

Annual Report 2019



THE
Friends of Israel
GOSPEL MINISTRY

Building bridges. Bringing hope.



And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who then can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” Mark 4:41

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Dear Friend of Israel,

Looking back, 2019 was a remarkable year for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. Your faithful prayers and financial support, combined with our staff's diligent work, have made a meaningful impact for eternity. God is using The Friends of Israel to spread the gospel and bring people to faith in Christ.

I recently encouraged our global team from the apostle Peter's first epistle to the church. As good stewards of God's grace, I urged them to use their God-given gifts to minister in love to all of our neighbors and friends. Peter said when we use the gifts God has given us to serve others and speak God's truth, God is glorified through Christ.

Little did I know then how timely that challenge would be. No one foresaw the pending COVID-19 epidemic. As I write this, we are under a national self-quarantine. But our ministry continues despite this pestilence. We are finding new ways to use our gifts to minister during a time when conventional ministry has been restricted. This epidemic is a sign of the times and an opportunity to call people to repent and turn to God.

We are carrying on the mission of our founders to bring both physical and spiritual comfort to the Jewish people. Even though we had to cancel events and personal meetings all over the world, the pandemic does not slow us down. We are expanding and developing new ways to minister. We have moved many canceled events online, so you can find live teaching and new videos on our website and social media. We remain determined. Our trust is fully in the Lord.

Through these challenging days, we give thanks for God's blessings in the past year. The Lord provided a new ambulance for the FOI Medical Clinic in Argentina, expanded our online media ministry, doubled the number of children attending our Bible camps in Poland, and added passionate and dedicated field workers to our global ministry team. These are just a few of the highlights you will encounter on the pages that follow.

If you are blessed by what God is doing through The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, I encourage you to share our work with your friends. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you for your prayers and ongoing support for The Friends of Israel, now serving the Lord for 82 years. We are absolutely dependent on His provision and friends of Israel like you to make His work possible.

In His Service,



Jim Showers, DMin
Executive Director/President



Who We Are



We are a worldwide evangelical ministry proclaiming biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah, while bringing physical and spiritual comfort to the Jewish people.

Our vision is to see everyone believe in God's Son and understand God's plan for the ages.

WE VALUE:

- Loving God, His Word, and the Jewish people.
- Sharing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Supporting Israel's right to the Land and opposing anti-Semitism.
- Living a life of humility, integrity, and respect for others.

82
years of ministry
established 1938

Operate
regularly in

14
countries



**In 2019, we ministered, served,
and taught in 26 countries**

United States	Russia
Canada	Israel
Australia	Hungary
New Zealand	Netherlands
Argentina	Moldova
United Kingdom	Guatemala
France	Brazil
Switzerland	Singapore
Germany	Italy
Belgium	Slovakia
Poland	Czech Republic
Ukraine	Denmark
Belarus	Jordan

North American



The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry's field workers and staff work tirelessly across the United States and Canada to share the gospel, minister to our Jewish friends, lead volunteer work, communicate biblical truth in churches and colleges, stand with Jewish communities in the face of hatred, and advocate for Israel alongside many Jewish organizations. Our international headquarters operates in New Jersey and supports all of our workers around the globe.

The Mission Launch Initiative funds the growth and expansion of the North American Ministries and empowers new field workers to jumpstart their ministry.

4

new field workers

3

national prophecy conferences

2,268

people attended Prophecy Up Close events

15

Prophecy Up Close events

228

people toured Israel with *Up to Jerusalem*

Margot's story:

"Five years ago, I met Holocaust survivor Margot for the first time. She would tell you, 'It was love at first sight!' I visited with Margot inside her home. Margot had received a letter of complaint from her homeowners' association about the condition of her home. It had been overwhelming to Margot. She was recovering from being hit by a car just a few months prior. I brought several volunteers to her home that day to address the complaints of the letter. After our visit to repair her house, I bought a Rosh Hashanah card and placed a printed picture of us inside. I asked my colleagues to deliver it to Margot at the Holocaust Survivor luncheon that Monday. They later reported that Margot was upset that I was not there, and the next moment, she was bragging to everyone about how great our group was, showing her card to the other survivors. Then, she would be upset that I wasn't there again. Ruth, another survivor, asked if our group would come to trim her bushes. That began my beautiful friendship with Margot. You never know what God will use to magnify Himself through you to others. Be available. Be ready. Last week, I took Margot out to a German restaurant, and we reminisced about how God brought us together through a miscommunication from her homeowners' association. It was actually her neighbor's house that needed work all those years ago, not Margot's. Men make mistakes. God does not. Please keep Margot in your prayers."

-Becky Meissner
Field Representattive

4,392

hours of volunteer work serving Jewish neighbors (increase of 45% in volunteer time)

1,500

hours of sharing the gospel on college campuses

1,555

speaking and teaching events in churches, communitites, Bible studies, and feast-day presentations

1,235

questions on Christianity and Israel answered through online and telephone ministry

318

Hanukkah baskets lovingly delivered



VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

We sent 22 young adults to volunteer in Israel as part of the ORIGINS program. Here is what they had to say when they got back:

“The Lord really moved in my heart a love for Jewish people, and I would be so happy to help and minister in any way.”

“I loved the fellowship with local Israeli believers and the opportunity to get to work alongside Israelis in the hospital.”

“My heart is burdened for the people in Israel.”

“Showing our Christian support for Israel and the Jewish people made a greater impact than I think we realized.”

“I was certainly never hungry!”

43
volunteers went to Israel

2,752
hours of service work

2
volunteer trips



H E S E D



O R I G I N S



CANADA

5,000+

people participated and attended our events across Canada

350+

speaking and teaching events in churches, Bible studies, townhall meetings, and Focus on Israel events

5+

key partnerships with Jewish organizations

36

Hanukkah baskets lovingly delivered

Cruizin' for Zion

Coming in 2020

For three consecutive years, Canada has seen sharp increases in anti-Semitic incidents. As Bible-believing Christians, our Canadian workers are doing something about it!

Cruizin' for Zion seeks to educate people across Canada on what God's Word says about Israel and the Jewish people. Look for times and locations and join us as we go Cruizin' for Zion to share love and build bridges with our Jewish friends.

For more information, **tour schedule**, or to give to this exciting ministry, please visit:
www.foi.org/cfz

International



AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

While maintaining rigorous ministry and teaching schedules in churches, universities, and Jewish communities, our workers in Australia and New Zealand find time to host Israeli backpackers, many of whom are former IDF soldiers. For many backpackers, it is the first time they have ever been in a Christian home. These new relationships tend to continue, even when half a world apart. Please pray for our backpacker ministry as it is growing in 2020!

Here are some backpackers' testimonials following their Christian encounter with our New Zealand and Australian host families:

"We enjoyed our talks and learned a lot! We have never met someone so full of faith and so optimistic about the fate of Israel and of the world." -Tzippi

"You've changed my life." - Uri

"I can't express how much 'home' I felt in your loving house. I enjoyed the lovely talks, delicious food, and your kind heart. It was a real inspiration. Thank you so much for letting me be one of the family and sharing your stories, belief, and love" - Dan

56

Explore Israel
study tour participants

20+

Israeli backpackers
hosted

ISRAEL

Encouraging the growing community of believers within Israel, our field workers run summer Bible camps, youth groups, food pantries, counseling, Bible studies, missions trips, and Christian IDF soldier outreach along with their church ministries, including one new church ministry being established near Jerusalem.

"An older Orthodox Jewish man stepped into our church office and said, 'Tell me about Jesus.' It requires a great deal of courage for such a man to walk into our church during the day. One of our church elders spent an hour sharing the gospel of Jesus. At the end of the meeting, the man asked for a New Testament and went his way. The rest of the day was not the same for us. We pray there are many more men like this Nicodemus."

-Israeli field ministry

300,000+

views of the New Testament
online

400+

young people regularly
participate in youth groups,
Bible studies, and other Christian
youth events every year

22

families ministering in
the field full time

6

interns

135

volunteers

773

speaking events at
conferences and churches

49,860+

people participated and
attended our events

168

church camp and
children's ministry events

WESTERN EUROPE

In the fall, the shooting attack on the synagogue in Halle, Germany, shocked a country that has fought to get out from the shadow of Nazism for 75 years. Even though the attack was performed by a single person, who thankfully was not successful in his attempt to enter the synagogue filled with worshipers for Yom Kippur, the results have been devastating. While most recent anti-Semitic attacks in Germany have been committed by Muslim immigrants, this one was different. It was perpetrated by a German neo-Nazi who was motivated by conspiracy theories circulating on the Internet. The vast majority of Germans are truly grieved about the attack. There remains a wave of solidarity towards the growing Jewish community in Germany.

Friends of Israel across Europe actively participates in and supports public events declaring that there is no tolerance for any form of anti-Semitism. Our workers across Europe keep investing in personal relationships, earning the trust of the Jewish community, and bringing hope in seemingly hopeless times.

8

Israel in Focus meetings
in the UK

2

books translated
to French

1

Holocaust educational
tour to Poland

10

new German publications
and DVD programs

ARGENTINA FOI MEDICAL CLINIC

24/7

free medical care in the
heart of Buenos Aires

18,000+

patients per year

4,400+

ambulance calls per year



We praise the Lord that The Friends of Israel was able to provide a new ambulance for the Argentina clinic in 2019. The clinic now runs one full ambulance and has converted the older ambulance to a transport vehicle. Gracias amigos!

Roberto's story:

"In Argentina, a young man in his early 30s participated in a Friends of Israel Bible study held in the home of his uncle, a construction worker. This nephew was visibly interested and felt the need to know more. He gladly agreed to participate in the next Bible study and promised to read Scripture we prayerfully gave to him. A few weeks later, he returned thirsty for answers to his burning questions. Roberto, a young man who heard some of those questions was also eager to know the answers. As the conversation progressed, Roberto asked, 'What can I do to be born again?' Guided by the Holy Spirit, Roberto was led to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus."

-Dr. Espinoza

Argentina field ministry



EASTERN EUROPE

2

FOI books translated to Polish

2

FOI books translated to Russian

40

people participated in the March of the Living in solidarity with Holocaust survivors

8

children's Bible camps

Marianna's story:

"Marianna came to the FOI Bible camp for children in Poland for the second year in a row! Last year, she did not want to attend the Bible lessons, and when she did, she would often interrupt the teacher. We would pray each evening for Marianna, and we could see how her behavior improved each day. At the end of camp last year, Marianna was the most helpful child in the group. This year, Marianna returned! She told us that she took home the Bible we give each child, and that she read the whole Old Testament with her mother. She said that she couldn't wait for the Bible lessons because she would know all of the answers. We are thankful for how God is changing the lives of children."

-Hanya
Poland field ministry

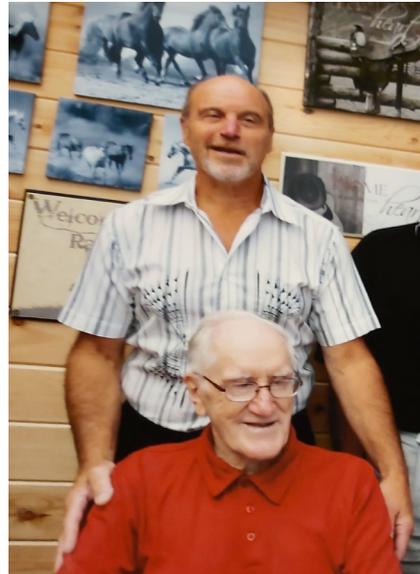
Media



ISRAEL MY GLORY

Brian's story:

For more than 26 years, Brian's father faithfully subscribed to *Israel My Glory* (IMG), always purchasing four copies—one for himself and one for each of his three unbelieving sons. Brian slowly became more consciously aware of God through the ministry of IMG. When his wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he read an IMG issue, truly hearing and receiving the message of salvation found solely in Jesus Christ. Brian turned his life over to Jesus that day, and through his testimony, his wife gave her life to the Lord mere hours before meeting her Savior in person. Brian repeatedly gives thanks for the work of The Friends of Israel, specifically the ministry through IMG and for the faithfulness of his father.



76

countries receiving IMG

13,000+

digital subscriptions to IMG

30

years of IMG archived and available at israelmyglory.org

443,000

copies of IMG distributed

PUBLICATIONS

56,523

publications sold

5

new publications

VIDEO

21

online videos produced with 100,000+ views/downloads

FOI TODAY

RADIO

radio.foi.org

1.6+ million

The Friends of Israel Today
radio listeners

480

radio stations in the US
and Canada

48

half-hour radio programs produced
and broadcast in North America

45,000+

podcast downloads



Relief



Aliyah Fund sponsored 55 Jewish people making Israel their home. In 3 years, the Aliyah Fund has helped **154 Jewish people** return to their ancestral homeland.

Israel Relief Fund exists to bless the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by providing humanitarian assistance to Israelis, bringing physical and spiritual comfort. Needs range from hunger and poverty to emergency medical response and protection from terrorism. We work closely with our Israeli partners to stretch your donations for maximum impact within Israel.

\$2,197,262 in relief and aid invested within Israel since 2012

900+

rockets fired into Israel in 2019

4

bomb shelters built in the South for a total of 28 bomb shelters protecting 350–600 lives per rocket attack

One week after an FOI Israel Relief Fund shelter was installed in Southern Israel on Kibbutz Nir Am, a terrified young woman and her friend managed to escape their vehicle and take cover from rockets in the new bomb shelter. This young woman, only 18, suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, and has been receiving trauma therapy treatment weekly for many years. As a child, she slept under her parents' bed at night, for 3 years, until they received a bomb shelter in their home. We give thanks to the Lord that His timing is perfect. One week earlier and the shelter would not have been there. The young woman's father expressed his deepest gratitude to you, our donors, who not only protected his daughter from rockets, but has also kept her from sinking deeper in her psychological distress.

1 in 5

pregnancies in Israel are aborted

17

babies saved from abortion and sponsored for their first year of life

8,747+

acres of Israeli farmland destroyed by fire

3

new FOI fire trailers fought more than 2,155 fires set by incendiary balloons sent over the border by terrorists in Gaza

14,600+

meals and showers provided in Christian ministry to addicts and prostitutes

25,000+

Israelis estimated to be addicted to drugs

1.3+ million

emergency calls in Israel in 2019

3

new fully-equipped FOI medicycles joined the fleet in 2019

1,500+

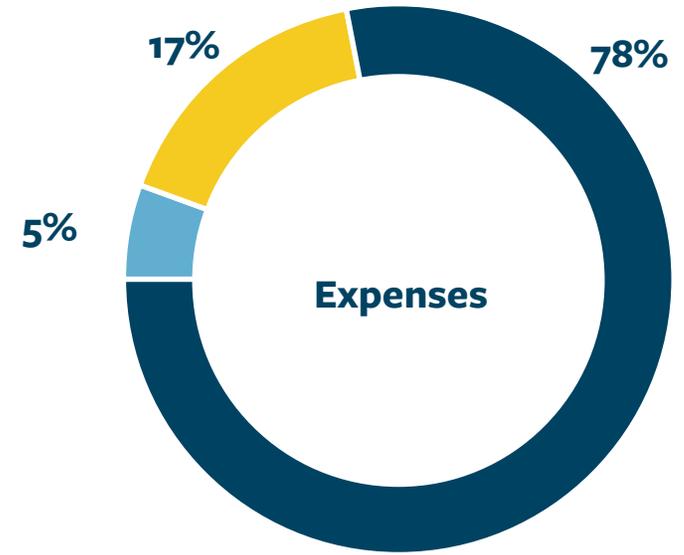
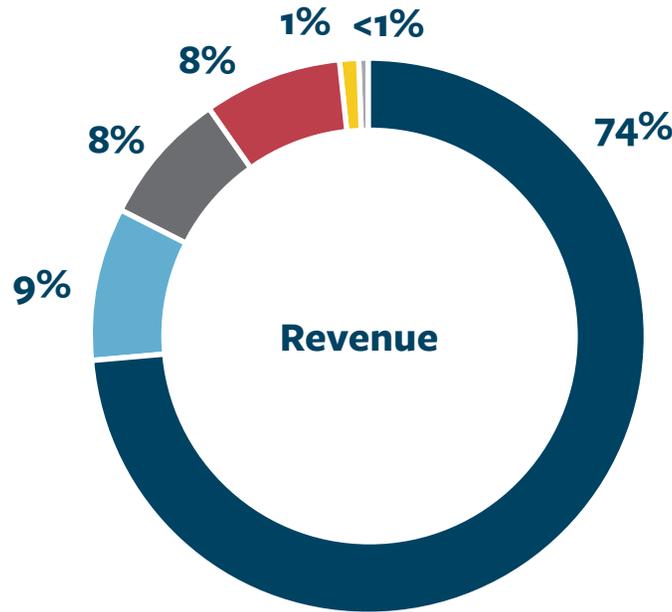
meals served to the hungry and Holocaust survivors

1.8 million

Israelis live below the poverty line, including 3 in 5 children and 1 in 5 elderly

Relief

FISCAL YEAR 2019 (USA)



Support		
	Contributions	\$9,248,000
	Legacies and Annuities	\$1,056,000
Revenue		
	Publications Revenue	\$1,011,000
	Program/Event Revenue	\$150,000
	Interest, Dividends & Other Revenue	\$17,000
Reserves		
	Transfer from Reserves	\$1,068,000
Total Support and Revenue:		\$12,550,000

	Program Services	\$9,810,000
	Administrative	\$2,105,000
	Fundraising	\$637,000
Total Expenses:		\$12,552,000

Visit foi.org/vision/financials to view full audited financial statements.

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry is an exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN: 23-1365331



Our Financial Commitment to You

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry is firmly committed to good stewardship of funds entrusted to us by our friends and donors. We promise to use your gifts wisely and effectively in Christ's name.

To insure our financial accountability to you, our donor, we are a long-time member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. We fully support the purpose and goals of the ECFA, and display its seal proudly to reflect compliance with its membership standards. www.ecfa.org

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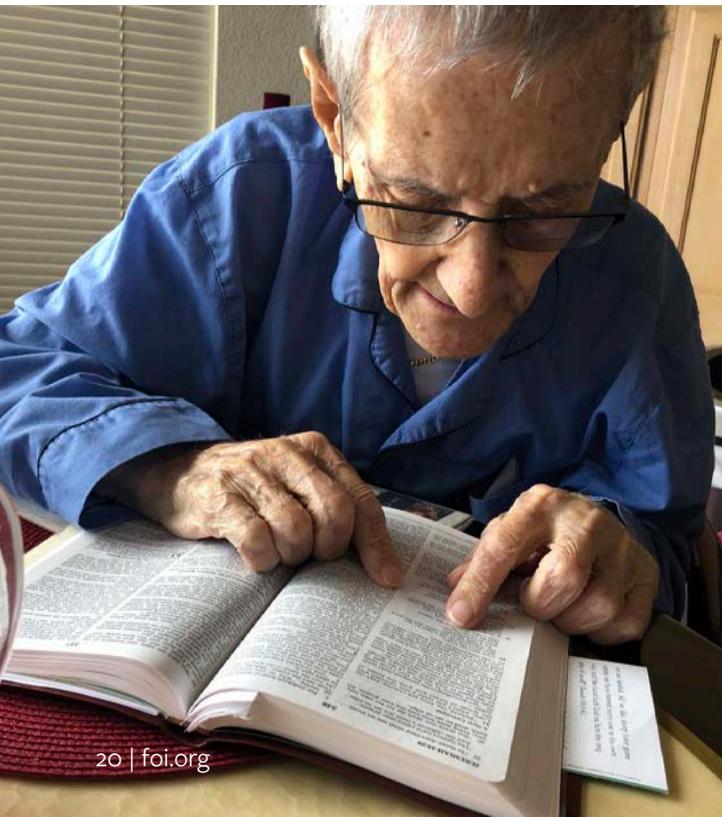
**YOUR GENEROSITY
OF TIME AND
RESOURCES
MAKES THE
FRIENDS OF ISRAEL
GOSPEL MINISTRY
POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU!**

Pray

for the peace of Jerusalem,
The Friends of Israel ministry,
our workers, and for opportunities
to bring physical and spiritual
comfort to the Jewish people. We
look to the Lord's guidance and
provision. Your prayers are critical
to accomplishing His work.

Share

Your stories inspire us and others!
If you have been touched by The
Friends of Israel ministry, won't you
please share us with your friends and
family? If the Lord has reached you
through our ministry, we would love
to hear from you. Please submit your
story to us online at foi.org/yourstory



**AS EACH ONE HAS
RECEIVED A GIFT,
MINISTER IT TO
ONE ANOTHER, AS
GOOD STEWARDS
OF THE MANIFOLD
GRACE OF GOD.
1 PETER 4:10**

Attend

Refresh your walk with the Lord at our
educational and accessible events. If you
cannot attend an event, we offer many
resources through our store and online. To
find an event near you or to request one at
your church, visit foi.org/events

Give

When you donate to The Friends of Israel, you are making a lasting impact on lives all over the world.

Thank you for obeying God's command to bless His Chosen People. Give now at foi.org/donate

Charitable Gift Annuities

A gift annuity is a very popular way for you to receive a lifetime income and tax benefits while providing financially for the Lord's work.



Volunteer

Your life will be forever changed when you serve our friends in Israel, and you will leave a lasting impression on the lives you touch in the Land. For the latest volunteer opportunities, visit foi.org/outreach

Serve

Feeling called to equip Christians with biblical truth and make lasting relationships with the Jewish community? Please contact us! Visit foi.org/serve

Learn more at foi.org/donate

For all other questions, resources, or literature, please call our Ministry Services team at 856-853-5590



Cameron's story:

"I went out searching for some headache medicine while on our *Up to Jerusalem* tour before dinner one night. An Orthodox man was trying to get around me in the aisle at a convenience store near our hotel in Israel. I didn't see him behind me at first, but when I did, I apologized for being in the way.

He said, 'It's okay,' in perfect American English. He asked me about the Friends of Israel logo on my shirt and introduced himself as Ben. He listened intently as I explained our ministry to the Jewish people. I told him about FOI's unique history in preemptively sponsoring Jewish relief for refugees before and during the Holocaust. Ben was surprised that FOI is older than the State of Israel as a ministry to the Jewish people. He asked me what an 'evangelical' is, which allowed me to explain that I believe Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, and the One who saved me from my sins since I, nor anyone else, could possibly keep Torah perfectly.

I began asking Ben about who he was, and whether he was visiting or had made Aliyah (immigration to Israel). He explained that he was visiting, but when we got to talking about being in the Holy Land, Ben expressed disappointment. 'It's not what I thought,' he said. He seemed to have come to the Land hoping to find a 'spiritual high' so to speak, but I could tell he was down.

As we were leaving the store, I shook Ben's hand and told him that it was an honor to spend time with him. I said, 'When I shake the hand of someone like you, I am shaking the hand of a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; to me, that's really cool.'

He laughed and said, 'That's a lot of pressure!'

I did not have a Bible with me, so I asked Ben if I could share my favorite passage from the Tanakh with him. He said yes, so I told him it was Isaiah 53. Unfortunately, I was leaving for America that night, but I encouraged him to read that passage. I also told him that I would be praying for his safe journey home to Brooklyn and that he finds Shalom. He was very gracious towards me and I regretted having to get back. I am extremely grateful for this experience. Please be in prayer for Ben as well."

-Cameron Joyner

Church Ministry field representative





Did you know that The Friends of Israel

- » Began 10 years before modern Israel was established?
- » Ministered and taught in 26 countries in 2019?
- » Is expanding our reach to millions of people online that we cannot reach in person?

We can only accomplish this because of the faithfulness of God and with support of friends like you! Thank you!



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