



International Fellowship  
of Christians and Jews®



**2018  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## HELPING HANDS — FAITHFUL FRIENDS





Rabbi Eckstein prays a blessing over his daughter, Yael

As we began preparing this report, we could not have known that 2018 would be the last full year that *The Fellowship* would be led by our beloved founder, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein. As we look back at the year that is past and forward to a bright future, we want to share with you this reflection from Yael Eckstein, who became *Fellowship* president upon the Rabbi's passing on February 6, 2019.

*“God knew what He was doing by having raised for me a child who would not only catch the vision but feel the calling... Watch over this ministry, feed it, cultivate it.”*

—RABBI YECHIEL ECKSTEIN, BLESSING THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS DAUGHTER, Yael ECKSTEIN





## FROM OUR PRESIDENT: YOUR GIFTS TO ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Even now, I can hear the voice of my father, Rabbi Eckstein, just like I heard it when I went with him to deliver aid to someone in need: “This is a gift from Christians who love Israel and the Jewish people.”

I will always remember 2018 as his last full year of ministry. Thirty-six years ago, he heard God’s call. God told him to reach out and build bridges between Jews and Christians, members of two faiths who for far too long had lived with mistrust and animosity.

The calling took root and grew in the hearts of millions of Christians around the world. *The Fellowship* was born from it, and the incredible accomplishments in the Annual Report you’re holding right now are the direct result of my *abba*’s response to that call decades ago.

But it couldn’t have happened without you, our *Fellowship* family. Your love for Israel and her people – and God’s blessing – has made *The Fellowship* the success that it is. Your partnership has allowed us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and fulfill the biblical prophecies that tell of the return of Jewish exiles to Israel “*from the four corners of the earth.*”

Friends, my father gave me his trust and blessing, as did our Board of Directors when they honored me by electing me *Fellowship* president. I pray that I have your trust and blessing too, as I step into this new role and continue our important work. That work is not yet finished – there are still bridges to build.

As you look through this report, I know you will feel as proud as I am of all the good you accomplished through *The Fellowship* in 2018, in Israel and beyond – and I know you will be as optimistic as I am about our future. Together we will continue this holy work until the time that the “*sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in [Jerusalem] no more*” (Isaiah 65:19).

With blessings from the Holy Land,

Yael Eckstein  
President

IN 2018, OUR  
DONORS HELPED  
**1,586,125**  
PEOPLE IN NEED.

That assistance – fighting poverty, providing security, and helping Jews make *aliyah* (immigrate to Israel) – was given through *The Fellowship's* hundreds of lifesaving projects in Israel and around the world.

**1,705,200** MEALS SERVED IN *FELLOWSHIP*  
SOUP KITCHENS

**742,129** IMPOVERISHED JEWS OUTSIDE OF  
ISRAEL PROVIDED WITH LIFESAVING HELP AND SECURITY

**146,367** CHILDREN AND ELDERLY IN ISRAEL  
RECEIVED FOOD, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND  
OTHER ASSISTANCE

**143,758** NEEDY AND LONE SOLDIERS FROM  
THE IDF ASSISTED

**104,352** IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES GIVEN  
EMERGENCY AND OTHER LIFE-SUSTAINING AID

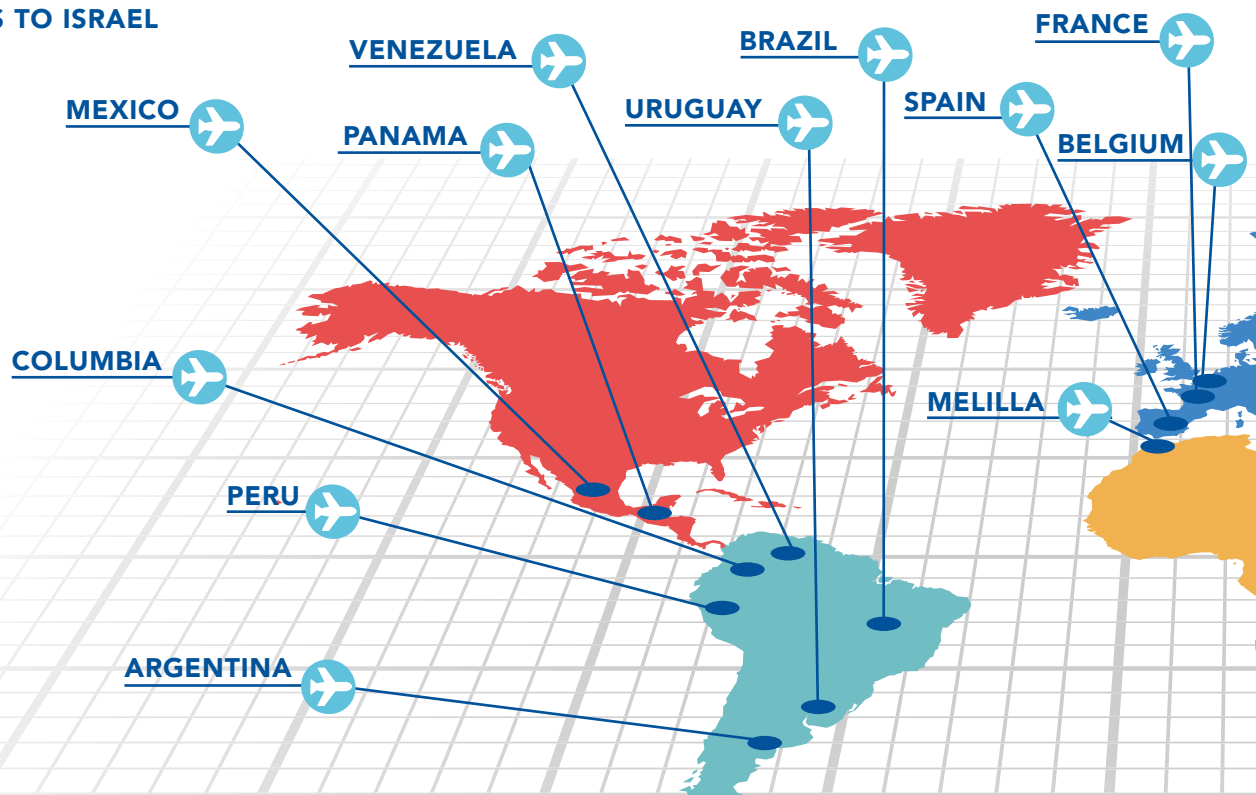
**5,360** OLIM (IMMIGRANTS) GIVEN HELP  
MAKING NEW LIVES IN ISRAEL

**2,500** BIBLES DISTRIBUTED TO ELDERLY IN THE  
FORMER SOVIET UNION

ALIYAH FLIGHTS BROUGHT JEWS TO ISRAEL FROM  
**23 COUNTRIES**

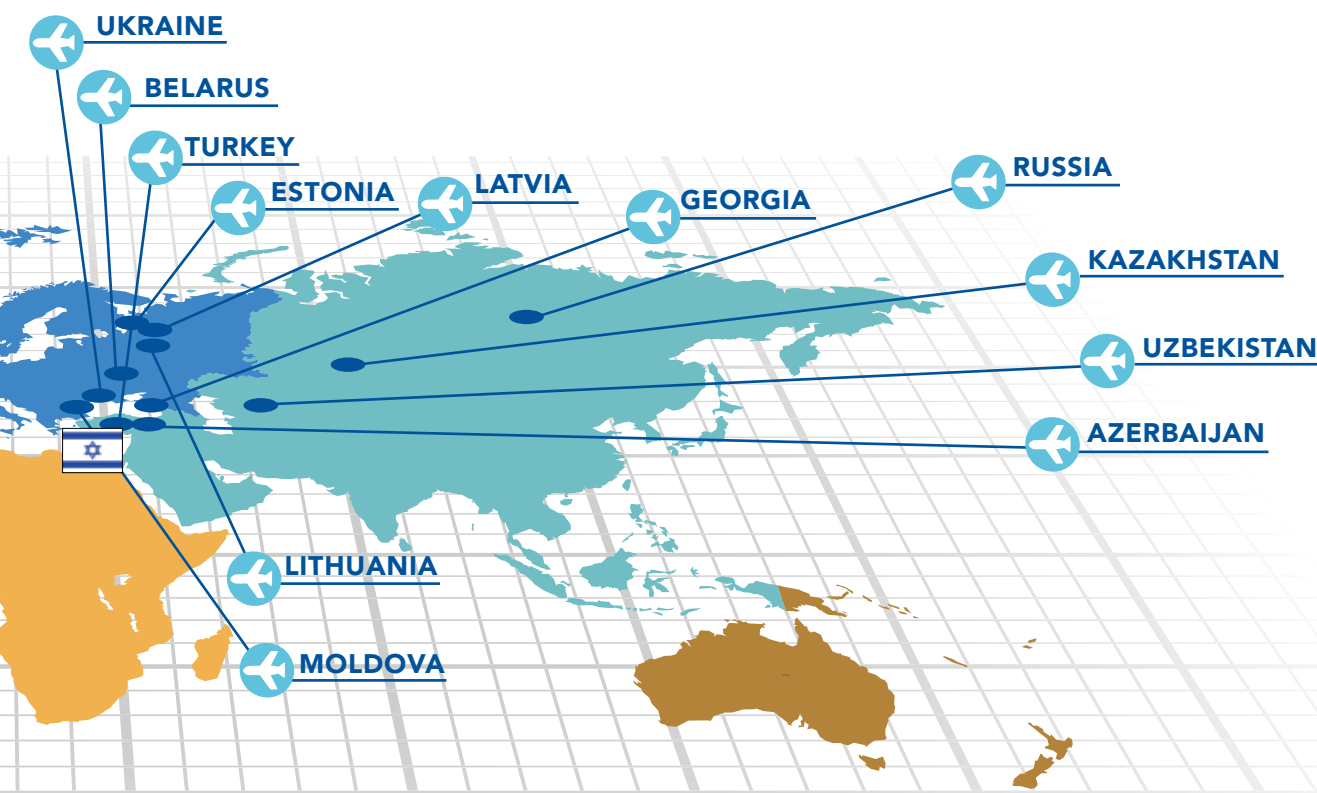


#### ALIYAH FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL





*Do not  
withhold good  
...when it is in  
your power  
to act.* —PROVERBS 3:27







### *Keeping Spirits High*

When Chaka says that *The Fellowship* is keeping her alive, she means it.

Huddled inside her shabby wooden house in Moldova, with neither running water nor anyone to keep her company, this elderly Jewish shut-in has spent much of her recent life suffering in silence, even as she copes with numerous ailments: high blood pressure, arthritis, and heart problems.

Chaka's home and health may have deteriorated, but her powerful personality has not. She stays hopeful because she knows she's not alone – she can count on *The Fellowship*.

Thanks to your support, Chaka now has food to eat, water to drink and wash with, medicine to treat her illnesses, warm clothing for the frigid winters in the former Soviet Union, and volunteer visits that provide both physical care and the companionship and camaraderie needed to lift her spirits.

Thanks to your generosity, this year alone:

**103,150** ELDERLY AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN ISRAEL were given food, housing, clothing, medical care, and winter heating assistance

**156,564** ELDERLY AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION received food and medical aid through Hesed community centers

**10,000** HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS received emergency call buttons in partnership with the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

**1,700** ELDERLY AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN ISRAEL received audio Bibles

# *Do not cast me away when I am old.* —PSALM 71:9

Thousands of elderly Jews in the Holy Land live in poverty, many of them forced to choose between paying rent and buying food or medicine ... they can't afford them all. That's where *The Fellowship* comes in. In 2018, caring supporters like you helped hundreds of thousands of elderly in Israel and the former Soviet Union, including Holocaust survivors, sustain their bodies by providing them with medicine and nutritious food, and sustain their souls with companionship that reminded them they are not forgotten.

## *Providing Love and Care*

We think Avraham's smile shows how much your support means to him. Now 95 years old, he came to Israel from Turkey. When his wife died, he spent his days in solitude – until *The Fellowship* discovered him. We started sending Avraham monthly food deliveries, and *Fellowship* volunteers began making visits to his home. When Yael Eckstein visited, she told him that *Fellowship* friends around the world love him and care for him, and these words of compassion brought a smile to his face.



*I pray daily for you, for the few remaining Holocaust survivors, the peace of Jerusalem, and all of Israel. And I will continue to pray for your great and godly work. —Truett, Conroe, TX*





### *Finding Courage*

"I couldn't find a way out, and my children were hungry. My wife and children depend on me, but I can barely afford to pay the rent."

That's Dmitry, a father of two living in Russia. The economy is bad, and his small auto repair shop doesn't bring in enough money to support his family. In their apartment, lights flicker off and on, the ceiling is cracked, the oven is broken. Dmitry's wife couldn't even prepare hot meals.

Then, *The Fellowship* reached out to this struggling family. Dmitry rarely expresses his emotions, but the gesture brought tears to his eyes. "When *The Fellowship* started bringing us food packages and clothing vouchers, I found the courage to believe in myself again." Knowing his children are provided for has eased Dmitry's heart and renewed his confidence.

## Funding Our Future

***The Fellowship* helps impoverished children by providing a wide array of assistance, including:**

- Vouchers to buy clothing
- Backpacks filled with school supplies
- Funds for extracurricular activities
- Transportation to Jewish schools
- Summer camps
- After-school clubs
- Orphanages
- Shelters and counseling for homeless children

*I am so honored and blessed to be able to give to The Fellowship to help God's beautiful and precious people in Israel. Much love and blessings to you. —Kathleen, Seminole, OK*





# *Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.* —PSALM 127:3

Every child is a precious gift from God, and we are so thankful that friends like you help us provide for them.

The need is great ... one in three children in Israel lives in poverty. Across the former Soviet Union, poverty and economic instability make children especially vulnerable.

This is why we continue to reach out to these blessed children of God, prioritizing their needs to create a hopeful future.

## *Giving Katsiaryna Confidence*

It was a big change for nine-year-old Katsiaryna when her family made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) from the former Soviet Union to their biblical homeland, Israel.

Like so many new *olim* (immigrants), Katsiaryna's family met many challenges as they found their way in a new and very different country. They needed help with everyday things, like affording school supplies for their little girl.

So they turned to *The Fellowship* for support. Thankfully, this is exactly the kind of care *The Fellowship* offers new *olim*, since we know how difficult the first months in a new place can be.

When *The Fellowship* delivered Katsiaryna a new school bag and school supplies – everything she would need for her fifth grade class – the family was deeply touched, and Katsiaryna was that much closer to being a success.



*Good evening my beloved family at The Fellowship. We keep you in our prayers and send love. May the Lord God bless you and keep you and shine light upon you. May He bring you peace and happiness. —Cedrick, Cape Town, South Africa*



## *A Holy Land Family Reunion*

Mykola and his wife Karyna watched their family split apart because of war.

They lived in Donetsk, Ukraine, in the heart of the war zone. “Some of our relatives decided to come to Israel after the conflict between Russia and Ukraine turned increasingly violent,” Mykola says. “They left with no work offers or any place to stay.” Mykola and Karyna stayed behind.

But as conditions worsened, they too decided to come to Israel aboard a *Fellowship Freedom Flight*. Now, the Jewish couple are not only ready to start new lives, but to be with their loved ones. “We’re looking forward to a new and bright future with our family in the land of our ancestors. Thank you to all of the *Fellowship* supporters who have made this possible!”

## Did you know?

Each person on a *Fellowship Freedom Flight* receives help with:

### MOVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Applying to Israeli consulate for *aliyah* eligibility
- Connecting to an employment agency
- Registering for school and Hebrew language study

### TWO-DAY PRE-FLIGHT ORIENTATION PROGRAM

- Learning how *The Fellowship* will help with their transition
- Learning about Israel from experts in the fields of health, education, employment, and housing

### TRAVELING TO ISRAEL

- A fully funded flight to the Holy Land
- Luggage transportation


### ARRANGEMENTS AFTER ARRIVAL AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT, TEL AVIV

- Registering for new Israeli IDs
- Transportation to their first home in Israel

### GETTING ESTABLISHED

- Opening a bank account
- Registering for health insurance
- Receiving food for their first few days in Israel
- Assistance for six months from a volunteer who speaks their native language





*I carried you  
on eagles' wings  
and brought you to myself.*

—EXODUS 19:4

Biblical prophecy reminds us of God's promise to bring His children home to the Holy Land, and our supporters continue to help make this prophecy and promise a reality. In 2018, your support helped 5,094 Jews make *aliyah* (immigrate to Israel) from 23 countries.

### *Close to Faith, Unified with Family*

Nelia will never forget her grandmother, who died not long ago. "She lived through the Holocaust, so she was aware of how important the Jewish homeland is to our people," Nelia says.

Nelia and her husband, Volodymyr, know how important Israel is too – and so does their five-year-old son, Yefim. The entire family made *aliyah* aboard a *Fellowship Freedom Flight* last year. "I feel closer to my faith and unified with my family in Israel," Nelia says. Now her family is together in the Holy Land, free to live new lives thanks to our faithful supporters.

Nelia's grandmother would be proud.



*I thank the Lord for the opportunity to be able to share the blessings He provides us each day with our friends in Israel. You and God's chosen people are in my prayers. — Carmela, Manvel, TX*

## *Blessing Those Who Protect the Holy Land*

Mandatory military service in Israel – three years for men, two for women – is essential for national defense. The Jewish state has a relatively small population and is surrounded by enemies who seek her destruction.

The brave men and women of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), who ensure the safety of all Israelis, are the “watchmen on the walls” spoken of in Isaiah 62:6 – and they deserve our prayers, support, and encouragement. Because of your generosity, *The Fellowship* funds programs that give them care and comfort.



## *Valuing Israel's Veterans*

Many combat soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder but can't afford the treatments they need to cope with their condition. Thankfully, the *Fellowship*-supported Retorno program provides individual and group therapy to those struggling with the mental scars of war.

One man, Yehuda, was wounded along with his fellow soldiers. “Two terrorists fired a missile at us,” he says. “My friend standing by my side was killed instantly. The entire tank crew and I were wounded.”

The trauma threw his life and his family's lives into turmoil, but this *Fellowship* program brought hope and healing to all. “It was like a miracle! This program showed me I didn't have to fall apart because of my pain. I'm grateful to *Fellowship* donors who have funded this program. You've saved my life. More than that, you've saved my family.”



## *Holiday Cheer from Fellowship Friends*

Throughout 2018, violence raged in southern Israel. Terrorists and rioters stormed the border with Gaza, fired rockets, and burned thousands of acres of farmland and forest with incendiary kites and balloons. Courageous IDF soldiers spent weeks on end amid this chaos. When the High Holy Days came around, *The Fellowship* was there to give them much-needed relief from battle.



## *Fellowship IDF Vehicle*

The Gaza border is not the only place where IDF soldiers find themselves alone, and the Jewish holidays are not the only times when they find themselves lonely. So the *Fellowship* IDF Vehicle has traveled to some of the remotest areas of the country to provide Israel's guardians with relief from their labors, and the reminder that Christians and Jews around the world love and support them.





*But as for me,  
afflicted and  
in pain—may  
your salvation,  
God, protect  
me.* —PSALM 69:29

### *Loving Care for Persecuted Christians*

Radical Islamist terrorist groups like ISIS have displaced, tortured, and murdered countless Christians across the Middle East. One of these Christians, a 16-year-old Iraqi girl named Maryam, recalls, “ISIS gave us three options: convert to Islam and fight for them, leave town within one hour, or stay and be slaughtered.”

Maryam and her family ran for their lives. Later, they learned that their entire village in Iraq had been destroyed.

Eventually, they ended up at a refugee camp in Jordan. With your help, *The Fellowship* has funded medical treatment and medication for these refugees and provided them with food vouchers and housing. In 2018, Rabbi Eckstein visited Jordan to see this good work, and called on our faithful friends to pray “that God will shower His blessings upon these people who have suffered so greatly.”



*We are honored to be a part of the goal of achieving God's promise by blessing those who bless Israel. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this prophetic journey together. God bless The Fellowship! —George, Fort Payne, AL*

## *Small Gifts Make a Big Difference*

The Fellowship's Small Gifts program for new mothers provides assistance to Israeli single mothers who face financial hardship, and also gives aid to their newborn babies.

Needy mothers of newborns simply don't have the means to purchase items like diapers, formula, baby bottles, and new clothes for their growing infants. *The Fellowship* provided them with gift baskets filled with these essentials, and more – including debit cards they can use to buy food at local supermarkets – as well as ongoing monthly aid so mothers can meet their babies' needs.



## *Saving Lives During Attacks*

Several years ago, *The Fellowship* helped build the underground hospital at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, where patients can safely receive medical care even when terrorist rockets are falling above. And last year, Rabbi Eckstein attended the dedication ceremony for the *Fellowship*-funded Fortified Command Center, where hospital staff can coordinate information and personnel to continue their lifesaving work during attacks.



## *A Brighter Future*

*The Fellowship* gives at-risk olim and struggling single mothers their turn to shine by offering grants to study at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. Here, they train to become dental assistants or hygienists – jobs that offer better pay and hope for a brighter future than the cleaning or retail jobs many of them previously held.



*Heal me, LORD,  
and I will  
be healed; save me  
and I will be saved.* —JEREMIAH 17:14

From our unique position on the ground in the Holy Land, *The Fellowship* assesses the many needs of Israelis from all walks of life, from infants to the elderly. Thanks to you, we're able to help them live HAPPY and HEALTHY lives!

### *An Ambulance for Those in Need*

Can you imagine not having access to a hospital just because there's no ambulance to transport you there? This was the case for residents of Rahat in Israel's Negev desert. They worried that the next medical emergency could be fatal because the victim wouldn't make it to the hospital in time.

Thankfully, *The Fellowship* helped to fund an ambulance for Rahat, the third ambulance we've helped provide to this underserved population. Now, anyone in Rahat who needs emergency care can receive it quickly – and safely.



*I am so glad that I am able, through God, to give what I can every month for you to use however you need it. You are angels in my eyes, and I can't thank you enough for what you do.* —Nancy, Lakeland, FL



## Their deepest thanks...

"Today, I live off of a small government pension and the generosity of *The Fellowship*. Every month I receive a food voucher to buy chicken and fish at my local supermarket. When I need help, I know I can count on *The Fellowship*, which I thank God for every day."

—82-year-old Albert, one of our With Dignity and Fellowship participants

"When the *Fellowship* representative handed me clothing vouchers, I couldn't contain my excitement. I felt so grateful that my daughter and I could shop for new clothes together for the first time. I want to thank *The Fellowship* from the bottom of my heart."

—Maria, the impoverished mother of 10-year-old Angelina in the former Soviet Union

"The Fellowship provides excellent assistance in the course of the preparation process for making aliyah. For a large number of families, it turns out to be difficult to make a new start. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the donors who make beautiful things possible."

—Yuri and Julia, who fled war-torn Ukraine with their two children, 10-year-old Daniel and 7-year-old Darina

"I would have never had the opportunity to study in college if not for The Fellowship, and the effect of me realizing my dream has given hope to my entire family and community, who are all cheering for me to succeed. Thank you!"

—Ronit, who is in her second year of a Fellowship program that provides an allowance for school books, tutoring, and career and education counseling for Ethiopian-Israelis





*Whoever is kind  
to the poor  
lends to the LORD,  
and he will reward them  
for what they have done.* —PROVERBS 19:17

This past year, *Fellowship* friends have helped so many people in need. You've touched the lives of Holocaust survivors, elderly, poor families, orphans, and many more, and they want to share their gratitude with you. Here's a sampling of the kind words they had to say after receiving help from *The Fellowship*.

### *Together in Fellowship*

"*The Fellowship* is the vehicle through which you and others around the world can do good, can bring light into the world of darkness, can bring healing and the Balm of Gilead to those who are in pain, and can teach the next generation."

That's Rabbi Eckstein, our founder, addressing the crowd at *The Fellowship's* Together in Fellowship Gala in March 2018. At this event held at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, Christians and Jews from around the globe gathered to celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary and *The Fellowship's* 35 years of strengthening Israel and her people.

Yael Eckstein also spoke and reinforced the importance of this partnership. "Our shared commitment to the spiritual Israel leads to many amazing things that we're seeing today for Israel and the Jewish people," she said. "*The Fellowship* leads people to perform acts of kindness, of *chesed* [meaning loving-kindness in Hebrew], and to provide support that affects over 1.5 million Jewish people around the world in so many ways."

This celebration showed that together, we are strengthening the Jewish state and ensuring that her next 70 years are even more fruitful than the first. And we know that donors like you are at the forefront of this steadfast support!



Yael Eckstein and her father, the late Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE		2018
Contributions		\$121,705,366
Net Investment Income		(1,870,176)
Other Income		1,754,507
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$121,589,697</b>

ALLOCATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS		2018
<b>Mission Services</b>		
The Fellowship		\$11,429,663
Guardians of Israel		36,558,468
Isaiah 58		23,987,193
On Wings of Eagles		11,974,975
Stand for Israel		432,183
Bless the Persecuted		224,396
<b>Subtotal, Mission Services</b>		<b>\$84,606,878</b>
<b>Support Services</b>		
General and Administrative		14,983,422
Fundraising		16,295,964
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$115,886,264</b>

Other Items		\$(3,125,996)
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$2,577,437</b>

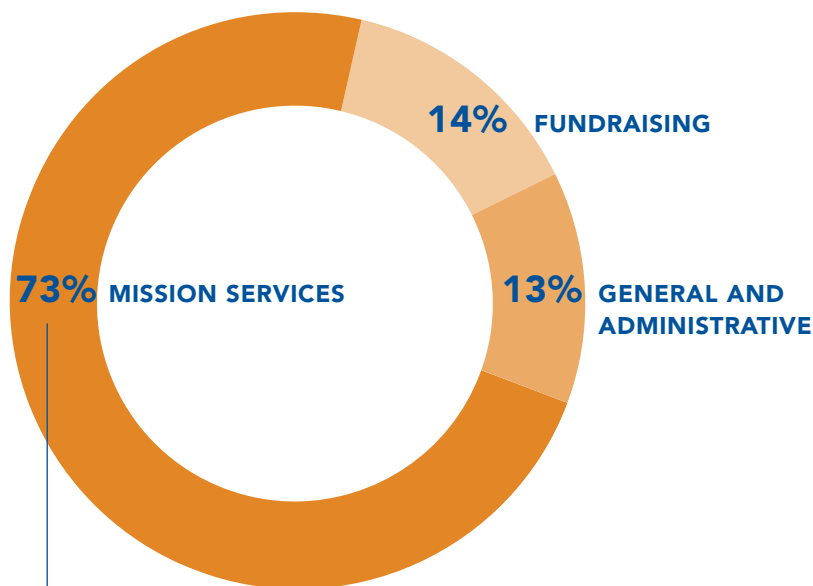
NET ASSETS		2018
Beginning of Year		\$36,028,901
End of Year		\$38,606,338



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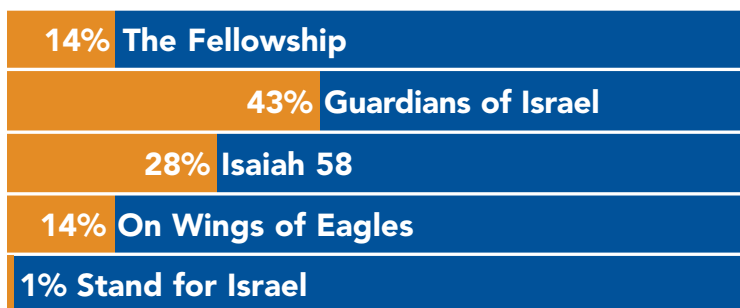


## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



### MISSION SERVICES Expense Breakdown:

Worldwide programs to support relief, outreach, and solidarity with Israel and her people



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z"l" – of blessed memory

In September 2018, Michael Pyle, our dear friend and a *Fellowship* board member, passed away. He and his wife, Beverly, have been longtime supporters and partners in blessing Israel and Jewish people in need around the world. We are grateful for Michael's life, and his extraordinary example of caring for and protecting God's people.



Michael and Beverly Pyle visiting a *Fellowship* project in Israel



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