

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry Inc.

GLOBAL REPORT

Fall 2022

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God With Us

Bringing the Good News to Eastern Europe

Are we next?" This was the ominous question many Poles asked themselves as Russia invaded Ukraine. The ground invasion shocked everyone. Suddenly within a few chaotic and distressing days, millions of refugees, mostly women and children, flooded Europe. They were received with compassion once on Polish soil. In the words of our newest FOI field representative in Poland, Emanuel Machnicki: "As we prayed, God immediately strengthened us to join the rescue and refugee relief efforts." Our teams, including Emanuel, did this with little regard for their own safety.

Emanuel has served God's cherished group of people for two decades in Poland. When the war in Ukraine struck, FOI's ministry in Europe became an "all hands on deck" operation. Emanuel drove to the Polish-Ukrainian border and Przemysl train station again and again to help those fleeing. As refugees began to lessen over time, the team began driving food and supplies directly into several of the hardest hit areas in Ukraine. Emanuel was compelled to go, "We felt that we needed to see them face-to-face, that they needed

to see their true Christian friends and know of our prayers and thoughts."

As you hear more of Emanuel's story and his unique ministry in Poland and Eastern Europe, would you prayerfully consider how your support could reach even more people with the love of the Messiah? Your prayer and financial support would enable him to continue reaching the Jewish community in Poland and those displaced by the war in Ukraine.



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EMANUEL: GOD WITH US

In the very first hours after war broke out in February, thousands of Ukrainians crossed the border into Moldova on Ukraine's southwest border. Emanuel and a few others headed to Moldova to rescue a Jewish family.

Emanuel describes the situation: "There was a woman, a 2-year-old child, and an 82-year-old grandmother, together. Their husbands were left behind in Ukraine, unable to leave at the time. Their plan was to reunite in the safety of Poland and eventually go together to Israel. Traveling more than 30 hours across eight borders, we took turns driving. The vehicle we were driving was not well-equipped for extreme winter weather."

"Sometimes there was a quick border crossing, but sometimes there were problems and we had to wait hours. In the mountains, there was a snowstorm. The snow just froze on the windshield; it could not be cleaned. The driver could not see anything. This was the moment I started praying to the Lord. He comforted me.

"As I looked at the faces of the passengers I said aloud, 'You know my name is Emanuel, and this means 'God with us' and you know, He really is with us.

"At the same time, I thought of what the prophets of old foretold, 'I will gather you back from the farthest north country' (Jer. 31:8). At that moment, I felt a part of His plan, a very small part, of course. But God shook the world, as He said in Amos; and this Jewish family of three generations left Ukraine. Now they are gathering in Israel with the help of Christian generosity. This is what is at stake."

BLACKOUT

Very close to the war zone, in the town of Kamianske, Emanuel had a particularly startling experience as he and his team headed to a community center housing members of a local synagogue. "It was a total blackout," he said. "There was a shootout there just before we entered. It was so dark we could not see anyone. It made me think of the Egyptian plague of darkness. We reached the Jewish people at the center. The garage door opened, and light flooded over us as we unloaded the food and supplies from our truck. In situations like this, not many words are needed. We looked at our Ukrainian neighbors, shook hands, and hugged. What we have said in the past is now materialized in what we do now."



Traveling to Ukraine With Supplies

Emanuel Teaching the Polish Church



EMANUEL'S STORY

It's easy to see Emanuel's passion for God's plan for Israel and the Jewish people. His affection was ignited as a child when he observed his parents' hospitality toward Jewish friends, hosting them in their home.

Emanuel's own faith in God became personal as a teenager when he realized his own sinfulness and helplessness. One afternoon he knelt in prayer and opened his heart before God, confessed, and completely trusted in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Discipled by elders in his church, Emanuel became an active church member, serving in youth ministry and learning to preach.

In 2004, Emanuel was given the opportunity to attend the Institute of Jewish Studies here at The Friends of Israel and took our study tour in the Holy Land. He recalls, "The experience changed me forever and gave direction to my life. It was there that the gospel came to life." Emanuel returned to Poland with new excitement, seeking volunteer opportunities to pour himself into Jewish ministry alongside FOI representatives in Poland.

MULTIFACETED MINISTRY

Emanuel heard FOI's David Levy and Halina Ostik teach about God's plan for Israel soon after he returned to Poland. He was invited by Halina to teach at a Bible conference in Wisla. There he met his

future wife, Lydia. Emanuel and Lydia have three children: Judith, Jonathan, and Naomi. Celebrating their 14th wedding anniversary this year, Emanuel and Lydia are a genuine portrait of sacrificial love and service. For 10 years, Lydia took care of her mother who was struck with Parkinson's disease on the day of her father's sudden death from a heart attack. Through it all, they have been faithful and consistent in their love and support of one another as they raise their young family.

When he isn't risking his life for his Ukrainian neighbors, Emanuel teaches a 15-minute radio program twice weekly, reaching thousands of listeners throughout Poland with biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah, the history of the modern State of Israel, and Bible prophecy. Emanuel explains, "In my messages, I emphasize God's eternal love for the Jewish people.... I stand for Israel."

Emanuel teaches in churches, at Bible conferences, Bible schools, and online. With FOI representative Timothy Rabinek, Emanuel writes scripts and records podcasts for the YouTube channel, IsraelMyChannel, which reaches tens of millions of viewers in three languages.

POLISH POST-HOLOCAUST SOCIETY

After the Holocaust, some Jewish people stayed in Poland, and some of them chose to hide their Jewish identity. Poland has recently developed a deep

(Left to Right) Lydia, Emanuel, Naomi, Jonathan, Judith



desire to recover its collective “national memory,” and confront the evil of the Holocaust; instead of allowing the memory of the Jews who perished to be amputated from history and memory.

Emanuel says, “Poland desperately needs a major spiritual breakthrough and an opening for the gospel of Jesus Christ. The remaining darkness of post-Holocaust antisemitism is one of the greatest hindrances to the unleashing of God’s blessing over my nation.”

WISLA AND BEYOND

Emanuel and his family are pouring their lives into ministry in the mountainous region of Wisla, Poland. But we see that God is giving Emanuel incredible opportunities, beyond Poland, to minister to God’s Chosen People with the love of our Savior. I am happy to welcome Emanuel to our Polish team.

Would you prayerfully consider financially supporting Emanuel as he offers himself as the hands and feet of the Messiah to our Jewish friends?

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” Isaiah 52:7

Mike Stallard



Mike Stallard
Director of International Ministries

If God has spoken to you about providing much-needed support for the ministry of Emanuel Machnicki, 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.