

# Annual Report

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2020

*The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison  
to give praise and thanks to the LORD.*

— 2 Chronicles 5:13



*The LORD will keep you from all harm —  
he will watch over your life. — Psalm 121:7*

*Shalom,*

It was a year that none of us expected or could have prepared for.

When the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear in early 2020, we at the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada* knew that an extraordinary response was needed. The first consideration, of course, was the devastating impact of the virus on people's physical health. Then it became clear that the impact of long-term lockdowns on both emotional and economic well-being could take a disastrous toll as well.

Facing this crisis, we turned to you. And you did much more than rise to the occasion. You took a leap of faith and stood by the biblical values of feeding the hungry, caring for widows and orphans, and providing for the needy in both Israel and the former Soviet Union. You continued to support the prophetic work of *aliyah* (immigration to Israel), which continued through 2020 under strict safety guidelines.

As you look through the pages of the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada's* 2020 Annual Report, I hope you will feel a deep sense of pride and accomplishment when you read about all that you have done for those in need. How wondrous it is that, because of you, we were not only able to fill emergency needs during a year of unprecedented crises, but continue our day-to-day lifesaving programs as well!

My friends, you have proven time and time again that you are prayerfully committed to supporting Israel's people, but last year you reminded all of us just how deep that commitment really is. I'm personally inspired and humbled by the support of each and every one of you. And I hope in some small way this Annual Report communicates to you how much that extraordinary support meant to Israel and her people during an extraordinarily challenging year.

With deep gratitude, and blessings from the Holy Land,



Yael Eckstein  
President

# 2020 – Your Impact



**561,960** HOT MEALS were served to needy people in 22 soup kitchens in Israel



**750** BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES were provided for children



**10,000** supporters engaged in *Fellowship* PRAYER SERVICES



**2,700** PRAYER REQUESTS taken to the Western Wall



**89,400** HYGIENIC FOOD CONTAINERS were provided for elderly recipients to BRING FOOD HOME from soup kitchens for evening and Shabbat meals



**8,300** CHILDREN who were displaced or living in homeless shelters were given CLOTHING CARDS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR



**2,593 ELDERLY JEWS** in the FSU were provided with food cards to shop with dignity and **FOOD BOXES WERE DELIVERED** to elderly who were unable to leave their homes



**4,008 IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES & ELDERLY PEOPLE** received **FOOD CARDS** to observe the sacred holidays of Passover and Rosh Hashanah



**344 JEWISH CHILDREN** in Russia received special education, and group therapy and other material support.



**1,518 JEWISH ELDERLY** in the former Soviet Union received **VISITS FROM HOME ASSISTANCE WORKERS** for help with personal care, cooking, and cleaning



**899 JEWISH REFUGEES** were given rescue on *Fellowship Freedom Flights*



# COVID-19 Emergency Response

## Our Work Didn't Stop during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Emergency food and sanitation supplies to elderly in Israel and the former Soviet Union (FSU)
- Basic food assistance to children, orphans, refugees, and families in Israel
- Meals through *Fellowship* soup kitchens in Israel to respond to the 60 percent increase in requests for meals
- Financial assistance for food, medicine, and other basic needs to families hit hardest by the pandemic
- Meals to children from disadvantaged homes who normally rely on hot meals during in-person schooling
- Emergency aid to olim (immigrant) families unable to make aliyah (immigrate to Israel) due to COVID-19





**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PACKAGE**  
**חבילת סיוע חירום**

 International Fellowship  
of Christians and Jews®

**מתנת הקרן לידידות**

# Supporting Elderly in the Pandemic



Loti, 86, felt all alone before Passover when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit. She couldn't even see her caregiver because of the strict isolation guidelines. But when she saw *Fellowship* friends arriving with a food box and other essential items, she immediately smiled and said, "This crisis is affecting the entire world, and I want to say thank you to *The Fellowship* for taking care of us here in Israel."

Despite facing your own challenges and hardships during 2020, you remained a faithful friend to suffering people in need. You rose to the challenge — answering the biblical call to feed the hungry, care for widows and orphans, and provide for the needy who rely on your care.

Through our unique position on the ground in the Holy Land, you allowed us to quickly mobilize and deliver emergency assistance to bless and strengthen all of Israel. During a challenging year for everyone, you allowed us to take extraordinary measures to care for God's people.

*Learn to do right;  
seek justice. Defend the  
oppressed. Take up the  
cause of the fatherless;  
plead the case of the  
widow. — Isaiah 1:17*

*“It’s an honour and privilege to support the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada. I have been a supporter for many years so I could help feed, clothe and provide medical care for the elderly living in Israel!”*

— Judith S., Port Coquitlam, BC

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## No Longer Isolated and Alone

Thirty years ago, Magda made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) from Romania with her husband. The childless couple realized one of the dreams they’d long shared.

And for decades, this precious Jewish woman worked in Haifa as a caregiver, helping Israel’s elderly and isolated. Sadly, five years ago, Magda’s husband passed away. But she still had those she took care of to keep her company.

Last year, at age 67 Magda retired from her job caring for others. Since retirement, she receives a small pension. She had been barely subsisting

on it, growing incredibly thin. She started to go to the *Fellowship*-supported soup kitchen where she ate her meals, and would be able to meet with others, chat, and fill the lonely hours of her days.

And then, like so many others in Israel and around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic changed Magda’s life — for the worse.

Like thousands of others, she could no longer attend this *Fellowship*-supported soup kitchen. Instead she has been receiving hot meals delivered to her home daily. She also has received some food boxes, particularly for the holidays.

Like so many, she is isolated at home. “Being alone is the most difficult part of my life,” Magda told us one afternoon, when we delivered a food box. For 30 years she looked after so many, and now she is desperately alone.

More than the food, however, is the friendship this precious Jewish widow receives when *Fellowship* volunteers arrive at her home. “I’m so grateful for all the good that you do for me,” Magda says. “You are special people.”



# Rescuing God's People from Harm



2020 got in the way of so many people's plans for the future — including those dreaming of returning home on *Fellowship Freedom Flights*.

Many *olim* (immigrants to Israel) had to put their move on hold indefinitely until travel restrictions lifted. Tightened security precautions due to lockdowns, including domestic flight cancellations and road closures, left others facing unexpected hurdles as they tried to reach the Holy Land. Still, their commitment to returning home to Israel never wavered — and neither did the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada's* commitment and your support.

You trusted that God always has a plan for a hopeful future. Thank you for rescuing His people in need and giving them strength when they needed it the most.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

— Jeremiah 29:11

## As It Grew Darkest

“I’m really wanting to make *aliyah*,” said 6-year-old Laura, before she boarded a *Fellowship* Freedom Flight from Brazil to Israel. It was a big move for the little Jewish girl. “I already know some Hebrew words, and I know all the Jewish holidays,” she said, ready for her new home. “I really want to meet new friends and speak more Hebrew.”

Laura’s single mother, Deborah, had been working hard to make *aliyah* (immigration to Israel). But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the borders closed. So the two waited as the situation in Brazil grew worse.

“The situation is such that on the one hand, people must sit at home, because there is no work and they’re not allowed to leave home, while on the other hand, they simply have nothing to eat,” said Deborah.

As it grew darkest for the mother and daughter, Deborah admitted, “I had already lost hope and accepted the fact that I would not be able to make *aliyah* to Israel.”

But with thanks to faithful friends in Canada, the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada* stepped in and provided hope and safety to this precious Jewish family. “You helped me right from the start with all the arrangements,” Deborah said. “Besides the feeling of returning home to the country of the Jewish people, I’m also going to be building a new home in Israel for me and for my daughter.”



## “We’re Coming Home”



Eduard and Yuliia, who lived in the former Soviet Republic of Belarus, couldn't believe they would be making *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) amid a global pandemic.

They were happy to quarantine for two weeks after arrival, knowing that it would be worth it to raise their two boys — 9-year-old Alexander and 6-year-old Damir — in the Holy Land. The family also looked forward to reuniting with Eduard's mother and sister, who both already made *aliyah*.

As a faithful Jewish family, they have always found strength in attending Jewish community events and holiday celebrations in Belarus, and Eduard is full of hope knowing that in Israel his boys will learn of God's love firsthand. “The feeling is that we're coming home,” he says.

*“It makes my heart so happy to see you post a picture of a plane landing in Israel!”*

— Barbara, Zephyrhills, FL



Your faithful support helped close to 900 Jews make *aliyah* in the midst of a global pandemic:



# Saving the Lives of God's Chosen People



Last year, the elderly were especially isolated and worried. Some were unsure if faithful friends would still provide them the care and food they had come to depend on for survival.

But you did more than help provide them with essentials. *Fellowship* volunteers called thousands of elderly in Israel, giving them a reprieve from loneliness and fear, and reassuring them that care was still going to come from Canadian friends who love them. These elderly and Holocaust survivors, who've endured so much pain already, were moved to tears when they realized that you were still there for them during one of the most challenging years yet.

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. — Deuteronomy 31:6*



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## Elderly Know They're Loved

"I want to thank you for coming and bringing me this food. It's saving me," said Shulamit, when we first visited her home during the health crisis.

At 81 years old, she used to go to a *Fellowship* elderly club in Israel for food, support, and friendship; and then it was forced to close during the height of the virus. Shulamit worried she'd lost the support of the community she depended on for survival. She felt heartbroken.

But because of you, we immediately delivered food and sanitation supplies to Shulamit, so she didn't have to worry about venturing out into the world and could stay safe at home. During a year like 2020 that no one could have prepared for, we are overwhelmed by your kindness and friendship to God's people ... and so is Shulamit.

# Lifesaving Care Delivered in the FSU



Thanks to you, we cared for survivors like 81-year-old Maria, who vividly remembers the famine in Ukraine after World War II. She had to eat frozen potatoes that she dug from the snow with frostbitten fingers. She even remembers eating pieces of straw used for animal bedding because she and her sister were so hungry. Such pain and hunger are not easy to forget. But when she sees a *Fellowship* food box has been delivered to her front steps, thanks to faithful *Fellowship* friends in Canada, this sweet Jewish woman is reassured that she will never go hungry again, and she feels wonderfully comforted!

## In total, you provided:

- **2,717** food cards for elderly and families with the ability to shop with dignity
- **683** elderly Jews with essential surgery and other emergency medical support
- **359,657** hours of home care to assist frail elderly with basic activities of daily living, such as bathing, laundry, and cleaning.



*“I am a caregiver for the elderly, and it broke my heart to see these suffering people. They deserve so much. God loves us all, and I am happy to do what I can for them. Thanks for all you do!”* — Rita, Orem, UT

# Light in the Darkness



After retiring from her career as a professor and chemical engineer in Ukraine, this 82-year-old Holocaust survivor lost her only son. A few years later, Esther's husband passed away. "I found myself completely alone," she explained. Today, because of her limited mobility, Esther has also lost contact with her friends. Then *Fellowship* friends delivered a *Hanukkah* food box to her door. She told us this food also nourishes her soul.

Even during challenging times, we can still find strength and joy when we trust in our loving God. Thankfully, as a people of faith you knew that it was even more important in 2020, amid so much uncertainty and turmoil, to help Jewish people in need find comfort through celebrating their faith traditions. You shined a hopeful light in their darkness.

*Your word is a  
lamp for my feet,  
a light on my  
path.* — Psalm 119:105

“*This ministry has enriched my life and blessed me more than I can say. Thank you for this biblical lifesaving ministry that touches the hearts of many. God bless you richly with his grace and favour.*” — Charlotte B., West Vancouver, BC

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## A Sweet New Year



“The fact that *The Fellowship* has come to see that I’m all right makes me feel so good. May you always be healthy and blessed!”

This is Veronika, an 86-year-old Holocaust survivor who has no family support in Israel. Last year, she faced an operation on her leg and the global pandemic all on her own. After paying for

expensive medicines and her caregiver in Israel, she had little left for purchasing groceries.

Then you brought her nourishing food and traditional *Rosh Hashanah* honey to ring in a sweet new year and start the High Holy Days. “I don’t even have the words to say how happy this makes me,” she said.

## During the Jewish holidays, you provided:

- **1,828** food cards so families could observe the sacred Passover holiday with dignity
- **2,180** food cards to purchase the special foods required for Rosh Hashanah
- **500** impoverished Israelis with enrichment from workshops, lectures, and other activities for the holidays

# Thank You

Every day, the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada* is privileged to meet the people you help and to hear how your sacrificial giving has touched them and given them strength during challenging times. Here are just some of their kind and inspirational words of thanks.



## Blessed Assistance

“Help came unexpectedly and just in time from *The Fellowship!* Thanks to this help, I was able to buy school shoes and clothes for my son Egor. Thank you so much!”

— Marina, whose son attends a *Fellowship*-supported Jewish school in Ukraine

## Lifesaving Visits

“You can’t imagine how much your help means for me. I’m completely alone, and these people from *The Fellowship* are just saving my life by visiting me, comforting me.”

— Sofia, an 84-year-old beneficiary in Israel

## Grateful to You

“Thank God, there still are kind people willing to help the elderly to survive in such difficult times. I am deeply grateful for that.”

— Olgerd, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor in Russia

*I will praise God's name in song and glorify him  
with thanksgiving. — Psalm 69:30*



## Staying Strong

“We don’t know how we would be able to live without the food box deliveries. The fact that we’re here for one another is what helps us stay strong. These food packages show us that there are good people who care about us and want to make sure that we have what we need to live and survive.”

— Sonia and Clara, 80-year-old twins from Moscow, Russia, who made *aliyah* and now volunteer at a Fellowship-supported soup kitchen in Israel where they also receive daily meals

## A Thankful Reunion

“My parents and I don’t stop crying, but now there are tears of joy and excitement. For years we prayed and cried every day for the gift of our family being reunited. Thank you so much to *The Fellowship* for helping us fulfill our dream.”

— Ganeta, who was reunited with her family, thanks to Fellowship Freedom Flights

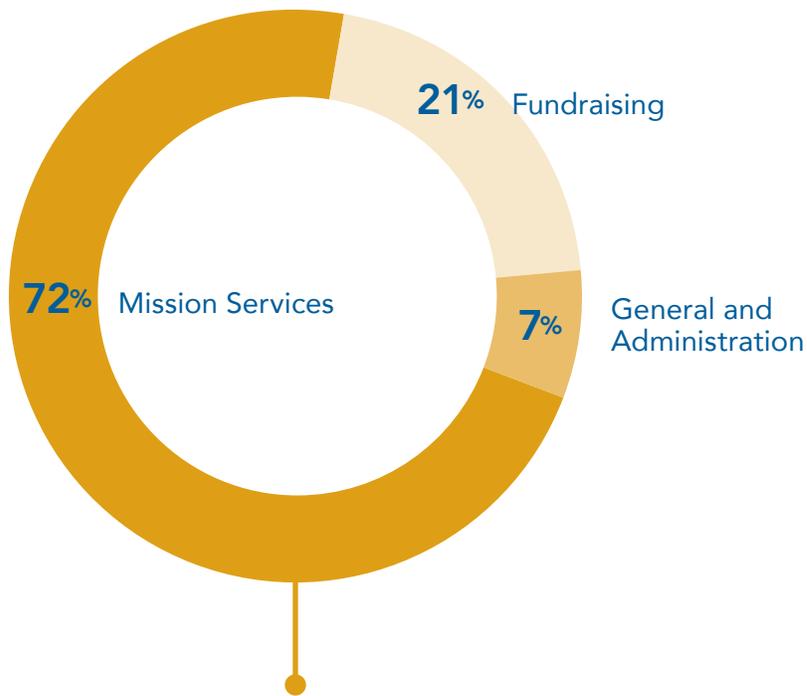
# Financial Statement for Year 2020

| REVENUE                                | 2020                | 2019                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Restricted Contributions               | \$5,294,197         | \$4,997,980         |
| Unrestricted Contributions             | \$6,243,080         | \$5,011,889         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$11,537,277</b> | <b>\$10,009,869</b> |
| EXPENSES                               | 2020                | 2019                |
| <b>Mission Services</b>                |                     |                     |
| Guardians of Israel                    | \$3,042,346         | \$2,890,000         |
| Isaiah 58                              | \$2,549,999         | \$2,205,026         |
| On Wings of Eagles                     | \$1,982,641         | \$1,947,452         |
| <i>Fellowship</i>                      | \$50,587            | \$136,016           |
| <b>Subtotal, Mission Services</b>      | <b>\$7,625,573</b>  | <b>\$7,178,494</b>  |
| <b>Support Services</b>                |                     |                     |
| Fundraising                            | \$2,257,859         | \$2,044,140         |
| General and Administration             | \$826,380           | \$874,259           |
| <b>Subtotal, Support Services</b>      | <b>\$3,084,239</b>  | <b>\$2,918,399</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                  | <b>\$10,709,812</b> | <b>\$10,096,893</b> |
| <b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$827,465</b>    | <b>\$-87,024</b>    |

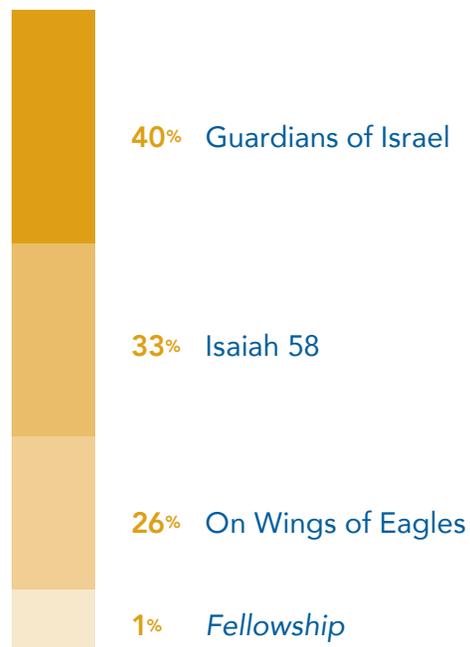
You can be confident that your donations to the *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada* are being used conscientiously to do the most good for Israel and Jewish people in need around the world.

The *International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada* regularly submits our financial information to Canada's most established and respected charity watchdog organization — Charity Intelligence Canada — and we work hard to receive the highest grades possible for accountability and transparency, and to constantly improve. It's only through the generosity of our supporters that we're able to do the work that we do.

## Expense Breakdown



## Mission Services Expense Breakdown



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