



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

A TRUMPET CALL FOR ALIYAH



“WHEN YOU SOUND THE
ADVANCE, THE CAMPS THAT
LIE ON THE EAST SIDE SHALL
THEN BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY.
WHEN YOU SOUND THE ADVANCE
THE SECOND TIME, THEN THE CAMPS
THAT LIE ON THE SOUTH SIDE SHALL
BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY; THEY SHALL SOUND
THE CALL FOR THEM TO BEGIN THEIR JOURNEYS.”

NUMBERS 10:5-6



A TRUMPET CALL FOR ALIYAH

INTERNATIONAL

In June, I participated in one of the Shavuot Aliyah Outreach tours. Our team started in Austria, continued through Hungary and ended up with a couple of days in Romania. Other teams travelled to Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Israel.



PHILIP HOLMBERG
INTERNATIONAL
BOARD MEMBER

When Johannes Barthel first introduced this initiative in the second half of 2021, the objectives included prayer and intercession for *aliyah*, sharing the message in churches, and connecting with Jewish representatives, organisations and synagogues. An additional goal was to train the participants in working together in unity in international teams.

Early in the planning process, I had the sense that these trips would serve as a trumpet call to the Church and the Jewish communities in Europe, so I shared it with the team members. During the second week of the Shavuot Aliyah Outreach, I was drawn to the Numbers chapter 10 passage about the two silver trumpets as encouragement

from the Lord. We find this passage in the Torah reading for *Parasha B'ha'alotkha* (for the week ending 19th June 2022).

"When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys" (Numbers 10:5-6).

It is interesting to note that the Lord not only gave a visible signal for the camp to move, as we read at the end of the previous chapter – when the cloud and the fire above the tabernacle lifted, the people of Israel would journey – but He also gave an audible signal by the trumpet calls.

The Lord is looking for eyes that see and ears that hear! I believe He will accomplish His purposes through the prayers and intercession of perceiving hearts.

Let us trust the Lord for the Shavuot Aliyah Outreach tours to be the sound to advance to the Jewish people in Europe and the West to go home to Israel. Let us also trust Him to be a trumpet call to the Church to understand God's kingdom purposes for the Jewish people.

Our team was very grateful for the opportunity to share the message of *aliyah* in six churches, all very different from one another. One church even arranged a livestream of the meeting, which reached several hundred people on



SHAVUOT ALIYAH
OUTREACH 2022



Some of the teams involved in Shavuot Aliyah Outreach 2022

Top: Oti from Finland blowing the shofar.

Left: Meeting with Rabbi Gabor in Budapest synagogue.



Coastlands song written during this tour, visit our Ebenezer Operation Exodus YouTube channel or scan this code.



Facebook and YouTube. But my impression is that even if there is the love of Israel and the Jewish people, the first part of the Messiah's twofold mission is not understood:

"Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth'" (Isaiah 49:6).

This scripture clearly states that Messiah, the Lord's Servant, has a twofold mission: to bring Jacob back, to gather Israel, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, to restore Israel and to be a light to the Gentiles and the Lord's salvation to the ends of the earth. If Messiah, as the Head of the Church, has this twofold mission, the body of Messiah ought to be fully aligned with this.

Besides praying at several Jewish monuments and buildings, our team had two beautiful encounters with Jewish leaders. A rabbi shared that he and his family made a reconnaissance trip to Israel in 1991 by car through the Balkans and then by ship from Piraeus, Greece, to Haifa. The following year they decided to really make *aliyah*. Using their Hungarian passports, they travelled by train through Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria and Jordan all the way down to Aqaba. Finally, they entered Israel through Eilat.

In Oradea, Bulgaria, we asked if we might see a synagogue where we could see that lights were on and the doors open. We were allowed to enter if we would not disturb the Monday morning prayer service in progress. When we sat down, an old man approached us and asked us who we were. As soon as he understood that we were friends of Israel, he led us to where there was a laptop with a zoom

meeting going on. He explained that the Rabbi was in Jerusalem to celebrate his son's marriage, but as none of the men in the congregation could read Hebrew, they had to have this zoom meeting for the Rabbi to lead the service. The man introduced us to the Rabbi, who greeted us, blessed us and started to sing *Hevenu shalom aleichem*. The entire congregation, as well as our team, joined in! The old man, we learned, was the President of the Jewish community in the city.

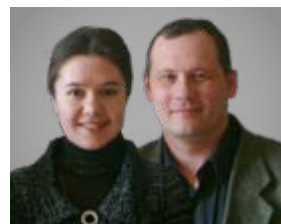
Our team did not have a common language, which was a challenge in communicating. Our leader, Otniel from Romania, did a great job translating back and forth between English and Hungarian within the team as well as in meetings when I shared a message.

Crossing over from Austria, we proclaimed an apt scripture over Hungary: *"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it"* (Habakkuk 2:2).



JOY AMIDST SORROW

MOLDOVA



PAVEL AND LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

One of the poorest countries in Europe, Moldova has taken in a large number of Ukrainian refugees relative to its small 2.6 million population. Jewish people going on to Israel are given all necessary assistance by Jewish organisations and Christian ministries.

After being on the road for many hours, elderly couples, mothers with their children, and sometimes their pets, arrive in Chisinau, the capital, physically and emotionally exhausted.

Among those we welcomed and helped were Svetlana (58), her twin sons, Yuri and Oleg (36), and Oleg's wife, Nataly, and their five-year-old daughter, Kira, who were making *aliyah* from Odessa. Yuri suffers from cerebral palsy and it is so moving to watch the two brothers communicating as Oleg continually encourages Yuri. Though he cannot speak properly, Yuri's loved ones understand the sounds he utters.

The family were quickly granted Israeli visas and we took them to the airport for their flight to Tel Aviv.

We continue to assist those from Moldova itself to make *aliyah*. They recently included Inna's family, comprising her daughter-in-law, Nataly, and her three young grandchildren, Nichita, Nicole and Anna. We have known Inna and her late husband, Benjamin, for about 20 years and always encouraged them to go to Israel, where most of their relatives have lived for many years.

Inna has been running a canteen and soup kitchen for needy Jews for about 40 years and could not imagine her life without her beloved job. But this all changed when her son, Igor, died of Covid last year, followed by Benjamin from cancer several months ago. She and her daughter-in-law resolved to go to Israel "for the sake of their children's future", as they put it. No doubt, the proximity of the war in neighbouring Ukraine also stirred them up to make *aliyah*.

So Inna asked for our help to go to Israel. The two widows and the three young children were granted Israeli visas without delay and Ebenezer helped them with passports. We had the privilege of taking them to the airport for their flight to Tel Aviv on the day they made *aliyah*. However, the joy of this great event in their lives was overshadowed by the loss of the children's father and grandfather. We did our best to encourage Inna and Nataly, explaining that God especially cares for widows and orphans and He has a hope and a future for them in the Promised Land.



Top: Inna, Nataly, Nichita, Nicole and Anna.

Right: Svetlana, Oleg, Nataly and daughter Kira, Igor (a local church member) and Yuri (in wheelchair).



OVERCOMING THE DANGERS

UKRAINE



TATIANA
UKRAINE TEAM

first met Sergey, his wife Valeria and their seven-year-old twins, Denis and Yana, from Melitopol in January, shortly before the war in Ukraine began, to help them bring their documents for *aliyah* together. But the Russian invasion prevented them from meeting with the Israeli Consul in Dnepropetrovsk. So I suggested going to Poland for a consular appointment.

Valeria's husband had to stay in Melitopol, so Valeria and the twins set out on a long and exhausting journey to Zaporozhye. Although it is only 133 km away from Melitopol, it took them 26 hours to get there because of a massive traffic jam of about 500 vehicles. Some women appealed to Russian soldiers at one of the checkpoints to let the cars with children and disabled people pass as soon as possible. They allowed six cars to drive by and then blocked the way again. Valeria and her children spent the night in the car, enduring explosions from the heavy shelling nearby, but they safely reached their destination in the morning.

In Zaporozhye, Valeria and her children stayed in one of the refugee centres before

taking a train to Lviv, and then going by bus to Przemysl, Poland. Ebenezer volunteers met them and took them to a hotel, where they stayed for five days. "Thank you so much", said Valeria, "My children have had some rest here, as they could go for a walk, play and sleep... We have been provided with good meals as well."

Valeria was very anxious about her appointment with the Israeli Consul, as she and her Jewish husband married when both were only 16, followed by an official registration of the marriage two years later. "I called the Israeli Consulate hotline and was told that my children would not be granted Israeli visas unless they had been DNA-tested", said Valeria. "The Ebenezer team kept encouraging me, assuring me that the Consul himself was the only competent authority to deal with the matter and make decisions." Happily, she and the children were granted visas without the test.

"Thank you so much for your kindness, encouragement and practical help! We are so grateful!" Valeria told us before leaving for Israel.



Left: Valeria and twins Denis and Yana waiting in Warsaw for their flight.

FLEEING THE WAR



UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

Dmitry and his wife and their six children have returned to Israel and are happy now. They are very thankful to Ebenezer for helping them flee from the horrors of the war. We are rejoicing and thanking the Lord for the miracle of their deliverance from the fiery furnace and for His hand upon His people against all the odds.

The only thing Dmitry regrets today is that he did not go to Israel earlier. When we first visited their large family in Berdyansk many years ago and shared about God's will for the Jewish people, some of Dmitry's relatives believed us and were stirred up to make *aliyah*. Dmitry's grandmother and cousins were the first to return home to Israel.

Dmitry did not heed the warnings and chose to stay in Ukraine. As the years went by his family continued to grow, as did their living expenses. So their relatives from Israel helped them buy an apiary and subsequently, beekeeping became their main source of income. Every time we reached out to the family, encouraging them to go to Israel, Dmitry would reply, "What are you talking about? We have many children. How can we possibly go

to Israel? Here we have a bee garden, at least, and can make our ends meet"

Never in their wildest dreams could they have imagined that a devastating war would break out in Ukraine. Then amidst the many requests for help, we received a phone call from Dmitry, who shared his pain with us, weeping as he was telling about their family's plight, "Do you remember us? We need your help!"

We are still in Berdyansk. I had to get out of the cellar, risking my life, to ring you up. We are being bombed all the time! There are no longer any buildings around our house, but only ruins and our home does not have a roof anymore.

We have been hiding in the cellar without any food or water. We have nothing at all and we cannot leave. Please, help us!"

Dmitry acknowledged that he was ashamed of his own stupidity and stubbornness because, if he had listened to us back then, his family would be in safety now... He was at a loss and did not know what to do. We did our best to calm him

down, promising to help his family with their evacuation. We began to pray for the delivery of this family, searching for a way to bring them to safety.

Because of the heavy shelling of the city, Dmitry and his family twice failed to get to the meeting place to take a bus evacuating the residents. However, they could not stay there any longer. Finally, Dmitry and his family left their insecure shelter and gradually – crawling or running – they made their way to the evacuation point. It was very hard, as all their children, weakened and dehydrated, could barely move, their youngest daughter being only six months old.

The bus was full, with passengers sitting even on the floor. They had to pass through several checkpoints and, in total, it took them 34 hours to reach the destination. There were problems with food and water supplies and the toilet on the way, with everyone's nerves on edge. Dmitry's wife lost her breast milk, leaving their youngest daughter without any food. The children and the

grown-ups were all crying and Dmitry had never seen so many tears and so much suffering that they all went through.

Dmitry tried to connect with us every time it was possible to do so, and we persevered in our prayers for their family while they were on the way. So, finally, as they reached the safe area, Dmitry and his family were taken to one of the help centres. They were exhausted, and dirty, with dried excrement and vomit stains on the children's clothes. There was still fear in their eyes, although, much to their relief, they realised that the worst was over.

The family was taken care of for a week. They were provided with medical treatment, food and necessary clothes, listened to, and comforted. So with suitcases packed and feeling refreshed and strengthened, Dmitry, his wife and their six young children flew to Israel.

Dmitry's experiences make us wish even more for the Jewish people to hear and respond to God's call in obedience, choosing to go to Israel in good time! May God's perfect will be done in His people's lives!

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**.

Klita 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).



Right: Dmitry and his family received medical treatment, food and comfort.



Left: Passengers had to sit on the bus floor.



HELPING NEW UKRIANIAN OLIM

ISRAEL

Over half the teenagers at Yitzchak Youth Village in Israel, which Ebenezer has long supported, are from the former Soviet Union, and most from Ukraine. Many are supporting their families back home emotionally through the phone while busy learning Hebrew, studying and adapting to life in Israel. Now some of them want to help new refugees from the Ukraine war.

A particular programme Ebenezer supports at Aloney Yitzchak is called *Tikkun Olam* ('Repairing the World'). This support has enabled volunteering to become most valuable at the village, with students involved in a myriad of projects. When refugees began arriving in Israel, students eagerly wanted to help them. They went online, creating a matching system, complete with questionnaires, between refugees needing items and people who have these things to give.

Aloney Yitzchak will very soon (perhaps by the time this article is printed) receive about 25 teens from Ukraine, via Moldova, as a new group of students in the village. A dormitory is being quickly spruced up and equipped to house them; a Russian and Ukrainian-speaking social worker will help them with their traumas and a

programme put in place will assist them in settling in and learning. A generous donation from an Ebenezer supporter is helping to welcome them, as they will arrive with only the clothes on their backs.

Current students at Aloney Yitzchak will help the new arrivals to successfully adjust to their new lives in Israel, especially through their own experiences. But arriving here can be a shock! Lara, who has been at Aloney Yitzchak for two years, says, "It's wonderful here, like a summer camp, but we learn, too! There is different food, weather, language, ways of interacting and customs."

Established in 1948 to serve children orphaned by the Holocaust, Aloney Yitzchak serves some 300 teenage immigrants and native-born Israelis a year who live in dormitories grouped by age. There is a highly regarded school on campus with 350 students from the local area who study in the same classes as the residential students.

Though the Israeli government funds students, its support covers only the most basic items and not even the full cost of them. Ebenezer's support makes a huge difference.



Above: Heidi and Yaakov with Jeremy and Shlomit from the Israel office with two Ukrainian girls.

Right: Some recent arrivals from Ukraine working at their new home in the Youth Village.



REMOVING OBSTACLES FROM ALIYAH HIGHWAYS

"A highway will be there ... called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not pass over it, but it will be there for those whom he guides..."
Isaiah 35:8 (CJB)

USA

God has prepared a highway for His people to go home to the land He has given them (Isaiah 35:8). Our ministry is firmly grounded in the understanding that the priority in prayer is to prepare the 'aliyah highways' in the spirit realm, trusting the Lord to bring revelation in the natural realm. In His timing, He has given us vital, strategic prayer initiatives that continue to identify and clear the obstacles on these highways from the USA and the other nations.

A few years ago, I had a vision that is becoming more and more relevant as I witness the tragic Ukrainian crisis causing great numbers of Jewish people to flee for their lives. I believe this war will significantly impact the lives of Jewish people in our nation.

The vision came on 4 October 2018 as many intercessors from across America gathered to pray with Operation Exodus

USA. In it, I saw a new highway under construction. It was extremely wide, with at least 12 lanes. The base layer was already completed, but work on the final asphalt pavement had not yet started. I saw thousands and thousands of Jewish men, women and children walking to, and on, this highway to their final, eternal destiny. Double rainbows lit up the construction. Though the highway hadn't been completed (in the natural realm), these people were most determined to reach their destination. I woke up the next morning with part two of an earlier vision: an aerial view of Israel, including highways (four, still unpaved) entering Jerusalem with thousands, if not millions, of Jewish people returning home from the North, South, East and West: the 'aliyah Holy highways'.

I clearly see *aliyah* gaining momentum throughout the earth. In the USA, we expect to assist greater numbers of *olim* in the coming months and the next few years!



JOHN PROSSER
PRESIDENT & CEO
OPERATION EXODUS USA



Joel: 'My wife and I have always felt a deep connection to the Holy land ... During riots [in the USA] we were holed up in our home in fear as many of the protestors passed by ... After a week of living in fear, my wife and I decided that moving to the land of our ancestors to live amongst our brethren was the only option for us ...

ELSA SCHELLER: A TRIBUTE

INTERNATIONAL

Elsa Scheller, the wife of Gustav Scheller, the founder of Ebenezer Operation Exodus, passed into the presence of our Lord on 18th May 2022, aged 93, at a residential care home in Poole, England, where she had been living for several years.

Growing up in a Christian home on a rural farm in Switzerland, Elsa had a personal faith even as a young child. When she married Gustav, she knew that someday they would be involved in helping the Jewish people. This began to unfold when they attended Bible college in 1982. Afterwards, they hosted gatherings for prayer and teaching, which led to the founding of Ebenezer Emergency Fund in 1991 as a Christian ministry assisting Jewish people to return to Israel in fulfilment of Biblical prophecy.

Right: Gustav and Elsa at Ben Gurion Airport in 1991, joyfully welcoming the first aliyah flight sponsored by Ebenezer.

After Gustav went to be with the Lord in 2000, Elsa continued praying for the ministry and supporting it, but ceased travelling extensively. Elsa will be remembered by her large family, friends and many ministry partners as a very loving and kind lady



ABIDE IN HIM

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what you desire, and it will be done for you.” John 15:7

How powerful and far-reaching is this promise of our Lord! For we intercessors, it is crucial to recognise what the promise of answered prayer is based on here: a constant, intimate connection with God, oneness with Him and His Word – the continual, willing abiding in His Spirit!

When we abide in Him in this way, the Spirit of God places such prayers in our hearts that do not spring from our own will or mind but from His will, His Word and His love. God’s heartfelt purposes then become our heartfelt prayers, which He will fulfil – as He has promised!

Therefore, let us strive with confidence and joy to abide constantly in Him, in the purity and sincerity of our hearts! For without Him, we can do nothing – not even pray.

A great example for every intercessor is Moses, who led the first great exodus in faithfulness, devotion and obedience to the Lord under God’s precise guidance. He lived in a deep, intimate

relationship with God and would not go a step further unless the Lord went with him. (Exodus 33:15) The Lord heard his pleas for Israel to be spared and saved because Moses had found grace in God’s eyes (Exodus 33:17).

In John chapter 15, Jesus gives us a key to finding grace for our prayers: “Abide in me.”

In Him we may also firmly count on the fulfilment of this request for the coming greater exodus:

Lord, please show us your glory (Exodus 33:18), and sanctify your great name before all peoples by gathering your people from all the nations! (Ezekiel 36:23-24)

Let us pray:

- ✓ Lord, teach us to abide in you (John 15:4)
- ✓ Lord, glorify your wonderful name and gather your people from my nation (Ezekiel 36:23-24)
- ✓ Lord, have mercy on your people; turn them to yourself and they shall be turned! (Lamentations 5:21)

PRAYER



EVA AXNICH
GERMANY PRAYER
COORDINATOR

SWITZERLAND

‘EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE!’



GERALDINE TRIBAUDAUT
SWITZERLAND NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

The week dedicated to prayer for aliyah from Switzerland was not even over when we received a request for help to go to Israel, then a second: the prayers of faithful international intercessors soon answered!

The first request came from a mother with three small boys to look after, who was feeling the rising stress of preparations for aliyah. “Don’t worry, and everything will be fine; we are here to help you”

we encouraged them until the day of departure. She was reassured after our first contact and her husband was delighted with the change in her. They were all touched by our support.

The second request came from a musical couple whose only possession to take to Israel was a precious family heirloom: a piano! We found a professional transporter who took care of its delivery to their new flat in Haifa.



Left: Family at the airport; Loading lorry.

ALIYAH NEWS

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DRAWN BACK HOME

ISRAEL



JEREMY SMITH
NATIONAL COORDINATOR ISRAEL

“Behold I will lift up my hand ... to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples ... And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.” Isaiah 49:22

I would like to share a very encouraging testimony from a lady who we had the privilege to assist with her aliyah process. Afterwards, Tina wrote:

I have twice had the privilege and blessing of having been carried home to Israel on the loving shoulders of people from the nations. Thank you!

I have recently returned to live in Jerusalem. I made *aliyah* in 1999 and lived in Ashkelon for ten years. But then I left and settled into a comfortable life in Switzerland. However, after my dear mother's death and burial in Ashkelon in 2017, I felt drawn back to the Land. Anyone who has visited Switzerland knows what a beautiful country it is and how hard it is to leave. It truly took the work of several organisations, including Ebenezer, to make this move possible.

In a most amazing way, I was connected to believers who work for different organisations in the Land and Ebenezer in Switzerland to encourage and help in very practical hands-on ways. The Ebenezer Swiss team came to my home, helped me pack and clean and then blessed me with funds to ship

my belongings. In Jerusalem there was a room in a Finnish ministry home designated by Ebenezer to receive me. I was living in this spacious three-bedroom apartment free of charge and could devote my time to going from office to office and learning again what it means to live in the Land.

Now I have my own place, and the apartment I was in is filled with Ukrainian refugees. I have the privilege of helping to bless others, even as I have been on the receiving end of so much blessing.

I am so grateful and thank you all from the bottom of my heart.



Right: Tina is happy to be back in her homeland Israel.

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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