



FIRM

FELLOWSHIP OF ISRAEL RELATED MINISTRIES

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



CONTINUING TO BLESS ISRAEL IN A VOLATILE YEAR

Waking up to sirens on October 7th changed our entire world. It has been a year unlike any other in the history of modern Israel and in the history of FIRM. Your steadfast support and encouragement enabled us to go above and beyond in our work to bless Israel this year. Thank you for partnering with us in 2023!

We have a passion to see a day when every person in Israel is transformed by the love of Jesus. And in 2023, we have seen this vision advance in many ways.

After the war broke out on October 7th, everything changed. We understand that it is hard to look back at the entirety of 2023, because the recent months have cast a dark shadow on what has been happening in Israel. But we want to show you how much God has done and what you were a part of throughout the whole year! We hosted several tours and special events, initiated great new projects, and welcomed new local partners to our fellowship. It has also been a year of extraordinary growth for FIRM.

In addition, we cannot think of 2023 without celebrating our co-founders, Dr. Wayne & Ann Hilsden. Wayne also serves as our President and Chairman of the Board. This year, we got to celebrate 40 years of the Hilsdens' ministry in Israel. We are very aware and grateful that everything we do is built on the shoulders of these legends. We celebrate them, their hard work, and their obedience to the Lord that bears fruit across the whole country.

We are experiencing a moment in history when Israelis are open to receiving help from Christians and Messianic Jews like never before. The terrorist attack on October 7 was horrendous, and in the midst of the horror the Body of Messiah came together and walked out the Gospel—by loving our neighbors.

Thank you for playing a part in expressing the love of Jesus to His brothers and sisters in this land.

Until All Israel Believes,

**MICHAEL AND VANESSA MISTRETTA,
CO-LEADERS OF FIRM**

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In 2023, over \$10 million dollars were donated to provide humanitarian aid during a time of war.

Read more on page 12

From war-torn Ukraine to life under rocket fire in Israel: read how new immigrants are making ends meet thanks to Christian support.

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**WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY
OF BELIEVERS EMPOWERING
LOCAL MINISTRIES TO SEE
EVERY PERSON IN ISRAEL
TRANSFORMED BY THE
LOVE OF JESUS.**

Based in Jerusalem, we serve a network of 71 ministries and organizations in Israel that share a passion for reaching Israelis with the love of Jesus. Together, we have a vision for a stronger and healthier Body of Messiah in Israel.

We connect believers around the world to Israel while strengthening local ministries in the land.

We engage Christians worldwide, because we believe everyone has a role to play in God's story of Israel.

We engage Christians by:

- **Inspiring:** We inspire Christians to love Israel and the Jewish people in a Gospel-centered way.
- **Educating:** We create educational resources to help people grow deeper in their walk with God and in their understanding of Israel.
- **Mobilizing:** We create opportunities for Christians to understand their role in what God is doing in Israel today and inviting them to be a part.

We empower ministries in Israel to accelerate growth, because we share a heart for a stronger and healthier Body of Messiah.

WE DO THIS BY:

- **Strengthening:** We assist local ministries to see them thrive by equipping them with practical training, tools, and coaching.
- **Uniting:** We create opportunities for local ministries to grow in relationships, and we encourage collaboration and synergy across the Body.
- **Resourcing:** We provide financial resources for ministry projects and facilitate connections to strategic partners and funding opportunities.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS WORK!

2023

AT A GLANCE



300+

Leaders restored
and equipped



200+

Ministry projects funded



20+

Tours Hosted



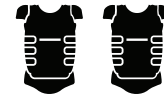
27,000

Grocery boxes delivered



1,500

Displaced people sheltered



2,200

Lifesaving Bulletproof
vests delivered

OVER 100,000 LIVES

in Israel were impacted by the love
of Yeshua thanks to your generosity!



5 NEW LOCAL PARTNERS JOINED FIRM



Peniel Fellowship is a local congregation in Tiberias, founded in 1982. With a heart for unity among the believers in the Galilee, their vision is to further grow a Messianic learning center and kindergarten, to invest in the children of believing families in the region.

This local partner, who needs to remain **anonymous** for safety reasons, has operated in Israel since 2007. Their vision is to help the Jewish people from all the nations to return to the Land of Israel.



Founded in 1955, the **Baptist Village** strives to be a place for growth and support of like-minded believers in Israel. The organization provides a place for ministry-related camps, conferences, retreats, events, worship services, activities, and meetings.

The **City of Life** congregation is located in Sderot, mere miles from the Gaza Strip. Founded in 2006, it builds bridges between local communities while growing a fellowship of proactive followers of the Messiah who want to serve and bless their neighbors.



This moshav on the outskirts of Jerusalem has been a significant hub since its founding in 1972. **Yad HaShmona** invests in relationships between Jews and Christians in Israel within the framework of research, religion, education and culture.

IMPACT STORIES

A Jew and an Arab Read the Prophets Together



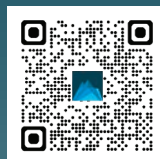
Conflict between Jews and Arabs is not new. But there are families in Israel who believe healing can happen between the two groups. Meet a family of bridge-builders from Nazareth, a city with a rich, Biblical history that is known as the Arab capital of Israel.

Dr. Saleem and Mrs. Nisreen Shalash are pastors of Home of Jesus the King Church in Nazareth, and they are passionate about sharing the Gospel with the communities around them. As Arab Evangelicals, they are a minority within a minority, but they still find ways to reach out to both their Muslim and Jewish neighbors.



When pastor Shalash, with some volunteers, visited an elderly Jewish woman to deliver food and essentials she needed, they got an opportunity to talk to her about Jesus. As a result, they even read the Bible together, starting with Isaiah 53!

We are grateful for generous donors like you who help advance the work of ministries like Home of Jesus the King to promote reconciliation between Jews and Arabs in Israel.



Watch this video to learn more about the impact of this local partner of FIRM in Nazareth



Another Unborn Life Saved from Abortion in Israel!

The issue of abortion in Israel is serious. We pray for the day when no one asks for an abortion in the land of Israel ever again. But until that day arrives, we celebrate every life that was saved.

A local partner of FIRM, Be'ad Chaim, assists pregnant women in need through counseling and practical assistance. In 2023, they told us about Alma, 27, who was on the brink of divorce when she found out she was pregnant with her second child. She thought abortion was her only option, but thankfully, she found Be'ad Chaim online.

God heard the cry of the unborn and led this precious family to safety. Professional counselors helped Alma choose to keep her baby. Today, Alma, her husband and their two children live together again.

Your support helps ministries like Be'ad Chaim fight for and protect life in the land of Israel.



Read this article to learn more about the invaluable work of this local FIRM partner in Jerusalem



Surviving the Holocaust and Meeting Jesus in the Jewish Homeland

The number of Holocaust survivors in Israel (and worldwide) is diminishing every year. That is why FIRM is partnering with some key organizations in this land to surround these elderly heroes with love, care, and support. One of them is Beit Sar Shalom, a nonprofit that belongs to the CPM family (Chosen People Ministries).

Beit Sar Shalom staff introduced FIRM to Chaim, who survived the Holocaust thanks to the courage of his parents. They escaped the Nazi horrors and arrived in the promised land before Israel was established. Later, Chaim proudly chose to serve in the army of Israel, protecting Israel from her enemies.

After years of identifying as an atheist, Chaim came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus), as he says, "too late" - because he wishes he had known the Way much earlier in his life. But today, his life is filled with hope for his children and grandchildren, because he met the Messiah.

Thanks to your partnership with FIRM, organizations like Beit Sar Shalom can do their utmost to make sure that it is truly not too late for other survivors to hear God's message of hope.



Watch this video to learn more about the eternal impact of this FIRM local partner.

SOUL CARE RETREAT FOR LEADERS IN ISRAEL

At the beginning of 2023, we felt we needed to show our appreciation to the dedicated and hardworking ministry leaders in Israel. That is how FIRM's first Soul Care Retreat came to be. To launch this initiative, we invited 12 couples from our local partners to attend. We then took them away for a time of refreshment, encouragement, inspiration, and instruction on how to lead healthier lives.

We believe a restful time that is high in quality, especially with the Lord and one another, will result in fewer burnouts or depression cases in the future. We want to continue investing even more into the local leaders, and we want to be there for them as they make a difference in Israel.



THE EXCELLENCE FORUM & ROUND TABLE EVENTS

In May of 2023, FIRM hosted the Excellence Forum, which felt like a natural continuation of our soul care efforts. This time, a group of over 200 leaders joined the event, including pastors, ministry directors and other frontrunners from all over Israel. The one-day event was packed with training and practical workshops led by professionals. We met on the coast of Israel, where we held sessions on how to better lead our organizations and ministries.

The vision of the Excellence Forum further extended into FIRM Roundtable events in 2023. You may remember that we began hosting roundtable events in



2022, specifically for leaders reaching out to the young generation of Israelis.

FIRM has a heart for collaboration, and thanks to the roundtable events we can take practical steps towards unity, cooperation and mutual support. We talked about new discipleship resources and more modern ways to reach young people in Israel with the Gospel.



JERUSALEM ENCOUNTER

Some of our favorite memories of 2023 include experiencing the beautiful land of Israel with many of you who decided to join the Jerusalem Encounter tour!

Jerusalem Encounter is a life-changing experience where participants explore the land, study the Bible in its original locations, but also meet local followers of Jesus and leaders of FIRM local partner ministries.

“When we were on the Mount of Olives,” a participant of JE 2023 shared, “when we saw the entire city, I just felt God speak to me how important [it is] that we reach the Jewish people... I'm compelled and I'm urged to make this something that we do on a consistent basis.”

Would you like to join us in 2024? Our next 10-day Jerusalem Encounter Tour starts on May 29 and registration is now open. Check out jerusalemencounter.com for more info!



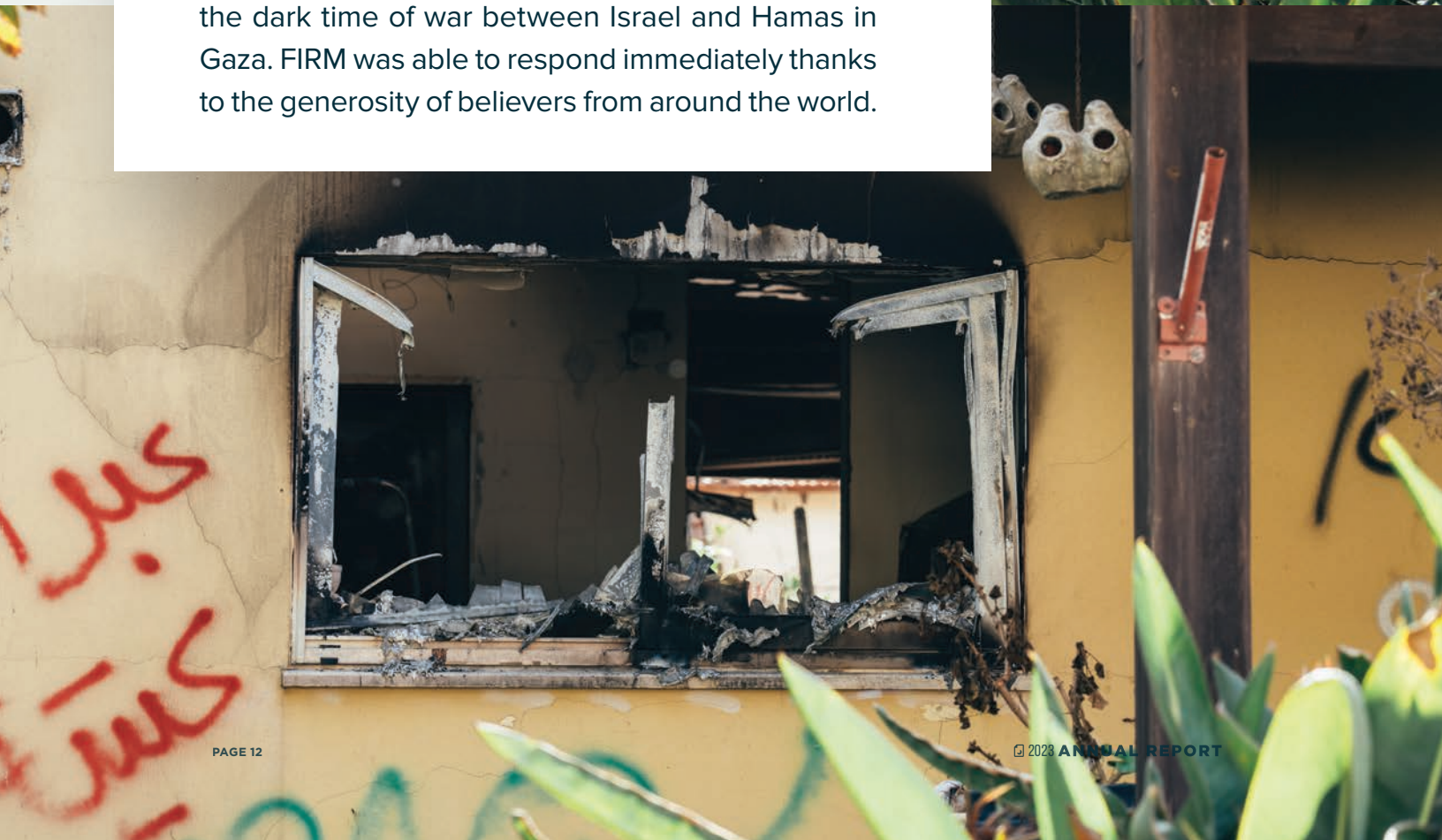
Take a look at some highlights from Jerusalem Encounter 2023 and hear what some participants had to say about their experience of Israel.





EMERGENCY CRISIS RELIEF

FIRM has been working with the local body of believers to be the **hands and feet** of Jesus amid the dark time of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. FIRM was able to respond immediately thanks to the generosity of believers from around the world.



ON Saturday, October 7, Israel experienced the bloodiest attack in its modern history. Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel, murdered Israeli civilians and took hostages into Gaza. Many of our loved ones were called up to the reserves for the military response. Every person in Israel was terribly affected by what had happened.

In the last quarter of 2023, thanks to the help of thousands of donors, we have been providing emergency relief for individuals and families across Israel who suffered as a result of this crisis. The generosity of our partners has been vital in showing the love of Jesus to those hurting in Israel.

In the weeks and months that followed the horrendous attack of October 7, FIRM together with local partners:



Imported 2,200 bulletproof vests and 1,800 helmets for soldiers



Set up food kitchens and distribution centers, from where we served hot meals



Delivered 27,000 grocery boxes to those living near the war zone from 14 hubs (warehouses of local partners) across Israel



Delivered goods, like mattresses, power generators and washing machines to affected areas



Supported counseling centers



Helped relocate 1,500 Israelis from danger zones to 7 sites across Israel (hundreds of them are still waiting to return home in 2024)

Since the beginning of October, we saw over \$10 million pour into our emergency crisis fund. 100% of those donations have gone to help those hurting and in need of support.



HOPE & *Healing*

SHOW UP & SERVE ISRAEL TRIP



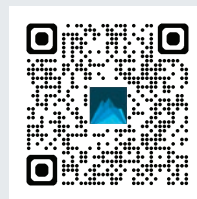
IN December of 2023, because of the ongoing painful state of war in Israel, FIRM hosted a different kind of tour. The Hope & Healing trip did not focus on visiting interesting sites, and instead enabled volunteering and providing encouragement to the people of Israel.

Over 75 Christian volunteers showed up in Israel, at very short notice, to serve and show love to a hurting nation. As part of this first Hope & Healing: Show Up and Serve Trip believers from 10 different countries served Israel by:

- Planting 400 trees in a memorial garden for the victims of the October 7th massacre
- Hosting a fun day in a kibbutz near the Galilee with 400 children and families from displaced communities
- Painting homes and a kindergarten in northern communities

- Taking part in a National Serve Day with over 200 local Israeli volunteers:
- Cleaning and painting homes, schools, and shelters in a Gaza border community, in preparation for families to return home
- Helping assemble water pipe systems for agricultural needs, harvest crops of tomatoes, grapefruit, and oranges
- Making a large breakfast for units of soldiers based near the Gaza border

We are deeply moved by the willingness of believers like you to sacrifice their time and resources to show up for the people of Israel at a time like this. The Hope & Healing trip started a movement of volunteerism that continues in 2024.



**Watch the 2024
Recap video on
our Youtube page!**

IMPACT STORIES

FROM THE TIME OF WAR

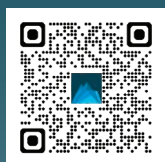


Believing Community Houses Families Displaced by the War

The believers in Israel have been some of the first to offer help to the families displaced by the war. FIRM partnered with Yad Hashmona, a Messianic moshav on the outskirts of Jerusalem, to assist vulnerable Israelis who had to flee from their homes.

Yad Hashmona is known for hospitality, offering activities for children and youth, support for the elderly, and also for hosting events. Their vision has been to continue expanding the village and extend its residential capacity. This vision was painfully tested in the fall of 2023, after the horrendous terrorist attack on October 7 and the subsequent outbreak of war.

After Yad Hashmona spontaneously opened its gates to dozens of families fleeing the warfront, they reached out to FIRM for help to care for these families for as long as needed. Together, we have been showing them the love of Jesus at this difficult time.



Learn more about the displaced and about Yad Hashmona

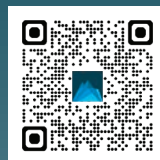


Local Ministry Reveals the Love of Jesus to Soldiers in Northern Israel

So many soldiers serving in the war with Hamas are our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters. Israel is a fairly small country, so a crisis situation like this affects every citizen and every resident. That is why FIRM local partner Fields of Wheat decided to broaden their usual operations and support our young people on the front.

Normally, Fields of Wheat is focused on serving the youth and young adults of Israel by discipling them and equipping them for spiritual warfare. But when suddenly their homeland was at physical war, Fields of Wheat found ways to bless and protect these young people in practical ways.

Thanks to generous donors of FIRM, Fields of Wheat was able to equip soldiers with critical resources for the field. This included water packs, portable chargers, headlamps, tactical flashlights, sometimes even shoes. As the war extended into winter, they also invested in high quality hats, gloves, and thermal clothing.



Learn more about Fields of Wheat and the essential work they took on during the war



Delivering Grocery Boxes to Families In Need

Since the outbreak of war, the FIRM team has been working around the clock to coordinate, buy supplies, distribute aid, and more. All that to show Israel that her Christian friends are with her.

Thank you for praying, getting the word out, and supporting these vital efforts. Your generosity is helping—among many other endeavors—to feed thousands of people in need all over Israel.

MEET RINAH

Rinah moved to Israel with her family two years ago, when her country of Ukraine was attacked by Russian forces. She left Kiev in haste and settled in Jerusalem. Little did she know that less than 2 years later, her family would be facing another war. She lost her job, and their already humble savings were rapidly diminishing. It may be hard

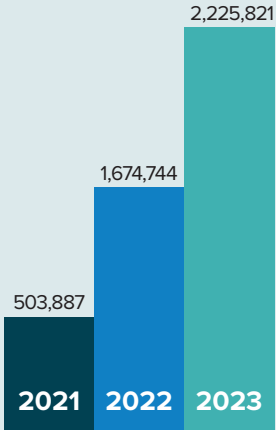
to imagine that something as simple as a weekly grocery box from FIRM has proved to be a highlight for this family in distress.

“I was afraid to go outside, not [wanting] to leave my children alone,” Rinah shared with FIRM. “So [your support] was very helpful... we’re not in the best financial situation, that’s why for every help we receive, we’re so grateful – it helps us to survive!”

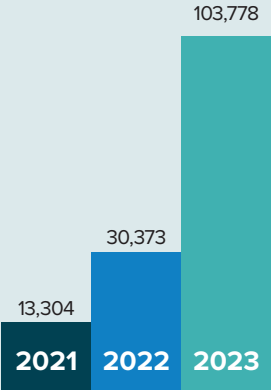
Rinah and her family embarked on a completely new life in Israel, “starting from zero”, as she says. She felt a lot of pressure to provide for her children who were already dealing with a lot of adjustments. The grocery boxes take some of that pressure off, and she doesn’t have to worry about what to put on the table.

We are so grateful for generous believers around the world who have made it possible to provide for families like Rinah’s during this time of need! Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

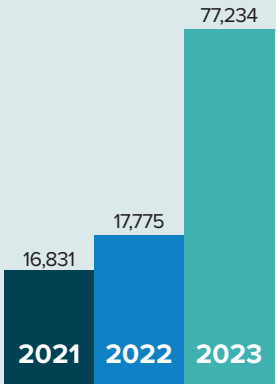
FIRM 2023 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



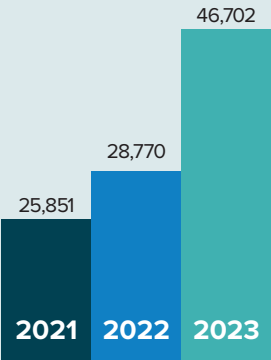
Annual Web Sessions



Email List Growth



Instagram Followers



YouTube Subscribers

3.3
million
WEB VIEWS

2.2
million
UNIQUE WEB VISITORS

1.7
million
ORGANIC SEARCH TRAFFIC

Instagram Reels

314 PRODUCED

TikTok Account

1,400 FOLLOWERS

YouTube Videos

86 PRODUCED

MOST WATCHED VIDEOS OF 2023

52.7K

Instagram Reel
VIEWS

MICHAEL ON
ANTI-MISSIONARY LAW



KAYLA ON
PALM SUNDAY

164K

Instagram Reel
VIEWS

1.5M

Instagram Reel
YouTube Shorts
VIEWS

KAYLA AT MESSIANIC
WORSHIP CONCERT



STEVE ON WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN ISRAEL

741K

YouTube Shorts
VIEWS

1.5M

Instagram Reel
YouTube Shorts
VIEWS

MICHAEL ON THE MORNING OF
THE HAMAS ATTACK AND THE
OUTBREAK OF WAR



PRAY BY
NAME

408K

Instagram Reel
VIEWS

STEWARDSHIP

The year of 2023 at FIRM was a year of great faith, fervent prayer, and swift action. It started with big plans for investing and strategizing, but toward the end, 2023 brought us into new and unexpected territory of the Emergency Crisis Fund and Hope & Healing Campaign.

INCOME

\$ 23,196,401.00

\$2,483,351.00	FIRM FOUNDATION DONATIONS
\$3,744,908.00	FIRM GENERAL DONATIONS
\$15,437,467.00	CRISIS FUND
\$1,530,675.00	PROGRAM REVENUE

EXPENSES

\$17,470,018.48



92%	PROGRAMS
8%	MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

FIRM FOUNDATION BREAKDOWN

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED IN 2023

\$1,980,508.83

MINISTRY AREAS FUNDED

\$934,729.57	Congregations
\$46,073.30	Discipleship
\$363,447.57	Humanitarian Aid & Community Impact
\$103,718.06	Legal and Social Welfare
\$113,069.03	Next Generation: Children, Youth, Young Adults, Students
\$272,064.69	Outreach
\$16,576.39	Prayer & Worship
\$80,347.38	Pro Life Initiatives
\$50,482.84	Resources



CRISIS FUND BREAKDOWN

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED IN 2023

\$11,366,641.17

MINISTRY AREAS FUNDED

\$4,928,107.86	Relocating Families
\$1,459,906.71	Emergency Food and Water
\$4,452,742.19	Critical Equipment & Supplies
\$138,385.53	Hope & Healing - Rebuilding Homes
\$387,498.88	Hope & Healing - Rebuilding Lives



FIRM FOUNDATION

100% OF DONATIONS FUND LOCAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES, PRIMARILY THROUGH OUR LOCAL PARTNERS.

Donors can give to a specific FIRM-endorsed project or designate funds to a specific ministry, all with the promise that 100% of those funds go directly to that ministry. FIRM takes no administrative fee.

100%



LEGACY
TEAM

A GROUP OF GENEROUS AND VISIONARY LEADERS, CHURCHES AND FOUNDATIONS THAT ARE COMMITTED TO INVESTING INTO FIRM WITH A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT.

The Legacy Team financially supports FIRM operation costs, and ensures that 100% of public donations go directly to our network of 71 local partners in Israel.

THE **TRIBE**

Feel Connected to the Lives You Are Transforming in Israel

What is The Tribe?

The Tribe is a passionate and faithful community of monthly donors committed to transforming lives in Israel with the love of Jesus. People from all around the world are giving anything they can to see God's purposes for Israel accomplished in our generation.

Today, the Tribe is responsible for \$1million of FIRM's annual recurring revenue! We celebrate every generous giver who commits to supporting local believers on a regular basis.

The Tribe supports gospel-centered ministries in Israel, meanwhile we cover our operating expenses. In that way, 100% of their donations goes directly towards local ministry work.

It's about love, truth, and the Great Commission.

**Give with purpose, month
after month. Be a part of a
community whose generosity
echoes into eternity!**

[FIRMISRAEL.ORG/THETRIBE](https://firmisrael.org/thetribe)



TRANSFORM LIVES IN ISRAEL THROUGH GOSPEL-CENTERED MINISTRIES.

**FIRM—YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER FOR
GOSPEL IMPACT IN ISRAEL**

Your gift of just \$40 can transform one life in Israel through Jesus' love. Become a partner today!

GIVE ONLINE
FIRMISRAEL.ORG/GIVE

GIVE BY WIRE TRANSFER

To initiate a wire transfer, please get in touch with us at giving@firmisrael.org

GIVE BY CHECK

Make checks payable to **Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries** and mail to:
Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries
PO Box 2132
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741, USA

Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.



FIRMISRAEL.ORG

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