



The Sliepoi family with Bridges for Peace volunteer Reimi Kishimoto

Caring for the Community

IN THE EARLY DAYS of the Church, the believers—most of them Jewish—were community minded. They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer. They shared what they had with all who had needs, even selling their possessions to provide for one another (Acts 2). They lived life as a community, looking after and taking care of each other.

The Jewish world has continued to put great emphasis on caring for the community. Charity forms an integral part of Jewish life. In Hebrew, it is called *tzedakah*. Yet while many people equate *tzedakah* strictly with charity, the word actually means “justice” or “righteousness.” It entails doing the right things by helping people or causes in need. There are lots of ways to practice *tzedakah*, but the most common is to give money to the poor or to donate to a worthwhile cause.

Ever since its rebirth in 1948, the State of Israel’s arms have always been wide open to receive Jewish people in need of a home or a safe haven. During Israel’s first year as a nation, the tiny population of 650,000 citizens welcomed a staggering 650,000 Jewish refugees from the Arab world and Holocaust survivors from Europe. Most of them arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Over the past 75 years, Jewish people have continued returning to the land of their promise, sometimes in trickles and at other times in steady streams. Over the course of 2022, the number of Jewish immigrants coming home to Israel from the four corners of the earth has been higher than in many years. Nearly 70,000

Jewish people arrived in Israel in 2022, most driven from the land of their birth by the war raging between Russia and Ukraine. Like the first Jewish refugees who arrived in the newborn Jewish state with nothing, these new Israelis have also come without the resources to start over, provide for their needs and rebuild their lives.



New immigrants receive welcome gifts.

Meeting Their Needs

God has called us to help meet these practical needs with Christian love. We do so in many ways, but one of the largest is our Food Project. Every month, Bridges for Peace helps more than 24,000 needy people all over Israel put food on the table. The vast majority of those who receive food are immigrants, although we also help Holocaust survivors, the elderly, widows, orphans and children from underprivileged homes. In answer to the rising needs in 2022, we opened

our storehouse and gave generously. As a result, we have spent more than came into the food budget. Moreover, we expect that

the need this year will be even greater than last year. If we are to continue giving at these generous levels, we desperately need an increase in our food budget.

Leaving in a Hurry

The Sliepoi family of five left Ukraine in a hurry as they realized that it wasn't safe to remain in the crossfire of the conflict with Russia. The family had only a few hours to pack and they made it to safety with only two bags between five people. Now that they are in Israel, they are struggling to learn Hebrew. The family is working hard to reestablish their lives in their new homeland. The children are studying online with the school they attended in Ukraine. Bridges for Peace provided laptops to ensure that the children could continue their studies. On top of that, we give them food every month. After the trauma of war and leaving everything behind, the Sliepois received a warm welcome they didn't expect, instilling them with new hope.

Horrors of War

Vladimir and Tatiana from Zhitomir are in Israel trying to recover emotionally. "When there was heavy shelling of Kyiv, it was not just scary; it was filled with horror! In our city sirens also sound all the time. Several times there were rockets. People died. Houses were destroyed. People tried to leave the city by train or bus. There were huge queues at the train stations."

You Can Help

These are just two examples of the people we reach out to with love and practical assistance. Your gifts to our Food Project will



Vladimir and Tatiana

help us meet the basic needs for 24,000 needy Israelis. For just US \$25 we can provide a generous grocery bag of staple food items. Your gift is an investment into God's Kingdom community. Let's be like the early Church, looking after and taking care of those in need. James said, "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them 'depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" (2:15-16). Let's feed the earthly family of Jesus (Yeshua) today.

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

BRIDGES FOR PEACE Your Israel Connection...

Food Project

☐ US \$60 ☐ US \$120 ☐ US \$300 ☐ US \$600 ☐ US \$1,200 ☐ US \$ _____ (Other)

- ☐ GREATEST MINISTRY NEED US \$ _____
- ☐ GREATEST ISRAEL NEED US \$ _____
- ☐ FOOD PROJECT US \$ _____
- ☐ ADOPTION PROGRAM (one-year commitment)
_____ US \$65/month
- ☐ FEED A CHILD (one-year commitment)
_____ US \$65/month
_____ US \$ one-time gift
- ☐ PROJECT RESCUE _____ US \$400 (or any size gift)
- ☐ EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY FUND
US \$ _____
- ☐ ADOPT AN ISRAELI TOWN (one-year commitment)
_____ Minimum US \$150/month
- ☐ KARMIEL CENTER US \$ _____
- ☐ PROJECT TIKVAH (HOPE) _____ US \$45 (or any size gift)
- ☐ WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND US \$ _____
- ☐ INTERNATIONAL HQ FUND US \$ _____
- ☐ HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS US \$ _____
- ☐ IMMIGRANT WELCOME GIFTS US \$ _____

- ☐ NEW IMMIGRANT FUND US \$ _____
- ☐ CHEER BASKET _____ US \$25/basket
- ☐ SCHOOL STARTER KIT _____ US \$7/kit
- ☐ HOME REPAIR US \$ _____
- ☐ VICTIMS OF TERROR US \$ _____
- ☐ DENTAL/MEDICAL AID US \$ _____
- ☐ CRISIS ASSISTANCE US \$ _____
- ☐ ARAB FAMILY ASSISTANCE US \$ _____
- ☐ ZEALOUS8:2 SCHOLARSHIP US \$ _____
- ☐ VOLUNTEER SUPPORT US \$ _____
- ☐ VEHICLE FUND US \$ _____
- ☐ SAVE AN ISRAELI LIFE US \$ _____

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MONTHLY COMMITMENT TO _____ PROJECT
OF US \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Enclose amount in US dollars or your currency equivalent. Indicate your currency symbol.

Payment Options

☐ **Check:** Make checks payable to Bridges for Peace. US and Canadian gifts are tax-deductible.

☐ **PayPal:** Go to www.bridgesforpeace.com, and click on "Donate>Bless Israel."

☐ **VISA** ☐ **MasterCard** ☐ **Discover** ☐ **AMEX**

Name on card _____

Card number _____

CVV code (3 digit number on back of card) _____

Expires _____ Today's date _____

Signature _____

Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Region _____

Code _____

Country _____

Telephone () _____

Email _____

- ☐ I will pray for Israel and the Jewish people.
- ☐ I also need your prayers and have attached my prayer request.
- ☐ I have placed Bridges for Peace in my will to bless future generations.
- ☐ Please send me information on your Bridges for Peace travel programs.
- ☐ Please send your publications to my friend(s), whose name(s) and address(es) are attached.
- ☐ By filling in this contact form I give permission to receive communication from Bridges for Peace International and my national office.