



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

THE TIME TO STAND FIRM

“FOR THUS SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, ‘ONCE MORE IN A LITTLE WHILE, I AM GOING TO SHAKE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, THE SEA ALSO AND THE DRY LAND. I WILL SHAKE ALL THE NATIONS; AND THEY WILL COME WITH THE WEALTH OF ALL NATIONS, AND I WILL FILL THIS HOUSE WITH GLORY,’ SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.”

HAGGAI 2:6-7



THE TIME TO STAND FIRM

INTERNATIONAL



PETE STUCKEN
CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL BOARD

Haggai's prophecy of shaking (see above) has often been quoted this year. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a shaking of everything familiar and routine: work and leisure, sport and the arts, business and economic activity, transport and travel, meeting with family, friends, prayer groups and congregations. Its effect has been truly worldwide, in line with Haggai's prophecy of a shaking of all nations. He also prophesied a shaking of the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. We haven't seen that in this current shaking. There is more to come in times ahead.

"His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.' This expression, 'Yet once more,' denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:26-29

The letter to Hebrews quotes from Haggai's prophecy and points out a profound effect of the shakings: a highlighting of things which remain unshaken (Heb. 12:27). There are things upon which shakings have no effect; they stand amidst the troubles and the turmoil. We are seeing that now: among things that cannot be shaken is the regathering of the Jewish people to Israel. This is the Lord's holy purpose and it will be fulfilled. The way of the Lord will be prepared. A path will be cleared even through the wilderness and highways will be open for the Jewish people to return. This is unshakeable.

We've seen aliyah proceed despite daunting obstacles. To the surprise of many, the aliyah gates into Israel



have remained open during the pandemic. Reduced flights and strict quarantine rules presented new hurdles but aliyah permits continued to be granted and olim kept on coming. From Russia, Ukraine, USA, Ethiopia and many nations the exiles continued to come home. Our Israel team was stretched to capacity. Carrying permits supplied by the Jewish Agency, they were out on the streets during lockdown, distributing food parcels and vouchers for basic necessities to needy olim in quarantine.

We watch for that which stands solid through the shakings. On 25 April, while Europe was under lockdown, the San Remo Declaration centenary was commemorated online across the world. For those with ears to hear, a proclamation of God's faithfulness to Israel was being trumpeted across the nations. Exactly one hundred years ago, as the principal allied powers met in San Remo, Italy, the Zionist vision of a Jewish homeland in the ancient land of Israel became established in international law.

At a time when the legitimacy of the State of Israel is being resisted in many quarters, the plans and purposes of the God of Israel stand firm. He continues to oversee the most extraordinary ingathering of an exiled people

Participants at the San Remo Conference after the adoption of the 1920 resolution, which incorporated the Balfour Declaration of 1917.

“For thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Haggai 2:6-7

that the world has ever witnessed. Some 2,000 years after they were scattered progressively to the four corners of the earth, He who scattered them is very deliberately and lovingly regathering His ancient covenant people. The Land of Israel is promised to them, set apart and prepared for them. This is unshakeable and will remain.

Some Jewish communities outside of Israel appear to have been disproportionately afflicted by COVID-19 and its accompanying suffering, anguish and bereavement. Then close on the heels of the pandemic came civil unrest and economic distress. While the comfort and security of Jewish communities in the Diaspora is being visibly shaken, Israel is seen to be dealing with the challenges comparatively effectively. It begins to present an attractive alternative. Now a New York rabbi proclaims Israel as the rightful home for all Jews. Long-held assumptions of a secure future in the United States and Europe are being shaken to the core.

Israel’s Minister for Aliyah and Integration, Pnina Tamano-Shata, and Jewish Agency Chair Isaac Herzog both foresee a major wave of immigrants ahead. Ebenezer prayer partners across the nations sense this wave-building. Our task is to prepare in practical ways and intensive prayer over the aliyah highways.

Prayer surely stands out among the things that remain in the midst of shaking. Not only does it remain but within Ebenezer we’ve seen it become visibly stronger. The technology of online meetings has allowed us to connect and draw together in a new way, both in our countries and across the world. This has brought with it a powerful sense of unity and a strengthened commitment to prepare and to pray. We are many nations but one instrument in His hands for the aliyah. This is a picture of things to come!

The regathering of the Jewish people is a very integral part of that Kingdom which cannot be shaken. We serve in it joyfully with reverence and awe.

KEY WORDS

Aliyah is the word for the immigration of Jewish people from the Diaspora to the Land of Israel. The word in Hebrew means ascent and is defined as ‘going up’ – progressing towards Jerusalem.

Olim means Jewish immigrants to Israel – those making **aliyah**. In the singular, a male immigrant is called an **oleh** and a female immigrant an **olah**. Potential olim are those our teams contact and encourage to make aliyah.

Klith concerns the absorption of **olim** after they have arrived in Israel. It includes all aspects of integrating into society, including learning Hebrew, finding employment and housing, school enrolment and serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).



A family from Moldova making aliyah in May.

SPECIAL FLIGHT FROM TASHKENT

UZBEKISTAN



ZHANNA
UZBEKISTAN LEADER

Due to the coronavirus lockdown, the aliyah flight from Uzbekistan had been cancelled several times but finally permission was given and the olim were on their way!

There were 23 of them booked on the flight from Tashkent to Tel Aviv and because of the pandemic they were concerned that they might not be able to make aliyah at all. However, God had other plans and because a number of Israelis were given permission to travel home, the olim were allowed to go on the same flight!

They had to get to the airport for a 3 a.m. check-in. Normally this would not have been a problem but because of the lockdown nobody in Tashkent was supposed to leave home during night hours. However, again the Lord had things in hand: because the Israelis leaving Uzbekistan had been given permission to travel at night all the other passengers on the same flight could travel too.

We arrived at the airport with the olim in time for check-in and it was completely deserted. Even the escalator wasn't working so we rolled up our sleeves and began to carry all the luggage up the stairs. The olim, who had travelled from different areas, were very tired and because their flight had been cancelled and rescheduled several times the previous evening, they were very nervous, wondering if they were finally going to be allowed to leave. However, we felt God's peace and joy in the situation and encouraged them the best way we could, believing that all would be well.

We explained to them that not only had God sent the plane and made a way for them to leave, despite the lockdown, but there were security and medical staff available for them too. They were encouraged by this and we were able to bring comfort to every heart waiting to fulfil God's call to go home to the Promised Land.



Photos top left & right: Vladimir & Dilea with their daughter.

Bottom left: Delivering stationary to the 5 girls 12 years ago.



They started to relax as they began to understand what we were saying.

One of the families in the group was Vladimir and Dilea and one of their daughters. Four other daughters were already living in Israel, while one is staying in Uzbekistan for the time being. We first met them all 12 years earlier through the school stationery project, which provides materials for children starting a new school year. Vladimir and Dilea were not interested in going to Israel at that time, saying it was not their country and that Dilea's mother, who had already made aliyah, was not very happy there. However, we kept encouraging them and in 2017 they went to 'spy out the Land' for themselves.

On their return they made the decision that their family would indeed be better off in Israel and so they began to bring their documents together in readiness for their application. To our great joy, their four daughters who made aliyah did so on their own in September last year and now it was Vladimir and Dilea's turn with their fifth daughter. They were originally booked to go in June but on hearing of the earlier May flight, they opted for that and were given permission. Their eldest daughter, who is married with two children, intends to make aliyah in the near future.

Another family leaving in May was that of Semion and Eugenia. They had originally been booked to make aliyah in March,

when Eugenia was seven months pregnant, but that flight had been cancelled. In May she was almost due and in normal circumstances would not have been allowed on the flight but these were far from normal circumstances and the Lord was obviously enabling them to be on that flight — the right time for their aliyah.

The Lord provided for their needs in a wonderful way and we helped them with some of their financial needs and by carrying their bags at the airport. What a privilege it was for us to do that for them and to be part of His amazing prophecies! We give thanks for His faithfulness and pray that His holy name will be glorified through it all!



Photo right: Semion & Eugenia, happy to be flying before the imminent arrival of their baby.

Photo left: Zhanna helping Adyl, Shaknoza and baby Abraham at Tashkent airport with their belongings.

'YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO US

UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

Over the springtime several families about to leave Ukraine for Israel found themselves in difficult circumstances: they had no money for food.

The first three months of the year saw hardships for many people, not least those olim waiting for aliyah flights. Some had been delayed by the pandemic lockdown. Others had had problems submitting documents to the Israeli consul, while some found themselves separated from family members due to the virus restrictions.

One of these families was that of Alexandra and her disabled daughter, whose aliyah dreams were cut short due to the sudden cancelation of flights. They were desperate, without any income, like so many people. They had given up jobs, expecting to make aliyah any moment when suddenly they found they were unable to leave Ukraine and left without any financial means of support.

Alexandra felt embarrassed but mustered up courage to ask Ebenezer for some food. *'You have done so much for us already,'* she said, *'but we have nothing to eat. Please will you help us survive until we can make aliyah.'* How could we refuse to help in such a situation! So we delivered some food to their home. *'My daughter says you have been sent to us by God,'* exclaimed Alexandra, her voice trembling with emotion.

Tatiana was another lady who rang us with an urgent problem. She and her husband were in the process of gathering documents for their consular appointment. He had gone to Donetsk to procure some more when travel restrictions were suddenly imposed and he could not get back. *'My children and I have nothing to eat,'* Tatiana told us despairingly. She had run out of money as well as food and didn't know what

to do. We were not able to bring her husband home but we took Tatiana some food, which was very gratefully received. She was deeply touched by our care.

Twenty years ago we met two brothers, their father and grandfather, and told them about the possibility of making aliyah. The grandfather, Lazarus, had received our message and encouraged his son and grandsons to think about it seriously. However, Dmitry, one of the brothers, would not consider it. The father and grandfather sadly passed away and Dmitry and his disabled brother were left alone.

Suddenly we received a call from Dmitry's brother asking for help. When we visited this time Dmitry was much more positive, saying: *'Yanya, I remember you. You came to see us 20 years ago and shared about Israel. My grandfather would often tell us that you spoke the truth. Sadly, he has passed away, and my father too. My brother and I have no relatives here and our life has become difficult. I was wrong*



Yanya meeting
Alexandra

BY GOD!

Yanya. I made a mistake and chose to remain in this slum. But my brother remembered you. Imagine that! All these years my brother kept your phone number in his head. Our grandfather urged him to remember it so that we could contact you if we were in need. He was positive you would never refuse us help and here you are with food for us.'

Dmitry bowed his head low and then said, 'I am so sorry we have to ask, but we need help; there is no one else.' After giving him some food and saying goodbye, I turned and said, 'Think about going to Israel and pass our greetings to your brother.' 'Oh,' he said, 'he's looking at you now out of the window. He will be scolding me for not wearing one of those masks that prevents infection, but I have no money to buy one.' 'Make the right choice Dmitry,' I said, 'Go to Israel. We will help you.'

A couple, Eugene and Svetlana, intended to apply for aliyah in March.

However, their plans stopped when travel restrictions came in due to the pandemic. They had three children, each with their own families who were planning to follow their parents a little later. One of their daughters had a 13-year-old son with a physical disability and she had been dismissed from her job when her employer found out that her parents were going to Israel! She and her son had had to move in with Eugene and Svetlana and so four people were sharing an apartment and living on pensions!

Svetlana's voice trembled as she told us they lacked basic essentials. Again we met their needs and believe God will not abandon them.

Israel is God's home for all these dear ones. As we try to reach out to help Jewish families in their difficult circumstances, we pray the Lord will lead us and guide us to those who are in need of care and assistance.



Yanya with Eugene and Svetlana and their daughter and grandson.



HAPPY OUTCOME FOR COMPLEX ALIYAH

ISRAEL



RAFI HEUMANN
DELEGATE AT KEREN
HAYESOD - UIA

Rafi Heumann works with Keren Hayesod United Israel Appeal, the worldwide fundraising organisation for Israel, created in London in 1920 to serve as the fundraising arm of the Jewish people and the Zionist movement. Here he tells us about one family they helped to make aliyah:

Igor and Maria, along with their son, Ivan and Igor's elderly father, Vladimir, flew from Kiev, Ukraine, to Israel in June. They were very grateful for the assistance they received because their aliyah was not straightforward. Eight-year-old Ivan has autism, which can make unusual trips extremely difficult for him to cope with, causing his behaviour to change in difficult ways. Maria, although well educated with a diploma in foreign affairs, spent her time at home taking care of him.

Vladimir had his own problems. He'd had a stroke some years ago, was in a wheelchair, needed medical permission and a guarantee from the airline that he could have a whole row of seats to lie down on if he needed to.

They wanted to make aliyah and went to the Jewish Agency for guidance and to start learning Hebrew. Although their needs were complex, the JA coordinators did their best to put together a good absorption programme and by March this year they had their documents prepared and were ready to make aliyah. But then what had affected so many olim happened: the coronavirus pandemic struck Ukraine and everything was in lockdown, so the family couldn't go anywhere.

After some weeks the Jewish Agency received the green light and suddenly the aliyah flight was on again. 'Our knowledge of Hebrew is not extensive,' said Igor and Maria, 'but we want to say 'Toda Raba' (thank you) to the wonderful people at the Jewish Agency and to the donor organisations who sponsored all this help.'

Maria continued: 'I keep crying when I think of all this support that we've received in the recent year. Even today, Christian people who support aliyah came at 5 a.m. to pick us up and helped us with our special needs. We will remember this forever... we are so happy to be going to Israel! The dream is finally coming true!'

'The dream is finally coming true' for Igor, Maria and Ivan (left), and for Vladimir (right, in wheelchair) who is being greeted by a Jewish Agency emissary.





SPREADING THE ALIYAH MESSAGE

Our Ebenezer team in South America visited Argentina. Here they tell of things that happened and their contacts with the Jewish community:

We began in the city of Mar del Plata near Buenos Aires and decided to make it our base while in Argentina. Our first meeting made quite an impact on those we spoke to and many of them had tears in their eyes as they thanked us for what we were doing for the Jewish community in Argentina and around the world. They invited us to their Shabbat meal after which one person came and asked for help to make aliyah.

The next day we travelled about 100 km to the town of Tandil, where there was a small Jewish community of about 30 families. There a woman requested our help in solving a problem with her son's aliyah documents as they weren't quite what the Jewish Agency needed. We were pleased to be able to do this and then moved on to the town of Necochea, where we held a prayer meeting in the home of the Ebenezer coordinators for that area. They told us that

50 years ago there was some persecution of Jews and the community had fled to the city of Miramar, about 50 km from Mar del Plata, where they still live today.

Back in Mar del Plata we were visiting a Jewish bookstore near Ebenezer's office when a rabbi overheard our conversation and expressed interest in what we were doing. He asked us to make a three-minute video about Ebenezer's ministry, which he could upload to his social network as it has 30,000 Jewish followers! It was a fruitful visit.

Some weeks later one Argentinian family in particular gave testimony to our help. Ezekiel, Miriam and their son Benjamin said they had felt for years the need to make aliyah after seeing the situation in Argentina deteriorating. Someone had told them about Ebenezer and after making contact they were put on one of the last flights out before the pandemic caused the borders to be closed. They were so grateful and when they got to Israel, we received a message from them saying: 'Today we are living our dream!'

ARGENTINA



**RAUL ROUILLE
BOARD CHAIRMAN,
ARGENTINA**

Our visit to Argentina was a fruitful time.



AMERICAN JEWS LOOKING TO ISRAEL

USA



JOHN PROSSER
PRESIDENT & CEO USA

“In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people.” Isaiah 11:11

At the beginning of this year we clearly heard from the Lord that Operation Exodus USA was entering a new season—that this year would be the beginning of a massive aliyah from our nation and around the world.

I could not have envisioned that, against the backdrop of COVID-19, God would bring about a paradigm shift that would forever alter American Jews’ perception of Israel. The calamity of this insidious virus, with great loss of life in Jewish communities, has turned the hearts of Jewish people toward Israel—for many, the first time in their lives.

An article written by Rabbi Elchanan Poupko, president of EITAN-The American-Israeli Jewish Network in New York City, recently caught my attention. He wrote in part, *‘The difference between the situation of Jews in the Diaspora and those in Israel during the corona pandemic has led to a change in the way Diaspora Jews look at the Jewish state... If there is one thing we know about the post-*

coronavirus era that connects with the post-WWII era, it is that we have no idea what the world will look like. ...One thing we do know for certain: The Aliyah apocalypse is coming...’

As life continues to become more unsettled in our nation and throughout the world, the growing momentum of change will bring about a tsunami of aliyah as Jewish people from all over the world return to their God-given land, Israel.

As we continue to forge ahead in these dangerous and unprecedented times, much prayer, deeper prayer, and deeper commitment are required of each one of us. Aliyah is not a man-made work; it is a holy work that only God can bring about. He is stretching out His hand a second time to re-gather His people home.

It is a privilege to partner with God in this end-time prophetic work. What an honour it is for me to serve God together with you. Thank you for your faithful and generous support. May God continue to prosper you and your families with His divine health, protection, and provision. May your hearts be filled with His shalom.

Left - Lanie: ‘We are a family of six that has always loved the Land of Israel... and want to live among our people.’



Right - Carmel: ‘I want to defend my homeland and for my three children to grow up in the land of their forefathers.’



GATEKEEPERS OF GOD'S WORD

Is prayer for aliyah from the nations really that important? With so many scriptures stating that God will do it, isn't it already a sure thing? Shouldn't we just roll up our sleeves and get to work with the numerous practical needs?

Let us turn to the Scriptures for our answers. The writings of Daniel provide insight. Daniel was in Babylon; he had been carried away from Jerusalem with the first wave of exiles around 605 BC. Finally, in 586 BC the temple was destroyed and most of the Jews had been taken to Babylon.

Close to 70 years later it is written: "... I, Daniel understood from the books according to the word of ADONAI to Jeremiah the prophet, the number of years for the fulfilling of the desolation of Jerusalem would be 70 years." (Daniel 9:2b). It was written! It was the word of **ADONAI!** It was a sure thing and yet Daniel responds: "So I set my face to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications..." (Daniel 9:3a).

Now we understand through many other scriptures that it is time for an even greater

aliyah than from Babylon. Our response? Like Daniel we turn to the Lord in prayer and supplication, bringing His Word to Him with thanksgiving and confidence. He has placed us as 'watchmen' or 'gatekeepers' to agree in prayer with what He has already said He will do!

So find an aliyah scripture and use it in prayer. Do it in your prayer time at home; do it while walking or driving; find a prayer partner for double power; join a prayer group dedicated to praying for aliyah. There is a place for each of us.

Let us pray:

- ✓ Declare Micah 2:13 for aliyah breakthroughs in your nation or another nation. Apply it to literal gates such as airports as well as many forms of opposition, including the pandemic.
- ✓ Declare Psalm 24:9-10 for the full opening of the gates into Israel.
- ✓ Pray and speak Jeremiah 32:41 over the Jewish people as they come out and go in.

He makes us joyful in His house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7)!

PRAYER



QUAY MESSNER
PRAYER
COORDINATOR, USA



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

BE READY

ONLINE CONFERENCE 2020

Tuesday 10 - Saturday 14 November

Shalom

We hoped to be able to meet in Jerusalem for our International Conference later this year. Instead, we invite you to participate in an online conference. The theme is **'Be ready!'**

Conference will include:

- Online prayer meetings
- Interactive seminars
- Teaching and testimonies from the aliyah work in the nations
- Prophetic input to help prepare us for the coming wave of aliyah.

For further information and to register, write to: conference@ebenezer-ef.org

THE URGENCY FOR ALIYAH

ISRAEL



LISSA SMITH
ISRAEL TEAM

Christians and Jews from the nations are reading the signs of the times and urging the Jewish people to emigrate to Israel.

Rabbi Wallerstein, founder of a seminary in Brooklyn, stated that America is 'not for us' anymore. 'All of us, we all need to get out of here... Hashem, help us.'

Rising anti-Semitism is causing alarm. In 2019 American Jews experienced 2,000 acts of assault, vandalism and harassment, including 96 violent assaults, 5 fatal. In the UK 1,805 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded last year, with a 25 per cent increase in violent assaults. In Europe, 53 synagogues and 28 community centres and schools were attacked in 2019. Forty-one per cent of Jews aged 16-34 considered emigrating from Europe because of anti-Semitism.

Waves of anti-Semitism have brought an increase in applications for aliyah. Over 1,320 American Jews have begun the aliyah process in 2020 compared to 561 at this time last year. In France 2,000 people registered for aliyah this past May, compared to 200 in May 2019. Some 60,000 people have registered their interest in making aliyah from the former Soviet Union.

'We need to prepare for a huge wave of immigration to Israel,' says Jewish Agency chairman Isaac Herzog. 'Our cautious estimate is that we will see a wave of 100,000 Jews moving to Israel in the next two years.' He also notes a decrease in contributions from overseas and calls for serious preparation.

Ebenezer is standing in the gap, offering advice, practical support and financial assistance. Jewish immigrants are surprised that Gentile believers are helping them. It is a meaningful opportunity to build bridges, as Gentiles have the privilege of fulfilling their biblical role in the coming wave of aliyah.

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders...' (Isaiah 49:22).



Protests against anti-Semitism in New York in January earlier this year.

Our vision is to be servants and intercessors of the Lord, to help the Jewish people return to the land of Israel from all the nations and to proclaim God's Kingdom purposes for their return.

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Operation Exodus is the operational part of Ebenezer Emergency Fund International.
Started in 1991 with just three people, it now has representatives in 50 countries worldwide.



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