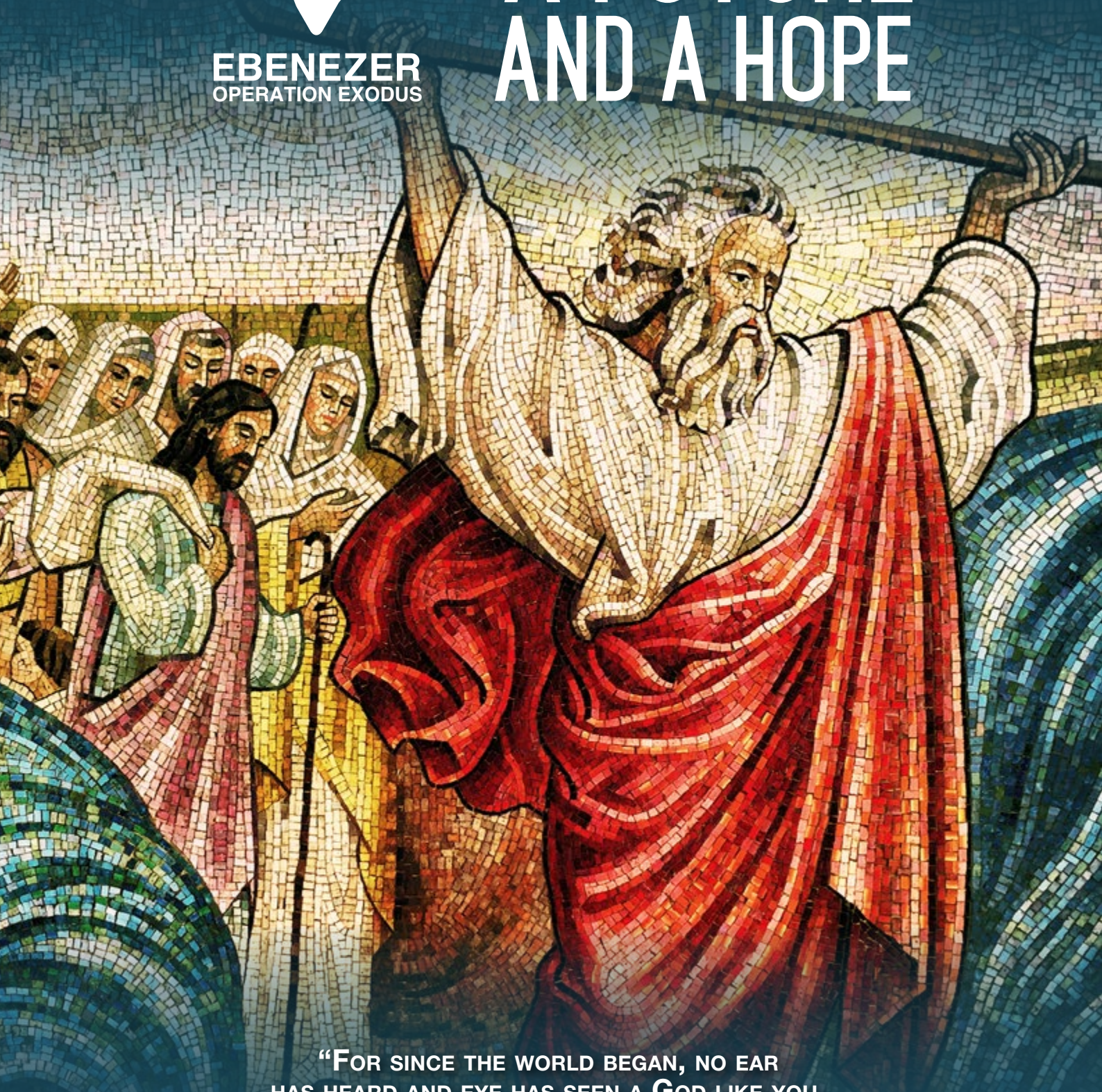




EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

A FUTURE AND A HOPE



**“FOR SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, NO EAR
HAS HEARD AND EYE HAS SEEN A GOD LIKE YOU,
WHO WORKS FOR THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM.”**

ISAIAH 64:4, NLT



A FUTURE AND A HOPE

INTERNATIONAL

“For since the world began, no ear has heard and eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him.” Isaiah 64:4, NLT



PETE STUCKEN
CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL BOARD

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. Habakkuk 2:3, NLT

For years, for centuries, they’ve waited. Cast out, driven from the land of their forefathers and scattered to the four winds, they’ve longed for a day of returning. Resonating especially at Passover and on Yom Kippur, “Next year in Jerusalem!” has been a prayer on the lips and in the hearts of countless exiled Israelites and their descendants for forty generations or more.

Through periods of prosperity, apparent calm and relative safety, the waiting has continued. Through times of deep

desolation, persecution, deprivation and immense suffering it has been a heart cry. The unique, passionate yearning of an ancient people for their historic homeland, a God-instilled longing which ultimately nothing else can satisfy.

Waiting for His timing has been required of His people from the very beginning. There have been set times during which, in the unsearchable wisdom of God, His dealings with His people would see them held back or exiled from the land promised to them. Even as God reaffirmed his promise of the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants, He cautioned that in receiving the promise there would be the trials of waiting in a foreign land: “Then the LORD said to Abram, ‘You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years’” (Genesis 15:13, NLT).

The burden of slavery in Egypt would become intense for the Israelites. Their cries would rise to the heavens. In due time a mighty deliverance would come: miracles



Top: Mosaic of Moses crossing the Red Sea with the Israelites.

Right: Illustration of the Exodus — Moses crossing the desert with the Israelites, escaping from the Egyptians.

Middle, right: Portrait of Theodor Herzl on an Israeli bank note.



and signs, then the awe-inspiring parting of the Red Sea. After 400 years of waiting and longing, the highway for the first *aliyah* opened up.

Still there was no direct path to the Promised Land. Instead came forty years of wanderings through the wilderness, learning obedience to God's ways. Only after this arduous waiting, with a generation having died in the wilderness, did the way fully open, with Joshua commissioned to lead the Israelites across the Jordan and into the Land.

Centuries later, after the ten northern tribes of Israel were scattered by the Assyrians, Nebuchadnezzar's conquering armies carried Judah and Benjamin off as captives to Babylon. Jeremiah foretold a period of waiting, identified by Daniel as he studied Jeremiah's scroll in Babylon :

"This is what the LORD says: 'You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,' says the LORD. 'I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home

again to your own land'" (Jeremiah 29:10-14, NLT; see Daniel 9:2).

They waited. Led by Daniel, they prayed and in due time an extraordinary decree by Cyrus opened the way for their return to the Land.

The siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70 and the complete destruction of the city in AD 135 again threw the Jewish people into



exile and ushered in the longest imaginable period of waiting. Year after year, decade after decade, century after century the waiting continued. Yet hope was not lost. Around Passover Seder tables in countless Jewish homes around the world, the prayer kept being spoken: "Next year in Jerusalem." Against all odds, hope did not die.

After more than eighteen centuries of waiting, the appointed time, the time to favour Zion, finally came. A clue to the approaching hour came in 1897 with Theodore Herzl convening

the First Zionist Congress in Basel. Then in 1917 Britain's Balfour Declaration made use of a phrase previously unspoken in any official context: "the establishment ... of a national home for the Jewish people". Something was in preparation.

On 14 May 1948 came the astonishing fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, as the nation was literally "born in a day". *"Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment?"* (Isaiah 66:8, NLT).

The Amplified Bible provides an illuminating note to this: "Never in the history of the world had such a thing happened before – but God keeps His word. As definitely foretold here and in Ezekiel 37:21, 22, Israel became a recognised nation, actually 'born in one day'. After being away from their homeland for almost 2,000 years, the Jews were given a national homeland in Palestine by

the Balfour Declaration in November, 1917. In 1922, the League of Nations gave Great Britain the mandate over Palestine. On May 14, 1948, Great Britain withdrew her mandate, and immediately Israel was declared a sovereign state, and her growth and importance among nations became astonishing."

God had moved on behalf of those who waited for Him. In the ensuing decades over three-and-a-half million olim would stream home. **For them, the wait is over. Many more are yet to come!**



COMFORTING JEWISH REFUGEES

MOLDOVA

“For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” Says the Lord, your Redeemer.” Isaiah 54:7-8, NKJV



PAVEL AND LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

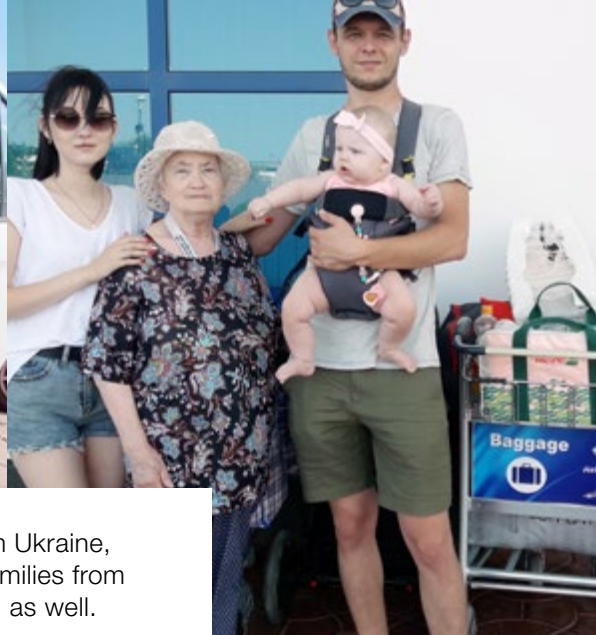
The number of the Jewish refugees in Moldova has decreased compared to the massive influx at the beginning of the war in Ukraine, but the people arriving in our country now are in a no less vulnerable situation and need as much help as those who fled the hostilities earlier. The bereaved families especially need more care, attention and words of encouragement. There are always those with special needs due to age or health problems, as well as single mothers with children and lonely elderly people. Thanks be to God for strengthening our team and helping us to speak words of comfort to His people!

Among the numerous families Pavel had the privilege of assisting with *aliyah* in summer were Larisa and her grandson, who were so deeply touched by our team’s willingness

to help them, that Larisa invited, even insisted, on Pavel visiting them in their new home in Haifa. Larisa’s daughter had gone to Israel on the Masa programme for tech professionals before the war in Ukraine started and had been looking forward to her mother and son joining her in the Land. We can imagine what a happy family reunion they had in Israel!

On their way to the airport, Gheorghiy and Svetlana, a married couple in their seventies, were moved to tears by the care and assistance they were given and opened their hearts to share their story. They had lived in the city of Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine, all their life and had never had a desire to move elsewhere. Attacks on the military bases in the area began on the first day of the full-scale conflict in late February, but since the buildings in





the residential parts were not hit, Gheorghiy and Svetlana hoped to live through the hostilities without having to flee.

Then one day the nine-storey block of flats where they lived on the eighth floor, shook and almost “leapt” because of a powerful explosion nearby. They realised they could not stay there any longer and it was time to go to Israel. Arriving in Chisinau, Moldova’s capital, they applied for *aliyah* and flew to Tel Aviv in July.

Their story reminded us what the Word of God says: “*This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land’*” (Haggai 2:6, NIV). The “shaking” of Ukraine has prompted a wave of *aliyah*. We do not know which nation will be “shaken” next, but it’s up to us to pray about and to brace ourselves for another wave of mass immigration of the Jewish people back to their Promised Land, so that we can serve as God’s instruments for the ingathering and restoration of Israel.

Alongside numerous *olim* from Ukraine, we continue to help Jewish families from Moldova return home to Israel as well.

Among them were Yaroslav, wife Evghenia, their baby daughter, Eva, and Yaroslav’s grandmother, Lina (75). They were very thankful to Ebenezer for the financial assistance and support they had been given while making preparations for *aliyah*. We helped them visit the Israeli Consul in Chisinau several times and paid for the urgent processing of their documents. No doubt the war in Ukraine and troubles in the Transnistria region where they lived prompted them to go to Israel as soon as possible. Like most *olim* from the region, they encountered difficulties in bringing their papers together and were very thankful to our team for our help at every step of the long and tedious process.

Please pray for our Moldova team to help many more make *aliyah*.



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).



THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

After taking time to pray and seeking God's will, our team decided to go to Dnepropetrovsk, eastern Ukraine. We did not know what to expect. Thankfully, we had peace in our hearts, trusting the Lord for His guidance and leading us to the Jewish families He wants to bring back to Israel, taking them even through "the valley of the shadow of death".

Our meetings with the families took place under the terrible howl of sirens. But supernatural peace filled us, and the families could sense that too. We were confident that God Himself was sheltering us all in the shadow of His wings.

We could see a light of hope flare in the eyes of every family we reached out to, although most of them seemed to have given up hope completely after losing their loved ones or homes, their normal life ... Everywhere we met families who had survived the horror of death and violence, having witnessed and experienced terrible hardships and calamities that have stricken our nation.

They shared their own painful memories of their hiding in the basements, garages, pits and even piles of garbage during shelling. Many of them had been injured. Inna shared about the loss of her husband and son, and then about seeing her daughter



and grandchildren shot before her eyes. Inna herself was seriously injured. She cannot cry any longer as she has cried out all her tears ... "I will go to Israel by all means", she told us, "for the memory of my children and grandchildren that have been massacred and cannot be returned.

We had been planning to go to Israel all together in autumn, but now my family comprises only myself and my son-in-law. Nonetheless, I will do my best to have my documents restored and we shall go to Israel. I am not afraid of anything any more and if I am to perish one day I want to die and be buried in the Land of Israel."



Various stock images highlighting the situation our workers find themselves working in.

OVERCOMING UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES

The war between Russia and Ukraine brought many unexpected challenges that we in Romania needed to face. It was shocking to hear that in Ukraine people were losing their homes and even hope of ever having a normal life again.

One day Vadim from the Ebenezer team in Ukraine contacted me about a family that needed to go from there to Bucharest, Romania's capital, for an Israeli consular reception: could I help with transport for them? Yes! I was excited that finally I could be part of helping God's chosen people practically in their aliyah process.

On the agreed day I drove to the border with Ukraine, picked up the family, parents and daughter, and brought them to Bucharest. Ebenezer also helped them to reunite with their other two children. The consular reception went well and today they are in Israel and thankful to Ebenezer for all the help we gave them.

This was the first out of seven such trips I have made during past months,

bringing a total of 32 *olim* to Bucharest. The average driving time was 15 hours without stops or waiting and God always helped us to pass the border without any problems.

I have seen fathers part with their wives and children, sending them out of Ukraine, knowing that there are Christians who help them, and knowing that the State of Israel awaits them with open arms. I feel so privileged to be part of what God has promised He will do and see Him bringing back His people from the nations. In Jeremiah 32:37 God himself says *"I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety"* (Jeremiah 32:37, NIV). This is happening today, not in the distant future but right in front of our eyes! The God of Israel is moving every rock out of the way so His people can safely move to possess their inheritance, the land of Israel.



ROMANIA



OTNIEL GÁL-ZAPATA
EBENEZER OPERATION EXODUS,
ROMANIA



Top & left: Otniel with families he was able to help overcome their challenges.



THE JOY OF GOING HOME

USA

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12, NIV



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON
OPERATION EXODUS USA

Aliyah is an amazing work of God. Through it we witness His eternal and deep personal love for the Jewish people. *Aliyah* from the USA continues to grow. We have witnessed the joy of the Lord as the *olim* fulfil their dreams of going home to Israel.

We hear about the wonderful peace (*shalom*) they experience once they are home in Israel and how blessed they are to finally live in the land that the Lord has prepared for them. God’s faithfulness towards *aliyah* never changes. We know this because the Scriptures are filled with God’s plans, purposes and promises towards *aliyah*, and they will never change. He promises to protect them (Isaiah 41:10); He encourages them by promising He has a good plan for them (Jeremiah 29:11); He promises that they will find peace (Isaiah 32:18).

There is much joy and excitement when the *olim* go home to Israel. Their stories of why they are making *aliyah* inspire us afresh every month as we witness them going to the Promised Land.

Herschel shared with us after we had helped him and his family to make *aliyah* recently: *“It has been a dream of ours to raise our family in our homeland, Israel. Our jobs and anxiety about what we would do to make a living in Israel postponed that dream. However, we have come to realise that if we keep on waiting until we have a foolproof plan our kids will be grown and we will have lost that precious opportunity to actualize our dream of living and raising our children in our Jewish homeland. Thank you so much for helping us on this journey to actualize our dream!”*

God is bringing His people home, fulfilling the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! The *aliyah* highway remains open from the USA and all the nations!



Right: Herschel with his young family.



SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS' ALIYAH

For the past few years Operation Exodus Canada has been privileged to provide financial support for the *aliyah* of young Canadian Jewish graduates of the Garin Tzabar programme (OE-USA similarly supports young American Jews). This unique programme was founded in 1991 and is run by the non-profit Israeli Scouts Movement with the support of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

The programme is designed to attract young Jewish adults ages 18–24 who desire to make Israel their home and are prepared to commit to a meaningful time of service in the IDF (Israel Defense Force). Young adults are so important to the ministry of Ebenezer Operation Exodus in Canada (as they are elsewhere), so we appreciate the opportunity to touch the lives of those on the Garin Tzabar programme. There's a question on our *Aliyah* Aid Application asking about the Garin Tzabar applicant's motivation for making *aliyah*. Here's a few edited quotes from 2022 applicants:

Jake: "Israel is our ancestral homeland and I want to support it by making *aliyah* and serving in the IDF. I've been raised to love and support Israel and it's my duty now to protect it."

Samuel: "For many years the Jewish people have been persecuted and prevented from accessing their land. I'm making *aliyah* to serve in the IDF because it provides me with a unique opportunity to live in our homeland. I feel proud and honoured that I can contribute to Israeli society."

Yael: "I believe Israel is the Jewish homeland, so that's where I belong: living in Israel and serving in the IDF."

Shelley: "I was constantly bullied in high school for being a Zionist and a Jew ... The kids who bullied me told the whole grade that I am a horrible person because I support Israel. All of this motivated me to make *aliyah* and join the IDF, and I am very excited to make this step!"



CANADA



DAVID CUMMINGS
OPERATIONAL EXODUS CANADA
NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Top & Left:
Young adults from a
number of countries



ISRAEL THEIR REAL HOMELAND

NETHERLANDS

Dror and Jacqueline asked us to help them make *aliyah*. They went to Israel because “God is calling us home, Israel is the promised land.”

know what we would have done without them. The Lord sent His angels!”

They feel blessed to be in Israel and praise God that they could make alijah!

This is their story:



HENK VERSTEEG
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Top: Dror and Jacqueline with the Ebenezer Netherlands team.

Right: Jacqueline sorting the last papers.

They met in Israel. Dror was born there and Jacqueline went to work there as a volunteer. They lived in a kibbutz for six years and after Dror’s military service came to The Netherlands. They started reading the Tenach, “where we read about the Jewish people and the beautiful promises for them. It became clear to us: ‘The Jewish people must return home to His Land.’”



Our team helped Dror and Jacqueline to pack up their home, arranged storage of belongings for them and will pack them into a container when they have found a house. They wrote: “We do not

BRAZIL

CHANGING HIS LIFE



CARLOS DOS SANTOS
BRAZIL NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Leandro was enjoying “a good life” in São Paulo, Brazil until December 2019. Then all went wrong, with Covid-19 costing him his job and leaving him unable to pay his bills. He had once lived and worked in Israel, returning after two years in 2011. By March 2022 he had “the desire to have a better life” by going back there, but a big problem was lack of money.

Then, explains Leandro, “I spoke with a friend, and he introduced me to Ebenezer Operation Exodus. I contacted Carlos, the person in charge in Brazil. Then my life began to change with the help I received to do all my documentation. Ebenezer has been very important to me. I have now been in Israel since July 2022, I am working and I have a home. I only have gratitude for all the help. Thank you so much to all the team that helped to change my life.”

Right: Leandro making aliyah with other Brazilians.



EFFECTIVE ENDURING INTERCESSION



How does a company of people who are called to consistent prophetic prayer maintain focus and fervency for a decades-long work of God such as *aliyah*? How do they remain faithful to the task of prayer in the midst of the demands and delights, the sorrows and happiness and the rigours of daily life?

How do they stay **steadfast** to the call in the face of social and spiritual upheaval? What enables them to give precious time, attention and their hearts to continue to pray for the small, seemingly mundane aspects of the work, as well as for the removal of seemingly overwhelming obstacles and often unexpected, urgent needs without becoming weary?

The answer is simple but explosive. It is real, often it can be tangibly felt and it is not of this world. It is in direct opposition to the prevailing attitudes of the world. It comes directly from the Lord to those who pray. It is revealed in the Scriptures:

"I will bring them to My holy mountain... and will fill them with joy in My house of prayer." (Isaiah 56:7, NLT).

"...you have come to Mt. Zion... the heavenly Jerusalem and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering." (Hebrews 12:22, NLT).

"The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the LORD returning to Jerusalem." (Isaiah 52:8, NLT).

"Sing with joy for Israel... Shout out with praise and joy: "Save your people, O LORD, the remnant of Israel!" (Jeremiah (31:7, NLT).

The answer to the question posed above is that it is the joy of the Lord! I have been serving in the intercessory prayer aspect of this ministry for 14 years and the joy of the Lord has been present without fail.

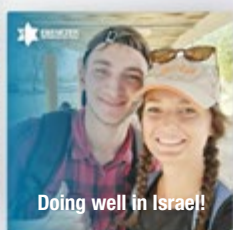
When we engage with the Holy Spirit in this holy, prophetic prayer ministry the joyful presence of the Lord enters our hearts in a unique, enduring, precious and powerful way. This is the secret ingredient that ensures our sharing in His victory through essential, effective and enduring prayer.

PRAYER



QUAY MESSNER
USA PRAYER COORDINATOR

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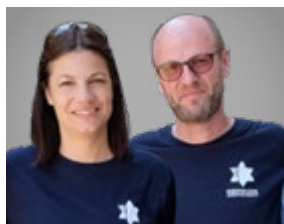


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Ebenezer Operation Exodus





ISRAEL



MARKUS & RAHEL ACKERMANN
HAIFA HOUSE LEADERS

The Ackermann family from Germany have been ministering with us for some time in Haifa. Markus and Rahel are the heads of this wonderful family and their children have been supporting them and contributing to the work. They recently told us:

"A special experience for us this year was having a Chinese Jewish family with us in Haifa. Originally they are from Shanghai and then after studying in Germany made aliyah. With their three children they filled our house with a lot of life and laughter. Since they could speak German, there was no language barrier and we were able to find out the details of their story. Our children played with their five-year-old boy who often read to us from the Torah with great emotional expression. It was a delight having them live with us.

In our March report we told you about a Ukrainian family with a disabled son. They lived with us for 3 months and the father of the family, Dima, was a great help to us tiling a bathroom on the ground floor. Some weeks ago we heard the tragic news that in June Dima died suddenly of a stroke. We were all shocked and upset. Rahel went to visit Dima's widow, Lena and tried to bring some comfort, support and practical help in this difficult situation. Ever since her arrival in Israel, Lena has

tried to integrate as quickly as possible, diligently studying Hebrew whilst caring for her son's needs. She said she hoped there would be no more difficult situations for her to cope with. Lena's parents were also in Israel and we try to take Lena and her son to them from time to time. We are praying that God will open a door for blessing to flow into Lena's life.

In the past few weeks we were blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers who worked really well together. Erich and Andrea along with Mirjam and Johanna worked harmoniously with us and put their heart into everything they did. We all had great fellowship together and when we were away we felt confident that the olim were in caring hands."



Top: Working on the shutters - volunteers Erich, Andrea, Debbie & Mirjam.

Right: Markus and the children enjoying Torah study.

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

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



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