



PRESIDENT'S prayer letter

MARCH 2024

A REPORT FROM OUR STAFF IN ISRAEL

Dear friend,

This month, I want to honor the selfless work of our team in Israel, especially since October 7.

The barbaric Hamas massacre traumatized the nation and changed Israel forever. The bloodbath shattered Israelis' trust in their leaders and defenses. Given Israel's relatively small size, virtually everyone in Israel knows someone who was murdered, injured, or taken hostage.

Our staff immediately sprang into action. Though they, too, grapple with grief, fear, and the new normal of running to bomb shelters, they are doing all they can to serve others.

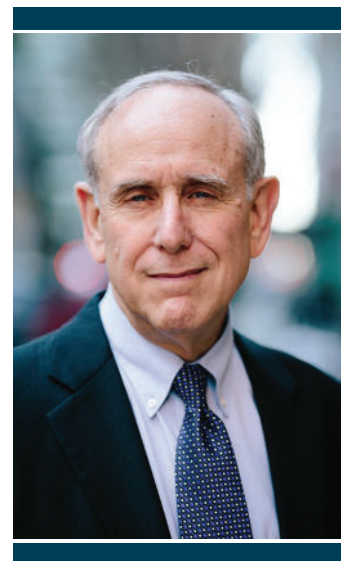
The following are just some of the ways our brothers and sisters in Israel are bringing practical aid and the hope of the gospel to Israelis enduring these horrific trials.

SERVING ISRAELI SOLDIERS

Some soldiers, like those stationed near the northern border, are facing harsh, cold conditions. Our staff gave out hundreds of packages of supplies to these Israeli soldiers, including socks, thermal underwear, watches, water packs, sleeping bags, and lights to wear on their helmets to see at night. Some of our staff met with believers at different army bases and distributed these essential items.

After a few weeks, we knew we needed more help as we did not have enough people to drive to every base. We partnered with those in the Messianic community who could deliver the resources we gathered for the 500–600 Israeli believers scattered among the various army bases. Since we knew believers in most units, we asked them to distribute the items to their fellow soldiers.

Among the most meaningful aid we provided was fresh, home-cooked food. On one occasion, we brought this nutritious food to soldiers guarding the Lebanese border. We had the privilege of reaching a unit on the very outskirts of the border area. Our staff member described the encounter:



Mitch Glaser
PRESIDENT



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The most meaningful aid we provided was fresh, home-cooked food for soldiers.

The commander kept shaking my hand, and he said, "You have no idea how much this means to our soldiers. Yes, we have food, but it's tuna fish in a can." Home cooking means so much for the soldiers. Everyone was really grateful, and we took time to pray.

Shortly after October 7, supplies became hard to find. But, somehow, God opened doors of provision. Here is just one story from our staff about God's faithfulness:

We needed to find battery packs to give out to soldiers. I called around and couldn't find any. But, after looking and praying, we found one of the larger stores in Israel had 200. So, we bought 100 of them. Then, by God's grace, we were able to contact an importer and get wholesale prices for the same items. We were very grateful for the ability to meet real needs and also do it in a way that exercised good stewardship of the funds we had. Each item was distributed with a warm smile and, of course, when asked, we told them clearly we were Jewish believers in Jesus who loved them!

**WE TOLD THEM WE WERE
JEWISH BELIEVERS IN JESUS.**

SERVING EVACUEES, CHILDREN, AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

In the months following October 7, Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon continued to fire rockets into Israel. As the Israeli Defense Forces fortified these borders, more than 120,000 Israelis living in those areas were displaced.

We reached out to Israelis forced to evacuate their homes on the northern and southern borders. By partnering with other faithful, Bible-believing organizations in Israel, we had the opportunity to minister to individuals living in hotels. One of these ministries covered the expenses of this work. We assigned one of our young staff members to serve in a hotel filled with evacuees.

Our hearts were especially broken over the condition of the children who fled their homes and had to abandon all their normal routines. Most of these children lost a couple of months of school! This loss not only slowed their education but added to the sense of instability both parents and children felt. The need for someone to stay home with the kids interrupted parents' work schedules. Other households temporarily had only one parent as Israel mobilized much of its reserve force. These sudden changes wreaked financial and mental strain on numerous Israeli families.

A few new opportunities arose to assist families and children impacted by the war. For example, we received the blessing of providing dozens of tablet devices for kids to use for their education. These children were staying at the Baptist Village in the city of Petah Tikva so they could attend school online, but there were not enough tablets for all the children. We also bought and gave toys to the kids as gifts. Additionally, we organized food distribution for dozens of Holocaust survivors too afraid to leave their houses, either because of the constant rocket attacks or the trauma from Black Saturday, as the Israelis call October 7.

Practical aid often led to the opportunity to proclaim the gospel. The assistance our staff provided stimulated many great conversations about the Lord, and our team encouraged many Israelis during this harrowing time. Most of the Holocaust survivors are in their 90s and full of anxiety and fear. Having us visit, talk, and pray with them greatly ministered to their shattered hearts. Too many of these precious elderly Israelis lost friends to the brutality of the Hamas terrorists who stormed their villages on October 7. Would you please pray for them as well?

Despite the immense, ongoing hardship, we praise God for what we accomplished. However, there is still so much more to do!

SERVING A TRAUMATIZED NATION: NEXT STEPS

We are ready to continue and expand these ministries to all the people we serve in Israel, as the Lord guides us. There are many needs, which we believe we can meet with your help.

I received this note from one of our most experienced missionaries who described the displacement of Israelis as a result of the war:

Hi, everyone!

Due to the outbreak of war, more than 120,000 citizens have been displaced and are currently seeking temporary housing. The evacuees can be categorized as follows:

- *those from the war zone near the Gaza Strip who face long-term displacement due to the destruction of their homes*
- *evacuees from communities near Gaza with a higher probability of returning home once the war ends*
- *evacuees from the north who left their homes in haste*

I write this letter after conversations with social workers from different hotels, each housing



Making care packages for Israeli evacuees

**MORE THAN 120,000 MEN,
WOMEN, AND CHILDREN HAVE
LEFT THEIR HOMES—TO A NEW,
UNKNOWN PLACE.**

hundreds of evacuees from the south and north. While there is no immediate shortage of necessities like food, clothing, toys, and hygiene products, their prolonged stays in hotels have led to increased aggression and adverse social phenomena, including violence between individuals, and vandalism.

To address these issues, Chosen People Ministries Israel proposed a number of projects last year:

- organizing activities for evacuees (including children and Holocaust survivors) in hotels, like do-it-yourself crafts, music classes, and clubs to help alleviate their restlessness and provide a sense of purpose
- scheduling events with musicians, artists, and games to bring some joy and entertainment to the evacuees

- conducting seminars with Christian psychologists who can provide much-needed emotional support
- assisting individuals with special needs, who are not adequately supported by the state, by providing transportation for medical appointments or catering to families with children with specific requirements
- organizing fun-filled days for children to help create a positive atmosphere and bring some normalcy to their lives during this challenging time

We already have shown the love of Jesus through some of these activities and through the opportunities to speak to those who ask about Him.

We are hoping to raise \$150,000 this month so we can confidently schedule more of these programs to bring the love of Messiah to suffering Israelis.

Please prayerfully consider sending a generous gift for this critically urgent ministry among Israelis.

I am so grateful for your love, prayers, and sacrificial support.

Your brother,


Mitch

“While I earnestly pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as instructed in Psalm 122:6, I am more convinced than ever that permanent peace will only be possible when the Prince of Peace rules the world from the city that He loves. So my prayer is, Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.”

—Anne Graham Lotz

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