

2020



FELLOWSHIP OF ISRAEL RELATED MINISTRIES

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



CELEBRATING 2020 FEELS DIFFERENT.

It has been a year unlike any other in our lifetime. And yet, we know that our God never changes and His love towards His people Israel is unshakable. As FIRM, we are honored to be witnesses of that.

Thank you for partnering with us in transforming lives in Israel through the power of the Gospel and in the name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Vanessa and I have spent some time reflecting on the past year. It's been a year of high highs and low lows. It included the beauty and joy of bringing our son into the world, and the pain of hearing the doctor's report of medical complications. We saw the darkness of a global pandemic riddled with conflict and fear, and the wonder of God's light piercing that darkness.

As a ministry, we are grateful that we did more than just survive 2020. We were able to change gears at FIRM, innovate, reallocate our resources, and actually saw more people reached with the Gospel.

We know this would not have been possible without the immense sacrifice of our incredibly generous partners. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for flipping the script on 2020 for so many in Israel. You have stood beside us, during the peaks and the valleys, and we will always be grateful for that.

In 2020, together, **we've been able to support almost 60 local ministries in reaching over 25,000 Israelis in the name of Yeshua.** What a miracle! We shared hope and healing that can only be found in the name of our Messiah. We feel blessed and overwhelmed to see what God can do despite the darkness of the season.

We are honored to be on this journey with partners like you. We are praying that God would bless you abundantly in return for your commitment to this Land and this people! Thank you for standing with us and we look forward to what we can do together in 2021!

Sending love from Jerusalem,



MICHAEL AND VANESSA MISTRETTA,
CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RELATIONSHIPS





WE SERVE A NETWORK OF ALMOST 60 MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ISRAEL THAT SHARE A PASSION FOR REACHING ISRAELIS WITH THE GOSPEL.

These local ministries are the true heroes,
and together, we have a vision for a stronger
and healthier Body of Messiah in Israel.





WHAT WE DO

EMPOWERING

LOCAL MINISTRIES

TO TRANSFORM LIVES IN ISRAEL IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

At Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries (FIRM), we believe Israel can make an impact on everyone's life, and everyone has a role to play in Israel's story.

**FIRM IS A NON-PROFIT BASED IN
THE HEART OF JERUSALEM.**

- We connect believers around the world to Israel
- We strengthen, unite and resource local ministries here in the Land.





AS A NETWORK OF MINISTRIES IN ISRAEL, WE SHARE A HEART FOR A STRONGER AND HEALTHIER BODY OF MESSIAH.

FIRM Ministry Members serve on the frontlines of Kingdom ministry in Israel today: from local congregations and humanitarian aid, to social justice advocacy, family ministry, and outreach programs.

We have the privilege to serve and support these amazing ministries with practical tools, finances and resources, while sharing their stories with the world.



WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

\$923K

DISTRIBUTED TO
LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Estimated
OVER

25,000

ISRAELIS IMPACTED
IN THE NAME OF YESHUA

We thank the Lord for a fruitful and busy 2020 at the Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries. We are grateful for your ongoing partnership and support for our ministry!



45 local
MINISTRY PROJECTS
FULLY & PARTIALLY FUNDED



59 local ministry partners throughout the nation

Representing communities across all 5 major spoken languages:
Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Amharic, and English

11 vital areas of need served throughout the nation:

- Caring for at-risk communities
- Community Impact & Humanitarian Aid
- Congregations: Discipleship and Outreach
- Education, Resources and Training
- Evangelism & Outreach
- Family Impact: Pro-life, education, orphans and widows
- Legal and Social Welfare
- Marketplace Ministry
- Prayer and Worship Initiatives
- Student Ministry
- Supporting Holocaust Survivors



CONGREGATIONS PIVOT TO DIGITAL



KEREM-EL
MESSIANIC
CONGREGATION



FAITHFUL COMMUNITIES MEET ONLINE

The believers in Israel have been prohibited from congregating almost completely since March 2020. The lockdowns have triggered a sense of fear and hopelessness in many households. Aware of these needs, most congregations in Israel were swift in moving their initiatives online. They realized this was not a temporary situation, but many lacked the appropriate equipment to continue. FIRM supporters like you have helped several ministries develop their media and online presence. Gifts sent to the FIRM Foundation enabled congregations like Kerem-El to purchase the necessary filming equipment to produce high quality videos in Hebrew.



Here is a testimony from 2020 that we are celebrating together.

Yoel is a 20-year-old Israeli who a year ago was an atheist and a drug addict. During the early lockdowns, Yoel attempted suicide but felt like Someone's presence saved him from harm and thus saved his life. This set Yoel on a journey to find meaning and God.

HE STARTED WATCHING VIDEOS ABOUT JESUS AND REALIZED HE WAS HIS MESSIAH!

BROWSING ONLINE, YOEL FOUND KEREM-EL CONGREGATION AND BEGAN FOLLOWING THEIR ONLINE SERVICES.

Praise God that Kerem-El was able to shift to digital and someone like Yoel could receive spiritual food online. After several months, Yoel contacted Kerem-El and is now being disciplined. We are humbled by how God used the internet to save this man, who is one of many!

Pivoting outreach and community engagement to digital was an endeavor many leaders were not prepared for. But given the resources, they were ready to make it happen.

**BY EQUIPPING AND PROVIDING TRAINING TO MINISTER TO
THEIR COMMUNITIES FROM DIGITAL PLATFORMS, FIRM HAS
SEEN LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL ALL OVER ISRAEL.**

**“Thanks to the increased online presence
of messianic congregations, a young Israeli
atheist came to know Yeshua (Jesus) as his
Messiah!”**



STEFAN SILVER
KEREM-EL MESSIANIC
CONGREGATION





HELPING ESTABLISH A HOME FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN

A SAFE LANDING SPOT FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS

In 2020, the necessity to care for at-risk children became even more urgent than normal. With lengthy lockdowns, online education and various restrictions, children did not have an easy year. Many families, who struggled with finances already before the pandemic, were now forced to seek outside help. Often, childcare became a serious challenge.



One area where the current predicament is acutely felt is in the lack of emergency shelter homes that would be a safe landing spot for children in crisis who have been ripped from the familiar.

FIRM IS PARTNERING WITH ISRAELI MINISTRIES THAT ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS IN ISRAEL TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF THE ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILD.

Israeli believers are in the process of establishing a loving emergency shelter home for abandoned and hurting children.

HaTikva Project has already found a suitable location that can serve this goal. Thanks to the support of many partners and generous givers like you, they already received keys to the new home in May 2021.

“A loving emergency shelter home for hurting children is being established by believers in the land - first of its kind in Israel!”



EVAN LEVINE
HATIKVA PROJECT





MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN ISRAEL

TURNING CHALLENGE INTO AN ADVENTURE

Young adults in Israel have been real troopers in 2020! We are so proud of young Israeli believers who have adjusted, adapted and pressed on! In partnering with local ministries that reach youth and young adults, we have learned a lot about both the challenges they face and the obstacles they overcame.



FIRM has been supporting discipleship and training programs that equip young Israeli leaders for ministry.

Ministries like Netivah, Lech L'cha and Hope for Israel have been actively involved in shaping the next generation of believers. They supported young people with spiritual discipleship coupled with practical leadership training. We were honored to partner with them and invest in the programs they run.

As a supporter of FIRM, you helped make a difference.

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE A LARGE VEHICLE FOR NETIVAH.

It will serve the ministry in organizing retreats for the youth and transporting them to various events, especially in the desert.

Young Israelis have been searching for teachers and mentors to disciple them. The opportunity to spend a few days with their peers while learning how to grow in their faith has been unparalleled.

“Despite restrictions, you have helped us disciple and train young Israeli believers to become the next generation of leaders.”



YOEL GOLDBERG
NETIVAH





SETTING PEOPLE FREE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A WAY OUT FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FIRM has been partnering with a couple ministries in Israel that actively help human trafficking victims in need of a second chance in life. We proudly support organizations like KitePride and Chaim B'Shefa that offer vulnerable women and men of Tel Aviv firsthand care, counseling, occupational training and job placement.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 14,000 WOMEN ARE TRAPPED IN FORCED PROSTITUTION IN ISRAEL.

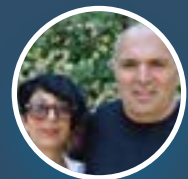
Those rescued are in great need of guidance on how to start a new, dignified life. **Your support**, sent through FIRM, has allowed organizations like KitePride expand their educational and rehabilitative program in 2020 to help women and men rescued from prostitution have a brighter future.

Tel Aviv's red-light district is considered to be one of the most dangerous places in the country. In the middle of this dark place, there is a group of believers who offer hair and nail treatments, a warm shower, clean clothes, and a place to sleep for women in desperate need of help.

FIRM HAS HELPED ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THEIR FORMER LOCATION AND ASSISTED IN RENOVATIONS.

In 2020, this safe haven was upgraded from dilapidated to warm, hospitable and filled even with more love! Through the help of consultants, contractors and multiple donors, including **partners like you**, the location has been fully renovated and now serves as a beautiful ministry center revealing the love of Yeshua in one of the hardest places in the city.

“In 2020, supporters of FIRM helped double the size of a ministry location in Tel Aviv that cares for victims of human trafficking.”



ANAT AND ISHAI BRENNER
CHAIM B'SHEFA





RISE UP

CHANGE THE COURSE OF 2020 FOR BELIEVERS IN ISRAEL

IN ONE OF THE HARDEST YEARS IN OUR LIFETIME, WE INVITED CHRISTIANS TO HELP ISRAELI BELIEVERS RISE UP AND BE A LIGHT IN A DARK SEASON. WE DECIDED TO HELP CHANGE THE COURSE OF 2020 FOR THEM.

THANKS TO YOU, WE EXCEEDED THE GOAL FOR OUR CAMPAIGN TO HELP BELIEVERS IN ISRAEL RISE UP! IN 2020, WE RAISED OVER \$1 MILLION TO INVEST IN ISRAELI MINISTRIES.





FIRM'S VIRTUAL GALA: RAISING OVER \$250K FOR 25 LOCAL ISRAELI MINISTRIES

Because of the global pandemic, our groups did not travel to Israel since March 2020. It was time to try something new! In faith, we hosted an online event that would reflect the generosity of our ministry partners in a year like 2020.

FIRM invited trusted friends and partners to join a one-hour online gala to raise funds and invest 100% of the proceeds into various ministries. There were 5 group categories of ministries, based on specific needs within Israel:

- Rescuing entrapped women and men from sex trafficking
- Helping congregations pivot to digital
- Finding new ways to spread the Gospel
- Equipping and discipling Israeli leaders
- Providing a safe home for at-risk children

DURING THE EVENT, WE RAISED OVER \$252,000 FROM PLEDGES

(exceeding our initial target of \$240,000)

We thank God for the lives in Israel that we were able to impact through such radical generosity of our partners.

STEWARDSHIP

In 2020, we improved our fundraising efforts and were able to support and invest in more ministries. Together, we were able to help bless the lives of more Israelis than ever before.

Thank you for sowing financially and prayerfully into the work of FIRM and our Member Ministries. Your vision and insight have improved our efforts and expanded our reach.

INCOME

\$2,253,444

\$1,169,186 FIRM GENERAL DONATIONS
\$999,779 FIRM FOUNDATION DONATIONS*
\$84,479 PROGRAM REVENUE

*INCLUDING DIRECTION DONATIONS AND REFERRALS

EXPENSES



ADMINISTRATION \$423,471.59
ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT \$245,724.34
MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT \$874,987.14
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT \$134,917.69
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT \$234,231.93
SPECIAL PROJECT - RENOVATIONS \$57,374.10

FIRM FOUNDATION 2020 BREAKDOWN

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED IN 2020

\$923,983

MINISTRY AREAS FUNDED



Humanitarian Aid & Support for Holocaust Survivors: **\$95,976**
 Congregations, Discipleship & Outreach: **\$118,260**
 Education, Resources and Training: **\$73,496**
 Evangelism & Outreach: **\$127,135**
 Family Impact: Pro-life, education, orphans and widows: **\$182,710**
 Legal and Social Welfare: **\$23,248**
 Marketplace Ministry: **\$7,867**
 Prayer and Worship Initiatives: **\$57,939**
 Student Ministry: **\$74,187**
 Caring for at-risk communities: **\$163,165**



FIRM FOUNDATION

100% OF DONATIONS TO FIRM FOUNDATION ARE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT MEMBER MINISTRIES.

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.

FIRM PILLARS

FIRM PILLARS COVER OUR OPERATING COSTS, IN ORDER FOR FIRM TO FULFILL THE ABOVE PROMISE - TO INVEST 100% OF PUBLIC DONATIONS TO MEMBER MINISTRIES.

FIRM Pillars are business leaders, foundations, and churches committed to giving a set amount to fund our budget each year. Their investment enables us to invest 100% of public donations to impact Israelis with love of Jesus.





Join an unstoppable community of monthly givers.

The Tribe is a group of passionate and faithful monthly givers on a mission to transform lives in Israel with the love of Jesus.

People like you, from more than 100 countries around the world, are giving to see God's purposes for Israel accomplished in our generation. We believe that one day we will see the people of Israel being transformed by the power of the Gospel. We want to celebrate that day with you!

Join **THE TRIBE** today!

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



PARTNER WITH US

TRANSFORM LIVES IN ISRAEL

Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries is your partner for
Gospel-centered, effective work in Israel.
Support FIRM today to see ministries in Israel grow!

GIVE ONLINE
[FIRMISRAEL.ORG/GIVE](https://firmisrael.org/give)

GIVE BY WIRE TRANSFER

Name: Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries
Bank: Bank of America
Account Number: 325113164369
Routing Number: 026009593
Address: 2141 Mill Road, Novato CA 94947, USA

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.





FIRM FELLOWSHIP OF
ISRAEL RELATED
MINISTRIES

FIRMISRAEL.ORG

97 JAFFA STREET, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL 91003