# 2019 A N N U A L REPORT

# EAGLES' WINGS

# Dear Friend,

We are living in a time of unprecedented and constantly accelerating change. The political, social, and religious landscape is in massive flux. Eagles' Wings is poised as never before to address these changes and provide leadership in this unique time in human history. Globally, Eagles' Wings is actively engaged in mobilizing the Christian community to stand with Israel. Our movement touched six continents this year, mobilizing millions to prayer through the **Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem** and strategic ministry tours to **Germany, Brazil**, and the **Philippines.**  Nationally, our work of bringing together Jewish and Christian leaders in cities across America continues to grow and flourish. From marches down Fifth Avenue in New York City to **Celebrate Israel** rallies in Los Angeles, we are mobilizing Christians to active support for Israel. Generationally, we continue to bring emerging young pastors to Israel, providing the opportunity for them to see Israel firsthand. Each time they return educated, inspired, and equipped to activate their congregations to support Israel.

Finally, we are seeing historic openness for dialogue and connection with formerly closed Muslim nations such as Azerbaijan, who are beginning to welcome a Christian presence and who are aligning themselves in support of Israel. All of this is only possible through the generosity and hard work of our partners, volunteers, and staff. In the midst of the global changes impacting our world, Eagles' Wings will continue to be at the forefront of awakening the Church to their role as a light to the world, extending friendship to diverse groups and sounding a clear call to stand strong for Israel.



Shalom, Bishop Robert Stearns Executive Director Eagles' Wings



Sixty pastors from the United States, Canada and Brazil on top of Mt. Carmel



# 60 Millennial Pastors from North and South America Changed in Israel

Through the Eagles' Wings/Israel Christian Nexus **Millennial Leaders Trip**, sixty next-generation pastors from **ten states and three nations** experienced the land and people of Israel in a way that will mark their lives forever, on a strategic ten-day experience in Israel.



Thirty key young leaders from the church in Brazil, many who pastor ministries of thousands

In an unprecedented way, through the work of Eagles' Wings, young pastors are awakening to the reality of God's heart for the land and people of Israel.

Since 2016, Bishop Stearns has brought over **200 millennial pastors** from both North and South America to Israel to help educate these young, significant,

# evangelical leaders in the truth concerning Israel and the Jewish people.

This last trip alone will have a **combined impact of over 35 million people** through the influence of these leaders' congregants and social media.



Pastors riding in a boat on the Sea of Galilee listen to a teaching about the biblical history of this region



# US Ambassador David Friedman addresses Global Prayer Movement for Israel

Hundreds gathered in Jerusalem, and millions gathered around the world to join together in prayer as part of the seventeenth annual **Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem** (DPPJ) on October 6th! The event was held in Jerusalem and featured special guests from both the Jewish and Christian communities as well as a special keynote address from the **U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman** (pictured on previous page). News media outlets such as GOD TV, Fox News, Jewish News Syndicate (JNS), Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), and others broadcasted the event to **more than 190 nations.** 



Ambassador Friedman with Bishop Stearns

AWAKE JERUSALEN

Worship at Zedekiah's Cave under the Old City of Jerusalem

# Awake Jerusalem

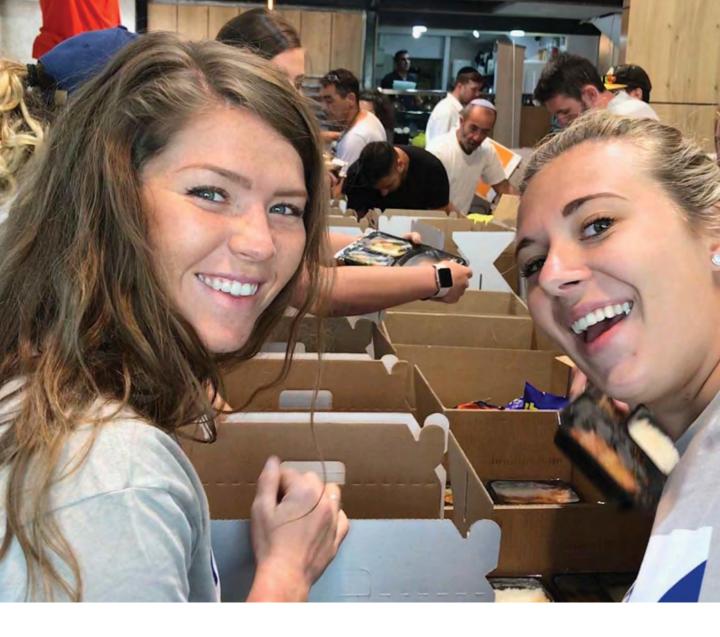
For the second year in a row, Eagles' Wings mobilized hundreds of Christians from around the world for a special three-day non-stop worship and prayer gathering in Israel called **"Awake** Jerusalem." This initiative included concerts and prayer vigils at key sites throughout Jerusalem, such as the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount and Zedekiah's Cave. The group also traveled to **Bethlehem**, to show solidarity with the Palestinian Christian population. Palestinian Christian leader Maher Canawati said, "Robert Stearns and Eagles" Wings are one of the primary Christian groups who always faithfully remember the difficulties of the Palestinian Christians. Even in the most difficult of times, he has always brought his groups into Bethlehem and brought much assistance to the Christians living here. Robert is one who is building a trusted bridge between the sons of Isaac and the sons of Ishmael."

In preparation for the gathering, over **1,000 Christians from twenty different nations** set aside twenty-one days to fast and pray from September 8 – 29, praying for peace and blessing on Israel and her inhabitants.

Internationally recognized musicians and church leaders including **Rick Pino, Eddie James, Teo Hayashi, Pastor Rusty Nelson, Jose Diaz,** and others joined Bishop Robert Stearns for this unique event.



Leading a prayer time for the Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem



# US Students work in the vineyards and serve the needy in Israel

Eagles' Wings **Israel Experience** brought teenagers and young adults from across the United States to Israel for a dynamic educational trip.

In addition to seeing sites and participating in lectures with guest

speakers, the young people also spent a day **working in vineyards in the hills of Samaria.** Together the group read scriptures like Isaiah 61:5, "Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards," and then walked out onto the vineyard and began dressing the vines. As they worked under the hot summer Israeli sun, all of a sudden the scripture became more real than they could have hoped or dreamed.



Following that experience, the group spent a morning at the Jerusalem Abraham's Bread Feeding Center, **packing special holiday boxes** with two full meals, two loaves of challah bread (used for the Shabbat meal), and fresh cheese, that were distributed to those in need across the city in time for the Shavuot holiday.

The Israel Experience, the young adult Christian birthright trip, is giving young people a heart for Israel.





# Feeding Hundreds Each Week in Israel

The latest reports are staggering: 1.8 million people in Israel are living below the poverty line. Almost 1 million of those people are children.

Eagles' Wings is actively engaged in addressing this crisis. With our partners in the land, Eagles' Wings has established

#### **Abraham's Bread Feeding Centers**

in Jerusalem and Tiberias.

Located on busy street corners, these sites operate like a "free restaurant" where "guests" are served at tables, and not left to wait in soup kitchen lines. Young families, new immigrants, and elderly Holocaust survivors dine together in comfort and dignity.



An Ethiopian immigrant family being cared for at the feeding center

In addition to the daily meals, there are also special food boxes that are provided to all in need for Shabbat and special Jewish holidays. These care packages ensure that those in need do not go hungry on days when the center is closed.



Bishop Robert with White House Special Envoy for Combating Anti-Semitism, Elan Carr with key East Coast Jewish and Christian leaders at a special briefing in New York

# Combating Anti-Semitism Globally and Locally

Bishop Stearns was invited to a special by-invitation-only conference, hosted in Jerusalem by the Global Coalition for Israel and the Legal Network, **gathering 300** Jewish and pro-Israel leaders and legal experts from over thirty countries around the world. The four-day gathering featured strategic workshops, as well as presentations by leaders such as President of Israel **Reuven Rivlin,** Public Security Minister of Israel **Gilad Erdan**, U.S. Special Envoy for Combating Anti-Semitism **Elan Carr,** and many more.

In his comments to the global gathering, Special Envoy Carr described a conversation he had with a young man who was a pro-Israel evangelical. That young man was **Matthew from the Eagles' Wings Team** who met Special Envoy Carr at one of our recent events in Los Angeles and impressed him with his passionate stand for Israel and knowledge of the current situation. The following month Special Envoy Carr addressed a select gathering of key Christian leaders in New York City, sharing with them the importance of the Christian church being vocal and active in their stand against Anti-Semitism.

We look forward to these key partnerships continuing to grow in the days to come, for the strengthening of Israel and the Jewish people!



Pro-Israel gathering in Los Angeles



# Christians from across the region march in New York City in Support of Israel

For the sixth year, Bishop Robert Stearns and Eagles' Wings were honored to host the only Christian group marching in the **Celebrate Israel Parade** on June 2 in Manhattan. The parade has been taking place since the 1960s and is one of the largest pro-Israel gatherings in the entire world. However, it wasn't until six years ago that Christians began to march in the parade alongside nearly 40,000 Jewish brothers and sisters.

This year's Christian group consisted of many millennials who have been awakened through Eagles' Wings to the importance of standing with Israel.

As the group passed the main grandstand on the parade route, the announcers shouted, **"We love Christians, we love Eagles' Wings, and we love Robert Stearns!"** The crowd of mostly Jewish observers applauded and cheered, obviously moved deeply as Christians were marching in solidarity in the parade.



# Coast-to-coast Celebrate Israel Events Galvanize Unity

Two dynamic events gathered key members of the Jewish community on the East and West Coasts, respectively, for **Celebrate Israel** events.

The year began with a energy-packed celebration of Jerusalem and shared values at Iglesia Cristiana Koinonia in Los Angeles. Bishop Robert Stearns, Rabbi Pini Dunner, and Mrs. Dina Leeds addressed the crowd as the audience of nearly 1,000 people shouted, cried, and waved flags of the nation of Israel. One of the highlights of the evening was the remarks from Jewish community leader Mrs. Dina Leeds, who shared passionately that the Jewish world is better off with friends like Eagles' Wings and the Christian world. Her remarks were met with cheers and applause.

A few months later another great gathering took place, this time on the East Coast. **New Jersey Celebrates Israel** united Jewish and Christian communities in a beautiful and inspiring evening. Powerful words were spoken by **Pastor Joe Arminio, Sr., Rabbi Marc Schneier,** and **Bishop Stearns.** Special guest, businessman and entrepreneur **Mark Gerson** challenged the audience to be like Joshua and Caleb and stand in agreement once again as the two "spies" and join our voices (Jews and Christians) together on behalf of Israel.





### Bishop Stearns' book translated in Korean, as he addresses International Convocation in Seoul

This year, **Dr. David Yonggi Cho,** the founder of the world's largest church, invited Bishop Robert to participate in his Church Growth International (CGI) Board Meetings with other global leaders at Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea. Inaugurated in 1976, Church Growth International (CGI) is a global institute with the heart of serving and equipping churches across the world and counts in its membership the leaders of some of the largest churches and ministries in the world. Consisting of **pastors and respected leaders from more than** 



twenty-five countries, this conference was attended by tens of thousands of people from North and South America, Europe, Africa, and all parts of Asia.

As part of the meetings, Bishop Robert was asked to share about Israel, and was invited to preach at **Yoido Full Gospel Church Bundang** during the Sunday celebration. Thousands were in attendance as Bishop Robert delivered a powerful word about Israel. Simultaneous to his visit, his acclaimed book *The Cry of Mordecai* was released in Korean.



Top: Pastor Mark Passarella, Joshua Ogle and Bishop Robert Stearns with Dr. David Yonggi Cho's wife; Inset: Bishop Stearns with Richard Roberts, son of Oral Roberts Eagles' Wings team member Mark Passarella addresses a national youth conference in Cebu, the Philippines



# **Transforming Lives in the Philippines**

The sight was unforgettable: 800 youth were crying, rejoicing, and worshiping in the heart of **Cebu City, Philippines,** as Mark Passarella and others from our team sang, preached, and prayed for them.

This was the scene as Eagles' Wings participated in a city-wide youth

# gathering as part of our Philippines outreach.



Some of these youth had grown up living in the most impoverished areas of the city, with no running water and little food. From the time they were small children, the church they were standing in had opened their doors week after week to provide a warm meal and medicine. Our team had been invited to empower these young people, including leaders like Chris. Chris, who was rescued from the streets, had an encounter with God and today is serving and caring for many children of the streets as if he were their big brother or father. It was so beautiful to see a young "spiritual father" in action, just as we have prayed for as a team. Our team had a chance at that moment to encourage him in his ministry.

In addition to speaking at a youth conference, our team served children in the slums of Cebu and visited a rescue mission that cares for young girls as young as one year old and up to sixteen years old who have been rescued from sex trafficking.

These young girls' parents and guardians are in jail for trafficking them. This kind

of trauma at such a young age is unthinkable, and yet when our team visited this center, they saw some of the happiest and most content little girls. Our team was invited to their special center to minister and teach them for two days, but it was the lives of these little girls who showed us the real power of the love of God to transform darkness to light.



Bishop Stearns addresses thousands at Igreja Batista Central in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

# 25,000 impacted in Brazil Speaking Tour

Many young Christians in Brazil were gripped by an awareness of the urgency to pray for and support Israel as Bishop Robert crisscrossed the nation of Brazil on a **dynamic nine-day ministry trip.** In partnership with Pastor Teo Hayashi from Dunamis Movement, Bishop preached at over **a dozen meetings in five different cities.**  Robert addressed **tens of thousands of young believers** in **some of the largest churches in the nation,** as well as at the prestigious **Mackenzie University.** He shared from the book of Esther, challenging the church in Brazil to be like Queen Esther, in praying for and standing with Israel and the Jewish people.



Simultaneous to the trip, Bishop's book *The Cry of Mordecai* was released nationwide in Portuguese *O Grito de Mordecai*, to equip the next generation.

Many hundreds of young Christians downloaded and purchased this and other Eagles' Wings materials in Portuguese during the trip, hungry to learn more.



## Historic Meeting of Christian and Muslim Leaders in Azerbaijan

Bishop Stearns led a delegation of major evangelical leaders from three nations on a strategic visit to the nation of **Azerbaijan for interfaith dialogue and discussion** on the role of religion in the West, and in America in particular. They were joined by a group of key Jewish leaders, making this experience truly historic.

The team was invited to the Presidential Palace to meet with **His Excellency**, **President Ilham Aliyev.** Once the initial greetings took place, the President sat with them at his giant conference table and welcomed them, and discussed his hopes for their trip.



The President was genuine and spoke from the heart. He shared about

Azerbaijan's **commitment to religious liberty and mutual respect** among the various religions. This is especially amazing given the fact that the country is 96% Muslim and primarily Shiite.

He shared concern about areas of our world where Islamic extremism has taken hold and how his country is committed to not allowing these extremist forces to take root in Azerbaijan. The assembled leaders were also amazed and encouraged to hear of the unabashed support and friendship that this Muslim majority nation extends towards Israel.

The group then participated in the International Conference and Exhibition on **"From Interreligious and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue Towards**  **Cooperation,"** which welcomed over 150 religious leaders as delegates. Already, plans are being discussed for another Jewish-Christian group to return to Azerbaijan to continue discussions and deepen the relationships that were established in this unprecedented journey.





## **Strengthening Support for Israel in Germany**

This summer Bishop Robert spent a week in Germany teaching in several different cities on the importance of standing with Israel. He attended a conference with over 300 believers in **Heidelberg at Die Taube church** (pictured below). The event gathered evangelicals from across that region. He also spoke at the famous **Missionswerk** congregation led by television host, author and international speaker, **Rev. Daniel Mueller.** The impact of that trip continued into the fall as one of the key next-generation leadership couples came to the States and spent a week at the Eagles' Wings offices building relationship and learning more about the work we are doing.

There is a growing group of Christians across Germany being mobilized to support Israel, and we are planning to bring a group from Germany to Israel soon.



### **Focus/Outlook**

Through all our ministry efforts, the nations of the earth–literally–are receiving the blessing of this message about Israel. Brazil, Germany, South Korea, and so many other places around the globe are coming to understand the special love God has for His covenant people.

This year will be a year of advancement in many areas, but specifically in these four critical issues.

### **1. ABRAHAM'S BREAD**

Through our two Abraham's Bread Feeding Centers, we will continue **feeding hundreds of Israelis every week.** Jews, Muslims, Holocaust survivors, new immigrants–whoever is in need.

#### 2. MILLENNIAL PASTORS TO ISRAEL

We will continue to work to secure America's position with Israel by **bringing next-generation pastors to the Holy Land**–where they are introduced, usually for the first time, to the people, story, and Land of Israel, and very often, to the God of Israel in a fuller and deeper way. Each one of these trips that we have taken is already producing extraordinary fruit in the lives and churches of these pastors.

#### 3. BELIEVERS TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL, IN ISRAEL

Through our Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem, we will continue to **turn the hearts of millions towards Jerusalem** in prayer and intercession. We are also helping to facilitate thousands to come to Jerusalem every year on our Watchmen Tours and for the Awake Jerusalem gathering.

#### 4. TRAIN AND EQUIP FOR JERUSALEM-BASED CHRISTIANITY

We will also continue to **equip Christians around the world** to understand the centrality of Israel and Jerusalem in both our biblical worldview and in current events today.

# What Leaders Are Saying



"Robert Stearns and Eagles' Wings are making a great difference in the world today. With

30 years of experience under his belt, Robert has proven his trustworthiness as a leader. I don't know of an organization that is more strategic for the world today than that of Robert Stearns and Eagles' Wings."

~ Jack Hayford, The Foursquare Church



"I am so excited about this history-making opportunity led by Robert Stearns."

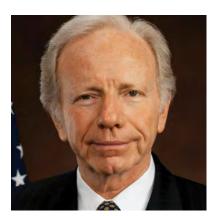
~ T.D. Jakes, Senior Pastor, The Potter's House



"Through Eagles' Wings, we're seeing African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and all races

coming together and saying we're all committed to the Peace of Jerusalem, we're all committed to Israel and the Jewish people."

~ Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference



"Robert Stearns challenges us to recognize and confront forces of extremism

that threaten the values of freedom and opportunity around the world."

~ Joseph Lieberman, United States Senate



"I am encouraged by the efforts being made by Robert Stearns to educate Americans on

the serious threat of radical Islam. He is raising up educated ambassadors to take a stand for truth and our shared Judeo-Christian values."

~ Minister Gilad Erdan, Minister of Public Security and Strategic Affairs for the State of Israel



"The work of Robert Stearns and Eagles' Wings is supremely important at a time when Israel

is being denounced and delegitimized throughout much of the world."

~ Dr. Michael Oren, Former Knesset member and Deputy Minister, Prime Minister's Office



"What Eagles' Wings is doing, is absolutely crucial to the future success of our country.

Eagles' Wings is not only a source of strength to the people and State of Israel but will have a lasting and positive effect against the current rise of Anti-Semitism that is growing nationally."

#### ~ Elan Carr

White House Special Envoy for Combating Anti-Semitism

## Donations

If this report has touched your heart and you believe in the impact we are making together, then would you partner with us by making a donation to continue and increase these efforts in 2020?



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