

SUPPORTING THE ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH

"BRING MY SONS FROM AFAR AND MY DAUGHTERS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH — EVERYONE WHO IS CALLED BY MY NAME, WHOM I CREATED FOR MY GLORY, WHOM I FORMED AND MADE."

ISAIAH 43:6-7

A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel



INTERNATIONAL



HERIBERTO GONZALEZ VICE CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL BOARD

od's supreme goal in all that He does from beginning to end is to display His glory and bring honour and praise to His great name. This is confirmed throughout the Scriptures.

An example of this is in Isaiah 43:6-7: "I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." According to this passage, God has declared that He created Israel for His glory.

Indeed, God elected one nation, Israel, through whom He would perform His special acts of deliverance, all for His glory. He says in Isaiah 49:3: "You are my servant Israel in whom I will be glorified."

Also, the Bible declares that the ingathering of the Jewish people in modern times is a sacred thing because it is building a platform for the coming of the Lord, when all the kings of the earth will praise His glory (Psalm 102:15–16). So the ministry of Ebenezer Operation Exodus involves bringing our thoughts, affections and actions into line with this supreme goal. This is why we know that those supporting aliyah will bring glory to Him.

In alignment with this supreme goal, our vision as a ministry 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. The latter, but not least, part of our vision (a proclaiming action) has unfortunately been neglected by us in many nations. That is why, in order to reverse that trend and be able to totally fulfil our calling, we will need to intensify our teaching activity among the nations, supported with new and innovative educational platforms.

Therefore the International Board strongly believes that our expansion and emphasis this year and beyond should be teaching with a particular focus on reaching the churches. Because it is there, where the Body of Messiah gets together, that we will find faithful intercessors, volunteers and committed donors to support the massive, world-wide aliyah which is expected in the days ahead.

In order for this purpose to be fulfilled in an effective and efficient way, we will provide, through our regional structures, the leadership training and theological education required. This is a tremendous challenge but we know that with God's help we can carry it out.

We should start by teaching within our regional and national forums on our Foundational Statements (www.operation-exodus.org), which are like a fountain from which other beliefs and actions flow. A clear understanding of them will help to eradicate any type of divisiveness and misconception among us — and also validate that our plans and objectives, as well as the actions we are taking in every nation, are aligned to them.

Part of those Foundational Statements are our main teaching objectives. Through them we aim to:

- Declare the whole counsel of God to the Body of Messiah regarding:
 - The Lord's holy work of aliyah in fulfilment of the prophecies in Scripture.
 - Our calling to bless, comfort, encourage and help the Jewish people.
 - The restoration of Israel.
 - The Lord's return in glory and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.



 Expose replacement theology, anti-Semitism, ignorance and arrogance in the church towards Israel, and also expose the error of Judaising.

The urgency of this is emphasised by the disturbing results of a recent survey conducted by LifeWay Research. It reveals that only 58 per cent of evangelicals aged 18-34 support the existence, security and prosperity of Israel. Regarding these findings, author Joel C. Rosenberg, who also helped underwrite the survey, said: "Unless the church gives younger believers a healthy, balanced, solidly biblical understanding of God's love and plan for Israel, overall evangelical support for the Jewish state could very well plummet over the next decade as millennials represent an ever-larger percentage of the overall church body." This unfortunate fact needs to be seriously considered by our ministry as we reach out to churches in the days ahead.

In summary, Ebenezer is committed to present to the Body of Messiah, especially young believers, the message of aliyah in its entirety, connected with the whole message of the Bible, without compromise and in line with God's purpose for Israel.

We feel that the Lord is calling us to be heralds of the message of aliyah as presented by the Scriptures. We should see ourselves as part of a ministry with a Kingdom mindset, open to the Holy Spirit to guide us in building alliances and partnerships with churches and other Christian organisations on the basis of our calling for aliyah. For this holy purpose we know we can count on your active participation.

By doing so let us glorify Him and bring honour and praise to His great name!

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.



Ebenezer's Engage-Israel 2018 tour to Israel where young adults are taught about Gods plans and purposes for Israel and aliyah.





UKRAINE

TATIANA UKRAINE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

o our amazement, God suddenly and unexpectedly put us in touch with Leonid's daughter and soon a family was making aliyah together!

We had known Leonid a long time and visited him each year. At each meeting we would ask him about his family but despite our best efforts he would change the subject. Once when we were meeting him with some volunteers from the UK, he told us that his wife had passed away and since then his life felt meaningless. We could sense his inner pain and loneliness. We kept praying for him and gave the whole situation to the Lord.

The Lord saw the desire of our hearts was to share about aliyah with Leonid's children and grandchildren. Although Leonid would not tell us where they were, God had other plans and a miracle in Leonid's life began to unfold.

One day we were in a Ukraine city called Sumy telling a family about the possibility of going to Israel. Before we left the mother Angela, asked us if we would go and see her lonely, elderly father who lived some distance away. "Of course," we said. We asked who he was and to our joy and amazement we discovered it was Leonid. We had been speaking to his children and God had arranged the whole thing!

We rejoiced and went back to see Leonid, telling him that God had had his divine finger on the whole affair and we had been speaking to his daughter. Leonid could not believe his ears. "If she wants to go to Israel, I will too," he said. "We should all go together!"

After a lengthy period of gathering all the necessary documents and visiting the Israeli consul, Leonid started to waiver. But then he saw his family determined to make a new life in Israel and declared, "I'm not staying here alone!" It wasn't long before we took Leonid and all his family to the airport for their aliyah flight. What a joyous occasion it was for them and us!



Leon Greenhalgh, UK Chairman, and his wife Joyce giving a box of aid to Leonid.



We first met Sarah and her daughter, Tatiana and Tatiana's son, Kirill, when they lived in abject poverty in Perm. Their flat was completely run down and they had no heating or water supply. At first Sarah was ashamed to let us come in to talk to them because of the state it was in. But we invited them home once each week so they could have a decent meal. This was especially

important for Kirill, who was not well.

As we ate together we encouraged them to make aliyah and over the course of about a year a good relationship was built up with them. We also provided them with food parcels. Sarah, along with the rest of the family, was very grateful and eventually invited us into to her home. We were shocked at what we found there: it was dilapidated and damp with

We took the family to the local synagogue and introduced them to the leaders, who confessed that they had never met such poor Jews before. We combined efforts with the synagogue in looking after Sarah and her family and in making preparations for aliyah. So it was a joyous occasion when, two years later, all the paperwork had come through and we had the privilege of taking Sarah, Tatiana and Kirill to the airport for their flight to Israel.

About a year later, they wrote to tell us they were living in a flat in Nazareth. Sarah was very happy saying, "It is as if we have been released from a curse!" We found their letter very touching and it encouraged our teams to continue making every effort to seek out families like Sarah's and help them start a new life.



ALEXANDER
PERM REPRESENTATIVE



Top: Looking towards Nazareth, Israel. Right: The family standing in front of their house in Perm before making aliyah.





RUSSIA

NIKOLAI

Pyatigorsk regional
representative

visit to a Holocaust museum had a profound and positive effect on some local believers.

In North Ossetia we have been working to strengthen our relationship with the local Christian believers, explaining to them God's purposes for the Jewish people and the debt Christians owe to them because they gave to us the Bible and our Saviour, their Messiah.

With the aim of encouraging them and their pastors to become involved with us in assisting the Jewish people, we arranged for Pastor Marat and some of his deaf congregants to visit the Holocaust museum at the Shalom Jewish Community. They were deeply touched, being moved to tears as they watched the documentary. "Why have we not heard of this before?" they exclaimed.

They had a number of questions but were so impacted by the whole experience that they expressed a desire to be closely involved in our ministry. It was a wonderful development we are certain will bear fruit in our aim of serving the Jewish people.



UZBEKISTAN

FROM ASHES TO ALIYAH



ZHANNA UZBEKISTAN LEADER

lena and those she was caring for were getting ready to make aliyah when fire devastated her flat and she lost all the documents she had collected for the application.

Elena had a grown-up son who suffered from a mental condition and two orphaned grandchildren, one of whom was handicapped. They were all looking forward to starting a life in Israel when the tragedy struck.

But God stepped in. We sought the help of a local church pastor and he provided Elena's family with accommodation in his house while we set about obtaining copies of all the documents. Only Elena's birth certificate from Kazakhstan took some time to obtain.

We shared the family's needs with our prayer partners and they provided winter clothes, shoes and blankets while the family awaited their aliyah flight. It had been a difficult situation but God was faithful!



Looking ahead to a fresh start after the tragedy.



I had known Lev for more than ten years. He had worked in the synagogue office in Sochi and often had asked me for help with his computer issues. I used every opportunity to tell him about the possibility of making aliyah. He had no excuse really because his elderly father had lived in Israel for about 30 years. He had settled happily and despite being 96 years old, was full of energy and strength and could sew without glasses!

So after years of deliberation Lev made the decision to join his father. After he had been in Israel a year he called me





LENA SOCHI REPRESENTATIVE

Lev with Lena

A SURPRISE DISCOVERY

leg and Julia had no idea they could immigrate to Israel even though both Oleg's parents were Jewish.

When we discovered that they did not know about this we explained everything and encouraged them to consider it, saying that Ebenezer would provide the necessary help they needed.

After several months Oleg and Julia made the decision to make aliyah and explained their intention to Oleg's parents. At first they were not enthusiastic as Oleg's father was affected by a stroke and could not move properly, but eventually he came round to the idea and gave them his blessing. Oleg contacted us and shared his joy that they would be going to Israel and asked us to help.

We supported them through the entire process, including consular visits, and took them to the airport for their flight. Oleg's cousin had already made aliyah and was eagerly waiting for them to arrive.



MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA MOLDOVA LEADERS

Departing for Israel.





ARGENTINA

RAUL & ANALIA ROULLIE ALIYAH COORDINATORS. ARGENTINA

help make aliyah from Argentina are Karina and her children. Karina lived in the USA for many years, where she met her husband Doron. Together they had two children, Eden (13) and Jordan (9). In July 2011, after splitting up with Doron, Karina decided to return to Argentina in order to spend as much time as possible with her mother who was very sick with cancer and did not have much time to live. She was also very concerned about her father.

Her mother died on 30 November 2012, the day before the birthday of her eldest daughter. Her father was so depressed at the loss of his wife that he died about three months later, having decided to stay in the marital home alone instead of going to live with Karina.

The children had no family in Argentina, just a few friends. Life in this country was very difficult for a family that was falling apart. The closest they had to a family was and missed them, was now living. And their grandparents, uncles and cousins of the same age were living there as well and Karina was assured that all of them would be happy to have them living close by.

As Karina considered making aliyah with her children, it was becoming more and more difficult for them to stay in Argentina because their landlord wanted them to leave the home they were renting. This brought her to the decision that the best thing for them was to move to Israel.

So they contacted our team and we helped them by translating documents, paying for them to receive their passports and taking them to the airport for their aliyah flight. They were very grateful for all we did for them.

They have been living in Israel for the past two years and are happy to be reunited as a family.



Karina and her family are happy in Israel.



he Lord is gathering His sons and daughters back from the West one by one. Moving deeper into the New York area to assist with aliyah has been a challenge but in the three years we have been doing this an increasing number of olim have reached out to us for help.

Talia was one I was able to help. Here she tells of the heart-changing step that brought her to decide to return home to Israel:

I have been to Israel four times and every time was more meaningful than the last. The first time I went with my family when I was 12. I remember going to the Western Wall with my mom. After a few minutes I looked up and she was crying. I was so confused thinking to myself this was just a wall. When I asked her why she was crying she just said, "You'll

understand when you're older." Eight years later I went to the Western Wall again but this time by myself. As soon as I approached the wall I started to cry. It finally hit me. This was not just a wall. The Wall represented the perseverance of the Jews. It represented everything we have gone through. It represented hope. I called my mom that night and said "Mom, I understand now." That's when I knew I wanted to make aliyah.

What a privilege it remains to continue to be part of this amazing work! What a blessing to accompany Talia to the airport and assist her until she passed through the gates, boarding the El Al flight that was taking her from hope to home.

With our hearts filled with God's love and excitement we are taking up the baton to run with passion to bless and comfort our Jewish friends in a much deeper and meaningful way. Thank you; your prayers and support makes a difference!



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON NYC ALIYAH COORDINATOR





Talia just before her departure to Israel.





VENEZUELA

RODOLFO BLANCO NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF COLOMBIA

was involved with the return of the Venezuelan Jews to Israel and by the grace of God seven families were supported by our ministry. Venezuela has been a focus of global attention due to the political and critical social crises embroiling it.

Each of the families we helped suffered their own traumas, including material dispossession, persecution and hunger. Some encountered numerous last-minute legal obstacles before they were able to fly out of the country, but through the power of God they overcame them. Others travelling long distance by road encountered numerous police checkpoints and robbers who wanted any valuable item or cash from them. Journeys for these brave families usually started at night and took 18-20 hours to reach a safe point for departure to Israel.





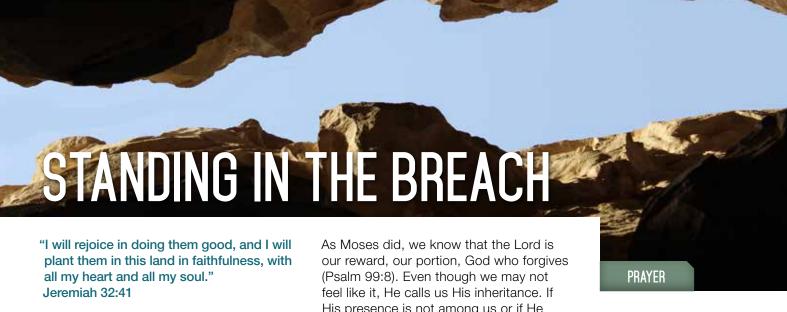
Thousands of Venezuelan citizens seek to escape over border crossings and this means that Colombian immigration controls are very strict. Some of the Jewish families who have gone overland have told us that during the day the immigration authorities have specific opening hours for the crossings and such times have become like a stampede to leave Venezuela. In the chaos families are separated from one side to the other, suitcases rolling on the ground fly open, leaving their few belongings scattered around and identification documents damaged.

But once each Jewish family is safely in Colombia they are able to renew their passports and days later can be at the airport waiting for their flight to Israel. Everyone has something in common to say, like God has sent angels to make this miracle come true. Those angels, as they call us, are all those in the world who have joined Ebenezer to help fulfil what was prophesied by the prophets come true.

Please pray for our team as they give their time and energy to help the Jewish people safely reach Israel, their true homeland.



Three of the families who have braved the dangers to go to Israel.



he Lord is doing marvellous things among us. It is such a wonderful privilege for us to serve the Lord. He is raising a banner to the nations so that His glory will be seen on the earth.

We seek Him above all so that our hearts will be aligned with His heart. That our hearts will be attentive to His Word for this generation and ready to do His will, even in times of crises and despite the hardness of heart which we see becoming more common in today's society.

Our position as intercessors is to be in the middle, between our God and the people who might deserve His wrath or who need His mercy extended over them. We humbly appeal to His mercy and grace. We stand before Him in the breach for the Jewish people as Moses did (Psalm 106:23).

His presence is not among us or if He does not go with us, we would not dare to move. What a merciful God we have!

Let us be alert and ready, attending to our Father's business and doing His will! Let us pray for the aliyah highways and for the full restoration of Israel! Let us be ready to receive the Messiah when He comes in glory!

Let us be alert and ready, attending to our Father's business and doing His will!

Let us pray for the aliyah highways and for the full restoration of Israel!

Let us be ready to receive the Messiah when He comes in glory!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance." Psalm 33:12.



DANIELA CASTILLO PRAYER COORDINATOR YOUNG ADULTS LATIN AMERICA



24-27 OCTOBER — TORREMOLINOS, MALAGA, SPAIN

Full conference fee (DBL) £167 / 190€ Full conference fee (SGL) £215 / 245€

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ISRAEL

SHMULIK FRIED DIRECTOR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

incomparable story of God's faithfulness. The Ethiopian Jews are an example of faith in God's promise to one day return all of Israel to the land. Ebenezer has not only prayed constantly for the hindrances to aliyah to be removed but donated financially to support the practical needs. In this we have been privileged to have a wonderful friendship with Keren Hayesod. Here is an edited letter of gratitude from this Jewish organisation to the world-wide Ebenezer family:

I am writing to tell you that I was greatly moved by the generous donation from Ebenezer International to Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal to bring back our Jewish brothers and sisters from Ethiopia to their ancestral homeland.



On Monday evening February 4th a plane landed at Ben Gurion airport with 80 olim from Ethiopia. The new immigrants have started their new lives in Israel in absorption centres across the country and we will provide all their needs for the next two years until they are ready to be independent.

It was so moving to see their families eagerly waiting at the the airport to reunite with them. No doubt that Biblical prophecy is happening in front of our eyes.

Through your love and friendship for the people of Israel you are all playing a key role in furthering the Divine plan for the ingathering of the exiles, as Jeremiah prophesied over 2,500 years ago: "Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the distant island, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him" (Jeremiah 31:10).

The Hebrew word for charity is tzedaka, which derives from the word tzedek, meaning righteousness. King Solomon, the wisest of men said: "Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor" (Proverbs 21:21).

May God recompense you all richly for your righteousness and help to His people. With deepest thanks and gratitude.

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 June 2019.

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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