



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

SEEING PROPHECIES FULFILLED



**“SURELY THE LORD GOD DOES NOTHING,
UNLESS HE REVEALS HIS SECRET TO HIS
SERVANTS THE PROPHETS.” AMOS 3:7**

SEEING PROPHECIES FULFILLED

INTERNATIONAL



PHILIP HOLMBERG
INTERNATIONAL
BOARD MEMBER

The ministry of Ebenezer Operation Exodus was born out of a prophetic vision given to Steve Lightle in 1974. Steve writes in *Exodus II – Let My People Go* (1983): *“I saw a lot of people and I recognized that they were Jewish faces. And there were so many! Then from a particular viewpoint, I could see that there was a multitude of Jewish people – hundreds and hundreds of thousands of them. Then my angle of vision changed again. This time I saw it from a height that enabled me to see the nation they were in. It was the Soviet Union, and these were Jewish people that were being gathered from different parts of that nation.”*

In the same way, the Lord gave an understanding of the aliyah before the first modern aliyah wave! In 1881 Horatio and Anna Spafford led a group of American believers from Chicago to Jerusalem. They were part of the holiness movement and on friendly terms with William Blackstone and D. L. Moody as well as the Keswick movement in Britain.

Even if we do not agree with all their practices and beliefs we honour them for their faith in God and His Word, for their desire to please Him and serve Him whole-heartedly. Anna Spafford said: *“We wished to go [to Jerusalem]*

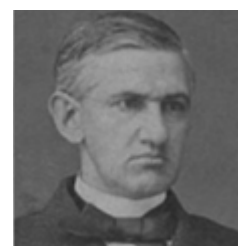
when God brought the Jews back; we wanted to see the prophecies fulfilled.”

The Spaffords and their group noted several signs soon after they arrived in Jerusalem. There was a rare summer rainfall and an almond tree blossomed very early the following spring. And the Jewish people were returning!

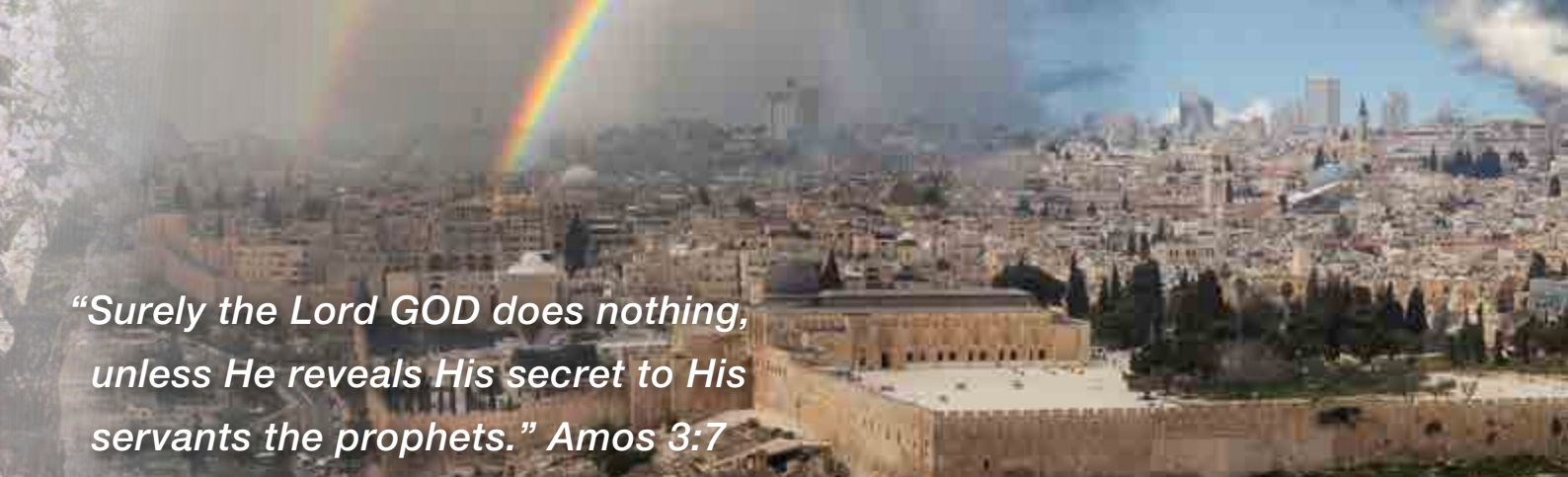
These ‘Spaffordites’ called themselves ‘The Overcomers’ because one reason for their journey to Jerusalem was their desire to overcome a series of personal tragedies. Eight years earlier Horatio and Anna decided to visit Europe. Anna and their four daughters travelled separately on a French ship. The ship sank after a collision. Anna was rescued but all four daughters drowned. This terrible experience caused Horatio to pen the well-known hymn *It Is Well with My Soul*.

The ‘Spaffordites’ had settled in Jerusalem when several hundred Jews from Yemen arrived in 1882. Destitute, they set up their tents just outside the city but only the Spaffords and their group cared for them.

Unlike other Christian missions in the Holy Land, The Overcomers were not interested in the conversion of Jews or Muslims but helped anyone in need.



Right: Anna and Horatio Spafford. A group of Yemenite Jews in Jerusalem.



“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

This was the first modern aliyah of Jews from Yemen. They sailed the Red Sea and crossed Egypt by foot, then by ship to Jaffa and finally walked to Jerusalem. This aliyah is called *a'aleh betamar* which is taken from the Song of Solomon 7:8 – “*I will go up to the palm tree.*” The numerical value of the word *betamar* is 642 which was interpreted to mean *I shall go up (make aliyah) in the year [5]642*. This corresponds to 1882.

In Russia, at the same time, the Jews were persecuted and subjected to pogroms, especially in 1881-84 and 1903-06. Between 1880 and 1920 more than two million Jews fled Russia for the USA, but several thousand decided to go to Palestine.

In 1882 members of the *Bilu'im* arrived in the Holy Land. The name *Bilu* is an acronym based on Isaiah 2:5, *Beit Ya'akov Lekhu Ve-nelkha (Let the house of Jacob go!)* They were inspired by the Bible as well as Marx. Many of them were students and had more enthusiasm than practical survival skills.

Members of another Jewish group, *Hovevei Zion* (Lovers of Zion), also came to Palestine and founded Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv in 1882.



So there was a group of Bible-believing Christians who decided to live in Jerusalem from 1881 onwards, expecting to see the return of the Jewish people according to the prophetic Scriptures. The next year three separate groups of olim arrived from the south and the north – the start of the first aliyah wave in modern times!

In 1895 the American group was joined by new members. Some of them were Swedish immigrants from Chicago while others came directly from the village Nås in Sweden. The whole community numbered 150.

Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf, who received the 1909 Nobel Prize in literature, spent over a year in the Middle East around the turn of the century. Returning to Sweden, she wrote the novel *Jerusalem* about the Swedish farmers who sold their farms and went to Jerusalem.

But there is an important lesson to be learned from the American-Swedish colony in Jerusalem, as Yaakov Ariel and Ruth Kark emphasise in *Messianism, Holiness, Charisma, and Community: The American-Swedish Colony in Jerusalem, 1881-1933*: Most of the second generation departed from the founders' faith; for them Jerusalem was not the magnified holy site where the Messiah was to return to rebuild the Davidic kingdom. Other views gradually resulted in loss of faith in divine revelation; commitment to Jewish immigration and settlement in the Land was replaced by charitable medical work among the Arabs, identifying with their needs and aspirations.

May the Lord grant that the second generation of Ebenezer would follow Paul's words to his spiritual son

Timothy: “*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us*” (2 Timothy 1:13-14).

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)

Top: Rain over Jerusalem.
Left: A family of the first modern aliyah Jews from Yemen.

As a follow-on from this article, Rick Ridings from Succat Hallel in Jerusalem has posted a video titled ‘Pray for a New Wave of Aliyah’. Here is the link: <https://succathallel.com/pray-for-a-new-wave-of-aliyah/>



‘A LITTLE DAUGHTER OF ISRAEL’

UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

Andrei and Elena longed for a baby and then one day it happened! The couple couldn't have been happier when Mariana was born.

Our team first met Andrei and Elena about 15 years ago and explained to them about the possibility of going to Israel, but they weren't ready to take that step just then. So we kept in touch over the years and one day Elena shared her pain about her and Andrei longing to have children and that it just wasn't happening for them. We promised to pray and ask the Lord to work a miracle.

One day they called us with exciting news: Elena was pregnant! They were so full of joy, but a dark shadow came over that happiness when it was realised that little Mariana had some serious health issues. This led to them thinking again about the opportunity to make aliyah. It brought them to a life-changing decision: "We are going to Israel!" they told us, "and we need your help." An obstacle to be overcome was proving Elena's Jewish

background because some of the relevant documents were missing.

It took about a year for Andrei and Elena to gather all the necessary papers and during that time Mariana went through several major surgical operations. We did all we could to support the family. This included asking the Red Cross about Elena's background and this played a key role in proving her Jewishness.

Eventually, the family was issued with their Israeli visa and they were booked on an aliyah flight. We drove them to the airport and they arrived safely in Israel, where they spent the mandatory two weeks quarantine in a hotel. They thanked Ebenezer for all the help they had received and we pray that the Lord will restore little Mariana's health and strength. She is a daughter of Israel who has returned to the Promised Land.

To see a video about this story, please visit our Ebenezer Operation Exodus YouTube channel.



Top: Yanya, Andrei and Elena with their new-born baby.

Bottom: Andrei, Elena and Mariana.

GETTING THERE THE LONG WAY ROUND

It was a long process with many obstacles but eventually Mikhail's family arrived in Israel!

Mikhail, his wife Tatiana, and their two young children lived in Donetsk with Tatiana's mother and brother. The whole family had intended to apply for aliyah in the autumn of 2019, but two days before their consular appointment Tatiana, who was pregnant, started bleeding. She was hospitalised and forbidden to travel. Thankfully everything settled down and the pregnancy progressed well. Tatiana gave birth to a healthy baby girl in February 2020.

The family continued with their preparations for aliyah but a month after the birth the Israeli consular office in Dnipro was closed due to the Covid pandemic. All aliyah in Ukraine suddenly came to a halt and was postponed until later in the year.

The family's consular appointment was booked for October but the checkpoints at the border between the Donetsk region (where the fighting was) and the rest of Ukraine remained closed due to

quarantine. The only way for the family to get to their appointment in Dnipro was via Russian territory – a distance of 1500 km!

They allowed two extra days for the journey so that the young children would have time to rest along the route. After crossing into Russia and then back into Ukraine, the determined family finally made it to Dnipro. Our team had rented an apartment for the family for a month in order to make final preparations as travelling to and from Donetsk was so difficult.

Then they faced another problem: the consular office had been suddenly closed due to quarantine and another appointment had been made for them in the city of Kharkov! So we took them to their appointment and brought them back again to their apartment in Dnipro.

On the day of their flight to Israel Tatiana told us, *"But for your help, things would have been so much harder for us. Thank you so much!"*

To see a video about this story, please visit our Ebenezer Operation Exodus YouTube channel.

UKRAINE



VLADIMIR & TATIANA
UKRAINE REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES



Top: Vadmin (far left) with Mikhail and his wife Tatiana, Tatiana's mother and brother and two children plus Vladimir & Tatiana our Ukraine regional representatives.

Bottom: the family celebrating with their documentation allowing them to leave for Israel.



LONGED TO JOIN THEIR SON

GEORGIA

Boris and his wife, Tamara, were living in the Black Sea state of Georgia and longed to join their son in Israel. Here Boris tells their story:



SLAVA
GEORGIA TEAM

“Although I lived in Georgia, my ancestors came from Belarus. My great grandfather, Mikhail, served in the Tsar’s army for 25 years and so earned the right to move out of what is known as the Pale of Settlement (an area reserved for Jews) and move to somewhere of his choice in European Russia. He chose a place near Tbilisi in Georgia and it was here that eventually my mother was born. My father came from Romania but due to the rise of Nazism and persecution of Jewish people in Romania he relocated to Tbilisi and so my father and mother met and it was there I was born, grew up and where I eventually married my wife, Tamara.

Tamara, who is not Jewish, has worked as a Jewish Agency and Hesed

Coordinator in the town of Rustavi for nearly 20 years. She has helped hundreds of olim, in partnership with Ebenezer, and was in fact responsible for this work in two large regions of Georgia.

Our son went to Israel on the Naale Study programme when he was 14 years old and although we would have liked to go with him, we were both looking after our aged parents. Once they passed away, we could consider joining him.

Our son, who served in the IDF [Israeli Defense Force], graduated from college, married and now has a family. We dearly want to live out the rest of our lives in Israel next to our son and grandchildren and Ebenezer is going to help us. We are so grateful for the work they do and for our longstanding relationship with them, helping other olim. We are so excited, for now it’s our turn. We can’t wait!”



Left: Tamara and Boris both making aliyah. Right: Both with their two grandchildren.



MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE FOR YAKOV

Occasionally we come across a story that really is as incredible as it sounds. Yakov's story is one of those.

We first visited Yakov in April 2020. He was 76 years old and living in a tiny flat in Chisinau, Moldova. He had no identity card, no medical insurance, no pensioner's card and no registration document. He was living outside the system and his story amazed not only our team but everyone he came across in the aliyah process. It was almost as though, according to the authorities, he didn't exist. However, God knew him and had a plan for him and it was such a privilege for us to be involved.

Yakov had never had a family of his own and when his parents died he had stayed in the flat alone. Some relatives had made aliyah many years before and one of his cousins with whom he had a good friendship had asked his wife before he died to try to persuade Yakov to move to Israel.

So Rosa got in touch with Yakov and began the process but unsurprisingly, the major obstacle was the fact that Yakov was not registered as existing anywhere! He had never applied for a pension, had never seen a doctor and had never been contacted by the social security department. The one saving miracle was that he had his parents' birth certificates and marriage certificate as well as his own birth certificate. But while these proved that both his parents were Jewish, the process would require starting from scratch to restore his identity.

Miracle followed miracle as one document after another was issued without delay. Eventually the story was retold at the Israeli consul's office. The consul exclaimed his amazement then promptly issued the visa.

It was with great joy and excitement that we drove Yakov to the airport for his aliyah flight and took part in the final act that completed the series of miracles! Yakov was on his way! Praise God!

MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS



Yakov on his way to Israel.



IMPACTING ALIYAH FROM EUROPE

EUROPE

“You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.” James 2:22



JOHANNES BARTHEL
REGIONAL COORDINATOR

During the January 1991 annual prayer conference in Israel, which included many intercessors from Europe, it became obvious that God had more in store than just coming together to pray. He called us to start to help Jewish people on their way home.

Aliyah from Russian-speaking countries in the early years was so strong and our efforts in the former Soviet Union so intense that there was only a little understanding that the next step could be involvement with aliyah from Europe.

Financial support from European Christian believers has been used to help tens of thousands of olim make aliyah from the fSU. As well as financial donations, many volunteers have invested their time and effort in the Odessa base and other places. From Central Europe containers with humanitarian aid were sent to suffering Jewish communities in the East and were a real blessing.

Due to a better economic and political situation in the fSU, aliyah decreased

after 2000 and many people thought that our activities would shrink. But the opposite happened.

Ebenezer UK has developed good relationships with the Jewish Agency and started to support group aliyah flights from the UK not only financially but practically, with many helpers involved. Other European nations have been inspired through moving testimonies and have started to explore ways of helping olim within their borders. After the deadly attacks in France, where about a third of Europe’s Jewish people live, almost overnight aliyah numbers from there surpassed countries like Ukraine or Russia.

God has confirmed developing the work to help olim not only in Eastern Europe but to build a network of believers who understand how to help local Jewish communities in other European countries. Ebenezer Netherlands has pioneered in helping with shipping containers.

In April 2017 we opened the Israel Programme Centre (IPC) in Berlin. The joint Jewish Agency and Ebenezer office shows how our Jewish partners and friends see the European aliyah as an increasing challenge. Aliyah from Western Europe is different but no less important!

Left: First group aliyah flight from the UK.



Right: Large aliyah flight from France.



ALL-RUSSIA PRAYER MARATHON

Twenty years ago God called Ebenezer to be at the heart of the dialogue between Jews and Christians in Russia. The Jewish people trusted it and Christians regarded it as part of the Church. Since 2020 the main project of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue has been the Annual All-Russia Prayer Marathon.

Every year, on 27 January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, many hundreds of churches across Russia hold special prayer services, with Christians praying for the Jewish people and donating to the dialogue projects. Internet broadcasts of these meetings last 12 hours. Over 40,000 Christians take part in each marathon and they are becoming regarded as key events by the Evangelical Church of Russia.

Donations collected during the marathons are used to build monuments at the sites of mass murders of Jews during World War II, to help former prisoners of ghettos and concentration camps and also to help Jewish families make aliyah. So year by year we are becoming closer to each other.



RUSSIA



BORIS VASYUKOV
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
RUSSIA

Top: Holocaust memorial in the Victory Park in Moscow, Russia. Left: Screen grab of the prayer marathon recently shown during our one day conference Sign of the Times. See our YouTube Channel for the conference.

SOUTH AFRICA ALIYAH INCREASES

It's exciting to report that aliyah from South Africa increased by 20 per cent in the 12 months up to December 2020. Flights during this period took 30-50 olim home at least once a month apart from April and May.

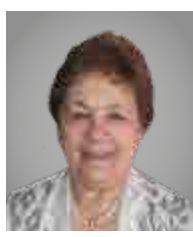
Due to lockdown restrictions we have not been able to speak in churches since March 2020. The Jewish Agency cannot hold their regular, very successful expos either, but they are presenting webinars and regular Question and Answer evenings online with similar success. Some Jewish people initially delayed their aliyah because of the pandemic but most completed the process a few months later.

A lovely story is of the daughter of Ziva, a lady in the Jewish Agency aliyah department, who met an Israeli

man online, made aliyah on the first available flight last June and married in November with the maximum number of 20 guests allowed under the Covid restrictions. The bride's parents were able to travel to Israel for the wedding.



SOUTH AFRICA



ALIDA SCHOULTZ
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
SOUTH AFRICA

She made aliyah and became a bride.

FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

ARGENTINA



RAUL ROUILLE
PRESIDENT
EBENEZER ARGENTINA

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth –” Isaiah 43:5-6

As an Ebenezer team in Argentina, we are grateful to God for this year of challenges and new strategies. Many olim we started helping in 2019 called us weeks before their departure to tell us how, in a supernatural way, the flights left Buenos Aires airport while in theory it remained closed due to the pandemic. This is due to the fervent prayers of intercessors who, week after week, intercede for Israel and aliyah.

We assisted Daniel throughout his aliyah process financially and

emotionally because there were days when it was difficult to get the necessary documentation through many government offices being closed. When he met us at our office at the end of 2018 he said he had never had the chance to go to Israel. Attempts to join one of the Israeli government programmes for young people to get to know the land of his forefathers had been frustrated.

As an adult the dream still seemed impossible to achieve until someone told him about Ebenezer. Recently the dream came true when he left on a scheduled flight to Tel Aviv.

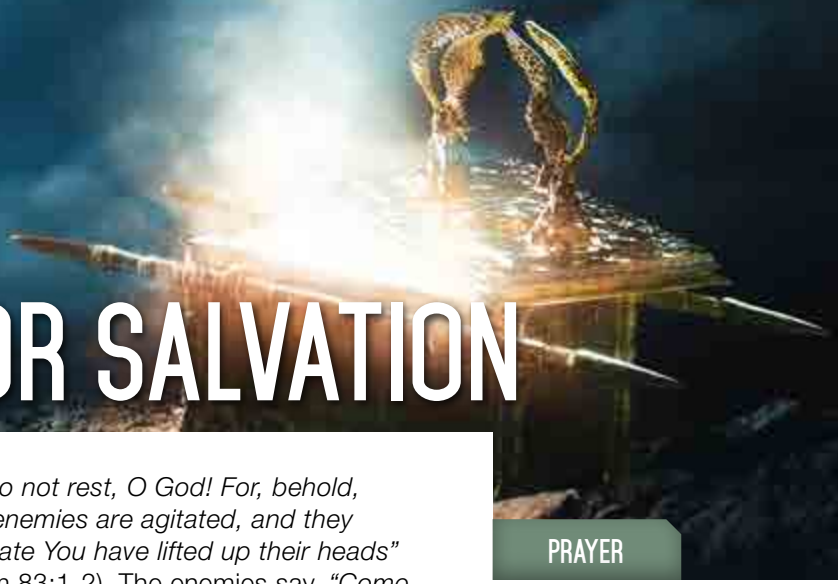
Please pray for us amidst the challenges we have to face daily in ‘the new normal’. One of the biggest is to be able to visit the rural Jewish communities because travel throughout Argentina is very limited at present. Your intercession is so important to us.



Top: Mountains of Patagonia, Argentina.

Right: Raul with Daniel before he made aliyah.

ISRAEL: GOD'S INSTRUMENT FOR SALVATION



Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "Salvation is from the Jews," (John 4:22). The adoption, the glory, the covenants, the law, the worship, the promises, and the patriarchs, belong to the Israelites, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Christ declared Paul (Romans 9:4-5). Their words were addressed to non-Jews but nations unaware of God's purposes have shown hostility towards the Israelites.

For example, Pharaoh told his people that the Israelites "are a more numerous and mighty people than we ... let them not increase" (Exodus 1:9-10). Haman wanted to destroy all the Jews who were in the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus (Esther 3:6). More recently the Shoah has exposed the hostility of the nations towards the Jews.

Exodus 5:2 testifies that this hostility towards the people of Israel affects even their God. Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice, and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord; I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2). Asaph, in the midst of such hatred, called on the Lord "... Do not be silent,

and do not rest, O God! For, behold, Your enemies are agitated, and they that hate You have lifted up their heads" (Psalm 83:1-2). The enemies say, "Come, let us exterminate them from among the nations, and let the name of Israel no longer be remembered" (Psalm 83:4).

The world thus rejects Israel, their God and the Lord's Anointed. They want to break their bonds and get rid of their cords (Psalm 2:3). Yet these bonds and cords of the Lord and His Anointed are the expressions of their love for humanity manifested through Israel.

PRAYER



ABRAHAM MILLOGO
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
BURKINA FASO

LET US PRAY THAT

- The world will see the love of the Father (John 3:16).
- The Church will recognise and proclaim Israel's place in the purposes of God (Romans 11: 2).
- We will be instruments of daily consolation to the Jewish people (Isaiah 40: 1).



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

SOCIAL MEDIA

DO YOU USE FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM?

Help us reach new people to share about Israel & Aliyah!

 On Facebook search Ebenezer OE International

 On Instagram search Ebenezer OE International

 On YouTube search Ebenezer Operation Exodus

Next time you are online, check us out to get fresh updates of what God is doing through Ebenezer Operation Exodus!

LIKE

COMMENT

SHARE



FOOD FOR LONE SOLDIERS

ISRAEL



JEREMY SMITH
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
ISRAEL

An urgent request for help came to our Mexico office. Samuel, a Venezuelan lone soldier in Jerusalem, had been quarantined with two other lone soldiers, because one of them was diagnosed with COVID-19. Their quarantine was for two weeks but they only had one day's food left and were unable to leave the house to get more.

Not knowing where to turn, they contacted Norma RamSal, Ebenezer's General Administrator in Mexico. She contacted us in Jerusalem, explaining their situation. We called them and discovered that their apartment was just 10 minutes' drive from our office.

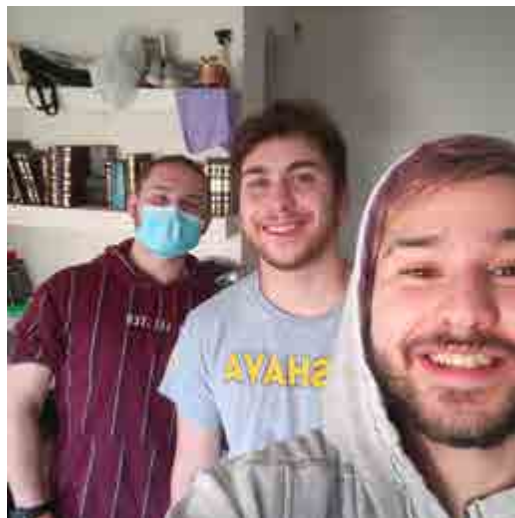
We usually give out food cards which we have bought through the kind donations from our Christian supporters from around the world. So I took some of these food cards to the local supermarket and filled up a trolley with essential food and treats. The supermarket then delivered everything to the soldiers.

The young men were very happy when they received it! I said that if they needed anything that they could get back in touch and we would assist where needed. What a blessing and a privilege to be able to be there in urgent situations like this and to show genuine Christian love!

We plan to continue delivering to various organisations like the Jewish Agency, who have new immigrants from all over the world who are without work because of Covid-19 and desperately in need of food and support.

Recently we heard from Michael Freund, Director of Shavei Israel. This organisation, with Ebenezer India support, plan to bring back 540 Bnei Menashe in 2021. The first to arrive will be 270 Bnei Menashe after Passover in May/June. We plan to help them with essential food cards.

Thank you for your love and prayers. We are conscious of this wherever we go.



The soldiers who were very happy to see our team.

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 April 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
www.operation-exodus.org



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



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



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Singapore
Phone: +65 8611 8840
mail@eoes.org.sg
www.eoeaspac.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Israel
PO Box 28112
9128002, Jerusalem, Israel
+972 2 624 3905
www.operation-exodus.org/israel
office@ebenezer.org.il



Operation Exodus Canada
P O Box 51085 Milton Central PO
Milton, ON L9T 2P2
Canada
info@operationexodus.ca
www.operationexodus.ca



Operation Exodus USA
PO Box 568 Lancaster
NY 14086
Phone: 716 681 6300
info@operationexodususa.org
www.operationexodususa.org



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

