

Pilgrim 2018:

In 2018, Elida made a similar voyage to Israel for the first time. Along with us on board we had more than 50 people who wanted to stand with us in this manifestation, private individuals and clergy as well as journalists and politicians. The reception we received was overwhelming and far beyond anything we could have ever imagined, with open doors to both ordinary Israelis on the street and authorities at the national level, not to mention domestic media.

We were able to meet with hundreds of Israelis who came to visit Elida, we were invited to both the Foreign Ministry and the Knesset (Parliament), as well as to the Swedish Embassy, we held open concerts with our own music team, we were invited to the home of Armenian Christians in the Old City of Jerusalem, we participated in multiple TV shows and newspaper interviews, we visited and were able to encourage people in the city of Ashdod, on the border to Gaza – and so much more.

The very fact that we arrived from Sweden, which for so long has cultivated frosty diplomatic relations with Israel, along with the fact we came simply to show love, encouragement and friendship, proved to mean a great deal.