said his lesson from the Holocaust was that "the horrors should immunize us from hatred, xenophobia and racism."


Former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel Yisrael Lau - a child survivor - said that every day in the camps, while facing the terror and watching the torture, he asked, "Why?" He recalled that the first time he returned to Birkenau nearly 20 years ago, he was angered by the Yiddish word nekama (revenge) someone scribbled in one of the barracks. The answer is not revenge in the traditional sense of the word, Lau said.

"The revenge is that we are here. The revenge is that we are home; the revenge is in that we have a homeland; the revenge is in that we have a garden of Israel; the revenge is that we have come here with a blue-and-white flag and a Star of David," he said.

Nobel Laureate and former Auschwitz inmate Elie Wiesel said that the camp was special in its evil and its malevolence. Yet, he said, "The truth is that in this place, we have all the reason in the world to give up on humanity, but we will not give up on humanity.... Hope is all we have, and hope is all we can give one another," he added.

While the speakers spoke, harrowing pictures of the Holocaust were flashed on two large video screens on either side of the stage. We all felt that we were an integral part of a profound and historic experience.

The weather was threatening all day and we marched in drizzle much of the way. Minnesota participant, Anne Wosmek, mentioned later that the sun broke through during several key points in the speeches, notably during comments by Elie Wiesel and Rabbi Lau just as they made reference to spiritual lessons such as the importance of knowing and speaking the truth.

This was not an easy journey. But everyone agreed we had been privileged to be part of this March and all of us prayed as we parted that the experiences we had shared would bear fruit for eternity. 

Help Stretch our Budget

Wilford R. Deweese

John T. Sandager

Summer's almost here and the most important area on the financial front is still: Prayer!!! (Not very surprising, is it?)

All of us on the BFP-USA team pray constantly for our Lord's guidance as well as for you, our partners and supporters. Each person who writes to BFP is held up in prayer every week, and we share their praises and supplications to our loving God; the One True God; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: "I Am." (And we try to write cards of encouragement and confirmation to as many of you as we are able.)

We have been blessed with high approval ratings and critiques from every major non-profit "watch-dog"

All of us at BFP strive continually towards maintaining the trust and respect of our partners, and remaining faithful to His calling and service. We have been blessed with high approval ratings and critiques from every major non-profit "watch-dog" / rating agency, and we are ever vigilant in finding new ways to make every dollar go further, and to being excellent stewards of His Gifts.

Here is a summary for you of a few wonderful, simple and great ways you can Bless

Israel and His Chosen People by helping BFP stretch its budget.

A). Place a stamp on each envelope you send in. (It costs us \$0.41 for every Business Reply Envelope we receive without a stamp.)

B). Better still; make your regular donation through one of our "automatic methods":

1. Electronic Funds Transfer

2. Charge to your Debit or Credit Card

(We now accept: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.)

3. Use the Internet and donate through our website.

www.bridgesforpeace.com – click on the U.S. flag.

C). Talk to your Employer about a "Matching Gifts Program". We have donors who are doubling their gifts by taking advantage of their company's matching gifts programs.

D). Payroll deductions at your place of employment. (Sometimes referred to as an "Employee Giving Program".)

However, whatever method you use to help BFP answer God's call to Bless Israel, know that we love to pray for each and every one of you. You are special to Him. Those who Bless Israel will be blessed – He promises it – you can "take it to the bank"!!!!

Shalom,

Wilf and John 



A Move of Prayer

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- 1) The first two weeks of June, about 40 BFP representatives from around the world will be gathering for a training institute in Israel. Please pray that this will be a powerful time of equipping for service.
- 2) The last week of June, BFP-USA will be holding a board meeting in Florida. One key item for which we are seeking the Lord's direction is the possible relocation and combination of our USA offices. Please pray that the Lord will make His will known.
- 3) On September 29 through October 2nd, we will be holding a large conference in Melbourne, Florida. Please pray for the Lord's blessing, and please consider attending.
- 4) The Pastors' Forum program is growing rapidly. Please pray for strength and wisdom for the presenters, and for the Lord to bless many pastors through this program.
- 5) Our weekly Torah devotions are now available at our website, www.bridgesforpeace.com, just click on the USA flag and look for Torah Devotion. Please pray for the Lord to use this teaching ministry.
- 6) All we do is dependent on the faithful giving of our partners. Please pray for our finances, for our current partners to be blessed, and in turn to bless this work; and for the Lord to bring us many new partners.

And thanks for your partnership...in prayer and in blessing the Lord by blessing His people.

May He in turn bless you richly,

Jim 

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

God continues to bless the work of Bridges for Peace, through staff and volunteers, and through faithful supporters like you. In this letter you'll find a special envelope enclosed, which is marked for "Ministry's Greatest Need" Many of you give faithfully to our projects, as highlighted in our monthly appeals. Please do not divert your giving from these regular monthly appeals to this envelope. If God has touched your heart and enabled you to make a special gift, large or small, at this time, please use the enclosed envelope. Any donations sent in this envelope will be designated to our Interfaith Activities, to be used where we have the greatest unmet need.

Let Bridges for Peace be
...YOUR ISRAEL CONNECTION®

www.bridgesforpeace.com

then click on  for USA information



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A NEW Bi-Monthly Publication of

Bridges for Peace - USA

Box 33145 Tulsa OK 74153-1145

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Owatonna MN
Permit No 41



BRIDGES FOR PEACE is a Jerusalem-based, Bible-believing Christian organization supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews worldwide through education and practical deeds expressing God's love and mercy. **BFP**

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March of the Living - 2005

By JoAnn
Magnuson

Director - Community Relations

Over 20,000 people from many nations participated in the annual March of the Living program in Poland, May 5, 2005, making this year's march the largest in the 18 years of the program. Bridges for Peace has attended on four other occasions but this was the first time that we were invited to attend as official participants. This year's MOL Director Dr. David Machlis invited our Israel Director Becky Brimmer, our Canadian Director John Howson and myself to attend the leadership training program last August.

- a child survivor - said that every day in the camps, while facing the terror and watching the torture, he asked, "Why?"

residence. The BFP group included representatives from Australia, Japan, South Africa, Finland, UK, US and Israel. In addition to participating in the March, we toured the Holocaust sites in Warsaw and Krakow, the camp at Majdanek, and ended with three days in Ukraine where we visited soup kitchens run by our Project Tikvah staff and spent a day with workers from our BFP-supported Project Rescue - which helps needy Ukrainian Jews who want to make aliyah.

Opening ceremonies for the Holocaust Remembrance Day pilgrimage began Wednesday night, May 4, followed by the three-kilometer march itself, from Auschwitz to Birkenau, on Thursday. After that the many independent groups participating in the program focused on various aspects of Jewish life in Poland during and since the Holocaust.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon joined the March of the Living on Thursday. Senior Polish officials accompanied Sharon, who brought with him some continued on page 2

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Florida regional conference

Come celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with us at this exciting conference. September 30- October 2, 2005. Watch for details

International conference

Start planning now to be with us in Denver June 11-14, 2006. More details to follow on this exciting international conference

We were pleased to bring a full busload of international delegates as well as our BFP friends from Eastern Europe who brought two busloads. Becky Brimmer served as the director of the International BFP delegation May 2-11 and I served as scholar-in-

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