

Larry and Bess Herzakow by Nicole Schoen

The land of Israel is as diverse a landscape as its residents. This diversity also means a variety of needs, including shortages of food and clothing and a hunger for truth. This is where good Samaritans Larry and Bess Herzakow come into action.

This couple founded Beit Rachamim, House of Compassion, in 2014 and use this ministry to serve the needy in Israel. Beit Rachamim provides opportunities to people in the United States who love the land and people of Israel to serve some of the people and experience the Land of the Bible firsthand.

The Herzakows made Aliyah in 1996, working and serving many of the ministries in and around Jerusalem. The couple moved back to Denver, Colorado in 2012 where God started to place the vision of Beit Rachamim in them as they were attending Calvary Chapel Aurora, where they had begun a Jewish outreach and prayer ministry, led several Passover Seders and even put on a Purim play.

“Calvary Chapel Aurora had no representation in Israel. We seemed to be the perfect fit,” Larry says.

Through the outreach program and prayer, Beit Rachamim was finally born with a pilot trip in June 2014 with a nine-member team, including their pastor.

“We served at eight different ministries and toured the country, and unlike a ‘tour,’ really were able to connect with the people and the body of believers, and so the concept became a reality when we returned to Jerusalem in the summer of 2015,” Larry recounted.

Part of the Jewish Community Outreach Ministry that helped launch Beit Rachamim was Brian Brill, a friend of the Herzakows.

“Beit Rachamim is dear to my heart. There are not too many ministries that have the vision and capability of hosting, boarding and setting up an eclectic mix of ministry opportunities throughout Israel. It’s like a bed and breakfast for missionaries,” raves Brill.

The success of this trip was a catalyst for the Herzakows’ work, and they moved back to the land in 2015 and began cultivating their ministry. So far the Herzakows have had four groups visit since the inception and have a few more lined up for later this year.

“We have watched the Lord set up divine appointments and allow us to be a blessing to many other ministries,” says Larry.

Beit Rachamim serves seven main ministries in Israel, including Bridges For Peace, Shalva Children’s Center, King of Kings Community in Jerusalem, Fresh Bread in Netanya, The Joseph Project, Christ Church and The Joshua Fund. The trip is usually a combination of serving ministries as well as some touring. Currently, Beit Rachamim

is only able to accommodate up to eight visitors at a time, as a nine-person van is what they rent.

“The setting up of the schedule depends on ministry availability and need, along with the input of the visiting team, their vision and desires. We work together in the scheduling as much as possible,” Larry adds. “Depending on the desires of the group, that factors in as to how much serving and how much sightseeing we do.”

Co-laborer and friend from Calvary Chapel Aurora Matt McDaugale assists with Beit Rachamim’s website and has joined the Herzakows on a mission trip, witnessing firsthand the impact this couple has on those around them.

“Larry and Bess are two of the kindest and most generous people I have had the pleasure to serve with. They have a love for Israel and the Israeli people that is infectious,” McDaugale praises. “After coming alongside them in service of the Israeli people, my wife and I have developed a passion for Israel and a desire to serve all those who don’t have a relationship with Messiah. While working at one of the soup kitchens in Jerusalem, we were afforded the chance not only to serve a Shabbat meal to those in need but even to sit and chat with them and get to know them as well. It is humbling to work, even just for a day in a supply distribution warehouse assembling bomb shelter kits (basic consumables and supplies) that will be distributed throughout Israel to bring comfort to those in terrifying situations.”

Craig Wright connected with the Herzakows at the beginning of their Jewish outreaches at Calvary Chapel Aurora and assists in many ways in regards to spreading the word about Beit Rachamim and serving behind the scenes.

“Larry and Bess are uniquely qualified to lead a ministry such as Beit Rachamim,” Wright attests. “They have the perspective of not only being Messianic believers, but they had also lived in Israel for 16 years prior to returning. They have a strong and unwavering commitment to the Lord and to seeing the fruitfulness of this ministry expand as He leads. They really have a keen understanding of reaching Jewish people in particular and all groups in the region as well.”

The Herzakows have seen God bless many individuals who have come to serve the people of Israel as well as the ministries it is partnered with. A group from Calvary Chapel Aurora who came to tour in February 2016 helped pack 42 pallets of food, enough to feed 2,500 families at The Joshua Fund, setting a world record. There have also been instances where the Herzakows have seen God turn a seemingly unfortunate situation into something for His glory. The same

group from Colorado had their van break down on them on their way home from Netanya one evening. In the distance from where their vehicle came to a stop in the ultra-orthodox neighborhood of Bnai Brak, a rabbi had a large crowd gathered around his tent lined up to receive a blessing for 50 shekels each. The group with Beit Rachamim was able to minister to several interested individuals for over two hours until their new van arrived to pick them up.

“It was the divine appointment we had been praying for every day. As Hosea wrote, ‘As surely as the sun rises, He will show up and come to us, just like the winter rains came to us.’ My translation: He showed up,” Larry says in an email newsletter released shortly after the trip.

Larry and Bess are enjoying their new venture in serving Yeshua in the land of promise and welcome anyone who would like to serve and visit the land of Israel. This couple serves as an example of the blessings God pours on his children who are obedient in all He has called them to do.

“It’s exciting to see what God will do. It’s been different for each group. The surprise encounters have been off the chart,” Larry says. “Each team has come away feeling great accomplishment and blessing having been Yeshua’s hands and feet during their stay in Israel.” MT



Larry ministers to a group of Israeli students



Larry and Bess Herzakow



Volunteers participate in the distribution of donated goods to Israel's poor through the Joseph Project



Visiting the hospital with Hands of Mercy