



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

HELP TO RESTORE THEM!



**“I WILL WHISTLE FOR THEM AND GATHER THEM, FOR
I WILL REDEEM THEM; AND THEY SHALL INCREASE
AS THEY ONCE INCREASED.” ZECHARIAH 10:8**



HELP TO RESTORE THEM!

INTERNATIONAL



GIAN LUCA MOROTTI
INTERNATIONAL BOARD
MEMBER (ITALY)

Restore: what a word! Imagine finding yourself robbed and plundered, trapped where there’s no way out. You feel you’re in a prison, helpless and deprived of your rights, looking for relief but finding none. Only an emergency intervention of someone from outside could put an end to your desperate situation.

Also imagine that at this time of deepest despair, when you have lost all hope, someone comes along and pronounces freedom over your life, proclaiming that the time of waiting has ended and that your cry for help has been heard. You hear words like “All the years spent in sorrow and agony have come to an end, you are now entering into a new season of joy and freedom never experienced before; you are restored!” How would you receive such wonderful news? I would welcome it as coming from Heaven itself because deliverance, freedom, and restoration can only be the work of God alone.

By coming alongside the Jewish people who are in the process of making *aliyah*

— at times amid difficult and hopeless situations — we become instruments in God’s hands and agents of the restoration which He set in motion by calling them to their own Land of Promise. The word “Restore” is an imperative that comes from the Hebrew verbal root — בּוּשׁ, *shub* — which is used extensively in the Bible with various nuances, like “to bring back”, a verb of motion, with a meaning of “return” or “come back”, in reference to the physical motion of returning to a point of departure, often under pressure.

In a number of places *shub* can also mean “return from exile”. That is precisely the very sense the prophet Isaiah wanted to convey when he solemnly declared in Isaiah 42:22 that “No one says ‘Restore’”. In other words, it is as if Isaiah was saying “there is no one to commend restoration. None is interested in the prophetic importance of the restoration of the Jews to their own Promised Land. No one can speak words of comfort and relief. Had it not been for the faithfulness of the Lord, where would they be now?” What a situation that would be!



Right: Bnei Menashe Olim at New Delhi airport.



**“No one says,
‘Restore!’” Isaiah 42:22**

Think for a moment. If Isaiah was here today, I am convinced that he would be astonished to learn that despite God’s ongoing covenant faithfulness towards the people of Israel, very few among His children in the nations are interested in being an instrument in this process of restoration. I’m sure that the prophet would be burdened to declare the same words as he did about 2,700 years ago: *“No one says ‘Restore!’”*

But still, after so long, God’s plan for the restoration of Israel remains. We learn that it is twofold: physical and spiritual. Both parts of the process are important to Him. However, a physical restoration of His people to the Promised Land needs to precede the latter and the first step in the work of restoration is the return from exile. This view is consistent with what Isaiah solemnly declares in the following chapter: *“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!’”* (Isaiah 43:5-6). Therefore the gathering of



the exiles is a certain event. God has sworn and will perform it. The return of the Jews from all over the world to their ancient Land stands as a witness to the power of God to restore before the eyes of the people on this planet.

In view of Isaiah’s declaration, the current exile of the Jews demands a solution. Actually, the expectations of the *olim* for a restored Israel to the Land are met any time we help them in their *aliyah*. So standing with Israel is what makes us agents of restoration. With the practical help we give, all of us involved in the work of *aliyah* are building long-standing bridges for the Jewish people to safely arrive in their true homeland.

Any single act of help turns into a cry for restoration. By defending the rights of the Jews to their God-given homeland and discovering our practical role in this important process of restoration in these tumultuous days means we become instruments of the Lord for accomplishing His desired end. This, ultimately, will be their gathering unto God Himself, the culmination of the present physical restoration, when He will see His people fully restored to Him.

The Lord never begins what He does not propose to finish. As His name YHVH reveals, the Lord is by nature the God who will bring His people to this full restoration on the day He fulfils all His promises.

Dear friends, in a world that looks out of control, where people seem to have lost their way, the God of Israel has found a people willing to walk the extra mile to ensure the restoration of the Jews to the Land of Israel. Will you join the work? You will experience God’s constant measure of grace while you’ll continue to say, ‘Restore!’

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).



AMAZING COURAGE!

RUSSIA



ELYA VASUKOVA
MOSCOW BASE LEADER

In our ministry we sometimes meet people who are truly amazing. Lada was one of those.

Lada was 19 and had a Jewish mother. She really wanted to make *aliyah*. She lived near Krasnodar, almost 1,500 km away from Moscow and attending a consular appointment from there was not easy for anybody. But for Lada, making the journey was far more problematic because of her physical disabilities, which prevented her from travelling by train as people normally would. She could only make the journey in a vehicle lying down all the way, with her mother beside her and several pieces of medical equipment.

Lada was seemingly born quite normal, as healthy babies are, but then her muscles stopped growing and even began to atrophy. Something was dreadfully wrong and children with her condition don't usually live more than a few years. But Lada had got to 19, had a degree in computer programming, was capable of holding down a job in IT and was contributing to the family income – yet she weighed

only 16kg and could barely move her fingers! Here was a person who refused to let her condition limit her and was determined to make *aliyah*. We were full of desire to help her!

When Lada arrived in Moscow with her mother, the Israeli Consul asked for more documents and a photograph of Lada beside the grave of her Jewish great grandmother in Rostov-on-Don. It meant another horrendous journey by car, which Lada again had to do lying down. We thought the Consul wouldn't grant Lada a visa because of her physical condition and because she had no relatives in Israel, but the official was so moved by her condition that Lada received a message saying "Please come for your visa!"

When she got to Moscow and collected it she said to us, "I just cannot return home and then make another journey back." So we provided money for food, accommodation and medicine in Moscow and finally on the day of the *aliyah* flight took Lada and her mother to the airport. You should have seen the smile on Lada's face!

Top: Lada carried by mother to the vehicle for travelling.

Right: Lada at the airport.



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

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

We were so blessed and thankful to the Lord when Tatiana told us: “I thought I would never break free from my circumstances and difficulties. I am so grateful to God and to you!”

We first met Tatiana and her sister, Marina, in 2017 at a Jewish Agency meeting for potential *olim*. She wanted very much to make *aliyah* and we began helping her assemble all the documents they would need. But Tatiana began to get cold feet as she had a young child and couldn't face the prospect of going through the process without the rest of her family.

We suggested that as a taster she might like to apply for a work permit and do a little temporary work in Israel and if she liked it to then apply for *aliyah*. She thought this was a good idea and went to work in various hotels in Israel before returning to Ukraine in Autumn 2020, now very keen to make *aliyah*. She asked for our help once more and we began bringing together all the documents needed for an application from the whole family, which included Tatiana's mother.

After the documents were submitted to the Israeli Consul, Tatiana was twice asked for additional papers and began to get very anxious about the whole process. She developed a detached retina in one of her eyes and our team brought the whole situation to the Lord. Treatment fully restored her sight and further answers to prayer came when the documents were accepted, visas issued to the family and they were booked on a flight to Tel Aviv!

Tatiana shared, “*We are so happy, I am moved to tears. After working in Israel I was in a good position to compare life in both Ukraine and Israel. I really preferred Israel as I thought the people were friendly and accepted new immigrants readily.*

Thank you so much for all your assistance, the financial and emotional support and for the transport to the consulate and to the airport. I felt helpless at times and thought I would never break free from the adverse circumstances and difficulties that surrounded me. I am so grateful to God and to you.”

UKRAINE



VLADIMIR & TATIANA
UKRAINE REGIONAL WORKERS



Left: Tatiana and child with her sister Marina.

SPORTS LEGEND MAKES ALIYAH

GEORGIA



SLAVA
GEORGIA TEAM

Legendary Georgian sports commentator Jamlet and his wife, Eva, decided it was time to join their daughter and son-in-law in Israel.

For 57 years, which was something of a record, Jamlet had been doing the commentaries in Georgia, Ukraine and Russia and had become very well-known in sporting circles. His dedication to the profession had been recognised by making him an honorary citizen of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. He was President of the Maccabi basketball team of Tbilisi and Honorary Coach of the national basketball team.

With Jamlet's daughter and son-in-law having already made *aliyah* and working as doctors in Tel Aviv, Jamlet and Eva felt it was time they joined them, choosing to live not far away in Rishon-le-Zion. We were very happy indeed to help the couple prepare their *aliyah* application. Jamlet told us:

"It was an easy decision to go to Israel as I have never forgotten about my Jewish origins. Anti-Semitism was never a motive as Georgia has always been friendly towards its Jews, treating them with love and respect. In that way, I suppose Georgia is unique; my ancestors have been living there for over 2,500 years! I consider both Georgia and Israel to be my home countries.

*In Georgia we always kept the Jewish feasts and also invited friends and neighbours to join us. At the same time, I felt a strong connection to Israel, visiting Georgian Jewish friends there each year, sometimes several times a year for various occasions. Every Jew usually dreams of living in Israel sometime and I was no exception. Eva and I were not able to make *aliyah* before, due to having several commitments in Georgia that I felt I should honour. Now is our time, however, and we are thrilled to be going at last."*



Right: Slava
with Jamlet
and Eva.





SHARING IN THEIR PAIN

The Holocaust survivors shared with us the horrors that they went through and we cried together with them.

Every May we visit Holocaust survivors and take them parcels of humanitarian aid. We also encourage them by introducing them to members of local churches and telling them that Christians love them. We are so grateful for the support of local churches in providing financial assistance and practical help in preparing the food parcels and delivering the aid to those who need it.

This year the food and other items were stored in a utility room in one of the church buildings, which enabled us to provide 10 per cent more parcels for the same amount of money. It is wonderful to be able to minister to the Jewish people in practical ways and share with them that we can help them apply for *aliyah* if they wish to.

Often the people we visit want to tell us about their experience in World War II and what the Nazis did to their relatives. It is

very moving and they usually shed many tears as they recount their experiences. We cry with them as we see the pain in their hearts that has never gone away despite the passing of so many years.

What a privilege it is to bring some comfort to these dear ones who should not have to bear hardships in their old age after all they have been through. *“Thank you for remembering us”,* they say as they fight back tears. *“We deeply appreciate the love and care of your supporters and those who sacrifice their time for our sake. We do realise that we, and our children should go to Israel.”*

In May we visited five Jewish families, including four new ones in Poltava region; 136 Jewish families including 124 new ones in Odessa region; 34 Jewish families including 13 new ones in Kharkov region; 19 Jewish families including nine new ones in Dnepropetrovsk region.

Bless you for all your prayers and support for our team.

UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM



Top: Part of an old used Israeli postage stamp issued in memory of the massacre in 1941, at “Babi Yar, Ukraine.

Every May we visit Holocaust survivors and give them parcels of humanitarian aid.



A VENEZUELAN MIRACLE

VENEZUELA



NORMA RAMOS
MEXICO NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

*Top: Bernardo
and his family*

*Right: Making
aliyah involved a
hazardous river journey.*

Bernardo is from Venezuela and a lawyer by profession. His *aliyah* process lasted two years. Although he had children and his twin brother in Israel, he did not go because he did not want to leave his mother, so he dedicated himself to supporting many Jews to start their *aliyah* process.

With the help of Ebenezer and a Jewish organisation, he managed to finally take his mother to Israel, after a complicated process because her *aliyah* came under the term “refugee of mother of Jews”. Going to the Promised Land had to be from Bogotá, Colombia, since, to do so from Caracas was impossible, because of Venezuela’s political situation. This meant obtaining a special permit.

So Bernardo and his family had to travel by river boat with the risk of

meeting paramilitaries to a community in Colombia to obtain the necessary permission. Bernardo is deeply grateful to Ebenezer for the help given to the Venezuelan Jewish community.



USA



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON
USA ALIYAH DIRECTOR

*Right: Michal
and family.*

ALIYAH ASSISTANCE REQUESTS RISING

With rising anti-Semitism and growing unrest in the USA, we have been getting an increasing number of requests for assistance to make *aliyah* from here — requests made with urgency and a sense of responsibility to encourage one another that *now* is the time to go. Michal and family told us:

“We would like to raise our children in the Jewish people’s homeland. In our daily prayers we pray for the return of the Jewish people to Israel. We want, together with our children, to be part of this return Home.”

We are seeing an amazing thing happening as these special people go home and we are ready to support many more preparing to do so, often in fulfilment of dreams they have had for many years.

It is touching when we hear the words of their hearts as they go through the many challenges, removing the numerous obstacles. We are blessed to assist them through your faithful support and prayers.





ALL SAFELY ON BOARD!

On a beautiful Tuesday, 12 Jewish people were ready to leave for Israel: a family with five children and 11 pieces of luggage, a single mother with her two children and nine pieces of luggage, and a retired couple. They were booked on two different flights, the second taking off two hours after the first. We had to collect them from different districts of Paris to bring them to the airport, something we had not had to do before and therefore it involved quite a lot of organising!

We used our nine-seater vehicle, two other cars and a trailer for the task. The first people we took were the family with five children. As we all got out on arrival and unloaded their luggage, we discovered that their flight had been switched from the terminal we were at to another terminal a kilometre away.

There was no time to lose; we had to cross the airport on foot, with a luggage trolley, pushchair and children. We needed an extra pair of hands and God wonderfully provided them through a man who “happened” to be standing

there and helped us to accompany this family like a Good Samaritan!

In another vehicle, David, one of our team, took the mother and her two children to the airport and recounts: “During our preparations the day before, the team and I had decided that I would transport this family with a trailer attached to my car for the luggage. This family was in the middle of Paris. It was my first time accompanying a family alone and with a trailer. What a responsibility! The family was waiting for me with their luggage ready to be loaded onto the trailer. They were accompanied by a Christian friend who helped us.”

As they headed for the airport, David learned that rising anti-Semitism in France had driven the family to make *aliyah*.

At the airport, David found it tricky with the trailer in a queue of cars stopping just long enough to drop their passengers and speed away. But after successfully seeing the family with all their luggage into the terminal, he said a heartfelt “Thank you, God, for your help!”



CLAUDE LOPPIN
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
FRANCE



Left: Airport ‘adventure’: the family with five children.

On the way to the right terminal.

FAMILY'S ISRAEL DREAM COMES TRUE

ARGENTINA



RAUL ROULLIE
PRESIDENT, EBENEZER
ARGENTINA

We never cease to be amazed at the Lord in fulfilling every prophecy in His Word. In the ministry of *aliyah* we are especially conscious of this as we meet Jewish families and do all we can to help them leave Latin America and start new lives in Israel. The Aides family is a faithful reflection of His love and faithfulness in bringing His scattered people safely to their ancient homeland.

Yet there were many times when the family wondered how this, a long held dream, could ever come true. They were in dire straits financially, without any prospects of the situation improving. In other ways too, life in Argentina felt hardly bearable at times.

Every time we spoke with them we felt their anguish and anxiety about the need to get out of the country and get to Israel as soon as possible. The Ebenezer Argentina team prayed for the Lord to provide the necessary sources to cover the enormous expenses that they, like other *olim* in South America and other distant countries, needed to make *aliyah*.

It seemed humanly impossible but the same Lord who provided “*manna in the desert*” and “*multiplied the loaves and fishes*” blessed this family with all they needed.

The Lord made “*a way through the wilderness*” (Isaiah 43:19 NIV), so that today life is far different for this family. They are happy and content. The parents are seeing their children grow up surrounded by friends as well as other members of who, like them, one day left the land where they were born for the destination prepared by God for them.

We are continually seeing God work in miraculous ways as we travel around sharing about *aliyah* in Argentina (Isaiah 43:5-7, for example). We have a lot to do because the Jewish community is large and there are many needs. We are grateful to pastors, churches and their members who volunteer to help in this ministry. We are blessed and privileged to be part of His work, supported by prayer and financial giving.

Right: The family happily settling in Israel.

Please pray for many more Jewish people to make aliyah from Argentina through the dedicated work of our team.



DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER

Martin Luther said, “There are three things that lead us to know God: the Bible, prayer and pain.” Today, amidst all the chaos, confusion and tumultuous things taking place, with many people turning away from God and religious spirits influencing churches more and more, prayer is fundamental for us to know the Lord’s plans.

When our Lord Jesus was in the most crucial days of His ministry, moving towards Calvary, He taught His disciples how to face suffering: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

Three times He came back from praying alone to find the disciples sleeping. The third time He indicated that they had not prepared for what was to happen by saying (verse 45), “Are you still sleeping and resting? ... the hour is at hand ...” The disciples were caught out because they did not have a life of prayer, failing to understand that it was God the Father’s will for His Son to be arrested and crucified.

What happened on the Mount of Olives was the *kairos* of God: it was His appointed time for it to take place but Peter, not knowing this, just wanted to defend his Master and lash out with a sword.

Peter acted on human perception. This is a lesson for us for, without developing a life of prayer and intercession, we are in danger of viewing and acting upon things that take place without an understanding of God’s timing and purposes in them.

It is vitally important that we cultivate the life of prayer that Jesus had. When His sweat became like drops of blood as He cried out to the Father “an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him” (Luke 22:43). There is no better example of prayer than this!

As we learn to cultivate such a prayer life, the Holy Spirit will help us intercede for our governments not to disregard the Word of God, and for the Church to learn more about God’s purposes for Israel and *aliyah* in the light of the prophetic scriptures.

PRAYER



STELITA & FREDDY BATZ
EBENEZER, GUATEMALA

If you would like to join us in prayer and receive our prayer materials, please contact your National Office or write to prayer@ebenezer-ef.org

RECENT ONLINE CONFERENCE



Translated subtitles are available on all our videos on **YouTube**.



Visit events.ebenezer-oe.org for instructions on 'how to turn on subtitles'



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CELEBRATING HAIFA HOUSE

ISRAEL



MARCUS & RAHEL ACKERMANN
HAIFA HOUSE LEADERS

Top: Haifa house.
Bottom: Interior
of Haifa house.

Two years ago Ebenezer Operation Exodus opened Haifa House for new immigrants, the realisation of a dream years in the making. The building enables us not only to help bring Jewish people home, but also to provide a first home for some of them after they arrive.

Our family moved into the House on 1st July 2019 and with volunteers started renovating it. God's grace and a beautiful sense of togetherness, along with hard work during a very hot summer enabled the house to be opened on 25th August, with members of the large international Ebenezer family and Israeli guests present. In September we started welcoming *olim*, even though the house was far from being completed.

There are six rooms on one floor with 15 beds, three bathrooms, a kitchen and a living room. The apartment on the ground floor, which is still being renovated, can accommodate an additional eight people, with another three rooms and common areas.

It has been a huge, very special privilege for us to pioneer this project and see new immigrants coming home to the land of their forefathers. We sense a lot of gratitude from them here. They also help each other and we are happy to witness a lot of harmony among them. They often say how comfortable they feel in the House and sense a special atmosphere. We know that this is due to the many prayers that surround us here and that the God of Israel watches over us all in love.



Of course there are challenging situations, especially with people coming here from very different cultures, languages and backgrounds. Since we as a family are going through a similar process like the *olim* in still finding our way in Israel, we do very much understand when residents are discouraged by seemingly cumbersome bureaucracy and a different mentality. It is definitely challenging to make *aliyah* but it is God's plan to plant His people Israel and He blesses it!

A Haifa House letter is sent to friends every eight weeks. If you would like to receive it, please send a short email to ackermanns-en@rechowot.org. If God puts it on your heart, you will also find information on how to financially support the work of the House.

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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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

