

MIRACLE

EBENEZER OPERATION EXODUS

OF BNEI MENASHE RETURN



"I WILL BRING YOU FROM THE NATIONS AND GATHER YOU FROM THE COUNTRIES WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN SCATTERED—WITH A MIGHTY HAND AND AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM..."

EZEKIEL 20:34 (NIV)





INTERNATIONAL

PETE STUCKEN CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL BOARD

hirty years ago, in January 1991, the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem was host to a prayer conference. There was a seriousness about the 120 delegates who had come to Jerusalem from 24 nations. Their theme was the biblical call to "stand in the gap before Me for the land" (Ezekiel 22:30). They came despite the threat of war. At times they found themselves wearing gas masks and confined to sealed shelter rooms as Saddam Hussein launched scud missiles at Jerusalem. It didn't deter them. This was the atmosphere in which Ebenezer was born.

The Lord chose an unlikely moment to speak to Gustav Scheller, His servant He entrusted to launch this ministry: "Now you can begin helping my people to go home." This was confirmed and the ensuing offering became the seed money for Ebenezer's first aliyah work.

Resilient faith, struggles, prayer and more prayer, setbacks, victories and miracles became some of the hallmarks of the fledgling work. In his testimony of the early years* Gustav mentions prayer no less than 113 times. Gustav, his wife Elsa and those with them learned the vital importance of prayer and it became the cornerstone, the central foundation of Ebenezer's involvement in the modern-day aliyah.

With his heart prepared by Steve Lightle sharing his startling 1974 vision of the release of the Soviet Jews and equipped through Steve's mentoring from the Scriptures, Gustav knew that he would encounter miracles. Long ago, in the exodus from Egypt, that first great aliyah of God's covenant people, there had been a dramatic judgment on the demonic gods of Egypt and mighty miracles of deliverance for the children of Israel. Finally the Red Sea had parted to let them through, while their pursuers met with utter destruction.

"...the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm, and with great terror, and with signs and wonders..." Deuteronomy 26:8

In Gustav's testimony* we read: "...
Then came the miracle we had prayed for ..." (Chapter 2); "We need a miracle..." (Chapter 5); "... it was like a miracle..." (Chapter 8). The God of Israel continues to work miracles for the return of His people.

All the glory is His alone! Ebenezer has never been anything other than a humble servant and participant in His revealed purposes. Aliyah brings glory to His holy name and we've learned not to get in the way. The glory must be His and His alone (Psalm 115:1).

Now, 30 years on, we rejoice, give praise to the faithful God of Israel, and give thanks for how He has consistently sustained us in our calling. He has enabled us to help a multitude of olim back to the land in a profound fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy: from lands near and far, we have heard the call. We've witnessed the Lord lifting up His hand to the nations and set up a standard to the peoples; we have seen the signal and have responded. We have brought Israel's sons in our arms and carried Israel's daughters on our shoulders (Isaiah 49:22).



Top photos: Steve Lightle welcoming olim home in 1991.
Left to right: Gunnar Olson from ICCC (International Christian Chamber of Commerce), Steve Lightle, Keren Hayesod (KH) representative and Gustav Scheller receiving certificates of thanks from KH.

Bottom: Wearing gas masks during the International Prayer Conference in Jerusalem in 1991 during the first Gulf war.



Do we allow ourselves to rest on the record of the past 30 years? May it never be. While we celebrate with thanksgiving and joy all that the Lord has done, we position ourselves soberly for what lies ahead.

From a biblical perspective the first 30 years represent a preparatory period. Thirty was a qualifying age for serving in roles of responsibility. Tabernacle service began only at 30. Joseph was 30 when he stood in front of Pharaoh. David was 30 when he became king. When He began His ministry, Yeshua - Jesus - "was about thirty years of age..." (Luke 3:23).

Ebenezer is 30 years old and ready to serve more than ever. In front of us lies a transition into a further stage of maturity as an instrument in the Lord's hands. He has been preparing our hearts for this. We can enter only by faith and in humility.

Ahead of us will be yet more and greater challenges, difficulties and miraculous answers to prayer as the mighty exodus from the nations gathers momentum.

"Therefore behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "when they will no longer say, 'As the Lord lives, who brought the sons

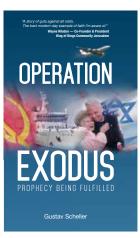
of Israel up from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up and led the descendants of the household of Israel back from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.' Then they will live on their own soil." Jeremiah 23:7-8

Prior to the exodus from Egypt the Lord judged the false gods of the Egyptians and this brought great calamities and upheaval to the whole nation. Will the pattern be similar in times ahead? Will the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, judge the false gods of the nations while releasing His people in an accelerating mass aliyah? He is sovereign over all things.

"As I live," declares the Lord God,
"...I will bring you out from the peoples
and gather you from the lands where you
are scattered, with a mighty hand and
with an outstretched arm and with wrath
poured out ..." Ezekiel 20:34 (NIV)

The call to be ready resonates in our ears as we mark this 30th year. Ready to serve, ready to lay aside other things, ready to deny ourselves and follow Him, the author and finisher of our faith; ready to step into this next crucial stage of our serving His purposes in the days in which we live.





*Operation Exodus by Gustav Scheller. This book is available from your national Ebenezer office.

Top & Bottom:
A NEW GENERATION OF OLIM!
A young family of Bnei Menashe
who recently made aliyah from
India with help of Shavei Israel
and support from EOE. This
family will have the opportunity to
to live and grow up in the home
of their forefathers. See page 9.
Thank you dear supporters!





RUSSIA

BORIS VASYUKOV RIISSIA NATIONAL COORDINATOR

ALIYAH IN 2020

According to The Jewish Agency, approximately 20,000 olim from nearly 70 countries arrived in Israel in 2020 despite the limitations on international travel.

"A wonderful thing happened to us - 20,000 Jews immigrated to the State of Israel during this pandemic year. Twenty thousand people who were ready to leave everything behind, in a challenging period of global turmoil, to come build a new life in Israel," said Isaac Herzog, Chairman of the Executive of The Jewish Agency.

Over 10,000 of these new olim arrived from former Soviet Union countries, with our Ebenezer teams in this region assisting over 4,600 of them. We give the Lord all the glory.

> Children who were part of the early wave of aliyah from Russia in the 1990s.

congratulates all loyal friends of **Ebenezer Operation Exodus, its** prayer, financial partners and workers, our 30th anniversary! We thank the Lord that throughout all these years He has been a faithful inspirer of all our deeds, a defender and provider of our ministry. This has resulted in Him being a stone of help for hundreds of thousands of Jews from all over the world who have made aliyah and we look forward to Him bringing many, many more home to the Promised Land.

Ebenezer Russia started work in 1995 in the most distant region of our vast country - the Far East. It was a time of great upheaval. The Soviet Union was in ruin, on the verge of complete economic collapse with anarchy and banditry reigning. Neo-fascists marched through city streets in brown shirts with swastikas on their sleeves. But it was also the time when the great wave of aliyah happened in Russia.

Every day hundreds of poorly dressed Jews from the Far East with many suitcases and bags, with cats and dogs, came to Khabarovsk to make aliyah. Once a day a plane filled with olim took

at Ben Gurion. Tel Aviv's airport.

At every stage of this exodus the Jews met the sincere love and real help of Christians. They met every person who had come to Khabarovsk. The repatriates spent their last day in Russia in a hotel, paid for them by Christians, who also arranged a banquet that evening, where they were told about God's eternal love for each of them. They also asked for their forgiveness for the centuries-old persecution of Jews by those who called themselves 'Christians'. There were tears and great joy.

This was the start of Ebenezer's ministry in Russia. From the Far East it spread to Siberia (Novosibirsk office), the Urals (Yekaterinburg office), Central Russia (Moscow office), the North Caucasus (Pyatigorsk office) and the southern Federal district (Rostov office).

Today the Ebenezer Fund in Russia is a strong, experienced, Godfervent team, eager to multiply what God started in Khabarovsk and help many more Jewish people that still remain in Russia to make aliyah.



VELCOME TO HAIFA PO hen you serve in such a dynamically safely boarded, we suddenly realised that developing ministry as Ebenezer, God was doing great things! Many of our UKRAINE quite often you can't keep track of olim felt like they were dreaming, as if it was time. I still remember February 1995 when all happening to someone else, not to them.

I started: it was the beginning of the years of regular sailings from Odessa, Ukraine, to Haifa, Israel. It was amazing to see God's prophecies being fulfilled right in front of our eyes. Using ships under Ukrainian, Russian, Turkish and Georgian flags was literal fulfilment of Isaiah 60:9 about the ships of Tarshish.

More than 40,000 Jews from Ukraine. Moldova. Belarus and Armenia returned to Israel on 172 sailings. On some of them we had over 400 olim who arrived in Odessa on trains and buses and others, like a number from Georgia, came by ferry and from Armenia by air. They had huge amounts of luggage and Ebenezer volunteers met and helped them to accommodation at Ebenezer bases in Odessa.

On sailing days, once all the hard work of carrying heavy olim bags aboard the ship and seeing olim had cleared customs and

With the Covid-19 pandemic leading to total lockdown, closed national borders and quarantine restrictions in many countries, we realise what it actually means to be ready for God's calling. Amidst this and many other problems around the world, the Lord continues to fulfil His promises towards the Jewish people and rejoice that "When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream...' (Psalm 126:1). Yes, the Lord has done, and continues to do, great things for His people in bringing them safely to Israel.

May we all be encouraged that He who called you and me to serve Him will never forsake us. By His grace we are coparticipants of His holy act of returning Jewish people to their homeland as preparation for the return of Messiah! Let's stand firm and trust in Him and when He comes back, may all of us hear "well done, faithful servant".



VADIM RABOCHIY **IIKRAINF** NATIONAL COORDINATOR







Top: Olim on one of the ships Ebenezer chartered gaze across to Haifa port as it docks.

Left:

Odessa train station where volunteers welcomed and helped olim with their bags prior to a sailing.

The Dmitry Shostakovich leaving Odessa for the three-day sailing.

Volunteers carrying an elderly oleh aboard the ship on their shoulders.





MOLDOVA

PAVEL & LINA MOLDOVA LEADERS

or a long time Anna had not been interested in going to Israel. She wanted people to stay in Moldova but God has a way of changing minds, including hers!

Anna had been a leading figure in the Jewish community of Tiraspol, capital of Transnistria. In fact she had been the main leader for over 20 years and had been very friendly towards our team, though her heart's desire was for her 'flock' to stay in Tiraspol rather than make aliyah. She did her best to ensure those under her care had the provisions they needed but if they wanted to make aliyah she did not stand in their way or discourage them. She herself, however, had no vision of the significance of aliyah and God's purposes for the Jewish people in Israel.

Anna had a grandson, Gabriel, the son of her only daughter Caroline, and one day he expressed a desire to apply for the Naale Study Programme in Israel. Neither Anna or Caroline said anything by way of discouragement and Gabriel applied for and passed the required tests. He left for Israel in 2019 to begin his academic career.

Gabriel liked Israel very much but he missed his mother and grandmother. The feelings were mutual and it didn't take Anna and Caroline very long to make up their minds to follow him and begin a new life in the land. When the school year was over, Gabriel returned to Tiraspol so that the whole family could apply to the Israeli consul together.

The family asked for Ebenezer's assistance, as moving around the country was hampered by Covid-19 restrictions and permission to travel had to be sought from the local authority, which was only valid for 12 hours each time. Ebenezer paid for the urgent processing of the family's documents and took Anna, Caroline and Gabriel to the airport for their aliyah flight. The family were extremely grateful for all the help Ebenezer had provided.



Top: Tiraspol in Transnistria. Right: Anna, Caroline and Gabriel on their way to Israel.



passports.

We had the privilege of helping them fulfil their dream of going to Israel where their only son and his family had been living for nearly six years. The couple needed particular encouragement as Lyudmila had been ill and also broke a leg last June. When they arrived in Tel Aviv they spent two weeks in quarantine before moving to a flat in Haifa. They were so grateful for all the help we had given them.

There are a number of potential olim in Uzbekistan unable to leave because they are without visas. This is because there have not been Israeli consular appointments available since February others with clothing and food parcels. Please pray for circumstances to change and they will get their visas soon!





ZHANNA **UZBEKISTAN LEADER**

Photos top and left: Ilya and Lyudmila at the airport and prior to making aliyah.

YOUNG AND OLD MAKE ALIYAH

young single mother, 35 students and an elderly married couple were among those from Yekaterinburg to start new lives in Israel recently.

Our volunteer helper, Valentina, had known single mum Anna for 13 years. Shortly after they met, Anna's aunt and cousin made aliyah and then it wasn't long before Anna realised she too wanted to have a future in Israel. So she and her son brought their paperwork together and applied to the Israeli consul. Valentina then provided them, plus an elderly couple, with transport to the airport for their aliyah flight.

Last November 35 young people who were students on the Naale and Sela Study programmes were provided with transport to the airport and overnight hotel accommodation before their early flight next morning. Ebenezer helped most of them go for their consular appointments and the

Jewish Agency for tests and interviews. Dmitry couldn't afford the programme fee but local Christians donated money and we helped him to be accepted.



RUSSIA



ANATOLY YEKATERINBURG LEADER

Anna and her son leaving for Israel.





ETHIOPIA/ISRAEL

DANIELLE MOR DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN FRIENDS FOR THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

Operation Zur (Shield of) Israel brings 416 olim from Ethiopia to Israel.

The report says a flight "led by The Jewish Agency for Israel together with the Government of Israel, landed at Ben Gurion Airport" on 3rd December "as part one of Operation Zur Israel, Ethiopian family reunification". It follows the Israeli government's decision last October to approve the aliyah of 2,000 members of the Ethiopian community, many of whom have been waiting for decades to move to Israel and reunite with their families.

"I do not remember being so moved, for many years, by such a purely Zionist sight that expresses all that we stand for," said Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyhau. "My wife Sara and I stood with tears in our eyes at the reception, watching the olim, our Ethiopian Jewish brothers and sisters getting off the plane...touching the ground, the Land of Israel. A mother kissed the ground as she exited the plane, carrying a baby named Jerusalem and another baby named Esther. Esther and Jerusalem have now come to Israel – and this is the essence of the Jewish story, this is the essence of the Zionist story."

"It's incredibly moving to watch the landing of this flight full of new olim from Ethiopia," said Jewish Agency chairman Isaac Herzog. "We will continue this airlift of 2,000 olim who will reunite with their families in Israel after many years of separation. The Jewish Agency, together with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and the Ministry of Interior, have been working for weeks – both in Israel and on the ground in Ethiopia – to make this moment possible following the Government of Israel's decision this past October, and we are now seeing it unfold before our eyes."

Operation Zur will conclude when the remainder of those waiting in Ethiopia arrive in Israel. The new arrivals went into quarantine before reuniting with their families already in Israel. The Jewish Agency will help settle them, and they will receive support and guidance in all areas of life.

Thank you for your support of The Jewish Agency and of this aliyah! Together, we will bring our brothers and sister home.





Images © Oliver Fitoussi courtesy of the Jewish Agency.



ne aliyan of the Bhei Menashe is a modern-day miracle! It is indeed a part of the latter day exodus prophesied in the Word of God where God promises that He would gather even those who have been scattered to the farthest corners of the earth (Nehemiah 1:9).

The Bnei Menashe are one of the ten lost tribes that were sent into exile 2,700 years ago by the Assyrian empire. They settled along the Burma and Bangladesh borders, and in India's north-eastern states of Mizoram and Manipur.

Out of the 9,000 Bnei Menashe living in India, almost 2,000 have already reached Israel. On the 16th of December last, despite the pandemic, Shavei Israel, an organisation especially dedicated to enabling Israel's ten lost tribes return to their roots in the Promised Land, brought 253 Bnei Menashe safely home. Ebenezer Operation Exodus (India, International and Asia Pacific) paid for almost all the domestic expenses these olim needed, including printing study materials for prealiyah study seminars, medical needs, suitcases, local travel, airport excess baggage charges and covid test fees.

The aliyah of the Bnei Menashe is significant for the State of Israel. Held back for the past three years because of Israel's difficulties of forming a long-term government, their return was given a big boost by Absorption Minister Penina Tamano Shata confirming that she intends to enable Shavei Israel to enable a further 722 Bnei Menashe to make aliyah, with the first group coming in December. The minister also spoke of a five-year plan to be drawn up for bringing all the remaining 6,500 Bnei Menashe in India home to Israel. Let us pray earnestly that this will indeed take place, that not one will be left behind!

We are so grateful to Ebenezer's generous supporters and faithful intercessors world-wide who have prayed for and have done all that they can to see the Bnei Menashe's dreams come true! Without you their aliyah would not have taken place so smoothly.

What a privilege to be Almighty God's hands and feet as He proves again and again His character and utmost faithfulness to the Word He has spoken to the scattered Jewish people!







DEEPA THOMAS NATIONAL COORDINATOR, INDIA

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.

Klitah 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)

STANDING ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



USA

JOHN PROSSER PRESIDENT & CEO. USA

"Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands." Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT)

t is such a privilege here in the United States to stand with Ebenezer Operation Exodus as the ministry celebrates the 30th year of helping aliyah from the nations. We are in awe of the faithfulness of our God! I believe that in the days ahead we will be witnesses of God's mighty miracles for an even greater aliyah.

These are crucial days for America. We are keenly aware that we are entering a season of perilous times. Yet our hope and confidence are in God's faithfulness, knowing that He is in control in the affairs of our nation and all others around the world.

God bestowed an abundance of grace upon our work in 2020 when approximately 500 olim made the courageous decision to make Israel their permanent home.

Shayan is a special young man we had the privilege of assisting last year. He told us:

"There's no place where I feel more spiritually connected, more emotionally pure and driven. There's no place like home. I make it my mission to encourage every Jewish person I know to actualize the dream of making Aliyah, returning to Israel to write the next chapter together in the story of our people ... I cannot wait to return to the place where my heart, body and soul belong and to make a home of my own in Eretz Yisrael. The Jewish people have never been more alive and well!"

Raising the banner of aliyah will be paramount in the days ahead. The urgency of making aliyah is reverberating in many Jewish communities and many American



Jews are looking to do it as a necessity rather than choice. It has not reached this crisis point yet, but it is coming.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that we stand under the covering of the Lord. We are confident that we will hear His voice above all others. We must submit our ways to His Way, and allow Him to guide and direct each step we take, according to Isaiah 30:21.

Your own ears will hear him.

Right behind you a voice will say,

"This is the way you should go,"

whether to the right or to the left.

Isaiah 30:21 (NLT)

Shayan (pictured) is now living in Israel.



have been involved with aliyah since
August 1974, over 46 years now. After
an intensive six and a half days of prayer
God, by His grace, allowed me to see a
vision of the downfall of the USSR and the
Jewish people there go home to Israel by
ships and planes. It was born in prayer,
continues in prayer to this day and is the
basis of our work.

In 1982 I met Gustav and Elsa Scheller in Jerusalem. Gustav stayed in our home for several days. For the first time in his life he fasted with us as I shared about the vision and the scriptures. This was the beginning of our relationship, the foundation. Kjell Sjöberg and Johannes Facius joined us. We were praying one day when Dr. Henry Backhouse happened to stop by and

suggested having a January prayer conference and inviting intercessors from around the world. We sensed that was from the Lord. It was only by word of mouth that the first one was held but more than 200 intercessors from many nations, plus many Israeli believers, attended and the conference continues to this day.

Gustav and I started the Exodus Shipping Line and Operation Exodus with three sailings. Gustav took me to the Bible College of Wales, where we became good friends with Dr. Kingsley Priddy, another prayer warrior who encouraged us greatly and gave us prophetic words for years (told about in Gustav's book Operation Exodus).

In 1990 Kjell and I led a group of intercessors to Iraq, where Saddam Hussein said he would fire his scud missiles into Israel to keep the Soviet Jews out. We prayed that his scuds would become duds! That's exactly what happened 30 years ago during the 1991 January Prayer Conference at the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem as scuds

With gas masks on, we were praying in the bomb shelter of the hotel when Gustav said the Lord had told him to start Ebenezer Operation Exodus. A collection was received and 30 years on the ministry is continuing as it started in prayer. The Lord has faithfully provided all these years for all He has asked us to do.



STEVE LIGHTLE
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE TEACHER

One of our first bulletins, printed in 1991.





We invite you to join us for our

International Online Aliyah Conference







GIAN LUCA MOROTTI AMUTAH CHAIRMAN

*See Kev Words panel for more about klitah.

Top: Vineyards in the Ayalon Valley, central Israel.

Jeremy Smith our Israel National Coordinator, providing much welcome support to Daniel and his daughter who made aliyah from South Africa. On the right he is with Ricardo, his wife and two children who made aliyah from Brazil.

remain committed to be a stone of help (even ha-ezer) for the needy.

Twelve years ago the International Board decided to open an office in Jerusalem as an act of faith. Today we can testify that the Lord has faithfully accomplished His word towards His people before our eyes. It was a milestone in Ebenezer's work as Shirley Lawrenson was led by the desire to help practically and comfort the olim coming into the office. It was a key factor in establishing Ebenezer in Israel in conjunction with working with God to bring the Jewish people home.

During these years EOE Israel has become a fully-fledged amutah (Hebrew for a non-profit association) for the interests and the welfare of the needy in the Land of Israel. Our Israel team has been a real gift from the Lord as they



We also began to work with the Jewish Agency in projects that tie in with the klitah (immigrant absorption) process.* This work is precisely what the Lord meant when He said:"I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will ...plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul" (Jeremiah 32:41).

We have now entered a new phase in expansion of the work; and with the opening of Haifa House the Lord has enabled us to offer new olim a place to stay when they first arrive in Israel.

After all these years we reaffirm that our aim in the work in Israel is for the Lord's name to be magnified and that it can be said in Israel and in the nations of the world that The God of Israel "is Israel's God" (1 Chronicles 17:24).



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.

All articles in this publication Copyright © Ebenezer Emergency Fund International January 2021. Bible text is from the NKJV version unless otherwise stated. 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.



Ebenezer Operation Exodus International & UK Office PO Box 9103. Bournemouth BH1 9DA, UK +44 (0) 1202 294455 enquiries@ebenezer-ef.org



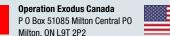
Ebenezer Operation Exodus Israel

PO Box 28112 9128002 Jerusalem Israel +972 2 624 3905 office@ebenezer.org.il



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Asia Pacific

15 Park Rd. Seven Hills NSW 2147, Australia Phone: +61 2 9838 7778 office@eoeaspac.org www.eoeaspac.org



Canada info@operationexodus.ca www.operationexodus.ca



Ebenezer Emergency Fund New Zealand

P.O. Box 5319 Terrace End Palmerston North 4441 Phone: + 64 (0) 6 3574883 ebenezernz@xtra.co.nz www.eoeaspac.org

info@operationexodususa.org

www.operationexodususa.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Singapore

Phone: +65 8611 8840 mail@eoes.org.sg www.eoeaspac.org





Operation Exodus South Africa

PO Box 61887 Vaalnark 1948 South Africa Phone: +27 169 711 766 southafrica@ebenezer-ef.org www.operation-exodus.org









