



UP to ZION

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

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The Lord is Opening Doors

By Jim Solberg
BFP-USA National Director

The Lord continues to do wonderful things in the ministry of Bridges for Peace!

In September we had an opportunity to travel around the United States, meet with many of our long term friends...and make some new friends, too! It was wonderful to meet many of you face to face, and we were blessed with hospitality and support wherever we went. We held meetings in Tulsa, Boston, Salem, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Akron, Denver, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, and Springfield, Missouri. In each area, our Area Coordinators and local representatives organized events and traveled with me, and with Cheryl Hauer. We were able to see hundreds of you in person and look forward to seeing many more of you in the months to come.

At our standard get-together, the dessert reception, we provide coffee and desserts and invite our friends and donors from the surrounding area. We provide an update on Biblical events around the world, what the Lord is doing for Bridges for Peace, and an offering is taken. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and

let them become acquainted with BFP in a casual, comfortable manner.

During our September tour, we attended dessert receptions all around the country. But we

also had the opportunity to introduce a new program that is specifically designed as a gift for pastors and other ministry leaders called the



Pastors' Forum. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to a Florida forum in December.

The forum consists of foundational Biblical teaching addressing such questions as:

"Does the Bible say that God has an ongoing special relationship with the Jewish people?" "Does modern Israel have any relationship to the Bible?"

"What can we learn from our Hebrew Roots?" "Is there a Christian call to action from this information?" Throughout the day, the following five sessions are presented:

1. A Scriptural Understanding of Israel
2. Understanding Hebrew Word Pictures
3. A New Testament Perspective:
Romans 9 -11
4. Reframing Modern Israel
5. A Christian Call to Action

Each participant receives lunch, handouts and a complimentary copy of Clarence's book, "Lessons from the Land of the Bible." For those who already know our ministry, it is an opportunity to learn new ways to present our ideas and messages. For those not familiar or even not in agreement with the view that God is fulfilling His promises to Israel and the Jewish people, it is an opportunity to consider the concept in the light of scripture. For those who share our belief that God is doing something special today, it is an opportunity to consider what call that places on the church. Our attendees came from many different denominations and perspectives, and it was wonderful to hear that they all appreciated and were blessed by our presentations. The most common question asked was, "When are you coming back? I have colleagues who should hear this." Given the high level of interest, we've already begun planning a follow up "Pastors' Forum 2".

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

Israel Needs You

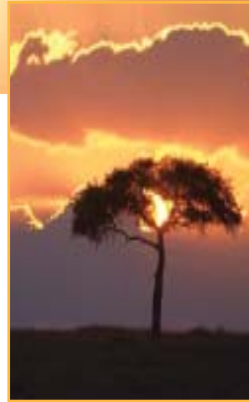
Cheryl Hauer Director – Education

In January of 2005, a very special group of VIPs is traveling from the US to Israel, and I am wondering if you should be among them. These aren't scientists or politicians, government officials or theologians. They are pray-ers. They are Christians who believe the most important thing that they can do to support Israel right now is to travel that land from corner to corner lifting every square kilometer before the throne of God, reminding Him of His promises and invoking His blessing and protection. Some of them would identify themselves as "intercessors", some perhaps would not. But they all share a common recognition of the dire situation in which Israel finds herself today and a belief that prayer is the answer.


As Christians, prayer is a part of our Hebraic heritage. It has been an integral part of God's relationship with man since Adam walked the garden and central to His covenant with His chosen people from the very beginning. The Sh'ma, which is found in Deuteronomy 6, is prayed several times a day by Jewish people the world over, and the Rabbis teach

Both the Christian and Jewish scriptures are filled with examples of individuals interceding, crying out to God on behalf of the nation of Israel.

that a person should find at the very least one hundred occasions to bless the Lord every single day. When




Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He used a typically Jewish model, and the pages of both the Christian and Jewish scriptures are filled with examples of individuals interceding, crying out to God on behalf of the nation of Israel. In the Torah, the Prophets and the books of the Judges, it is clear that historically, when the Israelites found themselves in serious trouble, they called upon God and He answered them. The message seems simple: when the going gets tough, the tough get on their knees.

The book of Isaiah tells us that God has placed watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem whose call it is to continually remind Him of His covenant with Israel until He has made Jerusalem a praise in the earth. As Christians, that is part of our call: to stand in the gap for Israel as grafted-in members of His covenant people. What could be more important than standing on the hills overlooking Jerusalem, in the halls of the Knesset, at the borders with Egypt or Jordan, in the hospital rooms of terror victims and crying out to God, giving Him no rest until He brings peace to His Land and His people? If your answer is, "Nothing could be more important," I implore you to call 800.786.9310 and join that group of VIPs. Israel needs you...now. 

Eastern Front continued from p. 4

Israeli whose father survived several camps and ghettos. The 2005 MOL will be held on May 5. The goal of the planning committee is to bring 18,000 people (multiple of Chai). To do this they are really welcoming Christian participation. BFP is the central organizer of the US Christian groups and we welcome everyone who can organize a group to join us. Please let us know of interested contacts.

My time in Poland and Slovakia was an amazing experience! I think Donald Rumsfeld was right in his speech where he distinguished between "old" and "new" Europe. These eastern Europeans are well aware that their neighbors to the west see the easterners as unsophisticated peasants. But these folk lived through the years of communism, endured to see freedom ring in their neighborhood and they are happily adjusting to the blessings of capitalism. And they are happily adjusting to the blessings of capitalism and have no desire to join with the French, Germans and others in their contempt for the U.S. & Israel. The young Christians I spoke to in Zilina Slovakia & Krakow Poland are very sensitive to the dangers of anti-Semitism and many are doing advanced degrees in Jewish studies. The groups I spoke to were made up of a mixture of Pentecostal, Baptist and Lutheran Protestants - with a smattering of Catholics. They are singing biblical Psalms and Hebrew folk tunes, praying enthusiastically for Israel and waving the Israeli flag in their worship services! The Christian community is getting stronger all the time in Eastern Europe - being with them is a breath of fresh air.

I met four young (ages 26-32) people in Poland & Slovakia who work for an organization called Chevra, which is the group that BFP supports in running the soup kitchen programs in Ukraine. They all work full time in programs which aid elderly Jews in Ukraine and Belarus, organize pro-Israel conferences, teach and speak about Israel, translate our BFP materials into Polish and Slovakian - and none of them have ever been to Israel! I think God wants to rectify this situation this year. Please pray for Jozef Janits, Daniel Javoran, Judita Kantorova - all based in Slovakia, and Piotr Borak from Poland. I'm raising funds to bring them on the Solidarity Mission. Some folks have already agreed to share in this worthy project. If you feel the Lord is touching your heart to help, or if you know of some funding sources I should investigate, please call me at 800-786-9310 or email me at jmagnuson@bfpusa.org. 

Loaves and Fishes

By Wilford Deweese Director – Finances

In each of our lives there may come a time when we alone can make a difference, like the lone firefighter braving the flames to save a trapped child in a blazing building. Likewise, there are those occasions when we can contribute a small part toward a significant whole, as when hundreds of people toss their coins into the holiday bucket with the proceeds supporting a doctor or nurse in a third world country.

Thankfully we are not often called to do the One Big Thing but as a group of faithful people we can contribute those little pieces which build up toward God's Big Plan. In what ways can each of us, the faithful partners and supporters of Israel and God's Chosen People, contribute those small 'seemingly insignificant' actions which can make a significant difference to the overall ministry and effectiveness of BFP? Here are a few for your prayerful consideration:

Consider saving time and stamps by inviting us to process your monthly contribution through one of these methods currently available: (#1) Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT); or by recurring monthly processing through your Credit Card (#2) or Debit Card (#3). Of course you may earn miles too! Or you can go to our web-site and use our PayPal safe "Donations through the Web" method. Log on to: www.bridgesforpeace.com – then click on the USA flag. The

'Contributions' buttons are located at the bottom left side of the USA Main Page.

It's amazing how many resources of staff time, postage, paperwork, equipment, supplies, office space and other related administrative expenses go into just the direct management of donation processing – donations we desperately need! Many of you can take advantage of 'one small piece' in the process and help make BFP run more smoothly, efficiently and wisely. (And make each dollar go farther!) Even if a relatively small number of our current partners changed their method of giving to one of the ways noted above (as little as 10 to 20%), there would be a significant impact upon our resources. As many of our partners have already 'discarded their checkbooks' and use the "net" for almost all of their financial transactions, it becomes possible for us to have growth at lower expense per gift: so we can bless God's outreach to Israel even more!!! And please be assured that we thank God every day for your gifts...in whatever form you are able to give them!

Together, little by little, we can and will fulfill God's Purposes. Wishing you a Very Special Hanukah and a Merry Christmas. May He be praised and blessed this season.

Shalom, Wilf and John 

Funding Opportunities

Bridges for Peace is seeking to contact foundations, trusts, and corporations which may be interested in helping to fund our work, either in the USA, or in our Projects abroad. If you know of a charitable foundation, trust, corporation, or other entity that might consider a grant application from Bridges for Peace, please contact Chris Deweese at 800-566-1998, ext112; or by email at cdeweese@bfpusa.org.

Let Bridges for Peace be
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www.bridgesforpeace.com

click on  for USA information.

Opening Doors continued from p. 1

We estimate that it costs \$75 per pastor to provide this experience. An entire week of speaking, Pastors' Forums, and dessert receptions will cost about \$7,500.

Although the response has been wonderful, we are limited financially in bringing these programs to other areas of the country. We would love to come to your part of the country, meet with you, and have an opportunity to bless and impact your pastor. This month, I'm asking for your help for us to do just that by considering the following:

1. Talk to your local Bridges representative or area coordinator and begin to pray for a Bridges week in your area so that a national Bridges team can spend a week conducting Pastors' Forums, dessert receptions, TV and radio interviews, and other meetings.
2. Ask your pastor if he would commit to attend such an event and if so, consider sponsoring him financially.
3. Consider sponsoring others. For \$75 we can provide this program as a blessing to a pastor or ministry leader. For \$7,500 we can send a ministry team to your area for a week.

In this newsletter you'll find an envelope marked "USA Pastors' Forum". Any contribution you send us in this envelope will be used to bring this program to pastors and supporters across the country. You can also donate online at www.bridgesforpeace.com, click on the USA flag, and then on the banner at the top. Or designate your gift to "USA Pastors' Forum" at any time.

We believe that the Lord is opening many exciting doors for Bridges for Peace in the USA. In upcoming issues, we'll talk about our new "Interfaith Initiative" and a regional conference in your locality in 2005!

Please keep us in your prayers, and ask the Lord how He would have you help.

May the Lord bless you richly,

Jim 



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Report from the Eastern Front

By JoAnn Magnuson
Director – Community Relations

JoAnn G. Magnuson

I was in Eastern Europe most of August. Actually I was there on two different missions. I spoke at several Christian conferences in Poland and Slovakia. I was invited by our BFP representatives to teach on the biblical basis for Christian support for Israel and the Jewish people, the History of Antisemitism and the Making of the Modern Middle East. Our contacts here are two brothers, Roman and Stanislaw Gawel, who were born and grew up as Catholics in post-war Oswiecim (the Polish name for Auschwitz). They experienced a spiritual renewal about 20 years ago and are now active in the non-denominational Protestant movement there. (Stanislaw attended the Yad Vashem Holocaust Educators Conference this year and was interviewed by the Jerusalem Post as the only person who grew up in Oswiecim who attended the Yad Vashem Conference.) Roman and Stanislaw have been bringing Eastern European Christian youth groups to participate in March of the Living (MOL) for the last eleven years. I met them about nine

years ago and they encouraged me to bring a U.S. Christian observer team to March of the Living, which I've done on four occasions. The Christian groups learned much and appreciated being able to participate but we were very aware that many of the MOL leaders were (understandably) suspicious of our motives. We always had a bit of trouble registering and getting information.

However that has changed dramatically this year. The new director of MOL, Dr. David Machlis of New Jersey, is very keen on having Christian participants in the 2005 MOL - which will mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945. I was invited by David to participate in a training mission, which was held Aug 6-12, 2004. Actually he arranged to have three of us from BFP attend at MOL expense - John Howson from Canada, Becky Brimmer from our Jerusalem office and myself. There were 21 participants, 7 Christians and 14 Jews, 6 of whom were either survivors or children of survivors. The guide was an

continued on page 2

December 1-5

Florida Speaking Tour

December 9-11

Area Coordinator Retreat
in Minneapolis.

January 6-8

BFP USA Board Meeting in
Minneapolis.

January 9

Clarence Wagner at Grace
Church in Eden Prairie, MN.

January 10

Dessert Reception with
Clarence in Minneapolis.

January 19-30

Intercessors Tour to Israel
led by Cheryl Hauer

Please consult our website
for updates and details.

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