

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry Inc.

# GLOBAL REPORT

Summer 2022

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## FOI's Growing French Legacy

*From WWII to the war in Ukraine, FOI's mission continues through our faithful workers in Vichy, France!*

In what seemed like an instant to most of us, the war in Ukraine displaced more than 3.5 million Ukrainians as many fled to their European neighbors for refuge. For 84 years, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry's mission has always been to care for Jewish people, especially those impacted by war. Our faithful FOI Field Representatives around the globe have proven to be a powerful ground force of assistance, supplying immediate aid in Ukraine, Poland, France, Israel, and other countries.

We believe that, to God, the Jewish people are "the apple of His eye" (Zech. 2:8) and it is our honor to serve them. Our mission and passion for the Jewish people hasn't changed and will never stop.

When FOI began, we depended on the people of God to generously offer their financial and prayer

support to carry out the mission God gave us to bless Israel. Today, we continue to rely on the prayer and financial support of you, our ministry partners and friends. **As you read about how our ministry in France is growing and contributing to our mission to care for Jewish people, will you consider giving as God leads to support our teams' work?**



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## VICHY, FRANCE

The city of Vichy lies 400 km (250 miles) south-east of Paris. The French Vichy Regime, headquartered in the city, was a puppet government for the Nazis in southern France during World War II. The brutal tactics of the regime compelled French citizens to betray their Jewish neighbors. Today, trauma lingers on for Jewish survivors in France as outward antisemitism reaches proportions unseen since WWII. Many people in French Jewish communities feel hopeless.

For more than 30 years FOI Field Representative Jean Massincaud with his wife, Ginette, have lived alongside the Jewish community offering hope, help, and healing to those who desperately need it. Recently, over 30,000 Ukrainian refugees have fled to France and at least 70,000 more are expected according to the French Housing Minister. The Massincauds have been ministering to Ukrainian refugee centers in Vichy and surrounding areas since the war in Ukraine began, adding this to their already robust daily ministry.

## “JUST AMONG THE NATIONS”

Jean describes his passion for the Jewish people this way: “God gave us a burden for Jewish people. It is not easy to explain, but I am attracted to them, and the Lord has given me much love for them. I also share with non-Jewish people,

but there is a special attraction for His Chosen People.” This passion is easy to see in Jean and Ginette’s work, and recently it was acknowledged by the Jewish community in France in a special way.

Since 1993, France has remembered the “Vel’d’Hiv’ roundup” with a national day of commemoration and a ceremony. On July 16, 1942, the largest roundup of Jews in Paris took place inside the Vel’d’Hiv’ bicycle stadium where 13,000 Jewish people were gathered and deported to various French “transit camps,” eventually onward to their murder in Auschwitz, Poland.

At the memorial ceremony this spring, Ginette was asked to read a poem written by a famous Austrian poet, Adolph Unger, who died in Auschwitz. The president of the Vichy Jewish community publicly recognized Jean and Ginette’s 30 years of faithful love and work in the Jewish community by naming them two of the “Just Among the Nations.” This honor was originally given by the State of Israel to describe non-Jewish people who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis, and it is still bestowed today on Gentiles who are examples of support to Jewish people. Jean and Ginette extend love in tangible ways, daily, to the community of Holocaust



Jean (center) leading a Bible study

Hannah and Ginette



survivors in Vichy. One special survivor they minister to on a regular basis is a woman named Hannah. She is the only daughter of Adolph Unger, the poet.

## HANNAH

Hannah was born to the Unger family in 1935 in Austria. The family tried to escape the Nazis, but they were caught in Belgium and imprisoned in France in 1938. Adolph Unger agreed to let four-year-old Hannah be smuggled into a Christian home. In 1942, the Nazis sent all foreign Jews in French camps to Auschwitz. Hannah's parents were deported and murdered there in September.

While hiding with this Christian family, Hannah came to faith in Jesus the Messiah. When the war was over she moved to Israel to live with her grandparents. She returned to France later, searching for the Christian family who sheltered her. She eventually found them, and Hannah settled down to live in Vichy. Hannah is now 87 years old. Jean and Ginette visit her nearly every day. It is an honor for FOI and our French team to minister to Holocaust survivors, like Hannah, providing for their basic needs and being a constant reminder to the Jewish community in France that Christians around the world love and support God's Chosen People.



Young Hannah with her parents

## "ENTENDS O ISRAEL"

It is easy to take for granted the incredible depth of biblical resources available to English speakers. But for millions of people around the world, it is difficult to get these types of resources in their native language. A vital aspect of our French ministry is translating biblical resources for the French-speaking world. Jean and Ginette, along with a team of volunteers, work tirelessly to translate many resources into the French language. They actively distribute FOI literature throughout France and the French-speaking world, including Africa and Canada. Ginette meticulously translates each edition of *Entends (Hear) O Israel*, the

Jean's book table at a church



French translation of *Israel My Glory* magazine, as well as books and gospel tracts into French. **With your financial support, the Massincauds would be able to translate and distribute more literature to the French-speaking world.**

### MINISTRY IN VICHY

Jean has cultivated deep relationships with local synagogues. He also speaks at conferences and evangelical churches, though Bible-believing evangelical churches are becoming sparse in France. Ginette's love for language has opened the door to study Hebrew with members of the Vichy synagogue. The Massincauds regularly host Bible studies and share meals to build relationships, which frequently lead to sharing the gospel.

Jean knows the impact these opportunities can have in reaching hearts with the love of Jesus. His own uncle was passionate about sharing the prophecies of Israel with him. "Bible prophecy was a big factor in my coming to the Lord Jesus Christ. God's promises, the faithfulness of God for His people, spoke to my heart. If He kept His

promises to the Jewish people, He would keep His promises to us believers," shares Jean.

The ministry in France continues to grow. With the additional need of caring for Ukrainian refugees, we are seeing God open doors for our French team in unexpected ways. As we plan the future of FOI in France, we envision new team members and new openings for ministry in the Jewish communities across the country.

**Would you prayerfully consider a gift to the Massincauds' ministry to help the French-speaking world know Messiah Jesus? Your gift to The Friends of Israel, right now, will make a tremendous difference for Jewish communities and Ukrainian refugees in France.**

*Mike Stallard*



**Mike Stallard**  
Director of International Ministries

If God has spoken to you about providing much-needed support for the ministry of Jean Massincaud, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc, PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit [foi.org/global-report](http://foi.org/global-report) to donate online.