



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
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A Time for Beginnings

By Jim Solberg
BFP-USA National Director

2005 is a year that began with huge events around the world. The tsunami in Asia killed thousands and has dominated world news headlines for weeks. In Israel, the Palestinians have elected a new leader, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), to replace Yassar Arafat and the world watches and prays to see if this may be a new chance for some form of peace. Ariel Sharon has formed a new coalition and remains determined in his planned withdrawal from Gaza. Elections are planned in Iraq to democratically elect a replacement for Saddam Hussein and begin the process of transitioning to full Iraqi control.

At Bridges for Peace USA 2005 also begins with some major opportunities. The Lord has brought us five talented men as Area Coordinators. We now have Bill Adams in the Northeast, John Anthony in the South Central, Lennie Allen in the Southwest, Ed Smelser in the Northwest and Don Rasmussen in the Midwest. These men are pastors, who have each come to us in unique ways, with a heart for Israel, for BFP, and for the Lord's work. JoAnn Magnuson, Cheryl Hauer, Susie Sandager and I are all available for speaking engagements. We also have Barry Denison on board as an additional national speaker. We see the Lord stretching our tent pegs in a major way and ask for your prayers for each of us and for our overall plans and program for 2005.



We successfully introduced the "Pastors Forum" program this past fall, presenting a Biblical view of God's ongoing love for Israel and the Jewish people to over 300 pastors and ministry leaders. We continue to have doors open to present this program to

ever growing numbers of ministry leaders. In 2005 we hope to introduce a companion program, focusing on Interfaith Relations, led by JoAnn Magnuson and Susie Sandager. JoAnn's article in this newsletter provides more background on this new program. The envelope enclosed with this newsletter is provided for contributions specifically to support and enable this Interfaith program.

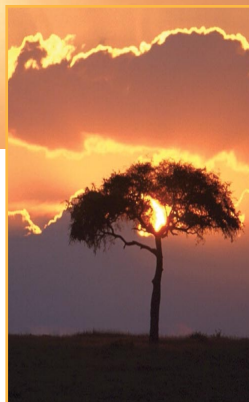
Last summer I shared with you that the board of BFP-USA had begun a process to seek the Lord and pray about a possible combining and relocation of our Minneapolis and Tulsa offices. That process continues and we do not yet have a decision on where or when the Lord is calling us to move. However, we continue to sense that it is His will for us to move toward a combined hub and that He has a place prepared. We are talking with a group of pastors about some exciting developments on the East Coast of Florida in the Cocoa area. We are also talking with leaders of other ministries about developments in the Atlanta area. While we do not have a final place selected, our attention is currently being drawn to the Southeastern USA. We so appreciate your prayers that the Lord would guide this whole process in the place and time of His choosing.

Finally, I can also share with you an announcement that we will be co-hosting a regional conference in the Cocoa area of Florida (about 30 minutes from Orlando) the weekend of September 30th through October 2nd. This conference will come just before the official celebration of Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles), and that will be our theme. We're working with local pastors, churches, dance and musical groups to plan an exciting event. Look for more details in the months ahead, but for now, consider marking these dates of September 30th through October 2nd on your calendar for a trip to Florida, and an exciting get together of the BFP family.

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

Prayers of the Faithful

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.

The prayers of the faithful will help restore life to a nation and people beleaguered by centuries of persecution and opposition.

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 their 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


Interfaith Activities Week


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darkest days of the Holocaust. This one-woman show is a perfect presentation for either a Christian, Jewish, or combined audience. Audiences are constantly surprised that the 80-year-old Dutch woman they see on stage is really the much younger Susie. She will also be sharing her personal story - how a Baptist girl from Kentucky came to love the Jewish people. Susie and I are both veterans of many years in the field of Jewish-Christian relations and we look forward to these opportunities to share our experiences with those who are beginning this pilgrimage. Our joint seminar: How to build a working partnership with the local Jewish Community, will be a good place to ask questions and get answers on the sensitivities of Jewish-Christian relations. Why make your own mistakes when you can learn from ours?

We are looking forward to launching the program early in 2005. We are actively seeking funding for this project. We don't want to charge our Jewish friends for their participation in these activities. We hope that our local reps and friends will be able to find local funding sources but if you know of a grant-giving organization that might be interested, please contact us.

Do begin to pray for the right time to host our Interfaith Activities Week in your home town. In a day when antisemitism is again raising its nasty head in many places we can bring positive, biblical teaching to our churches and communities.

And on a separate but related topic, don't forget to sign up for March of the Living. Susie and I are both planning to go, thousands of Jewish youth and adults from all over the world will be there. The deadline is Feb 15. But even if you receive this message after that date, please call Bill Strickland at 800-566-1998 to double-check. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! 

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 prayer of people like you. Call us for more information at 800-566-1998. 



Upcoming Tours and Events

COMING IN 2005

Clergy & Key Contacts Tour to Israel

February 19-28, 2005
Hosted by Jim Solberg

March of the Living

April 28-May 7, 2005
Hosted by JoAnn Magnuson

BFP Solidarity Mission & Post-Tour

November 6-20, Hosted by Cheryl Hauer

Visit the major biblical sites you have read and heard about since Sunday School. Let the land of the Bible change your life forever.

Please send your email address to:
postmaster@bfpusa.org
so we can keep you up to date on the latest happenings in your area

Blessings and Challenges

Shalom and a Joyous 2005 Greeting to each of you!!! As we head expectantly into the New Year let me take a moment to first look back at the Blessings and Challenges of 2004.

The Lord richly blessed the ministry and mission of BFP USA through our faithful partners this last year. While many charities and non-profit organizations had declining revenues (and some had serious financial impairment), BFP USA experienced a 6% increase over 2003. As one of our frequent BFP speakers almost without fail says: "Can you say with me: AMEN!"

With the hotly contested election during the summer and autumn months, and the Tsunami disaster hitting just before year-end, there were many "reasons" and explanations for the downturn in charitable giving across the US – but God showed His everlasting commitment to His People by working in the lives and hearts of so many to keep BFP a healthy part of His Work here on earth. Our staff responded to the oper-

ational efficiency changes we made during the year and we are now "doing more with less" in the back offices of our two locations; even while our educational and teaching staffs have increased through God's leading several wonderful men to join our Area Coordinator team.

For 2005 we envision the growing into fullness of the BFP Representative Network across the entire USA and in most states into every major city and locale. The urgency for BFP's assistance in Israel (and around the world) is ever increasing and we believe that the Lord's hand in this US-wide growth to be clearly our top priority for the coming year. We pray daily that each of you, our dedicated and trustworthy fellow servants, will assist us in 2005 to meet head-on the challenges and to attain the goals our Lord has envisioned for us.

Shalom and Shalom,
John Sandager and Wilf Deweese

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 "Interfaith Activities" 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


A Time for Beginnings

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To enable all of this, we need your continued help in three ways:

- Pray for the Lord to give us wisdom and discernment that we follow Him faithfully.
- Pray for how the Lord may lead you to get involved: - As a Chai (prayer) group leader; Representative or other volunteer position.
- Pray for and be part of our financial support. Each of these initiatives requires faithful financial partners.

Thanks

And may the Lord bless you richly 



*Torah
Devotional*
Friday mornings 8:30 CT

Call in number **(405) 244-5001**
Guest code: **4205**

Star 6 (*6) allows you to mute your line

Listen on the web!
www.bridgesforpeace.com

Then click on 



UP to ZION

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Christians and Jews, bringing praise and
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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**

www.bridgesforpeace.com then click on for USA information

Introducing the Interfaith Activities week

By JoAnn
Magnuson

Director – Community Relations

Just so all of our readers are familiar with our goals, I've reprinted our Mission Statement here.

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.

The Interfaith Activities Week is designed to bring a stronger focus to our local communities on the importance of Jewish-Christian relations. BFP speakers, primarily JoAnn Magnuson and Susie Sandager, will work with local Christians to host a model event bringing Jews and Christians together for discussion and dialogue. Local reps will set up opportunities for churches, colleges and seminaries to hear lectures which I have prepared and given many times on such topics as: History of Antisemitism, Impact of Medieval Passion Plays on Jewish-Christian relations, America during the Holocaust and the Making of the Modern Middle East. Local organizers will be encouraged to set up interviews with Christian and secular media and to look for talk-show opportunities. Our presenters are prepared to discuss the current situation in Israel, biblical reasons for supporting Israel, as well as the work of BFP.

Susie Sandager will be available to do her popular one-woman dramatic presentation on the life of Corrie ten Boom, famed Dutch rescuer in World War II. This moving drama recounts the efforts of one family to stand for God and the Jewish people during the

In the united States we focus our efforts on:

- Education as a support to the local church
- Interfaith activities with the jewish community
- Supporting the work of BFP around the world

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

www.bridgesforpeace.com
click on for USA information.