





INDIA

ABE & DEEPA **THOMAS INDIA** 

prophetic. Historic, because a people who disappeared into the pages of history have been found and are being brought back to the land of Israel after almost 2,700 years of exile. Miraculous and prophetic, because it is the accurate fulfilment of ancient biblical prophecies and it is happening right in front of our eyes.

"Even though some of you were scattered to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather you from there." Nehemiah 1:9.

This verse resonated in our hearts as we watched the excitement of the Bnei Menashe tribe in Churachandpur village in the far northeastern state of Manipur in India. One hundred and sixty-two of them were getting ready to make aliyah in two groups.

It was a great joy for the Ebenezer volunteers to help them at the check in counters, with their luggage, at the immigration desks and to guide them to the boarding gates. Often the bubbly young children had to be carried, and the elderly had to be helped. Many times during the two day long journey, the elderly Bnei Menashe men and women leaned heavily on the arms of the Ebenezer volunteers to take their steps forward thereby literally fulfilling the prophecy "they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters on their shoulders" (Isaiah 49:22).

the aliyah of the Jewish people. To God be ALL THE GLORY!

31:21 where it says "Set up signposts, Make landmarks; Set your heart toward the highway, The way in which you went." When the northern kingdom of Israel was dispersed, the ten tribes travelled east along the existing trade routes. Some of them stayed in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which still has one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world while others went further east. The Silk Road comprised many of these ancient trade routes. The Bnei Menashe travelled further east for centuries before settling in what is now North Eastern India. Today they are returning to Israel from India via Uzbekistan Airlines, transiting at Tashkent - indeed a prophetic resonance with "The way in which you went." (Jeremiah 31:21).

One cannot but stand in awe and wonder at the absolute accuracy with which the ancient Biblical prophecies are coming to pass before our very eyes through





Lightle visiting us in Finland, Estonia and Denmark last year. Steve flew in to a cold and windy Finland from a warm Philippines - the difference between the climates is enormous. We even got to see some snow in Finland, having an opportunity to make and throw some snowballs.

Steve shared about his vision, bringing a message of encouragement and calling for readiness for action. The message reached hundreds of people in each country. In Finland, Steve had three meetings, first in Helsinki, then in Joensuu and the last in Seinajoki. The cities are in different parts of Finland, making a triangle on the map. That way Steve's message has reached the southern, the eastern and the western part of Finland! He was also interviewed for a Christian radio channel and one of the meetings was recorded by a Christian TV channel. Another meeting is available on YouTube.

In Estonia, Steve also had three meetings but in the same place, Tallinn, and all on the same day. These three meetings together constituted one entity, having the same message Steve In Denmark, he also had three meetings, reaching people with his important message.

Every time Steve got up to speak, we could feel and hear the anointing the Lord poured on him! After the meetings people came to talk to us, their eyes were shining and they were full of enthusiasm and excitement! Now we keep on praying for abundant fruit and harvest in the future.

Steve wrote the following: "I am more encouraged today with the aliyah than ever before. It was such a blessing to return to Finland after many years and meet old friends and make many new ones. The presence of the Lord was sensed greatly as over and over people responded to and spoke of His presence. The Lord spoke to different ones to be involved with Ebenezer Operation Exodus."

Praise and glory to our loving God, our Lord Jesus, who made all this possible and gave wisdom to both Steve and all the people arranging the tour!



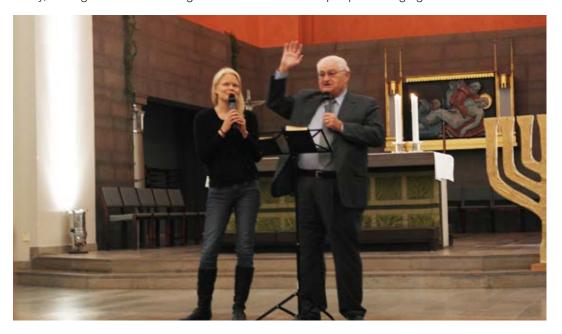
STEVE LIGHTLE INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER

Anointed speaking: Steve with an interpreter.

# **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.







RUSSIA

BORIS VASYUKOV RUSSIA NATIONAL COORDINATOR

y wife, Elya, and I joined the Ebenezer ministry in 1997, when we were appointed the leaders of the Ebenezer base in the Far East of Russia.

In 2004 we started to become an instrument for the Church as regards the ministry of aliyah. However, we realised that the Church would be able to become closely involved in the ministry only after she had received a revelation about aliyah. In this connection, we were led to start educational projects, including the publication of the magazines, and the creation of a website. An increasing number of pastors have received a revelation about Israel and share it with the believers in various churches across Russia.

A turning point for the ministry in Russia was a round-table meeting of the leadership of the Jewish and Christian communities and organisations, which took place in the Memorial Synagogue in Moscow on 27 May, 2010. The Russian Protestant Church leaders present at the gathering, on behalf of the Russian Christians, released a prayer of repentance for the centuries-old Christian anti-Semitism, which, in fact, was the starting point for

the Judeo-Christian dialogue in Russia – a dialogue of actions and not only words.

Subsequently, in August 2010, a Working Group for conducting the Judeo-Christian Dialogue (JCD) in Russia was established, and I was kindly asked to become the coordinator of the group. Thus, Ebenezer in Russia became an instrument of the Russian Church in the ministry of the restoration of Israel.

A large number of interchurch prayer for Israel meetings have been held on a regular basis, and the programme of each of the gatherings includes fundraising, which enables the believers to honour the Lord with gifts of love for financing various projects; these include the construction of monuments on the sites of mass killing of the Jewish people during WW2; providing help by way of medicines to the Holocaust survivors; arranging playgrounds for the Jewish children in Israel and helping the Jewish people from Russia make aliyah.

We have become aware that our actions speak louder than our words. Indeed, we have seen the Jewish people change their attitude towards Christians and we have become closer to each other.



Top: An interchurch meeting for Israel in Moscow including diginataries from Israel

> Right: Meeting of Christian and Jewish Leaders.



trip to Russia last year, where I helped the Ebenezer teams in Moscow,
Novosibirsk and Mariinsk. In this vast country I realised the huge responsibility resting on the shoulders of these teams and how well they are fulfilling their task.

Highlights included meeting with Holocaust survivors and church leaders, and accompanying 138 olim to the airport, as well as 34 young Jewish adults undertaking educational trips to Israel. To experience their excitement was a special blessing.

In Moscow I met a Jewish man in his seventies who had been forced into the ghettos. I was touched by stories of how their movements were restricted and of their deportation to camps such as Auschwitz. Very few were fortunate enough to survive to tell their story. You can still see the pain in their eyes when they remember their loved ones. In a book they gave me there are pictures of small children in ghettos – often separated from their parents – and stories of many

In Novosibirsk I accompanied a group of Holocaust survivors to the Freedom Park Memorial, where we laid roses in remembrance of those who died and learned about the Holocaust awareness programme for school children.

In the various churches we attended, I often had the opportunity to share the Word of God and found that many of them had an understanding of God's plan for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

Accompanying olim to the airport in Moscow was exhilarating every time. Apart from single people, there were several families. I could put my arm around an elderly lady to encourage her, push trolleys with luggage, hand out boarding passes and help in many ways, big and small. This made me realise that, no matter what our involvement is, we are all part of the fulfilment of God's plan and that the Biblical prophecies are indeed true today.



JOHNNY VAN DER MERWE SOUTH AFRICA BOARD MEMBER



Johnny in Moscow: 'We are all part of the fulfilment of God's plan.'





INTERNATIONAL

PETE STUCKEN CHAIRMAN EBENEZER OPERATION EXODUSBN

eventy years ago the world witnessed an extraordinary geopolitical event. A nation reappeared on the world map after its people had been scattered into the four corners of the earth for almost two thousand years. To some, the words of the prophet Isaiah came into a new focus: "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?" (Isaiah 66:8)

A few weeks from now, as the sun sets over her Mediterranean coastline on 18 April 2018 (4th lyyar 5778), Israel will enter her 70 year HaAtzma'ut celebrations – 70 years of being a nation once more. Despite the curses of her many enemies – Israel is back to stay, a powerful testimony of the faithfulness of Almighty God to His covenant promises.

From the late 1800s onwards, Jewish emigrants from Russia and eastern Europe braved many difficulties to pioneer small settlements in the Land. Only 70 years ago were aliyah gateways really pushed open. Beginning with Holocaust survivors from war-torn Europe, and displaced families from the Middle East nations, then from Africa, from Asia, from the Americas, later from Russia – the Jewish people streamed, in their hundreds, in their thousands, in their tens of thousands, a great multitude returning to the Land promised to them by God.

This was the setting into which Ebenezer Operation Exodus was born 27 years ago: helping the Jews back to the Land in literal, exact fulfilment of the prophecies recorded in the Bible.

Aliyah is a set apart work, a holy task, precious in the Lord's eyes. He says: "I am bringing them [the Jewish people]... I will gather them..." (Jeremiah 31:8). We are privileged to participate with Him as He re-gathers His ancient covenant people into the land He has set apart for them.

We bring joyful news, good tidings, to the Jewish people scattered in the nations: 'the God of Israel is a faithful God; He has made a way for you to return to the Land of your fathers... For you there is release from exile and a promise of returning home to Israel, because your God is faithful and He reigns!'

Perhaps Isaiah foresaw these days when he wrote:

"How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace and brings good news of happiness...and says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"Isaiah 52:7

#### **ONLY BY PRAYER**

Our labour is in prayer even before it is in practical help. The paths along which the Jewish people make aliyah are fraught with obstructions. The ways can be difficult or dangerous. We see the Lord open and secure the aliyah 'highways' in response to our prayer. Prayer and intercession is central to all that we are and all that we do. We are called to be watchmen for the aliyah:

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7

Across the 27 time zones that span the globe our prayer partners take up this call. Each one of you that partners with us in prayer is part of this company of watchmen who do not keep silent day or night, who remind the Lord of His glorious covenant promises to restore His people to His land in preparation for the Coming King.



We pray over the aliyah highways. We prayerfully research and seek to gain understanding of the blockages and the hindrances to aliyah from the nations. Through prayer, we open gates and clear the way for the Jewish people. Through prayer we build up highways for them to travel on in safety and security. Through prayer we remove obstructions and barriers to their aliyah. Through prayer, we set up signposts for young and old to find their way safely to Israel, to be securely settled there. The prophets foresaw it:

"Go through, go through the gates, Clear the way for the people; Build up, build up the highway, Remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples." Isaiah 62:10

"Set up for yourself roadmarks, Place for yourself guideposts; Direct your mind to the highway, The way by which you went. Return, O virgin of Israel, Return to these your cities." Jeremiah 31:21

# **EQUIPPING THE CHURCH**

How urgently the Body of Christ in the nations needs to be prepared and ready to stand with the Jewish people in these days of rising anti-Semitism, violence and distress in the nations. All of us need to be positioned to help, nurture and protect the Jewish people in their aliyah in days to come. This could become a costly stance.

We raise a trumpet call to the Church in these days, desiring that she awaken to her responsibilities, that she not remain ignorant of the mystery of God's calling for Israel and His covenants with her. As the Lord enables us, we seek to educate and prepare the Church to walk fully into her calling and destiny in relation to the aliyah. May she take her proper place!

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".





A group of Bnei Menshase arriving at Ben Gurion airport at the end of last year.





PAVEL & LINA MOLDOVA BASE LEADERS

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

ndeed, the new minibus that has been purchased for the operational work of Ebenezer Emergency Fund in Moldova this year is something that we reckon is "immeasurably more" than our team could ask for!

The previous ministry vehicle, a minivan, was a great blessing to our work for many years, as it had been used by the Lord to transport a large number of *olim* and their luggage either to Chisinau airport for their flight to Tel Aviv or to Odessa port for a sailing to Haifa. Thankfully the Lord, our generous Provider, made it possible for the old minivan to be replaced by a brand new minibus! The Lord provided this to us with the help of a generous legacy left to us by one of our precious supporters.

Since last summer, olim from Moldova have been entitled to a larger luggage allowance on aliyah flights, which requires more space for all the suitcases and bags – especially with large families. We recently helped Vyacheslav, Lyudmila and their two young children from Bender, Transnistria, to return home to Israel. Shortly before, Ebenezer had helped them visit the Consul and with some documents.

On the day of their aliyah they were provided with transport to the airport for their flight to Israel. The family of four felt very comfortable in the Ebenezer vehicle, and there was enough space for their numerous bags as well!

Besides, in summer, when temperatures in Moldova can be as high as +40C, families with young children can travel comfortably in the air-conditioned vehicle to the Israeli Consulate in Chisinau and to the airport for their flight to Tel Aviv.

We believe the new vehicle will be used mightily by the Lord to achieve His plans and purposes for *aliyah* from Moldova! We give all glory to God and thank the generous supporters for their commitment to the ministry, which enables our team to give necessary assistance to the needy Jewish families and, thereby, to show them God's love in action!





ur team had known Mariana and Denis for several years as we had met them through our winter shoes humanitarian aid project in November 2013. The couple had four daughters and we talked with them about making aliyah.

In God's timing, our words bore fruit and the two older girls went to Israel on the Naale study programme in 2015. Both these girls settled well and were happy, and encouraged their parents and siblings to join them.

Ebenezer paid for two of the family's passports and covered the expenses for their consular visits in Chisinau and Odessa. We were happy to take them to the airport on the day of their aliyah flight and wish them God's richest blessings in the Land

Please pray this family and others like them will become firmly planted in the Land.





PAVEL & LINA MOLDOVA BASE LEADERS

# **HEADING FOR A NEW LIFE!**

akov had experienced much anti-Semitism in Kiev and his Jewish origins had prevented him entering university there. Often he would be humiliated and sometimes physically attacked and had to defend himself.

He couldn't take it any longer, and hearing that things were more peaceful in the Russian Urals, Yakov and his wife relocated there where he completed his university degree and obtained a good job.

Many of their relatives had returned to Israel years ago. His mother and brother with his family had gone to Israel from Ukraine and now Yakov wanted to join them. We helped them prepare their documents and gave them practical assistance. The couple's children were remaining in Russia for the time being but were expected to follow their parents to Israel in the near future.

We praise the Lord for the work He is doing in the lives of these people. We count it a privilege to bring comfort and encouragement to them and pray that the Lord will give us more opportunities to help others like them. Hallelujah!



## RUSSIA



ALEXANDER YEKATERINBURG REGION





**NETHERLANDS** 

RICHARD ZEVENHUIZEN
NETHERLANDS
NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

ast November we helped a family with their aliyah. Jochanan is a retired Dutch Army Rabbi. His wife Suzy was born in Fez, Morocco, where she lived until she was 12. She then made aliyah with her parents. She met Jochanan later on in Israel and together they came to the Netherlands.



They have four children; the oldest one called Tanya is married to an Australian Jewish man and made aliyah from there last year with the help of Ebenezer Australia! Tanya now lives with her family in Modi'in. One of their sons lives in England and the other two sons still live in the Netherlands. The family has bought an apartment in Netanya.

With the help of 16 volunteers we cleared their home in Amersfoort in the space of two weeks. We made sure that everything was packed, numbered, listed, put on pallets and loaded onto a trailer. The luggage travelled in a sea container to Ashdod.

As Jochanan wrote in his letter:

"A long-held wish has now become a reality: we have a strong connection with Eretz Israel. We hope that our aliyah will encourage the other children also to live there. Living in Eretz Israel is a great Mitzvah for every Jew!"





# AN ARMY OF INTERCESSORS

e believe the Lord is raising up an army of intercessors for aliyah. Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" Amos 3:3

"It is obvious that we need to agree if we want to walk together. In his letter to the Philippians Paul exhorts us to be "like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Philippians 2:2). This applies very much to prayer.

#### An amazing promise!

Yeshua has given us a wonderful promise: "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20). So here is an invitation for us to come together, in the name of Yeshua, agreeing in prayer, according to His prophetic Word. And Abba, our Father, will do it!

"For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few." (1 Samuel 14:6)

When Jonathan and his armour bearer overcame the Philistines, they knew that victory did not depend on their number but on the fact that the Lord was fighting for them.

# Kingdom arithmetic!

In his great song, Moses sang: "How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight ..." (Deuteronomy 32:30). It is clear that the arithmetic of heaven is different from ours. Something profound takes place when we come together and agree in prayer: the Lord Himself is in our midst! "... for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you (Joshua 23:10).

### Cooperating with the prophetic Word

God has called us to be His fellow workers (1 Corinthians 3:9). This must be especially true regarding that which He is doing with all His heart and all His soul in our time: re-gathering His Jewish people out of all the nations and planting them in their Promised Land and doing them good (Jeremiah 32:37-41). The Lord is fulfilling His prophetic Word and is looking for men and women committed to serving Him, cooperating with Him in fulfilling the prophecies.

You can be part of the army of intercessors the Lord is raising up for the final aliyah from the four quarters of the globe! If the Lord is calling you to join a prayer partnership with one or two others, or to a group praying for the aliyah, then please contact your local National Coordinator!



**PRAYER** 

PHILIP HOLMBERG PRAYER TEAM







JEREMY & LISSA SMITH ISRAEL OFFICE

Uganda, gathered in the Pavilion Prayer Tower in Jerusalem to worship the Lord and to pray for the ministry of Ebenezer and aliyah. We interceded for the Jewish people to return to the land of Israel and to thrive there, as Scripture foretells:

"But now, this is what the LORD says - He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.... I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 43:1,6).



There was a real sense of urgency and unity as we prayed, and afterward one woman echoed the hearts of many of us. saying, "I could have prayed for hours and hours." This meeting was the first of monthly prayer meetings to come.

We opened the meeting with heartfelt prayer, Scripture reading and a reminder of the origin of the work of Ebenezer. Colin Ross led us in worship. Johannes Barthel, Regional Coordinator for Israel, encouraged us with testimonies of God's faithfulness and Gian Luca Morotti from Italy reminded us of the central vision of Ebenezer.

One intercessor wrote, "What a great meeting yesterday! So encouraging to be reminded of all that Abba has done over these years! A reminder of HIS faithfulness to accomplish His Word." May we continue to align ourselves with the purposes of God for the Jewish people as we pray. His plans concerning Israel are revealed in Scripture, and we are privileged to live in a time when we see prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes as the Jewish people return to their homeland from the ends of the earth.

Jeremy and Lissa Smith recently joined the Ebenezer team in Israel. They have been in ministry for over 20 years, 14 of those years in Israel, where they live with their six children.

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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