

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.” (Psalm 103:11-13)

New Zealand

Our time in New Zealand was a gift from the Father. It took eight years of waiting and longing to be with family, and the LORD truly blessed us. Since October 7th, flights have become unaffordable as there are almost no airlines willing to fly to Israel. Thankfully we had purchased our tickets just a couple weeks before the attack, so the airline honoured their commitment and agreed to pay for our tickets with an Israeli airline for the leg to and from Israel.

We arrived in New Zealand on Christmas day after three long days of travel. It was a sweet reunion as we were greeted at the airport by all of Letitia’s family holding homemade signs. Our boys were loved on by Grandma and Grandad, and all the aunts and uncles. They especially enjoyed sleepovers with their cousins.



Reconnecting with family and friends and meeting all the kids that have arrived in our absence was such a joy! We even had the opportunity to connect with Chris and Helen Cowie who shared invaluable insights and advice from their decades of serving in overseas missions.



Beth Mather, the Bridges for Peace New Zealand Director, connected us with a number of churches during our trip. We are so thankful that the LORD opened the doors for us to share about what He is doing in Israel. There were a total of six churches, each from different denominations, that asked us to preach and share with them. The response was overwhelming as the LORD moved on hearts to support and pray. We were



deeply humbled by the opportunity to share at the church of the former Bridges for Peace New Zealand Director, Brian Ashford. The LORD’s presence was palpable and we received a powerful commissioning that morning. The experience brought our family closer to Him and confirmed His calling on our family.



Israel

Since October 7th, donations to Bridges for Peace have doubled. As a leadership team, we are working hard to be good stewards of the finances the LORD has entrusted to us. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced from the south and from the north of the country. Families have been forced to live in hotel rooms for months to escape the thousands of rockets that are constantly raining down on their communities.

Bridges for Peace has given food, clothing, appliances, ambulances, bomb shelters, and counseling to countless displaced and traumatized families. The pain and heartache in this country is still so raw from the brutal murders and merciless torture of hundreds of Israelis. Our team of Christian volunteers from around the world is standing in the gap, praying with those who are hurt and giving to those in need. In the eight years we have been here, we have never seen our team so united and effective in ministry. As the intensity of this conflict grows, we are beseeching the LORD for His protection and peace.

Sewing

As many of you know, Letitia went to fashion school for two years and worked with a bridal designer for five years. When the LORD first called her to serve in Israel, she was asked to run a bridal salon for Israeli families that could not afford a wedding dress. While living in Canada, Letitia also worked in the fashion industry and started a small business making dresses. Over the past eight years since having children, Letitia has not had many opportunities to use this gift. However, over the past few months Letitia has felt the LORD leading her to once again use her gift of sewing to bring healing to Israelis that are suffering from trauma. While in New Zealand Letitia connected with Ana Wilkinson-Gee, founder of Holi Boli – an ethical fashion brand that is an outreach to woman in rural India. Ana and Letitia spoke for several hours and it was a deep encouragement. A few weeks ago Letitia connected with a family ministry here in Israel that has given her space to set up a small sewing workshop, and further connections into the creative arts. We are trusting the LORD's leading in this and ask that you would pray with us.

Family & Friends

Since returning from New Zealand we have enrolled Ethan in a Christian school. He is learning Hebrew and making many new friends. We are so thankful for this opportunity to send Ethan to a school where he will learn from teachers that love the LORD and teach the Bible. Thank you for praying with us for clear direction.

David has been missing Ethan while he is in school, but it has made him bond more with Caleb. The highlight of every day is driving Ethan to and from school, especially when it is on the bus. David and Ethan are also enjoying learning to play the harp from a friend of ours who has started a harp school.



On March 1st we celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary. It was a special time of reflecting on the LORD's goodness to us and how He brought us together in Jerusalem from the ends of the earth.

Our dear friend Cornelia Schmidt from Canada made a surprise visit to Israel over her Spring break. It was a joy to introduce her to the Bridges for Peace team and to go with her on a trip to deliver food to Holocaust survivors all around Jerusalem. We treasure the encouragement that she brought to us at this critical time and her heart for the people of Israel.



We can not thank you all enough for the prayers, encouragement, and support that you give us everyday. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity to be your hands and feet here in Israel, bringing the love of Jesus to the people of Israel.

With Love,
from Jerusalem

PARTNER WITH US *in Prayer*

- Please pray for the salvation and peace of Jerusalem, Israel, and the whole Middle East.
- Please pray for the ministry of Bridges for Peace, for good stewardship of the funds and that we will be an effective witness to the love of Jesus.
- Please pray for healing and deliverance of those traumatized by the war.
- Please pray for our family's health, we have all been struggling with cycling colds and flus for the past few weeks.



Contact Details:

Stefan & Letitia Bergen
c/o: Bridges for Peace
PO Box 1093
Jerusalem, 9101001, ISRAEL
stefan.letitia.bergen@gmail.com

Stefan +972 52 363 6661
Letitia +972 58 654 8152

If you would like to support us financially, this is how you can give:

In Canada:
Please email accounts@bfpcan.org

In New Zealand:
ANZ Bank 06-0453-0092710-23
MISS L V BERGEN & MR S BERGEN
10 NO 1 RD, Te Puke 3119



Stefan & Letitia, Ethan, David, Caleb