

GLOBAL REPORT

SUMMER 2025

RELIEF IN EASTERN EUROPE

Discover how The Friends of Israel is providing Jewish people in Eastern Europe with critical relief, compassion, and the love of the Messiah.



Silently praying, Friends of Israel (FOI) Poland representative Timothy Rabinek waited while the Belarusian border guard inspected his bags containing 20 Hebrew and Russian Bibles. He knew the risk of bringing religious literature into Belarus. The simple act of carrying Scripture is considered suspicious, sometimes even illegal. To Timothy's surprise, the stern security guard finally looked up and said, "You're okay; you can go." Relieved, Timothy quickly passed through the checkpoint.

Not long after, while serving the Belarusian church where the Bibles were needed, Timothy encountered a surprise: The very border guard who had searched his bag was attending the church service! As the two talked, the guard revealed that he was secretly a Christian. Being at the border that day turned out to have been a divine appointment. As Timothy reflected, "God had gone ahead of me, placing the right person at the right time in the right place!"

Ever since our founding in 1938, FOI has worked to offer relief, support, and humanitarian aid to Jewish people in Eastern Europe. In those early days, filled with Nazi atrocities, rising Jewish persecution, and eventually the Holocaust, FOI helped Jewish people leave countries in Eastern and Central Europe, bringing them to America. Today, our International Ministries teams in Eastern Europe continue to show Christian love to Jewish communities decimated by war, persecution, and economic disaster.



While the need in Eastern Europe remains great 80 years after World War II, the heart of our founders' love for the Jewish people still beats strong in our incredible teams in Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and other countries. **As I tell you how FOI ministers to "the least of these" (Mt. 25:45) in Eastern Europe, would you please prayerfully consider partnering with us in this great work to bless more Jewish families in need?**

WAR RELIEF

Once again, war ravages Eastern Europe. Today, as the war in Ukraine has ground on, nearly 7 million people have been displaced, and tens of thousands have died, creating a staggering, ongoing humanitarian crisis. Our FOI representative in Kyiv, Ukraine, explains, "The scale of disaster and poverty in Ukraine especially is simply enormous. If we manage to survive in this unequal and terrible struggle, we will need even more help. Our daily lives are subject to the circumstances dictated by war."

Despite this dire situation, God continues to open new doors to reach His Chosen People by our teams' work to provide humanitarian aid. The estimated 200,000 Jewish people that have remained in Ukraine rely heavily on volunteer organizations and their local synagogues for daily needs. It is our joy to provide these communities with sugar, flour, rice, beans, canned fish, meat, tea, coffee, and other foods. It's no exaggeration to say that without these deliveries, many would be living off bread and water. We also provide much-needed clean water, heating units, batteries,

clothing, and medicine.

In the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv and Chernivtsi, FOI partners with two synagogues to provide “hot kitchens” to the Jewish community. As food and electricity for cooking are sporadic, the assurance of a hot meal provides a significant relief for those displaced by missile blasts. To make these “hot kitchens” possible, FOI has helped renovate and rebuild synagogues, delivered food shipments, and regularly served in these Jewish communities. Sadly enough, in addition to Ukraine, these conditions pervade Lithuania, Czech Republic, Moldova and other countries where the economic effects of the war are also felt.

FOI CAMPS AND RETREATS

Another way our teams provide aid and relief in Eastern Europe is by offering Jewish people hospitality at our retreat centers and camps in Poland. Whether providing a 10-day family camp or a weekend getaway, our FOI facilities have hosted and shared the love of Messiah with thousands of Jewish people over the decades. But the need for these types of ministries is felt much more acutely amidst the trauma and heartache of war, as families, especially those with children or husbands fighting on the front lines, desperately need a place to feel safe for a time.

The mountainous beauty of Wisła, Poland, provides the perfect setting for respite to families living under the stress of war. Each hospitality experience at our FOI center is designed to build real, lasting relationships. Families receive homemade meals, comfortable lodging, and outdoor leisure activities.

Our teams also study the Bible with our Jewish visitors. For many, this is the first time they ever read a copy of the Hebrew Bible. When it is time to return home, families leave with gift bags full of clothing, food, hygiene items, gift cards, and Bibles. Often these retreats



are the beginning of lifelong relationships—both with us and with Messiah Jesus.

Frequently we hear stories of adults who attended FOI camps or retreats in Poland in their youth encountering them again later in life. Recently, on an aid delivery in Belarus, we encountered Demitri, a young boy who came to faith in Messiah at one of our camps. Our team was overjoyed to discover that in the 10 years since he was a camper, his entire family had come to Christ, largely through his witness and example. As his mother explained, “He returned from camp completely changed!”

GIFTS AND THE GIVER

Proverbs 18:16 says, “A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great” (NIV). Our teams in Eastern Europe have seen the power a simple gift has to build relationships with Jewish neighbors, especially those who are poor, uncertain about tomorrow, and living at war with constant alarms.

That is the reason behind our gift bag ministries. Throughout the year, on Jewish holidays, FOI field representatives deliver gift bags to Jewish communities in many different countries. Along with small gifts, our team delivers friendship and a strong statement of Christian solidarity that often surprises isolated, seemingly forgotten Jewish communities.

Last Hanukkah, our team traveled more than 1,000 miles to deliver gift bags to a Jewish community in Lithuania for the first time. The Jewish people were stunned that Christians would come so far to demonstrate their love. In response, our team shared the heartbeat of FOI, saying, “We are Christians who love the Jewish people because God does too. We’ve come to show love and solidarity at this critical time.” Today, these new Jewish friends regularly invite our staff for Shabbat services and are planning a visit to one of our FOI retreat centers. As one of our Polish representatives mused, “What began with a simple gift bag developed into a genuine friendship.”

NEVER FORGET

Each year, in March, thousands of Jewish people from around the world gather for a memorial called “The March of the Living” at the site of the Auschwitz–Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. It commemorates the date of the camp’s liberation by Allied forces during World War II, as well as the lives lost at the camps in the Holocaust. It’s a powerful and defiant event that not only remembers past genocide but also celebrates the future of the Jewish people. Each year, FOI staff members in Eastern Europe, both Jewish and Gentile, participate in the event as a stance against rising antisemitism and a show of solidarity with Jewish people.

When the Russian invasion began, Ukrainian Jews were unable to join the march due to the war—that is, until our teams in Eastern Europe stepped in. This year, FOI sponsored 44 Jewish Ukrainians’ attendance at the event. One young participant named Margarita said, “The names of those we lost are being kept alive



FOI team members from Poland and the US join the March of the living at Auschwitz 2025

in our family stories. Memory is not only about the past; it is what we preserve for the sake of the future. Special thanks to FOI, because of which Ukraine is now part of the March and raises its flag to show that we stand with Israel and with all Jewish people around the world.”

World War II turned the world upside down for Jewish survivors in Eastern Europe. War is still turning life upside down. It is just as important now for Christians to stand with the Jewish people of Eastern Europe as it was back then.

The need is urgent in Eastern Europe. You can make a meaningful—even life-changing—difference in the lives of people searching for the peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:7). Will you consider partnering with FOI’s ministry teams in Eastern Europe to provide much-needed relief, humanitarian aid, and Christian love to the Jewish people? Any financial gift is a blessing to God’s Chosen People, and your prayers are vital. We greatly value your love and partnership in this life-giving ministry in Eastern Europe.

In Christ Alone,

DAN PRICE, MDIV
Director of International Ministries



If God has spoken to you about partnering with FOI’s ministry teams in Eastern Europe today with prayer and a financial gift, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit foi.org/global-report to donate online.