

International Fellowship of Christians and Jews

# Annual Report | 2022

My God turns my darkness into light. — Psalm 18:28

#### Shalom,

2022 brought us challenges that we never could have anticipated. As we began the year full of hope for what our ministry could do for Jewish communities worldwide, our hearts broke for the Jewish people in Ukraine who were plunged into turmoil as war devastated their country.

The Fellowship quickly responded with emergency plans to evacuate Jewish families, children, and orphans as bombs rained down around them. We received calls from those desperately hoping and praying that we could rescue them.

Throughout history, the Jewish people have survived the darkest of times. In those times, we know we must turn to God in faith and spread His light — and that's exactly what happened.

I am so grateful that you stood with the Jewish people of Ukraine by helping us quickly deliver emergency aid in the form of food and medicine, evacuation, and *aliyah* (immigration to Israel). And you helped us carry on our day-to-day lifesaving work assisting Jews in Israel and around the world, spreading hope to Holocaust survivors, orphans, the sick, and the lonely. Even during crisis and war, Jews in need knew they could depend on you to provide them with long-term, sustained care.

As you read through these pages of the 2022 Annual Report, I hope you will be inspired to see how much you've blessed God's people. When looking back at our work together, I am reminded that just as one candle can illuminate a room full of darkness, one person can bring so much hope and healing to the world. And when we work together, we can all be an even brighter source of God's holy light and the hope it brings. Thank you for being this light.

With blessings from the Holy Land,

Eckstein

Yael Eckstein President and CEO

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter . . . Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

— Isaiah 58:7-8

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### From the President and CEO



#### Your 2022 Global Impact

# Over 2 Million People Were Helped by The Fellowship



# Poverty

- 1 million people provided with basic needs to fight poverty
- 40 soup kitchens in Israel distributed 1.8 million meals and hundreds of thousands of food boxes throughout the year
- **780,000** children and families received food, medicine, clothing, or financial assistance

# Security

- **800,000** people worldwide provided with access to secure Jewish synagogues, schools, and communities through emergency equipment, medical equipment, and mobile bomb shelters
- **72,000** Israeli soldiers provided with basic needs, comfort, and care





# Aliyah

- More than 9,000 *olim* (immigrants) made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel)
- Assisted 13,000 olim (immigrants) with klitah (resettlement) expenses

# Bridge Building

- **24,000** people engaged in monthly prayer services
- **50,000** prayer requests taken to the Western Wall in Jerusalem
- 4 global offices in Israel, the United States, Canada, and South Korea

salvation for my family

#### Ukraine Emergency Response

With the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the country descended into chaos — infrastructure was bombed; people hid in cold, dark basements; and millions streamed out of the country. The Fellowship immediately set our emergency plans into action and coordinated with our vast network

> Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.

of staff and volunteers in the former Soviet Union and our partners on the ground. Generous supporters like you provided a \$28 million emergency fund to help with evacuations, temporary shelters outside Ukraine, basic needs, and a way home to Israel for Jewish refugees fleeing the country.

— Micah 7:8

#### Ukraine Emergency Response



Just before the bitter cold of winter set in, many elderly Jews who were too old to leave Ukraine now faced a new round of attacks that targeted Ukraine's power grid and left many in the dark.

Nathan, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor who is bedbound and has been blind since birth, remembers holding his mother in his arms as she slowly died during the Holocaust. Nathan was only 5 years old. Last winter when Russia attacked the Ukraine power grid, the lights and heat went out, and Nathan was left shivering in his bed. When we discovered him, we immediately gave him a warm Fellowship blanket to cover him during the bitterly cold nights, delivered food, and helped fund a generator so his entire senior home could survive the winter. Thank you for not forgetting him. Nathan says it best: *"Shalom, shalom,* thank you!"

# Our \$28 million emergency fund for war relief to Ukraine meant that . . .



More than **1,600 children and staff were evacuated** from Ukrainian children's homes and orphanages.

**54 elderly Jews and Holocaust survivors** with severe medical conditions were evacuated on special medical rescue flights.

10 tons of *matzah* were distributed to Ukrainians for Passover.



When Ukraine spiraled into chaos, The Fellowsh evacuations and providing basic needs.

**80,000 displaced persons and refugees** were given necessities and temporary housing in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

7 planes carried 95 tons of humanitarian aid to refugees and stranded

4,600 Ukrainians escaped to Israel with The Fellowship.

When Ukraine spiraled into chaos, The Fellowship was there assisting the Jewish community with

### Hope in a War Zone

As we proclaim that we will "never forget" the horrors of the Holocaust, we know it is up to us to care for those who survived. It is heartbreaking that many survivors today live in poverty or face war in their region yet again, which only reminds them of that dark time in Jewish history. Thankfully, we at The Fellowship know God's light always overcomes the darkness. And we can be the agents of His light by bringing as much hope as possible to these precious people.

#### Thanks to you . . .



**180,000** elderly Jews and Holocaust survivors in Israel and the former Soviet Union were supplied with basic needs, including food, medicine, warmth, and companionship.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you."

— Isaiah 60:1

Vera, a Holocaust survivor who has spent her entire life in the same village in Ukraine, never imagined she would face war once again. "I only heard stories from my mother about World War II. I was just a baby then," she tells us. "Now I'm 80 years old. I see this war with my own eyes . . . and I don't feel safe." Thankfully, The Fellowship hasn't left Vera's side. Even as roads closed and necessities became harder to find, we still delivered lifesaving food and medicine, reliable care she has come to depend on.



#### Not Forgotten

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. — Isaiah 40:29

Lidia, a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor, met us at the door of her small apartment. Even the few steps she took to get there left her out of breath. After a lifetime of physically demanding work, she cannot get used to her helplessness.

Born in Ukraine before World War II began, Lidia and other children like her were turned into forced laborers by the invading Nazis. Although Lidia survived the war, her mother died shortly after it ended, leaving the girl and her siblings abandoned. Lidia later met and married a Jewish man. However, exposure to chemicals at a farm where her husband worked had long-term effects on his health and ultimately left Lidia a widow.

Today, Lidia's health is deteriorating, and she can't afford groceries without help from The Fellowship. "Thank you, thank you, my sweetheart!" she says as she accepts a food package. "Food is essential. But what's even more essential is that the people at The Fellowship remember me."

You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.

— Job 10:12

In 2022, we witnessed why our *aliyah* flights to Israel are a lifeline to Jews worldwide they help Jewish people facing anti-Semitism, dangers in war-torn nations, or poverty find a new life in the Holy Land. As Ukrainian refugees fled the dark red skies of war for the bright blue skies in Israel, they found hope in the promise of survival in the Holy Land. And as Ethiopian Jews knelt and kissed holy ground before being reunited with long-lost family, they felt God's blessings for them in the Promised Land. Thanks to you, in 2022 we brought home over 9,000 Jews from 28 different countries:



Argentina Azerbaijan Belarus Belgium Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Ethiopia France Georgia Germany Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan

Latvia Mexico Moldova Panama Paraguay Peru Portugal Russia Spain Tajikistan Ukraine Uruguay Uzbekistan Venezuela

### One Day Changed Everything



Natalia, like so many Ukrainian refugees we hear from, couldn't believe war had come to her city. She shares her powerful story:

"I didn't want to leave Kharkiv in the beginning. I hoped that it was possible to survive this war somehow. In my building, there were 20 seniors, and everyone also had a social worker to assist in everyday life. So, I thought we would be able to survive as we

cooperated, helping each other and supporting each other. My granddaughter's friends visited me from time to time and helped me. One day changed everything. I was standing outside in a line of people, waiting for humanitarian help, when suddenly a bomb fell straight into this line and killed 7 people — 35 were wounded. On this day I decided to leave Kharkiv and evacuate."

These are the words of 86-year-old Rabbo after seeing five of her children for the first time in nearly 20 years. Rabbo's children are just a few of the Ethiopian Jews who have made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) with The Fellowship. Such reunions are times of both rejoicing and bittersweet memories, like those of Rabbo's daughter, Azanu.

When Azanu and her husband first set foot in the Holy Land, their entire family wasn't there to share in the joy. "I had four children," Azanu says, "but my eldest son was killed a year ago in the Ethiopian civil war. He had

#### At Long Last

become a volunteer in the local army — and then the civil war began . . ." Azanu's voice trails off. "What an unbearable pain it is. My son was married, and they had a daughter. But then he was killed."

Azanu's faith has helped her carry on. "My only wish was to get to the Holy Land and start a new life. I believe the sacredness of this place will help me overcome my sorrow." And it is only because of Fellowship friends around the world that this family, albeit a family still in mourning, has come together again on holy soil.

#### Strong Spirit

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

— Psalm 119:130

"I just want the emergency to be over soon and to be back home in my apartment celebrating *Hanukkah* with people I know," explains Raisa, a Holocaust survivor and now refugee from the war in Ukraine. Under fire from the beginning, Raisa's hometown was hit particularly hard. Raisa and her daughter resolved to leave the city immediately. They didn't even have time to pack the military decoration that had been awarded to Raisa's late father — all she had left to remember him by. They arrived in Moldova thanks to assistance from The Fellowship, but Raisa had already been affected both physically and emotionally. Even during the darkest devastation of war, the light of so many Fellowship friends around the world brought some hope to Raisa. "The main thing is not to lose your spirit . . . I want to say thank you to those who help us," she says.

Thank you for answering the call to love others and bring God's light into the world through your generosity and love during the Jewish holidays. Together, we delivered holiday food and other essentials during the holiest days of the Jewish year, making sure each one of God's children could celebrate with dignity and joy.



Nearly **400,000** people were assisted with food, clothing, and financial aid for Passover and *Rosh Hashanah* worldwide.



**19 IDF lone soldiers** from Ukraine were reunited with family for the Jewish High Holy Days.



### Her Angels

Bella, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor, lives in a small apartment and relies on our care for warmth and basic necessities. When we visit, she tells us she remembers being cold during World War II: "During those days, there was nothing but cold, hunger, and a lack of hope." But thanks to Fellowship friends around the world, Bella is no longer lacking warmth or hope — because we provide her with food, warm clothing, and holiday essentials. She calls us "angels sent by God," and she is grateful for the *menorah* and candles The Fellowship gave her to celebrate this last *Hanukkah*. "My heart is filled with happiness and hope during this holiday of light."

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you . . .

— Isaiah 46:4

### Watching Over Israel

## But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. – Psalm 3:3

Your faithful support brought safety and security to Israel and her people, and to Jewish communities worldwide. Together, we provided ongoing safety measures and emergency preparedness to first responders, hospitals, synagogues, and other Jewish institutions. This support is lifesaving and spreads hope and God's light to His people in need.

#### You watched over the Jewish people by providing . . .



4,500 families of IDF soldiers with emergency funds for basic or household needs

**4** IDF combat units with extra support and care for soldiers through our Adopt a Battalion program

28 mobile bomb shelters in Israel



**Medical equipment** and financial support for fortification projects for hospitals in Israel

#### 'We Feel Safer'

For 28 years, 47-year-old Karine has been working for Magen David Adom (MDA) — Israel's national emergency response service. Karine mostly serves communities in Judea and Samaria, and she remembers one of the worst incidents from more than 10 years ago.

A horrific terror attack caused many fatalities when a car bomb blew up next to a bus and then a terrorist started shooting at the people who were running to escape. Karine remembers getting the call to go to the scene and treat the wounded. "We knew it was dangerous because the terrorist had not yet been caught, but we also knew that our work was to save lives," she says.

Thanks to your support, The Fellowship helped fund two fortified mobile ICU ambulances, which allow first responders like Karine to do their jobs more safely. And this helps all of Israel stay safer too. Karine says it best: "Thanks to your generosity, we feel safer."



### Many Thanks

And here's what a few of our beneficiaries had to say . . .



#### **Gives Me Strength**

"I worry about my family in Ukraine and think about them all the time. This meeting came as a total surprise that I did not expect. Seeing my mother sitting next to me gives me strength."

> - IDF lone soldier from Ukraine, reunited with his family for Rosh Hashanah by The Fellowship

## **Ray of Hope**

"I live in constant fear of tomorrow. We are waiting for the arrival of cold weather with fear, because there might not be heat in the city . . . the only ray of hope in my life is the help we get thanks to The Fellowship. Thank you for the winter help you gave me."

- Elderly woman still in Ukraine

### **Be Blessed!**

"This means so much to me since [my family] always gathered together around a nice festive table. The help of The Fellowship brings a light into my life, reminding me what I always believed in — that good can make a real change and save lives. I thank you with all my heart. Be blessed!"

> - Elderly woman after receiving holiday food for Rosh Hashanah

#### Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. — Psalm 107:21

### **Hope and Longevity**

"I do not feel old. I wake up every morning with a smile on my face. . . . Most of all, I want to say thank you. The Fellowship is the 'secret ingredient' to my longevity. I receive weekly hot meals of healthy food to my home."

> - Elderly woman in Israel who receives food assistance

REVENUE	2022 (in thousands)
Contributions	\$233,663
Investment return, net of fees	(\$10,608)
Contributions from the Israel Ministry of Welfare	\$8,805
Other Income	\$308
TOTAL REVENUE	\$232,168
ALLOCATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS	2022 (in thousands)
Mission Services	
The Fellowship	\$25,605
Poverty - Israel (Guardians of Israel)	\$73,424
Poverty - former Soviet Union (Isaiah 58)	\$40,744
Security (Guardians of Israel)	\$22,396
Aliyah (On Wings of Eagles)	\$17,069
Other	\$525
Subtotal, Mission Services	\$179,763
Support Services	
General and Administrative	\$24,136
Fundraising	\$32,900
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$236,799
Other Items	\$711
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	(\$5,342)

NET ASSETS	2022 (in thousands)
Beginning of Year	\$125,052
End of Year	\$119,710



International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews pledges to maintain an effective outreach as set forth in its mission statement by responsibly utilizing the funds entrusted to us. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request. Contributions to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, and all its programs, are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Mission Services Expense Breakdown: Worldwide programs to support relief, outreach, and solidarity with Israel and her people



#### Fundraising

General Administrative

(Guardians of Israel)

23% Poverty - former Soviet Union

**12**<sup>%</sup> Security (Guardians of Israel) **10**% Aliyah (On Wings of Eagles)

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