

# Impact Report



*“But those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.”*

ISAIAH 40:31



International Fellowship  
of Christians and Jews®





**Yael Eckstein**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

*Shalom, my friends,*

I have never felt more honored and humbled to lead The Fellowship than I have this past year.

In 2023, Israel suffered one of the worst attacks in our history. No one ever imagined the darkness and brutality that would come over the Holy Land on October 7 at the hands of Hamas terrorists.

Which is why your support—and the support of hundreds of thousands of Christian and Jewish friends around the world—has made such a huge difference. We know you love Israel, and that you believe Israel stands for goodness, hope, and light in times of terror against the Jewish people. Your support assures us that we're not alone.

Israel has been at war for months. The thousands of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reservists fighting in Gaza struggle to provide for their children and families left behind. Elderly are having difficulty affording basic needs they rely on, like food and medicine. Rocket fire still threatens innocent Israelis. Hostages are still held in Gaza.

But through it all, we've held onto hope—hope that you've helped provide. Each time I laugh with my children, or celebrate a Jewish holiday with an elderly Fellowship beneficiary, or see a Fellowship bomb shelter save lives in the Holy Land, or deliver aid to evacuees or families of soldiers, I know that God is watching over us. And I know that He is working through you and your faithful support.

My friends, I am so deeply touched, and grateful more than words can say. I hope this report of our impact together in 2023 shows you how much you mean to Israel and the Jewish people. May God bless you and continue to work through you.

*With blessings from the Holy Land,*

*Yael Eckstein*

*Rainbow over the border wall near  
Netiv HaAsara, between Israel and Gaza.*

*I will bless those who bless [Israel].*

GENESIS 12:3





*Last December, just a couple months after the terrible attacks of October 7, about 70 elderly who were forced to evacuate their homes from southern Israel due to the war, destruction of their homes, and continued rocket attacks, found some connection and normalcy—thanks to you—during a Hanukkah event hosted by The Fellowship.*



*“For the first time in two months, I feel a sense of normalcy... you have given us hope that everything will be all right.”*

MARGARITA, A 76-YEAR-OLD ISRAELI DISPLACED DUE TO WAR

## *‘You Have Given Us Hope’*

“The situation in Sderot at the beginning of the war frightened me very much. Terrorists went around the city and there were gunshots and explosions all the time. I have never experienced anything like this.”

That’s 76-year-old Margarita, who made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) 12 years ago from Ukraine, and lived in Sderot until October 7, when terrorists invaded. She had the opportunity to evacuate during the war – and in this moment of despair, she took it.

She says, “Life is fine, but I miss my routine in Sderot. I miss the activities at the city’s elderly club.” She used to visit one of the Fellowship-supported elderly clubs made possible because of Fellowship friends, but she doesn’t know when it will be safe to return home.

71-year-old Yaakov, another attendee of the event, was in a similar situation. Having lived through the Second Lebanon War in 2006, he decided to evacuate during this current war in

Israel because he cannot run to a protected room in time in his advanced age, making him another one of the thousands of displaced Israelis.

Both Margarita and Yaakov have found such comfort from caring friends who reach out during times of crisis and war. “For the first time in two months, I feel a sense of normalcy. It’s like the events I used to attend at the elderly club in Sderot,” says Margarita. “You managed to give us a holiday atmosphere and you have given us hope that everything will be all right.”

Yaakov agrees: “I hope we will be able to return home soon, but as long as the fighting continues the situation in the city is dangerous. Thank you very much to The Fellowship for thinking of us and allowing us to celebrate *Hanukkah* together.”

Together, Margarita, Yaakov, and other elderly and Fellowship staff shared breakfast, songs, and lit the *Hanukkah* candles—reconnecting them to their faith, discovering friendship in The Fellowship, and finding some light in this dark time.

# Your impact in 2023

Because of your support, The Fellowship has blessed over **2 million people** in Israel and around the world

## aliyah

You continued to bring Jews, fleeing anti-Semitism and war, home to the Promised Land.

**more than 4,000 Jews** made *aliyah* with The Fellowship



**5,000 olim** (predominately Ethiopian Israelis) empowered through occupational training, scholarships, job skills, etc.

## poverty

Because of you, the most vulnerable and impoverished Jews had warm, nutritious meals and heat during the bitter cold.

**over 2.5 million meals and 33,000 food boxes** served in Israel by over 40 soup kitchens

**more than 1 million people** received lifesaving basic needs







# security

The Holy Land entered into war this year, but you stood for Israel by making security possible for those most at-risk.

**1 million people worldwide** received access to greater security



**50 bomb shelters** were installed – 30 during the first week of the war

**93,000 soldiers** given assistance with basic needs and comfort

# fellowship

You built bridges by engaging with our educational resources that teach Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith.

**16,000 people** engaged in monthly prayer services

**2.7 million people** in the U.S. and around the world have supported Israel and the Jewish people through The Fellowship



**45 countries** where The Fellowship is active

# aliyah

In the world today  
**1 in 4 people**  
have anti-Semitic tendencies

*“Our biggest fear was that [the war in Israel] would delay our flight date. Aside from that, we didn’t question our decision. If anything, we feel more determined than ever that we want to be with our Jewish brethren to help the country rebuild and to do our part for the happiness and wellbeing of the Jewish people.”*

ANDRÉS, A NEW OLIM FROM PERU  
ON HIS CALL TO MAKE ALIYAH

## Anti-Semitism is driving Jews to seek refuge in Israel

Jewish people facing war, poverty, or crisis in their country of origin find a way home to Israel thanks to you.

### Aliyah Programs

Informational seminars to new *olim* (immigrants) about life in Israel, how to enroll in school, set up a bank account, learn Hebrew, etc.

Food assistance to recent *olim* for *Rosh Hashanah*

Special *Hanukkah* gifts of a *menorah* and candles to recent *olim*

Occupational training, job skills, and scholarships to 5,000 people (predominately Ethiopian Israelis)

Education and health awareness for the Israeli Ethiopian community

*Aliyah* assistance for more than 4,000 Jewish people from 35 different countries

You help make it possible for anyone facing anti-Semitism to return to the Holy Land.





## The Strength of the Jewish People

*“The kids walk around with kipot and there is a feeling of unity here that makes us feel secure. In France, there was no war, but all the years we lived in France we had to hide our Jewishness, and that is a war.”*

YONA, WHO MADE ALIYAH FROM FRANCE

Anti-Semitism can be obvious. But it can also be subtle, explains one of the new *olim* (immigrants), 35-year-old Yona, who came to Israel from France with her husband and four children thanks to your help last year.

Yona advised her sons to avoid wearing the *kipot* (traditional head coverings worn by Jewish men) in France for fear of how people would react. “You start to get a terrible feeling walking by people in the street,” says Yona.

“Since October 7, we feel that the danger is even greater,” she continues. People would look at her with her children and say things like, “they’re still here,” or “here they are.”

So even though it is wartime in Israel, Yona feels much safer here: “The kids walk around with *kipot* and there is a feeling of unity here that makes us feel secure. In France, there was no war, but all the years we lived in France we had to hide our Jewishness, and that is a war.”

Thanks to you, the family was provided with furniture, including beds, for their children. “Thanks to The Fellowship we are having an easier adjustment into Israeli life,” adds Yona. “Thank you!”



# poverty

## Your ongoing support helps Jews find hope

You provide impoverished Jews around the world with basic needs, care, and companionship.

### Poverty Programs

768,000 people received lifesaving basic needs

211,000 individuals in the former Soviet Union (FSU) were provided basic needs

4 food transportation vehicles were purchased for Israeli soup kitchens to facilitate food distribution

18,000+ elderly and Holocaust survivors provided monthly food and medicine through The Fellowship's With Dignity and Fellowship program

Installation of home-care safety items in the homes of 2,500 elderly, such as handrails, smoke detectors, non-slip chairs for showers and bathtubs to prevent dangerous falls

Heating vouchers, wood, coal, warm blankets and clothing to elderly and families in Israel and the FSU

Routine basic assistance (food, medicine, homecare) to 100,000+ elderly and Holocaust survivors in Israel and the FSU

Year-round support of children's homes that care for the young in Israel and the FSU

You ensure that Holocaust survivors are cared for, and their twilight years are safe and warm.

# 30.99%

of households in Israel live in food insecurity due to economic reasons

*"I'm grateful to The Fellowship from the bottom of my heart. This support is keeping me alive. If not for this support, I don't know if I would still be here."*

MOISEY, 90-YEAR-OLD AMPUTEE RECEIVING FOOD AND BASIC NEEDS IN WAR-TORN UKRAINE







*“The Fellowship has been helping me for many years and is always there for me. Your assistance is very moving and it gives me a lot of strength.”*

ALEKSANDRA, HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

## *You Give Her Strength*

Days after the October 7 terror attacks, The Fellowship visited 86-year-old Aleksandra with food and companionship in her home in Ofakim, one of the hardest-hit communities in the south, to reassure this elderly woman she is not alone.

It's thanks to the millions of Fellowship friends who love Israel that we were on the ground right after the Hamas attacks to help the elderly and bedbound like Aleksandra.

Aleksandra cannot run to the nearest bomb shelter when terror strikes. She is so old and frail that she has decided to stay in her home amid war. Many elderly like her tell us they'd rather risk death than become one of the displaced evacuees in Israel.

“What do I have to fear, and even if I am afraid, how will this help me?” she asks. “I just cry in my heart for all the innocent people who were murdered with such brutality by the Hamas terrorists.”

And as we all grieve over this tragedy, we also know that we can draw strength and light from helping one another, just as we help Aleksandra by ensuring that she receives the Fellowship food boxes she relies on, even during war.

Aleksandra says it best: “The Fellowship has been helping me for many years and is always there for me. Your assistance is very moving and it gives me a lot of strength.”

# security

## We are on the ground as the Jewish people face crisis

In times of emergency, the Jewish people know they can rely on us to quickly and efficiently deliver emergency aid when they need it most.

### Security Programs

Rescue kits to emergency teams in northern Israel

Medical equipment to multiple Israeli hospitals

Security measures in Jewish schools and synagogues in more than a dozen countries around the world

Basic needs, housing, and comfort & care to 93,000 IDF soldiers

Hospitality vehicles serving tens of thousands of IDF soldiers

Rehabilitation program to support veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder

After the October 7 attacks,  
Israelis are in need of protection as  
**anti-Semitism**  
is on the rise across the globe

You are the reason we can stand for Israel, ensuring the safety for all.

*"I thought I'd never know war again. It would be very difficult for me without the support of The Fellowship. The Fellowship has been helping me before the war, and I feel relieved that this help will continue for the rest of my life. Thank you very much."*

MAYA, A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR,  
WHO LIVES IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL







*When Israel was forced to go to war against Hamas terror, hundreds of thousands of IDF reservists were called up, and families were separated as men and women went to serve and protect their country. Binyamin, a Fellowship staff member in our Jerusalem office who was called to the army, reflects on his service, and on the importance of The Fellowship's work during this critical time for Israel.*

*“We have managed to touch so many people and support them during this difficult time. The work of The Fellowship in the field during war has been amazing.”*

BINYAMIN, FELLOWSHIP STAFF MEMBER



## *A Sacred Task of Identification*

When I was called to the army in the middle of the holiday, I left my wife and our four children at home. I realized that I may be the one who leaves the house, but I went to a system of tasks and roles. My wife and children are the ones who remain in their usual place, but now they are in a reality of continuous uncertainty.

And for me, she is the main heroine. I feel that the support I receive from the family and the knowledge that despite all the difficulty, both me and my wife receive support and love from every direction, is very strengthening and gives a lot of hope.

The Fellowship's activity that has moved me the most is the humanitarian aid station that was placed

in the center for the identification of victims. Israel dealt with an unimaginable number of casualties in relation to its size. The sacred task of identifying the bodies and bringing them to burial has been unbearably difficult. Precisely in this place, where families arrived in uncertainty to hear the worst news of all, being there for them, hugging them, and supporting them was the least we could do.

We have managed to touch so many people and support them during this difficult time. The work of The Fellowship in the field during war has been amazing.





*Ziva with her caregiver who alerted her of the danger and to run to the safe room.*



*“What I most want to say, so that the whole world will know, is that our small nation is going through very hard times. And what happened to us this time has never happened before.”*

## *‘Israel Is So Dear to Me’*

That’s 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Ziva, who survived the Nahal Oz massacre when the *kibbutz* was attacked for 12 hours by Hamas terrorists on October 7. That dark day, they lost entire families. One family was taken hostage to the Gaza Strip.

Ziva, who has been a member of the *kibbutz* for over 50 years, remembers hearing the sirens that morning and she says “it was a shock” as she and her caregiver rushed to the safe room.

In the hours that followed, she made calls to her friends, her family, and security officers, but often the connection was cut off or they didn’t answer.

So she waited in the safe room, not knowing if anyone was still alive. After many painful hours, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) rescued the *kibbutz*, and Ziva was evacuated to a safer area of Israel, along with her daughter and son who also survived the attack.

But she’s left with the haunting stories of those lost: “[We are in] terrible pain. Every person is so dear to us, including the *kibbutzim* near us. The stories are terrible.”

In the meantime, she is just so grateful that there are people around the world, Fellowship friends who want to help, who provided her with a purchase card to help supply her with basic needs during this difficult time. And she adds, “the state of Israel is so dear to me.”



More than  
**14,500**  
rockets  
were fired into Israel  
Oct. 7–Dec. 31

More than 1,200  
Israelis were killed  
including more than  
340 IDF soldiers

More than 5,000  
Israelis were injured  
in the attacks

More than 200 people  
were kidnapped  
including children,  
women, and elderly





FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEER DELIVERS FOOD TO HOMEBOUND ELDERLY DURING WAR



FLAK JACKETS AND MEDICAL KITS TO FIRST RESPONDERS

*“I just want you to see these beautiful volunteers who just came from all over Israel to assist and help the citizens and soldiers here in the south. Look what they are going to get for the ambulance: medic bags and doctor bags from your support. You’re going to save life tonight. This is what you’re going to do. Thank you so much.”*

LINOR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION OF UNITED HATZALAH

## Standing with Israel as the war rages

When the war against Hamas started, The Fellowship immediately took action to protect and support elderly, families, children, and Israel’s first responders.

### Emergency (Swords of Iron) Programs

5,850 prepared meals and 70 food boxes to elderly besieged in their homes during the first week (Oct 9-15)

65,000 meals and 8,000 food boxes and 4,900 food cards to evacuees (families and elderly) from settlements and cities around the Gaza Strip and those who remained in their homes

2 fortified security vehicles for security teams in southern Israel

5,038 ballistic and protective flak jackets to firefighters and emergency teams

2,900 helmets to emergency and rescue teams

1,200 medical and equipment bags to paramedics and other emergency teams

\$7 million in various basic needs and assistance to local communities of the Gaza Envelope (such as food, medicine, hygiene products, transportation and evacuation, providing caretakers, housing, etc.)

\$400,000 in support of trauma organization and its helpline

Vouchers to first responders, families of seriously wounded IDF soldiers, families evacuated from home, families with missing loved one

Fellowship Emergency Response Center caring for grieving families and evacuees



DR. ALVEDA KING SPEAKS TO BISHOP PAUL LANIER ABOUT HER LOVE FOR ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

## Christians and Jews build bridges of faith and values

The Fellowship's ministry is always growing stronger with each partnership we create based in shared faith values and love for Israel.

### Fellowship Programs

300,000 downloads of Yael's *Nourish Your Biblical Roots* podcast with approximately 1,450 subscribers by the end of 2023

Gained 45.6 thousand podcast followers through our Pray.com partnership

16,000 people engaged in monthly prayer services

Fellowship Facebook pages had 3,052,154 engagements and reached 28,161,967 people in 2023

Fellowship Instagram pages had 485,000 engagements and reached 5 million people in 2023

In 2023,  
**61,000**  
prayer requests  
were taken to the  
Western Wall

## *Thank You for Your Heart for God's People*

We want to thank you for your faithful prayers and support. This past year was one of the most tragic yet one of the most resilient years for the Jewish people after the horrendous attacks on October 7.

So we thank you for your support during "*such a time as this*" (Esther 4:14), and for being a part of a fellowship in faith that impacts so many!



CHRISTIAN COWBOYS FROM AMERICA TRAVEL TO ISRAEL TO GIVE SUPPORT, PROVIDE SUPPLIES, AND SET UP SECURITY ROADS FOR WAR-TORN ISRAELI COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTH



*Shalom,*

The Jewish people have been through so much in 2023. This past year has been filled with so much anguish, fear, heartache, and tears.

Over and over, when we see hateful anti-Semitism rear its ugly head, we cry out “Never again!” But when terrorists brutally attacked in one of the worst massacres in Israel’s history, I said to myself, how is this happening... “again?”

Now Israel is at war against terrorists who wish to harm the Jewish people and destroy their nation. And Jewish people in need in Ukraine are still coping with the hardship and horror of war more than two years later. It can be difficult to know exactly what to do amid such devastating crises.

But this is why I thank God every day for the amazing men and women who support The Fellowship and the Jewish people. You are an extraordinary group, because of your heart for Israel. You feel the biblical responsibility to take care of the children of God.

I hope you continue to open your hearts to the children of Israel, so that together we can continue to respond to God’s call to help Jewish people in need. This is the only way forward.

Thank you, my dear friends. Know that when we pray together, God listens, He cares, and He will respond. Your prayers have already made such a difference in the lives of Jewish people in need this past year. And if we put our hope in Him, He will renew His people’s strength (Isaiah 40:31).

*Together in faith,*



**Bishop Paul Lanier**

CHAIRMAN OF THE US BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IFCJ

In 2023, The Fellowship helped more than **2 million** people

through providing basic needs, a way home to Israel, and greater security to Jewish communities in Israel and around the world!



BISHOP LANIER BRINGS FOOD AND SUPPORT TO VASILY, A RIGHTEOUS GENTILE, UKRAINE



BISHOP LANIER MEETS WITH LIEUTENANT COLONEL YOSHI TUBUR NEAR KIBBUTZ MAGEN, ISRAEL

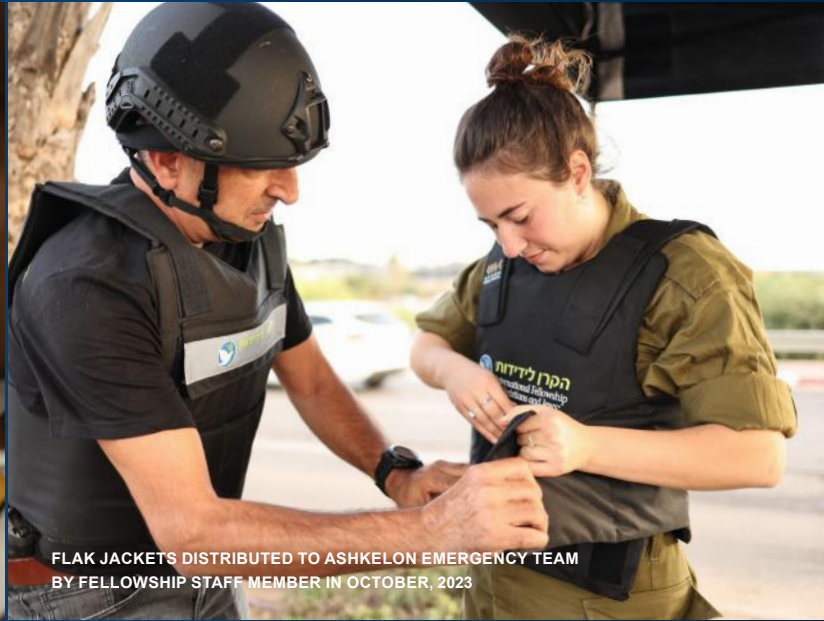


BISHOP LANIER WELCOMES OLIM FROM ETHIOPIA





ETHIOPIAN OLIM FAMILY FLY TO ISRAEL ON WINGS OF EAGLES



FLAK JACKETS DISTRIBUTED TO ASHKELON EMERGENCY TEAM BY FELLOWSHIP STAFF MEMBER IN OCTOBER, 2023



FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEER DELIVERS MEALS TO HOMEBOUND ELDERLY NEAR GAZA THREE DAYS AFTER HAMAS ATTACKS



FELLOWSHIP STAFF PRAY AT THE WESTERN WALL FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

## *The Fellowship is a charity you can trust.*

The Fellowship is fully accredited with the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, having a Charity Navigator overall rating of 82.5/100, and is listed by Forbes as one of the Top 100 Largest U.S. Charities. AWARDS INCLUDE: Nonprofit Organization of the Year from ANA Nonprofit Federation; Seal of Excellence by America's Best Charities; 2022 Female CEO of the Year Global Award from Globee Business; 2022 Top-Rated Nonprofit from GreatNonprofits, and NPT's Best Nonprofits to Work For 2023 by NonProfit Times.

aliyah poverty security fellowship

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CHEN SCHIMMEL; THIS PAGE TOP LEFT PHOTO: CHEN SCHIMMEL. SOME BENEFICIARY NAMES MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR CLARITY AND DISTINCTION.  
FRONT: YAEL ECKSTEIN PLACES MEMORIAL FLOWERS AMIDST THE DEVASTATION OF MOSHAV NETIV HAASARA, NOVEMBER 2023.