

# BRIDGES FOR PEACE



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## Israeli Engineers Develop Mobile Bomb Shelters



With residents of Sderot and its surroundings suffering a daily Kassam missile bombardment from the Gaza Strip, Israeli ingenuity has developed a solution to try to make life for residents as normal as possible—mobile bomb shelters. “We came up with the concept of these portable shelters that can be deployed and redeployed as security needs change,” said Josh Adler, the cofounder of Operation Lifeshield, a new organization behind the initiative.

Currently, the only mobile air-raid shelters designed to meet the strict requirements of Israel’s Home Front Command, the 42-ton steel reinforced shelters called “LifeShields” were designed in coordination with the Command and an Israeli engineering firm in Bet She’an. Adler and his partner in the endeavor, recent American immigrant Shep Alster, were volunteering in the north of Israel during last summer’s Second Lebanon War when they saw the need for mobile shelters.

“War broke out, and we went up north to distribute food. During that process, we became aware of the acute lack of shelters in general and the complete lack of shelters in the open area. There’s no place to take cover in the open,” he explained. So, Adler, who has lived in Israel since 1976 and works in the building business, decided to do something about it.

“The main idea here is to have them spread out in places where people are caught out in the open. It’s designed to save lives where there is no shelter. We needed something that could be done quickly, efficiently, and could be redeployable. Redeployability was definitely a major player here. We needed something that could be built in a factory and brought on a crane very quickly,” Adler told ISRAEL21c.

While portable shelters have existed for many years, they were rare and outdated, and none could meet the Home Front Command’s rigid requirements. With the shelters designed, however, Adler and Alster realized that funding was not available for the municipalities in question, like Sderot, to purchase them.

That led them to Operation LifeShield. Modeled on the Magen David Adom model in which people can donate ambulances to Israel’s emergency services, Operation LifeShield enables interested parties to donate the shelters.

What’s the secret behind these unique shelters? “One of the main features that has become a requirement is a material called “flexdek,” a 1.2 mm-thick galvanized kind of sheeting. It’s placed in with the concrete and becomes a part of the concrete. That adds an extra 15–20% of strength,” reports Adler.


Each shelter is inspected and certified by a licensed concrete inspection laboratory, a structural engineer, and a licensed electrician. These transportable shelters can prevent the penetration of bullets, shrapnel, and missile fragments, as well as withstand a direct hit from some types of missiles.


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While currently only deployed in Israel, Adler says that the device has already piqued the interest of other organizations. "We've had some interest from the UN," he said, noting that officials visited the Israeli factory that makes LifeShields. "People have expressed the feeling that this could be used around the world."

In addition to LifeShields, Adler is already busy on his next project—a fortified bus stop shelter. The bus stop shelter "looks and functions like a regular bus stop, but can withstand a direct hit from a Kassam missile. It also has a little inner room that can hold 8-10 people. The idea is to have these bus stops spread throughout busy streets," explained Adler, adding that the Home Front Command has approved of the design.

Though the Operation LifeShield shelters and bus stops cannot provide Sderot and other communities with peace, it can offer them peace of mind. "It's designed to save lives," said Adler. [For more information about Operation LifeShield go to <http://operationlifeshield.com/home.aspx>]

(Excerpts of an article by Avi Hein, Israel21c, May 30, 2007)

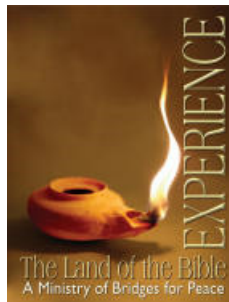
**Prayer Focus**

Pray that God will raise up sponsors to support this project and make communities like Sderot safer. Praise God for all the ways He provides safety for His people.

**Scripture**

*"Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked"* (Psalm 82:4).

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