



UP to ZION

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


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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. 

www.bridgesforpeace.com then click on  for USA information

Report from Poland - 2005

By JoAnn
Magnuson

Director – Interfaith Relations

After our May adventure at March of the Living, we returned to our home countries with minds stuffed with facts and hearts filled to overflowing not only with the pain of the tragedy but also the joy of new beginnings. All of this has deepened our motivation to stand with Israel and the Jewish people and to work at building relationships with our growing number of friends in Eastern Europe.

In the last twelve years, I've been to Poland nine times. On my first visit, I found it generally depressing, still draped in its former Communist gray pall, but as

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

I've encountered more and more young Christians, both Protestant and Catholic, who are learning and teaching about Israel and the Jews, I find myself very much drawn to this place. I just returned from a two week speaking schedule where I taught at Christian conferences in Zilina, Slovakia and Oswiecim, Poland.

I'd encourage all our BFP friends to be praying for the growing Christian witness of love and mercy in Eastern Europe. We would like to see a program developed to bring pastors and Christian leaders from Protestant churches in Asia, Europe and North America to study Anti-semitism and Holocaust issues in Oswiecim, the town at the edge of the camp at Auschwitz. An amazing thing is happening in the town which has come to symbolize the Holocaust. The Christian fellowship there has a growing number of younger members who are preparing themselves to teach about the Holocaust.

One shining star in this galaxy is a 43-year-old middle school English teacher who was also born in Oswiecim. Dorota Leszczynska has translated for me on several occasions when I've visited the Hope Fellowship, her home church. She was one of three Poles who received scholarships to attend training in Holocaust education this summer at Columbia University in New York and the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington.

While in the U.S., Dorota also visited our BFP office in Minneapolis and met with local Jewish leaders who were very moved and surprised by her story. Dorota

continued on page 2

Hurricane Katrina!
Emergency Relief Needed for Victims

(See Enclosed)

International Conference

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

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A Move of Prayer

By Jim Solberg
BFP-USA National Director

Well friends, when the Lord moves, He moves!!!
All praise to HIM!!!

This past June we held our mid-year meeting of the USA board of Bridges for Peace in the town of Cocoa, Florida. As I had shared in our last newsletter; one key item on the agenda was to seek the Lord regarding a possible move or consolidation of our offices. All of us had been in prayer about this topic many times over the past two years. In addition to individual prayer; we dedicated our first full day of the board meeting to prayer and fasting on this topic. Pastors Randy Alonzo and Larry Lamb of Central Community Church in Cocoa made their church facilities available to us for that day. Pastor Tony Fadely joined us for an opening welcome. We began by asking the Lord for Scripture to guide us. Pastor Larry opened our day with prayer and shared Scripture from Joshua chapter 1. The local pastors then departed and our group of Bridges for Peace board members, Area Coordinators, and spouses each spent time asking the Lord for direction from the Scriptures. We shared and compared Scriptures, and prayed and talked about what we thought the Lord was saying. We then let this all percolate in our minds and hearts for two days.

On Friday, July 1, the board formally met to vote. We had a unanimous vote to select the Cocoa area (near Cape Kennedy) as the new location for our headquarters where we would combine the two USA offices together. We expect this process to take about one year.



There are some good, practical reasons for us to move to

this area of the country. This location is a 30 to 40 minute drive from the Orlando airport, which gives us easy access to excellent airfares from a large number of different airlines. The cost of living in this area is relatively low, making the move affordable for our staff, and an overall cost savings for the ministry. Part of our mission is to build bridges between Christians and Jews, and the Jewish population of Florida is much larger than either Minnesota or Oklahoma. There is strong local support for Bridges for Peace, including active support from many different pastors and churches. But bottom line, we are making this move because we believe we are hearing the Lord direct us. That's exciting and encouraging!

The Bridges USA staff has been awesome. We have invited all of the staff to move with us if they choose. Some are prayerfully considering this. Some have decided yes, and some feel clearly that the Lord is not calling them to move. But, all, yes all, have been affirming and supportive that this is the Lord's will. We aren't looking at this as leaving Minnesota or Oklahoma. Some of us will be back in each state to visit regularly. We will keep good friends, family, memories, and active representatives in both places. Rather, we feel we're adding a new beginning and a new phase of the Lord's work in this ministry which relies on and builds on all He has done before.

Although we have selected the general area, we have barely begun to look for a specific office location. We need your prayers for this, and we welcome your advice. Our current thinking is that we will plan to move next June, so we do have time to see the Lord work out the details and provide for our office needs.

Thanks for your prayers, support and devotion to the Lord and His plans to bless Israel.



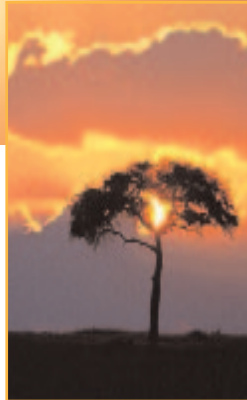
Leviticus 23:33-43...

By Cheryl Hauer
USA Deputy National Director

In these verses, the Lord instructs the Israelites regarding one of the most important and widely celebrated feasts in all of Judaism. You may have heard it referred to as the Feast of Tabernacles, or the feast of booths, or Sukkot. It all means the same thing: the time that God Himself set aside for the Israelites to remember His faithfulness to them while they wandered in the desert for 40 years on their way to the Promised Land.

For thousands of years, Jewish people all over the world have endeavored to keep God's instruction by building sukkot, or little "booths" on their roofs or in their yards and at the synagogue. If you have Jewish friends, or have been in Israel during the feast, you may have seen them, little huts with roofs made of twisted vines and branches, solid enough to protect from the elements but constructed loosely enough that one can see the stars from within. A Jewish family spends a lot of time in their sukkah, first building and decorating it and then eating meals and even sleeping in it throughout the 8 days of the feast. Sukkot is a wonderful, family-oriented holiday during which the story of God's faithfulness to His people is told and retold.

During the second temple period when Jesus would have celebrated Sukkot with his loved ones, the sukkah was an integral part of the celebration much as it is today. But there was another element to the festivities that made Sukkot a spectacular event. It is one of the "pilgrim feasts," during which ancient Israelites were required to go up to Jerusalem for the sacrifices and worship at the temple. And what worship it was! Imagine, if you can, walking for several days through the hilly country between Jerusalem and Galilee with a group of friends and family, talking, laughing, anticipating. Then imagine arriving in Jerusalem where thousands of pilgrims are already putting up their sukkot around the city. Hundreds of small fires dot the hillsides as families set up camp. A tremendous sense of joyful expectation hangs in the air as people prepare for the temple services.



Early in the morning, the high priest leaves the city with a throng of worshipers and walks to the Pool of Siloam where he fills a jar with water. When he returns to the temple, he conducts a

ceremony that is said to be the most joyous and exciting ritual in Judaism. It is called the libation ceremony and the rabbis say that if you have not witnessed it, you have never experienced true joy. With much pageantry, the water is poured upon the altar. At the same time, wine is poured out onto another part of the altar. Timing is of the essence in that the wine and water need to reach the bottom of the altar at precisely the same moment. And when they do, exultant shouts of joy can be heard for miles around. Throughout the celebration, musicians and singers worship the Lord around the temple courts. Everywhere, people are dancing as they praise the One who delivered them from Egypt and kept them safe throughout their journey in the wilderness.

As the sun sets, four candelabra are lit. Each is dozens of feet tall and it is said that they gave off such bright light that they illuminated the entire city. The dancing, singing and celebrating continue well into the night as God's people revel in His love.

As Christians, we find another important reference to this festival in the book of Revelation. There we are told that in the end of days, all the nations of the world will come up to Jerusalem to celebrate this festival with the Jewish people. What a joyous time that will be!

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grew up in Oswiecim and said that as a school child she was often taken to the camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau on educational trips and told the story of the tragedy that befell "Polish citizens" during the war. The only missing piece of the story was that most of the Polish citizens were Jews. Under the Communist government, that fact was not discussed. After Communism fell, Dorota and others began to hear and do research on the hidden details of the story but the real facts came to light for her only very recently.

For example, Dorota discovered the story of Anne Frank only three years ago when, for her daughter's 13th birthday, she went to a book store to purchase a diary which her daughter had requested. There Dorota discovered a book called, "Diary of a Young Girl," and purchased it not knowing what it was about but thinking her diary-keeping daughter would enjoy it. After her daughter opened the gift, she and her daughter both read the book. This was her introduction to Anne Frank, the world's most famous victim of the Holocaust. Dorota took the book to the school where she teaches and none of the other teachers had ever heard of this story either. Dorota is working with a group of Polish teachers to bring Holocaust education to a more prominent place in Polish schools. Fortunately, this is being noted and appreciated by some Jewish groups which is how Dorota became one of three Poles brought to the Holocaust seminar in America by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

I believe this story well illustrates the massive changes going on in Poland and I am very proud to be a part of the on-going BFP effort to support this work. I am excited to see how the Lord will work through us to assist the wonderful Christian workers in Eastern Europe who are just discovering their Jewish roots and the history of their region of the world.

My daughter, Jodi Magnuson, is something of a genealogy expert and in preparation for our trip to Poland in May she read a book called, "Mosaic – the story of five generations of a Jewish family in Krakow," by a Jewish woman journalist who lives in Australia, named Diane Armstrong. Jodi has this book in audio form and we listened to several sections of it while traveling. One touching story was about the family's connection to the Jewish group who survived for 14 months in L'vov (as it was called then) by hiding in the sewers of the city. Can you imagine children aged 4 and 7 surviving for over a year in a sewer with rats and garbage as daily companions? Their lives were sustained by a Christian sewer guard who brought them food and fresh water as often as he could. After the war, this man was accidentally killed in a bicycle accident and his neighbors said, "That's what comes of helping Jews."

I encourage each of you to be part of next year's March of the Living and our BFP study tour to Poland. Details will be forthcoming. Check the U.S. web site.

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Emergency Relief Needed for Victims of Hurricane Katrina!

America is in the throes of the worst natural disaster in its history. Entire communities have been wiped out, thousands of people have become refugees with little food, water, shelter or medical care. There is massive physical and infrastructural damage in Louisiana and Mississippi, with flooding rendering clean-up efforts impossible. Bridges for Peace is pleased to partner with UJC and other Jewish organizations to provide emergency aid to victims of this disaster. Your donation will help meet the critical needs of members of the Jewish (and general) communities harmed by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Western Florida. Please give generously! Relief funds will be distributed through the United Jewish Communities (UJC). www.bfpusa.org

Traveling to the Space Coast

Wilford R. Deweese

John T. Sandager

As mentioned in our cover article this month, after much prayer and research our Board of Directors

We pray that you have had a wonderful summer, and that God's love and peace fill your days.

has decided to unite our BFP-USA operations into one location, and that location is to be on Florida's "Space Coast". If all goes according to plan, we hope to be in our new home around mid-year 2006.

Now the real work of relocation begins: all the big and little tasks of "working out the details". As you can well imagine there will be much to plan over the next 12 months. Here is one item which you can keep in mind related to our "back-office" operations:

We have been using two vehicles here in our Tulsa office which are nearing the end of their useful lives and long trips and heavy travel look a bit problematic: they are a 10 year-old minivan and a 14 year-old work van (both with plenty of miles on them).

Do you know of someone who might have a "recent vintage" minivan (or SUV) and/or a "work van" (for example: a Ford "E Series") which they could be willing to either donate, or sell to BFP for a great price? We are focused upon obtaining vehicles of 2 model years old or newer: 2003 to new. It would be a wonderful blessing to be able to "hit the road" with dependable, useful and safe vehicles.

LEAVING A LEGACY. A large number of you, our supporters, have been with us for one, two, or now three decades and we'd like to take the opportunity to remind those who are doing their Estate Planning and Will design not to forget Bridges!!!! What a blessing to remember Israel as you go from this journey to the promise. If we can be of any assistance in guiding you to find just the right way to leave a legacy that will bless Israel and God's Chosen People in your Will and/or Estate Plan, please contact us.

We pray that you have had a wonderful summer, and that God's love and peace fill your days. Shalom,

Wilf and John



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.

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Would You Like To Bless Your Pastor?

Why not consider a tour to Israel as a special clergy appreciation or Christmas gift? Join Rev. Jim Solberg as he hosts a special Holy Land tour for pastors and clergy Feb 14-26, 2006 at a special price of \$1,998 from New York. Call Bill, our Travel Guy, with any questions or for additional information.

Do YOU have a desire to travel or host a tour to Israel? Let us help! Our staff has over 50 years of combined travel experience to the Middle East. Call or email us today!

1-800-566-1998 or

travelagent@bfpusa.org

