

# GLOBAL REPORT

**SPRING 2024**

## **BRINGING LOVE AND COMPASSION INTO THE HEART OF WAR**

Read the story of Andrew Cieslar, one of our newest FOI representatives in Poland.



In the aftermath of Hamas’s unprovoked attack on Israel on October 7, and amidst the ongoing turmoil and war in Ukraine, a distressing rise in antisemitism has rippled around the globe. This surge of Jewish hatred has not only compounded the grief of those mourning but also intensified the challenges facing Jewish communities, particularly in Ukraine, where they endure both war and targeted persecution.

Our Friends of Israel (FOI) team in Poland and Ukraine has been steadfast in its commitment to providing aid and solace. It is my privilege to share the story of one of our newest FOI representatives in Poland, **Andrew Cieslar**, a passionate and shining example of devotion and compassion whose work embodies the love of the Messiah during these critical times. As I tell you about Andrew, I pray that you will consider supporting God’s life-giving work through his ministry.

## A SERVANT’S HEART

Before officially joining our FOI Poland team in October 2022, Andrew was already volunteering with us. He grew up as the son of our field representative Hanya Cieslar and her husband, Gustav, who was a pastor and seminary dean in Warsaw, Poland. Having parents who were active in ministry to Jewish people gave Andrew the opportunity to learn as a child how small acts of service, like setting up chairs for Bible studies or cleaning spaces for guests, could be true acts of service to God.

It wasn’t long before Andrew helped lead some of the summer camps that FOI hosts, thanks to his commitment to learn Russian to better communicate with the campers. Once he was old enough, he helped his mother minister in Ukraine as well.

“As soon as I got my driver’s license, my mother began asking me to drive for her ministry trips to Ukraine, offering physical and spiritual comfort to Jewish people,” he said.

When God opened the door for Andrew to serve Him and the Jewish people through his own ministry, he had already evidenced a compassionate and focused approach as a true servant.



Ministry in the Jewish community in Chernivtsi, Ukraine prior to Russian invasion



Delivering supplies to Kyiv, Ukraine

Urgent care for eastern Ukrainian refugees in Kyiv



Preparation of the packages (Chernivtsi, Ukraine)



## A DARING PASSION

Andrew's ministry in Eastern Europe is marked by a passion for showing God's love in ways that most people wouldn't dare to attempt. Ministering in former Soviet-bloc countries comes with risks, even decades after the Cold War ended. Andrew delivers Bibles to Belarusian churches, medical supplies to Lithuanian Jewish communities, and navigates the mountains of Moldova to transport refugees.

"I have great satisfaction in going beyond Poland's eastern border, meeting people directly and delivering food parcels," Andrew says. "This is a way to show love, and with that always come opportunities to share words of comfort."

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Andrew has played a crucial role in transporting shipments of food, medicine, batteries, heaters, and many other vital supplies to Jewish communities in Ukraine, sometimes deep into warzones. On the day Russia attacked, he was already busy transporting, day and night, some of the thousands of Jewish refugees to FOI's centers and other locations in Poland. And once they arrived, Andrew worked tirelessly with the rest of our team to supply food and necessities to families who fled with everything they owned, hoping to escape the war. He explains that these acts of service are all opportunities for spiritual conversation.

"Jewish refugees would ask, 'Why are you helping us?'" Andrew recalls. "Then I would share my gratitude for Jews, because through them, we Christians have the Scriptures and our Messiah. Therefore, I want to help. The whole tragic situation is causing significant spiritual opportunities among the Ukrainian people."

Andrew clearly expresses his passion for sharing the love of our Savior with Jewish people through his ongoing commitment to serving in FOI's summer camps for kids in Warsaw and Wisla. As a respite from the sound of sirens and the constant stress of war, these weeks of camp can provide life-altering peace for those who attend. As Andrew teaches the Bible to the kids who come and sometimes their mothers who have traveled with them, his love for Jesus is infectious.

From the very first encounter with Andrew, it is clear that God has gifted him as a faithful, hard-working servant of God, uniquely prepared for Jewish ministry in Eastern Europe. Andrew explains, "It is our great joy and encouragement that by serving at camps for Jewish children from Ukraine, we are impacting future citizens of Israel."

## A GROWING VISION

Along with our Polish team's growing vision for ministry, I also invite you to celebrate the growth of Andrew's family with us. He and his wife, Sylvia, welcomed twin baby boys into their family in July 2023, and we couldn't be happier for them. I believe God has wonderful things in store for this young family as they serve together for the good of God's Chosen People.



Left to right: Sylvia, Daniel, David, Andrew



Andrew teaching in Polish churches

The opportunities for Jewish ministry in Eastern Europe are exponential. Despite the vast span of Andrew’s ministry activities already mentioned, this report only scratches the surface of his team’s vision for what God might use them to accomplish. Andrew has recently begun working toward planting a church in Poland and translating into multiple languages his teaching through YouTube videos and podcasts, which air throughout Eastern Europe today. We are praying that God continues to expand our team’s outreach even further.

Serving in Eastern Europe, where the history of persecution and genocide of Jewish people is still a daily obstacle, Andrew Cieslar’s ministry echoes the words of Isaiah 62:10: “Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples!”

With your generous support, we seek to remove the stones that impede Jewish people from returning to God. We ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with Andrew as he raises the banner for the nations and brings God’s Chosen People home.

In Christ Alone,

*Mike Stallard*

**MIKE STALLARD, PhD**  
VP of International Ministries

*Dan Price*

**DAN PRICE, MDiv**  
Director of International Ministries



P.S. I’m excited to share with you that my co-laborer in International Ministries, Dan Price, is now serving officially as the director of International Ministries. While I’m still deeply invested in the ministry of our FOI teams around the world as the vice president of International Ministries, Dan will be sharing developments in the field through our future Global Reports. We are immensely grateful for your continued love and support for our International teams’ vital ministries as you read our Global Reports. Shalom!

Mike Stallard

**If God has spoken to you about providing much-needed support for the ministry of Andrew Cieslar, 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.**